



trail tales



Loxahatchee Chapter, Florida Trail Association

Volume 28, Issue 1: Bi-monthly Publication

March/April 2018

CHAPTER MEETINGS

First Monday of every month

*Topics of interest to hikers,
outdoor enthusiasts and
naturists held at:*

OKEEHEELEE NATURE CENTER

Social 7:00 p.m.
Program 7:30 p.m.

*Located in Okeehielee Park on
Forest Hill Blvd. east of the
turnpike. Follow the main park
road for about a mile, turn left
at the Nature Center sign and
continue to the building.*

EVERYONE IS WELCOME



Happy Hiking!!

Gordon Johnson

1935-2017



I've been thinking lately of people in the Chapter who mean the most to me: of those who consistently support the FTA in leadership roles for years or even decades, of those relatively unknown and not so active who support us with generous donations, of those who maintain our trail with dedication and pride, of those who run the trail with enthusiasm and dedication to reach far beyond normal goals, and mostly of those who have become our friends in the relatively short six years we've been involved. One whom I never spent a lot of time with but who made a meaningful impression on me was Gordon Johnson. Gordon's last complete trip around Lake "O" was a couple of years before I joined FTA and before my first involvement in it. I hiked on the Big "O" for five days the year Sandra Friend led it and fell in love with the concept. However, I still loved my wife more than hiking, went home for Thanksgiving and didn't get back that year.

The next year, the Chapter came close to dropping the Big "O" for lack of volunteers. Shannon and I belatedly stepped in and have continued with a hike reduced in length but continuing in the spirit of friends gathering Thanksgiving week to hike, relax and enjoy the outdoors. While Gordon has not actively involved in promoting the hike, he came each year, hiking some days and always with a bottle of chocolate wine to enhance the afternoon retreats. He also bought posters he made of the Big "O" Hikes for the first few years. Those he cherished and two years ago passed them on to Shannon with the nostalgic thought that those were important to him and to the Chapter and should be preserved.

Two years ago Gordon was substantially weakened when he came, but on the last day of the hike, he hiked in to the nearest bench at the end and personally greeted every hiker as they completed the hike. He always had words of advice and offered to have Big "O" planning sessions at his apartment here in the West Palm Beach area. He came to a few of our regular hikes, generally in JD. I remember Mary Miller saying that one on day of her hike when it was very hot that Gordon unexpectedly showed up at a road crossing with a trunk full of iced watermelons. Well, I wasn't on that hike but those who were remember it, I'm sure. For the foreseeable future, we'll be continuing to promote the Big "O" and among our cherished items will be the posters Gordon did all those years ago.

-Roy Moore

Trail Maintenance

For those of you that follow our Chapter on our Facebook group, you've probably viewed photos and videos of the crew working on the trail. For those that haven't followed the crew, this has been a challenging year. Transportation of equipment, wet trails and many down trees have all provided challenges. Elsewhere on the Florida Trail many sections have faced closures. Our crew has stayed on top of the challenge so that many can use our trail.

On behalf of the rest of the chapter, I'd like to thank **everyone** who has had a hand in keeping the trail maintained.

THANK YOU!

– Shannon M (editor)



Help Wanted

We have out the help wanted sign!

A few jobs in addition to officers where help is needed:

- Someone to maintain the "treat list". It's a simple but important job – signing up people to bring refreshments to our meetings and following up with a phone call as a reminder.
- Program presenters and ideas.
- Helpers for our promotional booths.
- People willing to become activity leaders.



The FTA state office has moved. The new address is 1050 NW 2nd Street, Suite A, Gainesville FL 32601.

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The Annual Meeting of the Florida Trail Association will be held at the Paramount/Wyndham Gardens in Gainesville, on Saturday April, 7th.

A tentative schedule is:
8 am Annual Meeting and Elections,
9 to 1:30 Chapter Council,
2 to 5 Open House at the new FTA
Offices with a celebration about 3 pm.

