



CONNECTIONS

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Celebrate Greenways & Trails in October

ONCE AGAIN, Governor Jeb Bush has proclaimed October as Florida Greenways and Trails Month.

In 2001, 130 events from Key West to Palatka to Pensacola brought thousands outdoors to celebrate in various ways. In Tallahassee, Greenways & Trails staff opened a new trail. Manatee County unveiled its Blueway Plan. OGT and

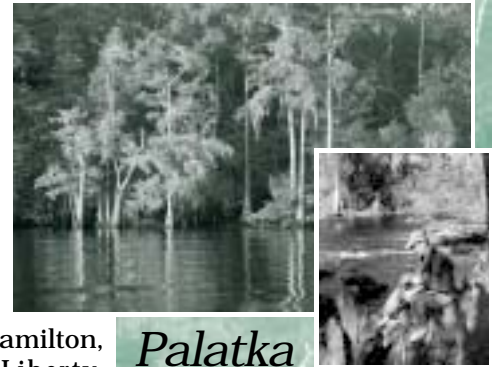
Putnam County opened the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway Visitors Center near Buckman Lock. Cyclists migrated to Mt. Dora for a bike fest. Equestrians rode Goethe State Forest trails. Hikers walked to the Land Bridge from the trail-head in Belleview. OGT presented grant checks to two groups for trail projects. Citrus County Parks and Recreation orga-

nized a guided canoe tour of the Chassahowitzka River. The Florida Trail Association held a regional conference that included workshops, seminars, and hiking and paddling field trips. Franklin, Bay, and Gulf Counties hosted the 1st Annual Florida Panhandle Birding and Wildlife Festival. Trail and river cleanups in Alachua, Brevard, Hamilton, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Marion, Monroe, Osceola, Palm Beach, and Taylor Counties helped keep our environment litter free.

Florida Greenways and Trails Month is designed to focus attention on the state's greenways and trails, to involve residents in creating and using greenways and trails, and to encourage partnerships that will enhance the statewide system.

Make plans to participate in October's festivities. Check our website to find out what's going on in your county. Registration forms are available online at www.floridagreenwaysandtrails.com. Add your event to our list of Florida Greenways and Trails Month celebrations. Contact Cherie Graves at cherie.graves@dep.state.fl.us for more information. 

In 2001, 130 events from Key West to



Palatka to Pensacola brought thousands outdoors to celebrate.

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Acquisition Update

THIS SUMMER, the Governor and Cabinet approved four purchases under the Greenways and Trails Acquisition Program.

The first parcel, the **South Brevard Trail Connector**, is a 14.72-acre tract in Brevard County that adjoins Turkey Creek Sanctuary to the west and Turkey Creek and Briar Creek to the northwest. Acquisition of this parcel will preserve land that has historically been used for off-road bicycling, hiking and paddling as public open space. Additionally, this project will provide scenic overlooks and opportunities for historical study and birding. The trails will be part of a larger system that will also support equestrian use.

The second parcel is the **Northwest Marion Greenway/Price's Scrub**. Located in Marion County, the 952-acre tract will provide an excellent setting for birding and nature study. Preliminary plans for the area include several miles of equestrian and hiking trails, including one that follows the Ocala-Micanopy stretch of the historic Tampa-Lake City stagecoach route along the western boundary of the property.

The third parcel is one of the many remaining parcels within the **South Tampa Greenway** project located in Hillsborough County. The 14.25-acre tract is a critical component of the much

see ACQUISITIONS, page 6



OGT WAS SELECTED AS A FINALIST IN VISIT FLORIDA'S STATEWIDE HOSPITALITY AWARDS PROGRAM THAT ACKNOWLEDGES OUTSTANDING TOURISM MARKETING ACHIEVEMENTS. OGT'S ENTRY WAS SUBMITTED IN THE CREATIVE PARTNERING CATEGORY FOR THE OPENING OF THE BASELINE ROAD TO MARSHALL SWAMP TRAIL ON NATIONAL TRAILS DAY 2001.

