

*Amelia Island,
Historical Jewel*

*Stockyard Whiskey
Made in Florida*

*Meet Caloosa
Saddle Club*

FLORIDACOUNTRY

Farming Seeds of Family Traditions

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CAMP MACK

A GUY HARVEY
WATER-CENTRIC LODGE

BLACKBEARD'S
RANCH

BEEF, PORK
AND HONEY

BELLEVIEW INN

WHITE QUEEN
ON THE GULF

LUKE KEELING

*FIRST TURKEY,
IMPROMPTU
PHOTOSHOOT*

CAMP MACK PERFECT FOR ANGLERS, FAMILIES, 'KODAK MOMENTS'

LODGE, MARINA & RV RESORT ON THE KISSIMMEE CHAIN OF LAKES

Written by: Ava Grace

Perhaps you're a serious angler hoping to win a bass tournament, or maybe a family searching for an outdoorsy vacation, or possibly a couple looking for a weekend adventure filled with hiking and "Kodak moments." If so, the place that fulfills every one of those wishes is Camp Mack, a Guy Harvey Lodge, Marina & RV Resort.

Camp Mack offers so much for so many because—as the adage goes—"Location, location, location." It's in Lake Wales, Florida, on the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, with access to 21,000 acres of world-class bass fishing grounds. Lake Kissimmee is one of the top bass fishing lakes in the Sunshine State, known for largemouth bass.

And the camp borders Lake Kissimmee State Park, which has more than 13 miles of hiking trails and is on the Great Florida Birding and Wildlife Trail. "Summer is a great time

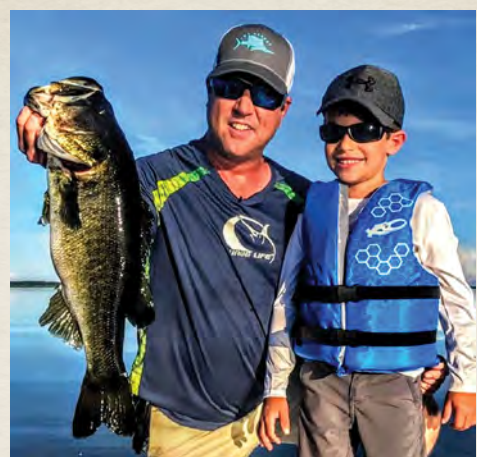
to be on the lake, whether it is fishing, boating or nature touring," notes Kevin DeNell, executive vice president and chief branding officer of Guy Harvey Outpost.

Camp Mack is part of Guy Harvey Outpost, "a collection of water-centric hospitality properties and travel products," according to guyharveyoutpost.com. Internationally renowned Guy Harvey is, of course, "the man behind it—a unique blend of artist, scientist, diver, angler, conservationist and explorer."

The camp hosts several fishing tournaments in June and July; the schedule is posted online. "Keep in mind that fish bite early during the summer months," DeNell says. Charters with Capt. Scott Taylor can be booked at the camp's Outfitter Shop or online in summer. From October through May, guests can enjoy "Cow Camp," in which they can "travel back in time

PHOTOS ON THIS AND OPPOSITE PAGE COURTESY OF GUY HARVEY OUTPOST





Opposite page,
Lake Wales-based Camp
Mack has been in the same loca-
tion for more than a century. Fish-
ing, inset, is one of the camp's many
activities. Others include, clockwise
from top left, biking, air boat tours
and canoeing. Guests stay in
cabins, the lodge or their
own RV.





to 1876 with a Florida cow hunter in a frontier camp along the route of a cattle drive.”

DeNell adds, “For non-anglers, a great way to enjoy the lake is with Alligator Cove Air Boat Tours, who also offer daily tours out of Camp Mack during the summer.” Participants see “real Florida” and its wildlife “in an intimate setting, as each of the tours are operated from a six-pack airboat.” The camp also hosts RV groups with rallies.

This year, the Chili Cook-Off & Corn Hole Competition takes place Saturday, June 20. Adult and youth teams will compete in an International Chili Society-sanctioned event in Traditional Red, Homestyle or Verde categories. The fun-filled family weekend also offers a craft show, live music and more.

Visitors who love music are in for a treat because Camp Mack’s Riverfront Concert Series continues throughout the



Top,
an RV parks in
an idyllic spot near
a gazebo. Above,
Capt. Scott Taylor offers
fishing charters.

summer. “Our Riverfront Concert Series is a monthly event with free live music, and food trucks, at the Camp Mack Riverfront Stage,” explains DeNell. The Red Hot Roosters play on the Fourth of July from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

“Camp Mack’s history is what makes it a special place,” DeNell says. It’s been in the same location for more than 100 years, starting as a fish camp and general store. When the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes had steamboats transiting up and down the waterways, Camp Mack was a landing spot from 1880 to 1920.

The old general store exists today as the Outfitter Shop, where visitors can shop and book such adventures as boat rentals, kayak rentals, fishing and airboat charters. Guests stay in cabins, the recently renovated lodge or in their own RVs. **FCM**

ROUNDUP

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