



trail tales



Loxahatchee Chapter, Florida Trail Association

Special Edition - September 2014

Next Chapter Meeting:

October 6

OKEEHEELEE NATURE CENTER

Social 7:00 p.m.

Program 7:30 p.m.

Program:

Eliot Kleinburg Talks About Palm Beach County History

Located in Okeehlee Park on Forest Hill Blvd. east of the turnpike. Follow the main park road for about a mile, turn left at the Nature Center sign and continue to the building.

Chapter Officers

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Membership: Mary Miller, 561-391-7942, mhm27@juno.com

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Special Newsletter

by Shannon Moore (guest editor)

The Chapter has two special events coming up that need your attention before the next scheduled newsletter. First, the Big "O" Hike WILL be held this year, with a few changes in store. Read page 2 for updates. The second item is the Regional Conference. Both items have registration forms included in this newsletter. Please be aware of the dates that both of these are due.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our regular newsletter editor, Gail Irwin. She's a long time volunteer who also helps out at the Nature Center. Thank you, Gail, for all your hard work. She's be back at the editor's helm for the next issue, Nov/Dec, which she's already working on.

Tentative Schedule for the FTA Southern Regional Conference to be held November 7-9, 2014 at the Everglades Youth Conservation Camp in the Corbett Wildlife Management Area. See the Registration form on page 4.

Friday:

1 PM: Registration
4 PM: Hike in the Hungryland trail
6 PM: Hospitality (*bring a snack to share*)
7:30 PM: Ocean Frontiers Program (what people are doing to help protect the oceans)

Saturday:

6:30 AM: Early morning walk
7-8 AM: Breakfast
8-12 AM: Registration
8:30 AM: Introduction to Corbett WMA (Janice Kerber, Youth Camp Director)
9-5: WUZ_NU auction (all items must be picked up by 6 PM)
9-11: Python Patrol workshop (20 people limit)
9-10: Map/Compass/GPS
10-11: Tools of the trail

Saturday cont.:

10-11 NETA
11-12: Map/compass/gps exercise
12-1: Lunch
1-3: Trails to the future (land managers panel)
1-4: Indoor games
3-5: Hike on the Hungryland or canoe
3-4: Outdoor photography
4-5: Archaeology
5:30-7: Dinner
6:30: Live auction
7 PM: Program on hiking the OTLHT

Sunday:

6:30 Walk
7-8: Breakfast
8:30 Closing ceremony
9: Hike on the Hungryland Slough
OTLHT
9: Hike on the Corbett OTLHT

The Big-O Hike

The Big-O is back as a 6-day event beginning on Nov 23rd and running through the 28th.

Roy Moore is taking on the overall hike leader role, Mike (NOMAD) Levitt stepped up to be the Wagonmaster again, Scott Lunsford will facilitate communications, and Paul Cummings will serve as senior advisor, all to bring you the 23rd Annual Big-O Hike. Details may be found on our Meetup Site (direct event link: <http://www.meetup.com/Florida-Trail-Association-Loxahatchee-Chapter-PBCounty/events/205467572/>) which is serving as our center of communications. Changes from previous year include a registration fee, a 6-day hike near the lake instead of a 9-day hike around the lake, no printed Big-O book, and distribution of maps as the hike progresses. A registration form is included with this newsletter and also published on our website. (<http://loxfltrail.org>)

For those of you who do not use computers, the basics are as follows:

