



# The Blaze

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE APALACHEE CHAPTER OF THE FLORIDA TRAIL ASSOCIATION



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#FloridaTrailAssociation

## CHAPTER OFFICERS

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Vacant

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### VOLUNTEER HOURS

Dawn Brown (850) 668-0091  
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## Trail Updates

At the FTA Chapter Council meeting in Gainesville on Saturday, February 8, the following projects were announced for our section of the Florida Trail:

### St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge

Spring Creek – a boardwalk and bridge (See [The FootPrint](#) Page 23-25)

Port Leon – a boardwalk

Refuge – replace a mobile home

### Apalachicola National Forest

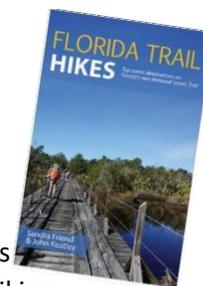
Repair the Monkey Creek bridge

See Elwood's article on page 4.

## Florida Trail Hikes

Get the updated version of the Florida Trail Hikes.

This guidebook explores our top picks for day hikes and backpacking trips you can enjoy on the Florida National Scenic Trail statewide. There are hiking options for hikers of all abilities and interests. There are both short and long hikes, overnight trips, and even a few accessible sections that can also be biked. Some trips are suitable for families. Others are for experienced hikers and backpackers.



Special features: Our chapter members Ron and Judi Harrison on the cover and a special dedicated section to our long-time member Linda Patton.

Purchase: <https://floridahikes.com/florida-trail-hikes>

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Published: November 15, 2019

# 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 Pulaski's 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!



**APRIL 5, MAY 3, JUNE 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. 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](mailto:al@capitalavionics.com) or Mike Tucker (850) 545-3489, [tuckems@hotmail.com](mailto:tuckems@hotmail.com)



**APR 16 THU (M) 8:30 AM - BLAZING TRAIL ACTIVITY (BLAZING TREES) @ LAKE TALQUIN - FORT BRADEN TRAIL.** The Fort Braden Trail is one of the more unique in northern Florida because it passes through both hardwood forests and cut-over uplands being restored with wiregrass and longleaf pine. Wear clothing and shoes that will not be ruined with orange paint while blazing. Contact: Howard Pardue 850 567-2078, [hpartdue@comcast.net](mailto:hpartdue@comcast.net)

## 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](mailto:ApalacheeFTA@gmail.com). Meetings are open to the public.*

**APRIL 14th - 6:30-8:30 PM - GEARING UP FOR YOUR NEXT HIKE** - Come to hear from some local outfitters who will provide their insight on hiking and other outdoor gear available in Tallahassee, FL and Thomasville GA.

**MAY 12TH- 6:30-8:30 PM - DOUG ALDERSON, OUTDOOR WRITER AND PHOTOGRAPHER** - will talk about his new book, "America's Alligator: The Popular History of our Most Celebrated Reptile". Doug is an author of more than ten books, his photography and storytelling experiences should make for an exciting evening. Doug Alderson's articles and photographs have been featured in Native Peoples, Wildlife Conservation, American Forests, Sea Kayaker, Sierra, Mother Earth News, Shaman's Drum, Campus Life, America, The St. Louis Post-Dispatch, the Florida Naturalist, Florida Sportsman, Tallahassee Magazine, Florida Wildlife and several others. He has won two national writing awards for his magazine features and several Florida writing competitions.

**JUNE 9TH- 6:30-8:30 PM - BRITNEY MOORE - OFFICE OF GREENWAYS AND TRAILS** - Britney has worked for Florida's award-winning state park system for several years. She attended Florida State University where she studied Geography and Environmental Studies. As a member of the Junior League of Tallahassee, Britney has found a way to nourish her love of volunteering in the community. She frequently explores Florida's incredible recreational opportunities, whether it be participating in biking and kayaking events or taking her dogs on hikes.



## GET INVOLVED

*The Apalachee Chapter extends an invitation to anyone 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, fundraising, event coordinators, leadership positions and more....*

*Some volunteer positions do require an FTA membership. Visit our website for more information.*

At a recent meeting of the FTA Chapter Council in Gainesville, we received confirmation of a few rumors that we have been tracking. The U.S Forest Service and the St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge have received Federal appropriations and are in the planning stage for several projects along our Section of the Florida Trail. The Refuge has about \$2 million dollars for projects that will include a bridge and/or walkway in the Spring Creek area, and replacement of a metal work shed within the Refuge where we store some of our equipment. The Spring Creek Bridge has been a priority of our Chapter for a number of years. We even held a fundraiser a while back to help pay for this project.

