



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

Get Ready to Ride

Have you started training for the 23rd Annual Rails to Trails Bike Ride on the Withlacoochee State Trail, scheduled for Sunday, October 1?

While knowing every cent of your entry fee goes to support maintenance and enhancement of the trail, it's also great to know that you benefit with:

-  Breakfast.
-  Lunch.
-  Five fully-stocked rest stops that will provide water, sports drinks, and food. Restrooms are available at SAG stops (all support ends at 3 p.m.).
-  A commemorative t-shirt¹.
-  A chance to win great door prizes: Winners will be randomly selected from pre-registered² (see below) riders only. and will be available for pick up from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the registration area on ride day. At least one bike will be included in the door prizes.



The Details:

-  ALL RIDERS MUST WEAR A HELMET.
-  The ride begins (rain or shine) and ends at the Inverness Trailhead, 315 N. Apopka Ave, Inverness.
-  There is no mass start – start when you're ready any time between 7 a.m. and 9 a.m.
-  While there is no set ride length, Century or Metric Century riders will receive recognition.
-  Continental breakfast will be available.
-  Lunch is from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Apopka Trailhead.
-  Century Riders will find post-ride refreshments at the registration area until 4 p.m.
-  Register TODAY at <http://www.rttwst.org/annual-ride-registration-form.php>.
-  Pre-registration ends on September 29, 2017²; if you miss the date (and time for online registration), you can register by Walk Up on the morning of the ride.
-  Entry Fees: \$35.00 for riders over 12 years old; \$15 for riders 12 and under, who must be accompanied by an adult.
-  Pre-registered riders can take advantage of early packet pick-up on September 30, 2017, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the pavilion at the Apopka Trailhead.

¹ Riders registered on or before 9/11/17 will receive a commemorative shirt. Those registering after 9/11/17 are **not** guaranteed a t-shirt. If you cannot attend, t-shirts will be mailed upon receipt of \$5 postage.

² Online pre-registration ends at 3:45 p.m. on 09/29/17; mail-in pre-registration must be received by 9/29/17



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Easiest Ways on Earth to Donate to the Trail:

 > Shop the RTW Store



A super-easy and fashionable way to help the Trail: Go to our website at



<http://www.rttwst.org> and click the Shop button.

Then order one of our new jerseys, designed to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the bicycle!

All the profits from merchandise sales are used to support the work of RTW, Inc. You get to look great while helping the trail!

 > Amazon Smiles

This great suggestion comes from one of our readers, Fred White of Spring Hill. When Fred shops at Amazon, he shops through the Amazon Smiles program. His charity of choice is the Rails to Trails of the Withlacoochee.

For those of you who aren't familiar with the Amazon Smiles program, it allows you to pick your charity, and then every time you shop at Amazon, as long as you bookmark and shop through <https://smile.amazon.com/>, your charity will receive a portion of your purchase prices. That's it.

Most Amazon items are eligible for the program. Exclusions currently include recurring Subscribe-and-Save purchases and subscription renewals.

Your AmazonSmile impact

Your orders that have supported charity
Remember, only purchases at smile.amazon.com (not www.amazon.com or the mobile app) support charity.

Your total orders 262 orders [Learn more](#)

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Rails To Trails of the Withlacoochee Inc
Location: Inverness, FL
Share your support [f](#) [t](#)

Every little bit counts
When millions of supporters shop at smile.amazon.com, charitable donations quickly add up.

 You have generated	\$26.58 <small>as of June 01, 2017</small>
 Your current charity Rails To Trails of the Withlacoochee Inc has received	\$147.83 <small>as of May 2017</small>
 All charities have received	\$54,509,978.56 <small>as of May 2017</small>

The donation amount "you have generated" may take several days to update after your order ships. Additional donations generated as a result of special offers may take several months to update. Donations to charities are issued quarterly. [Learn more](#)

Fred graciously offered to let me use this screen capture so you can see how it adds up, and quickly, with ZERO extra cost to you! After reading Fred's email, I immediately changed over my charity, so I can tell you it works with Amazon Prime, too!



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Reservations Accepted!

As of June 14th, campers can make reservations online for the Silver Lake campgrounds. Located in the Croom Tract of Withlacoochee State Forest in Hernando County on the shore of Silver Lake, the campground is just a few pedal rotations from the WST.



If you know anyone who might be interested, please direct them to the Reserve America website through this [TinyURL](http://tinyurl.com/y8g2aw56): <http://tinyurl.com/y8g2aw56>

Work Crews

Our Wednesday Work Crew – all volunteers – does an outstanding job keeping our trail safe for us to use. Their focus this summer has been removing posts and signs that have become unstable due to age and water damage (sub-surface rot).

Now they're switching gears to clean up the trail in preparation for the October 1 Ride.

Please stay alert for these orange-shirted heroes! Be aware, too, that at times you'll see other volunteers and workers power-washing, cleaning, or making the trail safer for us on any given day of the week.

Celebrating 200 Years of the Bicycle!

As mentioned on page 2, this year marks the 200th anniversary of the invention of the bicycle.

From the middle of the eighteenth century, engineers across Europe were experimenting with man-powered vehicles. Although they toyed with three or four wheels, cranks and foot treadles, the idea of balancing on two wheels did not occur to anyone until the beginning of 1817, when Karl Drais, Freiherr Von Sauerbon (1785-1851) took out a patent on a two-wheeled machine, called the *Laufmaschine* (running machine). During 1817 the *Laufmaschine* was recognized in a number of newspaper reports and Drais published an advertising brochure about his invention.

In its crudest form the "Draisienne," as it became known to the Parisian public, consisted of a heavy bar connecting two wheels in line of roughly equal size, one behind the other, and heavy iron forks. A saddle was fixed to the bar and propulsion was achieved by simply pushing with the feet along the ground.

In light of our modern standard of design, the Draisienne seems cumbersome, and yet during the early years of experimentation it was a unique and important development. By putting locomotion on two wheels, Drais had achieved a breakthrough in human transport that might be considered comparable to getting the first man on the moon, and his initial idea was adopted and exploited by many others until it was taken for granted.³

³ From *A History Of Bicycles* by Serena Beeley



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Cycling Travel: Simplified

Are you a cyclist who loves to travel, too? Are you a part-time resident of Florida, getting set to come back for the winter?

Want a safe, easy way to get your bikes from point A to point B?

Then you might want to look into Bike Flights at BikeFlights.com. Accounts with BikeFlights are free, and because the staff members are cyclists, too, the company speaks your language, and the staff can answer your questions!

For more information, watch their video at <https://www.bikeflights.com/aboutus>

Connect with the WST

If you're on Facebook, you can keep up with what's going on with the Trail between newsletters through two different pages.

The first, Rails to Trails of the Withlacoochee (https://www.facebook.com/Rails-to-Trails-of-the-Withlacoochee-Inc-1485120831710155/?ref=br_rs) is maintained by our own Heather Nagy. She does an incredible job with the page, and I know you'll enjoy it!

The second page is the Withlacoochee State Trail page, found at https://www.facebook.com/pages/Withlacoochee-State-Trail/108018955887985?ref=br_rs

At press time, the editor was unable to locate an account on other social media platforms. If you know of one, please send the information to njnkeefe@yahoo.com.

Help Wanted: Calendar of Events

I know the Calendar of Events is an important part of this newsletter, but I've not had any luck in receiving notices about what's coming up! I've signed up for various newsletters, and I watch the newspaper sites, but still I come up empty handed for you!

Please let me know when you hear of something going on that our readers might want to do, too.

Any local festival or celebration along with any bike, exercise, walking, blading, birding, or any other activity is welcome! The more options, the better!

I Need to Hear from You!

Have a story for the newsletter? Have an idea for one? Send it along to me, the editor, at njnkeefe@yahoo.com

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The printing of this newsletter is donated each month by Apex Office Supplies & Furniture, 719 W Main St, Inverness, FL 34450; (352) 726-4400