

TROUT LAKE

NATURE CENTER



Best
Wishes
for 2023



Celebrating 35 Years in 2023

Cheers to another year! Wishing you positive new beginnings in 2023 as we begin our 35th year of operations. The TLNC team is grateful for all of our amazing members, supporters, visitors and colleagues. Together we have built unforgettable education experiences, a great facility and ever-improving exhibits. Here's to a new year, new adventures, and continued success!

We would like to thank the many, many donors, volunteers, people, organizations and agencies that have supported us through the years. We could have made it without wide community support.

Post your memories of TLNC on our [Facebook page](#). We would love to see how TLNC has grown and changed over the many years.

Morning Birding

January 7, 11 and 14 starts at 7:30 AM

Annually during December and January, we hold morning birding to give people an opportunity to learn about the wonderful activity of birding and to come onto our property before it is open to the public. Bob Wexler has led these walks for many years and is an avid birder who can clue you in on local birding spots, status of birding and more.

Or if a photographer, this is an opportunity to get stunning photos of Trout Lake and other natural areas before they are disturbed by visitors or the day becomes too hot. Although there is no program fee, there is a \$5/vehicle entry fee unless you are a TLNC member.

Inspired by Nature

January 14 10 AM until Noon

Nature serves as an inspiration for many artists, writers, and photographers. Being in the outdoors, listening to the wind in the trees or bird song, smelling the scents of wild areas and watching wildlife can stir up your creative juices.

Session 3 of our watercolor painting series--Inspired by Nature-- will be held on January 14 with the fourth installment on February 8. If you have attended the previous classes, this is a chance to practice your creativity and painting skills under the guidance of expert watercolorist Ellen Westerholm. If this is your first class that's alright too. You must register to attend at www.universe.com/art2022.

Sunday Funday: Our Watery World

January 15 1 PM until 3 PM

Water is one of the most important features in Florida and especially Lake County. It can be scenic, life-saving and also devastating. This Funday educates young and old about water through a variety of fun, hands on activities such as goyataku (fish printing), water quality testing, meeting aquatic insects up close, dissecting a fish and more. This event will also be a chance to learn from experts from the Lake County Water Authority and Keep Lake Beautiful. The program is free but TLNC does charge a \$5/vehicle entry fee to all non-TLNC members.



Woodlanders Club

January 18 and February 22 3:30 PM until 4:30 PM

2022 saw the beginning of a partnership between TLNC and the IFAS Extension 4H program in Lake County to form a Junior Master Naturalist Club named the Woodlanders. This club is for youth and focuses on environmental hands on activities, experiences, science concepts and learning about nature. The January program is focused on snakes. Another upcoming activity is a visit to the Audubon Birds of Prey Center. Resister to attend the January meeting by emailing Shannon Lusk at tlnc.info@gmail.com.

Friday Night Naturalist Series

On Patrol in Alligator Country

January 20 starts at 6:30 PM

Join veteran wildlife officer and author Bob Lee as he shares bigger-than-life but true tales about him and his fellow officers chasing poachers and wildlife violators. From Live Oak to the Everglades, from the cattle ranches

west of Lake Okeechobee to the rich inshore fishing grounds near Pine Island, these amazing experiences span the state. Discover the excitement, dangers, and disasters that game wardens face every day on the job.

Bob H. Lee is a 30-year veteran of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. He spent over three decades as a water patrol officer on the St. Johns River and as a land patrol lieutenant in Putnam, St. Johns, and Flagler counties. As a freelance writer, he has been published in *Flamingo*, *Florida Sportsman*, *International Game Warden* and other publications. He is the author of two books, *Backcountry Lawman* and *Bad Guys, Bullets, and Boat Chases*—published by the University Press of Florida. In 2014, Bob won the Florida Outdoor Writers Association Award for Excellence-in-Craft for *Backcountry Lawman*.

Bob has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice from the University of South Florida. He lives with his wife, Karen, on eighteen acres next to a secluded lake in Putnam County, Florida.

Pack Walks are Back

January 22 1:30 to 2:30 PM

Yes, they are back and held on the fourth Sunday in January, February, March and April. Well-behaved canines are encouraged to bring their humans for a gentle walk along TLNC's trails to culminate at the Education Dock for a greeting sniffing, little lie down and enjoying the smells on the breezes. All human walkers must be kept at the end of the dog's 6 foot leash (no retractable leads for safety) and humans are allowed in the buildings but dogs are not.

Some dogs have become TLNC members to support one of the few Lake County natural areas that allow dogs. Dog membership cost \$25/yearly.

