



# 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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PO Box 268, Eustis, FL 32727-0268

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## President's column

Imagine your eyes peeled on your camera screen watching every move on the bird feeder and its surrounding. You have feel like millions of eyes are on you. Depending on you to get the shot of the 3 new fledged baby Blue Birds. You come and go busy doing Cinderella chores. It seems like hours and then you see a blob of blue in the corner of your screen. You haven't seen that before. You zoom in with your lens. You keep the camera on the sparkling jewel. What is it? It stays for 46 seconds. Then poof, it's gone. It was a Blue Indigo Bunting....

With Spring Migration in full swing. Gardens and backyards are busy with birds passing through. They are stopping at feeders looking for fuel for the flight home. Nests are being built and baby birds are fledging. It's a beautiful time of year. I hope you are enjoying all the bird activity wherever you are.

This Sunday May 1st we are having our last program of the year. Jacqui Sulek is our guest of honor from Audubon Florida. She will giving a program on the endemic Florida Scrub Jay.

With that said we are coming to a close for our season. It has been a wonderful year with many fabulous programs and field trips. Thank you, so much to Michele and Peg for planning and executing such amazing programs and field trips for us. We all greatly appreciate it. □

I want to say a big Thank you, to our Board - Michele, Sherry, Jane, Peg, Judy, Lisa, and Maria. As, well Clyde, Lori and Mark. For being so passionate about OVAS and helping to keep our chapter alive.

We will see you in the Fall....

Regards,

Stacey

## At-a-Glance

May 1, 2022 2pm—Program: Jay Watch with Jacqui Sulek

May 21, 2022 8am—Field Trip: Yaupon Brothers American Tea Co, and New Smyrna Beach Lighthouse

June 5, 2022 2pm—Program: My Favorite Bird



Louisiana Waterthrush—by Dennis O'Neil

## Summer Field Trips

We plan to hold a few impromptu hikes at local parks and preserves. The plan is to put out an email blast with a time and a location and you can show up if you choose. The hike will be no longer than an hour because it gets pretty hot in Florida in the summertime.

We plan to keep the locations within Lake County so nobody is driving very far. If you have a favorite place to hike, send me a text or an email and we'll see if we can make that happen.

Hope to see you over the summer.  
Peg Lindsay, Field Trip Coordinator

Text me at 352-348-9258

Email [pegcondor@embarqmail.com](mailto:pegcondor@embarqmail.com)

## PROGRAMS

Our monthly programs are held on the first Sunday of the Month, at 2:00pm, either in person or perhaps on Zoom, and usually at Trout Lake Nature Center, unless indicated otherwise. Bring a chair for our outdoor meetings.

### Program

#### May 1st, 2 pm at Trout Lake Nature Center

The Oklawaha Valley Audubon Society (OVAS) will be hosting Jacqui Sulek of Jay Watch to talk about Scrub Jays and the Jay Watch volunteer program, Sunday May 1, at 2pm at Trout Lake Nature Center (TLNC) in Eustis.

The Audubon Florida Jay Watch program

The Florida Scrub-Jay is our State's only endemic bird. Once widespread and plentiful, populations have declined by 90 percent over the past century. For the past 10 years Audubon Florida has run the Jay Watch program, a Community Science program where volunteers gather critical data to advise public land managers on how to manage their properties to sustain these charismatic birds. This program will cover the basic ecology of the Florida Scrub-Jay as well as how to support or become involved in the program.

More about FL Audubon's Jay Watch can be [found here](#)

#### May 21 Field Trip

##### Yaupon Brothers American Tea Co.

504 Pullman Road, Edgewater, FL 32132



(New facility in the Parktowne Industrial Complex, and Google Maps might not be representing it correctly)

10 am tour of their facility with lunch following, in their newly-opened cafe

Purchase lunch or BYO brown bag

##### Tour of New Smyrna Beach Lighthouse

4931 S. Peninsula Drive, Ponce Inlet, FL 32127

Sometime in the afternoon, probably about 2 pm, \$7 per person entrance fee

Register online at [oklawaha-valley-Audubon.org](http://oklawaha-valley-Audubon.org)

If you want to drive yourself, meet us at 10 AM at the Yaupon

brothers facility in Edgewater. If you wish to caravan/carpool with the group, we will leave at 8:00 AM sharp from the Winn-Dixie on route 19 just north of Eustis. Please let me know if you plan to meet the group there, otherwise I'll drive directly from my home to Edgewater. See my contact information, below.

Yaupon tea is made from the ONLY naturally caffeinated plant to grow in North America, the Yaupon Holly. The company sustainably harvests leaves for teas locally, from their organically certified property in New Smyrna Beach. Yaupon Holly has a robust and rich history - it was consumed by the Indigenous Tribes of the region for thousands of years. Yaupon tea was a huge commercial industry during colonial times. From the company's website: "We work hard to make great tea, create Florida jobs, care for the environment, and respect native culture." Yaupon Brothers is a local, start-up company that has been growing by leaps and bounds. There is much excitement with the expansion and opening of their new processing plant, organic Yaupon farms and visitor facility.

