



# Kingfisher



Trout Lake Nature Center

April 2018– July 2018

## Board of Directors and Staff

**President:** Stan Napier  
**Vice-President:** Morris Pelham  
**Secretary:** Joan Bryant  
**Treasurer:** Dee Bender

**Directors:**  
Stuart Anderson  
Margie LaRoe  
Ron Neibert  
Horace Thompson

**Executive Director:** Eileen Tramontana

**Program/Volunteer Coordinator:** Laurie Peterson

## New Members

Judith Eggleston, Tavares  
James Frank, Alameda, CA

Renew your membership at <http://www.troutlakenaturecenter.com/membership/>. Of course, checks can be mailed to 520 E CR 44, Eustis, FL 32736.

**Hours:** Tuesday through Saturday, 9 AM to 4 PM. Sunday, 1 to 4 PM. TLNC is always **closed** on **Mondays** for maintenance. Beginning **May 27**, TLNC will be **closed on Sundays** too.

**Phone:** 352-357-7536

**Website:** [troutlakenaturecenter.com](http://troutlakenaturecenter.com)

**Follow us on Facebook:** [facebook.com/troutlakenaturecenter.com](https://www.facebook.com/troutlakenaturecenter.com)

**Instagram:** [troutlakenature](https://www.instagram.com/troutlakenaturecenter.com)

## TLNC Celebrates 30 Years

An unusual sight greets visitors as soon as they enter our property: a collection of metal objects in the ground just past the entrance, 30 to be exact. This display of kinetic public art symbolizes the 30 years of Trout Lake Nature Center via 30 metal renditions of a poppy flower 'blooming' on our grounds.



TLNC Volunteers "planting" metal poppies in field.

It's hard to believe it's been 30 years since the community and a group of Ocklawaha Valley Audubon Society (OVAS) members gathered together to dedicate the property now known as the Trout Lake Nature Center. Through yard sales and other fundraising activities these pioneers put together the funding to purchase 130 acres and Trout Lake. That, along with 100 acres from the City of Eustis through a conservation easement, created this peaceful oasis.

Dedicated volunteers built a boardwalk and dock on the lake and installed the trailer that became our museum. In 1994, we began school field trips, creating memories and an appreciation for nature across generations. In 1997, the Education Building was built allowing us to expand our community and school programs.

A part-time naturalist was hired in 2001 and we now have two full-time staff. From the beginning, we have offered environmental

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**Thank you to our generous supporters . . .**

**Government Funders**

City of Eustis  
Lake County  
Lake County School District  
Lake County Water Authority

**Sustaining Sponsors**

**Eagle:** Promise Habitat Services

**Osprey:** Mt. Dora Community Trust  
Watershed Technology, Inc.

**Hawk:** United Southern Bank  
Bay and Lake Pharmacies  
Dave Bacon  
Penny Barry

**Kingfisher:** John Roberts Realty

**Grants**

Charles B. and Mary M. McLin Foundation  
Lake County Water Authority Community Grants

**What's Blooming?**

We are showing some of our best colors in the plant world here at Trout Lake Nature Center! Look for the red of tropical sage in our Pollinator Garden and the pretty purple blooms of spiderwort in our meadow areas.

The duck potato in the marsh areas will feature white blossoms and you'll see newly emerged cattails in the same habitat. The yellow of the jessamine can be found in the trees.

There is always something blooming at TLNC.



Duck Potato blooms

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programs to teach about the importance of the environment to everyone, a mission that continues to grow and prosper.

We have great hopes for the next thirty years, as evidenced by our plans to upgrade our facilities. Please visit us to see the display and keep up with our journey into the future at [www.troutlake.naturecenter.com](http://www.troutlake.naturecenter.com). Thanks to the artists—Brenda Heim and Doug Hays.

**Hitting the Road**

Every summer we bring environmental education to local elementary schools that have Extended Learning Center summer programs. This year our presentation will be "Florida Fauna" and it's all about our native Florida animals with fun activities to engage and educate.

We will compare human Olympians to what we call our animal Olympians. Human athletes train and work nearly all their lives to compete against the best in the world while our animal athletes use their special adaptations to compete every day to survive. Students become animal athletes to see how they measure up against our real animal Olympians. Some frogs can jump up to 62 times their length, so students will be broad jumping like a frog to see how they measure up. An ogrefaced spider casts a web net to catch its food. Students use a special net and try to catch "food." Children will also compare their athletic ability to a Blue heron, a dung beetle and a hummingbird.

