



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

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

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President's column

Spring is in the air... The Goldfinches are starting to turn bright yellow and the Blue Birds are starting to gathering nesting materials.... Such an exciting time of year. Babies will soon be here!!!! Does anyone have any Spring projects that are planned specifically for birds in your backyard. If so please share. We are going to be adding some more bird friendly plants in the gardens, more water sources, and putting up a second Blue Bird box.

A few things to bring to everyone's attention. We will be having our Annual March program on Sunday March 12th. Nadine Foley will be our Guest Speaker. She will be sharing a lovely power point about the history of Lake County. It will show how over the years conservation and advocacy projects have evolved.

Also, at this meeting we will be having Re-Election and Elections of existing and new officers. We are in need of several Director at Large positions to be filled.

Anyone that would like to become part of the Board please reach out to Mark Heinemann at ovasnewsletter@gmail.com

March 4th we will be at the EcoExpo Lake County: Awareness by Action. I will list the links below to explore and sign up. Don't miss great workshops and sessions that will be held. Here are the links...

To pre-register, press: [Here](#)

For more information, press: [Here](#)

Our chapter has committed to having a booth at the 1st Annual EcoExpo Lake County: Awareness by Action on Saturday March 4th 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM. We are need of some volunteers to work our booth. Talk to folks about our chapter and local birds found here etc. You need only work a few hours and this is an important event to educate our community about our chapter and provide hand-outs with conservation information.

We need you! Please let us know if you can help by emailing oklawahaaudubon@gmail.com.

Looking forward to seeing everyone soon...

Regards,

Stacey



Eastern Bluebird

Photo by Dave Knizer

At-a-Glance

March 12, 2023 2 pm Trout Lake Nature Center—Program/
Meeting: Vote for New Board Members

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.

Annual Meeting

March 12th, 2pm at Trout Lake Nature Center

For the March Annual Meeting, we will have Nadine Foley presenting on the history of the environmental movement of Lake County. Nadine is a remarkable collaborator and historian. She is universally loved by both environmental groups and government representatives in what is usually a contentious atmosphere. Nadine brings calm common sense to conservation to all of her interactions, including our annual meeting.

Please note the date change to the second Sunday of the month in order to avoid conflict with the EcoExpo.



American Goldfinches
Photo by Stacey Heinemann

Vote for Board Members

March 12, 2023 Program and Vote

Location Trout Lake Nature Center

To nominate yourself or another member for the OVAS board please email the name to ovasnewsletter@gmail.com

The Board positions that are available for nomination are:

- 1st Vice President
- 2nd Vice President
- Secretary
- Director-at-Large
- Director-at-Large
- Director-at-Large

We need you to help OVAS grow

UUCLC SPONSORING CONSERVATION ESSAY CONTEST AS PART OF EcoExpo

As part of the [Lake County 2023EcoExpo](#), the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Lake County is sponsoring a contest for the best original essay on a conservation or climate change topic written by a senior in a Lake County public high school. UUCLC will award \$500 for first place and \$250 each for two runners up.

The topic of the essay is “How I Can Make a Difference in Lake County” with the content to be related to conservation or climate change. Maximum length requested is 750 words (2 – 3 pages). A panel of judges selected by UUCLC will determine the winners based on originality, understanding of the topic, effectiveness of presentation of the argument, and literary quality. Students may only submit one essay, and all authors will be required to affirm that the essay is their own work.

Topic ideas include:

Protecting and conserving wildlife, air, water

Maintaining ecological balance

Achieving smart growth to protect sensitive habitat

Recycling or waste reduction

Mitigation of negative impacts to health, agriculture, economy

Extreme weather events

Preparedness and community resilience

Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions

Alternative energy sources

The deadline for submission of an essay is Wednesday February 15, and the winners will be notified on Wednesday March 1. The winning essays will be featured at the EcoExpo on March 4, and the prizes will be awarded at a reception at the Unitarian Congregation on Mount Homer Road in Eustis on March 5 at 3:00 p.m.

To submit an essay, please complete the online entry form located at UULakeCounty.org/EcoEssayContest, and upload your essay as directed.

Please direct any questions to EcoEssayContest@UULakeCounty.org.

