



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
**GREENWAYS & TRAILS**

# CONNECTIONS

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT of Environmental Protection's Office of Greenways & Trails (OGT) held a ground-breaking ceremony for the Historic Santos recreation area on May 2, 2003. OGT and the Santos Historical Recreation Committee have been planning the recreation area for several years.

Located on the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway, the recreation area is expected to open in the fall and will include parking, a playground, restrooms, a dozen park benches, four covered picnic pavilions with grills, a basketball court — and a baseball diamond.



*The past is only the present become invisible and mute; and because it is invisible and mute its memories, glances and its murmurs are infinitely precious.*  
Mary Webb 1881-1927  
British Author

In the late 1800s, the site was the predominantly African-American township of Santos — a flag station along the tracks of the Florida Transit and Peninsular Railway. The town shipped cotton, lumber, oranges, and vegetables. By the mid 1920s, Santos had grown and boasted two general stores, a Masonic Lodge, a barber-shop, a fish market, a post office, a two-room school, a train depot, three “juke joints,” three churches, and a baseball diamond.



Top; (inset) Ball players pose for camera (Florida State Archives, c.1865). Above; OGT's Mickey Thomason; Marion County Board of County Commissioners Chairman Parnell Townley; retired farmer and former Santos resident, Jack Damon; Santos Historical Recreation Committee Chair Wayne Little; educator, historian, and former Santos resident, Mazie Ivey

The Santos baseball diamond was on the southeastern circuit for Negro League Baseball teams in the late 1890s, after baseball teams had become segregated. The original diamond is overgrown and on privately owned property, but Santos area baseball

see HISTORIC SANTOS, page 3

## INSIDE:

- 3 ▶ National Trails Day
- 6 ▶ Trails in Troubled Times
- 8 ▶ Protecting Ecological Greenways

## OPPORTUNITY MAPS

The Office of Greenways & Trails (OGT) will be revising the Recreational Trails Opportunity maps this fall.

Through recent revisions to the Florida Greenways & Trails Acquisition Program, these maps determine eligibility for funding. OGT will be working with trails organizations, user groups, and agencies to revise these maps to reflect the future vision for Florida's Greenways and Trails System.

For more information, contact Heather Pence at 850-245-2052 or [heather.pence@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:heather.pence@dep.state.fl.us).



### Connections

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Office of

Greenways & Trails

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We have a NEW telephone number!  
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[www.FloridaGreenwaysAndTrails.com](http://www.FloridaGreenwaysAndTrails.com)

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# Appointments Made to FGTC


By Carol Sheppard

The Florida Greenways and Trails Council (FGTC) met in Ocala on May 15-16, 2003. The meeting was well attended and it was announced that the Governor had recently appointed **Greg Chelius** of The Trust for Public Lands to the Council and reappointed members **Helen Koehler** and **Alvin Jackson**. 

The Council received an overview of OGT's schedule for the acquisition cycle that opened on May 9. Applications submitted during this cycle will be reviewed at the next Council meeting in September. Heather Pence announced that OGT is partnering with the National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program and the Rails to Trails Conservancy to host fall workshops advocating trails and greenways in the Northwest Florida area. For more information, please contact **Heather Pence** at 850-245-2052 or [heather.pence@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:heather.pence@dep.state.fl.us). (See sidebar page 9.) 

**Jim Wood**, Assistant Director of OGT and **Peggy Carr**, Associate Professor, Department of Landscape Architecture at the University of Florida, presented plans for updating the Recreational Trails Opportunity Maps, which determine eligibility for the Greenways and Trails Acquisition Program. An interactive website is being created to facilitate input from representatives of user groups and local, regional and state agencies. A first draft of maps reflecting this statewide feedback is ex-

pected to be ready for the Council's review at their November meeting, with completion of the revisions targeted for the spring of 2004. (See page 8.) 

The Council voted unanimously to designate "Paddle Manatee" as a part of the Florida Greenways and Trails System. **John Osborne**, Principal Planner for the Manatee County Planning Department and **Charlie Hunsicker**, from the Office of the Manatee County Administrator, gave a brief presentation on "Paddle Manatee" and shared copies of their well-designed brochure describing this series of over 75 miles of paddling trails in Manatee County. 

