

# TROUT LAKE NATURE CENTER



April 2026

## Mini Programming is Here!

TLNC staff and volunteers will be giving short presentations on a variety of subjects to engage visitors in learning more about the natural resources of Central Florida. Program dates and times will be posted on the TLNC website calendar and are typically held on Saturdays at 1:30 PM but times may vary.

The **April 11 program** will be a Hike with a Naturalist. It will feature a casual interpretive hike through TLNC's trails and offer a closer look at the beauty and character of TLNC.

The **April 25 program** will be about alligators since we are entering the breeding season for the large reptiles. You will begin to see them in strange places as the males roam about looking for females and smaller males are pushed out by the larger males.

## Sunday Funday

### It's a Small World

The final Funday of the season will be about the often-overlooked insect world. Although small, they are mighty and provide many "ecological services" to the world. They are pollinators, the basis of the food chain, decomposers and more. Interactive stations will be set up to allow you to go at your own pace.

Clyde Stephens, entomologist or insect scientist, will be giving two bug walks. One starts at 1:15 and one at 2:15. No reservations are required but a \$5/vehicle is charged for all non-members.



Photo: Caddisfly Larvae

## Naturalist Program

### My Experience as an Eagle Watcher

April 17 from 6:30 to 7:30 PM

Lake County is lucky to be the home of southern bald eagles. Learn from Susan Fetter about her experience as an Eagle Watch volunteer. Fetter will tell about how she began as a Watcher, learned about eagles and is now an experienced and dedicated Eagle Watch Volunteer. She will tell how you could become involved with the Eagle Watch program along with information about this wonderful birds.



## Earth Day Challenge

Wednesday, April 22



The Trout Lake Nature Center is challenging individuals, families, businesses and schools to **Wear It Wild to Celebrate Earth Day.**

What does this mean? It means to wear an environmental shirt, animal hat, animal ears, costume, or butterfly wings. Become a bee, turtle or other wild animals with a costume. Take a photo of you or your group. Challenge others to do the same. Post the photo to your social media on April 22 stating you are Wearing It Wild to Celebrate Earth Day. Instead of having a Dress Down Friday at your place of business have a Wear It Wild for Earth Day Wednesday.

**Help us promote Earth Day 2026.**

## **Nature Sprouts of the Year**

**Fourth Wednesdays, 10:30-11:30 AM**

Designed for 2 to 5-year olds to have a positive experience with nature and the outdoors a variety of programs are offered throughout the year. Children must be accompanied by an adult and should dress for playing outdoors and getting dirty. Upcoming programs are:

- \* April 28, Florida Panther
- \* May 27, Bats
- \* June 24, Mud

Adults are required to register their child in advance. Program is limited to 20 children with their adult(s).

[Register Here](#)



Institute for Middle School Educator

## Engaging STEM Enrichment for Educators

June 9 to 12

This fun-filled, **4-day institute** combines field experiences with classroom activities. Participants visit different fresh water ecosystems to compare and contrast the habitats, fisheries, water, and wildlife under the tutelage of experts.

\* **Funding to support this program provided by the Larry L. and Michelle M. Murphy Charitable Trust.**

[Register Here](#)

Inspired by Nature Program

## Water Color Painting

\* **April 11, Barred Owl (adult class \$50)**

\* **April 29, Swamp (adult class \$60)**

\* **May 9, Hummingbird (children's class \$35)**

Watercolor artist and teacher, Ellen Westerholm, will teach how to paint with watercolors using nature as an inspiration. All painting supplies are provided. Included in the cost for the class is the TLNC entry fee and materials cost.

To learn more about these programs or to register, use the button below.

## Watershed Wednesdays

Join the Lake County Water Authority monthly for its Watershed Wednesdays starting at 10 AM. Learn how lakes, streams, wetlands and uplands connection with rotating presentations on shorelines, Florida-friendly landscaping, stormwater practices and FEMA flood resources. Call 352-901-0440 or email [Veronica Dau](#) for more information



## Pack Walk (Maybe)

**April 26 from 1:30 to 2:30 PM**

As the season gets warmer, we will try to have a pack walk on April 26 starting at 1:30 PM. Check our TLNC's Facebook page or website to see if it is still cool enough to hold the pack walk. Pack walks are an opportunity for your dog to socialize with other dogs, younger dogs to learn dog manners and to smell the wonderful scents found in our natural areas.

All dogs must be well-mannered, have all shots, be on a 6' non-retractable lead. Their handler is responsible for pick up after any deposits the dog may leave. Although water and a dog bowl are available at TLNC, handlers may want to bring their own. No reservation is required but a \$5 entry fee is charged per vehicle. TLNC dog or people members enter for free.

## Jungle Fest 2026, October 8, 6 to 8 PM

We are in the planning stages for our 2026 Jungle Fest, our annual fundraiser for our Education Complex Expansion Phase 3. We are looking for event sponsors. Use the button below to learn more about sponsorship levels available.

- \* Presenting Sponsor, \$5,000 (one available)
- \* Cocktail Sponsor, \$2,500 (1 available)
- \* Photo Sponsor, \$1,500 (1 available)
- \* General Sponsor, \$1,000 (unlimited)
- \* Fear Factor Sponsor, \$750 (2 available)
- \* Sweet Treat Sponsor, \$500 (2 available)

In addition, we are soliciting items for our Silent Auction. At past auctions, a wide variety of items, golfing packages, and unique items were offered.

Funds raised will be used to support actual building to replace the natural history museum and combine our natural history displays into one museum area along with a gift shop, meeting rooms, office and "café".



Questions? Email us at [TLNC.director@gmail.com](mailto:TLNC.director@gmail.com)

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