LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS INFORMATION

Overview
Welcome to the real South and the Sunshine State. Jacksonville, centered on the St. Johns River, is the largest city in Florida by population in 2010 with 1,345,596, and the largest city by area, in the contiguous United States. The area of the modern city of Jacksonville has been inhabited for thousands of years. On Black Hammock Island in the national Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve, a University of North Florida team discovered some of the oldest remnants of pottery in the United States, dating to 2500 BC. In the 16th century, the beginning of the historical era, the region was inhabited by the Mocama, a coastal subgroup of the Timucua people. In 1564 this was the site of the French colony of Fort Caroline, one of the earliest European settlements on the continent. A platted town was established there in 1822, a year after the United States gained Florida from Spain. The Ribault Club, where the meeting will be located, was a resort for the wealthy built in the 1920s, now restored and managed as part of Fort George Island Cultural State Park. Expect a humid subtropical climate, with average March low and high temperatures around 53° and 73° F, respectively. Rainfall can happen at any time of year, but March tends to be relatively dry and comfortable.

Hotel

ALOFT JACKSONVILLE AIRPORT HOTEL
(Located east of I-95 in the “River City Marketplace” commercial center.)
751 Skymarks Drive
Jacksonville, FL 32218
Ph: 904-714-3800
Fax: 904-714-3999
Web: http://www.aloftjacksonvilleairport.com

- Free Wi-Fi
- Free airport shuttle

Hotel Reservations:

Conference Rate: $83/night
Hotel Registration Cutoff Date = March 17, 2014
Group Name: Forest Health Monitoring Workgroup – US Forest Service
Group Registration website: https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/ForestHealth

For meeting updates visit the FHM website: http://www.fs.fed.us/foresthealth/fhm
Meeting Registration Information:

Western Forestry and Conservation Association (WFCA) is managing registration and collecting fees for this meeting. Attached is a non-fillable registration form that can be mailed, faxed or phoned into WFCA along with your registration fee in check or credit card. A secure on-line registration page can also be accessed by clicking on the following link: [http://www.growthmodel.org/wfca/login.asp?theevent=Forest%20Health%20Monitoring%20-%202014%20Workgroup%20Meeting&eventregistrationurl=./events/foresthealthmonitoring.asp](http://www.growthmodel.org/wfca/login.asp?theevent=Forest%20Health%20Monitoring%20-%202014%20Workgroup%20Meeting&eventregistrationurl=./events/foresthealthmonitoring.asp)

Meeting Registration fee = $100

If you have questions with on-line registration please contact Michele at 888-722-9416 or 503-226-4562 or Richard @westernforestry.org.

Information about the meeting is available at: [http://www.fs.fed.us/foresthealth/fhm/](http://www.fs.fed.us/foresthealth/fhm/)

Transportation Options from Airport to Hotel:

There is a free shuttle service from the Jacksonville Airport to the Aloft Jacksonville Airport hotel available 4:00 am to 1:00 am. Call the hotel at 904-714-3800 to make arrangements.

If using a rental car Driving Directions from the Jacksonville Airport to the hotel: Start Thomas Imeson Ave. Turn right to stay on Thomas Imeson Ave. Turn left to stay on Thomas Imeson Ave. Turn slight left onto Dixie Clipper Dr. Dixie Clipper Dr becomes SR-102 E. SR-102 E becomes Duval Rd. Stay straight to go onto Airport Center Dr. Turn left onto Skymarks Dr. Skymarks Dr. is 0.1 miles past Nautica Dr. Danny Dupree - State Farm Insurance Agent is on the right. If you reach Wolf Bay Dr you've gone about 0.1 miles too far. Aloft Jacksonville Airport Hotel at 751 Skymarks Dr. is on the right. If you reach Lunar Dr. you've gone a little too far. Total Travel Estimate: 3.45 miles - about 7 minutes

Parking

Hotel parking is free at the Aloft Jacksonville Airport.


…and plenty of nearby restaurants in the Airport Area. Here is a sampling of the city’s offerings:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Short Walk</th>
<th>Longer Walk</th>
<th>Short Drive</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Millhouse Restaurant</td>
<td>Chili's Grill &amp; Bar</td>
<td>Orsay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1341 Airport Rd, ½ mile</td>
<td>13210 City Station Dr ½ mile</td>
<td>3630 Park St <a href="http://aloftjacksonvilleairport.com/en/hotel/dining.html">Website</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(904) 741-8722 · millhousesteakhouse.net</td>
<td>(904) 714-9768 · chilis.com</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruby Tuesday</td>
<td>Cracker Barrel Old Country Store</td>
<td>Ruth’s Chris Steakhouse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1360 Airport Rd, ½ mile</td>
<td>13250 City Station Dr 1 and ½ miles</td>
<td>1201 Riverplace Blvd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(904) 741-3692 · rubytuesday.com</td>
<td>River City Marketplace (904) 751-3678 · crackerbarrel.com</td>
<td>Website <a href="http://aloftjacksonvilleairport.com/en/hotel/dining.html">Website</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LongHorn Steakhouse</td>
<td>Sticky Fingers Smokehouse</td>
<td>Biscotti’s</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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1366 Airport Rd, ½ mile to longhornsteakhouse.com
13150 City Station Dr 1 and ½ miles River City Marketplace
(904) 308-7427 · stickyfingers.com
3556 Saint Johns Ave Website

