



# FootNotes \*

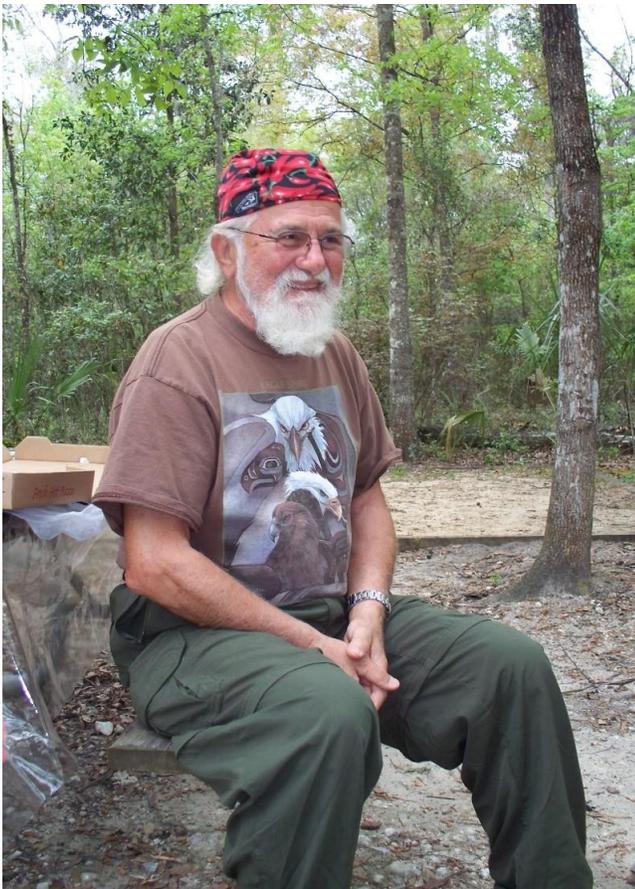


**\* Newsletter of the Highlanders Chapter,  
Florida Trail Association  
November – December 2015  
Volume 16, Issue 6**

## **Mission of the Florida Trail Association**

The Florida Trail Association develops, maintains, protects and promotes a network of hiking trails throughout the state, including the unique Florida National Scenic Trail. Together with our partners we provide opportunities for the public to hike, engage in outdoor recreation, participate in environmental education and contribute to meaningful volunteer work.

### **Willy Herman Hannemann, July 9, 1936 – September 13, 2015**



Willy was born in Zahna, Germany to Willy and Anna Schultze Hannemann on July 9, 1936. His early profession was as a machinist in Eastern Germany.

He immigrated to Western Germany in 1954 where he went to work for an uncle in a coal mine.

In 1956 Willy came to the United States and went to live with his Aunt Maria and Uncle Otto Hannemann in Whitestone, NY. Willy entered the U.S. Army and served in Korea from 1958 – 1960. He was honorably discharged with the rank of Sergeant. After his discharge, Willy returned to Whitestone, NY and worked for 10 years making cabinets in his uncle's cabinet shop until his uncle retired.

Willy then worked for 5 years at the Pontiac Division of GMC as a mechanic. In 1980, Willy met Lorraine Griffith and her children; for 27 years they shared a family life in New York and Florida. For the rest of his working career, he was a mechanic with the U.S. Postal Service in New York until his retirement in 1995.

After retirement, Willy wintered in Wildwood, FL and spent summers at his favorite cabin on Fish Creek Pond, in the Adirondacks. Willy became very active with a hiking and paddling group at Tupper Lake. He was quite proud of the fact that he had climbed 43 of the 46 high peaks in the Adirondacks. A rare accomplishment!

Willy joined the Florida Trail Association in late 2002 and went on his first work hike with the Highlanders Chapter in January, 2003. Over the years Willy lopped and mowed for the Florida Trail, volunteering in excess of 510 hours.

Being an outdoors-man, Willy participated in many FTA activities with both the Central Florida and Highlanders Chapters. Some of his favorite events were the Winter Wednesday Hiking Series, kayaking and camping. He had other favorite activities: photography, bee keeping, traveling, and biking, to name a few. You could call on Willy any time for any event and he was always ready and willing to go.

