

Trails and Tales

NEWSLETTER

Winter Edition 2007

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They're Back!



Last year we introduced you to these two rare whooping cranes who were wintering near DeLeon Springs, Florida. They have returned. And this year we know a little more about them.

They are Whooping Cranes Number 201 and 306. One is male and one is female. The male (#306) was hatched in 2003 and the female (#201) was hatched in 2002.

The population of Whooping Cranes was actually down to about 17 in the 1940's and 50's. Today they are still seriously endangered. These two have been flying more than 1200 miles between Florida and Wisconsin, just like many human snowbirds.

Many new chicks have to be trained to make the migration. They actually follow an ultralite aircraft with pilots dressed as Whooping Cranes.

(Hey, we don't make this stuff up!)

Eco-Tours Revisited

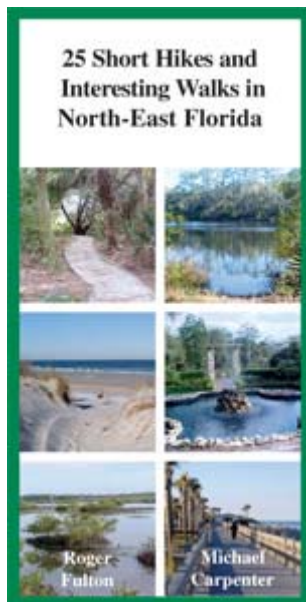
We aren't advertising it widely, but we have already re-started our eco-tours for some of our customers in Florida. Seems people really want a live tour guide to take them out to view the Florida wildlife. (Maybe it has something to do with Florida's snakes and gators.) But whatever the reason, enough people wanted our wildlife tours that we started them up again in the DeLeon Springs area of Florida.

That gives our clients a chance to hike about 3 miles over a two hour period and see about 25 species of wildlife, and possibly, a glimpse of those two Whooping Cranes to the left. We may include a snake or gator as well, but at a safe distance – we hope. But clients will be more likely to see egrets, ibis, herons and marsh rabbits.

We provide a 27X spotting scope, an experienced wildlife tour guide and a wildlife identification book. Tours are generally available starting at 4 pm until about sunset, 7 days a week until April 15th. Bring your binoculars, water and sunscreen. The cost of the 2 hour tour is \$75.00 for 1 or 2 people, and \$5.00 for each additional person. To book a tour, call us at 386-956-6089 or e-mail us at Roger@RogerFulton.com. Tours are available by reservation only.

NEW Publications

25 Short Hikes and Interesting Walks in North-East Florida Available NOW!



This new book covers 25 great hiking trails in Northeastern Florida. All of these interesting trails are north of Route 40 and from the Palatka area, east to the ocean. They cover Ormond Beach to north of Jacksonville. It covers paved walking trails, off-road trails and even provides beach access points for beach walks all along the northeast coast. Most of the short hikes we describe are consistent with our motto of "**Outdoor books for ordinary people.**" No overnight hikes here and most are less than five miles in length. They are rated easy or moderate. We provide you with appropriate GPS readings, and explicit directions from an interstate highway. (If you can't find I-95 or I-10 on a map, please don't buy this book, because you can't be trusted alone on a trail anyway.) For the rest of you, this is a great way to

get out and explore and enjoy some really great trails in Northeastern Florida. Some may even be in your own back yard, but unless you know where they are, you can't enjoy them. So whether you are a resident or a visitor to Northeastern Florida, this full-color book with more than 60 photos will help you get out and get around.

2007, 120 pages, top spiral bound
\$19.95

The preferred method of ordering this book is directly from the author. Please send a check or money order in the amount of \$19.95 plus \$2.50 shipping and handling, payable to: Roger Fulton, 8 Smith St., Glens Falls, NY 12801.

Please allow 2 weeks for delivery, although we'll try to get your order out sooner.

25 Interesting Bike Trails in North-East Florida

No photo available yet.

Just finished, we expect this book to be available within 60 days. It follows our familiar format. We have found some off-road, yet paved trails for you to explore. We have also found some easy, and some not so easy, off-road trails for you. If you have an interest in ordering this biking book, call us to reserve a copy at 386-956-6089 or e-mail a note to Roger@RogerFulton.com

The price will be \$19.95 and the same ordering procedure as above.

Upcoming Events

Join us at any or all of the following events:

Saturday, February 10, 2007 – Wildlife Walk at Lake Woodruff National Wildlife Refuge, DeLeon Springs, Florida, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., led by Roger Fulton

Sponsored by the Friends of Lake Woodruff National Wildlife Refuge, this two hour nature walk will cover about three miles. You will see a variety of wading birds, including herons, cormorants, anhingas, perhaps an alligator or two and marsh rabbits.

There are no fees for this trip. Meet at the parking lot at the end of Mud Lake Road in DeLeon springs. The public is invited. For more info call 386-956-6089.

Saturday, March 10, 2007 – Booksigning at Lake Helen Library in Lake Helen, Florida, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.. Actually this is officially titled the 15th Annual Florida Book Authors Book Fair. It is a fundraiser for the Lake Helen Library.

Roger Fulton will be on hand to discuss, sell and sign all five – or maybe 6 of his Florida hiking, biking and wildlife viewing trail guides.

There are no fees to attend this event. It will be held at Hopkins Hall which is actually across the street from the library on the corner of Euclid and Connecticut Avenues in Lake Helen. For more information contact Pam Swanto at 386-228-1152.

Thursday, May 17, 2007 – Costa Rica Adventures, Crandell Library, Glens Falls, NY, 7 -8 p.m. A Powerpoint presentation on the country of Costa Rica; its flora fauna and activities.

Sponsored by the Adirondack Mountain Club, this is actually their monthly meeting, but it is open to the public. In conjunction with that, Roger Fulton will share his experiences of mountainbiking, hiking and exploring the cloud forests, west coast environment and the Carribean shores of Costa Rica's six eco-systems.

June 23rd through September 21, 2007 – The Common Man Tour '07 – 300 miles of Hisotry. An historic canoe trip on the anniversary of the 250th anniversary of the French and Indian War. For more details check out our Blog at www.RogerFulton.com or wait for the Spring edition of *Trails and Tales Newsletter*.