

HEARTLINE

No. 4 Heartland Chapter, Florida Trail Association Oct. – Dec., 2008

FROM THE CHAIR:

Dear members,

I recently returned from a trip to Maryland and found myself viewing the land from an incredible perspective--the sky. What a beautiful sight. But as I ascended into the sky headed for 40,000 feet the vast patches of wooded land got smaller and smaller and urban sprawl got bigger and bigger. I began to think about what we perceive to be large tracts of land in which we hike are really very small. I thought about how much bigger those patches were just years ago and now how much time it takes us to get to places to hike where we are surrounded by vast wooded areas. It almost made me sad to see it disappearing at an alarming rate. We always seem to need more of everything; but do we really? And at what cost? Everything is getting smaller and we only see what's directly in front of us on a daily basis and never think of those patches of trees we hike in and how small they are getting. There's always talk about conservation and protecting our environment, but as individuals are we doing what we can? We will never reverse the damage done, but we can help it from getting worse by being aware of our daily actions. Being part of the FTA has given me a better picture of how fragile our environmental system is and an awareness to want to be more careful about it. All of us can make a difference and maybe one day those patches of trees will get a little bigger.

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

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

Activity Chair: Maureen Jones 293-5036 or maureenjo@juno.com

Membership: Ginger Ramsbottom, 439-0986

Newsletter: Teresa Newgent (813) 882-9558 or newgt@msn.com

Publicity: John Moore 688-6849 or fta_heartland@hotmail.com

Advisor: Roland Alderman 682-3506

Trails: Bob Yost 644-5448 or Bobalinks2@aol.com

Section Leader: 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: 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.)

Oct. 4 & 5 Sat. & Sun. Public/Moderate

Willingham

Overnight or come for the day trail improvement at Willingham. For more information contact Bob Hummel at 863-471-1814.

Oct. 9 & 10 Thurs. & Fri. Public/Moderate

Arbuckle State Forest

Overnight or come for the day trail improvement. For more information contact Jim & Rose Kellermann at 863-676-2889 or Jrkellermann@hotmail.com.

Oct. 11 Sat. Public/Moderate

Tiger Creek

Day hike. Meet at Babson Park Post Office. Contact Andrew Quagliana at 727-542-5396 or modelbuilder12000@yahoo.com for details.

Oct. 18 Sat. Public/Moderate

Lakeland Highlands Scrub

Day hike. For more information contact Bob Yost at 863-644-5448 or Bobalinks2@aol.com,

Oct. 25 & 26 Sat. & Sun. Public/Moderate

Green Swamp East

Overnight or come for the day trail improvement. For more information contact Bob Yost at 863-644-5448 or Bobalinks2@aol.com.

ACTIVITIES, CONT.:

Nov. 1 Sat. Public/Moderate

Water, Wings and Wild Things at Circle B-Bar Reserve

Hike the trails while attending the Grand Opening of Polk's Nature Discovery Center and enjoying abundant wildlife. Visit the Heartland Chapter's FTA display table at the event. The Circle B-Bar is located on the South side of SR 540 (Winter Lake Rd.) between US 98 and Thornhill Rd. Contact: Andrew Quagliana 727-542-5396 or modelbuilder12000@yahoo.com.

Nov. 1 Sat. Public/Leisure

Highlands Hammock State Park

Annual CCC – Civilian Conservation Corps event. Visit the CCC museum, hike any of the nine trails, walk the elevated boardwalk, or the botanical garden. Visit the Heartland Chapter's display table. The state park is located off US 27 on SR 634 (Hammock Road) four miles west of Sebring. Admission: \$4.00 per vehicle for up to 8 people; single occupancy vehicle \$3.00. Contact Roland Alderman at 863-646-5538 for details.

Nov. 2 Sun. Chapter Meeting Public/Leisure

Roland & Ginnie's House in Lakeland

The get together will start at 4 p.m. Bring a dish to share as follows: Last names beginning with A – E bring a main dish, F – R bring a dessert, and S – Z bring salad. Contact Andrew Quagliana at 727-542-5396 or modelbuilder12000@yahoo.com.

