



Happy Hoofers Hoopla

Florida Trail Association

Newsletter of the Happy Hooper Chapter of the Florida Trail Association
Volume 20, Issue 1 January-February-March 2010

www.hoofers.floridatrail.org

1-877-HIKE-FLA

www.floridatrail.org

The Happy Hoofers Chapter Encompasses Broward and Hendry Counties

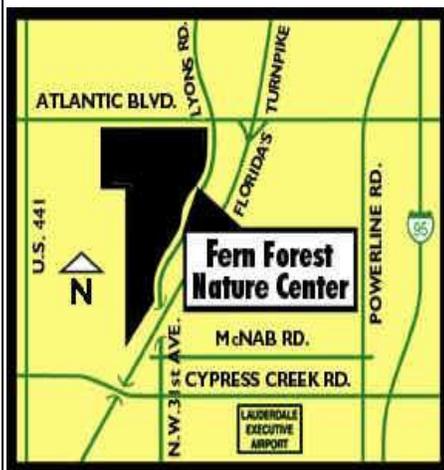
Florida Trail Association Mission Statement

To develop, maintain, promote, and protect a continuous public hiking trail the length of the state of Florida, called the Florida National Scenic Trail, and other loop and side trails, together called the Florida Trail System; and to educate the public by teaching appreciation for and conservation of the natural beauty of Florida; and to provide opportunities to hike and camp.

Monthly Meetings

Second Thursday of Every Month – 7:30 P.M.

Fern Forest Nature Center
201 Lyons Road South
Coconut Creek, FL 33063



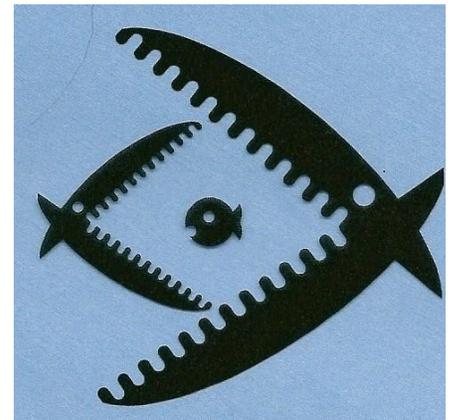
REFLECTIONS OF MY FIRST FTA CONFERENCE EXPERIENCE

BY: Patrick Kerr

What a beautiful day, I thought to myself, as I zipped up Highway 27, past the sugar cane fields, just after sun up Friday morning, on my way to Fisheating Creek, for my first FTA Conference. There wasn't much traffic, so I made good time, taking it very slow thru South Bay of course. I was within a mile or so from the campground, just after the railroad crossing, when I flashed past two huge, exotic looking birds sitting on fence posts in the rising fog. I whipped around at my first opportunity and sped back to the location hoping to get a closer look and possibly a photo or two. I was in luck, they were still there, and I did get a couple of shots off before those two magnificent Caracaras took flight. Now, that's a great way to start a conference weekend, which turned out to exceed my expectations!

I pulled into the campground and checked in at the office, and then registered at the conference table, happy to see friends from Big Cypress, and Happy Hoofers. After registration, I found my campsite, and set up my tent. Friday afternoon the place was buzzing with activity as campers checked in and went to their respective sites to set up. Everyone seemed very relaxed, friendly, and happy as they walked, biked, or drove around socializing with one another at campsites and throughout the campground. I loved the friendly atmosphere and camaraderie of the hundred twenty, or so campers who turned out. The central gathering spot was the screen house where the meals and wine were served, presentations made, and the raffles and auctions were

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Boy Scouts Volunteer At Fern Forest Clean-up

By Steve Zimmerman

On November 21st, members of the Troop 238, "The Invasive Exotic Removal Squad", let loose on a patch of *Dioscorea bulbifera*, commonly known as air potato. Located within the confines of the fern Forest Nature Center in Coconut Creek, this elite squad, composed of select members of parents and Boy Scouts from Lighthouse Point, Florida is an alliance member of the Florida Trail organization. They were invited to practice their specialty by the Happy Hoofers chapter as part of the chapter's contribution to helping maintain the park.

