



trail tales



Loxahatchee Chapter, Florida Trail Association

Volume 25, Issue 4: Bi-monthly Publication

July/August 2015

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!!



Repair of Rainy Slough Bridge

By Fred Davis

On April 23, 2015, Loxahatchee Chapter volunteers repaired the Rainy Slough Bridge that was damaged during a prescribed fire in Jonathan Dickinson State Park. This bridge is on the White Loop Trail which is a popular day use trail in the park, so a quick repair was essential since the damaged bridge was impassable.

The park provided all the materials for the repair and was of great help transporting the new bridge material and our equipment to and from the work site, helping to set the new foundation of the bridge and removing the remains of the old bridge.

The repair crew included Tony Rawson, Craig Custer, Roy Moore, Rick Binder, Dean Drake, Scott Lunsford, and myself. Our seasoned crew made short work of the repair. The old decking was removed, one new pole was set, new decking and an edge rail were installed in four hours of work. As we finished the job the expected showers arrived, thus we completed the repair of the Rainy Slough Bridge in the rain. However everyone remained in good spirits.

My thanks to the crew for a job well done and to the park for all their help.



Chapter Meetings & Events

Monthly Meeting

July 6

To Be Announced

August 3

To Be Announced



Mother's Day Wildflower Walk

By Paul Cummings

A big crowd gathered for the Mother's Day wildflower walk in Jonathan Dickinson State Park on Sunday, May 10. There were plenty of wildflowers to look for.

Several dozen were identified, many of them were in the yellow range, but there were also a lot of pinks, and a few other colors.

We did watch a yellow rat snake about four feet long sunning itself and finally going into a gopher hole. The Ospreys were nesting and the woodpeckers were out pounding on the trees.

It was a great day with a nice group of people and a good gathering for lunch afterward. #

A Pleasant Weekday Ramble

By Dave Cook

As the rising sun brightened the eastern horizon on Wednesday, June 13th, 10 adventurers carpoled from Riverbend Park bound for the southern Florida "outback." After breakfast at the western-motified Cracker's Café in Indiantown, it was off to Kissimmee Prairie.

Near the entrance to the 54,000 acre preserve we observed crested caracaras, deer, and racoons. Recent rains made it practical to hike several shorter trails of which Laura's Loop seemed to be the favorite and also offered the most shade. The final stop was the Peavine Trail where we saw alligators and many fish.

Lunch was at the nearby Prairie Place Diner in Basinger, and then on to the Yates Marsh section of the Florida Trail. A plethora of lovely wildflowers decorated the edge of the marsh. It was then overwhelmingly voted to stop at the Brown Cow Ice Cream and Fudge Shop in Downtown Okeechobee on the way home.

All agreed it was a funfilled, educational day. #

Sherry Cummings' Activities

Contact 561-963-9906

7/19 BLOWING ROCKS WALK.

Meet at Coral Cove in Jupiter at 7:30 a.m. and walk to Blowing Rocks and the preserve. Breakfast afterward.

8/16 RAFAEL SANCHEZ TRAIL HIKE.

Meet at the new Pete's Place on Jog Rd. (corner of Jog Rd. and Okeechobee Blvd.) at 6:30 a.m. and carpool to Port Mayaca.

Chapter Officers

Chair: Roy Moore, 561-422-2189, shanroy@bellsouth.net

Vice/Programs: Margaret Brabham, 561-588-3077, magbrab@yahoo.com

Vice/Trails: Fred Davis, 561-585-6386, fdavis@msn.com

Secretary: Debra Lawrence, 561-309-4764, allie9362@aol.com

Treasurer: Paul Cummings, 561-963-9906, cummingsps@att.net

Council Representative

Bea Rogers, 561-644-0777, bznest22@bellsouth.net

Committees

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

Newsletter: Gail Irwin, 561-968-3887, gskimskam@aol.com

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

Trail Section Leaders

Jonathan Dickinson: Steve Meyers, 561-317-3631, hikeit44@hotmail.com

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

DuPuis: Bea Rogers, 561-644-0777, bznest22@bellsouth.net

Lake Okeechobee: Paul Cummings, 561-963-9906, cummingsps@att.net

Ocean to Lake: Bea Rogers, 561-644-0777, bznest22@bellsouth.net

The Big "O" is a go for 2015. The dates will be from November 22 to November 27. Details will be forthcoming. Mark your calendar.



FLORIDA TRAIL ASSOCIATION

LOXAHATCHEE CHAPTER

Dear Members and Friends of the Loxahatchee Chapter,

Our Chapter needs funds to replace our mowers. We have two mowers which we use to maintain our 100 miles of trails. Each year we mow trails, either by using one mower and mowing a section in both directions or using two mowers one behind the other. This means that each mower essentially covers all the trails at least once during the season. Several years of operation mean several hundred miles on each mower. As you can see, the toll on the mowers is substantial. One of the mowers has deteriorated beyond repair. Even though the other mower with several years of operation is still useable, it too will need to be replaced in the near future. Therefore, we are asking you to consider donating to the Chapter's trail maintenance fund which will be used first to replace the worn out mower and then to replace the second mower when needed. Our initial goal is to raise \$5,000 so that we can buy one new mower and be prepared to hit our fall maintenance schedule.

This past year the trail maintenance volunteers worked 1200 hours and drove personal vehicles 12,000 miles to maintain our trails. Mowers are an essential part of the equation in getting this substantial volunteer effort accomplished, and we ask that you make a donation of your choosing to the Loxahatchee Chapter to help out in this essential need.

