

# APALACHEE AUDUBON SOCIETY



## Speaker Series

*Free and open to the public.*

*Social begins at 7 pm & meeting at 7:30 pm (unless otherwise noted). Located at the Historic Amtrak Station, 918 Railroad Avenue, Tallahassee. For more information: (850)322-7910 or [www.apalachee.org](http://www.apalachee.org) Map: <http://tinyurl.com/3q9q77s>*

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## Annual Banquet

**Thursday, May 17<sup>th</sup>**

*Please note date change.*

Lafayette Presbyterian Church  
4220 Mahan Drive

*Please see page 2 for details.*

Apalachee Audubon Society Mission Statement:

Protection of the environment through education, appreciation, and conservation.

NEWSLETTER OF THE APALACHEE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

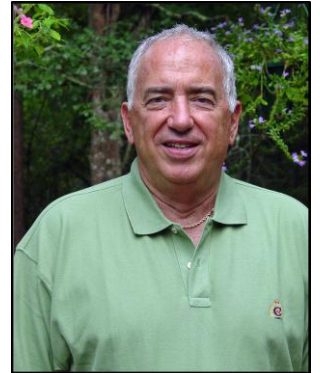
MARCH – APRIL 2012

## March Program - Thursday, March 22, 2012

Social at 7 pm - Program at 7:30 pm  
918 Railroad Avenue, Tallahassee

### “Nature Photography” with Lou Kellenberger

Lou's presentation of nature photography in the Big Bend and beyond will include pictures of birds, butterflies, flowers and landscapes. He will offer tips along the way to help you improve your photography skills.



**Lou Kellenberger**

*Lou Kellenberger is a conservation, nature and outdoor photographer.*

*Public lands, including state parks, national forests and refuges are some*

*of his favorite places to look for photo opportunities. His goal is to evoke a certain time and place and for the viewer to feel that they are there with him. In recent years, Lou has been photographing the people and places of Florida's Forgotten Coast in an effort to preserve the history of Old Florida and to create an awareness of visiting and living in this special place. See [www.loukellenbergerphotography.zenfolio.com](http://www.loukellenbergerphotography.zenfolio.com). Lou's work has appeared in annual reports, brochures, calendars, magazines, newsletters, newspapers and websites.*

*Lou serves on the Boards of Directors of the Friends of Maclay Gardens, the Friends of Wakulla Springs State Park and the St. Marks Refuge Association, where he is a lifetime member. He is also a member of the Florida Lighthouse Association. Lou is a member of the Photographic Society of America, Canon Professional Services and is a lifetime member of the Florida Wildlife Federation.*

## April Program - Thursday, April 26, 2012

Social at 7 pm - Program at 7:30 pm  
918 Railroad Avenue, Tallahassee

### “Protecting Fish Populations in the Gulf Of Mexico” with Sharon McBreen

Known as the American Mediterranean, the Gulf of Mexico is an economic and environmental treasure.

Within its 600,000 square miles lie natural wonders and

habitats ranging from an underwater Grand Canyon 12,000 feet deep to coral reefs and one of the largest contiguous seagrass beds in the Northern Hemisphere. For years overfishing has been taking a toll on the world's 9<sup>th</sup> largest body of water and several fish species are at critically low levels.



**Sharon McBreen**

The extent of damage caused by the 2010 oil spill remains unknown. But the disaster lends urgency to protecting the Gulf's resources, including its diverse bounty of fish. Depleting fish too fast risks unbalancing the ocean ecosystem and harming an economic engine that supports millions of people and jobs. On April 26 Pew Environment Group's Sharon McBreen will give a presentation about the work of Pew's Southeast Fish Conservation Campaign to end and prevent overfishing of important species in Florida such as snappers and groupers and to protect forage fish species.

