What's Inside?

- 2013 Annual Conference
- Volunteer Hours Reporting
- University Outreach
- Hiker's How To
Our Mission
The Florida Trail Association develops, maintains, protects and promotes a network of hiking trails throughout the state, including the unique Florida National Scenic Trail. Together with our partners we provide opportunities for the public to hike, engage in outdoor recreation, participate in environmental education and contribute to meaningful volunteer work.

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PHOTO CREDITS

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1983 - 2013
Celebrating 30 years of a proud partnership in the National Trails System with the USDA Forest Service.

Winter 2013
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OUR MAGAZINE
The Florida Trail Footprint is published by the Florida Trail Association, a volunteer based nonprofit organization focused on Florida hiking. Since 1966, the primary mission of our organization has been the care and protection of the Florida Trail, a 1,400-mile footpath across the Sunshine State, Florida’s own National Scenic Trail. The Florida Trail Association also publishes maps and guidebooks to assist hikers in enjoying this public recreational resource.

OUR GOAL
To provide outreach to our readers through informative articles that express appreciation for and conservation of the natural beauty of Florida; to inform our readers of Florida Trail Association business; and to provide information on Florida hiking and outdoor recreation opportunities.

CONTRIBUTORS
Contributors are welcome to submit items for our various departments as well as trail and association-related news. Please contact the editor at communications@floridatrail.org to discuss ideas for feature stories prior to submission.

MEMBERSHIP
If you’re not already a member, join now. As a Florida Trail member, you receive a subscription to the Florida Trail Footprint magazine, membership in a local chapter, a local newsletter with local activities, opportunities for outdoor skills training, participation in regional and annual conferences and more. Commercial and Alliance memberships and event sponsorship opportunities are also available. Call 877-HIKE-FLA for more information.

ADVERTISING
Reach a highly targeted demographic of Florida outdoor enthusiasts by advertising with us or becoming a regular sponsor. Your advertising dollars directly support production and publication of this magazine and assist the Florida Trail Association in fulfilling its mission. Call 877-HIKE-FLA or email communications@floridatrail.org for more details.
Florida Trail activities are organized by our local chapters and led by authorized volunteer activity leaders throughout the state. They can be found online under Activities>Find an Activity at www.floridatrail.org and on our local chapter websites. Participants in activities must sign an Assumption of Risk form and agree to accept personal responsibility for their safety and the safety of accompanying minors. Always contact the activity leader in advance for more information, to let them know you are attending, and to find out any special requirements for the trip.
It has been an interesting year for the Florida Trail Association (FTA): changes in staff, changes in our relationship to the USDA Forest Service and other partners, and proposed changes to the Florida National Scenic Trail (FNST). As the dust settles from the tremors, it’s tempting for many to hope that things will return to an earlier status quo, and that we can get back to our trail segments and chapters without much concern for the future. This is what’s known as wishful thinking.

For too long, FTA relied on a generous federal partner to inject large amounts of cash into its coffers, money that not only paid for FNST-specific projects, but also included a generous overhead that covered other expenses. FTA had a great deal of leeway with regard to those programs, the overall direction of the FNST, and the management of most trail matters. This arrangement seems very desirable, but it can lead to complacency, a feeling of entitlement, and a complete lack of urgency about ensuring the future health and wealth of the organization.

For better or worse, this arrangement no longer exists. This is due to many reasons, and dwelling on them or pointing fingers will not change the situation. But the way forward is pretty clear. FTA needs to be able to do several things well, in a time of reduced resources, with pressures from every direction. FTA needs to recruit and train more volunteers, increase its diversity, attract new members and partners, build up programs and appropriate staff, and obtain the resources to fulfill its mission. FTA needs to do this at every level, in every chapter. We need to do these things because we have that mission, because we have these partners, because we solicit contributions from those donors, and because we want excellent trails for the American public. We need to be a solution to a problem and the rallying point for a great cause.

Fortunately, there are examples of Florida Trail Association resurgence. Participation and interest in the future of the FNST has soared, and this year saw the revival of multiple regional conferences and good an increase in attendance at other FNST-centric public events, like the OGT Open Houses and the FLORC Symposium in Sanford. Still, this energy needs to become more positive and move outward in direction. We need to think less inwardly about ourselves and our fears, and think more broadly about the citizens who benefit from our effort and about our hopes and dreams for the future. That path leads to a Florida Trail Association that in the future is still the acknowledged leader in trails throughout the Sunshine State.

I see great examples of this positive type of thinking at FTA, too. I recently spoke with Joan Jarvis of the Central Florida Chapter, who along with Mike Umbarger led a well-attended “Day Hike for Kids and their Parents with S’more Cookout” in Seminole State Forest. It was a happy experience for even a four-year-old. It was the kind of activity that can potentially bring in new members and get kids hooked on hiking. And it featured s’mores! Who doesn’t like s’mores? Holly Parker of the Apalachee Chapter has successfully initiated “Under 40” hikes to attract younger participants and members. That chapter also holds “Light and Fast” hikes for those looking for a workout. A few chapters host walks through historic neighborhoods.

The point here is that there are thousands of innovative ways to introduce people to the great outdoors, and to the Florida Trail Association. Those people will someday become the leaders of FTA, the trail maintainers, and the champions for the FNST and other trails and conservation efforts. But they have to be attracted first, and feel like the experience is worthwhile and fun.

The seasons have changed, and cooler weather means energy is being directed to trail maintenance and other activities. Make sure that somewhere in there, you’ve left inviting room for new people and new friends. Make sure you’ve made room for the future of the Florida Trail Association. And then contribute to that future.
**Prada’s Pizza Perfection**

Sent in by Carla ‘Prada’ Akers

"Every time I make this easy trail meal folks try to trade me other food for it. It smells amazing and tastes even better!"

You will need:
- 3 small tortillas
- 10 to 15 pieces of Boar’s Head Turkey Pepperoni (available at Publix, keeps better on the trail in my opinion)
- 3 individually wrapped snack size pieces of cheddar cheese (comes in a bag of 8-10 and keeps for a week on trail)
- 9 to 10 pieces of home dehydrated tomatoes

Directions:
Turn backpacker stove on medium and warm up empty pot a minute or two. Once it is heated up put in the pepperoni (it will sizzle and everyone within 100 yards will then walk over to see what smells so amazing so beware). Turn flame to low, place tortillas in pot on top of meat to warm up, and cook pepperoni a minute or two longer until crispy. Once you perfect the technique, you will be able to turn the pot over when meat is crispy and dump the tortillas into your hand with the pepperoni on top. I like to use my bandana as a pot holder in this circumstance and it works great. Divide the pepperoni evenly between the tortillas, add the dried tomatoes and cheese, and fold in half or wrap up like a burrito. Enjoy. Make sure to take enough to make more than one on your hike. You will want to!

**Safety Essentials**

Good sanitation is necessary while backpacking. Food poisoning is the last thing you want to encounter on the trail. If you are using water from a source on the trail, be sure to follow the necessary steps to filter and purify. Working with stoves and gas also takes some getting used to, so make sure you know how to use your stove properly and safely. Also be conscious of what’s around you. If you are in a very dry area where forest fires are often an issue, take extra precaution.

**Plan ahead**

To pack accordingly, you’ll need to figure out how many days you will be on the trail without access to stores. You will also need to consider how many people you are feeding and how many pounds you are willing to carry. Often times it is a good idea to prepare as much food as you can before the trip. If you can dehydrate any meal items before leaving, it makes a quick addition and can expand your options.

Things to keep in mind when choosing meals: weight, nutritional value, simplicity and of course taste!

**What you’ll need**

Hikers must choose cooking equipment that is light and multi-functional. For example, choose a mug that acts as a cup and a bowl. You want to look for items that are made of aluminum, which is lightweight and inexpensive, stainless steel, which is strong and has good heat conduction or titanium, which is light, durable and heats up quickly. A 1.5L pot is a good size for two people who eat an average amount.

If your heat source is going to be something other than the cozy campfire, you’ll need a stove to do the job. Cannister stoves are a good option because they are simple, safe to use and rarely have flareups. Alcohol stoves are another option. They are popular because of how quiet and easy they are to use.

**How To: Cook on the Trail**

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Trail Updates

Tom Daniel
Vice President, Trails

Tentative Date for Trails Committee Meeting - Trail Leaders save this date: **Sunday, January 27, 2013**. Location and times to be announced at a later date.

Busy and Stressful Summer - We lost our executive director, FNST director of programs and policy and the FNST field support coordinator. Keeping members informed and up-to-date on the multiple issues at stake in the Office of Greenways and Trails Open Houses was extremely time consuming. Balanced with the introduction of the Trail Class Matrix, Trail Parameters, and the new web-based system for Activities Listing and Volunteer Hours Reporting, it has been a demanding period. With that being said the **September 17th Trails Committee Meeting** came off with only minor or invisible glitches. I would like to take credit, but the FTA staff deserves the praise. It takes a lot of work for things to look effortless. Janet, Deb, Megan and Eric deserve all our thanks for keeping FTA focused and moving forward.

FTA Staff - The composition and funding for the current FTA staff structure deserves updating. We currently have four employees: Janet Akerson, Administrative Director; Deb Blick, Trail Resource Coordinator; Megan Donoghue, Communications/Membership Coordinator and Eric Mason, FNST Trail Program Coordinator. Since the spring of 2011, the Tallahassee FTA staff has gone from four to one. Only Eric remains in Tallahassee. Janet, Deb and Megan work in the Gainesville office. Megan and Janet’s positions are the only ones funded from FTA. The agreement with the USDA FS either totally or partially funds the other two positions. This agreement is geared to a formal work plan which specifies the billable categories of work with stated objectives that directly support the FNST. Categories such as membership support and services are clearly outside the agreement. **Why is this relevant?** Revenue streams to support additional staff haven't materialized resulting in reduced services to FTA members.

Activities and Volunteer Hours Reporting - The new FTA web site is up and running. It’s a big improvement over the old one but my emphasis is on **activities posting** and **volunteer hours reporting**. Both are essential to our partnerships! Currently, FTA chapters have a hodgepodge of systems to display chapter activities. Some are very up-to-date, work well and are used skillfully, while others are very outdated or non-existent. The long term vision is to market FTA activities using a VolunteerMatch.org type and/or other web-based tools to attract volunteers.

For volunteer hours reporting, FTA is creeping out of the dark ages. We now have a web-based application that walks the user through the process of recording volunteer hours. Ideally the Activity Leader is best suited, and the preferred individual, to input hours for their workdays or activities. If a chapter has a designated inputter it requires more coordination. Reports are available to the user, land managers, staff and USDA FS for their own tracking requirements. The downside is that the application does not track individual volunteer hours and chapters will need to identify what information they wish to continue tracking.

When to start using the new system: Yesterday! Hours worked September 1 and after, use the new website-based method of reporting. A tutorial is available on the website as a “how to” PDF download. Please contact Deb Blick with questions and requests for additional usernames and passwords.

Western Corridor FNST Route - David Waldrop (Heartland) is chairing a committee to identify the route and make appropriate recommendations. The task is to clearly designate a route where FNST signage will be authorized. The committee includes volunteers and impacted land managers. Recommendation should be forth coming before Thanksgiving.
FNST Trail Class Matrix and Design Parameters - What are Trail Classes and Parameters? The Classes are nationally applied classification used by various federal agencies. The Matrix is a 1–5 classification scale. Class 1 is a narrow trail on an unimproved natural surface in undisturbed natural areas, Class 5 is wide, paved, possibly multi-use, and includes considerable infrastructure. Classes 2, 3 and 4 fall in between. Trail Parameters are the development and maintenance specifications for the designed trail class and usage. These are often referred to as standards. Draft FNST Trail Class Matrix and Parameters were distributed to Trail Coordinators in September.

The Classes and Parameters are tools applied by land managers and administrators to manage the type of trail that crosses their lands. The width of the treadway and clearing dimensions are good examples. Class 1 and 2 trails are narrow while 4 and 5 wide and open. Chapter representatives at the Trails Committee Meeting penciled in the Trail Class on FNST maps and these are being included in our mapping system.

A sample of the Trail Class Matrix:

**Trail Class Matrix**

Trail Classes are general categories reflecting trail development scale, arranged along a continuum. The Trail Class identified for a National Forest System (NFS) trail prescribes its development scale, representing its intended design and management standards.\(^1\) Local deviations from any Trail Class descriptor may be established based on trail-specific conditions, topography, or other factors, provided that the deviations do not undermine the general intent of the applicable Trail Class.

Identify the appropriate Trail Class for each National Forest System trail or trail segment based on the management intent in the applicable land management plan, travel management direction, trail-specific decisions, and other related direction. Apply the Trail Class that most closely matches the management intent for the trail or trail segment, which may or may not reflect the current condition of the trail.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trail Attributes</th>
<th>Trail Class 1 Minimally Developed</th>
<th>Trail Class 2 Moderately Developed</th>
<th>Trail Class 3 Developed</th>
<th>Trail Class 4 Highly Developed</th>
<th>Trail Class 5 Fully Developed</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tread &amp; Traffic Flow</strong></td>
<td>Tread intermittent and often indistinct</td>
<td>Tread continuous and discernible, but narrow and rough</td>
<td>Tread continuous and obvious</td>
<td>Tread wide and relatively smooth with few irregularities</td>
<td>Tread wide, firm, stable, and generally uniform</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>May require route finding</td>
<td>Single lane with minor allowances constructed for passing</td>
<td>Single lane, with allowances constructed for passing where required by traffic volumes in areas with no reasonable passing opportunities available</td>
<td>Single lane, with allowances constructed for passing where required by traffic volumes in areas with no reasonable passing opportunities available</td>
<td>Single lane, with frequent turnouts where traffic volumes are low to moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Predominantly native materials</td>
<td>Typically native materials</td>
<td>Native or imported materials</td>
<td>Native or imported materials</td>
<td>Double lane where traffic volumes are moderate to high</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Obstacles</strong></td>
<td>Obstacles common, naturally occurring, often substantial and intended to provide increased challenge</td>
<td>Obstacles may be common, substantial, and intended to provide increased challenge</td>
<td>Obstacles may be common, but not substantial or intended to provide challenge</td>
<td>Obstacles infrequent and insubstantial</td>
<td>Obstacles not present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Narrow passages; brush, steep grades, rocks and logs present</td>
<td>Blockages cleared to define route and protect resources</td>
<td>Vegetation cleared outside of trailway</td>
<td>Vegetation cleared outside of trailway</td>
<td>Grades typically &lt; 8%</td>
</tr>
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Florida’s trail season is in full swing and the Florida Trail Association is experiencing some exciting new changes. You may remember a few months back our staff sent out questionnaires to each chapter regarding a variety of topics. We’ve received an incredible number of responses and spent a tremendous amount of time talking with volunteers, hikers and agency partners. The questionnaire was successful at answering our most important question, “how can FTA help you?”

I am excited to say that we have taken your feedback and have come up with a three-year Trail Operations Program (TOP), which includes goals that will better serve the needs of the Florida National Scenic Trail and our dedicated volunteers.

FTA staff have been working on this plan with our Board of Directors and chapter leadership. Our plan is intended to renew our focus on what’s important: our volunteers and the trail. The Board of Directors will be approving our TOP goals as well as revising, updating and publishing FTA’s Strategic Plan. They will both be posted online in the New Year and will help us move forward with our efforts. Over the next three years, FTA staff will begin to implement the first part of our TOP goals. These goals are based on a very simple but significant statement:

*We build, maintain, and protect the Florida National Scenic Trail and the volunteer programs that support it.*

The pillars of our program will be based on simple principles like honesty, respect, compromise and mutual collaboration, which are essential to any partnership. Florida Trail Association staff will be guided by these principles and will work with agencies and volunteers to achieve the following initiatives over the next three years.