The U.S. Forest Service has received funds to make repairs to the Monkey Creek Bridge. Our Trail Manager for that section of the Florida Trail discovered some rotten wood on the bridge and recommended that it be closed until the repairs can be made. The project is in the planning stage.

Secondly, we extend a hardy 'Thank You' to all who donated time and/or money to our Chapter during 2019. Our cash donations jumped significantly in calendar year 2019 over the previous year. The funds received have firmed up our Chapter finances and made us all feel better about our immediate operations and activities.

We logged and reported 2,978 volunteer hours in fiscal year 2018-19. That's up a little from 2,807 volunteer hours for 2017-18. Both are pretty amazing. The FTA home office receives money from the Federal Government for every volunteer hour that we report. It is important that you log and report all time that you volunteer to us, so that we can forward it to the home office. There is a rumor that a substantial number of reportable hours through December 2019 are still outstanding. Dawn Brown is our Volunteer Coordinator and can answer all your questions on what and how to report. Her contact information is located elsewhere in this newsletter.

On behalf of our officers, our membership, and the entire Florida Trail Association, thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your generous support of the Florida National Scenic Trail.

On a lighter note, it's springtime in North Florida. The birds are singing, the bees are buzzing, and the woods are awakening from their hibernation. This is a magical time of year when the scenery is taking on colors, the temperatures are comfortable, and the bugs are still trying to get their act together. There will not be a better time this year for you to get outside and enjoy Mother Nature's splendor. Don't miss it!

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

## Help Support the Florida National Scenic Trail:

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

Donations: <https://apalachee.floridatrail.org/donations/>

Smile.Amazon.Com - <https://www.floridatrail.org/donate-today-amazon-smile/>

# Commemorating Emma "Grandma" Gatewood

by Dawn Griffin

Several years ago, I received a copy of the book "Grandma Gatewood's Walk: The Inspiring Story of the Woman Who Saved the Appalachian Trail" by Ben Montgomery from my husband for Christmas. That same year, I was also fortunate to hear the author speak at a Florida Trail Association conference. The author mentioned that there were several groups around the country that organized hikes in her honor, so I thought, why not! As a result, for the last four years, April Edmonds and I have organized an annual hike on one of our local trails to commemorate Emma "Grandma" Gatewood. Her inspiring story illustrates the full power of human spirit and determination.

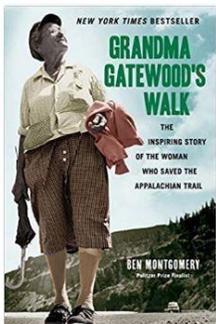
Grandma Gatewood was the first woman to hike the Appalachian Trail (AT) alone from Mt. Oglethorpe to Mt. Katahdin, as well as the first person—man or woman—to walk not twice but three times. Driven by a painful marriage, as a 67-year-old great-grandmother, she hiked the 2,050-mile AT and is credited for being a major reason we have such an amazing national scenic trail today.

In 1955, at the age of 67, she told her grown children that she was going for a walk. They did not ask where or for how long, as they knew she was resilient and would take care of herself. About 5 years earlier, Gatewood read an article in *National Geographic* about the trail and thought "it would be a nice lark," though in retrospect considering the difficulty she added "It wasn't." The magazine gave her the impression of easy walks and clean cabins at the end of each day's expedition. She took little in the way of outdoor gear. She wore Kids shoes and carried an army blanket, a raincoat, and a plastic shower curtain in a homemade denim bag slung over one shoulder. She would later say "for some fool reason, they always lead you right up over the biggest rock to the top of the biggest mountain they can find."

Grandma Gatewood, as the reporters called her, became a hiking celebrity. She appeared on TV with Groucho Marx and Art Linkletter, and on the pages of *Sports Illustrated* (1955). She brought public attention to the little-known footpath. Her vocal criticism of the lousy, difficult stretches led to bolstered maintenance, and very likely saved the trail from extinction. The author was given unprecedented access to Gatewood's own diaries, trail journals, and correspondence. He also unearthed historic newspaper and magazine articles and interviewed surviving family members and hikers Gatewood met along the trail.