For several years he participated in the annual 110 mile Big "O" Hike around Lake Okeechobee; and he also completed the Panhandle Trace Hike, a 9 day hike from the Alabama State line to the Gulf of Mexico.

Willy's final wish was to have his ashes scattered on the three high peaks of the Adirondacks that, because

of his last illness, he was physically unable to climb. This will be done next Spring by his niece, Nancy Slayton and her husband Paul.

Willy will be greatly missed by many whose lives he touched; especially his family and friends: Loraine Griffith and her daughter Laura; Peggy and Shirley Kristan; Shirley Button, and all of his Florida Trail family.

--Bobbi Keenan and Bill Milton

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*Editor's note: Friends of Willy who wish to contribute to a memorial for him may send a check made out to FTA Highlanders Chapter (you may want to write "memorial" on the memo line). Please mail the check to:*

Diane Roesch, Highlanders Treasurer  
Willy Hannemann Memorial Fund  
PO Box 560262  
Montverde, FL 34756-0262

|                  |
|------------------|
| <b>Our Willy</b> |
|------------------|

To praise too often may be wrong, but yet it needs be said. Not praise enough for this loved man, we're sorrow-filled instead.

He shared the load, held up his end, a tribute to our group. But illnesses had brought him down, from which he'd not recoup.

We wanted not to see him fall, so full of life and strong. It seemed that snuffing out his life, was premature and wrong.

Called many others to the trail, who might have stayed at home. And through the woodland forests, he surely loved to roam.

Challenges he always sought, hid well a gentler side. Making houses held on posts, where Bluebirds would reside.

Gruff in manner, Tyrolean dress, he might make you take pause, But those who knew him knew he was... a woodland Santa Claus!

Ever the worker, not a slouch, handling most every feat. And something need be mentioned here, Our Willy loved to eat!

Dependable and punctual, reliable to a detail. Considered items we'd forget, he packed them on the trail.

Our Willy was a mountain man, climbing the mountain tracks, in that summer home he loved, the mighty Adirondacks.

Though from another nation, he served our country well. Here in Florida with our group, was where he chose to dwell.

But we'll go on without him, praise the standard he's set. For Willy was a friend of ours, someone we'll not forget.

And as Our Willy's put to rest, our memories won't fail. Through forest, scrub or wetland swamp, we'll see him on the trail.

A Tribute from his FTA Highlander forest friends

## Highlanders Nature Notes

River Otters (*Lutra canadensis*) have to be one of the most endearing of aquatic mammals with their seemingly insatiable appetite for curiosity, exploration and play. To see one in the wild is always a real treat for me. I have seen a few in Central FL during the years I have lived here, but three in particular, come to mind. Back in the early 1990's I directed an Elderhostel program in the Ocala National Forest. We routinely canoed from Alexander Springs down-stream to the bridge and back as part of a nature course. On one of those trips I was steering a canoe with two elderly female passenger/participants, bringing up the rear of the group. As we came around a bend I spotted an Otter in the water which had just caught a fish. We slowed down to watch it climb out of the water, up onto the bank and proceed to eat its catch. It allowed us to quietly paddle nearer as it ate so we got to witness this extraordinary scene up-close, from start to finish. The Otter ate everything: head, tail, fins, scales, bones, *everything!* I have since learned that this is common behavior, as Otters have very strong jaws and teeth, allowing them to crush the bones and chew them up. It was just like watching a *Nature* program on PBS, only this was right there *live* in front of us! It was the only time I've ever witnessed this in person and none of us could tear ourselves away, even though the rest of the group left us far behind (we did catch up later and told them of our good fortune).

Though some fishermen despise Otters as competitors for sport fish, research has shown that Otters take mostly the slow moving "trash fish" which are usually more abundant and easier to catch. In this way they may actually improve the quality of fishing for people by removing those fish that compete with the sport fish we prefer.

