

HEARTLINE

No. 1 Heartland Chapter, Florida Trail Association Jan. – Mar., 2009

FROM THE CHAIR:

Greetings to all,

It is always my pleasure to wish you all a very happy holiday season and a happy new year. Another gratifying year is about to come to a close and as I look back I feel good about all that we have done. One of my goals has been to spread the word about the FTA and in doing this I have had help from Roland who attended the CCC conference at Highlands Hammock and our chapter at the opening of the Circle B-Bar Reserve, both of these events have been great for reaching out to the public. As always there were some terrific activities for everyone's personality as well as keeping up with our trail maintenance schedules. We are very fortunate to live in an area that gives us the ability to do a wide variety of activities. Thank you all who give wonderful suggestions which keep us interested and motivated. A highlight of the year was the annual conference which gave many of us an opportunity to see a different part of the state and interact with many of the other members. I would even say it brought many of us "closer together". Good things are still to come, such as the conference next year, which is at Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park again, so consider coming and volunteering. We will be helping with the vendors and exhibitors. There will be more to follow. There are plenty of opportunities coming for all to hike, bike, kayak, and to do trail maintenance. So look over the calendar, pick an event, and I look forward to seeing each and every one of you this upcoming year. Most of all I want to thank all of you who are on my board; you all help me in making this a better chapter and thanks to those who have stepped up to fill needed positions.

Andrew Quagliana,
Chapter Chairman



CONTACT PERSONS: (Area Code 863 unless listed)

Chair: Andrew Quagliana (727) 542-5396 or modelbuilder12000@yahoo.com

Co-chair: Eileen Valachovic 956-2145 or eileenvalachovic@verizon.net

Treasurer: Monika Hoerl 858-3106

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Section Leader/Lake Kissimmee State Park: Betty Piper 293-3053 or bpiper2005@aol.com

Section Leader/Tiger Creek: George Horvath 294-5019

Section Leader/Kissimmee River: Jim Hernandez 452-6650 or patjim83@embarqmail.com

Section Leader/Willingham: Bob Hummel 471-1814

ACTIVITIES: (If you have trouble reaching the contact person listed in the activity description, please contact Maureen Jones. If you can't reach her, please contact Andrew Quagliana. Contact information for both is listed above.)

Jan. 1, Thurs. Public/Leisure

Day Hike

Lake Kissimmee State Park

A beautiful park with a cow camp where old-time relics are on display and an old timer to tell stories of years gone by and an observation tower on the lake. Contact Betty Piper at 863-293-3053 for meet up details.

Jan. 3, Sat. Public/Leisure

Chapter Meeting

Circle B-Bar Reserve - Lakeland Area

Meet at pavilion for hike and for our potluck lunch, bring a dish to share as follows: last names beginning with A – E bring a salad, F – R bring a main dish, and S – Z bring dessert. Contact Andrew Quagliana at 727-542-5396 or modelbuilder12000@yahoo.com.

Jan. 10, Sat. Public/Leisure

Day hike

Colt Creek, Lakeland

Contact Connie Evers at 863-944-8160 or clevvers1@hotmail.com

Jan. 17, Sat. Public/Moderate

Trail improvement hike

Arbuckle State Forest, Lake Wales Ridge

Contact Jim and Rose Kellermann at 863-676-2889 or Jrkellermann@hotmail.com for more information.

ACTIVITIES, Cont.

Jan. 24, Sat. Public/Leisure

Bicycle ride

Van Fleet Trail, Polk City

Ride 20 miles on paved trail. Contact Eileen Valachovic at 863-956-2145 for more information.

Jan. 31 – Feb. 1, Sat. & Sun. Public/Moderate

Trail Improvement hike

Green Swamp East, Lakeland

Primitive camp overnight or come for the day. For more information contact Bob Yost at 863-644-5448 or Bobalinks2@aol.com.

Feb. 7, Sat. Public/Leisure

Day hike

Hickory Hammock

Carpool available from Publix Shopping Center in Bartow. Contact Roland Alderman at 863-682-3506

Feb. 14, Sat. Public/Leisure

Paddle

Kayak or canoe from Lake Shipp Park to Lake Eloise. Valentine's Day lunch at Harborside

Restaurant to follow. Contact Maureen Jones at 863-293-5036 or mjones206@tampabay.rr.com for more information.

