



# trail tales



## Loxahatchee Chapter, Florida Trail Association

Volume 27, Issue 1: Bi-monthly Publication

January/ February 2017

### CHAPTER MEETINGS

First Monday of every month

*Topics of interest to hikers,  
outdoor enthusiasts and  
naturists held at:*

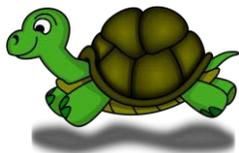
### OKEEHEELEE NATURE CENTER

Social 7:00 p.m.  
Program 7:30 p.m.

*Located in Okechee 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.*

### EVERYONE IS WELCOME

**Happy Hiking!!**



### The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Big "O"

Well it's over: six days of hiking all on the Florida Trail, six days of beautiful hiking, and six days of limited blister complaints. Our youngest hiker was eight; and our oldest was eighty-two. We were truly a diverse group with one hiker from Italy, a couple from North Carolina, another from Iowa, a couple of Arizona, and still others from all parts of Florida. Even with on-going major construction and many sections of the Lake "O" dike closed, we were able to hike more than half the dike. The leadership team included Roy and Shannon Moore, Scott Lunsford, Margaret Brabham and, as always, mentors Paul Cummings and Gordon Johnson. John Fenner collected and edited a 25 year history of the Big "O" which was distributed to participants. The traditional talent show was again hosted by Bill and Ginny Detzner. Thanksgiving dinner this year was provided by KOA, what a fabulous treat. Over the years, hundreds of hikers have hiked tens of thousands of miles on this longest continuing event in the FTA. Each step each person takes adds to the collective and memorable soul of the Big "O". Next year we'll do it again, along with some returning hikers and some new ones, some old and some young. Start your plan for Thanksgiving week in 2017. We have.

- submitted by Roy Moore

## Chapter Meetings & Events

### Monthly Meeting

#### January

Program to be announced.

#### February

Program to be announced.

###



Backpacking Hikers, in no particular order: trail leader, Scott, Faith, Jeff, Leslie, Ryan, Wayne & Liz, Chris, Rachel, Bill, Lexana, Brynn, Mary, Thad, Sandy

## BEGINNER'S BACKPACKING REPORT

By

John Fenner

Fifteen intrepid hikers met at JD at 8:00 a.m. Saturday Nov. 12 to do an overnight hike in Jonathan Dickinson Park. Led by Scott Lunsford and his co-leader Mary Miller, they all loaded into shuttle vehicles for the ride to Riverbend Park where they began their adventure. From Riverbend Park they spent the day carrying their packed gear to Kitching Creek primitive campsite in Jonathan Dickinson, a distance of about 8 miles. The campsite hosts a pitcher pump well and a primitive composting toilet. Tents and hammocks were set up and the team spent the night in the wild, making dinner (Ryan forgot utensils, so he decided to make chop sticks), sharing tales, and restoring their experience with the natural world. On Sunday morning they packed up and finished with a short hike out (3 miles) to their waiting cars. A celebratory lunch at Dune Dog Cafe followed.



If this type of hike interest you, there is a similar one on the calendar for January 21. Hikers will backpack out 7.5 miles to a primitive campsite on Saturday and back to the vehicles almost 8 miles on Sunday. Last year they had a celebration buffet lunch at the Seminole Inn in Indiantown on Sunday. However, they have to get there by 1:30 p.m. So they will have to get up and get going on Sunday at 8:30. This will be a little tougher than the JD overnight.

## Chapter Officers

Chair: Roy Moore, 561-422-2189, [shotgun.mgc@gmail.com](mailto:shotgun.mgc@gmail.com)

Vice/Programs: Margaret Brabham, 561-324-3543, [magbrab@yahoo.com](mailto:magbrab@yahoo.com)

Vice/Trails: Fred Davis, 561-585-6386, [fdavis@msn.com](mailto:fdavis@msn.com)

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Treasurer: Paul Cummings, 561-963-9906, [cummingsps@att.net](mailto:cummingsps@att.net)

## Council Representative

Bea Rogers, 561-644-0777, [bznest22@bellsouth.net](mailto:bznest22@bellsouth.net)

## Committees

Membership: Mary Miller, 561-213-2189, [mhm27@juno.com](mailto:mhm27@juno.com)

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## Trail Section Leaders

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DuPuis: Bea Rogers, 561-644-0777, [bznest22@bellsouth.net](mailto:bznest22@bellsouth.net)

Lake Okeechobee: Paul Cummings, 561-963-9906, [cummingsps@att.net](mailto:cummingsps@att.net)

