



THE BLAZE

APALACHEE CHAPTER FLORIDA TRAIL ASSOCIATION



SPRING 2011

Chapter Officers

Chair	Terry Tenold, 877-1612
Treasurer	Carol Armstrong, 385-4143
Membership	Howard Pardue, 386-1494
Programs	Linda Patton, 668-4334
Publicity/Website	Linda Patton, 668-4334
Activities	Barbara Donner, 514-4284
Newsletter	Ben Poston, (503)290-8318
Trails Coord.	Open
FNST Liaison	Kent Wimmer, 523-8576

Section Leaders and Trail Masters

Aucilla	Barbara Donner, 514-4284 Lee Bonninghausen, Randy Smith & George Blakely
St. Marks Apalach. E.	Dale Allen, 656-8050 Richard Graham, 878-3616 George Weaver, 510-3288
Apalach. W. Ft. Braden	Ronny Traylor, 643-5517 Howard Pardue, 386-1494 Mike Tucker & Rik Edmonds
Torreyea	Jerry Herting, 878-3426 Bob Gilley
Phipps Park	Linda Patton, 668-4334 Karen Berkley, Dawn Brown & David Gregory

Website <http://apalachee.floridatrail.org>
FTA Toll-Free Line 1.800.343.1882
(Call this number for any address changes)

CHAPTER MEETINGS

Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month from 7 to 9 PM in Building F, Suite 100 (U.S. Forest Service), the first building on the right as you enter Woodcrest Office Park at 325 John Knox Road, Tallahassee. The meeting room is ground level at the east end of Building F. Look for the Florida Trail signs at wooden door. For more information, contact Terry Tenold (850) 877-1612 or Linda Patton (850) 668-4334. Meetings are open to the public.

January 11 "Twelve Days through the Grand Canyon." Chapter member Dawn Brown will discuss her rafting and hiking trip down the Colorado River, through the Grand Canyon. From the put-in at Lee's Ferry to the helicopter ride out at mile 188 the trip was filled with rapids, scrambles up waterfalls and incredible views of the most striking geological feature in the USA. Come share the adventure.

February 8 [ELECTIONS--SEE PAGE 4] "Tunisia." Once Rome's bread basket, Tunisia is now a contrast in cultures: from metropolitan youth in the north's city apartments to nomadic Bedouins in tents on the south's Sahara Desert. Ken and Virginia Loewe will present pictures of Carthage/Roman structures, olive and date palm farming, ancient granaries, modern fish markets, and shopping in the medinas' labyrinth-like alleys. If some of the pictures look familiar, it may be because parts of "Star Wars" were filmed on Tunisia's lunar-like landscape!

March 8 "Southern Brothers in the Far North." Ryan and Harley Means' epic 150-mile trek through the vast Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska: an 80-mile backpack to the head of the Chisana River, a 65-mile float downriver in solo packrafts and a final 5-mile bushwack thru taiga to the Alaska Highway. They have decades of experience, but Alaska provided the greatest wilderness experience of their lives. They went in search of solitude and communion with nature on the grandest scale; they discovered that sticking together and having each other's backs was the only way to complete the journey.

April 12 "Five-Star Western Trails." Jerry Lawrence is a local veterinarian who has hiked and photographed over a hundred trails in the western United States. This program is a photographic review of his favorite hikes in California, the Pacific Northwest, the Colorado Plateau, and the Rocky Mountains.

ACTIVITIES

Those interested in an activity should contact the listed leader at least a full day prior to the event. Dress appropriately for our unpredictable weather and the woods - wearing layers and hiking footwear is recommended. Always bring water, and possibly snacks, sunscreen and bug spray. Most activities continue as scheduled, even if the weather is less than ideal. An adult chaperon must accompany children. **Codes:** "P" - Public welcome to participate; "M" - Limited to FTA members only; "L" - Leisurely; "M" - Moderately difficult; "S" - Strenuous.

