



# FOOTPATH

The Alligator Amblers chapter serves Florida Trail Association members in Collier, Lee and Charlotte Counties with hiking, paddling and camping trips and trail maintenance projects. For the most updated information go to [www.amblers.floridatrail.org](http://www.amblers.floridatrail.org)

A Quarterly Newsletter

Spring 2008

**Del-Nor Wiggins Park**

Special event scheduled on February 16th. Volunteers needed!  
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**March Elections**

Nominations for your new Chapter leaders.  
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**Vice Chair Message**

Amblers step up to the plate!  
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**Activities**

10 great activities to keep you hiking, biking, backpacking and informed about Chapter events.  
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**New Members**

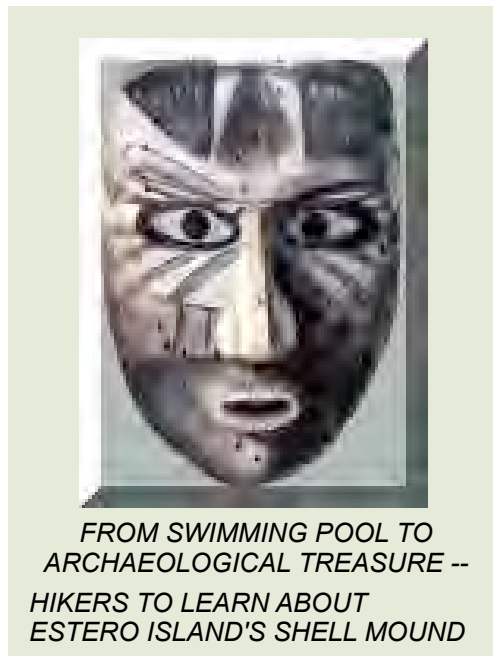
Congratulations to the new members joining our Chapter.  
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**Officers / Chairs**

Listing of the current Officers and Committee Chairs.  
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## Estero Island's Shell Mound

The two-thousand year history of Estero Island's ancient shell mound will be described at a meeting of the Alligator Amblers chapter, Florida Trail Assn., at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 21, at the Bass Pro Shops, Alico Road and I-75. Theresa Schober, director of the Mound House and Newton Beach Park Projects for the town of Fort Myers Beach, will speak on "The Anatomy of a Shell Mound: Creating



FROM SWIMMING POOL TO ARCHAEOLOGICAL TREASURE -- HIKERS TO LEARN ABOUT ESTERO ISLAND'S SHELL MOUND

a Walk-in Exhibit at the Mound House."

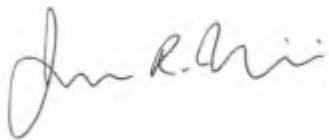
Her presentation details how a 1950s landowner's swimming pool on top of a Calusa shell mound has been transformed into a 50-foot-long room with shell mound walls, providing a rare and powerful view of the history of the site. The public is welcome. For information call JoAnn Luce, 239-495-7644.

Ms. Schober holds archaeology/ anthropology degrees from the Universities of Calgary and Illinois, and is currently a PhD candidate at the University of Florida. She has participated in or directed archaeological excavations in Canada, Mexico, Panama, and for the past nine years in Southwest Florida.

## EDITOR'S NOTE

### A NEW LOOK FOR OUR NEWSLETTER!

*As the new Editor, I decided to revamp the look and feel of our quarterly newsletter. Aided by the nifty software on my Macintosh computer, you have what you see before you. For those of you who receive this newsletter electronically, please send me an email to let me know your thoughts and please include any suggestions for improvement. For those that receive this in paper form, feel free to mail me your comments and suggestions. I also want to know if you can receive the newsletter via email instead as it will save lots of time and Chapter funds if every member had an email address to receive the newsletter. Lastly, I am looking for articles or topics to include in future newsletters, so send them along!*



James R. Nici  
jnici@mac.com  
5710 Shady Oaks Lane  
Naples, FL 34119  
Newsletter Editor

## Request from Del-Nor Wiggins Park

The Supporters of Del-Nor Wiggins Park, Inc. will hold their 5th Annual Family Discovery Day on February 16, 2008 from 10 AM to 3 PM with a rain date on the 17th. You are invited to participate in this event. Their mission is to enhance awareness of our natural environment and the importance of its preservation, both in children and adults. To do this we would like all participants to have an education component to their exhibit. Chuck and Betty Wilson will be coordinating our participation in this event. We would like to have several volunteers assist.

