

# 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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## 2012-2013 Program Meeting Dates

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*)

## Apalachee Audubon Society Mission Statement:

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

NEWSLETTER OF THE APALACHEE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

NOVEMBER – DECEMBER 2012

**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.



**Jim Cox**

*Photo by Marianne Korosy*

*Courtesy of the Florida Ornithological Society*

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, [www.talltimbers.org](http://www.talltimbers.org), for nearly a decade and will describe the haunts and habits of the Bahamian Nuthatch and future prospects for this critically endangered bird.

## Costa Rican Birding Tour

By **Bob Henderson**

Your Apalachee Audubon Chapter is proposing to lead a birding tour to Costa Rica. This is a preliminary invitation. If you may be interested, let us know. Detailed planning for such a tour will not be undertaken until there is a reasonable amount of interest in such an endeavor.

The tour would be the end of April and first part of May 2013. The timing is immediately after the 'high season' (more costly period) and before the height of the rainy season. The length of time can be of any length, but an in-country period of about 12 days is advantageous in terms of seeing different habitats and presenting a good ratio between the cost of travel to and from Costa Rica and the length of stay.

*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

#### Directors:

Nick Baldwin 877-0249  
Jim Cox 942-2489  
Ben Fusaro 297-2052  
Aubrey Heupel 312 290-2773  
Laurie Jones 545-9437  
Adrienne Ruhl 813 293-1081  
Julie Wraitmell, Past President 425-1170

**AAS Logo Design:** Charlotte Forehand

**Newsletter Editor:** Suzanna MacIntosh  
[Aasnewsletter2011-audubon@yahoo.com](mailto:Aasnewsletter2011-audubon@yahoo.com)

**Webmaster:** Bob Henderson 575-6610

**Apalachee Audubon Society, Inc.**  
P. O. Box 1237  
Tallahassee, FL 32303

Inquiries can also be sent to:  
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  
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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).

**Audubon Memberships  
Make Great Holiday Gifts!**  
*Give the gift of the outdoors this holiday!*



### Costa Rican Birding Tour *Continued from page 1*

It is quite possible to see 300 or more bird species on a tour as envisioned here. There will be an opportunity to see mammals, reptiles, and amphibians as well.

For those participants who may not be hard-core birders, a tour can be planned so spouses or others, after walking the trails and seeing birdlife, can take a break and enjoy other amenities,



such as shopping, zip-lining, horseback riding, visiting ancient ruins, dipping in a swimming pool, visiting a cafe' to sip on good Costa Rican coffee, et cetera.

A tour like this should be limited to 10 persons, with a minimum of 6. Too many participants make birding with a single guide untenable. Fewer than 6 would make the cost per individual too expensive.

If you are interested in a Costa Rican birding tour in 2013, please contact Bob Henderson, 850-575-6610, [bob@rkhenderson.com](mailto:bob@rkhenderson.com).



Kathleen Carr with “Paige”  
at the Audubon Center for Birds of Prey  
*Photo by Mac Stone*

## President’s Message

### Conserving Florida’s Water to Sustain Life

By Kathleen Carr

Election season has come and gone and—my fellow chapter members—it’s time for us to roll up our sleeves and get to work. Audubon is, first and foremost, a conservation organization and there’s a lot of work to do between now and next summer, whether it’s getting petitions signed, readying the Least Tern Island at Lake Piney Z for nesting season, or helping out as a shorebird monitor next spring. Watch this space in the

January-February 2013 issue for upcoming volunteer opportunities, but in the meantime, you can help with the petition-signing campaign for the Florida Land and Water Legacy Campaign by visiting [floridawaterlandlegacy.org](http://floridawaterlandlegacy.org).

And if you don’t have time for those activities, you can help Florida’s environment by changing your water habits.

After the October program meeting, I headed home and packed to leave bright and early the next morning for Sarasota, where I attended the 2012 Audubon Assembly along with AAS board member **Adrienne Ruhl**. This year’s topic was *Conserve Water to Sustain Life* and featured learning sessions on Water for Florida’s Special Places, Water for the Everglades, and Water for Our Coasts. Journalist and author, Cynthia Barnett gave the plenary talk, “Rethinking Florida Water Policy” and led a workshop titled “Developing a Water Ethic for Your Community.”

In her book, *Blue Revolution: Unmaking America’s Water Crisis* (published in 2011), Barnett cites our current view of water as a cheap and unlimited resource and discusses the crisis our nation is starting to encounter as we overuse groundwater resources and deplete water in lakes (even man-made lakes) and rivers. She proposes that we can avoid a national crisis by adopting a “water ethic.”

Her water ethic is based on the land ethic articulated in Aldo Leopold’s *A Sand County Almanac*, which places a high value on the environment and the life within it. Leopold stated, “The land ethic simply enlarges the boundaries of the community to include soils, waters, plants, and animals, or collectively: the land ... [A] land ethic changes the role of *Homo sapiens* from conqueror of the land-community to plain member and citizen of it. It implies respect for his fellow-members, and also respect for the community as such.”

