



# FROGG

## Friends of the River of Grass Greenway



Volume III Issue 3  
website: [www.evergladesROGG.org](http://www.evergladesROGG.org)

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Spring 2018



### Spring Meeting in Naples, Florida

On Saturday, **April 21**, FBA will hold its quarterly meeting in Naples with presentations by local bicycle advocates and by FBA's Executive Director Becky Afonso. The afternoon session will be held from 1:00 to 4:00 pm and open to the public.

Location of Meeting: Collier County Regional Library in the Rees Meeting Room at 650 Central Avenue.  
*Disclaimer: "The Collier County Public Library does not sponsor or endorse this program".*

Agenda items for the afternoon session will include discussions on safe cycling projects in the Naples area and other local presentations of interest.

Your attendance and participation is welcome!

For more information, call (239) 695-2397.

**Congratulations** to FROGG Board member Kurtis Tucker on his appointment to the Florida Bicycle Association Board of Directors. Kurtis taught himself to ride a bicycle at the age of six and his passion for cycling led him to take multi-day bike trips while growing up in California. After moving to Miami, Kurtis worked at a local bike shop as well as riding his bike for transportation. After graduating from high school in 1974, he took a two-month, solo bike trip from Bloomington, IN, up through Michigan. At the University of Florida he started road racing and in 1977 won the North Florida Road Race, qualifying for Nationals. He then traveled to Europe to race before returning to south Florida and marrying the love of his life. Kurtis and his wife live in Homestead, have six children and eleven grandchildren.



For information about joining the FBA Board, visit website:

<http://floridabicycle.org/board-staff/>.

### Bear Island Bike Ride

**Sunday April 8, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm**

Join us for a leisurely bike ride in the northwestern portion of Big Cypress National Preserve. The Bear Island area is a fantastic place to observe a variety of plants and animals in prime panther habitat. You must bring your own fat tire bike - hybrid or mountain bike. It is a 14 mile round trip ride on a hard rock road. (Not suitable for road bikes.) Please bring snacks and lunch that can fit in your backpack, plenty of water, sunscreen, hat, sunglasses and dress for the weather.

Limit 12 people      Minimum age 15

Meet Ranger Lisa at the Bear Island Entrance on HWY 29

Directions if coming via I-75:

- Exit HWY 75 at exit #80 onto hwy 29 going north. If coming from the West there is a \$3.50 toll just after exit #101.
- Travel north from HWY 75 on hwy 29 toward Immokalee 4 miles. Watch for the Bike Ride sign on the right side of the road and turn in to the right.
- Come in through the panther fencing to the parking area.

Since this ride is limited to 12 people, please RSVP to Dayna at (239) 777-5806 by **April 3**.

*FROGG is committed to establishing the safe use by the general public of US41 across the Everglades between Naples and Miami, focusing on safety and environmental education and stewardship for those hiking, walking, and cycling through south Florida and the Everglades.*

## CONGRATULATIONS South Florida

*The following individuals, organizations and agencies were recognized by the Florida Bicycle Association as recipients of the 2017 Annual Awards*

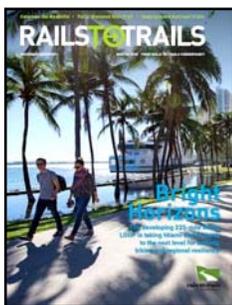


**Naples Velo** was presented with the **Bicycle Club of the Year Award** during the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Miracle Limbs Courage in Motion Benefit Ride in March. The purpose of the FBA awards is to bring attention to the efforts and achievements of groups, organizations and individuals that help shape its vision for all Florida bicyclists to be safe, respected and encouraged to bicycle for transportation and recreation.

**Corporal Mike Nelson** with the Collier County Sheriff Department accepts the FBA Award for **2017 Law Enforcement Officer**. Corporal Nelson is a bicycle safety advocate, riding his bike both on and off duty. He is also President of the Bikes for Tykes in Naples, FL, which has distributed 987 bikes to children throughout the county and has provided bike safety programs to 9000 school children. Corporal Nelson teaches bicycle safety in schools and at various bicycling events in Collier County.



**Congratulations also goes to the 2017 Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee** – Marco Island Bike Path Committee which is composed of the following members: Alan Musico (Chairman), Vic Ordija (Vice-Chairman), Sally Boyce, Phil Kostelnik, Bob Phelan, Jim Seegers, Scott Shook (also a FROGG Board member), Sam Spina, and Matt Walthour. The Bike Pathways Committee is a volunteer committee that was established in 2006 to promote safe and convenient bicycle access to all parts of Marco Island. In addition they look at pathway uses in order to minimize overall City costs, reduce traffic congestion, ensure public safety, improve the environment, boost the economy, and to enhance recreational opportunities and the quality of life on Marco Island.



**Miami-Dade County Parks, Recreation & Open Spaces Department** was the recipient of the **2017 Supporting Agency Award** for their trail planning and promoting bicycle safety. They are currently working on the ambitious plan for The Miami Loop which was highlighted in Rails-to-Trails magazine; website <https://www.railstotrails.org/magazine/>.

The **2017 Special Recognition Award** was given to **Meg Daly**, the founder, president and CEO of Friends of The Underline which is leading the initiative to transform the underutilized land below Miami's Metrorail into a 10-mile, urban trail and linear park ([www.theunderline.org](http://www.theunderline.org)). Meg came up with the idea for this urban trail after suffering a serious biking accident and started walking beneath the Miami Metrorail for physical therapy; she saw the potential of creating a linear park with two lanes (one for bikes, another for pedestrians) with a network of neighborhood gathering spots. Now The Underline is part of the proposed Miami Loop.

