



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

Welcome members to the first summer edition of *The Limpkin Call*. The OVAS Board and I are very excited about all the changes and the new activities that are happening in OVAS and we think you will be too.

Just a reminder that we've added 3 months to our program season and changed our program meeting day, too! Our season will be from September thru June. Our programs will be on the first Sunday of each Month at the Trout Lake Nature Center in Eustis. We will gather at 1:30 pm for the social, and the programs will begin at 2:00; the Board will meet on the same day, after the program. Linda Kochanowski, our 2nd VP and our Hospitality Chair, wants to remind everyone that we are now asking everyone coming to the programs on Sundays to bring a small snack to share. We will provide drinks and paper products. The Board is looking into some summer-time activities so watch the website!

We have been busy reviewing a much-needed update on the chapter Bylaws, the Articles of Incorporation, and descriptions for committees and board positions. The updated documents will be posted on the web site by August 1, 2017 to allow members to review them before we vote in September or October.

We are very pleased to announce our newly elected Director-at-Large, Becki Smith, who will be the chair for our field/birding trip committee. Becki comes to us from Orange Audubon and she is a biologist with a wealth of experience and expertise with birds and butterflies. Becki is already busy planning some great activities such as bird banding demonstrations, birding and butterfly ID classes, and birding field trips for the chapter. Lots of these activities are FREE! Watch the newsletter and the website for details of coming events.



OVAS members assemble at the Audubon Center for Birds of Prey in Maitland for their March 2017 field trip

Lavon Silvernell, our First VP and Program Chair, has been busy setting up new programs to fill the September 2017- June 2018 calendar. At the next program on "Hummingbird Habitat" our own naturalist and native plant expert Lavon Silvernell will tell us how to attract these little creatures on Sunday June 4th at 2 PM. Then in September we will restart our programming with a presentation on "Reptiles" with some live Reptiles to view!

Suzi Harr, a Director-at-Large and our Website Chair, has rebuilt our website at <http://oklawaha-audubon.com>. We will be posting the newsletter, new program and field trip schedules, and a lot of other great information to our website. We also are on Facebook – please friend us! We encourage everyone to visit our new sites frequently to learn about upcoming events and to sign up for email updates. Membership dues also can be paid via Pay Pal through the website.

Periodically, you may receive e-mails notifying you of OVAS activities. Those e-mails will be sent from ovasaudubon@gmail.com and the subject will include the words "Oklawaha Valley Audubon Society". You may need to add the sender e-mail address to your list of contacts so that your spam filter does not block these messages.

On a sadder note, I regret to announce that we have lost two very valuable directors. Jerry Bohmann and Richard Stephenson have retired from the board. We will miss them both and greatly appreciate all the work they have done to support OVAS.

I am very excited about where our Chapter is going with all the renewed energy and changes! So, stay in touch with Audubon and make OVAS a part of your life! I look forward to seeing you all at our programs.

Sincerely
Jim Kochanowski, OVAS President

Former OVAS President, Russ Melling, and current President, Jim Kochanowski, at the Annual Meeting in March 2017



COMING EVENTS - Programs

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.

Sunday, September 3, 2017 at 2:00 pm
"Snakes, the Good, the Endangered, and the Ones to Look Out For"



OVAS usually trains their binoculars on birds, but for the September program at Trout Lake Nature Center the focus will be on Central Florida's snakes.

Snakes are often not popular neighbors, but for better or worse many of the things we do to protect birds benefits other wildlife species as well, including snakes.

Nick Clark, Reptile Specialist with Central Florida Zoo, will share bio-facts with the audience about these reptiles: those which might live and carry out their lives in our own neighborhoods; a few of the endangered species that live in Florida's wilder and often rapidly disappearing habitats; and the snakes whose defenses make them dangerous to when faced with a threat.

Learning to identify snakes reduces the risk to humans and to snakes, and allows them to carry out their environmental functions, perhaps even making them another animal to enjoy observing in your yard. Nick will bring some live snakes to help with you with snake ID.

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. 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.

