



# FootNotes \*



**\* Newsletter of the Highlanders Chapter,  
Florida Trail Association  
November – December 2017  
Volume 18, 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.

### **Highlanders Nature Notes – Backpacking in the Shenandoah**



*Photo by U.S. National Park Service*

Nature and the out-of-doors have various soothing sounds for many people. For me, one of those is the sound of rain on my tent canopy at night. This sound takes me back to my very first backpacking trip with my youngest brother in Shenandoah National Park in the early 80's. It probably predates even that trip, as there were many family camping trips when I was a teen where Florida summer-time rain factored into the experience. But the Shenandoah trip was special for many reasons. It was the first time just the two of us camped together, and it served to bring our relationship even closer than it had been.

It's funny how even difficulties can be fondly remembered as the years go by. The tent I had purchased with the few funds available to me at that time was a cheap, K-Mart, A-frame pup-tent, a little too heavy for backpacking, but the lightest & smallest I could afford. As I look back now, it was really more the kind of a tent one would purchase for young kids sleeping in their backyard, rather than for wilderness travel. But I was completely new to backpacking and couldn't tell the difference, nor could I have afforded a better one anyway. As you have probably guessed by now, it leaked badly during our first good rain storm. So everything got wet. The rain continued throughout the day so we were completely soaked by the time we got back to our car and drove to Skyland Lodge for a hot meal. The skin on our feet was shriveled like prunes, even though I thought I had treated my Sears work boots sufficiently to make them waterproof. They weren't. We changed into dry clothes in the bathroom below the restaurant before dinner.

Even though everything that possibly could have gone wrong did go wrong, we survived the experience, learned valuable lessons from it, and grew closer as brothers for having endured it together. So whenever I'm in the rain now, and especially when I'm in a

nice, dry tent with the rain falling on the outside to lull me to sleep, I fondly remember that first backpacking trip in Shenandoah National Park.

I have been camping many, many more times since then, with friends, my brother and other family members, and my own family. My wife, Nancy, and son, Frank, have accompanied me on numerous camping and backpacking trips over the years, many of which included rainy nights spent snuggled in our tent. No matter where we are or what the occasion, if it rains, I'm once again transported to that very first trip with my brother. The sound of rain on the roof of my tent or cabin makes me smile, and brings me a peaceful, warm feeling inside.

I guess what I've been trying to say in this essay is

that even the difficult times spent in the wild can be remembered with fondness. There's something about surviving adversity that helps us not only to grow and learn, but also to become closer to anyone we've shared it with. Soldiers in combat know this, as well as wilderness adventurers all over the world. Friedrich Nietzsche once said, "What doesn't kill me makes me stronger." Survivors have an inner self confidence based on trials and obstacles overcome. So don't let your worries about making mistakes keep you from getting out there. Everyone makes mistakes. Learn from them and do it better the next time. But get out there as much as possible and do it with those you love. Make some fond memories that will last a lifetime.

—Mike Barnett

## Highlanders Activity Leaders and Activity Leader Chairs

As an FTA Activity Leader we have certain protections and help from our state organization in Gainesville. Florida Trail provides Activity Leaders with training and they also furnish insurance protection for leaders and participants of activities should there be an accident.

Highlanders Chapter now has three Activity Leader Chairs: Bobbi Keenan, Mary Ellen Milton, and Mary Ring. Our job is to review all Proposals of Activities and see that they are published. There are several ways we can let our members know about future activities. Options include use of the FTA state web site, Highlanders chapter web site, chapter newsletter, chapter E-mails, and Meetup. Meetup is an optional web-based tool used by many FTA chapters, including our own, for soliciting participation from the public at large, to maintain communications between the activity leader and attendees, and to maintain an attendee limit. If an Activity Leader prefers not to use Meetup, please note this in the proposal.

Following the event, the Activity Chair will furnish the state office with the Sign-In Sheets. The Chair must file a Post-Activity Report if there were any problems during an activity that was held.

Activity Leaders also have responsibilities. Leaders should prepare a Proposal for all hikes they plan and give it to the Chair to review. The Proposal should list the name of the Activity Leaders, date of activity, place and description, sponsoring Chapter, difficulty of activity, whether the event should be open to the public and, if so, should the event be published in Meetup.

