



THE LIMPKIN CALL

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COMING EVENTS

March 7 Wednesday – Field Trip

Avian Re-Conditioning Center Apopka, this is a new location for us and is a wildlife education and rehabilitation center. It includes a falconry demonstration and depending on the number of participants, will cost between \$ 5-10 per person. Meet at Golden Triangle parking lot Mt Dora 8:30am. Leader –Peg Urban 326 3868

March 27 Tuesday- Annual Meeting and Potluck Dinner

This is our annual meeting for election of officers and directors, preceded by a potluck dinner. Please sign-up with Mary Ellen Shuey to advise her what you will bring. Please bring either a Main Course, Salad/Vegetable or Dessert in a quantity sufficient to serve ten people.

As usual, please BRING YOUR OWN PLACE SETTINGS AND CUTLERY, to avoid using paper/plastic. Cups for beverages and paper napkins will be provided. Please contact Mary Ellen Shuey 360 1778 and tell her what you will bring.

The speaker will be Dr. Paul Gray, who will present the program *Okeechobee and Everglades Restoration*. Dr Gray is the Science Coordinator for Audubon of Florida for the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Program.

March 31 Saturday- Field Trip

Clay Island- Lake Apopka. We will have someone from the St Johns River Water Management District to accompany us in areas not open to the public. Meet at Golden Triangle parking lot Mt Dora at 8:30am. Leader- Margaret Carlyon 735 2505. Picnic lunch after the trip at Trimble Park.

April 14 Saturday – Field Trip

Emeralda Marsh- Drive the Wildlife Trail. Meet at the Wood Duck parking lot Emeralda at 6:30am. Leader- Bernie Yokel 383 0501.

April 22 Sunday- Members Meeting

Regular meeting – 2:00pm. Last meeting of the season until October. *The Ecosystems of Florida*, presented by the Florida author, historian and lecturer, Edgar L'Heureaux. He

will bring copies of his books on many related subjects, which will be available for purchase at special discounts for Audubon.

April 25 Wednesday- Field Trip

Big Tree Park in Longwood. Visit The Senator, maybe the largest Bald Cypress in the US, though this is always controversial even if not really relevant. It is about 3,500 years on this spot and is 118 ft high and some 35 ft in circumference. The park is great for picnics and in the afternoon we will go to the Orlando History Museum nearby; fee \$ 5.50. Meet at Golden Triangle parking lot Mt Dora at 8:30am. Leader- Peg Lindsay 326 2045.

BLUE SPRINGS STATE PARK and DeLEON SPRINGS STATE PARK

44 of us intrepid nature-lovers signed up for a tour-cruise scheduled for January 10th at Blue Springs State Park. The reason was to see the manatee, which come up to the springs in the winter. The manatees spend the winter at and around the springs where the water never gets below 72°. The night before our scheduled tour, a cold front came through.

We took the boat out onto the St Johns River, and were good and cold by the time we returned 2 hours later. We all had a good time anyway, watching for birds and alligators. The manatee, of course, stayed at the springs and could be easily seen from the boardwalk. We all duly looked at the manatee, toured the small museum - the restored homestead of an early settler of Volusia County, and learned about life in Florida in the late 1800's.

Then we all piled back into our carpool caravans and headed for DeLeon Springs State Park for a pancake breakfast. This was my first experience with the "make-your-own" family-style breakfast at the park. I sure will take my next houseful of visitors to pancake breakfast there. It's a beautiful location and we ate some really good pancakes.

Although it wasn't really a bird-watchers trip, some of us kept a record of the birds we saw. We identified 31 species of birds that day, including yellow-crowned night herons, a species not often seen even on a birders outing. Thanks to trip leader, Peg Urban, for a job well done.

THE MUSIC MAN- MELON PATCH- SATURDAY, MARCH 24

Enjoy this Tony Awards Winning 1958 Broadway musical by Meredith Wilson, and at the same time, help raise funds for environmental education in Lake County schools.

Tickets are \$ 20. and include food and drink contributed by Audubon members, served pre-performance and intermission.

Doors open at 1:30pm and curtain is at 2:00pm at the Melon Patch Playhouse, North 13th St. Downtown Leesburg., Saturday, March 24

Your ticker contact is- Fawn Vocci- 360 0507

EMERALDA MARSH – WILDLIFE DRIVE OPEN

Just a reminder that this great birding location is now open for motor vehicle traffic for the usual season. The times are Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, from 8:00am to 5:00pm through May. Don't miss one of Central Florida's prime wildlife attractions, a drive which exists thanks to the efforts of many people and groups, including your Audubon chapter.

