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Florida Forever Back Country Horsemen, Inc.
Preserving our equine cultural heritage on public lands for today and tomorrow.

FFBCH NEWS

April 2019

The April meeting is scheduled for
S-A-T-U-R-D-A-Y, April 13, 2019.

Registration and social begins at 11:00, lunch as close to 12:00 as possible with meeting and prize drawings to follow.

FFBCH will provide pulled pork, buns, paper plates, bar-b-q sauce & silverware. We simply ask that attendees bring a covered dish to share, lawn chair(s) and your favorite beverage and ice if you want.

DOOR PRIZES: Horse Treats and several \$25 gift certificates for Tractor Supply.

Don't forget to purchase your 50/50 tickets as they will be used in drawing for the door prizes!

Non-Members are WELCOME!
Please come and join us!



LIKE us on Facebook!

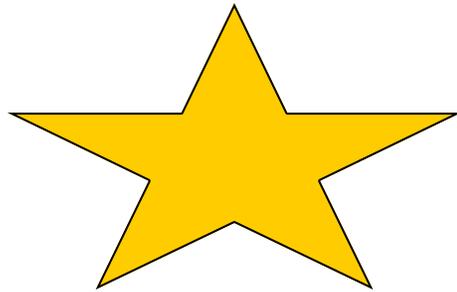
FFBCH Website: www.ffbch.org



A special THANK YOU to Janet Day for organizing a picnic table work day and for Steve and Karen Rossman for hosting the event! They were able to complete an additional two tables! Now they just have to dry out a little to be stained and installed.



Participants: Gary Reynolds, Fred Fulcher, Barb Bellamy, Steve Rossman, Karen Rossman, Trina Romeo. Also volunteering were trailriders (non members) Jack Griffiths and Robert Chadwell. Thanks so much for volunteering - we really enjoyed having you guys on the team.



Gary, Fred, Barb and Karen Rossman make a great team.



Thanks for all the help!



Steve Rossman makes sure Fred gets the mark in the middle! Becky says, "I'm getting out of here" and takes off to finish her run.



Fred Fulcher and Barb Bellamy have got to get it straight!



They finally let Gary Reynolds play with the tools on his own!



Trina Romeo keeps an eye on Gary Reynolds with that big drill.

FFBCH Newsletter February 2019

FFBCH General Meeting 3/14/2019 Old World

Call to order at 6:25 by Sally McDavid

A motion to approve the February Minutes was made by Dave Van, 2nd by Connie Frey and group approved.

Treasurer's report by Gary Reynolds. Motion to approve by Tom Allen, 2nd by Audry Van and group approved.

Sally announced that our group received the 2,000 hour award for volunteerism at the Forestry Volunteer appreciation day. These hours accumulated since 2014.

Sally reported that due to controlled burns, several trails have been plowed and have deep furrows and protruding roots. Pictures of the hazardous trails were taken and sent to Lita Hart with a commentary on how dangerous these trails are to horses. Lita responded that she and Eddy Duvall met with the operational people responsible for the plowing and they would be going out to repair the worst trails. We need everyone to report any trail destruction that they see.

Janet gave an update on the picnic tables. We have one more completed by Betty Lewis and Jolyn Walker and we have a work day scheduled at Steve Rossman's to make 2 more tables. Steve made a branding iron with FFBCH on it to mark the tables. We will end up with 7 or 8 destinations you can ride to and get off and rest.

Our next meeting is April 13 at Tillis Hill.

We have plenty of people for our voting on the By-laws.

By-law revisions: 1. Ways to submit proxy votes 2. Do away with term limits 3. How to dissolve assets in case we disband. Group voted in favor of these items.

Election of officers: VP Fred Fulcher, Secretary, Becky Fulcher, 2 BOD members Tom Allen and Calvin McDavid. Motion to approve these people for these positions by Bonnie Scott, 2nd by Andy Michel and group approved.

Guest Speaker: Tom Ritchie from the Floral City Heritage Council Topic: Phosphate Mining History

Florida's White Gold In the late 19th and early 20th century there was more value in phosphate than gold in California. Phosphate is formed from waste products of some water birds and the phosphate found in Florida is the highest quality discovered. When this was discovered, one man bought up about 70,000 acres of land anticipating the mining. There is one large crescent shape of phosphate. Earth was cleared from the top of the phosphate rock. You can see the craters today in various parts of the forest. In Floral City there were thousands of people living in tent cities mining for phosphate. Floral City was the hub of the phosphate industry. It turned into a rough place. Rail road tracks were run right into the forest to haul it out by 1905 a steam shovel was brought in. It could do as much work as 80 laborers. Convict labor was also used. They dug deep enough to get into the aquifer. The biggest importer of phosphate was Germany. Floral City continued to grow. In 1913 electricity was brought to Floral City.

Phosphate is used in many products: pesticides, nerve agents and explosives. It's the 13th element called the devil's element because it's so dangerous. The industry collapsed during the war when imports to Germany were blocked. Today all mining is done south of us. Pebble phosphate was discovered in the Peace River. It's not as good but easier to mine. There is not much produced in the US today. 38% of all production is from Morocco and Western Sahara.

Run off from fertilizers causes algae growth in our waterways. There was much damage done by mining in Citrus County. It took many years for Mutual Mine and Holder Mine to regenerate after mining. In the 80's, the main railroad was converted into a bike trail.

50/50 \$101.50 won by Lillian Baner

Drawings for door prizes

Meeting adjourned @ 7:37 PM

Hunting season is almost over. Information for the
CITRUS TRACT
is below.

If you are interested in other tracts go to: myfwc.com; Hunting; WMA
Brochures; North Central (State is broken down by region); Citrus.

Spring Turkey Season:
Youth Turkey: March 9-10.
Spring Turkey: March 19-22, **April 2-5 and 16-19.**





Want to help? Can't find the time to work on the trails? Can't always make the meetings? That doesn't matter! You can show your support by joining Florida Forever Back Country Horsemen (FFBCH). Individual memberships = \$25 and Family memberships = \$30. Or, make a donation!

Every member of a local chapter is automatically a member of the Back Country Horsemen of Florida AND Back Country Horsemen of America. Not in the Citrus County area? Then join Back Country Horsemen of Florida as an at-large member until a local chapter is developed in your area.

There are many issues facing equestrians today. Help us to preserve the trails we have. Add your voice to those of more than 15,000 of your fellow American horsemen and women. **You only have to look at the Croom and the Citrus Tract of the Withlacoochee Forest as an example of what can be accomplished when we work together and with our land managers!**



Current Officers and Directors

President—Sally McDavid
Vice President—Fred Fulcher
Secretary—Becky Fulcher
Treasurer—Gary Reynolds
Janet Day - Director
Tom Allen—Director
Barb Porch—Director
Cal McDavid—Director

Florida Forest Service
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