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Florida Black Bear Scenic Byway Kiosks R'Us

By Phil Davis

When a crowd gathered around the prototype kiosk during the Black Bear Festival in March one lady said, "It's cute. I want one in my front yard."

As it turned out that was Shananne Cain a local business owner and member of the Umatilla Chamber of Commerce. She was instrumental in getting the City of Umatilla to donate funds for a kiosk for the Byway. That was the sixth kiosk donated within a

Sail Forth Productions shared the concept at meetings and with others, within three months there was a **total of eight kiosks donated**. The plan is for all the kiosks to be finished through sponsors and volunteers.

two month period.

This summer volunteers will be building and installing outdoor kiosks with interpretive panels along the Florida Black Bear Scenic Byway.



Summer Volunteer

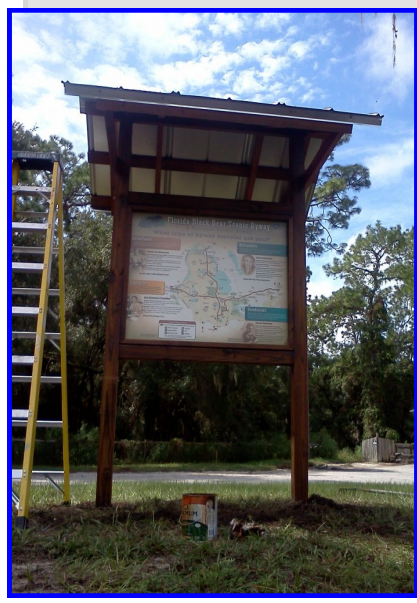
As part of the Byway's Master Plan project, Sail Forth Productions proposed a **"Volunteer Sponsored Kiosk Program."** Since Sail Forth was already designing and delivering eight interpretive panels, why not go to the community and see if funding could be raised for kiosks?

For **\$600-\$700** sponsors could donate an outdoor kiosks built by local volunteers. Sail Forth Productions donated the first kiosk and Kimley

Horn & Associates (also working on the byway project) donated the second one.

The kiosk design is a fairly simple structure that uses the **"Cracker" architecture style** that is part of this byways' cultural background. The goal was to make the kiosk inexpensive, yet durable; easy to construct, yet attractive. It was also designed to be built modularly, so it could be transported in a pick-up truck and assembled at the installation site without the need for heavy machinery.

The Interpretive Plan developed to tell the Byway Story included plans for 16 secondary two-sided outdoor kiosks strategically placed along the 120-mile byway.



Finished Product

It's been a great program for expanding ownership and interest in the byway. Some of those who donated kiosks asked for custom panels of information pertinent to the byway story. Florida Black Bear Scenic Byway is also planning on installing "Sponsored by" plaques on the kiosks to personalize them. In some cases, sponsors

have asked that the plaque indicate that the kiosk is dedicated to a family member.

Take A Step Back in Time

Submitted by Debra Miller/Joan Bernat



St. Johns River

As the sun rises over the sawgrass marshes that mark the starting point of the St. Johns River, it slices through the mist that defines mornings in swampy central Florida.

The rain that fell here overnight may evaporate in the afternoon, it may be used for irrigation, or it may wind its way along the length of the 310 miles of

Take A Step Back in Time Continued

the St. Johns River and flow into the Atlantic Ocean.

In the mid 1700's Governor James Grant described the area as a "New World in a State of Nature." At the turn of the century, citrus groves turpentine and cow camps were common in the Northwest St. Johns County.

Transportation has always been an important use of the St. Johns River. When William Bartram sailed down the river, he stopped briefly at an Indian village on the very spot where Palatka is located. Into the 1830s, the area was a trading post, until Fort Shannon was built there in 1835 to secure the strategic location during the Seminole Indian Wars. In the 1850s, Palatka became a port of entry into the interior of the state. Steamboats brought tourism and were vital to the city's economy until the 1920s. Modern ships still traverse the river. Cruise lines, recreational boats and commercial shipping are interwoven into the river's economy.



Old Settlers

Join us at the **Old Settlers Reunion on October 27, 2012 from 10 AM to 4 PM**. Pull on your boots and saunter through an 1860's cow camp. Sit on a bale of hay (or lawn chair) and listen to cowboy music. Watch as re-enactors portray a lady's life during Civil War times. Gather round the porch steps and enjoy a portrayal of Harriet Beecher Stowe as she recounts the story of a picnic on Julington Creek.

