



trail tales



Loxahatchee Chapter, Florida Trail Association

Volume 27, Issue 2: Bi-monthly Publication

March/April 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 Okeehelée 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!!



Beginners' Backpack Trip

by John Fenner

On Sunday, Jan 22, 2017, trail guides Scott Lunsford and Mary Miller completed another successful beginners' overnight backpacking trip. 20 adults and 2 minors in the group; all said they had a great time. Eight of the adults were on their first backpacking outing!

Some attendees were from Ft. Lauderdale, Miramar, Sebastian and Stuart, the rest were from Palm Beach County. Hikers saw eagles on the way in and had lunch at Boot Lake watching a gator sunning himself on the opposite bank.

There was a mother gator and about 15 young in the ditch just a couple hundred feet to the south of the camp site. They found a scorpion and praying mantis near the sites fire ring and some of the hikers saw a beauty of a Diamondback crossing the road on the way out; he had 9 rattles!

In all they set a record, time wise, on the hike out and made it to the Seminole Inn in plenty of time for the celebratory brunch! In the group photo, in no particular order, are Mary, Thad, Sikander, David, Marquerite, Leslie, Karen, Kim, Jacek, Brittany, Laurence, Nahir, Faimy, Lawrence, Brynn, Reid, Pamela, William, Brenda, JB, and Rachel.

Chapter Meetings & Events

Monthly Meeting

March

Program to be announced.

April

Program to be announced.

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OTLHT Day Hikes

The OTLHT Complete is a series of day hikes for those that would like to hike the whole OTLHT without backpacking. There are 4 days a little over 10 miles and 2 are nine mile days. You must be willing to transport others in your car to participate because we will be doing shuttles and a couple of days we drive on bumpy dirt roads. We will meet at the days ending point; load into as few vehicles as possible and drive back to the starting point. Then after the hike someone will have to take the drivers back to their vehicles. Last year 3 ladies completed all 8 days and received an OTLHT patch; you could do the same this year! Come on out for 1 or all 8 days and have some fun! Check our Meetup site or contact Scott Lunsford 561-441-1251

Trail Report



Fred Davis reports that our entire 100 mile trail system has been mowed, clipped and blazed. **Success!**

Big Thank You



Gail Irwin, newsletter editor for our chapter newsletter for a number of years, has decided to hand over the editing part of this newsletter to Shannon Moore. Gail is still going to do the distribution part of the process. Gail, thank you for your years of service and for still continuing to help our chapter!

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Suwannee River Backpack Trip

Jeff Andrews is leading a backpack trip March 6-10 to the Suwannee River area of the Florida National Scenic Trail. Hikers will spend a night in the primitive campsite at the Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park, a primitive campsite near Camp Branch Trail, Holton Creek Camp, and in Suwannee River State Park. Mileage is approximately 49 miles. Shuttling. For further details consult our Meetup site. Contact: Jeff Andrews 561-310-6950.

Chapter Officers

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

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

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

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

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

Monthly Activity Calendar □

March/April

Date Description

- 3/4 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.
- 3/5 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.
- 3/6-3/10 SUWANNEE RIVER BACKPACK. Join Jeff on a backpacking excursion of 49 miles on the Florida National Scenic Trail. Contact Jeff Andrews, 561-310-6950
- 3/6 MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETING. Socialize with your fellow trail blazers while enjoying refreshments. 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.
- 3/11 TRAIL MAINTENANCE. To be announced. Contact: Fred Davis, 561-585-6386.
- 3/18 OKEEHEELEE PARK WALK. 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.
- 3/19.WELLINGTON ENVIRONMENTAL PRESERVE, Enjoy a walk in the preserve. Meet at the preserve on Flying Cow Road at 8AM. Contact: Paul Cummings, 561-963-9906. Public/Leisure.
- 3/25 HIKE IN APOXEE. 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.
- 3/26 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.
- 4/1 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.
- 4/2 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.
- 4/3 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.
- 4/8, 4/11, 4/13, 4/16, 4/18, 4/20, 4/22, 4/23 Complete OTLHT in 8 days. Series of day hikes to cover the whole Ocean to Lake Hiking Trail. Contact: Scott Lunsford 561-441-1251
- 4/8 TRAIL MAINTENANCE. To be announced. Contact: Fred Davis, 561-585-6386.
- 4/15 OKEEHEELEE PARK WALK. 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.
- 4/16 GREEN CAY. Look at the birds with Paul. Meet at the entrance to Green Cay Wetlands.7AM Contact: Paul Cummings, 561-963-9906. Public/Leisure.
- 4/22 LONGER HIKE IN APOXEE. 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.
- 4/23 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.
- 4/29 CLIP AND WALK AND CLEANUP. Meet for trail clip and walk and cleanup. Meet at the Okeeheelee Nature Center. 7:30 a.m. Bring your clippers Breakfast afterwards at Pete's Place. Contact: Paul Cummings, 561-963-9906.

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

