



trail tales



Loxahatchee Chapter, Florida Trail Association

September/October 2023

Trail Maintenance Notes Spring 2023

CHAPTER MEETINGS

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

Sept. 4 – Canceled - Holiday

Oct. 2 – Cypress Creek

OKEEHEELEE NATURE CENTER

Located in Okeehetee 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,
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V-Chair: Bill Evans, 561-352-5662
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Trails: Fred Davis, 561-779-0273,
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Secretary: Ruth Scott,
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Treasurer: Paul Cummings,
561-596-4423, cummingsps@att.net

Council Rep.: Bea Rogers,
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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

Public Relations: position open

Newsletter: position open

Trail Section Leaders

Jonathan Dickinson: Amy Saperstein
561-289-5551 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

One of the primary missions of the Florida Trail Association is to Build and Maintain Hiking Trails. The Lox Chapter of the FTA has responsibility for some very unique and important hiking trails in Palm Beach and Martin Counties. These include the 62 mile Ocean to Lake Hiking trail, 15 miles of Loop trails in the Dupuis management area and 13 miles of loop trails in JDSP. We do most of our trail grooming in the fall and winter but this year we accomplished some significant work on bridges and boardwalks and some trail and campsite improvements.



In Dupuis we installed benches at five locations including the Loop 2 campsite which thanks to SFWMD also got a fire ring and picnic tables. Benches are important for our trails since there are few “natural” places to sit and the ground is often wet.

In Lox Slough with the help of PBC DERM, we repaired boardwalk #1 and re-decked #3. We also installed a new bench.

In Corbett Wildlife Management Area, with the help of FWC, we located and installed the new Big Marsh Campsite at the east end of the OTLHT. This site fills a 16-mile gap between campsites on the OTLHT. We also conducted four, 2nd Saturday clip & walks in the WMA.

In Cypress Creek we repaired both ends of the Cypress Creek bridge. We hope to re-deck the bridge and improve the boardwalks in the creek’s flood plain soon.

In JDSP we replaced a section of the Steinmetz boardwalk and did some work on the green loop.

As trail coordinator for the chapter, it is my honor to work with a cadre of dedicated volunteers that are willing to work in the heat and water to ensure that we are providing a safe hiking trail system thru some of the best-preserved natural habitats in South Florida.

Fred Davis

Over the last 12 years that I have been active the Lox Chapter has been very fortunate to have Bea Rogers and Fred Davis at the helm for our 90 miles of trail. When Bea stepped down in 2014, I wasn't sure what was going to happen to our trails as I knew whoever took over had some big shoes to fill! But Fred stepped up and somehow managed to do so. All of us hard working volunteers that he is always quick to praise would be floundering but for Fred leading the way. Thanks Boss Man for all you do!



Photo by Roy Moore
Boardwalk re-build.
Fred Davis, Doug Adams,
Kelly Davis & Rick Zinter



Photo by Janet Miller
Bench Building
Fred, Bea Rogers & Doug Adams



Photo by Janet Miller
New Campsite building.
Guess who.



Some Corbett clip & walk shots by George Naveira and 3rd by Janet Miller.



Cypress Creek Bridge repairs. Photos by Fred Davis



Photo by Janet Miller

If you would like to volunteer some time and help out with trails, Amy's work weekend in Jonathan Dickinson State Park is coming up in October and will provide a great opportunity to do so!

If you haven't been on Facebook, like myself, you might not have heard of Robert Dowdy's passing on May 29th. He was 88, a long time Lox member and an icon on the Big O hike. He was a pleasure to hike with if you could keep up with him. These shots of Robert are mine from 2012 (the last full loop) 2014 & 2016. He will be missed. In the group shot he is standing behind the sign with a broad brim hat on the back of his head. (All the people in that shot did all 9 days and 109 miles around the lake.)



I want to welcome two new activity leaders to our bunch. They have been doing an excellent job of co-leading for that last good while and are great leaders. Kelly Davis and Joe Ingles, thanks for stepping up, guys!

If you are a hiker/backpacker, you may be interested to know that our OTLHT data sheet has been updated to include the new campsites, Big Marsh and East Cypress Creek. Our OTLHT Access and Contact Information sheet has also been updated. Both are available on our website, thanks to Shannon Moore!