### The Florida Trail Association:

- Will act as the primary non-profit steward of the FNST and works to protect the associated resources, qualities, and values of the trail and its users.
- Will engage diverse groups of volunteers from around the country in stewardship projects on the FNST.
- Will provide the necessary support and direction for local chapters.
- Will improve partnerships with land managers, local communities and compatible user groups statewide.

The details of our TOP, objectives and deliverables will be distributed at the upcoming January 27, 2013 Trails Committee meeting. We would like to get additional feedback and support from chapter leadership there as well.

We hope to put a new face on the FTA, and move forward as the premier organization that promotes the Florida National Scenic Trail and the unique natural areas it passes through.
The following Trainings, Workshops and Events have already been set up on the FTA website where you can find more information and sign up. Check back often during the trail season for updates.

### Chain Saw Bucking Certification Classes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Central</td>
<td>Jan 12-13, 2013</td>
<td>Ocala National Forest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South</td>
<td>Feb 23-24, 2013</td>
<td>Kissimmee Prairie State Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North</td>
<td>Mar 23-24, 2013</td>
<td>St Marks NWR</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### F-Troops

- Jan 3-5, 2013: Big Cypress Scouting
- Feb 1-7, 2013: Big Cypress
- April 4-30, 2013: Sopchoppy Bridge Building (Held on weekends throughout the month of April)

### Trail Maintenance Workshop

- Jan 11-13, 2013: Apalachicola National Forest

If you would like to schedule a training or workshop in your area, please contact Deb Blick at dblick@floridatrail.org or Eric Mason at emason@floridatrail.org.

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**Western Corridor Hiking Series**

This is a cooperative effort between four FTA chapters that will show off the best the Western Corridor of the Florida National Scenic Trail.

Traversing through black bear country and bogs and marshes, the Western Corridor runs through some of the most unusual and stunning habitats in Florida. For more information and to sign-up go to: [http://www.meetup.com/Suncoast-Florida-Trail-Hiking/](http://www.meetup.com/Suncoast-Florida-Trail-Hiking/)

**Ocala National Forest-USDA FS**

**Hike 1** Sat Dec 1st. Florida Crackers
Old Hunt Station at CR 316 and Forest Road 11 to FT Trailhead at Eaton Creek. 11.5 miles

**Hike 2** Mon Dec 3rd. Halifax-St. Johns Eaton Creek to Sharpes Ferry Bridge. 11.7 miles

**Cross Florida Greenway-DEP**

**Hike 3** Wed Dec 5th. Florida Crackers Sharpes Ferry Bridge to Santos Trailhead 11.8 miles

**Hike 4** Sat Dec 8th. Florida Crackers Santos Trailhead to 49th Ave Trailhead 10.6 miles

**Hike 5** Wed Dec 12th. Florida Crackers 49th Ave Trailhead to Pruitt Trailhead 12.2 miles

**Withlachoochee State Trail (paved)**

**Bike 6** Sat Dec 15th. Suncoast Pruitt Trailhead through Dunnellon to Inverness 25.5 miles

**Citrus Tract – Withlachoochee SF**

**Hike 7** Sat Jan. 5th. Suncoast Inverness to Mutual Mine. 13 miles

**Hike 8** Wed Jan. 9th. Suncoast Mutual Mine to D-Loop at Brittle Road. 8 miles

**Hike 9** Wed Jan. 16th. Suncoast D-Loop at Brittle Road to Willow St. to Croom Trail Head. 15 miles

**Croom Tract— Withlachoochee SF**

**Hike 10** Wed Jan. 30. Suncoast Croom Trailhead to Silver Lake. 9 miles

**Hike 11** Sat Feb. 2. Suncoast Silver Lake to Ridge Manor Trailhead. 8 miles. Ridge Manor Trailhead to SR 50 5.5 miles

**Richloam Tract – Withlachoochee SF**

**Hike 12** Wed Feb. 6. Suncoast SR 50 to Lachoochee Road (with River Loop). 8 miles

**Hike 13** Wed Feb. 13th Suncoast Lachoochee Road to River Rd. 10.5 miles

**Green Swamp West - SWFWMD**

**Hike 14** Wed Feb. 20. Suncoast River Road to SR 471. 9 miles

**Green Swamp East – SWFWMD**

**Hike 15** Wed Feb. 27. Heartland SR 471 to Rockridge Road. 13 miles
By now many of you have attended the Volunteer Hours workshops held during the Board meeting weekends and at three regional conferences. Many questions have been asked at all the meetings, so I thought a Q & A might be a good way to share the answers to questions from various parts of the state.

Q. The FTA Office said they would not do my hours entry for me any longer. How is my Chapter supposed to turn in their valuable hours?

A. Rather than mailing/emailing your hours to the FTA Office each month, our new on-line Volunteer Hours Database makes it possible for each chapter to enter their own hours. Other volunteer groups and local land managers working on the trail will eventually be able to use the system as well. And local land managers will be able to view the reports you submit saving section leaders from having to mail reports by land unit.

Q. When did this happen?

A. As of September 1, 2013 all chapters are responsible for handling their own hours entry. This change was discussed in Chapter Council and the Trails Committee meeting in May and June of 2012 and every chapter received one log-on near the beginning of September giving access to the system.

Q. I heard this new system cannot track individual hours. Is that true?

A. Actually, the system could track hours by the individual, but it would be very time consuming for you to do so. The system was designed to track the work done by specific piece of trail or a specific type of activity (like service to the Chapter or leading an Activity) rather than to track who is doing the work. In point of fact, the FTA office has never tracked individual hours - that has always been a chapter function. FTA only deals with totals. We suggest the chapter continue to track individual hours and enter the grouped hours into the online database.

Q. What if we have several people who will be entering hours?

A. Every chapter was issued one log-on in September. Additional log-ons will be issued upon request of a chapter officer. Just call the FTA Office with the name and email address of the person you want to add and we will email them their new logon. Each chapter should experiment a little to see what works best for their chapter.

Q. How has the calculation and reporting of the trail work hours changed?

A. Previously we included travel time with work time. Now, you start counting volunteer hours when "your boots hit the ground". For example, when you arrive at the trailhead, unload the mowers and loppers and head down the trail.

Q. So, do we lose all those travel hours?

A. No, those travel hours are important in showing the total amount of time needed to accomplish the work being done, whether leading hikes or doing trail work. It’s just that now we have to track them separately as mileage. From the total mileage collected we can get a good estimate not only of the travel hours, but of the cost of travel. One thing to note, if you have people who carpooled miles to the job site, each person gets to claim the miles there and back. So if two people carpooled 25 miles one way to the job, then you would enter a total of 100 miles. (25 miles x 2 people x 2 ways.)

Q. What else do we need to record other than hours and mileage?

A. The total number of people and any out-of pocket expenses. The total number of people is the total number doing meaningful work, i.e., hike leaders but not hike participants. Out-of-pocket expenses are those items you pay for that directly support the work you do. For example this would include gas for the mowers or reserving a site for a training. Gas for vehicles used in commuting to and from the work site should NOT be included - that is covered under mileage – nor should personal expenses such as lunch be counted. Be sure to enter these expenses whether you are reimbursed for them or not. If you are not seeking reimbursement, no receipt is needed.
Q. What if people from multiple chapters are maintaining a piece of trail?

A. As a general rule, enter trail work hours by the leader of the work hike. If the section leader is from one chapter and the trail master is from another chapter then enter the person who actually was responsible for the hike. Put that person’s name and Chapter in for the work. Trail masters and section leaders should discuss in advance how they want to handle this kind of situation. Whatever works to get the recording job done best is what we want you to do and that may vary from chapter to chapter. In point of fact, FTA doesn’t care who “gets credit”, so long as the work is recorded and is not duplicated.

Q. Has anything changed with regards to “admin” hours?

A. The only thing that has changed is that FTA is trying to track the types of admin work a little more closely, so there are now **five categories** of admin hours that are pretty self explanatory:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FTA Activities</th>
<th>Planning, preparing and leading activities.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FTA Board</td>
<td>State Board of Directors and State Board committees (Trails Committee, Chapter Council, etc.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FTA Chapter</td>
<td>Service in support of the Chapter – leading chapter meetings, newsletter, ExComm meetings, membership, hours data entry, community festivals, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FTA Training</td>
<td>Leading or attending a training that is either required (like FA &amp; CPR for sawyer training) or that increases your value to FTA. First Aid &amp; CPR, sawyer training, bridge building workshops, how to lead effective meetings, fund raising 101, etc. are all good examples. And they do not have to be trainings organized by FTA.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FTA Admin</td>
<td>The catch-all category for anything that is not covered above.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Q. Who should be entering the hours?

A. This is something that each chapter will need to decide for themselves. Up to now, most chapters have had one person who did all the hours collection and then turned it into the FTA office. That may still work for you, or you may want to experiment with different methodologies. Several chapters report that enabling the section leaders to enter their own trail work hours then having one person to group and enter all the admin hours once or twice per month is working well.

Q. When should hours be entered?

A. Trail work hours should be entered as soon as possible after the work is done. Admin hours should be entered at least on a monthly basis.

Q. How should we count hours and people at Chapter meetings?

A. The business portions of a chapter meeting can be counted as FTA-Service to Chapters. The entertainment/program portions of a chapter meeting should generally not be counted.
**Chapter Spotlight**

**Heartland**

**Serving Counties:** DeSoto, Hardee, Highlands, and Polk

**Sections of trail they maintain:** Central Florida from Green Swamp south through the southern reaches of the Lakes Wales Ridge along both the Peace and Kissimmee Rivers.

**Interview with Chapter Chair, David Waldrop**

**FTA:** I know you maintain trail on Avon Park Air Force Base, what’s it like working with the military as a land manager?

**DW:** It’s challenging. There are a lot of times when we are not allowed to access the trail due to operations on the base. Because of this, we have to work really closely with them and schedule well in advance for any activity we want to do along the Florida National Scenic Trail.

**FTA:** I heard your Chapter is starting to build trails in the western portion of Lake Kissimmee, can you talk about how this started and how it is going?

**DW:** We haven’t quite started yet. We are looking at potentially moving the start of the western corridor around Lake Kissimmee. We maintain trails in Kissimmee State Park and we have a good relationship with the Florida Park Service. We also have land owners who have potentially agreed with the idea of putting the trail in that location, but it still depends on a bunch of factors. We really haven’t started except around the Lake Kissimmee State Park area.

**FTA:** I know your Chapter has a close relationship with Tenoroc and the FWC, how did you form this relationship and how do you keep it going?

**DW:** I became Chapter Chair not too long ago. I’m not too familiar with the actual history of the relationship. All I know is that Monika Hoerl is the driving force behind it. I think originally they invited us out to put trails on the ground, and we’ve been working with them ever since. We do have a really close relationship with them and they...
FTA: As the current Chapter Chair, I’ve heard that you have had success in revitalizing the Chapter. There is a good mix of different ages in your group, which is not how it used to be. How did you manage to make this happen?

DW: One of the first things I did when I came in as Chapter Chair was to start up our Meetup group. I think we might have been the second chapter to do so, after the North Florida Trail Blazers. They were the originators of the idea. We had a number of members using Meetup for other activities, so we decided to take the plunge and do our own Meetup group. Since I was the “techy” guy and Chapter Chair, I took on that role of getting us involved with Meetup, Facebook and other things of that nature. We are trying to reach that new demographic—the social networking group. So far it has been successful. We have almost 350 members on Meetup. Half are from other chapters but that’s OK. We try to learn from other chapters and see what’s working for them. Then we implement those ideas and see if they will work for us. We have a monthly hike on Sunday at Circle B Bar, which has helped. We’ve gained seven members in the last month strictly from that hike. We are working really hard at reaching out to the younger crowds and I think Meetup has helped us do that.

FTA: If you could give other chapters and members advice, what would it be?

DW: Social networking is the key. Get out there. Get on Facebook and keep up exposure. Build up your Meetup page. We’ve learned from a lot of other chapters and I think that keeping a good mix of activity leaders and activities is also really important. Try to appeal to as many demographics as possible. I think we’ve been really successful with that.
What do you do when your planned hike corresponds with muzzleloading gun season and tropical storm warnings are in affect for your first night out in the woods? Cancel?

Not if you’re part of the University of Central Florida’s Outdoor Adventure Program (UCF OA).
In the spring of 2012, FTA’s Megan Donoghue (former UCF OA Lead) arranged a meeting between several FTA members and staff with leaders of the UCF OA program to discuss opportunities for the two to work together. As is usually the case, the non-FTA folks were unaware of the trail resources available right in their own backyard. Rachael Augspurg, Trail Coordinator for the Central Florida Chapter, encouraged them to use the trails and join the FTA for trail maintenance activities to learn more about the local trails. Jacque Steer, Florida Cracker Chapter’s Chapter Chair, helped implement the partnership and get everything going in the right direction.

In the fall, Nathan Vink, UCF OA Coordinator, contacted me about a backpacking/service trip they were planning for October in Charles H. Bronson State Forest. Unfortunately, a quick look at our trail maintenance plan showed that the hike dates corresponded to muzzleloading gun season. Realizing that the hike would require them to wear brightly colored outfits, potential dodging of muzzleload gun fire, and no joint service activity with the FTA, Nathan opted to change the hike to Little-Big Econ State Forest.

As the event date approached, so did Hurricane Sandy. With the forecast showing tropical storm force winds for their first night out, Nathan was obviously concerned. I could only offer that trees fall on the trail all the time given the consistent chainsaw experience I’ve gained over the past year. Nathan made the wise decision to postpone the start until the next morning. While the Northeast was not so fortunate, the hurricane pulled all the moisture from Central Florida leaving a beautiful, cool weekend for hiking.

The UCF OA group, which included 14 college-aged students, set out from the Panorama Road parking area and hiked over 7-miles of the FNST to the Highwater Econ Camp overlooking the Econlockhatchee River. The next morning they hiked
almost 3-miles of the FNST to Barr Street trailhead to meet our group of FTA volunteers, Shawn Riley (The Boonie Man), Jon Phipps (Rodknee Dangertrail), Bobby Judah and myself to do some work on the trail. We were surprised to find the entire group happy and enthusiastic to start working after hiking and camping overnight, since many of them were first time backpackers. We reviewed the work plan and distributed the required personal protective equipment while the group loaded gear into our FTA trailer. It was nice to see the FTA trailer loaded with hiking gear rather than the typical load of mowers and equipment!

Shawn shuttled a group and all the gear back to Panorama Road where they installed new approach trail blaze posts and cleaned up a trash pile near Mills Creek. The remainder broke into two teams of loppers with Jon leading the north-bound group and Bobby leading the south-bound group. The teams lopped and cleared 2.5 miles of the FNST, which looked awesome when they were finished! Their commitment to coordinating a fun hike with a service project saved the FTA volunteers MANY hours of work!

Another UCF OA Backpacking and Service Expedition trip is in the works at Little-Big Econ State Forest for the spring. We are looking forward to it and hopefully they will join our regular trail maintenance hikes, because they were an awesome group to work with.

These young adults are the future of our trail and organization, so I’m confident that good times are ahead.

Thank you, UCF Outdoor Adventure!
It Warms My Heart
By Steven Franklin, Interpretive Guide
11/2009

Cities often overwhelm me.
Hectic living doesn’t agree
With the peace of nature my soul
Requires to keep it feeling whole,
And so, when I can, I flee.

I make my way to the country,
To the home of the live oak tree,
To see the sights and hear the sounds
That assure pure wonder abounds,
For it’s there that I feel most free.

There: The air’s fresh and the sky’s blue
Except where clouds cling to that hue;
Wildflowers praise the nurturing sun
With colors and scents, which please one;
A strained wind whispers old secrets
To the millions of ears it frets
While mossy beards toss and sway,
And frazzled ferns struggle to stay
On limbs made to hold them aloft
Where rain and sun can keep them soft.