At the event, the Activity Leader has each participant sign the Assumption-of-Risk forms. Completed sheets are then given to the Activity Chair who mails them to the Gainesville Office. At the beginning of the hike, bike, or paddle the leader offers an introduction and explains what is expected of those participating. There may be some new people who do not know about the Leave-No-Trace Policy, the Potty Protocol, and the rule about staying between the lead and the sweep. Activity Leaders should also keep track of their driving mileage to and from an event and their volunteer hours in both planning and leading the activity. This mileage and the volunteer hours should be reported to Bobbi Keenan during the first week of the month following the activity. The information is tabulated and then reported to the state office. The FTA needs this record to show how hard our volunteers are all working to provide outdoor adventures.

## Notes from the Chair

Hurricane Irma left our trails in tough shape. In the Seminole State Forest, Francis and helpers cleared about 20 blow downs in a 1.3 mile stretch, and on a second day they cut 25 downed trees in a 1 mile section. At Flat Island, nine workers spent a morning clearing several snags of trees in two teams covering a two mile section using four chainsaws to get through the clusters of fallen trees.

Terry and I went to our section of trail in the Ocala National Forest and spent 3.5 hours trying to open up the first mile so hikers could pass through. We had 49 trees down in the first mile. All we could do was clear out the limbs with loppers so a hiker could get by climbing over or ducking under the remaining main part of the tree left for the sawyers.

Sandy Bell found 105 blow downs on his four mile section of trail near Alexander Springs. The boardwalk in his area was also damaged by tree falls, breaking some of the heavy stringers. Steve Nemeth reported the Withlacoochee River has left the Hog Island trails under water. Wade Williston reported over 40 blow downs in the Buck Lake area starting from the trail head at the Route 19 parking lot on the Flor-

ida and adjacent blue trails. In some cases multiple trees fell over each other creating a mangled pile of tree trunks and branches in the trail.

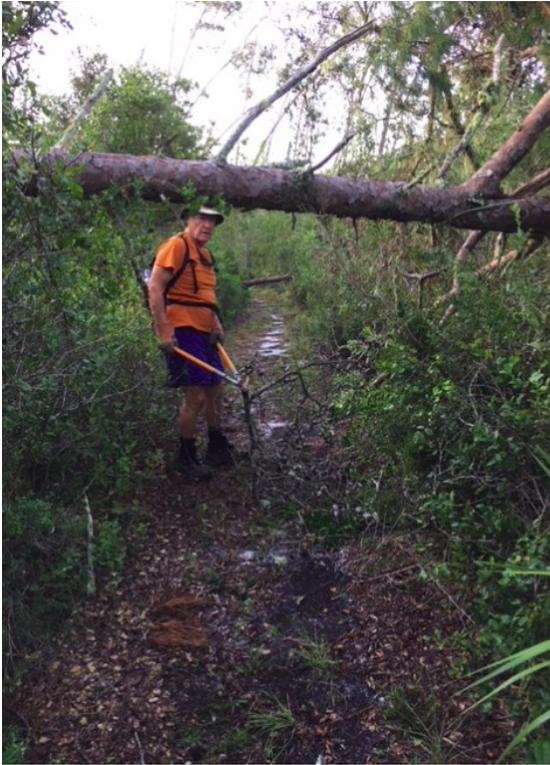
We are getting some help from the Forest Service. They have a crew of 12 firefighters from out of state who are working on the North sector of the Florida Trail to open it up. By the time you read this hopefully they will covered some of our sections of the trail. They will cut the heavy stuff, but we will still need to clean up the debris and trim the vegetation along our sections of the trail. In other areas we maintain not on the FT, we will still have a lot of tough work to do to bring the trails back into good shape for hiking. We all know many hands get the job done and we will need many hands. I hope you will all make an effort to support our work days and help our trail master Francis Keenan to get the trails back into good shape.

Keep hiking!

–Gene Bouley, FTA Highlanders Chapter Chair

## Chapter Photos – Clearing Out Our Trails





## Highlanders Activities for November and December 2017

**Saturday, November 4, 2017**

**Trail Maintenance Work Hike in Ocala National Forest - Buck Lake-FR22.** Meet before 9:00 AM in the parking lot on the west side of Highway 19 that is 2 1/2 miles north of the turn off to Alexander Springs (Highway 445). Please be on time as we will be shuttling to another area to work. Any questions, call Bobbi at 352-787-8654 or email [bobbiszoo@yahoo.com](mailto:bobbiszoo@yahoo.com). Bring hat, gloves, sunscreen, bug repellent, lunch, and lots of water (must carry two quarts). **29.073833 -81.629374**

