



# The Kingfisher

TROUT LAKE NATURE CENTER August thru November 2016

## Little Bits of Nature

What can survive a nuclear holocaust, leap higher than any other animal on the planet relative to their size, fly at 90 miles an hour, lift 50 to 1000 times their body weight, navigate by the stars and cause some grown men to yelp and run? Insects!

Insects, the most diverse group in the animal kingdom, are also the most feared and hated. As a society, our lack of knowledge about insects reflects in our use of the words "insect" and "bug." Science recognizes insects as an arthropod with a chitinous exoskeleton, with three body parts, six legs, compound eyes, and a single pair of antennae. Many non-scientists use the term "insect" or "bug" for almost any terrestrial invertebrate (insects, spiders, millipedes, centipedes, worm, slug) as long as it crawls and is not brightly colored. Some even believe that butterflies are not insects.

Literature suggests human aversion to insects runs deep in our genetic code. Some bugs, particularly spiders, are the cause of phobias, and evidence points to a genetic disposition to fear spiders. The fear of spiders afflicts between 3 to 6 percent of the US population.

At Trout Lake Nature Center we use the study of bugs to connect children with nature. E.O. Wilson, a prominent Harvard University expert on insects and biodiversity, stated "Every kid has a bug period... I never grew out of mine." Studies indicate childhood play experiences were the formative influence creating a strong affective bond with nature. Catching and observing bugs is almost always a part of the play experience.

Bugs are found everywhere and taking an insect

safari is a cheap but fun activity. Inexpensive insect traps, nets or attractants can easily be made and used to collect a variety of insects. Who doesn't have fond memories of trying to collect lightning bugs, dragonflies and other insects? Children are impressed with insects that look strange, exhibit intriguing behaviors, or smell funny. Smell every insect you handle and you will be surprised by the novel odors they produce.

It is important to become aware of the many insects that share the world with us and appreciate what they do, even if some bugs are considered pests. We can spend a lifetime learning about insects and never even know a fraction of the million species.

Excerpted from: Shipley, N. J and Bixler, R.D. (2016). An always small but gargantuan opportunity: Interpreting Insects: A white paper. Unpublished paper. Clemson: Clemson University.



PHOTO: PRAYING MANTIS BY GREG JOWERS

**A very heartfelt thank you to our generous supporters**

**GOVERNMENTAL FUNDERS**

City of Eustis  
Lake County  
Lake County Schools  
Lake County Water Authority

**SUSTAINING SPONSORS**

**Eagle:**

Promise Habitat Services

**Osprey:**

Mount Dora Community Trust

**Hawk:**

United Southern Bank  
Bay & Lake Pharmacies

**Kingfisher:**

John Roberts Realty, Inc.

**GRANTS**

Charles B. and Mary  
M. McLin Foundation  
Inland Research Group,  
Sea Turtle Grants Group  
LCWA Drop-by-Drop  
Mount Dora Community Trust  
Sarah George Charitable Trust  
US Fish & Wildlife Service,  
Partners for Fish & Wildlife

**NEW MEMBERS**

Karen Curd, The Villages  
Carol Clendinen and Dick Doty,  
Leesburg  
Sean Jenness, Eustis  
Steven Shaluta and  
Shelby Bortone, Leesburg

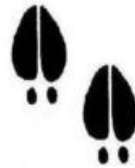
## Moving Along

Animals move in different ways and in different places in order to find food, water, shelter and a safe place to raise their young. Animals are found underground, on the earth's surface, in water and in the air. Some animals burrow and dig, some crawl, hop or slither, some soar and swoop and others swim and dive. No matter how many different ways animals move, they are all moving for a very specific purpose—to survive.

Learning how animals move and why they move is the focus of one lesson in the Pre-Kindergarten program. In this lesson children discover how certain animals move. They compare a variety of paw print models and match them to an animal specimen in our diorama. In another part of the lesson children move around like a few of our Florida animals. Can they hop like a frog, amble like a bear and crawl like an alligator?

Understanding why animals move from place to place is an essential part of this activity. Animals cannot call out for a pizza. Every day they must venture out to find food without becoming someone else's food—they must survive.

Can you identify these tracks? Unscramble the names to learn who made these tracks.



(eerd)



(cudk)



(kunks)

## “Alive in the Forest”

“Alive in the Forest” is a recent storybook addition to our programming, specifically for Pre-Kindergarteners. The original story was developed by Margie Sigman and later expanded to focus on movement and foraging to help meet education standards for TLNC programming.