The meeting also featured a presentation by **Dr. Linda**

**Crider**, Program Director for the Florida Traffic and Bicycle Safety Education Program. Dr. Crider announced that several workshops will be conducted in connection with the National "Bikefest Rally" October 17-19, including a "SafeWays/ SafePaths to School" workshop on October 16 in Madison. For more information, contact **Laura Hallam** of the Florida Bicycle Association at [Hallamlt@aol.com](mailto:Hallamlt@aol.com). (See page 9.) 



The next meeting of the Council is scheduled for September 11-12 in Tallahassee.

For information about the Council, please contact **Carol Sheppard** at 850-245-2052.

## Acquisition Program Closes Third Cycle

By Cindy Radford

The Office of Greenways and Trails Acquisition Program closed its third cycle of the Florida Forever funding on July 8. The projects that have been submitted for funding will be presented to the Florida Greenways and Trails Council for approval in September. Approved projects will be listed in the next *Connections*.

On June 17, OGT acquired 203 acres within the Heather Island Preserve. Located in Marion County, this parcel will provide a vital buffer to

the adjacent 5,000-acre Marshall Swamp, while providing public access for multi-use recreation.

In late March, the Governor and Cabinet approved for purchase the Parkland Greenway Enhancement project. Located in Broward County, the parcel is surrounded by an existing 10-mile trail system. Once acquired, the property will create a more manageable boundary by connecting the trails that surround the property. In addition, this prop-

see ACQUISITION, page 3

# Marshall Swamp



## Survivor

### NATIONAL TRAILS DAY

Since 1993 the American Hiking Society, a national nonprofit trail advocacy group, has celebrated National Trails Day on the first Saturday in June.

“Healthy Trails, Healthy People” was the theme for this year’s activities to encourage people to use trails for improved health. This year, the Office of Greenways & Trails (OGT) teamed up with the *Ocala Star-Banner*, Munroe Regional Medical Center, and Marion County’s “Healthy Me in 2003” community initiative to promote healthy lifestyles with a National Trails Day Event on June 7.

As indicated by the popularity of reality television shows, America is fascinated with acts of fear and loathing. To encourage locals to move from the TV to a trail, OGT organized the Marshall

Swamp Survivor event to celebrate National Trails Day.

Contestants chose to hike one, three, or six miles through Marshall Swamp along a footpath that loops from the Marshall Swamp Trailhead — adjacent to OGT’s Central Field Office — to the Baseline Road paved trail. Along the way, contestants encountered intellectual as well as physical challenges. OGT tested contestants minds with survival questions about hiking, health, and Florida facts. The Florida Trail Association taught orienteering skills.

Contestants also met physical challenges: eating worms, dancing with alligators, dodging snakes, walking planks, and wading through water filled with “flesh-eating fish.”

After completing each challenge, contestants



earned a bead to add to their survivor bracelet.

At the end of the day, everyone survived, feeling stronger and wiser for having met the Marshall Swamp Survivor challenges.



#### ACQUISITION, from page 2


erty will provide an area of open space that could provide picnic facilities and covered pavilions. Recreational activities planned for the site include hiking, bicycling and horseback riding.

Watch *Connections* for updates on these properties and when they will open to the public. Should you have questions, please contact Cindy Radford at 850-245-2052 or Cynthia.Radford@dep.state.fl.us.

#### HISTORIC SANTOS, from page 1

fans plan to continue the tradition and play ball on the restored diamond.

Nineteen historic markers identify sites where Santos businesses stood before the Barge Canal project displaced the town in the mid 1930s. The Little Chapel Church — its cornerstone laid in 1889 — still stands

in its original site on land donated to the Santos community by Charles H. Little. Though the town’s businesses no longer stand, the diamond dust won’t stay long settled on weekends when the sun shines and every crack of bat against ball honors the memory of those who worked and played on the fields of Florida’s history. 





