



Apalachee Chapter of Florida Trail Association

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TORREYA STATE PARK

OPEN - Need VOLUNTEER

Meetings and Programs

Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month starting with a meet and greet at 6:30 PM. Program starts at 7 PM at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 2810 N. Meridian Rd., Tallahassee. For more information, contact ApalacheeFTA@gmail.com. Meetings are open to the public.

OCTOBER 9 TUE. 6:30-8:30 PM - "IT'S A SNAP!" - Come learn how you can "snap" nature with some photo techniques with Tom Darragh. Tom is President of St. Marks Photo Club and will share different aspects of outdoor and nature photography. He will elaborate on the activities of St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge Photo club and its mission. He will present some eye-catching photos of the club's members. He will share his experience from many years of photography with some valuable highlights for making your photos more eye-catching.

NOVEMBER 13 TUE. 6:30-8:30 PM - "FLORIDA MASTER NATURALIST PROGRAM" - Come to learn about the Florida Master Naturalist Program with speaker Rosayln "Roz" Kilcollins. The Florida Master Naturalist Program is an adult education UF/IFAS Extension program developed by the University of Florida and provided by many Extension offices and participating organizations throughout the state of Florida. Rosalyn is a Certified Lead Instructor for Florida Master Naturalist Program and has taught the 40-hour core modules (Coastal Systems, Upland Habitats and Freshwater Systems) for the past 13 years.

DECEMBER 11 TUE. 6:30-8:30 PM - "HOLIDAY PARTY & POTLUCK"
Celebrate the season by joining our annual holiday potluck and gift exchange. Bring a dish to share (meat will be provided by the Chapter) and a wrapped gift to participate in the exchange. The gift should be trail/outdoors related and can be purchased (\$10.00 or less) or hand-made. If you're feeling extra festive, write a short poem or limerick describing the gift!

Let's go on an
Adventure..



Congratulations to April Edmonds, Elwood McElhaney and Janet Stephens for becoming FTA certified activity leaders. Each of these leaders completed their required training and co-lead hikes. Look for one of them on an upcoming event! If you are interested in becoming an activity leader, contact Ray Cade at raycade@hotmail.com

Welcome New
Members

Brendan Crelin, Melissa Dancer, Rachel Davis, Kelli Edson, Dixie Furlong, Melissa Hamilton, Faith Hazelip, John Hodge, Jasminka Ilich, Ken Jones, Breanna Kim, Gregory Krasovsky, John Mackie, Britney Moore, Susan Smith, Greg and Sally Uptagrafft, Jeri Winkleblack, Katie Yaun

As of 9/1/18: 284 memberships / 364 members



WANDERINGS

By Dawn Brown, Chapter Chair

I've just recently returned from what could only be described as a once in a lifetime adventure trip. I was on the Tibetan Plateau (12-000-13,500 ft above sea level) rafting a river, which has only been rafted twice before by Westerners. Less than 50 people have ever rafted this section of this river (the Daqu River in Qinghai Province, China). This section of river is a tributary of the Mekong River.

The trip itself was incredible. There were five Westerners (all of us from Colorado), one teenager from Beijing, and nine Tibetan teenagers from the city of Yushu. The trip began with a half-day bus ride from the town of Yushu to the put-in. We drove across three mountain passes, which dwarf anything in the US. Then for 8 days we rafted through some of the most beautiful country imaginable. Only nomadic yak herders occupy many of these lands. We hiked up waterfalls and steep peaks to stupas, and monasteries. The meadows were lush and filled with wildflowers. One day we rafted through a steep and uninhabited canyon, then camped that night by a stupa used only by a few families.

So, what does my neat vacation have to do with FTA and the FNST? The answer is in the stewardship of remote and wild places. The reason for this expedition was part of a much larger project concerning China's first national park. This park, the Sanjiangyuan National Park (translation: Three River Source) encompasses a huge area of the Tibetan Highlands and Plateau. Three major rivers of Asia: The Yellow, the Yangtze, and the Mekong have their head waters in drainages just a few miles from each other in the Tibetan Highlands. The park will encompass these headwaters and major parts of the upper drainages of all three of these rivers.

