



Trout Lake Nature Center *April 2025 Update*

Issue: March, 2025

Mark Your Calendars

A Childhood Remembered

April 12, 1:30 PM, A Naturalist Program by Clyde Stephens, fifth generation Floridian and long-time supporter and volunteer at the Trout Lake Nature Center. Stephens grew up playing in the creeks, streams and rivers of Florida, wandering the woods and enjoying nature. He took his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren along with friends into many of Florida's natural places sharing his passion and knowledge about nature.

Through his lifetime Stephens had many adventures and tales to tell. He will share his memories and tales with us about life growing up in Florida before Disney arrived. This program is open to all but a \$5/vehicle entry fee is charged for all non-TLNC members. Arrive early or stay after to explore our trails, find the hidden eggs or check out our exhibits. Call 352-357-7536 for more information about this program.

Naturalist Series

A CHILDHOOD REMEMBERED

Stories of a childhood growing up
in natural Florida.

Presented by: Clyde Stephens, 5th generation Floridian

April 12 at 1:30 PM



Trout Lake Nature Center, 520 East CR 44, Eustis
Phone: 352-357-7536

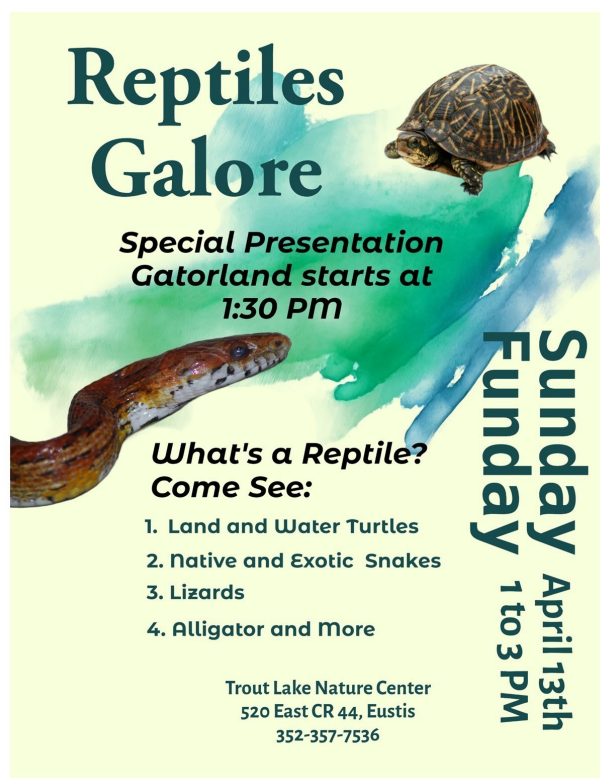
Reptiles Galore! Sunday Funday

April 13, 1 to 3 PM. The next **Sunday Funday** is all about reptiles. This is the season when Florida reptiles become more active and you begin to see them moving around as the weather warms up. Many people fear reptiles especially snakes and gators. These reptiles are specially adapted to survive and thrive in Florida's environment.

Have you ever wanted to be able to see a native (nonvenomous) snake more closely and learn about how they hear, eat, move and more? Or, maybe you want to see a turtle up close and learn about their unique adaptations and how they benefit our ecosystems.

A special presentation by Gatorland will take place at 1:30 PM and will include several of their education ambassadors. Learn about gators from the experts and then walk down to our education dock to see if you can spot one sunning in Trout Lake.

This program is open to all but a \$5/vehicle entry fee is charged for all non-TLNC members. Call 352-357-7536 for more information about this program.



Edible Plants Talk and Walk

April 18, 6 PM. Don Philpot comes to TLNC to talk about Florida's edible plants and take you on a meander around our property to identify edible plants.

Philpot has been a noted volunteer of Florida's state parks and is very knowledgeable about plants both native and non-native and edible.

This program is open to all but a \$5/vehicle entry fee is charged for all non-TLNC members. Call 352-357-7536 for more information about this program.



Egg Hunt

Ongoing until April 19. As the days warm and Spring begins, it is the time of year when many wild animals lay their eggs. Turtles, snakes, dragonflies, butterflies, fish, and mate and lay eggs and later (May and June) alligator do too. To celebrate this special time of year, TLNC is offering an egg hunt on its Little Armadillo and Armadillo trails.

Fourteen large eggs with letters have been placed on these trails for you to find. You don't collect the eggs, just the letters. Then, you unscramble the letters for the secret message. It is loads of fun, gets you outdoors and you may spot a barred owl in a tree, stumble across a box turtle or hear the calls of an osprey as you hunt.

