



# trail tales



## Loxahatchee Chapter, Florida Trail Association

Volume 26, Issue 6: Bi-monthly Publication

November/ December 2016

### CHAPTER MEETINGS

First Monday of every month

*Topics of interest to hikers,  
outdoor enthusiasts and  
naturists held at:*

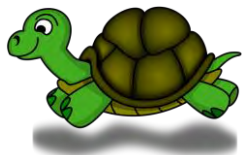
### OKEEHEELEE NATURE CENTER

Social 7:00 p.m.  
Program 7:30 p.m.

*Located in 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!!**



### The 25th Annual Big "O"

By Roy Moore

Plans are underway, registrations are coming in and we are close to final daily route assignments for the Big "O" Hike. On the longest running continuous event in FTA history, we'll be celebrating every day from November 20th through the 25th.

This event provides a great opportunity to meet old friends and make new ones. Whether you choose to walk one day or all six, great times await as we hike the dikes of Lake Okeechobee. Each day we'll tackle a section of the dike, all part of the Florida National Scenic Trail. This year we'll be back on one of the southern sections of the dike for the first time in four years. That will be from the South Bay RV park to Pahokee.

Keep in touch by checking our website or Meetup. That's where the latest information will be posted. If you haven't registered, simply fill out the application included with the newsletter and send it in. Hope to see you all on November 20th.

### Natural Scrub Areas Hike

By Alan Collins

On September 25, 17 people hiked on three short walks which in all covered approximately three miles.

A surprise was in store at the start of the walk at Seacrest Scrub. In the past we started in the forest —today we discovered that the forest was trimmed back and it was open instead of wooded. However, the second part was still wooded which didn't take much away. A good walk.

High Ridge is one of the few walks where we have to climb upward. I must be getting old because I felt the walk in my legs. At one point in the walk I felt like a young kid again; we go upward and reach a point that looks down at a valley and I visualize a cowboy looking down at the Indians or bad guys. A fun walk,

The third walk was at Lantana Natural Area which is a beautiful short walk that takes us through three different ecosystems .

Seven of us went to breakfast at the Dune Deck. A good day.

## Chapter Meetings & Events

### Monthly Meeting

**November 7**

Program to be announced.

**December 5**

Get in the kitchen and bake a batch of cookies for our cookie exchange. You'll have your fill at the meeting and be able to take some home.



###

### New Year's Day Hike

Every year Bea Rogers leads a hike on New Year's Day. According to Bea, you have to start off the year on the right foot.

She is breaking her tradition of hiking in Hickory Hammock and will instead explore in the Sandhill Crane tract. For directions, start time, and other information contact Bea at 561-644-0777. You'll be glad you did.

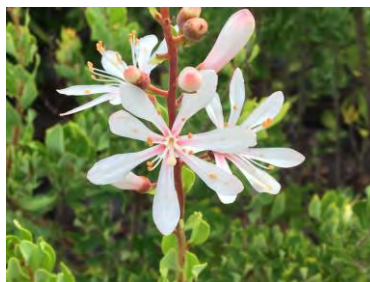
## Counsel Meeting in White Springs

By Roy Moore

I attended the September council meeting in White Springs. It was a long drive but well worth it, both for the meeting and the beautiful setting along the Suwanee River. While I'll not go over all the details here, the general theme of most importance was the strength of our chapters.

I'm pleased to report that we are among the strongest of chapters. We've had positive monthly growth in membership for six consecutive months with total membership over 300. I shared the following with other council representatives: We have new activity leaders and new trail section leaders. In addition to continuing great salesmanship from our activity leaders, we have great publicity from John Fenner and Scott Lunsford. With Gail Irwin's work, we have a regularly scheduled newsletter to inform our members. We have regular hikes and walks year around, bringing us new members, even in the summer months. Meetup and Facebook are also active centers of interest and participation. We have continuing commitment from our seasoned members as well as participation by the new ones.

It is a privilege to belong to our chapter. Members love building, maintaining and supporting our trail system and that's our mission. Well done, Loxahatchee Chapter!



## 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, jeff4sail@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

# 25th Annual Big "O" Hike Registration Form

November 20-25, 2016

With Okeechobee KOA, Okeechobee, FL, as our Base Camp

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Registration fee.....\$ 10.00

(Onsite Registration is \$15, so it pays to register now.)

T-Shirts (Short sleeved only, will not be mailed - must be picked up at the hike) Please indicate number of each size. Cost \$18/each. This is the only opportunity to order T-Shirts as no extra T-Shirts will be ordered.	Size	Number
	Small	
	Medium	
	Large	
	XL	
	XXL	

Total No. of T. Shirts \_\_\_\_\_ X \$18 each .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed (Make Checks payable to FTA, Lox Chapter) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

For planning purposes--- Are you interested in attending a Thanksgiving meal? (Guests are welcome.) Total including yourself..... \_\_\_\_\_

Are you interested in camping at KOA? If so, probable number of nights? \_\_\_\_\_

Camping fees will be collected on site when you check in.

