



# trail tales



## Loxahatchee Chapter, Florida Trail Association

January/February 2024

Happy New Year!!!

### **CHAPTER MEETINGS**

First Monday of every month  
Social 7:00 p.m.; Program 7:30 p.m.

**Jan 1** – No Meeting

**Feb 5** – Lox River Center

**OKEEHEELEE NATURE CENTER**

*Located in Okechee Park on Forest Hill Blvd. east of the turnpike. Follow the signs to the Nature Center.*

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME**

### **Chapter Officers**

**Chair:** Janet Miller, 561-385-8676,  
millerjanets@gmail.com

**V-Chair:** Bill Evans, 561-352-5662  
amazonbill64@gmail.com

**Trails:** Fred Davis, 561-779-0273,  
fdavis6539@gmail.com

**Secretary:** Ruth Scott,  
561-699-0154, ruthfla@aol.com

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

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

**Activity Coord.** Scott Lunsford  
561-441-1251

tblazer7579@comcast.net

### **Committees**

**Membership:** Mary Miller,  
561-213-2189

millerm2727@gmail.com

**Website:** Shannon Moore,  
561-422-2189, [shanroy@bellsouth.net](mailto:shanroy@bellsouth.net)

**Public Relations:** position open

**Newsletter:** position open

### **Trail Section Leaders**

**Jonathan Dickinson:** Amy Saperstein  
561-289-5551 [amyjean214@gmail.com](mailto:amyjean214@gmail.com)

Brodie Atwater, 561-254-3366  
brodo528@aol.com

**Corbett:** Rick Byrnes, 561-358-7761,  
r\_byrnes@bellsouth.net

**DuPuis:** Janet Miller, 561-385-8676

**Lake O:** Scott Lunsford, 561-441-1251

**Hobe Sound & LOX Slough:**

Bea Rogers, 561-644-0777

Well they always say it is good to start the year off with a bang... so thanks to Bea Rogers 29<sup>th</sup> annual New Years Day hike we give you a chance to do so! It is our biggest day hike of the year! We usually have 50 to 65 hikers. But we split up into three groups. You have an option to take a hike of about 3, 5 or 10 miles. Bea gets special permission to use  
photo by Barry



a side dirt parking lot so we have plenty of room to park. If you haven't been in the Loxahatchee Slough yet you are missing out. So come on out and join us and start the year off with a bang!

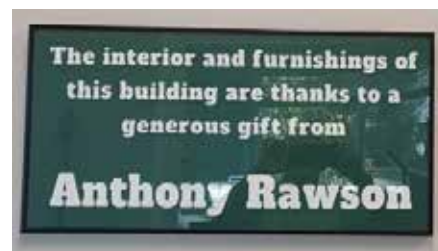


photo by Bea Rogers

Many of you are probably aware that a few years ago our Association headquarters in Gainesville had to find a new home. What you probably don't know is that one of our Lox members, Anthony "Tony" Rawson, made a very significant financial contribution to that endeavor and consequently has a plaque of thanks on the wall in the Gainesville office! Tony years ago retired from the Boston Globe and spends winters down here with us. A member since 2001, Tony was one of the original members in building and mowing the OTLHT and is a long-

time trail maintainer. He has made a number of substantial contributions to our local Chapter and has helped keep us in the black as well over the years. Here he is on a maintenance day in Corbett and when he came along as an experienced backpacker on Debra and Scott's first beginners backpacking outing. Tony is waiting to help newbies over some logs at the old Hobes Grove Canal crossing. Thanks Tony for all you have done and still do!! We appreciate you!



photo by Scott Lunsford



photo by Debra Lawrence





photos this page by Janet Miller

### Bike the Big O!

Chapter Chair Janet Miller brought back a version of the Big O this year and 10 members had a great time! Since the trail around the lake is one of the few on the Florida National Scenic Trail that allow bicycles, Janet decided to give it a go. She teamed up with Fisheating Creek Chapter Kate Adams and planned a three-day trip around the Big O. They had a night pre-event meeting at the Okeechobee KOA where vehicles would be left and bright and early Saturday morning pulled out for a 39 mile ride to Alvin Ward Park in Moore Haven. Kate was the support member for the group and met them with their camping gear at the dike here. The group camped at a primitive campsite on the FNST by the lake. Sunday saw another early start for the longest day and they biked 46 miles to the Pahokee Campground. On the final day they biked 37 miles back to the Okeechobee KOA where Bett C. met them with champagne and snacks to celebrate their accomplishment. Kate got herself a trail name during the event, “Mama Hen”. Jon W. told me that every time he arrived at a dike access point there would be Kate and her big white van checking to see if everyone was alright or needed any drinks or snacks. He also said that his initial thoughts on completing the Big O was what a great experience and thing to do, once. But after further thought, maybe something he would do again! Janet is not sure if she wants to make this an annual event so if you have some interest in biking the Big O, you best keep after her to make it so!



**CHAPTER ACTIVITIES FOR JANUARY & FEBRUARY**

Date	Event	Location	Diff	Time	Leader or Contact	Notes
1/1	Hike	Lox Slough 11855 Beeline Hwy	Leisure to Moderate	7:45 a.m.	Scott Lunsford 561-441-1251	Bea's 29 <sup>th</sup> Annual New Year's Day Hike Options for 3, 5 or 10 mile hikes. Our biggest hike of the year! Don't miss it!
1/6	Walk	John Prince Park Congress Entrance	Leisure	7:20 a.m.	Paul Cummings 561-596-4423	Keep up with Paul and walk 3 miles in an hour, or go at your own pace for a leisure walk.
1/7	Walk	Wakodahatchee and Green Cay	Leisure	6:30 a.m.	Paul Cummings 561-596-4423	2 for 1 Bring binoculars to really enjoy the birds!
1/7	Hike	Jonathan Dickinson Hobe Sound	Strenuous	8:00 a.m.	Mary Miller 561-213-2189	Our most popular hike! Bring plenty to drink. Entry fee \$4 single or \$6 w/ passengers.
1/13	Trail Maint.	To be Determined	Leisure	8:00 a.m.	Fred Davis 561-779-0273	2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday Trail Maintenance. Location to be determined. Check Meetup or call Fred.
1/14	Walk	Riverbend Park	Leisure	7:20 a.m.	Paul Cummings 561-596- 4423	Walk of 3 to 4 miles.
1/20	Walk	Okeeheelee Pk South	Leisure	7:20 a.m.	Paul Cummings 561-596- 4423	Walk of 3 to 4 miles.
1/20	Hike	Dupuis	Strenuous	7:15 a.m.	Jorge Hernandez 561-346- 5129	Fast paced 17 mile hike from gate 2.
1/21	Walk	Pondhawk NA	Leisure	7:20 a.m.	Paul Cummings 561-596- 4423	Walk about 3 miles. Meet at Library west lot.
1/27	Walk	Winding Waters NA	Leisure	7:20 a.m.	Paul Cummings 561-596- 4423	Walk of 3 to 4 miles.
1/27	Hike	Coastal Prairie Trail Everglades Nat Pk	Strenuous	7:30 a.m.	Jorge Hernandez 561-346-5129	14 miler about as far south as you can go!
1/28	Walk	Peaceful Waters Sanctuary Wellington	Leisure	7:20 a.m.	Paul Cummings 561-596-4423	30 acre man made wetlands includes a 1500' elevated boardwalk
2/3	Walk	John Prince Park Congress Entrance	Leisure	7:20 a.m.	Paul Cummings 561-596-4423	Keep up with Paul and walk 3 miles in an hour, or go at your own pace for a leisure walk.
2/4	Walk	Wakodahatchee and Green Cay	Leisure	6:30 a.m.	Paul Cummings 561-596-4423	2 for 1 Bring binoculars to really enjoy the birds!
2/4	Hike	Jonathan Dickinson Hobe Sound	Strenuous	8:00 a.m.	Mary Miller 561-213-2189	Our most popular hike! Bring plenty to drink. Entry fee \$4 single or \$6 w/ passengers.
2/5	Chapter Meeting	Okeeheelee Park Nature Center	Leisure	7:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	Janet Miller 561-385-8676	Social and refreshments at 7; Program by Lox River District River Center Samantha Warwick Nat. Edu & Animal Care Coord.
2/10	Trail Maint.	To be Determined	Leisure	8:00 a.m.	Fred Davis 561-779-0273	2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday Trail Maintenance. Check Meetup or call Fred.
2/10	Hike	Big Cypress Oasis Visitor Center	Strenuous	6:45 a.m.	Jorge Hernandez 561-346-5129	Hike FNST from the southern terminus and with a side trail complete a 17 mile loop!
2/11	Walk	Riverbend Park	Leisure	7:20 a.m.	Paul Cummings 561-596- 4423	Walk of 3 to 4 miles.
2/17	Outreach Table	Winding Waters Natural Area	Leisure	2:00 p.m. to 7: p.m.	Paul Cummings 561-596- 4423	PB County Natural Areas Festival. Lots of activities. Stop by our table and say hi!
2/17- 22	Advance Backpack	OTLHT – Lake to the Ocean!	Strenuous	8:00 a.m.	Fred Davis 561-779-0273	19 <sup>th</sup> Annual Ocean to Lake Backpacking Event 5 nights and 6 days. Experienced only.
2/18	Walk	Okeeheelee Park South	Leisure	7:20 a.m.	Paul Cummings 561-596-4423	3 to 4 mile walk
2/24	Walk	Yamato Scrub NA Boca Raton	Leisure	7:20 a.m.	Paul Cummings 561-596-4423	Walk 3 to 4 miles on a sandy ridge along an ancient shoreline.
2/25	Hike	Royal Palm Beach Pines NA	Leisure	7:20 a.m.	Paul Cummings 561-596-4423	Walk 3 to 4 miles in this beautiful 772 acres of pine flatwoods and wet prairie!