



DINING & ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

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I'm delighted to announce the one year anniversary of the "Plant City Dining & Entertainment Guide," a Plant City based community paper that shines a spotlight on local stories and happenings in Greater Plant City. I can't believe it has already been a year since I started this publication. Thank you to all of the loyal readers who have made the Guide successful.

The Guide will continue to feature thought provoking opinion pieces, travel stories from both near and far, dining tidbits and inspiring stories that originate in the Plant City area. We also connect our readers with all there is to see and do in and around Plant City.



On page 8, read about Bill Histed's Latest Adventure to Bushnell National Cemetery

Les Miserables Playing in Plant City

Plant City Entertainment will demonstrate the power of music and the love of Broadway when it debuts its spring production of "Les Miserables," which will include nine performances beginning on July 19. Reservations are recommended and can be purchased in advance by calling Frances Hardee at 813-754-4929. See Page 15 for more details.



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The Plant City Dining & Entertainment Guide needs an independent sales representative to contact local businesses for advertising. Earn good commissions plus bonuses. Must be a self-motivated person. Meet new people and learn about the business community in our area. A good way to earn money without having to commute out of town. Contact the editor for more information.

Just a Thought...



By: Christine Wynne Andrade, Editor

I'm a pretty independent person. So much so, in fact, that after my divorce a couple of years ago, I had decided to never marry again. Everything was going according to plan until my colleague, Bill Histed, and I spent an afternoon canoeing on the Santa Fe River just outside of Gainesville last summer. I was there to write a travel story on the Gainesville area. Bill came along for the ride.

Upon exiting the river after a long, hot day of canoeing, we ran into a group of boy scouts who were waiting for the shuttle bus back to the parking lot. We struck up a conversation with one of the adult leaders. There was a connection in the sense that I am also a scout leader. Naturally, the conversation immediately shifted to scouting. As it turned out, they were from San Antonio, Florida, just forty minutes north of Plant City. Little did I know that I had just met my future husband.

After a couple of weeks of telephone conversations, we had our first date. And the rest, as they say, is history. Anthony and I were married on April 20. Being that we are both avid outdoor lovers, we opted for an intimate ceremony in a log cabin chapel in Gatlinburg, Tennessee called "Almost Heaven." True to its name, the setting, chapel and staff were about as close to Heaven on Earth as one can get.

Voted one of the top 10 most beautiful wedding venues in the United States and number 1 in the Smoky Mountains by Brides Magazine, Almost Heaven exceeded our expectations.

This issue marks the second year of the Guide. What a year it has been. I hope you have enjoyed reading our stories as much as we have enjoyed sharing them. It is within these pages you will find the usual columns on travel, entertainment, food and local festivities, but you will also find stories that you won't find in the mass media.

Our young writer, David Harnage, is back by popular demand with a story on our own Bruton Memorial Library.

Contributing Travel Writer, Warren Resen, is currently on a two-month road trip across the country and will bring more travel stories in the next issue.

I hope you enjoy this issue and remember to continue sending in your comments and suggestions. We have enjoyed hearing from you.

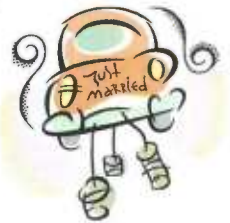
I'm only a few keystrokes away by email at editor@plantcityguide.com.



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The Plant City Dining & Entertainment Guide is available for free at various businesses around town. You will also find copies in the Bruton Memorial Library. Copies are limited and run out quickly. Have your copy reserved and delivered directly to your home or business for just \$10 per year anywhere in the U.S., plus we put you on our premium e-mail list for the latest, up to date specials, offers and "what's happening" in the Plant City region. Subscriptions make great gifts.

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One Tank Getaways

A laid-back, relaxing getaway just an hour and a half from Plant City, Mount Dora offers you the pleasure of Old Florida country living. This quaint town, which is often referred to as a slice of historic New England in the South, seems worlds away from the high-paced action and adventure of the nearby Orlando theme parks. And it is. Lakes, quiet country inns, shops, an old railroad station, and a buffet of tasty dining options are plentiful here.