More recently I visited Ichetucknee Springs State Park for the first time. It was during the winter on a weekday and I practically had the whole northern end

of the park to myself. As I was coming back from a walk to the northern-most spring I impulsively took a detour off the main trail onto a little-used side trail that looked enticing. It led a short distance to a stream flowing from the spring I'd just visited. When I arrived at the stream's edge I looked up and down its length. I was the only person there but could hear the distant sounds of people in canoes somewhere around the bend. As I stood there in this pristine-looking, beautiful piece of old Florida, soaking it all in, the thought occurred to me that it couldn't be more perfect unless an Otter happened by. No sooner had that thought taken shape than I saw movement in the water heading upstream toward me. As I focused on the V-shaped ripple coming ever closer, there, to my utter astonishment, was a River Otter. I remained perfectly still in my earth colored clothing, standing next to a small tree. The Otter didn't notice me until it swam right in front of me. Then it looked up into my eyes and promptly dove under the surface, completely disappearing from view. Even though the spring water was crystal clear, the light reflecting on the surface prevented me from seeing it and I lost track of its movements. I looked in vain for it to resurface. Otters can remain submerged for 3-4 minutes at a time. Where it went I don't know, but it was a thrill to watch while it lasted.

The last one I spotted as I walked over the small bridge crossing Mill Creek just north of Sand Lake on the main hiking trail at Wekiwa Springs State Park. It saw me, but kept swimming upstream until it swam right under where I was standing. As the creek is very shallow and narrow, I was able to continue clearly watching it even after it submerged. It resurfaced just beyond the bridge and gave me a backward glance as it swam on. The first one I'd ever seen in that location and it was no more than 10 feet away!

River Otters have been eradicated from 11 states and are rare in 13 others (over-trapped for their luxurious fur). But in FL they remain relatively plentiful. I say ‘relatively’ because I haven’t seen them as frequently as some others claim to. Perhaps those folks spend more time in and on the water than I do. But if you’re lucky, and in the right place at the right time, you, too, might catch a glimpse of this remarkable creature.

–Mike Barnett

Sources:

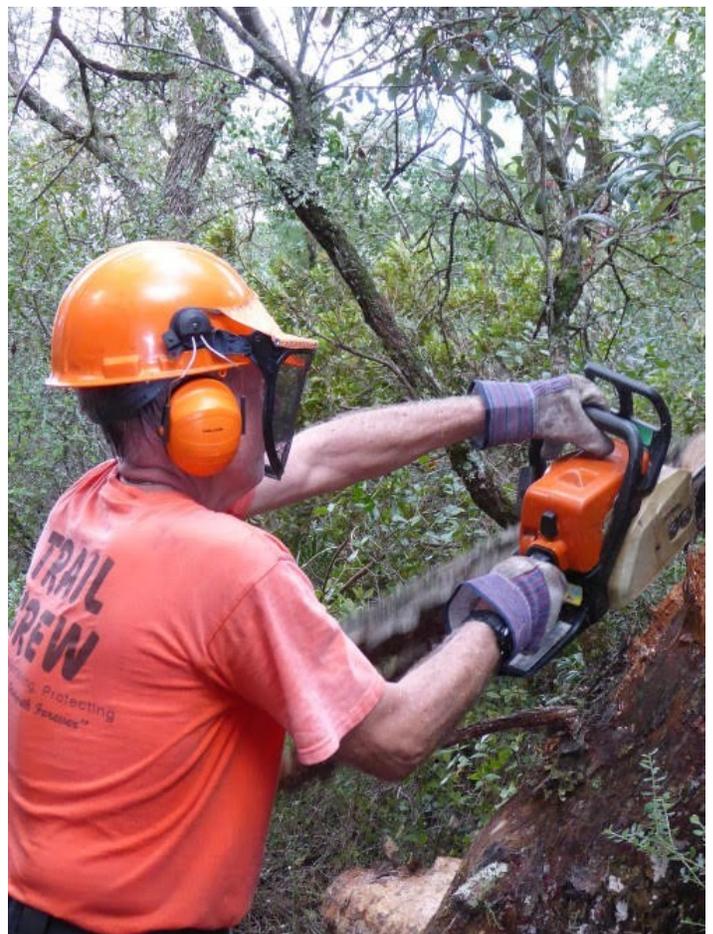
Gingerich, Dr. Jerry Lee. *Florida’s Fabulous Mammals*. Tampa: World Publications, 1994.

Jenkins, Ken. *The Wilderness World of River Otters*. Pathways to Nature Publications, 1998.

