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

FFBCH NEWS

September 2017

MARK YOUR CALENDARS !!
The September meeting is scheduled for
Thursday, September 21, 2017.



750 W Main Street, Inverness
Dinner 5:30-6:30
Business meeting at 6:30 p.m

Mr. Frank Peters, Floral City Heritage Museum Director, will speak to us regarding “Local Withlacoochee River Steam boating”. Hear how these small steam packets ships sailed the lakes and canals before the railroad came to Citrus County. For all of you who love the history of our area, this is a great opportunity. Copy of a recent Chronicle article is on page two regarding a great new exhibit at the Floral City Museum. Be sure to stop by and visit!

Get Well Wishes!

Board member, Barb Porch, suffered a stoke in late August. She is recovering and undergoing therapy at this time. Please keep Barb and Larry in your thoughts and prayers. If you'd like to send a card, please send them to the home address.

Non-Members are WELCOME!



LIKE us on Facebook!

FFBCH Website: www.ffbch.org

Another Day, Another Dollar' New exhibit at Floral City Heritage Museum explores economic history

- Ed Youngblood, Special to the Chronicle
- Aug 24, 2017

A new feature exhibit has opened at the Floral City Heritage Museum — “Another Day, Another Dollar: Making a Living in the Old Days.” Featuring 13 wall-to-ceiling text panels highlighted by fascinating historical photographs and maps, the exhibit explores industries that have come and gone in Citrus County from early Florida to the present day; and some that still remain.

Specifically, the histories of sugar, Tung oil, lumber, cattle, phosphate, agriculture, Spanish moss, citrus fruit, transportation, tourism, cotton and turpentine industries are explained. Some of these were rendered obsolete by the influence of man, some fell to forces of nature, and others — such as tourism and agriculture — still contribute significantly to the economy of the region.

As the exhibit explains, popular and profitable use of Tung oil, turpentine and Spanish moss — once used in automobile and furniture upholstery — have been rendered obsolete by the development of synthetic replacements. Cotton and citrus, on the other hand, fell victim to the forces of nature. Cotton in much of the South was devastated by the slow and persistent march of the boll weevil from 1920 through 1960, while citrus crops in the region were wiped out by back-to-back hard freezes during the winters of 1985 and 1986.

History’s biggest economic venture for Floral City was phosphate mining, which brought modernity, growth and great wealth to the town over a period of 20 years. But this industry also disappeared practically overnight with the outbreak of World War I. Germany had been the biggest purchaser of phosphate from the region, and because it was used for the manufacture of munitions, the U.S. government outlawed its sale and export to Europe in the run-up to the war.



Sport fishing also was once a great contributor to tourism in Citrus County, but it has declined with the growth of invasive plants that have, over time, turned the bottoms of lakes into muck, coving the sandy habitat favored by the once-plentiful bass.

In support of the stories told in this highly education exhibit are many fascinating tools and artifacts used in the various industries. There’s a whip that was used by “Crackers” to drive cattle, the small wheelbarrow used to laboriously remove rock phosphate from open pit mines, crosscut saws used to fell pine and hard wood trees, and the spouts and containers used to extract resin for the manufacture of turpentine. Perhaps the most fascinating artifact is the enormous cast iron cooking bowl used to cook cane sugar, 80 gallons at a time.



Trail Maintenance and Updates



Trail Updates

We now have Eagle Ridge, El Dorado, Turkey Oak and the orange trail adopted - Thank You Jerry Hardy, Janet Day, Charlie Moore & Barb Bellamy. We are still looking for homes for the others. We have people who are available to do tree removal as needed, but dead fall, trash and minor trimming is always needed. Grab a friend or two or three and adopt a trail!

Please report downed trees, any trail signs missing or damaged, brown FR signs missing or damaged or any other issues to Fred Fulcher 352.341.2461 or Sally McDavid 352.628.2973.



Other Trail News !!!



SUV Trail Update - Mistaken Identity!

The SUV Trail that ran along the section of the Turkey Oak/Thunder Road loop that started at FR15 all the way to FR13 has finally been corrected. The trail should have been from FR13 (just north of FR16) up to FR14 as is now reflected on the Special Use Vehicle Permit Map 2017-2018. The red rings have been removed from this section. Should any hunter that has not obtained and updated map question your use during hunting season, refer him to: www.myfwc.com for updated map information.

This is great news and we appreciate forestry working with FWC to correct this situation!

Florida Greenways & Trails System 5-Year Plan Update - 2018-2022 Public Open House Workshops

For those of you who love the Greenway, please check out the link below for public workshops. This is your chance to provide input for this great trail system! There are a variety of dates in a variety of places to provide access for all.

<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/gwt/FGTS%20Public%20Meeting%20announcement%20final.pdf>

Meetings are scheduled as follows!

September 21, 2017	Sonny's, Inverness
October 26, 2017	Old World, Floral City
November 19, 2017	Tillis Hill Picnic
December 13, 2017	Stumpknockers on the River

Speakers As Follows:

September: **Mr. Frank Peters,**
Floral City Heritage Museum Director

October: **Mark Lewis**
Recreation/Volunteer Coordinator
Florida Forest Service

November: Linda Boles of "Find-M'Friends"
See Below & Chronicle Article on Page 5

December: No Speaker - Annual Christmas Party.

Linda Boles of "Find-M'Friends" (www.findmfriends.org) will be the speaker at our November 19 picnic at Tillis Hill. She will also give us a peek at how these wonderful dogs work with live demonstration. These scent discriminating bloodhounds and their organization work to help find people who are missing or lost.

Check out their facebook page: Find-M' Friends, Inc.

After scare, missing girl doing well. Rescuers scoured miles of woods for an hour and a half to find Lainey Bramlett.

Citrus County Chronicle

By Buster Thompson January 19, 2017

Quick-acting volunteers, first responders and two of the county's best noses were breathing a sigh of relief Sunday after an hours-long effort to find a missing Floral City girl ended with her safe return to her mother's arms. Lainey Bramlett, 3, was riding a battery powered ride-on toy car along a pathway on her family's 11-acre property off East New Hope Court around noon Saturday while her mother, Malerie Bramlett, kept an attentive ear on her daughter from a nearby picnic table.

After a few moments, Bramlett noticed she could no longer hear the vehicle's whir. She got up to check on her daughter, but all she found was the child's four-wheeler. "I immediately started looking for her and calling for her, and she wouldn't answer," she said Sunday.

It's not uncommon for Lainey to wander off, Bramlett said — what was unusual was that Lainey wasn't responding to her mother's calls. Malerie's thoughts quickly turned to the dense woods and other rough terrain around the property, she said, and the dangers they might hold for Lainey. "That's what really worried me," Bramlett said. "I expected her to be right where she always was."

Bramlett called her husband, Lane Kersey, a firefighter with Citrus County Sheriff's Office's Fire Rescue division. The couple asked for help from their neighbors, who mounted horses and ATVs to search for the girl. Kersey's fellow off-duty firefighters also aided in the search. "We started our own little search party," Bramlett said. "I don't really think I was thinking much at all, I was just acting."

Sheriff's deputies, firefighters, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission staff, Florida Department of Law Enforcement agents, Nature Coast EMS technicians and other volunteers quickly joined the growing search party — **as did Linda Boles and her bloodhound, Winnie. Boles is co-founder of Find-M' Friends, a nonprofit group that educates people on the benefits of using bloodhounds to find lost people. She and Winnie frequently assist the sheriff's office with missing-persons cases.** "It was starting to get a little chaotic," Boles said about the massive search effort. "The sheriff's office was trying to get everyone in motion." Winnie was given an article bearing Lainey's scent, and her nose went to work trying to track Lainey's scent through the underbrush. "It was a bit challenging, but Win worked, worked and worked," Boles said.

K-9 Deputy Justin Williams backed up Boles during the search. Soon, searchers stumbled on Lainey's jacket — hope that she was not far away. Boles and Williams' canines tracked the girl's scent for an hour and a half — and nearly a mile — until Winnie slammed to a halt. There, curled up face-down in thick brush, was Lainey.

"She put her nose right on that baby," Boles said about her canine partner. "We didn't even know what we were looking at." Lainey's first words to her rescuers: "I'm looking for my mommy."

"It was just heart-wrenching and overwhelming joy," Boles said. "I really think she had given up. ... She had hunkered down to rest, and I think it was just by the grace of God that things happened the way it did."

Williams picked up Lainey and wrapped her in a blanket before handing her over to her mom. Bramlett said her daughter is doing well and is back to her normal self, and she cannot thank her neighbors and first responders enough for finding her daughter.

"So many people came out for her," she said. "They all took a lot of initiative to help us find her."

Contact Chronicle reporter Buster Thompson at 352-564-2916 or bthompson@chronicleonline.com.

June 2017 FFBCH

General Meeting

6/21/2017

Angelotti's

Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM

A motion to approve the May minutes by Trina Romeo, 2nd by Lillian Baner and group approved.

Treasurer's report by Gary Reynolds: Motion to approve by Tom Allen, 2nd by Janice Reynolds. Group approved

T-shirts are available for \$16 Let Sally know if you want one.

Sally and Calvin have been busy putting up the brown FR signs wherever the field trial trails meet the Forest Roads. It makes it easier for new people to know where they are. When you are out, take note of the intersections and let Sally know if any signs are needed. There should be a trail sign plus a Brown FR sign. On closed roads with no numbers, there should be a blue ring before and after so you know to keep going. We need to put more signs in Lillian's area. Red rings on trees indicate handicap hunter SUV trails.

FWC put one on an established horse trail last year and that situation has been corrected.

We are going to put another picnic table and mounting block combination out and possibly more mounting blocks.

A question came up about the jeepers that destroy forest roads. Actually, there are no funds to police these people and they are allowed on the numbered forest roads.

Venue for the meetings was discussed. Sonny's? Riviera? The group decided to take a break for July and August and resume regular meetings in September and have the meeting at Sonny's. We are going to do another picnic in November when the snowbirds return.

Reminder that you need to go through Reserve America for campground and stalls. This is a good thing. It cuts down on last minute cancellations.

The water pump is not going to happen at this time. Upon investigation, it was found to be too expensive. If someone hosts an AERC ride in the forest and we can help with that, we may be eligible for up to a \$5,000 grant for a project of this magnitude.

Barb Porch asked Becky Fulcher to give an update on the cardboard bedding that she talked about last month. Barb's report is that the bedding is wonderful. Dust free and very absorbent. It is called Airlite Equine bedding.

If there are any problems or questions pertaining to the forest, call Sally.

There was some mention of sinkhole activity across from Triple M.

50/50 \$32.50 was won by Sue Kessler. Meeting adjourned @7:10 PM



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. Don't forget Nature Coast Back Country Horsemen serving Hernando, west Sumter and northeast Pasco Counties.

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
Emergency Phone:
352-797-4100

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