In a second activity, students try to answer the question, who am I, following clues to guess what the animal is. Try this one and see if you can guess what animal is being described.

**Clue 1.** I live mostly in forests and meadows.

**Clue 2.** I flip my white tail to signal danger.

**Clue 3.** I mainly eat leaves, acorns and nuts.

**Clue 4.** I have a keen sense of smell and excellent hearing.

**Note:** Answers are provided on the back page

The last two activities used in the summer program are adapted from existing Special Programs on bears and deer. In "*How Many Bears Can Live in this Forest?*" children learn about the black bear, its adaptations, what types of food they eat and how much food it takes to survive. Children play at being a bear collecting enough food to survive. An average size bear needs about 80 pounds of food in a 10 day period. Imagine what 80 pounds of insects or acorns would look like.

In "Tipping the Balance" they will learn what happens within a habitat that does not have enough food, water or shelter to support the animals who live there.

This weekly program will be held at area schools on Tuesdays in June and July. Interested in helping? We will be training instructors on April 16 and May 21st. Call 352-357-7536 or email [tlnc.director@gmail.com](mailto:tlnc.director@gmail.com).

## It's Getting Hot Out Here

We have arrived at the season in Florida when the temperatures go up, but so does some interesting animal activity! Our visitors often ask us about the behavior of our native animals, so here's a rundown.

Yes, **bears** are more active and on the move. While Florida black bears do not hibernate, they do increase their roaming in spring. Due to the loss of their habitat, this can mean more human encounters. Everyone should follow common sense suggestions to secure garbage and any food items and simply keep your distance if you see one.

We welcome the increase in **butterflies** (and the regeneration of our butterfly garden in front of the museum). See how many species you can name and if you need help, check out the display in our Education Building. Can't say we welcome the increase in **mosquitos** but we do keep repellent for our visitors' use under the portico of the Education Building

The migratory **birds** have left but we are fortunate to have many species of water and song birds, and raptors who call TLNC home. Don't forget to look up as you walk in the forest and look along the shoreline at the lake.

But the most questions are always about **alligators**. Mating season begins around mid-April through May. This results in increased movement and sightings. To attract females, males display by head-slapping the water and producing a deep rumbling bellow. After building a nest mound, the female lays 35 to 60 eggs in June or early July. She covers the eggs with vegetation and begins a vigil lasting about 65 days until they hatch. Hatching typically takes place in August. Mating, laying and hatching is all temperature dependent.

For nests that survive predators and flooding, an estimated 24 live hatchlings will emerge. Only 10 alligator hatchlings will live to one year. Of these yearlings, 8 will become sub-adults (reach 4 feet in length). The number of sub-adults that reach maturity (6 feet in length) is approximately 5.

At Trout Lake Nature Center, our visitors have heard "Big Mama," a resident female alligator who has in the past built a nest next to the boardwalk and surprised visitors with her protective hissing.

In addition to alligators, other reptiles (turtles, lizards, and yes, snakes) are also active and can be found sunning themselves. When visiting, don't forget to stop by our office and let us know what you see and hear during your visit.



## President's Message

*At the recent Annual Meeting and Volunteer Appreciation, TLNC President Stan Napier read this poem he authored.*

We're all full of tacos  
And it's time to relax.  
Good food ... good company,  
It's time to lay back!

Cause that's something you can't  
do

Very often around here,  
Because we stay busy ...  
Thanks to our great volunteers.

The Grandfather Oak will  
Welcome you as you enter  
The mulched and cleared habitat  
At Trout Lake Nature Center.

For 250 years  
It's been standing tall,  
And for the last 30 years  
It's been welcoming us all.

What a great way  
To enjoy your day  
With all of natural Florida  
On full display.

The trails are well kept  
Thanks to the maintenance crew.  
You can see everywhere  
The good that they do.

New floors and walls,  
And mounts on the shelf.  
And the Museum eagle display  
Speaks for itself.

Teachers and Greeters –  
And all of you  
Make it possible for us  
To be the BEST at what we do.

When words can't express  
What we've been saying from the  
start,

I extend this "Thank You"  
With this poem from the heart.

National Volunteer Week is April  
15 to 22, and we once again want  
to say how great our volunteers  
are!!!

Gator at front entrance.

## We're Making Progress...

The past 30 years have been a remarkable journey and we are once again moving forward with plans for new parking, museum and classroom space.

We have outgrown our existing facilities, the parking problem continues to get worse, the double-wide trailer we call a museum is deteriorating daily. We recently had to repair the drain field for the septic tank and the building has settled again to the point that we cannot open the doors until it is releveled. This aging infrastructure needs to be replaced ASAP.

