



The Limpkin Call

The newsletter of the Oklawaha Valley Audubon Society, a chapter of Audubon Florida and the National Audubon Society and a not-for-profit organization.

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<https://oklawaha-valley-audubon.org/>

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September - October 2019

Number 2

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fall is here and time for us to get back out there and enjoy the weather and visit our birds, wildlife, and nature. With that being said ...

Mark your calendars for one of Lake County's premier nature fests, the **Festival of Flight and Flowers**, to be held in Eustis and the Lake County environs from October 11-13. The weekend long event, organized again this year by us, the Oklawaha Valley Audubon Society, will feature three days of immersive nature experiences including boat rides, birding trips, full moon migration observations, and educational presentations, all the things we love.

This year we are lucky to have a much sought after group of naturalists to spearhead the event at the Friday evening [keynote speakers' dinner](#). Come and meet [Jaret Daniels PhD](#), [Craig Huegel, PhD](#), and finally delight in the adventures of [Eliana Ardila and Mark Kramer](#), of *Birding by Bus*, and hear their tale of the 25,000-mile journey from Florida to Alaska and back in 2018, in Valentina, their 1978 VW bus, as they pursued their dream of a North American birding big year. Both expert birders, the couple will be leading some of the field trips on offer during the weekend, as will Daniels and Huegel.

In addition to the wide array of [field trips and nature walks](#) with offerings for all fitness levels, the Eustis Community Center in the downtown area will be the venue for a free day long festival, [on Saturday](#), replete with educational exhibits and programs, featuring bats, reptiles, and a butterfly house, along with many other fun activities for the whole family.

Registration and pre-payment are required for the keynote dinner and all of the field trips throughout the weekend. We have made sure to plan a variety so all skill levels will have a trip or two to enjoy. Keep in mind most have limited space, so register soon before spots fill up!

The Saturday festival at the Community Center is FREE, with a couple of fee-based workshops, and there are 10 presentations featuring bats, reptiles, and a butterfly house, along with many other fun activities for the whole family.

Be sure to register for field trips and the keynote dinner by October 7, space is limited, [Click here](#). Here is the domain name URL in case the links above don't work for you. (<https://festivalofflightandflowers.org>).

(cotinued)

When you register for the festival field trips and keynote dinner, you are not only supporting OVAS, but also Lake County's natural areas and resources. And we, the birds, and the environment, thank you for your support.

I look forward to seeing you all at the festival, on a field trip, or at the incredible Keynote Dinner OVAS has planned.

Until then, happy birding,
Lori



photos by Dennis O'Neil

OVAS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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COMING EVENTS - Programs

All Programs are at 2:00 pm on the first Sunday of the month, September through June, at Trout Lake Nature Center (520 East Country Road 44), Eustis, unless otherwise noted.

We suggest a \$2 donation when you attend.

NOTE: Our September program will be held on the second Sunday of the month instead of our regular day, which falls on Labor Day Weekend.



Chipping Sparrow at a feeder. Photo by Alex Vigh.

Pampering Your Feathered Guest Sunday, September 8, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.

Judy Knizner and her husband David, of Wild Birds Unlimited in Eustis love birds and bird lovers. They understand the importance of having a yard with trees, shrubs and wildflowers that produce seeds, berries, bugs, and nesting sites for multiple species of birds.

But they also know the pleasure of coaxing their feathered friends in a little closer: providing treats that have the birds coming back for more and bringing their fledglings too. Or, supplying homes or nest boxes where tree cavities might be in short supply. The Knizner's enjoy helping people provide a little extra comfort for the birds in return for the pleasure that people receive from watching them.

Judy will join OVAS on the 2nd Sunday in September, the 8th, to share tips on how to make your birds happy and keep them safe. As well as some of those funny stories every birder has about the antics of her feathered friends. Judy has more tales to share from her customers too.

Anytime you get involved in another living thing's life, there is some responsibility involved. But providing a few extras for birds more than pays you back in the funny, touching, and tender moments it adds to your life.