The Boys, along with several Happy Hoofers, worked for the better part of Saturday morning, and did a great job clearing out a patch of air potatoes and looked good and managed to have a little fun in the process! Next time the Boys look forward to getting a little muddier and dirtier and I'm sure they will have the opportunity!

CHAPTER INFORMATION

MEMBERSHIP

CHAPTER OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Chapter Chair	Kay Ferrara	(954) 609-4727	Email:kayferrara@bellsouth.net
Vice Chair	Candy Retter	(954) 726-8726	Email: retter@bellsouth.net
Secretary	Vacant	*Lynn Thompson is Acting Secretary	
Treasurer	Deanna Filkins	(954) 771-4951	Email: dkfilkins@aol.com
Chapter Council Representative:	Diana Fitzpatrick (954) 675-4737 Email:fitzpatrickdi@gmail.com		
Alternative CC Rep:	Clint Pell	(863) 234-9056	Email: pellcd2@aol.com

Membership as of 12/1/2009
141 Memberships/205 Members

Welcome new and returning members:
 Suzanne Silver Steve Wahl
 Robert Bates Eric Gibian
 Annette Greene Andrea Lowery
 Gayle Oller Gail Ritchie
 Jim D’Orazio Keenan Klos
 Iris van Rees

If your name is spelled incorrectly or omitted, we apologize.

Please email corrections & change of address to: HooplaEd@hotmail.com and Florida Trail Association at: fta@floridatrail.org or 1-877-445-3352

CHAPTER COMMITTEES

Activities	Esther Muram	(954) 658-8386	Email: italusa@comcast.net
Trails	David Denham	(305) 667-8643	Email: ddenham@mercymiami.org
Public Relations	Karen Smith	(954) 263-8109	Email: ksmith623@bellsouth.net
Programs	Bill Allison	(954) 781-2668	Email: suemattix@aol.com
Historian Vacant			
Membership	Elizabeth Brown	(954) 524-1245	Email: Libertb@aol.com
Mailings	Dan Riefler	(954) 491-5326	Email:
Editor Hoopla	Anne O’Mara	(954) 465-5613	Email: HooplaEd@hotmail.com
Web Site	Larry Alesi	(561) 445-9251	Email: LarryA1049@yahoo.com

2010 SLATE OF OFFICERS

The Nominating Committee members: Juan Kelly (Chair), Lynn Thompson and Tom McDaniel have submitted the following nominations for the 2010 Slate of Officers::

<u>Chapter Office</u>	<u>Nominee</u>
Chair	Kay Ferrara
Vice Chair	Candy Retter
Secretary	Vacant
Treasurer	Deanna Filkins

Election to be held on January 14, 2010 at the Chapter monthly meeting.



Photo by: Patrick Kerr

FROM OUR CHAPTER CHAIR



Kay Ferrara
Chapter Chair

Wow! It is hard to believe that another year has passed. There are many cliques that I could use i.e. time flies, time passes quickly as you get older. But, let’s go with “Time flies when you are having fun”. It has been a full year of activities and events for the Happy Hoofers. The membership has increased, as well as the number of activities, and attendance at the Chapter meetings. I attribute all of this to the Chapter’s leaders.

Membership numbers are tied to activities, activities are tied to the Activity Leaders and meeting attendance which ties back to our Programs and Public Relations. All of this is supported by the Vice Chair, Trail Leaders, Treasurer, Secretary, Volunteer Hours, Editor, Mailing of the Newsletter, Web Master and Chapter Council Representatives. My point is that it takes many leaders to keep a Chapter strong and for it to run smoothly. We, as a Chapter ,are very fortunate that we have such great leaders. For a list of the Chapter leaders see **Chapter Information** above and the Activity List.. With their continual support and effort , the Chapter will continue to increase its membership and activities for the coming 2010 year.

I wish everyone a very “**Happy and Prosperous New Year**”. May 2010 be the year of recovery for the country and world., and may we all find peace and happiness.



