



Winter / Spring 2007

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FUN FACT

- Early pioneers first selected in Central Florida back in the 1800's.
- Pioneers were drawn to the splendor of Shingle Creek, which ran along the west side of Kissimmee
- Pioneers used Shingle Creek for fishing, trapping and logging cypress trees.
- Shingle Creek got it's name from the pioneers. They would cut Cypress logs and float them on the Creek to a nearby mill where they were made into shingles for their homes.

- Rosen Shingle Creek Resort Website



"Shingle Creek"



Osceola County Parks & Recreation - Greenways & Trails Publication

WELCOME to our new Greenways & Trails newsletter, the "Trails & Tales". Distribution 3 times a year, with a winter issue, a spring-summer issue plus a fall issue. Topics will be educational and include updates on the various on-going projects, ranging from parks, trails, waterways and current events. The newsletter will be distributed at various locations and a down-loadable version on www.osceola.org.

FEATURE

FLORIDA FOREVER RESOLUTION

The Osceola County Board of County Commissioners unanimously passed a resolution at their January 22nd, 2007 Board meeting supporting the continued funding of the State of Florida's "Florida Forever Program". Florida Forever is the premier land preservation and community park program, preserving over one million acres since 1990.

The program is scheduled to sunset in 2010, however,

land preservation needs continue to be a priority with Florida's citizens as growth and urban sprawl threaten wildlife habitat, water resources our agricultural industry along with Florida's long term sustainable future.

The Florida Forever Program through Florida Communities Trust has provided Osceola County acquisition funding for over 2,800 acres of natural and environmentally sensitive lands including

Lake Lizzie Nature Preserve, Shingle Creek Nature Preserve, Split Oak Nature Preserve, Makinson Island Nature Preserve and Paradise Island.

For additional information on this program, the resolution and County Parks & Preserves, please contact the Osceola County Parks & Recreation Department at 407-343-7173.

NEWS FLASH

SHINGLE CREEK PRESERVE CONTINUES TO GROW!

A "group effort" truly describes the Shingle Creek Preserve Regional Park & Acquisition project. The group includes the Osceola County's Environmental Lands Conservation Program; City of Kissimmee; South FL Water Management District; FL Communities Trust along with

assistance from the Trust for Public Lands (TPL).

The goal of the group is to create a 33-mile recreational trail along Shingle Creek Preserve, which extends from Orange County to Lake Tohopekaliga in Kissimmee.

The newest purchases are the "Ruba Tract", a 16.14 acres parcel along Shingle Creek Preserve, located on the corner of US Hwy 192 & Yates Rd in Kissimmee and

the Randy Yates Property 5.782 acres located on the west side of the Creek off of Yates Road.

Both of these properties play a key role in development of the Shingle Creek Preserve, which will ultimately offer natural land and waterway corridor to the public for historical and cultural preservation and passive recreation, like hiking, fishing, canoeing and kayaking.

NATURE NOTE

- Feb - May bloomers with pink flowers include Rusty Lyonia, Shining Blueberry, High Bush Blueberry. Yellow flowered tickseed is blooming in moist areas.
- White flowering native Plums bloom before leaves develop.
- Purple fruits of Beautyberry are still on long stems while new pink flowers form in the spring for next fall's crop of berries.
- Cypress trees, oaks and pines produce powdery pollen that is important for producing seeds later in the year.

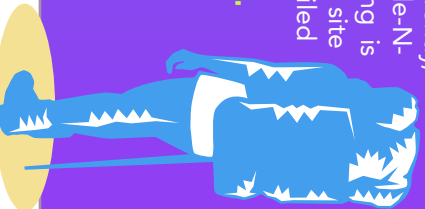
- Eleanor Foerster



TRAIL TALK

Right now is the height of the hiking season in Florida and a great time to get out on Osceola's trails. February, which is Florida Hiking Trails Month, should add that extra incentive to get you out and about on our region's trail systems. Besides the many opportunities available within the county and city, be sure to experience the special wilderness footpath that wanders through the entire county, called the Florida National Scenic Trail.

This national trail has hiking opportunities in Bull Creek, Triple-N-Ranch, Three Lakes, and Prairie Lakes conservation areas managed by Florida's Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) but remember to check the hunting schedule with FWC. Currently, Prairie Lakes and to some extent Triple-N-Ranch offer the best hiking as hunting is restricted there. The Florida Trail web site is www.floridatrail.org for more detailed information.



