



# The Kingfisher

Trout Lake Nature Center Sept. '10 – Nov. '10

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## Our Garden Club Needs You!

The Trout Lake Garden Club meets twice a month, or as needed. You might ask why a nature preserve needs gardeners:

1. Many non-native plants continue to invade our preserve and need to be removed.
2. The area around the buildings contains demonstration gardens to encourage visitors to try native plant gardens at home. These gardens are more manicured than truly natural areas would be.
3. We're trying to establish an eye-catching, year-round wildflower display at the front gate to draw more attention to Trout Lake.

We hope you'll join us the first and third Wednesdays of every month. For more information, email Cathy Caine at [cjc45@comcast.net](mailto:cjc45@comcast.net)

## President's Message ... Hugh Kent

The 2009-2010 TLNC Annual Report has been sent off for printing and we look forward to sharing it with the larger Lake County community. A few highlights:

This past school year, TLNC expanded virtually all of its offerings and more than 3,400 students participated in our student education programs. The Friday Night Naturalist lecture series has drawn larger and larger audiences and the TLNC eco-tourism activities have increased dramatically. Our "natural classroom" has benefitted from dedicated stewardship and its ecology has improved with removal of many invasive species of plants. The Center's manmade facilities have never looked better!

There is one statistic in our report that explains these successes. The TLNC volunteers altogether contributed 9,250 hours to the organization! Last year the total was (itself a record) approximately 6,400 hours.

This increase is simply wonderful. Thank you all!

## MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**When:** Sunday, November 7, 2010, 1:00 p.m.

**Where:** Trout Lake Nature Center

**What:** Please join us for a "Welcome Back" luncheon. We request that you bring a dish to share and your own table service.

## Trout Lake Nature Center

352-357-7536

[www.troutlakenature.org](http://www.troutlakenature.org)

### Officers

President: Hugh Kent

V. President: Trina Raether

Secretary: Joan Bryant

Treasurer: Ron Macfarlane

### Directors

Frank Bishop      Joe Hill

Sharon Hillebrandt

Margie LaRoe      Morris Pelham

Ron Macfarlane      Trina Raether

JoAnn Ryan      Horace Thompson

Bernie Yokel

### Committee Chairs

Environ. Ed.: Trina Raether

Habitat: Frank Bishop

House: JoAnn Ryan

Membership: Nadine Foley

Strategic Plan Review: Hugh Kent

Program: Lavon Silvernell

Publicity: Fran Yokel

Museum: Carol Hook, Holly Genzen

Maintenance/Safety: Morris Pelham

Bldg & Dev./Finance: Ron Macfarlane

Hospitality: Ethel Shubat, Sharon Hillebrandt

Naturalist: Lavon Silvernell

Volunteer Coordinators: Barbara Loudon, Diana Staton

Newsletter: Margie Sigman

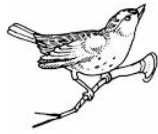
Web Site: Ted Fessler

canopus1@comcast.net

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

## Owens Award from SJRWMD to Trina

Our own Trina Raether was recognized in June for her volunteer work by the St. Johns River Water Management District's Governing Board, who presented her with its 2010 Bob Owens Award.



## Naturalist Notes ... Lavon Silvernell

### One Yard at a Time

I'd like to share an email I received from a friend, Margie Sigman. You may recognize her name—she moved to Pinellas County almost a year ago, but she still edits our newsletter. Margie's email touches on a subject about which I am passionate:

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"Lavon, you'd be so proud of me. When I moved into my old, but new-to-me home, the landscaping was classic suburban Florida: St. Augustine grass, pruned hedges, and way too much Mexican petunia. So while I still had boxes to unpack, I was out diggin' in the dirt, and what I found was truly alarming—no animal life anywhere!

Remember all those conversations you and I had while weeding at Trout Lake? Believe it or not, I was listening, and now, after just ten months, this yard is becoming a testament to your wisdom. First, I turned off the automatic sprinkler; now I hand-water as needed. Next, I cancelled the lawn care and pesticide folks (who still call anyway). Then, square foot by square foot, I dug up the Mexican petunias (they keep returning, too), installed a picket fence for vines and birds, and began to plant native wildflowers.

Now, when I dig a hole for a new plant to replace some of that St. Augustine, I find worms and sow bugs in the soil. All day long, birds and butterflies come for the water, food, and shelter that my habitat-in-progress provides.

Best of all—and I'm not making this up—people driving by sometimes stop and ask how I get all the butterflies to come. I think: *Wait 'till they see it next year!*"

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I don't know how much I influenced Margie, but here are the truths about *any* Florida garden: If we all use less water, apply few or no chemicals, and honor our own yard's role in the web of life, then one yard at a time we'll decrease water usage, improve water quality, provide a little more habitat, and have fun in the process! p.s. It's also a great antidote for BP depression. To see photos of Margie's yard, visit our website and click on PHOTO GALLERY.