There: great numbers of insects hum
A tune no instrument can strum;
A proud red-tailed hawk hails its mate,
A shrill cry that makes its prey quake;
A monarch in chaotic flight
Seeks a milkweed on which to light;
Ospreys soaring on rising air
Seem far removed from earthly cares;
And crows scold me for intruding
In the riled lives they’re pursuing.

Yet, I still enjoy the shade of trees,
And notice with what privileged ease
I find myself feeling a part
Of that open-air work of art,
And that will always warm my heart.

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2012 BIG ‘O’ HIKE
Nine days, 26 people, one great hike.

By Gordy Hawkins, Big ‘O’ Hiker
Day 2, November 18, 2012 Port Mayaka to Henry Creek along the top of the
dike. Rural western Palm Beach County

Two men and two rambling dogs were approaching us. One man was pulling a
Red Radio Flyer wagon, the classic wagon of my youth and that of my sons’. It
was loaded with something heavy. Sacks of rich black Everglades soil that we
see in the fields, maybe? No, not sacks of soil. We stopped to briefly chat
with the men about their proud possessions, three dead wild hogs.
“Where is your weapon?” I asked.
“No gun hunting of animals is allowed here. We used a knife and the dogs,”
was the reply.
The moral of the story: Obesity of American youth has reached the extreme
that my Red Radio Flyer wagon has to be able to tote 400 lbs.

Big O Hike: On top of the Herbert Hoover Dike
Day 5, Wednesday November 21, 2012. 6:35 a.m. Indian Prairie Canal to Lake-
port.

6:35 a.m. Early rise and hiking south. The sky gracefully and smoothly chang-
ing form. At first clouds had formed a dome mountain to our left, east. A
dome mountain of deep grey blue. Lighter sky and soft early morning white
clouds behind that. The body of the sun must have been doing a morning
stretch while it remained hidden behind the dome, but its arms, the rays,
spread out into view. The domed cloud was remoulding and strands of grey
also stretched out from its body. This appeared to me to be not so much a
sunrise, but the promoting of the morning clouds as the protagonists in this
scene. The sun’s rays providing contrast and playing a subordinate role for this
morning’s viewing.

6:40 a.m. As the morning clouds and sun graced the sky, enter two more pro-
tagons. Far out over the prairie, using the beautiful eastern sky as the back-
drop, two ducks were strongly, rhythmically flapping their wings. Their move-
ment instinctively drawing my attention, my vision, as they took center stage.
BAM, BAM - duck hunting season at Lake Okeechobee. This audio intrusion in
the early morning did not change the flight or elegance of the ducks but did,
for just an instant, make my mind spasm.
It only took two years, 10 hours and 85 miles to get it done, but it’s standing there at the KICCO trail head: a new information kiosk ready to welcome hikers in Lake Wales.

Life Scout Allen English of Troop 22 in South Tampa took on the project after two years of pleas from the Florida Trail Association went unanswered. It took Allen and members of Troop 22 from South Tampa 10 hours to complete all of their tasks at the KICCO trail head. They drove 85 miles to see the last screw go in to the kiosk at 8:00 p.m. Sunday night.

“I’m just relieved,” said English, a senior at Plant High School in Tampa. “It feels like a 150-pound weight has been taken off my back.”

For the FTA in Polk County, it’s been more like a Grizzly. About 2,000 people use the trail annually.

“This is great!” said a grinning David Waldrop, Heartland FTA Chair. He and co-chair Melissa Aldridge came out to supervise English. Sort of.

“This is all him (English),” Aldridge corrected, “it’s his project and I think it’s just great that it’s finally getting done! I’m just here to watch.” The service project actually had four components to it:

> Tear down what was left of the old kiosk and build a new one closer to the trail head.
> Move the FTA trail marker sign closer to the head of the trail.
> Cut back overgrown palmettos and tidy-up the trail.
> Repaint washed-out orange trail blazes along a half-mile stretch.

Before the project could begin, Allen had to secure donations for the materials needed for the kiosk. Donations came from Home Depot locations on North and South Dale Mabry Highway, as well as the Lowe’s on South Dale Mabry. English’s grandparents also contributed generously.

His father, Allen Sr., flew down from Atlanta to help, and his mother, Susie, provided the fuel (water, pizzas, cookies and other snacks) to keep the boys going. A grateful son gushed over his parents’ support of the project:

“They help me through everything,” the junior English said, “without them, I wouldn’t be where I am today!”

Troop 22 Assistant Scoutmaster Steve Widoff supervised the construction of the kiosk, which was done mostly by the boys. Widoff, a talented handyman when he isn’t wearing his professional photographer hat, hauled all of the lumber and provided the main power tools to get the job done.

And the headlights to finish the job, after construction continued past dusk and in to the moonlight. The drilling and finish work continued until the crescent moon could be seen. Hunters using the cleaning station about 75 feet away noticed the activity. “Must be a Scout project,” one of them was overheard saying.

At that point, only three Scouts and two adult leaders were left out of the dozen boys and five adult leaders who came earlier to help. All English could manage to say as the kiosk neared completion: “Would ya’ look at THAT!”

It became the buzz phrase among the remaining boys for the final 20 minutes. Hopefully, it will be the buzz phrase for a lot of people for a long time to come.
2013 FTA Annual Conference
March 15-17

You all know that TRAILS DON’T BUILD THEMSELVES, but what does it really take to build a hiking trail the length of Florida? Join us as we explore the many facets of our FTA mission.

THE VENUE:
Camp McConnell is located in Micanopy, just minutes off I-75 and directly across US 441 from Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park. The location opens up a multitude of options for activities and provides us with a basecamp for presentations, programs, demonstrations and meals.

ACCOMODATIONS:
With a huge grassy field, most participants will find tent camping a pleasure. For others there’s also room for RVs (no hookups) and four brand new bunkhouses. Those wishing posher accommodations can make their own arrangements at one of the many Gainesville-area motels.

PROGRAM: With over 30 activities to choose from we promise there will never be a dull moment. Walks, hikes, presentations, demonstrations, tours and socializing are all on the schedule making it possible for you to shape your own conference experience. Renowned nature photographer Greg Stephens will be our Keynote Speaker. He will give us insight to his work capturing some of nature’s remarkable moments. The FTA Wine Garden will be back and open during the late afternoon social hour. Here’s a sampling of the many opportunities in store for you:

Friday evening dessert pot luck
Florida ecology presentation
El Camino Santiago slide show
Hammock Hanging How-to
Florida Circumnavigational Trail
Trail maintenance workshops
Archery
Paynes Prairie History walk
Exotic reptiles in Florida
FTA Wine Garden
Bat Flight
Butterfly Rainforest Tour
Horseback Riding

Micanopy Historic Walk
Geocaching
Nature photography walk
Volunteer Awards Ceremony
State of the Trail discussion
Morningside Nature Center Tour
Challenge Course - walls & zip-line
Kayak & SUP demo
Butterflies of Florida presentation
Chacala & Lachua Trail Hikes
Kayaking 101
The Great Eastern Trail
Bird Walk

So reserve March 15-17, 2013 and join us in Micanopy, FL for a fun-packed, educational weekend with old and new friends at the 2013 FTA Annual Conference. Online registration will open January 14, 2013.
Volunteer Awards

A reminder from the VP Membership for chapters to submit your award nominations to the FTA Office by **February 1, 2013.**

**Award categories are:**
- Cornelia Burge
- Lifetime Achievement
- Champion of the Florida Trail
- Friend of the FTA
- Pathfinder
- John Weary
- Special Service
- Activity Leader

Qualifications for the awards and the nomination form can be found on the FTA website at: [http://www.floridatrail.org/html/volunteer_resources.cfm](http://www.floridatrail.org/html/volunteer_resources.cfm)

This year, in accordance with chapter sentiment, Activity Leader Awards will be presented by the chapters at chapter gatherings but the awards will be ordered by the FTA Office along with the others, so the same deadline applies. The awards will be shipped to the chapters after the Annual Conference.

The award ceremony is scheduled for Saturday afternoon at the Annual Conference, March 15-17. We hope for a really big turnout, so please come and support your chapter-mates!

-Eve Barbour
VP Membership

Conference Book Sale

Rather than a WazNu of old gear, this year the Annual Conference will feature a sale of lightly used books with all proceeds going to benefit FTA. The books do not have to be related to hiking, camping or nature, only be of interest to our members. You even have your choice of delivery method:
- Drop them by the FTA office between now and March 13, 2013
- Ship them to the FTA office
- Bring them with you to the Annual Conference

So as you do your holiday pick up and spring cleaning, remember the Florida Trail book sale at the Annual Conference!
I once made my living in the woods. I climbed tall, skinny, swaying pine trees to clean out nest cavities for endangered red-cockaded woodpeckers to use. I trekked through uplands and swamps to conduct prescribed burns, trudging through sharp saw palmetto fronds and endless banana spider webs, trusting that my boot would find the ground and not the back of a snake. During the hot, dry summers I battled wildfires around the clock, which was easy compared to mediating between six state agencies to agree on a single management plan. I improved recreational opportunities, including segments of the Florida Trail. And my most prized project, a sandhill restoration project made possible by a grant I had been awarded, had just begun when the baby arrived.

When I put my two weeks’ notice in, I knew I had made the right decision, but I wasn’t relieved yet. I got teary-eyed as I said goodbye to coworkers. I was leaving my family, giving up the life I knew. After my last day at work I came home and sat in shock. No one would call me for prescribed burns in the evening or to report to a wildfire. No more caravans of loud diesel brush trucks, no more office, no more email address, no more lighting fire underneath helicopters with other state agencies, with my team. I wasn’t needed anymore.

To my amazement, I had forgotten about my long-lost job by the very next day! Taking care of a 5-month-old was full-time work: breast feeding, cleaning during naps, cooking (ok, so I didn’t cook...). It was all a new challenge, my new job, and I took pride in it. I had never been interested in staying home with a baby, ever, but I liked it. I knew I had made the right decision when a few days later baby Picchu turned and raised her arms to me to put her to sleep. She knew me, she needed me, I needed to take care of her. All was as it should be.

A week later, the boredom had set in! What had I done? I still needed to be with my baby, but 24 hours a day, every day? And no overtime pay at that! I needed some outlet, to be able to take a shower, to eat, to have time for a glass of water before noon. How could I justify these bare necessities if I was, “just sitting home all day?” Thus began the journey toward owning my own small business.

After a steep learning curve, I opened Gainesville Ecotours in October, 2012. My goal is to connect residents and visitors with the outdoor opportunities Gainesville is known for, in hopes that experiencing and learning about the natural environment will inspire the public to protect them. Sustainable ecotourism is the improvement of conservation, improvement of the local communities, and interpretation of the natural area. To live by this, I aim to spread the word about the Florida Trail and the FTA to the local hiking community. I know that your organization’s support of Florida’s trails is helping people get outdoors. And once Florida’s residents and visitors experience Florida’s outdoors, they too will want to protect them.

Thanks to hiking, I am now back to the woods and back to supporting my family. So I will give back to hiking. In the time I have been home with my daughter, she has already been on multiple hikes on local trails. I can only hope that in the future, in business, love of the outdoors and love of hiking, she will follow in my footsteps.

By Terri Mashour, Owner of Gainesville Ecotours, www.gainesvilleecotours.com

In Time for the Holidays!

TRAIL REFLECTIONS

by Jim Kern

The ONLY gift book on Hiking & Backpacking!

Lavish photographs, maps, & essays with stories of how the Florida Trail Association & the Florida National Scenic Trail came to life.

FTA Members receive $10 off List Price

[Members pay $50 plus $8 postage & handling & $3.48 FL sales tax, $61.48 total]

To order, please call Megan Donoghue at the FTA with credit card information or send check payable to Kern House Publishing to:

Florida Trail Association
5415 SW 13 Street
Gainesville, FL 32608

http://jimkern.us.com/
http://www.facebook.com/jimkernexpeditions

WWW.FLORIDATRAIL.ORG
The University of Florida’s Tropical Conservation and Development (TCD) student organization partnered with the Florida Trail Association to provide a day of service on the Florida National Scenic Trail. Provided is the experience of an FNST volunteer and a UF TCD student participant.

By Sydney Nilan, TCD Student
This past October, I had an amazing opportunity to co-lead the UF Tropical Conservation and Development student group along with FTA’s Florida Cracker Chapter in a day of service at the Swift Creek section of trail. There were a total of 14 volunteers from the TCD student group, including one youth who was so happy to be out and about in nature.

The group was filled with eager volunteers who were ready to tackle the trail with loppers, pruners and a tree saw. The TCD is an interdisciplinary program at UF and is comprised of a diversity of American and international students.

Taking their passion of conservation and focusing it on a local area was a great opportunity, considering that their work usually takes them overseas.

After both sides of the creek were scraped, re-blazed, mowed, lopped and new signage hung we enjoyed a potluck. The group enjoyed the service project and plan on participating in an FTA service project in the future.

By Allison Williams, FNST SCA Volunteer
This past October, I had an amazing opportunity to co-lead the UF Tropical Conservation and Development student group along with FTA’s Florida Cracker Chapter in a day of service at the Swift Creek section of trail. There were a total of 14 volunteers from the TCD student group, including one youth who was so happy to be out and about in nature.

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8TH ANNUAL HIKE ACROSS MARION COUNTY
Kicking off on Saturday, January 26, 2013 will be an exploration of the Florida Trail with a hike led by Rio Throm, from the Florida Wildlife Commission (FWC), who is an expert on black bears. Rio is very knowledgeable and enjoys speaking about bears and their habitat in the Big Scrub.

Here’s the full schedule of upcoming events:

**January 26**- 88 Store to Forest Road 67, Rio Throm bear expert with FWC. 4.4 miles
**February 2**- Route 314 to Forest Road 67. 4.5 miles
**February 9**- Marshall Swamp to Baseline, David Bowman from Office of Greenways and Trails. 5 miles
**February 16**- Baseline to Santos Prestige 55, Monroe Regional Health Center: Benefits of Walking. 4.5 miles
**February 23**- Santos to Landbridge, Mickey Thomason

**March 2**- Landbridge Blue Loop to 49th Avenue, Office of Greenways and Trails David Bowman Historical Canal Digging. 4.5 miles
**March 9**- 49th Avenue to Ross Prairie State Forest. 6 miles
**March 16**- Ross Prairie to Pruitt Trailhead, Chris McKendree Greenways and Trails. 7 miles

To join the group on any of these hikes, meet at 8:30 AM each Saturday morning at the Santos Campground off US 441, and the group will carpool from there.

For more information visit www.floridatrail.org or call Bob Jones at (352) 347-5716. For additional local hiking information, contact the Office of Greenways and Trails at (352) 236-7143.
Regional Conference Roundup

Panhandle Regional Conference

CELEBRATION was the Panhandle Regional Conference theme and celebrate we did!

As we celebrated the birthdays of our four regional participating chapters – Apalachee and Panhandle (30 years), Western Gate (20 years), Choctawhatchee (the “kid” - 6 years), and the Florida Trail Association itself (45 years) - everyone had a wonderful time. We welcomed about 100 people, with 82 being paid registrants and another 18 who came as speakers, trainers, band members or hike assistants who had special skills with bird or plant identification. In addition to those from our four chapters, we were delighted to have participants from other chapters: Florida Crackers, NF Florida Trailblazers, Suwannee, Suncoast and a few unaffiliated folks.

