



THE LIMPKIN CALL

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COMING EVENTS

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.

February 17 Sunday

Members meeting- 2:00pm **Birding in Costa Rica.** The last time we heard from Professor Jim Dinsmore, we were birding in New Zealand. Now we are closer to home and in addition, Jim has joined our board of directors. Few of us manage the trip to New Zealand, but environmental travel to Costa Rica is popular, reasonable and just a few hours away. Meanwhile, enjoy the rain forests, volcanoes, beaches and birds of a great place in Central America.

February 20 Wednesday

At popular request we return this season to the Audubon Birds of Prey Center in Maitland. Cost for a group of 30 is \$ 100 donation. This is the minimum, so if only ten visitors, then it is \$ 10 each. Short trip to Maitland so meet at either Publix Leesburg or Golden Triangle Mt Dora parking lots at 8:30am. Leader- Peg Lindsay 326-2045. *A reminder- It is essential that you sign the waiver form before departure on field trips as our insurance precludes you from joining the group if you do not.*

March 15 Saturday

The best birding spot in Lake County is here at Emerald Marsh along the Wildlife Trail Drive. Meet at the Wood Duck parking lot where the drive begins at 8:30am. Free of charge. Leader- Peg Lindsay. 326-2045. *It is essential that you*

sign the waiver form before departure on field trips as our insurance precludes you from joining the group

WILLIAM BARTRAM PRESENTED BY J.D. SUTTON- MARCH 8, 2PM TLNC

Juan Ponce de Leon may have been the first European to visit Florida in 1513 but he did not have the chance to write much about it. In 1773, William Bartram, came from Philadelphia and spent four years in Florida and the Southeast, collecting flora and writing his book "Travels" about nature and the native Americans he met there.

J. D. Sutton, an Orlando area professional actor and playwright assumes the role of Bartram and recreates a time in his life in Florida in the 1770s.

Sutton will present some aspect of Bartram in a presentation with us on March 8. Join him as he brings to life this early Florida explorer. The presentation is educational, entertaining and fund-raising for this chapter. Tickets are limited to just one hundred with a contribution of \$ 15. Please contact Joyce Wutke, 589-2837 or at the January 22 members meeting.

AUDUBON OF FLORIDA DIRECTOR- LINDA BYSTRAK

Members receive quarterly The Florida Naturalist, and in the Winter 07-08 edition you will note that a new board member of Audubon in Florida is our Conservation Chair, Linda Bystrak. She was nominated by the OVAS board and elected by Audubon of Florida.

Our thanks to her for accepting this challenging position representing chapters in Central Florida and congratulations on her activities in conservation which for which she merits this position.

**Plenty of Rewards on
Sawgrass Island Outing**

Tucked away on the northern shore of Lake Yale, Sawgrass Island Preserve is one of nature's gems that is easily accessible to OVAS members and always rewarding in one way or another. Such was the case on November 13 when a group of a dozen eager birders and nature lovers traipsed the preserve on a flawless day.

One of the rewards was the 37 species of birds that were identified (a 38th—a peregrine falcon—was spotted atop a utility pole along route 452), including the ever-present sandhill crane, a yellow-bellied sapsucker, ruby-crowned kinglet, bald eagle and white-eyed vireo. And, along the Causeway Trail, gulf fritillaries and zebra longwings were among the butterflies to enjoy, along with a variety of wildflowers and native plants.

Sawgrass is owned and maintained by the Lake County Water Authority, and LCWA's Patricia Burgos was on hand to explain how the 600-acre shallow marsh—the main feature of the 1,137 preserve—protects the water quality and the wildlife habitat of Lake Yale. The preserve comprises a variety of habitats, all of which can be experienced by walking the network of excellent trails. Dennis O'Neil

OVAS Conservation Committee Action Plan

By Linda Bystrak

Members of the Conservation Committee include Ron Boddicker, Mary Remer, and Linda Bystrak. The committees Action Plan for the 2007-2008 year is very ambitious, and includes: supporting the goals of both the central Florida regional and state conservation committees; continuing to monitor the Lake/ Sumter county whooping crane population; contacting more OVAS members about conservation issues via e-mail; continue to encourage members to sign the Hometown Democracy petition; work with local governments to promote more water conservation through programs like Water Star; continue to work with governments on more Low Impact Developments; encourage local governments to address the leaking septic tank issue; work with local governments to pass a fertilizer ordinance like the one in Sarasota County; decrease the amount of aquatic herbicide use in our lakes; and discourage the use of cypress mulch among our membership.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The decisions taken in Bali in December to finally attempt to prevent the more catastrophic changes in climate are important but in the end it is the actions of individuals which count. You cannot grow a new 300 ft cypress or create an underground spring, but you definitely can save trees, water and energy. Waste makes up a very large part of our consumption of everything from water, electricity, gasoline to food, and all these are within our power to change.

And why not start with perhaps the most wasteful of all products, bottled water. Forty years ago no American even thought of buying water in bottles when there was first quality water coming from his faucet. That tap water is even better today, but advertising and marketing has convinced many that bottled water transported from Europe or New Zealand is better at many hundreds times the price of tap water.

This is the perfect negative product without one redeeming feature. Oil is consumed producing the plastic bottle, more fuel is wasted transporting empty bottles to be filled thousands of miles away, often with plain tap water, then shipped filled more miles. Then when empty, thrown away into yet more land-fill where it degrades over a thousand years! And the consumer in fact gains absolutely nothing from his purchase.