January 1, 2011 Saturday P/L
15th Annual Phipps Park Holiday Hike

A leisurely 2.5-mile hike, plus side trip to bat house on Lake Victoria. Followed by a New Year's lunch at the Oak Hammock. Bring water and lunch. Sign up by Wed., Dec. 30th. Linda Patton (850) 668-4334

January 8 Saturday P/L
WD Lines Tract Hike

We will hike the Talquin Loop that parallels the shores of Lake Talquin. This is a 6.5 mile hike. Bring water and snacks. Gwen Beatty (850) 942-7165(H) or (850) 545-0531(C) gfbeatty@yahoo.com

January 11 Tuesday Program:
"Twelve Days through the Grand Canyon."

January 22 Saturday P/S
Torreya State Park Hike

Hike the River Bluff-Torreya loop trail about 8 miles in hilly terrain. View the Apalachicola River, its floodplain, mixed hardwood forest, and long leaf pine woods. Bring lunch and water. Meet at 7:30 A.M. in Tallahassee to car pool. Limit 15 people. Jerry Herting (850) 878-3426

January 23 Sunday P/L
Miccosukee Greenway Hike

We will hike approximately 6.5 miles from Fleischmann Rd. to Crump Rd. Bring water and snacks to enjoy on the trail. Gwen Beatty (850) 942-7165(H) or (850) 545-0531(C) gfbeatty@

yahoo.com

January 29 Saturday P/M
St. Marks Refuge Cathedral of Palms

Enjoy a beautiful winter hike along one of the less-hiked trail sections. Loop hike will include a portion of the FNST. Limit 10 people. Dawn Brown (850) 668-0091

February 6 Sunday P/M
St. Marks Refuge Salt Works Hike

This is a 5 mile round trip hike to Gibbs Island during low tide. Since it is a tidal area, it could include wet feet and mud, so dress accordingly. We will meet in Tallahassee and carpool. Limit 15 people. Dale Allen (850) 656-8050

February 8 Tuesday Program:
"Tunisia."

February 12 Saturday P/M
Sawdust Mound Hike

This 4 mile hike (approximately 2 hours) goes through areas of hardwood forest, pine trees, and several large groves of tall palm trees. The hike will go past a large sawdust mound left from old logging operations and also passes the Wakulla River campsite along the trail. A car shuttle will be arranged, so the hike will be one-way. Limit 15 people. George Weaver (850) 510-3288 weaver@psy.fsu.edu

February 20 Sunday P/S
Alum Bluff Hike

We will hike 3.5 miles on the loop trail to the bluff on the Apalachicola River. Bring water and snacks. Gwen Beatty (850) 942-7165(H) or (850) 545-0531(C) gfbeatty@yahoo.com

February 26-27 Sat-Sun P/M
Ft. Braden Trails

Day hike and overnight backpack at Ft. Braden Trails. Limit 10 people. Howard Pardue (850) 386-1494 hpardue@comcast.net

March 4-5 Fri-Sat P/M
New River Canoe & Kayak Trip

Paddle the New River in Liberty and Franklin Counties from Rd 22 Sumatra to Pope Place in Tate's Hell State Forest. We will meet in Sumatra and then go to the landing to unload gear and work out the shuttle to begin a 2-day adventure through Tate's Hell. Bring sleeping gear, food, and water for the trip. Limit 12 people. Ronny Traylor (850) 643-5517 ronnytraylor@gmail.com

March 5 Saturday P/S
Annual Bradwell Bay Wilderness Swamp Stomp

Slog about 8 miles in the heart of the Apalachicola National Forest, through one of the largest swamp forests in Florida. Rated by BACKPACKER magazine as one of the 10 toughest hikes in the USA. If there's been recent rain, expect wading in ankle-to-waist-deep water for over half the hike. Bring lunch, hiking sticks/poles, and extra dry clothes and shoes. Old, but sturdy, boots recommended. Kent Wimmer

(850) 523-8576 kwimmer@fs.fed.us

**March 8 Tuesday Program:
"Southern Brothers in the
Far North"**

March 11-13 Fri-Sun P/L
Florida Trail Days and FTA 2011
Annual Conference
Details in the FOOTPRINT or
online at www.floridatrail.org.

