



The Blaze

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE APALACHEE CHAPTER OF THE FLORIDA TRAIL ASSOCIATION

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Connect with us on Social Media

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Instagram: Apalachee.FTA
Twitter: ApalacheeFTA

Tag your posts/photos with:
#FloridaTrail
#FloridaTrailAssociation

Trail Updates

SPRING CREEK BY ADAM FRYSKA

Hope you're having a great summer! I have some exciting news to share regarding Spring Creek.

As of last week, a funding agreement has been finalized with USFS, St. Marks and USDA for the Spring Creek project (utilizing recreational set-aside funds stemming from the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill), and the project can now (finally!) begin moving forward. Attached is St. Marks' proposal. This option would add a major bridge over Spring Creek, ensuring future access through the area even during exceptional storms and flooding events. I was scouting the field location last week and it's spectacular, the views from a finished bridge would be a major attraction for this location. More planning needs to be done for additional interpretive trails in the area, which would include various kiosks and displays. I think the end result would be a great attraction along the Florida Trail.

There's a 3-year plan for the project; year 1 (starting now) will include planning, design, and permitting, with construction occurring in years 2-3. If all goes well the trail section will be reopened by 2022. The funding agreement also extends to plans for work in the Port Leon wilderness, including another major bridge and several smaller boardwalks.

There's a couple of options being considered for construction of the major bridge, including working with Framing Our Community or bringing in outside contractors. I'm advocating for FOC, as this will give the Apalachee Chapter volunteers the opportunity to take part in the bridge construction. This kind of partnership worked extremely well for the Choctawhatchee Chapter on the Alaqua Bridge project.

I look forward to sharing more information at the September Chapter meeting. I'm also just getting started with planning for the upcoming field season.

Please let me know if you have any feedback or questions! I'd love to organize a field trip to the location with anyone interested!

Contact Adam at: adamf@floridatrail.org

Visit Framing Our Community at: <https://www.framingourcommunity.org>

TRAIL MAINTENANCE OPPORTUNITIES

OUR MISSION:

The Florida Trail Association builds, maintains, protects, and promotes the unique Florida National Scenic Trail (Florida Trail), along with a network of hiking trails throughout the state of Florida. Together with our partners, the Association provides opportunities for the public to contribute to meaningful volunteer work, engage in outdoor recreation, and participate in environmental education. The Apalachee Chapter includes Franklin, Gadsden, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, and Wakulla counties.

TRAIL SECTION LEADERS

FNST: ANF WEST

Al Ingle (850) 509-1162

FNST: ANF EAST

Richard Graham (850) 566-5529

FNST: ST. MARKS

Dale Allen (850) 656-8050

FNST: AUCILLA

NEED VOLUNTEER(S)

FT. BRADEN TRACT

Howard Pardue (850) 386-1494

ELINOR KLAPP-PHIPPS PARK

Dawn Brown (850) 668-0091

TORREYA STATE PARK

NEED VOLUNTEER(S)



Interested in trail maintenance? The Chapter provides the hand tools and motorized equipment required for trail maintenance. Volunteers are issued safety equipment and are required to use it during trail maintenance and construction activities. Heavy-duty mowers, loppers, pruning saws, paint brushes, and Pulaskis are some of our basic trail maintenance tools. Trail maintenance is open to members and nonmembers. And best of all... "No experience necessary!". We train you!

1ST SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH - Apalachee Chapter maintains the FNST from the intersection of C-14 (CR 14) in Taylor County (Map/Data Point 12-8) west to the Apalachicola River (Map/Data Point 8-2) Contact: Al Ingle (850) 509-1162, al@capitalavionics.com or Mike Tucker (850) 545-3489, tuckems@hotmail.com

OCT. 2 TRAIL MAINTENANCE: SR319 TO FR321 - Clean trail, mow and repaint blazes. Contact: Richard Graham (850)566-5519, rdgraham@centurylink.net

OCT. 15 TRAIL MAINTENANCE: FR321 WEST (till we hit water) - Clean trail, mow and repaint blazes. Contact: Richard Graham (850)566-5519, rdgraham@centurylink.net

NOV. 2 AND 16 TRAIL MAINTENANCE: AUCILLA TRAIL Clear Trail and repaint blazes on a segment of the FNST from Walker Bridge to Lost Dog Rapids. Contact James Kimbrel (850) 524-0773, james.kimbrel@hotmail.com

