

Cantharellus minor TAYLOR LOCKWOOD



Trout Lake Nature Center Annual Report 2010-2011

For the period of June 1, 2010 through May 31, 2011

Trout Lake Nature Center, Inc.

- Knowledgeable experts add to Trout Lake Nature Center programs and activities.

Boy Scouts of America, Central Florida Council
Central Florida Herpetological Society, Reilly
Central Florida Resource Conservation & Development
Eco-Logic Restoration Services
Empire of the Turtle, Holt
Florida Native Plant Society, Lake Beautyberry Chapter
Fun Run, Copley
Girl Scouts of America, Citrus Council
In Focus Photo Club
Lake County Council of Federated Garden Clubs
Lake County Mosquito and Plant Management
Lake County Parks and Trails
Lake County Public Lands
Lake County Tourism
Lake County Water Authority
Lake Eustis Folk Music Society
Lake Sumter Community College, Kehde, Clark, Dellinger
LPG Environmental & Permitting Services
Nature Abounds Inc., Stephenson
Oklawaha Valley Audubon Society, OVAS
Palatlahaha Environmental & Agricultural Reserve, PEAR
Promise Ranch
St. Johns River Water Management District
Seminole State Forest, Florida Division of Forestry
Sweet Thing Honey, Parker
The Nature Conservancy
The Villages Astronomy Club
University of Florida Extension Service
US Fish & Wildlife
US Forest Service, Willis
Water Shed Action Volunteers
Wekiva Aquatic Preserve, Butler

Trout Lake Facts

- 1988 Land purchased through the efforts of the Oklawaha Valley Audubon Society
- 1991 Trout Lake Nature Center incorporated
- 1993 Charles Newell Hall opened as a museum
- 1994 Began offering school field trips
- 1997 Environmental Education Center dedicated
- 230 acres along the north shore of Trout Lake
- Five diverse, functioning, natural systems exist - lake, marsh, pine flat woods, cypress wetlands and hardwood forests
- 350 species of plants and animals call Trout Lake Nature Center home
- A living gift to the community



LET'S MEET UNDER THE GRANDFATHER OAK



Student Environmental Education 2010-2011



4,219 students participated

- Pre-K through 5th Grade
- Lake County Schools approved curriculum
- Coordinated with Next Generation Sunshine State Standards
- Vocabulary becomes more than words: *adaptation, habitat, food webs, photosynthesis, wetland*
- Lake County School students
- Charter school students

Other student groups served:

- Home schooled students
- Christian Home and Bible School
- LRMC Children's Learning Center
- Boys and Girls Club
- Boy Scouts
- LSCC Life Services class



Off-site programs include:

- Splash into Science night
- Fun in the Sun
- Science in Forestry
- Frogs Curriculum
- Biology classes
- Water and Environmental Safety Expo

FROM TOP: FILL THE BILL
WHAT ANIMAL AM I?
LIVE FROGS DRAW ATTENTION



Adult/Family Environmental Education 2010-2011

3,609 adults/families participated

- Guest speakers
- Naturalist training programs
- Docent training programs
- Programs planned to appeal to people of all ages and fitness levels
- Activities cover Lake County
- Wonder, fascination and understanding about the natural world



Some programs from this past year:

Florida's Not-so-Dangerous Snakes
Mushrooms of America
Bats, Fascinating & In Trouble
Growing up at Cross Creek
Limpkins, the Call of the Wild
Mosquitoes
Florida Lizards



FROM TOP: DOCENTS TALK DIRT
LETS TALK BIRDS
J T GLISSEN ENTHRALLED THE CROWD
THE VILLAGES GOVERNMENT DAY

Some outreach activities:

- Eustis First Friday
- Lake County Fairground Thursday Market
- Family Fun Fest
- Lake County Folk Festival
- Seniors Expo, Lake Port Square
- Fall Festival, Wekiva Springs
- Kids Day, Boys & Girls Club



Volunteers

Habitat Management

- Battling to preserve our natural areas
- Invasive species removal: *Brazilian Pepper*, *Camphor*, *Caesar's Weed*, etc.
- 25 acres treated to remove Chinese Tallow through a Central Florida Resource Conservation and Development grant

Some groups who have worked to control invasives:

