



THE LIMPKIN CALL

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COMING EVENTS

March 8 Saturday- Trout Lake Nature Center- 2:pm

Benefit Performance- J.D.Sutton presents William Bartram. Don't miss this professional presentation of an aspect of Bartram's life in Florida in the 1770's. The performance is educational, entertaining and is fund-raiser for your chapter. Limited tickets available for a contribution of \$ 15. Contact- Joyce Wutke, 589 2837.

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 otherwise.

March 25 Tuesday- 6:00PM

This is the OVAS Annual Meeting, Election of Officers-Directors and the Potluck Dinner. Our speaker is Dr. Joe Siry of Rollins College on the subject- Global Warming and Biological Diversity for Birds. Dr. Siry is one of the most qualified people in the field of environment and ecology, both academically and professionally and active also in Audubon.

Please bring enough food for the Potluck Dinner to serve ten people and sign-up with Mary Ellen Shuey 360 1778 to advise whether you bring a Main Course, Salad/Vegetable or Dessert. As usual, please BRING YOUR OWN PLACE SETTINGS AND CUTLERY to avoid using plastic. Cups for beverages will be provided

April 2 Wednesday

Field Trip to Hontoon Island State Park in the St. Johns River by DeLand, this is a good hammock and scrub jay habitat for all types of song birds and woodpeckers. Free ferry takes you to the island where usual state park fee applies. Meet at Winn-Dixie parking lot Eustis at 8:30am. Leader- Dennis O'Neil 383 6309

April 9-11 Wednesday-Friday OVERNIGHT TRIP

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.

April 20 Sunday- ATTENTION- Change of Meeting Location!

This is Earth Day and our regular meeting scheduled will be held instead of at TLNC, at PEAR, where the county is sponsoring Earth Day events. The county ornithologist, Gallus Quigley, is a biologist with experience in the Western US and the Galapagos Islands before coming to Florida. He will speak on- Birding in Lake County Parks. PEAR can be reached from Route 27 south of Okahumpka, a right turn onto University Ave about two miles south of Route 48. Meeting time is the same, 2PM. Follow signs to PEAR.

NEW MEMBERS

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

Louise	Mc Farland
Theresa	Doerr
Cassidy-Caleb	Clayton
Ruth	Hamaker
Carole	Ann Peskin
Bob	Hertler
Audrey	Mich

A TRIP TO PANAMA IN 2009/

This is a question asked in the September-October 2007 Limpkin Call, and apparently the answer is maybe yes! Here is a proposal suggested by the banana expert, Clyde Stephens: Clyde "Banana Man" Stephens, a member of both our local OVAS and FNPS chapters, is willing to lead an extended trip to Panama. Clyde suggested February 2009 as the best time for us to visit, which would give us time to get 20 participants and also give Clyde time to set it up. We currently have 10 people signed on and need 10 more to make this happen.

As many of you know, Clyde and his wife, Phyllis, lived in Panama for many years, during the time that Clyde was employed by Chiquita. Clyde and Phyllis have a local knowledge of what to see and do, where to eat and where to stay. In Clyde's own words:

There is a lot of work in putting a trip like this together, but I can do it. As you know, we are leading the 4th trip to Central America for the tropical fruits and nuts (as I call them) and they never seem to get enough.

I have a format for Panama in mind but need input on time and how much the group could take. Actually, I could lead a trip for a month and no one would be bored. But about 12 days is my recommendation. Give me your thoughts and ask some of the prospects their opinions.

I have to assume that the group would not demand intense birding on a daily basis. Besides birds in Panama, there are so many wonderful sights to see. Therefore, people enjoy a mixture of what I have to offer, such as:

- City tour of Panama City, one of the most historic and modern cities in the Americas.
- Birding, hiking, exploring in the old Panama Canal Zone.
- Train ride from the Pacific to the Atlantic in 1.5 hours. Great scenery from a modern, fast train along the Panama Canal.
- Indian markets, arts and crafts, seafood market, vegetable and fruit markets.
- Museum and locks at Miraflores locks to see ships passing up and down.
- Islands, reefs and bays of Bocas del Toro (where I live).
- Banana plantations. Cacao/chocolate farm.
- Birding on the islands.
- Birding and hiking in the cold highlands at 7,000 feet.
- Coffee, flower, vegetable farms in the highlands.

