



The Limpkin Call

Oklawaha Valley Audubon Society Volume XVII No. 4 March – April 2002

Annual Meeting & Potluck Dinner

Our March 26th meeting will start at 6:00 PM with a potluck dinner followed by election of officers and a presentation on “A Visit to English Gardens” by Tammera Race of the TLNC. Please bring a dish to serve 8 to 10 people. It may be a meat, vegetable, salad or dessert. Also bring your own table service and serving spoon. Make your reservations by March 22 with Darleen Hill, 357-0498.

New Membership Option

Starting immediately, the Oklawaha Valley Audubon Society offers you a choice of membership plans.

NEW! You may now join the Oklawaha Valley Audubon Society independent of other Audubon memberships. This new membership is designed for those who wish to support OVAS. It is good for all local activities and newsletters. Annual cost is only \$10 per household. Chapter membership lists will be submitted to NAS. You can start your Chapter membership by completing the form below and enclosing the membership fee. Please make a check out to OVAS and send it along with your application.

Or, you may continue as a National Audubon Society member which includes OVAS and Audubon of Florida memberships, plus *Audubon* magazine. National’s continuing annual membership fee is \$35 or \$15 for seniors 62 and above. The introductory National Audubon membership fee is \$20, \$15 seniors

Forms for either type of membership are available at Chapter meetings, on our website or upon request.

Education Programs

Martha Anderson, Chair

Man of LaMancha – The musical was a sell out again. The benefit musical was truly enjoyable. At intermission, we auctioned 2 water colors and had a 50-50 raffle. All told OVAS raised 50% of the funds needed to provide *Audubon Adventures* to all Lake County 5th graders next fall.

Jewels and Junque - Saturday March 23, 2002 from 9 AM to 4 PM at the First United Methodist Church of Mt. Dora, 439 E. 5th Ave. OVAS will have a table at this Ice House Theater festival to raise funds for environmental education. Jewelry, CDs, tapes, baskets, Easter and holiday decorations, puzzles, stuffed animals, kitchen utensils, picture frames, vases, etc. No clothing or food please. Bring your donated items to the Feb 26th OVAS meeting or to Martha Anderson’s home by Thurs. March 21. Call 735-2499.

Individual Contributions – We are now soliciting contributions from individuals to raise the remaining funds to provide our children with *Audubon*

Adventures nature kits. The kit provides four quarterly educational newsletters for 32 students, teacher aids and project material to learn about birds, animals and their environment. Each kit costs \$41.50. Please



Osprey photo by Peg Urban

send your tax deductible contribution to OVAS, P.O. Box 641, Eustis, FL 32727-0641

Coming Events

- March 9 – Sat 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM , Trout Lake Day – Open House, field and lab activities
- March 11 – Mon. 1 to 4 PM, Trout Lake NC – OVAS Strategic Planning Session (Chapter Goals & Methods)
- March 16 – Sat 8 AM, Golden Triangle PL – Field Trip to Orlando Wetlands Park, Kathy Day, 383-4564
- March 26 – Tues 6 PM, Trout Lake NC – Potluck Dinner and OVAS Annual Meeting. Program: “A Visit to English Gardens”, Tammera Race, TLNC Naturalist. Make reservations with Darleen Hill, 357-0498
- April 13 – Sat 8 AM, Winn Dixie PL – Field Trip to Sunnyhill Farm & the new tower, Bernie Yokel, 383-0501
- April 14 – Sun 1:30, Trout Lake NC – Reg Mtg: “Esmeralda and the Enchanted Pond”, Susan Ryan & S. Cook
- April 17 – Wed 8 AM, Winn Dixie PL – Field Trip to Lake Louisa, Mary Anderson, 787-9320
- April 20 – Earth Day, Wooden Park, Tavares

OVAS Chapter Membership Form (Its new. See the article above.)

Please print clearly

Person(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Telephone: _____ Date _____

Email Address: _____

Yes, I (we) wish to join the OVAS for \$10 per year. Check is made to OVAS.

Please return check and this application to:

O.V.A.S. Treasurer
P.O. Box 641
Eustis FL 32727-0641

Limpkin Call Survey Results

Frank Miller, Editor

The response to the Limpkin Call survey indicates high satisfaction with this newsletter. Absolutely no complaints were received, so no changes are planned. A big **Thank You** goes out to our responders.

Field Trip Reports

Over 40 people toured in 10 cars over the dikes of the **Apopka North Shore Restoration Area**. Remains of the farm pumping facilities were seen as well as a future fish breeding pond. It is designed to learn how pesticides enter fish and kill pelicans. From the old pump house flew a Barn Owl. Some 32 other species of birds were observed. Bob Rogers, Field Trip Leader

The **Bartow Phosphate Reclamation Area** trip was highlighted with the observation of 3000 White Pelicans. Great Horned Owls were also spotted. Approximately 20 strong birders made the 13 hour trip that recorded 75 species. It truly was a big day. Bernie Yokel, Field Trip Leader.

Expanded Web Site

www.oklawaha-audubon.org

Starting in January the OVAS website was doubled in size and given a fresh new look. We have new pages providing Bob Roger's Quick Guide to Water Birds, Audubon's Whooping Crane identification guide, contact numbers for our governmental representatives, maps to field trip locations, and summaries of National Audubon and Audubon of Florida conservation programs. The list of best birding areas and the guide to OVAS birding activities have been expanded and better illustrated. The web site is now organized to be your encyclopedia to birding.

Field Trip Cancellations

The March 20th Treasure Island field trip is canceled due to SJRWMA road and marsh work. The canoe trip scheduled for April 5 has been canceled due to low water conditions. Sorry.

Emeralda Wildlife Drive Opens

The Emeralda Marsh Wildlife Interpretive Drive, aka, the Great Florida Birding Trail – Emeralda Section, opened officially on Feb 14, 2002. Grand opening ceremonies were conducted at the trail head in the Wood Duck parking lot. Lead by Jeff Cole, SJRWMD, the guest speaker was Catherine Hanson, County Commissioner. Attending were Elizabeth Ballard, OVAS President; Bob Rogers, OVAS Emeralda Wild Drive Chr.; Dave Warren, Dir, Lake County Convention and Visitors Bureau; Bernie Yokel, Past President AoF and 15 others from OVAS.

The drive is 4.3 miles long and goes through wooded scrub and open marshes offering a variety of bird habitats. The trail is open daily to hikers and cyclists. The roadway is open to autos on Sat and Sun, 7 AM to 1 PM. On Feb 8th, OVAS conducted a pre-opening field trip and saw 60 bird species including a Bald Eagle and an American Bittern.



Emeralda Wildlife Drive Opening
J. Cole, SJRWMD; E Ballard, OVAS;
Catherine Hanson, Cnty Commissioner
photo by F. Miller

President's Word

Elizabeth Ballard

Many thanks to all who made the theater benefit a success. Martha Anderson and her committee did a super job. The donated Dale Wiles water color paintings were much appreciated.

We will have a strategic planning meeting Mon March 11, 1 to 4 PM at TLNC. Members invited.

This year's nominating committee consists of Joanne McDowell, head, Fran Yokel and Frank Miller. To be elected are 2nd VP, Secty and a Board Member. Give your nominations to any of them by March 14th.

It is hoped our new Chapter membership appeals to all of those wish to support our Chapter for whatever reason, including those in other Chapters.

THE LIMPKIN CALL

is the newsletter of the Oklawaha Valley Audubon Society, Inc. Published 4 times a year, Circulation is 700. The editor accepts inputs and comments at P.O. Box 641, Eustis FL. 32727-0641 or through our Web Site at: www.oklawaha-audubon.org

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