WATER WISE

BLUE HORIZONS: FORMING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Osceola County Board of County Commissioners has created the Lakes Management Advisory Committee (LMAC), an advisory committee organized to provide the citizens of Osceola County with representation to the Board of County Commissioners about various issues concerning the county's lakes, ponds, and riverine systems.

The first meeting will be Thursday, April 12, 2007 at 5:30 p.m. in room # 4727 of the Osceola County Administration Building, located at 1 Courthouse Square in Kissimmee. All meetings will be on the 2nd Thursday of each month and the public is encouraged to attend. For more information, contact Kimberly Lawrence, Lakes Management Specialist, at 407-343-2600.



"Paddling on Shingle Creek"

Schedule of events: The first lake clean up volunteer opportunity will be at 8:00 am on April 21st for East Lake, Boggy Creek, Ajay, C-31 Canal and Runnymede. Watch the newspapers for a lake clean up in May for the Alligator Chain of Lakes. For more details or schedule your own clean up event call 407-343-6599.

VOLUNTEERING

EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

Back in 1970 a Wisconsin's Senator, Gaylord Nelson thought it would be good to set aside a day, April 22 to sit down & seriously discuss environmental problems. Here we are 37 years later doing more than just discussing, we are actively working towards "Keeping Osceola Beautiful!"



Anyone who has ever volunteered before knows about the secret benefit: how good it makes you feel at the end of the day! Here's the perfect opportunity to spend time out in the great outdoors celebrating nature and investing in the future, Keeping Osceola Beautiful!

For individual and group volunteer sign-up, booth opportunities and general event information contact the Osceola County Parks & Recreation Department at 407-343-7173 or visit Osceola.org.

FEATUR
ED
EVENTS

Florida Trail Association

Annual Conference

■ **Who:** The Florida Trail Association's Annual Conference

■ **What:** Open to the public. Attendees will learn about hiking and other outdoor activities and conservation.

■ **When & Where:** 2 PM Friday, March 16 through noon, Sunday, March 18 at the Where: Florida Elks Youth Camp, Umatilla, FL

■ **Why:** Two days of workshops, demonstrations, seminars, speakers, field trips, and other activities. Featured speakers will be Mike DeWitt, Tampa Tribune journalist, who is currently hiking the entire National Scenic Trail; Fran Mainella, recently retired Director of the National Park Service; outdoor authors Johnny Molloy, and Sue & Rich Freeman; and filmmaker Robert Seidler

■ **How:** Contact: FTA office, 1-877-HIKE-FLA, or see the FTA web site www.florida-trail.org for more information.

Step Up, Osceola Event

■ **Who:** The Step Up, Osceola, apart of the Step Up, Florida-On Our Way to Healthy Living, is partnering with the Festival of Rhythm and Blues.

■ **When & Where:** February 25, 2007, 11:00 am – 5:00 pm at the Kissimmee Lakefront Park in Downtown Kissimmee

■ **Why:** The "Step Up, Florida-On Our Way to Healthy Living" is a statewide promotional campaign issued by the Florida Department of Health, which promotes physical activity and healthy lifestyles for Floridians of all abilities. Visit

RESOURCES

ASSOCIATION	WEBSITES	PHONE #
American Trails	AmericanTrails.org	(352) 392-8093
Bike Florida	bikeflorida.org	(407) 518-2501
City of Kissimmee Parks & Rec	kissimmeeparksandrec.com	(407) 957-7243
City of St. Cloud Parks & Rec	stcloud.org	(407) 935-0002
Disney Wilderness Preserve	nature.org	
FL Bicycle Association	floridabicycle.org	
FL Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission	floridaconservation.org	
FL Freewheelers	floridafreewheelers.com	(407) 788-BIKE
FL Office of Greenways & Trails	dep.state.fl.us/gwt/	(352) 236-7143
FL Professional Paddlesports	paddleflausa.com	
FL State Parks	floridastateparks.org	(850) 245-2157
FL Trail Association	floridatrail.org	
Forever Florida / Crescent J Ranch	Floridacosafaris.com	(407)957-9794
Kissimmee Convention & Visitors Bureau	floridakiss.com	(407) 847-5000
Kissimmee Valley Audubon Society	kissimmeeaudubon.com/	
Osceola County Parks & Rec	osceola.org	(407) 343-7173
Sunshine State Horse Council	sshc.org	(813) 651-5953
University of FL		
Osceola Co. Exten Ser	osceola.ifas.ufl.edu	(321) 697-3000
Florida Division of Forestry	fl-dof.com	
Off Road Biking in Florida	gorp.away.com/gorp/location/fl/biking/bik_off	

www.stepupflorida.org for more details.