**September 30 Work Hike in the Ocala National Forest**  
*Photos by Judy Leavers*



*Ginger taking a pause from painting blazes.*



*Steve tackling fallen timber.*



Bruce & Jon roll a log out of the way.

### Notes from the Chair – Chapter News

I will summarize some recent chapter news in this column. If you have attended the last couple of meetings you will already know much of this.

**Chapter Growth.** This small table shows the number of chapter members in September 2014 and in September 2015:

| Residents     | 2014      | 2015       | Jump      | % Growth    |
|---------------|-----------|------------|-----------|-------------|
| Lake County   | 98        | 111        | 13        | 13%         |
| Sumter County | <b>29</b> | <b>80</b>  | <b>51</b> | <b>176%</b> |
| Elsewhere     | 2         | 4          | 2         | 100%        |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>29</b> | <b>195</b> | <b>66</b> | <b>51%</b>  |

We have experienced a net gain of 66 members in the past year. Over time *more members* will translate into more trail workers, more activity leaders, etc. There is also a one-time dues rebate from Gainesville of \$5.00 per membership that will benefit our treasury. For me the most striking datum in the table is the 176% increase in residents of Sumter County. This change has

happened because of the recruiting efforts of John Grob, Bob Schultz, Christine Pena, and other members from The Villages.

**Historical Marker.** A state historical marker commemorating the golden anniversary of the Florida Trail was approved by a Florida historical commission in September. It is being cast in a foundry this fall and will be erected and dedicated at the Clearwater Lake trailhead in October 2016. This marker is the brain-child of our *50th Anniversary Committee* composed of Arlene Beal, Lia Bostick (co-chairs), Cathy Leavers and Jane Williams. The state FTA board of directors is so enamored of this project they have decided to be the sponsor, which means that they (not we) will pay the \$1,900.00 manufacturing cost.

**Chapter Logo.** Also in September we Highlanders chose an attractive chapter logo. (Look for it in the masthead on page 1 of this newsletter.) The logo employs the tag line *Lake Country*, which is appropriate because our two counties contain almost 1,500 lakes;

that makes us Florida's lake district. The *Logo Committee* (Gene Bouley, Gordon Johnson, Bob Schultz and I) asked the members to select the logo from a field of six designs prepared by the talented graphic artist Kimberly Madrid. Our members were especially fond of three of the designs, but the trail-beside-the-lake drawing came out on top. We have saved the other two popular prototypes for possible future use in some fashion.

**Festivals.** Already this fall the chapter has participated in two outdoor festivals (*Wings & Wildflowers and Black Bear*) under the leadership of our Outreach Coordinator Kathy Lamb. One result of working these festivals is that we have acquired the names and email addresses of about 65 potential new members. Membership Chair Mary Ellen Milton is contacting these folks.

Much thanks to Mike Barnett, Dee Bender, Lia Bostick, Beth Carpenter, Nancy Drew, John and Sherry Farnoli, Diane Goeldner, Lillian Henderson, Gordon Johnson, Francis and Bobbi Keenan, Bill and Ginger Leach, Cathy Leavers, Jon and Judy Leavers, Bill and Mary Ellen Milton, Gene and Hazel Molnar, Glenda Moore, Rollin Patrick, Martha Reedy, Mary Ring, Di-

ane Roesch, Bob Schultz, Sandy Silver, and Joyce Wood for staffing these two events.

**Chapter Photos.** Judy Leavers and other Highlanders have been busy photographing our chapter activities since last January. More than 600 photos organized into twenty albums have been posted on our chapter photo website: [www.flickr.com/photos/highlandersfta/albums](http://www.flickr.com/photos/highlandersfta/albums)

**Scrap Metal Drive.** Bill Leach is in charge of this ongoing chapter effort. He tells us that he can accept almost any type of scrap metal and not only aluminum cans. However, aluminum *foil* is not accepted, nor is lead (except for auto batteries). Of course, tin cans should be rinsed. Help us raise funds for the chapter and protect the environment at the same time.

**Chapter Brochure.** For the first time in its history the chapter has its own printed brochure. This will help our chapter outreach. Please pick up a handful of brochures at the next chapter meeting and distribute them to prospects you meet on the trail or elsewhere.

