

Subject: OVAS Potential Dissolution

From: Oklawaha Valley Audubon Society <OklawahaAudubon@gmail.com>

Date: 12/1/23, 12:59 PM

To: <epperlychester@gmail.com>

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**OKLAWAHA VALLEY
AUDUBON SOCIETY**

Dear OVAS members,

Seven years ago, OVAS was on the brink of dissolution. The Board of Directors had resolved to dissolve, and appealed to the membership via the [attached letter](#) to step up and save the chapter by joining the Board or serving on a committee. Several of us heeded the call and some still are on the Board. However, your current Board is now at that same junction for the same reasons. We cannot continue serving with low participation and we need a full suite of new Board members. The existing Board members all indicated a desire to resign at the end of our FY (June 30, 2024) or not run for vacant positions. If you are interested in serving on the Board, the Board encourages you to contact me and to also participate in our January 31st Board meeting, likely a zoom meeting (I will provide you information on how to join us).

Our annual meeting will be held at Trout Lake Nature Center on March 3rd at 2 pm. The Audubon Center for Birds of Prey will bring raptors for our program. The Board will reassess our position re: dissolution at that meeting, after hearing from our membership.

Unfortunately, dissolution likely will be effective at the end of our FY.

Warm Regards and Happy Holidays,

Stacey Heinemann

OVAS President

s.heinemann2019@gmail.com



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Oklawaha Valley Audubon Society

PO Box 268, Eustis, Florida, 32727-0268

*A Chapter of Audubon Florida and the National Audubon Society
and a not-for-profit organization.*

October 24, 2016

Dear OVAS/ Audubon Members,

The Oklawaha Valley Audubon Society (OVAS) has a history of more than 50 years as an active birding organization in Lake County, Florida. During those many years, OVAS has expanded members' interest and education in birding, conservation of habitat for all wildlife and the preservation of our air and water quality. More than 25 years ago, OVAS members founded and supported the thriving Trout Lake Nature Center (TLNC) at Eustis, Florida.

In the last few years it has been a struggle to have help from the whole membership to sustain the OVAS Board and the necessary Committee positions to keep OVAS viable. The present OVAS Board asked for more volunteers last March and only a very few have stepped up to help. OVAS is in need of the following positions / duties for 2017-2018: new President, Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Treasurer, Conservation Chair, Web Master, Membership Chair, Refreshment Committee Chair, Field Trip Chair, Program Chair (the VP) and other Committees as required by the organization's by-laws.

Regretfully, at the October 3rd OVAS Board meeting, the decision was made to inform the general membership at the October 11, 2016 meeting and by this letter, that, due to lack of support, the Board voted to recommend that our chapter be dissolved. The effective date for the dissolution would be the OVAS Annual Meeting scheduled for March 11, 2017.

Members will have until the November 8, 2016 meeting held at the Trout Lake Nature Center, Eustis, Florida, at 3:00 PM to save our chapter. OVAS needs members to step forward and volunteer to fill the key Board and Committee Chair positions for 2017-2018. Detailed descriptions of job duties will be available at the meeting.

Please attend this very important meeting on November 8th or send a written reply to me at the address above.

The Board and myself are very hopeful that our membership will step up to save OVAS and add many more years to our 50 plus year history as the Birding and Conservation voice of Lake County and The Villages. Please note, we plan to offer our currently scheduled 2016-2017 programs and field trips defined in the enclosed newsletter.

Russ Melling.

President