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February 8, 2012

AMIA delays Bluegrass Festival until 2013 to concentrate on keeping the Park open

Anderson Marsh State Historic Park is on the list of proposed State Park closures and unless something changes, will close in July 2012. The Anderson Marsh Interpretive Association (AMIA) is currently negotiating with the Department of Parks and Recreation to enter into an agreement to operate the Park so that it may remain open and available to the public. AMIA is the nonprofit cooperating association for this State Park, whose purpose is to support the Park and provide interpretive and educational programs.

If approved, the agreement will require AMIA to become involved in Park maintenance, keeping trails open and paying for utilities and other operating costs. “The negotiation process is lengthy and complex and we cannot be sure that we will succeed in negotiating an agreement. AMIA’s goal is for the Park to continue to be open on weekends, and at other times for school field trips, tours and other AMIA events, including the popular Old Time Bluegrass Festival,” said Roberta Lyons, AMIA President. “AMIA realizes it must focus now on doing what is necessary to successfully carry out our new responsibilities.”

According to Lyons, this need to focus the energy of AMIA on keeping the Park open has forced AMIA to make the hard but necessary decision to postpone the Old Time Bluegrass Festival for one year.

“AMIA is very thankful to all of the Lake County businesses and individuals who have participated in and supported the Anderson Marsh Old Time Bluegrass Festival,” said Gae Henry, AMIA Secretary. “For 6 years the Festival has been the main fundraiser for programs at Anderson Marsh Historic State Park and has been a premier Lake County event. For now, AMIA volunteers are devoting their time and energy to creating an operating agreement which we hope will be approved by spring.”

“We want to assure the public that if we are granted an operating agreement, the Festival will be back again in September 2013,” said Henry Bornstein, AMIA’s treasurer. “It is a great event for Lake County and an important fundraiser for the Park. At this time, however, because of the uncertainty of the Park’s status, the time-consuming nature of the negotiations and the work that will have to be done to operate the Park during the first year, we felt it was best to postpone the Festival.”

For information about how you can get involved with AMIA’s effort to save Anderson Marsh State Historic Park, please visit www.andersonmarsh.org. or contact AMIA at info@andersonmarsh.org or 707-995-2658.