

## Spring Trail Walk 2017



The Ormond Scenic Loop & Trail held its sixteenth semi-annual trail walk at Bulow Woods Trail just outside Bulow Plantation Ruins State Park Saturday, March 25, 2017. Nineteen participants turned out in beautiful weather for the walk, some visiting from as far away as Michigan and Colorado. The trail is both beautiful and interesting. Much of the woods around the park were cut down for the cultivation of the sugar cane and other crops that made the Bulow Plantation a thriving enterprise during the 1820s but some old growth has been preserved and the hammock has regrown since the sugar mill was destroyed during the Second Seminole War in 1836. Hikers still experienced "the deep shade of ancient magnolias and oaks and a dense undergrowth of coontie, once a

staple of the native peoples who lived in this hammock." We saw a number of native Florida epiphytic plants, including orchids. Clumps of yellow daisies were found in wet areas. We saw a variety of native trees including slash pine, horn beam, yaupon holly, live oak, magnolia, and red maple and smaller plants like the one bamboo native to Florida. Storm damage from Hurricane Matthew was evident as freshly toppled trees were scattered through the woods. Even these provided a lesson in the depth and extent of the root system of the trees. Look for the Fall trail walk to be announced in October. *Photos by Rob Bird*

