



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.

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WWW.OKLAWAHA-AUDUBON.ORG.

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NEW HAPPENINGS AT YOUR CHAPTER

Two Important Changes- In order to be more welcoming to members who have normal weekday employment, all our Members Meetings will be held on Sundays, at the same time, 2:00pm, except for the March Annual Meeting/Potluck Dinner, which will continue to be on Tuesday, March 16 at 6:00pm

In order to reduce costs in times of reduced income, this will be the only print issue of The Limpkin Call, except for those members who enroll locally with the OVAS Membership Form found on the last page of this newsletter, at \$ 15 per family per season. Non-local members will be able to read The Limpkin Call electronically as it is available in the same format on our web-site- www.oklawaha-audubon.org.

COMING EVENTS

October 15 Thursday- Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge

This is the popular Black Point Drive close to Cape Canaveral Seashore and is well-known for a wide variety of water and wading birds, and the hammock trails are good for migrants. For full details, see page 16 of The Great Florida Birding Trail- East. Meet at Winn-Dixie parking lot Eustis, at 8:00am. Leader- Dennis O'Neil 383 6309.

October 25 Sunday 2:00pm

Regular Members Meeting **Florida NaturYaking** is the subject of this presentation, a title invented by the speaker, an OVAS director, Linda Bystrak. Linda is graduate of the University of Maryland with degrees in Biology and Education, and is retired from science teaching. She has been kayaking the waterways of Central Florida since 2005 and as a Florida Master Naturalist has identified most of the flora and fauna along the rivers, lakes and streams and she will share some of these images with us.

November 10 Tuesday Promise Ranch

Field Trip to Promise Ranch Umatilla. This is 1500 acres under conservation easement, of upland forest and wet prairie and wetlands, managed for the last eight years for wildlife with emphasis on bob white, quail and turkey. Meet at Winn-Dixie parking lot Eustis 8:30am. Leader is Brannon Willis, Ranch Manager and contact is Dennis O'Neil 383 6309.

November 22 Sunday 2:00pm

Regular Members Meeting **Priorities in Florida Bird Conservation Issues, Challenges and Opportunities.** Our speaker is John Ogden who has a very extensive pedigree both National Audubon and Audubon of Florida –

John C. Ogden currently (2009) is Director of Bird Conservation for Audubon of Florida. Previously, he was a research scientist at Everglades National Park for 16 years, Director of the Ornithological Research Unit and co-Director of the California Condor recovery program during his 14 years with the National Audubon Society's Research Department, and served 10 years as Chief Scientist for the South Florida Water Management District on the Everglades restoration program. John is a native Tennessean, who came to Florida to do graduate study at Florida State University. His introduction to the birds of Florida included field surveys of birds in all counties of the State.

NEW MEMBERS

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

Gail Galantine

Gary Zogg

Wayne N. Jersin

Betsy Meyers

Lisa Huston

Mark Allis

Ellen Bailey
Carole Duncan
Linda Pick
Brenda Bauer
Harace H. Ligan
Randall Mistele
Dean Guerry
Michelle Kehoe
Nancy Staffieri
J. L. Wittkamp
Michele J. Stebel
Kathryn W. Stanzak
Marijane Richardson
Sandra L. Bonser
Al & Carolyn Schirmer
Ralph L. Wilhelms Jr
Nancy Barnett
Sharon Brown
Rita Bamonti
Polly Hayton
Genemarie Baker
Noel Steele
James Bashford
Geri Cook
Barbara Richards
R. Alberry

Amy Clark
Ruth Woodbury
Phyllis Maxson
Jean Menzies
Shirley & Keith Schue
Mary Jordan
Patricia Nichols
Joyce Hileman
Janet Freedom
Dorothy Perryman
Barbara McKellar
Donna Madden
Sara B. Hamilton
Marianne Wettere

Dale Thrasher
Arthur Fricke
George Pearce
Louis J. Radnothy
Edgar Michaud
Raymond E. McCleary
Robin Ogilvie
Helen S. Kolb
Patricia G. Schultz
Jinx H. Urfer
Donald F. Nelson

