



Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge, located in southeastern Georgia and northeastern Florida, was established in 1937 to protect the ecological system of the 438,000-acre Okefenokee Swamp. Congress designated 353,981 acres of the Refuge as a wilderness area in 1974. In 1978, Congress further acknowledged the uniqueness of the Okefenokee Wilderness Area by naming it a Class I air quality area and giving it special protection under the Clean Air Act. Despite this protection, air pollution is impacting Okefenokee. The air pollution comes from many sources, and rainfall, which is the major source of water to the swamp, contains many of these air pollutants. For instance, rainfall to the area is sometimes acidic (e.g., pH 4.7-4.9) and contains mercury, a toxic air pollutant.

*Photos at left by USFWS. Photo of Ron by Sara Aicher.  
Site information by Ellen Porter.*

Okefenokee NWR web site: <http://okefenokee.fws.gov/>



The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) sponsors and operates the NTN and Mercury Deposition Network (MDN) sites at GA09, and participates in the Interagency Monitoring of Protected Visual Environments program which measures fine particles responsible for visibility impairment. Ellen Porter supervises the NTN site (active since 6/3/1997) and Sara Aicher supervises the MDN site (active since 7/29/1997). Site operator Ron Phernetton (at right) took over air quality monitoring duties in 2001. Ron was a Forester and Fire Management Officer at Okefenokee NWR for 26 years before retiring in 2000. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in Forest Resource Development from the University of Minnesota. In 1969, he moved south to start his career with the USFWS as a forester at St. Marks and Piedmont National Wildlife Refuges before accepting the position at Okefenokee NWR in 1974. He continues to volunteer at the refuge and has recently started his own business, Benbranch Company, which specializes in the cultivation of roses.



# GA09 Okefenokee NWR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday		
May 2004 S M T W T F S 30 31 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29			<h1>June 2004</h1>				July 2004 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	
 <p>Questions? Call the CAL at 1-800-952-7353 or visit <a href="http://nadp.sws.uiuc.edu/cal/">http://nadp.sws.uiuc.edu/cal/</a></p>		<b>1</b>  153/213 <i>Change dry-side bucket and clean foam lid seal</i>	<b>2</b> 154/212	<b>3</b> 155/211	<b>4</b> 156/210	<b>5</b>  157/209 <i>Happy 20th Birthday CO02, TX22, &amp; WI99!</i>		
<b>6</b> 158/208	<b>7</b> 159/207	<b>8</b> 160/206	<b>9</b> 161/205	<b>10</b> 162/204	<b>11</b> 163/203	<b>12</b>  164/202 <i>Happy 20th Birthday VT99!</i>		
<b>13</b> 165/201	<b>14</b>  166/200 Flag Day	<b>15</b> 167/199	<b>16</b> 168/198	<b>17</b> 169/197	<b>18</b> 170/196	<b>19</b> 171/195		
<b>20</b>  172/194 Father's Day	<b>21</b>  173/193 First Day of Summer	<b>22</b> 174/192	<b>23</b> 175/191	<b>24</b> 176/190	<b>25</b> 177/189	<b>26</b> 178/188 <i>Happy 20th Birthday TX16! Happy 25th Birthday MI26!</i>		
<b>27</b> 179/187	<b>28</b> 180/186	<b>29</b> 181/185	<b>30</b> 182/184	 <p><b>WANTED:</b> A FEW GOOD PICTURES FOR THE 2005 CALENDAR. INTERESTED? CONTACT SARAH MILTON AT (217) 333-7053 OR SMILTON@UIUC.EDU IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR NEED MORE INFORMATION.</p>				