Mount Dora, with its oak lined streets, is known for its historic Bed and Breakfast Inns. Outdoor cafes, gourmet restaurants, galleries, wineries, and inns grace the downtown area. This tranquil lakeside town caters particularly to antique enthusiasts from across the state, country and world. Shops in and around the downtown area are full of nostalgic items, valuable antiques and collectibles, and even estate jewelry.

For the more adventurous travelers, there is a great segway tour. Segway of Central Florida offers a one hour city tour that begins downtown and travels out to the famous Mount Dora lighthouse and on to Palm Island Park. In the park, the tour goes off-road and riders are able to traverse nature paths. The tour then glides through beautiful, historic neighborhoods, offering close up views of the town's well known bed and breakfast inns. On the final leg, the tour winds around the Lakeside Inn. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the turn-of-the-century Lakeside Inn is Mount Dora's oldest structure, build in 1883. Here you can still sip icy lemonade from a colonial rocker on the front porch or take a tour of the historic residence. For more information, visit www.segwayofcentralflorida.com or call (352) 383-9900.

A fifteen minute drive northwest of Mount Dora will take you to the lakeside town of Tavares. Tavares has long been known as the business and government counterpart to Mount Dora, however, it is emerging as a tourist destination in its own right. The town recently redeveloped the waterfront area along Lake Dora including a new Seaplane base, children's splash park and new train depot.

Want to journey back in time and enjoy a ride on America's #1 Movie Train? The Orange Blossom Cannonball has quite a history. This 100-year-old wood burning standard gauge steam locomotive is the only functioning standard gauge steam locomotive in Florida. The train has been Featured in 20 movies, most recently the remake of "True Grit" with Jeff Bridges. Other motion pictures include "Appaloosa", "3:10 to Yuma", "There Will be

Mount Dora – Planes, Trains and Segways By: Christine Wynne



Orange Blossom Cannonball

Blood", "Rosewood" and "O Brother, Where Art Thou?" You will ride in the same coaches where famous stars such as Robert Redford, George Clooney, Patrick Swayze, Jodi Foster, Ed Harris, Renee Zellweger and Vigo Mortensen once posed. For more information, go to orangeblossomcannonball.com or call (352) 742-7200.

If you would rather take to the air, Jones Brothers offers seaplane tours beginning around \$40 per person. The most popular tour flies to Lake Apopka and to Clermont. Look for the massive gators as you fly at low level along the western shore of the second largest lake in of Florida's. See the Citrus Tower and the lakes of Clermont.

Eric Weaver, owner of Jones Brothers & Co. Air & Seaplane Adventures, appeared in the movie, "The Rum Diary" starring Johnnie Depp with his Twin Bee amphibious aircraft. For more information, visit www.jonesairandsea.com or call (352) 508-1800.



Back in Mount Dora, if you want the best breakfast in town, a stay at the Mount Dora Historic Inn is a must. This beautiful home features four spacious, comfortable rooms - each with a private bath. There are also separate cottages for families or those wanting more privacy. Each room is beautifully adorned with modern conveniences like complimentary wireless Internet access, televisions with cable and electric fireplaces. Guests will enjoy a delicious full breakfast, complimentary snacks and beverages throughout the day, and an evening homemade baked good. But the best part is the location. The Mount Dora Historic Inn is just a short stroll from the historic downtown where you will find restaurants, shopping, theater and nightlife. For more information, www.mountdorahistoricinn.com or call (800) 927-6344.

What visit to a historic town would be complete without a ghost tour? Unlike other ghost tours, the "Mount Dora Ghost Walk" isn't so much a ghost hunt as it is a historical tour with some history, some ghost talk and a whole lot of fun. Mount Dora Ghost Walk offers several tours. The one I took was the prohibition themed ghost walk. The tour began in the lobby of the historic Lakeside Inn. Andrew, our tour guide, was dressed to the nines in a prohibition era pin striped suit with white shoes. He was in character, which made the tour that much more fun. We started by visiting the room in the Lakeside Inn where Al Capone spent many nights. The room was set up as if Al Capone was going to walk in any minute with replicas of his gun, suit case and belongings. From there, the tour progressed to three different drinking establishments that all offered a discounted theme drink for those on the tour. This tour doubles as a historic tour, as Andrew was once the President of the Historic Society. Not only will you get some good ghost stories, but some interesting history as well. A good time was had by all. For more information, visit www.mountdoraghostwalk.com or call (352) 630-2553

Mount Dora always seems to have something interesting going on. The town hosts an annual art festival, craft fair, plant and garden show and many other special events including classic car shows and a sail boat regatta.

