



# Trail Tales




The Newsletter of  
**RAILS TO TRAILS OF THE WITHLACOOCHEE, INC.**  
The Citizen Support Organization for the Withlacoochee State Trail (WST)  
*The Friendliest Trail in the Country*

## STRUT YOUR MUTT

Walk off your New Year's Eve party lethargy with a great walk in the outdoor, clear air! Join us at Strut Your Mutt on the Withlacoochee State Trail on January 1, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. Registration is required for the 1.4 mile walk, which begins at the Inverness Trailhead, at 315 N. Apopka Ave.






Owners must:

-  Call 352-726-0315 to register by December 27, 2017
-  Clean up after your dog
-  Be aware of other dogs (and children) on the WST to ensure everyone's safety



Dogs must:

-  Be current with their rabies vaccination
-  Be on a (no longer than 6') hand-held leash
-  Be well-behaved around people (including young children who might not know not to rush a dog), other dogs, and other regular trail activity, such as cycling and roller-blading

## END OF YEAR REVIEW

### Hurricane Irma

Our orange-shirted heroes of the Wednesday Work Crew continue to clean up from the problems created by the storm. This is because while the Florida DEP gave us huge support by clearing the paved trail, the safety of the trail also depends on a wide clearance on either side of the paving, and this is where the debris had to go based on the State's equipment. The work crew is not only still trying to clear that area, but also deal with issues that continue from the instability of the surrounding land created by the storm.

### Annual Fundraising Ride: Postponed

Another victim of Hurricane Irma was the 2017 Annual Trail Fundraising ride.

Long-time readers of this newsletter know the ride had traditionally taken place on the first Sunday of October. Because of the extent of the damage from Irma, the RTW CSO was not comfortable moving forward with the ride on that date. The new date is March 4, 2018.



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## END OF YEAR REVIEW CONTINUED

### Bicycle Bicentennial

We celebrated the 200th Anniversary of the Bicycle by releasing a new jersey, shown here.

You can still celebrate by heading over to the RTW website at <http://www.rttwst.org> and click the **Shop** button. Order a jersey today. You help the trail and look great while riding! You'll be the envy of all of your cycling friends.

### Help the Trail with Zero Effort or Cost

If you've not yet finished your holiday shopping, and if you purchase any gifts through Amazon, please consider doing so through the Amazon Smiles program. Most Amazon items are eligible for the program, including purchases made through Amazon Prime. Current exclusions are recurring Subscribe-and-Save purchases and subscription renewals.

Just go to <https://smile.amazon.com/>, select the Rails To Trails of the Withlacoochee Inc for your charity. From that point on, as long as you shop through your smile.amazon.com link, you will donate to the trail.

### Tree Planting Along The Trail

We owe huge thanks to Ken Spilios for planting 21 trees or shrubs in the bare spots on both the north and south sides of the trail on Edan Drive in Inverness.

He planted Live Oaks, Simpson's Stoppers, and Wax Myrtles, all of which are native to Florida.

He has continued the ongoing and intensely physical work of watering the trees and shrubs until they are safely integrated and can support themselves. Our thanks to Ken!

### WST-Dunnellon Connector Trail

As long as Governor Scott signs the transportation bill in the next legislative session, \$5.9 million will be directed to complete a paved trail and a pedestrian overpass at US Hwy 41 just south of Dunnellon. This trail would connect the north end of the Withlacoochee State Trail at Gulf Junction to the Dunnellon Trail at County Rt. 39. The extension/connector will be enable Withlacoochee State Trail riders to safely ride to the Rainbow River and into Dunnellon.

### New Mural Coming Soon

The tin shed at the Inverness Trailhead will be getting a fresh coat of paint in preparation for the new mural. The 8' x 16' mural is bright and colorful featuring some of the native beauty found along our popular trail.



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## SOCIAL MEDIA AND OTHER CONTACT INFORMATION FOR THE WITHLACOOCHEE STATE TRAIL AND THE CITIZEN'S SUPPORT GROUP

### Yahoo! Groups Email Addresses



Please note: Due to Yahoo! privacy policy, no one is able to change the group email addresses except the email owner. To change your

subscription address, please unsubscribe the one you don't want to use and subscribe the new one:

**Subscribe:**

railstotrails-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

**Unsubscribe:**

railstotrails-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com

**List Owner:**

railstotrails-owner@yahoogroups.com

### Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)

[http://www.dep.state.fl.us/gwt/guide/regions/crossflorida/trails/with\\_state.htm](http://www.dep.state.fl.us/gwt/guide/regions/crossflorida/trails/with_state.htm)

### Important Numbers

- 🌳 The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) (888) 404 3922 (24-hour line)
- 🌳 Withlacoochee State Trail Office at Fort Cooper State Park (352) 726-0315
- 🌳 Trail's Cell Phone Number (352) 302-0051
- 🌳 Citrus County Sheriff Office (352) 726-1121
- 🌳 Hernando County Sheriff Office (352) 754-6830
- 🌳 Pasco County Sheriff Office (727) 847-8102

### Facebook



**Rails to Trails of the Withlacoochee** is maintained by Heather Nagy.

([https://www.facebook.com/Rails-to-Trails-ofthe-Withlacoochee-Inc1485120831710155/?ref=br\\_rs](https://www.facebook.com/Rails-to-Trails-ofthe-Withlacoochee-Inc1485120831710155/?ref=br_rs))

**The Withlacoochee State Trail** page, at [https://www.facebook.com/pages/Withlacoochee-State-Trail/108018955887985?ref=br\\_rs](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Withlacoochee-State-Trail/108018955887985?ref=br_rs)

### Web Site

Additional Information About Rails to Trails of the Withlacoochee, Inc: <http://www.railstotrailsonline.com>

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#### RTW TRAIL TALES [www.rttwst.org](http://www.rttwst.org)

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