

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 XXVII

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2012

NUMBER 3

COMING EVENTS

January 14, Saturday, 2012
Circle B Bar Reserve

Located near SE Lakeland, this prime nature preserve is worth the extra distance. Extensive marshes are full of birds. Nearby are woodlands and Lake Hancock. The reserve has good trails and an outstanding nature and education center. Bring a picnic lunch. Meet at 8 AM at the west parking lots of Winn Dixie at the junction of CR 48 and US 27 south of Leesburg. Leader: Clyde Stephens, 343 6468.

January 22, Sunday
Regular Meeting 3:00PM

Critters, Cows and Cowboys: Ranching and Wildlife is the title of this presentation and the speaker is Bob Montanaro, who last year gave us and good idea of the Life of the Osprey. Bob is the administrative assistant for the Pelican Island Audubon Society in Vero Beach. His theme this occasion is how ranching in Florida can work together with conservation and there are plenty of birds in his powerpoint presentation.

February 12, Sunday
Regular Meeting 3:00PM

The Galapagos, a Biologist's View, and our own OVAS director, Jim Dinsmore will share of his trip experiences of the islands made famous by Charles Darwin. Jim grew up in Minnesota and received degrees from Iowa State University, the University of Wisconsin, and the University of Florida. He taught for four years at the University of Tampa and 27 years at Iowa State. He taught ornithology to more than 1000 students, authored/co-authored 5 books on birds and other wildlife, and was active with several groups including Audubon of Iowa. In retirement he has traveled to some places on his bucket list, including the Galapagos Islands which he visited in 2008.

February 15, Wednesday, 2012
Lower Wekiva River Preserve

The trail begins at Katie's Landing on the river and makes a transition into higher woodlands, thus providing the opportunity to see birds in wet and dry habitats. Bring a picnic lunch. Meet at 8 AM in the north parking lots of Winn Dixie north of Eustis at CR 44 and SR 19. Leader: Dennis O'Neil. 383 6309.

Space Coast Birding & Wildlife Festival January 25-30, 2012

Welcome to the 15th Annual Space Coast Birding & Wildlife Festival and especially to Titusville - the "Gateway to Nature and Space". And, yes - we still have many space related businesses and activities at Kennedy Space Center - even though the Shuttle Program has ended. Many changes have come about since the Festival in January 2011. The Max Brewer Bridge has been completed with a great view of the Indian River when you soar over the elevated lanes. Downtown Titusville street construction is finished, the Max Brewer Bridge causeway to Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge is being landscaped and Marina Park (with its own dog park) is open with a skate board facility and huge playground. Restaurants, businesses, attractions and historic museums welcome you to the Greater Titusville Area - our community has much to offer.

Outstanding topical keynotes will be presented by Richard Crossley, Paul Baicich, James Currie and Victor Emanuel. Join us in welcoming photographer Joel Reynolds to our nationally recognized and talented group. We have added new classroom presentations, new field trips and an out-of-the-box photography workshop lead by well-known photographer Reinier Munguia and Master Bird Rehabilitator Jonathan Wood along with the famous Raptor Project birds.

The East Coast Pelagic Birding Boat Trip is undergoing a few changes to offer a more exciting opportunity for experienced as well as new birders to find life birds and observe sea life that is abundant off Florida's Space Coast. A pre-trip classroom presentation and introduction to Pelagic Birding is offered by Michael Brothers, an East-coast pelagic authority. Those who participate in this activity will receive \$10.00 off the trip registration price.

Florida's Space Coast renowned natural areas have the distinction of being the home of the largest collection of endangered wildlife and plants in the continental United States. The Board of Directors of the Brevard Nature Alliance extend their greetings to all who are attending the 2012 Festival.

15th Annual Great Backyard Bird Count

The 15th annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) will be held February 17-20, 2012. The GBBC is an annual four-day event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of where birds are across the U.S. and Canada. Please visit the official website at www.birdcount.org for more information.

Each checklist submitted by these citizen scientists helps researchers at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society learn more about how birds are doing – and how to protect them and the environment we share. Last year, participants turned in more than 92,000 checklists online, creating the continent's largest instantaneous snapshot of bird populations ever recorded.

“Taking part in the Great Backyard Bird Count is a great way to get outside with family and friends, have fun, and help birds—all at the same time. Anyone who can identify even a few species can provide important information that enables scientists to learn more about how the environment is changing and how that affects our conservation priorities.” - Judy Braus, Vice-President of Education & Centers

Anyone can take part in the Great Backyard Bird

Count, from novice bird watchers to experts. Participants count birds for as little as 15 minutes (or as long as they wish) on one or more days of the event and report their sightings online at www.birdcount.org.

Bird populations are always shifting and changing. For example, 2009 GBBC data highlighted a huge southern invasion of Pine Siskins across much of the eastern United States. Participants counted 279,469 Pine Siskins on 18,528 checklists, as compared to the previous high of 38,977 birds on 4,069 checklists in 2005. Failure of seed crops farther north caused the Siskins to move south to find their favorite food.

