Apalachee Audubon Board Meeting Minutes 8-11-2021

Submitted by Nelson Ball, Secretary

In attendance: Kathleen Carr, Dara Wilson, Donna Legare, Harvey Goldman, Peter Kleinhenz, Heather Levy, Nelson Ball, Norma Skaggs, Howard Kessler, Robert Williams, Tallulah Biletzskov, Caleb Crow

* Meeting called to order at 6:33pm.
* Minutes from 2021 Retreat were approved
	+ Nelson will send Retreat minutes to Elizabeth along with Treasurer’s report
* Membership—Kathleen
	+ Current chapter membership is 858 as of July 31, 2021.
* Treasurer’s Report—Harvey
	+ Current balance is $21,743.15
	+ Kathleen and Harvey will obtain PDF statement for us
* Program Committee—Norma
	+ 2021-2022 Program Schedule and Venues
		- We’re set up to meet at the King building, but may need to utilize Zoom instead for fall programs given the current state of the pandemic in North Florida.
		- Donna suggests Zoom programs for Sept-Dec and “check website” for 2nd half of the year
		- Donna will cancel reservations at King Building before Jan.
			* We have a contact for tech support if/when we return to that building
	+ Brochure—Should we print one? Are we doing Zoom-only programs?
		- Elizabeth can update and have it ready in time if we decide to do it.
		- Rob asked about the contents if we are unsure whether or not we do in-person programs
		- Brochure will be clear that we may or may not have in-person meetings in January
		- We should move towards making it possible to attend all programs virtually and advertise this
		- Include info to refer people to the website/Facebook or AAS email for information on fall Zoom meetings
		- Maybe 1500 printed brochures: 850 in mail, rest to distribute to airport, local stores, etc.
		- Donna and Norma will talk to Elizabeth tomorrow and get the brochure completed and submitted to print by the deadline (15th)
	+ Unanimous vote to proceed with plans outlined above
	+ Programs
		- SEPTEMBER 16 ECOLOGY & DIVERSITY OF SHOREBIRDS
			* Caroline Stahala Caroline.Stahala@audubon.org
			* SEPT 18 COASTAL CLEANUP field trip to St. Teresa Bluffs
		- OCTOBER 21 FLORIDA RIVERS BIRDS AND WILDLIFE
			* Doug Alderson dougalderson@comcast.net
		- NOVEMBER 13 SATURDAY FIELD TRIP TO LOST CREEK FOREST with Red Hills Audubon
			* Red Hills Audubon may not be forming
				+ The show goes on!
		- NOVEMBER 18 LOST CREEK FOREST A CONSERVATION STORY IN PROGRESS
			* Beth Grant bethgrant@bellsouth.net
		- DECEMBER 9 5:30-8 SOCIAL WITH SIERRA CLUB
			* Grant Gelhardt
			* WINTER ENVIRONMENTAL HAPPY HOUR
			* at Waterworks, 1133 Thomasville Rd, Tallahassee, FL.
		- JANUARY 20 ACOUSTIC ESCAPADES FROM THE FIELD: BIRDING BY EAR
			* Natasza Fontaine nfontainester@gmail.com
			* This talk will give tips on how to get started, recording equipment recommendations, and stories on how I got started listening to nature and recording birds.
		- FEBRUARY 17 CONSERVATION LANDS IN FLORIDA AND BENEFITS TO BIRDS
			* Panel of 3
				+ Shane Wellendorf – Conservation Coordinator at Tall Timbers
				+ Kent Wimmer – Defenders of Wildlife
				+ Jason Lauritsen – Florida Wildlife Corridor jason@floridawildlifecorridor.org (not confirmed)
		- MARCH 17 CONSERVATION ECOLOGY OF SHORT-TAILED HAWKS, SWALLOW-TAILED KITES, AND SNAIL KITES
			* Gina Kent ginakent@arcinst.org
			* Gina will share details on remote tracking, monitoring, and migration while updating listeners on the latest research for these three magnificent Florida raptors.
		- APRIL 21 DECLINING INSECT POPULATIONS AND THE EFFECT ON BIRDS
			* Dr. Bob Cooper waiting for final confirmation
		- MAY 15 SUNDAY FIREBIRDS AND THE HISTORY OF THE STODDARD BIRD PROGRAM
			* Jim Cox
			* PICNIC AT TALL TIMBERS
				+ 4pm open, 5:30pm dinner
				+ Eventbrite for registration so we know how many people to expect
				+ Free to attend
				+ Bring a covered dish
				+ Heather will officially reserve the barn at Tall Timbers
				+ Tall Timbers is flexible on the $300 rental fee
* FieldTrip Committee—Heather
