



trail tales



Loxahatchee Chapter, Florida Trail Association

Volume 26, Issue 2: Bi-monthly Publication

March/April 2016

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!!



Maintaining the Ocean to Lake Hiking Trail

By Roy Moore

(Editors note: By the time you receive your newsletter, Ocean to Lake Trail Hikers will have finished their February backpacking event and day hikes. Roy Moore has chronicled what it takes to get the trail ready for this annual event)

Our Ocean to Lake Hiking trail is the result of a lot of coordination and work, and is probably best described in Dean Drake's book, "Walking the Ocean to Lake Hiking Trail." In addition to all the work Dean and Bea Rogers were involved in as the trail was developed, they continue to be central to our ongoing work to maintain it.

Bea served at the Trail Coordinator for a number of years and continues to provide advice as we work along the trail. Dean has provided his truck (Ford F350 4WD), entirely at his expense, to scope out the trail before we go to maintain it.

On work days, he goes out early to the cabin to hook up the trailer and get it, along with mowers, paint, and equipment, to our assembly point before 8:00 am. He then delivers volunteers and equipment to the beginning of the trail section being worked on that day.

If we need to be picked up at a different location, he moves the truck and trailer there before he walks part of the trail to assist in maintenance. After maintenance is done and he's delivered volunteers back to the assembly point, he takes the trailer and equipment back to the cabin before calling it a day. That's not bad for a fella in his mid 80s.

While I've written this about Dean, it applies equally to Bea, who almost always is there with Dean, driving the truck, checking equipment and maintaining the trail. We have a good and growing group of weekday volunteers but none are more important to our efforts than Dean and Bea. If you see them along the trail or at a meeting, please say thanks to them. Neither are on Facebook but both epitomize the spirit that has made FTA and our chapter so special.

Those who dream by day are cognizant of many things which escape those who dream only by night. -Edgar Allan Poe, poet and short-story writer.

Chapter Meetings & Events

Monthly Meeting

March 7

Learn All About the Grassy Waters Preserve

April 4

Program to Be Announced

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Okeehetee Activities

April 23. Celebrate Earth Day at the Okeehetee Nature Center from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. We will have a booth. Contact Paul Cummings at 561-963-9906 if you're interested in helping to staff the booth.

April 30. Help to keep the nature trails clear in Okeehetee Park. Meet at the Nature Center at 7:30 a.m. Contact Paul Cummings, 561-963-9906.

Season's 2nd Beginners Backpacking Event a Success

By John Fenner

Twenty five intrepid souls followed Loxahatchee Chapter trail leaders Scott Lunsford and Mary Miller into the wilderness for an overnight camping trip in the DuPuis Wildlife and Environmental Area on Saturday, January 16 through Sunday, January 17. "It was a little wet," said Scott. "Both days we were walking in water." There is little doubt that our stormy winter weather had something to do with that. The team endured some rain overnight, but it stopped by 6:30 a.m. and later turned into a bright sunny day as they came to the end.

The overnight backpacking hike is great for someone new to backpacking, but the event is fun for the beginner and/or experienced backpacker, too. The DuPuis Wildlife and Environmental Area has primitive camp sites where they backpacked in 7 miles on Saturday, then packed back out to the vehicles 7.5 miles on Sunday. Finally, they had a great buffet lunch at the Seminole Inn in Indiantown on Sunday afternoon.

Shown are participants in the beginner's backpacking trip.



Chapter Officers

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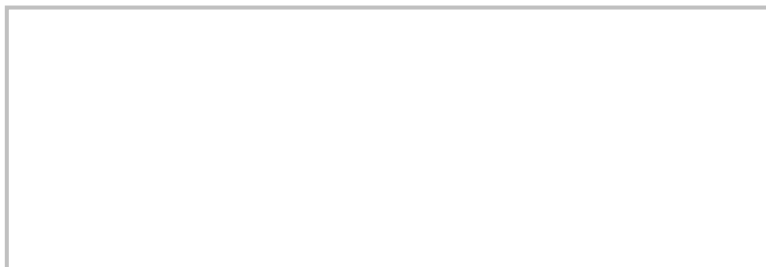
≡ Monthly Activity Calendar ≡

