

# Scenic Watch



Covering  
News From  
Sept  
2018

"Congress moves to revive National  
Scenic Byways Program"



Fun Festivals  
and Events

Central

Oct 4-7  
Port Orange Family Days,  
Port Orange  
Oct 4-7  
44th Annual Bicycle



Photo: Scenic America

"The House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure unanimously moved H.R. 5158, a bill to restart the National Scenic Byways Program, on to the full House! [Click here](#) to watch the committee's discussion on the bill.

This action represents a critical step forward for this bill and for the National Scenic Byways Program. This victory wouldn't have been possible without the support of friends like you who've taken action to contact their Members of Congress in support of this bill. So thank you!

Festival, Mount Dora  
Oct 5-7  
Mineral, Gem, Bead and  
Fossil Show, Orlando  
Oct 6  
First Saturday Jam and  
Farm Swap, Barberville  
Oct 6  
10th Annual Mims Mullet  
Festival, Mims  
Oct 6, Oct 27  
Oktoberfest, Casselberry  
Oct 6-28 (Friday and  
Saturday)  
Lowry Park Zoo's  
Creatures of the Night,  
Tampa  
Oct 5  
Jazz Friday at Foosner  
Museum of Art, Melbourne  
Oct 25-28  
Southern Women's Show,  
Orlando  
Oct 13  
Come Out With Pride  
Festival, Orlando  
Oct 20  
Rocky Water Brewfest,  
Melbourne  
Oct 11  
Alive After 5 Oktoberfest,  
Sanford  
Oct 12-14  
Oktoberfest Tampa,  
Tampa  
Oct 12-14  
BBQ and Blues Festival,  
Clermont  
Oct 13  
Oktoberfest on the Beach,  
Indian Rocks Beach  
Oct 13-29  
Boo at the Zoo,  
Melbourne  
Oct 13-14  
Winter Park Autumn Art  
Festival, Winter Park  
Oct 18-20  
Clearwater Jazz Holiday,  
Clearwater  
Oct 18-21  
Biketoberfest, Daytona  
Beach  
Oct 19  
City of DeLand's Hay Day  
Fall Fest, DeLand

If you haven't yet, please reach out to your U.S. Representative today in support of scenic byways: [www.scenic.org/HR5158](http://www.scenic.org/HR5158)

Scenic America has been working hard to achieve the reopening of nominations to the National Scenic Byways Program, and today this goal is one step closer to reality."

-- Mark Falzone, Scenic America

[More details at Scenic America](#)

Scenic Florida's John R. Crescimbeni awarded 2018 Charles E. Bennett Champion Of the Environment Award

Oct 19-21  
Upper Tampa Bay  
Oktoberfest, Oldsmar  
Oct 20-21  
Winter Springs  
ARToberFEST, Winter Springs  
Oct 20-21  
Fall Art and Craft Fair, Cocoa  
Oct 20  
Annual Autumn in the Oaks Festival, DeLeon Springs  
Oct 20  
Tampa Pig Jig, Tampa  
Oct 21  
Florida Harmonica Championships, New Smyrna Beach  
Oct 21  
Festival Calle Orange, Orlando  
Oct 25-28  
John's Pass Seafood Festival, Madeira Beach  
Oct 26-27  
Swan and Dolphin Food and Wine Classic, Walt Disney World  
Oct 26-28  
Spooky Empire, Orlando  
Oct 22-Nov 13  
Space Coast Fair, Viera  
Oct 27  
Sand Art Festival, New Smyrna Beach  
Oct 20-28  
Zoo Boo Bash, Sanford  
Oct 27-28  
Mount Dora Craft Fair, Mount Dora

## South

Oct 5-28 (select nights)  
Fright Nights, West Palm Beach  
Oct 5-7  
Oktoberfest, Oakland Park  
Oct 5-6  
Oktoberfest, Port St Lucie  
Oct 6  
Harvest Fest, Jupiter



Photo: Sandy Arpen - *John Crescimbbini with Amy Fu, Vice Chair of Jacksonville's Environmental Protection Board*

"John Crescimbbini was awarded the 2018 Charles E. Bennett Champion of the Environment Award from the Jacksonville Environmental Protection Board. The award, which is the EPB's highest award, was be presented to John on September 14. Last year Bill Brinton received this award posthumously.

