

The Byway Buzz

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Trail Opening Marks Armstrong's Centennial

Ribbon Cutting Celebrates New Beginning and Enduring Past

Saturday, Dec. 1, marked an historic celebration that included the ribbon-cutting for the newest segment of the Palatka-to-St. Augustine State Trail (PSAST). The first annual "Rails to Trails Festival" hosted by the Town of Armstrong and St. Johns County's SEA Community Help Resource Center, Inc., was an opportunity to celebrate Armstrong's illustrious 100 year history. The community

We extend a special thanks to Malinda Peeples and her team at the residents of the Town of Armstrong for hosting such a meaningful event.

J.C Penney Memorial Scenic Highway Workshop

Focus on Product

The September 21 and 22 workshop conducted by URS Corporation for the Corridor Management Entity, CASH -16 was an invigorating experience, with much discussion and generation of great ideas for projects & partnership.

On Friday, Travis Johnson, TranSystems Consulting presented a presentation called "Roadside Chat". He stressed the importance of sustainability, cooperation, communication, accountability and the need to have a yardstick to measure success. The yard stick helps prove the validity of the work being done to tell the corridor story and encourage visitors to explore the scenic, historic and cultural offerings of a particular byway.



Photo by Delany Peshek

gathered at Armstrong Park to promote the town and its connection to the newest segment of the 8.5 mile PSAST. St Johns County and Armstrong are working to develop the community into a trailhead that will eventually offer amenities and services to park and trail visitors.

This developing trail is a critical segment of the St. Johns River –To-The-Sea Loop, a multi-county initiative and a major component of the East Coast Greenway. In Palatka, the PSAST will ultimately connect to the developing Urban Palatka Trail, which held its ground breaking ceremony on Oct. 30, and the Palatka-to-Lake-Butler State Trail (PLBST), with the ultimate plan to provide the region with a continuous, unbridged trail corridor from St. Augustine to Lake City.

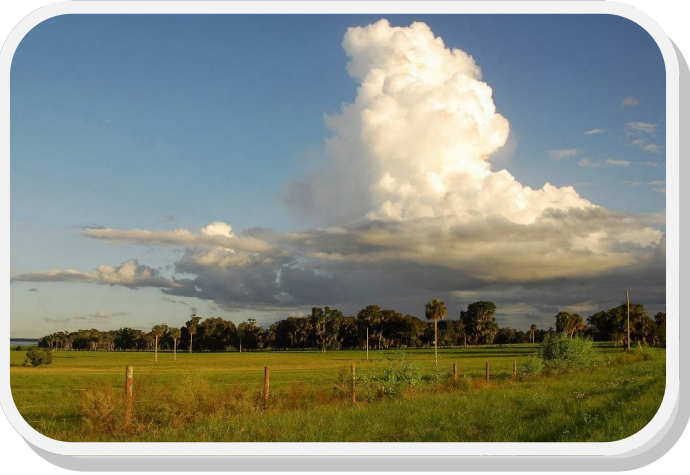
Both the PSAST and the PLBST are managed by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Recreation and Parks. The development of both projects are being overseen and primarily funded by the District 2 Office of the Florida Department of Transportation.

Old Florida Heritage Highway 2012 Photo Contest

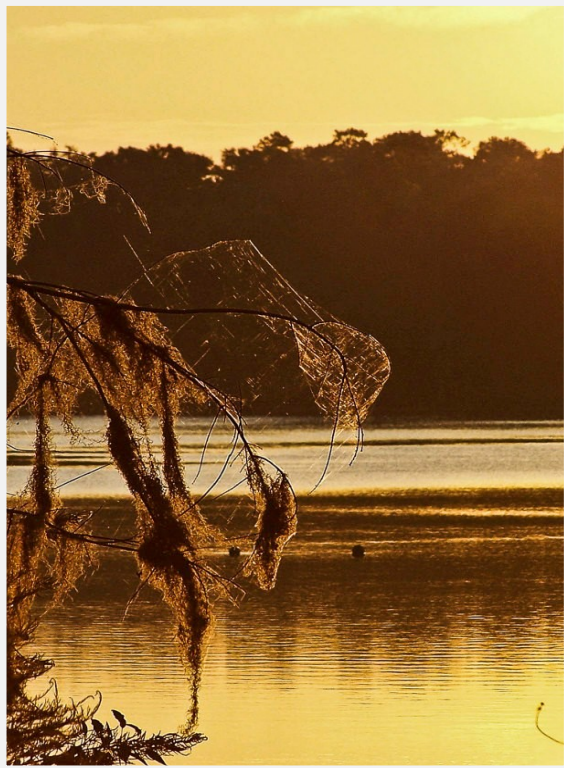


Taken by Warren Sheffey from Reddick, Florida. This is the Wood and Swink post office and general store in Evinston, Florida. The Wood & Swink is the oldest continuously operating post office in Florida.