March/April

Date	Description
3/5	JOHN PRINCE PARK WALK. Join your hiking companions for a relaxed stroll in the park. Choose your pace and distance. Breakfast afterward at TooJays. 7:30 a.m. Contact: Paul Cummings, 561-963-9906. Public/Leisure.
3/6	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.
3/7	MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETING. Socialize with your fellow trail blazers while enjoying refreshments. 7:00 p.m. Learn all about the Grassy Waters Preserve at 7:30 p.m. Contact: Margaret Brabham, 561-324-3543. Public/Leisure.
3/12	TRAIL MAINTENANCE. To be announced. Contact: Fred Davis, 561-585-6386.
3/19	OKEEHHEELLEE PARK WALK. Daisy Palmer will lead you on a 4 mile stroll in this expansive park. Walk and then have breakfast at Pete's Place. 7:30 a.m. Contact: 561-439-5780. Public/Leisure.
3/26	HIKE ON THE APOXEE WILDERNESS TRAIL. Take a 9 mile hike in West Palm Beach's urban wilderness off Jog Rd. 8:00 a.m. Bring plenty of water. Contact: Joe Rosenberg, 561-859-1954. Public/Moderate.
3/27	CYPRESS CREEK NATURAL AREA HIKE. Located off Indiantown Rd., this area contains seven native Florida ecosystems. See how many you can identify. 7:30 a.m. Breakfast afterward. Contact: Alan Collins, 561-586-0486. Public/Leisure.
4/2	JOHN PRINCE PARK WALK. Stroll in the park for 2 to 4 miles before heading out for breakfast at TooJays. 7:30 a.m. Contact: Paul Cummings, 561-963-9906. Public/Leisure.
4/3	HIKE IN JONATHAN DICKINSON STATE PARK. Take 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.
4/4	MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETING. Talk about your latest hiking adventures while you have refreshments at: 7:00 p.m. Program at 7:30 p.m. Topic to be announced. Contact: Margaret Brabham, 561-324-3543. Public/Leisure.
4/9	TRAIL MAINTENANCE. To be announced. Contact: Fred Davis, 561-585-6386.
4/10	ENJOY RIVERBEND PARK. Hike 1 to 1 ½ hours in Riverbend Park. Meet in the parking lot at 8:00 a.m. Trails are dry. Bring snack and water. Contact: Margaret Brabham, 561-324-3543. Public/Leisure
4/16	OKEEHHEELLEE PARK WALK. Enjoy your surroundings as you hike around 4 miles in the park. 7:30 a.m. Breakfast afterward at Pete's Place. Contact: Daisy Palmer, 561-439-5780. Public/Leisure.
4/17	WELLINGTON ENVIRONMENTAL PRESERVE STROLL. Meet at the entrance at 8:00 a.m. and walk for about 1 hour as you observe nature and bird life. Contact Sherry Cummings, 561-963-9906. Public/Leisure
4/23	LONGER HIKE ON THE APOXEE WILDERNESS TRAIL. Joe Rosenberg will take you through Apoxee on an approximate 9 mile hike. Contact: 561-859-1954. Public/Moderate.
4/24	SHORTER HIKE ON THE APOXEE WILDERNESS TRAIL. Alan Collins will walk about 5 miles on trails in the wet prairies and tropical hammocks. 7:30 a.m. Breakfast afterward. Contact: 561-586-0486. Public/Leisure.

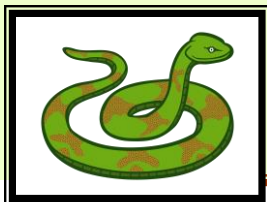
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Dave Cook's Wednesday Activity

March 9: Solomon's Castle trip. This is the home and studio of internationally known sculptor, Howard Solomon. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at Riverbend Park. Breakfast in Okeechobee. A stop will be made at Highlands Hammock State Park, with lunch at the Boat on the Moat. The boat is a replica of a 60 foot, 16th century Spanish galleon. Contact: Dave Cook 561-743-8642



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