



FootNotes *



* Newsletter of the Highlanders Chapter, Florida Trail Association September – October 2015 Volume 16, Issue 5

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.

BRUCE HOBSON, 1926-2015



Bruce Carter Hobson was born May 17, 1926 in Newport, Rhode Island. He was the son of Earl H. and Maybell Kingsley Hobson. His father, Earl, was a veteran of World War 1 and had served our country in Camp Devens, Massachusetts and also in France.

Bruce entered military service in June, 1944, while in Providence RI, and attended technical school in Lafayette, IN. After completing his MOS training, Bruce was assigned to serve on the USS Mackinac AVP-13, a Seaplane Tender, as an Electrician's Mate Third Class. While aboard the USS Mackinac, Bruce did several deployments to the Pacific Theater in support of Navy PBY aircraft. For his service to his country, he was awarded the WWII Victory Medal, the American Theater Medal and the Asiatic Pacific Medal with 2 stars. Bruce received his Honorable Discharge in June, 1946.

After his military duty, Bruce entered the University Of Massachusetts, College Of Agriculture and studied Animal Husbandry during 1948-1950. Here he acquired the nickname of Hob or Hobby.

While at U of M, Bruce met Joan Morison, the daughter of Hugh and Catherine Morison; six weeks later, he “pinned” her with his Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity pin; in those days, that was a sign of serious commitment. Joan was studying to become a Registered Nurse. In 1950, after receiving his BS in Animal Science, Bruce became a farm manager and was responsible for the operation of a farm that raised Registered Angus livestock.

Bruce and Joan were married in 1951; they lived on the farm; Bruce managed the farm and Joan was an RN at Medfield State Hospital. After managing the farm for five years, there was new ownership and Bruce and Joan moved to a different residence and Bruce became a Nurse’s Aide at Medfield State Hospital. After continuing his training as a nurse at Medfield State, Bruce sat for the examination as a Licensed Practical Nurse and was awarded his Certification. Bruce worked at Medfield for five years. Bruce had an opportunity to advance his position by transferring to the Hebrew Rehabilitation Center in Boston. During his twelve years there, he worked the night shift, so that he could take part-time employment during the day. One of those positions was as an assistant to Miss Peabody, a member of a very prominent family in Boston. This gave Bruce an opportunity to meet and mix with some of Boston’s elite. Bruce enjoyed telling about the little jobs and errands that he would complete for “Miss Peabody.” Bruce and Joan, who both worked, had four children of whom they were exceedingly proud.

Bruce and Joan relocated to Clermont about 1985. Bruce went to work for Coca Cola/ Minute Maid in Leesburg and retired at age sixty-five. They joined the FTA in 1991 when Joan Hobson went on her first backpacking trip and maintenance hike with the Suncoast Chapter. Wherever Joan was, Bruce was not far behind. Bruce was more interested in maintaining the trail than in long-distance hiking but he followed along providing the support vehicle for Joan's adventures

while she was hiking the trail by providing her food, clothes and other support.

With the Highlanders Chapter, Bruce logged over 949 trail maintenance hours. This does not include all the hours he devoted to volunteering with other FTA chapters. Bruce and Joan were more recently co-trailmasters in the Ocala National Forest and previously had been trailmasters for a section in the Richloam Wildlife Management Area.

Bruce continued volunteering on trail maintenance work hikes until late 2012, at the age of 86.

Bruce served for a number of years as the Highlanders Chapter Vice-Chair and as a member of the FTA Board of Directors as the Highlanders Chapter Director. Later he served as the Highlanders Chapter Council Representative. In 2004 Joan and Bruce received the Special Service Award. In 2011 Joan and Bruce were awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Florida Trail Association.

But this was not all that Bruce accomplished for the Highlanders. Bruce knew the Highlanders Chapter needed to raise money for expenses so he took upon himself the project of aluminum-can recycling. Month by month, year in and year out, Bruce rode his bicycle collecting cans thrown out on the roadways; he helped clean up the environment and urged chapter members to bring all aluminum cans and scrap to chapter meetings. Bruce crushed the cans and stored them, waiting for the best prices, and then transported them from Clermont to Leesburg to sell. Bruce donated all this time and money to the chapter.

