

HEARTLINE

No. 3

Jul. – Sept., 2012

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

FROM THE CHAIR:

Summertime is fully upon us so our activities have started to slow down until the weather cools. We still have a few hikes, bike rides and water activities planned so check out the calendar or our Meetup page and come out and join us.

The chapter council meeting was held June 9th in Gainesville and there were a few updates to be shared with everyone. A new FTA website should be available in early July. The new website should be easier to navigate and locate information. Some of the enhancements were shown to those in attendance and they include a new volunteer hour submission system and a new chapter activity search. We were also presented with preliminary information about the 2013 annual conference. They are looking at Camp McConnell in Micanopy to be the site of the conference and a date of March 15 – 17 was given. They are asking all FTA members to help build the schedule of events for the conference. If you have a program or speaker whom you have enjoyed in previous conferences or know of a topic you would be interested in attending, let us know and we will pass that information on.

Our chapter is hosting an activity leader training event at Circle B Bar Reserve on July 21st. If you are interested in becoming an activity leader or are a current activity leader who wishes to brush up on your skills, please sign up for this event by going to the following link:

<https://www.eventville.com/catalog/eventregistration1.asp?eventid=1009468>

As always, see you on the trail!!

David Waldrop
Heartland Chapter Chair

Melissa Bruneau
Heartland Chapter Co-Chair



Articles included on page 5 in this newsletter that aren't usually in this newsletter:

- ◆ IN MEMORY OF ROLAND ALDERMAN
- ◆ THANK YOU NOTE FROM GINNY GARLAND
- ◆ THANK YOU LETTER FROM FLORIDA TRAIL ASSOCIATION, INC.

CONTACT PERSONS: (Area Code 863 unless listed)

Chair: David Waldrop 605-3587 or david_lwfl@yahoo.com

Co-Chair: Melissa Bruneau 407-460-1388 or ftamelissa@gmail.com

Treasurer: Monika Hoerl 858-3106

Secretary: Liane Plumhoff 646-2398 or lplum@verizon.net

Activity Chair: Maureen Jones 293-5036 or mjones206@tampabay.rr.com

Membership: Ginger Ramsbottom, 439-0986

Newsletter Editor: Teresa Newgent 813-882-9558 or newgt@msn.com or newgt7@yahoo.com

Trails Coordinator: Monika Hoerl 858-3106

Webmaster: David Waldrop 605-3587 or david_lwfl@yahoo.com

Section Leader/Arbuckle: Jim & Rose Kellermann 676-2889 or Jrkellermann@hotmail.com

Section Leader/Tenoroc: Monika Hoerl 858-3106

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

Section Leader/Tiger Creek: Melissa Bruneau (407) 460-1388 or ftamelissa@gmail.com

Section Leader/Kissimmee River: David Waldrop 605-3587 or david_lwfl@yahoo.com

Section Leader/Willingham: Bob Hummel 471-1814

Section Leader/Green Swamp East: Bob Yost 644-5448 or bobalinks3@yahoo.com

Section Leader/Southern End of Western Loop of the FNST: Janice Scroggie Anderson 813-245-1609 or 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 David Waldrop. Contact information for both is listed above.)

Date: July 7, 2012 - Saturday

Activity: Chapter Meeting, bike ride, grilled burgers and hot dogs and potluck lunch

Location: **Home of David and Melissa in Lake Wales**

Description: Bike ride will precede the meeting, followed by lunch and then the planning meeting. According to State Law, children must wear helmets while riding bikes.

Bring: Bicycle for the ride, a dish based on last names beginning with A-H salad, I-Q main dish, R-Z dessert.

Contact: Melissa Bruneau, phone 407-460-1388, or email_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>.

Date: July 14, 2012 - Saturday

Activity: Annual Awards Dinner

Location: **Olive Garden Restaurant, Cypress Gardens Blvd., Winter Haven**

Contact: David Waldrop at 863-605-3587 or david_lwfl@yahoo.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>.

