



SCIENCE MATTERS

Science Partners Newsletter

“Great are the works of the LORD; They are studied by all who delight in them,” Psalm 111:2.

November 2022 – In This Issue:



- **First National Proclamation of Thanksgiving, 1777**
- **Right Whale Festival, November 5-6, Fernandina Beach**
- **Mistletoe Madness, November 11, Longwood**
- **Nights of Lights, November 19, St. Augustine**
- **Seminole County Natural Lands Opportunities**
- **Reminder: 2023 Fish Art Contest Open!**
- **Upcoming “OPEN” Creation Adventures:**
Central Florida Habitats – RESCHEDULED for December 2
For the Birds – January 6

First National Proclamation of Thanksgiving, 1777

In light of all the emphasis lately regarding the election of representatives to our government, and especially Congress, we wanted to share with you what our Congress was like in its infancy. The true meaning of Thanksgiving was clearly expressed in the proclamation made by Congress as seen below. Consider taking time to share this with your family on Thanksgiving.



The First National Proclamation of Thanksgiving , given by the Continental Congress in 1777:

It is therefore recommended to the legislative or executive Powers of these UNITED STATES to set apart THURSDAY, the eighteenth Day of December next, for SOLEMN THANKSGIVING and PRAISE: That at one Time and with one Voice, the good People may express the grateful Feelings of their Hearts, and consecrate themselves to the Service of their Divine Benefactor; and that, together with their sincere Acknowledgments and Offerings, they may join the penitent Confession of their manifold Sins, whereby they had forfeited every Favor; and their humble and earnest Supplication that it may please GOD through the Merits of JESUS CHRIST, mercifully to forgive and blot them out of Remembrance; That it may please him graciously to afford his Blessing on the Governments of these States respectively, and prosper the public Council of the whole: To inspire our Commanders, both by Land and Sea, and all under them, with that Wisdom and Fortitude which may render them fit Instruments, under the Providence of Almighty GOD, to secure for these United States, the greatest of all human Blessings, INDEPENDENCE and PEACE: That it may please him, to prosper the Trade and Manufactures of the People, and the Labor of the Husbandman, that our Land may yield its Increase: To take Schools and Seminaries of Education, so necessary for cultivating the Principles of true Liberty, Virtue and Piety, under his nurturing Hand; and to prosper the Means of Religion, for the promotion and enlargement of that Kingdom, which consisteth in Righteousness, Peace and Joy in the Holy Ghost.

2022 Right Whale Festival – November 5-6, Fernandina Beach

Main Beach Park, 32 N. Fletcher Ave., Fernandina Beach

Saturday, November 5, 2022 from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, November 6, 2022 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



The Right Whale Festival celebrates the annual return of endangered North Atlantic right whales to the warm coastal water off northeast Florida and Georgia, where they give birth to and nurse their young. With less than 350 remaining, this family-fun event raises awareness of the threats to right whales and how we can help in their recovery. The festival highlights local efforts to protect these whales from extinction, as well as ocean-themed activities and exhibits that emphasize education and environmentally responsible adventures and products. Admission is FREE!

Mistletoe Madness – November 11, WaterStone Church, Longwood



WaterStone Church in Longwood is having their **Mistletoe Madness** annual holiday event on Friday, November 11, from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. Fun events include cookies and milk with Santa, storytime with Mrs. Claus and elves, free hot chocolate bar, free photo booth, and door prizes! Come join the fun, get in a little Christmas shopping, and receive free goodies! This is a FREE Public Family Event sponsored by WaterStone Young.

Along with many other vendors, **Science Partners will be there offering a variety of items like God-honoring, creation-oriented books and DVDs (new and gently used), fossilized shark tooth necklaces, authentic bug bracelets, and more!** WaterStone is the church where Mr. Clifton taught weekly science for several years at 900 North Street in Longwood. We hope to see you there!

Nights of Lights – November 19 – January 23, St. Augustine



OK, maybe it's not that "sciencey," but we've enjoyed it and thought you might too!

The 29th Annual **Nights of Lights** in historic St. Augustine dazzles with more than 3 million lights adorning every corner of the historic district for two months. This award-winning holiday lights display runs from November 19, to January 31. During the seasonal display, businesses downtown stay open later, letting you dine in view of the lights and browse the shops of the decorated buildings. The trains and trolleys offer special seasonal tours that take you through the best areas, and there are also a variety of specialty tours — everything from walking to electric cart tours, and even tours to see the lights from the water and from the air.

For more information, check out this link: <https://www.visitstaugustine.com/event/nights-lights>.

Seminole County Natural Lands Opportunities



Fall is such a beautiful time in Florida to get outside and take in the changing season. We may not have autumn leaves, but native flowers are blooming, birds are migrating, and the air is growing cooler and crisper by the day.

