



Kingfisher



Trout Lake Nature Center

April 2017 – July 2017



Blue flag iris blooming near boardwalk

Regular Hours

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

Summer Hours (May 30 to Oct 1)

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

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/troutlakenaturecenter.com](https://www.facebook.com/troutlakenaturecenter/)

“Wonderful Water” at TLNC This Summer

Environmental education does not take a summer vacation! This summer, Trout Lake Nature Center’s new program “Wonderful Water” will focus on one of our most important resources. Our TLNC instructors have developed a curriculum to lead grade schoolers through aquatic science adventures.

This two-hour participatory session will be brought to area elementary schools’ Extended Learning Centers and will also be available here at TLNC. “Wonderful Water” will be presented Thursday, June 15th from 5:30 to 7:30 PM and again on Saturday, July 15 from 9 to 11 AM. There is a \$5 fee and you must register your child (Grade 1– 5) by calling (352) 357-7536 or going online to www.universe.com/summerprogram.

Participants will learn the percentage of water on our planet, how much of that water is fresh water and how much is available for our daily use. Another watery activity helps children relive the past when early pioneers understood how precious a resource water was to their survival. Students will simulate the work young pioneer children did hauling water to the cabin, and watering gardens and livestock.

They will also learn to identify some of the many kinds of fish in Lake County and Florida, about the anatomy of the fish and will design their own unique fish species. Finally, we will simulate travel on our rivers, lakes, springs and oceans to discover their wildlife and characteristics.

President’s Message

2017 has started out as a busy year for Trout Lake Nature Center. We have been hosting approximately 120 children per week (via school buses), who have fun while learning about nature. Our Executive Director, Eileen Tramontana, continues to visit schools directly and has presented TLNC to thousands of



TLNC President Stan Napier

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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
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

Ann Medley, Eustis
GFWC Umatilla Women’s Club
J. Wendy Wieser, Eustis
Michael Holland, Eustis
Joan Anderson, Sorrento

Summer Fireflies

Think back to your childhood and time spent outside in natural, nocturnal areas. Did you ever feel intimidated, nervous or even scared? With the setting of the sun, our eyes have difficulty deciphering shapes and colors, causing once familiar surroundings to suddenly disappear.

However, once we’d catch a glimpse of the flickering lights of fireflies, many fears melt away. What is more alluring than the brilliant flash of a firefly soaring through the darkness? Unfortunately, fireflies are becoming more and more difficult to find, particularly in urban settings.

Scientists are currently conducting research on fireflies to determine what is happening and why and are enlisting citizen scientists to help them in their search for answers.

Biology Basics

Despite being commonly referred to as “fireflies” or “lightning bugs”, these insects are actually beetles. Florida is home to more fireflies than any other state, with about 60 species of fireflies observed to date.



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TLNC Spring Break 2017 Outdoor Adventure Day Camp



Photo 1: The wonder of seeing a tree core.

Photos 2: Students and instructor Barbara Gugliotti taking a hike.

Photo 3: Learning to use a clinometer to measure the height of a tree.

Presidents' Message, continued from page 1

children. She continues to display an adventurous spirit—eager to try new ideas and activities to expand our services to the community at large.

While education remains our top priority, there is more happening at TLNC these days. Joan Bryant is leading our Capital Building Fundraising effort for our new building. We will be replacing our docks over the summer, and the TLNC Board continues to “keep us on track” as we address our improvement plans.

Volunteers are key to our survival and growth. We are very fortunate to have the very best volunteers and supporters to keep TLNC going. We are all bound together by our love of nature and commitment to educate our youngest citizens about the importance of protecting our natural environment.

And, by the way, being the new President is going okay, as well! Thank you for your support!



New TLNC T-shirts

Wanted...

Volunteers are the backbone of this organization and they are so important to reaching out to the community and connecting with our many visitors.

Open hours or greeters are volunteers who help to keep the TLNC open when staff isn't there or is involved with programs. We try to greet every visitors, make them feel welcome, answer any questions and thank them for visiting.

Open hours or greeters open or close the buildings and facilities on days when staff isn't there. To create interest in TLNC, it is important for us to be out in the community making connections and telling the TLNC story.

It is also important to have the property open and encourage people to get out in nature and see our exhibits to learn how they fit in with Florida's many ecosystems.

During the summer, TLNC will be open one evening a week and all day Saturday. We are looking for volunteers to help keep the facilities open during these times since our small staff needs a little break and is involved in many other off-site summer activities.

Open hours or greeters are needed year-round but with some of our volunteers returning to their northern homes we are looking for a few good volunteers.

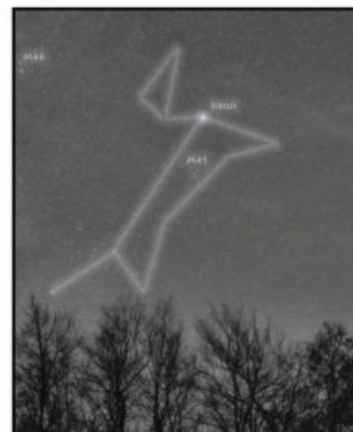
Call Laurie Peterson at 352-357-7536 or email tlnc.info@gmail.com if you are interested in helping.

Hours Change For Summer

Every year as the 'dog days of summer' arrive, TLNC reduces our open hours. From May 30—October 1st we will be open Tuesday—Friday 9 AM to Noon and 9 AM to 4 PM on Saturday. We will reopen Thursday nights from 4 PM until 30 minutes before sunset for those wanting to take a walk after or before dinner. We are closed on Sunday and Monday during this time.