Please contact us at:  
wilgozon@aol.com or  
239-298-2724

## March Elections

*Below is a list of nominations for the upcoming March elections.*

**Chair: Carlos Schomaker**

**Vice Chair: Peggy Egan**

**Secretary: Carol Rose**

**Treasurer: Len Shivok**

**Member-At -Large:**

**Position Open**

## MESSAGE FROM THE VICE- CHAIR

*As most of our members know, when our very capable chairperson Regina resigned last year to further her career elsewhere, we began our search for someone to step into her place. Little did we know that some of our other experienced members -- including JoAnn and Pat -- would be on the sick list at the same time. This combination of events led to a sudden apparent shortage of leadership that was not only capable but interested and available to keep the chapter up and running. Sometimes a crisis brings out the best in people, and in organizations, and that's exactly what has happened. We now have a full slate of officers ready to be nominated, plus new committee chairs to take over for retiring leaders. We should be especially grateful to the members of the executive committee and other committee chairpersons who worked hard to bring this about, and to the Amblers members who have come forward to take on these responsibilities. Thank you!*

**Vice Chair**

Jean Bub

239-263-3341

[jbubwm@aol.com](mailto:jbubwm@aol.com)

## ACTIVITIES

**Saturday, February 16** -- Day hike at Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center, Punta Gorda (covering varied habitats, including black needle rush marsh, pine uplands and oak hammocks). Bring snack and water. Public invited. Leisure. Reservations required. Please call Annette Bleser 941 639 2862 [xbhiker@aol.com](mailto:xbhiker@aol.com)

**Thursday, February 21** -- Alligator Amblers Monthly Meeting – 6:30 social; 7:00 meeting at the Bass Pro Shop, 10040 Gulf View Centre Drive, Fort Myers, Alico Road and I-75. Please call JoAnn Luce 239 495 7644 for more information.

**Wednesday, March 5** -- Sunset Walk on Fort Myers Beach. Walk about 1 ½ hours (2 miles) on the beach, look for shells and try to catch the green flash as the sun sets, take pictures, return. Optional dinner in a local restaurant. Public invited. Leisure. Reservations required. Please call Pat Hastings 239 466 5389 [pathastings@hotmail.com](mailto:pathastings@hotmail.com) Co-Leader Mickey Miller 239 484 6250 [mcmiller@leegov.com](mailto:mcmiller@leegov.com)

**Sunday, March 9** -- Activity Leaders' Planning Meeting -- Bonita Beach -- 9A.M. Sunday, March 9, 2008

**Thursday, March 13** -- Day Hike at Winkler Point -- 3 hour leisure hike through salt flats, scrub and some wet areas (observe birds, fiddler crabs, plants and animal tracks). Public invited. Reservations required. Please call Pat Hastings 239 466 5389 [pathastings@hotmail.com](mailto:pathastings@hotmail.com) Co-Leader Mickey Miller 239 484 6250 [mcmiller@leegov.com](mailto:mcmiller@leegov.com)

**Thursday, March 20** -- Alligator Amblers Monthly Meeting – 6:30 social; 7:00 meeting at the Bass Pro Shop, 10040 Gulf View Centre Drive, Fort Myers, Alico Road and I-75. Please call JoAnn Luce 239 495 7644 for more information.

**Friday, March 28 thru Sunday, March 30** -- FTA Annual Conference, White Springs

**Sunday, March 30 thru Wednesday, April 2** -- Bike Ride on Cross Florida Greenway (south of Ocala, FL) approx. 90 miles while car camping along the way. Biking will be mostly on off road, prepared bike trails, fat tire bikes (either hybrids or mountain bikes) will be needed. Meals will be a mix of community preparations, eating out and on your own. FTA members only. Moderate. Reservations required. Please call Chuck or Betty Wilson 239 298 2724 (cell) [wilgoon@aol.com](mailto:wilgoon@aol.com)

**Saturday and Sunday, April 5 & 6** -- Ladies Backpacking Weekend at Myakka River State Park, Sarasota. Ladies only please! Join us for a fun-filled backpacking adventure at Myakka River State Park. Hike 5-10 miles to our campsite and enjoy some ladies time around the campfire. Hike out Sunday morning. State Park fees apply. FTA members only. Moderate. Reservations required. Please call Annette Bleser 941 639 2862 [xbhiker@aol.com](mailto:xbhiker@aol.com)

**Thursday, April 17** -- Alligator Amblers Monthly Meeting – 6:30 social; 7:00 meeting at the Bass Pro Shop, 10040 Gulf View Centre Drive, Fort Myers, Alico Road and I-75. Please call JoAnn Luce 239 495 7644 for more information.