This Was A Man Called Bruce...We All Will Miss Him

Bruce died July 20, 2015, in Sumterville, Florida. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Joan, and his daughters, Marsha Dymond (Jay) and Susan Kingsley, and sons, Mark (Jean) and David

(Dorothy), eight grandchildren, and eight great grandchildren.

--Bill Milton and Bobbi Keenan

Highlanders Nature Notes

How does one observe nature? What is the best way to see wild animals in their natural habitats? There are several important concepts to consider. Once you master these, endless hours of fascination and excitement await you. Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote in his journal in 1858, "The charm which Henry [David Thoreau] uses for bird and frog and mink, is patience. They will not come to him, or show him aright, until he becomes a log among logs, sitting still for hours in the same place; then they come around him and to him, and show themselves at home." Indeed, this has also been my experience, though I usually haven't had to wait "for hours." Sometimes it only takes about 15 minutes of inactivity for the wild critters around my butterfly garden to forget about me and resume their normal behavior.

But let's start from the beginning: it's best to wear earth-colored clothing. Camouflage is great but so are regular clothes in faded greens and browns. You want to blend in, not stand out from your surroundings. Then find a comfortable place to wait, or a "sit spot," where you can relax in the shade with something to support your back, and keep the sun behind you. You'll see more, the less you move. Walking through a forest makes you the most conspicuous thing around and the animals will all freeze until you pass safely by. The English naturalist, Gerald Durrell, wrote that, "Your first observations of birds and their behavior can be done by simply learning to drift gently through a wood: a naturalist in a hurry never learns anything of value." 'Drifting gently through the woods' is OK for birding, I suppose, but I always see more when I'm not going anywhere. Even on walks where I wanted to get from one point to the next, I saw more of the wildlife all around me during those moments when I

stopped moving, and gave myself the chance to really **look**. We're a harried species, always wanting to get somewhere, and fast! It must come from our wide-spread use of the automobile and other fast modes of transportation. It now appears to be deeply ingrained in our culture, this need for speed in all that we do. But Edwin Way Teale has reminded us that speed isn't always best: "Commonly we stride through the out-of-doors too swiftly to see more than the most obvious and prominent thing. For observing nature, the best pace is a snail's pace." And I would add that *not moving at all* is better yet.

Tom Brown, Jr., in his book listed below, makes this point vividly in his description of a morning when he went to one of his favorite sit-spots off the AT in NJ just before sunrise and sat down quietly beside a dead tree. He got comfortable, blended in by the colors of the clothes he wore, and waited. In a short time, as the light increased, he observed numerous wild animals coming down the trail, including a doe and her fawn, a Red Fox, and a female Raccoon, who even unwittingly put her paw on his shoulder as she climbed up to her den site a little higher in the snag. None of these animals apparently detected his presence because he remained motionless. Where some hunters prefer a "blind," perhaps because they can't sit still for very long (?), in my experience it is usually unnecessary. I have had luck similar to Tom's. On a recent trip to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park my wife and I sat still on the forest edge by the large open field outside the Oconaluftee Visitor's Center early one morning, and watched as a herd of Elk came from the trees behind us! They spotted us when my wife turned around, but I encouraged

her to remain still as they gradually entered the field to graze in front of us, suspicious, but unalarmed by our continued stillness.

In his book, *Birds of North America*, Eliot Porter writes, “The secret of wildlife observation is obvious enough – and, in truth, no secret at all – for it merely requires close attentiveness to all the minutiae of what goes on around one, made possible by a stillness of posture so that to other creatures one becomes just another object in nature. On numerous occasions I have found myself treated like an inanimate feature of the environment until I moved, when [the nearby animal]... suddenly took fright.”

Furthermore, use all of your senses, but particularly, keep your eyes and ears open. Use your peripheral vision to detect movement on both

sides, above and below you. There’s much to be seen by one who really looks. And, lastly, *calm* yourself. Richard DeGraaf reminds us, “The important thing in watching wildlife is to know that if you are careful, there is nothing out there to fear.” Now go out and see what *you* might discover!

