



Kingfisher

Trout Lake Nature Center

August 2017 – November 2017

Regular Hours begin Oct. 1

Tuesday through Saturday, 9 AM to 4 PM. Sunday, 1 to 4 PM

Summer Hours

Open Tuesday through Friday, 9 AM to Noon. Thursday, re-opens from 4 PM until 30 minutes before sunset. Open Saturday, 9 AM to 4 PM. Closed Sunday.

TLNC is always closed to the public on Mondays for maintenance. Come on by if you want to help.

Phone: 352-357-7536

Website:
troutlakenaturecenter.com

Follow us on Facebook:
facebook.com/troutlakenaturecenter.com

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

Board of Directors and Staff

President: Stan Napier

Vice-President: Morris Pelham

Secretary: Joan Bryant

Treasurer: Dee Bender

Directors:

Stuart Anderson Michael Holland

Margie LaRoe Ron Neibert

Horace Thompson

Executive Director: Eileen

Tramontana

Program/Volunteer Coordinator:

Laurie Peterson

Trout Lake Nature Center and Our Community: A Symbiotic Relationship

sym-bi-ot-ic (adjective) 1. involving interaction between two different organisms living in close physical association. 2. denoting a mutually beneficial relationship between different people or groups.

Throughout its almost 30-year history, Trout Lake Nature Center has been a part of the surrounding Lake County community in many ways. We are always hearing about how someone 'came here as a kid' or that an older relative was a longtime volunteer. But our interactions with our community have grown richer and more varied over the years, and we thought we would share a few examples:

Employee Volunteering. Recently, Florida Hospital Waterman and Keller Williams Realty employees spent time at TLNC as part of employer-sponsored volunteer programs. We have a variety of things to do so any volunteer can be accommodated. If your company or organization has a 'giving back' program, we would appreciate being part of it.

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President's Message

1 Baby Gecko, 16 Wood Duck Eggs and 8,845 Children!

Life and learning continue to flourish at Trout Lake Nature Center. Our volunteers have hosted a record number of students (8,845) during this past school year. Education of our youngest citizens remains our top priority and an ever-increasing demand on our resources and volunteers continues. This growth trend will culminate, ultimately, with the construction of our planned new Education Complex that will provide TLNC with the badly needed space to expand education programs and services to the local community. Thanks, in advance, for your support of our Building Fund campaign so that we can soon achieve this important milestone for TLNC.

This summer, life abounds at TLNC. Some of our "critter eggs" in a display case were not inactive, as we had thought. A young child appeared in Laurie Peterson's office doorway and excitedly suggested we check out our eggs. Sure enough—a lone baby gecko had its head sticking out of an egg. The egg was the size of a pea, so this was a really cute baby. Within a few days, another egg hatched—

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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

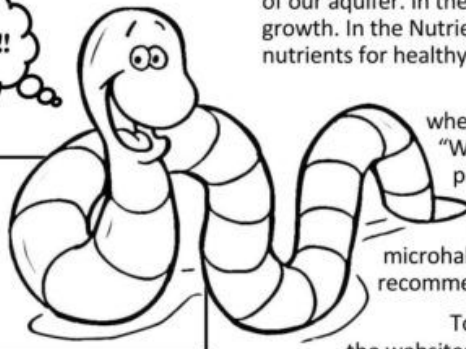
Charles B. and Mary M. McLin Foundation
Inland Research Group, Sea Turtle Grants Group
Lake County Water Authority Community Grants

New Members

Constance Albright, Eustis
Mark Howard, Apopka
Jack Koehler, Altoona
Sandra Selman and Mike Thorpe, Eustis



Amazing Soil Fact: It takes over 500 years to form one inch of soil.



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Community Service. Local high school students in need of volunteer hours for scholarships are a common sight around TLNC. We also work with individuals sentenced to perform court-ordered community service in Lake County for misdemeanor offenses. We are happy to be a positive part of these beneficial programs. The volunteers do great work for us while gaining experience and good work habits—it's a win/win.

Special Needs Volunteers. We are grateful for the consistent contributions of our special needs volunteers. TLNC supports the inclusion of the differently abled in both our volunteer and visitor programs.

Community Events. We enjoy being a part of local events, like handing out water at the Amazing Race for Charity or bringing specimens to the Umatilla Wildlife Festival. We do our part to make this event great and let people know about us at the same time.

Lake County Schools. From field trips here for the local elementary schools to our 'road shows' at STEM nights and summer programs, it's all about education (and fun!) for them. For us, it's about creating a new generation of nature lovers.

