



# Florida Trail Association - Sandhill Chapter Newsletter

## Issue: Summer 2023

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. Office: 1022 NW 2nd Street, Gainesville, FL 32601 Phone: 352-378-8823 <http://www.floridatrail.org>

**Welcome to the Summer edition of the Sandhill newsletter.** I realize it is the time of year where very little trail maintenance gets done and for a darn good reason (heat indices in the low 100's)

### **Chapter Officers:**

Chair - Rick Robbins  
Vice Chair -Ernie Lynk  
Treasurer - Michaelyn Luttge  
At Large - Jack Schofield  
At Large - Eve Cater  
At Large - W. Eddie Bruce

So, there has been a change in the Officers of the Chapter. We (all elected officers) have been elected (unopposed) to represent the Chapter, so that's something to consider. <smile>

**The Chapter would be remiss if we didn't give a huge "shout-out" to Karie Garren.** She shepherded the Chapter through CoVid and has been a blessing to the Florida Trail Association and the Sandhill Chapter. THANKS KARIE!!! We hope that Karie will continue to add her knowledge and expertise to the Chapter for years to come.

**With the changes to the Chapter Officers, I would like to suggest we have a Chapter meeting in early to mid August.** It would be a Meet and Greet at the FTA office in Gainesville.....and an event where we can plan for the upcoming maintenance and to determine where we need to focus on recruitment of volunteers. It would be an informal meeting where the Chapter can gauge interest and more importantly.... link a face to a name. Notification will be either through email or via Meetup.

**Be more than a Member, be a Volunteer.** The Chapter has a few positions open that are available for interested Members. The positions are Membership Chair, Public Relations and Newsletter Editor. Please contact us if any of these positions are appealing.

**New maps available.** For those map "nerds" out there, we have created a Geo-PDF of the Florida Trail statewide, but more importantly to the Chapter, a Geo-PDF of our sections of the Florida Trail. If any of our members are familiar with Avenza, these maps will show your location along the FT without any cell service. An graphic is shown below.



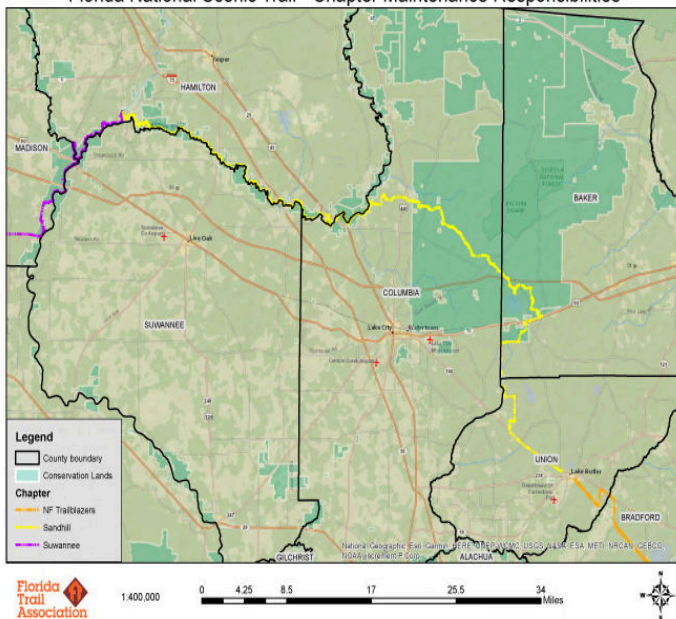
Below is an example of the Northern Section of the FT

**Dogs are an important part of the FT hiking experience**, we would like to feature a canine during each newsletter. Please submit a brief description and photo. First come-first served.



**Canine Corner:** Meet Otis whose trail name is Hobo. Hobo is a rescued Dachshund-Beagle mix who has hiked sections of the Pinhoti, AT, FT, and Mountain to Sea trails. His favorite trail though is the fresh scent of an armadillo.

### Florida National Scenic Trail - Chapter Maintenance Responsibilities



**Finally**, I believe that this Chapter has huge potential and that if we can blend the tacit knowledge of our long time members with the huge potential of our youthful membership....we can create and maintain a great chapter. At least, that's my vision.

Best,  
Rick Robbins  
Chapter Chair