



## ***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](http://WWW.OKLAWAHA-AUDUBON.ORG)**

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**NUMBER 3**

### **COMING EVENTS**

**January 12- Tuesday**

**Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park-**

*This 21,000 acre property near Micanopy, is one of the most important and historical areas in the State. It was described in 1774 by our friend William Bartram and much of what he saw is still there: cranes, eagles, hawks, water birds, alligators, otters. Entrance Fee. Meet at Publix parking lot, Cr 48 and US 27 Leesburg at 8:00am. Leader- Peg Lindsay 326 2045. Those living north of this location can proceed directly to the state park.*

**January 17 Sunday- Regular Meeting-**

**2:00pm. Update on the Apopka**

**Restoration Project by the manager of it, David Walker of the St Johns River Water Management District.**

Dave is a Basin Program Manager with the St. Johns River Water Management District where he is responsible for coordinating and managing all aspects of the Lake Apopka and Upper Ocklawaha River Basin restoration programs. He has worked for the District for nearly 24 years. Prior to working at the District, Dave worked in the research program at Everglades National Park. He has a B.A. from Indiana University in Economics and Environmental Studies. He also has a M.S in Environmental Science from Indiana University

**February 13 Saturday**

**St John's River Boat Trip**

. This is at the height of manatee season and the boat departs from Blue Spring State Park, \$5 per car. The boat travels for two hours north and south on the river that is still famous for wildlife. Boat Tickets are \$ 20 and maximum number available is 35; sign up at Christmas Lunch. Picnic at the park . Meet at Winn-Dixie parking lot Eustis, 8:00am. Leader- Jim Dinsmore 753 4493.

## **February 21 Sunday-Regular Meeting**

**Regular Meeting- 2:00pm Audubon on the World Stage presented by Ruth Ann Wiesenthal-Gold, who has been engaged in population studies for many Years and participated in a family planning field trip to Ethiopia sponsored by Audubon and the Sierra Club. Ruth Ann Wiesenthal-Gold has been a public welfare activist, and volunteer. Before coming to Florida from Connecticut, Ruth Ann co-founded the Woodlands Coalition for Responsible Energy. Under her guidance, what began as 10 people in a friend's living room evolved into a grassroots advocacy organization with hundreds and then thousands of members and a statewide reputation for fact-based expertise on energy policy.**

## **NEW MEMBERS**

Janet	Farrow
Peter	Gelabert
Kathryn	Gelabert
Jackie	Devine
Jack	Wertheim
Jack	Werner
Mary	Wissick
Janice	Johnson
Les	Solberg
Donna	Ricks
Joyce	O'Toole
Helwald	Piepk
Harriet	Nemanich
Perside	Marron
Gwen	Pearsall
Linda	Sands
Letitia	Thompson
Lois	Ford
Hazel	Crane
Armand	Occhetti
Ludwig	Boyer
Nancy	Boyer
Patricia	Buckley
David	Skudland
Marilyn	Long
June	Mullwn
Helene	Summers
Agnes	Strassheim

## Florida Scrub-Jay Festival

### Save the date and help out

2010 will be the first year of the Florida Scrub-Jay Festival dedicated to celebrating the Florida scrub-jay, the only bird only found in Florida! Learn more about this charismatic bird, its unique habitat, and other interesting wildlife. This fun-filled family event will offer guided tours, music, food, environmental displays, presentations, and more.

The festival will be held at the Lyonia Preserve Environmental Learning Center on February 10th, 2010 from 9am to 3pm. [Save that date!](#)

And, [we could use your help now to get ready for this celebration](#). We're looking for volunteers to help with the Florida Scrub-Jay Festival, February 20 in Deltona. Prior to the festival, we need people to help coordinate volunteers and sponsorships, to help us keep track of our budget, and to design printed materials and souvenirs. On the day of the festival, we need volunteers to help set up, tear down, assist musicians and speakers, and direct visitors.

If you are interested in helping with the first Florida Scrub-Jay Festival, contact [Craig Faulhaber](#) at (352) 732-1225 or [Katrina Locke](#) at (386) 377-2331. I hope to see you there

### **AUTUMN HAYRIDE**

### **THROUGH PROMISE RANCH**

### **YIELDS 42 SPECIES OF BIRDS**

Taking a hayride through 1500 acres of varied habitats and diverse bird populations is not a bad way to spend a morning. A group of 14 birders had that opportunity on November 10 when they toured Promise Ranch. The property near Umatilla comprises upland forest, wet prairie and wetlands and has a mile of shoreline along Lake Yale.

