



## THE LIMPKIN CALL

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### COMING EVENTS

#### JANUARY 17 SATURDAY

Field Trip to Lake Apopka area. This is always a very welcomed trip. Since we drive on the dikes, we will car pool to minimize traffic and a St Johns River Water Management District official will accompany us in areas closed to the public. Meet at 9:00am at the County Agricultural Extension Center, Highway 19 and Woodlea Rd, Tavares. This trip is **limited to 30** so it is essential to call in advance Leader- Ron Boddicker 343 5365. Please remember, participation requires signing the liability waiver

#### JANUARY 20 TUESDAY

Regular Meeting- 2:00pm. Birds, Bananas and Panama. Clyde Stephens, an expert on all three of these items will be the speaker. Clyde is not only an old-time Floridian, but is also an almost Panamanian, spending most of his adult life with the people who gave us Chiquita. For those of us who cannot make the trip to Panama, this is a must.

#### FEBRUARY 11 WEDNESDAY

Field Trip to Lake Woodruff. This is a National Wildlife Refuge close to DeLand. The ponds here provide good nesting and feeding places for waterfowl, waders and shorebirds particularly in winter. Free entry. More information in The Great Florida Birding Trail East, page 12. Meet at Winn-Dixie Parking lot Eustis, 8:00am. Leader- Jim Dinsmore 753-4493

#### FEBRUARY 15 SUNDAY

Regular meeting- 2:00pm. The quest for the Ivory-Bill, is the subject and the speaker is Lyn Comans DVM, an avian specialist veterinarian and a member of The Village Birders. Lyn is a Cornell graduate and it was a Cornell team that perhaps sighted the woodpecker. She will show the video and discuss the current thinking on the subject.

#### MARCH 17 TUESDAY- Note Change of Date from original program

This is the ever popular trip on Lake Eustis, Dora Canal and Dead River with Heritage Tours and Reg Bale as Captain bringing us to the many wading bird rookeries. Price is \$ 14 per person and boat capacity is 32, so you need to sign up early. Meet at 9:00am at the parking lot of Lakeside Chiropractors, an abandoned boat moored on the north side of Highway 441 in Tavares, just past the restaurant the Tale Chaser Grill, . Leader- Bruce Phillips 315 0593.

## **CHRISTMAS LUNCH AT TROUT LAKE DECEMBER 6, 2008**

This event was attended by some fifty members and friends of Trout and Audubon to celebrate the coming holidays with a shared meal of plenty.

Conservationist of the Year: After an excellent potluck lunch, Jerry Bohmann introduced Ron Boddicker of the Conservation Committee who presented the Conservationist of the Year Award to Robert Sargent, formerly a reporter with the Orlando Sentinel. Sargent was recognized for his efforts to make readers aware of water issues in Lake County and central Florida. In particular his reporting on the Niagara Bottled Water Plant plans helped educate the public on this issue. Sargent commented on the importance of such issues to the general public, the need to continue to be vigilant, and his appreciation of the support OVAS provided on this issue.

Raffle: Linda Bystrak presided over a raffle of about 12 items including several gift certificates, books, plants and items with a conservation theme. The raffle raised \$110.

## **ORLANDO WETLANDS FESTIVAL SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7**

This is the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual such event, sponsored by the City of Orlando, Orange Audubon and Orange County Parks & Recreation, which is located in the eastern part of the county near the town of Christmas on SR 50. There are guided hikes, wild animals, native plants, plenty of children activities, from 9:00am to 3:00pm and it is all FREE.. For more information- see

[Orlandowetlandspark@cityoforlando.net](mailto:Orlandowetlandspark@cityoforlando.net).

## **BURROWING OWL FESTIVAL- SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21**

Not so easy to find burrowing owls today but if you go to Cape Coral for this 7<sup>th</sup> annual festival, you will see them. There are all the normal events including butterflies and native plants, plus visits to burrowing owls. At the Rotary Park Environmental Center, 10:am to 4:00pm, with a donation of \$ 3.. For more details, [contact@ccfriendsofwildlife.org](mailto:contact@ccfriendsofwildlife.org). or call 239-980-2593..

