

First Hike of the Season

Saturday, September 12, 2009 (note this is the second Saturday)

Chinsegut Wildlife and Environment Area

Meet at 8 AM at the Chinsegut Nature Center. The entrance is off of Lake Lindsey Road (CR 476) between US 41 and Snow Memorial Highway (CR 481) on the south side of the road. It is seven miles north of Brooksville.

We can walk as little as two miles or as much as seven or eight miles, depending on the trails chosen. Weather conditions and consensus will determine the length of the walk. For those who only want to go about two miles it is easy to do a loop back to the start. We can all begin together.

Hope to see you at the first hike of the season.

Karl

Nature Coast Ramblers Organized Hike, October 17, 2009**Inglis Island**

Meet at 8:30 AM and begin hike promptly at 9 AM.

Inglis Island is formed by the barge canal, Lake Rousseau, and the Withlacoochee River. Inglis Lock, between the lake and the canal is on the north, and Inglis Dam (at the lake and the river) is at the recreation area on the south side.

We will hike the lakefront birding trail. The trail is flat and wide and mostly grassy. It traverses a variety of landscapes including waterfront, meadows, hammocks and pine forests. It has mostly open sections and some partially and fully shaded sections. There are several good locations to contemplate the waterfront.

For those who want to venture further there are additional side trails.

Directions: From Crystal River, go north on Route 19 to Basswood Drive, which is the first right *after* the road from Red Level to Dunnellon. Continue on Basswood and make a right on to Riverwood Drive. The Inglis Dam recreation area has a large parking lot, which is a left turn off of Riverwood Drive. From Route 19 it is three miles to the recreation area. If you miss the turn on to Basswood Drive, you can continue up 19 and make a right turn on to Riverwood Drive, then go 2.5 miles to the recreation area.

If you come late after the group has departed, note that the island is accessible by walking across the dam, even though the road is blocked and the signs are intimidating. Just scoot around the left side of the roadblock by stepping over the guard rail and walk across the dam. The sign is meant for vehicles, and not walkers.

Bring plenty of water, snacks, insect spray (there are some huge mosquitos there), sun block, and a camera and binoculars, if you wish.

BIG DAY IN STORE--MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR SATURDAY NOVEMBER 21

HIKE, MEETING, AND PICNIC AT FORT COOPER STATE PARK PICNIC PAVILION

COME EARLY --STAY LATE --WE HAVE THE PAVILION FOR THE WHOLE DAY

DIRECTIONS: 2 miles south of Inverness on Rt. 41. Click if you need more info:

<http://www.floridastateparks.org/fortcooper/default.cfm>

9:30 AM sign-in opens at the pavilion.

Park in parking lot 1 and walk straight into the park from there (towards the "lake")

10:00 AM First hike--the group hike of the morning will be a ranger-led hike of the nature trail.

11:00 AM begin setting up for lunch and t-shirt distribution

11:30 AM -12:30 PM lunch - bring a drink and something to share.

12:30 PM -- Semi-annual meeting begins

The rest of the afternoon is free to hike some of the other trails in the park or play games--board games or volley ball or horseshoes

Note: If you would like to pay your 2010 dues now, bring an envelope marked with your name and 2010 dues. New members who already paid the full membership in the past couple of months do not have to pay dues for 2010.

IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT ENTRANCE FEES--NOW \$3 PER VEHICLE--SAVE MONEY BY CARPOOLING.

SEE Y' ALL ON NOVEMBER 21,

Karl Seidman

Saturday, December 19th - Ross Prairie State Forest Loop Trail (2.5 miles)

Hike begins at 9:30 am through live oak hammocks on a nice trail and around a small dried up lake and will loop back and stop at a picnic table for a break. Those who wish a longer hike can pick up a portion of the Florida Trail across the road which is a loop trail of 6 miles. Bring water, snacks and bug spray.

Directions: From Citrus County, take Rt. 200 towards Ocala, cross the Withlacoochee River which is the Citrus/Marion County border, and turn right into the Ross Prairie Trailhead shortly after Spruce Creek Preserve.

