

City of WP
Leu Gardens

Leu Gardens Features Econlockhatchee

Observer 4/1/99

At 7 p.m. Thursday, April 15, at Harry P. Leu Gardens, 1920 N. Forest Avenue, Orlando, a program on one of Central Florida's major natural rivers, the Econlockhatchee, will be given at the monthly Orange Audubon Society meeting. The speaker is Ken Bosserman, head of Friends of the Econ.

The Econ contains most of the last natural wetland still largely unprotected in East Central Florida, and its basin runs through eastern Osceola, Orange and Seminole counties.

The Econ basin stores flood waters in its floodplain where the land is undeveloped, releasing them gradually to the St. Johns.

Until recently it has avoided development due to the swampy land and lack of utilities to serve communities and businesses, but now as urban areas have sprawled eastward there is growing pressure to extend roads and waterlines across the Econ to open up the land between it and the St. Johns River.

Bosserman will explain the complications of efforts by citizens, organizations and agencies to protect the Econ. These include water quality studies, basin studies of plants and wildlife, and proposals for

more public land acquisition.

The program on the Econlockhatchee River is free and open to the public. For information, call Bill Partington 647-0467, Marsha Butler (352) 838-9364 or Ken Bosserman 896-3664.