**Thursday, November 9, 2017**

**Warm up hike PEAR Park.** Meet at the Nature Center for 9:00 AM hike. Easy two to four miles depending on your condition. Bring water and a snack. Trip leader Gene Bouley - Home 352-314-9335 or Cell 352-360-3722 . **28.729341, -81.874765**

### **Directions to PEAR Park:**

Take Routes 27/441 South towards Leesburg. When 27 and 441 split stay to right and go straight ahead staying on Route 27. About five miles south of Leesburg at the junction of Route 48 and 27, proceed straight ahead on Route 27 for 1.8 miles. Turn right onto University Avenue and follow about a mile to entrance into PEAR Park. Meet at Nature Center Building in park with nature painting on it. **Important:** You will pass a PEAR Park entrance on Route 27 one mile from junction of 27 and 48. This is for the dog park, go an additional 0.8 of a mile to the second park entrance at University Ave.

**Sunday, November 12, 2017**

**Celebration of Life for Lou Augspurg.** Let's do it together - Join us to celebrate & remember! Arrive anytime after 3:00 PM. Doe Lake Recreation Area is between Moss Bluff and Umatilla, Florida . **29.040451, -81.820314**

**Place:** Doe Lake Campground is in the Ocala National Forest. It has a dining hall, restrooms, and a large fire ring by the lake.

**What:** Pot Luck picnic at 5:00 PM, followed by a campfire. Bring chairs and stories to share.

**Camping:** If anyone wants to camp the place is reserved until Tuesday morning.

**Physical Address:** Doe Lake Campground - 20220 127TH Street. Ocklawaha, FL

**Directions to Doe Lake:**

**From SR 19,** go west on SR 42 at stop light in Altoona for 10.8 miles. Turn right/north onto SE 182nd Avenue another 4.1 miles. Turn right/east on Forest Road 14, (also known as 127th St. Rd). Go one mile to campground on right.

**From SR 40,** at Forest Corners, turn right/south on CR 314 A/ SE Hwy 314A. Go 7.7 miles until it turns into SE 95th St. Go 1.8 miles, turn right/south on SE 182nd Avenue. Go 3.5 miles, turn left/east on Forest Road 14 (also 127th St. Road). Go one mile to campground on right.

**Monday, November 13, 2017**

**Trail Maintenance Work Hike in Ocala National Forest - FR06-69.** Meet at Highway 445 and Forest Road 69 (Paisley Road), just south of Alexander Springs before 9:00 AM. Please be on time as we will be shuttling to another area to work. Any questions, call Bobbi at 352-787-8654 or email [bobbiszoo@yahoo.com](mailto:bobbiszoo@yahoo.com). Bring hat, gloves, sunscreen, bug repellent, lunch, and lots of water (must carry two quarts). **29.074541 -81.586464**

**Thursday, November 16, 2017**

**Highlanders Chapter General Meeting - Note this meeting is being held on the third Thursday of this month.** Meet at the Leesburg Public Library 100 East Main Street in the meeting rooms at the front of the library. Meeting starts at 6:00 PM. Come earlier for social time. Please bring your aluminum cans to recycle in non-dripping plastic bags and a snack to share. Open to the Public. Any questions, call Bobbi at 352-787-8654 or email [bobbiszoo@yahoo.com](mailto:bobbiszoo@yahoo.com). Our Program will be presented by Rachel Kesler on Orlando Wetlands.

**Thursday, November 30, 2017**

**Bike Trip Lake Minneola Trail.** Gene and Terry Bouley will take a bike trip on the new portion of the Lake Minneola trail. If you want to join us, we will meet at the Minneola Trailhead Park at 9:30 AM Thursday morning the 30th. We will ride along the old trail to its connection with the added 3 miles of trail. We will eat lunch on our way back at the new park along the trail. Total ride just over 12 miles. Bring lunch, water and wear a helmet. Any questions, call Gene Bouley - Home 352-314-9335 or Cell 352-360-3722 . **28.573583, -81.742228**

**Directions:**

On Route 27, proceed south towards Clermont. Take a left onto Washington Street (old Route 50). You should see a 7-Eleven on the corner and a sign for the trailhead. Go one block and take a right onto Bloxam Avenue (trailhead sign). Take a second left onto Madison Street (trailhead sign). Trailhead park is 300 yards on the right.