Old Florida Heritage Highway 2012 Photo Contest Continued



Second place by Sean Dowie of Gainesville, Florida. This photo was taken along County Road 225 in Evinston, Florida.



This picture was one of our photo contest entries and was submitted by Dave Clark from Ocala, Florida. This photo was taken at Lake Wauberg near Micanopy, Florida.

Congratulations to all of the winners, and a huge thank you to everyone who submitted their photos.

Simple Life Seaside Beach

When you let your mind wander, thinking of summer, living the dream of a simple, beautiful life. Pastel houses, picket fences, families riding their bicycles to the ice cream shop.



In today's world of technology and the internet it seems almost impossible to imagine, but long before today one man started a dream, J.S. Smolian had an intense connection to Seaside and the Gulf Coast. The white sugar sand, turquoise blue water, the way families seemed to pull together, it is a magical place. He loved watching his grandchildren become sand castle architectures, loved watching them enjoy the outdoors, and become themselves.

This connection to the gulf coast and seaside was so strong that in 1946, he brought 80 of its acres; undeveloped land with dense live oaks, scrubby brush, and barley navigable.

J.S had a vision for the land, a dream he recognized that this untamed territory had a certain grace and beauty, his plan a summer camp, a destination he could share with the world. Sometimes dreams are hard to make into reality, J.S had the same problem, his plan never materialized, and the land rested.

In 1978 J.S deeded the 80 acres to his grandson, Robert Davis. Robert felt that same deep connection that his grandfather felt for this land. Roberts memories of the summer nights on the gulf beach, the sound of the waves or the sea breezes drying his arms after a swim, simple life.



Robert shared his grandfather's dream and made his own plans, a town seamlessly tied by a common sense of community. In 1981, dreams became reality, Seaside was born. 30 years later their dream

continues Simple, Beautiful, Graceful and Elegant.



The Byway Buzz/Happenings & Tidbits

A1A Eyes Strategic Planning Goals for New Year

With the aid of FDOT staff and Corridor Solutions consultants, Inc. support, Friends of A1A will develop its next five year strategic plan March 21, 2013. The event will be staged at the St. Augustine Lighthouse and Museum and engage numerous byway stakeholders in a comprehensive planning process. Currently Friends of A1A has achieved 64% of its targeted goals from 2008. As the economy has changed, so have priorities and new objectives will be discussed related to resource protection, transportation safety and other goals. In March two new board members and new governmental elected officials will join the group to bring fresh ideas.

A1A Scenic Highway

Plum Creek Foundation Awards \$2,500 to Friends of A1A

Plum Creek Foundation Resource Supervisor, Ben Dow, awarded \$2,500 on Nov. 30, 2012 to Friends of A1A Byway Program Administrator, Sallie O'Hara, for the Environmental Education Program. The 4th Annual Environmental Education Fair will be held in May 2013 at Anastasia State Park.

Paynes Prairie

Paynes Prairie held a 5k run and a firefest last quarter and the rangers reported both were a huge success with over 250 runners, and the children loved Smokey the Bear!!

Old Florida Heritage

The Old Florida Heritage Highway Annual Meeting will occur Thursday Jan. 24 at 6pm at the UMC Fellowship Hall along SE 182th Pl. in Evinston.

The 75th anniversary of the Pulitzer prize publication winning book "The Year of The Yearling" will be celebrated during 2013. As events become finalized information will be posted at: <http://www.scenicus441.com> and <http://www.floridastateparks.org/marjoriekinnanrawlings/>.

Florida Heritage Festival

A group of volunteers have worked for six months to organize a heritage festival featuring all things Flagler County. The first time out was a big success and they think they may have something to build on.

Website Information

Tourism Website: floridascenichighways.com

Program Website: floridascenichighways.com/program

Follow us on Twitter: @FLscenichighway

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