*The Scavenger Hunt  
of Putnam County  
and the  
Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway*

## WIN!

- Trip to Orlando
- Gift Certificates
- Overnight Getaway

# The HUNT Is On

## Prizes Provided by:

Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Greenways & Trails  
Palatka Daily News  
Fairfield Inn: Orlando/International Cove  
Medieval Times Dinner and Tournament  
Putnam County Chamber of Commerce  
VISIT FLORIDA  
JCPenny  
Best Western  
Musselwhite's Restaurant  
Corner Coffee Shop  
Dunkin' Donuts/Baskin Robbins  
Florida State Parks  
Peabody's Restaurant  
Niko's Pizza  
Walt's Bar-B-Que  
Ferncourt Bed and Breakfast  
San Mateo Seafood Restaurant

## PURSUIING PUTNAM'S TREASURES

To celebrate National Tourism Week (May 10-18, 2003), OGT organized an event to promote tourism opportunities in Putnam County. The purpose of the event is to introduce both residents and visitors to the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway and other cultural and natural recreational sites in the area. The event is designed to increase economic benefits for local businesses as well as increase awareness about the many treasures Putnam County offers. The Scavenger Hunt provides a perfect opportunity to get friends and family together to explore Putnam County.

**BAG A  
"TOURISM  
DOLLAR"  
OR A RECEIPT  
FROM EACH  
SITE VISITED.**

Inspire your creative side by browsing around the Florida School of the Arts Gallery and Theatre, Little Blue House Heritage Museum and Art Center, or the Larimar Arts Center. Get a breath of fresh air and visit Ravine State Gardens, Etoniah Creek State Forest, or Welaka State Forest. The Bronson-Mullholland House, Fort Gates Ferry, Historic Tilghman House, Historic Union Depot and David Browning Railroad Museum, Palatka Historic Museum, Welaka National Fish Hatchery and Aquarium, and the Palatka Murals are also listed.

The scavenger hunt began May 10, the first day of National Tourism Week. Players have until noon on August 2, 2003, to return completed game cards to the Visitor Center at Buckman Lock.

Players 18 and older who complete the scavenger hunt game card are eligible to win prizes. (No purchase is necessary to win.)

Pick up a game card at the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway Visitor Center-East or the Putnam County Chamber of Commerce. Eighteen sites are listed on the game card, with options to visit local businesses of your choice. Bag a "tourism dollar" or a receipt from each site visited. Twelve site visits will earn "hunters" the opportunity to enter grand prize drawings for gift certificates, overnight getaways, and a trip to Orlando.

Have fun while you support your local treasures.

If you have questions, please call Cherie Graves at the Office of Greenways & Trails toll free at 877-822-5208 or the Putnam County Chamber of Commerce at 386-328-1503. 🌞

Cogongrass (*Imperata cylindrica*) is a major invasive species that causes serious problems in a host of natural environments native to Florida. This weedy culprit was accidentally introduced into the United States into Mobile County, Alabama in 1911. Between the 1920s and the 1940s, cogongrass was purposely introduced into Mississippi and Florida for forage and soil stabilization purposes. However, by the late 1940s, cogongrass was recognized as a threat to ecosystems and a call went out to purge its existence.

The threat cogongrass poses is the dense mat it forms over large areas thereby excluding other natural grasses. Additionally, the sharp apical tips of its rhizomes can penetrate and injure roots of other crop species. As a whole, cogongrass makes the establishment of other desirable species difficult because of its ability to extract soil moisture from the shallow layers of the soil. Because it is a hardy grass, it is able to invade areas that will not support the growth of other grasses due to its ability to tolerate a wide range of soil conditions, and ultimately outliving other grasses.

In addition to other invasive grasses, cogongrass is difficult to control because of its tolerance to current chemical

## Field of...

### INNOVATIVE RESEARCH ON THE MARJORIE HARRIS CARR CROSS FLORIDA GREENWAY



*Dr. Chandramohan stands in a field lab of cogongrass.*

herbicides, lack of herbicide selectivity, and ability to outgrow control treatments.

However, researchers from the University of Florida are making headway in the fight against cogongrass through the use of host-specific plant pathogens.

Dr. S. Chandramohan and Dr. R. Charudattan, researchers from the University of Florida, have shown that four indigenous fungal pathogens could be used as bioherbicides to control several weedy grasses that affect agricultural crops and natural areas in Florida including cogongrass, guineagrass, johnsongrass, and torpedograss. Through field trials, this research will test the innovative approach of custom blending of selected weed-

control pathogens to match the weeds to be controlled.

