



Kingfisher



Trout Lake Nature Center

December 2017 – March 2018

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



Stan Napier, President

Programming Updates

TLNC's field experience program for Lake County fourth graders has been revised to correlate with Florida state and local objectives. Its focus is now interdependence, heredity and environmental impacts. That sounds quite challenging but is accomplished through four activities when students visit TLNC for the school day.

How do changes in our environment impact our plants and animals? How do those changes affect the interdependence of living and non-living things? Can those changes affect inherited characteristic of plants and animals? To aide students in answering these questions, we ask them to think about a John Muir quote— "When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything in the universe." Then, we ask, how would they interpret this quote? If we change or remove one thing, does it affect anything else in the environment?

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President's Message

The Difference between "I like you" and "I love you"

"If you like a flower...you pluck it. If you love a flower...you water it daily. One who understands this...understands life." (Buddha)

Trout Lake Nature Center (TLNC) is like a flower that we love. It has been watered daily for nearly 30 years. The ways we have shown love for TLNC are countless. In return, we have gained many "nature-moments" and experiences which help us to understand life. TLNC provides opportunities to enhance both calmness and knowledge. Everyone, regardless of age, enjoys and benefits from the beauty of the "flower" we have cared for so long.

In 2018, we begin a new phase of cultivation at TLNC. Demand for our nature-based programs remains high—to the benefit of both children and adults. We are a valuable resource to the local community and our strong reputation is expanding far beyond the local area.

Things are really exciting at TLNC these days. We welcome you to come share in this excitement. Your participation and visits, even if only for a serene walk in the woods, provides valuable support for all we do.

I wish you all a prosperous and happy holiday season. Thank you to the employees, volunteers, members and to all who support TLNC.

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

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One of the activities in this new program is entitled Panther Perils. Modified from Bottle Neck Games, *Project WILD Guide*. Students learn facts about the Florida Panther and the traits that help them survive. Colored cubes represent 8 specific panther traits — camouflage, precise vision, sense of smell, ability to travel fast and long distances, no genetic heart defects, agility with strong claws and paws, acute hearing, healthy immune system and healthy rate of reproduction.

The cubes are distributed randomly (20 to 30) for each student group. Students sort the cubes into color groups to form a panther population and figure out what traits their panther population has inherited.

Students assess their population’s traits and decide if their panther population has the traits necessary to survive the different scenarios. There are five different scenarios used in this activity that reflect real-world panther issues.

If you are interested in learning more about TLNC’s education programs, please join us for one of our Instructor Trainings held on the third Monday of most months.



Panther Activity



Jumping Spider.
 Photo credit Greg Jowers

What Shines in the Night?

The title is a misnomer because animals’ eyes don’t shine but reflect light. Most of us have seen deer’s eye shine or our pets. Nocturnal hunters, which includes many spiders, have an advantage produced by an iridescent layer behind their retina called the tapetum that reflects light back through the retina. This almost doubles the light on the retina giving them great night vision.

Take a flashlight out at night and see what reflects. There are nearly always “spider eyes” which are green or white.

| Eye Shine | Animal |
|------------|---|
| White | Spiders, birds, fish, mammals (deer, flying squirrel) |
| Blue | Dogs, horse, a few birds |
| Green | Spiders, bullfrog, cats, sheep |
| Red-Orange | Butterflies, alligators, owls, whip-poor-will, black bear, opossum, otter, rodents, moths |

Meet Our Turtles

Eight, yes eight, turtles are currently being cared for at TLNC. That's not counting, of course, all the wild ones that roam the property freely. We're talking about those who for various reasons can't live in the wild. They have been given safe and appropriate habitats to help them thrive and to help us in our mission to educate and encourage appreciation for nature.

From smallest to largest...

Stinky is a little Common Musk Turtle or Stinkpot. The name comes from the glands that secrete musk when disturbed. A stinkpot's neck can extend as far as its hind feet and they can grow to over 5 inches. Males have a spike at the end of the tail. Musk turtles are native to the eastern US and southeastern Canada. Check him out in the Museum aquarium.