NOV. 22-24 VOLUNTEER WORK PARTY/F-TROOP - Western Apalachicola National Forest, camping @ Camel Lake. The Apalachicola West Section is planning at least one "F" Troop event this fall. This is a weekend spent working on the trail with overnight accommodations at a nearby campground. Lots of fun with like-minded folks and evenings around the fire. For more information, carpooling, and directions contact: Al Ingle (850) 509-1162, al@capitalavionics.com or Mike Tucker (850) 545-3489, tuckems@hotmail.com SIGN UP: <https://www.floridatrail.org/201911ac1/>

DEC. 4 TRAIL MAINTENANCE: FR314 WEST (trail reroute?) - Clean trail, mow and repaint blazes. Contact: Richard Graham (850)566-5519, rdgraham@centurylink.net

DEC. 11 TRAIL MAINTENANCE: FR314 to SR375 - Clean trail, mow and repaint blazes. Contact: Richard Graham (850)566-5519, rdgraham@centurylink.net

DEC 13-15 VOLUNTEER WORKPARTY/F-TROOP – See description above. For more information contact: Al Ingle (850) 509-1162, al@capitalavionics.com or Mike Tucker (850) 545-3489, tuckems@hotmail.com SIGN UP: <https://www.floridatrail.org/201912ac2/>

The Great GORP Contest^{SN}

Strut your stuff and compare your beloved trail mix/gorp (good old raisins and peanuts) against others at the October chapter meeting – be a stand out among the mounds of M&M's and hordes of raisins. Meeting attendees will be given the opportunity to sample/vote on each entry!

Everything tastes better in the outdoors. But when you combine food that's crunchy and salty (like nuts) with stuff that's sweet and chewy (like dried fruit, chocolate and candy), something magical happens. You've created gorp, the perfect power-packed snack for generations of outdoor enthusiast like us!

In preparation for our outdoor adventures, we mix up our unique gourmet blends, fruity health mixes, sweet-tooth specials, and a few bizarre antigorps. While most hikers think of gorp as a blend of fruit and nuts eaten by the handful (with the requisite crumbs sprinkled on your clothes), many like to think outside the zipper-lock bag.

Gorp can be a sweet and crunchy ball, a smooth bar, or a simple grab bag of chocolate delights that help you stay energized and deliriously happy (especially if chocolate is involved!)

GORP Contest Rules:

- Contest open to all: FTA and non-FTA members
- Must be your own creation – not purchased in its entirety in a bag
- Quantity equal to 4 cups needs to be provided in a large unmarked zipper-lock bag
- Bring a list of ingredients printed on a piece of paper (for purposes of friends with allergies)

Winner is awarded a 1-year FTA membership with their creation shared in the next chapter newsletter.

Come to the October 8th meeting by 6:20 PM to submit your delicious trail concoction to Debbie or Bev. Contact Debbie Grant dag9465@comcast.net, or Bev Wilburn Bev0753@comcast.net

Other Volunteer Opportunities

IDidAHike 2021 – CALLING ALL EVENT PLANNERS - The Apalachee Chapter is interested in hosting the event in 2021- but before we make a final decision, an exploratory committee is being organized now to see if it's possible for our area. There is a lot that goes into hosting this public event and volunteers are crucial to its success.

The Ididahike is an annual event and fundraiser for the Florida Trail Association designed to showcase the wonderful treasure in our backyard – the Florida National Scenic Trail. The event is usually held in the winter months and is organized by one of the state FTA chapters. It's a one-day event with multiple distance hikes (ex 3, 6, 10 miles) on the FNST. If interested, contact Dawn Griffin at griffindd@aol.com.

OCT. 25 FRI. SYMPHONY SPOOKTACULAR @ CASCADE PARK - The City of Tallahassee and Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra are excited to announce this year's fourth annual Halloween Symphony Spooktacular free community event from 6-8:30 PM. Volunteers are needed at the trick-or-treat FTA station to hand out candy. Contact Dawn Griffin (850) 509-6103, Griffindd@aol.com

GET INVOLVED - 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.



Note: The color and printable version of the newsletter is posted on the chapter website.

FROM THE CHAPTER CHAIR..Elwood McElhaney



“The Apalachee Chapter of the Florida Trail Association and I need your help in fulfilling our mission.”