This land ethic has resulted in tangible behavioral changes in our society. Recycling has become commonplace, we have a community-based ethic against littering, and driving a fuel-efficient car has become fashionable.

Barnett proposes that a water ethic calling for us to leave as much water in the environment as possible can lead us to change expectations for water use and, subsequently, our habits.

And what’s the most effective step you can take to reduce your household water usage? Stop watering your lawn! In *Blue Revolution*, Barnett says that as a nation, we are cultivating at least 63,240 square miles of turf grass—enough land to qualify as a 51<sup>st</sup> state. And irrigating all this grass uses as much as 19 TRILLION gallons of water per year, more than it takes to irrigate all the nation’s feed grain.

So that’s one small step you can take. Landscape your lawn with less turf grass and include hardier native plants that have evolved to survive in North Florida with natural rainfall and which also provide shelter and nourishment for our birds and wildlife. Oh, and turn off the water while you’re brushing your teeth.



*Wishing you a Happy Holiday Season  
Happiness and good health throughout the coming year!*





Special thanks to AAS member Glenda Simmons for sharing some of her favorite FeederWatch photos. Many of Glenda's photos are featured in FeederWatch calendars and on their website.



**Save the Date!**  
**6<sup>th</sup> Annual Wildlife-Friendly Yards Tour**  
 Saturday, February 16<sup>th</sup>  
 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Tickets will be available by the middle of January at Wild Birds Unlimited and at Native Nurseries.

## Project FeederWatch

by Fran Rutkovsky

This fall marks the 26th year of Project FeederWatch. This is a winter-long survey of birds that visit feeders in yards, nature centers, and other locations in North America. The data that volunteer participants submit help scientists track movements of winter bird populations and long-term trends. *The 2012-13 season of PFW begins November 10 and runs through April 5th.* A fee of \$15 helps to support the project and participants may join at any time during the FeederWatch season.

This is a fun endeavor, easy to do, and helps you learn more about the birds that frequent the feeders in your own yard. Participants keep track of birds that come to feeders/birdbaths/fruited trees & shrubs within a count area on designated days. The details and instructions, along with photos and data from past years, are available on the Project FeederWatch web site. AAS member, Glenda Simmons, has had many of her photographs published in the PFW materials. Fran Rutkovsky is also a long time feederwatcher.

*Project FeederWatch is a joint project of the  
 Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Bird Studies Canada.*

<http://www.birds.cornell.edu/pfw/>



## Wild Birds Unlimited

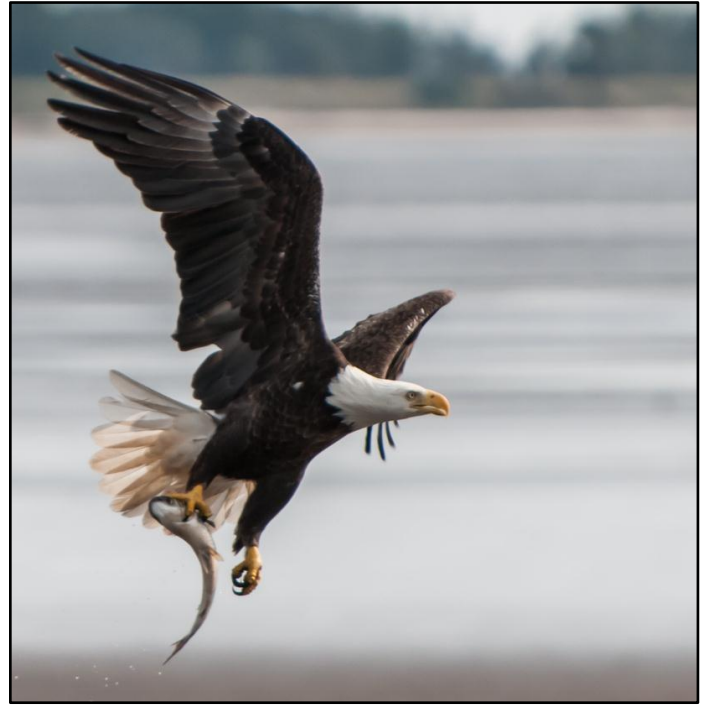


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*Photographs by Nick Baldwin*

## Nature Photography Workshop

Saturday, November 17, 2012 from 9 am – 11 am

Tallahassee Museum ([map](#))

**Registration Deadline:** Wednesday November 14th **Fee:** \$8 members/ \$10 nonmembers **Age:** Adults only.

**Description:** Ever wonder about the ins and outs of nature photography? Come on out and shoot with resident photographer, Nick Baldwin, <http://nickbaldwinphotography.com/>, as he guides participants through the basics of nature photography. Emphasis will be more on getting out there and taking photos! As all of Nick's current work is done in digital, the majority of the discussion will be with that in mind, though film cameras are welcome. Handouts will be included as a reference tool. Call (850) 575-8684 ext. 126 or see [www.tallahassee-museum.org](http://www.tallahassee-museum.org) to register.