-Mike Barnett

Sources:

Brown, Tom, Jr. and Brandt Morgan. Tom Brown’s Field Guide to Nature Observation and Tracking. NY: Berkley Books, 1983.

Hanenkrat, Frank T. Wildlife Watcher’s Handbook. NY: Winchester Press, 1977.

Roth, Charles E. The Wildlife Observer’s Guidebook. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1982.

Notes from the Chair – Two Updates

A month has passed since the July chapter meeting when we talked about Bruce Hobson’s death, and also about our chapter’s effort to properly commemorate the 50th anniversary of the beginning of the Florida Trail. In this column I will bring you up to date on both of these subjects.

Bruce Hobson. There was a moving memorial service for Bruce at the Clermont Episcopal church on the Saturday following his death. The church was filled with Bruce’s friends, including ten members of our chapter. The tribute poem “Ode to Bruce” was printed on the back of the program folder, and one of Bruce’s and Joan’s daughters read the poem from the lectern. The service was followed by a gathering of many friends in the fellowship hall of the church.

At the July meeting I announced the creation of a committee whose main job will be to organize a permanent memorial to Bruce, one that will be located beside a trail he helped maintain. After the

meeting two of our members volunteered to serve on this committee: Karen Harrington and Stephen Nemeth; Karen agreed to chair the committee. Three other chapter members, Bobbi Keenan, Bill Milton, and Bernice Nemeth, offered to help the committee with its work. A fine comprehensive obituary for Bruce was composed and sent to the editor of “The Footprint” with the request that it appear in the fall issue. The same obituary is published in this issue of our newsletter.

In early August the committee sent chapter members an email appeal requesting donations to pay for the memorial. As of August 19, ten members or couples have contributed \$360 to this project. It would be helpful to receive additional donations. Checks can be mailed to our treasurer (Diane Roesch, Highlanders Treasurer, Bruce Hobson Memorial Fund, PO Box 560262, Montverde, FL 34756-0262) or handed to her at the September chapter meeting. Thanks for help-

ing us properly remember and honor a chapter founder who gave so much to us and our work.

As you know, for the past 16 years Bruce collected aluminum cans for the chapter. No one asked Bruce to take on this job; he thought it up and took it on. He never stopped doing this until shortly before his death. Bruce collected, crushed, and stored the cans, and when the price for recycled aluminum was high he took them to Leesburg and sold them, turning the proceeds over to the chapter. This money from recycled aluminum has been one of the three main sources of revenue for our chapter since its beginning. I called Bruce our “chapter alchemist,” since he turned aluminum into gold for our benefit.

I was not at all confident that we would find someone willing to continue this work that Bruce had done for us for all these years. I am very pleased to tell you that Bill Leach has stepped forward and offered to fill this important post. As with Bruce, so with Bill; no one asked him to take on this responsibility, he volunteered to do it.

Without volunteers like Bruce and Bill our chapter would be out of business, and palmetto scrub would take over 53 miles of forest footpaths.

Historical Marker. Last spring I set up a committee whose charge is to plan the chapter’s celebration in October 2016 of the 50th anniversary of the beginning of the Florida Trail. Our chapter takes a special interest in the founding of the trail since it occurred nearby in the Ocala National Forest.

Four chapter members volunteered to serve on this committee: Arlene Beal (co-chair), Lia Bostick (co-chair), Cathy Leavers, and Jane

Williams. The committee began its work with enthusiasm and creative energy; it “caught fire.” Early on the members came up with the idea of erecting a *Florida State Historical Marker* to commemorate the birth of the trail, and immediately they began work on this project.