—Howard Pospesel, Chapter Chair

## Highlanders Participate in Area Festivals



Martha & Cathy at the Black Bear Festival on October 10. Photograph by Judy Leavers



Bill, Bob, Steve, Jon, Mary Ellen & Judy on the panel at the Wings & Wildflowers Festival October 4. Also on the panel but not shown were Mike & Kathy. Photograph by Ava Barnes.

## Volunteer Opportunities

|                              |                                                                    |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Trailmaster:</b>          | Three mile section in Seminole State Forest. Contact Francis.      |
| <b>Calendar Editor:</b>      | Prepare an activity calendar every two months. Contact Mary Ellen. |
| <b>Development Officer:</b>  | Oversee the chapter's fund-raising efforts. Contact Howard.        |
| <b>Facebook Coordinator:</b> | Create and maintain a chapter Facebook site. Contact Howard.       |

## Activities for November and December 2015

### Saturday

**November 7, 2015 Trail Maintenance Workhike Ocala National Forest:** Farles N and South. Meet before 9:00 AM in the parking lot on the west side of Hwy 19 that is 2 1/2 miles North of the turn off to Alexander Springs (Hwy 445). Please be on time as we will be shuttling to another area to work. If you have further questions call or email [bobbiszoo@yahoo.com](mailto:bobbiszoo@yahoo.com) 787-8654. Bring hat, gloves, sunscreen, bug repellent, lunch, and lots of water. **29.073833 -81.629374**

### Wednesday

**November 11, 2015 Trail Maintenance Workhike Seminole State Forest:** Meet at the Brantley Branch Road entrance before 9:00 AM. Please be on time as we will be shuttling to another area to work. Please bring water, insect spray, hats, lunch, etc. If you have further questions call or email: Bobbi Keenan [bobbiszoo@yahoo.com](mailto:bobbiszoo@yahoo.com) 352-787-8654. Please let us know if you plan to attend so we can organize tools and teams. **28.890749 -81.461616**

### Wednesday

**November 18 2015 Highlanders Warm Up Hike:** McGregor Smith Scout Reservation, 8:30 AM. 6.5 mile hike with sun and shade on limestone and hard packed dirt roads to the main camp. Bring hat, sunscreen, water and snacks. No bathrooms. Directions: Take SR 44 west out of Wildwood, past I-75 and then across the Withlacoochee River. After crossing the river, go approximately 1 mile and turn left on Boy Scout Road. Drive about 1/2 mile and turn right. Park outside the gate. 12999 E Boy Scout Rd, Inverness, FL 34450 For more information contact Jon Leavers, 352-360-1717 or [jonleavers@yahoo.com](mailto:jonleavers@yahoo.com) **28.844612, -82.221524**

### Thursday

**November 19, 2015 **NOTE DATE CHANGE** Highlanders Chapter Monthly Meeting:** Leesburg Public Library, 100 E Main Street. Francis Keenan will present the program "Trail Maintenance". Use the entrance on Main Street. 6:00 PM. Meeting room just inside the entrance to the library. Bring a snack to share and your aluminum cans to recycle. Questions? 352-787-8654 or email Bobbi Keenan [bobbiszoo@yahoo.com](mailto:bobbiszoo@yahoo.com) **28.811093 -81.874858**

### Tuesday

**November 24, 2015 Trail Maintenance Workhike Seminole State Forest:** Meet at the Brantley Branch Road entrance before 9:00 AM. Please be on time as we will be shuttling to another area to work. Please bring water, insect spray, hats, lunch, etc. If you have further questions call or email: Bobbi Keenan [bobbiszoo@yahoo.com](mailto:bobbiszoo@yahoo.com) 352-787-8654. Please let us know if you plan to attend so we can organize tools and teams. **28.890749 -81.461616**

### Wednesday

**December 2, 2015 Highlanders Warm Up Hike:** Flat Island Preserve: Meet at 9:00 AM at Flat Island for a 3.5 mile hike on the Daubenmire Trail. Or come before 9:00 for coffee and socializing. After the hike join us

for lunch at Yalaha Bakery. Bring water and insect repellent. No pets, please. Howard Pospel (352-589-2543) or hikeft@embarqmail.com). Flat Island Preserve is southwest of Leesburg. GPS coordinates: **28.778647, -81.900262**

**DIRECTIONS, DRIVING SOUTH ON US 27:** From the intersection with Florida 25A (about .6 miles south of the intersection of US 27 and SR 44) drive southwest on 25A 1.1 miles to Owens Rd. Turn right (west) and follow this clay/sand road to the end. Turn right into the pasture for parking.