Our school program and other environmental programs require additional space and classrooms.

### Where are we now?

- We have raised \$500,000 toward our initial goal of \$1,250,000.
- The site plan for a one-way exit road with a

**Chair Yoga with Nancy** is held every Wednesday from 10 to 11 AM. Occasionally classes are cancelled when our instructor has a conflict.

**Education Instructor Training** is held on the third Monday from 9 AM to noon unless otherwise noted.

**Maintenance** takes place every Monday and throughout the week.

**Remember** to check for updated information at [www.troutlakenaturecenter.com](http://www.troutlakenaturecenter.com) or our Facebook page.

**Answer:** White-tailed deer

sewer connection and the extension of the fire/water line has been approved.

- The final engineering drawings are anticipated to be approved by April.
- The Eustis Commission waived the \$750 application fee for the final engineering plans.
- When the final plans are approved by the city, the project will go out for bid and we will be on our way to seeing this goal completed this year.

### What is coming?

- 2018-19 Goal: Funding, engineering and building of parking for 80+ cars, a new perimeter road with bus loading and unloading area and the relocation and building of a maintenance area.
- 2020-21 Goal: A new building including a museum, classroom (can be converted into two classrooms), an outdoor screened classroom, office space and a meeting area.
- Only already impacted areas are being used for this project.
- All roads and parking will be pervious.
- The building will be "green."

Your continued support for our Capital campaign is necessary to reach our 2021 final goal.

Make a donation to our Capital Building Fund to build a new museum, classrooms, meeting space, office and parking areas. Memberships and donations can be made online at [www.troutlakenaturecenter.com](http://www.troutlakenaturecenter.com) under the appropriate tab.



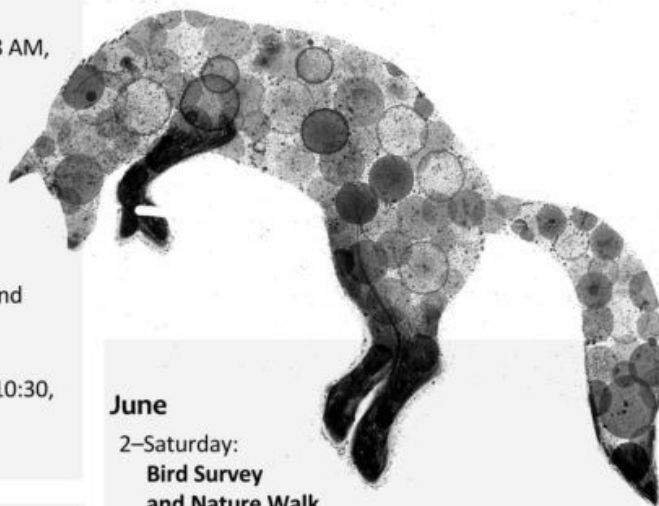
## Trout Lake Nature Center

520 East CR 44  
Eustis, FL 32736

## Calendar of Events

### April

- 7–Saturday: **Bird Survey and Nature Walk**, 8 AM, meet in the parking lot at TLNC.
- 8–Sunday: **Turtle Day**, 1 to 8 PM at TLNC
- 16–Monday: **TLNC Instructor Training**, 9 to noon.
- 20–**Friday Night Naturalist**, 6 PM, *Controlling Pests Naturally* by Clyde Stephens.
- 21–Saturday: **Folk Music**, potluck at 7 PM and music at 7:45 PM.
- 24–Tuesday: **TLNC Board Meeting**, 2 PM
- 25–Wednesday: **Nature Sprouts**, begins at 10:30, children 2 to 5 years old. Register at [www.universe.com/naturesprouts2018](http://www.universe.com/naturesprouts2018).



### May

- 5–Saturday: **Bird Survey and Nature Walk**, 8 AM, meet in the parking lot at TLNC.
- 6–Sunday: **OVAS Membership meeting and presentation**, snacks at 1:30, program at 2 PM.
- 13–Sunday: **FL. Native Plant Society**, 1:30 PM, *Working with Plant Materials and Flower Cuttings*.
- 18–**Friday Night Naturalist**, 6 PM, *Frank Lloyd Wright an Environmental Architect* by Tim Totten.
- 19–Saturday: **Folk Music**, potluck at 7 PM and music at 7:45 PM.
- 21–Monday: **TLNC Instructor Training**, 9 to noon.
- 22–Tuesday: **TLNC Board Meeting**, 2 PM
- 23–Wednesday: **Nature Sprouts**, begins at 10:30, children 2 to 5 years old. Register at [universe.com/naturesprouts2018](http://universe.com/naturesprouts2018).
- 27–Sunday: Summer hours begin: Closed on Sundays.