Feb. 21, Sat. Public/Moderate

Trail improvement hike

Lake Kissimmee State Park

Contact Betty Piper at 863-293-3053 for details.

Feb. 28, Sat. Public/Leisure

Day hike

Tenoroc Fish Management Area, Lakeland

Hike approximately seven miles starting from Tenoroc, over varied terrain to Saddle Creek Park. Call Monika Hoerl for details at 863-858-3106.

Mar. 7, Sat. Public/Leisure

Chapter Meeting

Meet at the home of our Chapter Chairman, Andrew Quagliana.

For potluck dinner, bring a dish to share as follows: last names beginning with A – E bring a dessert, F – R bring a salad, and S – Z bring a main dish. For details contact Andrew at 727-542-5396 or modelbuilder12000@yahoo.com.

Mar. 14, Sat. Public/Moderate

Trail Improvement hike

Green Swamp East, Lakeland

Primitive camp overnight or come for the day. For more information contact Bob Yost at 863-644-5448 or Bobalinks2@aol.com.

ACTIVITIES, Cont.

Mar. 21 & 22, Sat. & Sun. Public/Moderate
Primitive overnight camping, hiking and trail maintenance
Location TBD
Contact Jim Hernandez at 863-452-6650 or patjim83@embarqmail.com

Mar. 27 – 29, Fri. – Sun. Public/Leisure
Annual Conference/Hiking Festival at Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park, White Springs. See your Footprint and/or US mail from the State FTA office for details.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!!

The officers and current members of the Heartland Chapter of the Florida Trail Association are pleased to welcome the following new members, who are listed in alphabetical order by last name(s):

David Gossett, Lakeland
Vicki Roy, Lakeland
Michael Wright, Lakeland

All members are appreciated and we thank you for your membership.

RECAP OF LAST QUARTER'S ACTIVITIES

Tiger Creek Day Hike on Oct. 11, 2008

Shortly after we started our hike, we came across a portion of the trail that was under water, so we walked through it and sloshed the rest of the hike. At the end of our hike, we had to walk through the same water again, so our feet and shoes were freshly wet for the ride home. My hiking boots are water proof, but only if the water isn't deep enough to come in over the tops of them, which it was at Tiger Creek. Other than that, it was a great hike. Teresa Newgent

Water, Wings and Wild Things at Circle B-Bar on Nov. 1, 2008

A few members assisted at this activity, where we had great exposure due to the location of our tables. At our Chapter Chairman's suggestion, we had those who stopped at our table sign up to receive the newsletter via email if they chose. We had lots of people sign up and hopefully, we'll get some new members as a result. The activity closed under a light rain, so we hurried to put everything away in case it started raining harder, which it didn't, but we had a great day. Teresa Newgent

Chapter Meeting at Roland and Ginny's on Nov. 2, 2008

The meeting was held in Roland and Ginny's back yard, as usual, but this time under tarps because it was raining. The food had been set up on tables in the back yard and it was moved inside and when the meeting was over, we all went inside to eat, while Roland stayed by the fire in the rain tending his delicious pineapple upside down cake in a Dutch oven over the fire. We had good food and good company, as usual. Teresa Newgent

WHAT TO BRING ON A DAY HIKE

Water or other beverage (at least 2 quarts)	Sunglasses and hat
Insect repellent	Sunscreen
Small first aid kit	Personal ID
Snacks and/or lunch, depending on length of hike	Rain gear, if needed
Sit upon or folding stool for lunch on the trail	
Plastic bag & at least 1 glove, if desired, to pick up & bring trash out	

Be sure to tell someone at home where you are going and when you expect to return!

Florida Trail Association

Mission Statement

The mission of the Florida Trail Association is to develop, maintain, promote, and protect a continuous public hiking trail the length of the state of Florida, called the Florida National Scenic Trail, and other loop and side trails, together called the Florida Trail System; and to educate the public by teaching appreciation for and conservation of the natural beauty of Florida; and to provide opportunities to hike and camp.