AWARDS WERE PRESENTED AT THE 35TH ANNUAL GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ON TOURISM IN AUGUST.

sawgrass, sedges and rushes produce food for the waterfowl. These will become the dominant plants if an active regime of flooding, draining and prescribed burning is implemented according to accepted wetlands wildlife management practices.

The area's ditches will need to be cleaned, control culverts replaced and dikes repaired to allow the flooding, draining and burning to begin. OGT recently toured the project area with representatives from Ducks Unlimited (DU), the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FFWCC), the USDA Wetlands Restoration Program (WRP) and the St. John's River Water Management District (SJRWMD). All of the visitors have expressed support for the project and believe that it has incredible potential.

OGT staff is working with WRP personnel to secure a federal grant to begin design and permitting work on this project. The FFWCC has agreed to provide technical assistance on the project and will establish the area as an official FFWCC Waterfowl Management Area in the future.

The design, development and management of the Marshall Swamp Waterfowl Management Area will take time, effort and funding. However, the dedication and work of partnering agencies will pay off when the first flight of ducks or wading birds glides in and lightly touches down.

Marshall Swamp Waterfowl Management Area



According to local information, the muck farm was constructed during the 1950's and was used as a cattle pasture.

That the farm was not used for growing row crops means that the soils should not have the accumulated pesticide problems that often occur in muck farm restoration. A hurricane in the early 1960's flooded the farm drowning the cattle and the farm was then abandoned. The land was acquired several years later by the state and federal government as it would be impounded by the development of the Cross Florida Barge Canal which is now the Cross Florida Greenway.



THE OFFICE of Greenways & Trails (OGT) plans to develop a wading bird and waterfowl management area on the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway (CFG). The project area is approximately 3,000 acres located southeast of Ocala in Marshall Swamp.

The portion of Marshall Swamp where this proposed waterfowl, wading bird management area is going to be established is known as the Adam's Muck Farm. Muck farms are areas that are cleared, ditched and drained and usually located along the edge of a water body like a river or lake. The rich soils typically associated with river floodplains or marsh areas around lakes are extremely fertile and the fact that there is a river or lake in close proximity provides an accessible source of water for irrigation.

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We have a NEW telephone number!
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Register Online for the National Trails Symposium

ONLINE REGISTRATION is now available for those who plan to attend the 16th National Trails Symposium. The event will take place November 10-13, 2002 at Disney's Coronado Springs Resort in Central Florida.


To register online or to download the registration materials, visit the American Trails Web site at www.americantrails.org.

The National Trails Symposium is held every other year and is sponsored by American Trails and a state or local sponsor. American Trails is a national, nonprofit organization working on behalf of all trail interests, whose members want to create and protect America's network of interconnected trails. The state sponsor for this conference is the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Greenways & Trails. The theme for the Symposium is "Greenways and Trails - Crossing the American Landscape."

The Symposium provides an opportunity for greenways and trails advocates, managers, planners, and users, as well as conservationists, private landowners, and tourism and business interests to come together to communicate and experience an inspi-

ration and educational conference. The Symposium addresses both non-motorized and motorized trails issues.

The program will feature more than 85 cutting-edge sessions delivered by respected national experts, an array of terrific workshops, events and field trips, outstanding recreational opportunities, an impressive exhibition hall with 100 product and service vendors, and much more. The outings will showcase many of the best trails and natural lands in the region including the Cross Florida Greenway (and America's first land bridge), the Central Florida Loop, the Florida National Scenic Trail, the motorized trails in the Withlacoochee State Forest, and the Great Florida Birding Trail.

For information about the Symposium contact American Trails at P.O. Box 491797, Redding, CA 96049-1797. The phone number is (530) 547-2060, the fax number is (530) 547-2035, and the e-mail address is symposium@americantrails.org. You can also learn more about the Symposium by going to www.AmericanTrails.org or www.floridagreenwaysandtrails.com. 

