

# The Blaze



**APALACHEE CHAPTER  
FLORIDA TRAIL ASSOCIATION**

1.877.HIKE.FLA  
www.floridatrail.org  
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www.facebook.com/apalacheechapter.fta  
www.meetup.com/apalachee-florida-trail-hiking  
apalacheefta@gmail.com

**CHAPTER MEETINGS**

Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 2810 N. Meridian Rd., Tallahassee. For more information, contact Dawn Brown (850) 668- 0091 or Liz Sparks (850)570-5950. Meetings are open to the public.

**CHAPTER OFFICERS**

**CHAIR**

Dawn Brown (850) 668-0091  
dbrown1948@embarqmail.com

**VICE-CHAIR**

Gary Sisco (850) 545-4776  
gsisco42@yahoo.com

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lpatton@fsu.edu

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**FNST: ANF WEST**

Al Ingle (850) 509-1162

**FNST: ANF EAST**

Richard Graham (850) 878-3616

**FNST: ST. MARKS**

Dale Allen (850) 656-8050

**FNST: AUCILLA**

Steve Babcock (313) 319-6559

**FT. BRADEN TRACT**

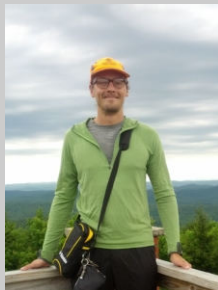
Howard Pardue (850) 386-1494

**ELINOR KLAPP-PHIPPS PARK**

Dawn Brown (850) 668-0091

**TORREYA STATE PARK**

**OPEN**



**MEETING PROGRAMS**

**Jan. 9 "Hidden Hiking Gems of the Wildlife Management Areas."** The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) protects nearly 6 million acres of wildlife habitat in its wildlife management area system. Peter Kleinhenz, FWC's interpretive writer and planner, will share some of the wonders found on these wildlife management areas (WMAs) and showcase some of the best hikes that will allow you to experience them. From a hidden ghost town, to elusive species, to some of the best views in Florida, you might be surprised by how much these hidden gems contain.

**Feb. 13 "What's New with the Florida Trail Association and the Panhandle Region."** Adam Fryska will talk about his role as the Panhandle Regional Representative, trail developments in the Panhandle region, spring field season projects, and any details about the workings of the FTA that folks are interested in learning about. He will also share information about the Spring Creek boardwalks and closing the gaps in the FNST.

**Mar. 13 "Walking the Camino de Santigao in Stages."** John and Dawn Griffin will present their 2015 hike of 170 miles on the Camino de Santiago, from St Jean de Port in France to Burgos, Spain. The Camino, also known as The Way of Saint James, leads pilgrims to the shrine of the apostle James the Great in the cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Galicia in northwestern Spain. In lieu of completing the Camino in one trip (at least 40 continuous days of hiking) the Griffins chose to savor the experience & divide the Camino into three stages. Their next stage in April 2018 will begin in Burgos and end in Astorga. Then in August 2018, they hope to complete the last 165 miles of their journey from Astorga to Santiago de Compostela, having completed all 500 miles on foot.

**NEW and RETURNING MEMBERS  
August - October 2017**

Jeff Bastian, Kevin Begos, Colleen & Joe Crooms, Burt Davy & Julie Lovelace, Chandra Dawson, Bryan Desloge, Kathy Greene, Beth Hollister, Katie Konchar, Ken Kuhl, John Lorenz, Jerry Swerczek, Denise & Joe Wooley

**As of 11/1/17: 260 memberships / 342 members**

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**4-5...Articles:** From the Chair, March Elections, Year-End Giving, Aucilla and ANF Trailmasters Needed, 50th Anniversary of the National Trails System

**6.....FTA Membership Form**

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.

