



THE LIMPKIN CALL

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COMING EVENTS

December 8 Saturday 11:30 AM

This is our **Christmas Picnic**, held together with Trout Lake and is our only time to be together at the holidays. It is really a pot-luck event, so please bring enough food to share with your friends. It is an indoor picnic at TLNC and OVAS-TLNC will provide table decorations, settings and drinks. We had a great turn-out last year so hope to see you this time. Contact information- Jerry Bohmann 735 5922.

December 14 Friday

It's **Christmas Bird Count** Please volunteer to help with this; there can never be too many counters or birds! Meet at 7:30am at the Wood Duck Parking, (the main auto entrance to Emeralda Marsh). Leader- Peg Urban 326 3868. At the conclusion of the count, refreshments provided at the Blue House, Sunnyhill Farm. \$ 5. Contribution.

January 16 Wednesday

Field Trip to the **Disney Wilderness Preserve** This is a large tract owned by The Nature Conservancy just south of Kissimmee. Tours are by tram and ranger-led with a \$20 contribution. See page 18 of Great Florida Birding Trail-East, for directions. Or meet at Publix parking lot, routes 27 and 48 Leesburg 8:30am. Leader- Mary Remer 365 0934.

January 22 Tuesday

Members Meeting- 2:00pm **Adventuring on Florida's Hiking Trails**. Joan Hobson of the Florida Trail Association is the speaker. In an age when the remaining wilderness is being attacked by snowmobiles, dune buggies, endless all terrain vehicles, it is nice to hear about people who are actually walking! Joan has covered over 5000 miles on Florida trails and is the expert on walking through the state. She currently oversees some 26 miles in the Ocala National Forest.

Boating the Oklawaha River Field Trip- Oct 24- by Linda Bystrak

We had a great day on our field trip in spite of the rain. The only hard rain we got was the first 10 min of our boat ride, and we just sat at the dock and waited for it to slow down. Then we were out on the water until 2:45 min. It rained off and on throughout the trip, but we all were dry with the extra jackets she had. Her knowledge of the river, and flora and fauna were very good, even

though we didn't see any turtles, only 1 small gator, and about a dozen species of birds. The rain was keeping everything quiet. But the beauty of the river was impressive and everyone seemed to enjoy the ride, except the one MI

We didn't see anything really great except the 11 wild turkeys along the road between Gores Landing and Eureka. There were lots of phoebes and blue grays, red shouldered hawks, and the usual water birds. Saw a couple of limpkins too. We probably saw the least number of birds I've seen on the Ocklawaha, but it rained the whole day! We didn't see more than 2 dozens species.

I think today's trip was a great way to educate our membership about the Ocklawaha River. The more people who see what it is we are trying to protect, the better. Our guide made a very passionate plea to us to help stop the pipeline and protect the river. By the time the ride was over, everyone on the boat knew about that issue! What better way to help save it than to let more people see it!

OVERNIGHT TRIP- APRIL 9-11, 2008 – Fort De Soto Park, St. Petersburg

This Pinellas County park is not only voted best or second best US beach every year, but in April it is a major migratory bird location, so we overnight there. In addition, we visit Weeden Island, a state preserve on Tampa Bay, Shell Key just off the coast of Fort De Soto and the Clearwater Marine Aquarium. All this has been organized and rooms reserved, in a limited quantity, by Peg Lindsay, trip leader. Please book now; no need to pay until March. You can obtain every detail from Peg, just call 326 2045.

OVAS BENEFIT PERFORMANCE- MARCH 8, 2008

Since the Melon Patch has increased its prices and is not offering any really well-known production next season, we have decided to engage a professional actor to recreate some episodes in the life of William Bartram.

Who was William Bartram? A precursor to Audubon, a naturalist who came from Philadelphia in 1773 and spent four years walking through the Southeast, collecting flora and drawing the natural life he found. A friend of Benjamin Franklin, a member of the Lewis and Clark expedition, and colleague of Thomas Jefferson and a writer who inspired the English Romantics like Wordsworth and Coleridge.

On Saturday, March 8, 2008, J.D. Sutton, an Orlando-area actor and playwright, will join us at Trout Lake and bring Bartram to life in a program which is both entertaining and educational.

We have only one hundred seats available so tickets, with a contribution of \$ 15., are limited. The funds generated by this benefit go to supporting the educational and conservation activities of your chapter. Tickets will be available at the December Picnic and the January Members Meeting- Contact is – Joyce Wutke 589 2837

In addition to the presentation, the author of the book "John and William Bartram: Travelers in Early America", Sandra W. Sammons, will join us on this date and offer copies of her book for sale.

CHRISTMAS AND AMAZON

It's that time again to think of buying for family and friends and your first thought should be AMAZON, since they have almost everything you can dream of buying, and your purchases help support your local Audubon chapter! Be sure to go to our web-site, www.oklawaha-audubon.org, first and then click on the Amazon logo in the center of our home page.

