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New Orleans District

News Release

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A Nature Walk to Hear Wild Turkeys Talk

Join Corps' rangers Saturday, April 15, in Indian Bayou area

PORT BARRE—How about hiking quietly in the Atchafalaya Basin wonderland to hear and recognize the sounds of the wild turkey?

Your guides will be park rangers of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The location is north of Interstate 10 in the Indian Bayou area between Butte La Rose and Krotz Springs. Meet at the Ranger Station parking area at 6:30 a.m.

“We invite everyone to hike quietly with us to listen for the explosive sound that the wild turkey gobbler makes, as well as the softer cuts and purrs of the hen,” said park ranger Steve Stone..

Indian Bayou encompasses 28,500 acres, of which about 10,000 acres are excellent habitat for the wild turkey. The habitat is mostly bottomland hardwood forests which are seasonally flooded.

March and April is the mating season, when the turkeys are most vocal. Although the turkey can be heard throughout the day, the best time is from dawn to about 9 a.m. Meet in the parking area at 6:30 a.m., and the hike will last from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Visitors might do well to bring mosquito spray, water, rubber boots, binoculars, camera, birding field guide (expect to see numerous songbirds), and a turkey, owl or crow call.

Driving directions: From Interstate 10, take the Butte La Rose exit (exit 121) and follow the levee road about 6 miles north to the sixth parking area on the left. Or from U.S. 190, exit at Krotz Springs and take La. 105 south about 11 miles to the fifth parking area on the right. A sign will be posted on the levee for this event. Park Ranger Steve Stone will your guide the group and give information about the wild turkey history and biology.

Corps recreation <http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/recreation/index.asp>