**PLEASE NOTE: 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. Wear boots and use caution. If you question whether a hike is within your ability, contact the Activity Leader. For more information go to [www.apalachee.floridatrail.org](http://www.apalachee.floridatrail.org) and click on "Guidelines for Activity Participants."**

Your membership in the Florida Trail Association helps make our activities open and accessible to everyone. If you are a member, thank you! If you are not a member, please consider making a donation to the FTA at outings you attend. Give your donation to the hike leader. Or join the FTA today: <http://www.floridatrail.org/make-a-difference/become-a-member>

**ACTIVITY LEADERS**

Dale Allen	Richard Graham	Howard Pardue
Steve Babcock	Dawn Griffin	Linda Patton
Gwen Beatty	Al Ingle	Gary Sisco
Karen Berkley	James Kimbrel	Mike Tucker
Dawn Brown	Courtney Micots	Carol Watkins
Ray Cade	Rayanne Mitchell	George Weaver
Scott Copeland	Laura Newton	Kent Wimmer

"P" Public welcome, "M" Limited to FTA members only / "L" Leisurely, "M" Moderately difficult, "S" Strenuous.

L = 1-2 mph walking pace  
M = 2-3 mph walking pace  
S = 3-4+ mph walking pace

**Jan. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Wed. P/M Stress Busters Power Walk ("Trails, Tacos and Tales").** Walk 4-5 mi. on one of the many trails beginning at JR Alford Greenway. Bring flashlight/headlamp, snack (if needed), and water. Dress in layers. We will attempt to maintain a pace of 3.0 mph. Meet at 4:15 pm at the trailhead kiosk, ready to hike at 4:30 pm sharp. After the hike, head over to Cinco de Mayo (3550 Mahan Dr) for tacos. Contact: Dawn Griffin (850) 509-6103 [griffindd@aol.com](mailto:griffindd@aol.com)

**Jan. 4, 11, 18,, 25 Thur. P/S Forest Bathing Hike: Miccosukee Greenway-Edenfield Trailhead.** Forest Bathing (Shinnin-yoku in Japanese) has proven beneficial to one's mental and physical health. Join us in a woods walk at your own pace and length (3.5 mi. at a steady pace is common). We rest for a few minutes at the midway point. Bring bug repellent & lots of water. Wear comfortable shoes. You may need a flashlight or headlamp. Meet near the restrooms at 5:30 pm and be ready to hike at 5:45 pm sharp. Check our Meetup site before starting out, for changes in dates or meeting locations & any last minute announcements. Contact: Courtney Micots (850) 300-0399 [courtneymicots@gmail.com](mailto:courtneymicots@gmail.com)

**Jan. 6 Sat. P/L Aucilla Trail Day Hike.** Hike the FNST on the Aucilla Trail from Burnt Bridge to Lost Dog Rapids. 3 mi. out-and-

back. Appropriate foot wear, insect spray and drinking water. **LIMIT 12 PEOPLE.** Reserve a spot:by contacting James Kimbrel (850) 524-0773 [jameskimbrel@hotmail.com](mailto:jameskimbrel@hotmail.com) or Ray Cade (850) 508-7593 [raycade@hotmail.com](mailto:raycade@hotmail.com)

**Jan. 7 Sun. P/L St. Marks Wildlife Refuge Day Hike.** Experience abundant wildlife and wide open vistas. Hike 6-8 mi. at a leisurely pace and then head to a local restaurant for an early dinner. Bring water, sun protection, and snacks to eat on the trail. Don't forget your Senior Pass if you have one. **No dogs please.** Contact: Gwen Beatty (850) 539-6027 [gfbeatty@yahoo.com](mailto:gfbeatty@yahoo.com) or Gary Sisco (850) 545-4776 [gsisco42@yahoo.com](mailto:gsisco42@yahoo.com)

**Jan. 8, 15, 22, 29 Mon. P/S Forest Bathing Hike: Lafayette Heritage Trail Park (Piney Z)** Forest Bathing (Shinnin-yoku in Japanese) has proven beneficial to one's mental and physical health. Join us in a walk through the woods at your own pace and length (4 mi. at a steady pace is common). We rest for a few minutes at the 2-mi. point. Bring bug repellent & lots of water. Wear comfortable shoes. You may need a flashlight or headlamp. Meet near the restrooms at 5:30 p.m. and be ready to hike at 5:45 p.m. sharp. Check our Meetup site before starting out, for changes in dates or meeting locations & any last minute announcements. Contact: Courtney Micots (850) 300-0399 [courtneymicots@gmail.com](mailto:courtneymicots@gmail.com)