- Oct 6  
Southernmost Marathon and Half, Key West
- Oct 5-7  
Miami Carnival Parade and Festival, Miami
- Oct 13-14  
Coconut Grove Pumpkin Patch Festival, Coconut Grove
- Oct 18  
Alive After Five, Punta Gorda
- Oct 19-21  
Florida International Air Show, Punta Gorda
- Oct 19-21, 26-28  
Oktoberfest, Cape Coral
- Oct 19-28  
Fantasy Fest, Key West
- Oct 20  
Lantern Festival, Delray Beach
- Oct 20-21  
19th Annual Downtown Stuart Craft Festival, Stuart
- Oct 27-28  
Stone Crab Festival, Naples
- Oct 27-28  
Haunted Pirate Fest and Mermaid Splash, Boynton Beach
- Oct 22  
Heroes and Villains 5K, Key West
- Oct 26  
The Smallest Parade in the Universe, Key West
- Oct 27  
10th Annual Palm City Fall Fest, Palm City

## North

- Oct 5  
First Friday Artwalk, Ocala
- Oct 5-6  
Florida Scallop and Music Festival, Port St Joe
- Oct 5-7  
Destin Seafood Festival, Destin



Photo: Sandy Arpen - *John Crescimbin* with Jason Ellis of City Beautiful Jax, Janet Stanko of the Sierra Club, Alicia Grant of Scenic Jacksonville, Inc., Tracey Arpen of City Beautiful Jax and Anna Dooley of Greenscape

The award is named for the late Congressman Charlie Bennett, who was instrumental in establishing the Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve in Jacksonville, which now covers 46,000 acres. He served in Congress for 44 years. Like John, he was a dedicated and hard-working public servant, at one point going 26 years without missing a single roll call vote!"

-- Scenic Florida

[Environmental Protection Board](#)

Coconut Grove:  
"Miami will bloom with new orchids"

- Oct 5-7  
Pirates of the High Seas Fest, Panama City Beach
- Oct 6  
North Central Florida Peanut Festival, Williston
- Oct 6  
12th Annual Ocala Pride Festival, Ocala
- Oct 6  
Founding of the Castillo, St Augustine
- Oct 6-7  
Creekside Festival, Palm Coast
- Oct 6-Nov 4  
Corn Maze at Sykes and Cooper Farm, Elkton
- Oct 7-14  
Amelia Island Jazz Festival, Fernandina Beach
- Oct 7  
Flora-Bama's Oktoberfest, Pensacola
- Oct 12-14  
Greek Festival, St Augustine
- Oct 12-14  
Panama City's Ukulele Festival, Panama City
- Oct 12-14  
59th Pensacola Greek Festival, Pensacola
- Oct 13  
ButterflyFest, Gainesville
- Oct 13  
Artrageous Artwalk, Amelia Island
- Oct 15-21  
St Augustine Independent Restaurant Week, St Augustine
- Oct 18-28  
Pensacola Interstate Fair, Pensacola
- Oct 20  
Bloody Mary and Music Festival, Panama City Beach
- Oct 24-28  
Thunder Beach Autumn Rally, Panama City Beach
- Oct 20  
14th Annual Florida Bat Festival, Gainesville





Photo: City of Miami Twitter

"Miami's Coconut Grove neighborhood will be flush with orchids in the near future.

On Monday morning, city of Miami officials, representatives from Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden's Million Orchid Project and volunteers began planting hundreds of native orchids in the neighborhood.