Following lunch at their facility, we will caravan a short distance to the lighthouse for a tour of the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse and Museum. Step back in time and climb 175 feet at the Ponce Inlet Light Station and Museum. Constructed in 1887, the Ponce de Leon Inlet Lighthouse has guided mariners along the Florida coast for more than 130 years. The Light Station is widely considered one of the most authentic and complete historic lighthouse facilities in the country. Declared a National Historic Landmark in 1998 this important site has been managed and operated by the non-profit Ponce de Leon Inlet Lighthouse Preservation Association since 1972.

If there is still daylight following our tour of the lighthouse, we can scout the beach for shorebirds or the marsh for rails. Optional overnight if there is interest for shorebird viewing the following day. Contact Peg Lindsay directly if you are interested. Text 352-348-9258.

**Jay Watch training** is right around the corner... Jacqui Sulek and the the Jay Watch group will be offering this. Each of our in-person and online training opportunities will cover both Florida Scrub-Jay Basic Ecology and Audubon Jay Watch Survey Protocol.

Surveys take place annually between June 15 and July 15 and are coordinated by the land managers at their respective sites. Each site will conduct a survey for three consecutive days. Surveys run from sun up to late morning. New Jay Watchers will be assigned to a team with a leader. Standardized Jay Watch survey methods are employed statewide.

What are you waiting for? Get Involved!

Attend one of our onsite training sessions held annually across the Florida peninsula. Contact Audubon's [Jacqui Sulek](#) for more information about our trainings.

Watch our [presentation on Florida Scrub-Jay Ecology](#).

Join a Jay Watch survey team: contact Audubon's [Audrey DeRose-Wilson](#)

Donate to Jay Watch - support a program that directly trains volunteers, supports survey teams, analyzes, and compiles statewide survey data for use by site managers, wildlife agencies, and researchers.



Scrub Jay  
by Stacey Kelly



If you haven't lately take a look at our Website: [Oklawaha Valley Audubon](#)

Our updated Strategic Plan can be found [here](#)

Articles of Incorporation Revised January 1, 2020 can be found [here](#)

Current Bylaws can be found [here](#)

Proposed Updated Bylaws 2022 can be found [here](#)



Audubon Florida's website has several Educational Webinars if you are interested:

[Educational Webinars | Audubon Florida](#)



Savannah Sparrow by Alex Chaster

Ovenbird by Dennis O;Neil



Sandhill Cranes by Peg Urban



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If you would like your nature photos featured in the Limpkin Call please email them to [ovasnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:ovasnewsletter@gmail.com)

### OVAS Board of Directors

POSITION	NAME
President	Stacey Kelly
1st Vice President	Michele Cotty Loger
2nd Vice President	- vacant -
Secretary	Sherry Chester
Treasurer	Jane Lovejoy
Director-at-Large	- vacant -
Director-at-Large	Maria Distefano
Director-at-Large	Peg Lindsay
Director-at-Large	Judy Knizer
Director-at-Large	Lisa Cain

## 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 (\$20/yr); 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 OVAS' bi-monthly newsletter and other communications; Helping to support OVAS partner organizations; Special offers and discounts available only to members.

By joining or renewing your local Audubon chapter, you support OVAS 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 OVAS programs or field trips.

There are three ways to join/renew OVAS locally:

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

You can pay at a monthly program by card or check

You can go to <https://oklawaha-valley-audubon.org/membership/> and pay with PayPal

### OVAS Membership Application

New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ Today's Date \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address(es) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Committee you would be willing to volunteer with:

\_\_\_ Citizen Science Committee— help organize or participate in annual Emerald Marsh Christmas Bird Count, monthly bird counts, monitor local rookeries, and/ or record field trip reports data

\_\_\_ Fundraising Committee— Assist with Donation box, raffles, and special events

\_\_\_ Hospitality Committee— Help with refreshments for membership meetings and potlucks

\_\_\_ Membership Committee— membership and email list, new name tags, sign-in book

\_\_\_ Conservation Committee— attend public meetings, help write letters to legislators

\_\_\_ Outreach Committee— Set up displays at events, maintain bulletin board at TLNC, advertise events in newspapers/internet

\_\_\_ Digital Communications Committee— website, emails, Facebook, and other social media

\_\_\_ Newsletter Committee— bi-monthly electronic newsletter and OCAS brochures

**OVAS is a Florida Not-for-Profit Corporation**

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

**(352) 432-8866**

<https://www.facebook.com/OklawahaValleyAudubonSociety/>



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**TO:**