The EcoExpo takes place on Saturday, March 4 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Lake-Sumter State College campus in Leesburg and presents workshops with actionable information on conservation and climate change. Activities available include discovery rooms, many exhibits, and great door prizes. EcoExpo is hosted by twelve conservation organizations in Lake County including the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Lake County, Trout Lake Nature Center, Oklawaha Valley Chapter of the Audubon Society, Lake County Conservation Council, Lake Beautyberry Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society, All About The Ballots, NAACP Tri-City Branch, Aquatic Preserve Alliance of Central Florida, Mount Dora Friends of the Environment, Friends of the Wekiva River, Friends of Lake Louisa State Park, and Citizens for Protection of Rural.

The EcoExpo is free and open to the public.

Here are some additional websites that might help you in your quest for more information. *Please note that our inclusion of a link on this page is not an endorsement of the host site.*

Audubon Societies:

National Audubon Society: <http://www.audubon.org/>

Florida Audubon Society: <http://fl.audubon.org>

Seminole Audubon Society: <http://seminoleaudubon.org/>

Orange Audubon Society: <http://www.orangeaudubonfl.org/>

Wildlife Centers:

Audubon Center for Birds of Prey: <http://fl.audubon.org/chapters-centers/audubon-center-birds-prey>

Avian Reconditioning Center: <https://www.arc4raptors.org/>

Back to Nature Wildlife Refuge: <http://www.btnwildlife.org/>

Wildlife Rescue:

Ahopha Wildlife Rescue: <https://ahophawildlife.org> or <https://www.facebook.com/AhophaWildlifeRescue/>

County Sites:

Lake County Lake Parks: <https://www.lakecountyfl.gov/parks-and-trails>

Trout Lake Nature Center: <http://www.troutlakenaturecenter.com/>

Lake County Water Authority: lcwa.org

Local Resources:

[Backyard Birding](#) – offers seed, feeders, nature gifts and advice.

[Bird Rescue and Rehab in Orlando and Central Florida](#)

[List of Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission \(FWC\) wildlife rehabilitators](#)

Other useful links:

[Guide for Beginners](#) – A great guide for the beginning birder.

[Homeowner's Guide to Birdwatching From Your Backyard](#)

[Wildflowers and scenic drives to them](#) – Lake County along with Lake County Parks & Trails created an interactive web map showing sites of wildflowers and scenic drives to them.

[How to Attract Hummingbirds](#) – By catering to their preferences, you will likely see these tiny beautiful visitors in your garden come springtime.

[Bird Watching Guide](#) – New York Audubon

[Bird Identification Tool](#) – Fish and Wildlife

[Collection of Ornithology Resources](#) – UK

1000 Friends of Florida: <https://1000fof.org/>

1000 Friends of Florida Past Webinars: <https://1000fof.org/upcoming-webinars/past/>



Bysus Skipper on Eryngium Aquaticum

(rattlesnakemaster)

Photo by Stacey Heinemann

Treasurer's Report				Oklawaha Valley Audubon Society				Treasurer's Report				Festival of Flight and Flowers			
December 2022								Oct 2022							
Summary of Statements from United Southern Bank															
Description	Debits	Credits	Balance	Description	Debits	Credits	Balance	Description	Debits	Credits	Balance	Description	Debits	Credits	Balance
Beginning Balance			9808.86	Beginning			1,028.52								
PayPal		110.74													
Holiday Luncheon proceeds		21.00													
EcoExpo via UUCLC	50.00														
Ending Balance	50.00	131.74	9890.60	Ending Balance			1,028.52								
November 2022								Nov 2022							
Description	Debits	Credits	Balance	Description	Debits	Credits	Balance	Description	Debits	Credits	Balance	Description	Debits	Credits	Balance
Beginning Balance			9890.60	Beginning Balance			1,028.52								
PayPal		48.51													
Printing Reimbursement Sherry	37.80														
Ending Balance	37.80	48.51	9901.31	Ending Balance			1,028.52								

Bring the wonder of migration to everyone with the [Bird Migration Explorer](#), a state-of-the-art interactive platform created by Audubon and nine partner organizations. The Explorer uses the most recent science to showcase the epic migrations of more than 450 North American migratory bird species. Learn about the migratory birds where you live, where they travel, and the conservation challenges they face. Available in English and Spanish.



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

[Educational Webinars | Audubon Florida](#)

If you would like your nature photos featured in the Limpkin Call please email them to ovasnewsletter@gmail.com

OVAS Board of Directors

POSITION	NAME
President	Stacey Heinemann
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 cash 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: