

November 2017 FF BCH General Meeting
11/19/2017 Tillis Hill

Meeting called to order at 12:49

This meeting was a picnic at Tillis Hill with sign in at 11 AM Lunch at 12 Noon with meeting and speaker to follow. FF BCH furnished Chicken and everyone brought a dish to share.

We had 52 attendees.

Announcements: Christmas party at Stumpknockers on the River Dec 13, 2017. 5-6 cocktail hour with dinner afterwards. Sally will send an e-mail out to see if everyone wants to do the White Elephant gift exchange again.

A motion to approve the October minutes was made by Darlene Creasman, 2nd by Bill Bishop and group approved.

Gary Reynolds gave the treasurer's report. A motion to approve by Calvin McDavid, 2nd by Dave Van and group approved.

Forestry is providing a Christmas Luncheon at the Withlacoochee Training Center on Dec 19th. All volunteers are welcome. Please bring a covered dish with utensil. Drinks, Meat and Tableware will be provided. You will need to let them know you are coming. Contact Melissa Stokes at 352 797 4140 or e-mail at Melissa.Stokes@freshfromflorida.com

There was a lot of dead fall in the forest after Hurricane Irma. We would like to recognize those who have been out there clearing the horse trails and forest roads. Gary Reynolds and Fred Fulcher cleared all horse trails South of FT 18. Steve Rossman went out with last week for more clearing. Jerry Hardy, Jennot, Don and Danny have been working on the West side and did a lot of clearing on 8 and 19 and around Perryman's. Calvin McDavid, Charlie Moore and Gary Cyphers were out yesterday working on trails. Tim and Lou Ann Robinson cleared Oak Park and Fire Breaks. A big THANK YOU to all.

We have 5 T-shirts left. See Sally if you want one.

Janet Day will be organizing Trash Pickup Days on Forest Roads. Maybe two days one on a week day and another on a weekend.

Guest Speaker: Linda Boles of Find M Friends. FF BCH made a \$100 donation to their organization.

The group is all about Bloodhounds and saving lives. They make scent kits to distribute in the community. The scent kits allow the dogs to work off the pure scent of the individual. Articles from the home are often contaminated with many scents which can be confusing for the dogs. The scent in the kits lasts up to 7 years in the jar. The jar has a tamper seal. They have partnered with the Key Training Center to build the kits and they are getting ready to open a Thrift Store in Crystal River. Schools have welcomed them in and this will be going to the entire Kindergarten classes. Over 1500 kits will be going home with the children to help with possible ID in the future. They do not breed Bloodhounds but purchase from reputable breeders at 15 months of age and then place them with Law Enforcement. They are placed in other States. (Tn, Ms, Alabama, etc.) One went to Citrus Co. and had 3 nice finds right off the bat. They have placed 1,000 kits in the community with the elderly through Coping with Dementia. The cost to purchase and train the dogs is \$8,000 to \$9,000. They have 3 certified dogs and 4 pups in training. The breeders do a lot of prep work with the pups before they get them. Getting them used to noise and people and to not be afraid. The mostly buy from breeders whose dogs come from a working background. It carries through the bloodlines. The dogs are always worked on leash and used only to track humans and no other species. The dogs can even track through water. The scent lays on top of the water and moves to the side. Law enforcement are the people who call to utilize the dogs.

Linda and her team brought 2 lovely dogs to the meeting and Carol Christoff volunteered to lay a scent trail for one of the dogs. Linda then sent the dog to find her. So we got to watch an actual tracking event.

Meeting adjourned.