Nov. 15 & 16 Sat. & Sun. Public/Moderate

Tenoroc

Trail maintenance. Stay overnight or come for the day. Supper will be provided for those staying overnight. Contact Monika Hoerl at 863-858-3106 for details.

Nov 22 & 23 Sat. & Sun. Public/Moderate

Overnight camping, hiking and trail maintenance. Location TBD. Contact Jim Hernandez 863-452-6650 or patjim83@embarqmail.com.

Dec. 6 Sat. Public/Moderate

Gator Creek

Day hike at Gator Creek, Lakeland, 10545 US Hwy. 98 N. Located on the Green Swamp, one of Central Florida's most crucial natural resources. Despite the name, most of it is not underwater. Instead, it's a mosaic of cypress domes amid pine flatwoods, sandhills, and scrub. For more information contact Jean Waters at 863-859-3960.

Dec. 13 Public/Leisure

Meet at Crispers in Lakeland for light dinner or sandwich and walking tour of downtown Lakeland's Christmas decorations and historic sites. Contact Monika Hoerl at 863-858-3106 for details.

Dec. 14 Sun. Public/Moderate

Bok Tower Sanctuary

Tour of the sanctuary grounds and gardens, Lake Wales. Jim & Rose Kellermann 863-676-2889 or jrkellermann@hotmail.com

ACTIVITIES, CONT.:

Dec. 20 Sat. Public/Moderate

Meet at Pizza Hut parking lot in Bartow for bicycling on Ft. Fraser trail. Lunch at Pizza Hut will follow. Eileen Valachovic 863-956-2145 or eileenvalachovic@verizon.net.

Jan. 1 Thurs. Public/Moderate

Lake Kissimmee State Park

Day hike at the state park. As usual for most state parks, a beautiful place to hike, with a cow camp where old-time relics are on display and an old-timer can tell stories of years gone by, and an observation tower on the lake. For more information contact Betty Piper at 863-293-3053.

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):

Joe Lewis, Winter Haven
Drew Miller, Lake Wales
Hannah Phillips, Winter Haven
Greg Prather, Bartow

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

RECAP OF LAST QUARTER'S ACTIVITIES

2008 Summer Mountain Camping Trip Report

Thirteen members of the Heartland Chapter met July 12 at Appletree Group Camp near Andrews, NC. We had a great week of camping and hiking, and only had to walk in the rain on the first hike when we took the Bartram Trail from Nantahala Lake back to camp.

The rest of the week we were blessed with cool, clear nights (low – mid 50's) and sunny delightful days with low humidity and temps in low 80's.

We had good hikes, good food, good weather, beautiful scenery and great company....what more can one say? We all decided that Site D is by far our favorite camp site at Appletree Group Camp. It sits in a quiet corner, and best of all we had toilet facilities to ourselves! Yes!

Soon after our arrival we discovered a 14th camper who quickly became the Heartland Chapter mascot...and he even hiked with us one day. Scruffy is a 10 lb wiry terrier mix (mutt) who had been abandoned, and although he was friendly, he was also very wary. However, there is a happy ending to this story, because at the end of the week (on the 3rd attempt) the spunky little guy was captured, and now is making a good adjustment to his new home with Nancy and her 2 bigger pups, Mollie and Gus.

Mark your calendar now for July 11 – 18, 2009, and plan to join the Heartland Chapter for another fun week in the mountains. Submitted by Nancy Needs

IF YOU NEED TO UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION WITH THE STATE OFFICE:

If your mailing address, email address, phone number, etc., change you may call the office at 877-445-3352 and anyone can assist you or you may email them at fta@floridatrail.org or you may U.S. mail them a note at Florida Trail Association, 5415 SW 13th St., Gainesville, FL 32608. You may contact Andrew Quagliana, Chapter Chairman, Eileen Valachovic, Co-Chairman, or Teresa Newgent, Newsletter Editor to find out what contact information the state office has for you. Contact information for the three members can be found in the Contact Persons section above.

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!