Community Connection

TRAIL OPENINGS



ON AUGUST 8, THE 4-MILE AUBURNDALE TRAIL, WHICH CONNECTS TO THE VAN FLEET TRAIL, OPENED IN FOLK CITY.

THE CONNECTED TRAILS PROVIDE A 40-MILE TREK FROM THE AUBURNDALE TRAILHEAD TO THE END OF THE VAN FLEET TRAIL NEAR MABEL IN SUMTER COUNTY.



ON SEPTEMBER 4, THE NEWLY PAVED 9.7-MILE SECTION OF THE SEMINOLE VEKIVA TRAIL IN SEMINOLE COUNTY OPENED.

APPROXIMATELY 12 MILES OF THE 14-MILE TRAIL HAVE BEEN PAVED. WHEN COMPLETE, THE TRAIL WILL EXPAND THE SEMINOLE COUNTY TRAILS SYSTEM AND ALSO PROVIDE A CONNECTION TO THE VEKIVA SPRINGS STATE PRESERVE.



Florida Greenways and Trails Council

By Marsha Rickman

THE FLORIDA Greenways and Trails Council (FGTC) met in Ponte Vedra Beach on August 22-23, 2002. Among the items discussed were proposed changes to the rule that governs OGT's land acquisition program. Workshops will be held early next year to receive public comment on these rule changes. For more information about OGT's acquisition program, contact Cindy Radford at 850-245-2052 or e-mail her at cynthia.radford@dep.state.fl.us. The Council also reviewed language being proposed to clean up Chapter 260, Florida Statutes.

During the meeting, the Council voted to designate the 93,228.47 acre Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway State Recreation

and Conservation Area (CFG) into the Florida Greenways and Trails System. This brings the total designated acreage to 637,083.58. Subsequent additions to the CFG will automatically be added to the system. For more information on the designation program, contact Heather Pence at 850-245-2052 or e-mail her at heather.pence@dep.state.fl.us.

Shorty Robbins with the St. Johns County Recreation and Parks Department gave an informative power point presentation about the St. Johns County Greenways and Trails Program. Highlights included a review of the county's resources, its master planning efforts, and existing and proposed trails.

Other highlights of the meeting included an update on the work of the Trail Design, Maintenance and Monitoring Committee by Committee Chair John Waldron of the Florida Division of Forestry.

Council Chair, Noah Valenstein, has accepted a job with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), and will replace Bob Ballard as the DEP representative on the Council.

The next meeting of the FGTC is slated for December 5-6, 2002 in West Palm Beach. For more information about the Council, contact Marsha Rickman at 850-245-2052 or e-mail her at marsha.rickman@dep.state.fl.us.



Alafia Fat Tire Festival

Join the SWAMP Mountain Bike Club for a weekend of off-road adventure November 15-17.

Cyclists of every skill level will enjoy trails through topography that offers some of the most radical elevation changes in Florida – definitely not flat.

The "Moonscape" and "Dangerous" trails were designed to test the skills and nerves of advanced riders. Other trails – with single track, moderately technical berm sections, and hilly meadows – are forgiving enough for newer riders while still offering an exciting ride for the experienced cyclist.

The Alafia Fat Tire Festival will be held at the Alafia River State Park. Registration is limited to 175. Call 813-689-5109 or visit www.swampclub.org for more information.

Grants for Motorized Trail Projects

This year, the Office of Greenways & Trails has established a motorized only application submission period for the Recreational Trails Program.

Submission Period:
January 2-January 31, 2003
Applications must be postmarked by January 31, 2003
Maximum Grant Amount:
\$250,000
Grant Application Workshops:
October 19, 2002, 9:00 a.m.
Langford Park, Orlando
November 20, 2002, 8:30 a.m.
Wakulla Springs State Park, Wakulla Springs (south of Tallahassee)

This competitive grant program provides financial assistance to agencies of city, county, state or federal government, and organizations approved by the State, or state and federally recognized Indian tribal governments, for the development of recreational trails, trailhead and trailside facilities. For this special cycle, projects must involve motorized trails.