	+ Heather proposes one educational field trip and one field trip to correspond to program each month
	+ Limited to 10-15 people due to COVID
	+ Social distancing and masks encouraged
	+ Jim McGinity from SW FL has visions to start a Young Birders Club in Florida
		- Kids aged 9-17
		- Goal is to hold an annual statewide conference
		- looking to partner with both individuals and Audubon chapters for field trips and education
		- mainly in Tampa right now
		- FOS just sponsored the club and Heather is on a committee for it
		- Heather says AAS could be the extension for the panhandle area
		- Donna will be in communication with Heather about this for Education Committee
		- Rob is interested in possibly helping with older kids
	+ Natasza will lead a shorebird trip at Bald Point SP and St. Marks the weekend following our September program
* Conservation Committee—Peter
	+ Lake Elberta City Park clean-up event. 9/25
		- Supplies are at Howard’s house
		- Possibly get volunteer waivers
		- Grabbers for people in boats
		- Providing snacks/drinks
		- Possible educational moment for invasive plants, though City may not be available for herbicide application on weekend
	+ Caleb is applying for a grant
		- Grant Maximum is $3,000
		- 250 words to describe how we might spend that amount for the application due Aug 20th
		- Thanks to Caleb for taking lead on this!
		- Perhaps an interpretive sign for our bat house
			* We have materials, this $ would cover costs for finishing and installation
			* Draft of text for sign is already written—would take minor adjustments
			* Probably would leave us with a little $ leftover
			* 2 months to fabricate
	+ Future LEP event in October
		- Possible clean-up, planting and invasive removal day
	+ Florida Forever update
		- This year $400 million
			* $300 of this to go towards high priority Ecological Greenways
		- Aucilla River Corridor FF Project being worked on by Tall Timbers ~12,000 acres
	+ Sentinel Landscapes
		- Project proposal due at the end of Aug
		- Designates from Aucilla River west to Perdido River (Alabama) as Sentinel Landscape
		- Would allow for more conservation lands in FL Panhandle
		- AAS to communicate with other Panhandle Audubon Chapters to get letter signed in support of this designation
		- Would be one of the largest Sentinel Lands in the country
* Education Committee—Donna
	+ Donna contacted people that are interested in helping that are not on our Board
		- They are interested in helping with Pineview
		- Pineview said no visitors for 9 weeks
		- Donna will contact the school about contributing something even if we don’t do after-school
			* Possibly donating bird seed for feeders
	+ St Marks has canceled their Monarch Fest this year
	+ Donna will contact City about allowing us to install Chimney Swift Tower
		- Jody will build and we are welcome to help
	+ Bus trips to St Marks are canceled again this year
		- Title 1 schools should be paying for the bus trips, not AAS
	+ Peter suggests short videos for our YouTube channel
		- 30 sec-few mins
		- “How to” and general information
* Communications Committee—Dara
	+ NAS Social Media Collaboration weekly meetings
		- Clarity among existing committees and commitment
		- Consistency across chapter platforms and through media channels
		- Next meeting is Wed 18th at 3pm, all are welcome
		- Dara will send us notes from NAS
	+ Send things that we do as AAS to Dara and/or Tallulah so they can share on our social media accounts
	+ Zoom
		- Dara will send us Zoom tips she received
		- Dara mentions that we can stream to Facebook live without having more expensive Zoom account
* Additional Items
	+ We should start getting our newsletter sorted out for the Fall
		- Kathleen will contact Chris to ask her when our deadline is
	+ AAS will add Martin County Audubon’s photo contest to their social media and newsletter
	+ Alexis and Nelson are working on edits for their Lake Elberta Trash Flow study—a journal is interested and has sent reviewer’s notes