



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

# FFBCH NEWS

October 2015



**MARK YOUR CALENDARS !!**  
**The October meeting is scheduled for**  
**Thursday, October 22**

**The Old World Restaurant**  
**8370 S Florida Ave, Floral City, 34436**  
**352-344-4443**

**Dinner 5:30-6:30 business meeting at 6:30 p.m.**

***Please note change in start time for meeting!***

We have two speakers planned for the October meeting! The Parts & Service Director, Mike Baker and the Parts Manager, Howard Werner, for Nick Nicholas Ford. Mr. Baker will speak about general maintenance for today's diesels. Mr. Werner will discuss the pros and cons of which tires (size, type, sidewall, age, etc) to use for both our tow vehicles and horse trailers.

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



LIKE us on Facebook!

FFBCH Website: [www.ffbch.org](http://www.ffbch.org)

Well, the closest thing we get in Florida to “Fall” is upon us! And those of us who have suffered through this extraordinarily long hot, very wet summer are EXCITED! The horse flies are gone and riding season is here!!

Our chain saw and pole saw crews have been hard at it making every effort to clear the trails of fallen trees and dead fall. We had a couple of trails on the west side of the forest that were virtually impassable. A lot of our trails go through areas that allow fairly easy passage around one end or the other of a downed tree. However, we need to know so we can clear the trail.

Please contact Fred Fulcher at 352.341.2461 or Sally McDavid 352.628.2973 and report any downed trees or heavy dead fall. We will be seeing a lot of that throughout the coming year and need this information to keep the trails clear. Please do not call Tillis Hill or Forestry-this is our job and they simply don't have the personnel.

We hope to create some neighborhood work groups over the season. There is lots of trash out there, blue bands that need to be “refreshed” and some trimming yet to be done.

University of Florida - IFAS County Extension

Dr. Stacy Strickland

352.754.4433

jsstrick@ufl.edu

Dr. Strickland is very knowledgeable about pasture management including toxic plants. We will try to have him speak at a meeting early next year.

For those of you who love to camp with your horses and ride new and different places, Torreya State Park is absolutely beautiful. I first hiked it's varied terrain back in the early 70's. Cal and I hiked there in 2014 and it is as beautiful now as it was back in the 70's. It would be an outstanding place to have horse trails and potentially an equestrian campground. I encourage each and every one of you to contact the gentlemen in the flyer below and express your interest. Most importantly, it appears that the park manager also has an interest in establishing horse trails! Let's support this wonderful opportunity.  
Sally

## **HORSE RIDE** **TORREYA** **STATE PARK**



*The high bluffs overlooking the Apalachicola River make Torreya State Park one of Florida's most scenic. Rising more than 150 feet above the river, the bluffs have been shaped and divided by deep ravines that have been eroded by streams throughout the centuries.*

**WE ARE PRESENTING A PETITION TO HAVE HORSEBACK RIDING IN TORREYA STATE PARK. THOUSANDS OF ACRES.**

Sign up for our e-mail newsletter at [www.fairpoint.net/~gmc1](http://www.fairpoint.net/~gmc1)

**ALL RIDERS**

**E-MAIL**

**GARY MCDUGALD ( [gmcougald1@fairpoint.net](mailto:gmcougald1@fairpoint.net) )**

**or**

**STEVEN CUTSHAW ( [steven.cutshaw@dept.state.fl.us](mailto:steven.cutshaw@dept.state.fl.us) )**



At our **November** meeting (Thursday, November 19), we plan to have a speaker who will talk to us about maintenance on our horse trailers. For those with living quarters you have the added issues of water heaters, A/C and furnace, refrigerators, CO2 detectors, Invertors and a variety of other parts and pieces that can ruin a camping trip if it isn't working properly. Simple annual maintenance is often invaluable in keeping everything running smoothly.



For our annual Christmas party we are planning on gathering at Stumpknockers on the River with a social hour prior to dinner out on the decks and river side (weather permitting)! Start thinking about your White Elephant gift :-)!