For further information or application packets, write to: Office of Greenways & Trails, Department of Environmental Protection, 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, Mail Station #795, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000. Phone (850) 245-2052 or e-mail alexandra.weiss@dep.state.fl.us

The Adobe Acrobat file containing the application may be downloaded at floridagreenwaysandtrails.com.



Recreational Trails Program Grant Awards

DURING ITS 2002 submission cycle, the Office of Greenways & Trails received 36 eligible applications for recreational trails projects requesting a total of \$2,984,920. OGT is pleased to announce that it was able to fund 22 projects for a total of \$1,970,971. The federally funded Recreational Trails Program provides grants for the development, renovation and maintenance of trails, trail head and trailside facilities throughout Florida.

The 2002 RTP Grant Recipients:

Miami River Commission,
Miami River Greenway
\$100,000

Charlotte County,
Oyster Creek Waterfront Trail
\$100,000

City of West Palm Beach,
Apoxee Wilderness, Phase II
\$100,000

Osceola County,
Lake Lizzie Nature Preserve
\$100,000

City of Tampa, Bike Trail
Southern Extension
\$100,000

City of Palm Bay,
Boundary Canal Trail
\$100,000

Town of Welaka, Long Pond
Recreational Trail
\$100,000

Volusia County,
Lake Monroe Trailhead
\$100,000

Duval County, Equestrian Trail
\$100,000

City of Jacksonville,
S-Line Urban Greenway Trail
\$100,000

Madison County, Four
Freedoms Trail, Phase III
\$43,456

City of Oviedo, Trailhead Park
\$80,000

Village of Wellington,
Fairlane Farms Trail
\$85,000

City of Plantation,
Central City Linear Trail
\$100,000

Town of Davie, Flamingo
Road Equestrian Trail
\$100,000

Sarasota County,
North Metro Multi-Use Trail
\$60,000

City of Auburndale, Lake
Myrtle Trailhead Project
\$100,000

St. Johns County, Southeast
Intracoastal Park Trail
\$100,000

USDA Forest Service,
FNST Trailheads
\$100,000

Town of Montverde,
Montverde Greenway Trail
\$75,832

Florida Trail Association,
FNST Construction - Ocala
\$40,000

City of Cape Coral,
Lost Pond Loop
\$100,000

Recreational Trails Program Rule Revision

The Office of Greenways & Trails has begun revising the Recreational Trails Program administrative rule, Chapter 62S-2, FAC. You are invited to participate in any of three OGT-hosted rule revision workshops. The workshops will take place in December. All workshops begin at 8:30 am.

December 9: Marianna
Citizens Lodge Phone: 850-482-9637
4577 Lodge Drive

December 11: Davie
Tree Tops Park Phone: 954-370-3750
3900 S.W. 100th Ave
Directions: www.broward.org/parks/pri02102.htm

December 12: Orlando
Leu Botanical Gardens Phone: 407-246-2620
Orchid Room
1920 North Forest Avenue
Directions: www.leugardens.org/locate.html

For additional information regarding the workshops or the rule revision process, please contact Alexandra Weiss online at alexandra.weiss@dep.state.fl.us or phone 850-245-2052.



Big O Hike

Don't miss the 11th annual Big O Hike scheduled for November 23 through December 1, 2002. Hikers of every age are invited to hike along the Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail (LOST), a segment of the Florida National Scenic Trail. A series of nine day-hikes, ranging from 9.5 to 14 miles, will take hikers around the second largest lake in the US. On November 23, hikers can "sample" the trail in a 3.6 or 5.5 mile Wimp Walk and take a shuttle back to South Bay. This year's hike begins at Palm Beach County's RV Park in South Bay. The first day's hike ends in Pahokee.

