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CRYSTAL RIVER BOAT BASH AND EARTH DAY
-Public Invited -

CRYSTAL RIVER – Looking for a great way to spend Saturday, April 30th? Grab your camera and come on out to Crystal River Preserve State Park from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection’s Friends of Crystal River State Parks and the Crystal River Boat Builders are hosting “**Crystal River Boat Bash and Earth Day**”, a celebration of environmental exhibits, as well as small craft, nautical history and fun on the waters of the Nature Coast. This FREE event takes place opposite the Visitors Center of the Crystal River Preserve State Park and Big Bend Seagrasses/St. Martins Marsh Aquatic Preserves.

This year’s Earth Day activities feature a variety of educational demonstrations, a flint knapper, kids activities, aquatic touch tank and recycling tips. A food booth and Earth Day t-shirts will also be available. 30-minute eagle nest boat tours will be offered throughout the day for a suggested donation of \$5.00 per person to the Friends. At 10:30 and 1:30, join the park biologist for one-hour (and one-mile) guided ‘fire walk’ of native plants and the benefit of fire.

Crystal River Boat Bash activities include a display of small craft hand-made by the members of the Crystal River Boat Builders, demonstrations of various boat-building skills, and hands-on opportunities for families and kids to learn what boatbuilding is all about. There will be many small craft on display on land and in the water. A feature of the weekend will be a celebration of the start of the scow project, a representation of *Wartappo*, a Civil War-era sailing scow.

From around the country, owners of small sailing, rowing and paddling craft - classic and traditional and modern - will be offered the hospitality of Crystal River. This is part of a multi-week series of small craft get-togethers including events at Cortez to our south and Cedar Key to our north.

Crystal River Preserve State Park is located at 3266 N. Sailboat Avenue. If you are driving, take US 19 north past the Crystal River Mall and turn left on State Park Street. Follow this road clear to the end, then turn left through the white gates, then follow the paved road to the Park. If you are afloat, head downstream on Crystal River past Salt Creek to the "S" in the river. Where the river turns west again, you will see the Park your right.

For more information: go to <http://tsca.net/CRBB/bash.htm> and www.crystalriverstateparks.org, both can also be found on Facebook, or call the Park office at 352-563-1136.

Event sponsors include: Friends of Crystal River State Parks, Inc., Crystal River Boat Builders, FPAN Florida Public Archaeology Network, GARI Gulf Archaeology Research Institute and Citrus County Chronicle.