*Sharon McBreen is a senior outreach associate for Pew Environment Group's Gulf of Mexico Fish Conservation Campaign. After working as a reporter and editor at the Orlando Sentinel for 24 years, Sharon decided to refocus her passion for fishing and Florida's outdoors into a quest to preserve Florida's fish populations. She travels the Gulf of Mexico coast and works with fishermen, marine biologists, fishery managers and others to protect the marine ecosystem.*

## Apalachee Audubon Society, Inc.

2011 – 2012

### Officers & Directors

*All telephone numbers are in the 850 area code, unless otherwise noted.*

**President:** Kathleen Carr 322-7910  
**Vice-President:** Julie Wraithmell 425-1170  
**Secretary:** Elizabeth Platt 284-0963  
**Treasurer:** Harvey Goldman 385-5222

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### Apalachee Audubon Society, Inc.

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Apalachee Audubon Society, Inc. (AAS) is a  
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All memberships and contributions are  
tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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### Annual Banquet with Reinier Munguia Thursday, May 17<sup>th</sup>

*Please note date change.*

Lafayette Presbyterian Church  
4220 Mahan Drive

Dinner will be provided by our chapter chef,  
Tim Smith. Tickets are \$10 per person and  
may be purchased at Wild Birds Unlimited and  
Native Nurseries beginning May 1<sup>st</sup>. They will  
also be available at the AAS March and April  
programs. If you wish to buy your ticket at the  
dinner, please call Tim at (850) 933-5979 to  
make a reservation.

*More information in our next newsletter.*



*Courtesy St. Marks NWR*

## What Happened to those Whooping Cranes? Operation Migration Update

By Kathleen Carr

If you're wondering what happened to the ultralight-  
led Class of 2011 that was headed to the St. Marks  
and Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuges—you  
didn't miss the announcement. They didn't make it.  
Thankfully, that's not bad news.

This may go down as one of the most challenging migrations Operation Migration has ever had. With a record number of delay days due to bad weather, OM encountered a completely unanticipated delay from the FAA. Turns out someone filed a complaint that the OM ultralight pilots did not have a commercial license to escort the cranes and the project was grounded in Franklin County, Alabama (NW corner of the state). A couple of weeks later, the FAA issued a waiver so OM could complete this year's migration.

But nobody asked the cranes what THEY wanted to do. After several attempts to get the birds to follow the ultralights, it was clear that their southward migration instinct had faded. As far as the birds were concerned, they had arrived at their destination. The Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership and OM decided to end this year's migration and the youngsters were released at the nearby Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge.

Thankfully, there were flocks of Sandhill Cranes over-wintering at the refuge AND three Whoopers from the Direct Autumn Release program—a 3-year-old adult and two first year migrants, also hatched in 2011. At this writing (Feb. 26) the Wheeler Refuge is now host to 12 Whooping Cranes! And pity the poor adult who is now mentoring 11 juveniles!

Happily, the two groups have been socializing and it will be interesting to see what happens when they return north. We'll have more to report in our May issue.



The time is quickly approaching for the shorebird breeding season. Did you know there are 12 species of shorebirds that nest on our Florida Panhandle beaches and barrier islands? Most of these birds are listed as threatened, endangered or species of special concern. Their very survival depends on people like you. Volunteers are in high demand to help protect these birds by educating the public, conducting shorebird surveys and cleaning up beaches. Audubon Florida will provide all the training necessary to become a volunteer shorebird steward. All you need is a passion to help. If you are unable to help by becoming a volunteer, monetary donations are always needed to keep the program running. If you are interested in helping, please contact Alan Knothe, NW Florida Coastal Bird Conservation Coordinator with Audubon Florida, [aknothe@audubon.org](mailto:aknothe@audubon.org) or 850-200-6279. Thank you for your help!

## President's Message - Apalachee Audubon Wants YOU!

By Kathleen Carr



**Kathleen Carr at the Audubon Center for Birds of Prey**

*Photo by Mac Stone*

**Many Hands Make for Light Work:** It's been a BUSY winter for Apalachee Audubon with activities underway in education, conservation and fundraising. My heartfelt thanks to all those who have pitched in and made these projects a success. Although some activities are winding down, we're still in need of volunteers. Please email or phone me if you are willing to help, even if it's only one event a year or one small task that you can do, like greeting visitors at one meeting. For example, member **Melissa Proctor** submits our program dates and information to the Tallahassee Democrat. That's all she has time to do, but it's one important chore that gets done and we're incredibly grateful that she is doing this for us.