I feel her strength is something we can all use when life throws us a curve ball, or we are challenged by a difficult situation. There have been many occasions while hiking very challenging trails; I feel I used a bit of her determination. I like to think I was able to channel my inner Grandma Gatewood (along with my inner mountain goat) to get me through those situations!

With each annual hike, April has always graciously donated copies of the book (both in adult and children's version) to one or more lucky participants. Next time you need a good read consider grabbing a copy. You'll be glad you did.



It was well worth braving the rain to get in a little over 3-miles on the beautiful trails at Elinor Klapp-Phipps Park this morning (Feb 16th) with several other brave souls!

The forest was truly alive with the rain falling and with the mild winter we have had! The sounds and smells of the forest were so soothing and, as always, good for the soul!

This hike commemorated Emma "Grandma Gatewood" Gatewood. Driven by a painful marriage, as a 67-year-old great-grandmother, she hiked the 2,050-mile Appalachian Trail. She later became the first person, man or woman, to hike the entire trail twice and then three times! The public attention she brought to the trail is unprecedented and is credited for being a MAJOR reason we have such an amazing national scenic trail in the AT today!  
~Ron Harrison

# HIKING OR WALKING

By April Edmonds

I recently found myself talking to someone about the Florida Trail and what the Florida Trail Association (FTA) does. The other person I was conversing with said "What is the difference between hiking and walking?" Do you ever struggle with knowing the difference? Many of our hikes or walks are advertised as so, but sometimes they are really one or the other. Also, when I log activities in my Fitbit, I often get confused as to which one I should pick. Am I currently hiking or walking?

Walking is typically a casual activity done in a more urban environment or on a road/sidewalk with a near smooth surface with a slight elevation. Hiking is better defined by taking to the trails and being out to immerse yourself more deeply in nature.

Hiking requires more effort than walking because the terrain on the hiking trails are typically more challenging. As you hike, your body uses more energy to move on rough, hilly roads or rooty pathways. It is only called walking if the road you are taking is uneven and does not have to be hilly or steep elevations. According to Harvard... hiking three times a week can help you lose weight.

Every step you take on a hiking trail pays off for you in a big way:

- moving your large skeletal muscles to build up strength
- filling up your lungs with oxygen and pushing out the carbon dioxide as you hike
- pumping your blood vigorously through your heart muscle
- and carrying weight against gravity for strong bones
- are all examples of doing physical work as a hiker to make your body stronger

You don't really have to "hike" a mountain for your walk to be considered a hike. No matter which one you choose, remember it is not the destination, it is the journey.

Sources: <https://www.livestrong.com/article/421318-will-hiking-three-times-a-week-help-you-lose-weight/><https://www.hiking-for-her.com/typesofhiking.html>



## COMPASS PURCHASE AND UPCOMING ACTIVITY

By Roger Doherty

During the February Chapter meeting, I discussed the possibility of making a group purchase of "Boy Scout" style orienteering compasses if enough people showed interest at the March Chapter meeting. I have scheduled another orienteering meet for May, members whom missed the February event will have another chance to try to navigate a map and compass course in May.

After reviewing all the compass deals on Amazon, I realized that the only compass packages with the minimum features that I would recommend are all made by the same company. There are cheaper compass packages, but I would not recommend them because they lack some of the minimum features. For this link to Amazon.com The best deal is a 4-pack of compasses for only \$13.99, or \$3.50 each.

By the way, if you want an official Boy Scout compass, they are available at the local Boy Scout Council store on Thomasville Road. They do cost more than \$3.50.

Please check out the May 23 Orienteering Activity listed below.



# SPRING ACTIVITIES – APRIL - JUNE

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>

## APRIL



**APR 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 WED - (M-S) 4:15 PM – 6:00 PM - STRESS BUSTER BRISK WALKS: "TRAILS AND TALL TALES."** Celebrating Our 9th Year! 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. Come hydrated. We 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. Check our Meetup site for any last-minute announcements. Contact: Dawn Griffin (850) 509-6103, griffindd@aol.com



**APR 2, 9, 16, 23 AND 30 EVERY THUR. - (M-S) 5:15 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 (4 miles+ at 3-4 miles/hour is common). We rest for a few minutes at the midway point. Dogs on a leash are welcome. Bring lots of water, wear comfortable shoes, and apply insect repellent and sunscreen as needed. Meet near the restrooms. We start the hike at 5:30 PM sharp. Check our Meetup site for any last-minute announcements. Contact: Courtney Micots (850) 300-0399, courtynamicots@gmail.com.



