



# FROGG

## Friends of the River of Grass Greenway



Volume IV Issue 1  
website: [www.evergladesROGG.org](http://www.evergladesROGG.org)

FROGG, P.O. Box 5031, Everglades City, FL, 34139  
email: [info@evergladesROGG.org](mailto:info@evergladesROGG.org)

Fall 2018



### Bike Your Park Day September 29

Join thousands of others around the world to explore your parks and public lands by bicycle. Ride any distance on roads or trails and make a day of it: stop to enjoy a picnic, pause by a river to cool your toes, or take a break at a visitors' center to learn something new. What better way to spend a fall day celebrating our public lands?

#### Registration is free.

Everyone who registers will receive a Bike Your Park Day sticker and will be entered to win one Co-Motion Cycles Divide bike or two Amtrak tickets to Glacier National Park.

For more information about the program, see website: [www.adventurecycling.org/re-sources/bike-your-park-day/](http://www.adventurecycling.org/re-sources/bike-your-park-day/)

### Bike Rides through the Everglades

If you are interested in joining us for any of our FREE guided rides, FROGG will be offering a different tour each month during the upcoming season. We will be riding just for the fun of exploring the Everglades area. Since these are self-supported rides, bring your own snacks, etc. We'll meet at 9:00 am and plan to have lunch together either during or after each ride.

**September 9 – Port of the Islands** (28 miles on-road)  
Meet at McLeod Park in Everglades City

**October 7 – Shark Valley in ENP** (15 miles paved trail)  
Meet at Shark Valley

**November 11 – Loop Road in Big Cypress** (34 miles off-road)  
Meet at west end of Loop Road (site of old Monroe Station)

**December 9 – Everglades City / Chokoloskee** (10 miles on-road)  
Meet at McLeod Park in Everglades City

**January 13 – Janes Scenic Dr in the Fakahatchee** (17 miles off-road)  
Meet at Fakahatchee Strand Headquarters in Copeland

**February 10 – Ave Maria** (40 miles on-road)  
Meet at McLeod Park in Everglades City

**March 10 – Bear Island in the Big Cypress** (off-road)  
Meeting location TBA

For info: email [info@evergladesrogg.org](mailto:info@evergladesrogg.org) or call (239) 695-2397

Brochures about each of these rides (and more) throughout the Everglades area are available in printed form at various local bicycle shops and on our website at [www.evergladesrogg.org/events](http://www.evergladesrogg.org/events).

On-Road Rides from Everglades City  
**Ave Maria / Immokalee, Big Cypress National Preserve, Chokoloskee, Marco Island, Port of the Islands**

On / Off Road Rides  
**Fakahatchee Strand, Loop Road, Shark Valley**

Off Road Rides  
**Bear Island & Fire Prairie Trail in the Big Cypress**

*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.*

## *Biking through Florida*

by Patty Huff

This summer my husband Steve and I decided to stay closer to home; we always take a month off to bicycle somewhere in the world and this year it was Florida!! We packed our bikes into the truck and headed north. People come to Florida to have fun in the sun! If you're biking, you want fun in the shade, especially in the summer months. The Withlacoochee State Trail offers this amenity along with plenty of trailhead stations with water and restrooms. This 46-mile trail was one of the first purchased under the Florida Rails-to-Trails program and is one of the longest in the state.



We started biking just north of Dade City where we spent the night and enjoyed a wonderful dinner at Kafe Kokopelli. Also located in the center of town is Flint Outfitters, a bike / fly fishing shop if you're looking for supplies.



Several rural towns are scattered along this trail, including Floral City which has the oldest surviving residential structure in Citrus County, as well as several other historic sites, such as the Knight House Art Gallery (above photo taken outside of gallery). Trailside Bike Shop rents and sells recumbents, and if you get a chance, head east on Highway 48 to experience biking under the historic "Avenue of the Oaks." A beautiful part of Florida!

Back on the Trail we stopped briefly at Inverness (David's World Cycle is on the Trail), then passed through Hernando and Holder before reaching Citrus Springs, just a few miles south of Dunnellon. Total distance was 57 miles for a great day of biking!

Next stop – the Panhandle and the Tallahassee to St Marks Historic Railroad State Trail. Two nights' stay at the Sweet Magnolia Inn in the coastal town of St. Marks was the perfect spot for a cycling tour around the area. After biking 15 miles over to St. Marks Lighthouse, we rode back for a 20-mile ride on the State Trail. The following day we cycled parts of the new separated multi-use trail which parallels Hwy 98 for 12 miles towards Panacea and over the bridge to Alligator Point and Bald Point State Park. Then we spent a day enjoying the quiet back roads and the Ochlockonee Bay Bike Trail for a 26-mile round trip from Mashas Sands to Sopchoppy.



Before leaving the Panhandle we drove to Apalachicola where our first stop was a bike shop where we met Kevin who has cycled on roads and trails four times across the U.S. After lots of good stories, he recommended a renovated building across from his shop as a place to sleep. We spent two wonderful days at Riverwood Suites while cycling around town and out to St. George Island State Park.

