



**For more information, contact:**

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## **Explore Florida with the Orange County Library**

The Summer Reading Program continues in July as we explore Florida. On July 14 learn about one of Florida's beloved animals, the manatee, during Manatee Conservation. A Save the Manatee Club guest speaker hosts this virtual discussion and shares fun facts about manatees, as well as threats they face and how we can help protect them.

Orange County is full of natural landscape and habitats, and our natural environment is filled with aquatic and terrestrial wonderlands. Learn about these habitats and species found right in our own backyard on July 22, during Orange County Nature by Land and Water.

Track your summer reading with the Beanstack app for a chance to win prizes during the Summer Reading Program. You can also find great book recommendations to read on our Summer Reading Booklist. Visit [ocls.info/srp](https://ocls.info/srp) for more details.

All of our events are virtual, and available online for free with an Orange County Library System card. If you have any questions about the information shared below, call 407-835-7323. Check us out online at [ocls.info](https://ocls.info) for a complete listing of all library events.

### **Avoiding the Messy Middle in Your Novel**

*Tuesday, July 6, 7 p.m.*

The middle of a novel is notoriously difficult to write. Author Valerie Valdes will teach established structures, as well as general principles for making the middle of your book stronger.

<https://attend.ocls.info/event/5209212>

### **Hard to Find Ancestors**

*Tuesday, July 13, 1 p.m.*

Come join us as we discuss techniques you can use to find your ancestors even if they didn't leave a large trail of records behind.

<https://attend.ocls.info/event/5201861>

### **Meet the Author: J. A. Jance**

*Tuesdays, July 13, 7 p.m.*

NY Times bestselling author J.A. Jance is known for character-driven, tech-savvy thrillers that tackle timely issues. Enjoy a conversation with Jance about her newest book UNFINISHED BUSINESS and more  
<https://attend.ocls.info/event/5149107>

### **Manatee Conversation**

*Wednesday, July 14, 7 p.m.*

Save the Manatee Club guest speaker will discuss manatee fun facts/anatomy, the threats manatees face, and what people are doing to help them. Learn about conservation laws that protect manatees.

<https://attend.ocls.info/event/5169549>

### **Chilling Campfire Tales**

*Thursday, July 15, 9 p.m.*

Christopher Balzano is back with more spine tingling tales and legends collected from small towns and villages in Florida. These stories are spooky and this event is recommended for adults. Viewers beware.

<https://attend.ocls.info/event/5188368>

### **Sketching 101**

*Friday, July 16, 11 a.m.*

Learn the basics of sketching through use of simple art techniques and observing the world around you.

Materials needed: no. 2 pencil, colored pencils, paper and paper towels.

<https://attend.ocls.info/event/5102380>

### **Meet the Authors: Florida Style**

*Sunday, July 18, 4 p.m.*

Explore all Florida has to offer through books! Enjoy a conversation with authors Craig Pittman and Tyler Gillespie.

<https://attend.ocls.info/event/5180658>

### **Savory Summer Veggies**

*Wednesday, July 21, 6 p.m.*

Elevate your summer veggies. Yamira Lee Johnson, head chef and founder of Breaking Bread with Mira and certified holistic life coach, shows us how to cook sweet potato and squash.

<https://attend.ocls.info/event/5102334>

### **Upcycled Glass Bottles & Jars**

*Thursday, July 22, 4 p.m.*

Upcycle those empty glass bottles and jars! Learn different techniques, ideas and designs to decorate and add personality to your home décor.

<https://attend.ocls.info/event/5205783>

### **Orange County Nature by Land and by Water**

*Thursday, July 22, 7 p.m.*

Orange County's natural landscape is filled with terrestrial and aquatic wonderlands. Learn about these habitats, some of the species that inhabit each and how you can experience them in person.

<https://attend.ocls.info/event/5170922>

### **Summer Livestream Series featuring Gatorland**

*Tuesday, July 27, 2 p.m.*

Your family can enjoy wild and fun entertainment from the comfort of home this summer with these livestreams featuring a special guest performer on our YouTube and Facebook pages. Learn all about Gatorland's resident reptiles! The Gatorland Wranglers will share stories of close encounters with some of the world's most feared predators. Recommended for families.

<https://attend.ocls.info/event/5199699>

**LEARN. GROW. CONNECT.**

This project was funded under the provisions of the DLIS Florida CARES act from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Florida's DLIS Florida CARES Act program is administered by the Department of State's Division of Library and Information Services, [www.ims.gov](http://www.ims.gov)

For FY2020-21 37.2% of the total cost for OCLS equipment, accessories, and services for virtual programs, events, and classes, as well as PPE and STEM Learning Kits (\$64,689), is supported by federal money; 62.8% of this project (\$109,311) is supported by local money. The total budget for this project is \$174,000.

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