Time Out is a Striped Mud Turtle who got his name when he was put in 'time out' in one of the two lobby aquariums for chasing Sunshine, the other mud turtle and Stinky. Mud turtles are easily recognized by the three light stripes that run lengthwise on their shells. Now each has their own space and a special floating hollow log for hiding and sitting.

Gracie is a Florida Box Turtle usually hiding in the pine needles of our outdoor land turtle habitat. Easily recognized by her box-like shell and distinct yellow markings, Gracie eats insects and some fruits and vegetables. She is shy and goes completely in her shell when she is afraid.

Tommy is a Yellow-bellied Slider in the outdoor aquatic habitat that is a native species, unlike its relative, the red-eared slider. They got their name for the ability to quickly slide off logs or rocks to dive into the safety of the water when they sense danger. The shell is greenish but darkens over time.

Striper is a Peninsular or Chicken Turtle (yes, named for the taste of their meat). They are mid-sized turtles with a long neck and a yellowish net-like pattern on the shell. They are native to the southeastern U.S. and prefer heavily vegetated aquatic habitats (though he also likes to catch some rays on a log). They do not live as long as other turtles, usually less than 15 years.

Groucho is a Common Snapping Turtle that spends most of the



time hiding at the bottom of our aquatic habitat. This species prefers slow-moving, quiet water with vegetation and are mostly nocturnal. Visitors often spot his long tail poking out from beneath the partial log. Snapping turtles are omnivores and also eat carrion, making them helpful in keeping our waterways clean.

Mr. G or G is our gopher tortoise known for the '13' on his shell that helped identify him when he was temporarily released in the wild after recovering from a car injury. He did well, but not well enough to go back in the wild

since he can't dig his own burrow. We created an artificial burrow, as well as other housing.

He sometimes shares with Gracie the box turtle, much like they share their burrows with other species in the wild. He has become a wonderful addition to our education program as visitors observe him close up, eating his 'salad' and watching him walk around under the watchful eyes of our volunteer 'tortoise walkers'. We believe he is between 15 and 20 years old and a gopher tortoise can live 40-60 years in the wild, so we think he'll be with us for a very long time.

Come by and see all our turtles and watch for details about our special Turtle Day April 8, 2018.

Birding4Kids—New Family Program

Bird watching is one of the fastest growing outdoor activities, both in Florida and the United States. Many TLNC members and volunteers have spent hours happily watching the birds that come to Florida and live in our area.

Birding is an activity that doesn't take much equipment and can be done anywhere. It can be done in your yard, local retention pond or natural area. Birders use a variety of technologies to find, identify or "capture" the bird and even maintain a life list.

Beginning birding can be intimidating for a young person or non-birder. TLNC with the Oklawaha Valley Audubon Society (OVAS), will conduct its first Birding4Kids program on Jan. 13 from 8 AM to 2 PM. Go to www.universe.com/birding4kids. Cost is \$5 but includes lunch.

Hours: Tuesday through Saturday, 9 AM to 4 PM. Sunday, 1 to 4 PM. TLNC is always **closed** on **Mondays** for maintenance.

Phone: 352-357-7536

Website: troutlakenaturecenter.com

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

Instagram: troutlakenature

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 under the appropriate tab.

As a family, kids and parents can learn the basics of birding by working in birding teams mentored by local birding experts.

Teams will travel to local birding spots to find their birds. Using binoculars, spotting scopes, smart phones and iPads or tablets, the new birders will observe or capture (in a photograph) birds. After returning to TLNC, teams will identify their birds and share their findings with the other teams. Special birding games will be used to develop birding skills.

Hopefully, birding will become a lifelong outdoor activity for participants. Based on enthusiasm of the young folks, future birding adventures will be organized and conducted by TLNC and OVAS.

TLNC teaches about the importance of birds to our habitats and the need to protect these wonderful creatures. Birders are often some of the first people to notice changes in the environment and often sound early warnings.

