

FTA Combination Locks at Buckman Lock

Normal operating hours are 6:30am to 3pm everyday. Lock tender # 386-329-3575

In the past, a few campers at the south campsite (not hikers) have left the FTA combination locks and gates open at Buckman Lock, creating a liability for the Office of Greenways and Trails. Mickey Thomason, Central Region Manager for the Cross Florida Greenway, has now restricted FTA to releasing the lock combination **ONLY** to **FTA MEMBERS** who are **THRU-HIKING** the Florida Trail. All other trail users should arrange their hiking schedules to cross Buckman Lock during normal lock operating hours. FTA members who are thru-hiking the entire trail may call the FTA office (M-F, 9 am to 5 pm) for the combination to the locks. Both locks are set to the same number but the combinations are changed randomly.

The combination locks are on the high chain link fences on either side of Buckman Lock. Hikers will only need to use the combination locks if crossing Buckman Lock outside of the normal lock operating hours of 6:30 am to 3 pm everyday. (Exact times may change, so it is advisable to call the lock when you get close.) Buckman Lock phone – 386-329-3575.

Some hikers have had trouble getting the combination locks open due to unfamiliarity with the lock design. These locks do not spring open like the combination locks used on school lockers. To open these locks depress the lock hasp into the lock body, dial in the correct combination numbers - aligning them with the arrow on the left side of the lock body - then jerk the lock open. To close, depress the lock hasp into the lock body and spin the combination to a different number.

Hikers should take care to make sure that the combination locks are closed after they pass through. Thomason indicated that if the FTA combination locks continue to be left open, the FTA locks will have to be removed and hikers will no longer be able to cross the Lock outside of the normal operating hours.