Because of the convenient location, the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway was chosen as a test site for the bioherbicide experiment. A combined area of just over 3000 sq. m have been chosen for the pilot project.

Innovative research such as the Bioherbicide experiment conducted on the Greenway is important because of the benefits, not only to crops like sugarcane and citrus in Florida, but in the reduction of invasive species in environmentally sensitive areas. Working together, the Office of Greenways & Trails and the University of Florida are making strides in helping protect and preserve natural areas.

RESEARCHERS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA ARE MAKING HEADWAY IN THE FIGHT AGAINST COGONGRASS.

"...THE SKY  
WAS FILLED  
WITH SMOKE  
AND THE SUN  
WAS TURNING  
BLOOD RED..."



## Trails in

BY BOB SEARNS

## Troubled

## Times

RE-THINKING THE BENEFITS\*

*Robert M. Searns is the founding owner of Urban Edges, Inc., a planning and development firm based in Denver. He has worked with communities nationwide on greenways, trails, and outdoor resource conservation. He co-authored, with Chuck Flink, "Greenways: A Guide to Planning, Design and Development," and contributed to "Greenways, The Beginning of an International Movement." Bob is also a member of the Board of Directors of American Trails.*

\*Reprinted from *Trail Tracks* with permission from the author and American Trails.

Last May, I was heading home from a conference in downtown Denver. It was late afternoon and as I headed west toward my home, I saw it — a dark roiling plume of smoke rising from the foothills. Large and menacing, it was billowing into what had been a cloudless day. Within minutes, almost the entire southwest quadrant of the sky was filled with smoke and the sun was turning blood red behind it. It was an unnerving sight — the Hayman Fire — the first

of many that would burn across our part of the country this past summer.

Along with the fires, we were also experiencing the worst drought in Colorado's history. The column of smoke reminded me of something that horrified us all the September before. Though I knew we didn't live in a wild fire zone, I instinctively picked up my cell phone and called home. To say that the wave of natural disasters and terrorism has shaken us from compla-

gency would be an understatement. In fact it is scaring many of us to death. Coupled with this are growing economic and fiscal problems — our state budget is now about \$1 billion in the hole.

In the months and years to come, I have no doubt that we will all be tested both as individuals and as people with a passion for trails and greenways. Like the body pumping our adrenaline when threatened — a sense of survival as priority may take over and other pursuits viewed as superfluous may begin to shut down.

These times of challenge can seem daunting, but as a nation, we have gone through crises before and each time we have emerged stronger and better. These are times when we look both within ourselves and to leaders to navigate troubled waters.

As people who care about the American landscape and our relationship with it, it will be a time when we will be called upon to share our talents and to lead. What we do as trail and greenway advocates will not be superfluous or trivial in these times and here is why.

Maintaining the integrity of our values as a nation is a paramount element of weathering tough times. Our landscape and how we treat it has been, and must remain, important. It is more than just aesthetics, because our relationship with our natural resources is a key aspect of this crisis — as the fires out west demonstrated. Our physical, mental and spiritual health is equally important. Trails and greenways are important in this picture.

So where DO we fit in?

Through our work, we need to convey a message. That message needs to be about a sense of stewardship in our wild lands and open spaces (in both city and more remote places). Wildfires and mosquitoes carrying West Nile virus might challenge these values when people feel less safe. We will need to improve our skills, learn more, and help people learn to better live with a troubled landscape that ultimately must sustain us.

We need to explore ways that greenways and trails improve the economic well being of states and communities and how trails and greenways promote better health and fitness. Speaking of fitness, it is ironic that while people fear a rogue virus or an attack alert, they are far more likely to suffer harm and death from lack of physical activity.

We need to convey the message that greenways and trails can promote learning — expanding the idea that wild places and conservation projects near schools offer the best kind of learning opportunities.

We need to convey the message that greenways and trails can improve the way we treat our fellow human beings and ourselves. That is because landscapes are places of healing, places to get back in touch and find spiritual solace. When we do violence to a landscape or deprive people access to the natural outdoors, we do violence to our humanity and to each other.