The question, however, is how to manage these lands. One model is to build massive hotels, four lane roads and run tour busses. The alternative view, however, is to let these lands as they are. Some tourists will come for commercial rafting and hiking ventures without the tour busses. Hopefully, our demonstration projects will illustrate this to the planners of the park.

And here is Florida we who are members of the FTA have basically the same goals. We want our trail to preserve the wild and empty spaces that remain. Our basic goal is to build and maintain the trail, but I think we all share this common goal. We want that single-track trail through the remote areas.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

GET INVOLVED WITH APALACHEE CHAPTER OF FLORIDA TRAIL ASSOCIATION

The Apalachee Chapter extends an invitation to all members to serve as volunteers. Use your skills and energy to serve in a wide variety of roles: administrative areas, activity leaders, trail masters, trail maintainers, camp cook, leadership positions and more.... Visit our website for more information: <http://apalachee.floridatrail.org/vol/>

BACKPACKING LEADERS NEEDED:



Seeking volunteers to lead/co-lead a backpacking event on one or more of the following segments of the Florida Trail (FT) within our region from the Aucilla to the Apalachicola River. The event can be scheduled

during the cooler weather months, weekday, weekend and outside hunting season. Suggested that events be restricted to FTA members. Separating our section of the trail enables participants to do all or as many segments of the FT as they desire. After all the hard work by our dedicated volunteers to maintain the FT, it is important that we appreciate their efforts, enjoy the trail and showcase the backpacking opportunities in our region. **Must be an authorized FTA Activity Leader.** Interested? Contact Dawn Griffin (850) 509-6103 Griffindd@aol.com.

Segments:

- Apalachicola National Forest – West (36 miles)
- Aucilla River and Sinks (13 miles)
- Apalachicola National Forest –East (32 miles)
- St Marks NWR (43 miles) Permit Required



Members – The emailed electronic version of the newsletter is packed with more articles, color photos, videos, etc. If you did not get the email, please check your email junk or spam folder.

FLATLANDERS WALKING IN THE HILLS

By Elwood McElhaney



In May 2018, thirteen FTA Apalachee Chapter members headed to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park for three days of hiking in the mountains. We traveled separately, and met on Sunday, May 6, at a designated hotel in Pigeon Forge, TN. The trip was planned and lead by Dawn Griffin and Elwood McElhaney. Other participants were Charlie Hood, Della Betz, Patricia McElhaney, Courtney Micots, Helen Lancashire, Sally Brookes, Eva Daigle, Betty Steffens, April Edmonds, Lenny Krzycki, and Jerry Morris.

On Monday, May 7, the group began their assault of Mt. LeConte, the second highest mountain in the Smokies, by way of the Alum Cave Trail. We arrived at the LeConte Lodge throughout the afternoon due to varied hiking speeds. The trail was 5.5 miles uphill with a net climb of 2,560 feet, to a final elevation of 6,593 feet at the lodge.

LeConte Lodge is a series of wooden structures atop Mt. LeConte that was constructed around 1930. It is only accessible by foot using one of five hiking trails. They provide their guests with dinner, lodging, and breakfast the following morning. Our rustic three-bedroom cabin had propane fireplaces for heat with no bathrooms, electricity or running water.



After breakfast on Tuesday, May 8, we descended Mt. LeConte on the Boulevard Trail. It ran approximately 5.3 miles before meeting up with Appalachian Trail for the final 2.7 mile drop into Newfound Gap. We regrouped, shuttled back to the cars, and headed to Townsend, TN, where we spent the night at a well-deserved motel.