**APR 4 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM - FTA ANNUAL MEETING IN GAINESVILLE, FL** – Annual awards and elections. Please visit the FTA website at <http://floridatrail.org>



**APR 5 SUN - (S) 8:00 AM -1:00 PM 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, insect 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 PM. **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 (850) 509-1162, al@capitalavionics.com or Mike Tucker (850) 545-3489, tuckems@hotmail.com



**APR 7 TUE - (M) 7:15 PM - SUPER-MOON WALK - LAFAYETTE HERITAGE TRAIL PARK (PINEY Z).** Watch the Supermoon from Alford Greenway in the middle of a moderate hike around Lake Lafayette. Dogs on a leash are welcome. Howl at the moon and/or test your moonwalking skills! Bring lots of water, wear comfortable shoes, and apply insect repellent as needed. Meet near the restrooms at the Heritage Park trailhead. We start the hike at 7:30 PM sharp. Option to meet early at 5:30 PM for dinner before heading over to the trailhead. Make it known in the comments below if interested and your restaurant of choice. **LIMIT 30.** Check our Meetup site for any last-minute announcements. Contact: Courtney Micots (850) 300-0399, courtynamicots@gmail.com or Dawn Griffin (850) 509-6103, griffindd@aol.com



**APR 13, 20, 27 MON. - (M-S) 5:15 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 midway point. Dogs on a leash are welcome. Bring lots of water, wear comfortable shoes, and apply insect repellent and sunscreen as needed. Meet near the restrooms. We start the hike at 5:30 PM sharp. Check our Meetup site for any last-minute announcements. Contact: Courtney Micots (850) 300-0399, courtynamicots@gmail.com.

 **APR 14 TUE - 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM CHAPTER MEETING/PROGRAM - GEARING UP FOR YOUR NEXT HIKE** – Come to hear from some local outfitters who will provide their insight on hiking and other outdoor gear available in Tallahassee, FL and Thomasville GA.

 **APR 16 THU - (M) 8:30 AM – BLAZING TRAIL ACTIVITY (BLAZING TREES) @ LAKE TALQUIN - FORT BRADEN TRAIL.** The Fort Braden Trail is one of the more unique in northern Florida because it passes through both hardwood forests and cut-over uplands being restored with wiregrass and longleaf pine. Wear clothing and shoes that will not be ruined with orange paint while blazing. Contact: Howard Pardue 850 567-2078, hpardue@comcast.net

 **APR 17 FRI - (L) 5:00 PM - WINE, WOMEN AND WALKING! DOWNTOWN TALLAHASSEE** - Sorry no Dudes! Start off the weekend with a 3-mile (2 mph +/- speed) downtown walking past historical places and through Cascades Park. Bring your favorite wine (or other beverage of choice), chair/blanket and an appetizer to share after the walk. Meet other fabulous women who like to walk-hike-backpack too. Meet 5:00 PM at the DOT Credit Union Parking Lot adjacent to Cascades Park (corner of Myers Park Road and Suwannee). Wear comfortable walking shoes/light colored clothes. We will start/finish at the parking lot so you will not need to haul chair/blankets and wine during the stroll. Contact: Dawn Griffin (850) 509-6103, griffindd@aol.com

 **APR 18 SAT - (M) 10:00 AM – HIDDEN GEM HIKE: CITY OF TALLAHASSEE’S A J HENRY PARK** – Join us for a ~2.1-mile hike on the ravine trails of the City of Tallahassee’s A J Henry Park. This 72-acre “hidden gem”, surrounded by seven nearby popular neighborhoods, provides a beautiful, shaded escape for those who come seeking its charm. Feel free to stick around after the hike to explore the picnic pavilions, playground, and fishing dock. EQUIPMENT: Bring water, snacks, insect repellent, sun protection, and rain gear, as needed. DIRECTIONS: Meet at the northern parking lot at 2701 A J Henry Park Drive, near the restrooms and picnic pavilions. PLEASE SIGN UP ON MEETUP FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND UPDATES. Contact Ron Harrison, RonaldWHarrison68@gmail.com, (850) 443-1665 or Judi Harrison, jlkent0424@gmail.com, (850) 591-3677 for more information.