## EagleWatch Training Workshop

Saturday, November 17, 2012 1 pm – 4 pm

St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center

1255 Lighthouse Road, St. Marks, FL 32355



Audubon EagleWatch is pleased to announce that we will be holding a training workshop at St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge! The workshop is free, but Refuge admission fees will apply. The workshop will be held on Saturday, November 17, 2012 from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM, at the St. Marks NWR Visitor Center. Both current and new EagleWatch Citizen Scientists are welcome to attend. Topics will include the status of the Bald Eagle in Florida, general eagle biology, eagle nesting behavior and habits, Bald Eagle management guidelines, and nest observation techniques and strategies. After training, volunteers will be assigned a nest and begin monitoring. Nest site visits must be done twice a month from October to mid-May, for at least twenty minutes per session. If the EagleWatch training workshop occurs after the beginning of nesting season, nests will be assigned as quickly as possible. The EagleWatch Coordinator will assign nests and help volunteers locate them, as well as provide any other assistance that may be needed. Nest visit reports can be sent to EagleWatch in PDF format or hard copy. The classroom session will be followed by a field trip to one of the active Bald Eagle nests on the refuge. Please RSVP to [eaglewatch@audubon.org](mailto:eaglewatch@audubon.org) or call 407-644-0190. For more information: <http://fl.audubon.org/audubon-eaglewatch>

**Why watch eagles?** *As a top predator and an important indicator species, the health of eagle populations gives scientists, land managers and policy makers valuable insight into the overall health of Florida ecosystems. This information can help inform decisions that affect our state's natural resources. By participating in EagleWatch, you can contribute to science that will help ensure a healthy Florida for years to come.*

## Monarch Butterfly Pollinator Garden Dedicated Radium Springs

By Suzanna MacIntosh



*Radium Springs Monarch Pollinator Garden ~ Oct. 23, 2012*

*Photo by Sylvia Lanier*

When a great team of Apalachee Audubon volunteers began planning the 2010 Wildlife-Friendly Yards Tour no one could have guessed that one consequence would be a beautiful new butterfly garden in Albany, GA. The journey that led to the recent dedication of the Radium Springs garden began the day I visited Tallahassee for that February tour. I was so impressed by the wonderful people I met who were so engaged in doing something meaningful for the community that, though I live about 70 miles away, I decided to learn more.

I began by becoming a member of Apalachee Audubon, reading the newsletters and attending the meetings when I could. I also made time to read *Bringing Nature Home* by Doug Tallamy, [www.plantanative.com](http://www.plantanative.com), a book I first heard about on the Yards Tour. I learned that the availability of native plants is critical to the survival of most of our plant-eating insects, including butterflies, and that there is an alarming decline nationally in many common bird populations with one of the leading factors being a decline in needed native habitat, [www.stateofthebirds.org](http://www.stateofthebirds.org). Once this critical chain is broken our butterflies, our terrestrial birds, many of our pollinators and all of us are at risk.

I talked with AAS President Ed Gartner. With Ed's encouragement and later that of Ann Bruce and the wonderful example that they and others set with the development of the Monarch-Pollinator Garden at St. Marks NWR, I began working towards a Monarch Butterfly Pollinator Garden in Albany at Radium Springs, one of Georgia's 7 Natural Wonders <http://www.gpb.org/georgiatraveler/111-springs>. Along the way I met many great people.



*Radium Springs Monarch Pollinator Garden*

*Photo by Suzanna MacIntosh*

The Radium Springs Monarch Butterfly Pollinator Garden was dedicated on October 23<sup>rd</sup> and certification as a "Pollinator Habitat" from Monarchs Across Georgia was presented by Master Gardener Extension Volunteer and MG Committee Co-chair Larry Sellers to Dougherty County Commission Chairman Jeff Sinyard. This is a collaborative effort between Dougherty County, Albany Technical College, and Southwest Georgia Master Gardener Extension Volunteers. Much of the beauty of the butterfly garden should be credited to the fine work of Dougherty County Parks & Gardens Coordinator Thomas Bruce and all the great Dougherty County team.

Community leaders and elected state and local leaders joined a large crowd for the dedication. Ed Gartner drove up and presented seeds symbolically from the St. Marks NWR Garden to complete a perfect event.

*Thank you to every member of AAS for your support of the wonderful Apalachee Audubon Chapter whose impact is being felt a state away!*

<http://www.albanyherald.com/news/2012/oct/23/butterfly-pollinator-garden-dedicated/>

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## Hog Island Audubon Camp

The application deadline is January 15<sup>th</sup> for National Audubon Society Scholarships to the legendary 6-day, 5-night birding and nature programs at the Audubon Camp in Maine on Hog Island. 2013 camp instructors include Kenn Kaufman, Scott Weidensaul, Clay and Pat Sutton, and many more. All summer programs include a trip to Eastern Egg Rock, the restored Atlantic Puffin colony by Project Puffin director, Steve Kress.