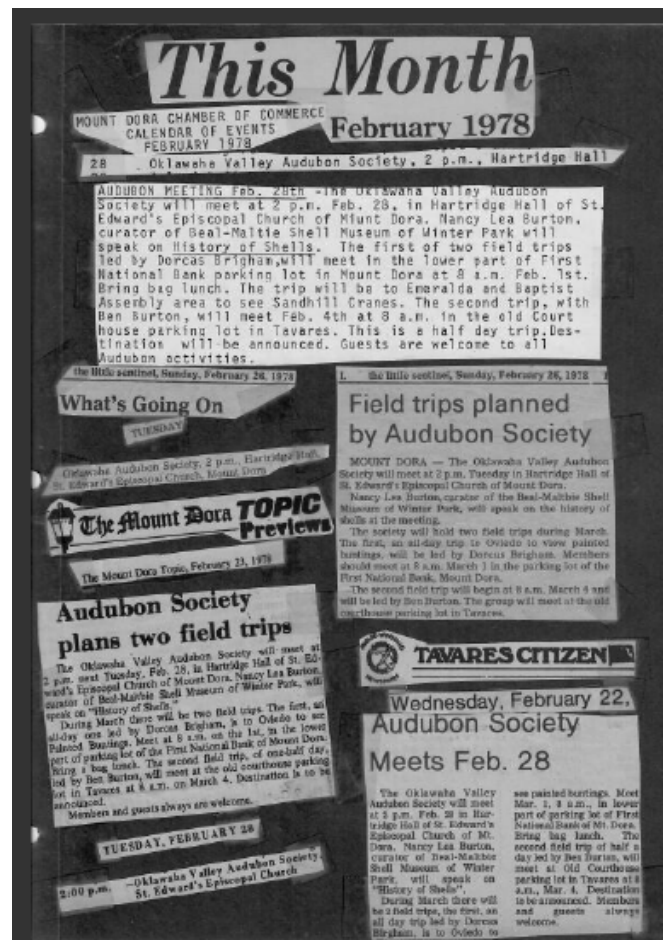
Call for Missing History

We are compiling OVAS's history and digitizing it for safekeeping. Remarkably, we have archived nearly all the annual brochures (since 1970) and newsletters (since 1984), but we are missing a few. If you still possess any of the following, please allow us to borrow them to be scanned. Contact Sherry Chester (epperlychester@gmail.com) to arrange the loan.

OVAS Program/Field Trip brochures
1997-1998
2016-2017

Limpkin Call newsletters
Vol. VII, No. 3 Oct 1990
Vol. XXI No. 1, 2, 3, & 4 fall 2005 - spring 2006, new request
Vol. XXV, No. Jan/Feb 2010
Vol. XXV, No. 4 Mar/Apr 2010

In addition, we have scanned all our scrapbooks, but there were none after 2000. We've received some photos from 2008-present. If you have any photos of OVAS members doing anything OVAS-related 2001-present, or newspaper clippings about OVAS for 2001-present, please send them to Sherry.



COMING EVENTS - Programs

All Programs are at 2:00 pm on the first Sunday of the month, September through June, at Trout Lake Nature Center (520 East Country Road 44), Eustis, unless otherwise noted.

We suggest a \$2 donation when you attend.

Creating an Oasis for Birds with Native Plants Sunday, October 6, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.



Photo by Peg Urban

You would think that Gallus Quigley, biologist for Lake County Parks and Trails, guide for Archaeopteryx Birding Tours, and birder extraordinaire with a list of 436 birds seen in Florida, and a "life list" of **1,368** birds, has seen enough birds.

But he brings his passion home turning his ¼ acre suburban lot into a habitat oasis for his feathered friends. Gallus does this by selecting Florida native plants that provide berries, nectar, seeds, plus attract insects, all sources of food for the birds. Then landscaping those plants so they provide safe shelter encouraging lingering and nesting. Add a water feature for drinking and bathing, and bird feeders for special treats that encourage the birds to linger for a photo op and you have a bird and birder's paradise

Join Gallus for OVAS' October program at Trout Lake Nature Center to learn the plants and the configuration that will help you turn your yard into a birding hot spot or just a happy home for birds.

Birds of Panama Sunday, November 3, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.



photo by Alex Chester

Beginning in 1959, Clyde and Phyllis Stephens lived in Central America, including The Republic of Panama. Phyllis taught school and Clyde worked for Chiquita Banana as an entomologist and focused on insects, but they enjoyed all the flora and fauna of their tropical home. Imagine the delight of living and birding where there is the possibility of seeing a harpy eagle or hearing a Three-wattled Bellbird.

Clyde will be our speaker. You will enjoy the splendor of Panama's birds with photos by Alex Chester and others who have joined Clyde on one of his tropical tours. And, there are sure to be just a few "Clyde stories" to go with the birds, like the one about the "Bat Falcon", to give the presentation an adventurous and humorous side.

Sunday, December 8, 2019 at 1:00 pm Holiday Luncheon with our Environmental Friends

OVAS will host their traditional holiday luncheon at Trout Lake Nature Center with our friends from Lake Beautyberry Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society and Trout Lake Nature Center. We will begin at 1 pm with a potluck buffet and ask that each guest bring a holiday dish to share. We will provide drinks and table settings. Following lunch we will present the 2019 Lake County Conservationist of the Year award.

We will need raffle items. Look for more information in our next newsletter and on our website.

NOTE: Our Holiday luncheon will be held on the second Sunday of the month instead of our regular day, which falls on Thanksgiving Weekend.



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COMING EVENTS - Field Trips

Field Trips are subject to change due to weather or other circumstances. Please contact the trip leader to confirm a space and for more information, including carpooling instructions. For most trips you will need outdoor shoes, insect repellent, sunscreen, a hat, raingear or jacket, binoculars (of course), water, and a snack or lunch. We suggest a donation of \$10/adult for each field trip for OVAS members and \$15/adult for non-members; children are free. Actual costs, such as entry fees, etc., are separate, and are noted in each write-up. Check our [website](#) for updated information and to register, and to view photos from recent field trips.

