



2025

Board Candidates





Florida Trail
Association

We are excited to introduce this year's slate of candidates for the Florida Trail Association Board of Directors! Each of these individuals brings a unique perspective and skill set to the table, including nonprofit leadership, conservation advocacy, land management, and outdoor recreation. Among them, we have candidates who have completed the Florida National Scenic Trail, worked extensively in environmental policy, and led community outreach efforts that support our mission.

We encourage both members and candidates to take the time to connect. Whether at chapter meetings, on the trail, or during FTA events, engaging with one another strengthens our organization and fosters a shared vision for the future. Board service is an opportunity to represent the broader trail community, and building relationships at the chapter level helps ensure our leadership reflects the needs and priorities of our members.

As annual elections require ongoing recruitment, we invite those interested in future leadership opportunities to get involved. If you or someone you know would like to explore Board service, we welcome you to attend committee meetings, learn more about the organization, and take the first steps toward statewide leadership. Thank you for your continued support of the FTA and for taking an active role in shaping the future of our organization. We look forward to seeing the impact these candidates will have on the trail and our community.





Mason Gravley



Mason Gravley is an advocate for Florida's wild spaces, leveraging his expertise in storytelling and communication to promote outdoor recreation and conservation. As a recent addition to the Florida Wildlife Corridor Foundation, Mason plays a vital role in increasing public awareness of Florida's natural landscapes. Through podcasting and social media, he has engaged younger generations, fostering inclusivity and accessibility in outdoor activities.

Mason's leadership extends beyond media, with a strong focus on collaboration and strategic planning. He has successfully partnered with conservation organizations to amplify shared goals and highlight the significance of outdoor initiatives. His ability to engage audiences, build partnerships, and develop innovative outreach strategies will strengthen the board's efforts to expand awareness and support for the Florida Trail Association.

**Suncoast Chapter
Member Since 2025**

North Florida Trailblazers
Member Since 2021



Tim Horkan



Tim Horkan is a third-generation Floridian who brings over 30 years of legal experience in commercial transactions, government procurement, and regulatory law. A dedicated Florida Trail advocate, he completed his section hike of the entire trail in 2024. He has now turned his attention to trail stewardship through volunteerism and outreach.

With a passion for conservation and strategic land acquisition, Tim aims to support efforts to close gaps in the trail, using his expertise in law and government relations to secure funding, acquire land, and build lasting partnerships. As he transitions into retirement in April 2025, he is eager to dedicate his time and skills to the Florida Trail Association. His legal background, financial expertise, and policy knowledge will provide valuable guidance in strengthening the board's governance and long-term planning.

Apalachee
Member Since 2024



Jerrie Lindsey



Jerrie Lindsey is a seasoned conservation leader with extensive experience in wildlife management, land conservation, and public engagement. As the former Director of Public Access and Wildlife Viewing at the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), she led statewide initiatives to enhance outdoor recreation and trail access.

Jerrie is a passionate advocate for public land stewardship and expanding outdoor opportunities. She has successfully built partnerships that support conservation funding, land acquisition, and wildlife-friendly recreation. Her experience in strategic planning, policy development, and nonprofit leadership will help strengthen the board's ability to guide the organization effectively, foster community engagement, and enhance conservation initiatives.



Eugene Stoccardo



Eugene Stoccardo is an engineer with hands-on experience in trail building, maintenance, and community advocacy. His leadership in public policy has resulted in successful legislative initiatives, including the passage of 13 charter amendments in Orange County. A strong proponent of trail safety, he has proposed innovative protocols to enhance volunteer and staff protection.

Eugene has played a pivotal role in reroute projects, land acquisition negotiations, and improving trail logistics. He is committed to making trails more inclusive and family-friendly while ensuring sustainable infrastructure. His combination of technical expertise, policy experience, and grassroots leadership will bring a well-rounded perspective to the board, strengthening its efforts to improve safety, sustainability, and community outreach.

**Central Florida Chapter
Active Member Since 2020**

Sandhill
Member Since 2023



Laura Youmans



Laura Youmans is an attorney and policy expert with experience in environmental and land use law and a deep passion for hiking, conservation, and public land management. Her expertise in board governance, legislative advocacy, and land use planning makes her a strong advocate for the Florida Trail Association’s mission.

Laura has a track record of securing resources for conservation projects and building stakeholder collaborations to support land preservation. She is particularly interested in advancing efforts to close gaps in the trail by leveraging her legal and policy knowledge to aid in real estate negotiations and government partnerships. Her experience will provide valuable insight into governance, policy development, and financial planning, ensuring the board remains strong and forward-thinking.



Elwood McElhaney

Elwood McElhaney is a retired Certified Public Accountant and a dedicated Florida Trail Association member with a passion for outdoor recreation. As an Activity Leader and Chapter Chair of the Apalachee Chapter in Tallahassee, he has fostered community engagement and volunteerism within the organization.

Elwood also serves as Chair of the Finance Committee, where his financial expertise has been instrumental in ensuring the organization's fiscal health and long-term stability. His leadership and strategic oversight have strengthened FTA's financial planning, making him an invaluable asset to the board.

Running for reelection, Elwood is highly respected and well-liked by all members of the board. His deep institutional knowledge, leadership, and ability to bring people together make him irreplaceable. His dedication to the FTA mission, combined with his financial acumen and passion for the outdoors, ensures that he will continue to be a guiding force in the association's success.

**Apalachee Chapter
Active Member Since 2012**





The function of leadership
is to produce more
leaders, not more
followers

Ralph Nader