**Saturday, December 2, 2017**

**Trail Maintenance Work Hike in Ocala National Forest - Tracy Unit North.** Meet before 9:00 AM at Clearwater Lake Recreation Area off Highway 42 near Paisley. After turning off Highway 42, meet at the parking

lot/trailhead on the right just prior to the entrance to Clearwater Lake Campground. Please be on time as we will be shuttling to another area to work. Bring hat, gloves, sunscreen, bug repellent, lunch, and lots of water (must carry two quarts). Any questions, call Bobbi at 352-787-8654 or email [bobbiszoo@yahoo.com](mailto:bobbiszoo@yahoo.com). **28.976677, -81.550236**

### **Tuesday, December 5, 2017**

**Warm Up Hike at the Green Mountain Scenic Overlook and Trailhead.** Join us 9:00 AM at 20700 County Road 455, Ferndale. There will be two options for hikers - a longer and faster hike led by Jon Leavers, [jonleavers@yahoo.com](mailto:jonleavers@yahoo.com) and a slower and shorter hike four to five miles led by Arlene Beal, [bealak59@gmail.com](mailto:bealak59@gmail.com) and Mary Ellen Milton, [mem32735@aol.com](mailto:mem32735@aol.com). The trailhead and scenic overlook includes a 130 foot elevated boardwalk leading to a 20x20 foot overlook offering exceptional views. The facility also boasts a covered pavilion with picnic tables, restrooms, and a switchback trail from the parking area to the railroad bed. Bring water, snacks, lunch (if you are doing the longer hike) and insect repellent. No pets please. For more information please contact one of the Activity Leaders. **28.647017, -81.709683**

### **Saturday, December 9, 2017**

**Highlanders Christmas Party.** This year our annual Pot-Luck Party will be at Hickory Point Recreation Area, 27341 SR 19, Tavares, FL. The park is on Lake Harris and Highway 19, between Tavares and Howey-in-the-Hills. We have the entire bottom floor of the two-story, screened picnic pavilion reserved from 3:00 to 8:00 PM. Please bring a dish to share. No alcohol. Come any time to enjoy the park or socialize. We will eat at 5:00 PM. The chapter will have plates and silverware. Any questions, call Mary Ellen Milton at 352-669-3628 or email [mem32735@aol.com](mailto:mem32735@aol.com) for more details. No Pets Please. **28.745985, -81.765867**

### **Monday, December 11, 2017**

**Trail Maintenance Work Hike - Royal Trails.** Meet at the Brantley Branch Road entrance to Seminole State Forest before 9:00 AM. Please be on time as we will be shuttling to another area to work. Bring hat, gloves, sunscreen, bug repellent, lunch, and lots of water (must carry two quarts). Any questions, call Bobbi at 352-787-8654 or email [bobbiszoo@yahoo.com](mailto:bobbiszoo@yahoo.com). **28.890749 -81.461616**

## **Chapter Officers and Committee Chairs**

Chapter Chair, Eugene Bouley, [etbouley@embarqmail.com](mailto:etbouley@embarqmail.com) or 352-314-9335

Vice Chair, Bill Leach, [wwleach@hotmail.com](mailto:wwleach@hotmail.com) or 352-728-6438

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

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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

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Mike Tamburrino, [miketamburrino@yahoo.com](mailto:miketamburrino@yahoo.com) or 303-809-3284

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Grant Writer, Dee Bender, [deebender829@gmail.com](mailto:deebender829@gmail.com) or 352-460-7085  
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Memorial Committee Chair, Stuart Force, [stuart.force@comcast.net](mailto:stuart.force@comcast.net) or 352-303-5623  
Recycling Coordinator, Bill Leach, [wwleach@hotmail.com](mailto:wwleach@hotmail.com) or 352-728-6438

## Trailmasters and Activity Leaders

Trailmasters: Arlene Beal, Sandy Bell, Dee Bender, Gene Bouley, Stuart Force, Karen Harrington, Francis Keenan, Kathy Lamb, Bill and Ginger Leach, Jon and Judy Leavers, Mary Ellen Milton, Steve and Bernice Nemeth, Howard Pospesel, Mary Ring, Diane Roesch, Mike Tamburrino, Jane Williams, Wade Williston, and Bruce Zollner.

Activity Leaders: Mike Barnett, Arlene Beal, Gene Bouley, Diane and Ken Dammiller, John Grob, Brad Hoopes, Bobbi and Francis Keenan, Jon Leavers, Bill and Mary Ellen Milton, Steve Nemeth, Howard Pospesel, Bob and Suzanne Sippey, Mike Tamburrino, Don Valcheff, Wade Williston, and Bruce Zollner.

## Links

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