You've probably noticed that when you join the FTA or renew your membership, you send your payment to the Florida Trail Association headquarters in Gainesville. They subsequently send \$5 of each new membership back to our Chapter to help fund our annual operations. Last year, that amounted to \$430 of our total cash receipts of \$1,336. The State office also reimbursed us \$143 for costs incurred in maintaining the Florida Trail last year, and gave us a new chainsaw and other equipment that we needed to assist in that effort.

Our total operating costs last fiscal year were \$2,672, which means that we spent twice as much as we took in. No individual or organization can survive over the long run by operating at a deficit, so we need to make changes to our finances before we go broke sometime in 2020-21. Our biggest single item of cost last year was \$1,158 for printing and mailing out our quarterly newsletter. This represented 43% of our total costs. We are one of only two FTA local chapters that mail out chapter newsletters. We have encouraged members to opt out of receiving hard copies of the newsletter in the mail and to go to receiving it electronically through their email. Some have adopted this cost-saving option, but many have not.

At the August 2019 meeting of the Chapter officers, the officers voted to discontinue the distribution of the quarterly newsletter through the mail in order to cut our costs and help balance our budget. **If you received this issue of the newsletter in the mail, I am sorry to inform you that this is the last one that you will receive in this format. All future Chapter newsletters will be distributed electronically.** If you have some special circumstances that this decision causes for you, please tell us about it at one of the following addresses, and the officers will consider your request for an exemption to this policy email: ApalacheeFTA@gmail.com

I hope you can understand the need for this change. If we can eliminate 43% of our operating costs, we can go a long way toward balancing our budget. If you have ideas or alternatives to help us generate more revenue, or to cut more costs, please tell us about them at one of the addresses above. In the meantime, we'll keep looking for ways to operate more efficiently while maintaining our current level of services to our members and to the public.

I'll see you on the trail.....~Elwood

CHAPTER MEETINGS AND PROGRAMS

Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month starting with refreshments 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 8th - 6:30-8:30 PM - ANNUAL GEAR SALE/VOLUNTEER AWARDS/GORP

November 12th - 6:30-8:30 PM - APPALACHIAN TRAIL STORIES, GEAR, AND MORE!
How hiking can be therapeutic and restore your trust in humanity.

December 10th - 6:30-8:30 PM - HOLIDAY PARTY & POTLUCK



Congratulations to Roger Doherty, Lenny Krzycki, and Rich Stephens for becoming FTA certified activity leaders. Each of these leaders completed their required training and co-lead hikes. If you are interested in becoming an activity leader, contact Ray Cade at raycade@hotmail.com

FALL ACTIVITIES – OCTOBER-DECEMBER

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. **Minors** under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult or guardian. 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 to attend.** Check our Meetup site for more details, dates, meeting locations/directions, and any last-minute announcements before starting out. LINK: <https://www.meetup.com/Apalachee-Florida-Trail-Hiking>

OCTOBER

OCT 2 WED (M-S) TRAIL MAINTENANCE: SR319 TO FR321 - Clean trail, mow and repaint blazes. Dress for weather. Bring lunch, snacks, insect repellent, rainwear, sun protection, first aid kit and plenty of water. Tools and safety equipment provided. Contact: Richard Graham (850)566-5519, rdgraham@centurylink.net

OCT 5 SAT (L) – HIKE: HORN SPRINGS - 5 MILES - Enjoy a leisurely hike to an Old Tallahassee swimming hole that has been closed to the public for the last few decades, with a side trip to the upper St. Marks River. There is a \$3.00 per car user fee for the park. We'll begin carpooling to the trailhead at 9:00 AM, and begin the hike by 9:15 AM. Bring snacks, insect repellent, and plenty of water. Minors under the age 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian for the duration of the hike. Dogs on a leash are welcome. Sign up on Meet-Up. Contact Elwood McElhaney (850) 566-6830, emcelhaney@embarqmail.com

OCT 7,14,21,28 EVERY MON. (M-S) 5:00 PM - A WALK IN THE WOODS: LAFAYETTE HERITAGE TRAIL PARK (PINEY Z) - Join us in a moderate to strenuous walk through the woods at your length (3.5 miles+ at 3-4 miles/hour is common). Dogs on a leash are welcome. Bring lots of water, wear comfortable shoes, and apply insect repellent and sun protection as needed. Check our Meetup site for dates, meetings, locations and any last-minute announcements before starting out. Contact: Courtney Micots (850) 300-0399, courtnaymicots@gmail.com

