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Enjoy a Spooky Halloween on Public Conservation Lands

DuPuis Management Area at the Martin/Palm Beach county line offers up creepy critters, hayrides, haunted hikes and family fun



WHAT: Visit the DuPuis Management Area for free ghostly fun on Haunted Halloween Night, complete with a family-friendly atmosphere, fun games, crafts, candy, a haunted house and trick-or-treat bags for kids in costume. An all-ages hayride will depart from the visitors' center before sunset.

After sunset, ride at your own risk on the Haunted Hayride – guaranteed to spook its victims. Learn about creepy critters such as bats, owls, snakes and spiders on a spine-tingling guided night hike. Boy Scout Troop #832 will be selling hot dogs, chips, apple cider and homemade donuts. For more information, contact Kim Kanter at (800) 432-2045, ext. 3339, or kkanter@sfwmd.gov.

The DuPuis Management Area is a 22,000-acre natural area open to public recreation throughout the year. The area was part of the historic Everglades and features an ecologically diverse and significant vegetative community.

The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) is steadily increasing recreational access to public lands while continuing to manage them to support environmental restoration, water supply, water quality and flood control missions. At present, the District owns 621,000 acres of land that are open to the public. Many of these properties are in their natural state or have enhancements such as picnic tables, informational kiosks, campsites and hiking trails. For more information on recreational opportunities throughout the District's 16-county region, visit www.sfwmd.gov/recreation.

Florida Atlantic University's Center for Environmental Studies is also sponsoring the event.

WHEN: Saturday, October 23, 2010

TIME: 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

WHERE: DuPuis Management Area 23500 SW Kanner Highway Canal Point, FL 33438

The visitors' center entrance is located on State Road 76 in Martin County, two miles east of Port Mayaca or seven miles west of the intersection with State Road 710.

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About the South Florida Water Management District

The South Florida Water Management District is a regional, governmental agency that oversees the water resources in the southern half of the state – 16 counties from Orlando to the Keys. It is the oldest and largest of the state's five water management districts. The agency mission is to manage and protect water resources of the region by balancing and improving water quality, flood control, natural systems and water supply. A key initiative is cleanup and restoration of the Everglades.