

# HEARTLINE

No. 3

Jul. – Sept., 2011

**Heartland Chapter, Florida Trail Association,  
Serving Polk, Hardee, Highlands and De Soto Counties**

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## **FROM THE CHAIR:**

Another two years has passed under the bridge as if it were just a short time. I know that for Betty, our past chapter chair, it was an intense two years of effort and none of us will forget all that she has done for our chapter. She certainly set forth an example of strong leadership that David and myself will strive to follow. David and I are very much honored and thankful to be elected into the positions of chair and vice chair and will do all we can to uphold the chapter's goals and ideals. We just can't be thankful enough, I don't think, for everyone's dedication and hard work to the maintenance and growth of this organization.

The heat is on so trail improvement is going to be slow and go until those first cool breaths of autumn reach us again. Much burden has been lifted from our trail improvement efforts though thanks to John Waldrop, David's father, who purchased a 14hp DR Field and Brush Mower for our chapter in June. We are just awaiting its delivery and the greatest thing is that we will be able to use it on any of our trails. Speaking of the heat, some nice cooling recreational events are coming up such as a kayak trip in Arbuckle, the Ice Cream Social and the annual camping trip to NC. Just a reminder that we would like to continue our annual swap meet so begin gathering up any items that you would like to be rid of. We'd like to see a lot of outdoor/camping related items, but the swap meet will not be limited to that, you are welcome to bring a variety of items.

We'll see you from the back of the DR mower!

Melissa Bruneau, Chair  
David Waldrop, Vice Chair  
FTA Heartland Chapter



**CONTACT PERSONS:** (Area Code 863 unless listed)

Chair: Melissa Bruneau 407- 6650 or [ftamelissa@gmail.com](mailto:ftamelissa@gmail.com)

Co-chair: David Waldrop 605-3587 or [david\\_lwfl@yahoo.com](mailto:david_lwfl@yahoo.com)

Treasurer: Monika Hoerl 858-3106

Secretary: Liane Plumhoff 646-2398 or [lplum@verizon.net](mailto:lplum@verizon.net)

Activity Chair: Maureen Jones 293-5036 or [mjones206@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:mjones206@tampabay.rr.com)

Membership: Ginger Ramsbottom, 439-0986

Newsletter Editor: Teresa Newgent (813) 882-9558 or [newgt7@yahoo.com](mailto:newgt7@yahoo.com)

Advisor: Roland Alderman 682-3506

Trails Coordinator: Monika Hoerl 858-3106

Webmaster: David Waldrop 605-3587 or [david\\_lwfl@yahoo.com](mailto:david_lwfl@yahoo.com)

Section Leader/Arbuckle: Jim & Rose Kellermann 676-2889 or [Jrkellermann@hotmail.com](mailto:Jrkellermann@hotmail.com)

Section Leader/Tenoroc: Monika Hoerl 858-3106

Section Leader/Lake Kissimmee State Park: Betty Piper 293-3053 or [bpiper2005@aol.com](mailto:bpiper2005@aol.com)

Section Leader/Tiger Creek: Melissa Bruneau (407) 460-1388 or [melissabruneau@yahoo.com](mailto:melissabruneau@yahoo.com)

Section Leader/Kissimmee River: Jim Hernandez 452-6650 or [patjim83@embarqmail.com](mailto:patjim83@embarqmail.com)

Section Leader/Willingham: Bob Hummel 471-1814

Section Leader/Green Swamp East: Bob Yost 644-5448 or [bobalinks3@yahoo.com](mailto:bobalinks3@yahoo.com)

Section Leader/Southern End of Western Loop of the FNST: Janice Scroggie Anderson 813-245-1609 or [scroggie@aol.com](mailto:scroggie@aol.com)

**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 Melissa Bruneau. Contact information for both is listed above.)

July 2 – Sat.

Activity: Chapter Meeting, nature walk, and potluck lunch

Location: **Circle B Bar Reserve** – Lakeland Area

Entrance south side of SR 540 (Winter Lake Road) between US 98 and Thornhill Road

Description: Oak hammock, freshwater marsh, hardwood swamp and lake shore. 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. We may have a guest speaker. Pets are not allowed.

Bring water, insect repellent, sun protection, and a dish to share based on last names beginning with A-H salad, I-Q main dish, R-Z dessert.

