



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 268, Eustis, Fl 32727-0268.

WWW.OKLAWAHA-AUDUBON.ORG.

VOLUME XXIV

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2008

NUMBER 1

COMING EVENTS

OCTOBER 21 TUESDAY

Regular Meeting 2:00pm. Fall Warblers is the topic and the speaker is Norman Lantz who is known to many members as the founder of The Village Birders. Norman goes far back in the bird business, creating a bird feeder system including feeders, baths, seeds, books to where he was delivering 40 tons of birdseed annually in the Poconos. He came to Florida in 2000 and has been a leader in birding seminars and workshops ever since now at the community in Ocala, On Top of The World.

NOVEMBER 1 SATURDAY

Field Trip to Ferndale Preserve. This is a 192 acre preserve being restored to its original ecosystem and has one of the highest points in Lake County, 168 ft above sea level, on west shore of Lake Apopka. It has three trails, not yet open to the public. A survey has documented 136 bird species including rarities such as Ash-Throated Flycatcher, Mississippi Kite and Common Loon. It is a great place for sparrows from Song, Grasshopper, Vesper, Chipping and Swamp. Leader- Gallus Quigley office- 253 4856

NOVEMBER 16 SUNDAY

Regular Meeting 2:00pm. If you are member of this Audubon Chapter , you are probably familiar with Trout Lake Nature Center as we meet at their premises. Perhaps you know that OVAS founded TLNC. But as with so many things in life, Trout Lake has changed and evolved over the years. Come hear their Naturalist Lavon Silvernell tell us facts about the Center you may not know as well as introduce you to some of the Center's animal ambassadors.

NOVEMBER 21 FRIDAY

Field Trip to Lyonia Preserve. This is a Volusia County park near Deltona, famous for scrub-jays but there are wetlands too for water birds. See Page 13 of The Great Florida Birding Trail East for more details. Meet at Winn-Dixie Eustis parking lot, 8:00am. Leader-Dennis O'Neil.

LAKE COUNTY LANDSCAPE ORDINANCE

The county is required to re-write its landscape ordinance every few years and this is underway now with the following changes strongly recommended:

New developments should not use St Augustine grass but zoysia, Bahia or other more drought tolerant ones.

New homes should be landscaped with minimum 50% native or Florida friendly trees and shrubs suitable for the site

No more than 50% of the canopy trees can be palm trees.

Organic mulches should be used but it cannot be cypress mulch.

New homes may only have 20% of the lawn covered by automatic sprinkler.

The ordinance will enforce state guidelines preventing the use of invasive plants.

Trees lost to clearing must be replaced with the number and size of trees based on the size of the viable trees removed..

AUDUDON ASSEMBLY 2008- OCTOBER 24-25- CRYSTAL RIVER

This is open to all Florida Audubon members and costs are kept to a minimum to encourage wide participation. A fee of \$ 125 includes all programs, field trips and meals from Friday lunch Oct 24 through Saturday lunch. Rooms are available at the The Plantation Golf Resort & Spa, an Eco-Friendly resort phone – 800 632 6262.

To register, go to www.audubonofflorida.org. The theme of the meeting is – Saving Birds in a Changing Environment. Governor Charlie Crist has been invited as key-note speaker.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE REPORT

OVAS Conservation Committee Report, January – August 2008

One or more of our members participated in all of the activities listed below on behalf of OVAS. Our focus this year has been on water quality and quantity issues as they affect the wildlife habitat of our waterfowl.

Water

*Jan. 8- Wrote letter to local Home Depot and Lowe's stores asking them to stock drought tolerant grass and plants, and Water Star plumbing fixtures.

*Jan. 8- attended Lake Co. BCC meeting. Wrote follow up letter congratulating them on considering the building of a "green" judicial center.

*Jan. 18-attended Tavares public meeting to protest building of 53 boat marina and two 8 story condos adjacent to the Dora Canal.

*Jan. 25th- attended St. Johns River water summit in St. Augustine.

*Feb, March and July- attended the Rube Goldberg meeting in Eustis. One of their objectives is to address

global and local environmental issues by creating an environmental technology incubator.

*Feb. 13 - attended state meeting regarding nutrient reduction and continued to encourage Lake

and Stream Friendly practices

- *Feb 15-16, attended Rally for the River in Palatka.
- *Feb. 27-Spoke to the Lake Co. Soil and Water Conservation District about the Lake Co. Alternative Water Supply Plan. Discussed the plan with them.
- *Feb. 27-attended LCWA meeting to protest the city of Apopka's withdrawal of 5mgd from Lake Apopka for lawn irrigation. Issuing a permit would set a precedent to withdraw water from other lakes. Lake levels are already too low.
- *Feb. 28- attended public meeting regarding NASA proposal to build a new launch site on Merritt Island

National Wildlife Refuge (MINWR).