The property is owned by Bob Panuska and is being managed principally for bobwhite quail under a conservation easement. Mr. Panuska generously invited the group to tour the property under the guidance of Ranch Manager Brannen Willis.

Brannen loaded a trailer with bales of hay and hitched it to an all-terrain vehicle for the leisurely trip through the property, stopping frequently to allow a close examination of flora and ample time to search for birds. Forty-two species of birds were identified, significantly increasing the number of species previously identified on the ranch. Among the more notable birds sighted were merlin, pileated woodpecker, ruby-crowned kinglet, eastern bluebird, six species of warblers, blue grosbeak, Bachman's sparrow and bald eagle, which has a nest on the property.

The chapter is hopeful of conducting a full bird survey on the property in the future.

Dennis O'Neil

### **SPECIAL BENEFIT PROGRAM- SUNDAY MARCH 7**

Living the past two years with the largest economic crisis in the US since the Great Depression, it perhaps is the time to look again at the 1930's, some from memory and some from history books, and view a positive event. The Civilian Conservation Corps, created by Franklin Delano Roosevelt to produce employment and build infrastructure. Between 1933-1942, the CCC enrolled 3.5 million young men volunteers between age 17-25, to plant trees, build roads and state parks, including in Florida, O'Leno at High Springs, Ravine Gardens in Palatka and Hillsborough State Park

Michigan based author Bill Jamerson will present a music and storytelling program about the Civilian Conservation Corps at the Trout Lake Nature Center on Sunday, March 7.

Your chapter sponsors the hour-long program that begins at 2 pm. The program includes reading excerpts from Jamerson's novel *BIG SHOULDERS* and performing original songs about the CCC with his guitar. Jamerson has presented his programs at numerous CCC reunions around the country and Florida State Parks.

As always with these programs, refreshments, including wine and cheese will be served beginning at 1PM.

Donation of \$ 15 is requested and tickets will be available starting at our January 17 meeting.

In his talk, Bill will discuss his research methods, some of the interesting CCC boys he has met over the years and the projects they undertook in the state. Bill will be available to sign books after his talk.

### **SPACE COAST BIRDING & WILDLIFE FESTIVAL 2010**

This is the largest such festival in Florida and is based nearby in Titusville, January 27 to February 1. Registration fee is just \$ 25 and entitles you afternoon socials as well as many free events. Field Trips and Workshops are too numerous to list, so for complete information go to [www.nbbd.com/fly](http://www.nbbd.com/fly) as well as to register.

### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

“The world has come to understand the threat posed by global warming. It is difficult to stop global warming in today’s world of 6.8 billion , think how much harder it will be in 2050...with a population of 9 billion. No reasonable person could imagine a sustainable planet under those circumstances.” “That’s why for over 25 years Audubon has been committed to increasing citizen and lawmaker support for international family planning.” Don’t miss our February 21 meeting when Ruth Ann Wiesenthal-Gold will address this issue. Sources: Population Connection and National Audubon Society

### **CHRISTMAS LUNCH**

On Saturday, December 5, 2009, despite days of heavy rain and the chances of serious mud problems at TLNC, some thirty hardy members of OVAS and TLNC, came out to celebrate our annual Christmas buffet. In addition to good food, company and music, it was the occasion when we presented our annual Conservation Award to Keith Schue, of The Nature Conservancy for his dedicated work as a key member of the Lake County Land Planning Agency.

### ***Paisley Bike Trail***

### ***Provides the setting***

### ***For a successful bird outing***

The ingredients for a successful birding field trip are fairly simple—a habitat with the potential to see birds, a knowledgeable trip leader, and a group of birders with enthusiasm. All of those ingredients were in the mix on December 12 for the outing along the Paisley Mountain Bike Trail in the Ocala National Forest.

The relatively new trail is a mere scratch on the forest floor in a mostly open pine flatwoods habitat. Nevertheless, it is easy to follow and easy to hike with only slight undulations. The trip leader was Gallus Quigley, one of the best birders in the entire state and someone who can identify birds by sight and by sound.

And there were 11 enthusiastic birders to make up the final ingredient and they were rewarded with the identification of 23 species of birds in a couple of hours, including sand hill cranes, yellow-throated warbler, ruby-crowned kinglet, sedge wren, brown-headed nuthatch and a Bachman's sparrow that Gallus patiently pinpointed in some low brush so that a number of birders could see the species for the first time!

Dennis O'Neil

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