



The e Hummingbird

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WEST VOLUSIA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC., DELAND, FLORIDA
A Chapter of Audubon of Florida and National Audubon Society

West Volusia Audubon is Committed to Ongoing Stewardship and Enjoyment of the Natural World

November 2021

President's Letter

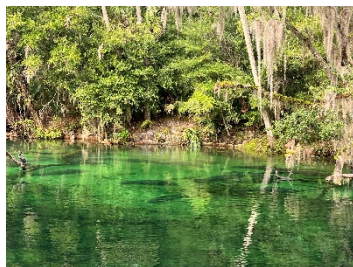


I want to thank Orange City and Mayor Gary Blair for the wonderful ceremony dedicating the 18 room Purple Martin House from Suze and Fred Peace in honor of West Volusia Audubon's 60th Anniversary. It was at Mill Lake Park and after the ceremony Eli Schaperow led a bird walk around the lake. We hope the Purple Martin's make it their home this spring. The [City Proclamation](#) can be viewed here.



Eagle nest VO105 near Lake Beresford Park is active again. A pair of eagles has been at the nest. I have been watching them for EagleWatch since 2004. We hope they are successful again.

I have been biking into Blue Spring State Park about 3 times a week and checking out the manatees that are now coming into the spring run to warm up. As the river water gets colder, they need to warm up in the 72-degree water and then they go back to the river to eat. I have adopted



several of the manatees and hope to spot them from their scar patterns from being hit by boats.

Adoption makes a unique gift, and they learn about their manatee's story. You can see the live feed if you go to www.savethemanatee.org and learn about their plight. I am looking forward to our zoom meeting about manatees and what is happening to them. Many have died from starvation due to the loss of sea grass in the Indian River Lagoon in Brevard County. Very sad. [More pictures can be seen here.](#)

Happy Thanksgiving 🦃 Stay healthy and check out those birds.

Arnette Sherman, President

West Volusia Audubon Monthly Meeting

Join us on December 2nd, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. to learn all about manatees from Save the Manatee Club's Director of Multimedia and Research Associate, Cora Berchem. As it gets colder, manatees are starting to migrate back to warm-water sites, such as Blue Spring, where they winter in the hundreds. Cora will be covering the manatee's habitat, diet, anatomy as well as threats manatees are facing and ways for people to help.

This is a Virtual Zoom Meeting and registration is required. Join us after the presentation to discuss what WVAS can do to help.

Registration

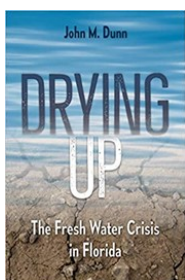




The Book Nest by Martha Rogers

America's wettest state is running out of water. Florida—with its swamps, lakes, extensive coastlines, and legions of life-giving springs—faces a drinking water crisis. *Drying Up* is a wake-up call and a hard look at what the future holds for those who call Florida home. Journalist and educator John Dunn untangles the many causes of the state's freshwater problems. Drainage projects, construction, and urbanization, especially in the fragile wetlands of South Florida, have changed and shrunk natural water systems.

[Listen to John Dunn's talk about his book.](#)



Dunn investigates previous and current restoration efforts as well as proposed future solutions. He challenges Floridians to rethink their relationship with water and adopt a new philosophy that compels them to protect the planet's most precious resource.

[If you wish to read "Drying Up" it can be ordered from UF Press.](#)

[Check your local library system for available copies.](#)

Lyonia Preserve in the Fall

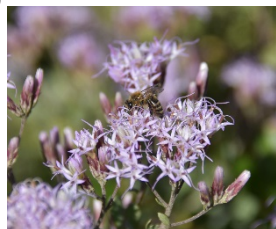
by Michael O'Shey, WVAS Education Chair



Last month brought about change at Lyonia Preserve with the approaching Fall weather. Leaves had begun to change color and the Scrub Jays started their caching of acorns preparing for winter. Most [Fall blooming flowers](#) were on display all

except for one, the Garberia. It had just started

sending up it's flower buds. This month however, one will find that they are now fully opened and are displaying their showy purple flowers. An endemic plant found only here in Florida, Garberia grows in the sandy areas of Scrub habitat.



Unfortunately, due to habitat loss they are considered a threatened species, [Endangered, Threatened and Commercially Exploited Plants of Florida](#). Here at Lyonia Preserve, they begin to bloom around mid-October and last about a month before they begin to fade. The flowers attract various pollinators such as

butterflies and bees. I would strongly encourage a visit this time of year to see the beautiful carpet of purple that frames the edges of oak and rosemary shrubs.

“excerpted from: Roger’s book Nature Adventures in Central Florida, which is available through his webpage at: www.RogerFulton.com



Nature Adventure #7
In search of: **Owls**
Lake Ashby Park
Nearest Town: Samsula, Florida
1.7 miles of easy nature trails

General description:

Located on the shore of Lake Ashby, these easy interpretive trails are on hardpacked sand. A 2200-foot boardwalk is part of the trail system. Although owls are primarily nocturnal, we frequently see owls at this great park.

Modes of travel:

This is strictly a walking site but you might see wildlife on your drive into the park.

What you may see:

These trails will take you through mixed forests inhabited by many of Florida’s wild creatures. What you will see depends on when you travel these trails, the weather and the season. The interpretive boardwalk will take you out into the lake so you can view shorebirds and the shoreline from a waterborne perspective.



Baby owls at Lake Ashby Park – Photo by Chris Friesen – He named them “Fuzzy and Wuzzy”

Facilities:

This is a wonderful park. You will find picnic tables and covered pavilions just off the main parking area. You will find restrooms there as well. On the trails you will find picnic tables on the lake shore. There is a playground near the parking area.

What we found:

Few people seem to know about this wonderful park. It is a little difficult to find, but we have now solved that problem for you. Lake Ashby is a very nice lake. The

boardwalk is a great asset to the park. Wildlife abounds because there are few people to scare it off.



[Do your part to save water: Reset your sprinkler system to fall back to once-a-week](#)

Please help support the many West Volusia Audubon environmental projects. Thank you for your support. You can either give with Paypal or with a credit/debit card. Just click on the donate button.

[Donate](#)

Or you can mail your donation to:
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Audubon Advocate Newsletter

The Advocate is Audubon Florida's monthly newsletter featuring up-to-the-minute developments in environmental issues. Sign up to receive the Advocate for yourself. <http://fl.audubon.org/signup/>

A Chapter of Florida Audubon and National Audubon Society, West Volusia Audubon Society is a 501 (c) (3) tax-exempt nonprofit corporation, established in 1961

WEST VOLUSIA AUDUBON IS COMMITTED TO ONGOING STEWARDSHIP AND ENJOYMENT OF THE NATURAL WORLD

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