- *March 3- wrote letter to SJRWMD asking that they not issue a permit for the proposed 53 boat marina on the Dora Canal. Property is now for sale.
- *March 4- wrote a letter to the Lake Co. BCC asking that they not approve the use of Green Swamp land for the training of mercenaries. Chemical and lead ordinance could contaminate the site and aquifer.
- *March 4-wrote a letter to Kennedy Space Center opposing the building of a new launch site on MINWR
and suggesting that they use the abandoned launch sites at nearby Patrick Air Force base. That action will
be taken.
- *March 7- participated in a state DEP teleconference about Lake and Stream Friendly low impact
development in Lake Co.
- *March 8- wrote letter to DEP asking them to stop SJRWMD from giving the city of Apopka a 5mgd
withdraw permit, from Lake Apopka. This could have an affect on the restoration project.
- *March 18-attended Tavares Water Conservation School.
- *March 13-attended DEP meeting in Tavares about impaired waterways in Upper Ocklawaha watershed.
- *June 23-Met with Lake Co. government staff member regarding whooping cranes. Have also informed
AOF of the problems.
- *July 3- attended BCC meeting regarding new SJRWMD irrigation rule. Spoke on behalf of 1x a week
irrigation and sent letter after board approval.
- *July 21-looked at 7 AOF sanctuaries in Lake Co.
- *Aug. 10- Tour of Promise Ranch which is being considered as a possible purchase under Fl Forever.
- *Aug. 28- attended state sponsored meeting regarding Lake and Stream Friendly initiatives.

AUDUBON VOLUNTEER HOURS

Your chapter and Audubon of Florida are attempting to keep track of their membership's volunteer activities and hours within the community as they pertain to outdoor education or field trip leader, other forms of natural history instruction, flora/'fauna species monitoring, public/TLNC land maintenance, bird/butterfly counts, public meeting participation, time spent writing letters to legislators or others on behalf of the

environment. Our reasons for doing this include honoring members who are the most active and also to quantify Audubon's contribution to Florida's environment. Please keep a record per calendar year, showing name and address of location, project description, and number of hours donated in 2008.

OVAS CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Same text as before except in the box in lower right corner, write- Make the check payable to OVAS and send to Judi Ross, PO Box 268, Eustis Fl 32727. E-mail- katzandus@aol.com.

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.

George		Evans
Virginia		Murphy
Lynn		Pratt
Obrien		Cahill
Una		Fox
Ferne		Garland
Helen	V.	Jones
Alison	M.	Hobson
Anne		Clark
Leah		Kirkpatrick
Theodora	J.	White
A	M.	Liveright
Frances	R.	Wollman
Alice	B.	Jones
Jessica		Brown
Earl		Miller
Paul		Brown
Jeanmae		Cordova
Nancy		Fishinger
Louise		Mc Farland
George		Evans

Virginia		Murphy
Ira		Southern
Johann		Alexander
Lisa		Cuccarese
Bob	W.	Copley
Charlie		Thomas
Julie	C.	White
Lynette	M.	Phillips

Margaret		Sapp
Sam		Green
Van		Sage
Ursula		Godts
Anthony		Todoverto
Jill	L.	Hepworth
Don		Richardson
Charles		Pierce
Michael	A.	Smithhisler
Carmen		Cortese
Duane		Wickland
Linda		Heizer
Joan		Hammond

TREASURER NEEDED URGENTLY!

If any member with an interest and experience with numbers, and not very complicated ones either, can volunteer to be the chapter treasurer, it would be most welcomed. We need one NOW and for further details contact any board member.

The Lake County Green Team is hosting a Green Fair on November 1, 2008 at Wooton Park in downtown Tavares.

This one-day event is intended to present educational programs and informative displays that showcase best practices in environmental issues to the community. Exhibits will provide information, ideas, resources, products to live more sustainably.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

How Green is My City? In a country where pollution of air, water and land is the standard, a truly new and major effort is being made to produce the first eco-city in the world. After watching the opening and closing ceremonies of the 2008 Olympics, you can believe that this new city will be in China.

Dongtan, which is being built first to showcase the World Exhibition in Shanghai in 2012, will be finished only in 2020. It will be composed of three self-sustaining towns with a total population of half million on completion. Surrounded by wetland and organic farms, and with foot and bicycle paths throughout. All energy needs will be supplies by solar, wind and re-cycled waste and only vehicles with zero carbon emissions could enter. This is being designed by the British engineering firm Arup.

Katherine Roberts of the NYTimes compares this concept with New Orleans, which three years after Katrina is still a disaster area. Why not follow the example offered by China in New Orleans? As she states, “ New Orleans, too, could become a bold vision—a laboratory for how to rebuild America’s faltering cities. It could evolve into a model for the future as compelling and optimistic as the one America offered to the world a generation ago. Or it could remain an emblem of how far we’ve fallen.” I wonder which will it be?

THOSE BOTTLES OF WATER

Persuading people to spend thousands of dollars per year to buy water in bottles has probably been one of the major achievements in marketing in decades. Now with the economy in trouble, more people are realizing how simple it is to save in this area. Even the cheapest bottled water (which contains only filtered tap water) costs more than \$ 400 annually, where the same quantity from your tap costs just 51 cents. It is difficult to save on gasoline, which still is much cheaper than the \$ 6.36 for 20 ounces of Dasani, but no problem to save on water costs, which also reduces oil consumption of production and transport of plastic.

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TRIP TO PANAMA

The dream will come true. The trip to Panama proposed one year ago in this newsletter, has attracted the maximum number of travelers which can be accommodated. So in February, some twenty chapter members will journey with Clyde Stephens to the land of birds and bananas.

