



The Campaign to Save Anderson Marsh State Historic Park

Dear Supporter of Anderson Marsh State Historic Park,

This is the first of a series of email updates about the progress our campaign to keep the Park open to the public. You are on this email list because you are a present or former AMIA member, have supported our work in the past or have been involved in fundraising efforts such as the Old Time Bluegrass Festival.

Until we get caught up with the news, there may be a few emails coming in the next week or so. Thereafter, we will be sending out updates as we have new news. If you would like to be removed from this email list, please reply to this email with "UNSUBSCRIBE" in the subject line.

THE CHALLENGE WE FACE:

Because of cuts in funding to the Parks Department, Anderson Marsh State Historic Park is scheduled to permanently close on July 2. Although it is not completely clear what this will mean, the gates will definitely be locked and activities such as guided nature walks, tours of the historic Ranch House, school and elder field trips and special events such as the Old Time Bluegrass Festival would have to be canceled. (As you may know, because of the uncertainty created by the potential closing of the Park, AMIA has had to postpone the 7th Annual Old Time Bluegrass Festival until September 2013.) Once closed, the Park will be at risk for vandalism, illegal encampments and destruction of its priceless natural habitats and cultural and historical resources. AMIA is determined to prevent this from happening.

THE CAMPAIGN TO SAVE THE PARK:

AMIA has submitted a proposal to the Department of Parks to take over the operation of the Park so that it can remain open as it is now. Under the proposal, the gates to the parking lot will continue to be open (at first, only on weekends, as they are now). AMIA will be responsible for paying the expenses associated with operating the Park and will take on the responsibility of maintaining the trail system and general maintenance on the property. AMIA will continue to offer guided tours and special events to the community. Our proposal is presently being considered by the Parks Department.

In order to pay for all of this, AMIA is in the middle of a fundraising campaign. Local organizations and individuals have stepped up to help, for which we are very thankful. We are also looking for

volunteers to help us run the Park once we take over operations. In order to succeed, we will need the help of the entire community.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Many of you have already joined AMIA or donated funds to the effort. We really appreciate your help. **We urge those of you who have not yet joined AMIA to do so at whatever level of support you can afford.** Every donation helps. You can get information about joining on our web site: www.andersonmarsh.org. In order to convince the State to grant us the right to operate the Park, we need to demonstrate that the community is behind us.

Also, thanks to those of you who have offered to become an AMIA volunteer. We will need people to help with trail clearing, maintenance and many other activities.

Right now, we are looking for people who would be willing to help staff an AMIA booth for a few hours so that we can get the word out at upcoming county events such as the Heron Festival (May 5), the upcoming Cattails & Tules fundraiser (June 16) and the County Fair (over Labor Day weekend, August 30 – September 2). If you would like to help out, please reply to this email and we will contact you.

With your help, we will be able to succeed in our plan to save our Park from closing. Anderson Marsh is one of the jewels of Lake County. We cannot let it be lost and become unavailable to all of us and our children to learn from and enjoy all that it has to offer.

We will be keeping you informed as events develop.

Thanks again for all of your support!