### June

- 2–Saturday: **Bird Survey and Nature Walk**, 8 AM, meet in the parking lot at TLNC.
- 3–Sunday: **OVAS Membership meeting and presentation**, snacks at 1:30, program at 2 PM.
- 15–**Friday Night Naturalist**, 6 PM, *Reporting the Environment*, Amy Green, NPR Environmental Reporter and author.
- 16–Saturday: **Folk Music**, potluck at 7 PM and music at 7:45 PM.
- 18–Monday: **TLNC Instructor Training**, 9 to noon.
- 26–Tuesday: **TLNC Board Meeting**, 2 PM
- 27–Wednesday: **Nature Sprouts**, begins at 10:30, children 2 to 5 years old. Register at [www.universe.com/naturesprouts2018](http://www.universe.com/naturesprouts2018).

### July

- 7–Saturday: **Bird Survey and Nature Walk**, 8 AM, meet in the parking lot at TLNC.
- 8–Sunday: **OVAS Membership meeting and presentation**, snacks at 1:30, program at 2 PM.
- 16–Monday: **TLNC Instructor Training**, 9 to noon.
- 20–**Friday Night Naturalist**, 6 PM.
- 21–Saturday: **Folk Music**, potluck at 7 PM and music at 7:45 PM.
- 24–Tuesday: **TLNC Board Meeting**, 2 PM
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## Own a Piece of Nature

The **Acre-by-Acre** program is a way to support these habitat improvement efforts.

"Purchase" an acre of TLNC for one year for \$100 as a unique gift, to celebrate a life event such as an anniversary, wedding, or birth. Purchasers receive a frameable certificate in the name requested. To purchase an acre call 352-357-7536 or email [tlnc.director@gmail.com](mailto:tlnc.director@gmail.com)

## Support Our Building Fund

We are building a new museum, classrooms, meeting space, office, parking areas and roads.

TLNC wants to be able to continue to serve this rapidly growing community and preserve our 230 acres of natural habitat for the use of generations to come.

Your donation will help move us to our goal.

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## Become a Sustaining Sponsor

Anyone can become a sustaining sponsor by committing to support TLNC for 5 years. Categories of sponsorship are:

- 🦅 Eagle: Over \$1,000 annually.
- 🦅 Osprey: \$1,000 annually. Total: \$5,000
- 🦅 Hawk: \$500 annually. Total: \$2,500
- 🦅 Kingfisher: Less than \$500.

All Sustaining Sponsors are recognized annually:

- 🦅 On TLNC website (with link to business, if desired)
- 🦅 In the Kingfisher newsletter (both printed and electronic)
- 🦅 In TLNC Annual Report
- 🦅 On TLNC lobby display

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## Become a Member of Trout Lake Nature Center

Members are the backbone of any healthy and growing organization and dues are an important part of the financial equation.

Not a member? Join and help support TLNC. Many of us are members of several organizations because we support what they stand for. TLNC's mission is to conserve and protect the natural environment and educate the community about its importance. Please help support our mission.

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All donations are important and we understand that you might want to designate your donation for a special cause or project at TLNC. Please contact the Executive Director at 352-357-7536 or email [tlnc.director@gmail.com](mailto:tlnc.director@gmail.com) to discuss your ideas.

Return this form with your donation, dues or sustaining sponsorship to: TLNC, 520 East CR 44, Eustis, FL 32736			
Name:	_____		
Email:	_____		
Mailing Address:	_____		
City:	State:	ZIP:	
_____	_____	_____	
Phone (inc. area code):	_____		
Membership	<input type="checkbox"/> Student \$5	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> Family \$35
	<input type="checkbox"/> Life Member \$1,000	<input type="checkbox"/> Business/Professional \$100	<input type="checkbox"/> Nonprofit/Public Agency \$40
I wish to donate towards the Building Fund:	_____ Amount		
Acre-by-Acre Donation: I wish to adopt	_____ acres X \$100/acre for one year.		
I am adopting the acre(s) in the name of	_____		
Sustaining Sponsor (per year for 5 years)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Kingfisher	<input type="checkbox"/> Hawk	<input type="checkbox"/> Osprey	<input type="checkbox"/> Eagle