

The Limpkin Call

Oklawaha Valley Audubon Society Volume XVIII No.2 Nov-Dec 2002

COMING EVENTS

- November 9 Sat.- Field Trip to Hidden Waters 8:00am Golden Triangle Parking lot Mt Dora Old 441 Call Kathy Day 383-4564
- November 10 Sun.- Regular Meeting 1:30pm Conserving Amphibians and Reptiles of the South- Eastern US- George Heinrich, Field Biologist and Naturalist.
- November 20 Wed. - Field Trip to Wekiva River Jungle Cruise. Meet 9:00am Golden Triangle Parking lot **Note change of venue.** Call Ruth Duesing 323-1310.
- December 14 Sat. - Field Trip and OVAS Christmas Picnic Lunch at TLNC. Birders meet 9:00am Winn-Dixie parking lot Eustis. Leader-Bob Rogers,357-3005. Picnic Lunch 11:30am TLNC
- December 27 Fri.- Field Trip for the Christmas Bird Count. Meet 7:00am Emerald Marsh, Wood Duck Parking Area. Leaders- Peg Urban 326-3868 and Mary Remer 360- 1291

In Memoriam

It is with great sadness that I inform you that Frank Miller has passed away. He has been so active in our OVAS group and will be greatly missed. He created a wonderful website www.oklawaha-audubon.org, and we need someone to continue updating the website. Hopefully there is someone reading this message willing to do this. Please contact me, Elizabeth Ballard, 735-2623, or e-mail me: EB32757@aol.com.

Overnight Trip February 17-19

Join us for birding and adventure on these dates when we will stay at the Howard Johnson Motel in North Ft Myers. Feb 18 we will travel by boat to Cayo Costa and Cabbage Key, two barrier islands north of Sanibel. Feb 19 is a morning at Audubon's Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary.

Motel rate is \$60 per room including extended continental breakfast AND requires payment of the first night by December 14 to Kathy Day 383- 4564. The boat trip cost of \$22 is payable at the boat. Motel cancellation with full refund until January 17.

Friends/relatives are welcome though non-OVAS members need to add a \$10 fee. To RESERVE or for more information- Peg Urban 326- 3868 or Mary Remer 360-1291.

Birds Can't Count, but Do Count!

Of course, some birds can count, like gray parrots, but this leaves quite a few others that need our help for the:

Audubon Annual Christmas Bird Count- All members and interested friends are invited to participate in this annual, nation-wide event.

Last year over 33,000 birds were seen in our count area alone! Can't believe it; then come and find out for yourself..

It will be on Friday, December 27, and those interested should contact Peg Urban 326-3868

or Mary Remer 360- 1291. Expect more information at our next meeting.

Audubon Adventures

We continue to plan for Audubon Adventure Kits in the 3rd through 5th grade classrooms for 2002 and 2003.

The topics for this year feature- North American Bioregions, including deserts, freshwater wetlands, temperate deciduous forests and coastal environments.

We need Contributions to pay for the Kits; just \$ 41.50 for an entire class, as well as funds for producing teacher training tapes. Contact- Mary Anderson 787- 9320

Audubon Membership- When you become a member of the National Audubon Society, you automatically become a member of OVAS. If you do not wish to join the National group, you can join OVAS for \$10.per year due Jan. 1. If you have paid since Sept. it covers 2003.

OVAS Chapter Membership Form

Name(s)_____ Please enclose check made to OVAS
and return to:

Address_____

OVAS Treasurer
PO Box 641
Eustis, Fl 32727-0641

City_____ St_____ Zip_____

Telephone_____ E-mail_____

Conservation News Yvonne Rice

Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

The National Audubon Society was honored on September 25, with the Natural Resources Council of America's Leadership Award for work done over the past year in blocking the opening of this refuge to oil drilling. Your calls, e-mails and letters to Congress helped!

Clean Water Act

New bills introduced in Congress by Senator Russ Feingold (D-WI), and Rep. James Oberstar(D-MN) and John Dingell (D-MI) aim to close a legal loophole that has left a third of the nation's wetlands without protection of this act because of a 2001 Supreme Court decision.

YOU can help celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the Clean Water Act by contacting your Congressmen to support the Clean Water Authority Restoration Act- Senate Bill 2780 and House Bill 5194

Also, in February, the Bush administration announced a rule change to the Clean Water Act to make it easier for industrial waste disposal into our waters. The Clean Water Protection Act now in Congress would nullify that ruling.

You can telephone Bob Graham and Bill Nelson at their local Florida offices too; the numbers are in the front of your phone book.

Scrub Jay Survey

A private group contracted by Lake County will conduct a scrub jay survey of the county. The results will help determine the sensitive areas to assist in land acquisition, planning & protection. Many volunteers are needed to help in training, map & field surveys and data assemblage. If you would like to help or know where scrub jays are located, please contact Mary Remer 360-1291 or Peg Urban 326-3868.

Christmas Picnic Lunch and Birding Field Trip

Saturday December 14 is the date and the time 11:30am. This will be a picnic format as in the past. Weather permitting, we will be outside in the pavillion. Please bring your own sandwiches and soft drink, and finger food to share, such as veggies & dip, deviled eggs, cookies. We will supply plates, napkins, plastic knives and forks. A few lawn chairs would be welcome.

Birders meet at 9:00am at Winn-Dixie parking Eustis.

Wekiva River Jungle Cruise

Keep an open date on Wednesday, November 20. For first time in 10 years the pontoon boats from the Wekiva Falls Resort off Route 46 are again running so if you are not a canoer you can still enjoy the great beauty of this river. Ruth Duesing, 323- 1310, will present more details at the next meeting. The Wekiva is designated officially as an Outstanding Florida Waterway and there are many who believe it is the Best we have.

Note- Change of meeting site-see Coming Events.

The Limpkin Call is the newsletter of the Oklawaha