

Walkin' Nassau

Volkssport Club

Fall 2011

Volume 2 Issue 3

Walkin' Nassau Volkssport Club
 2134B First Ave. Fernandina Beach, FL 32034
www.walkinnassau.org
 Florida Volkssport Association-FVA website
www.angelfire.com/planet/fva2247
 American Volkssport Association—AVA
www.ava.org



President's Corner



AVA Convention 2011



It was an honor and a pleasure for Gloria Merwarth (Pictured above with her husband, Mark) to attend the 17th Biennial AVA Convention as the delegate for the Walkin' Nassau Volkssport Club

The walks were attended by 600+ walkers and were truly awesome and well marked. The

Greater Des Moines Volkssport Association did a fantastic job.

Our first walk was located at Clear Lake in the north central area of Iowa. The start point was the Surf Ballroom where Buddy Holly, Richie Valens and the Big Bopper gave their last concert before their plane crash in a corn field. This was the inspiration for Don McLean's American Pie as "the day the music died".

Another walk was in Mason City, the boyhood home of Meredith Willson, who wrote *The Music Man*. When we walked into the room to register, there were 76 Trombones hanging from the ceiling. I immediately started singing the song. The town also boasts the only remaining Frank Lloyd Wright hotel in the world. In addition we passed many homes that he designed.

(con't on page 2)

As we start a new fiscal year and move into fall I wanted to reflect on how far our club has come over the past year. We now have three Year Round Events (walks that can be done any day or time) and are working on adding a 4th (Amelia Island Lighthouse) beginning in January 2012. We held bi-monthly events with good attendance at most including a wonderful walk on Little Talbot and a fun walk at a little known jewel - Goffinsville Park (both with outstanding views.) We recently completed our 2nd annual membership drive and in July held a club meeting to announce our events for the remainder of 2012 (see upcoming events.)

We have several new walk events planned for the second half of 2011, a new lighthouse area walk, St. Mary's Scarecrow stroll, St. George Island with the Kingsley Plantation and hopefully an Amelia Island Plantation Regular Event. Don't miss the opportunity to explore these new walks with your Walkin' Nassau friends.

Membership is not required

(con't on page 2)

Mark Your Calendars!

Walk Schedule: September through December 2011

9/6	North Beach to Fishing Pier Fun Walk—dinner Sandy Bottoms	6:00 PM	Meet at E. 10th & N. Fletcher
9/24	Amelia Island Greenway	9:00 AM	Residence Inn
10/8	St. Mary's AVA Scarecrow Stroll 111 Osborne St., St. Mary's, GA	11:00 AM	Visitors Center
10/15	Downtown Fernandina w/ Forgers 2nd Ave.	9:00 AM	Hampton Inn & Suites
10/28-30	Walk Around Florida	See article	St. Augustine
11/8	Amelia Island Lighthouse—Fun Walk (Proposed New YRE)	6:00 PM	Sandy Bottoms Dinner to follow
11/19	Old Town Fernandina Club Walk	9:00 AM	Red Otter Outfitters
12/3	Fort George Island Club Walk	9:00 AM	Ribault Club 12157 Hecksher Dr.
12/14	Holiday Walkin' Event	6:30 PM	TBD

Kick off the season with all your Walkin' Nassau Friends!

The Walkin' Nassau Volkssport Club exists to provide people of average athletic ability opportunities for leisurely, non-competitive walks in scenic and historic areas.

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Dues are \$10/yr. For single and \$15 for couple or family. These dues are renewed July 1 and are good until July 1 of the following year.

**Our website is:
www.walkin'nassau.org**

AVA Convention

(continued from Page 1)

Another fabulous walk took us through the Living History Farms, an outdoor museum of several working farms spanning 300 years. There were interpreters walking around in period clothing.

And, who knew we would walk past the house where John Wayne was born, in Winterset? Amazing! We also passed a covered bridge seen in the movie, *The Bridges of Madison County*.

