

TROUT LAKE NATURE CENTER



Red Tide and Sawfish

Naturalist Series

Friday, June 13th at 6:30 PM: TLNC will be holding an evening naturalist program about red tides in Florida about research that is being done. Karen McDaniel-Tolentino, graduate student and researcher will present information on red tides and sawfish. Red tides which are occurring more and more frequently throughout the state. Red tides are harmful algal blooms that produce toxins that kill fish, injure turtles, make shellfish dangerous to eat and can cause health problems for people. Red tides are found in both salt and freshwater.

Sawfish, also known as carpenter sharks, are a family of very large rays characterized by a long, narrow, flattened rostrum or nose extension. They are among the largest fish and all species are critically endangered. Biologists are trying to determine what habitats smalltooth sawfish (the type found in Florida) use, how long they use the, and if habitat use patterns are similar in the different areas of their range.

Join us to learn about these topics. The Trout Lake Nature Center is located at 520 East CR 44, Eustis. **Entry fee is \$5/vehicle** but additional donations are appreciated by this non-profit to support its many education programs and facilities. For more information, call 352-357-7536. No registration is required

Reading Tails



Today's first summer Reading Tails program took place. Although only a few children were able to attend everyone had a great time. In addition to children reading to the PAWS Therapy dogs, children and adults heard a story about gopher tortoises and interacted with TLNC's education ambassador gopher tortoise—Troubles. Even the PAWS dogs were fascinated by Troubles. Troubles was very calm and didn't mind the dogs or the people.

The **next Reading Trails will be on July 1 starting at 2 PM**. The topic will be dragonflies but children can read any book they want. They can bring a book from home or read one from the TLNC library. Registration is required to be sure enough dogs are present for each child to have a dog to read to.

[Reading Tails Register Here](#)

Glop, Mire, Ooze or is it Mud?

Or scientifically it is cohesive sediment. Call it what you want, mud—a mixture of sediment and water—is one of the most common and consequential substances on Earth. Not quite solid, not quite a liquid, mud coats the bottoms of lakes, rivers and seas. Is used in construction, art, beauty products, and much more.

Most of us have a memory of playing in mud as a child, getting our hands dirty, making mud pies and sculpting art pieces. We may have filled an afternoon playing in mud as our imaginations soared.

Earth has been a muddy planet for 4 billion years, ever since water became abundant. Mud has formed massive floodplains such as the Mississippi Delta, tidal flats that store vast quantities of carbon and nutrients. Flood waters have spread mud along our rivers creating fertile fields.

Mixing soil, water and other natural materials like pebbles, leaves or grass provide children with endless possibilities for learning and creating. TLNC's **next Nature Sprouts program on June 25 from 10:30 to 11:30 will be about mud**.

Nature Sprouts is designed for children 2 to 5 years old to have a positive learning experience in nature. Children must register to attend so we can be sure to have enough materials for each child. Children must be

accompanied by an adult and plan to get dirty. TLNC does charge a \$5 entry fee per vehicle. Use the link below to register your child.

Nature Sprouts Registration

Getting WET

Project WET is an innovative, water-related program that is multi-disciplinary and support Florida education standards and Lake County learning objectives. TLNC in partnership with the League of Environmental Educators in Florida also known as LEEF, will be holding a training for K--5th grade educators on July 28th from 9 AM to 3:30 PM. Cost is \$15 and includes lunch. This training will meet requirements for receiving in-service points but you must register with your school district in-service system to receive points.

I want to come

Monday, July 28th



9:00 AM to 3:30 PM

project **WET**
WATER EDUCATION TODAY

Project WET Training for K-5 Teachers

Project WET has innovative, water-related activities that are hands-on, easy to use, cross-curricular and FUN.

Registration is required and limited to the first 20 educators.

Cost: \$15.00 (includes lunch)

Register at: <https://tinyurl.com/4vrha2d2>



League of
Environmental
Educators in Florida



520 East CR 44
Eustis, FL 32736
352.357.75436

Improvement Progress

We have finished our parking area and stormwater ponds. We are now working on construction of our maintenance building. Although it is a little further distance to walk to our education building eventually a new building will be placed in the footprint of the old parking area. It is a great relief to no longer have to worry about people and cars interacting during events or field trips.

When our maintenance building is completed by mid summer, we will move equipment and materials in and get organized. This building will have air conditioned and non-air conditioned storage for education activities supplies, events (tents, displays, etc.), archival file storage, tractors, mowers, golf carts and more. We will be able

to move things from under our desks, tables and even our bathrooms where we have been storing things for years. Materials will be easier to find and retrieve reducing the amount of time and effort it takes to prepare for events and activities.

In the meantime, we are still nursing along our double-wide Natural History Museum which was constructed in 1987 and installed at TLNC a few years later. Because of a leak caused by a failing window seal, we recently had to replace the window, remove the insulation, drywall and more to make repairs. Thanks to the help of several volunteers and TLNC maintenance staff, we were able to make repairs before severe damage was done and in between rain storms. Because of the age of the building, we know similar types of repairs will be needed to maintain the museum in the future.



This is why Phase 3 of our education complex expansion is so important. A building to house all exhibits in one place, and provide community meeting spaces, offices, bathrooms and more is so vital. We are searching for funds to support Phase 3 and you can help by making a donation or just spreading the word about the **October 9, TLNC Jungle Feast fundraiser**. Sponsorships are still available for the event and can be purchased by a business, organization or individual. Or, tickets can be purchased for \$99/person.

[Click to Learn More](#)

Strawberry Moon



Tomorrow June 11 is June's full moon. The first full moon of summer has traditionally been called the **Strawberry Moon**. While strawberries have a reddish-pink color and are roundish in shape, the name Strawberry Moon has nothing to do with the Moon's appearance. The name Strawberry Moon was used by many American indigenous tribes to mark the ripening of strawberries that were ready for gathering.

With flowers blooming and early fruit ripening, June is a time of great abundance. The Tlingit (from the Pacific Northwest) use the term Birth Moon in reference to the time when certain animal are born. Get outside tomorrow and check out the full moon--a gift from nature to us.

We Need Your Help

TLNC depends on volunteers for the success of its programs and facility. Currently for many reasons some of our stalwart volunteers are no longer able to contribute their time and skills to TLNC. We are in need of people to help with greeting on Sunday afternoons and some Saturdays.

What's does a greeter do? Basically, it is like it sounds. Their main task is to open the facilities for visitors and close up at the end of the day (4 PM). Greeters make our visitors feel welcome, they collect the entry fee, and give information about our trails, wildlife sighted, upcoming programs and some of the exhibits. Some days are very busy with many visitors coming to the Center. Some days are a slower with fewer visitors due to weather conditions or other events in people's lives.

In addition to greeters, we are looking for people to help teach our education programs. Being an educator is tremendously rewarding and allows you to pass along your passion for the environment and Lake County. Education programs occur more slowly in the summer. It is a great time to get your feet wet, become an understudy learning how to teach and share our programs. You will get goose bumps when you see an "Ah Ha" moment happen. This is the moment when things click and make sense and when a nature connection is made.

Other volunteer tasks might include helping with our Pollinator Garden, maintaining trails, even mowing the lawn. If you are interested in making a difference in the community volunteer at TLNC. Call 352-357-7536 or go complete a Volunteer Interest Form online.

I'm Interested!



Trout Lake Nature Center

520 East CR 44, Eustis
352-357-7536
troutlakenaturecenter.com



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