LUNCH on the LAWN Short, Easy Birding Hikes Brown Bag Lunch (before or after)

Peg Lindsay

When Bob and I were first married, about 15 years ago, we took day trips all over Florida. We would hike and bird most of the day, find a quiet restaurant for dinner, then drive home. As it goes with getting older, Bob can no longer hike 5 miles, nor can he easily hike over rough terrain. Finding ways for us to follow our passion for birding has been challenging.

We have also enjoyed our Audubon Chapter field trips for several reasons. Many times we went to a natural area we had not discovered on our own. We especially enjoyed the camaraderie with our fellow nature lovers. It's always fun for us to go birding. Then there's the rest of nature, beyond the birds, to discover. And it was good to just get out and hike a few miles.

The Lunch on the Lawn series was conceived as a way for us to continue birding with our friends in Audubon. But with slower, shorter hikes over level trails.

Lavon Silvernell lives "out in the boonies" near Clay Island surrounded by primarily scrub habitat. She has graciously agreed to host the September "Lunch on the Lawn" event. I'm seeking volunteers to host upcoming events.

Things for you to consider if you want to volunteer your lawn (or lanai or porch):

- Pick a couple of dates for us to choose from.
- We can eat on the lawn, but a screened-in porch keeps away the insects.
- Past events have drawn 5 to 15 participants.
- We will need access to a bathroom.
- Parking for 3 to 5 cars in your driveway or nearby public road

Yes, we can either just sit and watch at your feeders, walk around your property. Or, what park or natural area is nearby? We can bird there, then enjoy lunch together on your lawn.

If you are willing to volunteer your house and lawn, contact me at pegcondor@embarqmail.com. If you don't have email, you can call 352-326-2045.

Lunch on the Lawn at Lavon's Friday, September 20, 2019 9:00 a.m. to noon

Lavon Silvernell owns a 5-acre property in Astatula, near Clay Island. She generously has agreed to host Audubon birders at one of our Lunch on the Lawn series of outings.

The habitat around Lavon's homestead is primarily Florida scrub, an inviting habitat for a variety of songbirds. Peg Lindsay and Bob Putman, who have frequently birded in the Clay Island area, will do some scouting of the property to get an idea of which species may be there. Early migrants may be traveling through the property at that time.

Here are the details of what promises to be a fun outing:

TIME: Coffee and donuts at 8:30 to 9 a.m., followed by birding with Peg or Lavon or on your own. Following birding, we'll eat lunch (bring your own) and then bird along the roadsides before departing for home.

BYO: In addition to your lunch, a lawn chair, bug repellent, sunscreen and water are advisable.

LOCATION: 23547 Robbins Road, Astatula FL 34705

RESERVATIONS: Reservations are required. Register and pay online at <https://oklawaha-valley-audubon.org/events/> If you have questions, Email, text (preferred) or phone Peg at 352-348-9258.

DONATION: \$10 (members) or \$15 (non-members) suggested.



OCTOBER FIELD TRIPS WILL BE ASSOCIATED WITH THE FESTIVAL OF FLIGHT AND FLOWERS,

OCTOBER 11-13, 2019

see page 11

Florida Museum of Natural History
Saturday, September 21, 2019
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Located on the University of Florida campus in Gainesville, the Museum of Natural History will help adults and children alike gain a deeper understanding of the history of Florida through outstanding exhibits of animals, plants and cultural artifacts. The one-hour tour highlights selected sections of the museum's world-renowned permanent exhibitions and includes hands-on learning activities for kids.

Additionally, the group will visit the Butterfly Rainforest, getting up close and personal with an amazing collection of butterflies on a tour led by the Exhibit Manager of the Rainforest. Learn about butterfly identification, lifecycle, nectar plants, and end the one-hour tour with a behind-the-scenes look at the Butterfly Rearing Lab.

The Museum has an excellent gift shop and, near the entrance, sells butterfly-friendly plants for visitors who want to attract butterflies to their gardens.

DATE: Saturday, September 21, 2019

TIME: Meet trip leader Sherry Chester at the Winn-Dixie parking lot at routes 19 and 44 in Eustis at 8 a.m. for the 90-minute trip to Gainesville. The tour of the Museum and Butterfly Rainforest will begin at 10 a.m. and last till approximately 3 p.m. Bring a lunch or buy lunch at the Museum's Camelia Court Café.

RESERVATIONS: Advance reservations are required. Register and pay online at <https://oklawaha-valley-audubon.org/events/> If you have questions, contact Sherry at epperlychester@gmail.com or 352-409-7444. Let her know if you are interested in carpooling.

COST: \$30 per person includes the tour of the Museum and the Butterfly Rainforest.* A \$10 donation (\$15 for non-members) to OVAS would be appreciated.

*For those who may be interested, an optional tour of the CROC—Ancient Predators in the Modern World exhibit is available at a cost of \$6.50 (self-guided) or \$8.50 (guided).



Monarch Butterflies overwintering on Oyamel Fir trees in the mountains of Mexico. Florida Museum of Natural History-sponsored trip, February 2019. Photo by Alex Chester.