Wow, I just added up over 14 days, which is a bit too much. So something would have to be cut out. Remember that birds can be seen all along the way as we travel. Panama records over 900 species you know but they are not always easy to find.

It is a fact that people must be physically able to make this trip climbing off and on buses, boats, train, planes, walking muddy jungle trails and such, sometimes in the rain.

Whiners and complainers need not apply. My groups are fun to be with, must be flexible and have a sense of humor in stressful times.

I cannot give an estimate yet but it certainly would be less than \$2,000, depending on how many days, and the costs of a nature guide who would be with us part of the time. For over half the trip, I would be the guide.

If you would be interested in joining us on this trip, please call me at 352-326-2045 or preferably by e-mail at pegcondor@embarqmail.com.

Who is Trout Lake Nature Center? And how is Audubon Related

The Oklawaha Valley Audubon Society ([OVAS](#)), a chapter of the Audubon Society, was formed on February 24, 1964. More than 20 years later, OVAS decided to expand their education program to include a nature center, forming a committee under the leadership of Charles Newell to explore suitable sites in Lake County.

Early in 1987 the committee learned of a wetland tract on Trout Lake, Eustis, which had been a part of the Hazelton Dairy Farm in the 1960s. Mrs. Jean Lenkerd, of the Hazelton family, was willing to sell 166 acres on Trout Lake. Another 11 acres along the road was included from Mr. Tom Hazelton. At the same time, a Conservation Easement in Perpetuity was arranged on 53 acres owned by the City of Eustis. The terms of the conservation easement included proper management, no hunting or fishing and no charge to visitors during routine open hours. This brought the whole package to 230 acres. In July 1988, OVAS bought the two parcels, assumed the conservation easement and the nature center became a reality.

Subsequently, the decision was made by OVAS to incorporate the venture as a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation called Trout Lake Nature Center, Inc. and an independent entity

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Green is the color of Spring, of chlorophyll, still much of the planet especially Ireland and of shopping bags. In 2002, Ireland passed a tax on plastic bags, 33 cents each at the super market. Instead a re-usable, bio-degradable green polypropylene bag called Green Bag was made available. Within weeks, demand for plastic bags dropped 96%. Now the same bag is available here at Publix. For just 99 cents a large, sturdy, with handles, re-usable Green Bag can save, you, Publix and the earth, money and pollution.

Just in January 2008, 42 Billion plastic bags were used world-wide and they end up in landfill where they stay forever. Whole Foods Markets will eliminate plastic bags at their stores as of Earth Day and even China will eliminate free plastic bags by summer.

Invest 99 cents in a re-usable Green Bag at Publix or use your own fabric one and besides the obvious saving in non-renewable resources, you save on your own efforts in disposing of plastic bags, whether you re-cycle them or put them in the garbage. Interested in more information- www.greenbag.info.

108TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Our OVAS Christmas Bird Count was quite a success last year; great turnout, wonderful weather and high species count (approximately 134). Our planning committee, Peg Lindsay, John Stenberg, Jim Dinsmore and Gallus Quigley did a great job. Barbara Gay rallied The Village Birders to cover a very large section of our count circle and Norm Lantz and Roberta Campbell, provided teams to cover Sunnyhill Farm Restoration Area.

The main highlight was the spotting of red-throated loons by the Lake Weir team with Captain Erika Ritter at the helm. It's always nice to get together and wrap things up at the Blue House with refreshments, which were provided by Linda Bystrak. Many thanks to all who participated and hope to see you this December.
Peg Urban