

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FRIENDS OF WAKULLA SPRINGS STATE PARK ESTABLISH ENDOWMENT FUND

The Friends of Wakulla Springs State Park, a community service organization is pleased to announce the establishment of an endowment fund through the Community Foundation of North Florida. This endowment fund will work to conserve, protect and enhance the natural, historical, cultural and recreational resources of Wakulla Springs State Park for present and future generations. "Wakulla Springs and the park are a priceless treasure to this region and, indeed, to all of Florida," said Ron Piasecki, president of the Friends organization. "Our intention in establishing this fund is to provide resources far into the future to protect and enhance the park's assets. We chose the Community Foundation to administer the funds because of their proven track record in handling legacy funds for many other non-profits," Piasecki explains.

Both cash and non-cash contributions including a transfer of stock, real estate or other assets may be made to the Friends of Wakulla Springs State Park endowment fund. Deferred gifts, such as bequests named in a will or trust, life insurance proceeds or retirement benefits which accrue after death are also accepted as contributions to the endowment. For a very limited time, contributions made to the endowment fund will be matched by the Friends up to \$5,000.

The Friends of Wakulla Springs State Park most recently is responsible for refurbishing the historic river cruise boats, adding electric motors and solar panels for a quieter, more environmentally friendly visitor experience. Past projects include restoration of the lodge's decorative ceiling, replacement of the lodge roof, installment of a pedestrian bridge on the trail, renovation of the boat ticket area and the addition of an archaeological exhibit. The Friends organization is also very active and visible as advocates for protection of the water quality and quantity of Wakulla Springs.

The Community Foundation and the Friends of Wakulla Springs State Park are non-profit organizations and all contributions are fully tax deductible. The Community Foundation is a public charity whose mission is to build permanent charitable assets for the benefit of nonprofit organizations in North Florida. The Foundation has extensive experience in managing endowments and investing for the long-term. Established in 1997, the Foundation has received more than \$19 million in contributions for over 150 charitable funds. These funds have generated more than \$6 million in grants to nonprofit organizations in the region.

More information about the Friends is available through their website, www.wakullasprings.org. Mailing address is 465 Wakulla Springs Dr., Wakulla Springs, FL 32327. Ron Piasecki may be reached directly at (850) 926-5049. The Community Foundation of North Florida may be contacted through their website, www.cfnf.org, by phone (850)222-2899, or by mail at 1621 Metropolitan Blvd., Suite A, Tallahassee, FL 32308.