The job involves surmounting three hurdles: (1) getting the US Forest Service to allow the installation of the marker on the land they manage, (2) lining up support for the idea from the leaders of the state FTA, and (3) obtaining the approval of the state commission that oversees the historical-marker program. None of these jobs would be easy. For example, in the past our chapter has been unsuccessful in its attempts to secure the approval of the USFS for installing a memorial trail bench along the Florida Trail in the Ocala Forest. Clearing all three hurdles would be a remarkable achievement! So far the committee has topped the first two hurdles listed above. The remaining hurdle is winning the approval of the state historical commission. That matter will be decided at a meeting in Tallahassee on September 16. I am optimistic that this last hurdle will also be cleared.

The most recent development in this project is the decision by the state FTA leaders to be the sponsor of the marker. This means that the state group has assumed responsibility for raising the money (about \$1,900) that will be needed to pay for the marker.

Through the efforts of our committee the chapter has taken steps to ensure that the FTA marks this major anniversary appropriately. I think it is quite safe to say that without the work of these four Highlanders there would be no historical marker for the Florida Trail at Clearwater Lake.

–Howard Pospesil, Chapter Chair

Chapter Picnic at Lake Hiawatha Preserve, June 25th
Photos by Judy Leavers



John, Sherry, Mark & Rollin



Jan & Philip



Jan, Bob, Steve, Judy & Sue



Steve, Philip, Jan, Sue, Jon, Joe & Mark

Activities for September & October 2015

Early September, 2015. Movie Party: Attend a showing of the movie "A Walk in the Woods" and join us after the movie for an optional meal in a nearby restaurant. This movie about hiking the Appalachian Trail stars Robert Redford and Nick Nolte. It is based on the 1998 book with the same name by humorist and travel writer Bill Bryson. This is one of a very few feature films ever made about a backpacking adventure. Specifics (date, time, theater, restaurant) will be provided later. Howard Pospesel (352-589-2543 or hikeft@embarqmail.com).

Thursday

September 24, 2015 Highlanders Chapter Monthly Meeting: Leesburg Public Library, 100 E Main Street. Use the entrance on Main Street. 6:00 PM. Meeting room just inside the entrance to the library. Our program, Florida Trail State Update will be presented by Jeff Glenn. Bring a snack to share and your aluminum cans to recycle. Questions? 352-787-8654 or email Bobbi Keenan bobbiszoo@yahoo.com **28.811093 -81.874858**

Friday, Saturday & Sunday

Sept. 25-27, 2015 Trail Skills Training

Saturday

September 26, 2015 Chapter/All Association Trail Maintenance Workhike, Camp La-No-Che Individual assignments will be given. Please let us know if you are signed up for the above Trail Skills Training Weekend or if you are just coming to the Saturday workhike. Trailmasters and experienced maintainers are needed. fkeenan@embarqmail.com

Wednesday

September 30, 2015 Trail Maintenance Workhike: Ocala National Forest: FR 30 to Hwy 40. Meet before 9 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 787-8654 Bring hat, gloves, sunscreen, bug repellent, lunch, and lots of water. **29.073833 -81.629374**

Friday, Saturday & Sunday

Oct. 2-4, 2015 Wings and Wildflowers Venetian Gardens, Leesburg. Volunteers are needed to staff the FTA Highlanders table October 2 from Noon until 4 PM, October 3 from 9 AM – 1 PM and 2 PM – 4 PM, and October 4 from 9 AM – 4 PM. Contact Kathy Lamb at kalamb1950@gmail.com to volunteer..

Wednesday

October 7, 2015 Trail Maintenance Workhike: Ocala National Forest: Hwy 445 west to FR 57 Meet before 9 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 787-8654 Bring hat, gloves, sunscreen, bug repellent, lunch, and lots of water. **29.073833 -81.629374**

Saturday

October 10, 2015 Black Bear Festival, Umatilla Volunteers are needed to staff the FTA Highlanders table from 9 AM – 1 PM. In addition we are looking for at least two (but preferably four) volunteers to lead a short hike to be held in conjunction with the Festival. This is an inaugural event. Plans are to start the hike from the Clearwater Lake Trailhead with start time and distance to be established by the hike leaders. Contact Kathy Lamb at kalamb1950@gmail.com to volunteer.