**## Please mail this Registration Form with check/money order by October 31, 2016 ##**

Mail registration form and check to:

Florida Trail Association, Lox Chapter  
2179 Amesbury Cir  
Wellington, FL 33414

***If you have provided an email address, you'll receive an email confirmation.***

# ≡ Monthly Activity Calendar ≡

## November/December

Date	Description
11/5	<b>JOHN PRINCE PARK WALK.</b> Circle around the park for approximately an hour before heading out for breakfast at TooJays in Lake Worth. Contact: Paul Cummings, 561-963-9906. Public/Leisure.
11/6	<b>HIKE IN JONATHAN DICKINSON STATE PARK.</b> Meet at the front gate 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.
11/7	<b>MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETING.</b> Join with your hiking mates to swap stories about your adventures. Refreshments at 7:00 p.m. Program at 7:30 p.m. Contact: Margaret Brabham, 561-324-3543. Public/Leisure.
11/12	<b>TRAIL MAINTENANCE.</b> Details will be announced at the monthly chapter meeting. Contact: Fred Davis, 561-585-6386. Public/Leisure-Moderate.
11/19	<b>LOXAHATCHEE SLOUGH HIKE. NEW!</b> Meet at the Sweet Bay Natural Area at 7:45 a.m. for a 15 mile hike in the slough. Contact: Alan Lopatosky, 561-685-4276. Public/Strenuous.
11/19	<b>OKEEHEELEE PARK WALK.</b> Take an hour's stroll in this beautiful park. Have breakfast afterward at Pete's Place. 7:30 a.m. Contact: Margaret Brabham, 561-324-3543. Public/Leisure.
11/20-25	<b>THE 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL BIG "O" HIKE.</b> Walk the dike around the lake for a day or two or all six days. A registration form and activity write up are included in this newsletter. Contact: Roy Moore, 561-422-2189. Public/Moderate.
11/25-27	<b>TRAIL MAINTENANCE IN DUPUIS.</b> Work off those Thanksgiving calories! Mow, clip, and blaze the loop trails and OTLH trail. Meet at Gate 1 at 8:00 a.m. Camping is available at the family campground. Contact Bea Rogers, 561-644-0777, or Fred Davis, 561-585-6386. Public/Leisure-Moderate.
11/26	<b>HIKE ON THE APOXEE WILDERNESS TRAIL.</b> This is a monthly hike starting at 8:00 a.m. If you haven't been on this trail before, now is your opportunity. Meet at the trailhead for a semi-rigorous 9 mile trek. Plenty of water is a must. Contact: Joe Rosenberg, 561-859-1954. Public/Moderate.
11/27	<b>WALK IN THE ROYAL PALM BEACH NATURAL AREA.</b> This property is located within a development of homes to offer residents a natural area to roam. Hike about an hour then join fellow hikers for breakfast. 7:30 a.m. Contact: Alan Collins, 561-586-0486. Public/Leisure.
12/3	<b>JOHN PRINCE PARK WALK.</b> If you're new to the Loxahatchee chapter, this is a good walk to meet people. Hike an hour then head out for breakfast at TooJays in Lake Worth. Contact: Paul Cummings, 561-963-9906. Public/Leisure.
12/4	<b>HIKE IN JONATHAN DICKINSON STATE PARK.</b> This is a fairly rigorous outing (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.
12/5	<b>MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETING.</b> Bring cookies for the cookie exchange and socialize with members and guests of the Loxahatchee Chapter. Social: 7:00 p.m., Program at 7:30 p.m. Topic to be announced. Contact: Margaret Brabham, 561-324-3543. Public/Leisure.
12/10	<b>HOLIDAY PARTY IN RIVERBEND PARK.</b> Come to the River Pavilion from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Meat, dressing, potatoes & gravy will be provided. You bring a side dish. Lots of opportunities for recreation before or after the meal are available. Contact: Roy Moore, 561-422-2189. Members & guests/Leisure.
12/17	<b>OKEEHEELEE PARK WALK.</b> Enjoy your surroundings as you hike around 4 miles in the park. 7:30 a.m. Breakfast afterward at Pete's Place. Contact: Margaret Brabham, 561-324-3543. Public/Leisure.
12/24	<b>HIKE ON THE APOXEE WILDERNESS TRAIL.</b> Joe Rosenberg will take you through Apoxee off Jog Rd. on an approximate 9 mile hike. 8:00 a.m. Plenty of water a must. Contact: 561-859-1954. Public/Moderate.
12/31	<b>TRAIL MAINTENANCE IN OKEEHEELEE PARK.</b> Do a little light maintenance in the park. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Nature Center. Breakfast afterward at Pete's Place. Contact: Paul Cummings, 561-963-9906. Public/Leisure.

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

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**BEGINNERS BACKPACKING TRIP  
November 12/13**

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

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