Date: July 15, 2012 - Sunday

Activity: Nature Walk

Location: **Circle B Bar Preserve, SR 540 (Winter Lake Road), Lakeland**

Description: Approx. 3 mile walk to view birds and other wildlife at this scenic wildlife preserve which is home to an oak hammock, freshwater marsh, hardwood swamp and lake shore, a 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: Walking or hiking shoes, water, snacks, sun and insect protection.

Contact: Liane Plumhoff 863-646-2398 or lplum@verizon.net. Also, please RSVP to the chapter online Meet-up page at <http://www.meetup.com/Heartland-FTA/calendar>.

ACTIVITIES, CONT.

Date: July 28, 2012 - Saturday

Activity: Kayaking

Location: **Weedon Island Preserve**

Address: 1800 Weedon Island Drive NE, St Petersburg, FL

Description: Paddle beautiful mangrove tunnels that lead through the tidal forests into quiet lagoons. The marked kayak/canoe trail is easy to follow. Expect to see an amazing array of wildlife including great blue herons, great egrets, roseate spoonbills, yellow-crowned night herons, white ibis, osprey, and belted kingfishers. Watch the water for jumping mullet, stingrays, manatees, and Eastern bottle nosed dolphin.

Bring: Kayak, life jacket, brimmed hat, snacks, drinking water, sun and insect protection.

Kayak Rentals: Call Sweetwater Kayaks at 727-570-4844.

Contact: Eileen Valachovic at cell: 757-636-9450 or home: 863-956-2145 or email: EileenV3@gmail.com for meet-up time and other information. Also, please RSVP to the chapter online Meet-up page at <http://www.meetup.com/Heartland-FTA/calendar>.

Date: August 4, 2012 - Saturday

Activity: Ice Cream Social and Games

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

Bring: Your own lunch, ice cream ingredient or topping, water, sun and insect protection.

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

Date: August 18, 2012 - Saturday

Activity: Trail Maintenance

Location: **National Scenic Trail at Boney Marsh**, Bluff Hammock Rd., Lorida, FL (just south of Sebring).

Bring: water, snacks, lunch, sun and insect protection.

Contact: David Waldrop at 863-605-3587 or david_lwfl@yahoo.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>.

Date: August 19, 2012 - Sunday

Activity: Nature Walk

Location: **Circle B Bar Preserve, SR 540 (Winter Lake Road), Lakeland**

Description: Approx. 3 mile walk to view birds and other wildlife at this scenic wildlife preserve which is home to an oak hammock, freshwater marsh, hardwood swamp and lake shore, a 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: Walking or hiking shoes, water, snacks, sun and insect protection.

Contact: Liane Plumhoff 863-646-2398 or lplum@verizon.net. Also, please RSVP to the chapter online Meet-up page at <http://www.meetup.com/Heartland-FTA/calendar>.

Date: September 6, 2012 - Thursday

Activity: Bok Tower Service Project

Location: **Bok Tower, Lake Wales**

Description: Removal of invasive plants. Free admission to volunteers who complete the project.

Bring: Water, snacks, work gloves, wear long pants and sleeves, wide brimmed hat, sun and bug protection.

Contact: Rose or Jim Kellermann at 863-676-2889 or jrkellermann@hotmail.com for meet-up time, location and other details. Also, please RSVP to the chapter online Meet-up page at <http://www.meetup.com/Heartland-FTA/calendar>.

ACTIVITIES, CONT.

Date: September 8, 2012 - Saturday

Activity: Chapter Meeting, nature walk, and potluck lunch

Location: **Circle B Bar Reserve – Lakeland Area**, Entrance S side of SR 540 (Winter Lake Road) between US 98 & 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: David Waldrop at 863-605-3587 or david_lwfl@yahoo.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>.

Date: September 16, 2012 - Sunday

Activity: Nature Walk

Location: **Circle B Bar Preserve, SR 540 (Winter Lake Road), Lakeland**

Description: Approx. 3 mile walk to view birds and other wildlife at this scenic wildlife preserve which is home to an oak hammock, freshwater marsh, hardwood swamp and lake shore, a 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: Walking or hiking shoes, water, snacks, sun and insect protection.

Contact: Liane Plumhoff 863-646-2398 or lplum@verizon.net. Also, please RSVP to the chapter online Meet-up page at <http://www.meetup.com/Heartland-FTA/calendar>.