- Habitat Committee
- Boy Scouts
- Garden Groups
- Community Groups like Cassia Cowpokes



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: CASSIA COWPOKES
EUSTIS HIGH STUDENT'S TALLOW TROPHIES
REMOVING CHINESE TALLOW
LSCC STUDENTS LEARN FIRST HAND
WORK CREW

Volunteers

9,342 volunteer hours
Always a community effort

Trout Lake Nature Center could not function without volunteers.
A few tasks performed by our volunteers are:

- Maintain and build trails, boardwalks, kiosks, lake pavilion, library, museum and museum specimens
- Visitor programs
- Gift shop
- Naturalist programs and workshops
- Community outreach
- Docent programs
- Hospitality, refreshments



FROM TOP: NEW HASELTON
TRAIL ENTRANCE
INVERTEBRATES ARE COOL
LET'S EAT AT FRIDAY NIGHT
NATURALIST

Our volunteers donated 9,342 hours at Trout Lake Nature Center last year... another new record

Multiplied by \$20.85 per hour

(the value of a volunteer hour)

9,342 hours x \$20.85* = \$194,781.00

***Based on U.S. Department of Labor 2009 Statistics**



Visitors

8,597 visitors

Includes students, program participants and walk-ins

- The Charles Newell Museum:
Collection of wildlife specimens from Central Florida
- Environmental Education Building
110 capacity audio/visual center
Diorama of Trout Lake's wildlife in a natural setting
Collections of butterflies and moths, shells and fossils
Gift Shop
- Interpretive upland trails
- Boardwalk and pavilion on Trout Lake
- Picnic pavilion

Organizations who meet at Trout Lake:

- Lake Eustis Folk Music Society
- Florida Native Plant Society, Lake
Beautyberry Chapter
- In-Focus Photo Club
- Oklawaha Valley Audubon Society
- Lake County Commission
- CISMA
- Lake County Fliers



FROM TOP: FUN RUN AT TROUT LAKE
DANCE DEMONSTRATION FOR
LAKE EUSTIS FOLK MUSIC SOCIETY



Total contacts: 15,512

Includes student education, activities on and off site,
visitors and outreach events

Eco-education, on and off site

- Bird Count and Nature Walk (Monthly)
- Turtle Paddle, Alexander Springs
- Wet Walk through the Cypress Strand
- Cryptic Walk, Clearwater Lake
- Blackwater Creek Paddle



- Holiday Walk
and Crafts
- Birds and Bicycles, Emeraldal Marsh
- Star Gazing, Lake Norris
- Paddle at Emeraldal Marsh
- Who Spent Thanksgiving at Trout Lake?
- Visit John Van Buren's private museum collection
- Spring Walk, Wekiva Aquatic Preserve
- Talk, Walk and Paddle, Bugg Spring

- Pete's Preserve, LSCC
- Carr Cabin Walk, Black Bear Festival
- Enchanted Walkabout
- Scrub Jay Pond & Ms. Hunter's Butterfly Garden



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: TURTLE PADDLE
JOE BRANHAM AT BUGG SPRING
PADDLE AT EMERALDAL MARSH
BIRDS & BICYCLES, EMERALDAL MARSH
STARGAZING AT LAKE NORRIS