**AAS Connections:** The best way to keep up with our activities is to visit our web site. We now have links to our Facebook and Twitter pages, (Flickr and YouTube coming soon!) as well as a quick link to the current newsletter. You don't have to be a member of Facebook or Twitter to view postings, but if you do belong to either of these social networks, please "like" us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter. We plan to energize those online connections, so join in the conversation!

**Birding Socials with FWC:** In January, in partnership with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), we launched a new Saturday Birding Social event. Our intrepid field trip leader **Andy Wraithmell**, who started a new job with FWC a couple months earlier, is spearheading this venture that will provide birding opportunities twice a month throughout the winter at Lake Elberta Park, located just south of the FSU football stadium. The park is built around a large retention pond that is visited by many species of birds and migrating ducks and geese. A paved path around the lake is popular for locals as a place to stroll, run, and bike, and our volunteers, equipped with extra binoculars and spotting scopes, are introducing the world of birding to passersby. Next year, we plan to publicize this ongoing event and create a destination event for nearby neighborhoods, church groups and schools. We are encouraging people, children especially, to participate in FWC's Wings Over Florida and the Junior Birder program through which both adults and children can earn certificates of achievement for the number of species they see. The last two socials of this season will be on March 17<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>, so please come join us for all or part of that morning. We'll be there from 9 a.m. to Noon. The park has limited parking, but you can park in a lot across the street.

**Wildlife-Friendly Yard Tour:** This year's tour on February 18<sup>th</sup> spanned a record seven yards and raised nearly \$900! Overcast skies threatened with rain all day, but all we saw were a few scattered raindrops. It was my privilege to see all seven yards and thank our gracious yard hosts for opening up their yards and homes to visitors that day. Thanks to **Pam Flynn**, **Ann Bruce** and **Elizabeth Platt** for organizing this event, and thanks, Pam, for making new Audubon yard signs to mark the destination. Those will be a wonderful addition to future tours.

**GBBC:** The weatherman was not so kind to us for our Great Backyard Bird Count event at Maclay Gardens. The weather turned out great that morning, but with predictions of severe storms for that morning being broadcast the night before, we ended up with only four people showing up. Nonetheless, it was still an enjoyable and educational count. One member, a novice birder, came out and got some pointers on using binoculars and got to see some birds she doesn't normally see in her backyard. And I added three birds to my life list and got to see a male Ruby-crowned Kinglet flash his ruby crown! (Woohoo!) Thank you **Andy Wraithmell** for heading this up, Andy and **Ed Woodruff** for sharing their expertise and knowledge, and **June and Paul Williamson** for bringing out the delicious pot of chili for our lunch.

**Least Tern Island Parties:** Another project we've been engaged in with FWC and the City of Tallahassee is an effort to transform a small spoil island in Lake Piney Z into a nesting paradise for Least Terns. FWC removed all the vegetation from the island late last year and in February we started transporting boatloads of wheelbarrows filled with sand to the island and spreading it out over black tarps (to keep plants from growing back) to a depth of several inches. Board members **Mark and Selena Kiser** have been at the heart of this project and have been organizing the Island Parties with **Liz Sparks** from FWC. Since the City and FWC have done most of the heavy lifting work and provided materials, AAS has pitched in by providing lunches for the hard-working volunteers. The island should be ready by mid-March and ready for Least Terns when they return in April.



## 112<sup>th</sup> Christmas Bird Count

The Christmas Bird Count has just concluded its 112<sup>th</sup> year, the longest running Citizen Science survey in the world! Thanks to Frank Chapman, an ornithologist who came up with the idea, the 1<sup>st</sup> count took place in 1900. Since then each year “citizen scientists” have been compiling this invaluable bird census throughout the Western Hemisphere. The dates of this year’s counts were from December 14, 2011 through January 5, 2012.



