



trail tales



Loxahatchee Chapter, Florida Trail Association

Volume 28, Issue 1: Bi-monthly Publication

January/February 2018

CHAPTER MEETINGS

First Monday of every month
FEB meeting features:
Native Plants Along the Trails

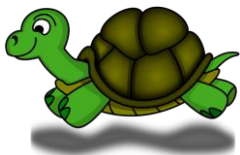
Topics of interest to hikers, outdoor enthusiasts and naturists held at:

OKEEHEELEE NATURE CENTER

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

Located in 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.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME



Happy Hiking!!



New Year's Day is just around the corner. Celebrate it twice with Bea Roger's hike in the morning and the chapter meeting in the evening. Bea has been leading a hike on New Year's Day for 22 years. This year, the hike will be moved to a new location in order to keep it on mostly dry trail. The complete information is on Meetup but the hike will begin at the east trailhead to the Cypress Creek Natural Area 10035 W. Indiantown Road, Jupiter, FL. The location is on the north side of Indiantown Road, just a few hundred feet west of the Jupiter Farms Road traffic signal. Hiking begins at 8:00 am so be there by 7:45 to get signed in.

This hike is designed for all of you to have a great time with options varying from two to eleven miles. Hikers will enjoy some of the Cypress Creek trail and then connect to the Ocean to Lake Hiking trail. They will be able to see the cabin where we store our equipment for trail maintenance. Those on the longer route will cross BZ' Creek, enjoy great views of the Loxahatchee river, complete with old Cypress trees and knees and then go on to Cypress Creek bridge where they will turn and return. This will be a great opportunity to start the year with friends, celebrate Bea's 23 year leading the group, and enjoy some of our prettiest trail.

The Big 'O' 2017, Looking Back



Even though I've only been involved with the Big 'O' Hike for a few years, it seems as if each one has a bit of a different vibe. The Big 'O' Hike is held annually, starting on the Sunday before Thanksgiving and ending on the day after Thanksgiving. This year we had around 40 registrants, several from states other than Florida including Tennessee; North Carolina, Missouri, and Georgia. Not all hikers are available for the entire week, but this year nineteen hikers participated in each of the daily hikes.

Since the Corps of Engineers is still working on the dike, the entire dike is not open to the public. Each day's day-hike covered a different section of the Lake Okeechobee dike. The hiking path on the dike also varied from asphalt shared with many hikers and bicyclists to tall grass with hard packed tracks.

Weather is another unpredictable factor, but for the most part the weather was pretty considerate of our hikers this year. One day hikers started in the rain, but it cleared rather quickly leaving views of a rainbow along the route.

We had Thanksgiving with other KOA campers. The campground is most gracious to allow us to join the activities. We had our own table, and had a great meal provided. We've already made arrangements for next year to have our base camp at the Okeechobee KOA campgrounds again on Thanksgiving week. For those who are planning to attend and book KOA Kabins, KOA has offered us a 15% discount if you mention that you are part of the Big 'O'.

There are many people to thank for their help. Scott Lunsford, Jeff Andrews, and Suzanne Niemann for the important job of sweeping; all the shuttle drivers; Margaret Brabham for the kickoff breakfast; Paul Cummings for the history sendoff; all of the hikers, and all those who came to camp just to be around. Thank you one and all.

