

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CONTACT:

Matt Duda, Director of Sales & Marketing

Florida EcoSafaris at Forever Florida

Phone: 407-433-5567

Email: MDuda@FloridaEcoSafaris.com

Website: www.FloridaEcoSafaris.com



Forever Florida to Host the 9th Annual Patrick Smith Day

St. Cloud, FL – November, 2008 – Forever Florida invites the public to join in the festivities of the 9th Annual Patrick Smith Day, taking place November 22, 2008 from 10am to 2pm. The annual event honors acclaimed author Patrick D. Smith, voted “Greatest Living Floridian” by the Florida Historical Society.

The whole family will enjoy this fun-filled day of activities including storytelling, arts and crafts vendors, animal interactions and a special kids zone. Always a crowd favorite, guests will enjoy several horse events including covered wagon rides, a show by the Silver Spurs Quadrille Club and a showcase of Florida’s unique Cracker Horses, direct descendents of those brought over by the original Spanish settlers.

One of the highlights of the day will be a keynote talk from Patrick Smith’s son, Rick. Rick’s theme this year will be ‘*Patrick Smith, An Accidental Literary Legend: His Son Spills the Beans.*’ “I’m looking forward to giving the audience some insights into my father’s life and the forces that set him up to write books like *A Land Remembered*”, said Rick Smith referencing his father’s most well-known novel. Patrick Smith himself may make an appearance if his health allows and autographed copies of *A Land Remembered* will be available.

Guests will also be able to journey out into the pristine wilderness of the 4700 acre Forever Florida conservation area on-board the famous Florida EcoSafaris Coach Safari. Covering nine distinct ecosystems, the guided safari will allow participants a chance to see first-hand the untouched Florida wilderness that serves as the setting for so many of Patrick Smith’s great literary works. Said Matt Duda, spokesperson for Florida EcoSafaris, “Patrick Smith and Florida Eco Safaris share the common mission of preserving Florida’s natural heritage for everyone to enjoy. We’re so pleased to be able to honor a truly legendary Floridian with this fun family event.”

Parking and general admission for Patrick Smith Day at Forever Florida is \$5 per person or \$10 per carload. The Florida Eco Safari Coach Tour will be available at a specially discounted rate of just \$20 for adults and children ages 6 and up, an \$8 savings off the regular price. For advance reservations or additional details, please visit www.FloridaEcoSafaris.com or call 1-888-957-9794.

Directions: Florida EcoSafaris is located at 4755 N. Kenansville Road in St. Cloud, Florida. From east or west, take US 192 to Holopaw, and turn south on US 441. Drive seven and one-half miles, and Florida Eco Safaris at Forever Florida will be on the east (left) side of the highway.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CONTACT:

Matt Duda, Director of Sales & Marketing

Florida EcoSafaris at Forever Florida

Phone: 407-433-5567

Email: MDuda@FloridaEcoSafaris.com

Website: www.FloridaEcoSafaris.com



About Patrick Smith: In May 2002 Smith was the recipient of the Florida Historical Society's Fay Schweim Award as the "Greatest Living Floridian." The one-time-only award was established to honor the one individual who has contributed the most to Florida in recent history. Smith was cited for the impact his novels have made on Floridians, both natives and newcomers to the state, and for the worldwide acclaim he has received.

Smith has been nominated three times for the Pulitzer Prize, in 1973 for *Forever Island*, which was a 1974 selection of the Reader's Digest Condensed Book Club and has been published in 46 countries; in 1978 for *Angel City*, which was produced as a "Movie of the Week" for the CBS television network and has aired worldwide; and in 1984 for *A Land Remembered*, which was an Editors' Choice selection of the New York Times Book Review. Smith's lifetime work was nominated for the 1985 Nobel Prize for Literature, and since then he has received five additional nominations.

About Florida EcoSafaris at Forever Florida: Florida EcoSafaris is a unique eco-tourism attraction located in St. Cloud, Florida; just one hour southeast of Orlando. Departing from a picturesque Florida-style cattle and horse ranch, guests journey deep into the 4700 acre Forever Florida wildlife conservation area. This very special place encompasses nine distinct ecosystems and is pristinely preserved just as nature intended. Guests experience natural streams, forests, pastures, wetlands home to a wide array of wildlife including alligators, turtles, black bears, white-tail deer and the endangered Florida Panther.

Two fully-guided tour options are offered. The two-hour Safari Coach Tour allows guests to sit back and relax as they travel in our open-air, all-terrain coaches with an elevated view five feet off the ground. Those seeking even more adventure can enjoy our Horseback Safaris, available in one, two or three hour journeys. Additional programs available include meeting planner and special event facilities, educational camp programs for kids and adults, field trip and scout programs, camping, cabin rental and multi-day cattle-drive safaris.

###