



# trail tales



## Loxahatchee Chapter, Florida Trail Association

Volume 25, Issue 3: Bi-monthly Publication

May/June 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!!**



## 2015 Ocean to Lake Backpacking Trip

By Fred Davis

Twenty four backpackers gathered at Harry and the Natives in Hobe Sound for the six-day Ocean to Lake Hike. The hikers were from all across Florida and from Colorado, New York, and Pennsylvania. We were equally divided between male and female with a range of ages from 13 to 70, with more “younger” hikers this year than ever before. Every hiker was a member of FTA!

Several veteran OTLH hikers met us along the way and spent a night with us at DuPuis and Corbett, and a couple from Cape Cod, Massachusetts, was doing the entire hike in five days.

Although there was some water on the trail again this year, it was in great shape thanks to Loxahatchee Chapter trail maintainers and land managers.

Thanks to Palm Beach County DERM, two Palm Beach County sheriffs met us at the LOST trailhead and escorted us across the very busy 441. Also thanks to DERM we were able to avoid the active mining operation west of DuPuis Management Area by using a re-route on county rights-of-way farm roads. This is now a permanent relocation of the trail.

Once again BJ Kattel provided us with a water drop at the DuPuis campsite, but this will be the last year. Thanks to the South Florida Water Management District, there is now a pitcher pump at the campsite.

On Monday we “camped” at the Everglades Youth Conservation Camp now being managed by FWC/Wildlife Foundation of Florida. There have been many improvements to the camp since we were there last year. Kudos to Janice Kerber, camp director, and her staff and the commission. Our chili dinner on Monday night raised \$480 to offset the cost of maintaining the trail—thank you! Bill Helfferich was again my delivery man for the chili dinner supplies and my cook. He also donated the salad and bread.

Rain greeted us early Wednesday, but by 8:00 a.m. the skies cleared and we packed up wet tents for the hike up to Indiantown Road and pizza and Mexican junk food at the strip mall. Due to the sunny day we were able to dry our tents before getting to the last campsite in Jonathan Dickinson State Park. The weather was cool again Wednesday night but all were ready bright and early for the last day and lunch at Taste in Hobe Sound. Due to the cool weather (cold for South Florida), we had the beach to ourselves. Too bad. I always enjoy the reaction of the beachgoers to a bunch of backpackers walking down to the ocean. #

## **Chapter Meetings & Events**

### **Monthly Meeting**

**May 4**

**TBA**

**June 1**

**TBA**

### **Board Meetings**

May 7, Host – Fred Davis

June 4, Host – Roy Moore

All are welcome!

### **Bridge Repair**

By Bea Rogers

The long overdue and much needed repairs to the Kitching Creek Bridge in Jonathan Dickinson State Park was accomplished by the Weekday Crew on Thursday, March 26. With Fred Davis spearheading the effort, Craig Custer, Kevin Dickson, Bill Helfferich, Bill Joyce, Roy Moore, Tony Rawson, Doug Rogers, and Bea Rogers made short work of the project.

Thanks to a borrowed generator to keep the tools operating, the bridge was redecked in less than 3 hours. Rain was forecast and encouraged progress but unlike the precious bridge finished in a downpour we experienced only a few sprinkles.

Stay tuned! The bridge #4 boardwalk is next!

## **Winding Waters Natural Area Event**

By Paul Cummings/Gail Irwin

The Winding Waters Natural Area opening event was held Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup> with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and guided hike. There were a number of Loxahatchee chapter members in attendance.

However, it didn't take an official ceremony to get our hikers out into this area. The chapter had already made a few visits and was delighted to find a half-mile of paved trail leading to a covered observation platform and miles of natural trails winding through the area. New bridge construction allows walkers to make a five-mile loop around the facility with four shaded rest areas scattered throughout the trail system.

The natural area also includes a canoe/kayak launch and trail, and informational kiosks. Although there are no restrooms on the property, Winding Waters is adjacent to Dyer park which has such facilities.