Just like in the natural world, we are all in this together!

Soil Discovery

Eureka! There has been an amazing discovery at Trout Lake, not gold, not oil, but Eureka soil. This soil is very poorly drained with very slow permeability, which is one reason TLNC holds water. Eureka soil is just one of many types of soils found at our Center. In Lake County there are 50 different types of soil. One type of soil, Myakka Fine Sand, is the state soil of Florida.

Soils are a very important part of our environment. It is a vital natural resource that most all terrestrial life depends on to survive. It is composed of inorganic minerals, organic humus, living organisms, moisture and air. Soil is an important part of the Hydrologic Cycle, the Carbon Cycle and the Nutrient Cycle. In the Hydrologic Cycle, percolation of rain through the soil plays a major role in the recharge of our aquifer. In the Carbon Cycle, soil provides a medium for plant growth. In the Nutrient Cycle, soils have a large capacity for retaining nutrients for healthy plant growth.

Students can learn a lot more about our soils when they come to our Center for a program called, "What Lies Beneath." Students perform a percolation test in different soils, then watch as water moves through soils using our working groundwater model and finally create a mini microhabitat with recyclable materials. This program is recommended for 3rd to 5th grade students.

To learn more about soils and water, you can visit the websites of the Lake County Water Authority and Lake Soil and Water Conservation District.

Meet Our Snakes

If you haven't already, meet Stripes and Cornelia, TLNC's resident snakes. They reside in a unique habit in our Natural History Museum—a repurposed old-computer server frame. (How's that for recycling?) It was customized with hiding places, branches for climbing and heating pads for warmth.

Even in Florida, these cold blooded creatures need warmth to be happy and healthy. They get plenty of fresh water to drink and dip in. They get biweekly feedings of mice (purchased frozen and thawed to room temperature before feeding.) Both like to be held and have contact with our volunteers and visitors. Both are females which was determined by a local snake expert.

Stripes is a yellow rat or chicken snake, *Pantherophis obsoletus* approximately 5 feet long, who came to us about 7 years ago from an owner who could not keep her. She is strong and muscular and enjoys climbing her tree branch like rat snakes do in the wild. She also likes going into people's long hair and under their jackets and



Thanks to the City of Eustis for donating a segment of a water pipe to give our resident gopher tortoise a cool burrow. "Mr. G." was injured and can't dig his own burrow, so he stays with us as an education animal. He enjoys his home and his supervised walks around the property.

shirts. She recently shed her skin, as they do every 2-3 months and it is on display in our lobby.

Cornelia is a corn snake, *pantherophis guttatus*, also known as a red rat snake. She's a little shorter and thinner than Stripes, with the classic beautiful markings of the species (look for the checkerboard on her underside). She has been with us about 2 years and is around 13 years old. Her owner had to go overseas and it was not possible to take her.

Both snakes contribute to our education mission as visitors learn about how they smell with their tongues (Cornelia's is red, Stripes' is black), sense vibration but don't really hear and how they are definitely not venomous. (Some people want to say poisonous but fanged snakes deliver venom.) Our snakes are constrictors, meaning

they would squeeze live prey to subdue it.

We particularly enjoy when a visitor has the chance to overcome a general fear of all snakes by learning more with both our

live snakes and our replicas of other snakes, including characteristics of common venomous ones in Florida. Stop by and see them.

Photo 1: Summer volunteers learning about Cornelia, TLNC Education Snake.

Photo 2: Stripes, TLNC Education Snake.

Photo 3: "G" coming out of his new burrow.



Photo: Summer high school volunteers cleaning animal specimens.

Presidents' Message, continued from page 1

a baby box turtle! It was the size of a thumbnail and, also, way too cute! Laurie and our student volunteers rescued the infants and set them free in an appropriate area at TLNC.

Our dock reconstruction work was delayed when a mother wood duck laid 16 eggs in our duck box located on the upper dock. We had to wait until the eggs hatched before starting work. In the meantime, "Big Mama", a 9-foot gator, built her nest beside our boardwalk. She warns everyone away with hisses and growls!

We are busy preparing for a new school year. Trina Raether, Education Chair, and Eileen Tramontana, Executive Director, prepared exciting new additions to our school field experiences programs. Volunteer training will soon begin.

Our commitment to our mission is strong. Our Volunteers are the best. I have always endorsed two

Yeah! Let's
Do this thing!