On the Ames walk we stopped to tour the Library on the Iowa State University campus. We were able to view Grant Wood's largest murals. They were awesome. Also on this day we enjoyed the lovely Reiman Gardens.

The beautiful Des Moines walk was another surprise. We strolled through a sculpture garden right down town. After seeing the rolling farm lands in other towns we were faced with **HILLS**. We passed a number of large mansions before we got to the Salisbury House and Gardens. 42 Rooms. It was awesome!

The AVA meetings went well. There are a few by-law changes:

- The Biennial Convention can be held in April, May or June.
- The AVA Officers term starts on July 1 no matter when the Convention is held.
- Starting July 1 you may walk a YRE every day and stamp your event book every time.

Another surprise came when the Asheville Amblers newsletter won second place for Best Newsletter. I'm so proud of that since I write that newsletter also!

All in all it was a great convention.

President's Corner *(con't from page 1)*

to walk but becoming a member of Walkin' Nassau helps support the club and allows us to continue to get walks/events sanctioned by AVA. Membership dues are very low- only \$10 for single membership and \$15 for couple/household. Join today!

As you know everyone can walk for free but walking for AVA credit (\$3 fee per walk) also helps to support our club and the national organization so consider purchasing a New Walker Packet and start walking for credit.

The board has worked hard to continue the growth of the club, not only with members but also with events. However, we are always open to suggestions or assistance from any-

EVENTS

Gloria Merwarth

800

Mark Merwarth

800

DISTANCE

When your event and distance books are completed please send them to AVA for your awards so they can be published in The American Wanderer national newspaper and here in this column so we can brag about your accomplishments.



Welcome New Members

A big welcome goes to **Barbara & Carl Anderson, Ed Healy, Cindy McLaughlin, Mary & Brian Downey and Wendy & Charles Scanlon.**

We're glad to have you with us to share the fun of Volksmarching. See you on the trail!

Gloria Merwarth

one so don't hesitate to provide us with your thoughts and/or comments.

I am glad to see new walkers joining our group and hope that each of you will continue to support the club.

Walkin' Nassau would like to welcome David Olson as our new Vice President. Thank you Natalie Blackwell for doing a great job serving as our club VP this year.

Remember to Keep Walkin'!

Dyanne Hughes

Meander on the Greenway

Saturday, September 24 is an excellent time to walk the unique Amelia Island Greenway which consists of over 300 acres that run north to south along Egan's Creek. The Greenway was opened for public use the summer of 2000 as an undeveloped park for passive recreational use. Its grass covered roads are suitable for walking and

biking plus its environment exhibits a variety of natural wildlife and vegetation.

We plan to meet in the lobby of the Residence Inn located at 2301 Sadler Rd. at 8:45 AM to register and start the walk at 9AM. Be sure to bring insect repellent with you.

Hope to see you there.

Step Back Into History

Plan now to join us on Saturday, December 3 for a club walk at Fort George Island. Cultural State Park. We'll meet in the parking lot across the street from the legendary Ribault Club located at 12157 Heckscher Dr. at 8:45 AM to register. The walk will start at 9:00 AM.

Enjoy the outdoors while you explore the natural scenery of the Island. The walk will begin at the historically restored Ribault Club, established in 1928 as a play-

ground for the affluent; it now serves as the gateway to the Timucuan Preserve. The walk then proceeds through Kingsley Plantation, along with the tabby structured ruins and slave quarters. Get a glimpse of the Ft. George Episcopal Church, Point Isabel, and the plantation gift shop bookstore. Stop by the Visitors Center to learn more about the history of the area. All walking events are open to the public and new members are always welcome.

St. Mary's YRE Scarecrow Stroll

Saturday, October 8 will be a busy weekend in St. Mary's, GA. The scarecrows will be being erected in preparation for Halloween and there will be lots of activity downtown. We'll plan to meet at the Visitor's Center located at 111 Osborne St. in downtown at 10:45 AM to register and start the walk at 11:00 AM. 5K and 10K walks are available. Don't forget to bring your AVA credit books! This YRE is sponsored by the First Coast Trail Forgers and can be walked any day of the year in case you miss this one!

