

# Auxiliary Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 3

February 2009

Editor: Beth Rogers

## Winter in Florida

Another year is upon us and we at the Trail Office wish you good health and happiness in 2009. Since there are so few of you remaining since the inception of the Trail, I thought you'd enjoy some history. Bert Valery had a vision in 1983 after his 17 year old son was struck and killed by a car while riding his bike. Bert and several others including Fred Marquis (then County Administrator) were all instrumental in getting the old CSX railroad made into what we know as the Pinellas Trail. The first stretch opened on Dec 1, 1990 from Seminole City Park to Taylor Park and has continued to grow since then. It is now 18 years

old and 44 miles long with extensions in St. Pete, Gulfport, Honey-moon Island, East Lake Trail and Progress Energy Trail.

As most of you know the Friendship Trailbridge remains closed until its condition can be better determined, the rest-rooms continue to be opened daily.

Pinellas Trail is closed again from Fairmont to Sunset Point from Jan 26th to Feb 13. for repair work to Stevenson



If you ever have to call 911 with your cell phone keep in mind they do not know where you are calling from. You must provide:

- Name
- Phone #
- Reason for calling
- What city you are calling from
- Nearest cross street and station marker, if possible

### Small Reminder:

Please remember you **MUST** stop at the stop signs.

We are setting an example for the public, it is necessary for us to stop completely at all stop signs. Running a stop sign is a moving violation, which can cost you.

Also beware of people who are doing a "good" deed and stopping to let you pass when they do not have to stop. What about the cars behind them? Will they stop? Don't take that chance.



### Hours for December

- Mike Rubin 106.0
- Bill Dye 79.5
- Ed Gregg 44.5
- Ken Sawotka 38.0
- Rich Lyle 28.0
- Don Pickett 27.5
- James Swenson 24.5
- Joe Mirman 24.0
- Barb Swenson 20.5
- Joe Santenello 18.5
- Total Hours For Month 521.5
- Total for Year 5058.5

### Hours for January

- Mike Rubin 112.5
- Bill Dye 63.5
- Ken Sawotka 45.0
- Ray Reny 40.5
- Ed Pawlusiak 32.0
- Ed Gregg 30.5
- Don Pickett 28.5
- Jim Wedlake 24.0
- Joe Mirman 23.0
- Rich Lyle 22.5
- Total Hours For Month 559.5
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Kudos to Bill Dye who received a nice note of gratitude from Sue Benner and her family who were visiting from Danville Indiana. Bill escorted them around the construction at Stevenson Creek in Clearwater, which they deeply appreciated. Bill also gave them a guided tour of beautiful downtown Dunedin. They really felt he went above and beyond and they could not have completed their kids first 40 mile bike trip without him.

Did you know that over 2,000 bike riders enjoyed the 2009 Presidential Inauguration while their bikes were watched by the free Bike Valet of Washington Area Bicycle Association (WABA). They provided two bike valet stations in D.C. that were manned by WABA volunteers and staff.



Tampa Bay Cycle has its 3rd annual "Words for Wheels" contest. To enter participants should submit a 100 word essay detailing how winning a bike would change their lives. Two winning entries will be selected, the winners each receive a bike, light, helmet and lock. You can submit your essay online at [www.TampaBayCycle.com](http://www.TampaBayCycle.com) or by mailing entries to Words for Wheels, 601 N. Ashley Drive, Suite 1100, Tampa FL 33602. Entries must be received by 2/20/09 and bikes will be awarded 3/1/09.

*"Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless" —Sherry Anderson*

- Upcoming Events**
- Thru 4-18 Market in the Park @ Pin Co. Ext.
  - 2/28 African American Heritage Festival @ Heritage Village 10am-4pm
  - 3/1 Ciclovía in Clearwater 8am—2pm [myclearwater.com/carefreesunday](http://myclearwater.com/carefreesunday)
  - 4/4 Ride for Humanity [www.ephabitat.org](http://www.ephabitat.org)
  - 4/11 Antique Car Show Heritage Village 10am-4pm
  - 4/24 Family Fishing Day 8:30 am 11 Walsingham Park
  - 5/16 Civil War Heritage Village 10am-4pm

Don't forget to wear your helmet while you are out there. Check for any glass on Trail and re- move it, call the Trail office if it needs further cleaning. Report any deficiencies. Remember Radios, tapes and CD players cannot be used while on duty. **FIRE-ARMS OR WEAPONS OF ANY KIND CANNOT BE CARRIED WHEN IN UNIFORM.** Drink plenty of water and wear sun-screen.