Jan Hitchcock and Cathy Knox will be leading this hike. You don't need to RSVP but if you have questions, click reply to this email for more info.

The first Ramblers walk for 2010 will be on Saturday, January 16. We will be going to the Shady Grove Preserve in Ocala. Click this link for details of the Preserve: <http://www.shadygrovepreserve.com/> This will be an excellent opportunity to brush up on your knowledge of native trees and eco-systems.

We will meet there at 9:30 AM and will have a hike at 10 AM led by the owner, Marnie Hutcheson, who some may have met at our November walk and picnic.

As usual, bring bug spray and water. It is recommended that you bring a light lunch for after the walk.

There will be a charge of \$3 per person. There will be an additional walk after lunch should you wish to do so.

Directions: From Dunnellon take highway 40 east toward Ocala and go about 9 miles. Shady Grove Preserve is at 12246 W. Highway 40, Ocala.

Also, there are pictures of the last kayak trip now in the photo gallery at our website: www.naturecoastramblers.org Click on 2009 for a review of all photos posted.

Monday – President's Day, February 15, 2010
Group Walk Hosted by the Nature Coast Ramblers
Grand Opening of their New Year-Round Event

Start Location: Outside the Old Courthouse Heritage Museum 1 Courthouse Square, Inverness, FL 34450.
This is the normal start point of the year-round event.

Time: Arrive at 9:30am. A brief Dedication Ceremony will begin at 10am. This will be at the entrance facing west to Downtown Inverness. The Group Walk will start after the dedication.

Trail: Inverness has both scenic and historic areas to walk. The start goes from the historic courthouse through the old downtown and then along the Withlacoochee State Trail toward Whispering Pines Park, where a portion of the Florida Trail extension will be walked. This connects to the Withlacoochee Rails to Trails and then through three picturesque lakefront parks in Inverness and then back to the old Courthouse.

Distance: 10K (6.2 miles)

Cost: \$3 for IVV/AVA credit walkers, free for non-credit walkers.

Directions: From S.R. 44/41 in Downtown Inverness turn north at Apopka, Ave light. Turn right for all-day parking lot across from Old Courthouse.

Contact: Karl Seidman, otherkseid@hotmail.com, (352) 344-1531

Website: www.naturecoastramblers.org

*Nature Coast Ramblers***March Hike –Withlacochee Gulf Preserve**
Yankeetown, FL**Saturday, March 27.**

Meet between 9:30 and 10 AM. (Facility doesn't open before 9:30 AM)

Take route 19 north out of Crystal River to just over the county line. At Inglis, turn left at the traffic light at County Road 40 (Follow That Dream Parkway), and go 3.4 miles to the entrance on the right -- Old Rock Road, which is across from 65th Street. Continue until the end at the parking area. You will see a three story house there.

This Preserve is a little gem—the trails are not very long, but it is a place to meander and savor the views. Be sure to bring a camera.

Meet at the at the picnic area near the three story house (Educational Resource Center). Pick up a map from me and commence wandering. This will be a leaderless ramble—best enjoyed in small groups—the map is very easy to follow with the numbered post markers. The observation deck is well worth the steps to the top.

Meet back at the start around 11:30 to gather for a snack.

If you would like to do something else afterward, returning to Crystal River you can do the eco-walk in the Crystal River Preserve State Park, or the Church House Hammock across from the mall, both on the right hand side as you head south.

Karl

Saturday, May 15

The next hike will be a proposed revision of the Crystal River Historic and Scenic 10k Year round walk.

We will begin at the AVA box which is at Aardvark Kayak in Crystal River--meet starting at 8AM and begin hiking no later than 8:30. Since we will have maps and detailed description of the route we can go at our own pace, rather than one large group.

I have completed the revised map as a draft. If you get there before me, do **not** take the hike map from box, but you should sign in on the AVA registration form. If you are late, look for the map with revisions in red.

Karl