HAPPY HOOFERS ACTIVITIES

2009-2010

Revised as of 12/1/2009

Visit our Newsletter and Activities Online at – www.hoofers.floridatrail.org

LEVEL CODE: (P/M) Public & Members (M) Members Only (L) Leisure (M) Moderate (S) Strenuous

DATE	ACTIVITY	LEVEL	LEADERS
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CONTACT LISTED ACTIVITY LEADER(S) TO REGISTER AND FOR TIMES & MORE DETAILS

THURS 1/14/2010	Monthly Meeting at Fern Forest Nature Center 201 Lyons Rd. South, Coconut Creek at 7:30 pm	P/M/L	Kay Ferrara 954-609-4727 kayferrara@bellsouth.net
SAT 1/16	Overnight Collier Camp Big Cypress National Preserve. State at Interceptor (L-28) Canal, roughly along pipeline and camp at old Collier Camp and return down grade and East to Hoyles Camp and Looneyville. (Limit 10 people)	P/M/S	David Denham 305-667-8643 ddenham@mercymiami.org Larry Alesi 561-479-3731 Larry1049@yahoo.com
SAT 1/30	Full Moon Bike ride at Shark Valley 15 miles round trip. Beautiful view at night with Thousands of things to see. Tower climb reveals wondrous view!	P/M/M	Cate Kearns 954-802-1692 hicate@comcast.net
SAT-SUN 1/30-31	Ladies ONLY Overnight Backpacking-Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park (limit 8 people) hike 2.5 miles into camp, explore the area and ride a swamp buggy out	P/M/L	Lori Dillon 561-483-7735 ldillion@bellsouth.net Mary Halferty 954-522-3265 maryh@firstpres.cc
SAT-SUN 1/30-31	Overnight Backpacking into Section I of Big Cypress National Preserve (Osceola Camp & Wagon Wheel Hammock)	P/M/M	David Denham 305-667-8643 ddenham@mercymiami.org Larry Alesi 561-479-3731 Larry1049@yahoo.com
SAT-SUN 2/6-7	Annual Bear Island Bike-Hike-Camp Ride in 3 miles to Pink Jeep Camp (limit 15 tents) Set up camp and explore the area by foot or bike	M/M	Connie Mier 305-595-1395 cmier@mail.barry.edu Vivian Oliva 305-595-1395 Snook33172@yahoo.com
THU 2/11	Monthly Meeting Fern Forest Nature Center 201 Lyons Rd. South, Coconut Creek At 7:30 pm	P/M/L	Kay Ferrara 954-609-4727 kayferrara@bellsouth.net
FRI-SUN 2/12-14	4 days backpacking across the Preserve Trail Hike 46 miles starting at Bear Island Grade to the NE corner of the Big Cypress National Preserve	P/M/S	David Denham 305-667-8643 ddenham@mercymiami.org Larry Alesi 561-479-3731 Larry1049@yahoo.com
SAT-SUN 2/13-14	Overnight backpacking trip to Hickory Hammock Wildlife Management Area-hike 2.2 miles into the primitive camp site. After setting-up camp, we will explore the beautiful area (limit 10 people) This is a great introductory backpacking hike.	P/M/M	Kay Ferrara 954-609-4727 kayferrara@bellsouth.net Elizabeth Brown 954-294-8838 Libertb@aol.com
SAT 2/20	Fern Forest Clean-up at Fern Forest Nature Center 201 Lyons Rd. South, Coconut Creek	P/M/L	Frank Retter 954-675-9733 retter@bellsouth.net
SAT-SUN 2/27-28	Stone Crab Fest Pot-Luck Dinner! Bringing back an old traditional activity. Overnight car camping and day hiking	PML	Lynn Thompson 954-850-3668 Ma12thom@ellsouth.net
SAT 3/6	Day hike into Arbuckle State Forest. Hike around Arbuckle Lake Approximately 6 miles	P/M/L	Esther Muram 954-658-8386 itailus@gmail.com Elizabeth Brown 954-294-8838 Libertb@aol.com

