

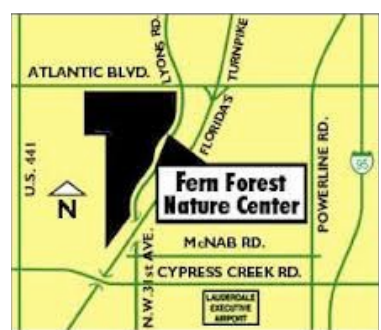


HAPPY HOOFERS HOOPLA

January-February-March 2018 Volume 28, Issue 1

www.hoofers.floridatrail.org

The Happy Hoofers Chapter encompasses Broward + Hendry Counties
Monthly Meetings
Second Thursday of every month @ 7:00 P.M.
Except June/July/August
Fern Forest Nature Center
201 Lyons Road South
Coconut Creek, FL 33063



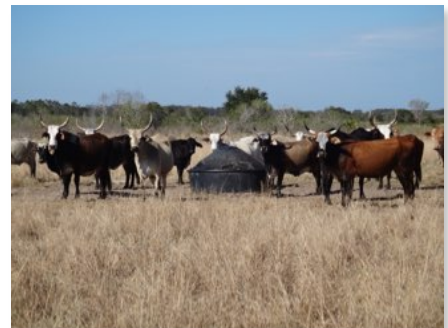
Happy Hoofers near Lock S65, Kissimmee River January 2018



Wonderful Kicco!!
Photos by Elizabeth Brown

Inside this issue:

Kicco	1
Ladies Weekend	2
Winter Trip	3
Chairs Corner, Officers & Committee Chairs	4
Activity Schedule	5-6
New Members	6





Ladies Camping at Savannas Recreation Area Jan. 26 - 28, 2018

Ten brave ladies came camping together
 Hoping for fun, good food, and good weather.
 Each new arrival was greeted with cheer,
 And by Happy Hour we were all here.

Alas, relentless strong winds blew all day and all night,
 Not a moment of calm was ever in sight.
 It took six people to pitch each tent,
 There was much laughter and little lament.
 The pegs went in first; we held all four corners,
 The fly was a'flapping, the wind was a stormer.
 We anchored the guy ropes as best as we could,
 But still the wind was up to no good.

At night the sides were billowing like a sail,
 We were just hoping that they would not fail.
 The strong gusts popped the tents like explosions,
 All night long we felt great commotion.

Next day we were off on a five-mile walk,
 We were in good spirits, no need for pep talk.
 The trail was easy through pineland and scrub,
 We didn't even stop to eat our grub.
 What a surprise when we came back to our site,
 Because something just didn't seem quite right.

Lyndall's tent was about to collapse,
 We moved the table and secured it with straps.
 The wind broke the poles on Kathy's old tent,
 And punctured the roof and even the flap,
 We taped them together and duct-taped the gap.
 To ease up the wind we turned the whole thing,
 Ingenious solutions! We girls can do anything.

The rest of the day was spent playing games,
 Painting designs on white rocks and spelling each name,
 For "Friendship Forever",
 And hid the rock to be found by whoever.

Yesterday's potluck was our dinner,
 Abundant delicious food, it was a winner.

The weekend was over much too fast,
 In spite of the wind we all had a blast.
 We hope to return in one year's time,
 For memories like these will last a lifetime.

By: Barbara Tschimpke

My 2018 Winter Trip to FL By Elizabeth Brown (or What I Did On Winter Vacation)

Since my move from South Florida to Upstate SC in 2011, I have tried to visit yearly during the chilly months. My FL bucket list for this year took me to some new spots as well as old favorites.

My first stop took me to the Ft Pierce area to join the Happy Hoofers Ladies Weekend at Savannas Preserve. Kay Ferrara and Kathy Bonvouloir led us on a fun weekend tent camping on Palm Island, a private island campsite in the preserve. After my 9 hour drive watching the temps go from less than 45° to over 70°, I arrived at the park to brisk 17-20 MPH wind gusts making setting up our tents very interesting! It took 4 of us to hold down the corners until the stakes could be positioned and the flies attached. Before bedtime, Kathy's tent had to be "reconstructed" and reenforced to make it through the night. The sounds of the winds as well as a freight train passing hourly within a mile made sleeping the first night somewhat tricky. However, we all survived.

Saturday after breakfast we ventured to Savanna State Park to check out the education center then hike 6 miles of trails. The sky was beautiful and temperature perfect for our hike. After returning to our campsite, our leaders had afternoon activities planned including rock painting and games. With the ongoing gusty winds slowing only a bit, several tents needed some adjustments to survive another windy night.

Sunday morning brought breaking camp and saying goodbye to most, though Junko Waibel, Bonalyn Plante and I moved to the main campground in the park for one more night. Our office buddy, Jacques, placed us in adjoining sites close to trees and the bathhouse. Ibis' surrounded us during tent set up time. They were sorry we offered them no treats.