OCT 3,10,17,24,31 EVERY THUR. (M-S) 5:00 PM - A WALK IN THE WOODS: MICCOSUKEE GREENWAY, THORNTON TRAILHEAD 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 insect repellent. Contact: Courtney Micots (850) 300-0399, courtnaymicots@gmail.com

OCT 6 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. Tools and safety equipment provided. **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.** For more information, carpooling, and directions contact: Al Ingle (850) 509-1162, al@capitalavionics.com or Mike Tucker (850) 545-3489, tuckems@hotmail.com

OCT 8 TUE 6:30-8:30 PM – CHAPTER MEETING/ANNUAL VOLUNTEER CELEBRATION, USED GEAR SALE, AND GORP CONTEST: Annual used gear sale--gear for hiking, backpacking, camping, cycling, and paddling! If you have used gear for sale, arrive early to get it displayed. At 7:00 PM the annual awards presentation of our volunteer recognition ceremony will begin. **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.** Contact: ApalacheeFTA@gmail.com

OCT 11 FRIDAYS 3:45 PM (M-S) – CHALLENGE HIKE: MICCOSUKEE GREENWAY – Challenge Yourself! Miccosukee Greenway, Crump to Thornton and back, 8 miles. Join us as we prepare for our Camino walks next summer or other goals we wish to reach. These walks are more strenuous than our chapter usually offers – greater distances (than 4 miles) and more hills and obstacles. This is about endurance, not speed. Check our Meetup site for dates, meeting locations, and any last-minute announcements before starting out. Contact: Courtney Micots (850) 300-0399, courtnaymicots@gmail.com and Co-leader Lenny Krzycki (850) 294-5731, Drlennyak@gmail.com

OCT 15 TUE (M-S) TRAIL MAINTENANCE: FR321 WEST (till we hit water) - Clean trail, mow and repaint blazes. Dress for weather. Bring lunch, snacks, insect repellent, rainwear, sun protection, first aid kit and plenty of water. Tools and safety equipment provided. Contact: Richard Graham (850)566-5519, rdgraham@centurylink.net

OCT 15 TUE 5:30 PM - ACTIVITIES PLANNING MEETING - This is a planning meeting for all current and future Activity Leaders. Let's Plan some amazing activities for the months of January-March. *Considering becoming an Activity Leader?* Come to the meeting to find out more. Contact Ray Cade (850) 508-7593, raycade@hotmail.com

OCT 18 FRI (L) BAINBRIDGE, BOOTS & BREW - Downtown Bainbridge is a southern town famous for its historic squares, has a proud history and heritage with a reputation on making southern hospitality a way of life. Explore and enjoy a leisurely late afternoon stroll through the town stopping to enjoy food and drink as well as possible musical entertainment at Southern Philosophy Brewery! Check out: southernphilosophybrewing.com. **Preference given to FTA members. Limit 15** Contact Dawn Griffin (850) 509-6103, Griffindd@aol.com or Eva Daigle (850) 556-9006, evapevadai@gmail.com

OCT 19 SAT 8:30 AM (L) - HIKE: TATE'S HELL: HIGH BLUFF COASTAL TRAIL - Hike 4 miles of the High Bluff Coastal Hiking Trail in Tate's Hell State Forest, located between Carrabelle and Eastpoint. There is a \$2 fee for individuals using the state forest, unless you have an annual pass. Bring plenty of water, insect spray and sun protection for on the trail. Persons under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. After the hike, we will go to eat at a local restaurant. **Preference given to FTA members. Limit 12.** Contact Roger Doherty (850) 212-5766, duiplanner@yahoo.com

OCT 23, 30 WED.'s (M-S) STRESS BUSTER BRISK WALKS ("Trails and Tall Tales.") Celebrating Our 8th 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. Bring snacks if needed, water and dress in layers. Come hydrated. Will attempt to maintain a pace of 3.0 - 3.5 mph. Afterwards, plan to grab some dinner. Location: JR Alford Greenway, Pedrick Road, Tallahassee and Gaines Street Pies (1184 Capital Cir NE). Leader announced on Meetup!

