

January 2019 FF BCH
General Meeting
1/24/2019
Old World

Call to order at 6:30 PM by Sally McDavid

A motion to approve the minutes of the November meeting was made by Dave Van, 2nd by Barb Porch and group approved.

Sally announced that there are three revisions to the by-laws that will be voted on at the March meeting.

1. Term limits revision
2. Absentee voting form
3. In case FF BCH is dissolved - the board would decide on how any funds are distributed.

Janet Day reported on our recent trash pickup days. She listed all of the volunteers that helped to clean up the forest and thanked them for their efforts.

Our next meeting will be February 11 at the Sea Food Seller. A reminder e-mail will be sent out and we would like everyone to RSVP so the restaurant will know how to staff for that night. Kym Rouse Holzwart will be our speaker. She is a scientist with SWFWMD and will be speaking about recreational opportunities on their properties and also how to best manage small horse properties in the most environmentally safe manner.

Janet Day mentioned that we have several people making picnic tables to put out with our mounting blocks and high lines. Steve Rossman has completed one and Barb Bellamy and Trina Romeo are close to completing another one.

Treasurer's report by Gary Reynolds Motion to approve by Dave Van 2nd by Jean Damron. Group approved.

Gary announced elections of officers to occur in March. Positions up for consideration are: Vice President, Secretary and 2 Directors.

Guest Speaker: James Levy Jr. Executive Director of The Florida Cracker Horse Association.

James has a background in Florida History which is what drew him to the Florida Cracker Horses. James gave a description of the Cracker Horse. Generally they are small horses ranging from 700 to 900 lbs and 13 to 14 hands in height. As in most breeds there are exceptions that are smaller and larger. The Registry is a closed registry, meaning that no new undocumented parentage horses will be eligible for registration. Both parents must be registered Cracker horses to be eligible for registration. Originally there were 41 horses selected as the foundation breeding stock and all Cracker Horses today come from these original horses. All are descendants of the horses brought here in the early 1500's by Spanish Explorers. Wild herds were common in Florida as the result of escaped horses and cattle from the Spaniards. These horses were used by the Native Americans and became the main ranch working horses of homesteaders all over the south. Floridians have continued to breed Cracker horses to the present day. There are three main lines. Ayers, Harvey and Bronson. The Florida Department of

Agriculture became involved in the preservation effort of the horses. In 2008 the Florida Legislature adopted the Florida Cracker Horse as the Official Heritage Horse of Florida.

The Florida Cracker Horse Association was founded in 1989. Today they have property on the Florida Greenway as their main gathering place for meetings and recreational activities. The property was left to them by one of their members who passed away. They have been enhancing the property by clearing and mowing and building a covered shelter and have plans for an arena and bathrooms with showers. All members have use of the property for camping and riding on the Greenway. Membership is \$20/yr. You don't have to own a Cracker Horse to be a member but must be aware that the purpose of the group is to promote and preserve the Florida Cracker Horse. They put out a newsletter 4X a year and the meeting on the Greenway is 4X/yr.

The State has a sale of Florida Cracker Horses and Cattle every year in Brooksville. There is a list of breeders on their web site. The largest breeders are the State of Florida, The Harvey Ranch and Crescent View Ranch. Most people looking to buy a Cracker horse are looking for one that is well trained and ready to go. These are hard to find. Most owners of these types of horses hang on to them and they are not for sale. The best thing is to get a young one and train it yourself. Some of the horses are gaited and some are not.

There was a drawing for door prizes. A small hole hay bag, A bucket and some grooming tools.

50/50 \$95.50 won by Chris Moore.