

The Limpkin Call

Oklawaha Valley Audubon Society Volume XVIII No.4 Mar-Apr 2003

Coming Events

March 1 Sat.	Theater Benefit-Annie Get Your Gun - 2pm-Melon Patch Playhouse, Leesburg. Tickets-\$15. available from Joanne McDowell, Joyce Wutke, and any OVAS board member. Refreshments are needed, especially wine and cookies! Please call Joanne at 242-2704
March 5 Wed	Field Trip to Clay Island. (Lake Apopka) - Meet at 8am Golden Triangle Parking lot, Mt Dora (old 441). Leader- Bob Rogers 357-3005
March 8 Sat	Trout Lake Day- 09:30am-2:30pm - Nature events and displays for the whole family at TLNC. Contact- Lavon Silvernell- 742-1391.
March 15 Sat	Field Trip on the Emeralda Wildlife Drive . Meet at 8am Emeralda Wood Duck parking lot. Leaders- Bob Rogers 357-3005 and Peg Urban 326-3868
March 19 Wed	Canoe Trip on the Wekiva River . Leaders- Jerry Bohmann 735-5922 and Val Hitt 728-6163
March 25 Tue	Regular Meeting- OVAS Annual Dinner and Election of Officers - 6pm. - Seasons of Emeralda, Dr. Peter May, Professor, Biology Dept. Stetson University.
April 2 Wed	Field Trip to Gatorland . Meet at 8am Golden Triangle parking lot, Mt Dora (old 441). Leaders- Laura & Harold DeLong 347-3575 Tickets-\$19.95+tax
April 13 Sun	Regular Meeting , 1:30pm Dugout Canoes to Wooden Ships, Jules Turcsanyi, amateur archaeologist, Mt Dora.
April 16 Wed	Field Trip- Wildflower Walk at the Wekiva River , Further information Dorothy Clark 429-0593

Message From The President

Once again, my term is up! We have accomplished a lot in the last two years. Thanks to the hard work of the Emeralda Marsh Wildlife Committee, headed by Bob Rogers, assisted by Mary Anderson and Bernie Yokel. The Emeralda Marsh Drive is now a reality. We have a mission statement and an even more successful Audubon Adventures program in the Lake County schools. These last two years as your president have been very rewarding, thanks to the wonderful board and to all the volunteers who have helped make this a very successful year. It is now time to have a new president, a new board and new ideas. Please offer them your help. You will be glad that you did!

Field Trip- Clay Island- March 5 - Lake Apoka

Harold Weatherman from the SJRWMD will meet us and take us out to Clay Island and weather permitting, he will get permission for us to drive on the dikes; if not, this will be a walking trip.

Christmas Bird Count

Quite a few birds were counted this past December. We had 39 registered observers who saw 117 species for a total of 14,353 individual birds. The most seen bird was the tree swallow at 2,600. The unusual species were: Virginia rail, the Eastern kingbird and the Northern waterthrush.

Thanks to everyone who participated. We need more observers next time so that we can cover our circle more thoroughly. Keep studying your birding field guides and listening to bird call tapes to improve your birding skills..

OVAS Annual Dinner- Tuesday March 25 6:00pm at TLNC

This is the main dinner of the season and as usual is pot luck. So that luck doesn't mean all meat and no vegetables, would you please complete the form below if you plan to attend and return it to Darleen Hill, by mail, personally or by phone.

Name _____ Number attending _____

I will bring- Check one or more- Meat or Main course _____ Salad/Veg _____ Dessert _____

Please bring a quantity that will serve ten people. Also bring your own place settings, cutlery to avoid using paper or plastic plates. Please also bring a large serving spoon. Cups for drinks and paper napkins will be provided .

Darleen Hill, 142 Pine Ridge Drive, Leesburg, 34788 Phone- 357-0498

Bird Watching in Lake County

Don't miss the new brochure by this name produced by the Lake County Welcome Center in partnership with OVAS. Featuring the Emerald Marsh, Hidden Waters Preserve and Sawgrass island Preserve, maps, bird lists and other information entice one to grab ones binoculars and scope. Brochures are available at the welcome center on Highway 27, north of Groveland (open every day, 8-5) and at Trout Lake Nature Center, Eustis.

The Great Florida Birding Trail

If you enjoyed the East Section brochure of *The Great Florida Birding Trail* you will want the West Section brochure. Sites included range from the River Bluffs area in North Florida to Bradenton, and from the Gulf Coast inland to Gainesville. They are available from Great Florida Birding Trail, 620 S. Meridan St., Tallahassee, Fl 32399-1600, phone (850) 922-0664. Or visit the web-site- www.floridabirdingtrail.com. East Section brochures are still available at Trout Lake Nature Center. Both are free but donations are welcome at- Wildlife Foundation of Florida, PO Box 6181, Tallahassee, Fl 32314.

Trout Lake Day- Saturday March 8 Time- 9:30am - 2:30pm

This is a chance to show the community how much FUN and Education Trout Lake has to offer.

Just as few of the highlights are; butterflies, butterfly plants, snakes, turtles, owls, pigeons, native plants and of course presenters to tell you more about all of these. Also canoe building, camping, pine needle basketry and much more. To make it Work and to have Fun, takes Work and we need volunteers to help. Call- Lavon Silvernell- 742-1391. Bring a picnic lunch; cookies and drinks will be provided.

Canoe Trip- Wekiva River- Wednesday March 19

This is planned for Rock Springs Run, near Kelly Park . It is a 4 hour run downstream, needing no paddling and a van returns you to your car. \$25 per canoe. No guarantees, but the silence of a canoe allows close-ups even of bittern, green herons, limpkins plus the native reptiles. We go only if enough are interested. Start at 9:am Golden Triangle Mt Dora.. Contact- Jerry Bohmann 735-5922 or Val Hitt 728-6163.

Waterfest-Saturday, March 15

Join the Lake County Water Authority at Waterfest 2003 for a fun family day. It will be held on Saturday March 15, 10:am to 3pm at Hickory Point Recreational Facility, SR 19, Tavares. Meet TV fisherman Babe Winkleman, take a free nature boat ride on Lake Harris, meet local community groups who help keep the county beautiful and test your knowledge with the kids in the environmental education area. If you have plant or landscape questions, just stop by the Master Gardener's mobile clinic. Don't worry, if you get hungry, check out the food vendors while you enjoy the entertainment on the stage!

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