



## Florida Forever Back Country Horsemen, Inc.

Preserving our equine cultural heritage on public lands for today and tomorrow.

# FFBCH NEWS

April, 2014

**Next Meeting - April 24, 2014 - Angellotti's Pizza**

**Dinner 5:30 to 7:00—Meeting Starts 7:00 pm**

130 Heights Avenue, Inverness, 419-6550

For menu preview: [angelottis4pizza.com](http://angelottis4pizza.com)

**Non-Members are WELCOME!**

**Please come and join us!**



**David Hunnicutt**  
Inverness Office  
Florida Farm Bureau  
Guest Speaker!



Ever wondered if that RV port or new metal shop is covered? What about your barn, is it listed separately on your policy with specific limits of coverage? Have a tractor, loader, bush hog? Horse Trailer? Does a horse trailer with living quarters have special insurance needs? How does having horses impact your liability coverage and needs? Should you have an umbrella policy? Have a screened in pool? Do you know if your pool cage is insured in case of a hurricane? What is your hurricane deductible? Have you taken advantage of wind mitigation discounts that may lower your premium? Speaking of hurricanes, the “season” is just around the corner. Are you, your horses and your property prepared. If we take a hit having the proper coverage could be critical to your recovery.

David will tell us all we want to know about the issues above and will take questions from members. It is important to know if you have the proper coverage for your individual needs. Unfortunately, too many times, we don't find out what those real needs are until there is a claim. Now is a good opportunity to find out if your current coverage is enough and if you are properly insured.

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

# 2014 Volunteer of the Year

## John Holtzwardt



**Thanks to John for his tireless efforts in maintaining the Croom trails as well as his weekly filling of the water trough at Twin ponds. Whenever there is a work day at Croom, Citrus or Bear Head, John is there and often brings a crew with him. Thank You John for all that you do!**



# **Bear Head Hammock Work Day April 17, 2014**



Al Kline, Barb Porch, Becky Fulcher, Cal McDavid, Carol Demeo, Dennis Ross, Fred Fulcher, Gary Reynolds, Janet Day, Karen Ogburn, Karen Rossman, Larry Fowler, Mike Kessler, Nancy Alford, Pat Ogburn, Sally McDavid, Steve Rossman, Sue Kessler, Tom Allen, Wilbur Priest (FFS), Ranger Keith (FFS) and Jake. Not shown: Nancy Alford, Carol Demeo and Sally McDavid.

We had a great work day with overcast skies keeping the weather just right for working. A total of six crews did an amazing job of trimming the entire trail. We hope to schedule a work day for the trail head and camping area soon! Y'all come!

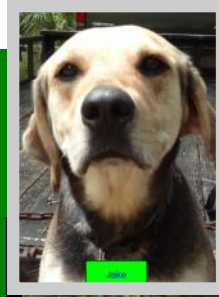
For those of you who haven't been to Bear Head Hammock/Two-Mile Prairie, you are really missing out. Over eight miles of mostly shaded trails with huge oak trees and pine plantation. There is NO HUNTING in this tract. To top it off, if you are set up for primitive camping (no water or electric) there are several sites with a small covered shelter and attached pipe corral.

**Directions from the South:** From the intersection of US 41 & CR 491 in the big city of Holder, go north on CR 491 approximately 1 mile. The Bear Head trail head entrance will be on your left.

**Directions from the North:** From SR 200 go south on CR 491 a little over 3 miles, past the banked S curve to the Bear Head Hammock trail head entrance on your right.



# Bear Head Hammock Work Day April 17, 2014



New Friends Mike & Sue Kessler



Al Kline—before his acrobatics (while sitting in chair) demonstration.

The Michigan Invasion !



Karen & Steve Rossman with Janet







## **MARK YOUR CALENDARS !!**

**The May meeting is scheduled for Thursday,  
May 22 at Sonny's Real Pit Bar-B-Q  
750 W Main Street, Inverness.  
352-341-2686**



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.

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!**



Florida Forever Back Country Horsemen  
Florida Annual Shindig Meeting  
3/1/14  
Tillis Hill

4:08 pm Meeting called to order by President Truman Prevatt.  
Welcome.

Elections **President**

Election Committee's Jennifer Fischer announced nomination for FFBCH President.  
One nomination for president: Sally McDaniel  
Call for other nominations from the floor.  
None heard. Sally McDaniel was elected to the position of President.