Piping Plover  
Courtesy of artist Daniel S. Kilby

Information collected during the Christmas Bird Count (and from the North American Breeding Bird Survey which monitors the status and trends of U. S. bird populations) provides invaluable data to help track the long-term health and status of bird populations across the United States. For more information: <http://birds.audubon.org/christmas-bird-count> & <http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbs/>

This year Apalachee Audubon helped with 4 Christmas Bird Counts with a count at St. Marks on Dec.17<sup>th</sup> with Coordinator **Jim Cox**, at Port St. Joe on Dec. 28<sup>th</sup> and at Apalachicola Bay on Dec. 29<sup>th</sup> with Coordinator **Alan Knothe**, and at Tallahassee on Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> with Coordinator **Marvin Collins**. Reports are still being compiled. Thanks to Alan Knothe for sharing these summaries:

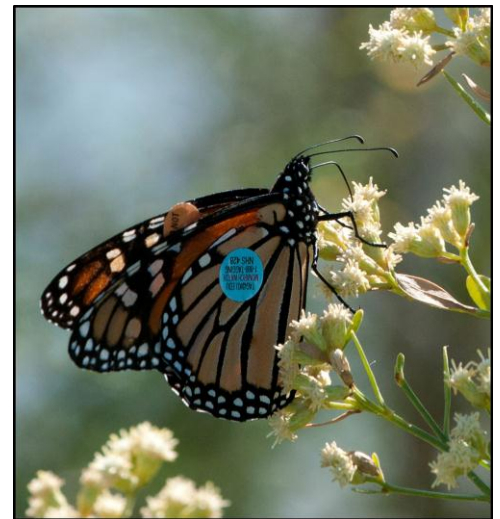
**Port St. Joe:** *This is a preliminary summary for the Port St. Joe Christmas Bird Count. The count went very well this year. The number of species was a little less than last year but it was the third highest we have had since 2004. The number of individual birds counted was low, the second lowest since 2004. Seven teams of bird counters went into the field for a total of 81 team hours. They walked, drove or boated 213.25 miles and counted 9,719 birds belonging to 131 species. One additional count week species was reported. If you would like to report any count week species, please contact me a.s.a.p. (A count week species is any species that was NOT seen on count day but was seen 3 days before the count or 3 days after the count. The bird must have been seen within the count circle.) Please report the species seen, the date seen, and the exact location where it was seen. Some interesting birds found this year include: Northern Gannet, American White Pelican, Greater White Fronted Goose, Black Scoter, White-winged Scoter, Common Goldeneye, 33 Bald Eagles, Merlin, Clapper Rail, Piping Plover, Whimbrel, Long-billed Curlew, Red Knot, American Woodcock, Whip-poor-will (CW), Hairy Woodpecker, Grasshopper Sparrow, Nelson’s Sparrow, Saltmarsh Sparrow, Seaside Sparrow, and White-crowned Sparrow.*

**Apalachicola-St. Vincent Island:** *This is a preliminary summary for the Apalachicola-St. Vincent Island Christmas Bird Count. The count went very well this year. The number of species was a little less than last year but it was the third highest we have had since I took over the count in 2004. The number of individual birds counted was very high, the second highest since 2004. Seven teams of bird counters went into the field for a total of 73.75 team hours. They walked, drove or boated 223 miles and counted 24,749 birds belonging to 144 species. No additional count week species were reported. If you would like to report any count week species, please contact me a.s.a.p. Please report the species seen, the date seen, and the exact location where it was seen. Some interesting birds found this year include: Northern Gannet, American White Pelican, Anhinga, Wood Stork, Black Scoter, Surf Scoter, Common Goldeneye, 46 Bald Eagles, Merlin, Clapper Rail, King Rail, Virginia Rail, Sora, Piping Plover, Long-billed Curlew, Red Knot, American Woodcock, Common Tern, Western Kingbird, 5 Sprague’s Pipits, Black-and-white Warbler, Wilson’s Warbler, Le Conte’s Sparrow, Nelson’s Sparrow, Saltmarsh Sparrow, Seaside Sparrow, Painted Bunting and Rusty Blackbird.*