Shuttles will transport walkers to the starting point of each day's hike and back to their lodging at the end of the day. Contact Sunny Piskura at Sunnyp@compuserve.com or Paul Cummings at Sculpash@aol.com or 561-734-4416 for more information.

TEAM GREEN Action...



THE COOLER temperatures and lower humidity of fall invite teachers to expand their classroom to the great outdoors. Greenways and rural trails provide ideal settings to learn about Florida's

ecosystems, wildlife, and working landscapes. Urban trails provide opportunities to discover how trails function as non-motorized transportation routes and linear fitness and recreation facilities. Greenways and trails also offer the opportunity to study Florida's history and cultural heritage.

students a glimpse of the entertainment their grandparents may have enjoyed. Staff from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission were on hand to teach the students about the different types of wildlife that live within the greenway. Along the St. Johns Loop trail, OGT staff created stations representing the 6 types of trails described in *The Greenways and Trails Journey* activity book for students to identify.



Teachers in Putnam County recently expanded their classrooms on the Cross Florida Greenway. OGT staff hosted a field trip at the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway Visitors Center East for third graders from James A. Long Elementary in Palatka. Students toured Buckman Lock to learn the function of a lock and the history of the Cross Florida Barge Canal. A hayride through the woods and along the berm beside the canal provided

Greenways and trails are interactive and 3D. Where do you want to teach today?

Download a Team Green puzzle or word search at floridagreenwaysandtrails.com. Contact Lindsey Benedict at 850-245-2052 or lindsey.benedict@dep.state.fl.us for information about *The Greenways and Trails Journey* activity book. 🌿



ACQUISITIONS, from page 1

Check out the recent additions to the Online Florida Greenways and Trails Guide:

- Nature Coast Trail State Park
- Suwannee River Greenway at Branford
- Withlacoochee State Forest-Croom Hiking
- Alafia River Canoe Trail

Visit:
www.floridagreenwaysandtrails.com/guide



larger South Tampa Greenway system that will provide 15 miles of safe trails when complete. The area is forested with longleaf pines, live oaks, laurel oaks, and cabbage palms. Due to rapid development, this type of natural community is becoming increasingly rare within the City of Tampa. Recreational opportunities within this project will include hiking, bicycling, birding, picnicking and nature study.

The fourth parcel is a .574-acre site for **Plantation Park East Trailhead** that will provide access to an existing trail within the City of Plantation's multi-use trail system. The site will also offer opportunities for picnic-

ing, nature study and environmental education.

A fifth parcel, within the **Etoniah Creek/Cross Florida Greenway Florida Forever Project**, was approved for purchasing through a settlement agreement. The property, 573.9 acres in Putnam County, extends 16,800 feet along the Rodman Reservoir. All but 34 acres lie within the former Cross Florida Barge Canal taking line. In 1966, the State was granted a flowage easement to flood private property in connection with the Cross Florida Barge Canal Project. The property was flooded in 1968 to form Rodman Reservoir. Deauthorization of the Barge Canal Project in 1991 created inter-

esting legal issues. Rodman Reservoir was now "trespassing" on private property. This purchase settles a lawsuit, expands the boundaries of the Cross Florida Greenway, and increases the designated acreage of the statewide system of greenways and trails. The property will be managed by the Office of Greenways & Trails as part of the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway.

If you are interested in following the progress of these projects or have questions about the acquisition program, please contact Cindy Radford in the Office of Greenways & Trails at 850-488-3701 or cynthia.radford@dep.state.fl.us. 🌿

From the Cross Florida Greenway

MODERN technology harnesses an ancient energy source to provide water at the Pruitt Trailhead on the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway.



AT THE PRUITT TRAILHEAD, WATER IS PROVIDED COURTESY OF THE SUN.