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 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.



Trout Lake Nature Center

520 East CR 44
Eustis, FL 32736

Calendar of Events



December

- 2–Saturday: **Daybreak Birding**, 6:30 AM, call to reserve space, 352-357-7536, \$5 inc. continental breakfast.
- 3–Sunday: **TLNC/OVAS/FNPS Holiday Potluck**, 12:30 to 2 PM.
- 15–**Friday Night Naturalist**, 6 PM, *Birds and Wildlife of TLNC*.
- 16–Saturday: **Daybreak Birding**, 6:30 AM, call to reserve space, 352-357-7536, \$5 inc. continental breakfast.
- 16–Saturday: **Folk Music**, potluck at 7 PM and music at 7:45 PM.
- 17–Sunday: **Lights in the Woods**, 6 to 8 PM, Cost \$5/vehicle
- 19–Tuesday: **Daybreak Birding**, 6:30 AM, call to reserve space, 352-357-7536, \$5 inc. continental breakfast.
- 19, 21 and 28–**Daybreak Birding**, 6:30 AM, call to reserve space, 352-357-7536, \$5 inc. continental breakfast.
- 24 and 25–Closed for holidays
- 27–Wednesday: **Nature Sprouts**, begins at 10:30, children 2 to 5 years old. Register at www.universe.com/naturesprouts2017.

January

- 6 and 10–**Daybreak Birding**, 6:30 AM, call to reserve space, 352-357-7536, \$5 inc. continental breakfast.
- 7–Sunday: **OVAS Membership meeting and program**, Snack at 1:30, Program at 2 PM.
- 13–Saturday: **Birding4Kids**, 8 AM to 2 PM. Go to www.universe.com/birding4kids to register. Cost \$5, inc. lunch.
- 19–**Friday Night Naturalist**, 6 PM, *Climate Change*.
- 20–Saturday: **Folk Music**, potluck at 7 PM and music at 7:45 PM.
- 21–Sunday: **Florida Native Plant Society meeting and program**, 2 PM.
- 24–Wednesday: **Nature Sprouts**, begins at 10:30, children 2 to 5 years old. Register at universe.com/naturesprouts2018.

February

- 3–Saturday: **TLNC Annual Membership Meeting and Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon**, Noon to 3 PM.
- 4–Sunday: **OVAS Membership meeting and program**, Snack at 1:30, Program at 2 PM.
- 3–Saturday: **Bird Count and Nature Walk**, 8 AM.
- 10–Saturday: **Sunset at the Rookery**, 6 to 8 PM. Cost \$40 inc. wine, cheese and dinner, . Go to www.universe.com/rookery2018 to register.
- 16–**Friday Night Naturalist**, 6 PM, *Hawks, Raptors and Swallowtails*.
- 17–Saturday: **Folk Music**, potluck at 7 PM and music at 7:45 PM.
- 19–Monday: **FL Master Naturalist Class (Freshwater Systems)**. Register at www.masternaturalist.ifas.ufl.edu.
- 28–Wednesday: **Nature Sprouts**, begins at 10:30, children 2 to 5 years old. Register at universe.com/naturesprouts2018.

March

- 1–Thursday: **CISMA Invasive Species Workshop**, all day. Must pre-register.
- 3–Saturday: **Combination Southeastern Forests and Climate Change and Carbon and Climate workshop**, 9 AM to 4 PM. Must pre-register at <https://www.universe.com/PLTMar2018>. Cost \$20.
- 4–Sunday: **OVAS Membership meeting and program**, Snack at 1:30, Program at 2 PM.
- 17–**Friday Night Naturalist**, 6 PM.
- 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.
- 19 to 23, **2018 Outdoor Adventure Day Camp**, 9 AM to 3 PM for third, fourth and fifth graders. Call for Info.
- 21–Wednesday: **Nature Sprouts**, begins at 10:30, children 2 to 5 years old. Register at universe.com/naturesprouts2018.

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 some 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.

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|--|--|--|--------------------------------|
| 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 |