On Wednesday, May 9, four members of the group hit Cades Cove inside the Park at 7 am for an 11-mile bike ride around the paved Cades Cove Loop. The scenic road is closed to automobile traffic until 10 am on Wednesday and Saturday mornings. We saw wildlife that included a mother bear with cubs, wild turkeys and deer. Three other members of our group rode the Loop after breakfast at around 9 am. After lunch, the group took a 5-mile hike to Abrams Falls within the Park. That night, after a group potluck dinner, we had a campfire at the hotel with drinks, smores and campfire music. Elwood shared a song that he composed about the trip, entitled 'Flatlanders Walking in the Hills'.

On the morning of Thursday, May 10, the group parted ways and headed home separately. All members of the group agreed that the hikes were difficult, yet well worth the effort. Our aching bodies and exhaustion were complemented by gorgeous mountain views and substantially cooler weather. Although we did extensive training on the hills of the Ft. Braden Trails, nothing around Tallahassee could have prepared us for the extended climbs and rocky trails that we encountered.

We are already planning another mountain hiking trip for the Spring of 2019.

WHAT'S BLOOMING ON THE TRAIL

Carolina grass of parnassus
Parnassia caroliniana

Fast Facts
A state-listed Endangered species in Florida and North Carolina.

Duration: Perennial
Habit: Herb
Fruit Type: Capsule
Size Notes: To about 18 inches in height.
Size Class: 0-1 ft. , 1-3 ft.
Bloom Color: White
Bloom Time: Sep, Oct, Nov

Location: Apalachicola National Forest



Photo Credit: Eleanor Dietrich, FL Panhandle Wildflower Alliance. Used by permission.

Source: <https://www.wildflower.org/>

*Please remember that it is unlawful to pick or dig plants in the national forest.
Note: Color copy is in the electronic version of the newsletter.

GEOCACHE ON THE TRAIL

By Sandi Brooks, Tallahassee Area Geocachers – TAG



My love for the playing in the woods came naturally having grown up along the Ochlocknee River. Swimming, fishing and driving a boat was an everyday occurrence along with hiking thru what is now Lake Talquin State Park and Forest. Hard to imagine that a 10-year-old was allowed to trek in those woods alone. Never saw a bear or came upon a rattlesnake but I'm sure they saw me.

Twelve years ago, I never thought my love for playing in the woods of North Florida would include such fun as geocaching. A friend sent me the link to the geocaching website (www.geocaching.com) and I read up on it. From what I understand, back in 2000 some Pacific Northwest computer nerds were talking about President Clinton opening the satellites to the public and they wondered how accurate the coordinates might be. Someone decided to hide a container in a national forest in Oregon and post the coordinates and let people test their GPSr units. That week people from as far as Southern California and northern Washington state found this 5-gallon bucket. They started posting on the geek-site about their adventures, the animals they came upon and the wildflowers they found. Another group of guys

saw the need for a website where people could post their experiences and where rules could be established.

As most of us geocachers recite ... geocaching is a high-tech treasure hunt where you use a hand-held GPSr unit or use a geocaching app on your mobile phone to find strategically placed containers – Tupperware, ammo cans, film canisters, anything waterproof – hidden in woods along trails, playgrounds, parking lots, etc. Inside each container will be a log sheet to sign your geocaching nickname. You then go online (via the app or website) to log your "find" and share your experience. Also, inside some containers will be SWAG – Stuff We All Get – to trade. If you take something, you leave something of equal or greater value.

I found my first geocache not far off the Florida Trail here in the Tallahassee area. It was an ammo can hanging in a tree covered with moss. Your everyday hiking passerby (called a muggle) would not necessarily notice it. I was instantly hooked. While I tried to get those caches in the ANF or along the Florida Trail, sometimes you just have to grab those urban-type caches hidden in the forests of a Wal-Mart parking lot, in city parks or



playgrounds. In my opinion, when hiding a geocache you should take people to a place of interest – some place special – some place they might not know about or would have discovered without a nudge. Hiking thru

Tate's Hell, Eglin, St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge – sometimes looking for that geocache that hasn't been found in a while or just getting a bit of exercise or wanting to snap photos of bald eagles or alligators – will take you to places you never knew existed.