March 19 Saturday P/L
Annual Spring Leon Sinks Geo-
logical Area Hike
See native azaleas and dog-
woods in bloom. The interpretive
4.25 mile trail winds through
scenic and varied terrain, includ-
ing major sinks, a natural bridge,
a disappearing stream, and gum
swamps. There is a trailhead fee
per vehicle, so call for carpooling
arrangements. Limit 15 people.
Terry Tenold (850) 877-1612
totenold49@aol.com

March 26 Saturday P/M
Wild Azalea Hike along the Sop-
choppy River
Come for a hike along the
Sopchoppy River with an oppor-
tunity to see (and photograph)

wild azaleas in bloom. Partici-
pants will also receive a printed
list of other flowering trees and
shrubs likely to be encountered.
The hike is 5 miles in length and
a car shuttle will be arranged to
allow for a one-way trip (north to
south). Including time for a lunch
break, the hike will take approxi-
mately 3 hours. Limit 15 people.
George Weaver (850) 510-3288
weaver@psy.fsu.edu

April 2 Saturday P/L
Wakulla Wildlife Festival
Fun and educational activi-
ties for the whole family. The
Apalachee Chapter will spon-
sor an information table on the
grounds of Wakulla Springs
State Park. Volunteers are
needed to help at the table, and
also enjoy the festival. Call for
more information and to volun-
teer. Limit 4 people.
Terry Tenold (850) 877-1612
totenold49@aol.com

April 9 Saturday P/M
Aucilla Sinks Hike
This 5 mile hike along a sec-
tion of the Florida Trail follows a
series of sink holes and open wa-
ter sections that constitute the

"sunken" portion of the Aucilla
River. The trail runs through
hardwood as well as pine forests
with flowering trees and shrubs
along the way. A car shuttle will
be arranged to allow for a one-
way trip on the trail. Including
time for a lunch break, the hike
will take approximately 3 hours.
Limit 15 people. George Weaver
(850) 510-3288 weaver@psy.fsu.edu

**April 12 Tuesday Program:
"Five-Star Western Trails."**

May 7 Saturday P/L
Wade Tract Birding Hike
This popular hike will take you
into one of the best remaining
examples of old-growth long leaf
pine/wire grass forests left in
the U.S. Jim Cox, noted ornithol-
ogist with Tall Timbers Research
Station, will provide commentary
and show us a red-cockaded
woodpecker colony. Fee will be
from \$7 to \$15 / person. Limit
24 people. Kent Wimmer (850)
523-8576 kwimmer@fs.fed.us

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO GET INVOLVED!

Here are some things that you can do to become
more involved with the FTA and our Chapter.

- Bring refreshments to a Chapter Meeting
- Clear debris off a trail on a maintenance hike
- Deliver our newsletters to a specific location
- Present a monthly meeting program
- Sit at an FTA table at a public event like a wild-
life festival, senior citizen day or a youth event
- Become a Trail Master for a trail section
- Write an article for the newsletter

- Become an Activity Leader and lead hikes or
other activities

- Volunteer to be a Chapter Officer

The Apalachee Chapter is always looking for people
to maintain the trails that are the back-bone of
our association. Many don't realize it, but as you
walk along some of your favorite trails, paths and
tracks, there is someone who has cleaned, cleared,
cut or built it up for you to enjoy in the future.
Without this help, our favorite getaways would
become overgrown, dilapidated and impassable.

Please contact any of our Chapter Officers, Sec-
tion Leaders or Trail Masters [see page 1] for
more information on how to get started.

Howard Pardue, Membership Chair

FTA MISSION

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.

FROM THE CHAIR

CHAPTER ELECTIONS AT FEBRUARY MEETING

The Apalachee Chapter will hold elections at the Chapter Meeting on February 8, 2011. All members in good standing are urged to attend. We need a quorum of 10 Chapter members at the meeting to make the elections official. Under Chapter Guidelines, Chapter officers serve no more than two full consecutive terms. Officer positions that will be up for election are Chair and Trails Coordinator.

The Chapter Chair serves as the Executive Officer of the Chapter and presides at the meetings of the membership and at the Chapter Coordinating Committee. In addition, the Chapter Chair is the Chapter's representative to the Chapter Council of the FTA and attends quarterly meetings of the Association.

The Trails Coordinator is responsible for the development and maintenance of trails that are within the Chapter's scope of activity, especially the FNST. In addition, the Trails Coordinator nominates Section Leaders to the VP for Trails of the FTA, performs duties as provided in the Trails Manual for the Florida Trail System and attends meetings of the Trails Committee of the Association.