**Jan. 9 Tue. P/L Urban Walk: Fern Trail.** A leisurely 4.5-mi. ramble along a shaded trail through the city's east side, from Blairstone Rd. to Tom Brown Park, crossing several major roads & dipping under Capital Circle via the railroad tracks. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the trail parking area between Mahan and Park Ave. No facilities along trail--pack whatever you'll need. Bring water & wear comfortable shoes. After the hike, join in a lunch outing. To sign up, contact Janet Stephens (850) 212-7617 [janstep@me.com](mailto:janstep@me.com) or Dawn Brown (850)545-0351 [dbrown1948@embarqmail.com](mailto:dbrown1948@embarqmail.com) or Karen Berkley (850) 570-5740 [kjberkley@gmail.com](mailto:kjberkley@gmail.com)

**Jan. 9 Tue. P/L CHAPTER MEETING: "Hidden Hiking Gems of the Wildlife Management Areas."**

**Jan. 13 Sat. P/M Fun Hike: Ft. Braden Trails, Lake Talquin SF.** Hike 6 miles. See <http://apalachee.floridatrail.org/big-bend-area-trails/fort-braden-trail/>. Contact: Richard Graham (850) 566-5529 [rdgraham@centurylink.net](mailto:rdgraham@centurylink.net)

**Jan. 19 Thur Fri. M/L FNST Coalition Meeting.** The Coalition is comprised of FNST partners dedicated to the development, maintenance, and promotion of the FNST. The variety of organizations helps to ensure that a wide spectrum of land owners' needs and recreationists' interests are considered in management decisions affecting the Florida National Scenic Trail. Meeting observers gain a broader picture of the FNST and its partners. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Lake Nona area (SE Orlando). Contact: Shawn Thomas (850) 523-8586

**Jan. 20 Sat. M/L CHAPTER ACTIVITY LEADER TRAINING.** Meeting Room B on 1st floor of Leroy Collins Library, Tallahassee. 1:00-4:00 p.m. Current Activity Leaders and those interested in becoming a Leader are welcome. **FTA MEMBERS ONLY.** To sign up, contact Ray Cade 850 508-7593 [raycade@hotmail.com](mailto:raycade@hotmail.com)

**Jan. 20 Sat. M/L FTA Board Meeting.** Open to all FTA members. Observe the governing process of our organization and get a broader picture of the FTA and the FNST. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at FWC's Ocala Conservation Center, 7325 NE 170 Ave., Silver Springs.

**Jan. 21. Sun. M/L FTA Chapter Council Meeting.** Open to all FTA members. Council members from chapters around the state discuss issues common to us all. Observers gain a broader picture of the FTA and the FNST. 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at FWC's Ocala Conservation Center (see Jan. 20) on Lake Eaton in the Ocala NF.

**Jan. 23 Tue. P/L Urban Walk: Fern Trail.** Description at Jan. 9.

**Jan. 23 Tue. M/L ACTIVITIES PLANNING MEETING.** Plan activities for April-June 2018. Current Activity Leaders and those interested in becoming a Leader are welcome. **FTA MEMBERS ONLY.** Contact: Ray Cade (850) 508-7593 raycade@hotmail.com

**Feb 1, 8, 15, 22 Thur. P/M Forest Bathing: Miccosukee Greenway-Edenfield Trailhead.** Description at Jan. 4.

**Feb 4 Sun. P/L Aucilla Trail Day Hike.** Hike 3 mi. out-and-back on the FNST, from Burnt Bridge to Lost Dog Rapids. Appropriate foot wear, insect spray & water. **LIMIT 12 PEOPLE.** Reserve a spot: James Kimbrel 850 524-0773 jameskimbrel@hotmail.com

**Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26 Mon. P/M Forest Bathing Hike: Lafayette Heritage Trail Park (Piney Z).** Description at Jan.8.