## **Hunting Dates 2015-2016**

### **Citrus Tract - Withlacoochee State Forest**

**Archery Season:** November 7 thru November 29, 2015

**Please note that the Gun Hunts are now three days long:**

**Muzzle loading Gun Hunts:**

December 4 thru December 6, 2015

December 18 thru December 20, 2015

**General Gun Season:**

December 11 thru December 13, 2015

January 1 thru January 3, 2016

**Small Game Season:**

January 4 thru February 28, 2016

**Spring Turkey Season:**

**Youth:** March 12 thru March 13, 2016

**Regular:** March 22 thru March 25, 2016

April 5 thru April 8, 2016

April 19 thru April 22, 2016

For a full brochure for the Citrus Tract of the Withlacoochee

Forest, go to: <http://myfwc.com/hunting/wma-brochures/nc/citrus/>



## **ALZHEIMER'S BENEFIT POKER RIDE**

SPONSORED BY **SUN COUNTRY TRAIL BLAZERS**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2015**

**Land Bridge Trailhead**

(475A) 11100 SW 16th Ave, Ocala, FL 34480

Registration starts at 8:30 AM. Ride at will, and return at noon for BBQ lunch and awarding of prizes.

Bring your friends, your horse, and enjoy the poker ride. A negative Coggins is required. Non-riders are welcome to participate.

Registration fee of \$25 includes the ride and lunch. Poker hands may be purchased for \$5 each. Raffle tickets are \$3 each or 5 for \$10. Prizes for the winning poker hands are: 1<sup>st</sup> \$100, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$50, and 3<sup>rd</sup> \$25.

**All proceeds and donations will go to the Alzheimer's Association.**

Many families have been touched by Alzheimer's disease or related dementia. Another person is diagnosed with Alzheimer's every 67 seconds. Please join us in this effort to make a difference in their lives, and help bring an end to this devastating disease.

For additional ride information, contact Sun Country Trail Blazers at [suncountry123@gmail.com](mailto:suncountry123@gmail.com), or Nancy Alford (352) 245-2837. For information regarding the Alzheimer's Association or donations, contact Ed Hancock (352) 362-1617, Board Member, Alzheimer's Association Central and North Florida Chapter, or visit [alz.org](http://alz.org).



WARNING: Under Florida Law, an equine activity ride sponsor or contact is not liable for an injury to, or death of, a participant in equine activities resulting from inherent risks of equine activities.

***The Levy County Horse Club***  
***Presents the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual***  
***Breast Cancer Awareness Trailride***  
*At*  
**Tidewater Trailhead in Goethe State Forest**  
**Located at the south end of CR 337 in Levy County**  
*In conjunction with **Forest Awareness Month** and **Greenways***  
***and Trail Month***

- Date:**            **Saturday, October 24th, 2015**
- Time:**           **All day, ride at your own pace!**
- Cost:**           **\$30.00 Registration fee per rider includes 1 free lunch ticket. Registration starts 8 a.m.**
- Fun:**            **Poker ride Saturday 9 a.m. for \$10 donation with a \$50 winner. Lunch at 12:30 p.m., followed by fun raffles.**
- Food:**           **Lunch free with registration, or available for \$8.00, includes choice of BBQ or Lemon Pepper Pork with green beans & potatoes, whole kernel corn, rolls, dessert and a drink.**

Overnight camping is available for those who would like to come in on Friday or stay over till Sunday. Water for horses and bathroom facilities will be available, no electric available. This is a NO hunting date. Trail use and camp fees waived for this benefit event. Current coggins will be checked.

**Come join us for a great time to benefit a great cause!**  
**All Donations go to benefit local breast cancer patients.**

Check out the web page at [www.levycountyhorseclub.com](http://www.levycountyhorseclub.com) for info, or email [levy2@flahorse.com](mailto:levy2@flahorse.com)



*Ride with  
"Best of America by  
Horseback" TV Show  
on the Greenway*



**November 20-22, 2015**

The Cross Florida Greenway Equestrians are hosting "Best of America by Horseback" Televised Trail Ride at Shangri-La Trailhead on the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway! Please join us for an exciting weekend as we film the TV show. ***Book your spot now!***

**Prices:**

***Full Ticket:***

For the 3 days with Tom Seay and the film crew including the reception, rides, seminars, banquet, and booths = \$175.00 plus camping fee. (You get a \$10 discount off this particular ticket for paying by check instead of online.)