Fall Blooms and Birds at PEAR
Saturday, September 28, 2019
8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Palatlkaha Environmental and Agricultural Reserve (PEAR) is one of the most diverse natural areas in Lake County. Its 314 acres includes wetlands, xeric landscape, butterfly garden, Florida Scrub Jay habitat restoration and meadow restoration.

Bounded on the North and West by the Palatlkaha River, the property is home to a wide variety of fauna and flora—including 180 species of birds and 40 species of butterflies. Among the bird species are Northern Bobwhite, Eastern Bluebird and Eastern Towhee. Butterfly species include Red-spotted Purple, Zebra Swallowtail and Gulf Fritillary. Gopher Turtles, Bobcat, Coyote and River Otters also have been observed on the property, along with an impressive number of dragonflies and damselflies.

The trail along the river and through the meadow will put our group in touch with lots of nature at a time of year when early bird migrants will be moving through.

Leading the group will be Peg Urban and Peg Lindsay, both longtime PEAR volunteers, members of OVAS and the Beautyberry Chapter of the Native Plant Society and two of the most experienced and expert observers of plant and animal wildlife in our area.

Bring water and a lunch or snacks, insect spray, sunscreen, binoculars and camera. Closed-toe shoes are recommended.

MEET: 8:30 a.m. at 4800 University Avenue, Leesburg. Traveling on Route 27 from Leesburg, proceed two miles south of the County Road 48 intersection. Watch for the entrance to PEAR at University Avenue on the right (west) side of the road. (There is no turn lane.) Proceed to the building with the mural. Carpoolers should meet at Winn-Dixie at routes 19 and 44 in Eustis at 7:45 a.m.

RESERVATIONS: Reservations are required. Register and pay online at <https://oklawaha-valley-audubon.org/events/> If you have questions contact Peg Urban at pegpixfl@gmail.com or Peg Lindsay at pegcondor@embarqmail.com

DONATIONS: Two donations are suggested: PEAR (\$5) and OVAS (\$10 for members; \$15 for nonmembers).

PEAR



Santa Fe River Preserve Sunday, September 29, 2019 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Come and enjoy the Fall Migration at the Santa Fe River Preserve. This lovely trip will be led by Rex Rowan from Alachua Audubon Society.

Santa Fe River Preserve protects 934 acres on the banks of the Santa Fe River near Worthington Springs, which includes high bluffs along the river and an interesting tangle of floodplain forest where the New River converges with the Santa Fe.

The preserve has an interesting mix of flora which in turn supports a wide diversity of wildlife. There are wild azaleas and rain lilies on the banks; large birch trees, cypresses and gums in the bottomland; a ridge of live oaks and pines in the uplands with lots of sparkleberry and wire grass in the understory. Bears frequent the river corridor, and there is a rare and endangered mussel in this watershed.

We'll be looking mainly for fall-migrant warblers, thrushes, and tanagers in the shady bottomlands surrounding Santa Fe Creek, a tributary of the Santa Fe River.

We will walk on the South Trail. This is a 1.5 mile loop through the bottom lands surrounding Santa Fe River. This is an easy to moderate walk, but we will be walking over uneven terrain.

You must bring mosquito repellent on this field trip! There will be encounters of the mosquito kind - hopefully, they will not be too bad, but we want to be prepared. Also, bring a bagged lunch to enjoy at the end of the trip.

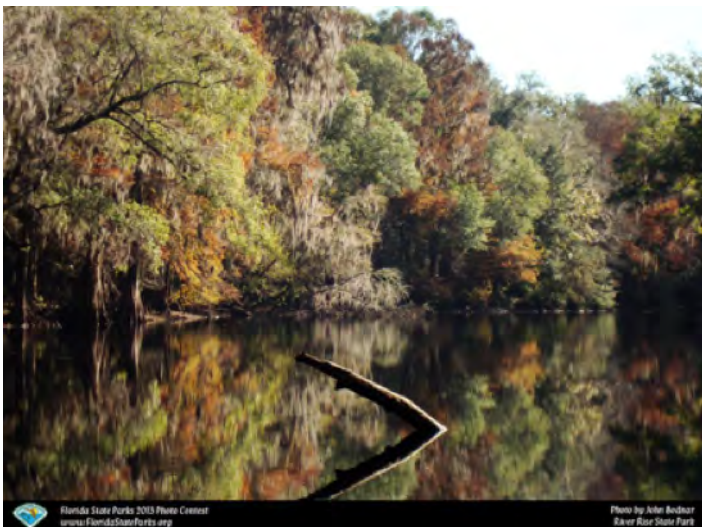
<https://www.alachuaconservationtrust.org/santa-fe-river-preserve-guide>

QUESTIONS? Call OVAS at 352-432-8866.

MEET: 9:00 a.m. in the parking lot on State Road 121, 4.5 miles North of LaCrosse, 27025 North State Road 121, Alachua, Florida 32615. Carpooling may be available for this trip. Please meet at 6:45 a.m. (7:00 departure) at the Winn Dixie parking lot in Eustis at the intersection of 19 and 44. It will take 1 hour 50 minutes to travel 111 miles to our destination.