There was something for everyone, thanks in part to our venue, Adventures Unlimited, an outdoor recreation center just north of Milton, FL. We could rent canoes or kayaks for a paddle on Coldwater Creek, one of many beautiful, clear streams in our area, or take a daring zoom on a zipline whizzing over the treetops with a final swoosh past Coldwater Creek in sight of some of our paddling friends. What a thrill. In fact, one of our “zippers” almost fell while waving to a friend! Talk about a heart-stopper. There were 21 brave “zippers” and they each received a certificate to prove it!

Hiking was also on the agenda at the beginning and the end of the conference. With the many trails of Blackwater River State Forest nearby, there was a 4-mile birding hike on which the bird specialist identified 17 different species including a brown creeper along with two ruby-crowned kinglets, seven yellow-rumped warblers and an indigo bunting among others. A second hike at end of the conference was on Western Gate’s newest trail, Yellow River Ravines trail, and a plant specialist participated helping us identify fall-flowering shrubs and plants.

Programs that won rave reviews included “Nature Photography” presented by Greg Riegler, a local photographer, "GPS for the Trail" presented by Ron Peterson, Panhandle Chapter, and “Native Plant Communities” presented by Dr. Mack Thetford, Western Gate Chapter. Rena Lautzenheiser, Western Gate Chapter, introduced a number of us to “Geocaching” and participants in her program had a
"hands-on" component where they went out to find several caches Rena had secreted.

Training was also available for all section leaders and trail masters as Deb Blick demonstrated the new volunteer hours form and answered questions. Eric Mason and Tom Daniel shared the new Trail Class Matrix and facilitated a discussion on clarification of those descriptions. The USDA Forest Service (USDA FS) was represented by Megan Eno and Jim Schmid who fielded questions regarding the status of the Florida National Scenic Trail assessment and plan. The presence of FTA and USDA FS staff at this regional conference was greatly appreciated.

Fun activities were also readily available. The Southern Sounds, a local bluegrass band, kept our toes tapping, our hands clapping and our smiles growing bigger by the moment. A nearby beer/wine booth also helped that celebration along.

A moonlight hike on a trail through the woods and through a cemetery on-site was especially thrilling. With our headlamps shifting anxiously from side-to-side, we ended our hike by quickly walking (or running) through the on-site family cemetery, which seems so benign in the daytime. It was spooky for sure, but great fun!

The celebration on Saturday night included presentations by all four chapters on our beginnings and our many accomplishments over the years. Charissa Thacker’s photo of Panhandle Chapter’s first bridge brought the house down. The presentations were capped off with celebratory cakes and champagne with a toast to all chapters and FTA for a good 20/30/45 years with many more good years and great accomplishments to come.

The closing ceremony was held on a gorgeous chilly autumn morning where we took joy in a weekend of good fellowship and good fun that was free of hurricanes (Sandy went elsewhere) and provided a respite from political ads! We are already looking forward to next year’s Panhandle Regional Conference.

Footprint Magazine Submission Guidelines

Without the help from the FTA members and volunteers, there is no magazine. We strongly encourage your submission of photos and content for every issue.

Photos: We are looking for high resolution (300dpi) photos for publication. Make sure that if they are photos of people or youth that they have signed the necessary photo release. We are always looking for cover photos, which need to be vertical format and at least 300dpi.

Pictures can include:
- People hiking on the trail
- Trail maintenance and work hikes
- Different trails, signs and blazes
- Flora and Fauna

Articles: We hope for contributions from the various chapters highlighting events and accomplishments, especially those that involve new groups and outreach opportunities. We also look for unique hiking stories from members, and articles regarding anything that pertains to hiking and camping (trail recipes, hiking and safety tips). If you submit a story, please make sure to include photos that you would like to go with it. Word count can be anywhere from 400 to 900 words, depending on photos and page length.

Please do not embed photos within a Word document, but instead send them in as an attachment. Please send all submissions to communications@floridatrail.org.

The deadline for the spring issue of the Footprint is February 1, 2013.

With your help the Footprint can continue to thrive and provide content that is relevant to everyone. Thank you and I truly look forward to reading your submissions!

- Megan Donoghue, Editor
Welcome New Members

September 2012 to November 2012

Anagnostou, Katie
Austerman, Scott
Bachman, Lorene
Ballard, Russell
Banks, Lucretia
Barber, Sabrina
Barroso, JL
Bazata, Jeremy
Bearry, Dana
Benson, Buck
Berrios, Edwin and Amy
Berrios, Ivette
Billick, Catherine
Bishop, R.J.
Boshelle, Cynthia
Bowsher, Karla
Bradley, Ethan
Brady, William
Broome, Jeffrey
Broward, Lisa
Brown--Herlth, Jared
Brusa, Anna
Burbett, Jessica
Burns, Jane
Butler, Ellie
Butler, Randy
Carr, Susan
Chapin, Christopher
Churillo, Mary
Clark, Judy
Cleary, Jason
Cleary, Jason
Cleary, Jason
Conover, Andrea
Cooper, Scott
Courtright, John
Criswell, Linda
Crittenden, Jane
Cross, Vicki
Curran, Patrick
Curry, Kevin
DeLoatch, Robert and Nancy
Dennis, Richard
Dischman, Russell
Dobson, Wayne
Dolby, Allison
Donoghue, Matthew and Karen
Du Plessis, Patricia and Cornelius
Eickhof, Susan
Emery, Eric
Featherstone, Robyn
Fennelly, Kevin and Barbara
Ferree, Nita
Ferrell, Gregory
French, Teresa
Gagnon, Diane and Richard
Garcia, Alejandro
Geake, Tamara
Gonzalez, Steven
Gonzalez, Susan
Granville Jr, Thurman
Grogan, Maggi and Mike
Grua, Cindy
Gudgel, Barb and Neil
Gugliotti, Barbara and James
Hampshire, Steven
Hancock, Sandra
Hanemann, Charles
Hanraham, Michael
Hartz, Jeimiah
Hatwell, Brian Geoffrey
Haywood, John
Hemmer, John
Herman, Vincent
Hewson, Harry
Hirsch, Cindy and Bob
Hoffman, Jimmie
Honeycutt, David
Horovitch, Suzan and Art
Jackowiec, Shirley
Jakusonas, Tony
Johnson, James
Kaplan, Renee
Karr, Christian
Keane, Kenneth and Colleen
Kellogg, Cheryl
Kent, Lewis and Hadey
Kern, Stacey and Drew
Kleinman, Howard
Kriese, Michael
Kusel Jr, Conrad James
Laughlin, Elisa
Layman, Bryce
Leake, Marty
LeClaire, Patricia
LeClare, Shelby
Lehman, Otto
Liggett, Kate
Lindblad, Carrie
Lindner, Barbara
Littleton, Chuck
Loveall, Tim and Kelly
Macdonald, Patti
Mack, Jane
MacLauchlan, Bonnie
Magee, George
Mahoney, Bob
Maratea, Michael
Markham, Wesley
Mason, Eric
Mattsone, Nancy
Mayo, Adam and Jennifer
McCallister, James and Gwen
McGinly, John
McWhorter, Sheri
Merrion, Terry
Mickelsen, Dennis
Militello, Paul
Moore, Roy
Morrison, Linda
Morrison, Nicole
Newman, Matthew
Nikopoulos, Adrian and Peter
O’Dell, Diane
O’Loughlin, Michael
Opdam, Diederik
Owen, Porter
Pagan, Jezabel
Palmason, John
Palmer, Carol
Pemberton, Michael
Perry, Lynda
Petty, Richard
Phillips, Robert and Maralena
Pipes, Chris and Liz
Pooler, Cheryl
Prince, Ben
Pruyn, Bob and Carleen
Quick, Jason
Rambo, James
Ratliff, Raymond
Real, Neila
Reynolds, Lonna
Richardson, Jimmy
Riskosky, Ed
Roberts, Theda
Robinson, Faye
Rodriguez, Linda
Roff, Ronald and Shannon
Rothman, Russ and Kathy
Rountree, Jean
Roy, Bill
Roy, Pamela
Royston, Teri and Jon
Rui, Tania
Salyer, Sheila
Schimpf, Lynette
Schlieper, Siegfried
Schroth, Deborah
Schwandes, Larry
Seminole Tribe of Florida
Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum
Shaw, Todd
Shelby, Charlotte and Stephan
Sheridan, John
Sherman, Marshall
Shires, Sammy
Sissors, Christine
Skinner, Sarah
Smith, Craig
Sparks, Justin
St. Clair, Amanda
Stadler, Aaron
Stearns, Robert
Stein, Taylor and Heidi
Stetson, Douglas
Stevenson, George
Strawn, Samuel
Suhr, Kimberly
Sylvester, Mike
Sympson, Kathryn and William
Taheri-Kohn, Tyler
Taylor, Linda
Thompson, Cathie
Thompson, Leslie
Thompson, Ryan
Truncone, Maureen and Nick
Tschimpke, Barbara
Urban, Doris
Van Arsdall, Jay
Wallace, Janice
Wallace, Lucky
Wander, Sara
Ward, Di’Anna
Weinberg, Marshall
White, Erin
Willard, Alan and Donna
Williamson, Cristina
Wilson, David
Wilson, Michael and Lauren
Wishbringer, Felyza
Wright, Allen
Wright, Diane
Yackel, Gregory and Mary K
York, Jeffrey
Yost, Jonathan
Young, Latika
Zdradzinski, Constance
Dear FTA members,

This year, let FTA help with the agony of finding the perfect gift to give a loved one. Give a Florida Trail Membership for a year-long gift of outdoor activities along with the satisfaction of knowing that 100% of membership money is used to help FTA build and maintain trails.

Contact FTA Today! Sign up a friend, family member, co-worker or neighbor to help your organization grow!

Membership Categories:

- Individual- $35
- Student/Senior Individual- $30
- Family- $50
- Student/Senior Family- $45

To order a gift membership, call the FTA office at (352) 378-8823 or visit our website at www.floridatrail.org.

Don’t want to purchase a membership or your friends and family are already members? Give a donation!

Visit the Florida Trail General Store for all of your holiday shopping! www.floridatrail.org

Christmas Cardinals T-Shirt $18
Stop Global Warning T-Shirt $18

Tools of the Trail T-Shirt $15
Big Cypress to Gulf Islands T-Shirt $15
I Hike T-Shirt $15

Orange Trail Crew Shirts
LONG SLEEVE $15.50
SHORT SLEEVE $12.50

Patrol Hat $12.00

Footprint T-shirts $12.00

Thru-Hiker Packet $92.00
2011-2012 Data Book $7.95
Individual Maps $6.00

Surviving the Wilds of Florida $15.95
Hiking Florida $16.95
Florida Any Way $12.50
What is your organization’s nature and purpose?

This was the one question that lingered in my thoughts as I left the National Scenic Trails Workshop (NST) in Sheperdstown, West Virginia this past November. When I found out I was going to attend the week-long workshop put on by the Partnership for the National Trails System, I really didn’t know what to expect other than cooler weather and a nice change in scenery. In addition to me, FTA was represented by Eric Mason, Trail Program Coordinator, Ralph Hancock, a member of the Board of Directors and David Waldrop, Heartland Chapter Chair.

From the minute I arrived to the National Conservation Training Center (NCTC), I was impressed. Established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the facilities were made for natural resource professionals and had everything you could possibly need to host a relaxing and productive training. The meeting space halls were adorned with black and white photographs of federal agency legends, old aluminum federal signs colored the walls and stuffed game lingered around every corner.

What was even more impressive than the interior decor? The amount of knowledge that filled the workshop rooms was stunning—I was sitting among 21st century legends. Non-profit and federal partners from 10 of the 11 National Scenic Trails were there: The Appalachian Trail Conservancy, the Pacific Crest Trail Association, the North Country Trail Association, the Ice Age Trail Alliance and more.

The sessions were formatted as “open space” meetings, which focus on a specific topic but no formal agenda or presentation. It was pretty much a room full of people throwing out things that are working, things that are not working, and ideas and suggestions on how to move forward.

The topics were broken down into tracks that included sessions on NST’s and corridor protection, organization management, trail management and a ‘potpourri’ track that covered social media and other marketing techniques. It was clear that the NST community had a lot in common when it came to problems, concerns and plans to move forward. Some of us are light years ahead while some of us are starting from scratch. But that’s a good thing. We have 10 other NST organizations we can learn from and 10 other NST organizations to help lift up. We are in this together.

We are part of a bigger picture and we have something unique, special, and worth sharing. What started as a few guys who envisioned a trail spanning the length of Florida, is now a part of a congressionally designated system of trails that gets people outdoors and gives them something that’s worth protecting.

I’ve heard several times since starting at FTA that the Florida Trail is Florida’s best kept secret and I constantly ask myself, “why?” We owe it to Florida and to the visitors that come here to give them the resources to get out on the trail. We need to share our knowledge about the trail, where to go and how to get there. We owe it to the FTA to share the story of the years of hard work that trail maintainers have put in.

Overall, the workshop was an educational and enlightening experience. There was no better time for the FTA to be surrounded by our trail family. Let’ be honest, the FTA has had a rocky year. But there’s hope and there are 10 other NST organizations rooting for us. But before we can move forward, we need to think: what is FTA’s nature and purpose? Why are we here and why do we do what we do?
Ad Spec

Ads must be print-ready, delivered as a PDF, Jpg or Tif file at 300 dpi CMYK at the appropriate size. All ads are in full color.

2012-2013 Rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Per Issue</th>
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<tr>
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2012-2013 Ad Deadlines

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<th>Materials By</th>
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<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Aug. 15, 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>March 15, 2013</td>
<td>June 1, 2013</td>
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</table>

Please email communications@floridatrail.org with your order. Each issue is mailed several weeks prior to cover date and continues to be distributed throughout the cover date period.

Our Distribution

4,000 copies per issue to:
Florida Trail members
Florida Trail partners
Florida public officials
Festival attendees

Advertisers

As a non-profit publication, we accept advertisements from several small and large companies that support our mission.
**Footprint Magazine's 2012 Ad Insertion Order Form**

**Instructions**
Mark the appropriate boxes to indicate ad size and issue(s). Ads must be 300 dpi in TIF, PDF, or JPG format at selected size. All rates are for full color ads. Send by email to communications@floridatrail.org.

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<tr>
<th>Cost Per Insertion</th>
<th>Fall 2012</th>
<th>Winter 2013</th>
<th>Spring 2013</th>
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Deadline:
- Aug. 15, 2012
- Nov. 1, 2012
- Feb. 1, 2012
- May 1, 2012

**Contact Info**
Name__________________________  Phone__________________________
Company____________________________________________________________________
Billing Address________________________________________________________________
Email________________________________________________________________________

**Payment**
- My check is enclosed (Make check out to Florida Trail Association)
- Bill my credit card (Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover)
  Credit card #__________________________  Expiration _______  CCV _____
  Name on card__________________________
I authorize the Florida Trail Association, Inc. to bill me for this insertion.

Signature__________________________  Date__________________________
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND GIFT FORM

ORDER BY PHONE 877-HIKE-FLA    ORDER BY FAX 352-378-4550    ORDER ONLINE www.floridatrail.org

Name ___________________________________________ Daytime Phone Number ________________________
Address ________________________________________ Email ___________________________________________
City _____________________________________________ State _______ Zip _______________________________

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

Please mark one of the boxes below if you are joining or renewing your membership in the Florida Trail Association.

☐ $35 Individual ☐ $50 Family*
☐ $125 Sustaining* ☐ $250 Supporting*
☐ $1000 Individual Life ☐ $1500 Family Life*
☐ $30 Senior (65+) or Student (18-23) Family
☐ $45 Senior (65+) or Student (18-23) Family

*Includes spouse and children under 18.

☐ I do not want my address shared with FTA-affiliated organizations

Employer/Occupation ___________________________ Daytime Phone Number _________________________
Spouse/Occupation _____________________________ Email __________________________________________
Number of children _____________________________ Ship membership package to ☐ Me  ☐ New Member

I learned about the Florida Trail from _____________________________________________________________

Please send a gift membership to:
Name ___________________________________________ Daytime Phone Number ________________________
Address ________________________________________ Email ___________________________________________
City _____________________________________________ State _______ Zip _______________________________

MY GIFT TO THE TRAIL

I am making a gift to the Florida Trail Association and want my gift designated to:

☐ Annual Fund ☐ Endowment Fund ☐ Trail Protection Fund ☐ Capital Improvement Fund

My gift is    In Memory of ___________________________    In Honor of _________________________________

FUND AMOUNT

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<th>FUND</th>
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SEND FORM AND PAYMENT TO:
FLORIDA TRAIL ASSOCIATION
5415 SW 13th St., Gainesville, FL 32608

PAYMENT OPTIONS:
CHECK: Make checks payable to “Florida Trail Association”.

CREDIT CARD: ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ American Express ☐ Discover
Credit Card Number: ___________________________________________ Exp. Date: ________________________
Signature: ___________________________________________________ Security Code (3 or 4 digits):

To order merchandise from the Orange Blaze Mercantile, visit our online store www.floridatrail.org
or call the Florida Trail office at 1-877-HIKE-FLA.
Trails Don’t Build Themselves

2013 FTA Annual Conference
March 15-17
Camp McConnell
Gainesville, FL
### Central Florida Chapter Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12/16 Sunday</td>
<td>9:00AM</td>
<td>Mount Dora Historical Trail: From Interstate 4, drive northwest on US 441 (Orange Blossom Trail) through Apopka, Plymouth and Zellwood, and turn left on Old US 441. That turns into Highland St. – continue north on it, then go west on 5th Avenue, and south on Donnelly St. to the covered parking facility on the east side of Donnelly, south of 3rd Ave. (don’t park in the uncovered parking lot north of 3rd Ave.). We’ll visit approximately 70 historical sites along a 5.4-mile route through this quaint town. Bring some money if you’d like to hang around for lunch afterward or finish your Christmas shopping in the many interesting shops. Leisure Public is invited.</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/22 Saturday</td>
<td>11:00AM</td>
<td>Day Hike: Hontoon Island State Park/Lake Woodruff National Wildlife Refuge: Meet at 11AM at the Toys R Us, Seminole Towne Center, I-4 and HWY 46, Sanford, to carpool. We’ll hike 4 miles total in the hammock area of Hontoon Island State Park. Then you can head home or join me for a late day visit to Lk. Woodruff National Wildlife Refuge for the crane roost at sunset. Bring water, sunscreen, lunch &amp; binoculars. No pets, please. Public is invited.</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/29–1/2 Saturday thru Wednesday</td>
<td></td>
<td>29th Annual New Year’s Eve Campout – Doe Lake Campground</td>
<td>Celebrate New Year’s Eve with FTA friends at the Doe Lake Campground located on Forest Road 14 in the Ocala National Forest. Arrive anytime on Saturday for a day or four days. Checkout by noon on Wednesday Jan 2. This is a group camp reserved for our group only. On Saturday, Sunday, Monday &amp; Tuesday there will be scheduled hiking, biking and paddling activities in addition to evening programs and campfires. Group dinners include: Bar-B-Q on Saturday night, Stone soup on Sunday night, potluck on Monday &amp; leftovers on Tuesday. No need to pre-register. Cost is $5 per person per night. Under 18 &amp; over 75 camp free. FTA Members Only.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Central Florida Chapter Activities**

- Mount Dora Historical Trail: From Interstate 4, drive northwest on US 441 (Orange Blossom Trail) through Apopka, Plymouth and Zellwood, and turn left on Old US 441. That turns into Highland St. – continue north on it, then go west on 5th Avenue, and south on Donnelly St. to the covered parking facility on the east side of Donnelly, south of 3rd Ave. (don’t park in the uncovered parking lot north of 3rd Ave.). We’ll visit approximately 70 historical sites along a 5.4-mile route through this quaint town. Bring some money if you’d like to hang around for lunch afterward or finish your Christmas shopping in the many interesting shops. Leisure Public is invited.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Start Date</th>
<th>End Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Activity Leader</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>River to River Hike 2</td>
<td>12/15/2012</td>
<td>12/15/2012</td>
<td>We will meet at the Lynn Haven Winn Dixie parking lot at 8:00am</td>
<td>Charissa Thacker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rattle Snake Lake</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban Holiday Walk</td>
<td>12/21/2012</td>
<td>12/21/2012</td>
<td>We will park near St Andrews Baptist Church, at 5:30 pm, near Hwy 98 and Beck Ave</td>
<td>Ron Peterson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th Annual Rattle Snake Lake Night Hike</td>
<td>1/4/2013</td>
<td>1/4/2013</td>
<td>We will meet in the Winn Dixie parking lot in Lynn Haven at 5:30pm Friday, January 4th.</td>
<td>Rick Tutunick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and Meteor Shower</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>January Chapter Meeting</td>
<td>1/7/2013</td>
<td>1/7/2013</td>
<td>Hancock Bank 1022 W 23rd St, Panama City, FL</td>
<td>Steve Ransom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Let's Learn About WOLVES !</td>
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<tr>
<td>Activity Leader Training</td>
<td>1/12/2013</td>
<td>1/12/2013</td>
<td>Hancock Bank 1022 W 23rd St, Panama City, FL 9:00am</td>
<td>Ron Peterson and Rick Tutunick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>River to River Hike 3</td>
<td>1/19/2013</td>
<td>1/20/2013</td>
<td>Meet at Lynn Haven Winn Dixie</td>
<td>Joe Ingram</td>
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<td>Middle and Upper Econfina</td>
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<tr>
<td>River to River Hike 3 All in One Day</td>
<td>1/13/2013</td>
<td>1/13/2013</td>
<td>Pitt Springs Park on Hwy 20 at 7am</td>
<td>Mary Thurman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geocaching/Hiking at Hinson Conservation</td>
<td>1/27/2013</td>
<td>1/27/2013</td>
<td>Hinson Conservation &amp; Recreation Area Hwy 73, north of I-10, south of Hwy 90, Marianna, FL</td>
<td>Mary Thurman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and Recreation Area</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>A &quot;Get to Know FTA&quot; Hike</td>
<td>2/2/2013</td>
<td>2/2/2013</td>
<td>Panama City Beach Conservation Park 100 Conservation Drive, Panama City Beach, FL</td>
<td>Charissa Thacker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February Chapter Meeting - Did you say</td>
<td>2/4/2013</td>
<td>2/4/2013</td>
<td>Hancock Bank 1022 W 23rd St, Panama City, FL</td>
<td>Rick Tutunick</td>
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<tr>
<td>SNAKES?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eastern Lake Trail and Eden Gardens State</td>
<td>2/9/2013</td>
<td>2/9/2013</td>
<td>K-Mart 7100 West HWY 98, Panama City Beach, FL 8:00am</td>
<td>Ron Peterson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>River to River Hike #4</td>
<td>2/23/2013</td>
<td>2/23/2013</td>
<td>We'll meet at the Lynn Haven Winn Dixie for anyone who wants to carpool. With the added travel time needed, please plan to meet at 7:30 am.</td>
<td>Ron Peterson and Charissa Thacker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Altha &amp; Blountstown</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annual Conference - Paynes Prairie</td>
<td>3/15/2013</td>
<td>3/17/2013</td>
<td>Camp McConnell 210 SE 134th Avenue , Micanopy, FL</td>
<td>Rick Tutunick</td>
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<tr>
<td>When</td>
<td>Where</td>
<td>Event Description</td>
<td>Difficulty, Participation*</td>
<td>Activity Leaders, Contact</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat. Dec. 15, 2012</td>
<td>FNST Highlands County</td>
<td>Hickory Hammock Hike on the FNST - Hike this beautiful section of the Florida National Scenic Trail! We will stage cars and hike from the Istokpoga Canal entrance to the equestrian center and eat our packed lunch, then back to the US 98 Hickory Hammock trailhead, approximately 9 to 10 miles in total. To join us simply call or write for details.</td>
<td>Moderate, Members and Guests</td>
<td>Paula Miller (772) 419-8130 <a href="mailto:pnmille1@yahoo.com">pnmille1@yahoo.com</a> Jay Levitt (772) 286-3903 <a href="mailto:jayl12@bellsouth.net">jayl12@bellsouth.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon. Dec. 17, 2012</td>
<td>Seabranch Preserve SP</td>
<td>Trail Care - Please join us for grooming and blazing the east loop trail. We will begin in mid to late afternoon. Call for details.</td>
<td>Moderate to Strenuous, Public</td>
<td>Audrey Minnis (772) 781-6826 <a href="mailto:aminnis@bellsouth.net">aminnis@bellsouth.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri. Dec. 21, 2012</td>
<td>Vero Beach</td>
<td>Afternoon Lagoon Greenway Hike and Holiday Lights Walk at McKee Botanical Garden - Join us for a 3 mile hike on the new Indian River Lagoon Greenway followed by dinner at a nearby eatery, and a nighttime stroll of holiday lit McKee Botanical Gardens including vintage Belgian street organ music and model train display. Entrance fee to KcKee. Call or write for details.</td>
<td>Leisure to Moderate, Members and Guests</td>
<td>Paula Miller (772) 419-8130 <a href="mailto:pnmille1@yahoo.com">pnmille1@yahoo.com</a> Jay Levitt (772) 286-3903 <a href="mailto:jayl12@bellsouth.net">jayl12@bellsouth.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon. Dec. 24, 2012</td>
<td>Stuart</td>
<td>Christmas Eve Breakfast Hike in Halpatiokee - Join us for a hike in the back woods of Halpatiokee Regional Park. We will hike 4 to 5 miles around lakes and on the Lost River Trail, going to an optional breakfast after. Call or write for details.</td>
<td>Leisure to Moderate, Public</td>
<td>Paula Miller (772) 419-8130 <a href="mailto:pnmille1@yahoo.com">pnmille1@yahoo.com</a> Jay Levitt (772) 286-3903 <a href="mailto:jayl12@bellsouth.net">jayl12@bellsouth.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed. Dec. 26, 2012</td>
<td>Stuart</td>
<td>Stuart Causeway Mid-Week Walk - See old friends and meet new ones. Stay in shape this winter walking your own pace up to 5 miles. Call or write for meeting time and place.</td>
<td>Leisure to Moderate, Public</td>
<td>Paula Miller (772) 419-8130 <a href="mailto:pnmille1@yahoo.com">pnmille1@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs. - Dec. 27 - Jan. 4, 2012-13</td>
<td>FNST</td>
<td>FNST Backpack from Kicco to Christmas - 9 days, 100 miles. Limit 6. Call or write for details.</td>
<td>Moderate to Strenuous, Members and Guests</td>
<td>Lori Burris (772) 879-9378 <a href="mailto:LORIBURRIS.SWAMPTROMPER@GMAIL.COM">LORIBURRIS.SWAMPTROMPER@GMAIL.COM</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat. Dec. 29, 2012</td>
<td>Jupiter Farms</td>
<td>Riverbend Hike - Take an afternoon hike in Riverbend Park and shake that holiday stress. We will walk 4 - 5 miles in the afternoon, with optional dinner after. Call or write for meeting time and place.</td>
<td>Leisure to Moderate, Members and Guests</td>
<td>Jay Levitt (772) 286-3903 <a href="mailto:jayl12@bellsouth.net">jayl12@bellsouth.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat. Jan. 5, 2013</td>
<td>Palm Beach Gardens</td>
<td>PBG Bike Ride - Join us for a bike ride starting at Sandhill Crane Park on PGA Blvd. and ride the Blue Gill Trail to the Marisol Trail. We will loop 16 miles on paved and off road trails. Call or write for details.</td>
<td>Leisure to Moderate, Members and Guests</td>
<td>Bridget Kean (850) 212-2262 <a href="mailto:bridgetkean@comcast.net">bridgetkean@comcast.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed. Jan. 9, 2013</td>
<td>Stuart</td>
<td>Stuart Causeway Mid-Week Walk - See old friends and meet new ones. Stay in shape this winter walking your own pace up to 5 miles. Call or write for meeting time and place.</td>
<td>Leisure to Moderate, Public</td>
<td>Paula Miller (772) 419-8130 <a href="mailto:pnmille1@yahoo.com">pnmille1@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun. Jan. 13, 2013</td>
<td>St. Lucie County</td>
<td>Nature Hike in Paleo Hammock and Teague Hammock NA - Take a leisurely guided hike in these two St. Lucie County parks and observe and learn about birds, plants, wildlife and history. Bring your binoculars, camera, guidebooks, etc. for this self-guided 3 to 4 mile walk. Call or write for details.</td>
<td>Leisure, Members Only</td>
<td>Jay Levitt (772) 286-3903 <a href="mailto:jayl12@bellsouth.net">jayl12@bellsouth.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon. Jan. 14, 2013</td>
<td>Palm City Community Center</td>
<td>Monthly Chapter Meeting - Social and activities sign-up begins at 6:45 p.m. The program begins at 7:15 p.m. Don't miss this month's program, &quot;The Everglades and Us&quot; presented by Maggi Hurchalla. The public is invited!</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Vicki Lambie (772) 465-7301 <a href="mailto:lambieva@aol.com">lambieva@aol.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>When</td>
<td>Where</td>
<td>Event Description</td>
<td>Difficulty, Participation*</td>
<td>Activity Leaders, Contact</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues. Jan. 15, 2013</td>
<td>Seabranch Preserve SP</td>
<td>Trail Care - Please join us for grooming and blazing the east loop trail. We will begin in mid to late afternoon. Call for details.</td>
<td>Moderate to Strenuous, Public</td>
<td>Audrey Minnis (772) 781-6826 <a href="mailto:aminnis@bellsouth.net">aminnis@bellsouth.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat. Jan. 19, 2013</td>
<td>Highlands Hammock State Park</td>
<td>Outing and Concert at Highlands Hammock State Park - Spend the day exploring the many trails and cypress swamp in this favorite state park in Sebring, Florida. Or just hang out and chill. Watch or play and win our annual croquet tournament, if you can beat the fierce (we do mean fierce!) competition. After dinner we will hear singer/songwriter Rick Arnold entertain on the outdoor stage with fire pits and popcorn. Call or write for details.</td>
<td>Leisure to Moderate, Members and Guests</td>
<td>Paula Miller (772) 419-8130 <a href="mailto:pmnille1@yahoo.com">pmnille1@yahoo.com</a> Jay Levitt (772) 286-3903 <a href="mailto:jayL12@bellsouth.net">jayL12@bellsouth.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun. Jan. 20, 2013</td>
<td>Jonathan Dickinson State Park</td>
<td>Cacheapalooza 7 - The mega event of the year for geocachers! Join us for a day of geocaching fun and games. Our team will spend the day with fellow geocachers hunting more than 200 caches in 11,500 acres. Stay as long as you want. Call for information.</td>
<td>Leisure to Moderate, Members and Guests</td>
<td>Jay Levitt (772) 286-3903 <a href="mailto:jayL12@bellsouth.net">jayL12@bellsouth.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed. Jan. 23, 2013</td>
<td>Stuart</td>
<td>Stuart Causeway Mid-Week Walk - See old friends and meet new ones. Stay in shape this winter walking your own pace up to 5 miles. Call or write for meeting time and place.</td>
<td>Leisure to Moderate, Public</td>
<td>Paula Miller (772) 419-8130 <a href="mailto:pmnille1@yahoo.com">pmnille1@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues. Feb. 5, 2013</td>
<td>Seabranch Preserve SP</td>
<td>Trail Care - Please join us for grooming and blazing the east loop trail. We will begin in mid to late afternoon. Call for details.</td>
<td>Moderate to Strenuous, Public</td>
<td>Audrey Minnis (772) 781-6826 <a href="mailto:aminnis@bellsouth.net">aminnis@bellsouth.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat. Feb. 16, 2013</td>
<td>Viera</td>
<td>Viera Wetlands Birding Hike - Join us for a guided 3 miles birding hike at the Viera Wetlands. Bring your binoculars, camera, birding books, etc. Early start. Optional meal after. Call or write for details.</td>
<td>Leisure, Members Only</td>
<td>Bridget Kean (850) 212-2262 <a href="mailto:bridgetkean@comcast.net">bridgetkean@comcast.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon. Feb. 18, 2013</td>
<td>Palm City Community Center</td>
<td>Monthly Chapter Meeting - Social and activities sign-up begins at 6:45 p.m. The program begins at 7:15 p.m. This month's program is Melissa Meeker, the Executive Director of the South Florida Water Management District discussing the progress on the Everglades and Kissimmee River Restoration projects. The public is invited!</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Vicki Lambie (772) 465-7301 <a href="mailto:lambieva@aol.com">lambieva@aol.com</a></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* Guide To Difficulty/Participation Column Meaning

**Difficulty:**
- Leisure: Generally 5 miles or less, good footing, casual to medium pace
- Moderate: Generally 5 to 10 miles, uneven footing, possibly water, and/or fast pace
- Strenuous: Generally more than 10 miles and/or backpacking, uneven footing, possibly water, and/or fast pace

**Participation:**
- Public: Event is open to members and anyone else approved by the event activity leader
- Members & Guests: Event is open to members and their guests approved by the event activity leader
- Members Only: Event is open only to Trekkers and other FTA members in good standing

Note: Biking, paddling, swimming or backpacking events may depend more on an individual’s physical fitness for the activity than any rating. Always discuss any physical limitations, concerns or questions you may have with your activity leader before confirming for the event.
Apalachee Chapter Activities

December 19 Wednesday P/M  Weekday “Lite and Fast” Hike 8: Micosuokee Greenway.  We’ll hike at a fast pace (approx. 3.5 mph) with light hiking gear (water, energy bar, light trekking or trail running shoes and flashlight). This is not a trail running group, but we will maintain a power walking pace. A large variety of distances are possible, depending on daylight and interest of hikers. No need to sign up, just meet us at the main trailhead (formerly Edenfield Trailhead), 5600 Micosuokee Rd., at 4:15 p.m. for warm-up and stretches. We’ll hit the trail at 4:30 p.m. No limit to number of hikers.  Children and pets (on leash) must maintain group pace.  Co-leader Dawn Brown.  Leader Dawn Griffin (850) 509-6103 Griffindd@aol.com

December 29 Saturday P/L  Phipps Park Holiday Hike.  Feeling lethargic after too many holiday celebrations? Get outside for a leisurely 7-mile, all day hike at Elinor Klapp-Phipps Park in Tallahassee.  Bring water, trail snacks, and lunch for a mid-way break at the Oak Hammock.  Families and pets (on leash) welcome.  Co-leader Karen Berkley.  To sign up, contact Dawn Brown (850) 668-0091 dbrown1948@embarqmail.com

Weekday “Lite and Fast” Power Hikes P/M.  What a success we have had with the introduction of the Fall ‘Lite and Fast’ hikes!  It’s now time to burn off those extra holiday pounds and strengthen your new year’s resolution! We will continue to get together midweek in the evening to eliminate stress, burn fat and just get some exercise.  We’ll hike at a fast pace (approx. 3.5 mph) with light hiking gear (dress in layers, bring water, energy bar, light trekking or trail running shoes and flashlight).  This is not a trail running group, but we will maintain a power walking pace.  The basic hike will cover about 4 miles.  We are considering having the hikes in town within a well-lit, safe area, which will give us options for additional miles and easy outs as many of the local trails close at sunset. Meet at 5:15 p.m. for warm-up and stretches--then we hit the trail at 5:30 p.m.(sharp).  No limit to number of hikers.  Pets (on leash) must maintain group pace.  Sign up on our Meetup.com site so we can alert you of any last minutes changes due to weather--or call the leader for meeting places and updates.  Leader: Dawn Griffin (850) 509-6103 Griffindd@aol.com

Dates are:  Jan: 7, 9, 23 / Feb: 6, 18, 20, 25, 27 / March: 4, 7, 18, 21 / April: 1, 4, 15, 17, 29. Leader: Dawn Brown (850) 668-0091 (dbrown1948@embarqmail.com)  Dates are: Jan: 14, 16, 28, 30 / Feb: 11, 13 / March: 11, 13, 25, 27 / April: 8, 10, 22, 24.

January 5  Saturday P/L  Day Hike at Birdsong Nature Center.  BNC consists of 565 acres of wildflower meadows, forests, ponds and swamps which are home to a myriad of birds and other wildlife. Enjoy the serenity and beauty of the natural landscape and return home with a renewed spirit. Visit the famous Bird Window for an intimate bird-viewing experience. The surrounding gardens and pool have attracted over 160 species of birds, including many rare and first sightings. Bring a pack lunch and dayhike on some of the twelve miles of available trails. Admission: $5 adults, $2.50 children 4-12 years old. Free to members. Located just over the Georgia state line at 2106 Meridian Road.  Meeting location and time of departure finalized closer to event. Limit 25 people. To sign up, RSVP on our Meetup site (meetup.com/Apalachee-florida-trail-hiking) or contact leader: Dawn Griffin (850) 509-6103 Griffindd@aol.com

January 8 Tuesday P/L Meeting Program:  “Three Weeks in Wildest Alaska: Father and Sons and 155 miles by Canoe.  Sons to father: ”Dad, before you die, we’ve got to do another wilderness adventure together.”  Dad: ”I know just where--the Wood River/Tikchik Lakes Wilderness Region of SW Alaska.  It’s remote even for Alaska!”  During summer break in 1967, while attending FSU, Bruce Means surveyed by helicopter this 2-million-acre wilderness and always lusted to return.  Forty-five years later, in September 2012, his dream was realized accompanied by his sons, Harley and Ryan.  The Means men float-planed to the upper end of Nishlik Lake and canoed their way for 16 days to the system’s outlet at the south end of Lake Aleknagik.  Come hear about the once-in-a-lifetime canoeing/camping adventure and experience tales of 18 grizzly bears, lake trout, arctic char, rainbow trout, red salmon, pink salmon, silver salmon, grayling, northern pike, rugged mountains, boreal forest, and arctic tundra.  You won’t regret/forget it.

January 12 Saturday P/L  Family Hike at Mission San Luis Park.  Enjoy a leisure hike for the whole family and grandchildren.  Very slow pace.  Bring water, snacks or even a picnic.  Begins and ends at playground.  Thomas Smith (850) 459-2662 or tcsmith19@aol.com
January 12 Saturday P/M Phipps Park Invasive Exotics Education and Volunteer Program. This program will use Elinor Klapp-Phipps Park’s extensive invasion of coral ardisia for a series of hands-on education and volunteer opportunities. Each session involves working in a selected test area of the park. Learn how to identify and safely eradicate coral ardisia—wherever you hike or use trails—from FNPS expert, Mike Jenkins. The activity begins at 9:30 a.m. at the Meridian trailhead. Enter the park at 4000 N. Meridian Rd. (the Youth Sports Complex/baseball fields). Map at http://www.talgov.com/Uploads/Public/Documents/parks/pdf/phipps.pdf The trailhead is located on the left about 0.1 mile in. Bring water, bug spray, and gardening work gloves. Wear shoes appropriate for hiking. Although some tools will be provided, please bring a clipper, and/or a shovel (pointed type is best), and/or a root jack, if you own them. Lunch will be provided. No pets, please. Note that this activity is not appropriate if you are severely allergic to poison ivy. IvyBlock barrier cream will be provided for those who wish to use it. Co-Leader: Linda Patton. Contact: Karen Berkley (850) 570-5740 kjberkley@gmail.com or Mike Jenkins (850) 766-5716 fnpsmagnoliach@gmail.com

January 20 Sunday M/M St. Vincent Island National Wildlife Refuge Day Hike. St. Vincent Island is an undeveloped barrier island just offshore from the mouth of the Apalachicola River in the Gulf of Mexico. The triangular shaped island is 9 miles long and 4 miles across at its widest point, with over 14 miles of pristine beaches and 80 miles of criss-crossing dirt roads. Ten separate habitat types have been identified. We will be hiking in several different habitat types including the beach—always at a comfortable pace. Bring a simple item to share for “pot-luck” lunch on the trail. The refuge is managed to preserve, in as natural a state as possible, its highly varied plant and animal communities. SVI is an important stop-off point in the Gulf of Mexico region for neo-tropical migratory birds and is a haven for endangered and threatened species, including bald eagles, sea turtles, indigo snakes, and gopher tortoises. Wood storks use the refuge during their migration. In addition, the refuge serves as a breeding area for endangered red wolves. Check out: fws.gov/southeast/pubs/facts/svncon.pdf. Bring sun protection and plenty of water (in a daypack). Wear comfortable clothes and shoes for hiking. We are taking the St. Vincent Island Shuttle Services to cross Indian Pass—cost is $10.00 per person round-trip. Meeting location and time of departure finalized closer to event. It is a 2-hour drive from Tallahassee, so departure time will be very early. FTA Members Only. Limit 40 people. To sign up, RSVP on our Meetup site (meetup.co/Apalachee-florida-trail-hiking) or contact Dawn Griffin (850) 509-6103 or Griffindd@aol.com

January 26 Saturday P/L 6-Mile Aucilla River to Aucilla Rapids Hike. Leisure hike from Goose Pasture Road north along river to rapids. It’s small game season so wear hunter orange. Car shuttling involved. Limit 25. Co-leader: Barry Haber. To sign up: Wendy Dial (941) 320-4870 wbdial@gmail.com

February 9 Saturday P/M Phipps Park Invasive Exotics Education and Volunteer Program. See January 12 for description.

February 12 Tuesday P/L Meeting Program: “Our Big Bend Coast” Get to know our local coastline. The Big Bend Coastal Conservancy will discuss our local coastal ecosystems and the most pressing issues they face today. Get to know St. Joe Bay, Apalachicola Bay, Alligator Harbor Bay, Apalachee Bay—off the Ochlockonee to Suwannee Rivers—and the smaller Deadman Bay—off the Steinhatchee River. Ever wondered what exactly a red tide is? Learn about our water quality, species and habitat conservation, and seagrass conservation efforts. Don’t miss this chance to find out why the Big Bend Coast is one of a kind!

February 16 Saturday P/M Under-40 Outing: Bike the St. Marks Trail. A 32-mile (round trip) bike ride to the coastal town of St. Marks on the Florida Trail. We will enjoy lunch on the water in St. Marks. This unique section of the Florida Trail is paved and takes you through long leaf forest to coastal salt marsh. Limit 8. To sign up: Holly Parker (850) 567-3393 or hollyep@gmail.com

February 23 Saturday P/M Torreya State Park Fun Hike. River Bluff-Torreya loop trail. Winter is a great time to hike the steep hills in Torreya. Participants should be physically fit. We’ll walk about 8 miles. Bring water, lunch and walking stick (optional). Meet at 7:30 a.m. in Tallahassee to car pool. Limit 12. To sign up: Jerry Herting (850) 878-3426.
February 24 Sunday P/M Fun Hike Apalachicola National Forest (State Road 319 – Forest Road 321). Fun hike to explore the Apalachicola National Forest. Richard Graham (850) 878-3616 or r_graham@lycos.com.

February 26 Tuesday P/L Chapter Activities Planning Meeting for May - August. Open to all members who would like to participate and want to become activity leaders. Contact Dawn Griffin at (850) 509-6103 or Griffindd@aol.com to RSVP for dinner and get planning details as the date gets closer.

March 3 Sunday P/S 18th Annual Bradwell Bay Swamp Stomp. Slog about 8 miles through the Apalachicola National Forest’s Bradwell Bay Wilderness. The trail passes through old-growth timber in one of the largest swamp forests in Florida. With normal rain, expect wading in ankle-to-knee water for over half the hike. Kent Wimmer (850) 528-5261 or klwimmer2@embarqmail.com.

March 9 Saturday P/M Fun Hike Apalachicola National Forest (Forest Road 321 to Sopchoppy River). Fun hike to explore the Apalachicola National Forest. Richard Graham (850) 878-3616 or r_graham@lycos.com.

March 10 Sunday P/L Hike the Oak Hammock Loop trail in Phipps Park and see the Red Hills Horse Trials in progress. The 2.5-mi. hike begins at 10 a.m. at the RHHT venue. From North Meridian Road, turn onto Miller Landing Road. Follow the “Spectator Parking” signs and go 0.9 mi to Gate “A.” Park as directed and take the shuttle bus. Look for the “Florida Trail Event” signs when you get off the bus. Hike will begin outside the entry point to the RHHT. There is no need to buy tickets to do the hike. Dawn Brown (850) 668-0091 or dbrown1948@embarqmail.com.

March 12 Tuesday P/L Meeting Program: “Apalachicola RiverTrek 2012“ The Apalachicola is one of Florida’s most dynamic rivers, the only Florida waterway to emerge from the Appalachian Mountains. It has the largest volume of water flow of any Florida river and it supports an incredible number of unique plants and animals, not to mention those sumptuous oysters in Apalachicola Bay. But in recent years, the river and bay have been starved of fresh water by Alabama and Georgia, causing the near collapse of the bay’s oyster fishery and the loss of an estimated four million tupelo gum trees in the river floodplain. Author Doug Alderson will discuss these issues and more, and will show photos from the recent high profile Apalachicola RiverTrek, a five-day paddling journey on the entire river.

March 15-17 Friday-Sunday P/L Florida Trail Association Annual Conference. To be held at YMCA Camp McConnell, 210 S.E. 134 Avenue, Micanopy, FL (near Gainesville). Each year the FTA holds its Annual Conference to elect new Board members and officers. But more importantly, we meet to have fun! The Conference always includes exhibits, presentations, auctions, raffles, demonstrations, auctions, raffles, hikes, paddles, children's activities, and much more. Keep checking http://www.floridatrail.org/html/annual_conference for more information as it becomes available. Our Meetup site http://www.meetup.com/Apalachee-Florida-Trail-Hiking will also be updated with that information.

March 16 Saturday P/M Phipps Park Invasive Exotics Education and Volunteer Program. See January 12 for description.

March 23 Saturday P/M Sopchoppy River Azalea Fun Hike. A five-mile (easy/moderate) hike on a section of the FNST that follows the Sopchoppy River. This section of the trail has abundant stands of wild azaleas that bloom in mid-late March. The hike leader will provide hikers with a list of plant species likely to be observed along the trail. Limit 20. To sign up: George Weaver (850) 510-3288 or weaver@psy.fsu.edu.

March 24 Sunday P/L Day Hike at Ft Braden Trail in Lake Talquin State Forest. Meet at the trailhead on Hwy 20 at 8:30 am for a 5-mile hike on the East loop. Leisure hike past pine uplands, hardwood hammocks and slope forest with nice views of Lake Talquin and a visit to "Loren’s Bench.” Bring snacks and bug spray. A hiking stick is recommended. Dress for the weather. Mike Tucker 850-545-3489 or tuckems@hotmail.com
Heartland Chapter Activities

January 2013

Date: January 1, 2013 Tuesday
Activity: New Year’s Day Hike, approx. 6 miles (approx. 3.5 hrs.)
Location: **Saddle Creek Park to Tenoroc Fish Management Area, Lakeland, FL**
Description: This former phosphate mining area consists of lakes, marshes, grasslands and wooded hills, and is an important refuge for wildlife.
Bring: Hiking shoes, brimmed hat, water, snacks, sun and insect protection.
Contact: Eileen Valachovic at 863-956-2145 for meet-up time and other information. Also, please RSVP to the chapter online Meet-up page at [http://www.meetup.com/Heartland-FTA/calendar](http://www.meetup.com/Heartland-FTA/calendar).

Date: January 5, 2013 Saturday
Activity: Chapter Meeting, Nature Walk, Pot Luck Lunch
Location: **Mosaic Peace River Park, located on CR 640 (Homeland-Garfield Rd., off of US-17, Bartow)**
Description: A nature walk on the board walk through the park forest followed by our Bi-monthly meeting, pot luck lunch and Activity Planning Session at the picnic pavilion.
Bring: A dish to share for the pot luck based on last names beginning with A-H Salad, I-Q Main Dish, R-Z Dessert.
Also, an outdoor folding chair, and sun and bug protection.
Contact: David Waldrop at 863-605-3587, or email: david_lwfl@yahoo.com; or Melissa Bruneau at 407-460-1388 for meet-up time and other details. Also, please RSVP to the chapter online Meet-up page at [http://www.meetup.com/Heartland-FTA/calendar](http://www.meetup.com/Heartland-FTA/calendar).

Date: January 12, 2013 Saturday
Activity: Bike Ride, 20 miles round-trip
Location: **Suncoast Trail**, Odesa, FL
Description: Starting from McDonald’s parking lot at 16250 SR-54 at the intersection with Suncoast Pkwy., ride the Suncoast Trail to Starkey Park where we will take a short break.
Bring: Helmet, water, snacks and/or lunch.
Contact: Teresa Newgent at (813) 882-9558 or email newgt7@yahoo.com. Also, please RSVP to the chapter online Meet-up page at [http://www.meetup.com/Heartland-FTA/calendar](http://www.meetup.com/Heartland-FTA/calendar).

Date: January 12, 2013 Saturday
Activity: Trail Maintenance
Location: **Arbuckle Wildlife Management Area (WMA)**
Located east of Avon Park in Polk County 5 miles south of Frostproof and is part of the Lake Wales Ridge State Forest which was purchased by the state to protect numerous rare and endangered plants and animals. Meet at north gate entrance.
Bring: Hiking shoes, brimmed hat, water, snacks, lunch, sun and insect protection.
Contact: Rose or Jim Kellermann at 863-676-2889 for meet-up time, location and other details. Also, please RSVP to the chapter online Meet-up page at [http://www.meetup.com/Heartland-FTA/calendar](http://www.meetup.com/Heartland-FTA/calendar).

Date: January 19, 2013 Saturday
Activity: Trail Maintenance
Location: **Green Swamp East, Lakeland, FL**  Meet at Rock Ridge Rd. gate.
Directions: From US-98 in north Lakeland turn east on Rock Ridge Rd., at fork bear left and continue 4.2 miles to gate on your left. From SR-33 in Polk City travel north, turn left (west) on Dean Still Rd., turn left on Rock Ridge Rd., after 2 or 3 miles gate will be on your right.
Contact: Janice Anderson, phone 813-345-1609 or email scroggie@aol.com for meet-up time and other information. Also, please RSVP to the chapter online Meet-up page at http://www.meetup.com/Heartland-FTA/calendar.

Date: January 20, 2013  Sunday  
Activity: Nature Walk  
Location: **Circle B Bar Preserve, SR 540 (Winter Lake Road), Lakeland**  
Description: Approx. 3 mile walk to view birds and other wildlife at this scenic wildlife preserve which is home to an oak hammock, freshwater marsh, hardwood swamp and lake shore, a tremendous bird population, including a variety of wading birds, waterfowl, ospreys and bald eagles. Alligators inhabit Lake Hancock and may be observed from a distance. Pets are not allowed.  
Bring: Walking or hiking shoes, water, snacks, sun and insect protection.  
Contact: Liane Plumhoff 646-2398 or lplum@verizon.net. Also, please RSVP to the chapter online Meet-up page at http://www.meetup.com/Heartland-FTA/calendar.

Date: January 16, 2013  Wednesday  
Activity: Day Hike (6-7 miles)  
Location: **Tenoroc Fish Management Area, Lakeland, FL**, meet at the park Office on Tenoroc Mine Rd.  
Description: This former phosphate mining area consists of lakes, marshes, grasslands and wooded hills, and is an important refuge for wildlife.  
Bring: Sturdy walking shoes or hiking boots (no flip flops), water, snacks, sun and insect protection.  
Contact: Monika Hoerl at 863-858-3106 for meet-up time and other details. Also, please RSVP to the chapter online Meet-up page at http://www.meetup.com/Heartland-FTA/calendar.

Date: January 25-26, 2012  
Activity: **Camping at Ft. Clinch State Park**  
Contact: Teresa Newgent for more information at (813) 882-9558 or email newgt7@yahoo.com. Also, please RSVP to the chapter online Meet-up page at http://www.meetup.com/Heartland-FTA/calendar.

**February 2013**

Date: February 2, 2013  Saturday  
Activity: Kayaking  
Location: **Kings Bay County Park, 268 NW 3rd St., Crystal River, FL**  
Description: Kayaking in the bay during peak viewing manatee season followed by lunch at a nearby restaurant with the group.  
Bring: Kayak, paddle, life vest and other necessary gear.  
Contact: Eileen Valachovic at 863-956-2145 for meet-up time and other information. Also, please RSVP to the chapter online Meet-up page at http://www.meetup.com/Heartland-FTA/calendar.

Date: February 9, 2013  Saturday  
Activity: Trail Maintenance  
Location: Lake Kissimmee State Park, meet in the picnic area parking lot.  
Contact: Betty Piper at 863-293-3053 or bpiper2005@aol.com meet-up time and other details. Also, please RSVP to the chapter online Meet-up page at http://www.meetup.com/Heartland-FTA/calendar.

Date: February 13, 2013  Wednesday  
Activity: Day Hike (6-7 miles)  
Location: **Tenoroc Fish Management Area, Lakeland, FL**, meet at the park Office on Tenoroc Mine Rd.  
Description: This former phosphate mining area consists of lakes, marshes, grasslands and wooded hills, and is an important refuge for wildlife.  
Bring: Sturdy walking shoes or hiking boots (no flip flops), water, snacks, sun and insect protection.
Contact: Monika Hoerl at 863-858-3106 for meet-up time and other details. Also, please RSVP to the chapter online Meet-up page at http://www.meetup.com/Heartland-FTA/calendar.

Date: February 16, 2013  Saturday
Activity: Day Hike, approx. 7 miles
Location: **Tiger Creek Preserve**
Group will meet at the Mini Mac Convenience Store, 910 N Scenic Hwy, Babson Park
Description: Tiger Creek Preserve is located east of US 27 between Babson Park and Frostproof. The trail traverses the rolling hills of the Lake Wales Ridge, including some of the highest hills and oldest land in the Florida peninsula. Botanical diversity is extensive along this trail.
Bring: Snacks, water, sun and insect protection.
Contact: David Waldrop at 863-605-3587, or email: david_lwfl@yahoo.com for meet-up time and other details. Also, please RSVP to the chapter online Meet-up page at http://www.meetup.com/Heartland-FTA/calendar.

Date: February 17, 2013  Sunday
Activity: Nature Walk
Location: **Circle B Bar Preserve, SR 540 (Winter Lake Road), Lakeland**
Description: Approx. 3 mile walk to view birds and other wildlife at this scenic wildlife preserve which is home to an oak hammock, freshwater marsh, hardwood swamp and lake shore, a tremendous bird population, including a variety of wading birds, waterfowl, ospreys and bald eagles. Alligators inhabit Lake Hancock and may be observed from a distance. Pets are not allowed.
Bring: Walking or hiking shoes, water, snacks, sun and insect protection.
Contact: Liane Plumhoff 646-2398 or lplum@verizon.net. Also, please RSVP to the chapter online Meet-up page at http://www.meetup.com/Heartland-FTA/calendar.

Date: February 23, 2013  Saturday
Activity: Trail Maintenance
Location: **Green Swamp East, Lakeland, FL**  Meet at Rock Ridge Rd. gate.
Directions: From US-98 in north Lakeland turn east on Rock Ridge Rd., at fork bear left and continue 4.2 miles to gate on your left. From SR-33 in Polk City travel north, turn left (west) on Dean Still Rd., turn left on Rock Ridge Rd., after 2 or 3 miles gate will be on your right.
Contact: Janice Anderson, phone 813-345-1609 or email scroggie@aol.com for meet-up time and other information. Also, please RSVP to the chapter online Meet-up page at http://www.meetup.com/Heartland-FTA/calendar.

**March 2013**

Date: March 2, 2013  Saturday
Activity: Chapter Meeting, Short Hike, Pot Luck Lunch
Location: **Tenoroc Fish Management Area, Lakeland, FL**
Description: Meet at the Picnic Lake pavilion for a short hike, meeting, pot luck lunch, and planning session.
Bring: Walking shoes or hiking boots for the hike, water, sun and bug protection, and a dish to share at lunch based on last name initial letters A-H Main Dish, I-Q Dessert, R-Z Salad.
Contact: David Waldrop at 863-605-3587, or email: david_lwfl@yahoo.com; or Melissa Bruneau at 407-460-1388 for meet-up time and other details. Also, please RSVP to the chapter online Meet-up page at http://www.meetup.com/Heartland-FTA/calendar.

Date: March 9-10, 2013  Saturday and Sunday
Activity: Trail Maintenance – come for the day or primitive camp overnight.
Location: **Green Swamp East, Lakeland, FL**  Meet at Rock Ridge Rd. gate.
Directions: From US-98 in north Lakeland turn east on Rock Ridge Rd., at fork bear left and continue 4.2 miles to gate on your left. From SR-33 in Polk City travel north, turn left (west) on Dean Still Rd., turn left on Rock Ridge Rd., after 2 or 3 miles gate will be on your right.

Contact: Bob Yost at 863-644-5448 or bobalinks3@yahoo.com for meet-up time and other information. Also, please RSVP to the chapter online Meet-up page at http://www.meetup.com/Heartland-FTA/calendar.

Date: March 15-17, 2013
Activity: FTA Annual Conference
Location: Camp Mc Connell, Gainsville, FL

Date: March 17, 2013  Sunday
Activity: Nature Walk
Location: Circle B Bar Preserve, SR 540 (Winter Lake Road), Lakeland
Description: Approx. 3 mile walk to view birds and other wildlife at this scenic wildlife preserve which is home to an oak hammock, freshwater marsh, hardwood swamp and lake shore, a tremendous bird population, including a variety of wading birds, waterfowl, ospreys and bald eagles. Alligators inhabit Lake Hancock and may be observed from a distance. Pets are not allowed.
Bring: Walking or hiking shoes, water, snacks, sun and insect protection.
Contact: Liane Plumhoff 646-2398 or lplum@verizon.net. Also, please RSVP to the chapter online Meet-up page at http://www.meetup.com/Heartland-FTA/calendar.

Date: March 23, 2013  Saturday
Activity: Bike Ride
Location: Auburndale TECO Trail on Denton Ave., in Auburndale, FL
Description: Bicycle this scenic trail to Polk City (Van Fleet Trailhead) and back to starting point, approx. 14 miles, followed by lunch at Peebles BBQ restaurant on Dixie Hwy., in Auburndale.
Contact: Eileen Valachovic at 863-956-2145 for meet-up time and other information. Also, please RSVP to the chapter online Meet-up page at http://www.meetup.com/Heartland-FTA/calendar.

Date: March 30, 2013  Saturday
Activity: Kayaking
Location: Saddle Creek Park, Lakeland, FL
Description: Park near the children’s play area ( 2nd left off the main road through the park). We will paddle through the chain of lakes formed by the phosphate mining that preceded the development of the park. Lunch will be at a nearby restaurant following the kayak tour.
Contact: Brett Stoltz at 863-800-0743 or email brett.stoltz@gmail.com. Also, please RSVP to the chapter online Meet-up page at http://www.meetup.com/Heartland-FTA/calendar.
Indian River Chapter Activities
January – February 2013

The following notes apply to Wednesday Hikes only:

ALL OF THE WEDNESDAY HIKES ARE BETWEEN FOUR AND SEVEN MILES IN LENGTH AND WILL MEET AT ONE OF FOUR PLACES AT 8:30 AM. THE HIKE LOCATIONS ARE TENTATIVE BECAUSE ACCESSIBILITY CAN CHANGE (BRIDGES OUT, WILDFIRES, ETC) BUT WE WILL ALWAYS MEET AT THE SCHEDULED PLACE AT THE SCHEDULED TIME, FOR UPDATES CALL 321-453-1586 OR E-MAIL jescoffier@aol.com. A COPY OF THIS SCHEDULE IS ONLINE AT: HTTP://JJEHIKESCED.BLOGSPOT.COM.

DIRECTIONS TO THE TRAILS FROM THE MEETING PLACES ARE ONLINE AT: HTTP://JJEHIKE.BLOGSPOT.COM.

MEETING PLACE ADDRESSES:
LOWE'S TITUSVILLE  HWY 50 AND I-95  SAM'S MELBOURNE  HWY 192 NEAR I-95
SAM'S COCOA   HWY 520 AND I-95   LONE CABBAGE  HWY 520 AND ST JOHN'S RIVER

Weekend hikes listed at: (click on 'newsletter')
http://www.floridatrail.org/Chapters/Central-Chapters1/Indian-River.html

Activities:

January 1 – Tuesday
Tony's Annual New Year's Day Hike - Meet at 7:00 a.m. at Viera McDonald’s- Hike in South Tosohatchee – Activity Leader: Tony Flohre (321-723-6339)

January 7 – Monday
Monthly Chapter Meeting – Meet at 6:30 p.m. at the Melbourne Public Library on Fee Avenue in Melbourne. A short business meeting will follow the program

January 9 – Wednesday
Day Hike - BUCK LAKE TRAIL - MEET AT WEST ENTRANCE OF LOWE'S PARKING LOT AT I-95 AND HWY 50 IN TITUSVILLE AT 8:30 AM. Call 321-453-1586 for information

January 12 – Saturday
Trail Maintenance Hike – Three-Lakes/Prairie Lakes WMA– Meet 7:30 at Sam's Club,4255 W New Haven Ave
Please be advised - There is hunting at Three Lakes on this day. We will wear orange vests and stay away from the hunters as much as possible
If you are going to attend, please contract the activity Leader
Dale Weddle, Phone: 321-729-9162, e-mail: daleweddle@msn.com

January 13 – Sunday
Day Hike – Split Oaks – Meet at 7:00 a.m. at Sam's Club,4255 W New Haven Ave. Activity Leader: Tony Flohre – Phone: 321-723-6339-
January 16 – Wednesday
**Day Hike - CRUCKSHANK LOOP TRAIL** - MEET AT WEST ENTRANCE OF LOWE’S PARKING LOT AT I-95 AND HWY 50 IN TITUSVILLE AT 8:30 AM. Call 321-453-1586 for information

January 19 – Saturday
**Day Hike – Bulow Creek** – Meet at 6:30 a.m. at the Viera MacDonald’s on North Wickham Road. Bulow Creek State Park is located adjacent to I-95 approximately 100 miles north of Melbourne. The hike will be approximately 7 miles long. Lunch at some yet to be determined location following hike. Activity Leader: Tony Flohre, phone: 321-723-6339

January 23 – Wednesday
**Day Hike - DORIS LEEPER TRAIL**. MEET AT WEST ENTRANCE OF LOWE’S PARKING LOT AT I-95 AND HWY 50 IN TITUSVILLE AT 8:30 AM. Call 321-453-1586 for information

January 26 – Saturday
**Full Moon Hike – Turkey Creek** – Meet near the Turkey Creek Library at **8:30 P.M.**. Activity Leader: Tony Flohre, phone: 321-723-6339