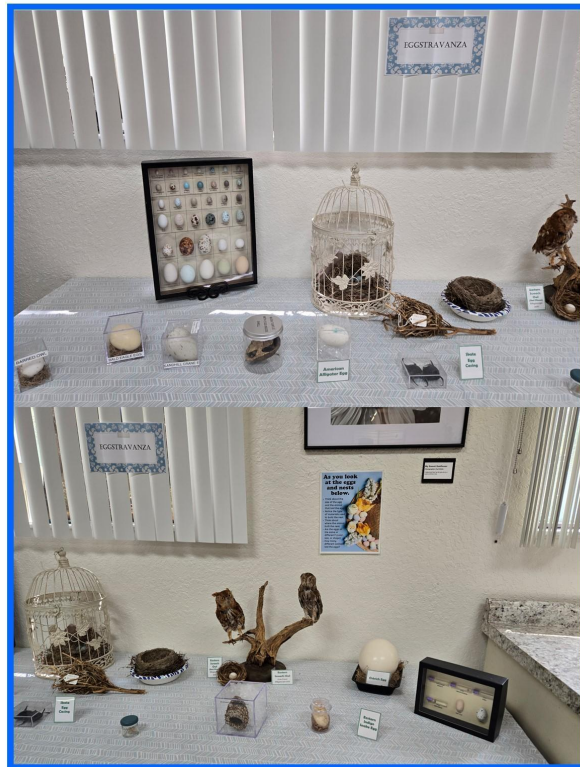
Nothing special is needed for this hunt except sharp eyes and a willingness to have fun.



What Make it Egg Laying Season?

Why is this time of year egg-laying season? For animals and reptiles that lay eggs, they need a suitable environment for their eggs to develop. This typically involves warmth and moisture. Therefore, they often lay their eggs in late spring or early summer. The eggs then incubate for a period that can range from a few weeks to a couple of months, depending on the species and environmental conditions. Snake and gator eggs typically hatch in the late summer or early fall. Birds build their nests and lay their eggs in the spring which then gives them time to incubate their eggs and raise their young.

To showcase the many different types of eggs, nests or egg casings, **we have put together an exhibit titled "Eggstravanza"**. This special exhibit will be in the main room of our Education Building until April 19th. Come check it out and then do our egg hunt.



Children's Water Color Classes

May 3: Bees, Bugs and Butterflies from 10 AM to Noon

June 5: Alligator from 10 AM to Noon

June 21: Blue Crab from 10 AM to Noon

Ellen Westerholm will once again hold water color painting classes for children ages 6 to 14 years old. All materials are supplied and the children learn how to use water colors to bring out their creativity. In addition, at each painting class, they learn a little about the nature subject chosen.

Cost is \$35/child.



We Have a New Team at TLNC

We have new staff working, learning and improving our programs and events. Claudia Rowe (formerly Office Manager as of November 2024) is our main Education Coordinator. Rowe is retired from the Lake County School District and is a former education contractor with the Lake County Water Authority. When working for the school district Rowe helped to develop TLNC's student education programs.

Mahtab Munguia or Mel for short is now part Office Manager and part Education Specialist. Mel has volunteered with Lake County's Water Lab and Trout Lake Nature Center. Mel has taken on the task of organizing our upcoming Sunday Funday events as well as coordinating school field trips.

Hired in early March, Chris Cruz is our maintenance person. He started in the midst of construction for Phase 2 which has required our equipment and materials to be moved multiple times as construction progressed. He is working hard to maintain our facilities in spite of the mess created by construction. Cruz works on Mondays (when we are closed to the public) and Wednesdays. Chris is a key person for keeping things working throughout our trails and buildings.

We're Hiding Again.

Our statues of foxes and raccoons have been returned to our trails for you to find. They have been cleaned and hidden on our trails. There are three of each type of statue--fox and raccoons.



Coming Later this Year...Jungle Feast

TLNC's annual fundraiser is scheduled for **October 9**. So, mark your calendars so you can attend this event that supports our Education Complex Expansion.

Sponsorship opportunities are available for this special event. Contact TLNC.director@gmail.com or call 352-357-7536 if you or your business are interested in sponsoring a portion of this important fundraiser. Funds raised will be used of Phase 3 of the Education Complex expansion.



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Trout Lake Nature Center

520 East CR 44, Eustis

352-357-7536

troutlakenaturecenter.com

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