



trail tales



Loxahatchee Chapter, Florida Trail Association

Volume 29, Issue 3: Bi-monthly Publication

May/June 2019

CHAPTER MEETINGS

First Monday of every month

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

March 4 - TBA

April 1 - TBA

OKEEHEELEE NATURE CENTER

Located in Okeehetee 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

Chapter Officers

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

Vice/Trails: Fred Davis, 561-779-0273, fdavis6539@msn.com

Secretary: Ruth Scott, ruthfla@aol.com

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

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

At Large: Christopher Knight

Committees

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

Newsletter/Website: 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: Rick Byrnes, 561-798-6566, r_byrnes@bellsouth.net

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

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

Hobe Sound: Bea Rogers

Youth Hike A Success!



"I'm in!" said Brynn Kramer when asked about adding a recurring youth hike to the Florida Trail Association's Loxahatchee Chapter schedule. To be fair the idea of the youth hike was hers. The chapter had an opening in the schedule, and Brynn, an FTA Volunteer and Trail Leader, stepped up to plan an activity for the fifth Sunday in March.

So, Brynn Kramer's idea for a "Youth Hike" was put on our calendar at Meetup.com, and several families signed up to attend. The 1.5 mile hike for kids 6 and older took place in The Cypress Creek Natural Area just north of Riverbend Park, which has several ecosystems to enjoy.

Starting in Riverbend, families walked to the Ocean To Lake Hiking Trail to go under Indiantown Road along the Loxahatchee River. They then walked into the wilderness of forest undergrowth, over a fence ladder, across a creek, and into a grassy meadow. After about 3/4 of a mile they turned around and went back to their cars at Riverbend.

The Loxahatchee Chapter leadership team liked the prospect of encouraging the young to get outside. So they asked Brynn to make every 5th Sunday in 2019 a Youth Hike. She agreed. "I think that would make a lovely addition to the regulars programming!"

Remaining months with 5 Sunday's are June, September and December. Look forward to the FTA announcements for these new adventures! You can see the Meetup.com activity calendar and web site through a link at loxfltrail.org. Get out on the trail with your children and the Florida Trail Association.

-J W Fenner

What, you hike in Florida?

My guess is that if you are reading this, you have most likely been questioned a few times over about the delusions of hiking in Florida. And, if it was not *“the question”* in the title of this article, you perchance may have just gotten *“the look”*.

Come on fellow hikers, don't be shy, you all know that look I am talking about, right! It is that super curious look that is almost always coupled with a slight tilt of the head; maybe it included a squinty-eyed gaze or doubting wrinkled upper lip kind of look. It's that look that speaks a thousand words and a look that by now, I can almost smell it coming a mile away. Are you with me yet? You know the look that says...*“I'm trying to understand what the heck this Florida hiking thing is all about. Florida is flat. There is no hiking in Florida”*.

As a diehard Florida hiker, I often wonder how it is even possible so many skeptics could exist on this subject matter of Florida Hiking. It simply cannot be that difficult for non-Florida hikers, trail runners or backpackers to believe that *“YES people...there REALLY is solid hiking in Florida”*. With every new ask, it becomes my personal goal to respond to the inquisitor in a way that prevents me from coming off like I am on a mission to indoctrinate them into a new age holy experience or recruit them into something shady. My passionate enthusiasm for experiencing **the real Florida on foot**, at times, does have the potential to come off as insane or over inflated. Truth is I know many of you who are even more dedicated to this pastime than me, so maybe my portrayal of excitement is not so over the top after all.

Well my fellow trail huggers, let us all unite and teach these cement stomping, treadmill loving, office dwelling urbanite cynics a few things about our beautiful

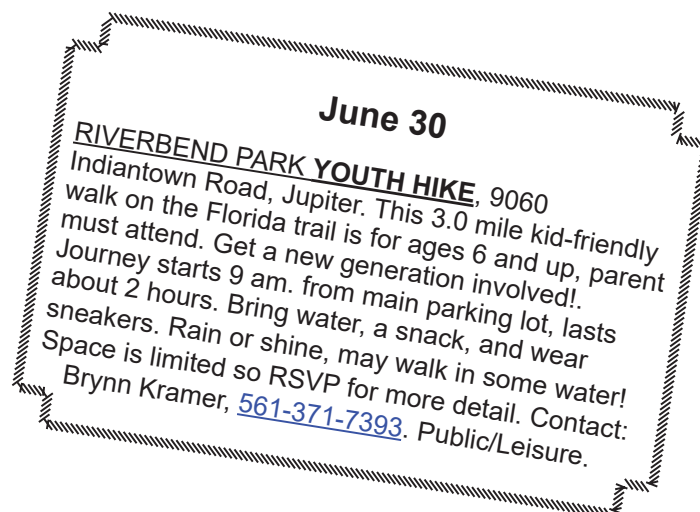
Florida Trails. Let it be known near and far from this day forward that not only is there serious hiking or enlightening nature walks in Florida to be had, there is *“darn” (me being uber polite)* good hiking all over Florida. We are all proof that this great state boasts some of the most diverse ecosystems, spectacular flora, unique fauna and welcoming trails on the planet.

