



The Kingfisher

Trout Lake Nature Center Dec. '11–Feb., '12

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So Long Ago, It Seems

Nearly fifty years ago, the Oklawaha Valley Audubon Society (OVAS) was formed (in February 1964). One of their missions was, and of course still is, to educate the public about the importance of preserving habitat for birds and other species. In 1985, they realized they needed a permanent site for a nature center, and so began a search.

In 1987, when the OVAS search committee heard about a wetland tract on Trout Lake for sale, they began a fund-raising campaign in hopes of purchasing the land, which had been part of the Hazelton Dairy Farm.

With help from the Nature Conservancy and the City of Eustis, Trout Lake Nature Center took title to the property in 1991.

NOTE: The Trout Lake Trail mentioned in the fall *Kingfisher* is not on our property and is entirely a county project.

President's Message ... Joan Bryant

The Board of Directors is recommending a change in the by-laws to be voted on at the Annual Meeting, January 29, 2012. The purpose of the change is to prevent having all the executive board or more than a majority of directors come up for election in the same year. The changes are in bold:

Article III – Officers

- A. Election of Officers: The president, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected for a term of two years. Should a vacancy occur through illness, resignation, death in office, or other reason, the office may be filled by the Board of Directors **until that term expires**. The President of the Oklawaha Valley Audubon Society may not serve as an officer of Trout Lake Nature Center.

1. Officers of the Board shall be elected on alternate years as follows; President and Secretary will be together to serve a two-year term, alternating the following year with the election of the Vice President and Treasurer.

Article V – Board of Directors

- B. Members of the Board of Directors shall be elected by a majority at the annual meeting for two-year terms. A Board member may be elected for up to two additional terms, unless term limits are extended by request of the Board and Nominating Committee and approved by a 75% vote of the members in attendance at the meeting. Vacancies in the Board of Directors may be filled by appointment by the Board of Directors until the term expires.

1. No more than one half of the Board of Directors shall be elected in any given year.

The recommended changes will be available at the meeting on the 29th. Two Directors, Sharon Hillebrandt and Bernie Yokel, have been nominated for the next two-year term. If the By-Law changes are approved, Vice President Margie LaRoe and Treasurer Ron Macfarlane will also be nominated.

Trout Lake Nature Center

352-357-7536

www.troutlakenature.org

Officers

President: Joan Bryant

V. President: Margie LaRoe

Secretary: Trina Raether

Treasurer: Ron Macfarlane

Directors

Joe Hill Sharon Hillebrandt

Donna Kelley Morris Pelham

JoAnn Ryan Horace Thompson

Bernie Yokel

Committee Chairs

Environ. Education: Trina Raether

House: JoAnn Ryan

Mem'ship: Donna Kelley, Nadine Foley

Program: Lavon Silvernell

Publicity: Fran Yokel

Museum: Carol Hook, Mark Howard

Maintenance/Safety: Morris Pelham

Bldg & Dev./Finance: Ron Macfarlane

Hospitality: Sharon Hillebrandt,

Ethel Shubat

Naturalist: Lavon Silvernell

Administrative Volunteer Coordinator:

Rachel Dellinger

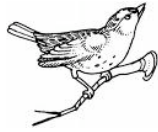
Outreach Volunteer Coordinator: Terri
McDonald

Newsletter: Margie Sigman

Web Site: Kevin Chandler

ki4tbe@gmail.com

**Trout Lake Nature Center was established
in 1988 by the Oklawaha Valley
Audubon Society.**



Naturalist Notes . . . Lavon Silvernell

Changes

Trouth Lake Nature Center is more than a sanctuary, more than an indoor/outdoor classroom. It is also the group of people who carry out the missions of the center. Sadly, I must report on changes in some of our key personnel. After all, we are a family here, and as with any family, life brings changes.

Laurie Staiger recently left us for Beacon College, a perfect career for her. She is still volunteering at TLNC, however, with the Friends Project Days group and by entering our programs on various websites.

Our Barb Loudon wants to retire from paid employment. She has been the manager who quietly runs Trout Lake, keeping everyone on task and all details in order. Barb still has things on her bucket list that she wants to do, and she hears the clock ticking. She has a year before she reaches her deadline, which gives us a transitional period to adjust to the big void she will leave.

On the positive side of change, we have two new staff members. Terri McDonald will be our new Volunteer Outreach Coordinator. She'll be the friendly voice on the phone asking for your help when there's a need. She'll also be going out to the community to recruit new volunteers.

Rachel Dellinger will fill Barb's Administrative Volunteer Coordinator position. Her primary task will be coordinating the flow of information and data between volunteers, staff, and the public, especially funders. Like Terri, Rachel comes with valuable skills and interests.

So once again, it comes back to our all-important volunteers. Even with new staffers, the work cannot get done without them. Amazing, isn't it, that 230 acres of mostly self-sustaining land and water require such an outpouring of human effort?

