

The September Hike will be on Saturday September 25 at the Chinsegut Wildlife and Environmental area.

(Note--this will not start at the Chinsegut Nature Center, as it has in the past)

We will begin assembling at 8AM and commence hiking at 8:15 AM (note the shorter waiting time--something new)

The starting location will be the Prairie to Pines Trailhead of the Chinsegut WEA. This is located at the intersection of US 41 and Snow Memorial Highway, which is in Hernando County, north of Brooksville. From the east Citrus county area you can take US 41 south through Floral City, approximately 11 miles south of the traffic light in Floral City.

From most of elsewhere, take Rt 44 to Pleasant Grove Road (County Road 581) south (the turn between Applebee's and the ABC Liquor) and stay on that, which becomes Snow Memorial Highway. The trailhead is on the left just before the intersection with US 41.

The parking area is small, so I recommend solos and couples try to carpool with others, though there appears to be overflow parking in the vicinity.

There is no toilet facility at the trailhead, but there is one at the Nature Center, which is about the midpoint of the hike.

We will do about four miles on a dirt trail--wear sturdy shoes.

Afterward depending on the weather, those who care to can hike south from the Trailhead to the Big Pine Tract---where the route is variable. I don't recommend going alone, there is a very boggy section which, I discovered too late can be avoided by a detour trail.

Happy trails...

Karl

The October Hike will be on Saturday October 16. This will be at the same location as the September hike -- Chinsegut Wildlife and Environmental area. There was only one other member besides myself. It was a nice location so it seemed worthwhile to try again.

(Note--this will not start at the Chinsegut Nature Center, as it has in past years—see directions below)

We will begin assembling at **8:30AM** and commence hiking at **8:45 AM** (note shorter waiting time--something new)

The starting location will be the Prairie to Pines Trailhead of the Chinsegut WEA. This is located at the intersection of US 41 and Snow Memorial Highway, which is in Hernando County, north of Brooksville. From the east Citrus county area you can take US 41 south through Floral City, approximately 11 miles south of the traffic light in Floral City.

From most of elsewhere, take Rt 44 to Pleasant Grove Road (County Road 581) south (the turn between Applebee's and the ABC Liquor) and stay on that, which becomes Snow Memorial Highway. The trailhead is on the left just before the intersection with US 41.

There is no toilet facility at the trailhead, but there is one at the Nature Center, which is about the midpoint of the hike. There is also a small butterfly garden there.

We will do about four miles on the trail--wear sturdy shoes.

Afterward those who care to can hike south from the Trailhead to the Big Pine Tract---we can do whatever distance the group decides.

Happy trails...

Karl

December hike at Inglis Island.

It will be held on Saturday, December 11. We will meet about 9:15 AM and hike promptly at 9:30 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.

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 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. There is no restroom at the Inglis Dam area, but there is one at the locks, which we will be hiking toward.

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. Please sign the participant sheet, which I will leave on my car if late, and also whenever you depart.

Bring water, snacks, sun block, and a camera and binoculars, if you wish.

This is an easy walk.

See You at the hike,

Karl

Ramblers December hike reinstated to Saturday December 18
The December hike has been rescheduled one week later and will be at Inglis Island.

It will be held on Saturday, December 18. We will meet about 9:45 AM and hike promptly at 10:00 AM. Jan Hitchcock will be leading this hike. This will be about a two hour hike at a comfortable pace with stops.

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.

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 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. There is no restroom at the Inglis Dam area, but there is one at the locks, which we will be about the half-way point on the hike.

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. The trail to the right, past a large picnic pavilion, along the north side of Lake Rousseau is the beginning of the route that the Ramblers will take.

Bring water, snacks, sun block, and a camera and binoculars. Bring lunch to have a picnic afterward, if you like.

This is an easy walk.

Enjoy the Hike,

Karl

P. S. -- I hope some folks will join me at the Three Sisters Springs Property second open house, now part of the National Wildlife Refuge. The open house is this Saturday (12/11) from 8 a.m. to noon. Shuttles will run from the Kings Bay Shopping Plaza to the springs. I plan to be there at 8:30 AM. This large parcel of land will be developed for public use and it should be interesting to find out what is intended. -- Karl

For more information about any of the Ramblers events, see our website at <http://www.naturecoastramblers.org/>

Nature Coast Ramblers January Hike

Location: Ross Prairie State Forest – Florida Trail Loop

Date: Saturday, January 22, 2010

Time: Meet at 9:45 AM – hike begins promptly at 10 AM

Directions: From Citrus County, take Route 200 towards Ocala and turn right shortly after Spruce Creek Preserve Community a few miles past the Citrus/Marion County border, which is the Withlacoochee River.

Description: This is a 4 mile loop through live oak and scrub with some interesting terrain from the never-completed barge canal digging. There is a restroom and a picnic pavillion.

For further information you can contact Karl Seidman 352 344-1531

Ramblers February Hike --Saturday, February 19, 2011

Johnson Pond Trail at Two Mile Prairie section of the Withlacoochee State Forest

Meet at 9:15 AM and hike at 9:30 AM

Location: Johnson Pond Trailhead

This trailhead is located on CR 39 (Withlacoochee Trail). It is between Rt. 41 and Rt. 200 on the north boundary of the County near the Withlacoochee River. It is much closer to Rt. 200--going north on 200 from Hernando turn left at CR 39 and go about two miles. The trailhead will be on the left.

This section is a little over two miles.

Afterward we will walk about 2/10 mile on CR 39 to the Oxbow Nature Trail on the other side of the road (this trail is less than a mile overall)--a good place to have a snack on the Withlacoochee River. This is an interesting tract of land to explore as the river loops around it.

Ramblers,

I realized I had a commitment that would interfere with hiking on Saturday, March 26---so I'm moving it to **Sunday March 27**.

(Sorry for changing the date again)

We will be going to **Potts Preserve**. If the weather is anything like today it should be great--I checked it out. There is even a new trail, giving the option of doing a fairly short loop or continuing on to do a longer hike, folks will be free to choose either option. The group camp site along the river is a nice place to stop for a snack or lunch. There is a permanent toilet facility there now.

Sunday, March 27

Time: 10 AM meet--hike at 10:15 AM

Location: Parking area on Hooty Point, just off of Turner Camp road.

Directions to Potts Preserve, Hooty Point access

In Inverness, from route 44/41 turn north on to route 41 north, (towards Hernando).

--from the east you will turn right where 44 and 41 split.

--from the west (Lecanto/Crystal River) , **Turn left at the 44/41 split. Don't** take the 41 north access at Montgomery (by Sweet Bay), but go to the next light. You will also pass a sign to turn left for 581 north.

After you turn immediately look for a sign "**to 581 North**" and make a right after the BP station on to a small street, Davidson Avenue, then continue to follow the 581 signs, making the next right and then the next left on to **Ella Avenue**, which will become **Turner Camp Road**.

After several miles on Turner Camp Road, bear left on to **Hooty Point**, and the sign for Turner Fish Camp. The Potts Preserve access is a short way on the left.

Karl Seidman

352 344-1531

The next hike is scheduled for Saturday May 21 at Half Moon Wildlife Management Area

There is a 3.3 mile loop and a second short loop if it isn't too hot.

Meeting time: 8AM

Hike begins at 8:15 AM promptly

Directions:

Take 44 east out of Inverness towards Interstate 75. After crossing the Withlacoochee River look for the brown sign for the Half Moon WMA and turn left. The road is next to "Just Horsin Around".

Take that road until you get to the WMA. Do not drive into the WMA (sometimes the gate is left open on the lime rock road)

Park on the left side near the big kiosk sign.

Bring sun block, bug spray and plenty of water and a snack.

There are some picnic tables in the shade at the entrance -- I will probably be having my "ritual" PB&J sandwich.

Karl