

Hello Outdoor Adventure Club Members,

We have some great news about a photography group forming within the Outdoor Adventure Club and an update on our Potts Preserve hike on January 11.

Potts Preserve:

We've had a lot of interest in this hike and the trip leader would like to keep the group size around 12 people so here's an updated plan:

- Saturday, January 11 at 8:20am: The forecast is calling for a steady rain in the morning and showers in the afternoon. It's a little too soon to postpone this trip because the forecast may change for the better but if needed, we will move this hike to the next day, Sunday, January 12 with a meeting time of 9am. More info attached.
- Saturday, January 25: We're also adding a 2nd hike to Potts Preserve on 1/25/25 at 9am.
- The trip leader will stay in touch with everyone on her RSVP list. Please RSVP to Marcia at 352-390-4406 (text preferred).

Trip reminders:

Tuesday, January 7 at 8am – Walking & birdwatching trip to Sweetwater Wetlands Park in Gainesville. Carpooling available. Great spot for photographing birds, wetlands and alligators. More info attached. RSVP to Chris Sturm at rtdandcrs1969@gmail.com.

Friday, January 10 at 10:30am – Kayaking down the Silver River through Silver Springs State Park. 5 miles one-way with return shuttle service. Scenic, undeveloped river with lots of wildlife. We always see birds, turtles and alligators and we often see otters, manatees and monkeys. Rental kayaks available. Beginner-friendly trip. More info attached. Please RSVP to June at 802-249-2511.

Monday, January 13 at 10:00am Hiking at Half Moon Gum Slough near Inverness

We'll do about a 5.5 to 6-mile hike in this quiet, remote water and wildlife conservation area. Easy, flat, mix of single-track and wide-track trails. Mix of shade and sun. Followed by a late lunch at Fisherman's Cove. More info attached. Please RSVP to Lyn at 920-858-4274 (text preferred)

Photography:

We're very pleased that one of our members, Debbie Wnukoski, is getting a photography group within the Outdoor Adventure Club up and running. Although the OAC goes to lots of beautiful places that are worth photographing, our regular outings are not centered around photography. Things like a 6-mile hike with eight people on the move may make for an enjoyable hike but it doesn't necessarily make for a great photography outing. Debbie recognized this and decided to offer some activities specifically geared to photographers. Whether you are an experienced photographer or an amateur hobbyist, and whether you use a traditional camera or use your phone, you are welcome to participate.

The group will offer a mix of activities to start, and we expect it to evolve as we see how much participation we get and what kind of interests you express. All participants are welcome and encouraged to put forward ideas on what to do and where to go. Debbie is getting this group started and will add outings that suit her schedule. Of course, her schedule won't suit everyone so all of you are encouraged to schedule outings on other dates.

We're also hoping that those among you that have some technical knowledge and skills might be willing to offer your expertise to the group every now and then, perhaps with a short tutorial at the beginning of an outing or with a more formal class, whatever suits you best.

We expect that the photography group will want to visit a variety of places and cover a wide variety of subjects:

- Classes or outings within Stone Creek
- Short walks in our state, county and water management district parks to photograph woodland flora and fauna
- Visits to beaches, springs, rivers, etc. to photograph aquatic environments
- Equestrian farms and events
- Wineries, car shows, botanical gardens, wildlife parks, etc.
- Quaint towns. Downtowns. Historic homes. Bridges. Anyplace with interesting architecture.
- Portrait photography (Smile! We get to practice on each other.)
- Evening outings to practice nighttime photography
- Scavenger hunt photo safaris
- And lots more...let us know what you want to do...

To get started, we're going to piggyback off the Computer Club's two photography classes that are coming up in January. Debbie will be attending (not teaching) each class. Please stay after each class for a 30-45 minute session right here in Stone Creek. This will give us a chance to meet each other, chat about some plans for the group and put into practice some of the skills we just learned. Even if you can't make it to the classes, you are still welcome to join us for the session afterwards.

- Friday, January 17 at 1pm at the Reunion Center - "Mastering Your iPhone Camera"
- Wednesday, January 22 at 1pm at the Reunion Center - "Editing Like a Pro in the Photos App"

Please text an RSVP to Debbie at 814-882-1460 if you plan to join her after one of these classes and feel free to call her if you have any questions.

And one last note, photographers are especially welcome on our birding trips. These are slower paced trips with some extended quiet time at each birding spot to take photographs. Hope to see you on our birding trips this month on January 7, 22 and 29.

All Stone Creek residents are welcome.