



trail tales



Loxahatchee Chapter, Florida Trail Association

Volume 26, Issue 3: Bi-monthly Publication

May/June 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!!



Ocean to Lake Backpacking Event

By John W. Fenner



Shown at ocean side are the thirteen participants who completed the 63 mile backpacking trip, February 13-18.

The 13th Annual Ocean to Lake backpacking trip took place in February over Valentine's weekend. Couples let their spouses and significant others, or both together, march through the wilderness doing something they love, HIKING! Twenty four hikers started on the trail and 13 finished the six day, 63 mile trip.

El Niño made it a wet and tough march, but as Lorraine Thomas told the support crew, "I loved every step of it." Water could be thigh deep as they trekked to the next campsite. They set out from the Lake Okechobee Scenic Trail trailhead, through DuPuis and Corbett Management Areas, beside Riverside Park and through Jonathan Dickinson State Park. They ended the hike at Hobe Sound Beach, where they stepped into the ocean. Many looking forward to next year hope the trail will be drier.

(continued on page 2)

Chapter Meetings & Events

Monthly Meeting

May 2

Program to Be Announced

June 6

Program to Be Announced

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Solomon's Castle Trip

By Dave Cook

As the sun rose over Riverbend Park on March 9, nine adventurers and their intrepid leader headed west for breakfast at the Okeechobee Airport. Then it was on to Sebring and an auto tour of the Highland Hammock State Park highlighted by a hike on the boardwalk through the cypress marsh.

Next, we took a trip further west to the non-town of Lilly and Solomon's Castle. Artist, painter, and sculptor Howard Solomon created the kingdom along the banks of Horse Creek. I'm unable to put into words the awe I've felt the many times that I've been there. Four generations of his family help to make it the experience of a lifetime.

I strongly encourage a trip there (but never on a Monday, or July, August and September). #

Mother's Day Wildflower Walk

5/8 Sherry Cummings will lead her traditional stroll in Jonathan Dickinson State Park. Meet at the gate at 9 a.m. and journey to the visitor's center parking lot. Contact: 561-963-9906. Public/Leisure.

(ocean to lake from page 1)

Joining leader Fred Davis and the end "sweeps," Jeff Andrews, Ryan Lusk, and Rick Byrnes, were Jean Pierre Arnud, Bill Detzner, Pat Given, Charles Noe, Mary McKinley, Beth Tobin, Judy Steinbicer, John Luka, George Mudge, and Lorraine Thomas.

Those who did part of the trail during the hike were Wayne Vassello, Cassandra Cooper, Doug Dodd, Bill Herr, Hannah Campbell, Alec Hutchinson, Pam Pinder, Alana Hoffman, Stacey Figueroa, and Walter Keller. Congratulations to all for taking the challenge.

Appreciation goes to Scott Lunsford for shuttle drivers and Roy Moore for blazing marks around Cypress Creek. Thanks also go to South Florida Water Management District's Bijaya Kattel, Dan Cotter, and Ken Quigley for the pitcher pump at loop 4 with permission to camp at the C-18 canal; Fish and Wildlife Commission's Dave Sweetay for help completing trail maintenance, and a water drop at Little Gopher; and finally to Janice Kerber for a dry morning at the Youth Camp. #

Enjoy Local Baseball With Fellow Hikers

5/19 & 6/23 Join with your fellow trail blazers during Roger Dean Stadium's Dollar Nights. Game time is 6:30 p.m. Arrive at 6:00 p.m. to buy ticket and meet for entry to the stadium. Contact John Fenner, 586-350-3235. Public/Leisure



Chapter Officers

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

Vice/Programs: Margaret Brabham, 561-324-3543, 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, 561-213-2189, 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: Jeff Andrews, 561-310-6950, 5614sail@mac.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