Chapter Officers

Chair: Roy Moore,
561-422-2189,
shotgun.mgc@gmail.com

Vice/Trails: Fred Davis,
561-779-0273, fdavis@msn.com

Treasurer: Paul Cummings,
561-596-4423, cummingsps@att.net

Public Relations: John Fenner,
586-350-3235,
johnwf001@yahoo.com

Council Representative

Bea Rogers, 561-644-0777
bznest22@gmail.com

Committees

Membership: Mary Miller,
561-213-2189, mhm27@juno.com

Newsletter: Shannon Moore,
561-422-2189,
shanroy@bellsouth.net

Public Relations: John Fenner,
586-350-3235,
johnwf001@yahoo.com

Trail Section Leaders

Jonathan Dickinson: Jeff Andrews,
561-310-6950, jeff4sail@mac.com

Corbett: Tony Rawson,
561-843-4668,
tonrawson@yahoo.com

DuPuis: Scott Lunsford,
561-441-1251,
tblazer7579@comcast.net

Lake Okeechobee: Paul Cummings,
561-596-4423, cummingsps@att.net

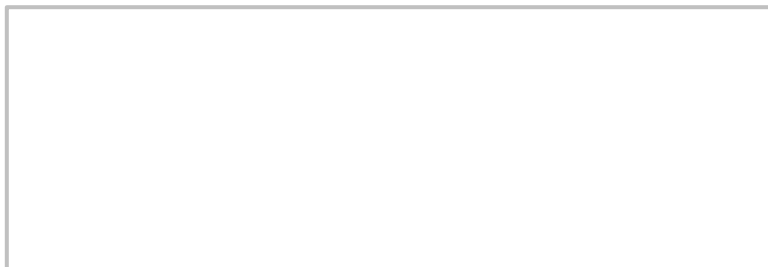
≡ Monthly Activity Calendar ≡

March/April

- 03/03/18** JOHN PRINCE PARK WALK, 2520 Lake Worth Rd, Lake Worth, FL. Enjoy the pleasure of strolling in the park. 7:30 a.m. Contact: Paul Cummings, 561-596-4423. Public/Leisure.
- 03/04/18** HIKE IN JONATHAN DICKINSON STATE PARK, Long hike (around 7 to 12 miles) in JDSP. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the front gate. Bring lots of water. Contact: Mary Miller, 561-213-2189. Public/Moderate.
- 03/05/18** MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETING, Okeehetee Nature Center 7715 Forest Hill Blvd. Refreshments at 7:00 p.m.; program begins at 7:30 p.m. Contact: Roy Moore, 561-422-2189. Public/Leisure.
- 03/10/18** TRAIL MAINTENANCE. Details to be announced. Contact: Fred Davis, 561-585-6386. Public/Moderate.
- 03/11/18** BIRD WALK. GREEN CAY WETLANDS, 12800 Hagen Ranch Rd, Boynton Beach, FL. Join Paul for a leisurely bird walk. 7:00 a.m. Contact: Paul Cummings, 561-596-4423. Public/Leisure.
- 03/17/18** OKEEHETEE PARK WALK. Meet at Okeehetee Park South, 7500 Forest Hill Blvd, Assemble at the Hiking/ biking Trails Parking lot. 7:30 a.m. Public/Leisure. Contact: Paul Cummings, 561-596-4423. Public/Leisure.
- 03/18/18** WELLINGTON ENVIRONMENTAL PRESERVE, 3491 Flying Cow Ranch Rd., Wellington, FL. Enjoy a walk in the preserve. Meet at the preserve on Flying Cow Road at 8AM. Contact: Paul Cummings, 561-963-9906. Public/Leisure.
- 03/24/18** HIKE IN APOXEE, 3125 North Jog Road, West Palm Beach, FL. Joe Rosenberg will lead you through around 9 miles in this urban wilderness off Jog Rd. 8:00 a.m. Bring plenty of water. Contact: Joe, 561-859-1954. Public/Moderate.
- 03/25/18** CYPRESS CREEK NATURAL AREA HIKE, 10035 W Indiantown Rd., Jupiter. This area contains seven native Florida ecosystems. See how many you can identify. 7:30 a.m. Contact: Alan Collins, 561-586-0486. Public/Leisure.
- 03/31/18** OKEEHETEE CLIP & WALK, Okeehetee Park Nature Center, 7:30 a.m. Contact: Paul Cummings, 561-596-4423. Public/Leisure.
- 04/02/18** MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETING, Okeehetee Nature Center 7715 Forest Hill Blvd. Refreshments at 7:00 p.m.; program begins at 7:30 p.m. Contact: Roy Moore, 561-422-2189. Public/Leisure.
- 04/07/18** JOHN PRINCE PARK WALK, 2520 Lake Worth Rd, Lake Worth, FL. Enjoy the pleasure of strolling in the park. 7:30 a.m. Contact: Paul Cummings, 561-596-4423. Public/Leisure.
- 04/08/18** HIKE IN JONATHAN DICKINSON STATE PARK, Long hike (around 7 to 12 miles) in JDSP. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the front gate. Bring lots of water. Contact: Mary Miller, 561-213-2189. Public/Moderate.
- 4/10, 4/12, 4/14, 4/15, 4/17, 4/19, 4/21, 4/22** THIRD ANNUAL OTLHT COMPLETE DAY HIKES, Complete all 63 miles of the Ocean To Lake Hiking Trail in 8 days all in one month. This popular series of day hikes covers the whole OTLHT for those who prefer to sleep in their own bed! Hike all or some, you choose; but if you make all 8 days you will be the lucky recipient of an OTLHT Patch! Contact: Scott Lunsford 561-441-1251 Public/Moderate.
- 04/14/18** TRAIL MAINTENANCE. Details to be announced. Contact: Fred Davis, 561-585-6386. Public/Moderate.
- 04/15/18** BIRD WALK WAKODAHATCHEE 7:00 a.m. Contact: Paul Cummings, 561-596-4423. Public/Leisure.
- 04/21/18** OKEEHETEE PARK WALK. Meet at Okeehetee Park South, 7500 Forest Hill Blvd, Assemble at the Hiking/ biking Trails Parking lot. 7:30 a.m. Public/Leisure. Contact: Paul Cummings, 561-596-4423. Public/Leisure.
- 04/22/18** SHORT HIKE ON APOXEE WILDERNESS TRAIL, 3125 North Jog Road, West Palm Beach, FL. Alan Collins will walk about 5 miles on trails in the wet prairies and tropical hammocks. Bring plenty of water. Walk starts at 7:30 a.m. Contact: Alan Collins, 561-586-0486. Public/Leisure.
- 04/28/18** HIKE IN APOXEE, 3125 North Jog Road. Joe Rosenberg will lead you through 9-12 miles in this urban wilderness off Jog Rd. 8:00 a.m. Bring plenty of water. Contact: Joe, 561-859-1954. Public/Strenuous.

Loxahatchee Chapter
Florida Trail Association
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*For all FTA information: www.floridatrail.org
Chapter Website: <http://loxfltrail.org/>*