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THU 3/11	Monthly Meeting Fern Forest Nature Center 201 Lyons Rd. South, Coconut Creek At 7:30pm	P/M/L	Kay Ferrara 954-609-4727 kayferrara@bellsouth.net	
SUN 3/14	Section I day hike to Ivy Camp through dry cypress domes and hammocks. 3 miles south of I-75 (total 6 miles)	P/M/M	Kay Ferrara 954-609-4727 kayferrara@bellsouth.net	
SAT 3/20	Fern Forest Clean-up at Fern Forest Nature Center 201 Lyons Rd. South, Coconut Creek	P/M/L	Frank Retter 954-675-9733 retter@bellsouth.net	
SUN 3/21	Day Hike at DuPuis Wildlife management Area to the Eagles Nest. Approximately 9 miles	P/M/M	Deanna Filkins 954-771-4951 dkfilkins@aol.com Esther Muram 954-658-8386 itailusa@gmail.com	
FRI-SAT- SUN 3/26-28	Florida Trail Association State Conference Haines City, Florida		See web site for information. Join the fun, you don't want to miss this!	
THU-FRI- SAT & SUN 4/1-4	Easter at Myakka State Park 3 nights adventure including camping, cabin, hiking, canoeing, kayaking, biking activities	P/M/M	Elizabeth Brown 954-294-88-38 Libertb@aol.com	
THU 4/8	Monthly Meeting Fern Forest Nature Center 201 Lyons Rd. South, Coconut Creek At 7:30pm	P/M/L	Kay Ferrara 954-609-4727 kayferrara@bellsouth.net	
SAT 4/10	Day Hike Big Cypress National Preserve 6 mile loop to Carpenter Camp	P/M/L	Lynn and Mike Thompson 954-850-3668 mal2thom@bellsouth.net	
SAT 4/17	Day hike to Looneyville 7 mile round trip	P/M/L	Elizabeth Brown 954-294-8838 Libertb@aol.com David Denham 305-667-8643 ddenham@mercyiami.org	
THU 5/13	Monthly Meeting Fern Forest Nature Center 201 Lyons Rd. South, Coconut Creek @7:30 (Last Chapter meeting for the season-no meetings In June, July, August) See you in September, 2010	P/M/L	Kay Ferrara 954-609-4727 kayferrara@bellsouth.net	
SAT 5/15	Join us in the closing of the 2009/2010 Activity Season TBA	P/M/L	Cate Kearns 954-802-1692 hicate@comcast.net	
SAT 6/5	National Trails Day Introductory hike into Big Cypress National Preserve in Celebration of hiking trails throughout the U.S. – a National event sponsored by the American Hiking Society	P/M/L	Kay Ferrara 954-609-4727 kayferrara@bellsouth.net	

Are YOU our next Secretary?

Is preserving natural areas in Florida important to you? Have you enjoyed a peaceful hike on the Florida Trail away from the hustle & bustle of city life? If you're looking for a way to support Happy Hoofers chapter, and can attend our monthly evening meetings (none in summer) please respond now! **The need is urgent - in return you are likely to make new friends with whom to hike the Trail, keep us all informed, and have a voice in preserving Florida's wilderness. Call Kay today - We're waiting for you!**

To volunteer or to nominate someone, please contact Kay Ferrara, Chapter Chair, at 954-609-4727 or kayferrara@bellsouth.net
The Secretary, an elected Officer of the Happy Hoofers chapter of the FTA, is required to attend Chapter meetings and to maintain the minutes.

Please submit volunteer hours to Kay Ferrara at:
kayferrara@bellsouth.net by the 15th of each month for the previous month. Thank you .

Happy Hoofers EMAIL LIST: For email reminders of events, hikes & activities, please send name & email address to: **HappyHoofers@bellsouth.net.**

Florida Trail articles & photos are welcome.
Submissions for the next Hoopla are due by March 7, 2010 to: HooplaEd@hotmail.com
(Please include the names of all people shown in photographs and articles 500 words or less). Editor reserves the right to edit/modify all submitted articles for allowable space.