RESERVATIONS: Reservations are required. Register and pay online at <https://oklawaha-valley-audubon.org/events/>

COST: \$5 for our Trip Leader/Alachua Audubon. We also suggest a donation to OVAS (\$10/adult for members; \$15 for non-members.)



Adventures at Split Oak Forest Wildlife and Environmental Area Sunday, November 17, 2019 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Notable for its namesake – a live oak tree more than two centuries old that split down the middle and still lives – Split Oak Forest Wildlife and Environmental Area encompasses more than 2,000 acres set aside as a mitigation bank for the sea of development that now creeps up to its western border. It is an open prairie landscape, dotted with lakes and ponds and oak hammocks, a habitat mix perfect for the Sandhill Cranes that reside here. The loop trail system provides several different ways to see the park, including a full circuit of 7.8 miles on the perimeter trail. Our Field Trip Leader will be Valerie Anderson of Friends of Split Oak Forest. This is an easy to moderate walk of 1.5 to 2 miles.

Wildlife viewing is most productive along the hiking trail system, and at overlooks and pasture areas. The Gopher Tortoise, Sherman's Fox Squirrel, and Sandhill Crane are a few of the state protected wildlife species that can be seen on this area. Two viewing platforms/overlooks are located along the hiking trail (one along the South Trail and one on the Lake Loop overlooking Lake Pond). The wetland fringes offer excellent viewing opportunities for wading birds. Visitors may also see some of the White-tailed Deer and Wild Turkey that are common on the area. The Eastern Coachwhip snake, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Red-headed Woodpecker, Gray Fox and Box Turtle are some of the additional wildlife species that are found in this area.

Check out other species recorded from Split Oak Forest WMA, or add observations of your own, by visiting [Split Oak Forest WMA Nature Trackers Project](https://www.oklawaha-valley-audubon.org/events/).

QUESTIONS? Call OVAS at 352-432-8866.

MEET: 8:30 a.m. at Split Oak Forest Wildlife and Environmental Area, 10525 Clapp Simms Duda Rd, Orlando, FL 32832. Carpooling may be available. Please meet at 6:45 a.m. (departure at 7:00 a.m.) at the Winn Dixie parking lot in Eustis at the intersection of 19 and 44. It will take 1 hour and 10 minutes to travel the 64 miles.

RESERVATIONS: Reservations are required. Register and pay online at <https://oklawaha-valley-audubon.org/events/>

COST: \$5.00 for a donation to Friends of Split Oak Forest. We also suggest a donation to OVAS (\$10/adult for members; \$15 for non-members.) Pre-registration is required: <https://oklawaha-valley-audubon.org/events/>



Owl Prowl at Geneva Wilderness Area
Saturday, December 7, 2019
5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.



Come join us and Patti Smith, our hike leader for the evening, from Seminole County Greenways & Natural Lands.

We will hike in the wilderness at Geneva Wilderness Area looking for owls. Patti will teach us about owls and how to make owl calls. If we are good at it, hopefully they will call back and fly by to check things out.

The hike is 1 to 1.5 miles. It is a slow-going hike as we will be talking, and on the prowl for our feathered friends. This is an easy to moderate walk, but we will be covering some uneven terrain at times.

Please make sure that you bring mosquito repellent.

QUESTIONS? Call OVAS at 352-432-8866.

MEET: 5:30 p.m. at 3485 N. County Road 426 Geneva, Florida 32732.

Carpooling may be available for this trip. Please meet at 4:00 p.m. (for 4:15 departure) at the Winn Dixie parking lot in Eustis at the intersection of 19 and 44. It will take an hour to travel 46 miles to our destination.

RESERVATIONS: Reservations are required. Register and pay online at <https://oklawaha-valley-audubon.org/events/>

COST: \$8 for our Trip Leader. We also suggest a donation to OVAS (\$10/adult for members; \$15 for non-members.)

Silver Springs & Ocklawaha River Tour by Boat
Saturday, December 14, 2019
10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Please come and join us with Captain Tom & Debbie on a specialized Eco Tour of the Silver River and Ocklawaha River. We may have the opportunity to see alligators, turtles, wild monkeys, snakes, otters, deer, manatee, a variety of birds and native plants. This ever so popular tour of the Silver Springs Cruise and River Tour is about 3 – 3.5 hours long. Our trip will take us all the way up to the main headsprings at Silver Springs State Park. Here we will get to see several of the main springs that feed into the Silver River as well as the main (Mammoth) spring, which discharges about 600 million gallons of water per day. You will have the opportunity to view an abundance of wildlife on this adventure!

