



FROGG

Friends of the River of Grass Greenway

Volume II Issue 1

website: www.evergladesROGG.org

ROGG, P O Box 5031, Everglades City, FL, 34139

email: info@evergladesROGG.org

Fall 2016

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



**4th Annual Share the Road
Celebration of Cycling
October 28-29 - Gainesville**

Check Out the FBA Autumn Triple Play of
Education and Advocacy Events



**Florida Bicycle Best
Practices Workshop
November 19 - Clermont**

SWAMP HERITAGE FESTIVAL

**Big Cypress Swamp
Welcome Center
December 3, 2016**

Save the Date

April 2, 2017

**10th Annual
Everglades Bicycle Ride**

Celebrating our 1st Year of Accomplishments

- 1) Established a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization October 1, 2015.
- 2) Elected a Board of Directors representing three south Florida counties.
- 3) Membership includes individuals from Canada, five states outside of Florida, eight counties within the state and five Lifetime Members.
- 4) Sponsored the annual Everglades Bike Ride on March 13, 2016.
- 5) Remodeled FROGG website (www.evergladesROGG.org).
- 6) Designed a new brochure listing existing amenities from Naples to Miami.
- 7) Coordinated with the FDOT regarding road improvements along the US41 corridor for pedestrians and bicyclists for safety and to share the road.
- 8) Participated in 6 events throughout south Florida.
- 9) Published 4 quarterly newsletters.
- 10) Presentations of ROGG to local / regional organizations / county officials.
- 11) Advocate Member of the Florida Bicycle Association.

Welcome New FROGG Board Member

Scott Shook, a resident of Marco Island, has been a member of the City's ad-hoc Bike Pathways Committee since its inception in 2006. He initiated and organized the first Tour de Marco bicycle tour in 2011 and contributed heavily to the establishment of the Tour de Marco Annual event (7 years this year). A graduate of the University of Florida with a Bachelor of Science degree in Advertising, Scott has authored two books, *Massillon Memories* (1998) and *A Century of Heroes* (2010). To promote bicycling in Marco, in 2009 he introduced a column titled *Island Pedaler* for the Marco Sun Times in addition to a tennis instructional column for The Marco Island Eagle for 7 years. Scott enjoys wildlife and nature photography and his bicycle commute to work (10 miles daily) at The Charter Club of Marco Beach where he has been employed for 34 years, beginning as the recreation director in 1982 and now for the past 11 years as the Assistant Resort Manager. Scott has extensive bicycle touring experience, including many 100-mile single day cycling events. We welcome Scott to our FROGG Board.



If you are interested in becoming a Board member of the Friends of the River of Grass Greenway, please contact Patty at (239) 695-2397, email your résumé to info@evergladesROGG.org or send to FROGG, P.O. Box 5031, Everglades City, FL 34139.

ROGG's Mission Statement: The River of Grass Greenway is a safe, non-motorized transportation and recreation corridor across the Everglades between Naples and Miami that provides opportunities for education, stewardship, and preservation of the environmental, historic, and cultural assets of this unique area.



Where did ROGG get its logo and FROGG get its mascot?

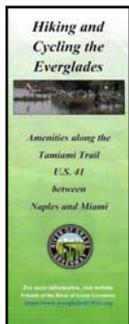
When the Friends group was organized as a committee by the Naples Pathways Coalition many years ago, Maureen Bonness (one of the founders of FROGG) suggested we develop a logo. With the assistance of one of our earliest supporters, the ROGG logo (shown on the left) was created by Jorge Borrelli of Borrelli & Partners, Inc. Jorge is an avid trail user and was involved with the planning, design and construction of other world-class trails such as the Florida Keys Overseas Heritage Trail from Key Largo to Key West, the Legacy Trail from

Sarasota to Venice and the NE Collier County Trail. Jorge stated that he sees ROGG as an “opportunity for increased appreciation of the world-renowned Everglades ecosystem, as well as a healthy recreation/transportation option within a pristine environment.”

Our mascot, the blue frog on a bicycle (on the right), was designed by Jürg (George) Furrer from Switzerland. He had been a frequent visitor to this area since 1983 and loved spending hours out on a boat or hiking through the Everglades, especially the Fakahatchee. The Everglades had become more and more his home away from home. In 2005 he was appointed “honorary citizen” of Everglades City. Sadly, Jürg passed away in May of 2014, but he left us a legacy with his design of the frog on the bike. He was a great supporter of our idea for a non-motorized pathway separated from traffic along US41. He understood the importance of educating more visitors about the wonders of our area and advocated for the environment and stewardship.



So, both our logo and our mascot are by Georges (Jorge and Jürg) ... THANKS to the Georges!