This past summer, Patricia Ryan illustrated “Alive in the Forest” and a PowerPoint or ebook was created. The end product is a delightful tale about animals found at TLNC.

The effects that Ryan achieved through her very artistic use of clip art is amazing. The children listen to the story and use puppets based on the animal characters in the story. They manipulate their puppets mimicking the movement of the animals in making this an auditory and kinesthetic learning experience.

Thanks to Margie and Patricia for our storybook “Alive in the Forest.”

**CONSERVE**

**PROTECT**

**EDUCATE**



## Welcome! New board members.

In the past months we said goodbye to board members Jim Rafferty and Pat Thomas. We are happy to announce the addition to our board of two prominent members of our community, Jeff Friberg and Ron Neibert.

Jeff Friberg is the man behind the Lake County Folk Festival and a well-known musician. He is responsible for those great nights of music at TLNC with the Lake Eustis Folk Music Society.

Ron Neibert, Eustis City Manager, is a born naturalist. Since arriving in Eustis last year, he has been a frequent visitor to TLNC.

## An update on our Big Building Project

Phase One: We are working on the one way exit road, including some parking, lights, sewer connection, and moving the fire hydrant. We hope to begin construction sometime this year.

Phase two: We are just beginning the site planning on this part of the project. First step will be to mark the trees we definitely want to preserve so a plan can be generated for the new parking area.

Phase three: we have signed a contract with the architect, Scott Krehl, to do construction drawings on the 3,400 SF building which will house a new classroom, museum, offices, bathrooms and storage.



A Capital Building Fundraising Plan is being written. We need to raise a lot of money. Currently, we have \$250,000 in the fund. We will need to raise an additional \$750,000. So, please, dig deep and contribute. We can accept a check. Be sure to memo the check "Capital Building Fund" or Building Fund" so we make sure it gets put in the right account and you are given credit for your donation.

More updates to come. Joan Bryant, President

### ADVISORY COUNCIL

Skip Babb  
Virginia Barker  
Fred Hunter  
Chuck Kegley  
Peter Kehde  
Bill Milton  
Mike Perry  
Colleen Rotella  
Mike Stephens  
B.E. Thompson

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Joan Bryant  
Secretary: Stan Napier  
Treasurer: Dee Bender  
Stuart Anderson  
Jeff Friberg  
Margie LaRoe  
Ron Neibert  
Morris Pelham  
Horace Thompson  
Director Emeritus: Bernie Yokel

### STAFF

Exec. Director:  
Eileen Tramontana  
[tlnc.director@gmail.com](mailto:tlnc.director@gmail.com)  
Program Assistant:  
Laurie Peterson  
[tlnc.info@gmail.com](mailto:tlnc.info@gmail.com)

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Education: Trina Raether  
Maintenance: Morris Pelham  
Museum: Donna Kelley  
Newsletter: Margie Sigman  
Website: Laura Williams

*Hours: Tues. thru Fri., 9 to noon Sat., 9 to 4 Closed Sunday & Monday  
Begin Oct. 30: Tues. thru Sat., 9 to 4 Sun., Noon to 4*



TROUT LAKE NATURE CENTER  
520 EAST CR 44  
EUSTIS FL 32736

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
ORLANDO, FL  
PERMIT NO.  
26070

---

## TLNC Wants YOU!

Volunteers are needed for the following:

- **Office assistance** - approximately 3 to 4 hours one day a week.
- **Hospitality** - commit to setting up and/or providing snacks for various TLNC programs.
- **Open Hours/Greeter** - volunteers are needed to man the facility. when staff is unavailable or is busy teaching programs.

- **Education** - volunteers to help with student/adult programs.
- **Critter care** - commit to cleaning one critter habitat weekly or handling snakes 2 to 3 times per week.
- **Data entry** - may be done from home. Input data into Excel spreadsheet monthly.

**Volunteers are the life blood of TLNC.**

---

## Putting the Shine On

When my father shined his shoes he always told me you had to put the shine on the shoe so you would look good. TLNC is working to add the shine. During the past months, we have torn down and replaced the Lazy Oak foot bridge which is now called the Bobcat Walk. (The name change is due to how often the bobcat is photographed walking on it.) We have pressure washed and painted the Museum's walls, trim and roof. We have repaired and painted the flooring in the picnic shelter. And, we are shortly going to replace the flooring throughout the Education Building after painting the inside.

