



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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President's Message

As we officially begin the 2017-2018 OVAS season I would like to introduce myself as your new President! I also want to congratulate Lavon Silvernell, Linda Kochanowki, Jean St. John, Stacey Kelly, Sherry Chester, Suzi Harr, Jerry Bohamm, and Richard Stephenson - your new board. Russ Melling has committed to continuing his hard work overseeing the conservation side of OVAS! Thank you Russ!

I would also like to express my sincere appreciation to outgoing board members Russ Melling, Dave Jantz, Linda Bystrak, Nadine Foley, and Peg Lindsay who have given many hours tirelessly for many years to make OVAS a great success story for well over 50 years.

The new board has a wealth of knowledge, talent, enthusiasm and a passion for Audubon that will be the foundation of our ongoing work on behalf of OVAS.

Your new Board of Directors wants to expand our program year to include September-June, starting immediately. After our scheduled April program, we will add a program in May and in June! The May and June programs also will be on our new day and time! We will meet at 2:00 pm on the first Sunday of the month (social time begins 30 minutes before the program). This change is important to make our programs available to more families and working people.

In order to effect these and other changes, the Board plans to revise OVAS' bylaws and present them to the membership. Watch our website for the proposed bylaws changes.

In the coming months we will be meeting to plan an exciting year of new programs, classes and field trips. So, stay tuned for updates and hope to see you soon

Jim Kochanowski, President



OVAS Board of Directors for 2016-2017 (above) and the new 2017-2018 Board (below). Peg Lindsay is absent in top photo and Lavon Silvernell is absent in both. [Photos by Jacqui Sulek]



COMING EVENTS - Programs

Tuesday, April 11, 2017 at 3:00 pm
"Birds of Panama"



Our own Clyde Stephens will present the photography of Alex Chester and others, and talk on the "Birds of Panama". Clyde has enjoyed a career in banana research in the tropics beginning in 1959. He led 24 OVAS members and others on a nature tour of Panama where they saw some of the 978 species of birds recorded. The program will review birds and their habitats in both the lowlands and highlands of Panama.

COMING EVENTS - Programs

Sunday, May 7, 2017 at 2:00 pm
“Audubon EagleWatch Program”



Shawnlei Breeding, EagleWatch Program Coordinator for the Audubon Center for Prey, will discuss this exciting citizens science program. The EagleWatch program seeks information about

Bald Eagles, active nest locations and possible disturbances or threats to nest activities. Shawnlei will share with us the history of the program which started 25 years ago with 22 volunteers in Central Florida monitoring eagles' nests. Through today the program has over 200 citizen science volunteers. The volunteers are reaching into more communities each year, and are continuing to heighten awareness of Bald Eagles' activities throughout the year.

In addition to our guest speaker we will have several Eagle Watch Volunteers join us. They will be sharing stories and photos of their adventures while monitoring the nests. These volunteers plan to attend: Laurie Segal, Michelle Nardone, Catherine Hicks, Kathy Wilson, Stacey Kelly and Sherry Chester.

Sunday, June 4, 2017 at 2:00 pm
“Hummingbird Habitat”



Naturalist Lavon Silvernell will help you assess your landscape from a hummer's perspective. She will share fascinating facts about these tiny birds and how you can entice the little dynamos to spend more time in your yard by meeting their

needs for: food, water, and shelter in a manner they can best utilize.

An additional visual treat, will be Peg Urban's photos of wildflowers with hummingbird appeal. Perhaps they will inspire you to add some of these Florida beauties to your yard.

Oklawaha Valley Audubon Society Membership

Please support your local Audubon Chapter's Programs and Field Trips and become a yearly member by mailing your name, address, email, and phone number with a \$15 check per household to:

OVAS, PO Box 268, Eustis, FL 32727

COMING EVENTS - Field Trips

Field Trips are subject to change due to weather or other circumstances. Please contact Lavon Silvernell 352-223-4761 or the trip leader to confirm a space and for more information. For most trips, outdoor shoes, insect repellent, sunscreen, a hat, raingear or jacket, binoculars of course, water, and a snack or lunch.

Ferndale Preserve Bird and Butterfly Count **April 8, 2017**

OVAS joins Gallus Quigley, Lake County Parks and Trails, for a quarterly count of birds and butterflies on this Lake County property. Gallus is the area's master birder and he says Ferndale is one of his favorite places to build his species list. **Contact the Parks and Trails office: between 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday at 352-253-4950 or e-mail parksandtrails@lakecountyfl.gov to request a reservation to join us at Ferndale at 7:30 am.**

OTHER COMING EVENTS OF INTEREST



Earth Day **April 22, 2017**

Volunteers are needed for OVAS' booth at Earth Day Mount Dora. Contact Jim Kochanowski at 407-963-8821 if you can help.

South Florida Birding & Flamingo Quest II **April 22-23, 2017**

Join Orange Audubon Society birding in Broward and Palm Beach counties with top Florida birder and popular birding guide David Simpson. The meeting place to hopefully see American Flamingos (STA-2) is 3 1/2 hours from Orlando and we will meet at 1pm on April 22nd. After four hours birding in STA-2, we will head south to Fort Lauderdale, stopping at Markham Park. On Sunday we will bird Fort Lauderdale and possibly Miami in search of new species for everyone's life lists. Fee, covering guide and field trip fees, is \$40 Audubon members/\$55 non-members; Sat. only: \$25 members/\$40 non-members. Register by contacting Teresa at mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or (407) 644-0796. For more details on possible outings, see http://orangeaudubonfl.org/oas_field-trips.htm