Pear Park Bird/Butterfly Walk
Sunday June 11th, 2017, 8 am - 11am



OVAS joins Gallus Quigley, Lake County Parks and Trails, and our own Rebecca Smith for a walk through Pear Park. Gallus has documented breeding hummingbirds and Becki has surveyed several species of butterflies on the property. Meet at 8:00 am in the Pear Park parking lot, 4800 University Ave, Leesburg. **Contact Rebecca Smith by text or phone: 609-553-0757 or by email at rayesm105@aol.com to sign up for the field trip.**

Lake Apopka North Shore and Environs
Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:30 am



Lorne Kaldorf Malo will be guiding us on a wonderful adventure thru Lake Apopka's North Shore Trailhead, Clay Island, Ranch Road just to name a few places we will visit. Lake Apopka has become one of the premier birding areas in the state of Florida. There have been at least 362 different species of birds spotted in this area. Otters, bobcats and alligators are a few things you may see with much more wildlife to see. The end September is when the migratory birds are on the move so it will be great fun to see who comes calling.

Please join us for a full day or half a day of adventure. We will be meeting at the St John's River Management Field House office, 25633 County Road 448A, Mt Dora at 7:30 am. Lunch break will begin at 11:30 am at the Field House. We'll end sometime between noon and 4:00 pm.

Fees are \$10.00 for Members and \$20.00 for Non-Members. For more information contact Stacey Kelley at bcx3purrx4@yahoo.com or 352-408-2901.

OTHER COMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

Saturday, September 9, 2017 1:30 to 3:00

Shawnlei Breeding will be leading our Eagle Watching Training at Trout Lake Nature Center. Audubon Eaglewatch is one of Audubon's premier citizen science programs deploying boots on the ground and eyes in the field to monitor and protect Florida's eagles. With over 1,400 nesting pairs, this team spans 27 counties and more than 400 nests.

Audubon EagleWatchers collect important data on nesting eagles, including productivity, active nest locations, and possible disturbances or threats to the nesting activities. The program engages volunteers and individuals to help protect our nation's symbol.

Contact Stacey Kelley at bcx3purrx4@yahoo.com or call or text her at 352-408-2901 to register; walk-ins welcome pending available space.



NEWS FROM AUDUBON FLORIDA



Hi Audubon Members and Friends,

My name is Paula Wehr and I am your representative on the Audubon Florida Board of Directors. There are seven geographic groupings, called Regional Conservation Committees (RCCs), which cover all 45 chapters in the State. The Central Florida RCC includes Halifax River, Highlands, Lake Region, Kissimmee Valley, Oklawaha Valley, Orange, Ridge, Seminole and West Volusia Audubon chapters. Southeast Volusia Audubon Society, although technically assigned to the Indian River Lagoon RCC, is also included in the Central Florida RCC mailings so they can participate when issues involve their geography. It is my intention to send brief updates on what is happening in the Central Florida RCC at least quarterly, and more often if events dictate, for future publication in your chapter newsletters.

Each Chapter Representative on the Audubon Florida Board of Directors participates in the Chapters Committee, which meets monthly to discuss how Audubon Florida can assist local chapters to be as successful as possible. Last year our committee created and distributed a Chapter Leader/Board Manual which includes templates for agendas, budgets, Board member applications and the like as well as how-to instructions for basic chapter operations and best practices from chapters which have created successful programs or fund-raising events.

Since 2005 National Audubon Society has provided funding for collaborative grants to chapters, a process run by our Chapters Committee. With matching funds from Audubon Florida via a grant from FP&L, this year our Chapters Committee was able to fully fund all 10 applications for amounts between \$520 and \$1,000. Programs funded by these grants ranged from purchasing optics for a young bird steward program to coastal dunes restoration.

Each year at Audubon Assembly in October, the Conservation Action Agenda is adopted. Once approved, these goals focus the work of State staff.

Audubon Florida is unique in inviting local chapters to participate in the agenda-setting process. Each RCC selects one or two broad-based conservation goals for the entire RCC geography, which is included in the [Conservation Action Agenda](#). Download the entire document at fl.audubon.org/sites/g/files/amh666/f/audubonflorida_conservationactionagenda2017.pdf The Central Florida RCC goals for 2017 are shown on pages 19-20.

This initial message is longer than future ones will be, but I thought the background information may be useful. To wrap up, let me say that I welcome your comments, suggestions and questions. All of us on the Chapters Committee are working to help you attain success. You can reach me at paulawehr@cfl.rr.com



**Meet Rebecca Smith, OVAS'
newest Director-at-Large**

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

You also can join online through our website at <http://oklawaha-audubon.com/> and pay through PayPal