Holiday Gift Idea!

Are there people on your holiday list who want a gift they don't have to dust? Look no further than the Acre-by-Acre Donor Program. You get a frame-able certificate and a photo of the habitat type that you select.



Trout Lake Nature Center

Dec. 2011-Feb., 2012: Calendar of Events

All programs are at TLNC unless otherwise specified. Programs dates and times are subject to change; please call to confirm that there has not been a change.

Regular Monthly Activities: First Wed., 8:30 am, Garden Workday. 2nd Wed., 8:30 am, Maintenance and Habitat Workday. 3rd Wed, 8:30 am, Garden Workday.

December

- 10 – Saturday, 8:30 am, TLNC Bird Count and Nature Walk.
- 10 – Saturday, 11:30 am, OVAS, TLNC, FNPS Christmas Lunch. Oklawaha Valley Audubon Society sponsors this holiday get-together of naturalist friends. Please bring festive food to share.
- 14 – Wednesday, 3:00 pm, Docent/Volunteer Christmas Party and Cookie Exchange. Bring three dozen cookies and then relax and have fun.
- 16 – Friday Night Naturalist: Holly Genzen, author of “Paddling the Everglades Wilderness Waterway.” Holly presents insider tips and information on this primitive area.
- 17 – Saturday, 2:00 pm, Friends Project Day. Plant wildflowers around the barrow pit.
- 28 – Wednesday, 9:00 am, Haynes Creek, Emerald Marsh. Paddle a county Wilderness Waterways.

January

- 07 – Saturday, 8:30 am, TLNC Bird Count and Nature Walk.
- 09 – Monday, 9:00 am, Docent/Naturalist, R. Stephenson, “How Water Works and Why it Matters.”
- 16 – Monday, 9:00 am, St Francis Trail Walk, A remnant of the past, cloaked in ferns, fungi and memories.
- 20 – Friday Night Naturalist, Clyde Stephens: “The Nature and Nurture of a Cracker Childhood.” Life in rural Florida gave young Clyde a natural playground/classroom and strong family values.
- 21 – Saturday, 2:00 pm, Friends Project Day, Trout Lake History. Create a timeline for Trout Lake and open a short trail to the turpentine tree.
- 22 – Sunday, 3:00 pm, OVAS/TLNC Program, Bob Montanaro: “Critters, Cows, Cowboys, Ranching and Wildlife.” His photos and presentation show that ranching and conservation can be good partners.
- 29 – Sunday, 1:00 pm, Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon and Membership Meeting. Come help us acknowledge our hardworking volunteers.

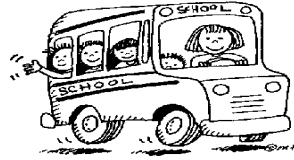
February

- 04 – Saturday, 8:30 am, TLNC Bird Count and Nature Walk.
- 12 – Sunday, 3:00 pm, OVAS/TLNC Program, Jim Dinsmore: “The Galapagos, A Biologist’s View.” Species, their habitat, and their survival are intertwined, as the Galapagos dramatically illustrate.
- 17 – Friday Night Naturalist, 6:00 pm, George and Cyndi Marks: “Florida Bat Conservancy, a Life’s Work,” Bats fascinate some and scare others. Learn the facts about bats and meet a few up close!
- 18 – Saturday, 2:00 pm, Friends Project Days. Insects for bats, install a bat box and clean up at the dock.
- 20 – Monday, 9:00 am, Docent/Naturalist, 10:00 am, “Marsh Adventure.” Learn about a wetland ecosystem; walk where humans seldom go.
- 25 – Saturday, 7:00 pm–9:00 pm, Villages Astronomy Club. Star-gazing at Lake Norris Conservation Area. Dark night skies in this primitive area bring heavenly bodies close.
- 26 – Saturday, 2:00 pm, “Teen and Family Work Day.” Only the tough survive!

Visit our website, www.troutlakenature.org, check the *Lake Sentinel* and other area newspapers, or call Trout Lake Nature Center @ 352-357-7536.

TLNC Open Hours: Monday - Closed; Tuesday - Saturday 9:00-4:00; Sunday 1:00 – 4:00.

Environmental Education ... Trina Raether



When our third graders arrive at Trout Lake, they are assigned an animal for the day. Their mission is to figure out which of the four main ecosystems at Trout Lake would best meet the survival needs of their animal. They must explore the systems—lake, marsh, forest and meadow—to discover how each one meets their animal’s survival needs. Students observe, investigate, and record information such as soil and/or water temperatures, types of soils, types of plants and other food sources, and predator threats.

After evaluating the findings, students declare which of the four ecosystems would best meet their animal’s needs for food, water, shelter and space. They are encouraged to explain the reasoning behind their choice. When there is more than one system that might work, we discuss this question: *Could some animals survive in more than one type of habitat?*

If this interests you, why not join us for our training workshops? We have great speakers, like arachnid expert Fred Boehler.