



## FLORIDA CRACKER TRAIL ASSOCIATION “Keeping History Alive”

December 2014

Hello to Everyone!

Thank you for your interest in joining the Florida Cracker Trail Association (FCTA) and the FCTA's Annual Cross State Ride.

The FCTA is a non-profit organization of volunteers dedicated to the mission of “Keeping History Alive”, by educating through demonstration, the Old Florida Cracker Pioneer ways of agriculture, animal husbandry, respect for the land as well as the hardships and joys of life on the original frontier. The Annual Cross State Ride serves to preserve the importance of the role of the State of Florida in the introduction of horses and cattle by the Spanish Explorers into the New World and the birth and continuance of the cattle and horse industries by its future settlers and their descendents and to support related causes.

On November 20, 2000, the Florida Cracker Trail was selected as a Community Millennium Trail. Millennium Trails is a partnership between the White House Millennium Trail Council, the Department of Transportation, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, the National Endowment for the Arts and other public agencies and private organizations. The goal of the Millennium Trails is the creation of a nationwide network of trails that protect natural environment, interpret history and culture, and enhance alternative transportation, recreation and tourism.

We are excited that in 2015, the Annual Cross State Ride will be our 28<sup>th</sup> Anniversary! We will begin in Manatee County on Saturday, February 14, and commence with a parade through Ft. Pierce, Florida on Saturday, February 21, with camping on the beach!

We will complete approximately 110 miles when we have finished the ride. Each day we will cover approximately 20 miles, some days less, some days more! The ride is as much “on road” as “off road”. We are escorted by county law enforcement as we ride through 5 counties and through private cattle ranches, Florida State parks, and South Florida Water Management areas. As we move across the State, we will camp in a different location each night. We break for lunch around noon each day and have a bus company that will transport rig drivers from the lunch stop each day back to the previous night's camp to retrieve the rigs and drive them to the night camp. The bus will then transport the rig driver back to the lunch stop to finish the afternoon ride. Horse water and port-o-lets are provided by the FCTA and are available throughout the ride, in camp, at lunch, and at water breaks.

The FCTA has chosen **Pat's Bar-B-Que** of Lake Placid as our Caterer this year. Mr. and Mrs. Pat Myers have done an excellent job on past rides and they make every effort to be prompt, professional, courteous, and provide great food! Morning and evening meals will be hot and freshly prepared. Lunch on the trail will be served as a box lunch for “on the go”. Morning and afternoon snacks and beverages will be provided during water breaks.

In addition, we publish a Commemorative Ride Program Book in which you can place an advertisement or picture of you or your family or business. We will have a Saddle raffle and an Auction that supports our Scholarship Funds. We have entertainment in camp each evening and children's games planned each day.

The Annual Cross State Ride is strictly limited to members of the FCTA. The Membership Form and all other forms can be found on our website: [www.CrackerTrail.org](http://www.CrackerTrail.org) and on [www.FlaHorse.com](http://www.FlaHorse.com) on the Club page. Join or renew your FCTA membership today to be “in the loop” to receive up-to-the-minute information on the Ride.

Let's make history!

Lynn Carlson, President