Seminole County Natural Lands offers many opportunities to enjoy this season, whether you fancy leisurely strolls in nature, learning new facts about local creatures, or honing your survival skills. Their schedule includes a variety of outdoor activities including:

- **November 5** - Fall Open House and Snake Appreciation Day, Ed Yarborough Nature Center
- **November 12-13** - Family Fun Campout, Geneva Wilderness Area
- **November 19** - Swamp Walk, Spring Hammock Preserve
- **December 3** - Bushcraft: Family Survival Skills, Geneva Wilderness Area

For locations, times, costs, ages, and more, check out this link:

<https://www.seminolecountyfl.gov/core/fileparse.php/3187/urlt/2022-Fall-SeminoleTracksNewsletter.pdf>

Reminder: 2023 Fish Art Contest Open!

Wildlife Forever is excited to announce that the 25th Anniversary Fish Art Contest is now officially open! Since 1997, the contest has grown into an internationally recognized youth conservation program, drawing thousands of entries each year. The program is free to enter and open to youth kindergarten through 12th grade anywhere in the world.

To enter, participants select a fish species of their choice and create an original, hand-done illustration. Participants 4th grade and older will also submit a brief piece of creative writing or an essay pertaining to their chosen species that showcases what they have learned. Youth have the opportunity to win prizes including Bass Pro Shops gift cards, merchandise from sponsors, and international recognition.



Submitting entries to the Fish Art Contest is the perfect activity for individuals, homeschool groups, art studios, teachers, and more. The Art of Conservation® programs offer cross-curricular opportunities in science, art, and writing, while igniting a life-long appreciation of fish and wildlife.

Learn more about the 2023 contest, find educational resources, submit your work, and more at www.FishArt.org. The contest is open until February 28th, 2023.

See next page for information on rescheduled "Central Florida Habitats" field trip.

Upcoming "OPEN" Creation Adventures – Register Soon!



Join **Bill & Merilee Clifton** – creationists, science educators, authors, and Florida Master Naturalists – as we look for God's great design in nature through creation-oriented field trips and workshops. Their goal is to provide participants with a unique and captivating creation experience and to teach participants to see God's handiwork in all of creation! For additional details such as costs, destinations, photos, and more, each event has a dedicated web page at www.sciencepartners.net under the "Creation Field Trips" and "Creation Workshops" tabs. To register for "OPEN" trips, check the information / registration forms linked to event dates on Science Partners' web calendar at this link: www.sciencepartners.net/calendar.html. If you have any

questions, please contact Bill or Merilee at sciencepartners@cfl.rr.com or 407-808-4458.

NEW DATE: Friday, December 2, 2022: Central Florida Habitats.

THIS FIELD TRIP HAS BEEN RESCHEDULED DUE TO FLOODING AT BLUE SPRING STATE PARK.

Our day begins at **Blue Spring State Park** in Orange City, home to several habitats including hammock, marsh, swamp, flatwoods, and sand pine scrub. We will **cruise the St. Johns River aboard a hands-on, floating science laboratory!** We'll test the river water for temperature, salinity, and turbidity. We'll dip, collect, and identify marine specimens. And, we'll enjoy our captain's narrated introduction to the wildlife and vegetation of this fragile ecosystem. We'll keep a look out for manatees, alligators, otters, snakes, deer, turtles, birds, and more. Students will have the opportunity to **earn a Jr. Birding Certificate** in the "Wings over Florida" program of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. After our cruise, we'll **hike** the boardwalk through the lush hammock along Blue Spring Run as we **look for threatened Florida manatees** in the springs. Back at the picnic pavilion, we'll **see a manatee skull and rib**, and Mr. Clifton will teach us about manatees from a creationist perspective. Then, we're off to **Lyonia Preserve** in Deltona where we'll take a short hike into a scrub habitat looking for one of Florida's rarest, most threatened birds, the **Florida scrub-jay**. We'll learn about plants and animals created for the scrub habitat and contrast them with plants and animals of other habitats. We'll also explore the very interesting and educational **Lyonia Environmental Center**.



New deadline for minimum number - November 11! For information/registration form, see this link: https://www.sciencepartners.net/uploads/9/8/8/0/9880494/2022_12-02_central_fl_habitats.pdf.

Friday, January 6, 2023: For the Birds.



Join Bill and Merilee Clifton as we focus on "**orni-theology**" at Orlando Wetlands Park in East Orange County. On this "Introduction to Birding" field trip, we will first **learn how birds were specifically designed** by their Creator to do what they do. Next, we will get down to the basics of birding as we **learn how to use binoculars, how to use a field guide, and how to identify birds**. Then, we will take a **nature walk** observing birds in the wild and using binoculars, field guides, and the Cliftons' **spotting scope**. Participants will have the opportunity to **earn a Jr. Birding Certificate** through Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and also learn how to continue earning advanced birding certificates on their own. Our day will include information on birding resources, how to start a bird "life list," how to use bird alpha codes, how to create a backyard habitat for birds, where to see birds around Florida, **bird crafts**, and more!

Deadline for minimum number is December 9! For an information / registration form, see this link: https://www.sciencepartners.net/uploads/9/8/8/0/9880494/2023_01-06_for_the_birds.pdf.