



# trail tales



## Loxahatchee Chapter, Florida Trail Association

Volume 25, Issue 6: Bi-monthly Publication

November/December 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 Okeehelie 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!!***



### Hikers stroll the trails at Okeehelie Park



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### Scrub Hikes Bring New Faces

By Alan Collins

On September 27<sup>th</sup>, 14 walkers and I hiked on three fairly short trails. Most people prefer one longer trail. But contrary to that, the group enjoyed all the trails which measured about two and a half to three miles.

First was Seacrest Scrub. I fell in love with the trail while taking an ecology course. I had to sit once a week for nine weeks keeping a journal of what changes I saw. I also had to walk the trail. It is mainly narrow with old Florida on each side; you almost forget you are in civilization. A wonderful walk.

*(continued on page 2)*

## **Chapter Meetings & Events**

### **Monthly Meeting**

**November 2**

**Program to Be Announced**

**December 7**

**Come for our annual cookie exchange. Bring a dozen or so of your favorites.**



## **THE BIG "O" 2015 NOVEMBER 22 THROUGH THE 27TH**

Registration for the Big "O" Hike is in progress. Forms and general information are available at our website: [www.loxfltrail.org](http://www.loxfltrail.org). It appears we will be able to spend all six days on the dike, and the first day will start at Port Mayaca at 8:00 a.m. unless there's a problem with the Corps of Engineers. That first day's hike will be from Port Mayaca to J&S Fish Camp, about eight miles. Similar to last year, we'll use the KOA Kampground in Okeechobee as our center of activities. There will be a Wimp Walk (no fee) so for those of you who like walking in the shade among beautiful old growth trees, you might consider this as an alternative.

Come for one day or all six days and enjoy south Florida weather.

*(cont. in column 2)*

*(from page 1)*

The next trail was in the High Ridge Scrub Natural Area. The beauty of this hike is that you have hills to walk up. South Florida is flat, so it is a rare treat to find yourself climbing up a hill. At the top it reminded me of the old cowboy movies with the hero on horseback looking down the valley at the bad guys or Indians.

Trails in the High Ridge Scrub Natural Area and the Jupiter Ridge Natural Area are the only places that have hills of any consequence.

Our last hike was at the Lantana Natural Area. This is a wonderful short walk that takes you through three ecosystems: scrub, upland and mangrove. Publix wanted to build a store on this parcel of land. However, the parcel was a garbage dump in the past and the deal wasn't approved. In its place came a congregate and assisted living facility. The town gave approval provided that the facility build a nature center next door. It turned out very well for the facility, the town, and the walking groups.

Afterward, seven of us had breakfast at the Dune Deck restaurant at Lantana Beach. It was also refreshing to see new faces on our hikes. Thank you Meet-Up! #

*(from column 1)*

Plans are being made for Thanksgiving dinner, including some entertainment. Hikers are welcome to bring guests for the Thanksgiving festivities. If you plan to stay in a hotel or rent one of the Kabins, you'll need to make your own reservations. If you are camping, just show up at the campgrounds and ask for the FTA site when you enter the gate. Our section of the campgrounds will be available on Nov 21. #

## **Chapter Officers**

Chair: Roy Moore, 561-422-2189, [shanroy@bellsouth.net](mailto:shanroy@bellsouth.net)

Vice/Programs: Margaret Brabham, 561-324-3543, [magbrab@yahoo.com](mailto:magbrab@yahoo.com)

Vice/Trails: Fred Davis, 561-585-6386, [fdavis@msn.com](mailto:fdavis@msn.com)

Secretary: Debra Lawrence, 561-309-4764, [allie9362@aol.com](mailto:allie9362@aol.com)

Treasurer: Paul Cummings, 561-963-9906, [cummingsps@att.net](mailto:cummingsps@att.net)

## **Council Representative**

Bea Rogers, 561-644-0777, [bnest22@bellsouth.net](mailto:bnest22@bellsouth.net)

## **Committees**

Membership: Mary Miller, 561-213-2189, [mhm27@juno.com](mailto:mhm27@juno.com)

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## **Trail Section Leaders**

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Corbett: Tony Rawson, 561-843-4668, [tonrawson@yahoo.com](mailto:tonrawson@yahoo.com)

DuPuis: Bea Rogers, 561-644-0777, [bnest22@bellsouth.net](mailto:bnest22@bellsouth.net)

Lake Okeechobee: Paul Cummings, 561-963-9906, [cummingsps@att.net](mailto:cummingsps@att.net)

Ocean to Lake: Bea Rogers, 561-644-0777, [bnest22@bellsouth.net](mailto:bnest22@bellsouth.net)