**Feb. 7, 14, 21, 28 Wed. P/M Stress Busters Power Walk ("Trails, Tacos and Tales").** Description at Jan. 3.

**Feb. 6 Tue. P/M Explore the L. Kirk Edwards Wildlife and Environmental Area.** Take a 4-5 mi. hike to explore the extreme upper St. Marks River, the canal, and the woodlands of this 1,782-acre public-access area in Capitola. Meet at 10 a.m. at the trailhead 1.3 mi. east of Chaires Cross Rd. on Capitola Rd. The 1st TH is 0.4 miles east of Chaires Cross Rd. (on the right). Begin looking for the 2nd trailhead after you cross the St. Marks River. The 2nd TH is on the south (right) side of the road. No facilities or water. Bring water & wear comfortable shoes & brightly colored clothing, if available. Dogs welcome. Contact: Elwood McElhaney 850-878-4389 emcelhaney@embarqmail.com or Carol Watkins (313) 319-9463 cwatkinsbabcock@gmail.com or Steve Babcock (313) 319-6559 stevenbabcock@gmail.com

**Feb. 11 Sun. P/M Emma's Commemorative Walk: Leon Sinks Geological Area.** Emma Gatewood/"Grandma Gatewood" was a grandmother who enjoyed adventure and hiked the Appalachian Trail 3 times—the 1st time at the age of 67. After I met Ben Montgomery, who wrote "Grandma Gatewood's Walk: The Inspiring Story of the Woman Who Saved the Appalachian Trail," I thought hiking a trail in her honor was needed. Meet at the Park-n-Ride on South Monroe St. at 9:30 am. Contact: Dawn Griffin (850) 509-6103 griffindd@aol.com or April Edmonds (850) 519-1525 April.edmonds.35@gmail.com

**Feb. 13 Tue. P/L CHAPTER MEETING: "What's New with the FTA and the Panhandle Region."**

**Feb. 20 Tue. P/M Explore the St. Marks River Preserve State Park.** About 10 mi. east of Tallahassee at 11950 Tram Rd. The park encompasses 2,589 acres along the upper St. Marks River. Explore this area with a 4-5 mi. hike. Meet at 10 a.m. at the trailhead/park entrance on Tram Rd., 2.3 mi. east of W.W. Kelley/Old Plank Rd. on the north (left) side of the road. No facilities or water. Bring water & wear comfortable shoes. Dogs OK. Contact: Elwood McElhaney (850) 878-4389 emcelhaney@embarqmail.com or Dawn Griffin (850) 509-6103 griffindd@aol.com.

**Feb. 23 Fri. P/M Florida National Scenic Trail Maintenance: Apalachicola NF-East.** Clear brush, mow, & repaint blazes. Bring lunch, gloves & water. Wear comfortable work clothes & shoes. Meet at the Park-n-Ride on South Monroe St. at 9:30 a.m. Contact: Dawn Griffin (850) 509-6103 griffindd@aol.com

**Mar. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Thur. P/M Forest Bathing: Miccosukee Greenway-Edenfield Trailhead.** Description at Jan. 4.

**Mar. 2-4 Fri.-Sun. 17th Annual Appalachian Trail Kickoff: Amicalola Falls State Park, GA.** A.T. experts, authors, vendors, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, hiking clubs & organizations, and newbie & veteran hikers alike all congregate to meet, greet, & educate. Are you an aspiring A.T. thru-hiker? Come to the ATKO & increase your odds of getting all the way to Katahdin (2,190 mi.) Visit <http://www.atko.info/>

**Mar. 3 Sat. P/S 23rd Annual Bradwell Bay Swamp Stomp.** Hike about 8 mi—from the Bradwell Bay TH on FR 314 east to the Monkey Creek TH on FR 329. Depending on the size of the group, we may split & hike from opposite trailheads, meeting on the island for lunch. Expect hike to be wet-wading and mud for about half the distance through cool water—but the air temperature should be warm. This hike is strenuous and may have deep mud, holes & fallen trees. Contact: Kent Wimmer (850) 528-5261 klwimmer2@gmail.com