I never thought I would have a chance to see the Grand Canyon, Niagara Falls, drive to the top of Pike's Peak, drive across the United States from Seattle to Chicago via Yellowstone, Mount Rushmore and the headwaters of

the Mississippi ... and, ok, I visited friends and relatives too – but geocaching took me to these places. And more! I have made friendships all over the world and know that no matter where I am, if I needed help of any kind, I could call out to friends I've never met.

"I have made friendships all over the world and know that no matter where I am, if I needed help of any kind, I could call out to friends I've never met."

Sandi Brooks has lived all her life in Tallahassee. She serves as a board member of the Tallahassee Area Geocachers; liaison for Tallahassee Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Affairs, Leon County and some Florida State Parks. Her geocaching nickname is Tallahassee-Lassie and has found approximately 4,400 caches and personally hidden and hosted over 120 geocaches and events.

FALL ACTIVITIES

The Florida National Scenic Trail and other forest trails are part of the natural environment. Rough, uneven, and/or slippery surfaces, protruding roots, encroaching vegetation, fallen branches, mud and water, insects and other wildlife, irritating plants and other hazards may be present. **Be prepared for the weather, insects, and sun protection.** If you question whether a hike is within your ability, contact the Activity Leader. Paddlers must have a USCG-approved life jacket for each person and a sound-producing (whistle/horn) device on board while on the water. Level: **"L"** Leisurely (1-2 mph walking pace), **"M"** Moderately difficult (2-3 mph walking pace), **"S"** Strenuous (3-4+ mph walking pace).

Unless indicated all activities are open to the public and please sign up at [MeetUp.com](https://www.meetup.com) to attend. Check our Meetup site for dates, meeting locations, and any last-minute announcements before starting out.

Link: <https://www.meetup.com/Apalachee-Florida-Trail-Hiking>

OCTOBER

OCT 5-7 FRI-SUN. THE NATIONAL TRAILS FESTIVAL, SANBORN CENTER IN DELAND, FL

Come join in on a fun filled weekend with the Florida Trail Association. There will be hikes, fun demonstrations and educational sessions with nationally renowned speakers. FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. There is no registration required. Information about hotels, camping and meals will be forthcoming shortly. Continue to check the E-Blazes and especially the FTA website for more information.

OCT. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 EVERY MON. (M) 5:30 PM - A WALK IN THE WOODS: LAFAYETTE HERITAGE TRAIL PARK (PINEY Z)

A walk in the woods is beneficial to one's mental and physical health. Join us in a moderate to strenuous walk through the woods at your length (3.5 miles+ at 3-4 miles/hour is common). We rest for a few minutes at the 2-mi. midway point. Dogs on a leash are welcome. Bring lots of water, wear comfortable shoes, and bug repellent. Meet near the restroom at 5:30 pm and be ready to hike at 5:45 pm sharp. Contact: Courtney Micots (850) 300-0399 courtaymicots@gmail.com

OCT. 3, 10, 17, 24 - WEDNESDAYS (S) STRESS BUSTER BRISK WALKS ("Trails, Tacos and Tall Tales.")

