



THE LIMPKIN CALL

is the newsletter of the Oklawaha Valley Audubon Society, a chapter of Audubon of Florida and the National Audubon Society and is a not-for-profit organization. Published four times a year. Circulation- 850, PO Box 641, Eustis, Fl 32727-0641. WWW.OKLAWAHA-AUDUBON.ORG. Volume XX, No. 4. March-April 2005

COMING EVENTS:

March 9, Wednesday

Heritage Boat Trip on the Dora Canal and Dead River. Meet at 8:00AM in front of JC Penny Lake Sq. Mall to car pool for 10 minute drive to landing. Limited to boat capacity- 38, Cost- \$10. **Leader- Elizabeth Ballard. 735- 2623. Don't Miss this chance to see the most fauna per square mile in the county- birds, reptiles and mammals.** No need for picnic; duration 90 minutes.

March 26, Saturday

Theater Benefit- MAME, the 1966 hit musical by Jerry Hermann. At The Melon Patch Playhouse- Leesburg, 2:00PM curtain. Intermission refreshments to be donated by OVAS members. Please contact Darleen Hill, 357-0498 to coordinate. Cookies, wine, soft drinks welcomed. Tickets are still only \$15. and the funds help support Audubon Adventures. Contact any board member to purchase a ticket.

March 29, Tuesday

Annual Meeting and Election of Officers- Potluck Dinner. 6:00PM

Tropical Experience- Clyde Stephens, Historian of Old Florida and a Central Florida Traveler.

We begin our annual meeting with dinner and Darleen Hill is the chair of this event but she needs your input on what you will bring. Please bring either a Main Course, Salad/Vegetable or Dessert. Please bring a quantity that will serve ten people. As usual, bring your own place settings and cutlery to avoid using paper or plastic plates and utensils. Please also bring a large serving spoon. Cups for drinks and paper napkins will be provided.

Please complete the form below and return it or the information to Darleen Hill--

Name _____ Number attending- _____

I will bring- Check one or more-- MainCourse.....Salad/Vegetable- _____ Dessert _____

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

March 30, Wednesday

Field Trip to Sable Bluff Preserve Lake Griffin- Leesburg.. Meet at 8:00AM at Noll Plaza Furniture parking on Route 441 just east of Leesburg, on the north side of the road opposite White Aluminum. Sable Bluff is five minutes from there. Much of the area is an old orange grove with frontage on the lake and given to the city as a parkland. Should find most of the usual birds and while no flamingos, two pairs of painted buntings have been seen there. Leader- Bruce Phillips 315-0593

April 16, Saturday

Field Trip to Oakland Preserve and Biosphere Native Plant Nursery. Meet at 8:00AM at Golden Triangle Parking lot Mt Dora. Leader- Bernie Yokel 383-0501

April 17, Sunday

Regular Meeting, 2:00PM. *Central Florida Waterways: A History and Today-* Dr. Joe Branham, retired educator.

President's Message

You are a member of one chapter of Audubon of Florida but did you know that there are forty-two other chapters in the state? In fact, more than in any other state after California!

Audubon of Florida has more than 30,000 members which makes it one of the largest conservation organizations in the state. National Audubon is 100 years old this year but Audubon was active in Florida even before 1905. It began its successful effort to stop the slaughter of birds for their feathers for fashion already in 1901..

Audubon of Florida is today an active, mainstream conservation organization which needs your personal support in the form of **Action**. Visit the website- www.audubonofflorida.org and then click on Advocacy Center which will keep you informed by e-mail of issues which require your action. It is easy and without cost but crucial. "A thousand acres here, and a thousand acres there, and soon you've lost Florida." Jerry Bohmann- President

Water Fest- 2005- An invitation from the Lake County Water Authority

On Saturday, March 12, from 10:00AM -3:00PM, the LCWA sponsors a free festival to celebrate the importance of water to the quality of life here in Lake County. This will be held again as in 2003, at Hickory Point on Little Lake Harris on route 19 between Tavares and Howey-in-the-Hills.