Evening Walk, Campfire and Music

January 27 starts at 5 PM

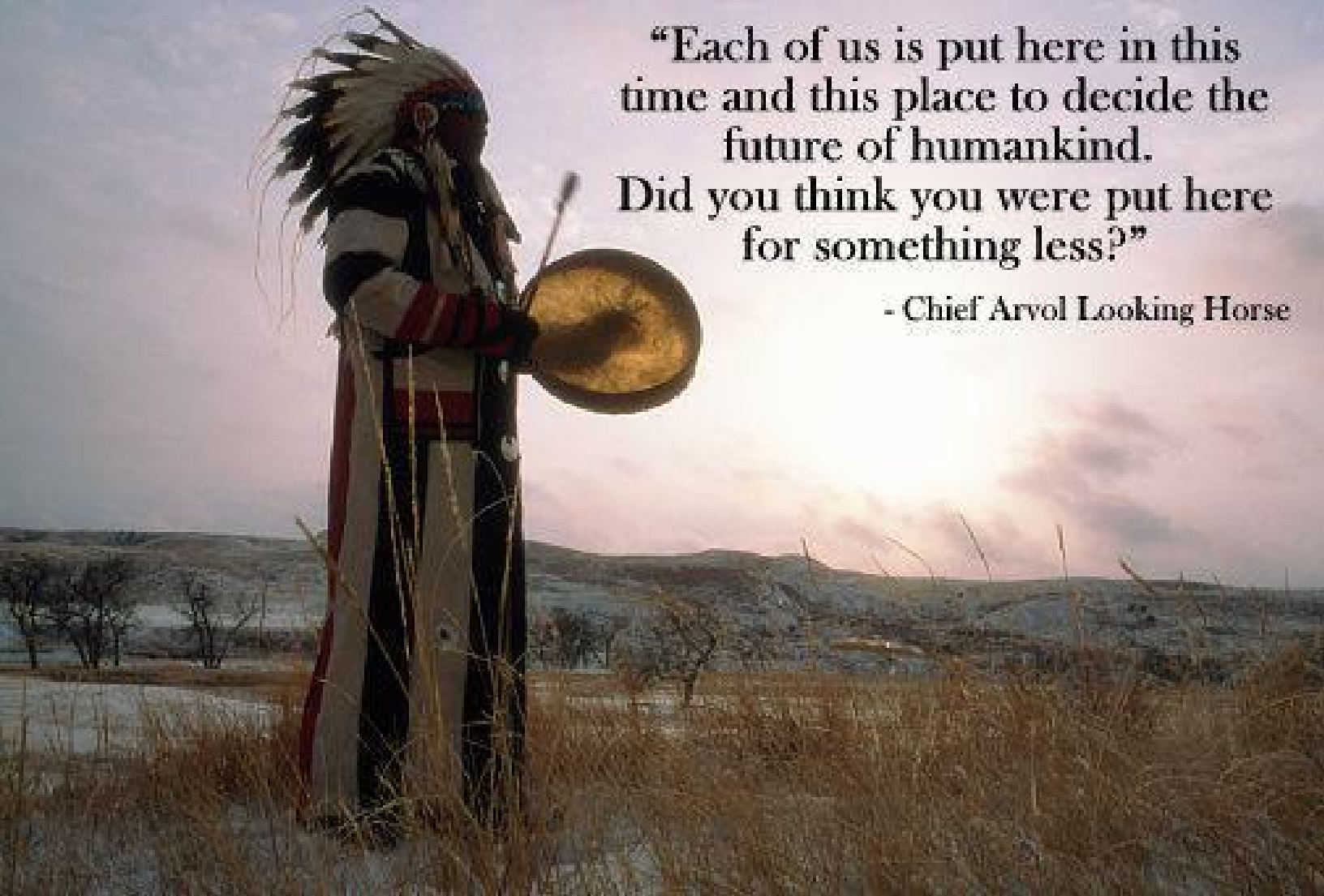


Two night walks, campfires and music remain on the schedule for January 27 and February 15 starting at 5 PM. Bring a lawn chair, binoculars, snacks, musical instrument, and a friend or family member to enjoy an evening that starts by visiting our lake shore to watch the sun set and birds return to the nightly roost.

Then, go to a campfire to roast marshmallows, drink hot chocolate or coffee (you are allowed to bring your own beverage of choice), and some music. You are encouraged to join in with a musical instrument or your voice. You must register to attend by calling 352-357-7536 or online at www.universe.com/walkcampfiremusic2023.

Star Lore of Native Americans January 29 starts at 2 PM

Hundreds of years ago, the chiefs and elders of different tribes of Indigenous People would tell fantastic stories around the campfires about the stars, constellations and the origins of the Earth. Mike Ryan will give a presentation retelling many of these different tales. It will be entertaining while learning about the legends of Native Americans.



“Each of us is put here in this time and this place to decide the future of humankind. Did you think you were put here for something less?”

- Chief Arvol Looking Horse

Annual TLNC Membership Meeting February 4 starts at 9 AM

Each year TLNC members gather to learn what has been happening at TLNC. It is a time to learn what has been done and what might be done. Lots happened in 2022 and much is planned for 2023.

An organization's members help provide guidance, raise funds, recruit volunteers and new members and are one of the strengths of an organization. This is true for TLNC.

In addition this year, a proposed bylaw change needs to be approved or disapproved by the membership. If you are a member please plan to attend this important meeting. RSVP by calling 352-357-7536 or emailing tlnc.info@gmail.com.

TLNC's entry fee is \$5/vehicle. TLNC members enter for free. Payment is made at the Education Building.

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