

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 2015

September Program: Thursday, September 24th

Lasagna Potluck Dinner & Program

“An Apalachee Audubon Evening - Featuring Budd Titlow”

Dinner & Social at 6:30 p.m.* with Program at 7 p.m. (* ½ hour early)

Please bring your favorite side or dessert and the Board will provide lasagna and tea.

Speaker Series

Free and open to the public.

Social begins at 7 pm & meeting at 7:30 pm (unless otherwise noted). Speaker Series programs are held at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 2810 N. Meridian Rd., Tallahassee. Directions and more information: www.apalachee.org.

2015-2016 Program Dates
2015 2016

September 24	January 28
October 22	February 25
November 19*	March 24
*3 rd Thursday	April 28
None in December	May - TBA

Please join the Apalachee Audubon Board of Directors for a delicious Lasagna Potluck Dinner and “An Apalachee Audubon Evening” featuring Budd Titlow, AAS Vice-President and author of *Bird Brains: Inside the Strange Minds of Our Fine Feathered Friends*, as Budd delights us with some of the crazy things we've all seen wild birds do...the wackier, the better! *Continued on page 2*

L to R, clockwise: Guest Jim Stevenson (standing), Budd Titlow, Seán McGlynn, John Outland, Kathleen Carr, Lilly Anderson-Messeo, Karen Willes, Rob Williams, Suzanna MacIntosh, Harvey Goldman, Jim Cox, Donna Legare, Ann Bruce, Carol Franchi and Pat Press. Not shown: Nick Baldwin, Tammy Brown, Ben Fusaro, Judy Goldman, Helen King, Adrienne Rubl and Karen Wensing. Photo by Nick Baldwin



2015 Apalachee Audubon Board Retreat
Wakulla Springs State Park

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October Program: Thursday, October 22nd

Social at 7 p.m. with Program at 7:30 p.m.

St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge “Bring Back the Monarchs”

Supervisory Refuge Ranger Robin Will
with Ranger Scott Davis

St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge with over 70,000 acres along the coast of Apalachee Bay protects a vital link in habitat and migrations that span a hemisphere. Please join Robin Will, St. Marks NWR Supervisory Ranger, for an update of current activities at St. Mark NWR and learn about an exciting new initiative to help bring back the native milkweeds that Monarch butterflies depend upon for survival. Robin Will and Ranger Scott Davis will highlight the “Bring Back the Monarchs” project which will help propagate and make critically needed native milkweed available to benefit butterflies in the St. Marks NWR Apalachee Audubon Monarch-Pollinator Garden at Picnic Pond and butterflies and gardens throughout the region. (More information available pages 15-17.)

Robin M. Will, St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge Supervisory Ranger, has worked with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service at St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge for over 38 years in the area of Visitor Services, including environmental education and wildlife interpretation. She is grandmother to Kenna Kate and mother to Carolyn, Lauren and Julia and dachshund, Molly, and beagle, Madison.



Robin Will

**Apalachee Audubon Society, Inc.
2015 – 2016
Officers & Directors**

President: Seán McGlynn
Vice-President: Budd Titlow
Secretary: Donna Legare
Treasurer: Harvey Goldman

Directors:

Lilly Anderson-Messec John Outland
Nick Baldwin Adrienne Ruhl,
Kathleen Carr *Past-President*
Jim Cox Karen Willes
Ben Fusaro Rob Williams

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**Apalachee Audubon Society, Inc.
P. O. Box 1237
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.

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The Apalachee Audubon Society is established
as a nonprofit corporation for the purposes of
environmental education, the appreciation of
wildlife and natural history, and the conservation of
the environment and resources.

2015-2016 Committee Chairs

Audubon Adventures
Judy Goldman

Awards Committee
Nick Baldwin

Birdathon
Harvey Goldman

Bylaws Committee
Ben Fusaro

Coastal Cleanup
Harvey Goldman

Conservation Committee
Rob Williams

Education Committee Chairs
Carol Franchi & Pat Press

Field Trips
Helen King

History Committee
Suzanna MacIntosh & Karen Wensing

Hospitality
TBA

Membership
Kathleen Carr & Karen Willes

Publications and Publicity Committee (2 sections)
Newsletter & Publications: Suzanna MacIntosh
Media Liaisons: Kathleen Carr & Karen Willes

Nominating Committee
John Outland

Program Committee
Suzanna MacIntosh

St. Marks NWR AAS Monarch Pollinator Garden
Ann Bruce

Webmaster
Kathleen Carr

Wildlife-Friendly Yards Tour Committee
Tammy Brown & Ann Bruce

You can sign up to receive free the Apalachee Audubon Society newsletter and announcements of coming field trips, activities and events by joining our Google Groups email notification list at: <http://www.apalachee.org/aas/about/aas-mailing-list/>. For more, see www.apalachee.org.