**Mar. 3 Sat. P/L Econfina Creek Day Paddle.** Econfina Creek is an absolute gem with crystal springs, craggy limestone bluffs and cascading ferns. Paddle 6 mi.—SR20 to CR 388—at a leisurely pace & have early dinner at a local restaurant before returning home. Bring

water, a whistle, sun protection & snacks to eat on the water. A PFD that is properly fitted & fastened must be worn while paddling. **No dogs please.** **LIMIT 12 CANOES/KAYAKS.** To reserve a spot, contact: Gwen Beatty leader (850) 539-6027 gfbeatty@yahoo.com

**Mar. 5, 12, 19, 26 Mon. P/M Forest Bathing Hike: Lafayette Heritage Trail Park (Piney Z)** . Description at Jan. 8.

**Mar. 7, 14, 21, 28 Wed. P/M Stress Busters Power Walk ("Trails, Tacos and Tales").** Description at Jan. 3.

**Mar. 10 Sat. - P/L Kingsley Plantation and Hike: Jacksonville Day Trip.** Visit historic Kingsley Plantation in the Timucuan Ecological & Historic Preserve. Meet at 6:00 a.m. at the Walmart on Mahan/Lagniappe. Park in area closest to Mahan & look for my old blue Honda Civic. Carpool leaves at 6:10 a.m. sharp. A 5-mi. hike & tour of the main house will be followed by lunch. Return home before dinner time. Free except for gas money for carpool drivers. Bring sunscreen, bug repellent, water & snacks. Wear comfortable shoes. More details on our Meetup site. **LIMIT 11 PEOPLE. FTA MEMBERS ONLY.** Reserve a spot: Courtney Micots 850-300-0399.

**Mar. 13 Tue. P/M CHAPTER MEETING: "Walking the Camino de Santigao in Stages."**

**Mar. 17 (or 24) Sat. P/M Sopchoppy River Azalea Hike: Sopchoppy River Section of the FNST.** A 4.5-mi.hike following the Sopchoppy River. Abundant stands of wild azaleas bloom mid-late March. Hikers will get a list of plant species observed along the trail. Date depends on when azaleas bloom. Details on our Meetup site. **LIMIT 20 PEOPLE.** Reserve a spot: George Weaver (850) 510-3288 weaver@psy.fsu.edu

**Mar. 23 Fri. P/M Florida National Scenic Trail Maintenance: Apalachicola NF-East.** Clear brush, mow, & repaint blazes. Bring lunch, gloves & water. Wear comfortable work clothes & shoes. Meet at the Park-n-Ride on South Monroe St. at 9:30 a.m. Contact: Dawn Griffin (850) 509-6103 griffindd@aol.com.

**Mar. 31 Sat. P/M Fun Hike: Bradwell Bay East.** Hike 5 mi. in the east (dry) side of Bradwell Bay. Bring water & lunch. Dress for the weather. Contact: Richard Graham (850) 566-5529 rdgraham@centurylink.net

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## WANDERINGS ~~ from the desk of Dawn Brown CHAPTER CHAIR

In my last *Wanderings* column I talked about the volunteer work party our chapter was hosting for the first time. We had decided to work on sections of the FNST that run through the western portion of the Apalachicola National Forest. The event was staged at the Forest Service campground at Camel Lake. I'm pleased to report it was a tremendous success. I'm going to talk about it in detail here in hope that many of you will decide to participate in similar events in the future.

Adam Fryska, our Panhandle Representative for the FTA, led much of the organization of the event. He worked closely with Al Ingle, Section Leader for the ANF West, and Mike Tucker to decide which sections of the trail needed our attention.

On Friday afternoon we met at the campground and pitched our tents. Immediately we were greeted with hors d'oeuvres provided by Charlie Crain and Shirley Hearn, camp chefs extraordinaire. Charlie and Shirley provided all our food for the weekend: hot cooked breakfasts and dinners and fixings for lunch on the trail. About half the work party came from our Apalachee Chapter. But a large number of people also came over from the Panhandle Chapter. We had a woman who came up from the Tampa area and one through-hiker. After dinner we got acquainted with each other, watched the campfire, and listened to Howard's gentle banjo in the background.

