



News Release

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5th Annual Wings & Wildflowers Festival Fun and Adventure for All Ages!

LEESBURG, FL – The 5th Annual Wings and Wildflowers Festival is fast approaching. This increasingly popular nature-friendly ecotourism event is made possible thanks to a partnership between Lake County and the City of Leesburg and will be held Oct. 14-16 at Leesburg's Venetian Gardens.

Known as the gem of Leesburg, Venetian Gardens showcases the area's acres of preserves, forests and passive parklands. With Lake County's growing reputation as Florida's premier birding destination, the goal of the festival is to enhance awareness and appreciation of Lake County's ecotourism, natural resources and quality of life.

This signature event offers adventure for all ages. This year's festival includes live performances, helicopter rides, food trucks, bounce houses, face painting, a free fishing clinic, kayaking, paddle boarding, and much more. Some of the highlights are:



Helicopter Rides: Saturday thru Sunday, Oct. 14, 15 and 16 — Hitch a ride on a scenic helicopter tour provided by Heli Aviation. Helicopters will depart from the historic Pat Thomas Baseball Stadium all three days of the festival. You can even reserve your seat by visiting www.helif.com.

Gatorland: Saturday, Oct. 15, 11:00 a.m., 12:30 p.m., and 1:45 p.m. — Get ready for your own up-close encounter with some of Florida's creepy critters when Gatorland's "Gator Wranglers" make a fun and educational presentation.



Swamp Girl: Sunday, Oct. 16 at noon and 2 p.m. — Festival fans get a chance to meet the one and only Swamp Girl on the Venetian Gardens stage. Her amazing, "Swampin Adventure" exploration stories about exploring Florida's wildlife is fun and educational.



Free Fishing Clinic: Saturday Oct. 15, 10 a.m. to noon – Get fishing pointers plus, free rods and reels!

Explore Venetian Gardens via Kayak or Paddle Board on Saturday Oct. 15, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Rentals are available through Adventure Outdoor Paddle.

Fruitland Park Elementary Chorus: Saturday, Oct. 15, 1:20 p.m. to 1:40 p.m. followed by the **Treadway Elementary School Chorus** from 2:30 p.m. to 3 p.m.

For more information on the 5th Annual Wings & Wildflowers Festival, visit www.wingsandwildflowers.com, www.facebook.com/WingsandWildflowers or www.twitter.com/wingswildflower.

Leesburg is a progressive city of more than 21,000 residents in northwest Lake County. The city government serves twice as many people with its electric, gas, water, wastewater and fiber-optic public utilities. Leesburg also is a central hub for commerce, attracting 50,000 people to work each weekday. For more information, visit www.leesburgflorida.gov.

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