In the Museum, a new snake habitat was installed which holds two of our snakes, freeing up space for other exhibits. We received the generous donation of another "gentled" corn snake with cage and new turtle habitat with wooden cabinet. The pollinator garden has been expanded and the butterflies and bugs love it. And, finally, our outdoor turtle

enclosures were completed. We received an education gopher tortoise and installed a turtle kiosk. We have been busy. So come out and see the improvements and let us know if we are shining.

Eileen Tramontana, Executive Director

### Wish List

Replicas are needed to replace aging mounts or to expand education programs such as:

Coral snake replica (\$190)

Funds are needed to continue LED conversion in the museum

Automatic light switches (\$30 each, 2 needed)

Automatic water faucets (\$180 each, 8 needed)

We need to build new kiosks (\$1300 each)

Kiosk [panels] (\$200 each side)

Sponsor a program. Anyone can sponsor a Friday Night Naturalist event or other program at TLNC.

---

*troutlakenaturecenter.com 352.357.7536 tInc.info@gmail.com*

## Calendar of Events

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>August</b></p> <p>4–Thursday: <b>First Thursday Bird Hike</b>, 6 PM.</p> <p>6–Saturday: <b>Bird Count and Nature Walk</b>, 8 AM.</p> <p>7–Sunday: <b>Folk Music Matinee</b>, 2:30–4:30 PM</p> <p>15–Monday: <b>Education Instructor Training</b>, 9–11:30 AM.</p> <p>19–<b>Friday Night Naturalist</b>, 6 PM, Panel of Experts, Living with Water.</p> <p>20–Saturday: <b>Folk Music</b>, potluck at 7 PM and music at 7:45 PM.</p> <p>23–Tuesday: <b>TLNC Board Meeting</b>, 2 PM.</p> <p>24–Wednesday: <b>Nature Sprouts</b>, 10 to 11 AM, children 2 to 5 years old. Register at <a href="http://universe.com/naturesprouts">universe.com/naturesprouts</a>.</p> <p>27–Saturday: <b>Family Fishing Clinic</b>, 9:30 AM.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>October</b></p> <p>1–Saturday: <b>Bird Count and Nature Walk</b>, 8 AM.</p> <p>6–Thursday: <b>First Thursday Bird Hike</b>, 6 PM.</p> <p>11–Tuesday: <b>Audubon Meeting</b>, 3 PM.</p> <p>14–15: <b>Lake County Wings and Wildflower Festival</b>.</p> <p>17–Monday: <b>Education Instructor Training</b>, 9–11:30 AM.</p> <p>21–<b>Friday Night Naturalist</b>, 6 PM, Climate Change, NASA scientist.</p> <p>22–Saturday: <b>Folk Music</b>, potluck at 7 PM and music at 7:45 PM.</p> <p>25–Tuesday: <b>TLNC Board Meeting</b>, 2 PM.</p> <p>26–Wednesday: <b>Nature Sprouts</b>, 10 to 11 AM, children 2 to 5 years old. Register at <a href="http://universe.com/naturesprouts">universe.com/naturesprouts</a>.</p> <p>28–Friday: <b>Halloween Event</b>, 7 PM.</p> <p>30–Sunday: <b>Regular Hours Begin</b>. Open Tues. through Sat., 9 AM to 4 PM and Sunday Noon to 4 PM.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>September</b></p> <p>1–Thursday: <b>First Thursday Bird Hike</b>, 6 PM.</p> <p>3–Saturday: <b>Bird Count and Nature Walk</b>, 8 AM.</p> <p>10–Saturday: <b>Wildlife Festival</b> (Umatilla), 9 AM to 4 PM.</p> <p>16–<b>Friday Night Naturalist</b>, 6 PM, Living with Bears.</p> <p>17–Saturday: <b>Folk Music</b>, potluck at 7 PM and music at 7:45 PM.</p> <p>18–Sunday: <b>Florida Native Plant Society Meeting</b>, 2 PM.</p> <p>19–Monday: <b>Education Instructor Training</b>, 9–11:30 AM.</p> <p>19–Monday: <b>Master Naturalist Program Uplands begins</b>, go to <a href="http://www.masternaturalist.ifas.ufl.edu">www.masternaturalist.ifas.ufl.edu</a> for information.</p> <p>24–Saturday: <b>National Public Lands Day</b>, Exotic removal at TLNC, 8:30 to 11:30 AM.</p> <p>27–Tuesday: <b>TLNC Board Meeting</b>, 2 PM.</p> <p>28–Wednesday: <b>Nature Sprouts</b>, 10 to 11 AM, children 2 to 5 years old. Register at <a href="http://universe.com/naturesprouts">universe.com/naturesprouts</a>.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>November</b></p> <p>5–Saturday: <b>Bird Count and Nature Walk</b>, 8 AM.</p> <p>8–Tuesday: <b>Audubon Meeting</b>, 3 PM.</p> <p>13–Sunday: <b>Folk Music Matinee</b>, 2:30–4:30 PM.</p> <p>18–<b>Friday Night Naturalist</b>, 6 PM, <i>Indian River Lagoon</i>, Chad Truxall, Marine Discovery Center.</p> <p>19–Saturday: <b>Folk Music</b>, potluck at 7 PM and music at 7:45 PM.</p> <p>20–Sunday: <b>Florida Native Plant Society Meeting</b>, 2 PM.</p> <p>21–Monday: <b>Education Instructor Training</b>, 9–11:30 AM.</p> <p>22–Tuesday: <b>TLNC Board Meeting</b>, 2 PM.</p> <p>23–Wednesday: <b>Nature Sprouts</b>, 10 to 11 AM, children 2 to 5 years old. Register at <a href="http://universe.com/naturesprouts">universe.com/naturesprouts</a>.</p> <p>24–Thursday: <b>TLNC Closed for Holiday</b>.</p>
<p><b>Remember</b> to check for updated information at <a href="http://www.troutlakenaturecenter.com">www.troutlakenaturecenter.com</a> for date or time changes and additions to the calendar.</p> <p><b>Interested in helping or volunteering?</b> Contact Laurie Peterson, <a href="mailto:tlnc.info@gmail.com">tlnc.info@gmail.com</a> or 352-357-7536.</p>	<p><b>Maintenance work days</b> are held every Monday from 8:15 to 11:30.</p> <p><b>Education training</b> is held on the third Monday from 9 AM to Noon.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Volunteers make it happen!</b></p>