Continued from page 1 - "An Apalachee Audubon Evening"

Enjoy a casual evening meeting new friends and catching up with old friends, meeting the 2015-2016 AAS Board of Directors and Committee Chairs looking at some of the great AAS initiatives and some activities planned for the coming year. Let's begin our chapter's next 50 years by enjoying "An Apalachee Audubon Evening" together!

"Every great and deep difficulty bears in itself its own solution. It forces us to change our thinking in order to find it." ~ Niels Bohr



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President's Message

“The Next 50 Years!”

Seán E. McGlynn, Ph.D.



Dr. Seán E. McGlynn
Photo by Nick Baldwin

We hope you'll join us this year as we celebrate the beginning of the next 50 years of the Apalachee Audubon Society. Together, we will set the course for this great journey!

As you may have heard, Budd Titlow has resigned and, as your elected Vice President, I will be your new Apalachee Audubon President. Budd was awarded a contract to write a book with his daughter on climate change. This contract is a dream come true, but it includes timelines and completion dates from the publisher. He resigned as president to devote his time to writing this book. He will still be involved with Apalachee Audubon; he just can't devote as much time this year to the presidency as he feels the office deserves. Congratulations to Budd on a great project.

I am looking forward to this coming year with a great Board and a great Chapter. We are indebted to our first AAS President, Dr. Huey B. Long, and to earlier presidents, board and chapter members. We will work to follow in their footsteps and be good stewards of the environment. Thank you to Dr. Long for all his contributions to our chapter and for sharing his photograph with us of a Belted Kingfisher which he took near his dock.

A primary emphasis of my presidency will be protecting conservation land. Our State Parks are currently among the best in the world. It needs to stay that way. Land designated for preservation is kept in a natural state, emulating conditions before human contact. Most of the land in Florida can be developed; people can make profits from the land, but park land is different and it is sacred. Floridians overwhelmingly amended our Constitution last year to guarantee the purchase and preservation of more public lands. Florida Forever will purchase more state land, but now unchecked greed is eating away at those lands from within. What we already own is in danger. Politicians are demanding that parks must pay for themselves. They have to make a profit! This is not preservation; it is development. Our State Parks need to be preserved for future generations. They need to be set aside and protected. Park lands are our work horse for keeping our water pure, climate cooler, protecting species, pollinators, etc. Our parks are not timber land, farm land or shooting ranges. Our State Parks are not for lumberjacks, livestock or hunting. They safeguard species diversity and must be preserved for future generations in our Florida, Forever.

Of great importance is improving water quality. Water is nature's life blood; it is essential for life; it needs to be pure; it needs to be clean. Every citizen, creature or plant has a right to clean water; clean rainwater, springs, rivers, lakes and oceans are a necessity. Our state is going through the TMDL and BMAP process. That lawsuit decided that the regulatory agencies are responsible for pollution. Chesapeake Bay and Wakulla Springs are being rejuvenated by this program. Pollution must vanish from the Florida Panhandle. Water quality needs to improve in our springs, lakes, rivers and seas.

Another goal is habitat restoration and encouraging sustainable development. Nature has evolved as very structured habitat over the ages; in a few short generations we have destroyed much and rebuilt little. Manatees need to be swimming in Wakulla Springs. Native plants, like milkweed, need to be reestablished. Monarch butterflies need to cloud our skies. Bald eagles and limpkins need to come back.

The Board and I hope you'll have a terrific summer and that you will enjoy the natural beauty of the Panhandle and of our great state. We look forward to seeing you this September.

Reprinted by request from the Summer 2015 AAS Newsletter.