Saturday morning came early. We were up before the sun, eating a delicious breakfast and packing trail lunches. Then Adam divided us into three groups. Saturday was our longest day. We had to drive quite a distance to get to the work site. We worked on a very remote section that had not had maintenance in several years. By the end of the workday we were all pretty exhausted, but the campground had hot showers and we got back in time to spend a little time at the Lake.

Sunday was a shorter day. Our campsite was directly connected to the FNST so we just walked out the back of the campsite and started to work. That day my team managed to clear about 3 miles of trail. In all, Al estimated we got about 8-9 miles of trail maintained in one weekend. That's a lot of maintenance.

I think all enjoyed the weekend. I hope our chapter will choose to do more work parties like this.

**Upcoming Chapter Election.** The publication of the Winter *Blaze* means it is time again to start thinking about chapter elections. Since 2018 is an even year we will be electing a Treasurer, Membership Coordinator, and Activity Coordinator. Each officer is limited to two consecutive terms unless this guideline is waived by a vote of the membership. Ray Cade is currently serving as Activity Coordinator and has only served 1 term. Lori Gilbertson, who is currently serving as Membership Coordinator, and Elizabeth Slack, who is currently serving as Treasurer, have both served two terms.

We currently need to appoint a nominating committee. This committee will meet, contact potential candidates, and propose a slate at the February Chapter meeting. Elections will be held at the March Chapter meeting. If anyone is interested in serving in any of these positions, or serving on the nominating committee, please contact Dawn Brown at [dbrown1948@embarqmail.com](mailto:dbrown1948@embarqmail.com).

**Year-end giving.** I know many of you have been very generous in your year-end giving to FTA, both to our chapter and to the state organization. Because of your overwhelming generosity last year I'm pleased to announce our chapter is in good financial shape. So this year I'd like to make a special appeal for donations to the state organization.

Perhaps some of you have visited the FTA state offices in Gainesville. If you have, you know the building in which they are housed has been in terrible shape for quite a while. In particular there are mold issues, which have rendered it no longer usable. Because of other structural problems, it is not feasible to repair the damage so new quarters must be sought. The staff is in the process of finding rental space to move into until a permanent solution is found.

Several alternatives for permanent housing are currently being explored. One thing for sure, however, is that they will all be expensive. I would like to suggest that, if you would like, you make a contribution specifically to the building fund. This can be done through the donation page of the FTA web site: <http://www.floridatrails.org>. Simply specify your donation is for the building fund, in the appropriate space.

Also, don't forget FTA when you are doing your Christmas shopping. You can support FTA through the Amazon Smiles program: <https://smile.amazon.com/gp/chpf/about/> If you enter the program, and select FTA as your charity, Amazon will donate .5% of your total purchases to FTA. This contribution does not affect the price you pay.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Trailmasters are still needed for the west side of the Apalachicola National Forest.

Contact Al Ingle (850) 509-1162 [al@capitalavionics.com](mailto:al@capitalavionics.com)  
OR Mike Tucker (850) 545-3489 [tuckems@hotmail.com](mailto:tuckems@hotmail.com)

### TRAILMASTER NEEDED FOR AUCILLA SINKS SECTION OF THE FLORIDA TRAIL

Due to Vic & Carlene Danart's resignation, there is an opening for a Trailmaster to maintain the southernmost 3 miles of the FNST in the Aucilla Sinks section. Questions? Want to sign up for this position? Contact Steve Babcock [stevencbabcock@gmail.com](mailto:stevencbabcock@gmail.com) (313)319-6559.

*"It is with really sad hearts that we are resigning from being trailmasters of the Aucilla Sinks Trail. It is not easy to acknowledge that we cannot do what we did twenty years ago, or even one year ago. We have really loved being section leaders and trailmasters. We met really wonderful and fun people....It is a beautiful section and we hope you are able to find someone young and robust to take over....Thanks to all for a wonderful run." ~ Vic and Carlene Danart 10/3/17*

Vic and Carlene have been FTA members for 30 years. They served 22 years on the Aucilla: 11 years as Section Leader and then 12 years as Trailmasters. They also were chapter Trails Coordinator for one year.

