

Gilchrist Fundraisers Recreation & Music Park

SPONSOR GUIDE

Home to the
Farm to Family Music Festivals

Presented by:





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On a full moon weekend in April 2005, an outdoor music event came to life. The event began in the afternoon on a Saturday and ended about midnight. No one camped - it was a simple one day and evening concert. That first concert was

held on a small organic family farm in Alachua,

Florida. The show date was chosen to coincide with the rising of the April full moon. With bands playing on the stage and folks gathered around the large festival fire on that pleasant April evening, the full moon rose and lit up the sky. It was awesome, surrounded by nature, the concert celebrated the full moon weekend. The experience, evidenced by the smiles on every face, was heart-felt by all. There was a new and magical tribal feeling of family that replaced farming on the land, thus originating the name FARM TO FAMILY for many concerts that followed.

By 2009 the popularity of the concerts created too much traffic for the single lane road that led into the farm. The show was moved to 122 acres of exquisite land located in Gilchrist County owned by Mr. Lowell Chesborough and his wife Pat, and named "Gilchrist Fundraisers Recreation and Music Park". The first concert was held on November 20th and 21st, 2010 and in March, 2011 the show became a three-day festival event, with increased attendance for the June show. The October festival became the first four-day event, beginning Thursday evening with bluegrass, folk and acoustic pickin' at the Bill Monroe Shrine, a large tent erected at each show for guests who are inclined to fellowship with other musicians. A facilitated drum circle was also added. The participation at the Drum Circle Arena has been astounding.

The support for the new Full Moon event was overwhelming. In addition to the original audience, new faces and energy joined the effort to stabilize the Farm to Family Full Moon events. As the shows developed, the expenses increased. With no sponsorship of any kind, basic infrastructure was put in place with funds and sweat from within the group of people who loved the idea of what could develop at the new location. With new faces, came new vision, and it gradually became obvious that it was not only the Farm to Family full moon event that was important. Gilchrist Fundraisers Recreation and Music Park was equally, if not more important.

Lanier Smith, a member and treasurer of the High Springs Lions Club, introduced another new face to the project, Brian Barkman, former president of the High Springs Lions Club and now district chair. Brian and his wife Margie donated their time and construction skills to add needed wings to the existing stage which completed the design of the awesome stage that we now have at the park. Brian immediately rallied members and brought out the Lions Club BBQ as a food vendor for every show. Through their efforts and example, Smith and the Barkmans opened the eyes of the others to the possibility of turning the entire operation into a charitable, fund-raising recreation and music park.

Farm to Family Full Moon Festival, the flagship event for the Gilchrist Fundraisers Recreation and Music Park, is produced by Farm to Family Event Services, and is sponsored in part by the High Springs Lions Club. The two are working jointly to develop the music park to accommodate more activities while producing three to four seasonal Full Moon Festivals each year.

Farm to Family Event Services, having produced five shows at the Gilchrist Fundraisers Recreation and Music Park through December 2011, has made the unanimous decision that the path they will take is to work alongside the High Springs Lions Club to contribute to the development of the Chesborough property, bringing to a reality the GFRMP. The park will serve the surrounding communities not only as a venue site for fund raising events, but church functions and gatherings of most any kind. Proceeds will directly benefit youth activities such as Suwannee Valley League, the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of America, local Fire and Rescue services, Catholic Charities, Food Banks, and all Lion supported charities.

The GFRMP venue offers a site for music, camping, vendors and youth activities in a safe and friendly atmosphere. Thousands have enjoyed the newly constructed large stage, campsites, and RV electric and water hookups at the shows held at this site.

It has become evident that The High Springs Lions Club and Farm to Family Event Services alone cannot attain their goal to successfully develop the venue and manage the ever growing demand for increased recreational and musical functions. As a non-profit 501(C)(3) organization, Lions return one hundred percent of profits to charitable entities and services. We now find ourselves in need of financial support for the development of infrastructure necessary to properly facilitate fund raising events at the park.

Many thanks go out to organizers and originators of Farm to Family. Thanks go out to John and Raven Smith who inspired the event from the beginning, Don Appelbaum and Rainah GoldFeather, who kept it going, Lanier Smith, Brian and Margie Barkman from the Lions Club who have given new direction to Farm to Family, and all who have participated over the years in this wonderful event, as well as those who wish to participate now - thanks for your time.