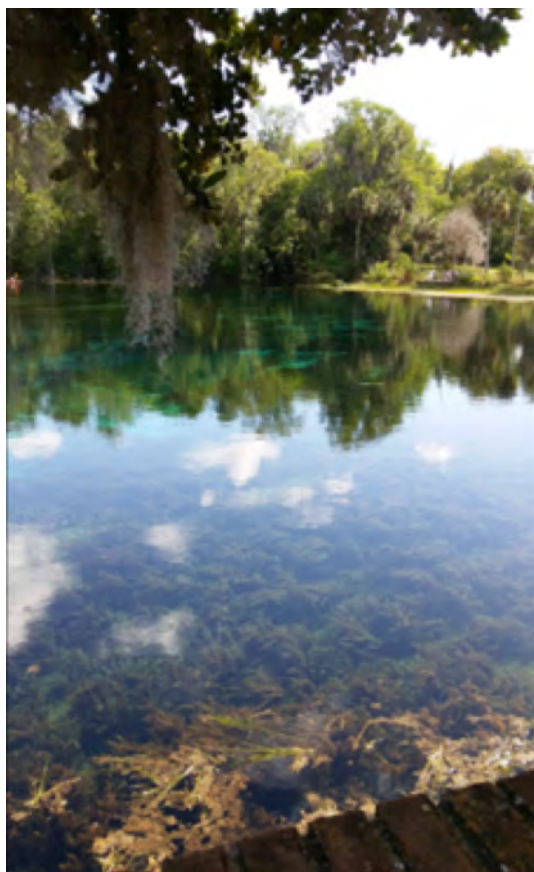
QUESTIONS? Call OVAS at 352-432-8866.

MEET: 10:00 a.m. at Captain Tom's Custom Charter's at 15012 FL-40, Silver Springs, FL 34488.

Carpooling may be available. Please meet at 8:45 a.m. (for 9:00 departure) at the Winn Dixie parking lot in Eustis at the intersection of 19 and 44. It will take 32 minutes to travel 28 miles to our destination.

RESERVATIONS: Reservations are required. Register and pay online at <https://oklawaha-valley-audubon.org/events/>

COST: \$35.00/person for our boat charter. We also suggest a donation to OVAS (\$10/adult for members; \$15 for non-members.)



COMING EVENTS - Field Trips

Field Trips are subject to change due to weather or other circumstances. Please contact the trip leader to confirm a space and for more information, including carpooling instructions. For most trips you will need outdoor shoes, insect repellent, sunscreen, a hat, raingear or jacket, binoculars (of course), water, and a snack or lunch. We suggest a donation of \$10/adult for each field trip for OVAS members and \$15/adult for non-members; children are free. Actual costs, such as entry fees, etc., are separate, and are noted in each write-up. Hope you can make them! Check our [website](#) for updated information and to register, and to view photos from recent field trips.



OVAS Overnight Trip to the Everglades February 12, 13, 14, 2020

The annual overnight trip long has been the highlight of the Oklawaha Valley Audubon Society's field trips program. Clyde Stephens, who over the years has taken us to some of Florida's most scenic, educational and adventurous spots, has assembled a three-day, two-night excursion that will preserve that tradition.

On Day One, the group will carpool to Fisheating Creek Outpost for a picnic lunch, birdwatching, a visit to the former wilderness home of Naturalist Tom Gaskins, and a look at Lake Okeechobee from atop the levee.

The trip then will continue through wild lands with ponds, marshes and almost no human habitation to the Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation in the Everglades. The group will spend two nights in cabins on the Reservation.

Day Two: Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation is the home of Native Americans whose ancestors were hunted like wild animals by the white man in the 1800s. A few Seminole survivors barely escaped to the swamps of the Everglades and learned to live off the land. They ate native plants and animals and grew pumpkins, bananas and corn on hidden hammocks just above water levels. Their survival is a remarkable example of how man can be compatible in a harsh environment by respecting and conserving nature.

To understand the historic Seminole community, the group will visit one of the most outstanding, modern museums of its kind. Birdwatching and nature watching will continue on a mile-long boardwalk through a cypress dome and wetlands. Following lunch in the Seminole Indian Village Restaurant, the group will go on a guided safari in the Everglades.

On Day Three, the group will travel to Moore Haven, then through the Brighton Seminole Indian Reservation for a brief visit. Crested Caracaras are a common sighting along SR 721 from Brighton to Fort Basinger. At historic Fort Basinger, the group can see where the Kissimmee River was channelized into a drainage canal. At Riverwoods Field Lab, the group will see programs on the restoration of the river, which resulted in the return of many bird species to the area, including Snail Kites. Pontoon boat tours can be arranged at Riverwoods.

COST: About \$250 per person plus the cost of food.

RESERVATIONS FOR THIS TRIP ARE REQUIRED. Those seeking reservations should contact Clyde Stephens at 352-343-6468 or at bananabyte@aol.com.

For those attending, additional trip details will be issued later.

This trip will be a sellout, so make your reservation soon! As of press time, there is one room remaining (for two people; two beds).

Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation (top), Crested Caracara (middle), and Snail Kite (bottom).

COMING EVENTS - Field Trips / Fundraiser



<https://festivalofflightandflowers.org>

The Second Annual Festival of Flight and Flowers
Field Trips October 11-13; Keynote Dinner October 11; One-Day Festival October 12

Friday October 11, 2019, 2019 KEYNOTE DINNER

A fun, must-attend event where you will meet, mingle, and get to know our three Keynote Speakers and trip leaders.