We need Volunteers for the African American Heritage Festival on 2/28 anyone interested can call Floyd Crawford @ 464-4167. Two hours of your time would be greatly appreciated.

- USEFUL NUMBERS**
- ANIMAL CONTROL 582-2600
  - POP A LOCK 896-8704
  - SHERIFF 582-6200
  - TRAIL OFFICE 549-6099




We are trying to set up the Annual Picnic for sometime in March. We will keep you informed.



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Seasons Greetings to all of you, and welcome back to all of our seasonal residents, I hope you didn't bring snow with you! As most of you who have been out on the trail have seen a lot of changes are occurring. Our maintenance people, James and Silenas on the South End and Jose and Jason on the North end are working diligently to get the Trail back up to our usual high standards. The transition has been hard, with Jerry trying to beg, borrow, but never steal equipment, (not our Jerry) and the challenge has been to keep running what they have to work with. Luckily the "winter" is upon us and hopefully by the time things start growing overnight again, a working plan will be in place. Thank you to James, Silenas, Jose and Jason for their hard work. Next time you see them on the Trail give them thumbs up. If any of you are interested in a work day let us know we can use any and all help. We also would like to thank all the other work crews throughout the county who have been generously helping us.

Don't forget to keep a log of your rides; if you don't have a logbook come into the Trail office and get one, we have plenty. Be sure to ring in, and ring out we can't keep track of your volunteer hours if you don't. Your log book not only is a record of your time if there is ever a discrepancy, but is also an official document. Call 549-6099 before and after your ride or walk and you can report any concerns at this time also. Let us know if you know anyone interested in being an Auxiliary Ranger, or have them fill out the postcard in the Trail Map and send it in. New Park Brochures have arrived if you would like to stop by the Trail office and get some. Anyone wanting to ride along with a Ranger during the week or weekend call the Trail office 549-6099 to schedule.

Please let us know if there are any changes in your address, phone number, sometimes we have short notice events come up and an e-mail address would be the best way to notify you.

There will be a Pinellas Trails Inc. Meeting, Wed, January 14, 2009 at the Largo Library, 120 Central Park Dr. @ 6:30 p.m.



**KEEP PINELLAS BEAUTIFUL**---If you see illegal dumping, major litter problems, public safety hazards, road or environmental hazards you can call the 24 hour litter hotline, you will need to provide an address. Or you may go to [www.keeppinellasbeautiful.org](http://www.keeppinellasbeautiful.org)

The Fred Marquis Pinellas Trail was formally inducted into the Rail to Trail Hall of Fame on October 21 at the 2008 Pro Bike/ProWalk Florida. Even though now he is officially retired (once again) his legacy is still something to be proud of thanks for all your hard work Mr. Marquis.

As many of you may have noticed the bats in the U.S. 19 overpass were safely removed and had to take up residence elsewhere. Breeding season had to be over before they could be moved and the process was done slowly to insure no bats were harmed.



Construction started on the Trail from Ocean View Ave to E. Harrison and should be done by Christmas.

As most of you know a portion of the Friendship Trailbridge was closed on Nov 6 because it did not pass a structural inspection. At this time the cost of repairs is unknown and if or when it will re-open. The catwalks however remain open and are doing their usual brisk business.

We are sorry to tell you of the passing of Earnie Foster who was the first president of Pinellas Trails, Inc. His outgoing personality and leadership will be missed.

## UPCOMING EVENTS



11/-4/18 Market in the Park @ Ext. Parking Lot Saturdays  
12/1-1/3 Illuminated Gardens @ Botanical Gardens  
12/14 FL Gulf Beaches Halfathon – finishes at Taylor  
1/31 Pinellas Folk Festival @ Heritage