Contact: Melissa Bruneau, phone 863-407- 6650, or email [ftamelissa@gmail.com](mailto:ftamelissa@gmail.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>.

July 9 –16, Sat. – Sat.

Weeklong camp trip at Mortimer Campground, Pisgah National Forest, N. C. (Members only)

July 23 – Sat.

Activity: Ice Cream Social, Lunch and Games

Location: **Tenoroc Fish Management Area, Lakeland, FL**

Bring: Your own lunch, topping for ice cream, water, sun protection and insect repellent.

Contact: Monika Hoerl at 863-858-3106 for meet-up time. Must RSVP your attendance and for what ice cream topping you will bring. Also, please RSVP to the chapter online Meet-up page at <http://www.meetup.com/Heartland-FTA/calendar>.

## Activities, Cont.

August 13 – Sat.

Activity: Dinner and Moonlight Walk, RSVP required by Wednesday, August 10<sup>th</sup>.

Locations: **Octoberfest Café and Lake Hollingsworth, Lakeland**

Description: German style dinner at Octoberfest Café followed by a moonlight group walk around Lake Hollingsworth, approx. 3 miles. Park for hike at First Presbyterian Church parking lot on Lake Hollingsworth Dr.

Contacts: For dinner, you must contact Pam Williams by August 10 at 863-686-1818 or 863 701 3465 or e-mail at [williamspj@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:williamspj@tampabay.rr.com). For the full moon hike, contact Monika Hoerl at 863-858-3106 for meet-up time, and to RSVP your attendance. Also, please RSVP to the chapter online Meet-up page at <http://www.meetup.com/Heartland-FTA/calendar>.

August 20 – Sat.

Activity: Bicycle Ride

Location: **Ft. Fraser Trail**, trailhead located in N. Lakeland off Hwy. 98. Use Polk State College entrance on Hwy. 98, just south of CR 540A. Turn left into County Sheriff's entrance; continue to trailhead parking area behind the sheriff's office building.

Contact: Monika Hoerl at 863-858-3106. Also, please RSVP to the chapter online Meet-up page at <http://www.meetup.com/Heartland-FTA/calendar>.

September 2 – 5, Fri. – Mon.

Activity: Labor Day Weekend Camping Trip

Location: **Blue Spring State Park, Orange City, FL**

Description: Camping Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights. Each camper makes their own reservations for the nights they will be there by visiting [www.ReserveAmerica.com](http://www.ReserveAmerica.com) or by calling them at 800-326-3521. Air-conditioned cabins may or may not be available, but you can find out by contacting Reserve America. The state park is along the St. Johns River, so we will paddle and there is at least 1 trail, length unknown. There's also a spring there for swimming in 73-degree water. Riverboat tours are available for which reservations can be made by calling Discover Florida Excursion Ecotours at 386-917-0724.

Contact: Teresa Newgent at 813-882-9558 or email [newgt7@yahoo.com](mailto:newgt7@yahoo.com) for more information. Also, please RSVP to the chapter online Meet-up page at <http://www.meetup.com/Heartland-FTA/calendar>.

September 10 – Sat.

Activity: Chapter Meeting, nature walk, and potluck lunch

Location: **Circle B Bar Reserve** – Lakeland Area (pending approval of use of room)

Entrance south side of SR 540 (Winter Lake Road) between US 98 and Thornhill Road

Description: Oak hammock, freshwater marsh, hardwood swamp and lake shore. 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 water, insect repellent sun protection, and a dish to share based on last names beginning with A-H Main Dish, I-Q Dessert, R-Z Salad.

Contact: Melissa Bruneau, phone 863-407- 6650, or email [ftamelissa@gmail.com](mailto:ftamelissa@gmail.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>.

September 24 – Sat.

Activities: Kayaking or Hiking

Location: **Hillsborough River State Park**, 15402 US-301 North, Thonotosassa, FL

Description: Meet at the rapids parking lot for a group hike or at the canoe/kayak rental area at the park's restaurant for kayaking on the Hillsborough River.

Contacts: Kayakers call Janice Anderson, phone 813-345-1609 or email [scroggie@aol.com](mailto:scroggie@aol.com) for meet-up time and other information. Hikers call Ken Williams 863-602-5185 or 863-686-1818 or email to [dec1966@aol.com](mailto:dec1966@aol.com) for meet-up time and other details. Also, both hikers and kayakers, please RSVP to the chapter online Meet-up page at <http://www.meetup.com/Heartland-FTA/calendar>.

