Apalachee Audubon Board Meeting Minutes 2-9-2022

Submitted by Nelson Ball, Secretary

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

* Meeting called to order at 6:35pm.
* Minutes from January 2022 Board Meeting were approved after some minor changes
  + Heather will send minutes to Elizabeth
* Membership—Kathleen
  + Current chapter membership is 922 as of January 30, 2022.
    - Up 16 members since December report
* Visitor Laurie Latchlaw is requesting birding help at SMNWR, March 3rd-6th.
  + Any volunteers?
  + Laurie writes, "I am an avid birder of moderate skill and  belong to both national and state of NH Audubon. I am visiting the Tallahassee area 3/3-3/6 2022 and am hoping to bird St. Marks but I think I would benefit from a local guide as there are some life birds for me in that area in March that I would really love to see.”
  + Rob said he is willing to be contacted and will share places to go within the Refuge.
  + Kathleen said she would be willing to meet her and bird with her.
* Noah Strycker Visit
  + He is a go for visiting here after his appearances in Panama City.
  + He will arrive sometime Sunday afternoon, April 3rd and be here the whole day Monday, April 4th.
  + We need to determine what to do with his time. Who would like to help with that?
    - Heather, Peter, Kathleen, Dara have offered to help
    - Heather will invite him to help with her field work
  + He has agreed to stay with Donna and Jody in lieu of a motel. Kathleen offered that we could take him birding around the area on Tuesday, April 5th (no payment that day). He agreed to that and will be picking up a rental car Wednesday, April 6th to explore the area on his own, flying back to Oregon on April 11th.
  + The understanding is that we are paying him only for part of the day Sunday, and all day Monday. $1,500 total.
* Bird Friendly Yard Tour
  + Everything is good to go as planned.
  + A few extra volunteers would help things run more smoothly (see email from Kathleen for time slots)
* Bike n Bird event with City
  + March (FL Bike Month) or May (National Bike Month)
  + Avoid May 15th (AAS banquet)
  + Cascades Park to Lake Elberta Park
  + Nelson, Heather, Rob will bike with group. Others may be stationed at one site or the other to help with birding.
* Nomination Committee
  + Kathleen will be in charge of this since she is President, but she would like one or two others to be involved, as well.
  + Donna suggested that we approach/consider Alexis Smith to be on our Board
    - Alexis lives near Lake Elberta and helped with the purple martin gourds
    - Alexis recently completed her Masters with a thesis on urban areas of Chicago and their impact on birds (University of Illinois at Chicago)
  + We need to recruit other members and Board members
* Develop a land acknowledgement statement, acknowledging Native American occupation of the land that our chapter covers.
  + Tallulah and Kathleen will work on this. Dara will edit.
* Treasurer’s Report—Harvey
  + Current balance $23,280.54 as of 1/27/2022
  + We need to pay Cierra $250 for this semester and $250 when she finishes in May.
* Program Committee—Norma
  + February Program – Conservation Lands in FL panel
    - Peter is discouraged by the low number of people who have signed up to attend the panel discussion in conservation lands. He is moderator for the discussion and has little time to prepare. He put out a Facebook post about the program.
    - Kathleen included the program description in the February e-newsletter and Norma submitted a brief to the Tallahassee Democrat to run on Friday before the program.
    - Tallulah is ill and could not be at the meeting but emailed that they would work on an Instagram post next week.
    - Dara expressed frustration that she and Tallulah were being assigned too much of the responsibility for Instagram, Facebook and conducting the Zoom meetings.
    - Moving forward Norma agreed to send press releases to sustainable Tallahassee and Friends of Wakulla Springs.
    - Heather said she would ask tall Timbers to email their membership about this program.
    - Donna said Elizabeth included it in this week's Native Nurseries’ email and that Donna would send press releases to Sierra club, NABA, FNPS magnolia and sarracenia chapters, Leon county extension/master gardeners.
  + March Program – Conservation Ecology of Hawks and Kites with Gina Kent
    - No major updates
  + April Program – Declining Insect Populations and the Effect on Birds with Dr. Bob Cooper
    - No major updates
* Communications Committee—Dara
  + March Program and Wildlife-friendly Yard Tour promotions on social media
  + Other business
* FLEDJE (Future Leaders for Equity, Diversity, and Justice in the Environment) Training Report—Tallulah
  + Update to be provided next month (see email from Tallulah)
* FieldTrip Committee—Heather
  + Florida Young Birders Club
    - Anyone interested in helping/joining the committee?
    - Heather is trying to do monthly bird walks for kids and other educational events (e.g., scavenger hunts, speaker series, hands on activities like building bird houses, making suet, etc.) There is draft text we can include on the website.
    - Florida Ornithological Society is sponsoring
    - Ages 9 – 16 years
  + Two potential tabling events
    - Grove Museum 5th Anniversary of public visits – March 12th
      * 10am-2pm
    - FSUCML open house – April 30th
    - We have brochures and displays
    - Some craft supplies that may be good for tabling events are in the box with the Pineview bird club supplies
  + Field trip updates
    - Emails now going to AAS account
    - January birding by ear trip – great participants, including one excited young birder!
    - February bird social at Lake Elberta
      * very cold
      * 11 people attended
    - upcoming walk to Horn Springs (2/20)
      * Filled up quickly!
  + AAS Conservation Grant
    - One application coming in
      * Eastern screech owl bird boxes in Apalachicola Nature Preserve
    - Any others heard anything else?
* Education Committee—Donna
  + Report on resumption of Pineview Elementary School after school bird club
    - Donna has the AAS binoculars until school is over in May
  + Cierra Nelson fills us in on the bluebird box installation at Joe Budd WMA
    - 8 boxes installed!
    - Great feedback from Joe Budd staff and visitors
    - US Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation has asked to make a video about Cierra’s journey in environmental work and they will be using Joe Budd as the backdrop
* Conservation Committee—Peter
* Additional Items
  + Share our programs and events on social media!!!