For my fellow hikers, young and not as young, who dare to partake in more of the long distance section or through hikes, ultralight running, overnight backpacking or summertime excursions, hiking in Florida can border extreme sports. Some of you may have heard me say *“...hiking Florida is no joke!”* There is a certain physical and mental challenge that awaits all willing participants. As hikers of the Loxahatchee Chapter of Florida Trail Association, there is also a genuine sense of gratitude and respect for our fearless leaders who dedicate their personal time organizing activities year round and the volunteer crews that maintain our beautiful trails.

For me, it was love at first hike! Florida hiking seemed so natural to me when I took my first long distance hike over 11 years ago with another chapter. Never once did I even think of asking someone *“the question”* nor did I ever give anyone *“the look”*. I since learned that hikers and their goals are very subjective and unique to the individual.

As I close on what I hope to be the first of many contributions to our chapter newsletter, my curiosity is peaked. Next time you see me on the trail, I look forward to learning what drives you to hike, what draws you to the Florida trails or any thoughts you might have on celebrating the great outdoors!

*Written by Jennifer Jones Reynolds
(Trail Name: Little Leaves)*



Chapter Activities for May / June

May

5/4 **JOHN PRINCE PARK WALK**, 2520 Lake Worth Rd, Lake Worth, West Entrance. Choose your pace & distance. 7:20 a.m. Breakfast afterward at TooJays. Contact: Paul Cummings, 561-596-4423. Public/Leisure-Moderate

5/5 **J DICKINSON ST PARK HIKE**, 16450 S.E. Federal Highway, Hobe Sound, Front gate 7:50 a.m.. 7- 12 miles. Bring 2 liters water Contact: Mary Miller, 561- 213-2189. Lunch afterward at Dune Dogs. Public/Moderate-Strenuous.

5/6 **MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETING** Okeeheelee Park Nature Center, 7715 Forest Hill Blvd, WPBeach. Social: 7:00 p.m. Program/meeting: 7:30 p.m. Contact: Roy Moore , 561-307-7792. Public.

5/11 **TRAIL MAINTENANCE**. Clip &Walk, expect to walk in water. 6AM off Seminole Pratt Whitney Rd at the Stumpers Grade entrance to Corbett to clip from North grade east. Contact: Paul Cummings, 561-596-4423. Public, leisurely.

5/12 **MOTHER'S DAY WALK**, Jonathan Dickinson State Park. 16450 S.E. Federal Hwy, Hobe Sound, 7:20 a.m. Contact: Paul Cummings, 561-596-4423. Public/Leisure.

5/18 **OKEEHEELEE PARK WALK**, 7715 Forest Hill Blvd, WPB, FL. Meet at Okeeheelee Park S Hiking/biking Trails Parking lot, 7:20 a.m. Contact: Bruce, 772-333-1837. Public/Leisure.

5/18 **HIKE (SWAMP TROMP)**:Cypress Creek NA, 10035 W Indiantown Rd.,Jupiter, 11.5 mile wet hike Limited to 24 hikers who can go the distance. 7:45 AM - about 10:45 AM, **Leave message or text to RSVP**, contact: Rita Black: 772-985-0579, Public/strenuous.

5/19 **NOSTALGIC OKEEHEELEE PARK WALK**. 7715 Forest Hill Blvd, WPB, Paul returns to the N. side of the park Meet at Okeeheelee Park North, front Parking lot west most entrance, 7:20 a.m. Contact: Paul Cummings, 561-596-4423. Public/Leisure.

5/25 **ROYAL PALM BEACH PINES HIKE**, 110 Natures Way. Access from Royal Palm Beach Blvd to Saratoga to Natures Way, Limited parking (Carpool please) 7:50 a.m, 9 miles, Bring 2 liters water. Contact: Joe Rosenberg 561-859-1954. Public/Strenuous.

5/26 **JUPITER RIDGE NATURAL AREA HIKE**, W side US 1, 1mile S of Indiantown Road, Jupiter. 7:20 a.m.,Walk about 4 miles. Contact: Alan Collins, 561-586-0486. Breakfast afterward. Public/Leisure.