We serve PB & J!
A Passion for the
Beauty and Joy of
nature...

With a side of science.



Photo: Releasing air potato beetles to control this invasive exotic plant.

single personal philosophies in life. The first is live well. The second, do right. Both are accommodated with every single visit I make to TLNC. I feel privileged to be a part of Trout Lake Nature Center.

Thank you for your support.

Stan Napier, President

Make a donation to our Capitol Building Fund to build a new museum, classrooms, meeting space, office and parking areas.



Trout Lake Nature Center

520 East CR 44
Eustis, FL 32736

Calendar of Events



August

- 5–Saturday: **Bird Count and Nature Walk**, 8 AM.
- 18–**Friday Night Naturalist**, 6 PM. “Getting Fishy”.
- 19–Saturday: **Folk Music**, potluck at 7 PM and music at 7:45 PM.
- 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/naturesprouts2017.
- 29–Tuesday: **TLNC Education Instructor Training**, 1 to 4 PM, with lunch at noon.

September

- 2–Saturday: **Bird Count and Nature Walk**, 8 AM.
- 3–Sunday: **OVAS Membership meeting and program**, Snack at 1:30, Program at 2 PM.
- 15–**Friday Night Naturalist**, 6 PM, Climate Change.
- 16–Saturday: **Folk Music**, potluck at 7 PM and music at 7:45 PM.
- 17–Sunday: **Florida Native Plant Society meeting and program**, 2 PM.
- 23–Saturday: **Mushroom Foray and Program**: Arlene Bessette, 9:30 to 11:30. Includes mushrooms in the field.
- 25–Monday: **FL Master Naturalist Program begins**, All day. Pre-registration is required.
- 26–Tuesday: **TLNC Board Meeting**, 2 PM.
- 27–Wednesday: **Nature Sprouts**, begins at 10:30, children 2 to 5 years old. Register at universe.com/naturesprouts2017.
- 30–Saturday: **National Public Lands Day**, 9 to 11:30 AM, Exotic plant removal. Call TLNC at 352-357-7536 for information.

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

Education Instructor Training is held on the third Monday from 9 to 11:30 AM unless otherwise noted.

Maintenance takes place every Monday and throughout the week.

Remember to check for updated information at www.troutlakenaturecenter.com or our Facebook page.

October

- 1–Sunday: **Regular Hours begin**. Open 1 to 4 PM
- 1–Sunday: **OVAS Membership meeting and program**, Snack at 1:30, Program at 2 PM.
- 7–Saturday: **Bird Count and Nature Walk**, 8 AM.
- 14–Saturday: **Lake County Folk Festival**, Eustis, all day.
- 15–Sunday: **Lake County Folk Festival**, Eustis, all day.
- 20–**Friday Night Naturalist**, 6 PM, “Wildlife Refuges”.
- 21–Saturday: **Wildlife Festival**, Umatilla, all day.
- 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 universe.com/naturesprouts2017.

November

- 4–Saturday: **Bird Count and Nature Walk**, 8 AM.
- 5–Sunday: **OVAS Membership meeting and program**, Snack at 1:30, Program at 2 PM.
- 11–Saturday: **Boating Safety Course**, 9 AM to 5 PM.
- 17–**Friday Night Naturalist**, 6 PM, “Behavior of Florida Rattlesnakes”.
- 18–Saturday: **Folk Music**, potluck at 7 PM and music at 7:45 PM.
- 19–Sunday: **Florida Native Plant Society meeting and program**, 2 PM.
- 22–Wednesday: **Nature Sprouts**, begins at 10:30, children 2 to 5 years old. Register at universe.com/naturesprouts2017.
- 23–**Thanksgiving Holiday, TLNC Closed**.
- 28–Tuesday: **TLNC Board Meeting**, 2 PM.

Own a Piece of Nature

Started to help fund habitat work at TLNC, the **Acre-by-Acre** program is a way to support these continuing efforts.

It is important to maintain the habitats at TLNC to prevent invasive exotics from taking over, provide structure and food sources for wildlife and restore biodiversity.

Thousands of people walk our trails, cross the footbridges and stroll on the boardwalk and dock. This infrastructure requires continual maintenance and in cases replacement. Acre-by-Acre helps fund this work.

“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 made out in the name requested. To purchase an acre call 352-357-7536 or email tlnc.director@gmail.com

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

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.

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"/> Nonprofit/Public Agency \$40	<input type="checkbox"/> Business/Professional	<input type="checkbox"/> Life Member \$1,000	
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