

https://www.hometownnewsvolusia.com/news/a-good-read-on-bike-trails-of-volusia-county/article_7daba0b0-7fa8-11ed-b840-ef90ffc31d20.html

FEATURED

A good read on bike trails of Volusia County

By Charles Guarria cguarria@hometownnewsmediagroup.com

Dec 22, 2022



Edith Kohlbach, an author and avid bike rider, holds a copy of her new book, "Bike Trails in Central Florida."

Randy Barber/staff photographer

What can you do when you need a good book, but it is nowhere to be found?

You can write it yourself.

That's what writer Edith Kohlbach did. An avid biker, she was looking for a book on bike trails in Central Florida. Finding nothing to her liking, she wrote her own, "Bike Trails in Central Florida."

Ms. Kohlbach is a snowbird who summers in Wiesbaden, Germany, and has called Florida her winter home for 25 years. Wiesbaden is about 42 minutes west of Frankfurt.

"To be honest, I never liked Florida," Ms. Kohlbach said when asked to explain her attraction to Florida. "I wanted to get my private pilot's license. So, I got an offer from a school here."

She had to make a choice.

"I could choose to do the pilot's license in Germany. It would take one year at least, and a lot of money. Or I could do it in Florida in four weeks," she said.

The deciding factor: "I thought it's always nice to do something in a different country. So, I came to Florida, and I fell in love. I didn't expect it to be so wonderful."

Moving around Volusia County, she rented a motel room, stayed at her flight instructor's house in Spruce Creek Fly-In, a time she described as "paradise," she then spent a "wonderful" time living on a friend's sailboat docked at the Halifax Harbor Marina before finally settling in as a Port Orange resident and is still there after 22 years.

Ms. Kohlbach has written about 12 books, all but one are travel guides. The other one is a children's book. However, it was never her main source of employment. "It's a hobby," she said.

Her main job was a 46-year career working for the federal statistical office of Germany (Statistisches Bundesamt). It is the German government equivalent of the U.S. Census Bureau.

The same motivation that spurred Ms. Kohlbach to write Bike Trails in Central Florida was what pushed her to write her first book. She couldn't find what she wanted. It was 1986 and Ms. Kohlbach was in Morocco when she realized, "You could not get a very good travel guide for people who are traveling (in) their own car," so she wrote it herself. The book was released in the mid-1990s.

When she came to Florida and started biking in Volusia, she found the books written about bike trails to be disappointing. "The information was not up to date," she recalled. "So, I decided I can do this better."

Bike Trails in Central Florida takes the reader from Titusville to St. Augustine and Daytona to

Orlando, Ms. Kohlbach said.

Ms. Kohlbach also organizes travel tours in Morocco and has a publishing company in Germany. Due to human error in landing a plane, she does not fly anymore. Human error caused the wing tip of the plane she was piloting to touch the air control tower. "The plane was a total loss," she said. Amazingly none of the three people on board were hurt.

The plane crash occurred at a regional airport in Germany. Back in Florida, she did begin to fly again. "But all the fun was gone," She replied in an email. "So I decided, why should I pay so much money for something that is no fun and stopped."

For more information, visit bikingflorida.mobilunterwegs.eu/index/.