January 30 – Wednesday
**Day Hike - TOSOHATCHEE SOUTH.** MEET AT LONE CABBAGE FISH CAMP AT HWY 520 AND ST JOHNS RIVER AT 8:30 AM. Call 321-453-1586 for information

February 2 – Saturday
**Trail Maintenance Hike – Three-Lakes/Prairie Lakes WMA** – Meet 7:30 at Sam’s Club, 4255 W New Haven Ave
Please be advised - There is hunting at Three Lakes on this day. We will wear orange vests and stay away from the hunters as much as possible.
If you are going to attend, please contact the activity Leader
Dale Weddle, Phone: 321-729-9162, e-mail: daleweddle@msn.com

February 4 – Monday
**Monthly Chapter Meeting** – Meet at 6:30 p.m. at the Melbourne Public Library on Fee Avenue in Melbourne. A short business meeting will follow the program

February 6 – Wednesday
**Day Hike - BULOW CREEK TRAIL**, MEET AT WEST ENTRANCE OF LOWE’S PARKING LOT AT I-95 AND HWY 50 IN TITUSVILLE AT 8:30 AM. Call 321-453-1586 for information

February 9 - Saturday
**Kayak/Canoe Paddle – Ulumay** – Meet at Ulumay at 9:00 a.m. with your kayak or canoe. You must contact the activity leader prior to the event. He can provided directions and other details. Event leader: Richard Louden: 321-638-8804

February 10 – Sunday
**Day Hike – River Forest** – Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the Viera MacDonald’s on North Wickham Road. The hike is about 6 or 7 miles in length. Activity Leader: Tony Flohre, phone: 321-723-6339

February 13 – Wednesday
**Day Hike - BULL CREEK CEMETERY.** MEET AT SAMS DISCOUNT CLUB AT 4255 WEST NEW HAVEN IN MELBOURNE AT 8:30 AM. Call 321-453-1586 for information
February 16 – Saturday
Day Hike – Lake Kissimmee State Park - Meet at 6:00 a.m. at Sam’s Club, 4255 W. New Haven Avenue in Melbourne. Activity Leader: Tony Flohre, phone: 321-723-6339

February 18 – Monday
Bi-Monthly Planning Meeting – Meet at 6:45 p.m. at the Melbourne Public Library on Fee Avenue in Melbourne. Leader: Richard Louden, Phone: 321-693-3820, e-mail: lindaglouden@cfl.rr.com

February 20 – Wednesday
Day Hike - FOX LAKE TRAIL. MEET AT WEST ENTRANCE OF LOWE’S PARKING LOT AT I-95 AND HWY 50 IN TITUSVILLE AT 8:30 AM. Call 321-453-1586 for information

February 23 – Saturday
Day Hike – Prairie Lakes WMA – Hike south loop plus side trail to Lake Jackson observation tower. Total length of hike is about 9 miles. Activity Leader – Mick Karolic - phone: 321-254-0453

February 27 – Wednesday
Day Hike - ORLANDO WETLANDS PARK. MEET AT WEST ENTRANCE OF LOWE’S PARKING LOT AT I-95 AND HWY 50 IN TITUSVILLE AT 8:30 AM. Call 321-453-1586 for information

Western Gate Chapter Activities

January
Jan 1, 2013 New Year’s Day Tuesday, Start the new year off right! Take a hike! The saying goes that what you do on the first day of the year you will do more of during that year, so let’s join together with our friends and take a hike. I will be meeting hikers at Karick Lake south campground to hike my blue trail to the waterfall on Panther Creek, about 3 1/3 miles, and back if you are able, if not I will drive you back. Let’s meet at 10:00 AM for those late sleepers. Call me for more information 850-982-9490

Jan 4, 2013 Friday, Our First Friday Dinner Hike will be led by Helen this month. 850-484-0528

Jan 5, 2013 Saturday, Christine Hale will be leading us on a hike on the Hutton Unit, from south Deaton Bridge in the Blackwater River State Park to highway 90 about 5 miles. 850-723-5112

Jan 6, 2013 Sunday Wake-up with Peggy and Trudy; Bay Bluff Park, across to Langley, left on Goya, left again back to Scenic and over the boardwalk.

Jan 12, 2013 Saturday  Hike the new Hinton Trail in Marianna with Trudy. Meet at the trail head at 10:00 am

Jan 13, 2013 Sunday Wake-up with Peggy and/or Trudy; Meet at Bayou Blvd at Trinity Presbyterian church.

Jan 17, 2013 Thursday  Western Gate chapter meeting, First Christian Church 6:30 PM

Jan 18, 2013 Friday - Jan 20, 2013 Sunday MLK weekend at Grayton Beach State Park, cabin, camping or day activities. Friday dinner pot luck, hobo stew, at my cabin. Saturday morning hike at 9 am, meet on highway
395 across from the park entrance to hike a 4 miles trail, either one way or go for 8 miles and hike back too. Lunch at a near by dinner. Afternoon walk at 3 pm on nature trail at deer lake state park. Supper leftover stew. Sunday morning after we check out meet at 10:00 am for a 2 miles walk on the Gateway Trail, corner of 98 and 331 in south Walton cty.

Jan 27, 2013 Sunday  Join Cheryl Gardner for a neat hike at Little River State Park in Alabama. Located off US 21 N in AL it used to be called and know as Claude D. Kelley State Park. We will meet there at 10:00 AM for a hike and afterwards picnic at the pavilion. For those interested there is a zip line for 1.00 or 10.00 dollars and a camp ground and a lake for fishing.

February
Feb 1, 2013 Friday;  Our First Friday Dinner Hike will be led by George Brinkman. We will meet at 6:00 PM at the civic center parking lot in Gulf Breeze and walk around Gulf Breeze, eating dinner at Aegean Breeze. Call George Brinkman for more information  850-932-0125

Feb 2, 2013 Saturday;  My continuing series of Historic Hikes takes us to Alabama this month to Blakely Historic Park where the last battle of the Civil War was fought. This was also the site of an ancient Indian village and a colonial village, wiped out by the black plague. To get to Blakely I am going to get onto I-10 near JC Penny so if anyone would like to car pool or caravan with me I will meet there at 8:30 AM, it takes about 1 ½ to get to Blakely which is just north of Spanish Fort, AL. I will start strolling though Blakely about 10:00 AM. There are several nature trails as well as many historic sites to visit. Afterwards those of us that want to will stop for a late lunch in Spanish Fort. Call me, Peggy for more information 850-982-9490

Feb 3, 2013 Sunday;  Wake-up with Peggy and Trudy

Feb 10, 2013 Sunday;  Let’s help Cheryl and Kean with work on their sections of trail. Meet at 9 am at the Forestry center on Munson Highway in Munson ready to work.

Feb 16, 2013 Saturday;  Annual awards banquet

Feb 17, 2013 Sunday Wake up with Peggy and Trudy

Feb 18, 2013 Monday President’s Day:  Let’s celebrate our presidents with a hike at Big Lagoon State Park. Peggy Grantham 850-982-9490

Feb 21, 2013 Thursday Western Gate chapter meeting, social starts at 6:30 pm, program at 7 followed by short business meeting. Meet at First Christian Church on the corner of Langley and Goodrich in Pensacola.

Feb 23, 2013 Saturday;  Let’s join up with the Panhandle Chapter for one of their hikes. Their final hike in their series “River to River” hikes

Feb 24, 2013 Sunday  Wake up with Peggy and Trudy

March 2013 Activities
Western Gate
March 1, 2013 Friday. First Friday dinner hike;  Meet at 6:00 PM at Bay View Park for a walk before dinner. Peggy Grantham 850-982-9490

March 2, 2013 Saturday  Trail work with Christine Hale on the Weaver Creek section. Call Christine for more information 850-723-5112
March 3, 2013 Sunday Wake-up Hike with Peggy and Trudy

March 9, 2013 Saturday Helen will lead us on a hike on the Wiregrass Trail from Kennedy Bridge to the junction of the Wiregrass and Jackson trails, Mary Pat’s Crossing. About 5 miles, this is a beautiful section in the early Spring. Call Helen Wigersma for more information 850-484-0528

March 15 - 17 2013 Friday - Sunday Our annual state conference in the Gainesville area.

March 16, 2013 Saturday Join George for a hike on the Dunes Trail on Pensacola Beach. Afterwards lunch at Peg Leg Pete’s. Call George Brinkman 850-932-0125

March 21, 2013 Thursday Western Gate chapter meeting.

March 23, 2013 Saturday, a “two for one” activity, a hike on beautiful Clear Creek Trail and a Historic Stroll at Arcadia Mill in Milton. Meet Peggy at 8:30 at the parking lot for the Clear Creek Trail just northwest of the main entrance to NAS Whiting Field on state road 87A. This is a 1.7 mile loop trail that passes though 4 different habitats, uplands, wetlands, open water and transitional. Some of it is on boardwalk. We will leave there and caravan to Historic Arcadia Mill site in Milton for a 10 AM Stroll though History. We will visit the museum there and walk the nature trail. Afterwards we will have lunch in Milton at the Blackwater Bistro. Call Peggy Grantham for more information 850-982-9490

April

April 1, 2013 Monday Day 4 of the Trace Hike; Hike from Red Rock to The Harold Store, 13 miles.

April 2, 2013 Tuesday Day 5 of the Trace Hike; Hike from the Harold store to the Yellow River, 14 miles

April 3, 2013 Wednesday Day 6 of the Trace hike; Hike from the Yellow River to the East River, 15 miles

April 4, 2013 Thursday Day 7 of the Trace hike; Hike from the East river to Opal Beach. 11 miles.

April 5, 2013 Friday day 8 of the Trace; Hike from Opal beach to the water tower on Pensacola Beach, 12 miles.

April 5, 2013 Friday, First Friday Dinner Hike on Pensacola Beach, eat at Crabs.

April 6, 2013 Saturday day 9, (last day!) of the Trace Hike; Hike from the water tower to Fort Pickens, last day! 9 miles celebrate at Peg Leg Pete’s

April 13, 2013 Saturday George will lead us on a Hike/Bike on the Blackwater Heritage Trail in Milton.
April 14, 2013 Sunday Wake up with Peggy and Trudy 7 AM

April 18, 2013 Thursday Western Gate Chapter meeting.

April 20, 2013 Saturday, Christine Hale will lead us on a hike on the beautiful Juniper Trail.

April 21, 2013 Sunday Wake up with Peggy and Trudy 7 am

April 27, 2013 Saturday A Historic Stroll with Peggy, Fort Gordon,

April 28, 2013 Sunday Hike with Cheryl on the Blue Springs Trail in Connecuh National park, meet at Open Pond

Halifax-St. Johns Chapter Activities

| Sunday, December 16 Chapter Christmas Meeting and Pot Luck Dinner | Hidden Valley Club House, 91 Valley Drive, DeLeon Springs. Meeting will be at 3:00 PM followed by dinner. Bring a dish to share and your table service. Driving Directions: Take Rt. 17 to DeLeon Springs, just south of the Wells Fargo Bank take Reynolds Road east for 1 1/2 miles to Hidden Valley on the right and follow the signs to the clubhouse. |
| 29th Annual New Year’s Eve Campout Doe Lake Campground | Celebrate New Year’s Eve with FTA friends at the Doe Lake Campground located on Forest Road 14 in the Ocala National Forest. Arrive anytime on Saturday for a day or four days. Checkout by noon on Wednesday, Jan 2. This is a group camp reserved for our group only. On Saturday, Sunday, Monday & Tuesday there will be scheduled hiking, biking and paddling activities in addition to evening programs and campfires. Group dinners include: Bar B-Q on Saturday night, Stone soup on Sunday night, potluck on Monday & leftovers on Tuesday. No need to pre-register. Cost is $5 per person per night. Under 18 & over 75 camp free. FTA Members Only. |

The Palatka Crew works every Tuesday, call Ella Lindsay to find out where they are working and offer to help. 386-325-1878 or geriverhouse@wildblue.net
Suwannee Chapter Activities

December 17-21, 2012 Holton Creek work week hike.
Stay in the river camp or just come for the day. Robin has one room reserved and will share, or you can reserve your own. We’ll head out each morning promptly at 9:00 AM and work until mid-afternoon. This is an isolated area, so bring everything you need! This is a very beautiful area. Contact: Robin, 352-284-3319, robinannie.luger@gmail.com.

December 27, 2012 Christmas Bird Count
Join members from our chapter as we take part in one of the oldest and most influential citizen science programs in the US. We will car caravan, very little walking is involved. Bring binoculars and bird books. With the recent rains many ponds are near full and the birds are checking them out, so the count should be high, Details, Sylvia, 386-362-3256, dunnams@windstream.net. Audubon, Virlyn Willis, virlyn@earthlink.net, www.fourriversaudubon.org

January 1, 2013 New Year or Day After Hike!
Celebrate the New Year in the best way possible. Go on a hike! Join chapter members for their annual New Year’s Day Hike on the Big Oak Trail, near the Suwannee River State Park, 14 miles west of Live Oak on US 90. Enjoy the colorful leaves, winter flowers and wonderful friends. We will stop by the memorial bench and remember those who have hiked on ahead of us. Bring lunch, water, dress for the weather. Contact: Don Neale for details, 386-4850, dgneale@windstream.net

Future Plans: Be sure and list them on your personal calendar!

Saturday, January 12, 2013, Day Hike on Stephanie’s new section of the Florida National Scenic Trail. Details later, rjwildlife@windstream.net.

February 2, 2013, Beginning Backpacking, Suwannee River Regional Library, meeting room, 1-4 PM.
Need to attend orientation class for backpacking trip, details above.
Limited number, contact: rjwildlife@windstream.net.

Tuesday-Thursday February 26-28, 3-1, Camp/Canoe Kayak Rainbow Springs State Park.
Canoe/Kayak the 5-6 miles on the Rainbow River one day then have a free day.
Limited number: 20
Sam would like a co-leader
Contact: Sam Bigbie, 386-362-5090, sambar2@windstream.net.

March 2-3, 2013, Beginning Backpacking Trip, Suwannee River State Park, Big Oak Trail, 14 miles northwest of Live Oak on US Hwy 90. Hike is 12 miles round trip. Camping at primitive site.
Wednesday – Saturday, March 6-9, 2013.
Annual Goose Pasture Camping Trip. Many miles on the FNST available as well as nearby interesting sites. Canoeing/kayaking on local river possible.
More details later. Contact: Don Neale, 386-362-4850, dgneale@windstream.net.

I plan to camp at Paynes Prairie State Park, Camp McConnell is right across the street.
Details: Sylvia, dunnams@windstream.net.

Camping in Torreya State Park, west of Tallahassee.
Leader has site 022. Many miles of challenging trails.
Torreya has two beautiful loops 5-6 miles each, with lots of small hills and creeks, so hiking can be strenuous but fun! You can see the rare Torreya tree in the park and the Apalachicola Bluffs down the road. Dogs are welcome. Contact: Robin, robinannie.luger@gmail.com.

Monday, April 8- April 12, 2013
Touring in the Callaway Gardens and camping in the FDR State Park, for 4 nights, near Pine Mountain, Ga. One free day, one hike day, one tour day.
More details later.
Contact: Sam, 386-362-5090, sambar2@windstream.net

Other possibilities, Camping in Reed Bingham, Adele, Ga.
Local hikes with Walter McKenzie and Dennis Price.
White springs Area Hikes

**January thru May**
Most Sundays and Wednesdays
Meet at 8:30 Am
More details, email Robin Luger ay robinannie.luger@gmail.com, 352-284-3319.
Sunday’s hike will be a brisk hike of 6-8 miles, Wednesday’s hike will be a leisurely hike 2-3 miles. Call or email for exact location before the date of the hike, but no need to sign up ahead of time.