### St. Marks NWR Butterfly/Pollinator Garden By Ann Bruce

Monarch Butterfly, tagged - Photo by Nick Baldwin

This spring start looking for signs of sprouting seeds at the picnic pond at St. Marks Wildlife National Refuge (SMNWR) Butterfly/Pollinator Garden. Last fall the Florida Wildflower Foundation arranged for Apalachee Audubon volunteers and a few staff from SMNWR to participate in a garden site visit with Ecological Horticulturist Jeff Norcini. Jeff shared advice on planting wildflowers from seed and tips on trans-planting nearby natives into the garden. The north Florida drought through last summer and fall put the refuge some 24 inches below normal rainfall. This condition has created an extra challenge for the garden.



Apalachee Audubon extends a very special thank you to Gary Henry, Secretary of the Florida Wildflower Foundation, ([www.flawildflowers.org](http://www.flawildflowers.org)) who arranged for the garden site visit. We also thank Jeff Norcini, OecoHort ([www.OecoHort.com](http://www.OecoHort.com)), for visiting the SMNWR garden and for sharing his expertise.

In our next issue of the newsletter, look for more details regarding the garden project. Contact Ann Bruce at [annbruce7@gmail.com](mailto:annbruce7@gmail.com) for additional information if you would like to know more about this project.

## Winter Season Hummingbird Banding By Fred Dietrich

This winter season has been like no other in terms of number of hummingbirds banded in the southeast. With the season still not over, we have banded more than 380 birds, easily surpassing the previous high of 253. Banding primarily in the Tallahassee area, I have banded 58 birds and caught 11 birds that had been banded previously. One of the birds I caught had been banded in Metairie, Louisiana and one of my birds was recaptured in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. I have banded 7 species of hummingbirds: Ruby-throated, Black-chinned, Rufous, Allen's, Calliope, Buff-bellied and Broad-billed.

A very special thanks goes out to those homeowners who have shared these birds with us. The information they provide will be invaluable as we learn more about migratory paths and, hopefully, we will be able to preserve their habitat for future generations. On January 7<sup>th</sup> I got some really good news when I saw on our Bander list serve that one of my birds had been recaptured in Louisiana by Nancy Newfield. Nancy was a pioneer and leading force behind our research into wintering hummingbirds in the southeast that began some 30 years ago.

It was quite an honor for me to have her catch one of my birds, over 400 miles west of here. It turned out to be one of two Rufous that I had banded in Indianhead Acres on November 8, 2011. It's very interesting to see that a Rufous would begin moving back west so early in the season. This should prove to be a very valuable piece of information in the future as we learn more about the timing and migration routes of these birds. Without banding these birds, this data would never have been recorded.

It didn't take very long to match the excitement of having Nancy Newfield catch one of my birds in Baton Rouge. I got a phone call from a host who lives in San Luis Ridge and has hosted numerous winter hummers over the years. I was hoping it was because her female Rufous was back for its 8th year, but she was calling about another bird that had just shown up in her yard. It was a hummingbird with a bright green patch on the top of its head and she could not find it in any of her bird books. I could not offer her a clue as to what she was seeing.

The first chance I got, I went over and set up my trap to see if the mystery bird would show up. Not too much later I saw something fly up into one of the bare trees by her vegetable garden and noticed a green shimmer on a little bird. In a few minutes the bird came down, circled the trap and went right in. I took a quick look at the bird as I took it out of the trap and noticed that the bright green was a paint mark on its head and there was a band on its left leg. I had never seen either of these things before so I knew I had something special in my hands. It turned out that this bird had been banded at Nancy Newfield's home in Metairie, LA on December 17, 2011 and stayed there until the 23rd. It had moved 354 miles east in 17 days! That afternoon I went to Indianhead Acres where I caught and banded my first Calliope in Tallahassee. I was fortunate to band several last summer out in the Davis Mountains of West Texas, but this was the first here in town. It was a young bird and turned out to be a second year male Calliope. Adult males are spectacular with their long purple-red gorget feathers, but this youngster was just starting to get his and they were only tiny little feathers.

