

March 2019 FF BCH  
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, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Connie Frey and group approved.

Treasurer's report by Gary Reynolds. Motion to approve by Tom Allen, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 FF BCH 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup> element called the devils 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