### Meeting Notice

Alligator Amblers meetings are the third Thursday of each month.

Unless otherwise noted they will meet at the Bass Pro Shop (Alico and I-75) meeting room – second floor – social hour 6:30pm and meeting at 7pm. For information call JoAnn Luce 239-495-7644.

*Members are given a discount at Bass Pro Shops the night of the meeting!*

# New Members

## October 2007

Juliet Araujo - Naples  
Lyn Brown - Ft. Myers  
John and Virginia Dancz - Naples  
Gail Hennings - Alva  
Barbara Neuville - Estero

## November 2007

Bruce and Janet Bunch - North Ft. Myers  
Mark Connelly - Naples

## December 2007

Vincent D'Amico - Estero  
Richard Kelly - Ft. Myers

## January 2008

Clyde and Niki Butcher - Ochopee  
Elaine Carley - Ft. Myers  
Tracey Florio - Cape Coral  
Lorri Miller - Ft. Myers  
Darnell Moore - Naples

Richard Powell - Bonita Springs

Gene and Annie Scott - Naples

Brad Smith - Naples

**SPECIAL NOTICE:** Trail maintenance at Collier Seminole State Park's loop trail is continuing, and Brenda Carneri would welcome help from anyone interested. This work normally takes place on Sundays or Mondays. For details call Brenda 239-594-0401.

# Officers and Committee Chairs

## Acting Chairperson

Carlos Schomaker  
239-415-7795  
[cschomaker@juno.com](mailto:cschomaker@juno.com)

## Vice Chair

Jean Bub  
239-263-3341  
585-261-8409 (summer)  
[jbubwm@aol.com](mailto:jbubwm@aol.com)

## Secretary

Carol Rose  
239-592-9215  
[rcrose22@aol.com](mailto:rcrose22@aol.com)

## Treasurer

Len Shivok  
239-498-6657  
[lenhanna@embarqmail.com](mailto:lenhanna@embarqmail.com)

## Member-at-Large -

Karen O'Neil  
239-947-0962  
[sunbonita@comcast.net](mailto:sunbonita@comcast.net)

## Past Chair & Historian

JoAnn Luce  
239-495-7644  
[jlhikealong@worldnet.att.net](mailto:jlhikealong@worldnet.att.net)

## Membership

Karen O'Neil  
239-947-0962  
[sunbonita@comcast.net](mailto:sunbonita@comcast.net)

## Nominating

Len Shivok  
239-498-6657  
[lenhanna@embarqmail.com](mailto:lenhanna@embarqmail.com)

## Trails Coordinator

Brenda Carneri  
239-594-0401  
[bkcscuba@aol.com](mailto:bkcscuba@aol.com)

## Publicity

Jean Bub  
239-263-3341  
[jbubwm@aol.com](mailto:jbubwm@aol.com)

JoAnn Luce  
239-495-7644  
[jlhikealong@worldnet.att.net](mailto:jlhikealong@worldnet.att.net)

## Activities

Pat Hastings  
239-466-5389 (winter)  
705-322-2184 (summer)  
[pathastings@hotmail.com](mailto:pathastings@hotmail.com)

# “Super” Hiking in Big Cypress Preserve!

*On “Super” Sunday, February 3rd, 28 courageous hikers slogged their way thru 8 miles of the Big Cypress Preserve from Loop Road north to US 41. This southernmost section of the Florida National Scenic Trail was drier than usual as a result of prolonged drought conditions; however, the trail was still very muddy and calf deep in water in several places. The participating hikers enjoyed wonderful weather and fantastic fellowship. Thanks to Chuck Wilson and Brenda Carneri for organizing the hike!*



James R. Nici  
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We need your  
current email  
address to send you  
future newsletters.  
Please inform the  
newsletter editor.