Checks should be made out to: ***Florida Trail Association, Lox Chapter*** and sent to:

Florida Trail Association, Lox Chapter
9887 Cross Pine Court
Lake Worth, FL 33467

We add a sincere note of appreciation for the support members and friends of the Loxahatchee Chapter have previously given to support the Chapter and the Ocean to Lake Hiking Trail.

Regards,

Roy Moore

Roy Moore

Chapter Chair

Fred Davis

Fred Davis

Chapter Trail Coordinator

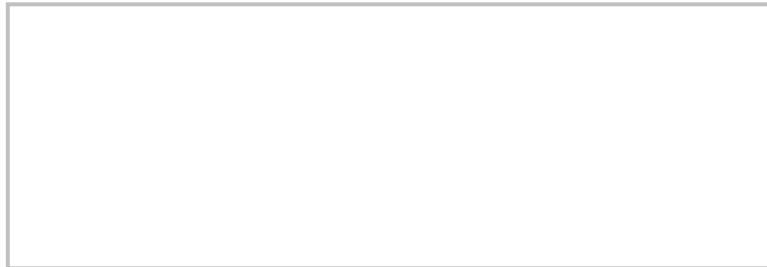
Monthly Activity Calendar

July/August

Date	Description
7/4	JOHN PRINCE PARK WALK. Start your July 4 th celebration by taking a 2-4 mile hike in this attractive park. Breakfast afterward at TooJays. 7:30 a.m. Contact: Paul Cummings, 561-963-9906. Public/Leisure.
7/5	HIKE IN JONATHAN DICKINSON STATE PARK. Hike 7 to 12 miles, then eat lunch at the Dune Dog Café. Plenty of water is a must. Meet at the front gate at 8:00 a.m. Contact: Mary Miller, 561-391-7942. Public/Moderate
7/6	MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETING. Social: 7:00 p.m. Program: 7:30 p.m. Check in with your fellow hikers and hear about their latest adventures. Contact: Margaret Brabham, 561-588-3077. Public/Leisure
7/11	TRAIL MAINTENANCE. Meet at the J.W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area youth camp at 6:00 a.m. for a leisurely clip and walk. Contact: Paul Cummings, 561-963-9906. Public/Leisure
7/15	CYPRESS CREEK HIKE. Explore this new area on a Wednesday morning. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at McDonald's across from Jupiter Farms Rd. Coffee or tea to follow. Contact Dave Cook, 561-743-8642. Public/Leisure.
7/18	OKEEHEELEE PARK WALK. Take a stroll in Okeeheelee – always a new route and adventure. 7:30 a.m. Breakfast afterward at Pete's Place. Contact: Daisy Palmer, 561-439-5780. Public/Leisure.
7/25	HIKE IN APOXEE. Join Joe Rosenberg at 8:00 a.m. for an invigorating 9-mile hike in West Palm Beach's urban wilderness. Bring plenty of water. Contact: 561-859-1954. Public/Moderate
7/26	YAMATO SCRUB HIKE. For all south county hikers, this natural area is located in your neck of the woods off Clint Moore Rd. 7:30 a.m. Breakfast afterward. Contact: Alan Collins, 561-586-0486. Public/Leisure
8/1	JOHN PRINCE PARK WALK. Walk and talk – get to know your fellow hikers while enjoying the scenery. 7:30 a.m. Breakfast afterward at TooJays. Contact: Paul Cummings, 561-963-9906. Public/Leisure
8/2	HIKE IN JONATHAN DICKINSON STATE PARK. Meet at the front gate at 8:00 a.m. and take a 7 to 12 mile hike. Bring two full bottles of water. Lunch at the Dune Dog Café afterward. Contact: Mary Miller, 561-391-7942. Public/Moderate
8/3	MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETING. Social: 7:00 p.m., Program: 7:30 p.m. Enjoy social time and a rousing program with chapter members and guests. Contact: Margaret Brabham, 561-588-3077. Public/Leisure
8/8	TRAIL MAINTENANCE. Clip and walk in the J.W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area. Meet at the entrance to the youth camp at 6:00 a.m. Contact: Paul Cummings, 561-963-9906. Public/Leisure
8/15	OKEEHEELEE PARK WALK. Hike around 4 miles in this enticingly beautiful park. 7:30 a.m. Breakfast afterward at Pete's Place. Contact: Daisy Palmer, 561-439-5780. Public/Leisure
8/22	HIKE IN APOXEE. Bring plenty of water for this 9 mile hike through wet prairies and topical hammocks off Jog Rd. 8:00 a.m. Contact: Joe Rosenberg, 561-859-1954. Public/Moderate
8/23	FRENCHMAN'S FOREST STROLL. This natural area is located off Prosperity Farms Rd. You can enjoy the walk under shady trees. 7:30 a.m. Contact: Alan Collins, 561-586-0486. Public/Leisure
8/29	OKEEHEELEE CLIP & WALK. Meet at the nature center at 7:30 a.m. for an easy trail clearing/clean up activity. Contact: Paul Cummings, 561-963-9906. Public/Leisure

**Loxahatchee Chapter
Florida Trail Association
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West Palm Beach, FL 33416-9393**

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Shown are participants in Dave Cook's weekday ramble in the Kissimmee Prairie and thereabouts. See story, Page 2.

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