At the last fest, almost 2000 people came to enjoy water in a fun and informative manner especially in the "Family Activity" area. TLNC and OVAS will be participating and we hope you will join the Water Authority at this fest.

Batchelor Foundation Awards Audubon of Florida \$ 3 million.

This is the largest gift ever received by the Florida office and has been given specifically to support Audubon's science program in the state. Sandy Batchelor, a trustee for the group, stated that science "is what has made Audubon of Florida the leader in Everglades restoration, and its science program is what distinguishes it from the many other environmental organizations."

The Batchelor Foundation was created by aviation pioneer George Batchelor, a self-made millionaire who left nearly all his fortune to the foundation. It dedicates its funds to promote research, treatment and cures of childhood diseases and illness, and to preserve and protect the natural environment.

An Audubon priority for these funds is to reduce the rapid conversion of landscapes and waterscapes to commercial and residential purposes.

Half of the \$ 3 million is in matching grant, meaning Audubon must raise \$ 1.5 million in order to receive the full award. You can help with your contribution.

**AUDUBON ADVENTURES
ADOPT-A-CLASS DONOR FORM**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

I want to be part of the Adopt-a-Class Project and sponsor a class at \$ 41.50, or I will help with a contribution of \$ _____ Please send check to: OVAS, PO Box 641

Eustis, Fl. 32727-0641

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS - 2004-05

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The Green Swamp and Why It Is Important to Us!

Lake Okeechobee has been called the " Liquid Heart of South Florida" and the Green Swamp fulfills the same function for Central Florida. While there is no risk that someone will drain, fill in and pave over Lake Okeechobee, there is a real danger that this could happen to the Green Swamp.

The Green Swamp is composed of scrub lands, lakes and rivers and covers some 560,000 acres. It is in five counties including Lake and is the headwaters of four major rivers, the Hillsborough, Oklawaha, Peace and Withlacoochee.

It is one of the largest relatively undisturbed expanses of land in Florida and for Audubon it is a key Important Bird Area.

But most of all, since it occupies an area at the highest point of the Floridan Aquifer it is a vital recharge area for our ground water supply.

As far back as 1974, 60% of the Green Swamp was designated as protected and so many people believe that this solved all problems. This just protects the central part of the swamp but leaves the other 40% open to every usual attempt by developers to pave it over with sub-divisions.

What can you do as a resident of Lake County and an Audubon member to preserve this essential water resource? If you live in Groveland, 72% of those who voted, have chosen to prevent sprawling developments in the Green Swamp. The developers don't accept the voice of the citizens and still try to pave it over. As someone directly affected by such destructive action, you can write to the editors of your local newspapers. These letters receive as much reader attention as the sports pages and they help far beyond the effort required to write them.

Take time, make an effort; it is in the best interest of future generations.

LAKE Magazine

This is a monthly magazine, distributed free in public waiting rooms, especially in doctors and dentist offices; a glossy publication supported by advertising. The publishers asked OVAS to be interviewed for an article which should appear in the March edition.

OVAS CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

If you haven't renewed yet, please use this form as this is the last reminder this season! The cost per family for local membership is only \$10. per calendar year and it includes all Audubon benefits except the Magazine. If you wish to receive this and are already a National Audubon member you will receive a renewal notice from them directly.

Names _____ Please send \$10. check to OVAS
Treasurer

Address _____ P.O. Box 641

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Eustis, Fl
32727

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members to Audubon:

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------|
| Guinea Apollos | Lady Lake |
| Sharon Brown | Eustis |
| Helen M. Chianese | Tavares |
| Valerie F. Cooper | Mt Dora |
| Margaret D. Elmore | Mt Dora |
| Loren Grimes | Leesburg |
| Lavonne Kibler | Eustis |
| Wesley Trutt | The Villages |
| Barry C. Wood | Mt Dora |
| Dorothy Jeffery | Mt Dora |