**Early Bird Special!** \$50 discount for all registrations received by Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>.

For more information: <http://hogisland.audubon.org>,

email: [hogisland@audubon.org](mailto:hogisland@audubon.org) or call (607) 257-7308 x14

**See you on the island!**



## REMEMBER OUR WINTER HUMMINGBIRDS!

Fred Dietrich reports that the unprecedented early winter season has continued and that by the end of September, the number of Rufous banded in South Alabama and Florida this year had already matched the number banded in the last 14 years combined!

Please help by contacting our local certified bird bander, Fred Dietrich at 850 591-7430 or [fdietrich@gmail.com](mailto:fdietrich@gmail.com) if you see a hummingbird. Fred will come out and do his best to trap and band your bird. His work, along with other banders, is helping us to understand the migratory habits of these birds. Remember, you don't have to know what kind of hummer you have, just let Fred know you have one and he'll be happy to come and check it out.



*Young Male Calliope*

*Fred Dietrich*

You can view all the previous Hummer Updates from our banders at the Hummingbird Research web site:  
<http://www.hummingbirdresearch.net/p54.html>

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

The Christmas Bird Count is the longest running Citizen Science survey in the world! Thanks to Frank Chapman, the 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. Information collected during the CBC provides invaluable data to help track the long-term health and status of bird populations across the United States. The dates for this year's counts are from December 14, 2012 through January 5, 2013.

Andy Wraithmell is coordinating the Jackson County circle which will be held Saturday, January 5<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to help with this count, please contact Andy at [aswraithmell@gmail.com](mailto:aswraithmell@gmail.com). Thank you, Andy!

### AAS Field Trip with George Weymouth, Leader

State Park Tour – Wakulla Springs, Ocklochonee & Bald Point (afternoon option)

November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012, 8:15 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Easy Difficulty Level: will be on short, level trails

Limited to 12-15 people.

Email [apalacheefieldtrips@gmail.com](mailto:apalacheefieldtrips@gmail.com) to RSVP before the Wednesday, November 14<sup>th</sup> deadline.

*Naturalist, local wildlife artist, and teller of tall tales, George Weymouth has offered to lead a late fall trip to two state parks and maybe a third depending on interest! Please bring optics, camera, notebook, warm clothing if necessary, water, and snack or lunch.*

### Protect Our Native Ecosystems

#### Report Invasive Animals

To learn how easy it is to identify and report non-native animals, please visit the website (<http://fl.audubon.org/invasive-species-task-force>). Reporting only takes minutes online or using a simple smartphone app and can make a big difference. You can also stay on top of invasive species news through the monthly 'Invader Updater' series on the Audubon Florida News Blog: <http://audubonoffloridanews.org/>.

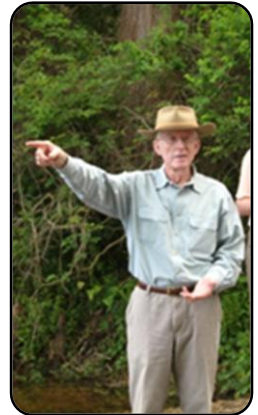
## Saving Wakulla Springs Tour



Wakulla Spring is a special place to the citizens of Tallahassee and beyond. The Editor of the Tallahassee Democrat recently wrote that “We take all of our visitors to Wakulla Spring, [www.wakullasprings.org](http://www.wakullasprings.org), which I view as one of the most beautiful spots on earth and I have been around the globe.” It has been one of Florida’s foremost wildlife observation areas having alligators, manatees and abundant birdlife. But Wakulla Springs is in trouble. Four hundred sixty tons of nitrate pollution per year is flowing from the spring, degrading the ecology of the spring and river, and the spring’s flow is in decline. Citizens should be informed about where the water comes from that flows from the spring and how the residents of Leon and Wakulla Counties are impacting the spring. They should also know how homeowners, businesses and agencies are standing up for Wakulla Spring.

A special tour, “Waters Journey: Following the Water to Wakulla Spring” is given on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month to inform citizens about the movement of water from rainfall, lawns, streams, lakes, sinkholes and caves to Wakulla Spring. We learn how we impact the water with our daily activities and what we can do to save Wakulla Spring. If you care about Wakulla Spring, you will want to take this fascinating four-hour journey by car caravan. It is a real treat.

Our tour leader is Jim Stevenson who coordinated the Wakulla Spring Basin Working Group for 18 years. Jim served as the chairman of the Florida Springs Task force and director of the Governor’s Springs Protection Initiative prior to his retirement from the Department of Environmental Protection. For complete tour details, visit our website at [www.palmettoexpeditions.com](http://www.palmettoexpeditions.com) or call 850-926-3376. We encourage you to join us.



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## Remembering RosaBelle Ard Stevenson

**RosaBelle Ard Stevenson** was born in Lillian, Alabama, one of seven children of Riley and Rose Wilson Ard. At the end of her high school years RosaBelle obtained a scholarship to Troy State Teachers College, the first from her extended family to ever be college-bound. She worked all night at the switchboard and attended classes by day. Her dream was to finish college and become a teacher. She transferred to the University of Alabama as a junior and there she met Henry Stevenson, the son of a Methodist preacher, and married him upon graduation. Their first child, Nell, was born in Ithaca, NY, while Henry was earning his doctorate in ornithology. Later they moved to Oxford, MS, Memphis, TN, and Emory, VA, where Henry taught college students and she taught in elementary schools.



Settling in Tallahassee in 1946, her husband Henry became Florida's most famous ornithologist while a professor at FSU, and RosaBelle's achievements as a primary teacher at Sealey, Ruediger, and Holy Comforter Schools remain legendary. She had a special talent for relating to children and could change their behavior with wit and warmth. In the words of a close colleague, she instilled in her students the importance of honor, self-respect, and integrity, as well as the academics. Even in her last days, former students sought her out and always returned her love. RosaBelle Ard Stevenson, 94, died in Tallahassee Memorial Hospital on October 18, 2012. RosaBelle is survived by her four children, seven grandchildren, and four great grandchildren. Her son Jim taught at Leon High School for many years and has directed the Galveston Ornithological Society for seventeen years, in addition to writing many published books and directing tours around the globe.



# Plant the Capital Cascade Greenway with Native Vegetation

By Sean McGlynn, PhD.

We are waiting for the completion of the Capital Cascade Greenway. Anticipating the completion of Segment 1, the reduction of Franklin Boulevard from four lanes to two lanes, the burying of the little creek that flowed down the middle of Boulevard between Leon High School and the soon to be Cascade Park and replacing it with a multiuse trail and sidewalks (the first in the area). This is the first segment of the signature project of the Blueprint Initiative: it is a Greenway, extending, like a Central Park, through the Red Hills of Tallahassee to the Coastal Plane.

The Capital Cascade Greenway, Segment 1, the Gateway to the Greenway, has an unfortunate planting plan. The planting has over 90% exotic species of plants! The planting encompasses only 176 native plants and over 6,940 exotic plants. It even includes some banned invasive exotic species. We wrote to the City and County Commissioners, and have yet to receive a reply other than the banned species will be removed. The letter follows, and here are some of the major points.

- Exotic plants like those currently planned will present an invasive threat to this and other parks, requiring costly recurring removal.
- Native plants will be more likely to survive, requiring less water and maintenance saving taxpayer dollars.
- Native plants impart a sense of place, a subtle subconscious reminder of where you are and a uniqueness and individuality of that particular habitat.
- Native plants will provide wildlife habitat in the urban core.
- Native plants will present an example, in Florida's capital city, of how native landscaping can be attractive, low maintenance and great for wildlife.
- Invasive exotic plant, Heavenly Bamboo, *Nandina domestica*, is a Florida Exotic Pest Plant Advisory Council (FLEPPC), Category I invasive exotic. Our Leon County Code bans all planting of *Nandina*, one of three outlawed plant species.
- Other invasive plants on the plan include Washington Palm, *Washingtonia robusta*, and *Lonicera japonica*. The *Lonicera japonica*, or Japanese Honeysuckle, appears to be misapplied to another plant on the list. Washingtonian Palms, from the Pacific Northwest, and our native Cabbage Palms are almost identical.
- Evenly spaced rows of tall palms seem to be a hallmark of these plantings; this is fine for South Florida, or Los Angeles, but definitely out of character in the Florida Panhandle. Palms do not dominate the landscape here, but usually grow underneath taller deciduous trees.
- We need more Longleaf Pines, Live Oaks, Cabbage Palms, Dogwoods and Redbuds. There are no Cabbage Palms or Dogwoods in this planting plan and only two Redbud Trees.

*Dr. McGlynn's letter along with Leon County Science Advisory Committee Comments follows.*

November 7, 2012

Leon County Science Advisory Committee Comments on:

The Franklin Blvd planting plans associated with the Capital Cascades Park/Blueprint 2000 project

At the Nov. 2, 2012 meeting, the SAC heard from Dr. Sean McGlynn regarding the proposed use of non-native plants, some of which are considered invasive “exotics”, in the Franklin Blvd. renovation project. The proposed planting plans call for 87% of the plantings to be non-native plants. Dr. McGlynn pointed out that there are numerous suitable native plants that could be substituted for the non-native plants.

We note that Section 10-4.351(b) *Habitat Development* of the Leon County Comprehensive Plan calls for, “The use of native plant material, site design, and planting design techniques which enhance wildlife habitat benefits shall be used where possible in the landscape plan.”

We concur with Dr. McGlynn that the company that has been contracted to generate the planting plans should be instructed to coordinate with the Apalachee Audubon Society (AAS) and the Florida Native Plant Society to get their advice and to then revise their planting plans to include as many native plants as possible. A letter from Dr. McGlynn, vice president of the AAS and Fritz Wettstein, president of the Magnolia Chapter of the FNPS, outlining their concerns and their recommendations is attached.

Submitted on Behalf of the Leon County SAC,  
William M. Landing, SAC Chair



# Apalachee Audubon Society

P.O. Box 1237, Tallahassee, Florida 32302-1237

## Mission Statement

Protection of the environment through education, appreciation, and conservation

October 16, 2012

Tallahassee City and Leon County Commissions  
300 South Adams Street and 301 S Monroe St  
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Dear Commissioners:

Upon receiving a copy of the planting plan for Cascades Park, the Apalachee Audubon Society (AAS) and the Florida Native Plant Society (FNPS) fear that scant consideration has been given to the expense and low biological value of the landscape design selected. More than 87% of the plants in the planting are exotic, several are invasive. Many are unsuited for this habitat and will struggle to survive. We urge you to revisit this planting plan and prioritize native, non-invasive plants that will save Tallahassee money and improve the habitat value of this centerpiece to our community.

### **Exotic plants like those currently planned will present an invasive threat to this and other parks, requiring costly recurring removal.**

One invasive exotic plant, scheduled for planting on Franklin Boulevard is Heavenly bamboo, *Nandina domestica*, a Florida Exotic Pest Plant Advisory Council (FLEPPC), Category I invasive exotic. Our Leon County Code bans all planting of *Nandina*, one of three outlawed plant species. *Nandina* has already invaded our region's parks and preserves, and we have already spent a lot of money on eradication programs to remove it, it reproduces rapidly and is hard to control. Other invasive plants on the plan include Washington palm, *Washingtonia robusta*, and *Lonicera japonica*, the name of Japanese honeysuckle which appears to be misapplied to another plant on the list. Washingtonian palms, from the Pacific Northwest, and our native Cabbage palms are almost identical. Palms do not dominate the landscape here, but usually grow underneath taller deciduous trees. Evenly spaced rows of tall palms seem to be a hallmark of these plantings, this is fine for South Florida, or Los Angeles but definitely out of character in the Florida Panhandle. We need to plant our greenways and parks with natives, like Longleaf pines and Live oaks intermixed with smaller Cabbage palms, Dog woods and Red buds. We don't need our tax dollars used to propagate invasive exotic plant species in our Parks and Greenways. There are no Cabbage palms or Dog woods in this planting plan and only two red bud trees.

### **Native plants will be more likely to survive, requiring less water and maintenance saving taxpayer dollars.**

The threat of invasive exotic plants to our natural areas and their high control costs are well documented. Exotic plants that are not invasive need more water, fertilizer and pesticides to survive than natives. They increase maintenance costs. Native plants on the other hand can do much to preserve, protect and enhance our community's quality of life and should be emphasized in our

plantings. Adapted to the region's climate and environment, native plants require no or little supplemental water, fertilizers or pesticides once established. Local inhabitants will have to replant these expensive exotics plantings. Native plants are currently less than the 13% of the trees and shrubs specified on the Franklin Boulevard planting plan.

**Native plants will provide wildlife habitat in the urban core.**

Native animals are adapted to living in specialized niches associated with native plants. Our native species need their native plants for habitat and cover. Exotic plants are often the equivalent of a wildlife desert, providing little food for wildlife and pollinators. With exotic vegetation, natives decline. With all of the changes to the Cascades Park and Greenway, it is important to have areas that highlight the natural community and showcase our local color with native plants, birds and butterflies. Native plants are biologically meaningful for humans and our cities wildlife.

**Native plants will present an example for Tallahassee residents of how native landscaping can be attractive, low maintenance and great for wildlife.**

This planting plan does not meet the sustainability goals espoused by the Leon County, the City of Tallahassee and Blueprint 2000. We implore you to ask the planners to reconsider the planting plan. Your organizations have adopted sound environmental management principles in the Wakulla Springs Initiative, have restored important natural areas such as Rhoden Cove by removing exotic plants and have encouraged environmental responsibility. The Franklin Boulevard and Capitol Cascades portion of the Greenway could be a showcase of sustainable landscape design and our region's extraordinary native plants. Instead it is being designed as a conventional, high maintenance landscape planted primarily with non-native ornamental plants.

We appreciate your time and consideration of this issue. This planting could be sustainable as well as beautiful, and it is extremely important to our mission and to those who live in and will be using the parks and greenways currently being built downtown. We offer our expertise in native plants and wildlife in recommending suitable alternatives for the planting plan, and volunteers to assist in making the Capital Cascades Greenway a showcase public place. Our members can provide assistance on native plant selection for the Capitol Cascade Greenway. If identification plaques are being installed, we can assist with the proper scientific names of the native species being planted. If you would like to work with us, please contact Fritz Wettstein at [fwettstein@comcast.net](mailto:fwettstein@comcast.net), Adrienne Ruhl at [adrienneruhl@gmail.com](mailto:adrienneruhl@gmail.com), or Seán McGlynn at [mcglynnlabs@gmail.com](mailto:mcglynnlabs@gmail.com).

Thank you for your consideration,

Seán E. McGlynn, Ph.D., Vice President  
Apalachee Audubon Society  
P. O. Box 1237  
Tallahassee, FL 32302-1237

Fritz Wettstein, President  
Magnolia Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society  
P.O. Box 3052  
Tallahassee, Florida 32315

Cc: Blueprint 2000, 2727 Apalachee Parkway, Suite 200, Tallahassee, Florida 32301

**SUPPLEMENTAL LANDSCAPE NOTES:**

- 1) Washingtonia Palms shall be placed no closer than 15 feet from any overhead power line.
- 2) The Contractor shall verify locations of all existing utilities, trees and above ground structures prior to commencement of planting installation.
- 3) Irrigations main lines and laterals shall be in-place and clearly flagged prior to planting operations. Spray head locations shall be capped and also clearly flagged prior to planting operations.
- 4) If quantities differ between the plan and schedule, those on the plan (exception given to sod quantities) shall govern. It shall be the Contractor's responsibility to report any discrepancies between 'plan' and 'schedule' quantities to the Agent or Owner's Representative.
- 5) Reference Specification Section 02900 for Landscape Specifications.
- 6) Reference Specification Section 02935 for Landscape Maintenance.
- 7) Reference Specification Section 02810 for Irrigation.
- 8) Reference Specification Section 02811 for Electrical Support for Irrigation.
- 9) Soil preparation for Azalea planting beds in addition to planting Backfill Mix as specified in Specification Section 02900 shall include placement of a 3" loose layer of CoirBrick Coconut Fiber Peat and application of Bio-tone Starter in accordance with manufacturer's recommended rates, incorporated (roto-tilled) to a 6" depth prior to planting operations. Soil pH range in azalea planting soils shall be maintained between 4.5 and 5.0. Submittal of soil test required upon request.

