



OKLAWAHA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

Serving Lake County and The Villages

January 20, 2023

Board of Directors
Trout Lake Nature Center
520 E CR 44
Eustis, FL 32736-2518

Dear Friends,

We, the OVAS Board of Directors, are writing to express our angst over a Trout Lake Nature Center policy change that would either charge us for use of the facilities or charge non-TLNC members at our meeting a per vehicle entrance fee. OVAS was the patron of TLNC, having set up the organization and, effective April 1, 1991, transferred three land parcels including a 12'x14' pavilion and 700' boardwalk, and liquid assets (\$11,954.86) to TLNC. Since, OVAS has continued to conduct fundraisers for TLNC and most recently (April 2021) donated \$1000 to TLNC; we also write letters of support for TLNC when needed. Finally, we have passed through to TLNC a couple of bequeaths worth 10's of thousands of dollars. We believed we were a serious partner and that our previous and ongoing support for TLNC would provide us free access to the facility. We expected to be consulted before such an imposition would be initiated.

We do realize that finances of nearly all non-profits are not in great shape and that includes OVAS. However, in the interest of maintaining our relationship, for the remainder of our FY and we will pay the entrance fee for vehicles entering the property to attend our meetings. We have 2 meetings scheduled this FY: February 5th and March 12th.

Please do not ask our members or our guests to pay the entrance fee when attending our meetings. We will canvas our audience at each meeting and write TLNC a check for the entrance fees for vehicles not carrying at least one TLNC member.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Regards,

Sheryan E. Chester, Secretary
on behalf of the OVAS Board of Directors