Celebrating Our 7th Year! Come at 2:45 PM and be ready to hike a 3.5+/- mile loop at 3:00 PM sharp. At the end of this first hike you can leave or take a short rest and meet the folks joining us at 4:15 PM to hike another 3.5+/- mile loop trail. AND/OR (2) Come at 4:15 PM and be ready to hike a 3.5+/- mile loop at 4:30 PM sharp. This allows us to increase our mileage as well as hike different loop trails! Bring snacks if needed, water and dress in layers. Bring flashlight/headlamp. Come hydrated. Will attempt to maintain a pace of 3.0 - 3.5 mph. Afterwards, plan to grab some dinner and listen to some tall hiking tales! *Hey, you earned it!* Location: JR Alford Greenway, Pedrick Road, Tallahassee. Contact: Dawn Griffin (850) 509-6103 griffindd@aol.com

OCT. 4, 11, 18, 25 EVERY THUR. (M) 5:30 PM - A WALK IN THE WOODS: MICCOSUKEE GREENWAY, THORNTON TRAILHEAD

A walk in the woods is beneficial to one's mental and physical health. Join us in a moderate to strenuous walk through the woods at your length (3.5 miles+ at 3-4 miles/hour is common). We rest for a few minutes at the 2-mi. midway point. Dogs on a

leash are welcome. Bring lots of water, wear comfortable shoes, and bug repellent. Meet near the portalet at 5:30 pm and be ready to hike at 5:45 pm sharp. Contact: Courtney Micots (850) 300-0399 courtnymicots@gmail.com

OCT. 7 SUN. (S) 8:00 AM - FLORIDA NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL MAINTENANCE: APALACHICOLA NATIONAL FOREST WEST - Lop, mow, blaze and clear the Florida National Scenic Trail in the western section of the Apalachicola National Forest. Bring lunch, snacks, bug repellent, rainwear, sun protection, first aid kit and plenty of water. Tools and safety equipment provided. Meet at the Florida Forest Service office (Tallahassee Forestry Center, 865 Geddie Rd., Tallahassee) at 8 a.m. and carpool from there. Expect to work until approx. 1:00 p.m. and for those interested, afterwards, a boat can take them to a favorite sand bar for a swim in the Ochlocknee River. **LIMIT 10 PEOPLE. YOU MUST SIGN UP**; if you don't contact one of the trip leaders in advance, you cannot join the work party. OPEN TO PUBLIC. Contacts: Al Ingle al@capitalavionics.com (850) 509-1162 or Mike Tucker tuckems@hotmail.com (850) 545-3489.

OCT. 9 - TUE. 6:30-8:30 PM - CHAPTER MEETING: "IT'S A SNAP!" - See Page 1 Description

OCT. 9 TUE. (M) DAY HIKE - HORN SPRING - Horn Spring is an old Tallahassee sinkhole that has been privately held and off limits to the public for the past few decades. It has recently been acquired by the State of Florida and is now open to the public via a 6-mile round trip hiking trail. Be one of the first to see this Leon County treasure. Meet at the Natural Bridge Battlefield historic state park at 9:00 AM, be ready to hike at 9:15 sharp. Bring water, snacks, bug repellent and wear comfortable walking shoes. Minors under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Contact Elwood McElhaney (850) 566-6830 emcelhaney@embarqmail.com

OCT. 13 SAT. (M) DAY HIKE - CATHEDRAL OF PALMS - The Cathedral of Palms via Florida Trail is 5.9-mile loop trail located near Crawfordville, FL that features beautiful wild flowers, a sinkhole and an area that is sheltered by hundreds of sable palm trees. It is one of the most famous and scenic hiking destinations in our area, yet many people have never heard of it because of its remote location. Meet at the trailhead at the corner of County Road 365 and Shell Point Road at 9:00 am and be ready to hike at 9:15 am sharp. Bring lots of water, snacks, bug repellent and wear comfortable walking shoes. Minors under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a responsible adult. NO PETS PLEASE Contact Elwood McElhaney (850) 566-6830 emcelhaney@embarqmail.com

OCT. 14 SUN. (L) 1:00-4:00 PM - "MAY THE FOREST BE WITH YOU" Cascades Park at Discovery Field. The event is free, open to the public and designed to bring together experienced outdoors folks, novices, and armchair dreamers' to showcase the multitude of day hiking and overnight backpacking opportunities in our region. Members of the chapter will be sharing information on hiking trails, hiking/camping, trail maintenance, upcoming scheduled day hikes and backpacking trips, overnight shelter options (tents, tarps,

etc.), day/backpacks, ultralight gear, and Leave No Trace principles. Contact: Dawn Griffin (850) 509-6103 griffindd@aol.com