**DRIVING NORTH ON US 27:** From the intersection with Florida 25A (about 1.3 miles north of Hawthorne Blvd.) drive northwest on 25A 0.5 miles to Owens Rd. Turn left (west) and follow this clay/sand road to the end. Turn right into the pasture for parking. (Note that US 27 meets Florida 25A twice. When traveling from the north use the northern intersection, etc.)

### **Friday**

**December 4, 2015 Highlanders Warm Up Hike:** Lake May County Park, Eustis. The park is located north of Eustis on CR 44A, half mile east of the intersection CR 44A and Estes Road. Meet at 9:00 AM to hike three miles in one of Lake County's newest parks. Bring hat, water and a light lunch. Parking is limited. Contact Arlene Beal, 612-202-5224 or bealak59@gmail.com or Mary Ellen Milton, 352-357-3723 or mem32735@aol.com **28.872267, -81.629880**

### **Saturday**

**December 5, 2015 Trail Maintenance Workhike:** Location to be determined.

### **Wednesday**

**December 9 2015 Highlanders Warm Up Hike:** Ridge Manor Trailhead 9:00 AM. 7 mile hike along the Florida Trail, north from the trailhead on the Florida Trail and back. Part of the trail is along the river. Bring hat, sunscreen, water and snacks. After the hike we can eat at the covered picnic tables at the trailhead. Directions: Take SR 50 west from Clermont through Sumter County. Cross the Withlacoochee River. You will see a big brown sign for the Withlacoochee Trail. Drive under the bicycle overpass. Make a right at the light onto Croom-Rital Road. Go about 1/4 mile. Parking on the right. Bathrooms available. For more information contact Jon Leavers, 352-360-1717 or jonleavers@yahoo.com **28.525701, -82.218490**

### **Wednesday to Monday**

**December 9-14, 2015 Skidaway Island State Park, GA Camping/Being A Tourist** Limit 12 people. **Members Only**. Contact bobbiszoo@yahoo.com for further details.

### **Wednesday**

**December 28, 2015 - January 1, 2016**

**32nd ANNUAL NEW YEAR'S EVE CAMPOUT:** Celebrate New Year's Eve with FTA friends at the Doe Lake Campground located on Forest Road 14 in the Ocala National Forest. This is a group camp reserved for our group only. Arrive anytime after 3:00 PM on Monday Dec. 28th and checkout by 1:00 PM on Friday Jan 1. There will be scheduled hiking, biking and paddling activities in addition to evening programs, group dinners and campfires. No need to pre-register. Cost is \$5.00 per person per night. Under 18 and over 75 camp free. Florida Trail Association dues-paying members and guests only. For more information contact leaders. Rachael and Lou Augspurg 352-669-2898, cell 352-552-0626, lourayfl@mac.com

## **2016 WINTER WEDNESDAY "WALK IN THE PARK" SERIES**

The 23rd Annual Winter Wednesday Hike Series will explore the varied and interesting trails in our Central Florida County Parks, State Parks and Recreation Areas each week in January, February, and March. The hikes will start at 9:00 AM and consist of a 7-8 mile loop with shorter distance options. There will be breaks during the hike and we will have lunch on the trail. It is a great experience being out in the woods and hiking with a group, so join this group if you can for one or all of the winter walks.