Denny's
14697 Duval Rd, ½ mile to dennys.com
Chick-fil-A
14020 Lunar Dr 1 and ½ miles River City Marketplace
(904) 757-1430 · chick-fil-a.com
Singleton's Seafood Shack
4728 Ocean St, Atlantic Beach Website

Red Lobster
(River City Marketplace): 1 mile to Seafood Express and More:
1½ miles

Information on Some Area Attractions:
Jacksonville operates the largest urban park system in the United States. Hemming Plaza is Jacksonville's first and oldest park.
Tree Hill Nature Center is a nature preserve and environmental education center.
The Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens held their grand opening on November 15, 2008.
The Veterans Memorial Wall is a tribute to local servicemen and women killed while serving in US armed forces.
The Treaty Oak is a massive, 250 year-old tree at Jessie Ball DuPont Park in downtown.
The Friendship Fountain has been one of Jacksonville's most recognizable and popular attractions, it features a light show and music each evening.
A number of cultural events are also held in Jacksonville. The Jacksonville Jazz Festival, held downtown, is the second-largest jazz festival in the nation, while Springing the Blues, one of the oldest and largest blues festivals, has been held in Jacksonville Beach since 1990. The World of Nations Celebration has been held in Metropolitan Park since 1993, and features a number of events, food and souvenirs from various countries. The Jacksonville Film Festival, held at seven historic venues in the city, has been held since 2003 and has featured a variety of independent films, documentaries and shorts.
For additional information regarding Jacksonville please visit. http://www.visitjacksonville.com/

Local Arrangements Coordinators:
Jeffrey Eickwort 352-395-4689 or Jeffrey.Eickwort@FreshFromFlorida.com
John Nowak 828-257-4326 or inowak@fs.fed.us

Ribault Club Meeting Club & Lunch

The meeting location is about 30 minutes from the hotel and it is not close to any dining establishments. Lunch Arrangements are being made so please indicate your lunch preference on the registration form. We will plan to carpool from the Aloft Hotel to the Ribault Club, so please indicate whether you will be renting a vehicle or needing a ride on the registration form.

Directions from the Airport/Hotel Area to the Ribault Club meeting location:
• Take the ramp onto I-95 South (Jacksonville). Stay to the right for about 1 mile.
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- Merge right onto exit 326A (FL 9A South). This will take you on an elevated ramp for about 1.1 miles; stay to the left side.
- Merge onto I-295 S, and go about 5.4 miles.
- Take exit 41 (FL 105 N), then turn left onto Hecksher Dr./FL 105 N. Stay in the left lane after going under the overpass.
- Don’t follow the exit to the right where it goes to the Blount Island Marine Terminal (at 1.25 miles from the highway). Instead, continue straight through the traffic light to stay on Hecksher Dr./FL 105 N.
- Follow Hecksher Dr. for another 8.5 miles, until you reach Ft. George Rd. on the left. There will be a sign for Kingsley Plantation/Ft. George Island Visitor Center/Ribault Club.

Stay on Ft. George Rd. for 2 miles until you see the Ribault Club on the right. Parking is on the left. See attached map.

FIELD TRIPS

Optional Tour of the Kingsley Plantation Grounds (Monday afternoon, 2-5 pm). In addition to the historic Ribault Club which will house the meeting, Ft. George Island is home to Kingsley Plantation, the location of a former estate which relied on slave labor from the late 1700s to the Civil War, now managed as a historical site by the National Park Service. Join us for a walking tour led by NPS staff, who will tell us about the complex history of the plantation and its past residents. In addition to the oldest standing plantation home in Florida, we will see the ruins of slave cabins and other historical structures. For those who need transportation, a shuttle will be leaving from the hotel at 1:15pm.

http://www.nps.gov/timu/historyculture/kp.htm

Optional Field Trip (Thursday afternoon, 11am-6pm) Please join us for an afternoon fieldtrip to look at the landscapes and forest health issues that can be found in this region of Florida. Ft. George Island is where the redbay ambrosia beetle and laurel wilt disease fungus were first detected in this state, and their devastating impacts can still be seen there. We will also look at an area where southern pine beetle has recently been killing trees in coastal forests and the wildland-urban interface, and sites where SPB control and prevention activities have been taking place. We will round out the trip by looking at areas infested with some of the invasive plant species that are an increasingly important factor affecting southeastern forest health.

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Map from Airport/Hotel area to Ribault Club.

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