This new natural area is another feather in the cap of Palm Beach County. Its convenient location in north Palm Beach County is just south of Dyer Park on the west side of Haverhill Road, approximately 0.4 mile north of 45th Street. #



## **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

Nature Center Vol.: Volunteer Coordinator Needed

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

Public Relations: John Fenner, 586-350-3235, johnw001@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

# ≡ Monthly Activity Calendar ≡

## May/June

<b>Date</b>	<b>Description</b>
5/2	<b>JOHN PRINCE PARK WALK.</b> Stroll at you own pace and distance in this premier Lake Worth park. Breakfast afterward at TooJays. 7:30 a.m. Contact: Paul Cummings, 561-963-9906. Public/Leisure.
5/3	<b>HIKE IN JONATHAN DICKINSON STATE PARK.</b> This 7 - 12 mile hike will get your appetite up. Plenty of water a must. Eat at the Dune Dog Café afterward. Meet at the front gate at 8:00 a.m. Contact: Mary Miller, 561-391-7942. Public/Moderate
5/4	<b>MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETING.</b> Social: 7:00 p.m. Program: 7:30 p.m. Always an interesting topic. Contact: Margaret Brabham, 561-588-3077. Public/Leisure
5/9	<b>TRAIL MAINTENANCE.</b> Do some clipping in Jonathan Dickinson State Park. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the gate. Contact: Steve Meyers, 561-317-3631. Public/Leisure.
5/10	<b>MOTHER'S DAY WILDFLOWER WALK.</b> This is an annual tradition in Jonathan Dickinson State Park to view wildflowers. Lunch afterward in local restaurant. Meet at the JDSP gate at 8:30 a.m. Contact: Sherry Cummings, 561-963-9906. Public/Leisure
5/16	<b>OKEEHHEEL PARK STROLL.</b> If you've never been on this delightful walk in the park, now is the time to go. 7:30 a.m. Breakfast afterward at Pete's Place. Contact: Daisy Palmer, 561-439-5780. Public/Leisure.
5/23	<b>HIKE IN APOXEE.</b> Enjoy the peace and quiet of this urban wilderness—9 miles. Bring plenty of water. 8:00 a.m. Contact: Joe Rosenberg, 561-859-1954. Public/Moderate
5/24	<b>JUPITER RIDGE HIKE.</b> Come to this natural area off the west side of U.S. 1 in Jupiter and hike through five native Florida ecosystems. 7:30 a.m. Contact: Allan Collins, 561-586-0486. Public/Leisure
6/1	<b>MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETING.</b> Social: 7:00 p.m. Program: 7:30 p.m. Topic to be determined. Contact: Margaret Brabham, 561-588-3077. Public/Leisure
6/6	<b>JOHN PRINCE PARK WALK – NATIONAL TRAILS DAY.</b> You never know what you'll find on this walk—maybe a baby gator if you're lucky. 7:30 a.m. Breakfast afterward. Contact: Paul Cummings, 561-963-9906. Public/Leisure.
6/7	<b>HIKE IN JONATHAN DICKINSON STATE PARK.</b> Gather at the front gate at 8:00 a.m. for this challenging 7 - 12 mile hike through numerous natural communities. Bring plenty of water. Lunch at the Dune Dog Café afterward. Contact: Mary Miller, 561-391-7942. Public/Moderate
6/13	<b>TRAIL MAINTENANCE.</b> Meet at the entrance to the Corbett Youth Camp for a leisurely clip and walk. 6:00 a.m. (to beat the heat). Contact: Paul Cummings, 561-963-9906. Public/Leisure
6/14	<b>GREEN CAY LEISURE STROLL.</b> Join Sherry Cummings to walk the boardwalk over the wetlands. 7:00 a.m. Bring binoculars. Contact: 561-963-9906. Public/Leisure
6/20	<b>OKEEHHEEL PARK WALK.</b> Daisy walks a new route every month in this expansive park. 7:30 a.m. Breakfast afterward at Pete's Place. Contact: Daisy Palmer, 561-439-5780. Public/Leisure
6/27	<b>NINE-MILE HIKE IN APOXEE.</b> You'll probably get your feet wet as you hike through the water catchment area. Bring plenty of water. 8:00 a.m. Contact: Joe Rosenberg, 561-859-1954. Public/Moderate
6/28	<b>WALK THE SWA GREENWAY TRAIL SYSTEM.</b> The SWA system attracts many birds, so bring your binoculars. 7:30 a.m. Breakfast afterward. Contact: Alan Collins, 561-586-0486. Public/Leisure

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Kitching Creek bridge repair crew tackles project in Jonathan Dickinson State Park on March.26. Story page 2.

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