A solar powered system designed by Simpler Solar Systems of Tallahassee fills the water trough for Pruitt's equine visitors. The system can lift water from 230 feet below the ground and pump between 500 to 1500 gallons per day; more than enough to supply the water needs of Pruitt visi-

tors. Using a linear current booster, even early morning light and rainy-day light can be used to power the pump.

Solar energy eliminates the need for long wires and the

possibility of power interruptions typical for more traditional methods of power supply. The system requires little maintenance and can be installed without heavy equipment – selling points for two nuns from a village in Bolivia who recently ordered the pump.

The solar powered water pump is an example of how OGT finds environmentally sound solutions to land management problems.

Cross Florida Greenway Strikes a Pose in California UF Planning Team wins "Best Group Entry"



12,000 Geographic Information Systems (GIS) users from around the world attended the 22nd ESRI (Environmental System Resources Inc.) Annual Conference in San Diego. ESRI is the industry leader in GIS software and applications development. The University of Florida (UF) uses GIS to help develop a management plan for the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway (CFG). Christopher Stoll and Karen Whitney, GIS specialists working on the CFG management plan, prepared a series of posters combining much of the work that has been done preparing the management plan. This series was selected from over a hundred group participants as the "Best Group Entry." The posters illustrated the importance of the CFG for connecting Florida's conservation areas, maintaining natural communities, and providing opportunities for recreation and historical interpretation. Using photos and graphics, they depicted a comparison of the historical landscape patterns for the region with current land use and landscape conditions illustrating the historical significance of the CFG and its transformation from a ship canal to a cross-state greenway. The UF team expects to complete the management plan by July of 2003.

Florida Greenways and Trails Foundation, Inc.

THE OFFICE of Greenways & Trails is proud to announce the creation of the Florida Greenways and Trails Foundation, Inc. The Foundation is a non-profit, citizens support organization (CSO) established in accordance with Section 20.2551, Florida Statutes to help OGT enhance, protect and promote greenways and trails in Florida. The Foundation is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as tax-exempt under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

"A CSO is an invaluable asset. The Foundation can provide additional resources and assist with special projects," says OGT Director Jena Brooks. "We are fortunate to have the support of a CSO and we anticipate a great

working relationship between OGT and the Foundation."

The Foundation can:

- ✿ raise funds to support enhancement projects
- ✿ seek and receive grants
- ✿ accept gifts and bequests of money, as well as property
- ✿ undertake public education and awareness projects
- ✿ recruit and train volunteers
- ✿ promote special events and tours
- ✿ sponsor research on resource and recreation management needs
- ✿ create an endowment fund
- ✿ provide equipment, programs, and other resources
- ✿ sponsor exhibits, pro-

grams, and publications support the development of the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway

Current officers for the Florida Greenways and Trails Foundation, Inc. are President, Margaret Dyer of Riverview; Vice President, Sally Thompson of Tampa; Secretary, Rich Dunkel of Mount Dora; and Treasurer, Noah Valenstein, of Tallahassee. Other board members are Helen F. Koehler of Morriston, Doug Leonard of Bartow, and Ed McAdam of Parrish.

For more information, contact the Office of Greenways & Trails at 850-245-2052 or visit the Foundation booth at the National Trails Symposium. ✿

Post Cards from Around the State

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Office of Greenways & Trails staff joined the Broward County Board of County Commissioners and area residents on August 24, 2002 for the official opening of a canoe launch and pavilion in the Reverend Samuel Delevoe Park. In 2001, OGT awarded Broward County \$50,000 to enhance paddling access to the north fork of the New River, part of the expansive Broward Urban River Trail system.



The new facilities, funded through DEP's Office of Greenways & Trails, serves the Dorsey-Riverbend Community, one of Florida's 16 Front Porch communities. Front Porch communities are the result of an initiative led by Governor Jeb Bush to help revitalize urban communities.

Greenways & Trails has a NEW telephone number!



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