■ **How:** To register, for both individual and company participation, please contact Candice Roberson by Feb 16, 2007 at 407-343-2076 or e-mail to Candice_roberson@doh.state.fl.us.

Florida Master Naturalist

Freshwater Uplands

Training

■ **Who:** The University of Florida IFAS Extension is offering this 40-hour environmental educational opportunity for Florida Master Naturalist Freshwater Uplands Training.

■ **When & Where:** April 18, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm, Ext. Services - Osceola Heritage Park
 April 25, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm, School District Environ Study Center
 May 2, 8:30 am –

4:30 pm, Kenansville Community Center

May 9, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm, Ext. Services - Osceola Heritage Park

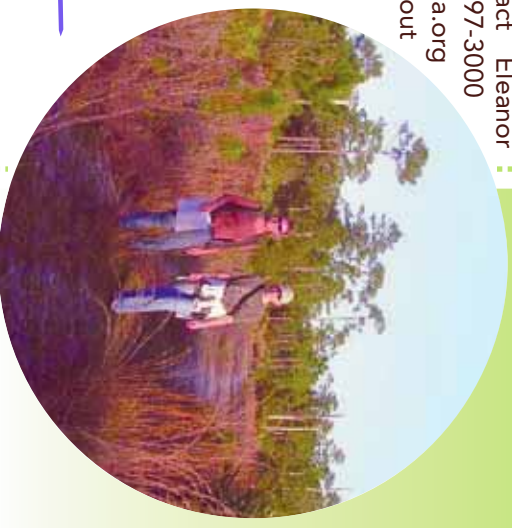
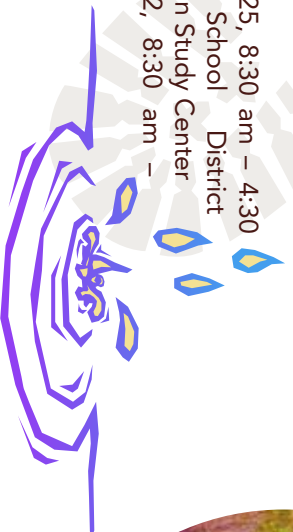
May 16, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm, Lake Lizzie Preserve
 May 23, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm, Ext. Services - Osceola Heritage Park

■ **Why:** This 6-day educational program is designed to educate attendees about Florida's natural environment.

■ **How:** Contact Eleanor Foerste at 321-697-3000 or efoe@osceola.org to inquire about registering.

TRAIL TIP

"Take nothing but pictures, leave nothing but footprints."



"Hikers on Lake Lizzie Trail"

T R A I L T I P

- Take a small plastic bag with you. Use it to sit on or hold litter you pick up along the trail.
 - Always take drinking water with you and tell someone else where you will be using trails.
- Eleanor Foerste

**E V E N T
W A T C H**



Keep your eyes open for the Alligator Chain of Lakes Clean up. The date is set for May 5th, and the areas will include Alligator Lake, Center, Coon, Trout, and Lizzie. For details please check out the ALCHA website at www.alcha.org or contact Mark Daniel at mdaniel@totalpcs.net or call 407-908-6611.

**C O M I N G I N
M A Y I S S U E**

- First "Feet"ured Trail including map
- Update on Shingle Creek to the Master Plan
- Land Conservation Advisory Board's role



C O N T R I B U T O R S

Kp Clements
Pete Durnell
Eleanor Foerste
Debbie Geer
Kimberly Lawrence
Randy Mathews
Cheryl McQuiston
Bob Mindick
Julia Recker
Candice Roberson

C A L E N D A R

FEBRUARY

- 20 Greenways & Trails Meeting** - Extension Services @ OHP, 10:30 AM, 407-846-4181
 - 25 Step Up Osceola**, Part of Step Up, Florida On Our Way to Healthy Living! Kissimmee Lakelront Park, in Downtown Kissimmee, 11:00am - 5:00pm, Candice Roberson, 407-343-2076, candiceroberson@doh.state.fl.us. Visit stepupflorida.org for more details.
 - 26 Woods Walk** - The Woods Walk is offered through the U of F Extension Services. Makinson Island, 8:30am meet at Kissimmee Lakelront Park Boat Ramp, Cindy at 321-697-3000 or crut@osceola.org. Registration is Required, Open to the Public.
- Tues & Thurs SSCP Evening Run/Walk** - St. Cloud Pavement Pounders has over 50 members. O'Doherty's Irish Pub downtown St. Cloud. Mike Snyder @ 407-791-3296 or mclatton525@aol.com. For more details visit StCloudPavementPounders.com.