If you have hiked the OTLHT, end to end in a year, whether having done it as a thru backpacker or having done it by a series of day hikes, let me know. I hope to publish a list of "end to enders" for the OTLHT on our website soon. Just text or email me (Scott Lunsford) your name or trail name and the year of your hike. My email and phone are on page 1.

Our backpacking team, headed by Ryan Lusk, will soon be planning this fall/winter backpacking trips. Stay tuned for those fun outings! Whether beginner or advanced, there will be options for both.

Happy Trails!

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES FOR SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER

Date	Event	Location	Diff	Time	Leader or Contact	Notes
9/2	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.
9/3	Walk	Wakodahatchee and Green Cay	Leisure	6:00 a.m.	Paul Cummings 561-596-4423	2 for 1 Bring binoculars to really enjoy the birds!
9/3	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.
9/9	Trail Maint.	To Be Determined	Leisure to Moderate	8:00 a.m.	Fred Davis 561-779-0273	Contact Fred or check Meetup for information.
9/10	Walk	Pondhawk NA	Leisure	7:20 a.m.	Paul Cummings 561-596-4423	Walk about 3 miles. Meet at Spanish River Library west lot.
9/16	Walk	Okeeheelee Pk South	Leisure	7:20 a.m.	Paul Cummings 561-596-4423	Walk of 3 to 4 miles. Note this is SOUTH, the park south of Forest Hill.
9/17	Walk	Riverbend Park	Leisure	7:20 a.m.	Paul Cummings 561-596-4423	Walk of 3 to 4 miles. You'll do the section of OTLHT through the park.
9/23	Walk	Wellington Environmental Preserve	Leisure	7:20 a.m.	Paul Cummings 561-596-4423	Walk of 3 to 4 miles at Marjory Stoneman Douglas 365-acre rainwater storage habitat.
9/24	Walk	Yamato Scrub NA Boca Raton	Leisure	7:20 a.m.	Alan Collins 954-681-2100	Stroll 3 to 4 miles on a sandy ridge and ancient shoreline.
9/30	Trail Maint.	Okeeheelee Park Nature Center	Leisure	7:20 a.m.	Paul Cummings 561-596-4423	Join our park payback and help clean up the nature trails.
10/1	Walk	Wakodahatchee and Green Cay	Leisure	7:20 a.m.	Paul Cummings 561-596-4423	2 for 1 Bring binoculars to really enjoy the birds!
10/2	Chapter Meeting	Okeeheelee Park Nature Center	Leisure	7:00 p.m.	Janet Miller 561-385-8676	Social at 7; Program by Michael Yustin, Martin Co Public Works Program Manager on Cypress Creek
10/7	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.
10/8	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
10/8	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.
10/13- 14-15	Trail Maint.	Jonathan Dickinson Hobe Sound	Moderate	8:00 a.m.	Amy Saperstein 561-289-5551	Camp at JDSP for the trail maintenance weekend!
10/15	Walk	Okeeheelee Pk South	Leisure	7:20 a.m.	Paul Cummings 561-596-4423	Walk of 3 to 4 miles in this hidden gem of a park. Note South side of Forest Hill Bv.
10/21	Walk	Riverbend Park	Leisure	7:20 a.m.	Paul Cummings 561-596-4423	Walk of 3 to 4 miles in this park full of deer!
10/21	Table Outreach	Jonathan Dickinson SP Hobe Sound	Leisure	1:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Amy Saperstein 561-289-5551	Stop by our table at JDSP Firefest event while enjoying the activities.
10/22	Walk	Grassy Water Preserve	Leisure	7:20 a.m.	Alan Collins 954-681-2100	Join Alan on an hour walk on the Eagle and Hog Hammock trails.
10/28	Walk	Winding Waters NA	Leisure	7:20 a.m.	Paul Cummings 561-596-4423	3 to 4 mile walk in this peaceful 548-acre Natural Area.
10/29	Walk	Royal Palm Beach Pines NA	Leisure	7:20 a.m.	Paul Cummings 561-596-4423	3 to 4 mile walk in this 772 acre natural area of pine flatwoods and wet prairie.
10/29	Hike	Herky Huffman Bull Creek WMA St. Cloud	Strenuous	7:15	Jorge Hernandez 561-346-5129	Jorge's 2 nd annual trip to St. Cloud is for experienced only. It will be a tough 17+ miler.

It is very likely that additional activities will be added after publication of this document. Please check our meetup site: Florida Trail Association-Loxahatchee Chapter-PBC