

News Release 16/08

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For Immediate Release –

LAKE EUSTIS INSTITUTE'S SPRING DABLERS' SERIES BEGINS **The Community is invited to "Dip Into" a Variety of Programs**

EUSTIS – Trout Lake Nature Center is partnering with the Lake Eustis Institute this spring to offer nature lovers the opportunity to dabble in the beauty of Central Florida guided by the Center's naturalists and expert instructors.

Starting on March 7th, Trout Lake and the Institute will offer three outstanding programs. The March 7th program will explore bears in the Ocala Forest. Participants will meet at Trout Lake Nature Center, 520 CR 44, Eustis, at 9:00 AM. Each person will drive his own vehicle to the forest where Florida Fish & Wildlife Commission Biologist Tom Schupe will lead a tour of Juniper Wilderness. Since Schupe deals with nuisance bears, he knows where to find them. This program will require walking on uneven ground and stepping over obstacles. The cost is \$7 per person not including lunch at the Mason Jar in Umatilla after the trip.



The Lake Norris Conservation Area is the destination for the March 14th canoe trip. Canoes will wind among the cypress trees along the shores of Lake Norris. These cypress trees are the nesting site for one of the largest osprey populations in the area. Participants will meet at Trout Lake Nature Center on CR 44 in Eustis at 8:00 AM and each person will drive his own vehicle to Lake Norris. The cost is \$7 and people will get their feet wet. Plan on devoting 5 hours to this experience, but you will only paddle for 2 miles.

Lavon Silvernell, Trout Lake Nature Center naturalist will lead a tour of the Center on April 18th in search of wild edibles. She will point out plants used by early settlers as well as plants that will add zest to modern meals. Following the walk, participants will head to nearby historic Clifford House for a light lunch, including some of the wild edibles. After lunch, members of the Eustis Historical Society will conduct a tour of this historic house. Meet at Trout Lake Nature Center on CR 44 in Eustis at 9:00 AM. The program will last five hours and the fee is \$15 which includes lunch.

Lake Eustis Institute is also partnering with Bay Street Players, The Lake Eustis Arts Accord and the Lake Eustis Sailing Club to offer programs this spring for the adventurous who have always wanted to try something, but who have never felt comfortable signing up for a series of serious classes. These programs give one the opportunity to try something just once. If it is appealing, then there are additional opportunities to explore sailing on Lake Eustis, the theater (backstage and on-stage), creating pottery or learning how to paint abstract art.

The Trout Lake Nature Center programs are extremely popular and participation is limited. It is suggested that interested people call the Institute at 352.357.3995 immediately to reserve a space. More information is available by phone or at the Institute website: www.lakeeustisinstitute.org.

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