For questions, we encourage you to contact Don Appelbaum or Lanier Smith for answers or to schedule a meeting with a GFRMP representative. Gilchrist Fundraiser Park, Farm to Family Event Services, and the High Springs Lions Club are Non Profit Organizations.

To make a tax deductible contribution to the service plans of the GFRMP you may donate monetarily to **The High Springs Lions Club (HSLC)** PO BOX 2444, High Springs, FL 32655, 386-454-4521

* Check Memo *must* indicate: for GFRMP (Gilchrist Fundraisers Recreation and Music Park)

For MATERIAL donations (value tax receipt will be provided), contact: Lanier Smith **904.386.8396** or Don Appelbaum, Full Moon Festival Coordinator **386.462.1701**



Original Farm to Family Concert Stage used through 2009

The High Springs Lions Club

The High Springs Lions Club is part of the world's largest service organization and is committed to developing the Gilchrist Fundraisers Recreation & Music Park (GFRMP). Creating family-oriented activities and music events will generate funds to support numerous charities. The venue offers a site for festivals, vendors, music, camping and children's

activities in a safe and friendly environment. Thousands have enjoyed the events held in 2011. With your help and donations, the Lions will expand the infrastructure and develop and improve the facility to support increased demand for functions and events. As a non-profit 501(C)(3), Lions return one hundred percent of profits to charitable entities and services.



Proposed Property Improvements Include:

- G - Ticket/Guard Booth
- P - Permanent Pavilions
- R - Restrooms
- RS - Restrooms with Showers
- M - Main Stage
- PS - RV Pump Station
- P Playground
- Pool
- Cabins
- P - Parking
- FC - Family Campsites
- PC - Primitive Camping
- GRV - Generator RV Parking
- A - Administration Building
- Fencing



Goals

1) Promote Youth, Church and Arts participation

This facility is available to various youth groups, including scouting and athletics. Several church groups have expressed interest in the Gilchrist Fundraisers Music and Recreation Park for functions such as gospel music and youth development weekends. Additionally, recognition of local artists and craftsmen are included in our plan.

2) Additional Roads, Trails, Paths and Parking

The main entrance is paved, but secondary roads need improvement. Where possible, green materials are desired for use in new roads and parking.

3) Water & Sewage

Currently, no permanent sewage is in place. Porta-potties are brought in for events. New restroom facilities with septic systems will be constructed, as well as pump stations for RVs. Water and electric for additional RV and vendor sites will be added.

4) Permanent Power

Diesel Whisper Generators are the power source for events held on the property. Engineered plans for power are greatly needed.

5) Fellowship & Food Pavilions

A large dining hall, meeting halls and general use pavilions are to be constructed. Administration, maintenance and security buildings will be added, as well as cabins for camping.

6) Handicap Facilities

Parking / Restrooms / Access for handicapped individuals.

7) Staff

Though volunteers do the majority of work, a full-time staff is required. Office and maintenance are needed immediately, with other departments under consideration.

8) Advertising and Promotion

Ads, signs and various promotional programs will be needed and will increase with projected long term growth.

9) Safety & Security

Equipment, signage, first aid, radios, golf carts, tents and other items must be purchased and maintained.

10) Playground Area

Safe and healthy spaces for children and leisure will be developed, using green materials where possible.

Ultimately, our goal and purpose is to expand our park into a locale that promotes cultural development, community, music, the arts, youth activities, family values, eco-education, green living and enhances existing tourism to area springs and sports events by providing a premier destination camping and recreation facility.

Board of Directors

High Springs Lions Club

John Sullivan
President

Margie Barkman
Vice President

Lanier Smith
Treasurer

Leslie Flage
Secretary

Bob Holland
Member at Large

E.P. (Jack) Cook
Member at Large

Brian Barkman
Immediate Past President

Farm to Family Event Services Board

Lowell Chesborough
Don Appelbaum
John Smith
Lanier Smith
John Sullivan

Farm to Family Event Services Campaign Committee

Shannon Erickson
John Harber
Chris Newman
Sanna Saare
Raven Smith

Photos from Farm to Family Music Festivals at
Gilchrist Fundraisers Recreation & Music Park
November 2010 and March, June, October and December 2011



The Full Moon Stage



Booklet Layout, Graphic Design and Site Photography by Sanna Saare Graphic Design
Event Photography, where noted, by Trish Utter of Good Life Community Magazine
Other Event Photography by Farm to Family Festival attendees