The next day I went to a home out off of Buck Lake Road where they have hosted Ruby-throated, Rufous and Buff-bellied in past years. There was a male Rufous in the yard that I had banded earlier and it had been joined by two more hummingbirds. I set up the trap and caught another Rufous, this time an adult female. We had seen the third bird in the yard so I left the trap up while I banded the Rufous.



*Above: Calliope banded in Indianhead Acres – the smallest bird in North America.*

*To the right: First year male Rufous near Killearn Lakes – just getting coppery gorget feathers*



It wasn't long before Bob Gorman, who was watching the trap for me, caught the third bird. When I took it out of the trap I thought this bird sure feels small and when I looked more closely, Bob had caught an adult female Calliope, my second one in two days!

On January 27<sup>th</sup>, the first winter bird I ever banded, an adult male Rufous, was recaptured at Pam Flynn's house in Waverly Hills. This great looking bird is back to spend his 3<sup>rd</sup> winter with Pam. I have mixed emotions when this bird shows up each year.

*Continued on page 6*



*8 year return male Ruby-throated.  
Oldest Ruby-throated on record.*





*Hummer banded  
in Metairie, Louisiana;  
caught in San Luis Ridge, FL  
marked with green paint*

*Continued from page 5 - Winter Season Hummingbird Banding by Fred Dietrich*

Pam is the one that hosted “Ms Alaska” two years ago and this male Rufous does not like to share his yard with any other hummers. Ms Alaska has not been seen the last two years but hopefully it is only because she has been run off by this bird and she has found another yard somewhere close.

On February 9<sup>th</sup> I went to a home in Killearn where they had been seeing 5 hummingbirds at their feeders. I had already banded 5 birds there but there was a good chance they had some new ones come in. After setting up two traps it took a while to catch a bird since when one would come to the trap and hesitate, one or two others would swoop down and run it off. I finally did catch a bird and it turned out to be an unbanded young male Ruby-throated. I quickly gave him his new jewelry and a little pink dot on his head and let him go. Five minutes later he was back, guarding the spot where a window feeder had been hanging. The next bird I caught was a male Rufous I had banded on December 6, 2011 and caught again January 5<sup>th</sup> this year. After checking his band I released him and he too was back guarding feeders in a few minutes. I caught a third bird which turned out to be a female Ruby-throated I had banded there on Dec. 10, 2010, back for her second winter in the yard.

When I had first set up my traps, one of the birds that I saw get chased off got my attention when I noticed a green back and a prominent rusty colored rump. It stood out just like the yellow rumps do on the Myrtle warblers that are so plentiful here each winter. I told the host that I thought they might have an Allen’s in her yard. Six years ago, on February 22, 2006 an adult male Allen’s was banded at this home and stayed around for about a week. We don’t get many Allen’s here, and last year there were only two banded in the whole state and just four so far this season.

All the birds seemed to take a noon break and I was just getting ready to take down the traps when suddenly two hummers showed up. After a brief fight, the special bird came up and went in the trap. I got excited when I looked at the tail of the bird and it appeared to be a young male Allen’s. The bird had a green back and the diagnostic tail feathers matched those of an Allen’s but since it was a young bird and the tail feathers were all new, I wanted to check with Fred Bassett. Thank goodness for cell phones since I got him on the phone while I had the bird in my hand. I described the features to him and later sent him a photo of the spread tail and he confirmed my identification. In addition to having so many hummers in their yard that make it difficult to catch birds, they also have lots of Baltimore Orioles that love to go in my trap. They think it is cool to just stand on the cage floor and drink from the feeder ports. I quite often had two orioles in the trap at the same time. I guess if you are going to have a problem that is the best kind to have.