Craig Huegel, PhD Professor, Consultant, Author

Marc, Eliana and Valentina Birding by Bus

Jaret C. Daniels, PhD Author, Lepidoptera Research

Join a limited number of people, for a casual, come as you are, keynote dinner on Friday, October 11, 2019. The hors d'oeuvres start being passed at 4:30 PM, with dinner and our esteemed keynote speakers, following from 5:30 PM to 8:30 PM.

You will hear about life on the road birding across North America by VW Bus. Learn more than you ever thought you would about Lepidoptera (moths and butterflies) and biodiversity. And what we all want to know ... how plants and animals interact, along with ideas to design a wildlife-attracting landscape.

Ticketing is limited, ***so buy your tickets today!***

\$45 per person [click here](#) to make your reservations and pay for this unique opportunity.
(Dinner will include passed hors d'oeuvres, salad, a full buffet dinner, dessert, and a cash bar.)



The Second Annual Festival of Flight and Flowers

Saturday October 12, 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM
Enlightening Lectures & Presentations

Main Room of the Community Center

10:00 AM to 11:00 AM Discover Monarch Butterflies with Bob & Caroline Warren

11:00 AM to 12:00 PM Learn about Swallow Tailed Kites with Dr. Ken Meyers, ARCI

12:00 PM to 1:00 PM Art Journaling 101: Mastering Sketching with Christa Smith w/ The Smith Center for the Arts

1:00 PM to 2:00 PM Investigate the importance of Florida Wildlife Corridor's with Jason Lauristen

2:00 PM to 3:00 PM Fran the Bat Lady & Live Bats

Lakeview Room

10:00 AM to 11:00 AM Discover Bluebirds w/ Joanne Heinrich, Florida Bluebird Society

11:00 AM to 12:00 PM Fun Times with Plants for Birds & Craig Huegel

12:00 PM to 1:00 PM Snakes & Reptiles Oh, My with Nick Clark, Central Florida Zoo

1:00 PM to 2:00 PM Escapades of Birding by Bus Marc, Elian, & Valentina

2:00 PM to 3:00 PM Turtle Survival Alliance with Tabitha Hootman

Extraordinary Fun Workshops featured (note there are fees for these three workshops)

11:30 AM to 1:30 PM | Price: \$20.00 Photographing Birds of Prey Workshop with Steve Shaluta

12:00 PM to 2:00 PM | Price: \$20.00 Plants for Birds Workshop with Craig Huegel

12:00 PM to 2:00 PM | Price: \$25.00 Fall Time Blooms Workshop w/ Shannee Cain Florist

<https://festivalofflightandflowers.org>



The Second Annual Festival of Flight and Flowers

October 11 - 13, 2019
Trips and Events by Date and Time

When you register for a festival activity with a donation and invite friends to join you, you are supporting Lake County's natural areas and resources. Thank you for your support.

Pre-registration is required prior to October 7, 2019. And please be aware that many field trip locations will not have facilities, so prepare accordingly. Trips and Events subject to change.

October 11, 2019, Friday

8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.	Lake Apopka Loop Trail Hike at Green Mountain Scenic Overlook
8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.	Explore the Vistas of Ferndale Preserve
8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.	Lakeshore to Scrub at Scrub Point Preserve
12 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.	Silver Glen Springs and Yearling Trail
1 p.m. to 3 p.m.	Beginning Birder Stroll at Venetian Gardens
4:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.	KEYNOTE DINNER

October 12, 2019, Saturday

7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.	GUARANTEED! Scrub-jays at Seminole State Forest (Well ... maybe)
7:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	Birding Adventure at Lake Apopka's North Shore
8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	Birding at Pine Meadows Conservation Area
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	Butterflies and Blooms at Crooked River Preserve
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.	FESTIVAL DAY at the Eustis Community Center
1 p.m. to 3 p.m.	Landscaping for Climate Change at Ellis Acres Reserve
6 p.m. to 8 p.m.	Critter Crawl at Pine Meadows Conservation Area
6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.	Full Moon and Migrating Birds at Ferndale Preserve

October 13, 2019, Sunday

6:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	Sunrise Photography and Birding at Lake Apopka's North Shore
6:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	Red Cockaded Woodpecker Hike at Clearwater Lake Recreation Area
7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.	Sunrise Pajama Party at Green Mountain Scenic Overlook
7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.	Birding at Ocklawaha Prairie Restoration Area
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	Paddle Beautiful Lake Norris and Blackwater Creek
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	Sara Maude Mason Preserve Nature Walk
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.	St. John's River Ecological Boat Tour

<https://festivalofflightandflowers.org>

COMING EVENTS



OVAS will have a table at the Lake County Wildlife Festival.
See you there!

Central Florida Regional Conservation Committee, Audubon Florida

Our very own Deborah Green, president of Orange Audubon Society, was awarded the William Dutcher Award at the National Audubon Society Convention in Milwaukee last month. Congratulations, Deborah, for all your individual work. And congratulations to all the Orange Audubon Society leaders and members, as well as members from surrounding chapters, who assisted Deborah in achieving her goals.

