

APALACHEE AUDUBON SOCIETY

Apalachee Audubon Society Mission Statement:

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



NEWSLETTER OF THE APALACHEE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC. SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2012

*Important Newsletter Changes
Please see Editor's Note on Page 3*

**September Program: Thursday, Sept. 27, 2012
Potluck Dinner & a Movie!
Dinner & Social at 6:30 p.m. with Program at 7 p.m.*
(*Starts ½ hour early)**

“Gulf Crossing — An Essay on Bird Migration” Created and Produced by Jackson Childs

The first meeting of this year again will feature a traditional potluck dinner and special presentation of *Gulf Crossing — An Essay on Bird Migration* created and produced by Jackson Childs. Jackson grew up in Tallahassee but now lives in Massachusetts. *Gulf Crossing* showcases the remarkable feat of trans-Gulf migration, a phenomenon that reaches a fevered peak at this time of year. The hazards and benefits of this annual passage are discussed with outstanding videography of some of our most colorful birds. Bring your favorite dish and sit back to enjoy the spectacle.

I'm very impressed. The filming is very good. It's well written and tells the story of migration beautifully. I very much like what I've seen. -- Brian Small, Photo Editor, *Birding Magazine*

Programs - Continued on page 5



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 Map: <http://tinyurl.com/3q9q77s>

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2011 -2012 Outstanding Service Awards

Three award recipients were announced at the May Banquet and the awards will be presented at the September 27th program meeting. John Boutelle was honored with the Presidential Recognition Award and Ann Bruce and Ed Gartner were honored with Elizabeth J. Platt Meritorious Service Awards. Please join us in recognizing these outstanding members and saying “Thank You!” for their many contributions.

John Boutelle

Presidential Recognition Award

John Boutelle was honored with the Presidential Recognition Award at the May Banquet to express Apalachee Audubon's appreciation for his exceptional volunteer service to the Chapter. The Presidential Recognition Award is presented to John Boutelle for his work in maintaining the AAS website. John served as the Chapter's webmaster for a number of years. During this time, John upgraded our website, www.apalachee.org, to a professional looking, attractive format with event calendars, current information, photos from our events, archives, links, and much more. The Chapter is most grateful for John's inspired hard work and his sharing of his webmaster expertise to bring our website into its attractive and informative state.

Continued on page 2

Apalachee Audubon Society, Inc.

2012 – 2013

Officers & Directors

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

President: Kathleen Carr 322-7910
Vice-President: Seán McGlynn 222-4895
Secretary: Jan Bordelon 942-8078
Treasurer: Harvey Goldman 385-5222

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1819 Doric Drive, Tallahassee, FL 32303.

Apalachee Audubon Society, Inc. (AAS) is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization.

All memberships and contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

This newsletter is published 6 times a year by Apalachee Audubon Society on recycled paper.
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Please Save Used Postage Stamps to Help Injured Eagles!

Yes, it's true! All you have to do is cut postage stamps from your mail, leaving at least 1/4

inch of paper all around the stamp or just bring the envelope and I will trim them. Any postage stamp is useful—big, small, U.S. or foreign! The Audubon Center for Injured Birds of Prey in Maitland, FL collects used postage stamps and sells them to wholesalers for sale to collectors all over the world. There will be a box to collect them at Audubon meetings. If you have questions or want to arrange for a pickup, please call Eileen Boutelle at (850) 656-3346.

THANK YOU for helping injured eagles!



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:

National Audubon Society
PO Box 422246
Palm Coast, FL 32142-2246

Allow 4-6 weeks for the arrival of your first issue of *Audubon*. The cost of membership is tax deductible except for \$7.50 (which is allocated to *Audubon* magazine).

Save the Date!

Help celebrate "Public Lands Day"
Saturday, September 29
St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge
Fee Free Day
Volunteer Orientation,
Pollinator Garden Work Day & more!

For information, please see:

<http://www.stmarksrefuge.org/calendar.cfm>

Please register ahead with Park Ranger David Moody

850 925-6121 or david_moody@fws.gov



John Boutelle - Continued from page 1

John and his wife Eileen (please remember to save your used postage stamps for the benefit of the Audubon Center for Injured Birds of Prey in Maitland, FL) are retired and bird watch in their back yard where they run a "restaurant" for the birds. Formerly Clearwater Audubon Chapter stalwarts, where John was Treasurer and Eileen was Secretary, they helped with bird counts and other Clearwater Chapter activities. They have 4 children and 8 grandchildren.

John, a retired electrical engineer, is now an indispensable volunteer at the Maguire Center where he heads the Media Committee (A-V) directing and operating the sophisticated lighting and sound systems for many events at the retirement center. Please join in saying "thank you" to John for his many contributions and great service. **More Awards - Continued on page 4**



Kathleen Carr with "Paige"

at the Audubon Center for Birds of Prey

Photo by Mac Stone

President's Message Autumn in North Florida

By Kathleen Carr

Kids are back in school, the college students and love bugs have returned to Tallahassee, and it's time to think about going back outside. I have to confess that I'm a hot weather wimp, especially during a summer of record heat. And it was warm before it even got started. According to the NOAA National Climate Data Center, the first six months of 2012 were the warmest on record for the contiguous United States in 118 years of recordkeeping, starting in 1895. In Florida, that same six months were the 4th warmest on record.

I'm looking forward to autumn, getting back outdoors and welcoming feathered migrants as they move through and into our area for the winter. AAS member **Glenda Simmons** reported an August 31st sighting of a beautiful male Baltimore Oriole in her backyard. They are already on their way! If, like me, you've been indoors most of the summer, join some of our upcoming chapter field trips this fall and reconnect with our local natural areas. We've got some great programs on tap for this fall, thanks to Program Chair **Jim Cox**. We'll start off at 6:30 pm on September 27 with our potluck dinner and a movie. Hope to see you there!

AAS Publications: The AAS Board of Directors has decided to cut back on the print editions of the newsletter; the newsletter isn't going away, however, and will continue to be available online. This is primarily a financially motivated decision. With over 1,000 members in our chapter, printing and mailing a newsletter isn't cheap, and we felt that it would better serve the goals of the chapter to move to using the web site, social media, and email to publicize our information. If you don't have access to any of those options, please feel free to call me at (850) 322-7910 or send a note to our PO Box and we'll set you up with a chapter buddy who will help keep you informed.

A Note from the Editor

Apalachee Audubon is joining many other organizations by moving from a print to an electronic emailed newsletter. Expenses for printing and mailing approximately 1150 newsletters last year totaled almost \$4,000.00. AAS will publish 6 newsletters this year; however, the decision has been made to reduce the number of printed and mailed newsletters to just two, this one and the Jan.-Feb. issue. All of the newsletters will be emailed out to those subscribed (free) on the AAS email list. Here're links to the easy signup: www.apalachee.org/List_Serving.html or www.groups.google.com/group/apalachee-audubon. Newsletters will also be available and archived on our website www.apalachee.org. Another advantage of the electronic newsletter is that it is in color and adding extra pages is easy; we can share more of the beautiful photographs and interesting articles from members with you.

AAS is an all-volunteer organization with no paid staff. We appreciate your support and participation in Apalachee Audubon activities. We are also appreciative of the great businesses that support the newsletter with their ads and for their help during the year with AAS activities.

Our hope is that through all of our combined efforts we can make a positive difference in our environment and benefit our community. Your enjoyment of the newsletter is important and your comments are welcomed. - Suzanna MacIntosh

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The Elizabeth J. Platt Meritorious Service Award

The Elizabeth J. Platt Meritorious Service Award is presented to members of Apalachee Audubon who have demonstrated outstanding leadership as a Chapter officer, committee chairperson, special project leader, fund-raiser, activist, membership recruiter or other category appropriate to the Chapter. Ann Bruce and Ed Gartner are recognized for their outstanding contributions.

Ann Bruce

While working as librarian at Tall Timbers Research Station, Ann developed an awareness of the environmental issues facing the southeast. As an outgrowth of that interest Ann became active in the Chapter when, upon retiring, she was invited by Karen Wensing to become a member. Ann served as Newsletter Editor for the 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 years; Ann served on the 2009-2010 Board of Directors and on the 2010-2011 Executive Board serving as Secretary. Ann has also helped with many other activities; two examples are her invaluable help on the Wildlife-Friendly Yard Tour Committee and volunteer and her help carefully proofing each newsletter before it is sent to the printer.

One of Ann's most notable contributions has been the lasting impact she has made helping develop and establish the Apalachee Audubon Monarch-Pollinator Garden at St. Marks NWR which had been a long held dream of the Refuge. Ann has worked tirelessly helping plan, plant, weed, and water the garden. She has worked with Robin Will and Dallas Beckett at St. Marks NWR helping however needed. The north Florida drought through last summer and fall put the refuge some 24 inches below normal rainfall and this created extra challenges for the garden. Ann was there throughout that shortfall often driving from Tallahassee carrying water. Ann also encouraged volunteer efforts and sought out assistance and advice from such outstanding professionals as Gary Henry, Secretary of the Florida Wildflower Foundation (www.flawildflowers.org) who generously arranged for a site visit by Ecological Horticulturist Jeff Norcini who shared advice with volunteers and staff. Thank you, Ann!

Ed Gartner

By Ben Fusaro

AAS Mission Statement -- Protection of the environment through education, appreciation and conservation.

Ed's passion for protection of the environment and wildlife through education, conservation, and volunteer work sounds like a revved-up version of our mission. He is interested in flying creatures, from fritillaries to Great Horned Owls and, in fact, all of wildlife. Ed is certified as a Master Wildlifer and as a Master Naturalist.

Inspired by the Phipps Park butterfly gardens, he helped create several butterfly gardens over the years, including the one at Lichgate Park. In 2009 while serving as AAS President, Ed took the lead in developing the ambitious and successful AAS butterfly garden at St Marks NWR, sometimes working himself and co-volunteers to a frazzle. He continues to work on that project.

Ed volunteers at the Gulf Specimen Marine Lab, www.gulfspecimen.org, in Panacea every Thursday, going back to 1995. He helps monitor fish populations, maintain the tanks of Gulf creatures, and teaches visiting groups of children about native species and a respect for the environment. Ed's professional background in chemistry, a field at the center of so many environmental challenges, puts him in a position to engage in one of Audubon Florida's major issues – protecting the quality and quantity of Florida's water.

Ed served on the Board of Directors, before and after serving as 2009-2010 President, and he is currently a member of the Conservation Committee. Ed has made a lasting impact on the direction of Apalachee Audubon through his dedication to mission and tireless efforts.

Programs – Continued from page 1

October Program: Thursday, Oct. 25, 2012

Social at 7 pm with Program at 7:30 pm

“Wingman – A Lifetime Perspective on Cooperative Courtship in the Lance-tailed Manakin”

With Dr. Emily DuVal

Birds are well known for their elaborate courtship displays, but few match the complexity and intrigue of the ritualistic dances performed by tropical manakins. Gorgeous male lance-tailed manikins leap frog over one another on horizontal limbs as they attempt to win favor with prospective mates. If the female shows interest, one dancer moves off stage as the other continues to curry favor with a

flurry of bright colors, song, and motion. Such cooperative displays present one of the enduring puzzles in biology because the dancer that leaves is apparently sacrificing his own self-interest to help others.

Dr. Emily DuVal has studied the complexities of this riddle since 1999 and will provide a behind-the-scenes look at why some males cooperate in courtship displays, the role of female choice in this unusual male behavior, and the lessons learned from studying changes in males' behavior across entire lifetimes of individual birds. When Dr. DuVal is not studying manakins, she helps to produce a new generation of ardent field biologists through popular animal behavior and ornithology classes at FSU.



November Program: Thursday, Nov. 15, 2012 (* 3rd Thursday)

Social at 7 pm with Program at 7:30 pm

“The Search for the Bahamian Nuthatch” with Jim Cox

If you were to calculate current extinction rates for birds, species found on islands would be winning the race to oblivion hands down. Island populations are susceptible to diseases, exotic species, and the loss of habitat, and, once gone, there's no chance of rescue from a neighboring population.

The Bahamian Nuthatch enjoyed island life for thousands of years, but this curious songbird now sits on the verge of extinction a mere 65 miles off the coast of Florida. Jim Cox recently visited the Bahamas in hopes of collecting DNA samples and learning more about this bird before it is gone.

Cox has studied the closely related Brown-headed Nuthatch at Tall Timbers Research Station for nearly a decade and will describe the haunts and habits of the Bahamian Nuthatch and future prospects for this critically endangered bird.



Jim Cox

*Photo by Marianne Korosy
Courtesy of the Florida Ornithological Society*

2012-2013 Program Meeting Dates

September 27, 2012 - October 25, 2012

November 15, 2012 (3rd Thursday)

There will not be a December Meeting.

January 24, 2013 - February 28, 2013

March 28, 2013 - April 25, 2013

May 23, 2013 (Tentative/Banquet)

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tallahassee.wbu.com**

Field Trip Information

Event: Birding the St. Joe Peninsula

Date: September 29, 2012 Leader: Alan Knothe

Time: 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Pre-registration required at apalacheefieldtrips@gmail.com

Limit 14 participants. For more information, call Alan at 850-323-1448.

Many great birding spots such as St. Joe Peninsula State Park, the St. Joe State Buffer Preserve and Cape San Blas are found on the St. Joe Peninsula. The peninsula is famous for its fall raptor migration. On a good day hundreds or even thousands of hawks, falcons and eagles can be seen soaring over the peninsula. Many shorebirds and songbirds also migrate through the area. Rare vagrants, such as the Say's phoebe and the scissor-tailed flycatcher seen on last year's trip, have been known to show up.

We will meet at Eagle Harbor in St. Joe Peninsula State Park at 9:00 am EASTERN TIME. Birding should conclude at around 12:00 or 1:00 pm. Bring plenty of drinking water, binoculars and any other birding equipment you might want. Closed toed shoes and long pants are recommended. Some walking (~1 mile) is required which might include some bushwhacking.

Event: Bird Banding near Optimist Park

Date: October 6, 2012 Leader: Jim Cox et al.

Time: 7:30 am to 11:00 am

Bird banding is an important tool used to study the ecology and migratory habits of small songbirds. Banding also provides an unparalleled opportunity to get a unique, up-close look at some of nature's most colorful creatures.

Bird banding consists of netting birds that are passing through an area and placing a small, individually numbered band on a leg. The physiological condition of the bird and its age and sex are assessed and recorded; then released to continue on its way in hopes it is netted again at some point during its travels.

We will set up 6-10 mist nets in the creek-side park south of Optimist Park. Take Magnolia Drive south of Apalachee Parkway and turn left on Hokolin Nene. Proceed 2 blocks past Atapha Nene and West Indianhead and look for the parking area on the south (right) side of the road. There is a small path that leads south to the spot where we will be processing the birds that are captured. We'll have a table with banding gear and scales, so it will hard to miss the operations.

There is no set time for the event – come when you want and stay as long as you like. Most of the banding likely will take place before 9 AM, but there should be a trickle of birds throughout the morning. We'll also be doing the banding on Sept. 29 so that we can potentially recapture banded birds on this second weekend and also allow those heading to St. Joe Peninsula trip on Sept. 29 a chance to see the operation.

***A Note from Elizabeth Platt, Field Trip Coordinator** - More field trip information will be posted at the AAS website at www.apalachee.org as it becomes available. Jim will also lead a field trip at Tall Timbers in late January or early February and Susan Cerulean will lead a family-oriented event at St. Marks NWR in late November or early December. Other probable field trip leaders include Marvin Collins, Julie and Andy Wraithmell, Rob Williams, and Rob Lengacher.*



"On the Wing"

Photo by Nick Baldwin



Jim Cox

*Photo by Marianne Korosy
Courtesy of the Florida Ornithological Society*

The Phenomenon of Fall Migration

By Reinier Munguia

President of the Lake Region Audubon Society



The Blackpole Warbler flies from as far away as Alaska to its wintering grounds in Southern Brazil.

Photo by Reinier Munguia

As summer comes to an end, one of the most spectacular natural events unfolds in front of our eyes; yet many seem oblivious to this phenomenon. In the late afternoon, the flocks of northern crows seem to cross our cities like rivers of black dots. The days now are shorter and many birds prepare for the long journey. Inside their brains a set of instructions in the form of chemicals is sent to promote the accumulation of fat. By now the birds are done with breeding and perhaps are wearing new feathers they recently molted, a sign of the approaching adventure. Even before the first signs of winter appears in the landscape, millions of birds have embarked on what for us humans may be the trip of a lifetime.

Facts about Bird Migration

- Changes in the length of daylight trigger a chemical response in migratory birds to start building up fat.
- Not all birds are migratory. Resident birds are those that stay in the same area through all seasons.
- Weather as well as human or nature altered ecosystems can cause problems to migrating birds. A lack of food resources or resting areas along a flyway can have a negative effect on migratory birds.
- There are four major North American flyways that have been named the Atlantic, the Mississippi, the Central and the Pacific Flyways.
- Birds may use a combination of cues including sun and star positioning, visual or magnetic cues, and even wind currents.

Welcome to fall migration, one of the most strenuous events in nature. Forced by the lack of food on the northern latitudes, many species of birds have no choice but to head south. Some will fly a few hundred miles, but for most this epic journey takes them more than 5,000 miles away from their summer home. Meet the Golden Plover, a shorebird that spends most of the spring and summer in the Arctic circle regions, but flies its way to southern Brazil for the winter. Its flight path takes him over the Atlantic on the way south, and then over Central America during spring migration. But this bird is a good sized bird when compared to warblers and hummingbirds; yet these tiny birds take on the same challenge. Some may not go as far as Brazil, but still have to cross over the Atlantic to reach South America. All this is possible thanks to their fat reserves. A typical ruby-throated hummingbird starts migration with a weight of four and a half grams, of which more than two are just fat (Lasieswki 1963). Fat is nothing more than stored energy for the long flight that will take about 26 hours non-stop over the Gulf of Mexico before it reaches the Yucatan peninsula more than 650 miles away.

The Blackpoll warbler, a slower flyer than the hummingbird, will endure an 85 hour flight over the Caribbean Sea before it reaches the north shores of South America. Once the birds arrive, they need to replenish their fat content quickly. Now they spend several days just feasting on the available food. Some will continue further south, but at least the flight over land is not as challenging as over the ocean. Many birds succumb to the stress of flying such long distances, many dying at sea, especially if they encounter bad weather or become disoriented. It is not strange to hear reports from sailors who were visited by an exhausted warbler, hundreds of miles offshore.

Continued on page 8



The Swallowtail Kite flies more than 4,000 miles from Florida to South America where they spend the winter. Photo by Reinier Munguia

Migration - Continued from page 7

But the record holder so far in the longest migration accomplished by a bird belongs to the Arctic Tern, which flies about 24,000 miles every year in its migration from its feeding areas back to its breeding grounds in the Arctic.

Although migratory routes seem to be fairly consistent year after year, there are many factors that may cause an occasional shift in the route or the time at which the migration starts for a particular species. Climate change will most likely produce changes in migratory patterns. While many birds migrate during the day, birds such as

the warblers, thrushes, vireos, orioles and the majority of sparrows tend to fly at night.

What causes them to switch their habits during migration? Several reasons have been proposed to explain this behavior, especially important when these birds are strictly diurnal. Perhaps the clue lies in the fact that many birds use stars and constellations as fixed cues for navigating to their final destination. Based on this assumption, most birds will fly south on clear nights whenever possible. Yet many seem to do fine even in overcast skies. As of today, there is no evidence to support that birds benefit from the moon for navigation at night. Research suggests that many species are capable of perceiving the earth's magnetic fields and use these for reference in their night flights. An added advantage of flying at night is that most raptors are also flying south, but these predators of the sky only migrate during the day. While migrating, they feed on other migrants flying the same routes. Perhaps the predator pressure has caused many birds to fly at night as a way to avoid the raptors; besides, it will be cooler to fly at night, giving the bird more endurance. For diurnal migrants, the sun plays a large role in navigation, and so do the contours of the land which are used as a visual reference. Birds are known for adjusting their flight routes to compensate for shifts in the wind direction, and even change flight altitude to benefit from a tail wind. Interestingly enough, diurnal migrants tend to fly with a headwind, while night migrants prefer a tailwind.

Not all birds migrate. Depending on their survival needs, some species will remain within their summer range. Birds in tropical climates may not have the need to migrate long distances, but rather in small movements to areas with available food. Many birds that live in Canada and the northern United States will fly as far south as Florida, but will rarely continue further south. The American White Pelican, a mainly freshwater bird, resides in the Great Lakes and North Dakota during summer and flies as far south as the Florida Bay for the winter. Once in Florida, they move from lake to lake in search of food or even move to the coast line where brackish water abounds. Then by late April, they start flying back. At this point, their reproductive hormones tell them it is time to head back; some will develop a horny plate on their bills, a sign that they're sexually matured. This is also the cause for the reverse migration of many other birds, something known as spring migration. The weather up north has cleared and new food sources are sprouting. Most of those birds that once left the confines of North America are now flying back to their breeding grounds. Once they arrive, they'll build a nest if required and will raise a new generation, that in time will fly down for their first fall migration.

Special thanks to guest columnist, Reinier Munguia, President of Lake Region Audubon and AAS 2012 Banquet Speaker. To learn more about his photography and conservation efforts please visit www.wildstockphotos.com and www.lakeregionaudubon.org.

Birdsong Nature Center Volunteer Trail Ride and Orientation

Saturday, October 20 from 9:30 – 11:30 AM

If you have thought about volunteering in the past at Birdsong Nature Center, now is a great time of year to come out and see what role you can play in the operations of this special place. You will have an opportunity to ride out on the property to learn about Birdsong's reason for being: the land, with its different habitats, plant communities, and the wildlife they support.

On the tour you will hear about Birdsong's history and stewardship legacy, and its educational mission and land management philosophy. The morning will conclude with a tour of the Bird Window, gardens and historic buildings and a discussion of the many options for volunteering.

Please sign up by Friday at noon on October 19th to reserve a space on the trailer (it can accommodate 12 participants). Volunteer packet and continental breakfast included. Dress for the weather. Please see www.birdsongnaturecenter.org, call 229-377-4408, or email birdsong@birdsongnaturecenter.org for more information about this and the many other great activities this fall at Birdsong Nature Center!



Save the Date!!!

Sunday, October 14, 2012 from 12 noon - 6:30 PM*



Join us at Tall Timbers for a wagon tour through the pine forest, visit historic buildings and enjoy music to benefit an ancient forest. Visit our Web site for more information: www.talltimbers.org.

- Music - Pickin' in the Pines with Knotty Pine Band, Velma Frye, The Hot Tamale Duo, Fermentation Lounge Session Band and more.
- Bird watching - *at 9 AM early birds can join Jim Cox , who will be looking for fall migrants
- Wagon Tours of Tall Timbers
- Dedication of the Betty Komarek Bird Window
- Hiking on the Henry Stevenson Bird Trail to the Betty Komarek Bird Window
- Beadel House and Tenant Farm Tours
- Prescribed Burn Demonstration
- Natural History Exhibits
- Children's activities
- Book signing - *The Legacy of a Red Hills Hunting Plantation: Tall Timbers Research Station & Land Conservancy*

Festival Fee: \$5 per adult or \$20 per vehicle. Children 12 and under are free.

Proceeds to benefit the Wade Tract Preserve and programs at Tall Timbers.

Picnic in the Pines: Prizes given to best picnic and best table.

Tall Timbers Research Station & Land Conservancy 13093 Henry Beadel Drive | Tallahassee, FL 32312

For more information: TEL: 850.893.4153, x258 - EMAIL: rose@ttrs.org | www.talltimbers.org

24th Annual Monarch Butterfly Festival at St. Marks NWR

Oct. 27, 2012 from 10 am – 4 pm

Fall is in the air and so are the migrating monarch butterflies, making their 2,000 mile trip from the northern American boundary to the mountains of central Mexico. This amazing phenomenon passes through the Gulf coast of Florida beginning about the third week in October, and may be observed along the coast at the St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge.



Visitors will be able to watch the tagging process at our 24th annual Monarch Butterfly Festival on Sat., October 27, 2012, from 10 am – 4 pm. The event is filled with the wonder of folks of all ages charting their own "migration," making butterfly crafts, talking with monarch butterfly researchers and other exhibitors, learning about landscaping to help all pollinators, munching on a Bradley's sausage dog, taking tours and much more! (*"Public Lands Day", Sept. 29th on page 2*)

For more information, please see www.fws.gov/saintmarks, www.stmarksrefuge.org, call 850 925-6121.

St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge, 1255 Lighthouse Rd., St. Marks, Florida 32355



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Your membership expiration date is shown above your name at top right. For your membership information call the National Audubon Society at 1-800-274-4201 or go to the 'Member Center' at www.audubon.org. For questions about mailings, contact Pam Flynn at tallypfly57@yahoo.com

See this newsletter IN COLOR plus much more at Apalachee Audubon's website: www.apalachee.org

For newsletters, timely updates about field trips and other events, please subscribe to the AAS email list via our website: www.apalachee.org/List_Serving.html or here: www.groups.google.com/group/apalachee-audubon

Audubon Assembly 2012 – Conserve Water to Sustain Life Sarasota, October 26-27

It's that time of year again! The [2012 Audubon Assembly](#) will be held in beautiful Sarasota on Friday and Saturday, Oct. 26-27. You are invited to attend our yearly gathering where you will have the opportunity to connect with like-minded individuals at Florida's premiere conservation event. The Assembly theme this year is **Conserve Water to Sustain Life**. One thing is certain: Florida's most precious resource is under threat. The 2012 Audubon Assembly is your chance to learn how you can make a difference in Florida's future.

The [2012 Audubon Assembly](#) is designed to *inspire*. Our signature conservation event brings together representatives of Audubon's 35,000 members and 44 chapters with conservation leaders, scientists, educators and policy makers. Please join us for this incredible once-a-year opportunity!

Date: Oct. 26-27, 2012 (Friday-Saturday) **Location:** [Hyatt Regency Sarasota on Sarasota Bay](#). (You must book your hotel room separately.) Please visit <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/Flaudubon> by September 25 to reserve the group rate. Please contact Jonathan Webber with any questions at 850-222-2473 or jwebber@audubon.org.

Special note: On Thursday evening, folks will be gathering for cold drinks and a special showing of the movie **Last Call at the Oasis**. For more information or to purchase tickets: <http://fl.audubon.org/audubon-assembly-2012>.