



PROGRAMS WORKSHOPS EVENTS

October/November Events and Activities!

JOIN OUR PLASTIC RECYCLING!



We are taking the NextTrex Recycling Challenge to recycle unwanted and difficult to recycle plastics. NextTrex is working to divert plastic waste away from landfills and instead give it a new life as beautiful and sustainable decking. 95% of the plastic collected and returned to NextTrex is used to make composite decking, benches and other products.

By joining the Challenge, TLNC will collect a variety of flexible plastics over the next 12 months. If we collect 1,000 lbs. of plastic, we will be gifted a composite bench for use on one of our trails. Because recycled plastic doesn't weigh very much, **we need your help** to reach our goal. Start collecting now and bring your plastic to TLNC anytime during open hours. Even if we don't reach the weight requirement in 12 months, we will still reduce the amount of plastic in our landfills, oceans, roadsides and natural lands.

Bring your plastic waste to TLNC. Our recycling container is found inside the education building where it can be kept clean and dry. Periodically, we will weigh the recycling and deliver it to a central collection location at Winn Dixie.

The following types of plastic (if dry, clean and free of food residue) can be recycled:

- Grocery bags
- Bread bags
- Bubble wrap
- Dry cleaning bags

- Newspaper sleeves
- Ice bags
- Plastic shipping envelopes
- Ziploc or other closeable food storage bags
- Cereal bags
- Case overwrap (like used for water bottle cases)
- Salt bags
- Pallet wrap or stretch film
- Wood pellet bags
- Produce bags
- This is an unordered list

WHAT'S OUR HISTORY?

Friday Night Naturalist Program

Friday, Oct. 20



So much can be learned from our past. We can learn how we arrived where we are, how our communities developed, their concerns and needs, and even the understandings of generations of Florida pioneers and indigenous people. Lake County was a wild, booming area. Land was plentiful, wildlife was abundant and anyone with gumption, grit and determination could make a “go of it”. Early settlers were not concerned with conserving natural systems. At that point in time, there was very little understanding of how these systems functioned and how humans would impact them.

The October 20th Friday Night Naturalist presentation titled What’s Our History? will look at how northern Lake County came to be. The presentation starts at 6:30 PM at TLNC, 520 East CR 44, Eustis.

Presenter Dale Smith is a Leesburg native who left the state for 50+ years. Since his return, he has become a historical expert on northern Lake County. His presentation will look at the abundance of nature for early settlers, the role of natural products in the early economy, and the impact of development on that natural environment in the years before the Great Depression.

For further information on this special program, call 352-357-7536. TLNC charges a \$5/vehicle entry fee to its property but all TLNC members enter for free. As an IRS recognized nonprofit, TLNC depends on entry fees, grants and donations to pay its bills and offer its programs.

GET INSPIRED BY NATURE!

Have you ever seen a bird, butterfly or flower that you wanted to capture its beauty or whimsy? Artists since the dawn of time have used nature for inspiration and you can too. Once again, watercolor artist Ellen Westerholm will teach watercolor painting classes at the Trout Lake Nature Center starting October 18 at 1:30 PM.

Nature can inspire art and with expert instruction you can learn to capture different natural things with water colors.

Westerholm supplies all needed materials—paints, brushes and art paper. Cost per class is \$50. Class size is limited to allow for more personalized instruction. To register go to www.troutlakenaturecenter.com/. Select the News and Events

tab and use the drop down menu to go to our Events Calendar. Then, select the classes you want to attend. You can pay online or send a check made out the TLNC. Or, click the Find Your Class link on the right side of this page.

- Oct. 18, from 1:30 to 4:00 PM — Fall pumpkin with a spider and mouse
- Oct. 28, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM— Egret in flight
- Nov. 8, from 1:30 to 4:00 PM — Bear cub
- Dec. 6, from 1:30 to 4:00 — Cardinal on a pine branch

[Find Your Class](#)

EDUCATION VOLUNTEER MEETING

Friday, Oct. 20 at 9 AM

[Contact Shannon](#)



The student field trip education season has begun and education volunteers are a key part of making our field trips run smoothly, be lots of fun and include lots of learning. Maybe you are interested in becoming an Education Volunteer. We need both instructors and assistants for the many field trips conducted throughout the school year. Volunteers are provided with training in the different grade level activities and mentored through the learning process.

If interested in becoming an Education Volunteer, contact Shannon Lusk, TLNC Program Coordinator or call 352-357-7536. Our next education team meeting will be on October 20 at 9 AM at TLNC.

PACK WALKS RESUME

Monthly on the last Sunday starting Oct. 29 at 2 PM



Has your dog been pining through the hot summer months for a walk in the woods and time to socialize with other dogs? Well, pack walks are back. What is a pack walk? This is a time for well-behaved and socialized dogs to come together and take a group or pack walk. All dog must be current on all shots, be on a non-retractable 6' lead and

accompanied by their person. This person is responsible for their dog's behavior and picking up any deposits left by their dog. There is a communal dog dish and water available at TLNC or you can bring your own water bowl and water.

This is a great time to socialize a puppy since the adult dogs are very tolerant and well-behaved. Pack walks will take place monthly on the last Sunday of the month through March and the walk will start at 2 PM. So, mark your calendar and join the TLNC Pack.

