

TROUT LAKE NATURE CENTER



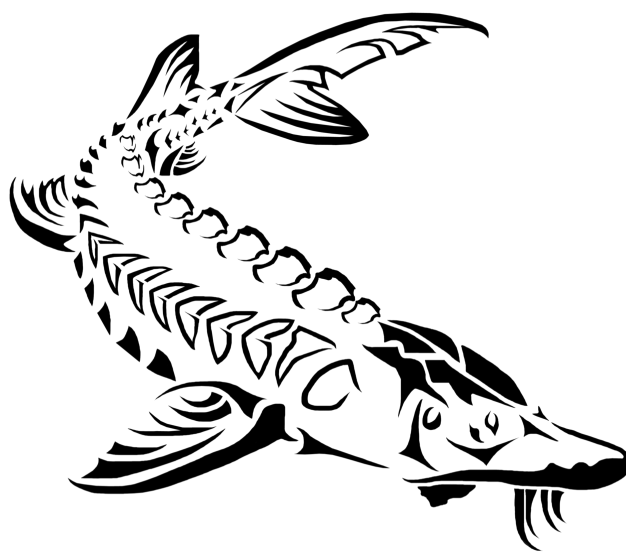
Prehistoric Animal Living in Modern Times

Friday Night Naturalist Series: June 16 at 6:30 PM

Prehistoric animals still exist today! All ages are invited to experience a narrated picture presentation to learn about modern animals that have generations dating back to the time of the dinosaur. Some may live in your backyard.

Authors and Florida Master Naturalists Joan and Jack Ferrell will present at the June Friday Night Naturalist program on June 16 at 6:30 PM about prehistoric animals living today. Sawtooth fish, sharks, sturgeons, alligators and, yes, roaches are wildlife living today that have survived for many, many generations. Some of these age-old critters may even live in your backyard.

Friday Night Naturalist programs are held monthly on the third Friday at the Trout Lake Nature Center, 520 East CR 44, Eustis. There is a \$5 entry/vehicle is charged for all non-members but donations are still appreciated to help with future programs and maintaining the Center.



Inspired by Nature for Children

June 16 from 10 AM to Noon

This is the chance for your 6- to 12-year old to learn how to paint using water colors. An experienced grandmother and painter, Ellen Westerholm will help your child paint a frog. Westerholm has been teaching adults for several months at the Trout Lake Nature Center. Now, is the time for younger people to get a chance to use their creativity and be inspired by nature.

Use the button below to register your child. Cost is \$20 per child.

[Register Here](#)



Reading Tails

June 14 and July 12, from 2:30 to 3:30 PM

Last year, we experimented with offering children a chance to read to the dogs. Many young children lose their reading skills over the summer. Some are intimidated reading out loud to a person but dogs are non-judgmental and enjoy the attention. Once again, we are partnering with PAWS Therapy Dogs to bring Reading Tails to TLNC again.

The Reading Tails program invites children of reading age to read to the PAWS Therapy Dogs which are well-mannered and trained for this purpose. **Call 352-357-7536 to register your child for the June or July Reading Tails.** You must register to be sure your child will have a dog to read to. Bring a book or use one from our library, bring a blanket and pillow to get comfortable on the floor with the dogs.



Boardwalk Facelift Progress

The contractor and his crews have been furiously working to tear down portions of the old boardwalk, install new pilings, place stringers and then finally install the decking. After the boardwalk is completed, you will see some improvements. Dragonfly Point is being moved northward more to the middle of the boardwalk. This location will allow people to have a closer resting point and is placed in an area where more birds can be observed. It will also double in size to more easily be used for education activities.

Although staff thought the rebuilding would take all summer, it is progressing much faster than anticipated and may be completed within the next few weeks. Look for the announcement when the boardwalk reopens.



Summertime Happenings

Summer is a wonderful time to get outdoors, paddle a canoe, play at the beach, visit a spring or come to TLNC but summer is also the beginning of Florida's thunderstorm season. Although thunderstorms can be frightening, they are also amazing to watch.

What Makes a Thunderstorm? All thunderstorms need the same ingredients: moisture, unstable air and lift. Moisture usually comes from our oceans, lakes and wetlands. Unstable air forms when warm, moist air is near the ground and cold, dry air is above. Lift comes from differences in air density. The warm, moist air immediately above the ground is less dense than the cooler, dryer air above, causing it to rise. It pushes unstable air upward, creating a tall thunderstorm cloud.

What makes thunderclouds? As it lifts, the water vapor it contains begins to cool and condense into water droplets. This causes a cloud to form and releases heat, giving the air a boost as it continues its ascent, creating a powerful upward current.

A towering thundercloud (cumulonimbus) builds up, reaching great heights. The temperature no longer decreases with height, meaning that the rising mass of air is no longer buoyed upward. Instead, it spreads out, producing the anvil shape that's typical of storm clouds.



What makes the rain? As more water vapor condenses inside the cloud, the water droplets merge and grow, while ice particles also form and combine in the freezing, upper reaches of the cloud. Once the water droplets and ice particles are heavy enough, they begin to fall as rain or hail. In their wake, they generate a current of cold air rushing downward, spreading out and causing strong winds at ground level, and the temperature drops. This is the cause of the cool breeze enjoyed before the rain begins.

What makes the thunder? Thunder is created when lightning passes through the air. The lightning discharge heats the air rapidly and causes it to expand. The temperature of the air in the lightning channel may reach as high as 50,000 degrees Fahrenheit, five times hotter than the surface of the sun.

What makes lightning? Lightning is an electrical discharge caused by imbalances between storm clouds and the ground, or within the clouds themselves. Most lightning occurs within the clouds.

During a storm, colliding particles of rain, ice, or snow inside storm clouds increase the imbalance between storm clouds and the ground, and often negatively charge the lower reaches of storm clouds. Objects on the ground, like steeples, trees, and the Earth itself, become positively charged—creating an imbalance that nature seeks to remedy by passing current between the two charges.



Our summer storms are what waters the parched land, cools the humid summer air and reduces stress on our wildlife. They are an important part of our summer water's cycling.

We look forward to the start of our summer rains and the many changes it brings to our natural systems that depend on these rains.

Trout Lake Nature Center

520 East CR 44, Eustis

352-357-7536

www.troutlakenaturecenter.com.

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