 **APR 18 SAT - (M) 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM– 12 MILE DAY HIKE ON DEEP CREEK TRAIL: ST. MARKS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE TO INCLUDE A PORTION OF THE FLORIDA NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL (FNST).** Approximate 12-mile hike on the Deep Creek Trail along tram roads that will join up with FNST. The Deep Creek Trail will pass through wooded areas and then out onto Refuge dikes. This is an easy trail to hike, but strenuous in length. This could be a 4-5-hour hike. Plan on wearing comfortable shoes/boots, bring water, a snack, and bug repellent. Please NO PETS on this hike, there are alligators in the refuge. Entrance fees are charged on the St. Marks Unit, federal annual and lifetime passes are accepted. Meet at the Park & Ride on South Monroe for possible carpooling at 8:30 AM. Plan to leaving there at 8:40 AM and driving to St. Marks NWR. **You must sign up to go on this hike by contacting Gary Sisco (850) 545-4776, gsisco42@yahoo.com**

 **APR 21 TUE - 5:30 PM - ACTIVITIES PLANNING MEETING FOR JULY-SEPTEMBER** - Interested in leading hikes? Consider becoming an Activity Leader. This is a planning meeting for all current and future Activity Leaders. More information will be posted on Meetup.

 **APR 21 TUE - (M) 9:30 AM – 4:00 PM - “CELEBRATION OF EARTH DAY” HIKE.** Six-mile RT hike on the Florida National Scenic Trail in the Apalachicola National Forest East between Oak Park Bridge and FR 321. Limit 15 people. A surprisingly interesting and easily accessed segment of the Florida Trail, within a maze of forest roads in pine flatwoods. Meet to carpool at the Park-n-Ride on South Monroe St., at 9:30 AM. NO PETS. WEAR HUNTER ORANGE VEST or SHIRT. Must RSVP on Meetup or contact Dawn Griffin (850) 509-6103, griffindd@aol.com

 **APR 25 SAT - (L) 10:00 AM – 12:30 PM – HIKE A BEAUTIFUL SECTION OF THE FLORIDA NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL (FNST) THAT OVERLOOKS THE SCENIC AUCILLA RIVER.** We will hike from Burnt Bridge to Lost Dog Rapids and back for a total of 3 miles. This will be a short hike at a leisurely pace and there will be plenty of time to take photos and admire the wildlife. Plan on wearing comfortable shoes/boots, bring water, a snack, and insect repellent. Please NO PETS on this hike. **You must sign up to go on this hike by contacting Gwen Beatty (850) 545-0531.**

## MAY

 **MAY 1 FRI (L) – 5:30 PM – URBAN WALK: CASCADES PARK TO LAKE ELBERTA TRAIL** – Join us for a ~5 miles (round trip) walk from Cascades Park and to Lake Elberta (approx. 2 miles), circle around the lake and loop back. Lake Elberta <http://apalachee.floridatrail.org/>

Trail is a .7-mile long multi-use trail with both paved and dirt surfaces. Lake Elberta Park currently ranks #4 in terms of bird species observed at a given place in Leon County. Dress for the weather. Bring your binoculars. No Pets. Plan to stop on the way back at a local restaurant. Please Sign Up on Meetup. **LIMIT: 15. Must be current FTA Member.** Contact April Edmonds, April.edmonds.35@gmail.com



**MAY 2 SAT - (M) 8:30 AM - TATE'S HELL - HIGH BLUFF COASTAL TRAIL HIKE** - Hike 4 miles of the High Bluff Coastal Hiking Trail in Tate's Hell State Forest, located between Carrabelle and Eastpoint. Meet in the Walmart parking lot at 4021 Lagniappe Way (off Mahan Drive) at 8:30 AM to carpool to Franklin County at 8:45 AM. There is a \$2 fee for individuals using the state forest, unless you have an annual pass. Bring plenty of water, insect repellent and sun protection for on the trail. Persons under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. After the hike, we will go the Eastpoint to eat at the Red Pirate Grill before returning to Tallahassee. Contact Roger Doherty (850) 212-5766, duiplanner@yahoo.com.