**FRANKLIN BOULEVARD PLANTING SCHEDULE**

| KEY                  | QUANTITY | SPACING   | BOTANICAL NAME                           | COMMON NAME              | REMARKS   |
|----------------------|----------|-----------|--|--------------------------|---|
| <b>TREES / PALMS</b> |          |           |  |                          |   |
| CC                   | 2        | Per Plan  | Cercis canadensis                        | Eastern redbud           | 30 gal, 15-2" cal, 8-10" ht., 3-4' epr.   |
| CV                   | 1        | Per Plan  | Chionanthus virginicus                   | Fringe Tree              | 30 gal, 15-2" cal, 8-10" ht., 3-4' epr.   |
| LIA                  | 24       | Per Plan  | Lagerstroemia indica 'Arapaho'           | Arapaho Crape Myrtle     | 30 gal, 9-10' ht., 5-6' epr., multi trunk min, 3 trunks @ 1-1/4" cal, min.                  |
| LIM                  | 19       | Per Plan  | Lagerstroemia indica 'Muskegee'          | Muskegee Crape Myrtle    | 45 gal, 12-13' ht., 7' epr., standard trunk @ 3-3.5" cal, min.                              |
| LIS                  | 32       | Per Plan  | Lagerstroemia indica 'Sioux'             | Sioux Crape Myrtle       | 30 gal, 9-10' ht., 5-6' epr., multi trunk min, 3 trunks @ 1-1/4" cal, min.                  |
| LJ                   | 11       | Per Plan  | Lonicera japonicum                       | Waxleaf Ligustrum        | 200 gal, 10-11" ht., and epr., multi trunk min, 4 trunks @ 2-1/4" cal, min. (Florida Fancy) |
| PS                   | 7        | Per Plan  | Prunus serrulata 'Kwanzan'               | Kwanzan Cherry           | 30 gal, 9-10' ht., 4-5' epr., 2-2.5" cal.   |
| FU                   | 5        | Per Plan  | Prunus umbellata                         | Flatwoods Plum           | 30 gal, 8-9' ht., 5-6' epr., 2-2.5" cal.  |
| WR                   | 10       | Per Plan  | Washingtonia robusta                     | Washington Palm          | 26' overall ht., matched specimens w/ straight, clean trunks                                |
| <b>SHRUBS</b>        |          |           |  |                          |   |
| CF                   | 5        | 5' oc     | Calycanthus floridus                     | Sweet Shrub              | 15 gal, 3.5-4' ht., 1.5-2' epr.   |
| CS                   | 8        | 6' oc     | Camellia sasanqua                        | Sasanqua Camellia        | 15 gal, 5-6' ht., 3-4' epr.   |
| CR-(A)               | 15       | Per Plan  | Cycas revoluta                           | King Sago                | 15 gal, 24-30" ht., and epr., min, 20 leaves  |
| CR-(B)               | 21       | Per Plan  | Cycas revoluta                           | King Sago                | 7 gal, 15-20" ht., and epr., min, 12 leaves   |
| ICB                  | 52       | 36" oc    | Ilex cornuta 'burfordii'                 | Dwarf Burford Holly      | 7 gal, 24-30" ht., 18-24" epr.  |
| ICC                  | 106      | 36" oc    | Ilex cornuta 'carlesii'                  | Needlepoint Holly        | 7 gal, 18-20" ht., 15-18" epr.  |
| JP                   | 165      | 36" oc    | Juniperus davurica 'Parsonii'            | Parson's Juniper         | 3 gal, 12-15" ht., and epr.   |
| LAN                  | 296      | 24" oc    | Lantana montevidensis                    | Trailing Lantana         | 3 gal, 12-15" ht., and epr.   |
| ND                   | 20       | 48" oc    | Nandina domestica                        | Heavenly Bamboo          | 7 gal, 3.5-4' ht., 1.5-2' epr.  |
| OF                   | 8        | 6' oc     | Omanthus fragrans                        | Tea Olive                | 15 gal, 3.5-4' ht., 1.5-2' epr.   |
| RMB                  | 10       | Per Plan  | Raphiolepis umbellata 'Majestic Beauty'  | Yeddo Hawthorne          | 25 gal, 4-5' ht., 3-4' epr. (Florida Fancy)   |
| EAB                  | 22       | 4' oc     | Azalea Encore x 'Robleo'                 | Autumn Belle Azalea      | 3 gal, 15-18" ht., and epr.   |
| EAC                  | 13       | 4' oc     | Azalea Encore x 'Roblec'                 | Autumn Chiffon Azalea    | 3 gal, 15-18" ht., and epr.   |
| EACC                 | 25       | 4' oc     | Azalea Encore x 'Roblec'                 | Autumn Carnation Azalea  | 3 gal, 15-18" ht., and epr.   |
| EAE                  | 20       | 4' oc     | Azalea Encore x 'Conlec'                 | Autumn Embers Azalea     | 3 gal, 15-18" ht., and epr.   |
| EAR                  | 11       | 4' oc     | Azalea Encore x 'Conlec'                 | Autumn Royalty Azalea    | 3 gal, 15-18" ht., and epr.   |
| EAS                  | 24       | 4' oc     | Azalea Encore x 'Robleja'                | Autumn Sweetheart Azalea | 3 gal, 15-18" ht., and epr.   |
| EAT                  | 13       | 4' oc     | Azalea Encore x 'Conlec'                 | Autumn Twist Azalea      | 3 gal, 15-18" ht., and epr.   |
| VO                   | 22       | Per Plan  | Viburnum obovatum                        | Walters Viburnum         | 15 gal, 4-5' ht., 2.5-3' epr.   |
| ZP                   | 141      | 30" oc    | Zamia pumila                             | Coontie Palm             | 7 gal, 12" ht., 15" epr.  |
| <b>GROUNDCOVERS</b>  |          |           |  |                          |   |
| AA                   | 917      | 18" oc    | Agapanthus africanus 'Headborne Hybrids' | Lily of the Nile         | 1 gal, full plant   |
| AG                   | 2056     | 15" OC    | Arachis glabrata 'Ecoturf'               | Ornamental Peanut        | 1 gal, full plant   |
| BF                   | 184      | 18" OC    | Bulbine frutescens 'Hallmark'            | Bulbines                 | 1 gal, full plant   |
| HS                   | 2862     | 18" OC    | Hemerocallis Stella de Ora               | Stella de Ora Daylily    | 1 gal, full plant   |
| LM                   | 5307     | 18" OC    | Liriope muscari 'Emerald Goddess'        | Emerald Goddess Liriope  | 1 gal, full plant   |
| <b>SOD GRASS</b>     |          |           |  |                          |   |
| SOD                  | 22600    | SOLID SOD | Eriochloa ophiuroides                    | Common Centipede Grass   | Reference Specification Section 02900   |

| REVISIONS |             |      |             |
|-----------|-------------|------|-------------|
| DATE      | DESCRIPTION | DATE | DESCRIPTION |
|           |             |      |             |

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2507 CALLAWAY ROAD, SUITE 100  
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CITY OF TALLAHASSEE - LEON COUNTY  
**BLUEPRINT 2000**  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGENCY & BEYOND  
2727 APALACHEE PARKWAY, SUITE 200  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32301  
Joseph C. Petrich, RLA

FRANKLIN BOULEVARD DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS  
LANDSCAPE PLAN - PLANT SCHEDULE

SHEET NO.  
LS.12