For more information on Mount Dora, Visit www.whattodoinmtdora.com.

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If you give the Guide as a gift, we will send your gift recipient a card letting them know that the gift was from you. Just complete the form below and mail to: 2302 Maki Road, #19, Plant City, FL 33563.

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AREA FESTIVITIES



As summer heats up and school is out, the possibilities for fun are endless. There is something for everyone, so pack up the family and enjoy. Here is a sampling of events in our area.

SUMMER FUN NIGHTS AT THE FLORIDA AQUARIUM

Enjoy \$15 admission* after 4:00pm on Summer Fun Nights at The Florida Aquarium. Every Thursday evenings starting June 20th through August 8th (excluding Thursday, July 4th) the Aquarium will be open until 8pm. There's no better place to cool off from the summer heat and get inches from amazing marine life from all over the world. Take a stroll along our expanded Wetlands Trail to see Florida's wildlife up-close. Touch rays and sharks at our new Stingray Beach, and even see a performance by The Florida Aquarium Mermaids (5:30pm & 6:30pm). Don't forget to bring the kids' swimsuits so they can splash away in Explore A Shore, our outdoor water adventure zone. Café Ray and the Caribbean Cantina will be open and serving dinner. Enjoy family-friendly live entertainment outside while you soak in the warm summer nights by the bay. For more information, visit www.flaquarium.org

SEA MONSTERS INVADE MOSI

MOSI has a limited engagement exhibit called "Sea Monsters Revealed," an exhibition of the world's largest plastinated sea creatures. Like the human anatomy exhibits that now circle the globe, Sea Monsters Revealed uses the revolutionary polymer preservation technique commonly known as plastination to bring real sea animals onto dry land for an up-close and personal look at the most mysterious creatures the deep sea has to offer. Visitors will not only see the outside, but also the *inside* of the most elusive aquatic life ever discovered, including a 6-foot-wide manta ray, a 15-foot-long mako shark, a giant squid, and an 18-foot-long, 3,000 pound whale shark. All specimens in the exhibition are authentic, stunning examples of the mysteries that lie beyond our shores and have been carefully recovered in accordance with the highest animal protection standards. For more information. Visit mosi.org.



BUSCH GARDENS – SEA WORLD DISCOUNTS

The hottest ticket this summer is the 3-Park Summer Sizzler. This new, limited-time offer lets guests enjoy unlimited admission to Busch Gardens Tampa and unlimited weekday (Monday – Friday) admission to Adventure Island and Aquatica, SeaWorld's Waterpark in Orlando, now through Labor Day for only \$99. Florida's best resident summer value is valid from the date of purchase through Labor Day, Sept. 2, 2013. Valid for Florida residents only (photo ID required); price is \$99 plus tax. Take advantage of the Summer Sizzler online at Buschgardens.com, by calling (888) 800-5447, or at the front gates at Busch Gardens, Adventure Island and Aquatica, SeaWorld's Waterpark.

LEGOLAND FLORIDA OPENS THE WORLD OF CHIMA ON JULY 3

Set in a faraway, mystical land inhabited by different tribes of animals, Chima is the world where CHI flows. CHI is a powerful energy source that gives the animals extraordinary powers, but now this peaceful land is in danger because the crocodiles want to have the CHI all to themselves.

- At The Quest for CHI, guests will board watercrafts to become a part of the story, engaging in an interactive soaking battle through The World of Chima for the powerful energy source, CHI.
- Outside of the main attraction guests will be able to unleash the power and race handheld ripcord vehicles at Speedorz Arena.
- Families will be further immersed in the story with the chance to meet characters Laval the Lion Prince and Cragger the Crocodile King, splash and play in Cragger's Swamp play area and experience a 4-D Chima movie.