MARCH

- 6 LCAB Advisory Board Meetings** - Land Conservation Advisory Board, Admin Building, 1 Court House Sq, 4th Floor, Cont #4727, 5:30 PM, 407-962-1311, Open to the Public.
 - 7 Woods Walk** - The Woods Walk is offered through the U of F Extension Services. Lake Lizzie North Loop, 8:30am at Tractor Supply or North Entrance at 9am Registration is Required. Call Cindy at 321-697-3000 or crut@osceola.org. Open to the Public.
 - 13 Woods Walk** - The Woods Walk is offered through the U of F Extension Services. Three Lakes Wildlife Mang Area, 8:30am at Tractor Supply or 9am at Entrance off Canoe Creek Road. Registration is Required. Call Cindy at 321-697-3000 or crut@osceola.org. Open to the Public.
 - FL Trail Assoc Annual Conference** - Two-Days of activities including featured speakers, field trips and demonstrations. FL Elks Youth Camp, Unatilla, FL, 2 pm Fri - Noon Sun, FTA Office at 1-877-HIKE-FLA or visit floridatrail.org.
 - 20 Greenways & Trails Meeting** - Extension Services @ OHP, 10:30 AM, 407-846-4181.
- Tues & Thurs SSCP Evening Run/Walk** - St. Cloud Pavement Pounders. O'Doherty's Irish Pub downtown St. Cloud, 6:15 Run and 6:30 Walk, Mike Snyder @ 407-791-3296 or mclatton525@aol.com. For more details visit StCloudPavementPounders.com

APRIL

- 3 LCAB Advisory Board Meetings** - Land Conservation Advisory Board, Admin Building, 1 Court House Sq, 4th Floor, Cont #4727, 5:30 PM, 407-962-1311, Open to the Public.
 - 12 Lakes Management Advisory Committee (LMAC)** - Osc. Co. Admin Building Romm #4727, 5:30 PM, Kimberly Lawrence, 407-343-2600, All meetings are the 2nd Thurs. of each month & open to the public.
 - 17 Greenways & Trails Meeting** - Extension Services @ OHP, 10:30 AM, 407-846-4181.
 - 18 FL Master Naturalist Freshwater Uplands Training Day 1** - Continued Education offered through the U of F Extension Services, @ OHP, 8:30 - 4:30pm, Eleanor Foerste at 321-697-3000 or efoe@osceola.org. Visit <http://masternaturalist.org> for more details. Class meets April 18, 25 May 2, 9, 16 & 23, and registration fee applies.
- Tues & Thurs SSCP Evening Run/Walk** - St. Cloud Pavement Pounders. O'Doherty's Irish Pub downtown St. Cloud, 6:15 Run and 6:30 Walk, Mike Snyder @ 407-791-3296 or mclatton525@aol.com. Visit StCloudPavementPounders.com.
- Earth Day** - Various Volunteer Opportunities, E. Lake, Boggy Creek, AJay, C-31 Canal, Runnymede, 8:00:00 AM - Noon, Osceola County Parks & Rec at 407-343-7173, For more details visit Osceola.org.

MAY

- 1 LCAB Advisory Board Meetings** - Land Conservation Advisory Board, Admin Building, 1 Court House Sq, 4th Floor, Cont #4727, 5:30 PM, 407-962-1311, Open to the Public.
 - 5 March of Dimes Walk America** - Fund Raiser for the March of Dimes with a three mile walk, Kissimmee Lakelront Park, 7am- Jenni Ishman 407-599-5077 ext. 38 or e-mail jishman@marchofdimes.com. Registration at 7am, Walk begins at 8am.
 - 10 Lakes Management Advisory Committee (LMAC)** - Osc. Co. Admin Building Romm #4727, 5:30 PM, Kimberly Lawrence, 407-343-2600, All meetings are the 2nd Thurs. of each month & open to the public.
 - 15 Greenways & Trails Meeting** - Extension Services @ OHP, 10:30 AM, 407-846-4181.
- Tues & Thurs SSCP Evening Run/Walk** - St. Cloud Pavement Pounders. O'Doherty's Irish Pub downtown St. Cloud, 6:15 Run and 6:30 Walk, Mike Snyder @ 407-791-3296 or mclatton525@aol.com. For more details visit StCloudPavementPounders.com.