OCT. 16 TUE. ACTIVITIES PLANNING MEETING. Plan some amazing activities for the months of January - March 2019. Chapter Activity Leaders & future Activity Leaders welcome - Contact Ray Cade (850) 508-7593 raycade@hotmail.com

OCT. 18 THURS. (L) - DRIVING TOUR: THE SUWANNEE TO AUCILLA PROPOSED CONNECTOR Have you heard about it? I think almost everyone has, and many have seen an orange line on a map. None of us in Apalachee Chapter have any idea what the proposed route is going to look like. Adam Fryska, our FTA Panhandle Rep has agreed to lead us on a driving tour of the proposed route. Showing what the trail will look like, and single track alternatives. This will be a FULL day tour. **Spaces are limited to Apalachee Chapter MEMBERS ONLY** Limit 15 people. If you are interested reserve your spot ASAP. Call Dawn Brown immediately: (850) 668-0091; (850) 545-0351 or email: dbrown1948@embarqmail.com

OCT. 20 SAT. (S) TRAIL MAINTENANCE: BRADWELL BAY EAST - Clean trail and repaint blazes. Dress for weather. Bring lunch, snacks, bug repellent, rainwear, sun protection, first aid kit and plenty of water. Tools and safety equipment provided. Contact Richard Graham (850) 566-5529 rdgraham@centurylink.net

OCT. 23 TUE. (M) SOPCHOPPY RIVER HIKE. Enjoy fall colors on this easy, 5-mile hike on the Florida National Scenic Trail along the Sopchoppy River in the Apalachicola National Forest. **Limit 15 people.** Meet to carpool at the Park-n-Ride on South Monroe St., at 9:30 am. NO PETS PLEASE. Contact: Dawn Griffin (850) 509-6103 griffindd@aol.com

OCT. 28 SUN. (S) TRAIL MAINTENANCE: AUCILLA TRAIL. Meet at 8:30 AM Leon County Apalachee Regional Park by the athletic field US 27 East to carpool. Dress for weather. Bring lunch, snacks, bug repellent, rainwear, sun protection, first aid kit and plenty of water. Tools and safety equipment provided. Contact Steve Babcock stevenbabcock@gmail.com (313) 319-6559

OCT. 30 - TUE. (M) FLORIDA NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL HIKE. Check out the trail and enjoy fall colors on this scenic 7-mile hike on the Florida National Scenic Trail in the Apalachicola National Forest (starting at Oak Park Bridge to FR 321 and back). Limit 15 people. Meet to carpool at the Park-n-Ride on South Monroe St., at 9:30 am. NO PETS PLEASE. Contact: Dawn Griffin (850) 509-6103 griffindd@aol.com

ACTIVITY CHECKLIST:

- ✓ Insect repellent
- ✓ Sun protection
- ✓ Snacks or lunch
- ✓ Water
- ✓ Wear comfortable shoes/boots

NOVEMBER

NOV. 1, 8, 15 EVERY THUR. (L) 5:30 PM - A WALK IN THE WOODS: MICCOSUKEE GREENWAY, THORNTON TRAILHEAD - See the October 4 Description

NOV. 1 AND 15 - THURSDAYS (M) FLORIDA NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL MAINTENANCE: APALACHICOLA NF - Oak Park Bridge to FR 321. Clear brush, mow, and repaint blazes along this 3.2-mile segment of the FNST. Bring lunch and water. Wear comfortable shoes and hunter orange vests/bright clothes. Meet at the Park-n-Ride on South Monroe St. at 9:30 am. NO PETS PLEASE. Contact: Dawn Griffin (850) 509-6103 griffindd@aol.com