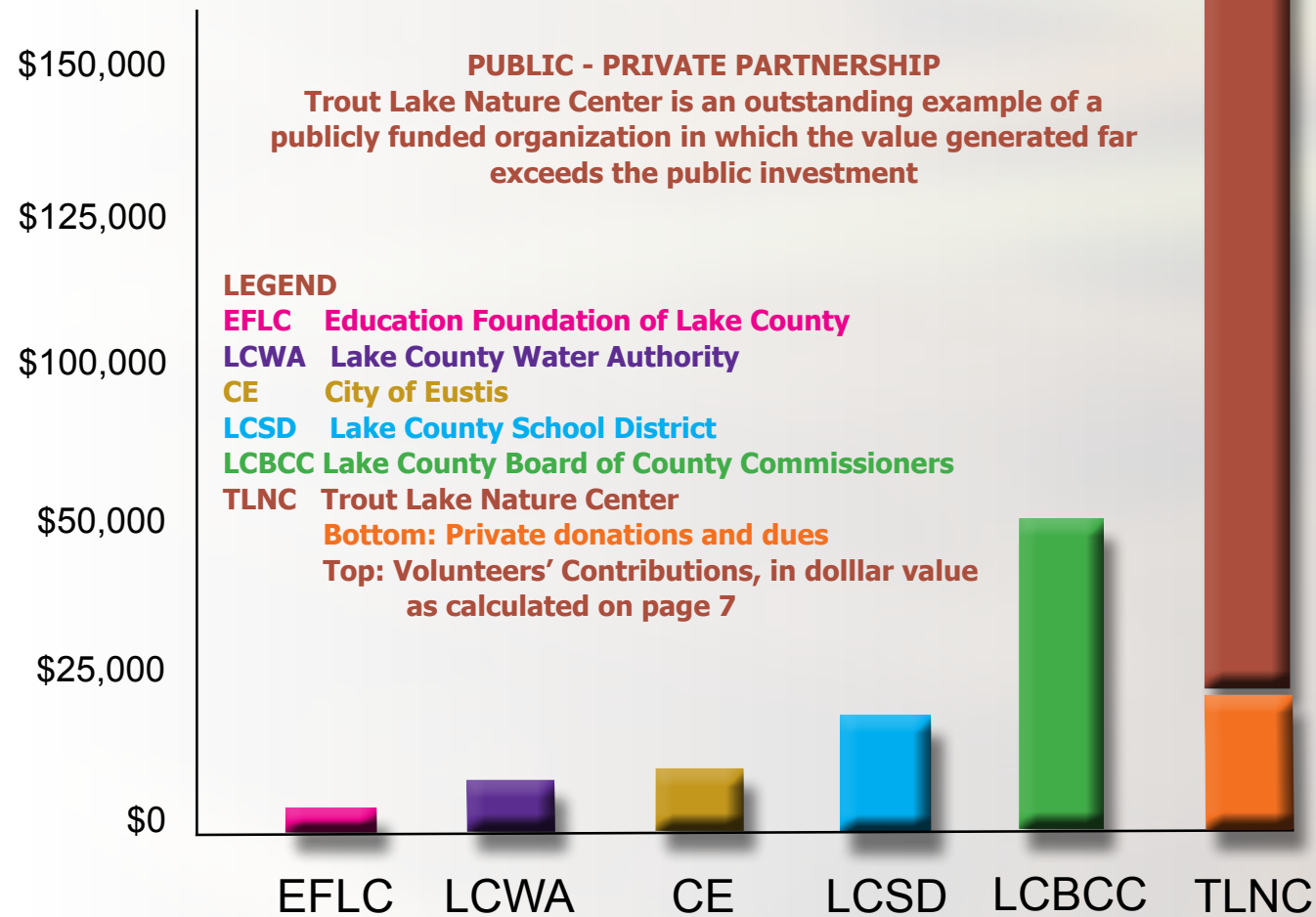
Community Involvement

Trout Lake Nature Center is an institution that represents the overwhelming value of volunteerism.

The Center was pledged financial support in the 2010 - 2011 year by the following agencies:

| | |
|---|----------|
| Lake County Board of County Commissioners | \$55,000 |
| Lake County School District | 16,500 |
| City of Eustis | 10,000 |
| Lake County Water Authority | 5,890 |
| Education Foundation of Lake County | 2,740 |

A financial statement for the year 2010 is available by request.



The Future

- Growing every year
- Always new projects
- New Teaching Museum and Aquatics Lab
- New trail systems
- More board walks
- Expanded open hours
- More programming to encourage eco-tourism
- Improved parking and lighting for night time activities
- New audio/visual system
- Increase our outreach to the community



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: WELCOME ARCHITECT'S RENDERING OF PROPOSED TEACHING MUSEUM & AQUATICS LAB ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION BUILDING PADDLE AT BLACKWATER CREEK BOARDWALK AND DOCK ON TROUT LAKE INSIDE THE CURRENT MUSEUM



RED HAT LADY WITH FRIEND



Our Mission:

*Preserve and maintain the native flora and fauna
within the ecosystem.*

*Instill knowledge and understanding of the interrelationships in the
natural world with particular emphasis on
water, wetlands and wildlife.*

*Teach stewardship and promote conservation of our
natural environment.*

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Trout Lake Nature Center