The incumbent for the Chapter Chair position, Terry Tenold, has decided not to run again, having

served a total of nine years in that position, and the position of Chapter Trails Coordinator is vacant. Thus the Chapter is needing members to step up and serve as Chair and as Trails Coordinator.

There are also non-elective coordinating positions for the Chapter which are appointed at the discretion of the Chapter Chair. Although none are currently vacant since the last elections, the position of Programs Coordinator has been filled for many years by Linda Patton, who has done a marvelous job in getting interesting speakers and programs for our Chapter Meetings. She is stepping down from this post at this time. Duties include finding program presenters, obtaining their bio-information, coordinating with the speakers and introducing them at Chapter Meetings. Linda has a file of ideas for future programs which she will gladly share with the new Programs Coordinator.

Any member of the Apalachee Chapter who would like to become more active and serve in one of the officer positions up for election, or the Programs Coordinator position, is urged to inquire about nomination. The Chapter can always benefit by new ideas and energy in Chapter leadership. If you are interested, please contact Terry Tenold at 850-877-1612 or totenold4@aol.com

Terry Tenold



WELCOME NEW and RETURNING MEMBERS

Ellen Baxter
Karen Berkley
Kevin Briley
Mary Brooks
Tom and Liz Champeau
Bill and Susan Crowell
Michael Dunaway
Barbara Gearhart
Paul Geyer
Barry Haber
Suzan and Art Horovich

John and Peggy Jenkins
Greg and Angela Knecht
Ken and Gayle Mock
Jim Owens
Thomas Rish
Bruce Ritchie and
Sue Ellen Smith
William and Jeanne Ryder
Isela and Ken Smith
Yvonne Stinson
Franklin Widmann



Up a Muddy Volcano in Nicaragua

Johanna and I had completed our Peace Corps service in Guatemala and we wanted to travel through Latin America to see the land and its beauty and the people and their culture. We were on the start of a trip that would take us from Guatemala to Argentina and then back to the U.S. Johanna had been to Ometepe Island before, and I was looking forward to it. Ometepe Island is comprised of two volcanos connected by a thin piece of land and it lies in the middle of Lake Nicaragua. It is the highest lake island in the world, at 5282 feet. We stepped foot on the island after a two hour bumpy and overloaded ferry ride. The view of the two connected volcanos started as two pieces of dust floating on the horizon. Volcan Concepcion is the taller and active cone, while Volcan Madera is the shorter and inactive one that people hike.

The start of our trek was from a farm house where we stayed a few nights. People stay here before climbing the volcano and there were visitors from all corners of the globe. Volcan Madera is a somewhat unknown hiking destination that only the savvy off-the-beaten-path travelers visit. The day of our hike we saw hardly anyone.

The trail to the top is not hard or technical. It starts out low and flat through lush fields and farms. Soon, we found ourselves entering canopy-covered slopes and howler monkeys started up. Their howls rang through the forest, breaking the eerie silence. The slope steepened steadily and the ecosystems began to change. The base of the mountain yielded large-leaf plants and very thick wooded areas. As we ascended, the plants appeared smaller and changed in type though not in density. The ferns were so small that I used my fingernail for scale in the pictures I took. The tip of every plant had a perfectly placed tear drop of moisture at its tip. This was the Cloud Forest. We were muddy almost head to toe due to the muddy, slippery trail. The top portion of the climb found us deep in the Cloud Forest. The trail was deeply carved in some areas, with unearthed roots and branches along the side serving as 'trekking poles' to aid our ascent and prevent us from sliding backwards. This was true four-point hiking, with every hand and foot trying to find a firm grasp. At the very top of the volcano, there was a lake in its crater. The slopes still shrouded in cloud forest. Time was running short and we had to return at this point. Hiking at night on the slope is not an option although we felt safe throughout Nicaragua. We were lucky enough to see some petroglyphs along the lower slopes, some maybe never before seen and whose ages were unknown. This was a very fun time of the hike because the howler monkeys howled our return as we were going downhill. Although muddy and with a few scrapes, we made it back safely to the farm house. The dinners were good and tasted even better the day we hiked the volcano.

Ben Poston

APALACHEE CHAPTER, Florida Trail Association



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Contact: Linda Patton 850-668-4334 lpatton@fsu.edu

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