The V. Public Library

Beth Phipps

Jean Schmidt

Edward R. Pfeifer

Elizabeth Lepore

Jean W. Garrison

Michael Podoshen

Robert Wright

R. W. Mercer

Janice Pila

David Dudley

Rose M. Miracle

Lisa Huston

Dennis & Mary J Connor

Barbara A. Johnson

William Skinner

Charles Russell

Dolores & Richa Rine

James M. Cravy

Stephen Licata

Dorothy Coursen

Joanne Bloomingdale

Wilma R. Vogt

Grace Calhoun

Richard F. Huber

AUDUBON ASSEMBLY 2009 OCTOBER 22 -24 ST PETERSBURG

This is the annual meeting of all chapters of Audubon of Florida and costs are kept to a minimum to encourage wide participation. Registration fee of \$ 120 includes all programs, workshops, pizza party, cocktail reception, Friday evening banquet, breakfast, two lunches and field trips. Rooms are available at the Hilton St Petersburg Carillion Park, a certified green hotel, www.hiltonhotelstpete.com. St Petersburg Audubon is celebrating its 100th year and Clearwater Audubon its 50th, as part of the assembly. Keynote Speaker is Sylvia Earle, a celebrated oceanographer, honoring women in conservation. A Friday luncheon keynote speaker will be Olivia Gentile, author of the biography of Phoebe Snetsinger, the woman who won the contest to see all 8000 species of birds.

OVAS CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP - JOIN OR RENEW WITH THIS CHAPTER

A word of explanation about local membership. If you join or renew with this chapter, the cost is \$ 15 per family and the entire amount supports your chapter. The period runs from September through May of the following year which is our normal active season. Your local membership entitles you to receive print copies of The Limpkin Call in the mail every two months of the season.

This membership includes all Audubon benefits except the Magazine. If you wish to renew with National Audubon, they will send you a notice of time due and amount.

We encourage you to continue your National membership while supporting your chapter by joining locally in addition.

Name-

Address-

City

State Zip AND Please- E-Mail address and phone.

Make the check payable to OVAS and send to Judi Ross, PO Box 268 Eustis Fl 32727

E-mail address- katzandus@aol.com

THE QUOTES ARE IN

Or, Is Alaska on your bucket list?

February 2009 our local Audubon and Florida Native Plant Society chapters put on a trip to Panama. We had 20 people led by retired United Fruit Company entomologist, Clyde Stephens, who is a member of both our chapters. We had a blast! We went snorkeling in Bocas del Toro, visited the

Panama Canal Museum, a banana plantation, a chocolate farm, a rainforest at dawn, toured the old city of Panama. We paid our meals and rooms individually; entrance fees, gratuities, bus charters from a common pool of \$\$\$. The 20 folks on the tour all said "we should do this again. Alaska, next time."

Recognizing that the economy has tanked and that many of us retirees have less disposable income than we had a year ago, it's kind of "iffy" to plan a tour of that magnitude to Alaska, knowing that when the price tag, including airfare to/from Florida is mentioned, we may not be able to get 20 people to sign up.

That all being said, I contacted 3 tour organizations to give us a quote for a 10-day natural history tour in Alaska, with emphasis on birding. The quotes are in. I need to know AS SOON AS POSSIBLE who is interested in this trip. There is quite a bit of work to be done to schedule vans, lodging, trip leaders, meals etc. and we need to give the tour company as much lead time as possible. We will try for summer of 2010 but if that is not possible, then summer of 2011.

Some quick facts about our group that I shared with the tour companies:

As interested in botany as birds and wildlife

Interested in history of the area, its land and peoples

Mostly retirees, so probably no more than 3 hours of strenuous activity per day

We all like to eat well and whatever the locals eat (no high-class, fancy restaurants)

No whiners nor complainers allowed

Must be able to hike over uneven terrain, get in and out of small watercraft etc.

A few "hard core" birders - maybe we can offer a before/after extension for a smaller birders group

OK the big question - roughly, how much per person will this cost? I asked for an everything-included quote: meals, lodging, gratuities, transportation, round trip airfare to/from Orlando/Anchorage. We may pay for some items individually (e.g. meals) but the estimate will give you an idea of how much to expect. Remember, at this point, these are ESTIMATES. All

quotes begin/end in Anchorage. Price is just a starting point – the tour activities differ for each of the quotes, and are really not comparable.

Current cost of a round trip airfare is approximately \$1,200.

St Paul Island Tours, 8 days/7 nights \$3,038

Alaska's Pribilofs

Wings, 10 days/9 nights \$3,800

Anchorage – Denali – Kenai – Seward

Wilderness Birding Adventures, 11 days/10 nights \$3,590

Anchorage – Kenai – Denali – Talkeetna

Contact me ASAP by e-mail if you are interested. I can send you details on each of the quotes.

Peg Lindsay

352-326-2045

pegcondor@embarqmail.com

LAKE COUNTY LAND ACQUISITIONS

In 2004, voters in this county approved buying land for environment protection by a majority of 71%, authorizing \$ 36 million in bonds for the purpose. Purchases began in 2007 and to date the county has managed to buy outright, some 1818 acres for \$ 22.3 million, 800 acres of which are in the Green Swamp, the source of a major aquifer. In partnership with the St. Johns RWMD, another 210 acres has been bought for \$ 5million and a Grant of \$ 5 million was made to Clermont to acquire 200 acres of lake front property.