Wild Birds Unlimited



**Everything for the birds
and the serious birder!**

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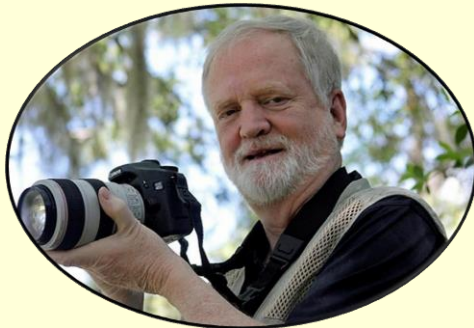
Tallahassee, FL 32301
tallahassee.wbu.com

Introducing Apalachee Audubon Society's 2015-2016 Officers & Board Members



Seán McGlynn, President – Dr. Seán McGlynn specializes in aquatic habitat characterization, the study of water and sediment quality, aquatic plants and algae, and the higher organisms, like birds and other animals which are specially adapted to life in wetter habitats. He has performed hydrographic studies all over Florida, from the Peace River to Pensacola. Dr. McGlynn has a nationally certified environmental laboratory, McGlynn Laboratories Inc., www.mcglynnlabs.com, a nationally accredited environmental laboratory (NELAC), certified by the EPA for the analysis of microbiology nutrients, metals and organic hydrocarbons and approved by FDEP for TMDL sampling of surface waters for priority pollutants and various biological indices.

With expertise in sampling, analysis, hydrographic modeling, dye studies, habitat assessment and restoration as well as database assessment, quality assurance and quality control and environmental resource permitting, McGlynn Laboratories offers a wide range of expertise in environmental clean-up and restoration and, most importantly, active environmental management so that restorations are not necessary. Dr. McGlynn serves as Chair of the Wakulla Springs Alliance, as Vice-President of Friends of Wakulla Springs, and as President of the NW Florida Chapter of the Florida Lake Management Society.



Budd Titlow, Vice-President: A Professional (Emeritus) Wetlands Scientist and Wildlife Biologist, Budd Titlow has operated *NATUREGRAPHS: Freelance Photography and Writing* for more than thirty-seven years. During this time, he has published more than 200 articles and 5,000 photographs. Throughout his career, Budd has shared his love of photography and nature by presenting/leading more than 100 seminars, workshops, and field trips nationwide. He has also conducted surveys and led birding field trips on sites throughout the eastern United States.

The Globe-Pequot Press recently published Budd's latest book, *Bird Brains: Inside the Strange Minds of Our Fine Feathered Friends*. Budd has authored two other natural history photo books: *Rocky Mountain National Park – Beyond Trail Ridge* and *Seashells – Jewels from the Ocean*. Budd and his daughter, Mariah, are currently writing a new book entitled *Climate Change: Hope Through Heroes* which will be published by Prometheus Books in April 2016.

Budd is currently working as a Food Safety Consultant for local farmers while teaching birding/ecology courses at the Tallahassee Senior Center and Florida State University's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, OLLI (*see page 26 for more*). *The Tallahassee Democrat* is also featuring Budd's birding photo-essays each week in their *Friday Home and Garden* section. Budd has a B.S., Biology, Florida State University, 1970 & M.S., Wildlife Ecology, Virginia Tech, 1973.



Donna Legare, Secretary: Donna Legare has co-owned Native Nurseries, www.nativenurseries.com, with her husband, Jody Walthall, since its inception in 1980. She has spent most of these years both at her job and in her volunteer work fulfilling the mission of Native Nurseries - to bring people and nature together in their yards and gardens.

Donna earned a degree in Wildlife Ecology from the University of Florida's School of Forest Resources and is co-author of *Planting a Refuge for Wildlife*, a Florida Wildlife Commission publication.

Continued on page 5



Harvey Goldman, Treasurer: Dr. Harvey Goldman retired from the FSU Physics Department in 2004. He has kept the Apalachee Audubon books straight and paid the bills for over 18 years. Every year he and 4 women regularly hit the road on Apalachee Audubon's Birdathon--as a team sometimes known as Harvey's Harriers and this year known as the *great* team, Four Gulls and a Tern, with Harvey and Judy Goldman, Karen Wensing, Kathy Besbekos and Ann Bruce. Harvey enjoys spending time with his wife, Judy, and visiting his grandkids, hitting at tennis, and travel.



Adrienne Ruhl, Past-President: Adrienne Ruhl is the Contract and Grants Administrator for Audubon Florida's Coastal Program. A Baltimore native, her military family moved frequently, settling in Florida in the early 1990s. She is a graduate of Florida State University where she studied Psychology and Music. In addition to volunteering, Adrienne is passionate about the outdoors and can be found running, biking, swimming and leading hikes in her free time.