## Trout Lake Fall 2010 Calendar of Events

All programs are at Trout Lake Nature Center unless otherwise specified.  
TLNC Fall Schedule: Tues. thru Thurs. 9:00 am–12:30 pm.; Fri. & Sat. 9:00–4:00;  
Sun. 1:00–4:00; *Closed* Monday. Other hours are available on request.

### **September**

- 04 – Saturday, 8:00 am, TLNC Bird Count, Bob and Mary Wexler leading.
- 08 – Wednesday, 8:30 am, TLNC Workday.
- 11 – Saturday, 9:30 am, “Focus on Florida Lizards.” Learn about the wildlife in your backyard. Family activity, registration required.
- 20 – Monday, 9:00 am, “Wildflowers and Insects, Bright and Cryptic.” Enjoy fall wildflowers while you explore some of the relationships between insects and the plants upon which they shelter.
- 24 – Friday Night Naturalist, 6:00 pm, “Florida’s Not So Dangerous Snakes,” Howard Riley. The more you know the less you fear, and the safer the snakes will be!

### **October**

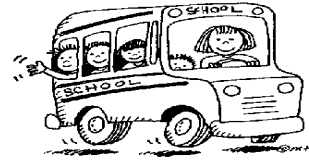
- 02 – Saturday, 8:00 am, TLNC Bird Count, Bob and Mary Wexler leading.
- 04 – Monday, 9:00 am–1:00 pm, Docents’ Training for currently active and potential docents. We will cover curriculum concepts and activities for pre-k through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students.
- 11 – Monday, 9:00 am–1:00 pm, Docents’ Training for currently active and potential docents. Learn about curriculum concepts and activities for 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade and special curriculums. Graduates of the two-day series will receive a TLNC tee shirt.
- 13 – Wednesday, 8:30 am, TLNC Workday.
- 18 – Monday, 10:00 am–Noon, “Nature Crafts.” Create nature-related crafts with local crafters.
- 22 – Friday Night Naturalist, 6:00 pm, “Bats—Fascinating and in Trouble.” Daniel Judy, biologist, will share bat bio-facts and why bats are the subject of much current research, his included. If conditions permit, he will be setting up a catch net that evening.
- 26 – Tuesday, 2:00 pm, OVAS/TLNC, “Mapping Florida Scrub Jays,” Lauren Brothers, biologist, Lake County Public Lands. Collecting data on this endemic species may help save it.
- 27 – Wednesday, 9:00 am–10:00 am, “Continental Breakfast.” TLNC open hours volunteers, and others interested in learning what is involved in this volunteer task, are invited.
- 30 – Saturday, 8:00 am–1:00 pm, “Birds and Bicycles” at Emerald Marsh. Donation \$5.00.

### **November**

- 06 – Saturday, Bird Count, 8:30 am, Bob and Mary Wexler leading.
- 07 – Sunday, 1:00 pm, “Trout Lake Annual Meeting and Pot Luck Luncheon.” Come reconnect with friends and learn about the work of the Nature Center.
- 10 – Wednesday, 8:30 am, TLNC Workday.
- 19 – Friday Night Naturalist, 6:00 pm, “Mushrooms of America.” Taylor Lockwood, researcher and photographer, will share his amazing work revealing nature’s intricacy and beauty.
- 23 – Tuesday, 2:00 pm, OVAS/TLNC, “Taking the Mystery out of Shorebird ID,” Michael Brothers.
- 26 – Friday, 10:00 am, “Who Spent Thanksgiving at Trout Lake?” We’ll look for animals, tracks and signs. At 11:30, make an animal track cast to take home. Activity for all ages, pre-registration required.
- 29 – Monday, 9:00 am, “Bear Curriculum Review.” This program includes a walk at 10:00 and a lunchtime presentation by Fred Bohler beginning at 11:30. Remember to bring a bag lunch!

Please visit Trout Lake Nature Center’s website, [www.troutlakenature.org](http://www.troutlakenature.org)  
For information on additional programs and activities,  
check the *Lake Sentinel* or the *Daily Commercial* and other area newspapers,  
or call Trout Lake Nature Center @ 352-357-7536.

## Environmental Education ... Trina Raether



About a month ago, Bud and I adopted two freshwater apple snails for our aquarium, whom we named Flash and Dash. Much to our surprise, those two rascals already have about 24 offspring!

Snails are really quite fascinating to observe, especially their eating habits. Did you know they have teeth, called radula? The radula are like a fingernail file or a chain on a chain saw. They are located in their mouths just like your teeth. They rasp their food with this rough ribbon of teeth much like a cat uses its rough tongue to lick its food.

Apple snails are invertebrates (animals without backbones) and are classified as mollusks. Snails have no bones at all; they have a soft body that is protected by their hard outer shell. All snails have a fleshy mantle, which produces the shell, and a muscular foot, which helps them move around or dig in the mud and sand. This foot helps them climb and cling to surfaces.

Because snails have adapted to live in water and on land in almost all areas of the world, and because they are so entertaining to watch, plans are "afoot" (pardon the pun) to include some aquatic mollusks in our live animal display at Trout Lake. Snails can make good pets, but like all pets, they need us to be responsible, conscientious, and kind pet owners.