# Apalachee Audubon 2020-2021 Retreat

## Meeting Notes

In attendance: Amelia, Ben, Chase, Dara, Donna, Harvey, Heather, Howard, Kathleen, Liz, Natasza, Nelson, Norma, Peter Kelly, Peter Kleinheinz, Peter Goren, Rob

* Donna would like us to work as a team and says we can’t do everything we always want to put on our plate, so we need to prioritize.
* The newer member introduced themselves
  + Norma: Interested in conservation communication and helping with Debbie Lightsey
  + Heather: Wants to work with Lake Elberta and field trips. She needs to write up a bio.
  + Liz Schold: Will help fill gaps, do educational and conservation work
  + Natasza: Interested in working with Blueprint
  + Nelso: Will help fill gaps, continue with Lake Elberta, hands on outreach
* There was a unanimous approval of the meeting notes from the previous meeting.
  + Ben to receive all the old meeting minutes from Donna to digitize them and get them on the website, then store or recycle them.
* May Budget: $20,003
  + Harvey paid post office $150.00 after that above total
* Kathleen spoke on membership:
  + In June, there were 775 members, which means 12 new members. 1,375 people are subscribed to the newsletter according to Constant Contact. Usually around 300—400 people actively read the newsletter
* Environmental Education
  + Amelia reported on Pines to Palms project
    - About six members have been working on in this project for the last few months
    - Now planning a series of program to highlight native original forest. The focus will be on Leon at the beginning, but if this is successful it could morph into a multi-year, multi-county event.
    - The goals are to get people out to the forests and aware of our old growth forests
* Pineview Elementary afterschool program
  + On hiatus because of Covid
* St. Marx field trip
  + On hiatus because of Covid
* Lake Elberta
  + The planted beds are doing great. Peter, Nelson and Ben have been maintaining
  + Beds need watering and weeding
  + A new interpretive sign was installed in the front bed. Was funded by the Florida Power and Light grant
  + Going forward:
    - The kiosk should be updated with announcements.
    - Peter is going to meet with the heads for the stormwaters divisions to decide when we want to mow along the water’s edge. The beds might need to be mowed.
    - We should do an invasive plan removal in October, but there are issues with the city letting use do so because of Covid
* FSU Sustainability Fellowship
  + A new student will do work at Elberta regarding working on grants to support the project. They will receive eBird training to conduct surveys and work with the city for a course of action on building a bat house
  + Nelson updated the board: Trash flow project is in the data analysis and writing phase of the study.
    - Going forward this study needs to move into the hands of a government agency (city, county, state, etc.)
* Grant Programs
  + RCPP grant through Tall Timbers
    - Audubon will offer two fieldtrips a year in the St. Marks and Aucilla Watersheds. This counts as a match for the grants
  + Cornell Lab of Ornithology
    - Land Trust FL
      * Three land trusts pair with three Audubons
      * Great opportunity: Land trust staff that monitor easements will organize to do eBird checklist on this conservation lands that are lacking them. Helps fill distribution gaps on private conservation lands.
      * Should take place Oct. 2020 through Oct. 2021
* Binocular donation
  + Heather brought up this idea
    - During Covid, people are turning to birding as recreation. Many cannot afford binoculars. We could start a program to collect old binoculars from our membership and distribute them to people who cannot afford them.
    - Heather to write up a request for the newsletter.
  + Conservation
    - Rob: Goals for this year:
      * Would like us to take and overhead view of our accomplishments. Few chapters have 50% of their coverage in conservation as we do. Growing every year by 10,000 acres.
      * Rob would like us to dust off our conservation plan and figure out what we are missing from our area
    - Florida Forever
      * The trick is to have your projects become a high priority FF project. Need local advocacy; ARC pays attention to this.
    - Federal Funding
      * Every year there is funding for expanding conservation land.
      * Need to fire up our representative to expand St. Marks and St. Vincent
    - Private conservations land
      * We should try to work with Tall Timbers to support this
    - Need to comment on management plans
    - Write letter in support of legislation
    - Peter says Tall Timbers is working on projects adjunct to public lands. We can support grant funding by directly support financially.
  + RCC-Regional Conservation Committee
    - Kathleen: Four chapters that set conservations goals for strategic conservation in our area. Disaster preparedness for chapters in the path of hurricanes.
  + Blueprint
    - Debbie Lightsey Nature Preserved
      * AA has been involved with Blueprint planning in advance. They seem to be taking use seriously. We a heave emphasized more native plants.
    - We need someone to take lead on Blueprint
* Leon Co. Office of Sustainability
  + Peter and Ben met with sustainability manager Tess Schreiner to discuss parts of their strategic plan that we can help and/or advocate for.
  + Ben will set up having Tessa come to a board meeting to explain
* Programs
  + Was decided to do a theme along the line of “Access to Nature” in light of Black Lives Matters and issues surround accessibility for many different types of non-traditional nature area users.
  + We will not have live programs for Sept. Oct., and Nov. So, we will not do a brochure
  + First meeting will be webinar with Doug Tallamy
  + Dara: We should look into digital programs and digital outreach. Look to the Grove’s walking tours.
* Communication
  + Dara and Donna wrote up something for a diversity statement. Needs to be reviewed, edited and put on the webpage. Need to make sure our actions reflect our statement
* Ben to take over newsletter liaison
* Dara to head a communications committee
  + Ben: newsletter
  + Dara: Social media
  + Elizabeth/Ben: Webpage
* Storage Shed
  + Need a shed or space as AA materials are at different people’s houses
  + Ask businesses or put something in the newsletter