As Sally McDaniel was holding the office of Vice President prior to her election as President the Vice President's position became vacant upon her election.

**Vice President**

Election Committee's Jennifer Fischer announced nomination for FFBCH Vice President.  
One nomination for Vice President: Fred Fulcher  
Call for other nominations from the floor.  
None heard. Fred Fulcher was elected to the position of Vice President.

**Treasurer**

Election Committee's Jennifer Fischer announced nomination for FFBCH Treasurer  
One nomination for Treasurer: Gary Reynolds  
Call for other nominations from the floor.  
None heard. Gary Reynolds was elected to the position of Treasurer.

**Director**

Election Committee's Jennifer Fischer announced nomination for FFBCH Director  
One nomination for Director: Martha Casisa  
Call for other nominations from the floor.  
None heard. Martha Casisa was re-elected to the position of Director.

Per the FFBCH bylaws outgoing President, Truman Prevatt, was automatically installed in the second open Director's position.

**Speaker: Mark Good, Florida Forest Service**

Mr. Good thanked FFBCH for being invited to speak. He spoke about the responsibilities of the FFS in the Withlacoochee State Forest as well as throughout the State of Florida. He discussed the effect of dwindling resources such as finances and personnel and their relationship to accomplishing the goals of the FFS. Mr. Good acknowledged the dedication of the FFBCH volunteers as invaluable in assisting FFS personnel by providing endless hours maintaining trails, providing signage and reporting hazards to the FFS staff.

He expressed the importance of maintaining the cooperative relationship between FFS and civic organizations like FFBCH in order to assure that the Withlacoochee State Forest will continue to be a valuable recreational resource for generations to come.

Donations: Thanks to Mary Lou Patten for her tirelessly soliciting donations to be used as door prizes and auction items.

Thanks to Seminole Feed who donated certificates for 40 bags of Seminole Feed to be used as door prizes. Thank you for your support.

Door prizes distributed.

Auction: Auctioneer Al Kline Thank you for making our auction a success!

Silent auction items were distributed.

Meeting adjourned.

Addendum:

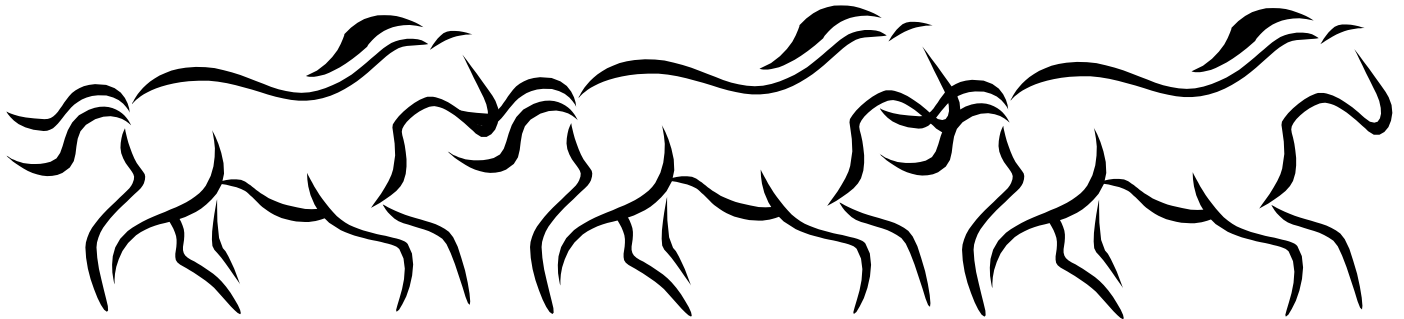
Auction Report

Total value of all live and silent auction items	\$1956.56
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Total from auction for these items	\$1154.00
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Total of all items used for volunteer awards-prizes-food	\$ 949.52
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Total of all donations	\$2906.08
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**FFBCH GENERAL MEETING**  
**March 27, 2014**  
**Old World Restaurant**

**Called to order 7:03 pm**

**Welcome Pres. McDavid**

Self-introduction of visitors

Introduced Helen Koehler – a member of FI Recreational Trails Program Committee and recently named as a Director at Large, Back Country Horsemen of Florida and Jeanne Cornile who accompanied Helen to the meeting.

**Shindig**

Pres. McDavid thanked Mary Lou Patton for her efforts in obtaining donations of goods and services for volunteer awards as well as items for the auction and silent auction.

She also thanked Al Kline who graciously acted as the auctioneer for the event and his assistant Angie Rushton.

**Old business**

There have been reported violations of equestrians using the hiking trails, some with flagrant disregard of others' trails and current signage. Signs have been ordered by FFBCH reinforcing the importance of equestrians using only designated equestrian trails.

**New business**

President McDavid announced the formation of Nature Coast Back Country Horsemen, a new chapter of Back Country Horsemen of Florida which will be focusing their efforts on the areas of Hernando, East Croom, and Pasco. This is in line with the goal of BCHFL to plant multiple local chapters throughout the State of Florida. The officers of NCBCH are:

Kathy Thompson, president

Martha Casisa, vice president

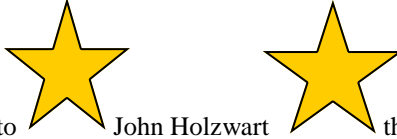
Mary Lou Patton, secretary

Jennifer Fischer, treasurer

Kathy Thompson stated there will be a meeting with Lita Hart, the Recreation Director of the Withlacoochee State Forest. Others attending will be Truman Prevatt, Martha Casisa, Mary Lou Patten, Kathy Lent, and Mark Good.

Discussion is scheduled to include proposed changes to the trail head at Twin Ponds and an equestrian area to be established in the "Seed Orchard" area. Also on the agenda is discussion about the paving of Richbarn Road and the impact on the 6 to 8 equestrian crossings that currently exist as well a signage for the blind crossing areas.

**Volunteer of the year**



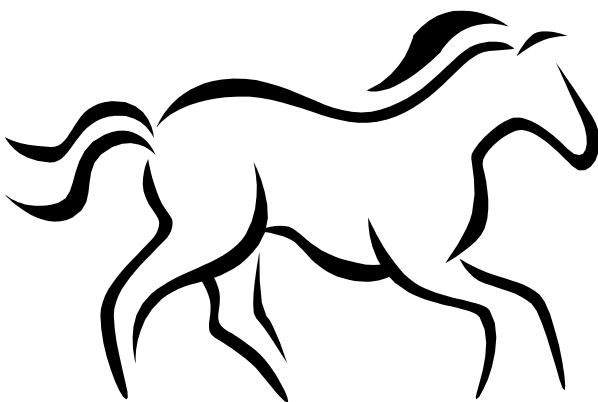
Past president Truman Prevatt presented to John Holzwart the Volunteer of the year award for 2013. Thanks to John for his tireless efforts in maintaining the Croom trails as well as his weekly filling of the water trough at Twin ponds.

50/50 Drawing went to Jeanne Cornile who accompanied Helen Koehler to the meeting.

Helen Koehler spoke about her involvement in preserving and expanding trails especially in Goethe State Forest. Her initial involvement in the politics of trails was in 1982. She is involved in long distance riding events in Goethe and stated much of the funds to improve Goethe come from those events. She also discussed the funds provided to Florida Forest Service from these events reinforces cooperation from the Florida Forest Service. She suggested approaching FFS to determine if the equestrian community might be able to assist FFS by filling a need that is not included in their budget. Helen stated that she was on the founding board of "Friends of the Forest" an organization established to receive donations and provide materials and services to the local FFS administration. Helen cautioned that there is no consistency in how the FFS local offices operate. There is a disconnect between the local offices and Tallahassee. For example: no dogs are allowed at Tillis Hill but they are allowed in Goethe. In Goethe there are no hiking trails or bicycle trails or equestrian trails, there are only shared-use trails. Hikers, bicyclists and equestrians enjoy ALL the trails.

Forestry managers are either foresters trained in producing timber, biologists trained in taking care of the forest but neither was trained in interaction with people regarding recreation in the forest. Friends of the Forest has a new director, Doug Ott, who is a people person.

Helen's final recommendation was to offer to donate materials and service, not money, and make friends with the forestry staff. "Go to Mark Good and offer assistance."



Questions:

Frank Vans Evers: Why are dogs not allowed at Tillis?

Helen; Ask the forester.

Pigeon fever: a horse owned by a member has been diagnosed with pigeon fever, a disease that has spread to the east coast of the U.S. from the west coast. The disease is transmitted by flies. The signs are abscesses to the thorax and abdomen. Roster previously submitted

Respectfully submitted,  
Gary L. Macintosh, Secretary  
FFBCH

**New Forestry Emergency  
Phone: 352-797-4100**

