



trail tales



Loxahatchee Chapter, Florida Trail Association

Volume 25, Issue 2: Bi-monthly Publication

March/April 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 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!!



Holiday Hike

By Bea Rogers

The Hickory Hammock Holiday Hike was a perfect start to the New Year. Joining me for the annual hike was Dave & Sue Archer, Alan Collins, Dave Cook, Paul Cummings (celebrating his birthday), Dean Drake, Jeff and Sarah Fisher, John McGlinchy, Tony Rawson, and Sandi Smolker. This beautiful trail under huge oak trees is well maintained, and fresh white blazes make it easy to follow.

Although there was spotty rain on the drive to the trailhead we did not get rained on, unlike some past years we can all remember. The sun came out and the temperature was perfect for hiking. Some hikers enjoyed the 5 mile hike out to the campsite and back; the rest went on to the equestrian campground completing 9 miles round trip. We ended the day with a trip to Golden Corral for nourishment . #

Eighteen Backpackers Turn Out For Overnight DuPuis Activity *(story page 2)*



Chapter Meetings & Events

Monthly Meeting

March 2

TBA

April 6

TBA

January Trail Maintenance

By Bea Rogers

Brodie Atwater, Sally Davies, Fred Davis, Dean Drake, Jeff and Sarah Fisher, Bill Joyce, Steve Meyers, Don Rogers and myself picked up the trash along the trail at the I-95 underpass on January 10.

We did not find any mattresses, lamps, or Christmas decorations this year, but we did fill several garbage bags with various bottles, cans, plastic bags and unidentifiable items. We also picked up a boat top, two huge truck tires, a lawn chair, some metal odds and ends, and several very heavy air conditioning motors.

Thanks to Bill, Dean, and Don for providing the trucks to take us in to the trail and to haul the trash out. #



NOTICE

The Florida Trail Association Annual Meeting and Conference will be held April 10-12. Go to www.floridatrail.org for information

Backpacking in DuPuis

By Scott Lunsford

On January 17th and 18th James Hoher, activity leader in training, and I led an overnight beginners backpacking trip in the 21,935 acre DuPuis Management Area. We had 9 women and 9 men backpackers and beautiful weather with no rain!

We began our hike on Saturday starting from the "governor's house." With early morning weather in the low 50's and the sun shining in a beautiful blue sky, we hiked in 7.4 miles to the Loop 4 primitive campsite on the Ocean to Lake Hiking Trail. We arrived and set up camp in the early afternoon and relaxed until time to fix supper.

Resident yo-yo expert, James, gave us a yo-yo demonstration and fire-maker, Wayne, demonstrated a primitive fire making technique before preparing and setting up a roaring campfire. Bill E. then brought out the marshmallows for roasting.

Mike G. later broke out his laser and gave us a taste of his star gazing expertise with Brian also providing information about the various constellations. Bill E. showed us his phone app that he could point at the night sky and it would identify planets and constellations.

Most stayed up well past backpackers midnight and most heard the coyotes howling. Some individuals heard a group of hogs pass through camp as others slept.

The next morning we headed out at 8:00 a.m. We had another beautiful hiking day with a nice breeze and some spotty cloud cover. We took a break in a pretty setting by Boot Lake, but pushed hard to complete the 7.7 mile hike back to our cars.

(continued page 4)

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

≡ Monthly Activity Calendar ≡

March/April

Date	Description
3/2	MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETING. Social: 7:00 p.m. Program: 7:30 p.m. TBA. Contact: Margaret Brabham, 561-588-3077. Public/Leisure
3/7	JOHN PRINCE PARK WALK. Gather at this beautiful park for a stroll – choose your own distance. Breakfast afterward at TooJays. 7:30 a.m. Contact: Paul Cummings, 561-963-9906. Public/Leisure.
3/8	HIKE IN JONATHAN DICKINSON STATE PARK. Come prepared with two full bottles of water, hike then eat at the Dune Dog Café. Meet at the front gate at 8:00 a.m. Contact: Mary Miller, 561-391-7942. Public/Moderate
3/14	TRAIL MAINTENANCE. TBA. Contact: Fred Davis, 561-585-6386. Public/Leisure-Moderate
3/15	WELLINGTON ENVIRONMENTAL PRESERVE WALK. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the Original Pancake House for breakfast (SR 7 near Southern), or at 8:00 a.m. at the preserve on Flying Cow Rd. Contact: Sherry Cummings, 561-963-9906. Public/Leisure
3/21	OKEEHEELEE PARK STROLL. Join in the 3 rd Saturday walk in Okeehetee Park – always a new route. 7:30 a.m. Breakfast afterward at Pete’s Place. Contact: Daisy Palmer, 561-439-5780. Public/Leisure.
3/22	CYPRESS CREEK NATURAL AREA WALK. Come to this natural area off Indiantown Rd.; observe the plants and look for wildlife. 7:30 a.m. Contact: Allan Collins, 561-586-0486. Public/Leisure
3/28	HIKE IN APOXEE. Joe Rosenberg will take you on an invigorating 9-mile hike in West Palm Beach’s water catchment area. Bring plenty of water. 8:00 a.m. Contact: 561-859-1954. Public/Moderate
4/4	JOHN PRINCE PARK WALK. This long-standing, 1 st Saturday tradition is great for a first-time activity. Get to know the group. 7:30 a.m. Breakfast afterward. Contact: Paul Cummings, 561-963-9906. Public/Leisure.
4/5	HIKE IN JONATHAN DICKINSON STATE PARK. Gather at the front gate at 8:00 a.m. Bring plenty of water. Lunch at the Dune Dog Café afterward. Contact: Mary Miller, 561-391-7942. Public/Moderate
4/6	MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETING. Social: 7:00 p.m., Program: 7:30 p.m. TBA. Contact: Margaret Brabham, 561-588-3077. Public/Leisure
4/10-12	THE FLORIDA TRAIL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE. Go to www.floridatrail.org for information.
4/11	TRAIL MAINTENANCE. TBA. Contact: Fred Davis, 561-585-6386. Public/Leisure-Moderate
4/18	OKEEHEELEE PARK WALK. Hike around 4 miles with your buddies in this attractive park. 7:30 a.m. Breakfast afterward at Pete’s Place. Contact: Daisy Palmer, 561-439-5780. Public/Leisure
4/19	BOARDWALK STROLL AT WAKODAHATCHEE WETLANDS. Bring binoculars to view the bird life as you walk along the boardwalk. Meet at the entrance on Jog Rd. at 7:00 a.m. Contact: Sherry Cummings, 561-963-9906. Public/Leisure.
4/25	NINE-MILE HIKE IN APOXEE. Challenge yourself to this moderate hike and enjoy this beautiful, old Florida area. Plenty of water is a must. 8:00 a.m. Contact: Joe Rosenberg, 561-859-1954. Public/Moderate
4/26	FOUR TO FIVE MILE WALK IN APOXEE. Walk through wet prairies and topical hammocks for a more leisurely hike. 7:30 a.m. Breakfast afterward. Contact: Alan Collins, 561-586-0486. Public/Leisure

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(from page 2)



Wayne diverted disaster by spotting a couple of backpackers that had turned onto a loop crossover trail despite warnings not to turn! He got them back on track and all 18 made it safely back. Twelve of us were then off to the Seminole Inn in Indiantown for their famous Sunday brunch to top off a great trip! #

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