With the return of the Ruby-throats the first week of March, the winter season has just about played out. I will not be banding any Ruby-throats after March 1<sup>st</sup>, but will band other species through March.

## Wildlife-Friendly Yards Tour “Thank You”

By Ann Bruce

*The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Wildlife-Friendly Yards Tour was a big SUCCESS! Predicted rain didn’t materialize and instead we had a perfect tour day. We heard wonderful comments about the beautiful yards and ended the day with 90 tickets sold.*

*Once again we were inspired by our yard hosts to increase our own efforts to attract and care for birds and wildlife. Thank you to our hosts for sharing your nature knowledge, stories, and yards with us: **Tammy Brown, Warren and Rita May, Frank and Barbara Leonard, Elsie Burton and Dodi Zeiler, Amy and Alain Rodgers, Kelly and Laurie Dozier, and Joan Morris.***

*Special thanks to our members and friends who volunteered to assist the yard hosts as needed. Many of you have helped with this for several years now. These yard volunteers were: **Karen Wensing, Pam Stevens, Fran Rutkovsky, Don Ledbury, Diane Vacca, Judy Goldman, Jan Bordelon, Mike Urbaniak, Kathleen Carr, Elizabeth Platt and Ann Bruce.***

***Pam Flynn** is our Yards Tour Coordinator extraordinaire! She arranges for yards to be on the tour and publicity, and this year she produced wonderful new Audubon yard signs that we will use in many future years. **Pam, Ann Bruce** and **Elizabeth Platt** compose a committee of three who pull together all the details for the annual Wildlife-Friendly Yards Tour.*

*Thank you to **Wild Birds Unlimited** and **Native Nurseries** for always being there to help us out. Ticket sales at your businesses make life incredibly easy for Audubon! Plus your support for our chapter and helping to spread the word is surely one of the main reasons we are so successful with this event. It takes a village to pull off this event. Thanks to all of you who are a part of this village!*

**Wild Birds Unlimited**



**Everything for the birds  
and the serious birder!**

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(850) 576-0002 [tallahassee.wbu.com](http://tallahassee.wbu.com)

## Field Trip Information March & April 2012

To register, find out more information, and/or to join our field trip email group, please email our Field Trip Coordinator at [apalacheefieldtrips@gmail.com](mailto:apalacheefieldtrips@gmail.com) (new address)

- March 3<sup>rd</sup> Tall Timbers Banding  
with Jim Cox
- March 17<sup>th</sup> Wakulla Springs Boat Tour  
with Dana Bryan
- April 28<sup>th</sup> St. George Island  
with Alan Knothe

Pre-registration is required for all field trips.

### Saturday Birding Socials

March 3, 17, & 31<sup>st</sup> from 9 am - Noon  
at Lake Elberta, 823 Lake Bradford Rd.  
*This is an opportunity to learn more about birds, increase your birding skills, and get to know others interested in birding. No registration required.*

Updates & information at [www.apalachee.org](http://www.apalachee.org)



Wakulla Wildlife Festival  
Photo by Nick Baldwin

The hard-working folks of a not-so-distant past will appear in a segment entitled [Living History Demonstrations](#) on Saturday between 10 am and 4 pm. Local environmental organizations, including Apalachee Audubon, will display and demonstrate the benefits of conserving and preserving our natural world on Saturday.

Your \$6 per vehicle donation to The Friends of Wakulla Springs supports the shows and programs at Wakulla Springs State Park on Saturday between 10:00 am and 4:00 pm. For more information, please see [www.wakullawildlife festival.org](http://www.wakullawildlife festival.org).

Join the **Center for Wildlife Education, Georgia Southern University**, for four exciting shows. Art on the Terrace and silent auction will be held on Friday evening, April 20. And on Saturday, April 21, the bluegrass sounds of Scrub Oaks, Coon Bottom Creek and 'Pickin' & Grinnin' will fill the air in the Exhibitor area.