Monday to Friday

Oct. 12-Oct. 16, 2015 Hillsborough River State Park Camping/Paddling/Hiking Trip. Limit 12 people. **Members Only.** Contact bobbiszoo@yahoo.com for further details.

Wednesday

October 21, 2015 Trail Maintenance Workhike: Hog Island Recreation Area: Meet at the entrance to the Withlacoochee State Forest before 9:00: exit 309 off I-75 head west 1/4 mile. Please be on time as we will be shuttling to another area to work. Contact Steve Nemeth at 352-242-3876 or email nematode23@gmail.com Bring hat, gloves, sunscreen, bug repellent, snacks, and lots of water. **28.601498 -82.209488**

Thursday

October 29, 2015 NOTE DATE CHANGE Highlanders Chapter Monthly Meeting: The program will be presented by Rollin Patrick- Scottish Neolithic Sights or Rocks, Rocks and more Rocks. Leesburg Public Library, 100 E Main Street. 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 **28.811093 -81.874858**

Saturday

October 31, 2015. First Annual Golden Blaze Hike: Visit the spot where the first FT blaze was painted in October of 1966. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Clearwater Lake for an out-and-back hike in the Ocala National Forest. There will be 6-mile and 3-mile hike options. Come before 9:00 if you want to join us for coffee and socializing. Bring water, snacks, lunch (if you are doing the 6-mile walk), and insect repellent. No pets, please. Howard Pospesel (352-589-2543 or hikeft@embarqmail.com) and Arlene Beal (612-202-5224 or bealak59@gmail.com). Directions: From Altoona drive 6.4 miles east on CR 42 to Clearwater Lake Recreation Area. Meet in the parking lot on the right side of the entrance road before you reach the entrance station. **28.97672, -81.55020**

Saturday

November 7, 2015 Trail Maintenance Workhike: Ocala National Forest, Farles N and South Meet before 9 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 787-8654 Bring hat, gloves, sunscreen, bug repellent, lunch, and lots of water. **29.073833 -81.629374.**

Wednesday

November 11, 2015 Trail Maintenance Workhike: Location to be determined.

Thursday

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

Tuesday

November 24, 2015 Trail Maintenance Workhike: Location to be determined.

Saturday

December 5, 2015 Trail Maintenance Workhike, Ocala National Forest, Hwy 445 east to FR06. Meet at Hwy 445 and Forest Road 69, just south of Alexander Springs before 9:00 AM. 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 787-8654 Bring hat, gloves, sunscreen, bug repellent, lunch, and lots of water. **29.074541 -81.586464**

Wednesday to Monday

Dec. 9-Dec. 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 16, 2015 Trail Maintenance Workhike, Hog Island Recreation Area: Meet at the entrance to the Withlacoochee State Forest before 9:00, exit 309 off I-75 head west 1/4 mile. Please be on time as we will be shuttling to another area to work. Contact Steve Nemeth at 352-242-3876 or email nematode23@gmail.com Bring hat, gloves, sunscreen, bug repellent, snacks, and lots of water. **28.601498 -82.209488**

Chapter Officers and Committee Chairs

Chapter Chair, Howard Pospel, pospesel@embarqmail.com or 352-589-2543

Vice Chair, Eugene Bouley, etbouley@embarqmail.com or 352-314-9335

Secretary, Mary Ring, momring@yahoo.com or 352-250-1426

Treasurer, Diane Roesch, cattail3638@gmail.com or 407-469-3638

Trail Coordinator, Francis Keenan, fkeenan@embarqmail.com or 352-787-8654

Activity Chairs, Mary Ellen Milton, mem32735@aol.com or 352-357-3723 &

Bobbi Keenan, bobbiszoo@yahoo.com or 352-787-8654

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Outreach Coordinator, Kathy Lamb, kalamb1950@gmail.com or 352-383-1950

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Program Chair, Ginger Leach, gingerleach@hotmail.com or 352-728-6438

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Media PR Coordinator, Glenda Moore, gmaemoore@yahoo.com or 352-324-2570

Recycling Coordinator, Bill Leach, 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, Millie and John Kozar, 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>