NOV. 4 SUN. (S) 8:00 AM - FLORIDA NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL MAINTENANCE: APALACHICOLA NATIONAL FOREST WEST - See the October 7 Description

NOV. 5, 12 EVERY MON. (M) 5:30 PM - A WALK IN THE WOODS: LAFAYETTE HERITAGE TRAIL PARK (PINEY Z) - See the October 1 Description

NOV. 6 AND 27 - TUE. (M) FLORIDA NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL MAINTENANCE: APALACHICOLA NF - See the November 1 Description

NOV. 7, 14, 21, 28 - WED. (S) STRESS BUSTER BRISK WALKS ("Trails, Tacos and Tall Tales.") - See the October 3 Description

NOV. 9-11 APALACHICOLA NATIONAL FOREST TRAIL MAINTENANCE APALACHEE CHAPTER VOLUNTEER WORK PARTY - Join volunteers from the Apalachee Chapter as they perform maintenance work on the Florida National Scenic Trail! **More information & registration:** <https://floridatrail.org/2018ac1/> Registration Contact: Van Tran, (352) 538-7639, VanT@floridatrail.org Project Contact: Adam Fryska, (850) 888-3502, AdamF@floridatrail.org

NOV. 10 SAT. (S) - TRAIL MAINTENANCE: BRADWELL BAY WEST - Clean trail and repaint blazes. Dress for weather. Bring lunch, snacks, bug repellent, rainwear, sun protection, first aid kit and plenty of water. Tools and safety equipment provided. Contact Richard Graham (850) 566-5529 rdgraham@centurylink.net

NOV. 13 TUE. 6:30-8:30 PM - CHAPTER MEETING: "FLORIDA MASTER NATURALIST PROGRAM" - See Page 1 Description

NOV. 17 SAT. (L) DAY HIKE - FORT BRADEN TRAIL. Join us for a short hike on one of the three loops at Ft. Braden Trails. We'll hike approximately 3+ miles through hardwood forests crossing a beautiful little creek and occasionally paralleling Lake Talquin. Bring water & snacks. No pets please. **NOT POSTED ON MEETUP. MUST SIGN UP** by contacting: Gwen Beatty (850) 539-6027 gfbeatty@yahoo.com or Co-lead Gary Sisco gsisco42@yahoo.com

NOV. 17 SAT. (M) TRAIL MAINTENANCE: AUCILLA TRAIL. Clear trail and repaint blazes on a segment of the FNST from Walker Bridge to Lost Dog Rapids. Dress for weather. Bring lunch, snacks, bug repellent, rainwear, sun protection, first aid kit and plenty of water. Tools and safety equipment provided. **Limit 8 people.** Contact James Kimbrel (850) 524-0773 jameskimbrel@hotmail.com

DECEMBER

DEC. 1 SAT. (S) - TRAIL MAINTENANCE: BRADWELL BAY WEST - See the November 10 Description

DEC. 2 SUN. (S) 8:00 AM - FLORIDA NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL MAINTENANCE: APALACHICOLA NATIONAL FOREST WEST - See the October 7 Description

DEC. 5, 12, 19 - WEDNESDAYS (M) 5:15 PM - HOLIDAY LIGHTS WINTER NIGHT HIKES. Weekday 4-mi. walks in downtown Tallahassee to enjoy the seasonal lights! Meet at Fla. D.O.T. Credit Union parking lot (640 E Gaines St., next to Cascades Park at corner of Suwannee St./Myers Park Dr.). Wear comfortable walking shoes and light-colored clothes. Will attempt to maintain a steady pace given the downtown walkways. Come at 5:15 pm and be ready to start at 5:30 pm SHARP. Bring flashlight/headlamp. Contact: Dawn Griffin (850) 509-6103 griffindd@aol.com