Distribution of New Map/Brochure

The new “Hiking and Cycling the Everglades: Amenities along the Tamiami Trail” brochure has been printed and distributed to businesses all along the Tamiami Trail from Naples to Miami as well as Chamber of Commerce Visitor Centers in Naples, Marco Island and the Everglades Area. It is also available online on our website www.evergladesROGG.org. This light-weight glossy brochure includes a map which provides both hikers and cyclists the mileage between various sites and facilities from Naples to Miami, a valuable source of information regarding accommodations, food, water, and sightseeing opportunities. FROGG developed this map for the many visitors who enjoy coming to our area for the day or week and for our many residents who hike and cycle this corridor. Eventually, we hope there will be a separated pathway alongside the Tamiami Trail to provide safety as well as environmental education of this area.

News Along the Trail ...

Florida Department of Transportation Pathway Projects

WEST end – ROGG-far-west ... The 2.3 mile separated multi-use pathway from 6L Farm Road to San Marco Road (CR92), just west of Collier Seminole State Park is near completion. There is a jog back onto US41 at the Alexander-Cameron Canal bridge so be cautious about sharing the road. The narrow bridges all along this corridor are a challenge. FROGG has been communicating with the FDOT District 1 regarding safety improvements and following up on our request, there will be two “Share the Road” signs, one at the intersection of US41 and SR29 (entrance to Everglades City) for motorists driving west and one near Collier Seminole State Park for those heading east. Hopefully, these signs will remind drivers that both cyclists and pedestrians may be on the road, especially around the narrow bridges.



EAST end - Krome Avenue Project ... According to the FDOT District 6, the construction work for widening Krome Avenue south of US41 to 136th Street will continue through 2017 (other segments further south are also planned). For anyone thinking of cycling this route to reach Homestead/the Keys, there is a website with complete information which provides details about the projects being developed and implemented to enhance safety and mobility along this important corridor. When completed there will be a separated multi-use pathway along Krome Avenue south of US41. The FDOT plans to expand Krome Avenue from two to four lanes with a 40-foot median. The 36-mile corridor has been divided into 12 separate projects. The first construction project began in February 2015. Please visit the website <http://www.fdotmiamidade.com/krome> for more information and to view the segments under construction, time frame outlined in the map shown on the left.

FROGG Board Members: Dayna Fendrick (Naples) Patty Huff (Everglades City) Scott Shook (Marco Island)
Oscar Rattenborg (Ft. Myers) Judy Waldman (Homestead)

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Florida Bicycle Association supports



The State of Florida, residents and visitors are joining together to drive down bicycle and pedestrian fatalities on our roads. Florida currently ranks highest in the nation for bicyclist fatalities. Efforts are being made across the state to improve the situation, and in response to those efforts we are seeing fatality trends start to level out. Florida Bicycle Association has spent many years working with our state agencies, local counties, municipalities and law enforcement to educate and promote safety, lifestyle and tourism as it pertains to bicycles. Every fatality is someone's family member, co-worker, or friend. And every one of those lives count. Visit website:

<http://floridabicycle.org/>

Click here to sign the petition today!

Swamp Heritage Festival December 3, 10:30 am–4 pm Big Cypress Swamp Welcome Center – Ochopee

10:30 am – 4:00 pm

This festival provides a venue for individuals and groups with a deep connection to the Big Cypress Swamp an opportunity to share stories of the past and hopes for the future related to this special place.

Stop by the FROGG booth to learn more about our proposed pathway. Music will be provided by Florida's original songwriter J Robert who will entertain with fiddle and guitar; he celebrates land preservation and world humanity efforts with song and story. Visit website

<https://www.nps.gov/bicy/planyourvisit/swampheritagefestival.htm>

The Friends of the River of Grass Greenway is an Advocate Member of the Florida Bicycle Association and a member of the League of American Bicyclists

Share the Road Celebration of Cycling October 28-29, Gainesville

*Cycling is the New Golf:
Will Florida be a Major
Destination for Cycle Tourism?*

8:00 am - 2:30 pm

Presented by Bike Florida

Speakers and Panelists

Jim Sayer, Executive Director
Adventure Cycling
*Global Bicycle Tourism On The Rise.
What Can Florida Do?*

Sara Petyk, Owner, Bike the GAP
*What Florida can learn from the
success of the Great Allegheny Passage*

Nelson Mongiovi, Director of
Marketing Operations, Visit Florida
*Leveraging Visit Florida's Global
Reach for Cycle Tourism.*

Herb Hiller, Travel writer, father of
Florida cycle tourism

*Connecting Cycling to Florida's
Natural, Historical and Cultural Assets*

2016 Share the Road Awards

12:00-1:30 pm

Trails and Streets Bicycle Summit

2:30 – 4:30 pm

Discussions by Jacksonville
Transportation Authority, Active Streets
Alliance of Gainesville, Joyride Bicycle
Collective of Tallahassee, SUN Trail
and a demonstration of solar powered
in-ground reflectors from Lux Solar.
Presented by Florida Bicycle Assoc.