## Wakulla Wildlife Festival

April 20 & April 21, Friday - Saturday  
By Elizabeth Platt

The annual Wakulla Wildlife Festival will be held Friday and Saturday, **April 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>**. In addition to premium guided tours on Friday and Saturday, the Wakulla Wildlife Festival is again sponsoring [Art on the Terrace](#) at Wakulla Springs Lodge, Friday from 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm and Saturday from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm.

## Spring Lecture Series "Horizons 2012" presented by the Tallahassee Scientific Society

The Tallahassee Scientific Society is presenting a series of lectures and two of the lectures, in particular, may be of interest to Audubon members: a presentation by Joe Hutto on "his life as a turkey" and a presentation by Janisse Ray, a naturalist, author, and past member of Apalachee Audubon.

**April 25 "My Life as a Turkey: One Man's Study of Nature & Nurture in the Wilds of Sopchoppy"** with JOE HUTTO, naturalist and author of *Illumination in the Flatwoods*.

**May 24 "The Ecology of Southern Nature"** with JANISSE RAY, naturalist and author of *The Ecology of a Cracker Childhood*.

You can obtain detailed information at the Tallahassee Scientific Society website and order tickets online at [www.tallysci.org](http://www.tallysci.org). Tickets may be purchased for all lectures or for individual lectures.

## Birdsong's Old-Timey Plant Sale! Saturday, March 17<sup>th</sup> - 9 am until 1 pm By Janeen Langley



Photo by  
Eleanor  
Dietrich

Birdsong Nature Center's 5<sup>th</sup> annual Old-Timey Plant Sale will be held on Saturday, March 17, from 9 am to 1 pm at Birdsong Nature Center. All proceeds from the sale will go to Birdsong.

Hundreds of native plants, (including native azaleas) wildflowers, perennials, roses, shrubs and trees will be available for purchase, with profits going to benefit the nature center. Many of the plants are donated "pass-along" plants that have been shared by friends and families for years. You will enjoy reading the interesting stories that accompany these "old-timey" plants. There will also be herbs and tomato plants for sale.

Lunch will be available for purchase the day of the sale. Bring along your own wagon for carrying plants, if you have one. If you don't have a wagon, come anyway, as Birdsong will have one you can use.

Birdsong is located on Meridian Road north, 4 miles past the FL/GA line (marked by a blue Grady County sign). Watch for a small sign that reads "Birdsong." A list of some of the great plants that will be for sale plus information about Birdsong Nature Center is available at [www.birdsongnaturecenter.org](http://www.birdsongnaturecenter.org)

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See this newsletter IN COLOR plus much more at Apalachee Audubon's website: [www.apalachee.org](http://www.apalachee.org)

For timely updates about fieldtrips and other events, please subscribe to the AAS notification email list via our website: [www.apalachee.org/List\\_Serving.html](http://www.apalachee.org/List_Serving.html) or here: [www.groups.google.com/group/apalachee-audubon](http://www.groups.google.com/group/apalachee-audubon)

### Calendar ~ Save the Dates!

#### Speaker Series

*Social from 7 pm & meeting at 7:30 pm*

**"Nature Photography" with Lou Kellenberger**

Thursday, March 22, 2012

**"Gulf of Mexico Fish Conservation"**

with Sharon McBreen

Thursday, April 26, 2012

#### Annual Banquet

with Reinier Munguia

Thursday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm

***Important, please note date change.***

See page 2 for more information.

Please see page 7 for Field Trips & Socials  
and for other community events information.

### You can join National Audubon Society and Apalachee Audubon for just \$20 a year!

Membership includes *Audubon*, our bimonthly flagship publication. Each issue of this award-winning publication features beautiful photography and engaging journalism. Our Apalachee Audubon chapter newsletter will keep you informed of local and statewide Audubon and other nature-related events and will share birding and conservation information and news.

You can pay for membership using a credit card by calling Audubon's toll free membership number, 1-800-274-4201. (*Please mention our chapter ID, E19, for AAS to get full credit for a new membership*). If you prefer to pay by check for an annual membership, send your \$20 check made payable to National Audubon Society (*please add Apalachee Audubon's chapter ID, E19*) and mail to:

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