- The primary communications contact will be Scott Lunsford.
- **Registration fee** will be \$10 by mail and \$15 for onsite registration.
- Hikers can choose whether to hike any day or all days.
- Hikes will be on the lake dikes with a couple of alternatives; one likely in The DuPuis Reserve and the other along the Kissimmee River. Hikes on the lake dikes may not be adjacent to previous day's hike, or in the same direction along the dike.
- The **Okeechobee KOA Campground** will be the center of operations. (We will not be moving so Okeechobee will be the only location for overnight camping or hotel stays.)
- Check-in will begin after 2:00 pm on Saturday, Nov 22. At the time of publication, we do not have campground fees. All campers should ask for the FTA event at the gate. Proceed to that location and the Wagonmaster will assign a site.
- Shuttling is done by hikers who are willing to **bring an extra car key** and use their car in the shuttle swap. Car shuttling to beginning points and from ending points will be coordinated at the evening meetings beginning Saturday evening before the first hike. *For those not camping or who just plan on showing up at Port Mayaca on Sunday, special shuttles will take hikers back to pick up their cars.*
- **First day** hikes will begin at the Port Mayaca Public Use Area (near Jct 76/98, same location as last year) at 8:30 am. The Wimp Walk, along the Sanchez trail, will be back as a first day alternative. Refreshments will be served. Everyone must sign in.
- Afternoon social events and evening meetings will return and be held at the KOA campgrounds. **Next day's plans will be discussed at the evening meetings.** These are important as routes may change and shuttles need to be coordinated.
- **T-Shirts** may be ordered only by the mail registration form. We will not be printing extra shirts this year. The T-Shirts will be handed out Saturday at KOA or Sunday at the registration area.
- We do not plan on printing an entire booklet. Maps will be given out for each day, generally the evening before. Other information will be available at the campsite.
- Plans for an optional Thanksgiving meal are in the works, but last year's location is no longer open and we are seeking an alternative.

23rd Annual Big "O" Hike Registration Form

November 23-28, 2014

with Okeechobee KOA, Okeechobee, FL, as our Base Camp

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Registration fee.....\$ 10.00
(Onsite Registration is \$15, so it pays to register now.)

T-Shirts (Short sleeved only, will not be mailed - must be picked up at the hike) Please indicate number of each size. Cost \$16/each. This is the only opportunity as no extra T-Shirts will be ordered.

Size	Number
Small	
Medium	
Large	
XL	
XXL	
XXXL	

Total No. of T. Shirts _____ X \$16 each = ,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,\$ _____

Total Enclosed (Make Checks payable to FTA, Lox Chapter) \$ _____

For planning purposes--- Are you interested in attending a Thanksgiving meal? (Guests are welcome.) Total including yourself..... _____

Please mail this Registration Form with check/money order by October 31, 2014

Mail registration form and check to: Florida Trail Association, Lox Chapter
2179 Amesbury Cir
Wellington, FL 33414

If you have provided an email address, you'll receive an email confirmation.

**Florida Trail Association South Regional Conference, Nov. 7-8-9, 2014
At the Youth Camp in the Corbett Wildlife Management Area**

*Directions: Palm Beach County, North of Southern BLVD (441/80/98) at
12100 Seminole-Pratt Whitney Road.*

Name _____ Chapter _____

Address _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Registration: at \$10.00 person (children under 12 free)

No. _____ \$ _____ Names for name tags _____

Day use fee (per person, non camper) \$6 _____

Camping: Tent camping per night: \$10. _____

RV (no hookups) per night: \$12. _____

Cabins: \$14 per person per night _____

(indicate male/female or mixed)

Canoes: \$3 per person per day _____

Meals: Breakfast: Saturday \$9 _____

Lunch: Saturday, \$5 _____

Dinner: Saturday \$20 _____

Breakfast: Sunday \$9 _____

TOTALS: (registration/camping/meals) _____

Please register for meals, etc. by October 24, 2014

Mail registration form and check to: Florida Trail Association, Lox Chapter
9887 Cross Pine Court
Lake Worth, FL 33467

Loxahatchee Chapter
Florida Trail Association
P.O. Box 19393
West Palm Beach, FL 33416-9393

NEWS!! Special Edition:

The Big "O" Hike for 2014 has been reinstated.
Pass it around. Details within.

***Florida Trail Association South Regional
Conference (Nov. 7, 8, & 9, 2014) Registration and Tentative
Schedule within.***

For chapter information visit
<http://loxfltrail.org>