### TRAILMASTER NEEDED FOR AUCILLA RIVER SECTION OF THE FLORIDA TRAIL

Due to Lee Bonninghausen's resignation, there is an opening for a Trailmaster to maintain the northernmost 4.8 miles of the FNST in the Aucilla River section. Questions? Want to sign up for this position? Contact Steve Babcock [stevencbabcock@gmail.com](mailto:stevencbabcock@gmail.com) (313)319-6559.

*"I regret to admit it but maintaining my section of trail has become too much for me due to age and continuing bothersome medical issues. I would like to pass on maintenance of the section of trail from the northern terminus (near SR 14) to Davis Rapids to someone who would like to work on it." ~ Lee Bonninghausen 11/12/17*

Lee joined FTA in 2005 and has been a Trailmaster since 2011.

### It's the National Trails System's 50th Anniversary

In 2018, America will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of the National Trails System Act. With the passage of the National Trails System Act in 1968, America was given a gift – the creation and protection of some of Americans' favorite places to discover the great outdoors. Trails that celebrate outdoor adventure such as the Florida National Scenic Trail and trails that allow us to walk through history, such as the Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail. National Scenic Trails may only be land-based, and may only be designated and authorized by an Act of Congress, and are described as extended trails of more than 100 miles in length that provide for outdoor recreation and "for the conservation and enjoyment of the nationally significant scenic, historic, natural, or cultural qualities of the areas through which such trails may pass."

So, join the conversation on facebook <https://www.facebook.com/Trails50/>, Twitter <https://twitter.com/NTSA50>, or on <https://www.trails50.org/>, the website dedicated to this tremendous nationwide celebration of trails and all the places they allow us to explore. Share your love of trails and the outdoors. Go ahead, wear your heart on your sleeve, or on your backpack, or on the Internet — this is a time of celebration!

**Go GREEN, save our Chapter MONEY, and get a COLOR COPY of THE BLAZE with EXTRA PAGES. If you are an FTA member, opt into receiving 'The Blaze' by email as a PDF (in color) and opt out of receiving a black-and-white copy by mail. You will save the Chapter about \$3.08 per year. Currently, 112 members are saving us about \$345!!**  
If you would like to receive the newsletter via email, contact Linda Patton at [lpattton@fsu.edu](mailto:lpattton@fsu.edu). **THANK YOU !!**

#### FTA MISSION

"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."

Florida Trail Association Member's Code:

I understand that I am entitled to all rights and privileges of a dues-paying member, and that only members may hike the Trail across private property. When on the Trail, I agree to protect wildlife, hike only marked routes, not carry firearms, leave gates as found, use crossings on fences when possible, where permitted, keep fires small, then drench and obliterate, carry out all refuse, report irregularities to property owners, pick up after those who have gone before and leave only footprints. I understand that hiking the Trail is a privilege and that I do so at my own risk. Neither the Association nor landowners are in any way liable for any injury or accident I might sustain while hiking the Florida Trail.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Country: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: H(\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ W(\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Employer/Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Family Memberships:

Spouse's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Employer/Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of Children (18 or younger): \_\_\_\_\_

- Individual \$35     Family\* \$50     Sustaining\* \$150     Supporting\* \$250
- Individual Life \$1000     Family Life\* \$1500     Senior 65+ \$30     Senior 65+ Couple \$45
- Full-time Student 18-23 \$30     Full-time Student 18-23 Couple \$45

\*Includes spouse and children 18 or younger.

Check here if you DO NOT wish your address shared with FTA-affiliated organizations.

Additional Contribution:    General Fund    \$ \_\_\_\_\_    Bill my     MC     VISA     DISCOVER     AMEX  
    Endowment Fund    \$ \_\_\_\_\_    Account: \_\_\_\_\_  
    Annual Fund    \$ \_\_\_\_\_    Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
    Total Enclosed    \$ \_\_\_\_\_    Cardholder's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

I learned about the Florida Trail from: \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to: FLORIDA TRAIL ASSOCIATION and mail to FTA, 5415 SW 13th Street, Gainesville, FL 32608



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