



X-25626

9 Front St., Lake George, NY 12845

## ALL-ELECTRIC TOUR BOAT FULLY ACCESSIBLE

For nearly 150 years, visitors to Florida's freshwater Silver Springs have been captivated by the area's underwater beauty from within glass-bottomed boats. Florida State Parks' newest vessel in its fleet is its first handicap-accessible boat. Powered by twin eco-friendly Elco EP-20 Electric Outboard motors, the *Chief Potackee-Betty Mae Tiger Jumper* has reached a milestone by carrying over 1,700 passengers with wheelchairs, scooters or other mobility aids since its launching last August.

As reliable as they are durable, Elco EP-20 Electric Outboards create no combustion odors. This makes sightseeing exceptionally pleasant for the vessel's 28 passengers and an ideal work environment for its two crew.

With the *Chief Potackee-Betty Mae Tiger Jumper*, Florida State Parks converted from lead acid batteries to a pair of Lithionics NeverDie® 7.5 kW lithium-ion iron phosphate units. They provide faster recharging and less downtime between tours.

The Elco EP-20 Electric Outboard produces 177kgf of thrust—more than enough to move the 11.1m L x 3.6m W vessel. Similar to combustion engines, integrated water circulating systems cool the motors during high output. At slow speed, electric propulsion will continue even without cooling water flow. Over-speed, overload, over-voltage and over-current

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protections similarly increase operational safety. Plus, at only 38.5kg, EP-20 Electric Outboards are far lighter than their gasoline-powered counterparts and easier to maintain.

Designed by naval architects Lay, Pitman & Associates, the *Chief Potackee-Betty Mae Tiger Jumper* was named one of 10 Significant Boats of 2021 by *WorkBoat*. Named for the first female chief of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, the boat features a flat deck with wide aisles and fold-down seats to easily accommodate the width of a wheelchair. It also has a unique induction-loop system for passengers with telecoil hearing aids to listen to the tour guide. Underwater lighting improves visibility through the 3.8cm glass. With a mere 30cm draft, the vessel easily skims over the shallowest water with the EP-20 Electric Outboards' 57cm long shafts; short 44.5cm shafts are also available.

Located just west of Ocala, Florida, US, the pristine waters of Silver Springs State Park are fed by a freshwater spring. Because the deck area is kept intentionally dim, passengers aboard the *Chief Potackee-Betty Mae Tiger Jumper* can easily view the area's native freshwater aquatic fauna and flora, Indigenous American and Spanish artifacts and old discarded movie props through its glass bottom. More information is at [www.silversprings.com/glass-bottom-boats](http://www.silversprings.com/glass-bottom-boats).

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