Apparently in addition to being hard-working, Deborah is humble, too. I only learned about Deborah's award during an AF Board conference call yesterday. Please read details at <https://fl.audubon.org/news/president-central-florida%E2%80%99s-orange-audubon-society-wins-prestigious-william-dutcher-award>. Deborah—please accept my hearty CONGRATULATIONS!!

As an aside, we also learned on the conference call that Florida was well represented at the national convention. Julie Wraithmell and Jacqui Sulek (staff) as well as four State Board of Directors and members from multiple Florida chapters all attended. All convention attendees who were on our call recounted instances of attendees from other states who either sought their counsel or asked specific "how to" questions regarding Florida's successful programs/projects. It was also reported that our current level of recognition brings opportunities to either partner with other organizations or to receive funding and/or grants to facilitate our work.

Enjoy the remainder of your summer. Our next RCC meeting is scheduled for 10 a.m. at the Center for Birds of Prey, Maitland, on October 6. I hope to see everyone there.

Paula Wehr
Central Florida Chapters Representative
Audubon Florida Board of Directors

PLANTS FOR BIRDS

Editor's Note: We welcome a new, regular column on Plants for Birds to our bimonthly newsletters. Thanks to the Lake Beautyberry Chapter and the Passionflower Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society for providing this column.

Beautyberries for the Birds

By Melanie Simon
President, Passionflower FNPS Chapter
Passionflower.fnpschapters.org

It's late August and the berries on my Beautyberry bushes are turning purple. Since *Callicarpa americana* will thrive under a variety of conditions (full sun, shade, irrigated, or very dry) and seeds easily, I have bushes all over my yard. Some sprawl, and some I cut back early in the Spring before they leaf out from winter, so they have a bushier, more compact shape.

I haven't seen any birds enjoying the berries yet, as there are still plenty of insects, but during late fall and throughout the winter I will see a variety of birds eating the plumb, ripe berries and then the dried "raisins". Many bird species use Beautyberry to prepare for, and survive, winter. Cardinals are the first to start feasting. Usually in pairs, they prefer to eat from the bushes underneath oak trees where they have a greater sense of safety. The arrival of a squirrel or even a gopher tortoise, both of which also forage from *Callicarpa americana*, will cause the cardinals to flee. Brown Thrashers, Catbirds, and Mockingbird are also regular Beautyberry visitors in my yard. Mockingbirds are bolder and I've seen them sit on a bush for quite a while enjoying the berries one at a time. Carolina Wrens and Blue Jays are occasional diners. I'm less likely to see the occasional diners, including the migrating songbirds I've read eat the berries, since many of my Beautyberry bushes can't be seen from my windows. I've also read that Bluebirds enjoy the berries, so I'm looking forward to witnessing that now that I've put up a bluebird house.



OVAS - Join/Renew/Support

You are what hope looks like to a bird.

We're in a race against time to give birds and wildlife a fighting chance in a changing world. Show your love today by joining, renewing, or donating to Oklawaha Valley Audubon Society (OVAS).

Membership benefits include: Household membership; Timely, relevant news about birds, their habitats, and the issues that affect them; Planned birding, environmental, and community events happening near you; A powerful voice in the fight to protect birds and wildlife, plus advocacy opportunities; Receive Oklawaha Valley Audubon's bi-monthly newsletter and other communications; Helping support OVAS partner organizations; Special offers and discounts available only to members.

By joining or renewing your local Audubon chapter, you support Oklawaha Valley Audubon directly. All funds stay with our chapter and support the organization of educational programs, field trips, our conservation efforts, as well as allow us to help our partner organizations locally.

We appreciate your support annually at the beginning of each FY/program year, which is July 1. Membership is not a requirement to attend or participate in the OVAS programs or field trips. There are 3 ways to join/renew OVAS locally.

You can use the renewal form below. Mail your check to OVAS, PO Box 268, Eustis, FL 32727.

You can pay at a monthly program with cash or check.

You can go to <https://oklawaha-valley-audubon.org/> and click on Join Audubon and pay with PayPal.

OVAS Membership Application

New _____ Renewal _____ Today's Date _____

Print Name _____

Mailing Address _____

E-mail Address(es) _____

Phone number(s) _____

Committee that you would be willing to volunteer assistance:

_____ Citizen Science Committee- help organize or participate in the annual Emeraldal Christmas bird count, monthly bird counts, monitor local rookeries, and /or record field trip reports data

_____ Fundraising Committee – Assist with Donation box, boat rides, raffles, and special events

_____ Hospitality Committee – Help with refreshments for membership meetings and 2 potlucks

_____ Membership Committee – membership and e-mail list, new name tags, sign-in book

_____ Conservation Committee - attend public meetings, help write letters to legislators

_____ Outreach Committee - Set up display at events, maintain bulletin board at TLNC, advertise events in newspapers/internet

_____ Digital Communications Committee - website, e-mail blasts, Facebook and social media

_____ Newsletter Committee - bi-monthly electronic newsletter and OVAS brochures

OVAS is a Florida Not-for-Profit Corporation

<https://oklawaha-valley-audubon.org/> (352) 432-8866
<https://www.facebook.com/Oklawaha-Valley-Audubon-Society>



Oklawaha Valley Audubon Society

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TO: