



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

OKEFENOKEE SWAMP DAY

- WHEREAS:** The State of Georgia is blessed with the unrivaled beauty of the Okefenokee Swamp, the largest blackwater wetland in North America; and
- WHEREAS:** The Okefenokee Swamp is recognized as one of Georgia's seven natural wonders and a natural area unique not only to the State of Georgia, but also the United States of America and the world; and
- WHEREAS:** The Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge is being considered for nomination as an internationally recognized natural area for United Nations World Heritage Site designation; and
- WHEREAS:** The Okefenokee Swamp spans 438,000 acres with 93 percent of it protected as the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge, including 353,000 acres designated as a National Wilderness Area by Congress; and
- WHEREAS:** Georgia's Stephen C. Foster State Park lies within the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge and is designated as an International Dark Sky Park; and
- WHEREAS:** The Okefenokee Swamp hosts more than 650,000 visits by Americans and international tourists to Georgia on an annual basis, generating upwards of \$64.7 million annually for the economies of Ware, Clinch, and Charlton Counties and creating some 750-swamp tourism-related jobs; and
- WHEREAS:** The Okefenokee Wilderness Canoe Trail is part of the National Water Trails System, and anglers and tourists visit repeatedly, seeking a true wilderness experience; and
- WHEREAS:** The Okefenokee Swamp has inspired countless Georgia naturalists, artists, and writers and gave us our very own state opossum, Pogo Possum; now
- THEREFORE:** I, BRIAN P. KEMP, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim February 8, 2022 as OKEFENOKEE SWAMP DAY in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 1st day of February in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-Two.



B. Kemp

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

M. K. Kipfer

CHIEF OF STAFF