

## MARION AUDUBON

### MEMBERSHIP MEETING & PROGRAM

Discovery Center – Tuscowilla Lake 10:00 a.m.

**February 10, 2018**

### RESTORING THE OCKLAWAHA RIVER

**ERIKA RITTER** is a native Marion County citizen. She grew up on the banks of the Ocklawaha River and watched from her front yard the springs and creek being destroyed for the Cross Florida Barge Canal. She watched as the trapped fish disappear and replacement blocked by a dam in Putnam County. The local trees, plants, birds, fish and area history are important part of Erika's life and since 1984 she had shared her joy and concern by giving environmental tours aboard her pontoon boat **The Anhinga Spirit**.

Erika's presentation will feature pictures of her life around construction time and how the Ocklawaha River looks now and how expanding recreational use will educate people about how important it is to restore the Ocklawaha Blueway.

**March 10, 2018**

### PLANTS FOR BIRDS

**JACQUI SULEK** is with Audubon Florida and is Chapter Conservation Manager for Florida. She supports and coordinates with the 45 Florida Audubon Chapters and serves as main interface between the volunteer network and Audubon Florida staff and the planning of the Audubon Assembly and the Audubon Academies. Jacque is the coordinator for **JAY WATCH**, a statewide citizen science program to protect the threatened Florida Scrub Jay. She is also president of Four Rivers Audubon Chapter.

Native Plants are the foundation of the ecosystem that birds depend on to provide food, shelter, and places to nest and raise their young. Native plants also help birds weather the effects of climate change. Jacqui will share with us how we can help our birds by doing just a few simple things.