Using tap water is a total win situation, which saves energy in plastic production, in transport, your money and in generating refuse. Conservation is an uncomplicated activity which accomplishes much more than many imagine.

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.

Hunter	L.	Boice
Tom		Hanson
Charlene		Mark
Donna	Marie	Hume
Rex		Shelton

Arthur		Rupright
Lois		Beck
Robert	S.	Gumz
Pamela		Myers
Suzan	P.	Roberts
June	M.	Atkinson
Alan		Cheek
Roberta		Low
Alan	L.	Zell
Miriam	I.	Brammer
Ted and Mitzi		Ryerson
Jody		Freeman
Jeanne		Cherryholmes
James	E.	Price
Mary	A.	Bezak
Kim		Perry
Hunter	L.	Boice
Nathan	T.	Pait
Thomas	R.	Mc Dermott
Joseph		Rhile
Anne		Clark
Charlotte		Smith
Claudia		Hennessy
Amber		Mc Nutt
Pennell		Eppich
Connie	E.	Couden
Margie	K.	Salyer
Albert		Romano
Lori		Bumgardner
Jennifer		Black
Thomas	G.	Reich
Gale		Tranum
Chris		Calhoun
Nancy		Barnett
Donna		Cash
John	K.	Bryan
Jane/Bill		Collins
Beth		Phipps
Larry		Seymour
F.	W.	Kroesser
Pat		Fuchs

CHRISTMAS PICNIC LUNCH- DECEMBER 8, 2007

More than fifty Audubon/Trout Lake Members and guests gathered that day to celebrate an early Christmas lunch. After a blessing by Bruce Phillips, an abundant selection of mostly home-made food was enjoyed, together with the work of Peg & Peg, with holiday cards. Thanks to Mary Ellen Shuey for creating table decorations, to Linda Bystrak for organizing a raffle of some twelve prizes and to all those who contributed the food, the work of setting tables and not least, cleaning up afterwards.

OVAS RAFFLE

The first raffle at the Xmas Picnic was a success for generating some \$ 100 for your chapter and awarding twelve prizes for the lucky winners. We will hold a similar raffle at the January 22 meeting and please call Linda Bystrak, 357-2207, before the meeting so she has an idea of how many items to expect. Please, only new items, with minimum \$ 15 value and if possible, have a “nature” theme.

AN EASY WAY TO HELP CONSERVATION

If you own a motor vehicle, each year the Division of Motor Vehicles sends you a registration renewal form which contains a number of voluntary options to help Florida’s environment.

One is a \$ 1. Donation to the Florida Non-Game Wildlife Trust Fund and perhaps you never thought to give because you don’t what this is? This fund is operated by the Fish and Wildlife Commission who use it for protection and enhancement of habitat for species such as butterflies, owls, songbirds as well as reptiles and non-game mammals. They also do research on how their habitat is affected by humans and non-native species. There are two other self-explanatory options to donate: \$ 5. to the Marine Turtle Protection Trust and \$ 5. to Save the Manatee Trust, where the funds go specifically to protect these endangered species.

So next time you renew your vehicle registration, add these few dollars to your check and help Florida’s wildlife (Thanks to the Central Florida Sierran for the idea)

LAND DONATION TO OVAS

Through Audubon of Florida, we have been approached by a land owner who wishes to donate a small parcel of some six acres as a wildlife sanctuary and the board of directors of OVAS has agreed to accept it.

It is just across the county line south of Mt Dora on Route Old 441, on the west side, opposite St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church. It is a heavily wooded, sloping site of various oaks and pines. We would incur no costs in acquiring the land and the cost of adding it to our liability insurance policy is nominal.

A sign would identify it as a donation by the property owner, Kenneth Rubinson, and maintained as a refuge by OVAS. In an area of intense commercial development, even six acres is a welcome area of conservation of natural Florida.

***GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT IS GREAT
OPPORTUNITY TO CONNECT WITH NATURE***

***In February, volunteers throughout the U.S. and Canada are invited to
"Count for Fun, Count for the Future!"***

New York, NY & Ithaca, NY, 23 October 2007-Millions of novice and accomplished bird watchers can make their fascination with nature add up for science and for the future during the 11th annual Great Backyard Bird Count, led by Audubon and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. During "Presidents' Day" weekend, February 15-18, 2008, anyone can count birds from wherever they are and enter their tallies online at www.birdcount.org. These reports create an exciting real-time picture of where the birds are across the continent and contribute valuable information for science and conservation.

"These volunteers are counting not only for fun but for the future," said Tom Bancroft, Chief Science Officer for Audubon. "It's fun to see how many different kinds of birds can be seen and counted right in your backyard or neighborhood park. Each tally helps us learn more about how our North American birds are doing, and what that says about the health and the future of our environment."

"The GBBC is a great way to engage friends, family, and children in observing nature in their own backyard, where they will discover that the outdoors is full of color, behavior, flight, sounds, and mystery," said Janis Dickinson, Director of Citizen Science at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

People of all ages and experience levels are invited to take part wherever they are-at home, in schoolyards, at local parks or wildlife refuges, even counting birds on a balcony. Observers count the highest number of each species they see during at least 15 minutes on one or more of the count days. Then they enter their tallies on the Great Backyard Bird Count web site www.birdcount.org. Go to this web-site for How To Count.

**HELP SAVE WHAT'S LEFT OF FLORIDA...
LET THE PEOPLE VOTE to control growth!**

Help put HOMETOWN DEMOCRACY on the 2008 ballot

Please download and **SIGN THE PETITION !**

<http://www.FloridaHometownDemocracy.com>

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