With miles to go before we sleep, we headed back south to park our truck in Otter Creek and cycle to Cedar Key and back. We then drove to Tarpon Springs to bike the Pinellas Trail to Florida's Designated Trail Town of Dunedin. Lots of great memories of cycling through historic Florida!



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## **5 Important Reasons to Join the FBA**

- 1) FBA is the voice of bicycling for the state of Florida.
- 2) FBA lobbies the legislature for safe cycling legislation.
- 3) FBA works with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), law enforcement and cycling clubs to make cycling safe.
- 4) The FBA website is relied upon for cycling events statewide and tons of related cycling information.
- 5) FBA relies upon membership fees and proceeds from *IBike* Florida License Tags to fund its work and needs your support.

For more information about joining FBA, visit <http://floridabicycle.org/membership-and-sponsorship/>. Support safe cycling! Visit FBA's website online to learn more about the Florida Bicycle Association and its advocacy programs [www.floridabicycle.org](http://www.floridabicycle.org).

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## **FROGG BOARD NEWS**



Kurt Tucker has accepted a new job opportunity and will be unable to continue to serve on our FROGG Board. We wish him the best of luck in his new endeavors!

If you are interested in serving on our Board of Directors, please contact Patty Huff at

239-695-2397 or email [snookcity@gmail.com](mailto:snookcity@gmail.com).

## **STAY INVOLVED**

### **Collier MPO Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Community Open House to comment on a Draft plan was held on Thursday, August 23, at the East Naples Community Park in Naples. More than 600 public comments have been received and these were used in helping to shape the focus and goals of the plan including the need for additional sidewalks on local roads; increased connectivity in the sidewalk and bicycle networks; and increased safety for bicyclists and pedestrians. Drafts of the seven chapters included: Existing Conditions, Safety, Public Engagement, Vision, Policies, Implementation and Tool Box.

Information about the Master Plan is available on the MPO website:

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

Comments are still being accepted; please email MPO Senior Planner Eric Ortman at [Eric.Ortman@colliercountyfl.gov](mailto:Eric.Ortman@colliercountyfl.gov).

If you are interested in serving on one of the MPO Advisory Committees (Citizens Advisory, Technical Advisory, or Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory), please contact MPO staff at (239) 252-5804. Visit MPO website to learn more: <http://www.colliermpo.org/index.aspx?page=102>

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## **New “*Hiking and Cycling the Everglades*” Brochure**

Thanks to award-winning New England and Florida artist Hannah Ineson, our *Hiking and Cycling the Everglades* brochure has a new look. Hannah has designed a new map depicting the true beauty of our area; also, the information about the amenities along the Trail has been updated. Copies will be available on our website later this fall and printed copies will be distributed to the various bike shops and visitor centers. For more information, email [info@evergladesROGG.org](mailto:info@evergladesROGG.org).

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## 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Rails-to-Trails Bike Ride

Sunday, October 7

Withlacoochee State Trail

Starting at the Apopka Trailhead

Inverness, Florida

Register

at [www.registerrailstotrails.com](http://www.registerrailstotrails.com) or email  
[events@CAAMevents.com](mailto:events@CAAMevents.com)



72 Hours  
to Key  
West  
Charity  
Bike Ride

November 2–4 / starts Ft. Myers Beach

65 Cyclist \* 280 Miles \* 3 Days

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/>

## Naples Pathways Coalition

Florida Community Bank

### Iron Joe Turkey Ride

November 25, 7:30 AM - 2:00 PM

819 Vanderbilt Beach Rd.

Pavilion Shopping Center in Naples

In its 13th year, the event is named in honor of bicycle advocate and world-class Iron Man athlete Joe Bonness. Joe is one of the original founders and past presidents of Naples Pathways Coalition. The revelry begins and ends in the side lot of Fit & Fuel Bicycle Café in the Pavilion Shopping Center. There are fully supported rides for all levels – 62, 30, 20 miles – and a 5 mile Family Fun Ride with a new scavenger hunt this year (FREE for kids 12 and under with a paid adult). For the longer distances, youth 17 & under just pay \$20 with a paid adult on the same distance rides.

Proceeds from the event help fund the work of Naples Pathways Coalition, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. For more information, contact Michelle at (239) 777-7718 or email [Michelle@NaplesPathways.org](mailto:Michelle@NaplesPathways.org).

## CONTEST: Name that Trail!

Many communities in Florida and throughout the United States have a network of connected multi-use trails and pathways that are designed exclusively for non-motorized transportation. NPC is promoting the creation of a network of multi-use pathways throughout Collier County that will connect to other pathways in our region, and they have partnered with Rails-to-Trails Conservancy to help achieve this goal.

Submit your suggestion to name this trail network to [Michelle@NaplesPathways.org](mailto:Michelle@NaplesPathways.org) and just put PATHWAY NAMING CONTEST in the subject. There's no limit to the number of entries you can submit, and the winning name will be announced at the TD Bank Naples Bike Brunch on February 3, 2019 at Cambier Park.

*“It is the unknown around the corner that turns my wheels.”*

— Heinz Stücker, German long-distance touring cyclist

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