DEC. 11 TUE. "HOLIDAY PARTY & POTLUCK." -See Page 1 Description

DEC. 13 THU. (L) DAY HIKE - ST. MARKS NWR - Hike approximately 5 miles along a trail that offers both scenic vistas and quite pine forest. Bring water & snacks. No pets please. Meet at St. Marks NWR visitor's center 10:00 AM. After the hike we can stop at a local restaurant for lunch. **NOT POSTED ON MEETUP. MUST SIGN UP** by contacting: Gary Sisco csisco42@yahoo 850 545-4776 or Co-lead Gwen Beatty leader (850) 539-6027 gfbeatty@yahoo.com

DEC. 16 SUN (M-S) LAKE TALQUIN STATE FOREST DAY HIKE. If you think Florida doesn't have steep trails, this one will dispel the myth. The Ravine Loop and Bear Creek Loop trails (total 5.5 miles) are notable for clinging to the edges of a rather large and lengthy steephead ravine, following the topographical contours nicely. You'll have to put on the brakes on quite a few of the hills! Fees: \$2 per person, children under 6 free. Annual passes cost \$45. Difficulty: rugged. Wear comfortable hiking shoes and bring lunch, snack and water. NO PETS PLEASE. Meet to carpool at 10:00 am Lowe's Parking Lot located at 5500 Commonwealth Blvd, Tallahassee. Contact: Dawn Griffin (850) 509-6103 griffindd@aol.com

DEC. 16 SUN. NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS DUE Have you had a great experience on a recent hike/walk? Share it. Please send related photos, recipes, jokes, articles, tips and trail tales for the Winter newsletter. Email to: April.Edmonds.35@gmail.com

DEC. 22 SAT. (L) DAY HIKE - LEON SINKS GEOLOGICAL AREA. Join us for a short leisurely hike along a trail that intersects numerous sinkholes. We'll hike approximately 5 miles. Bring water & snacks. **NO PETS PLEASE.** We'll stop at a local restaurant after the hike for a late lunch / early dinner. **NOT POSTED ON MEETUP. MUST SIGN UP** by contacting: Gwen Beatty (850) 539-6027 gfbeatty@yahoo.com. Co-lead Gary Sisco gsisco42@yahoo.com (850) 545-4776

DEC. 27 THU. (L) HOLIDAY HIKE - ELINOR KLAPP-PHIPPS PARK - HOLIDAY HIKE - tired of all the holiday hype? Let's get outside and play. Long leisure stroll around Phipps Park, lunch at the Oak Hammock. The total hike can be up to 7 miles, but there are many opportunities for a shorter hike if desired. Families and pets (leash) welcome. Contact Dawn Brown (850) 545-0351 or (850) 668-0091 dbrown1948@embarqmail.com

Our Mission: The Florida Trail Association (FTA) develops, maintains, protects and promotes a network of hiking trails throughout the state, including the unique Florida National Scenic Trail (commonly known as the Florida 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. The Apalachee Chapter includes Franklin, Gadsden, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, and Wakulla counties.

JOIN THE FLORIDA TRAIL ASSOCIATION

Make a Difference

Name: _____
 Street: _____
 City/State: _____
 Zip: _____ County: _____
 Primary Phone: _____
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Sign me up for the monthly e-blast newsletter

Check here for digital copy of The Footprint

JOIN

Individual levels start at \$35. Family levels start at \$50. Your membership allows us to grow and expand our conservation programs.

Trail Steward (\$35) Trail Protector (\$500)
 Trail Builder (\$50) Trail Champion (\$1000)
 Trail Advocate (\$100)

DONATE

Additional Contributions: \$ _____
 Total Enclosed: \$ _____

By Check: Make checks payable to the "FLORIDA TRAIL ASSOCIATION" and mail to "FTA, 5415 SW 13th St, Gainesville, FL 32608"

FLORIDA TRAIL ASSOCIATION REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL FREE (800) 435-7300 WITHIN THE STATE OF FLORIDA. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.

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