The schedule is:

|           |               |                                                         |
|-----------|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Wednesday | January 6th   | Black Bear Wilderness Seminole County Park              |
| Wednesday | January 13th  | Kelly Park Orange County                                |
| Wednesday | January 20th  | Clearwater Rec Area - Ocala National Forest             |
| Wednesday | January 27th  | Silver Lake State Rec Area - Withlacoochee State Forest |
| Wednesday | February 3rd  | Moss Park & Split Oak Orange County Parks               |
| Wednesday | February 10th | Blue Springs State Park                                 |
| Wednesday | February 17th | Chuluota Wilderness Seminole County Park                |
| Wednesday | February 24th | Bulow Creek & Bulow Plantation Ruins State Parks        |
| Wednesday | March 2nd     | Silver Springs State Park                               |
| Wednesday | March 9th     | Hillsborough River State Park                           |
| Wednesday | March 16th    | Lake Kissimmee State Park                               |
| Wednesday | March 23rd    | Lake Louisa State Park                                  |
| Wednesday | March 30th    | Wekiwa Springs State Park                               |

Camping is available nearby for most of the hikes. Anyone interested in camping the night before, contact leaders. [lourayfl@mac.com](mailto:lourayfl@mac.com)

## Chapter Officers and Committee Chairs

Chapter Chair, Howard Pospesel, [pospesel@embarqmail.com](mailto:pospesel@embarqmail.com) or 352-589-2543  
Vice Chair, Eugene Bouley, [etbouley@embarqmail.com](mailto:etbouley@embarqmail.com) or 352-314-9335  
Secretary, Mary Ring, [momring@yahoo.com](mailto:momring@yahoo.com) or 352-250-1426  
Treasurer, Diane Roesch, [cattail3638@gmail.com](mailto:cattail3638@gmail.com) or 407-469-3638  
Trail Coordinator, Francis Keenan, [fkeenan@embarqmail.com](mailto:fkeenan@embarqmail.com) or 352-787-8654  
Activity Chairs, Mary Ellen Milton, [mem32735@aol.com](mailto:mem32735@aol.com) or 352-357-3723 &  
Bobbi Keenan, [bobbiszoo@yahoo.com](mailto:bobbiszoo@yahoo.com) or 352-787-8654  
Membership Chair, Mary Ellen Milton, [mem32735@aol.com](mailto:mem32735@aol.com) or 352-357-3723  
Chapter Coordinator, Bobbi Keenan, [bobbiszoo@yahoo.com](mailto:bobbiszoo@yahoo.com) or 352-787-8654  
Outreach Coordinator, Kathy Lamb, [kalamb1950@gmail.com](mailto:kalamb1950@gmail.com) or 352-383-1950  
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Program Chair, Ginger Leach, [gingerleach@hotmail.com](mailto:gingerleach@hotmail.com) or 352-728-6438  
Chapter Council Representatives, John Grob, [johndgrob@gmail.com](mailto:johndgrob@gmail.com) or 352-750-0341 &  
Lia Bostick, [liabostick@gmail.com](mailto:liabostick@gmail.com) or 352-288-0392  
Webmasters, Bobbi & Francis Keenan, [bobbiszoo@yahoo.com](mailto:bobbiszoo@yahoo.com), [fkeenan@embarqmail.com](mailto:fkeenan@embarqmail.com) or  
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Recycling Coordinator, Bill Leach, [wwleach@hotmail.com](mailto:wwleach@hotmail.com) or 352-728-6438

## Trailmasters and Activity Leaders

Trailmasters: Arlene Beal and Mary Ellen Milton, Dee Bender and Kathy Lamb, Gene Bouley, Francis Keenan, Bill Leach, Jon and Judy Leavers, Gene Molnar, Steve Nemeth, Rollin Patrick and Diane Roesch, Howard Pospesel, Mary Ring and Jane Williams, and Bruce Zollner

Activity Leaders: Mike Barnett, Gene Bouley, Diane Dammiller, Ken Dammiller, John Grob, Bobbi Keenan, Francis Keenan, Jon Leavers, Bill Milton, Mary Ellen Milton, Steve Nemeth, Howard Pospesel, Bob Sippey, Suzanne Sippey, Bruce Zollner, and Arlene Beal (in-training)

## Links

Florida Trail Association: <http://www.floridatrail.org>  
Highlanders Chapter, FTA <http://www.highlanders.floridatrail.org>  
Meetup for  
Highlanders Chapter: <http://www.meetup.com/Florida-Trail-Association-Central-Florida-Chapter>  
Highlanders Photos: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/highlandersfta/albums>