June

6/1 **JOHN PRINCE PARK WALK**, 2520 Lake Worth Rd, Lake Worth, West Entrance. Choose your pace & distance. 7:20 a.m. Breakfast afterward at TooJays. Contact: Paul Cummings, 561-596-4423. Public/Leisure-Moderate

6/2 **J DICKINSON ST PARK HIKE**, 16450 S.E. Federal Highway, Front gate 7:50 a.m.. 7- 12 miles. Bring 2 liters water Contact: Mary Miller, 561- 213-2189. Lunch afterward at Dune Dogs. Public/Moderate-Strenuous.

6/3 **MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETING** Okeeheelee Park Nature Center, 7715 Forest Hill Blvd, WPBeach. Social: 7:00 p.m. Program/meeting: 7:30 p.m. Contact: Roy Moore , 561-307-7792. Public.

6/8 **TRAIL MAINTENANCE**. Clip &Walk, expect to walk in water. 6AM off Seminole Pratt Whitney Rd at the Stumpers Grade entrance to Corbett to clip from North grade west. Contact: Paul Cummings, 561-596-4423. Public, leisurely.

6/9 **JUPITER LIGHTHOUSE NATURAL AREAS WALK**, 600 County Hwy 707, Tequesta, just east of Jupiter Lighthouse Park. 8:00 a.m. Contact: Paul Cummings, 561-596-4423. Public/Leisure.

6/15 **RIVERBEND PARK WALK**, 9060 Indiantown Road, Jupiter, Fl. Meet at the main parking lot and Visitor Center arrive at 7:50 a.m. Contact: Bruce, 772-333-1837. Breakfast afterward. Public/Moderate.

6/15 **HIKE THE BLUEFIELD RANCH NATURAL AREA**, 10270 Bluefield Rd, Okeechobee , FL. Join Rita for 10.5 mile hike on this beautiful, former ranch. Expect wet, muddy and rough terrain and sun. Be prepared! Have at least two liters of water and a snack/ lunch. From 7:45 AM to 12:45 PM. Leave message or text to RSVP, contact: Rita Black: 772-985-0579. Public/strenuous.

6/16 **FATHER'S DAY WALK**, Green Cay Wetlands 12800 Hagen Ranch Rd Boynton Beach, 7am for an early morning walk in this popular bird sanctuary. Bring water and binoculars. Contact: Paul Cummings, 561-596-4423. Public/Leisure.

6/22 **ROYAL PALM BEACH PINES HIKE**, 110 Natures Way. Access from Royal Palm Beach Blvd to Saratoga to Natures Way, Limited parking (Carpool please) 7:50 a.m, 9 miles, Bring 2 liters water. Contact: Joe Rosenberg 561-859-1954. Public/Strenuous.

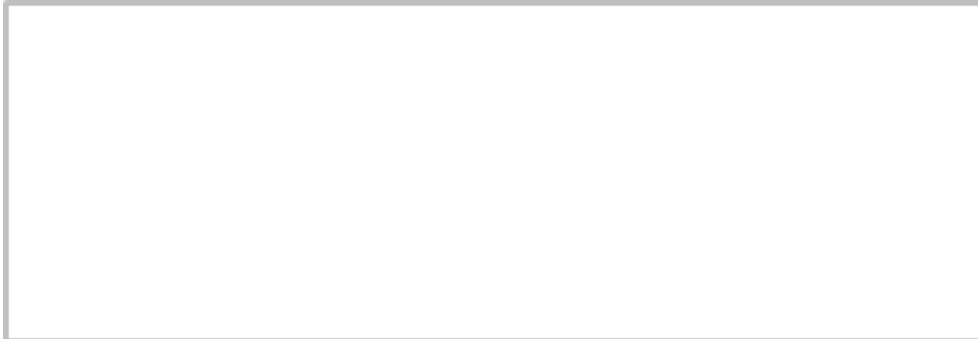
6/23 **SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY GREENWAY HIKE** 7501 N. Jog Road WPB, Trails include a large rookery. These trails include a large rookery. 4-5 mile hike, arrive at 7:20 a.m. Contact: Alan Collins, 561-586-0486. Public/Leisure

6/29 **CLIP & WALK**. 7500 Forest Hill Blvd, WPB. Meet at the Okeeheelee Park Nature center at 7:30 a.m. Contact: Paul Cummings, 561-596-4423. Public/Leisure.

6/30 **RIVERBEND PARK YOUTH HIKE**, 9060 Indiantown Road, Jupiter, Fl. **See Page 2**

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*For all FTA information: www.floridatrail.org
Chapter Web site: <http://loxfltrail.org/>*