Join us at Alpine Groves Park, located on the banks of the St. Johns River at 2060 State Road 13, and let area history come alive for you at

knew it would be a good evening. It was a beautiful time of day and such a nice sunset to be seen while on the cruise. Such a unique way to celebrate such an auspicious occasion—a sunset cruise on the Sundancer stationed on the Intra-coastal Waterway at the Hammock Beach Resort on A1A in Palm Coast. There was entertainment a good musician, a lite fair of scrumptious appetizers and drinks were available but best of all was seeing my ol' friends from A1A. I had been involved since before they were designated. "I can recall way



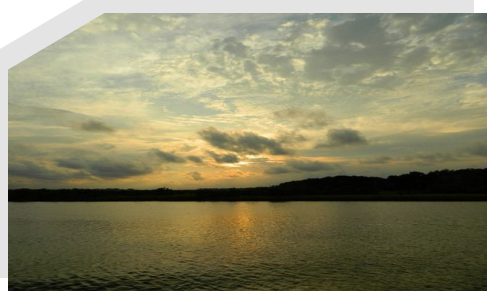
Byway friends A1A celebrating 10 years on the sundancer.

back in 2002 ,or so it seems way back, Al Hadeed receiving that fantastic phone call while a group of us were having lunch at the Matanzas Inlet Restaurant as we were discussing if we would be designated and when we would hear the good word." I was still FDOT D2 Scenic Highways Coordinator at the time and was pulling for the byway after all the years of many people's hard work. Now I look around the ship and see some of the same faces I knew then, still here supporting the byway as well as some new faces that have joined in the fun and work. Sallie displayed the plaque given to the byway from FDOT for its 10th Anniversary accomplishment and the Proclamation made in honor of the byway's anniversary by the City of St. Augustine, one of the cities along the byway. She told us all the cities along the byway made similar proclamations.

A good time was had by all- catching up, discussing the byways accomplishments and celebrating in general. And the weather, water, atmosphere and company were perfect for a delightful byway celebration.

A1A Celebration

By Kristee Booth



Sunset Anniversary Cruise St Johns

As I drove from Deland to Palm Coast for the 10th anniversary celebration cruise for the A1A Byway, I was lucky enough to see not one but two rainbows so I already

Plum Creek Foundation Award

Friends of A1A was awarded \$2500 from Plum Creek Foundation to promote the May 2013 4th Annual Environmental Education Fair/ Kids Ocean Day. The Plum Creek Foundation

Plum Creek Foundation Award

Continued

is the community involvement arm of the Plum Creek land and timber company. Plum Creek's headquarters are in Seattle, Washington, but it owns nearly seven million acres of land in 19 states. Similar to most corporate grant makers, the Plum Creek Foundation makes grants solely in locations where it conducts its business. The Plum Creek Foundation has four general focus areas for its grant-making. They are: Community, which provides grants for organizations improving the quality of life and providing services for residents in communities in which the company operates; Education, which provides grants for educational programs that enhance learning experiences; Environmental, which provides grants for organizations that promote environmental stewardship and that teach environmental education; and Arts, which provides grants for organizations that creatively provide arts and performance programs. Kids Ocean Day brings together many environmental educators each year to promote understanding and awareness of coastal areas and habitats.

The Byway Buzz/Happenings & Tidbits

- Friends of A1A was the zone captain for the recent International Coastal Cleanup held on September 15, 2012. In this second year leadership role volunteers quadrupled the year before with a turnout of over 400. Data cards are still being tabulated to assess pounds of trash and debris and identify problem areas.
- The A1A 72-mile Super Scenic Garage Sale in full planning mode with more sites than last year. The goal this year is to have at least one stop per mile for visitors to really have a fun time in their bargain hunting. Art Along A1A will be featured with new brochures and directories for those visitors interested in special finds offered in the area.
- Payne's Prairie 5 K run benefiting Friends of the Payne's Prairie **Saturday November 3, 2012 at 8:00 am**. For more information: <http://paynesprairie5k.com/>
- Fire Fest Celebrating prescribed Fire Awareness Saturday **November 3, 2012 10:00 am— 3:00 pm** Paynes Prairie Reserve State Park. Have fun learning about prescribed fire and its importance to Florida. For more information call: 352-466-3397

Website Information

Tourism Website: floridascenichighways.com

Program Website: floridascenichighways.com/program

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