

# The Limpkin Call

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## Coming Events

**March 13- Saturday- Field Trip to Merritt Island (68 miles from Mt Dora). Meet 8:00AM at Golden Triangle parking lot Mt Dora. Leader- Bob Rogers, 357 3003. NOTE time change from 9:00 to 8:00AM!**

**March 23 -Tuesday- Annual Meeting and Election of Officers- Potluck Dinner- 6:00PM- *BIOSCAPING*, Jim Thomas-Biosphere Nursery- Winter Garden.**

**April 3- Saturday- Field Trip to Alexander Springs, (14 miles from Eustis) Meet 8:00AM at Winn-Dixie parking lot Eustis. Leader- Ruth Duesing, 323 1310.**

**April 14- Wednesday- Field Trip to Green Swamp & Richloam Fish Hatchery (45 miles from Leesburg) Meet 8:00AM at Publix parking lot Leesburg, intersection US27 & CR48. Leaders- Mary Remer & Peg Urban, 360 1291 & 326 3868.**

**April 18- Sunday- Regular Meeting 2:00PM. *GALAPAGOS TRIP*, Bob Putman, OVAS member.**

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**Annual Dinner-- Besides picnics on field trips, we have only this occasion to be together at a meal. Please participate in making this a better than ordinary event by contributing to the pot-luck dinner. Call Darleen Hill, 357 0498 and tell her what you will bring. In addition to food, we also elect our officers and board for 2004-05.**

## **The Limpkin Call-- CALL FOR AN EDITOR!**

Perhaps you have noticed in your travels, newsletters of other Florida Audubon chapters and if you have, you will see that ours does not compare too well with others, neither in format, content nor frequency. Many chapters smaller than ours, produce monthly four or six page newsletters. We could do the same if we had an editor with adequate computer software and the knowledge of how to use it. Surely some member has this and would volunteer to be editor. No need for much creative writing, as content is readily available; the need is for computer capability. Please contact the current editor at - 735 5922 Jerry Bohmann

### **News by E-Mail-**

Meanwhile, we can improve and save money simultaneously, by sending your Limpkin Call via E-Mail. This would reduce our printing and mailing costs and not add to yours. First we need to build a data base of your e-mail addresses to provide a program which would allow you to open, read and print without any special program on your end.

If you have an e-mail address, would you please send it to our Membership Chair Joanne McDowell at - [girlscot@aol.com](mailto:girlscot@aol.com).

### **Recycled Paper- It makes a Difference**

Of all recycling, paper is the most important. It uses little energy to do and makes a profit for those doing it. Migratory birds use the arboreal forests of Canada for Summer nesting and this is where paper comes from. Publix offers recycled toilet tissues, napkins & towels under the GreenWise label at competitive price and quality as paper made from newly cut trees. Buy recycled paper products-- It does make a difference to the natural world!

### **Bird Houses**

There is always a demand for housing and birds are no different. As we continue to "clear" areas to build our own houses, we eliminate potential sites for birds. So it is only fair that we provide at least some token replacements in the form of bird houses.

Since our tenants are not in the money economy, we ask your support in providing their housing. This you can do by buying a bird house from OVAS. By doing so, you not only are giving birds a nesting spot but your contribution brings needed funds to your Audubon society.

Houses, built by members Harold DeLong and Bob Putman are now available in 3 sizes ranging from those for chickadees, bluebirds, wrens, titmouse at \$15, woodpeckers at \$20 and screech owls, kestrels \$25. Checks payable to OVAS, please.

A supply is at Trout Lake and ready for delivery either at the regular meeting on March 23 or anytime you wish to pick one up by calling 357-7536 or 735-5922. TROUT LAKE DAY is March 13 and for those not joining our field trip, this is another good opportunity to support TLNC and OVAS by visiting and obtaining a bird house. Call Lavon Silvernell, 742-1391 for complete information on Trout Lake Day activities.

Once you have a bird house, how do you install it in your backyard to provide maximum comfort to birds? Bob Putman, 326-2045 will be glad to advise you on how to place the house in the proper surroundings.

### **Audubon at Home**

And if bird houses are not enough, Audubon has a new program designed to help you make your backyard more bird-friendly while making your own home healthier and safer.

"By providing just a few necessities, your home landscape will attract birds, beneficial insects and other wildlife and you will be rewarded with a low-maintenance yard."

This program comes in part from the US Dept of Agriculture as well as Audubon. For complete information go to the website- [www.audubon.org/bird/at\\_home](http://www.audubon.org/bird/at_home).

### **Message from the President- Jerry Bohmann**

This is the last Limpkin Call until the Autumn and I thought therefore to leave you with a message from the Chief Operating Officer of National Audubon, Bob Perciasepe, commenting on the Bush Administration Budget for Fiscal 2005:

"This Administration and some in Congress are out of touch with the American people on environmental issues, and this budget is part and parcel of that fundamental disconnect. Drilling for oil in our natural treasures like the Arctic Refuge and slashing funding for the Environmental Protection Agency is no way to provide the environmental leadership this country needs." Be sure to register to Vote!

### **Turtle Watch**

While we all have watched birds, watching turtles is something very special. This means the marine ones, especially Loggerheads, who nest on our Atlantic beaches. If you have never seen one of these 200 lb mothers walk out of the surf, climb to the high tide line and then spend an hour laying 100 eggs, cover them and then lumber back to the sea for another year, you are missing one of the great sights of the natural world!

It is not too early to reserve a space with one of the 13 organizations authorized to monitor marine turtle nesting. and spend an evening on a beach walk in June-July. The main area is between Titusville and Boca Raton and for complete information visit- [www.floridaconservation.org/psm/turtles/turtle.htm](http://www.floridaconservation.org/psm/turtles/turtle.htm). You can call also a group in Melbourne the Sea Turtle Preservation Society at 321 676 1701. Chances of actual turtle sighting are good since the area had some 60,000 nests last year.