Trails and greenways are places that help us be in the


moment. They are not strictly utilitarian or perfunctory, they are places of regeneration and peace. Even in a crisis, especially in a crisis, we need that.

As outdoor author Philip Ferranti put it, these places grant us “freedom from the artificial.” Walking on a trail, peddling a bike or paddling a canoe is movement under our own power. Paul Gruchow, author of *Boundary Waters*, says that this transcends time in a way that connects us with those who walked through the woods 10,000 years ago and those who will walk this way 10,000 years from now. More importantly, it connects us with ourselves. Or, as Gruchow says, it takes us beyond the workaday notion of action for perfunctory gain and allows us the “luxury of viewing life as an unfolding of gifts.” These are not superfluous things. Indeed, they go to the heart of what humanity is all about.

In the years that come, trails and greenways may also offer a way to promote a new kind of tourism — service tourism. Imagine physicians, dentists, carpenters, or just folks who want to lend a hand signing up for a trek along a trail through a

developing country performing service along the way. As the baby boomers move into elderhood, not wanting to forsake their acquired skills may be a trend we see emerge.

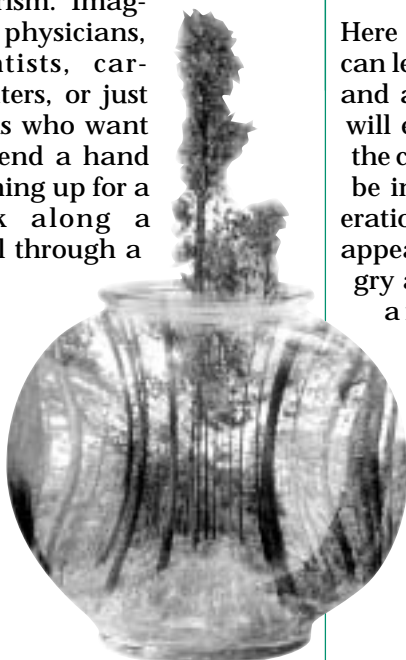
I’ve been told that the Chinese character for crisis also denotes opportunity. Indeed, crisis is rich with opportunity. Sometimes that is what it takes to awaken a people, to address issues and solve problems that have previously been avoided. To navigate these turbulent waters takes strength, wisdom, vision, and a compass of values so that we head in the right direction and we don’t, in the heat of adversity, surrender what we are all about. This is where leadership is so important both to preserve our values and to take on the challenges that must be addressed.

Here is our opportunity: we can leave a landscape legacy and a legacy of values that will endure and help shape the character of what we will be in the decades and generations to come. Indeed, it appears that history is hungry and we are likely in for a rough ride, but as Sandy Dahl, wife of Flight 93 Captain Jason Dahl, said at the Shanksville, PA remembrance this past September, “Adversity does not bring out the best in people, it reveals it.” 



(courtesy Florida Park Service)

“...LANDSCAPES ARE PLACES OF HEALING, PLACES TO GET BACK IN TOUCH AND FIND SPIRITUAL SOLACE”



# Protecting Ecological Greenways

BY JIM WOOD

## A PROGRESS REPORT

Critical Linkages are the most important areas in Florida for protecting large, connected landscapes needed to effectively conserve biodiversity.

These areas are especially important for species that require large areas like the Florida panther and Florida black bear, but they also provide functionally connected landscapes needed to conserve many other species and our water resources as well.

Without protecting these Critical Linkages, we can expect to continue to lose biodiversity through the combined effects of habitat loss, habitat fragmentation, and reduced ecological integrity.

Therefore, the state's Critical Linkages are an essential part of our efforts to protect Florida's natural heritage.

— Dr. Tom Hctor, University of Florida, Geoplan Center, on the importance of Critical Linkages

One of the key components of the legislatively adopted Florida Statewide Implementation Plan (Plan) is the Florida Ecological Greenways Network. The ecological network was delineated through a decision support model, developed by the University of Florida (UF), which identified the most important areas in the state from the perspective of ecological connectivity.