### **CONGRATULATIONS MELISSA BRUNEAU AND DAVID WALDROP!**

Melissa is our new Chapter Chair and David is our new Vice Chair. Congratulations to the two of you and thank you Betty Piper for your term as Chapter Chair. You did a great job!

### **JIM HERNANDEZ RETIRING AS SECTION LEADER**

Jim has done a great job as Section Leader from Boney Marsh in the South to Hwy. 60 in the North, encompassing a large area. Thank you, Jim. We will miss your leadership. David Waldrop has graciously stepped up as Section Leader covering the trail from the Avon Park Bombing Range in the South to Hwy. 60 in the North. Thank you, David! We do, however, still need a section leader for the trail from Boney Marsh in the South to the Avon Park Bombing Range in the North. Please contact Melissa Bruneau if you will be able to volunteer for this section of the trail. Her contact information is under "Contact Persons" above.

### **IMPORTANCE OF PROVIDING CORRECT EMAIL ADDRESSES TO THE STATE OFFICE OF THE FLORIDA TRAIL ASSOCIATION**

When the state office has your correct email address, your local chapter officers and other key members have your correct email address, too. If you want to give your email address to or notify the state that you no longer have an email address or confirm that they have the correct email address for you, please contact Janice Everidge at [jeveridge@floridatrail.org](mailto:jeveridge@floridatrail.org) or 1-877-HIKE FLA. The state office will be using Constant Contact as a tool to contact the membership more frequently than the Footprint is published for more breaking news about the happenings with the Florida Trail. This includes events, F-troops, meetings, highlights, news of partners and alerts that will interest members and supporters. In Constant Contact, members will be able to update their own information, which will help the state keep their contact information current and members will be able to unsubscribe or subscribe to the list. The contact list will be private and only used by the Florida Trail Association, so please make sure the state office has your correct email address!

### **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):

Lori & Bob Adams, Winter Haven  
Marty Couillard, Avon Park  
Kathryn Dhue, Lakeland  
Eric and Jennifer Egensteiner, Babson Park

Robert & Diane Kossman, Lakeland  
Scott & Andrea Leblond, Davenport  
Cheryl Millett & Anna Clarke, Babson Park  
Brett Stoltz, Bartow

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

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### **RECAP OF LAST QUARTER'S ACTIVITIES**

The camping trip May 27 – 30 at Little Manatee River State Park was fun. We hiked on Sat. and while it was hot and there were a lot of mosquitoes, we found a lovely place for lunch, sitting on a boardwalk along the river, in the shade with a breeze blowing, as we watched canoers and kayakers floating by on the river. Sat. evening we had a group dinner of hamburgers and hotdogs and all the trimmings and we celebrated a birthday with cake and ice cream. On Sun. we paddled our kayaks down the river and it was cooler than the hike the previous day. We stopped for lunch and some of us ate in the shade of a pavilion off the river a short distance, while others hung around the kayaks in and near the water. Fri. evening and Sat. evening different groups of us rode bicycles. Fri. evening we saw some stray kittens and a couple of rabbits. All in all, it was a great weekend! Teresa Newgent

### **OUR CHAPTER'S WEBSITE ADDRESS**

Our chapter's new website address is <http://heartland.floridatrail.org> and our chapter's online photo gallery can be found at <http://fta-heartland.smugmug.com>. For directions for submitting photos to smugmug, please email David Waldrop at [david\\_lwfl@yahoo.com](mailto:david_lwfl@yahoo.com).

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**WHAT TO BRING ON A DAY HIKE**

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|--|----------------------|
| 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 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.

**RISK ASSUMPTION:**

There are certain risks, which are inherent in any hike or other Florida Trail Association Activity. Each FTA member, guest, or non-member hiker agrees to accept personal responsibility for his or her safety and the safety of minors accompanying such persons. The Association cannot ensure the safety of any participant on hikes or activities. When participating in Association activities, each person agrees to hold harmless and free from all blame the activity leaders and the Florida Trail Association... it's officers and members... for any accident, injury or illness, which may be sustained from participating in Association activities.