# ≡ Monthly Activity Calendar ≡ ☐

## January/February

Date	Description
01/01/17	<b>SANDHILL CRANE TRACT HIKE.</b> Explore this area with Bea Rogers. Meet at 8am at gate on N side of Beeline Hwy (710), 5 miles NW of Northlake Blvd . Wear sturdy footwear, hat. Hiking stick recommended. Bring water & snack. Contact Bea: 561-644-0777 Public/Leisure-Moderate.
01/02/17	<b>MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETING.</b> Members and guests can socialize while indulging in refreshments at 7:00 p.m. The program is to be announced and begins at 7:30 p.m. Contact: Margaret Brabham, 561-324-3543. Public/Leisure.
01/07/17	<b>JOHN PRINCE PARK WALK.</b> Take a stroll in the park with your hiking companions. Choose your pace and distance. Breakfast afterward at TooJays. 7:30 a.m. Contact: Paul Cummings, 561-963-9906. Public/Leisure.
01/08/17	<b>HIKE IN JONATHAN DICKINSON STATE PARK.</b> Bring plenty of water for this 7 to 12 mile hike. Meet at the front gate of the park at 8:00 a.m. Lunch afterward at the Dune Dog Café. Contact: Mary Miller, 561-213-2189. Public/Moderate.
01/08/17	<b>FT. PIERCE HIKES.</b> Alan Collins has scouted out some hiking trails in Ft. Pierce. If you want to experience new adventures, here's your chance. Meet at Riverbend Park at 7:30 a.m. for car-pooling. This is an all-day affair. Contact: Alan, 561-586-0486 Public/Leisure.
01/14/17	<b>TRAIL MAINTENANCE.</b> To be announced at monthly meeting. Contact: Fred Davis, 561-585-6386.
01/15/17	<b>BIRD WALK AT GREEN CAY.</b> Meet at 7 a.m. at Green Cay Wetlands parking lot for an early morning bird walk. For additional information call Paul Cummings, 561-963-9906
01/21/17	<b>OKEEHEELEE PARK WALK.</b> Margaret leads a walk in this expansive park. Meet at Okeeheelee Park South, Hiking/biking Trails Parking lot. Walk then have breakfast at Pete's Place. 7:30 a.m. Contact: Margaret, 561-324-3543. Public/Leisure.
01/21-22	<b>DUPUIS BEGINNER'S BACKPACKING OVERNIGHT.</b> Scott will lead another beginner's backpacking overnight. Contact Scott: 561-441-1251 to answer questions and to reserve your spot.
01/28/17	<b>HIKE IN APOXEE.</b> Joe Rosenberg will lead you through around 9 miles in this urban wilderness off Jog Rd. 8:00 a.m. Bring plenty of water. Contact: 561-859-1954. Public/Moderate.
01/29/17	<b>PONDHAWK NATURAL AREA WALK.</b> For all south county hikers, this natural area is located in your neck of the woods – Boca Raton. 7:30 a.m. Breakfast afterward. Contact: Alan Collins, 561-586-0486. Public/Leisure.
02/04/17	<b>JOHN PRINCE PARK WALK.</b> Enjoy the pleasure of strolling in the park before you head out to breakfast at TooJays. 7:30 a.m. Contact: Paul Cummings, 561-963-9906. Public/Leisure.
02/05/17	<b>HIKE IN JONATHAN DICKINSON STATE PARK.</b> Challenge yourself to a good long hike (around 7 to 12 miles) in JDSP. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the front gate. Bring lots of water. Lunch at the Dune Dog Café afterward. Contact: Mary Miller, 561-213-2189. Public/Moderate.
02/06/17	<b>MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETING.</b> Meet up with your fellow hikers and socialize before the meeting. Refreshments at 7:00 p.m. The program begins at 7:30 p.m. Contact: Margaret Brabham, 561-324-3543. Public/Leisure.
02/11/17	<b>TRAIL MAINTENANCE.</b> To be announced at monthly meeting. Contact: Fred Davis, 561-585-6386.
02/18 THRU-2/23/17	<b>2017 OCEAN TO LAKE HIKING TRAIL BACKPACKING EVENT.</b> This annual six-day, 62-mile backpacking hike is a moderate to strenuous activity <b>for experienced backpackers only</b> . This hike is limited to 25 hikers due to campsite limitations. Contact Fred Davis, <a href="mailto:fdavis6539@msn.com">fdavis6539@msn.com</a> , 561-585-6386, for complete details.
02/15/17	<b>HICKORY HAMMOCK NATURAL AREA HIKE -WEDNESDAY ACTIVITY.</b> Walk around 8-9 miles in this beautiful area. Meet at 7:30 a.m. in Riverbend Park. Breakfast in Indiantown. Late lunch in Okeechobee. Contact: Dave Cook, 561-743-8642. Public/Leisure.
2/18/17	<b>OKEEHEELEE PARK WALK.</b> Margaret Brabham leads a walk in this expansive park. Meet at Okeeheelee Park South, Hiking/biking Trails Parking lot. Walk then have breakfast at Pete's Place. 7:30 a.m. Contact: Margaret, 561-324-3543. Public/Leisure.
02/19/17	<b>BIRD WALK AT WAKODAHATCHEE.</b> Meet at 7 a.m. at Wakodahatchee Wetlands parking lot for an early morning bird walk. For additional information call Paul Cummings, 561-963-9906
02/25/17	<b>HIKE IN APOXEE.</b> Joe Rosenberg will take you through Apoxee on a 14 mile "Hike to the Dam". Plenty of water is a must. Contact: 561-859-1954. Public/Moderate-Strenuous.
02/26/17	<b>WINDING WATERS WALK.</b> This trail is located in Dyer park off Haverhill Rd. Join Alan Collins at 7:30 a.m. Breakfast afterward. Contact: 561-586-0486. Public/leisure.

**Loxahatchee Chapter**  
**Florida Trail Association**  
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*For all FTA information: [www.floridatrail.org](http://www.floridatrail.org)  
Chapter Web site: <http://loxfltrail.org/>*