St. Mary's is a small coastal village located in SE Georgia. It is rich in history, natural beauty, and southern hospitality. St. Mary's is the gateway to the Cumberland Island National Seashore, a pristine

barrier island accessible via ferry only and is a wonderful day trip. This walk will take you through the historic area, the Oak Grove Cemetery with graves dating back to 1801, and along the scenic waterfront with glimpses of Cumberland Island in the distance. Website orientation: www.stmaryswelcome.com

Directions: St. Mary's Convention & Visitors Bureau, 111 Osborne St., St. Mary's, GA. 31558. From I-95 Northbound, take exit 1, St. Mary's Rd. Take ramp toward St. Mary's/Cumberland Island. Turn left onto GA 40E to downtown St. Mary's. 40E will become Osborne St. Just past the intersection of Osborne and Dillingham, you will find the Visitor's Bureau on your left.



Walks Around The State

9/3 Leesburg CW 9:00—10:30 AM
9/17 Altamonte Springs 8:30-10 A
Mid-Florida Milers

10/1 Riverside **YRE**
10/15 Fernandina Downtown **YRE**
10/22 FVA weekend, Pierson, FL
First Coast Trail Forgers

**10/28-30 Walk Around Florida W
St. Augustine
Happy Wanderers**

**Event Codes W=Regular Event,
CW=Club Walk**

CLUB CONTACTS

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kraasch@comcast.net

Happy Wanderers
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Mid-Florida Milers
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Suncoast Sandpipers
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Pensacola Volksmarch Club
850-457-2763
Beaver2153@bellsouth.net

Meandering Manatees
239-368-1673
Bevmneill@aol.com



"Moving together toward a healthier America"

Walk Around Florida in St. Augustine October 28 –30

Join the Happy Wanderers, Mid-Florida Milers and the Suncoast Sandpipers in a weekend of “spirited” walks, fellowship and fun in the nation’s oldest city.

Friday afternoon starts with a walk through the streets of St. Augustine and after a bite to eat at one of the many local restaurants, ends with a spooky Ghost Tour. Saturday morning begins with a complimentary hot breakfast for hotel guests followed by a short drive to St. Augustine Beach to wander the residential neighborhoods and check out the beach scene.

For lunch you can check out another local eatery or, to save time, have a Picnic/Box lunch before embarking on the afternoon walk. Following the second walk on Saturday you can enjoy a private Banquet and cocktails (cash bar) at the Bayview Room. Hotel guests will rise Sunday morning to another compli-

mentary hot breakfast before departing on a drive through the Florida countryside to Palatka and Ravine Gardens.

You MUST pre-register for the Ghost Tour, Picnic/Box Lunch, Award and Saturday Banquet.

Hotel information also on line.

EVENT PRE-REGISTRATION NOW AVAILABLE

www.happywanderersfl.org



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

MEMBER NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

E-MAIL _____

ANNUAL DUES: Single \$10 _____ Household \$15 _____

Cell Phone _____

How Did Our Year Round Walks Do in the Second Quarter?

Events	Participation
Old Town	10
American Beach	17
Greenway	2

Please remember these walks can be done any day of the year for credit or free. Bring a friend and explore the area. The credit walkers help support the club.



Membership Dues Are Due

Dues are payable by July 1 of each year with membership valid through June 30 of the following year. If you joined after April 1 your membership is good through June 30, 2012. We value your membership and request that you renew at this time to:

- Receive this quarterly newsletter
- Proudly wear your name tag at meetings and events
- Obtain information about walks in the state of Florida
- Enjoy fun and fitness in a friendly casual atmosphere

Please complete the membership renewal and make check payable to:

Walkin' Nassau
C/O Dyanne Hughes
213B First Ave.
Fernandina Beach, FL 32034