This change helps staff and volunteers be able to travel to Extended Learning Centers (ELCs) or summer camps with our education programs.

Most of think dog days has to do with it being too hot for a dog to do more than lay in the shade and pant. But the dog days of summer come from ancient Romans who called the six to eight hottest weeks of summer the dog days. But the dog the Romans were referring to was Sirius, the Dog Star. The hottest days of summer coincide with seasonal ascendancy of Sirius as the brightest star in the heavens.

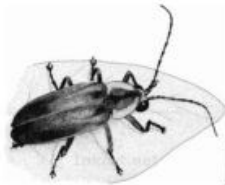


Sirius, the dog star by Earth and Sky.org

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Fireflies prefer warm and humid areas and are often (but not always) found near bodies of water. Generally, they are brown or black with a ring of color lining the outside of their wings.

Of course, these colors are not the easiest way to find them in the dark. Instead, search for their flashes of light, produced by a chemical reaction inside their bodies between luciferin, a protein, luciferase, an enzyme, and oxygen. By regulating the flow of oxygen into this reaction, fireflies have the ability to turn their light on and off in characteristic patterns. Not all species of fireflies are capable of creating light; like many insects, some species communicate by secreting pheromones.



Each species of firefly has a unique flashing signature, composed of a flash color and a pattern. Flashing colors commonly include green, yellow-green, and orange. Flashing patterns can include single, double, triple, and even quadruple flashes between brief periods of rest. Some species will flicker their light so quickly the number of flashes can't be counted by the human eye.

In addition to having unique color and patterns, different species of fireflies tend to emerge at different times during the night. This increases their chances of finding a suitable mate. Males tend to flash while flying over areas while the flightless females perch – often blades of grass or leaves on trees.

When the female spots the color and flash pattern of a male of her species, she will flash back at him to attract his attention.

Once mated, females lay between 400 and 1000 eggs on moist surfaces, such as rotting vegetation. After hatching, larvae live for up to a year in aquatic habitats before emerging as pupa, called glowworms, that burrow into the

soil and often emit light from their abdomens. Once they mature to adulthood, they only have one to two weeks to find a mate before their life cycle comes to an end.



Nature Sprout showing off the nest he made.

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

520 East CR 44
Eustis, FL 32736

Calendar of Events

April

- 1–Saturday: **Bird Count and Nature Walk**, 8 AM.
9–Sunday: **Turtle Day at Trout Lake**, 1 to 3 PM.
11–Tuesday: **OVAS Membership meeting and program**, 2 PM.
21–Friday **Night Naturalist**, 6 PM. Pooh's Hundred Acre Wood.
22–**Folk Music**, potluck at 7 PM and music at 7:45 PM.
22–Saturday: **Boating Safety workshop**, sponsored by the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. Cost \$35.
25–Tuesday: **TLNC Board Meeting**, 2 PM.
26–Wednesday: **Nature Sprouts**, 10 to 11 AM, children 2 to 5 years old. Register at universe.com/naturesprouts2017.
*29–Saturday: **Taking a Breath of Nature Hike**, 9 AM.
*29–Saturday: **Nature and Your Health program**, 10 AM.
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May

- 6–Saturday: **Bird Count and Nature Walk**, 8 AM.
7–Sunday: **OVAS Membership meeting and program**, 2 PM.
17–Friday **Night Naturalist**, 6 PM, Florida Water Star.
18–Saturday: **Folk Music**, potluck at 7 PM and music at 7:45 PM.
21–Sunday: **Florida Native Plant Society meeting**, 2 PM
23–Tuesday: **TLNC Board Meeting**, 2 PM.
24–Wednesday: **Nature Sprouts**, 10 to 11 AM, children 2 to 5 years old. Register at universe.com/naturesprouts2017.
30–Summer hours begin.
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June

- 3–Saturday: **Bird Count and Nature Walk**, 8 AM.
3–Saturday: **Photo Exhibit opens**.
4–Sunday: **OVAS Membership meeting and program**, 2 PM.
15–Thursday: **Wonderful Water**, 5:30 to 7:30 PM
16–Friday **Night Naturalist**, 6 PM. .
17–Saturday: **Folk Music**, potluck at 7 PM and music at 7:45 PM.
27–Tuesday: **TLNC Board Meeting**, 2 PM.
28–Wednesday: **Nature Sprouts**, 10 to 11 AM, children 2 to 5 years old. Register at universe.com/naturesprouts2017.
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July

- 1–Saturday: **Bird Count and Nature Walk**, 8 AM.
4–Tuesday: TLNC closed for holiday.
15–Saturday: **Wonderful Water**, 9 to 11 AM.
21–Friday **Night Naturalist**, 6 PM.
22–Saturday: **Folk Music**, potluck at 7 PM and music at 7:45 PM.
25–Tuesday: **TLNC Board Meeting**, 2 PM.
26–Wednesday: **Nature Sprouts**, 10 to 11 AM, children 2 to 5 years old. Register at universe.com/naturesprouts2017.

*These activities are part of the Moving Wall Vietnam Veterans Memorial events. ALL veterans and families are welcome.

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.

Maintenance Work Days are held every Monday from 8:15 to 11:30 AM. Maintenance work also takes place at other times of the week.

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

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



Florida Hospital Waterman volunteer helping clean turtle habitat

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 for 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 \$100 as a unique gift, to celebrate a life event such as 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

Sustaining sponsors are invited to attend Annual Donors Event to allow us to say thank you for supporting TLNC.

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.

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
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