## **NAME TAGS**

The lack of name tags for some OVAS members who attend every meeting has been an annoying issue for some time. At last, we have someone, Billie Argenziano, our Treasurer, who is prepared to make these. Those members without proper name tags please PRINT your name on the Name Tag sheet at the January meeting and at the next meeting, you will have them at last.

## **BAKE SALE**

At our January 20 meeting, we will celebrate our First Annual Bake Sale. A number of members have expressed interest in producing baked products, which can be of any type, pastry, cakes, cookies as well as bread. Bring them to the January meeting, put a price on them, and the proceeds of the sales go to support your Audubon chapter.

## **2009 FUND RAISER- BENEFIT MARCH 29 SUNDAY**

As we did last year with the William Bartram performance, we have organized a special production to raise funds to support the activities of your chapter. We have arranged for the well-known nature writer and film producer, Bill Belleville, to come to TLNC to present his production of "In Marjorie's Wake", a tribute to Marjorie Kinnen Rawlings, and how she was influenced by Florida's nature . The presentation will be held at Trout Lake at 2:00pm on Sunday March 29 and a donation of \$ 15 is requested; Seating is limited and tickets will be available at the January 20 meeting.

## IT IS TIME FOR A NATIONAL POLICY TO CAP GLOBAL WARMING POLLUTION

Currently 34 American states rank among the top 75 highest greenhouse gas polluters in the world. The good news is that many states across the country have recognized the need to cap and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, which are the principal drivers of global warming and produced mainly by burning fossil fuels, such as coal and oil. Beyond the long-term human health, welfare, and environmental stability benefits we can achieve by curbing climate change, national rules are important for economic stability. Bradford Plumer in his article, *A New Leaf*, in Audubon Magazine's Fall 2008 edition made the case well by writing: "Shell Oil and 25 other companies—including 19 that are listed on the Fortune 500 list, such as Duke Energy, Exelon, and General Electric—along with a handful of environmental groups, have formed the United States Climate Action Partnership (USCAP) to push for a nationwide cap-and-trade system that would reduce greenhouse-gas emissions 60 percent to 80 percent below current levels by 2050. As state rules get pieced together, often haphazardly, many companies have become convinced that it would make more sense to push for a single federal standard rather than deal with a messy state-by-state approach. The RGGI, for instance, is non-binding, and states can technically pull out at any time—as Massachusetts did in 2006 as its governor, Mitt Romney, was gearing up for the Republican presidential primary—a fact that can create uncertainty for utilities."

Energy efficiency measures can go a long way toward reducing our dependence on polluting fossil fuels, such as oil and coal. Clean renewable energy can eventually take us the rest of the way to a clean and vibrant energy economy that creates jobs and stimulates technological innovation.

The transition as a state, nation and throughout the world is inevitable because fossil fuels are nonrenewable and because the impacts of climate change—such as sea level rise, more intense storms, storm surges and drought—pose serious threats to birds, wildlife, and our state's natural treasures.

Florida is making progress in improving its energy efficiency measures and this was recognized in a report released in October by the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ACEEE). The report provided a detailed comparison of states progress on a range of energy efficiency measures. Compared to the last report card in 2007, Florida was among the four most improved states, jumping ten points from 29th in the 2007 ACEEE report card to 19th in this year's scorecard.

While progress is being made on energy efficiency, much remains to be accomplished to stimulate growth of renewable energy in the state. The legislature passed Energy Bill 7135 this year, which included direction to the Florida Public Service Commission to develop what is called a Renewable Portfolio Standard, which requires electric utilities to provide a growing percentage of their electricity by using clean, renewable energy. Audubon is advocating for a standard that provides 20 percent of our electricity from clean sources, such as solar power, by 2020.

Robert Reedy, Director of UCF Florida Solar Energy Center, reports that solar generating potential from **residential rooftops alone** in Florida is 35 gigawatts (equal to 23 new 1500 megawatt power plants).

### How Can You Help

Audubon advocates in Washington DC and in Florida are working hard to convince our national Senators and Representatives to support strong carbon cap and trade legislation in 2009. You can help by calling on our Florida delegation to support this legislation next year.

You can also participate by joining the Audubon Climate Action Network, which entitles you to become a member of the Alliance For Climate Protection's We Can Solve the Climate Crisis Campaign. Sign up today by visiting [www.audubonofflorida.org](http://www.audubonofflorida.org)