-Shannon Moore

Chapter Officers

Chair: Roy Moore,
561-422-2189,
shotgun.mgc@gmail.com

Vice/Trails: Fred Davis,
561-779-0273, fdavis@msn.com

Treasurer: Paul Cummings,
561-596-4423, cummingsps@att.net

Public Relations: John Fenner,
586-350-3235,
johnwf001@yahoo.com

Council Representative

Bea Rogers, 561-644-0777
bznest22@gmail.com

Committees

Membership: Mary Miller,
561-213-2189, mhm27@juno.com

Newsletter: Shannon Moore,
561-422-2189, shanroy@bellsouth.net

Public Relations: John Fenner,
586-350-3235,
johnwf001@yahoo.com

Trail Section Leaders

Jonathan Dickinson: Jeff Andrews,
561-310-6950, jeff4sail@mac.com

Corbett: Tony Rawson,
561-843-4668,
tonrawson@yahoo.com

DuPuis: Scott Lunsford,
561-441-1251,
tblazer7579@comcast.net

Lake Okeechobee: Paul Cummings,
561-596-4423, cummingsps@att.net

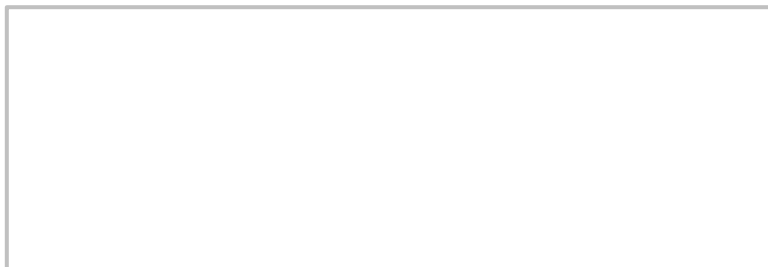
Monthly Activity Calendar

November/December

- 01/01/18 NEW YEAR'S DAY HIKE.** Led by Bea Rogers. 8:00 a.m. East trailhead to the Cypress Creek Natural Area (See details on page1 of this newsletter.)
- 01/01/18 MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETING.** 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. Public/Leisure.
- 01/06/18 JOHN PRINCE PARK WALK.** 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, 561-596-4423. Public/Leisure.
- 01/07/18 HIKE IN JONATHAN DICKINSON STATE PARK.** 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.
- 01/13/18 TRAIL MAINTENANCE.** To be announced at monthly meeting. Contact: Fred Davis, 561-779-0273.
- 01/20/18 OKEEHHEELER PARK WALK.** Meet at Okeehheeler Park South, Hiking/biking Trails Parking lot. Walk then have breakfast at Pete's Place. 7:30 a.m. Public/Leisure.
- 01/27/18 HIKE IN APOXEE.** 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.
- 01/21/18 BLOWING ROCKS.** Paul will lead you for a walk to Blowing Rocks and back. Meet at Coral Cove Park at 7:30 a.m. Contact: Paul Cummings, 561-596-4423. Public/Leisure.
- 01/28/18 PONDHAWK NATURAL AREA WALK.** 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.
- 02/03/18 JOHN PRINCE PARK WALK.** Enjoy the pleasure of strolling in the park before you head out to breakfast at TooJays. 7:30 a.m. Contact: Paul Cummings, 561-596-4423. Public/Leisure.
- 02/04/18 HIKE IN JONATHAN DICKINSON STATE PARK.** 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.
- 02/05/18 MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETING.** 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. Public/Leisure.
- 02/10/18 EVERGLADES DAY.** The Chapter will be staffing an FTA display at the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge.
- 02/10/18 TRAIL MAINTENANCE.** To be announced at monthly meeting. Contact: Fred Davis, 561-779-0273.
- 02/11/18 BIRD WALK.** Join Paul for a leisurely bird walk at Green Cay. 7:00 a.m. Contact: Paul Cummings, 561-596-4423. Public/Leisure.
- 02/17 THRU-2/22/18 OCEAN TO LAKE HIKING TRAIL BACKPACKING EVENT.** This annual six-day, 62-mile backpacking hike is a moderate to strenuous activity **for experienced backpackers only**. This hike is limited to 25 hikers due to campsite limitations. Contact Fred Davis, fdavis6539@msn.com (preferred!), 561-779-0273, or our MEETUP site for complete details.
- 2/17/18 OKEEHHEELER PARK WALK.** Meet at Okeehheeler Park South, Hiking/biking Trails Parking lot. Walk then have breakfast at Pete's Place. 7:30 a.m. Public/Leisure.
- 02/24/18 HIKE IN APOXEE.** 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.
- 02/25/18 WINDING WATERS WALK.** 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
P.O. Box 19393
West Palm Beach, FL 33416-9393

NON PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
WEST PALM BEACH, FL
PERMIT #1204



*For all FTA information: www.floridatrail.org
Chapter Website: <http://loxfltrail.org/>*

