



# TROUT LAKE NATURE CENTER

## March Updates

### Volunteers Needed for Special Project

On **Monday, March 13 from 9 AM to noon**, staff and volunteers will be working to clean the many wildlife mounts found at the Trout Lake Nature Center. Twice a year, this cleaning is needed to keep our mounts in good condition. With the dry conditions which creates dust from our road made with millings and pollen from the trees, our mounts need to be cleaned. Cleaning requires patience and a fairly steady hand to wield the small paint brushes used to clean the mounts.

If you're interested in helping with this cleaning effort, call 352-357-7536 or email [TLNC.director@gmail.com](mailto:TLNC.director@gmail.com) to register so we can plan more effectively and you can get the temporary gate code to enter the property. It is Spring Break week, so students could earn community service hours for Bright Future Scholarships or other school requirements by volunteering

No entry fee is charged for this volunteer event.



Past Waterman volunteers cleaning mounts



Past students cleaning mounts

## Inspired by Nature Classes Added



Our water color painting classes have been very popular with great painting results. Ellen Westerholm, painting expert will be teaching how to paint a bunny on **March 18** and a mushroom on **March 29**. Westerholm provides all the materials you need to begin painting--brushes, paint, paper and easy to follow instructions.

Go to [www.universe.com/artfeb2023](http://www.universe.com/artfeb2023) to register to attend one or both of these classes. Cost is \$50/class which includes TLNC entry fee and all supplies.

## Activities during Spring Break Week

Lake County's Spring Break begins on Friday, March 10 with students going back to school on March 20. TLNC staff will be offering nature walks on **Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday beginning promptly at 10 AM.**

In addition, a What's a Reptile talk is scheduled for **1:30 PM on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday** and will feature TLNC's snake ambassadors.

If you are looking for something fun to do with your child or grandchild, consider visiting us for one of these programs. Or, come just to walk our trails and see our exhibits. The Trout Lake Nature Center is also a good place to come for a picnic. (**Note:** On Thursday, a second grade camp program is scheduled for most of the morning and the early part of the afternoon).

Remember, TLNC charges a \$5/vehicle entry fee for all non-members.

## Friday Night Naturalist Series

### Meet and Greet the Insects



Many people have seen portions of the Trout Lake Nature Center's insect and butterfly collection. But did you know that it has grown to over 1,200 specimens? Volunteer curator, Taylor Jones will be telling about the history of the collection, what's in it, how it's set up and preserved along with information about the various insect families within the collection. This will be an informal presentation with lots of opportunity to ask questions.

And, because this program takes place on **Friday, March 17** beginning at **6:30 PM**, we will include some trivia on Irish insects, leprechauns and shamrocks. Join us to celebrate St. Patrick's Day and the wearing of the green.

Remember, TLNC charges a \$5/vehicle entry fee for all non-members.

## Sunday Funday

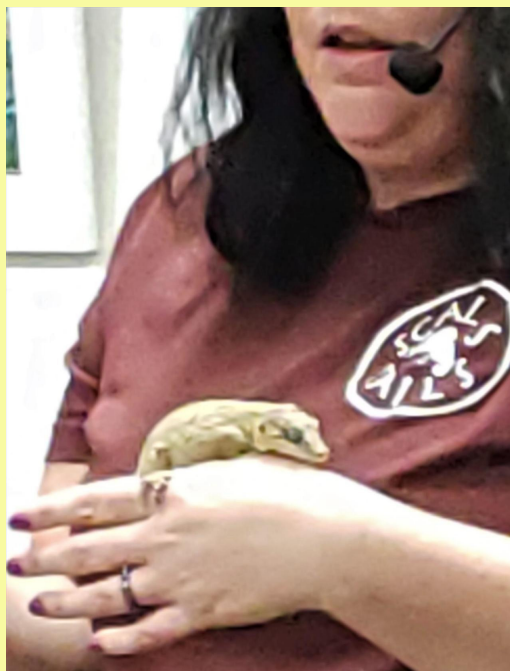
### All About Reptiles

Sunday Fundays are designed to be fun for the whole family or any age--young and old. This Sunday Funday held on **March 19 from 1 to 3 PM** will be all about reptiles and featuring animals such as live snakes and lizards with information about both native and non-native reptiles.

Experts from the Orianna Center of Indigo Conservation and the Reptile Youth Alliance will be on hand to share their reptiles and knowledge with you. You can observe alligators from our boardwalk, visit exhibits and talk to experts at your own pace.

The Reptile Youth Alliance will give a special reptile presentation starting at **3 PM**.

There is a \$5/vehicle entry for all non-members but other donations are also welcomed.



## Calling All Dogs

The fourth Sunday of the Month is a day for the dogs. Join us on **March 26 at 1:30 PM** for a Pack Walk. All well-behaved dogs and owners are welcome to take a "Pack Walk" along our trails typically ending on the education dock.

This is a chance for dogs to social, younger dogs to learn manners and people to make friends and share stories about their pets. All dogs must be on a 6' lead. Owners must pick up after their dogs and dispose of properly. We suggest bringing a bowl and water for your dog during the walk. We do have a hose and bowl at the Education Building but some dogs need water during the walk.



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