WATER BOTTLING COMPANY WANTS FLORIDA WATER

According to recent articles in local newspapers, some of our local officials have been working hard to convince out-state companies to set up businesses in Lake Co. that would help with our unemployment. One such company that apparently was convinced it could do that is Niagara Bottling Company of Ontario, California. They paid \$15million for a building near Groveland that would be used to manufacture the plastic bottles that they would fill with water from our aquifer. They expected to employ 90 people initially and at least 200 later. We all know that bottled water is a hot commodity that will see greatly increased sales in the future. A company wouldn't spend \$15million for a building if they didn't expect a huge profit from sales of their product, water. Niagara may have "put the cart before the horse" when they purchased the building. They do not have approval from Lake Co. Commissioners or from St. Johns Water Management to take water from Lake Co. The city of Groveland does not want to participate with Niagara Bottling. After working hard to conserve water ourselves, we don't want anyone taking out 490,000 gallons of water per day, especially when we will all be facing a county wide shortage around 2013. Please let your county commissioner and/or St. Johns River Water Management District know how you feel, as soon as possible.
Mary Remer

WATER, WATER, EVERYWHERE, BUT NOT A DROP.....

Take your water bill and multiply it by three to five times and perhaps much more. Halloween is over so this is not a scare tactic but a possible reality in our near future.

The St. Johns River Water Management District, a tax payer funded agency whose mission is to ensure the “protection of water resources for the benefit of the people of the District”, has apparently not been protecting those resources. Since they have allowed more and more developers to draw prodigious amounts of water from our aquifer and have been lax in developing any serious, mandatory conservation measures, the SJRWMD now realizes there is insufficient water for any additional permits to be granted after 2013.

Rather than get serious about numerous conservation strategies used in many other regions, the SJRWMD has developed environmentally destructive plans to draw water from the Withlacoochee River, Lake Rousseau, the St. Johns River, and/or the Ocklawaha River. Expensive plants will be built to clean the water and expensive pipelines will be built to pump the water to eager developers in Central Florida. Costs for the construction depend on the extensiveness of the system but range from 250 million to over a billion dollars. Yes, you get to make a mandatory contribution to the costs through your water bill.

Florida Audubon and OVAS is opposed to this destructive scheme and the Conservation Committee will keep you updated and make suggestions on how you can, if you wish, help in our efforts. Ron Boddicker

OVAS RAFFLE

To help supplement our income, OVAS will sponsor a small raffle during each of our membership meetings. Items should be worth at least \$15, in mint condition, and have a nature “theme”.

Please call Linda Bystrak at 357-2207 before bringing them to the meeting to be raffled, so that she will know how many items to expect. Thank-you

FLORIDA HOMETOWN DEMOCRACY AMENDMENT

It is ever more important that you sign the petition to have this placed on the ballot in 2008 as all the forces of land developers are being mobilized to block it. If you want your voice to be heard where you live, this is the only route open under present legislative conditions. Please take the few minutes to go to- www.FloridaHometownDemocracy.com, to download this on-line or call them at 386-424-0860

SPACE COAST BIRDING AND WILDLIFE FESTIVAL JAN 23-28, 2008

This is the festival which we attended this year for our overnight trip. The event celebrates its 11th year and is based as usual in Titusville, at North Brevard Community College. It offers a large range of events from January 23-28, too numerous to list here. Registration, which covers Reception, Afternoon Socials, Seminars and some Workshops, is \$ 40 for the five days or \$ 20 for a single day. To obtain the complete program and/or to register, go to- www.nbbd.com/fly.

ABOUT THOSE WHOOPERS

By Mary Remer

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation has shared that there are forty non-migratory whooping cranes in Lake County, sixteen of them are pairs and they have only produced one chick this year. Birding books tell us that

whooping cranes build their nest of soft grass gathered in firm mounds of coarse grass, weeds or sod either near or surrounded by water. For their own protection, whooping cranes even roost standing in shallow water, much like the sandhill cranes. Because of recent drought conditions in Central Florida, there are fewer of the wetlands and shallow ponds that the birds prefer. The birds are normally very wary of people so they aren't usually found in ponds near people or roadways.

Audubon of Florida is working with the developer of Secret Promise housing development, south of Leesburg, to preserve the few wetlands and larger feeding areas around them where whooping cranes have been known to congregate. These birds were raised from captive parents and are not protected under the Endangered Species Act, so protection by the developer is voluntary.

Globally, 44% of the 900 water bird species have declined in the last five years, 34% were stable and 17% rising. There is not much doubt that global climate change will have an impact on our water loving friends.

NEW MEMBERS

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

Yvonne	B.	Scott
Charlessa		Johnson
Elizabeth		Fannon
Andrea		Sewell
Arlene		Rosselli
Lee		Brockel
Joann		Croson
Joseph	R.	Allegra
Rudolph		Vucic
Rosemary		Rusewicz
Robert		Kaiser
Eugenia		Dillon
Penny		Ritenburgh
Frank		Sargent
		Di
Cynthia		Giacomo
Albert		Barham
Audrey		Reed
Joann		Nitschke
Pamela		Sansone

Lynn		Crane
Maggie		Erickson
Judi		Odell
Gary		Fitzwater
Sandra	L.	Mc Coy
Yvonne	B.	Scott
George		Kohn
Joseph		Arp
Jeffrey		Polmanteer
Ellen		Cora
Christine		Pfeifer
Mary Ellen		Lanigan
Carol		Pozen
Claire		Coumeya
Barry		Jacobs
George		Kohn