Camping is \$25 per night.

***Ala Carte:***

- Day fee for Friday or Saturday for participation in rides, seminars and booths -- \$65.00
- Reception and music fee for Friday -- \$20.00
- Banquet and concert fee for Saturday -- \$35.00
- Non-rider fee for 3-day event – Attend seminars, stay in camp and reception and banquet -- \$65.00
- Non-rider fee for Friday only, includes reception -- \$30.00
- Non-rider fee for Saturday, no banquet -- \$25.00

Children ages 3-12 are 20% off all the above fees. Children under age 3 are free.

**More Information and to Book your Spot!**

Go to <http://www.greenwayequestrians.org>

Call Jessie Barnard at 352-843-1700 (cell) or 352-693-3850 (home) or email at [barnardjessie@yahoo.com](mailto:barnardjessie@yahoo.com) for reservations and information.



September 2015 FFBGH General Meeting

9/24/2015

Old World

Meeting called to order at 6:40 PM

Guests: Jolyn Walker, Betty Lewis, Terri Hunter, Dotty Gould, Carol Demeo, Charlotte Huston and Jessie Barnard.

August minutes: No amendments. Motion to approve by Barb Porch, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Calvin McDavid and group approved.

August Treasurer's report by Gary Reynolds: Motion to approve by Fred Fulcher, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Calvin McDavid and group approved.

Jessie Barnard brought several items to raffle to support the upcoming filming of Best of America by Horseback.

50/50 drawing was won by Lillian Baner.

Guest Speaker was Colleen Werner, Biologist of WSF. She is a Wildflower lover and spoke about the benefits of the controlled burns. Some plants need fire to flower and Croom is a gem for things that grow nowhere else. Look at the diversity of plants and be willing to give up shade for the sand hill plants

Dr, Stacy Strickland is the expert on poisonous plants. Colleen gives most of her attention to exotic invasive plants or non-native. In Florida there are 4000+ plants, of which 1400 are exotic or non-native and 160 that are considered pest plants. They go after the ones that are most problematic. The worst is cogon grass which was brought here to control erosion and old world climbing fern .

Spray these plants according to the law and label and use your extension agent.

Creeping Indigo is not considered invasive but it is dangerous. IFAS University of South Florida has a brochure on creeping indigo. We do not know how much a horse has to eat to affect them. Watch your hay. Round-up does not work. Milestone – GrazonNextHL HL works. CI is only found in disturbed areas like pastures and parking lots. Forestry cannot tackle all areas of CI and is not a high priority since it is not an exotic invasive pest. You can get it up with a broad fork. It's been here since the 1930's. It always hugs the ground. Hairy Indigo is an upright plant that grows about 3 ft tall.

Worse than CI is Rosary Pea. It is very toxic and one seed will kill a child. It is an exotic invasive pest plant. It has red seeds with a black eye, brown seed pods; it is a vine with purple pea flowers. To kill it, pull it up and double black plastic bag it and compost.

On Oct 22, we will have 2 speakers so we will start the meeting at 6:30. Both speakers are from Nick Nicholas Ford and will be addressing diesel truck and tire maintenance. Mike Baker Parts & Service Director and Howard Warner, Parts Manager.

On Nov 19, we hope to have a representative speak on all things horse trailer and RV maintenance related.

December is our Christmas Party at Stumpknocker's on the River.

If you see trail maintenance issues, please let Fred Fulcher know.341 2461.

We will add Dr. Stacy Strickland's address and e-mail to the newsletter for information on toxic plants and pasture management and will see if he might speak at our Feb meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 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 = \$20 and Family memberships = \$25. 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**

**FFBCH Website: [www.ffbch.org](http://www.ffbch.org)**  
**email: [ffbch.org@gmail.com](mailto:ffbch.org@gmail.com)**