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WFSU-TV FLORIDA TRAIL DOCUMENTARY

BY Patrick Kerr



Esther Muram and David Denham

Photo by Patrick Kerr

Our last stop was off of I-75 at Mile Marker 63, where the plan was for David to lead us on a dry hike to Nobles Grade, so that a dry trail in Big Cypress could be videoed, in contrast to the watery trail in Section I. Well, you know about the best laid plans. First they videoed David as he nailed a new sign on the entrance sign post, and another on the sign in box post, which states that the Florida Trail is maintained by volunteers from the Florida Trail Association.. After the signage posting, it was off to the trail for a dry hike. The dry part of the hike lasted for about a quarter of the approximate 2 miles that we hiked, as David led us on blue flagged trail that he recently blazed. Kirsti and Jackson were very enthusiastic about all they were seeing as we slogged across prairies, and thru lush mixed wood hammocks, in spite of the large video camera that Jackson was carrying, and the large, bulky video tripod that Kirsti carried for Jackson. David gave a tutorial to Kirsti about the Addition Lands history and current management issues being debated. Meanwhile, Esther, with her keen eyes, and naturalist knowledge, was pointing out

Continued on page 6

On Friday, November 20, three Florida Trail members: David Denham, Esther Muram, and this writer rendezvoused at the Big Cypress Oasis Visitor Center, with WFSU-TV, the Florida Channel, producer/reporter Kirsti Satterstrom and her videographer, Jackson. Kirsti contacted David, in September, informing him that she is making a documentary on the Florida Trail and its regions, and that she was interested in visiting Big Cypress to show where the Florida Trail starts and to do an interview.

Getting to work quickly, they walked South on the trail, which was under about six inches of water to video the first section of the trail and surrounding landscape.

The next stop was a short jump up the road to the Big Cypress Headquarters and the new Welcome Center in Ochopee. All along the way, David provided information to Kirsti concerning the background and history related to Big Cypress.

The next stop was the entrance to Bear

Island on SR29. On that mini-hike David talked to Kirsti about his Across-the-Preserve hike, Pink Jeep Camp, and biking in Bear Island, along with providing information about Bear Island in general.



Photos by Patrick Kerr



Photo by: Victor Milt

PROGRAMS

January 14th - Join us for what will surely be a memorable night as Victor Milt will speak about the "Florida Cowboy". Milt's film "Cowboys of Florida" has won the Florida's Choice Award at the 2006 Independent Film Festival in Tampa.

February 11th – Everglades Restoration update and progress of lack thereof by Newton Cook, Executive Director of the United Waterfowlers of Florida

BIG CYPRESS WORK HIKE



Back Row l to r: David Denham, Esther Muram, Clint Pell, Robert Rockwell, Connie Mier, Vivian Oliva, John Grigis, Mike Thompson, Kay Ferrara, Front row: Lynn Thompson, Junko Waibel, Larry Alexi. Photo by Kay Ferrara

By John Grigis

The work hike into Big Cypress National Preserve included clearing, mowing, trimming & blazing Section II of the Florida Trail, the Blue loop trail, and Red and Yellow side trails. We worked on Saturday and a half day on Sunday. Saturday morning the work crew gathered inside the gate at Mile Marker 63 on Alligator Alley at 8:00 a.m. before heading out on the trail. The group was divided into three work crews. The members of the crews shared their knowledge of trail maintenance, Florida flora and fauna, snake and insect identification.

We worked our way to Panther Camp where we set up our tents and cooked our dinners Saturday night. Panther Camp is primitive in that there is no electricity or potable water and you need to bring all your supplies.

After a good night's sleep, we were once again ready to provide the sweat, hard work and positive attitude needed to complete our goals which were met by working together as a team.

We left a little weary but with a feeling of satisfaction..

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WFSU Documentary Continued:

Various floras, and some faunas, providing information about them. While taking a snack break about a mile in, on a dry prairie bordered by a slash pine forest, Kirsti thought that it would be a good spot to formally interview David. Thus, Jackson set his camera on the tripod, and Kirsti interviewed David for ten or fifteen minutes after which we headed back to the Trailhead. On the way back, we were privileged to see, across the canal, a lovely scene of an eight foot, glossy black, mother alligator carefully watching over a pod of a dozen or more youngsters, appearing to be about a year old, as they scrambled on her and swam around in close proximity to her. Kirsti said that the documentary is scheduled to be aired in January, and that she will let us know the date of the airing once she knows.