On the www.birdcount.org web site, participants can explore real-time maps and charts that show what others are reporting during the count. The site has tips to help identify birds and special materials for educators. Participants may also enter the GBBC photo contest by uploading images taken during the count. Many images will be featured in the GBBC website's photo gallery. All participants are entered in a drawing for prizes that include bird feeders, binoculars, books, CDs, and many other great birding products.

For more information about the Great Backyard Bird Count, visit www.birdcount.org. Or contact the Cornell Lab of Ornithology at (800) 843-2473 or (outside the U.S., call (607) 254-2473) or GBBC at Cornell University, or Audubon at Citizen Science at the Audubon Society or (202) 861-2242 ext 3050.

The Great Backyard Bird Count is made possible, in part, by generous support from Wild Birds Unlimited.



*Evening Grosbeak
-- Photo by GBBC
participant Carrie*

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Florida Native Plant Society BEAUTYBERRY CHAPTER

Annual Beautyberry Meeting – Sunday, January 15,
2012 at 2:00 p.m. at Trout Lake

This meeting will include election of officers and planning for 2012. Our speaker will be Dr. Anne Cox who will give a report on the wildflower survey of Lake County which she conducted this past summer. As usual, plant exchange, library and socializing begin at 1:30.

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.

Kathy Lipps	Jacqueline Williams
Caitlin Fogarty	Ed & Ellen Kirtley
Billie A. Zimmer	Dennis Meeks
William Weber	Douglas H. Taylor
Pamela Gilhooly	

Don't Forget OVAS and AMAZON

Please remember when you buy from Amazon, that your chapter is an associate of Amazon. We earn a percentage of their sales to you but only if you buy through our website, www.oklawaha-audubon.org, where you see the Amazon logo on the home page and you simply click it. If you already buy from them directly, this is no problem if you go through our website; the same customer information they have stored comes through without change. Please ask your family and friends to use this method too as it generates modest but needed income for OVAS.

Population- Habitat Under Pressure President's Message

The world is at a critical juncture. At current fertility rates, we will add more people to the planet in the next few decades than we did in the previous 500,000 years. Across the globe, over a billion teenagers are now entering their reproductive years – the largest cluster of teenagers in world history. Over half the world's population is under 25 years of age. The choices these people make in the next decade will determine the fate of thousands of species already pushed to the edge of extinction by population – fueled habitat destruction.

All of the world's major fishing grounds are now being overfished. Currently over one billion people use fish as a primary source of protein. Will any of these areas be able to recover if we continue to add a billion a decade to the world's population?

That is why for over 25 years, Audubon has been committed to increasing citizen and lawmaker support for family planning. Remember that when you support family planning, you will be working to improve human lives or save wildlife right outside your window.

— From The National Audubon Society.



Fund Raiser Benefit Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Re-enactment Sunday March 11

In 2012, we have organized a fund raiser to help support this Audubon chapter which will feature a speaker who performs a re-enactment of the most creative writing years of the famed Florida author, Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings. The program will be at TLNC at 3:00pm on Sunday March 11 and a Donation of \$15 is requested for tickets. Wine, cheese and other refreshments will be offered from 2:00pm. Tickets will be available at the February OVAS meeting and by contacting any OVAS board member. Seating is limited so do not postpone your request.

This one-woman show was written and is performed by Karen De Vos, a retired Michigan school librarian. She actually puts on a wig and portrays the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of THE YEARLING.

For a number of years, De Vos gave talks about Rawlings in English classes and at conferences for teachers and librarians. Her interest in Rawlings also resulted in numerous sojourns to Florida to visit the author's home in Cross Creek and to study materials by and about her that are housed in the special collections library at the University of Florida in Gainesville. She is a member of the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Society as well as the Friends of the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Farm at Cross Creek.

Prompted by the 100th anniversary of the author's birth, she wrote a script for the one-woman program. It focuses primarily on Rawlings's life in Cross Creek from 1933-1947, since those were her most productive writing years.

Since 1996, De Vos has appeared at conferences and in schools, libraries, churches, literary clubs, and senior residences in 19 states: Alabama, Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Mississippi, Michigan, Nevada, New Mexico, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and Virginia. (The program made its debut in the Las Vegas/Clark County Library District with performances in eight of its libraries.)

Now a South Carolina resident, Karen is a member of the South Carolina Humanities Out Loud Speakers Bureau.

In the presentation, Rawlings describes her life "at the Creek", how she became intrigued with her Florida "Cracker" neighbors, and why she chose to portray them in stories, articles, and poems. Slides, made from the Rawlings collection at the University of Florida in Gainesville, accompany the entire program. Afterward, the audience will have an opportunity to ask questions.



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 _____ Phone _____

Make the check payable to OVAS and send to Judi Ross, PO Box 268 Eustis Fl 32727 • E-mail address – *katzandus@aol.com*