For a complete list of the state-wide awards, visit: <http://floridabicycle.org/annual-awards/>

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## ADVOCACY and EDUCATION



FROGG President Patty Huff was one of nine Florida delegates attending the recent League of American Bicyclists National Bike Summit in Washington, D.C. which is the premier bike advocacy event of the year, uniting the voices of bicyclists on Capitol Hill. This year's theme was *Grass Roots Grow Together*. Speakers included U.S. Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao, Kevin McCarty, U.S. Conference of Mayors, Representatives Earl Blumenauer (D-OR) and Elizabeth Esty (D-CT), and Dr. Dinh-Zarr with the National Transportation Safety Board. After two days of informative meetings and networking, the Florida team was ready to go to work and visited the offices of 29 of our congressmen and senators to discuss upcoming proposed bills: (1) the infrastructure plan and how it may benefit bicyclists and pedestrians as well as all transit users, (2) support for HR4241 bill which funds a proposed pilot program regarding data to measure connectivity, and (3) support of TIGER grants. It was a great experience to be a part of this national impetus for bicycle/pedestrian safety and meeting with our local representatives.

During the months of February/March, Patty also attended the Gulf Coast Safe Streets Summit in Tampa and the Miami Greenways & Trails Forum at the FDOT District 6 Headquarters in Miami. Lots of exciting things are happening around the state and country to support safe cycling /walking! Let's make Florida the best and safest place to bike!

## GET INVOLVED

### Collier MPO Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan

Collier Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) has extended the deadline to finalize its Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan and intends to submit to the MPO Board for adoption in September. The MPO will give a presentation at 7:00 p.m. on **Tuesday, April 3**, during the Everglades City Council meeting. Other dates/locations for presentations are listed on the MPO Master Plan website:

<http://colliermopo.com/index.aspx?page=45>.

**Now** is the time to get involved and submit your comments. The vision of the plan is to provide a safe, inviting and convenient bicycle and pedestrian network **throughout Collier County** that delivers mobility, economic, recreational and quality of life benefits for all residents and visitors.

To make comments on the plan, go to the MPO website listed above or directly to:

#### 1) **Interactive map** –

<http://wikimapping.com/wikimap/Collier-MPO-Bicycle-Pedestrian-Master-Plan.html#.WjQyjmeWzGg>

The interactive map is easy to use: (1) enter your email address or enter anonymously in the pop up box, (2) to add comment click on "points" in the Blue Banner at the top of the page, select the type of comment you wish to make, click on map where you wish to make the comment, enter your comment in the pop up box; (3) to indicate a needed connection click on "line" in the Blue Banner, click on line in the pop up box, click on map where connection should start then click again where it should end.

2) **Comment Forms/Cards:** You may also comment by clicking on the MPO Master Plan (listed above), then click the links to the Comment Forms / Comment Card. Simply download the form, complete it and email to [Eric.Ortman@colliercountyfl.gov](mailto:Eric.Ortman@colliercountyfl.gov). For more information, call Eric at (239) 252-5874.

## *Cycling Opportunities through the Everglades*



### 72 Hours to Key West Charity Bike Ride November 2018

Registration begins **April 15, 2018**

65 Cyclist \* 280 Miles \* 3 Days

**Start Friday, November 2, Ft. Myers Beach**

The first day will be challenging with a total of 120 miles through the Everglades along the Tamiami Trail to spend the night at the Miccosukee Resort. All riders must be 18 years old and physically fit enough to maintain a minimum average speed of 16-18 mph throughout the duration of the ride. There is a \$300 minimum fundraising requirement per rider in addition to the registration fee. See website: <http://www.72hourstokeywest.com/>.

Proceeds will benefit *The Tiny Hands Foundation*: <http://tinyhandsfoundation.org/>

### **Cycling through the Everglades**

With so many opportunities to learn about our unique ecosystem in the Everglades, it is important for cyclists to be informed about safety issues which include summer afternoon thunderstorms, high-speed traffic along the 2-lane highway, and in some areas there are raised pavement markers in the shoulders. However, there are many benefits as you traverse through this wonderful wilderness along the Tamiami Trail. FROGG has information on its website about cycle tours through our south Florida parks [www.evergladesrogg.org/events](http://www.evergladesrogg.org/events).



*This photo was taken during our February Loop Road ride when we were joined by members of the Everglades Bicycle Club.*

If you are interested in learning more about the club and their rides through south Florida, visit EBC's website <http://www.evergladesbc.com/>. They have been Miami's premier cycling club since 1976 and, although they are road cyclists at heart, they offer monthly off-road trail rides!



### **Bike Your Park Day September 29, 2018**

Registration is now open! Everyone who registers at [BikeYourParkDay.org](http://BikeYourParkDay.org) will receive a sticker in the mail and be entered in a

sweepstakes to win a Co-Motion

bike and two Amtrak tickets to Glacier National Park. Join thousands of others around the world to explore your parks and public lands by bicycle on the same day. For more information about the program, see website:

[www.adventurecycling.org/resources/bike-your-park-day/](http://www.adventurecycling.org/resources/bike-your-park-day/)

*“When I got the bike I must have been the happiest boy in Liverpool, maybe the world.”*

— John Lennon

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