OCT 25 FRI 3:45 PM (M-S) - CHALLENGE HIKE: PARK AVE/DOWNTOWN - Challenge Yourself! Park Avenue/Downtown, park at the Main Leon County Public Library. See the October 11th Description

OCT 25 FRI (L) SYMPHONY SPOOKTACULAR at CASCADE PARK - The City of Tallahassee and Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra are excited to announce this year's fourth annual Halloween Symphony Spooktacular free community event from 6-8:30pm. The Spooktacular features the Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra free family concert, kids' activities, trick-or-treat stations, and Food Trucks. **Volunteers are needed at the trick-or-treat FTA station to hand out candy.** Bring a chair and feel free to dress-up. Trick-or-Treating

opens at 6pm and the concert will begin at 7 PM. Contact Dawn Griffin (850) 509-6103, Griffindd@aol.com

NOVEMBER

NOV 1 FRI (L) WALKABOUT: THOMASVILLE. We often drive through the city on our way to another destination and want to stop to "smell the roses." Enjoy a leisurely late afternoon stroll through the historic parts of Thomasville, paying tribute to the oldest live oak, viewing outside architecture/gardens of the Victorian homes and churches then stopping to grab a bite to eat at one of the local favorite places - George and Louie's! **Preference given to FTA members. Limit 15.** Leader announced on Meetup!

NOV 2 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, insect repellent, rainwear, sun protection, first aid kit and plenty of water. Tools and safety equipment provided. **Limit 8.** Contact James Kimbrel (850) 524-0773 james.kimbrel@hotmail.com

NOV 3 SUN (S) 8:00 AM - FLORIDA NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL MAINTENANCE: APALACHICOLA NATIONAL FOREST WEST - See the October 6th Description.

NOV 6, 13, 20 - WED. (M-S) STRESS BUSTER BRISK WALKS ("Trails and Tall Tales.") - See the October 23rd Description.

NOV 4,11,18,25 EVERY MON. (L) 5:00 PM - A WALK IN THE WOODS: LAFAYETTE HERITAGE TRAIL PARK (PINEY Z) - See the October 7th Description.

NOV 7,14,21,28 EVERY THUR. (L) 5:00 PM - A WALK IN THE WOODS: MICCOSUKEE GREENWAY, THORNTON TRAILHEAD - See the October 3rd Description.

NOV 8 FRI (M-S) 3:45 PM - CHALLENGE HIKE: FT BRADEN TRAILS - Challenge Yourself! Hike 8 miles combining east and west trails of the Ft. Braden Trails. There is a \$2 fee for individuals using the state forest, unless you have an annual pass. See the October 11th Description.

NOV 8-11 - 2019 PANHANDLE GATHERING: COMPASS LAKE - The Panhandle Chapter is excited to once again host a regional gathering November 8-11th. This year's Gathering will take place at Compass Lake in the Hills, <https://compasslake.org/>, just southwest of Marianna, FL in Jackson County. Lots of hikes and activities are planned. For information about cabins/camping, etc. go to: <https://www.meetup.com/hiking-central-panhandle/events/261787826/>

NOV 12 TUES 6:30-8:30 PM - CHAPTER MEETING/PROGRAM: APPALACHIAN TRAIL

STORIES, GEAR AND MORE! How hiking can be therapeutic and restore your trust in humanity.

Come hear Perry Register aka "Snake Man" talk about his recent summer backpacking trip of the AT. He has completed around 1300 miles and has many experiences to share.

NOV 16 SAT (M) – TRAIL MAINTENANCE: AUCILLA TRAIL – See the November 2 Description. **Limit 8.** Contact James Kimbrel (850) 524-0773, james.kimbrel@hotmail.com

NOV 16 SAT – INTERPRETIVE HIKE: BIRDING BASICS: ST. MARKS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE – This is an interpretive hike that will focus on birding basics, with birding expert Selena Kiser. We will explore a trail at St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge and learn about different birds. After the hike, we will get some lunch at a local restaurant. **Reservations are limited to FTA members and should be made via Meetup. LIMIT: 15.** Park entrance fee: \$6.00, unless you have a park pass. Contact April Edmonds, April.edmonds.35@gmail.com

NOV 22-24 FRI-SUN (P/S) – VOLUNTEER WORK PARTY/F-TROOP – Western Apalachicola National Forest, camping @ Camel Lake. The Apalachicola West Section is planning at least one "F" Troop event this fall. This is a weekend spent working on the trail with overnight accommodations at a nearby campground. Lots of fun with like-minded folks and evenings around the fire. For more information, carpooling, and directions contact: Al Ingle (850) 509-1162, al@capitalavionics.com or Mike Tucker (850) 545-3489, tuckems@hotmail.com **SIGN UP:** <https://www.floridatrail.org/201911ac1/>

NOV 22 FRI 3:45 pm (M-S) – CHALLENGE HIKE: SoMo/FAMU CAMPUS – Challenge Yourself! SoMo/FAMU campus, 6-9 miles. Park at Piggly Wiggly, 2526 S. Monroe St., See the October 11th Description.