Monday we broke camp and Bonalyn headed home. Junko and I headed to Kicco where we had a WMA campsite for 4 nights. Kicco (short for Kissimmee Island Cattle Company) is reached by driving into River Ranch Resort on the west side of the Kissimmee River on Highway 60. After reaching the locked gate and using the top secret combination to get through, you must drive 8.5 miles on a sand-packed road through cow fields, dodging a few cowpies. This drive was amazing through pretty hammocks, some with wild citrus trees and the big sky views that I miss no longer living in the state. Our campsite was in the Town of Kicco area which still has some foundations from when the cattle company operated here along the shore of the river. The nights were incredibly quiet except for the howls of barred owls, yipping coyotes and the woeful mooing of many cows.

On Wednesday we were joined by 6 more Happy Hoofers. Mike Thompson and David Denham had done their research and had excellent ideas for a Florida Trail hike across the S65 Lock covering newly opened rerouted areas of the trail which we found very interesting IF muddy and incredibly rough walking. Several of us hiked 12 miles roundtrip onto Kissimmee Prairie State Park property, ending at an area we hope to access from the other side on a hike next season.

A day later it was time to move on. Junko and I made our last stop going to Myakka State Park, one of my all-time favorite FL places. We joined the FT Suncoast Chapter doing a maintenance hike brush cutting, clearing and repainting blazes on 5 miles of trail. We camped overnight for 2 nights in the youth campground area being transported on Saturday to the Oak Grove/Deer Prairie areas of the park by Bill Martin and other Suncoast maintenance team members. We accomplished a lot and had fun. One of the highlights of the day was spotting a bobcat while driving eastbound after the work had been done.

Florida remains a special place for me. Thank you to my Happy Hooper friends for making my FL visits so adventurous and fun.

Chair's Corner



As the newly elected Chair of the Happy Hoofers' chapter, I wish to thank the outgoing chair - Megan Digeon for her leadership for the past term, and to thank the current leadership team as it takes a "village" to lead a chapter. Thank you to Tom McDaniel-Chapter Vice-Chair & Program, Kathy Bonvouloir- Secretary & Volunteer Hours; Esther Muram -Treasurer; Activities & Membership-Lynn Thompson, Trails-David Denham, Larry Alesi & Mike Thompson, Public Relations-Karen Smith, Editor Hoopla- Elizabeth Brown, Website-Larry Alesi, Hospitality-Barbara Johnston & Historian-Robert Grosswald. The next time you come across one of these leaders, please take a moment and thank them for their services.

The chapter accomplishments for the past year included the completion of the trail maintenance in the Big Cypress, Seminole Reservation & South Florida Water Management District before the end of 2017. The maintenance included the removal of many trees on the trail due to the hurricanes and replacement of trail (mileage/directional) signs due to fires in Big Cypress and addition of a pitcher pump on the trail in South Florida Water Management Station 5, and a schedule of great activities.

There are many activities scheduled for the upcoming months, and to review them, please click the following website <http://hoofers.floridatrail.org/>

I look forward to the coming year and hope to see you on the trail.

Kay Ferrara

Chapter Officers and Committee Chairs

Chapter Chair	Kay Ferrara	954 609-4727	KayFerrara@bellsouth.net
Vice Chair	Tom McDaniel	954 473-8533	GThomasMcDaniel@bellsouth.net
Secretary	Kathy Bonvouloir	954 234-5657	Threebons@aol.com
Treasurer	Esther Muram	954 658-8386	Itailusa@gmail.com
Chapter Council Rep	Kay Ferrara	954 609-4727	KayFerrara@bellsouth.net
Activities	Lynn Thompson	954 850-3668	Ma12thom@bellsouth.net
Trails	David Denham	305 667-8643	DDenham@consultant.com
	Mike Thompson	561 290-9984	lamathompson@hotmail.com
	Larry Alesi	954 445-9251	LarryA1049@yahoo.com
Public Relations	Karen Smith	954 263-8109	KSmith623@bellsouth.net
Programs	Tom McDaniel	954 473-8533	GThomasMcDaniel@bellsouth.net
Membership	Lynn Thompson	954 850-3668	Ma12thom@bellsouth.net
Editor Hoopla	Elizabeth Brown	954 294-8838	Libertb@aol.com
Website	Larry Alesi	954 445-9251	LarryA1049@yahoo.com
Volunteer Hours	Kathy Bonvouloir	954 234-5657	Threebons@aol.com
Hospitality	Barbara Johnston	954 895-9463	Blj512@yahoo.com

Our Facebook Group is: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/67137159048/>

Happy Hoofers ACTIVITIES 2017-2018

DATE	ACTIVITY	LEVEL	LEADERS
Participants Code: (MF) Members First-(MP) Members & Public - (M) Members Only Activity Level Code: (L) Leisure (M) Moderate - (S) Strenuous			
Thu 2/8/18	Chapter Meeting Fern Forest Nature Center 201 Lyons Rd. South, Coconut Creek, FL 33063 7:30 PM	MP/L	Kay Ferrara 954-609-4727 Kayferrara@bellsouth.net
Sat 2/10/18	Fern Forest Nature Center Work Day at Fern Forest Nature Center 201 Lyons Rd. South, Coconut Creek, FL 33063 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM	MP/L	Kathleen Bonvouloir 954-234-5657 threebons@aol.com
Sun 2/11/18	Bear Island Mountain Bike ride 20 miles Big Cypress National Preserve Bear Island Unit Limit 10	MP/S	Janet Leasher 954-234-5657 janetleasher@hotmail.com Kathy Bonvouloir 954-234-5657 threebons@aol.com
Fri 2/16/18 to Mon 2/19/18	4 Days Across the Preserve Backpacking (~48 miles in 4 days) Limit 12 people	M/S	David Denham H 305-284-9861 ddenham@consultant.com Larry Alesi 561-445-9251 larrya1049@yahoo.com
Sat 2/24/18	Day hike Starvation Slough	MF/S	Mike Thompson 561-290-9984 lamathompson@hotmail.com Steve Galla 914-953-2222 Steve@stevegalla.com
Sat 2/17/18	Day hike 7.5 mile loop MM63 BCNP	MP/S	Steve Galla 914-953-2222 Steve@stevegalla.com
Sat 3/3/18	41st Annual Waterway Cleanup at TBD ?	MP/M	Kathy Bonvouloir 954-234-5657 threebons@aol.com
Sun 3/4/18	Day hike & bike Fakahatchee Strand Limit 15 people	MP/S	Esther Muram 954-658-8386 itailusa@gmail.com Janet Leasher 954-261-5836 janetleasher@hotmail.com
Thu 3/8/18	Chapter Meeting Fern Forest Nature Center 201 Lyons Rd. South, Coconut Creek, FL 33063 7:30 PM	MP/L	Kay Ferrara 954-609-4727 kayferrara@bellsouth.net
Sat 3/10/18 to Mon 3/12/18	Backpacking Fisheating Creek WMA 35 miles Limit 12 people	M/S	David Denham H 305-284-9861 ddenham@consultant.com Dick Ward 954-536-3289 wrdick@aol.com
Fri 3/16/18 to Sun 3/18/18	Dayhike/Backpack at Lake Arbuckle Members only Limit 20	M/M	Kay Ferara 954-609-4727 kayferrara@bellsouth.net Esther Muram 954-658-8386 itailusa@gmail.com
Sat 3/24/18	Day hike loop MM63 BCNP Limit 20	MP/M	Lynn Thompson 954-850-3668 ma12thom@bellsouth.net Kay Ferrara 954-609-4727 Kayferara@bellsouth.net

Sun 3/11/18	Day hike Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park Key Biscayne 5 miles	MP/M	Steve Galla 914-953-2222 Steve@stevegalla.com
March weekday TBD	Day hike Dyer Park & Winding Waters 6 miles	MP/M	Steve Galla 914-953-2222 Steve@stevegalla.com
Sat 4/7/18	FTA BOD Meeting	MP/L	David Denham H 305-284-9861 ddenham@consultant.com
Sat 4/7/18 Sun 4/8/18	Paddle Sebastian River Camp at Donald McDonald campground	MP/M	Mike Thompson 561-290-9984 lamathompson@hotmail.com Lynn Thompson 954-850-3668 ma12thom@bellsouth.net
Thu 4/12/18	Chapter Meeting Fern Forest Nature Center 201 Lyons Rd. South, Coconut Creek, FL 33063 7:30 PM	MP/L	Kay Ferrara 954-609-4727 kayferrara@bellsouth.net
Sat 4/14/18	Day Hike to Last Resort & Looneyville Limit 12 people	MP/M	David Denham H 305-284-9861 ddenham@consultant.com Dick Ward 954-536-3289 Wrddick@aol.com
Sun 4/21/18	Day Hike Bridge to Bridge BCNP approx 7 mi Limit 20	MP/M	Dick Ward 954-536-3289 Wrddick@aol.com Steve Galla 914-953-2222 Steve@Stevegalla.com
Sun 4/29/18	Kayak/Snorkel John Pennecamp State Park Limit 15 Members First	MF/S	Kathy Bonvouloir 954-234-5657 threebons@aol.com Kay Ferrara 954-609-4727 KayFerrara@bellsouth.net
April TBD	Day hike Florida Trail at Riverbend Park 6 mile hike	MP/M	Steve Galla 914-953-2222 steve@stevegalla.com
Thu 5/10/18	Chapter Meeting Fern Forest Nature Center 201 Lyons Rd. South, Coconut Creek, FL 33063 7:30 PM	MP/L	Kay Ferrara 954-609-4727 kayferrara@bellsouth.net
Sat 5/12/18	Day Hike to Tarpon Lake BCNP Limit 15	MP/M	David Denham H 305-284-9861 ddenham@consultant.com Steve Galla 914-953-2222 Steve@Stevegalla.com
Sat 6/2/18	National Trails Day Hike at Fern Forest walk boardwalk and visit nature center	MP/L	Kathy Bonvouloir 954-234-5657 threebons@aol.com Esther Muram 954-658-8386 itailusa@gmail.com

**WELCOME,
New FTA/Happy Hooper Members!**

Frank + Ellen Cates
Charles Daniels
Jeff Doren
Ryan Goldman
Henry Magnuson
Charlie Nolan
Patricia Rosario