ABA- American Birding Association Convention- Lafayette, La. April 23-29

This is the largest meeting of birders in the USA and this year the convention is in a reasonably close location. Lafayette, Louisiana is an hour drive from Baton Rouge . Choose from nine field trips including one to the Oakley Plantation, where John James Audubon stayed in 1821 while painting.

Registration is open until April 9. On-line at –www.americanbirding.org .

SUMMER WITH AUDUBON IN MAINE

Since 1937, Maine Audubon has been offering summer experiences at its center on Hog Island. From mid-June through end August, there are residential sessions for adults, Families and Youths/Teens. Hog Island is close to Portland and easy to reach. For complete information, go to- www.maineaudubon.org or phone 1 888 325 5261, ext 215.

DON'T FORGET OVAS AND AMAZON!

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TRIP REPORT – OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP TO TITUSVILLE BIRDING FESTIVAL

There were 18 of us hardy birdwatchers who attended some or all of the festival.

Our first day was a near disaster, with cold, windy and rainy conditions making birdwatching unpleasant. We met in the parking lot on the Merritt Island side of

the Indian River Lagoon, and promptly decided to go to the Visitor's Center rather than Blackpoint Wildlife Drive. After about an hour or so, the rain cleared somewhat, and we went birding on the Wildlife Drive. Birding at Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge is always a special treat, and this day was no exception. Roseate Spoonbills were in abundance, in their festive breeding plumage. Other ducks and shorebirds seemed to be just posing for us to view and photograph.

This was a different kind of field trip for OVAS – the Festival is an al-a-carte menu of Field Trips, Workshops and Seminars. Most of us chose the same Field Trips and could enjoy the company of our fellow chapter members. Others of our party were there but never seen because they were on a different schedule. Most of us were together to enjoy one evening's meal at Paul's Smokehouse Restaurant – thank you Jerry Bohmann for finding this for us.

Bob and I were signed up for the Black Rail Field Trip to St. John's NWR, a location not open except by special permit. We did hear the Black Rail, so chalk up one more Florida-life bird for me!

The evening Keynote Speakers were another extraordinary treat. I do not especially like to sit in a lecture hall and listen to a speaker for an hour. I attended two (Shearwater and Wiedensaul) and I can say I was spellbound for an hour each time.

I will definitely attend the Festival again. This is one of the premier birding festivals in the North America, and is right close to home.

For those of you who did not attend, there is always next year. Go to <http://www.nbbd.com/fly/> for more information. Only 300+ or so more days until the next one.

DORCAS BRIGHAM PROPERTY

If you have not heard of this, no surprise, but it is an unspoiled parcel of land on Lake Gertrude in Mt Dora. It belongs to Audubon of Florida, thanks to the gift made by Ms Dorcas Brigham a few years ago.

A new sign has been placed on the land on Old Eustis Road, constructed of California redwood by David Connors of the Mid-Florida Yacht Club. It was installed by members Charles Shubat and David Wilson. David would be grateful for any help in keeping it tidy- phone 357 0498.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members to Audubon, and hope that you will join in as active participants at our meetings, field trips and especially as volunteers at our chapter.

Sandra Baker

James Barnette

Kenneth Bent

Virginia Bigelow
Thomas Bluck
Marie Booth
Ruth Bradford
Carol Correard
F Drumm Jr
Thomas Engle
Sandra Foreman
Addie Garner
Helen Geigerich
Jerome Glisch
Becky Grimm
Carol Guguay
Marilyn Henline
Arthur Martine
Heather Perkins
Lois Pipkin
Robert Robertson
William Schanzenbach
Amy Shamrock
Edward Vandewater
Valerie Virgon
Maxine Wall
Robert White
Dorothy Zelasko
James Burris
George Rivera

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Despite efforts by some major federal government officials to deny it, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has presented its historic report with the unequivocal conclusions of more than 2,000 scientists in 150 countries who spent 6 years culling the latest research that humans cause global warming!

You should take this conclusion seriously. Exxon Mobil does. A report by the Union of Concerned Scientists said Exxon spent \$ 16 million between 1998 and 2005 funding "organizations that seek to confuse the public on global warming science".

In England at least, the government is seeking to educate the public, by sending the film "An Inconvenient Truth" to every high school in the country, since, "Children are the key to changing society's long-term attitudes to the environment", per the British Education Secretary.

We should insist on the same approach here and for support, go to www.stopglobalwarming.org.