Date: September 22, 2012 - Saturday

Activity: Trail Maintenance

Location: **National Scenic Trail at Boney Marsh**, Bluff Hammock Rd., Lorida, FL (just south of Sebring).

Bring: water, snacks, lunch, sun and insect protection.

Contact: David Waldrop at 863-605-3587 or david_lwfl@yahoo.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>.

Date: September 29, 2012 - Saturday

Activity: Trail Maintenance

Location: **Tiger Creek Preserve**

Group will meet at the Mini Mac Convenience Store, 910 N Scenic Hwy, Babson Park

Description: Tiger Creek Preserve is located east of US 27 between Babson Park and Frostproof. The trail traverses the rolling hills of the Lake Wales Ridge, including some of the highest hills and oldest land in the Florida peninsula.

Botanical diversity is extensive along this trail.

Bring: Lunch, snacks, water, sun and insect protection.

Contact: Melissa Bruneau, phone 407-460-1388, or email_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>.

Date: September 29, 2012 - Saturday

Activity: Dinner followed by full-moon hike

Location: **Ruby Tuesdays, Lakeland, for dinner and hike around Lake Hollingsworth**

Description: Come for dinner and/or hike. RSVP for dinner by 9/27.

Bring: water for the hike

Contact: Eileen Valachovic at cell: 757-636-9450 or home: 863-956-2145 or EileenV3@gmail.com for meet-up time and other information. RSVP FOR DINNER BY 9/27. Also, please RSVP to the chapter online Meet-up page at <http://www.meetup.com/Heartland-FTA/calendar>.

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):

Louis Albrecht, Avon Park
John Foster, Lake Wales

Linda Kurpiewski, Sebring
Ellen Prince, Winter Haven

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

RECAP OF LAST QUARTER'S ACTIVITIES

Feb. 25, 2012, Bike Ride on Van Fleet Trail

Sixteen people participated on the bike ride starting at the Polk City trailhead. We had good participation from our chapter with several new people brought in through Meetup.com. At the Green Pond trailhead, we took a break before heading back. Most participants went out to eat afterwards. We thought we were going to "The Other Place" in Polk City only to find out the name and ownership had changed. The new owners were very welcoming and accommodated us. Eileen Valachovic

Mar. 27, 2012, Paddle on Chassahowitzka River

Twenty-one people kayaked. The weather cooperated and was ideal. We got to see several of the beautiful springs in the area. At one of the springs, the Crack, several members got a chance to enjoy the rope swing and to enjoy the clear, cool water. It was my pleasure to introduce this beautiful part of Florida to more people. We had many new faces, with people coming from Orlando, Clermont, and Tampa, as well as Polk County. Besides the new faces coming through Meetup.com, we had a new participant who found out about our group through the Health Fairs at PCC. Several of our members as well as members of the Central Florida Chapter camped for the weekend and had a potluck dinner Sat. evening. Eileen Valachovic

IN MEMORY OF ROLAND ALDERMAN

Members of the Heartland Chapter were extremely generous and donated \$620 toward Roland's memorial fund. Thank you very much. The donation was sent to the main office of the FTA in Roland's memory. Monika Hoerl

THANK YOU NOTE FROM GINNY GARLAND

"Dear Heartland Chapter Members,

Roland would have loved being able to thank you one and all for your generous response. His gratitude would be immense. I can hardly take in how kind and loving you have been.

God bless you and all Florida Trail people.

Ginny Garland"

THANK YOU LETTER FROM FLORIDA TRAIL ASSOCIATION, INC.

"Dear Chapter Members,

On behalf of the Florida Trail Association I would like to extend to you my personal and sincerest appreciation for your continued generosity, through your gift of \$620 in memory of Roland Alderman. I can assure you that it will be put to great and much needed use, and will help sustain our continued path to securing our future."

After the paragraph above, there was another paragraph that repeated the mission of the FTA and opportunities to make donations and gifts to the FTA, which your newsletter editor has decided not to include here. The letter was signed "Respectfully, Dennis O. Miranda, Executive Director".