# ≡ Monthly Activity Calendar ≡

## November/December

<b>Date</b>	<b>Description</b>
11/2	<b>MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETING.</b> Socialize with fellow members; bring guests for our chapter meeting. Social: 7:00 p.m. Program: 7:30 p.m. Topic to be announced. Contact: Margaret Brabham, 561-324-3543. Public/Leisure
11/7	<b>JOHN PRINCE PARK WALK.</b> You can choose your pace and distance on this leisure walk. Breakfast afterward at TooJays. 7:30 a.m. Contact: Paul Cummings, 561-963-9906. Public/Leisure.
11/7-8	<b>BEGINNERS BACKPACKING TRIP.</b> We will backpack to Kitching Creek in Jonathan Dickinson State Park on Saturday night and out on Sunday. Contact: Scott Lunsford, 561-441-1251. Public/Moderate
11/8	<b>HIKE IN JONATHAN DICKINSON STATE PARK.</b> 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
11/14	<b>TRAIL MAINTENANCE.</b> To be announced. Contact: Fred Davis, 561-585-6386.
11/21	<b>OKEEHEELEE PARK WALK.</b> Take the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday walk in Okeeheelee Park and burn off a few calories before you have breakfast at Pete's Place. 7:30 a.m. Contact: Daisy Palmer, 561-439-5780. Public/Leisure.
11/22-27	<b>24<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL BIG "O" HIKE.</b> Hike six days around or near the north half of Lake Okeechobee. For more information go to the Loxahatchee Chapter Website at <a href="http://www.loxfltrail.org">www.loxfltrail.org</a> , or call Roy Moore at 561-422-2189. Public/Leisure-Moderate
11/27-29	<b>THANKSGIVING WEEKEND TRAIL MAINTENANCE.</b> Work off those Thanksgiving dinner calories!! Mow, clip and blaze the loop trails and OTLH trail in DuPuis. Meet at gate 1 at 8 a.m. Camping available at the Family Campground. For directions contact Bea Rogers, 561-644-0777. Public/Leisure-Moderate
11/28	<b>HIKE IN APOXEE.</b> Start your hike at 8:00 a.m. in this urban wilderness with Joe Rosenberg in the lead. Cover a distance of around 9 miles. Bring plenty of water. Contact: 561-859-1954. Public/Moderate
11/29	<b>ROYAL PALM BEACH PINES NATURAL AREA HIKE.</b> Walk around 3 to 4 miles on natural-surface hiking trails and enjoy the boardwalk and a covered observation platform. 7:30 a.m. Breakfast afterward. Contact: Alan Collins, 561-586-0486. Public/Leisure
12/5	<b>JOHN PRINCE PARK WALK.</b> Take your morning stroll of about 2 to 4 miles in this beautiful setting. 7:30 a.m. Breakfast afterward at TooJays. Contact: Paul Cummings, 561-963-9906. Public/Leisure
12/6	<b>HIKE IN JONATHAN DICKINSON STATE PARK.</b> Take a challenging hike of around 7 to 12 miles in JDSP. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the front gate. Bring two full bottles of water. Lunch at the Dune Dog Café afterward. Contact: Mary Miller, 561-213-2189. Public/Moderate
12/7	<b>MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETING.</b> Social: 7:00 p.m. with a cookie swap. Bring a dozen or so of your home-baked goodies. Program: 7:30 p.m. Topic to be announced. Contact: Margaret Brabham, 561-324-3543. Public/Leisure
12/12	<b>TRAIL MAINTENANCE.</b> To be announced. Contact: Fred Davis, 561-585-6386.
12/19	<b>OKEEHEELEE PARK WALK.</b> Hike around 4 miles and chat with your buddies while taking in the beauty of the park. 7:30 a.m. Breakfast afterward at Pete's Place. Contact: Daisy Palmer, 561-439-5780. Public/Leisure
12/26	<b>HIKE IN APOXEE.</b> Join Joe Rosenberg at 8:00 a.m. for his 4 <sup>th</sup> Saturday hike on the Apoxee Wilderness Trail. He'll cover around 9 miles. Plenty of water is a must. Contact: 561-859-1954. Public/Moderate

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

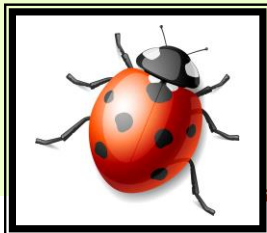
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**Additional Activity....**

Accompany Dave Cook for a ramble November 11<sup>th</sup> in the Jones/Hungryland Slough Natural Area. Meet at Gate 6 at 7:30 a.m. Expect ankle deep water in places. Early lunch to follow. Contact Dave at 561-743-8642. Public/Leisure

AND don't forget the traditional Hickory Hammock Holiday Hike on New Year's Day.  
Contact Bea Rogers for details, 561-644-0777.



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