Share The Road Memorial Ride will
follow this event on Sat, Oct. 29.

For more information, visit website:
<http://www.sharetheroad.org/celebration-of-cycling-2016/>

Florida Bicycle Best Practices Workshop

November 19, Clermont

Presented by FBA in conjunction
with the Florida Freewheelers 37th
Annual Horrible Hundred.

Learn or share ideas with other
bicycle enthusiasts and be part of
the solution for Florida bicycling
concerns. The workshop is FREE;
register in advance to be eligible for
a complimentary entry to the
Horrible Hundred on November 20.
<https://floridabicycle.wufoo.com/forms/z1vit9ac03zx5av/>

10th Annual Everglades Ride April 2, 2017

Save the Date!! Sign up for the 16,
27 (off-road) or 62-mile course.

To register and for more
information, visit Race Roster at
<https://raceroster.com/events/2017/9232/everglades-bike-ride>



Naples Velo

Naples Velo Bicycle
Club is a not-for-profit
organization promoting cycling at
all skill levels and dedicated to
improving cycling safety and
awareness in southwest Florida. NV
promotes cycling activities,
develops and conducts educational
programs on cycling safety and
skills, enhances cycling awareness
through advertising and community
events and supports the enactment
of cycling safety laws, amateur
cycling racing, and other charitable
organizations with a common
mission. **HELP MAKE SAFETY A
PRIORITY!** Visit website:

<http://naplesvelo.ning.com/>

To Sign Up Today

Naples Velo

Group Ride Safety

Petition

ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE

Florida AAA has expanded its
roadside assistance coverage for all
membership levels to include your
bicycle. So if your bike breaks
down, just call AAA and a service
vehicle will be sent to pick you up
and transport you and your bike to
wherever you need to go - your car,
a bike shop, home. The distance
covered depends on your
membership level and some
restrictions apply. AAA roadside
assistance includes all types of bikes
- they just need to be accessible
from a road or parking lot.

Collier-Seminole State Park

The time has come for the grand re-opening of the Collier-Seminole State Park campground. Several renovations have been completed to improve your camping experience. A brand new, centrally located bathhouse was built to replace the old one in the campground. All new water lines and electric lines/pedestals have been installed throughout the RV loop and all RV sites now have 20/30/50 AMP coverage. A new road was painted and paved, railings were installed between sites to delineate site boundaries, all RV sites were given gravel pads, some vegetation was cleared to increase access for all, some campsites were removed to avoid campground congestion, and aesthetically pleasing rocks were added to all of the RV sites with the campsite numbers.

A lot of time and effort was devoted to this major renovation project through many different staff members, volunteers, agencies, and private organizations. So thank you to everyone who was involved in some way - especially, you the camper. Thank you for your continued patience and dedication to our park. The campground is now completely open for walk-ins and reservations.

To make a reservation, please visit Reserve America at reserveamerica.com or contact them at 1-800-326-3521. Thanks, and we look forward to seeing everyone here really soon.

submitted by Darren L. Flickinger, CPRP, Park Services Specialist, Collier-Seminole State Park



Adventure Cycling “Bike Your Park Day” - September 24

by Patty Huff



To commemorate “Bike Your Park Day” members of FROGG joined thousands around the country to cycle to one of our favorite parks - Fakahatchee Strand Preserve, also known as the “Amazon of North America” and receiving the 2016 Trip Advisor Certificate of Excellence award. Fakahatchee is an excellent place to hike or bike; as you leave the paved section of Janes Scenic Drive, you cycle alongside the prairie as you head into the area where you experience the only place in the world where bald cypress trees and groves of royal palms share the forest canopy.

At the end of September the recent rains left the road with many potholes, but on a bike this is not a problem; just a little obstacle course on our way up to Gate 12 (East Main tram) where we made the decision to continue on to the Fakahatchee Hilton despite the overgrown grass in the median and muddy side lanes; it was a challenge but worth the ride! A lot of fun to get out and explore our parks in our own back yard! Be sure to stop by the Ranger Visitor Center to donate your \$2/bike entrance fee. Enjoy!! For more information about Janes Scenic, visit <http://orchidswamp.org/plan-your-visit/janes-scenic-drive/>.



Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving. Albert Einstein

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