DECEMBER

DEC 1 SUN (S) 8:00 AM - FLORIDA NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL MAINTENANCE: APALACHICOLA NATIONAL FOREST WEST - See the October 6th Description

DEC. 4 WED (M-S) TRAIL MAINTENANCE: FR314 WEST (trail reroute?) - Clean trail, mow and repaint blazes. Dress for weather. Bring lunch, snacks, insect repellent, rainwear, sun protection, first aid kit and plenty of water. Tools and safety equipment provided. Contact: Richard Graham (850)566-5519, rdgraham@centurylink.net

DEC 4 and 11 - WED (M) HOLIDAY LIGHTS WINTER NIGHT HIKES - Grab your elf hat, throw on your Christmas sweatshirt and join us for the 4th Annual weekday 3.5 to 4-mi. walk in downtown Tallahassee to enjoy the seasonal lights! Come at 5:30 PM and be

ready to start at 5:45 PM SHARP. Contact: Dawn Griffin (850) 509-6103, griffindd@aol.com

DEC 2 MON. (L) 5:00 PM - A WALK IN THE WOODS: LAFAYETTE HERITAGE TRAIL PARK (PINEY Z) - See the October 7th Description.

DEC 5 THUR. (L) 5:00 PM - A WALK IN THE WOODS: MICCOSUKEE GREENWAY, THORNTON TRAILHEAD - See the October 3rd Description.

DEC 6 FRI 3:45 pm (M-S) – CHALLENGE HIKE: RED ROAD – Challenge Yourself! Red Road from Bradley's Country Store, 12 miles. See the October 11th Description

DEC 10 TUES 6:30-8:30 PM – CHAPTER MEETING/PROGRAM: "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!

DEC. 11 WED (M-S) TRAIL MAINTENANCE: FR314 to SR375 – See the October 2 Description. Contact: Richard Graham (850)566-5519, rdgraham@centurylink.net

DEC 13-15 (P/S) – VOLUNTEER WORKPARTY/F-TROOP – See the November 22-24 Description. **SIGN UP:** <https://www.floridatrail.org/201912ac2/>

DEC 13-15 - FTA SOUTHERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE, Jupiter, FL The conference starts Friday evening and ends Sunday morning. Camping: tent/RV/cabins and meals available but you must respond quickly. More Information - <https://www.meetup.com/Florida-Trail-Association-Loxahatchee-Chapter-PBCounty/events/264400859/>

DEC 18 WED. (L) – 6:00 PM – URBAN HOLIDAY LIGHTS HIKE – Join us for an Urban Holiday Hike and enjoy the beautiful Christmas lights in the Betton Hills neighborhood and the amazing holiday display at Dorothy B. Oven Park. Hike will be approximately 5 miles. PLEASE SIGN UP ON MEETUP. Contact Judi Harrison, jkent0424@gmail.com, Ron Harrison, ronaldwharrison@gmail.com (850) 443-1665

DEC 20 FRI 3:45 PM (M-S) – CHALLENGE HIKE: GARDEN OF EDEN – Challenge Yourself! Garden of Eden trail repeated, 6-9 miles. See the October 11th Description

DEC. 27 THU. (L) HOLIDAY HIKE: ELINOR KLAPP-PHIPPS PARK - 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 .

SHIRTS – SEEKING INTEREST...



We are seeking your interest in shirt(s) orders. We must have 100 shirt minimum. The shirts are printed with a matte finish, are moisture wicking, 100% spun polyester jersey with PosiCharge technology, dyed-to-match neck taping and set-in sleeves.

Place your order by November 15th! Unless we meet the 100 shirt minimum, you are not obligated! All profits benefit your local chapter.

SHORT SLEEVE: Colors (Sand or Pink) Adult Size: S / M / LG & XL \$15 / XXL \$17 tax included

LONG SLEEVE: Silver Only Adult Size: S / M / LG & XL \$17 / XXL \$19 tax included

Visit our website for ordering information.

Help Support the Florida National Scenic Trail:

Becoming a Member. <https://ftashop.floridatrail.org/memberships/>

Donations: <https://donatenow.networkforgood.org/floridatrail>



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