Since the Plan's adoption in 1999, the entire ecological network has been prioritized and in April, 2002, the Florida Greenways and Trails Council adopted the ten most important Critical Linkages (see sidebar and map). Critical Linkages represent those areas identified by UF as most important because of their ability to connect existing ecological hubs and also because of the potential threats of development. These Critical Linkages serve as the primary "road map" to guide efforts to protect Florida's ecological greenways system.

One of the key strategies OGT is pursuing to help protect Critical Linkages is acquisition. To that end, the Office

of Greenways & Trails has partnered with the Conservation Trust for Florida ([www.conserveflorida.org](http://www.conserveflorida.org)) to develop an application for acquisition of lands under Florida Forever, the state's conservation lands program.

Recently submitted, the application encompasses an ecological greenway that runs from Camp Blanding to the Osceola National Forest, one of the ten Critical Linkages.

Importantly, the project boundary also includes a potential long-term connection for the Florida National Scenic Trail, extending south from the Osceola National Forest to the Lake City to Lake Butler Trail, a project which is currently in negotiation under the Greenways and Trails Acquisition Program.

In addition to this effort, Tom Hctor with UF, through the support of OGT, is currently working with Hernando County to attempt to close two gaps in the Chassahowitzka-Annutteliga Hammock-Green Swamp Critical Linkage. The first gap is from the eastern end of the Annutteliga Hammock Florida Forever Project to the Croom Tract of the With-

see CRITICAL LINKAGES, page 9

- 
- 1 Eglin-Blackwater
  - 2 Eglin-Ecofina Creek
  - 3 Camp Blanding-Osceola NF
  - 4 Ocala NF-Camp Blanding
  - 5 Ocala NF-Volusia
  - 6 Chassahowitzka-Annutteliga Hammock-Green Swamp
  - 7 Avon Park-Green Swamp
  - 8 Three Lakes-Tosohatchee
  - 9 Highlands Hammock-Avon Creek
  - 10 Big Cypress-Fisheating Creek



# Two New National Recreation Trails Designated in Florida

On June 5, 2003, Secretary of the Interior Gale A. Norton announced the designation of 23 recreation trails in 12 states as part of the National Recreation Trails System. National Recreation Trails is an honor given to existing trails that have been nominated and meet the requirements for connecting people to local resources and improving quality of life.

In Florida, two trails received this honor. The 47-mile multi-use **Fred Marquis Pinellas Trail** is considered

one of the busiest trails in the nation. The trail traverses the entire western length of Pinellas County linking a number of cities and providing a greenway corridor for both residents and urban wildlife. This trail plays a significant role in assisting with downtown redevelopment efforts with its high levels of recreational use, natural features, and links to area parks.



such as hiking and wildlife viewing near downtown St. Cloud.

Applicants requesting funds through the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) receive extra points when their project involves a trail that has been designated as a National Recreational Trail or as part of the Florida statewide greenways and trail system. RTP grants of \$250,000 can be awarded — all the more reason for communities to pursue both of these designations. 🐦

**The Peghorn Nature Park Trails** features a 58-acre park and trail system that gets its name from the distinctive cattle that were raised in the areas. The park is located on a wetland site and hosts a variety of native birds and wildlife, as well as migratory birds during the winter. In addition to its many natural and historic features, the trail allows for recreational activities

## CRITICAL LINKAGES, from page 8

lacoocchee State Forest. The second runs from the Croom Tract to the Green Swamp via the Little Withlacoocchee River. Recently featured in the *St. Petersburg Times*, this effort will potentially draw from local as well as state level funding to close these gaps and protect important wildlife habitat connections.

OGT and UF are also currently involved in other efforts related to the Ocala National Forest-Volusia, Avon Park-Green Swamp, and Eglin-Econfina Creek critical linkages.