The Million Orchid Project was launched in 2014 to bring back the orchid population by having a new generation of seedlings planted in urban areas.

'Launching the Million Orchid Project to Coconut Grove brings all the things we love about the Grove together: environment, history and beauty,' Miami city commissioner Ken Russell said on Twitter.

At a press conference Wednesday morning along Main Highway in Coconut Grove, Russell said 'our goal is to put 100 orchids on every mahogany tree on Main Highway over the coming months...So as these bloom in the coming years, you're going to see a sense of the Grove that we remember from long ago.'

The orchid species that will be planted in the Grove include the cowhorn orchid, clamshell orchid and butterfly orchid...

More than a century ago, before railroad expansion,

Oct 20-21  
WasabiCon, Jacksonville  
Oct 26-28  
Ocala Pumpkin Run Car  
Show and Festival, Ocala  
Oct 27  
First Coast Arts and Crafts  
Fall Show, St Augustine  
Oct 27  
Family Pumpkin Festival,  
White Springs  
Oct 27  
St Marks Stone Crab  
Festival, St Marks  
Oct 27-28  
23rd Annual Festival of  
the Arts, Destin

[For many more events  
and details please visit  
the Orlando Times Travel  
Calendar here](#)



the region's ecosystem bloomed with orchids that grew on native trees, Fairchild officials said...

Last year, the Million Orchid Project planted thousands of orchids throughout Miami Beach and about 250 at Tivoli Lakes in Boynton Beach. "

-- Johnny Diaz, South Florida Sun Sentinel

[Read entire article](#)

## "Are Underground Power Lines Really The Solution To Power Outages In South Florida?"



Photo: Al Diaz, Miami Herald

"Hurricane Irma was a game-changer for South Florida. Cities are preparing for hurricane season differently now. And the region's largest utility, Florida Power & Light, is pushing for a method that could turn the lights back on faster after a storm...

Last month, FPL launched a three-year pilot program to put more power lines underground in more neighborhoods. According to FPL, 40 percent of its lines are already under the ground.

After the 2005 double-hitter of Hurricanes Katrina

and Wilma, FPL invested nearly \$3 billion to harden its electrical grid, to try to make it more resilient against the storms of the future.

Underground power lines are one of several hardening techniques that help make the grid more storm-resilient. Others include managing trees near electrical infrastructure; replacing wooden poles with concrete or steel ones; and reinforcing utility poles with guy wires (tensioned cables) for more stability.

FPL, which maintains a hybrid system of above-ground and underground lines, says it's planning to harden all the power lines along major thoroughfares by 2024.

At the May PSC meeting, Olnick said underground power lines performed 80 percent better than overhead ones during Hurricane Irma - which means they were that much less likely to lose power.

'Which was expected,' he said.

If Irma had been a water storm, underground power lines would have faced other challenges, namely severe flooding and storm surge...

Buried power lines are kept inside PVC pipes that are made to be watertight. But if water manages to enter the pipes, then the outages can take longer to remedy because accessing buried infrastructure takes more time. (The U.S. Department of Energy estimates repairing 'widespread below-ground failures' can take several weeks.)

...South Florida's geology compounds the water tradeoff. The pipes are sitting atop a bedrock of porous limestone - essentially a big sponge.

The ground material also varies with geography. Varela, the Miami Springs contractor, says he has hit sandy soil there while Coral Gables is known for its coral rock...



FPL says it's trying to counter storm flooding. According to Olnick, the company is using flood monitors at substations to keep track of existing water. (During Irma, two substations in FPL's 35-county territory were de-energized, or powered down, because of flooding.)

In Downtown Miami, the company is experimenting with sub-aqueous power lines that can be submerged in water, according to FPL's Bryan Olnick."

-- Alexander Gonzalez & Caitie Switalski, WLRN  
Miami, South Florida

[Read entire article including detailed requirements and geographical charts](#)

