

February 2019 FF BCH
General Meeting
2/11/2019
Sea Food Seller

Call to order at 6:35 PM by Sally McDavid

Sally acknowledged Albert Frey Korean War Vet Marine.

Thank you to the Sea Food Seller for their awesome service to our group tonight.

We had 6 scent kits left for anyone who wants one. They are from Find-M-Friends and put together by the Key Training Center. You put your scent on a gauze square and put into the jar and then if you get lost, the search dogs will have your scent to track.

Next Meeting will be March 14 at Old World. We have a speaker. Frank Peters speaking on the phosphate mining history in Citrus County. We will also have election of officers. Up for consideration is Vice President, Secretary, and two board of directors positions. Currently occupied by Fred Fulcher (VP), Becky Fulcher (secretary), Calvin McDavid and Tom Allen (directors). All incumbents have agreed to serve another term. Additional nominations may be made at the next meeting. Those who were not members by January 16 are not eligible to vote in the March election.

April 13 (Saturday) will be a picnic at Tillis Hill.

A motion to approve the January 2019 minutes was made by Dave Van, 2nd by Steve Rossman and group approved.

Treasurer's report by Gary Reynolds. Motion to approve by Holly Brockman, 2nd by Dave Van and group approved.

Guest Speaker: Kym Holzwart, Environmental Scientist with Southwest Florida Water Management District Lands.

The District was created in 1961 by Florida Legislature to protect the water resources of the region. The district includes 10,000 square miles in all or part of 16 counties in west-central Florida. North to Levy county, south to Charlotte county and inland into Polk county. Kym works with the minimum flow rates which protect our streams and rivers from too much water withdrawal and for protection of our wet lands. She also works with the Central Florida water initiative which is a collaborative water supply planning effort among the States 3 largest water management districts and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and Agriculture and Consumer Services. It includes water utilities, environmental groups, business organizations, the agricultural community and other stakeholders. All these groups come together to plan the water supply needs for a 5 county area in the central part of the state during the next 20 years.

There are 5 Springs in this district.

1. Rainbow Springs in Dunnellon. It's very crowded but a good place to kayak.
2. Crystal River/Kings Bay Best place to see Manatees.
3. Homosassa Springs good for scalloping and good kayaking. Lots of pontoon boats.

4. Chassahowitzka Springs The only boat ramp is in the campground . Baird Creeek is good for kayaking and Seven Sisters spring does not have a lot of people there.

5. Weeki Wachee Springs gets crowded. Lots of kayakers and of course they have the mermaid show.

The District has 400,000 acres. 350,000 acres are open to the public.

31 areas have horseback riding.

14 have primitive horse camping

Areas close to us:

Annutteliga Hammock located in Hernando County – no amenities - day use only – dry trails - approximately 8 miles of multiuse trails.

Half Moon/Gum Slough located in Sumter County- restrooms and water- day use only – 24 miles of multiuse trails.

Lake Panasoffkee located in Sumter County – primitive and equestrian camping area – barn with 8 stalls – water and restrooms – 18 miles of multiuse trails – can cart here

Flying Eagle Preserve located in Citrus County – primitive and equestrian camping – restrooms and water available at campgrounds – 16 miles of multiuse trails – lakes and marshes.

Potts Preserve located in Citrus County – primitive and equestrian camping – water and restrooms in horse camping area – 9 miles of multiuse trails. Trail goes along the river and there are lots of air boats.

Two Mile Prairie located in Citrus County – primitive and equestrian camping – restrooms and water at Bear Head Hammock Trailhead – 8 miles of marked trails.

Halpata Tasthanaki Preserve located in Marion County – day use only – restrooms and water available at Pruitt Trailhead – 13 miles of mutliuse trails (mostly road)

General considerations when riding and camping on public lands:

Don't go when it's wet and muddy. It damages the trails. Check before you go. There may be hunting, prescribed burns, etc. We are all responsible for protecting our public lands. Follow the rules. No loose dogs, minimize impact and follow appropriate etiquette.

50/50 \$96.50 won by Lillian Baner

Several door prizes given away

Meeting adjourned at 7:26 PM