VOLUNTEER OPEN HOUSE

Nov. 5 from 1 to 3 PM



Are you looking for a group to become part of while making a difference in the world? Become a volunteer at the Trout Lake Nature Center. TLNC's mission is to conserve and protect the environment and educate about its importance. Volunteers help us work to achieve this mission.

Volunteers help with maintaining our trails and property, removing invasive exotic plants, gardening, teaching, greeting visitors, staffing at events and programs, developing education videos, writing text for our website, fundraising, and much more. Volunteers make the difference and have allowed us to continue to improve each year and expand our programming. This open house will give you an opportunity to talk with TLNC volunteers and learn what and why they volunteer and how they benefit. Benefits include free entry to TLNC property, special education programs and becoming part of a special group of people making a difference in our community, county, state and even the world.

Entry fees to TLNC's property are suspended for this event.

CLIMATE CHANGE EDUCATOR WORKSHOP

Monday, Nov. 20 from 9 AM to 4 PM



project WET



It's an educational three-in-one day. By attending this educator workshop, you will obtain materials for three award-winning national environmental education programs—Project Learning Tree's Southeastern Forests and Climate Change, Project WET's Climate, Water and Resilience and Project WILD's Wildlife and Climate Change.

Teaching about climate change is a challenge. Using water, wildlife and forests as an integrating context helps make teaching about climate change more concrete. You will gain access to quality, science-based management principles that address this complex issue.

Climate change is an important natural process that can be accelerated by human activities. Learn how to teach about this important process and integrate it into your curriculum, lessons and activities.

How is this relevant to my curriculum?

The activities explore real world STEM topics including the carbon cycle, computer models and databases, engineering, and life cycle assessments of products. In support of Florida Standards, these activities also enable students to practice critical thinking and writing skills.

You must register to attend no later than Nov. 13, 2023. The workshop will be held at TLNC, 520 East CR 44, Eustis and is appropriate for both formal and non-formal educators. Cost is \$30 and includes lunch. If you have any dietary restrictions, call 352-357-7536 to discuss.

[Register Here](#)

THERE'S A FAIRY HOUSING CRISIS

What's a fairy? It's a humanoid creature with magical powers and sometimes butterfly wings. Fairies can be any size from the size of a seed to human size. A fairy home can be found in nearly every nook and cranny all over the world and even at the Trout Lake Nature Center.

Whether they live in the city or they live in the countryside, there are quite a few places where a fairy might choose to live. Mermaids and water fairies usually live in grottos or underwater homes. Cloud fairies will live high up in the sky in their heavenly homes. Fairies that live around the earth, however, will find different places to live in throughout the world.

Fairies like to live in hidden places, usually around foliage. They may live in logs, stumps, mushrooms or homes built for them by humans. Build a fairy house with your child, family, club, organization or business and join the Fairy House Challenge.

Use your inner child or your actual child's imagination to design and build a fairy house. Natural items such as pine cones, sticks, ferns, feathers, vines and flowers are used to create a whimsical dwelling for these timid woodland creatures. Houses may be constructed of edible items such as acorns or seeds for our wildlife to enjoy too.

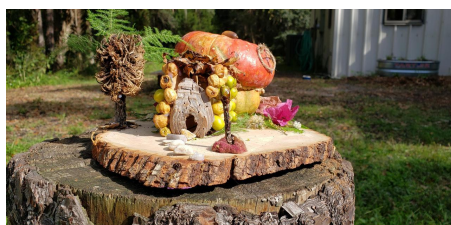
All completed fairy houses must be brought to TLNC between **Nov. 9 between 9 AM and 4 PM until Noon on Nov. 11**. The challenge is broken into categories such as Little Sprites, Sprites, Adults, Organizations and Businesses. Businesses are asked to pay a \$25 "impact" fee. A business may choose to recreate their business or office instead of a house.

This is a great, fun, low-cost project for families, classrooms, scout troops, 4-H clubs or even Rotary, Elks or Kiwanis clubs to get involved in. It gets you outdoors, uses your imagination and sparks your creativity plus you get to share your final product with the community.

Judging will take place on November 12 as part of the Nature Magic Sunday Funday event. After judging the houses will be put on display along the trails at the Trout Lake Nature Center for the public to view and our fairies to find. Houses will remain on the trail as long as they last or until builders come to retrieve them. As the houses will be out on our trails after judging, all houses must be built entirely of natural materials to minimize impacts on our ecosystem.



[Click for Building Info](#)



[Fairy House Registration](#)



SUNSETS OVER TROUT LAKE

Thursday in November--Nov. 9, 16 and 30th until 6 PM



Watching the sunset over the water is a magical time for anyone to enjoy nature. With the November time change, **TLNC will remain open until 6 PM on Thursday November 9, 16 and 30th**. You will have a chance to walk to our education dock and enjoy the sunset over Trout Lake. Bob Wexler, TLNC Board member and expert birder will be on hand to provide information about any of the birds returning to their Trout Lake roost. You are welcome to bring a snack or beverage to appreciate on our dock.

No reservation is required but TLNC's regular \$5/vehicle entry fee will apply to all but TLNC members.



Trout Lake Nature Center, 520 East CR 44, Eustis

Phone: 352-357-7536 Website: www.troutlakenaturecenter.com

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