

Jul-Aug-Sep 2014  
Volume 24, Issue 3

[www.hoofers.floridatrail.org](http://www.hoofers.floridatrail.org)

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Newsletter of the Happy Hoofers  
Chapter of the Florida Trail  
Association

# Happy Hoofers Hoopla

## August in the Everglades

By Dave Griswold

8/26/14

When my son came down from Iowa for a visit at the end of this past August I assumed we'd spend most of our time indoors, with maybe a lucky break for some outdoor fun. As you all know, the weather was actually pretty nice, with little rain and though hot, breezy and not too

her, there may not even have been a park for us to visit. But I digress.

We started the day on the Anhinga Trail, where even in the midst of summer some wildlife can always be found. I've always seen at least the one obligatory Alligator here, and that day we saw several, mostly sitting submerged or swimming languidly.

One, though, decided to cross the path in front of us, and my son is too much a young man to pass up a photo op. Don't try this at home.



humid.

So we took a drive down to the Everglades.

We've had many trips there, but perhaps our first back in the 90's ended up being significant because of a coincidence. The day we chose happened to be the memorial ceremony for Marjorie Stoneman Douglas, so we attended this moving service for the woman whose efforts led to the establishment of the park. Without

The water level was high, with a steady flow going under the bridge on the path. The Anhingas and cormorants who normally cluster in the area were gone, with only a stray egret. Underwater a few Tilapias swam around, and a large Florida softshell turtle nosed around the Spatterdock.

We finally met plenty of mosquitoes on the Gumbo Limbo Trail (you get to missing them after not being bitten for a while...ha!), along with

anoles and Florida tree snails, who were out of their shells and crawling along the trunks of trees.

Down at Flamingo there were a host of people standing on the docks gazing into the water. On joining them we saw a couple groups of manatees swimming around quickly (for manatees), with their flukes even occasionally appearing above the water.

Sitting out on the bay eating lunch

we were entertained by the antics of the gulls. There appeared to be a dead fish in the water near the wall, and one gull in particular was not going to let any other gulls roost on the wall near the fish. Several Turkey vultures landed nearby, leaving when some Black vultures came in to investigate.

Amazingly there were no mosquitoes near the bay.

Driving back up the park road we hit

the only rain for the day; it was nice to be so accommodating and only happen when we were in the car.

We stopped at the Mahogany Hammock Trail. Lots of birds were calling and flitting about just out of sight. Our friends the mosquitoes were back, and less bothered by the bug spray. Our last wildlife encounter was with a relaxed Southeastern five-lined skink on the handrail, blue tail shining.

(Don't worry, we stopped at Robert is Here for shakes, too!)

## Chair's Corner

Welcome back Happy Hoofers!

I hope you have enjoyed your summer. I know I am ready for the weather to cool off so I can get outdoors and enjoy it. It is time for the 2014-2015 season to begin.

The Activity Leaders met in early August and have put together a variety of new and old activities for the coming season. There will be some old favorite day hikes as well as new ones. For those who enjoy backpacking and paddling, there will be opportunities for those as well as a bicycling trip. We're even scheduling a series of day hikes to cover our entire section from I75 to Lake Okeechobee. We've tried to put in something for everyone. Please check our website for our scheduled activities at: [hoofers.floridatrail.org](http://hoofers.floridatrail.org) or the State Florida Trail website at [floridatrail.org](http://floridatrail.org) then click on About, then on Calendar or visit our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/67137159048/>

Big Cypress Preserve opened MM63 the end of August, after approximately \$8.8 million in improvements. The new parking lots are now open for use.

Our trails North of I75 suffered from a wildfire early in the summer. Our activity leaders will be scheduling dates in coordination with Big Cypress to provide maintenance to those trails. The area was disturbed by the fire as well as firefighting equipment and many of the blazes are gone. Some dangerous snags are precariously hanging over the trail. Please watch the website and Facebook for updates on when the trail work will be scheduled and when the trails will be reopened.

Tom McDaniels is scheduling programs for our meetings through the season. If you have ideas/suggestions/contacts for him, please let him know of programs you would like to see. All of our officers are busy preparing for a terrific season. If you have articles/pictures you would like to share in the newsletter, please send them to Dave Griswold. The next newsletter should come out in October or November.

See you out there

Lynn Thompson, Chapter Chair

## Be a Volunteer! Fern Forest is Calling

Many of you know we have four planned maintenance days at Fern Forest throughout the winter as a repayment for our use of their beautiful facility for our evening meetings. What you might not know is that they can always use more help to keep the invasive plant species at bay. Kathy & Rene Bonvouloir are volunteering on Tuesday mornings from 9-12. I think Roland Burrows must live at Fern Forest, he is always there helping. If you have time you can spare, Fern Forest can always put you to work. See one of the people mentioned above or contact the park and they will be glad to put you to work.

If you have aluminum cans to recycle, the park will take them. They use the proceeds from recycling to help feed their live exhibit animals in the nature center.

**Lynn Thompson**

# Upcoming Hikes, Meetings and Other Events, 2014

9/11/14

7:30PM, Fern Forest Nature Center

*Chapter Meeting*

201 Lyons Rd. South, Coconut Creek, FL 33063

For more information: Lynn Thompson 954-850-3668 [ma12thom@bellsouth.net](mailto:ma12thom@bellsouth.net)

9/21/14

Paddle St. Lucie Inlet

Limit 12 people

For more information: Lynn & Mike Thompson 954-850-3668 [ma12thom@bellsouth.net](mailto:ma12thom@bellsouth.net)

10/4/14

Scouting for Work Hike

Limit 10

For more information: David Denham 305-667-8643 [ddenham@consultant.com](mailto:ddenham@consultant.com) Larry Alesi 561-445-9251 [larrya1049@yahoo.com](mailto:larrya1049@yahoo.com)

10/5/14

Bicycle Pepper Ranch Preserve to see the Sunflowers in bloom

Limit 15 people

For more information: Lynn & Mike Thompson 954-850-3668 [ma12thom@bellsouth.net](mailto:ma12thom@bellsouth.net) Janet Leasher 954-261-5836 [janetleasher@hotmail.com](mailto:janetleasher@hotmail.com)

10/9/14

7:30PM, Fern Forest Nature Center

*Chapter Meeting*

201 Lyons Rd. South, Coconut Creek, FL 33063

For more information: Lynn Thompson 954-850-3668 [ma12thom@bellsouth.net](mailto:ma12thom@bellsouth.net)

10/19/14

Day hike to Grassy Waters/Apoxee Trail

Limit 20 people

For more information: Esther Muram 954 658-8386 [ltailusa@gmail.com](mailto:ltailusa@gmail.com) Lynn Thompson 954-850-3668 [ma12thom@bellsouth.net](mailto:ma12thom@bellsouth.net) Kathy Bonvouloir 954-234-5657 [threebons@aol.com](mailto:threebons@aol.com)

11/7-9/14

South Regional Conference at J. W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area

For more information: Lynn Thompson 954-850-3668 [ma12thom@bellsouth.net](mailto:ma12thom@bellsouth.net)

*Continued on Page 4*

11/13/14

7:30PM, Fern Forest Nature Center

*Chapter Meeting*

201 Lyons Rd. South, Coconut Creek, FL 33063

For more information: Lynn Thompson 954-850-3668 [ma12thom@bellsouth.net](mailto:ma12thom@bellsouth.net)

11-21-23/14

Work Hike Big Cypress Preserve Section II at MM 63

Limit 20

For more information: David Denham 305-667-8643 [ddenham@consultant.com](mailto:ddenham@consultant.com) Larry Alesi 561-445-9251

[larrya1049@yahoo.com](mailto:larrya1049@yahoo.com)

11/27-30/14

4 Days Canoe/Kayak Paddle at Withalocoochee

River- West Of Disney World

Limit 10 people

For more information: David Denham 305-667-8643 [ddenham@consultant.com](mailto:ddenham@consultant.com) Janet Leasher 954-261-5836

[janetleasher@hotmail.com](mailto:janetleasher@hotmail.com)

12/11/14

7:30PM, Fern Forest Nature Center

*Chapter Meeting*

201 Lyons Rd. South, Coconut Creek, FL 33063

For more information: Lynn Thompson 954-850-3668 [ma12thom@bellsouth.net](mailto:ma12thom@bellsouth.net)

12/13/14

9:00AM, Fern Forest Nature Center

*Fern Forest Clean Up*

201 Lyons Rd. South, Coconut Creek, FL 33063

For more information: Roland Burrows 954-731-8271

12/14/14

Canoe/Kayak Loxahatchee River from River Bend

Park to Jonathan Dickinson State park

Limit 12 people

For more information: Esther Muram 954 658-8386 [itailusa@gmail.com](mailto:itailusa@gmail.com) Kathy Bonvouloir 954-234-5657 [threebons@aol.com](mailto:threebons@aol.com)

12/20/14

Delray Beach Stroll and Dine for the Holidays.

Walk Atlantic Ave., see holiday decorations, eat

at a local restaurant

For more information: Lynn & Mike Thompson 954 850-3668 [ma12thom@bellsouth.net](mailto:ma12thom@bellsouth.net)

**Visit the Happy Hoofers activities page for further updates at:  
<http://hoofers.floridatrail.org/activites.htm>**

### Call for Articles

Don't get me wrong, I love to write. But I'd love to have more voices sharing their stories, tips and hikes in the newsletter. Contact me at the email below; if you need help writing, I can assist you. Dave Griswold

### Chapter Officers and Committee Chairs

Chapter Chair	Lynn Thompson	954 850-3668	<a href="mailto:ma12thom@bellsouth.net">ma12thom@bellsouth.net</a>
V. Chair	Tom McDaniel	954 473-8533	<a href="mailto:gthomasmcdaniel@bellsouth.net">gthomasmcdaniel@bellsouth.net</a>
Secretary	Kathy Bonvouloir	954 234-5657	<a href="mailto:threebons@aol.com">threebons@aol.com</a>
Treasurer	Esther Muram	954 658-8386	<a href="mailto:italusa@gmail.com">italusa@gmail.com</a>
Chapter Council Rep	Kay Ferrara	954 609-4727	<a href="mailto:KayFerrara@bellsouth.net">KayFerrara@bellsouth.net</a>

#### Chapter Committees

Activities	Esther Muram	954 658-8386	<a href="mailto:italusa@gmail.com">italusa@gmail.com</a>
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Public Relations	Karen Smith	954 263-8109	<a href="mailto:ksmith623@bellsouth.net">ksmith623@bellsouth.net</a>
Programs	Tom McDaniel	954 473-8533	<a href="mailto:gthomasmcdaniel@bellsouth.net">gthomasmcdaniel@bellsouth.net</a>
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Website	Larry Alesi	954 445-9251	<a href="mailto:LarryA1049@yahoo.com">LarryA1049@yahoo.com</a>
Volunteer Hours	Lynn Thompson	954 850-3668	<a href="mailto:ma12thom@bellsouth.net">ma12thom@bellsouth.net</a>
Historian	vacant		
Hospitality	Kathy Bonvouloir	954 234-5657	<a href="mailto:threebons@aol.com">threebons@aol.com</a>

Our Facebook group is:

<https://www.facebook.com/login.php?next=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2Fgroups%2F67137159048%2F>

