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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, 2017

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS !!**

**The April meeting is scheduled for**

**Thursday, April 20, 2017**

**Angellotti's Pizza**

**130 Heights Avenue, Inverness, 419-6550**

**Please Note: We will be ordering off the menu (No Buffet)!**

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

**Coyotes - Everything You Ever Wanted To Know!**  
**Sarah Helm - Florida Fish & Wildlife Commission**  
**will be speaking w/slides show on:**

**“How you, your pets and livestock can be safe and coexist around these predators”.**

**This should be a topic of interest to all of us as these animals literally roam our streets and essentially live in our back yards!**

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



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

## Trail Maintenance and Project Updates

### Well & Hand Pump On Pine Valley

The well project on Pine Valley is not going to happen. There appears to be too much damage to the well. The drop pipe is broken off and rusted below the casing. When Cal put a 48" pry bar down the drop pipe, it wouldn't even wiggle. We are assuming that they might have grouted or cemented the well when the hold hand pump was removed. It has also been open to the elements (and humans) for decades. In order to even attempt to pull the drop pipe up, the concrete pad around the casing would have to be cut or beat off, the casing cut off below the drop pipe and then hope that they could get a good enough hold on the drop pipe to pull it up

### Trail Updates

There were two very large trees (one even blocking the trail to horses) on Eagle Ridge, behind the mine. Jerry, Cal, Dan & Don spent several hours cutting up these very large trees and removing them from the trail.

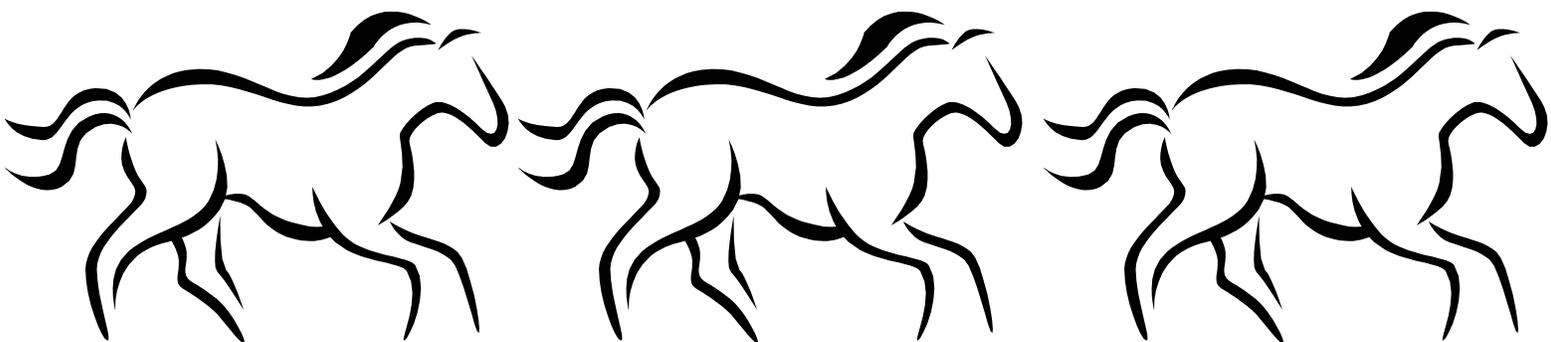
Gary, Fred and Tom removed another large tree from the green trail.

Jerry Hardy has adopted the Eagle Ridge loop in the northwest corner - THANKS Jerry.

Some additional trail signage is planned for the northwest corner (including access trails) and will be completed before riding season starts next fall.

We now have Eagle Ridge, El Dorado, Turkey Oak and the orange trail adopted but 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. **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.**

**We got an awful lot of work done this past season and look forward to such great participation next year. Thanks to all who help to make these trails so great!**



This is the FWC Biologist that will be speaking at our April 20 meeting!

## Crowd goes wild for coyotes at Wildlife Club meeting

*Record attendance at the Wildlife Club*

*Special to the Chronicle*



*Special to the Chronicle*

Some of the more than 150 Wildlife Club members in the audience at the recent meeting about coyotes.



*Special to the Chronicle*

Biologist Sarah Helm addresses the Wildlife Club Membership at the March 28 meeting.

The Wildlife Club meeting on Tuesday, March 28, was the most attended meeting ever in the three-and-a-half year history of the Wildlife Club. There were over 150 wildlife advocates attending.

The presentation, which was all about coyotes, given by FWC Biologist Sarah Helm. Many questions and personal encounters were fielded from the audience by Helm, educating the group on all aspects of the coyotes that are now living in nearly all areas of Citrus County.

Tips were provided about, how you, your pets and your livestock can be safe and coexist around these relatively new predators to Florida. Also discussed was coyote biology, role in the environment and recent research.

The Wildlife Club conducts meetings at 7 p.m. the fourth Tuesday monthly,

September through June, at the Nature Coast Unitarian Universalist (NCUU) fellowship hall, 7633 N. Florida Ave. (U.S. 41), Citrus Springs. At these meetings, guest speaker make presentations about their specialty on a wildlife topic. The next scheduled meeting is

Tuesday, April 25.

All wildlife advocates are welcome at these meetings and there is no charge or fee to attend. Free informational wildlife pamphlets are available at the meetings and several of volunteers will help answer wildlife questions before

and after the meetings. Free refreshments are provided. The group's motto is "They Were Here First."

For information, contact Wildlife Club President Brenda L. Roberts at 352-746-2384 or at blr768@tampabay.rr.com.

March 2017 FFBCH - General Meeting - 3/22/17 - Angelotti's

Meeting called to order at 6:22 PM

Guests: Carol Christoff and Gloria Glossbrenner

A motion to approve the February 2017 minutes was made by Cathy Erwin, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Karen Rossman and group approved.

Treasurer's report by Gary Reynolds. Motion to approve by Calvin McDavid 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trina Romeo and group approved.

Last call for tee shirts – order goes in Friday.

The well project on Pine Valley is not going to happen. There appears to be too much damage to the well. The drop pipe is broken off and rusted below the casing. When Cal put a 48" pry bar down the drop pipe, it wouldn't even wiggle. We are assuming that they might have grouted or cemented the well when the hold hand pump was removed. It has also been open to the elements (and humans) for decades. In order to even attempt to pull the drop pipe up, the concrete pad around the casing would have to be beat off, the casing cut off below the drop pipe and then hope that they could get a good enough hold on the drop pipe to pull it up without breaking it. At that point it just didn't seem feasible to continue.

Adopt-A-Trail: If you want to adopt a trail for upkeep and maintenance please speak up. Charlie Moore has adopted a Turkey Oak, Barb Bellamy has adopted the Orange trail and Janet Day has adopted El Dorado. Barb, Trina and Janet finished painting the Orange Trail. Arlene had a question about the Blue bands painted above the Pink bands on the Pink trail. Sally stated that the Blue bands lead to Tillis Hill from the Heatherwood access trails. Gloria said that some people got lost on the Trash Trail. It's not marked on the maps. Sally stated that access trails are on the map but not named or labeled. Trina questioned jeeps on labeled trails. Is this legal? Jeeps are only supposed to be on Forest Roads (not on horse trails). Barb Bellamy stated that 27 citations have been given for people found on inappropriate trails. (\$350/citation). The Jeepers are in the forest this weekend without a permit. Lita denied the permit. Trina Romeo went to the chain saw class and said it was very informative.

Election of officers for VP, Secretary and 2 Directors. VP-Fred Fulcher, Secretary-Becky Fulcher, 2 Directors-Calvin McDavid and Tom Allen. No nominations from the floor. Motion to approve by Dave Van, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lance Pender and group approved.

Guest Speaker: Nancy Suto –Crime Prevention Specialist with the Sheriff's Office 27 ½ year veteran. She routinely speaks on Home – Crime Prevention Safety on the Road.

Recently there have been lots of burglaries in the Sugarmill Woods and Meadowcrest areas. Unlocked cars make it easy. Homes unlocked and valuables left in cars or unlocked areas just invite trouble. Hide valuables out of sight and don't leave your change in the console. Change means something to people who have nothing. Don't leave phones in your vehicle.

If your home address is programmed in, the thieves can go directly to your home. For those of you who leave for the summer, do not leave the keys to the car you are leaving behind hanging in the garage. Put the slide locks on your garage door. When you leave your home, lock the doors and put the security system on. Security cameras do not deter crime. If you use them, make sure they are at a height and angle to capture facial features and tag #s. With contact sensors on doors and window, if the window is broken, nothing happens. Security window film is hard to break through. The usual delay time is 90 sec to the alarm company and then it goes to police, so 10 -12 minutes before law enforcement gets there. This is to reduce or avoid false alarms. Thieves are generally looking for cash, jewelry and weapons. Most come through the door rather than breaking in. You can have wire screens with an alarm system. For suspicious incidents call 1 888 anytips.

To prep homes for leaving for extended periods, you can set up a vacation watch while you are gone. Officer will drive by and check on home. Motion lights are wonderful (LED are the best). Lights on timers, a radio playing, a neighbor to look in on the place, mow grass and keep grounds up, big dog bowl on the porch or a large pair of man's shoes in sight are things that will help deter a break in.

A few tips: Have ID's and serial numbers of weapons. Establish photos of when things are normal – valuables – serial #'s – jewelry - put on flash drive and carry it on your key ring. It is a lot easier to document on the report and to recover, find and return. Also great for insurance purposes. Pawn stores have cameras that monitor everything that pawns, so that identification of items and serial numbers is invaluable.

For guns that are not locked up, the responsible person is the owner if something goes wrong. Penalties are enhanced for crimes with guns. States have different rules for carry permits. So if you are traveling with a gun it would be a good idea to know the states rules you are traveling in. There are 32 reciprocating states with Florida. In non reciprocating states, put the gun in the trunk and don't do anything to get stopped for.

When traveling with horses, park in highly visible areas and don't leave anything of value in plain view.

An out of state person cannot buy a gun in Florida and take it with them. The gun will be shipped to your home state. There is no open carry in Florida. To target practice on your own property, you must have more than one acre and only one residence on the property. If you carry your gun on your person, you must have a permit. There was a question about abandoned cars along the roadside. When the car has a red tag, the owner has been contacted and there should be removal in 48 hours.

Citrus County does have a volunteer mounted patrol.

Gas pump skimmers: This issue has slowed down a lot but still crops up from time to time. Race Track is safe. To avoid, use cash or a designated credit card for gas only, use a Publix gas card and check credit and bank statements for unauthorized purchases. The debit card is the least safe card to use.

Final tip: Put you house alarms on at night and take old drugs to the scheduled turn ins.

50/50 \$93.50 won by Tom Allen

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 = \$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**

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