We said our goodbyes, and David gave them directions for getting to Clewiston, for the start of the Big-O-hike the next day. Meanwhile, we were off to the trail to Hidden Lake, the entrance of which is off of SR29. David led the way as we hiked about a mile down the trail amidst a spectacularly beautiful, lush mixed wood hammock, which is accented with amazing, majestic, royal palms scattered alongside, that I have not seen before. It was getting late, and the trail had started to be submerged so we decided to turn back before we made it to Hidden Lake.

We ended this tremendously enjoyable day with a trip to Everglades City for Franklin Adams' talk about the history of the Fakahatchee at 5:30, which was fascinating. Our last stop was the Station restaurant, which was once a train station, located on the water where we had a very pleasant dinner.



**CONGRATULATIONS TO
LYNN AND MIKE THOMPSON
FOR COMPLETING THE
18th Annual BIG "O" HIKE**

Continued from page 1

FTA Conference Experience Cont'd:

Were held. The FTA had a store set up with a variety of their wares for sale, which I happily took advantage of. It was nice just hanging out that night chatting with friends as they arrived on the scene, until it was time to call it a day. My tent was pitched, on the primitive side, under some ancient giant oaks, a stones' throw away from the creek; it was quite idyllic. The night cooled down a bit, so I was able to comfortably drift off to sleep to the lullaby of the hooting owls, oh, that was good!

Saturday I spent the entire day and night thoroughly enjoying the variety of activities which were occurring around the screened house. First there were presentations on camping and outdoor subjects including lashing and knot tying, photography tips, first aid, animals, an FTA update, interesting Palmdale historical tidbits and little known botanical spots around Florida and Save our Creeks.

Sunday morning, having slept in, and missed the closing ceremonies, I had a late breakfast, helped clean-up, packed up, and then scrambled to the Fort Center hike, which was a few miles up the road. It was, for the twenty plus hikers and bikers who showed up for this last conference activity, another fine, warm day featuring a pristine blue sky, with large, lofty, white, shape shifting clouds floating lazily overhead. The fields bordering both sides of the gravel road, which lead to the trailhead, and was the first section of the trail, were abloom with an amazing color explosion of brilliant, bright yellow, southeastern sunflowers, on top of being stunningly beautiful, also have a knock your socks off, fragrance which, by far, surpasses the most fragrant rose that I have ever smelled. The trail took us to the spot on the banks of Fisheating Creek where Fort Center once stood, and stretched out for miles. Beyond that historic site was a colorful grassy flood plain which Fisheating Creek has meandered lazily through for eons.

Overall, I had a great time from start to finish given the relaxed, friendly



Atmosphere, camaraderie, activities, presentations and setting. But mostly it was the people, the campers, that made the conference what it was, and it was, as they say, all good! I am anxiously looking forward to the next conference.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED FOR THE SILENT AUCTION at the Florida Trail Association Annual Conference, FOR DETAILS PLEASE CONTACT: RICHARD WARD e-mail: wrddick@aol.com

JOIN TODAY...ENJOY HIKING FLORIDA'S GREAT OUTDOORS!



Florida Trail Association Member's Code: I understand that I am entitled to all rights and privileges of a dues paying member, and that only members may hike the Trail across private property. When on the trail I agree to: Protect wildlife; hike only on marked routes; not carry firearms; leave gates as found; use crossing on fences when possible; where permitted, keep fires small, then drench and obliterate; carry out all refuse; report all irregularities to property owners; pick up after those who have gone before; leave only footprints. I understand that hiking the trail is a privilege and that I do so at my own risk. Neither the Association nor Landowners are in any way liable for any injury or accident I might sustain while hiking the Florida Trail.

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____
 State: _____ Zip: _____
 County: _____ Email: _____
 Phone: Home: (____) ____-_____
 Work: (____) ____-_____
 Employer/Occupation: _____
Family Membership:
 Spouse's Name: _____
 Number of Children (18 or younger) _____

Individual \$30 Family* \$35
 Senior (65+) \$25 Student Fulltime (18-23) \$25
 Sustaining* \$50 Senior of Student Couple \$30
 Contributing * \$100 Supporting* \$250
 Individual Life \$600 Family Life *750
 *includes spouse & children 18 or younger

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