## TLNC's Backbone - Our Members

Members are the backbone of any viable 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.

## Own a Piece of Nature

The original Acre-by-Acre program was started to fund habitat work at TLNC. For several years this program has languished but now is the time to help TLNC restart this beneficial program. TLNC's infrastructure is aging, trails need to be maintained and exotics controlled. Thousands visited TLNC last year to enjoy the trails, boardwalk, wildlife, and to have a great day outdoors. To be able to continue the support of programs and maintenance or

rebuilding of foot bridges, board walks, kiosks, signs and more, we need your support.

Through the Acre-by-Acre program you select an acre to "purchase" for one year at the price of \$100. An acre of TLNC property makes a unique gift for the person who has it all or as a memorial or celebration of an event. Your gift helps us continue to provide low-cost programs to everyone. To purchase an acre contact Eileen Tramontana at 352-357-7536 or email [tlnc.director@gmail.com](mailto:tlnc.director@gmail.com).

## Sustaining Sponsor

Anyone can become a sustaining sponsor by committing to support TLNC for 5 years. Categories of sponsors are: Kingfisher (less than \$500 each year), Hawk (\$500 each year), Osprey (\$1,000 each year) and Eagle (more than \$1,000 each year). Sustaining sponsors are included on TLNC's website, in our Newsletter and the Annual Report, and are displayed on the sponsor wall in TLNC's lobby.

Complete and Return with your Donation, Dues or Sustaining Sponsorship to:

TLNC, 520 E. CR 44, Eustis, FL 32736-2518. Please make checks payable to Trout Lake Nature Center, Inc.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

### Become a Member

Student \$5

Individual \$25

Family \$35

Nonprofit/Public Agencies \$40

Business/Professional \$100

Life Member \$1,000

### Acre-by-Acre Donation

I am adopting the acres in the name of \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to adopt \_\_\_\_\_ acres X \$100/acre. Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Sustaining Sponsor (per year for 5 years)

Kingfisher  Hawk  Osprey  Eagle Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TROUT LAKE NATURE CENTER, 520 EAST CR 44, EUSTIS, FL 32736**