**MAY 3 SUN - (S) 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM - FLORIDA NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL MAINTENANCE: APALACHICOLA NATIONAL FOREST WEST** - See April 5th announcement for details.



**MAY 4, 11, 18 AND 25 EVERY MON. (M-S) 5:15 PM - A WALK IN THE WOODS: LAFAYETTE HERITAGE TRAIL PARK (PINEY Z)** - See APR 13 announcement for details.



**MAY 6, 13, 20, 27 WED (M-S) 4:15 PM - 6:00 PM - STRESS BUSTER BRISK WALKS: "TRAILS AND TALL TALES."** Celebrating Our 9th Year! 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. Come hydrated. We 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. Check our Meetup site for any last-minute announcements. Contact: Dawn Griffin (850) 509-6103 griffindd@aol.com



**MAY 7,14,21,28 EVERY THUR. (M-S) 5:15 PM - A WALK IN THE WOODS: MICCOSUKEE GREENWAY, THORNTON TRAILHEAD.** See the APR 2nd Description.



**MAY 12 TUE - 6:30-8:30 PM - CHAPTER MEETING/PROGRAM - DOUG ALDERSON, OUTDOOR WRITER AND PHOTOGRAPHER** will talk about his new book, America's Alligator: The Popular History of our Most Celebrated Reptile. Doug is an author of more than ten books, his photography and storytelling experiences should make for an exciting evening. Doug Alderson's articles and photographs have been featured in Native Peoples, Wildlife Conservation, American Forests, Sea Kayaker, Sierra, Mother Earth News, Shaman's Drum, Campus Life, America, The St. Louis Post-Dispatch, the Florida Naturalist, Florida Sportsman, Tallahassee Magazine, Florida Wildlife and several others. He has won two national writing awards for his magazine features and several Florida writing competitions.



**MAY 16 SAT - (L) 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM - DAY PADDLE SUWANNEE RIVER** - Celebrate Spring by joining us for a paddle on the beautiful Suwannee River. We will put in on Hwy 249 bridge and take out at Suwannee River State Park. This section is approximately 9 miles in length. There is an entry fee at Suwannee River SP. You must provide your own boat, PFD, and whistle (FL state law required). A properly fitted PFD must always be worn when paddling. NO PETS please. Limit 12. **You must sign up by contacting Gwen Beatty (850) 545-0531.**



**MAY 21 - THUR. - 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM - IDIDAHIKE 2021 PLANNING MEETINGS!** Interested in learning more and how to help plan and organize the event? Meeting location posted on meetup.com or contact Dawn Griffin (850) 509-6103 griffindd@aol.com



**MAY 22 FRI - (L) 1:45 PM - WAKULLA SPRINGS STATE PARK PICNIC AND PLUNGE!** Home of the world's largest and deepest freshwater springs, the sapphire water of Wakulla Springs boasts manatees, alligators and a host of diverse wildlife that can be viewed from a riverboat or the diving platform. Kick off the Memorial Day Holiday, check off that bucket list item and dare to jump off the diving platform and plunge your body into the invigorating 70-degree waters sure to refresh you on even the hottest summer days. \$6 per vehicle. Meet to carpool at the Park-n-Ride on South Monroe St., at 1:45 PM or meet at Wakulla Spring picnic area (located at 465 Wakulla Park Dr., Wakulla Springs FL 32327.) Bring a picnic item to share for dinner, your own beverages and chair. Before starting out, check for last-minute instructions on our Meetup site. Contact: Dawn Griffin (850) 509-6103, griffindd@aol.com



**MAY 23 SAT - (M) 9:30 AM - ORIENTEERING AT ELINOR KLAPP-PHIPPS PARK (GATE B)**- Try your skills at finding spots in the park using a map and compass. A registration table will be located near Gate B. An easy orienteering course will be set up. Each participant will be timed to see who completes the course in the least amount of time. Be sure to bring a <http://apalachee.floridatrail.org/>

compass, sunscreen, water and trail snacks. Persons must be 18 or accompanied by an adult or guardian. Limit 30 people. Contact Roger Doherty (850) 212-5766, duiplanner@yahoo.com

## JUNE

 **JUN 1, 15, AND 29 MON - (M-S) 5:15 PM - A WALK IN THE WOODS: LAFAYETTE HERITAGE TRAIL PARK (PINEY Z)** - See APR 13 announcement for details.