For more information regarding ongoing efforts to protect Critical Linkages, please contact Jim Wood with the Office of Greenways & Trails at 850-245-2052 or Dr. Tom Hoctor with the University of Florida at 352-392-5037. 📧

## September

September 12  
FRDAP application deadline.  
[dep.state.fl.us/parks/bdrs/](http://dep.state.fl.us/parks/bdrs/)

## October

Entire Month  
Greenways & Trails Month  
[FloridaGreenwaysAndTrails.com](http://FloridaGreenwaysAndTrails.com)

### October 25

NW Florida Workshop #1  
“OGT Partners with the National Park Service to host workshop #1 to promote and develop greenways and trails in Northwest Florida.”  
Wakulla, FL  
Wakulla Springs State Park  
Contact: Heather Pence  
(850) 245-2052

## November

November 8  
NW Florida Workshop #2  
“OGT Partners with the National Park Service to host workshop #2 to promote and develop greenways and trails in Northwest Florida.”  
Holt, FL  
Blackwater River State Forest  
Contact: Heather Pence  
(850) 245-2052

## December

December 6 – 9  
National Public Land Acquisition & Management Conference  
Amelia Island, FL  
[dep.state.fl.us/lands/conference/](http://dep.state.fl.us/lands/conference/)

## The National “Bikefest Rally” will take place in Madison County, Florida October 17-19, 2003.

The Rally, co-sponsored by Bike Florida and the League of American Bicyclists, consists of varied length on-road and off-road rides in and around the beautiful, rolling countryside of Madison, Florida.

Several workshops on trails, greenways, and the economic impact of eco-tourism will be featured in conjunction with the Rally, including a “Safeways/SafePaths to School” workshop to be held on October 16 from 12:00-5:00 p.m.

Tool kits to assist implementing a “safe ways to school” program will be distributed and funding sources will be discussed.

For information on the Rally and workshops, please contact Laura Hallam at [Hallamlt@aol.com](mailto:Hallamlt@aol.com) or [Lyndybyke@aol.com](mailto:Lyndybyke@aol.com) or visit [www.bikeflorida.org](http://www.bikeflorida.org).



## GO FISH!

Nearly 200 kids registered for the Fourth Annual Kids Fishing Day at Inglis Island on Saturday, May 31. The kids brought parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends for a day of fun and excitement as youngsters reeled in catches weighing from 1 ounce to 4.5 pounds. The catch and release event is free, with food, drinks, rods and reels, bait, and tackle provided by over 80 local sponsors. "We had fun today, didn't we?" was the rhetorical question of the day as children held a grandparent's hand, or skipped alongside their parents at the end of a golden day.



## Water Trails



## History on Display

BY MARY SPIVEY

On July 1, 2002, the Office of Greenways & Trails was awarded a \$35,000 historical museum grant from the

Florida Department of State's Division of Historical Resources. The grant money, along with matching funds

from DEP, was used to create historical and cultural exhibits in the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway Visitors Center-East located at the Buckman Lock complex in Palatka.

Hughes-Bowman Design Group, Inc. has done an excellent job designing displays that examine the political and cultural influence of the barge canal project as well as several hands-on activities.

See Florida's history on display at the Visitors Center seven days a week from 8 AM-5 PM. For further information, please call 386-312-2273. 🏠



Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway Visitors Center-East, Buckman Lock complex, Palatka.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

PLACE  
FIRST CLASS  
POSTAGE  
HERE

Department of Environmental Protection  
**OFFICE OF GREENWAYS & TRAILS**  
3900 Commonwealth Blvd., MS 795  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

ATTENTION: JULIE ROBERTS

**W i n n i n g • W e b s i t e**

See the winning trail guide at [FloridaGreenwaysAndTrails.com](http://FloridaGreenwaysAndTrails.com) ➤



Once again, Florida's dedication to excellence has won national recognition — this time, in the cyber arena. American Trails, the national non-profit organization devoted to creating a national trails infrastructure, held a contest to seek out and recognize some of the best websites promoting trails and greenways.

American Trails received 88 nominations for the 2003 American Trails Website Contest. OGT's online trail guide won first place in the State/Provincial Trails Agency category.

Stay connected! OGT is required by law to purge our mailing list periodically. Subscribers who do not request to stay on our mailing list must be removed. Please take a moment to keep your **Connections** coming.

**Do you wish to remain on our mailing list?**  YES  NO

*If yes, please enter address and affiliation information so that we can update our database. (Please print legibly.)*



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*Those who enter an email address will automatically receive electronic version unless otherwise requested.*

**Interest:**  Hiking  Biking  Paddling  Equestrian  Conservation

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