DATE	DESCRIPTION
5/2	MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETING. Enjoy refreshments while chatting with your fellow trail blazers about your latest adventures. 7:00 p.m. Program at 7:30 p.m. – to be announced. Contact: Margaret Brabham, 561-324-3543. Public/Leisure.
5/7	JOHN PRINCE PARK WALK. Choose your pace and distance. Great for beginning hikers. Breakfast afterward at TooJays. 7:30 a.m. Contact: Paul Cummings, 561-963-9906. Public/Leisure.
5/8	HIKE IN JONATHAN DICKINSON STATE PARK. Meet at the front gate of the park at 8:00 a.m. Bring plenty of water for this 7 to 12 mile hike. Lunch afterward at the Dune Dog Café. Contact: Mary Miller, 561-213-2189. Public/Moderate. NOTE: There will also be a Mother’s Day walk in JDSP. See page 2.
5/14	J.W. CORBETT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA “CLIP AND WALK.” Meet at the Southern entrance of Corbett (north on Seminole Pratt Whitney Rd) to clear the trails heading west out of the youth camp area. 6:30 a.m. Contact: Paul Cummings, 561-963-9906. Public/Leisure.
5/21	OKEEHEELEE PARK WALK. Take a 4 mile stroll in this expansive park. Meet at the south parking lot. Enter Okeeheelee south and continue straight to the parking lot. Put in your paces then have breakfast at Pete’s Place. 7:30 a.m. Contact: Paul Cummings, 561-963-9906. Public/Leisure.
5/28	HIKE ON THE APOXEE WILDERNESS TRAIL. Joe Rosenberg knows Apoxee backward and forward. He’ll lead you on a 9 mile hike in this area off Jog Rd. 8:00 a.m. Bring plenty of water. Contact: 561-859-1954. Public/Moderate.
5/29	JUPITER RIDGE NATURAL AREA HIKE Alan Collins will take you down a path to a small beach and will circle around on natural trails to the beginning point. Walk about 4 miles. 7:30 a.m. Breakfast afterward. Contact: 561-586-0486. Public/Leisure.
6/4	JOHN PRINCE PARK WALK. This is an easily paced stroll in the park. Head out for breakfast at TooJays after finishing the 2 to 4 mile walk. 7:30 a.m. Contact: Paul Cummings, 561-963-9906. Public/Leisure.
6/5	HIKE IN JONATHAN DICKINSON STATE PARK. Reward yourself with a hot dog at the Dune Dog Café after you hike around 7 to 12 miles in the park. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the front gate. Bring lots of water. Contact: Mary Miller, 561-213-2189. Public/Moderate.
6/6	MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETING. Meet up with your hiking buddies to chat and enjoy refreshments at 7:00 p.m. Program at 7:30 p.m. Topic to be announced. Contact: Margaret Brabham, 561-324-3543. Public/Leisure.
6/11	J.W. CORBETT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA “CLIP AND WALK.” Meet at the intersection of the Florida Trail and South Grade to clear trails east of that area. 6:30 a.m. Contact: Paul Cummings, 561-963-9906. Public/Leisure.
6/15	JONES CREEK AND PASEO NATURAL AREA HIKE. This new Wednesday activity will explore 4-5 miles in this natural area in Jupiter. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the North County Aquatic Center, 861 Toney Penna Dr., Jupiter. Contact: Dave Cook, 561-743-8642. Public/Leisure
6/18	OKEEHEELEE PARK WALK. Enjoy an hour’s worth of hiking around the park. 7:30 a.m. Breakfast afterward at Pete’s Place. Contact: Paul Cummings, 561-963-9906. Public/Leisure.
6/19	FATHER’S DAY STROLL IN GREEN CAY WETLANDS. Meet at the entrance to the wetlands at 7:00 a.m. and do some birdwatching as you stroll the boardwalk. Breakfast afterward. Contact: Paul Cummings, 561-963-9906. Public/Leisure.
6/25	HIKE ON THE APOXEE WILDERNESS TRAIL. Joe Rosenberg will take you through Apoxee on an approximate 9 mile hike. 8:00 a.m. Contact: 561-859-1954. Public/Moderate.
6/26	SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY GREENWAY TRAIL SYSTEM HIKE. These trails include a large rookery that harbors thousands of native birds. Alan Collins will lead a 4-5 mile hike beginning at 7:30 a.m. Breakfast afterward. Contact: 561-586-0486. Public/Leisure.

**Loxahatchee Chapter
Florida Trail Association
P.O. Box 19393
West Palm Beach, FL 33416-9393**

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Paul Cummings and Val Johnson staff our FTA booth at Everglades Day at the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge in February. We were also represented at Okechee Park on Earth Day in April.