 **JUNE 3, 10, 17, 24 WED - (M-S) 4:15 PM – 6:00 PM - STRESS BUSTER BRISK WALKS: "TRAILS AND TALL TALES."** Celebrating Our 9th Year! 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. Come hydrated. We 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. Check our Meetup site for any last-minute announcements. Contact: Dawn Griffin (850) 509-6103, griffindd@aol.com

 **JUN 11 and 25 THUR. (M-S) 5:15 PM - A WALK IN THE WOODS: MICCOSUKEE GREENWAY, THORNTON TRAILHEAD.** See the APR 2nd Description.

 **JUN 5 FRI – (L-M) 7:30 PM - MOON OVER MICCOSUKEE WALK! MICCOSUKEE GREENWAY, CRUMP TRAILHEAD.** See a 5+ mile section of Miccosukee Greenway in a unique way, cast in shadows and moonlight. We will meet at the Crump trailhead (across from the brick house at 4955 Crump Road) by 7:00 PM sharp for the carpool to the Edenfield trailhead. We will hike from Edenfield to Crump, where your car will be waiting. The pathway is mostly broad level ground. The white stones will make following the path an easy task. Be sure to bring a flashlight or wear a headlamp. Dogs on a leash are welcome. Bring lots of water, wear comfortable shoes, and apply bug repellent as needed. Meet near the restrooms. We start the hike from Edenfield at 7:30 PM sharp. Option to meet early at 5:30 PM for dinner before heading over to the trailhead. Check our Meetup site for any last-minute announcements. Contact: Dawn Griffin (850) 509-6103, griffindd@aol.com

 **JUN. 7 SUN - (S) 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM - FLORIDA NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL MAINTENANCE: APALACHICOLA NATIONAL FOREST WEST** - See April 5th announcement for details.

 **JUN 9 TUES – 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM – CHAPTER MEETING/PROGRAM - BRITNEY MOORE - OFFICE OF GREENWAYS AND TRAILS** - Britney has worked for Florida's award-winning state park system for several years. She attended Florida State University where she studied Geography and Environmental Studies. As a member of the Junior League of Tallahassee, Britney has found a way to nourish her love of volunteering in the community. She frequently explores Florida's incredible recreational opportunities, whether it be participating in biking and kayaking events or taking her dogs on hikes.

 **JUN 13 SAT – (S) 8:45 AM – 11:15 AM – ANNUAL FORT BRADEN INTERPRETATIVE HIKE.** Meet at the Fort Braden Trails Trailhead on Hwy 20 about a mile west of Coe Landing Road. Trail and ecological expert will lead a 3.5-mile interpretative hike through the slope forests overlooking Lake Talquin. About noon we will return to the trail head for refreshments. Dress for the weather, wear good walking shoes, bring water, any personal medications, insect repellent, sun protection and other needed personal items. Hiking sticks suggested. Sign up on Meetup. Contact Howard Pardue (850) 567-2078, hpardue@comcast.net or Mike Tucker (850) 545-3489, tuckems@hotmail.com

 **JUN. 27 SAT - (S) 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM – EXPLORE THE PORT LEON CREEK PADDLING TRAIL** – Join us for a ~3-Hour / ~3.6-Mile paddle of the Port Leon Creek Paddling Trail. We will launch from the St. Marks River City Park and Boat Ramp and paddle the outgoing tide ~1.5-Miles to the entrance of Port Leon Creek. From there, we will head ~0.3-Miles upstream to the old train trestle that used to span the creek. In that area, we will look for a suitable place to get out, stretch our legs, and take a break in the shade along the nearby Florida National Scenic Trail. After our break, we will head down Port Leon Creek a short way before heading back upstream, on the now incoming tide, back to the launch. Pace will be determined by the abilities of the group. Bring your kayak/canoe, paddle(s), life jacket, whistle, water, snacks, insect repellent, sun protection, and rain gear, as needed. Meet promptly at 1pm at the St. Marks River Park Pavilion. DIRECTIONS: The St. Marks River City Park is located at 3 River Breeze St, St. Marks, Florida 32355. **YOU MUST SIGN UP ON MEETUP FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO JOIN THIS TRIP.** Contact Ron Harrison, RonaldWHarrison68@gmail.com, (850) 443-1665 or Judi Harrison, jlkent0424@gmail.com, (850) 591-3677.