Lilly Anderson-Messec, Director: Lilly Anderson-Messec started working at Native Nurseries in 2006 and is now the general manager. She is inspired by the fascinating and complex relationships between native plants and native wildlife. A passionate vegetable gardener as well as a native plant enthusiast, she teaches many workshops at Native Nurseries on these subjects as well as writing articles for *The Tallahassee Democrat*. Born and raised in Tallahassee, Lilly has also lived in Montana and Colorado. In her free time she enjoys exploring the ecologically rich and diverse regions of the Panhandle, observing and photographing plants and wildlife, as well as swimming and kayaking our beautiful springs and rivers.



Nick Baldwin, Director: At the age of 12 Nick became a member of the Illinois/Vermilion County Audubon (which his parents helped establish), almost 60 years ago. The son of world traveling, nature-cinematographer and naturalist parents, Nick had photographed in over 122 countries before the age of 19 and he remembers bird walks along the Jersey shore with R.T. Peterson and taking Peterson's and James Fisher's photos when they came to tour the Great Smoky Mountains with his father as their guide. Nick sold his first nature photos to Prentice-Hall in 1959 which he had taken in 1956 in the Belgian Congo. For over 40 years Nick has been a professional wedding and event photographer, www.nickbaldwinphotography.com. His beautiful nature photographs are included in the chapter's new birding guide and they can frequently be seen in the AAS newsletters. Nick is a dedicated founding member of St. Marks NWR "Refuge Ambassador," program and he watches and records Bald Eagles for Audubon EagleWatch and assists in the

tracking/recording of migrating Loons. He is a Master Naturalist, and Certified Florida Green Guide. He also teaches Nature Photography at the Tallahassee Museum. He has traveled three times to Audubon's Hog Island, Maine to participate in workshops and plans to return there in 2016, most likely studying migration. Nick Baldwin has resided in Tallahassee since 1967 with his wife, Lori. They have two children and three grandchildren.

Continued on page 6

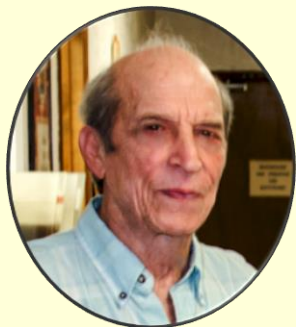


Kathleen Carr, Director: Kathleen is long time member of Audubon and a Past President of Apalachee Audubon. She graduated from Michigan State University with a BS in Zoology, spent 15 years as a freelance writer and currently works at the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Her high point as a birder came in June 2013 when she attended the field ornithology summer camp at Audubon's Hog Island and added Puffins, Guillemots, Eider Ducks and Arctic Terns to her life list.

Kathleen also serves as volunteer webmaster for AAS and has done an outstanding job updating and maintaining the website and also helping with the technical side of the chapter's outreach. Kathleen and her husband Jim have lived in Tallahassee since 1981 and enjoy birding together whenever they have the time.



Jim Cox, Director: Jim heads up the Stoddard Bird Lab at Tall Timbers Research Station outside of Tallahassee. Most of his time is spent studying the many declining species of birds associated with southern pine forests of the region. Birds are one of the most visible components of these fire-maintained longleaf pine forests that once stretched from Virginia to south Florida but now have almost disappeared. Cox also is engaged in land conservation efforts that make use of special programs designed to conserve habitat for rare species on private lands.



Ben Fusaro, Director: Ben retired from Salisbury State University, MD in 1995 and became a visiting professor of mathematics at Florida State University. A few years later he joined and became active in the National and Apalachee Audubon Societies. He has been active in the Big Bend Sierra Club for about ten years and has been certified as Master of Wildlife Conservation (University of Florida), Master Wildlifer (Clemson University and UF), and Master Naturalist (UF).

Ben has a PhD in applied mathematics -- his main interests are student contests and environmental mathematics. His favorite exercise is T'ai-chi Ch'uan.



John Outland, Director: Recognized for his outstanding work on Florida Everglades restoration projects, John Outland is retired after 34 years with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection in the Office of Ecosystem Projects. John graduated from Palm Beach High School and Florida State University with a Masters Degree in Physical Geography.

John is a longtime resident of east Leon County who lives near and is a "Friend of Lake Lafayette". Interests include ensuring environmental integrity through good governance, sound growth management and sustainable development practices. For almost 20 years John has mentored students between kindergarten and 5th grade.

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Karen Willes, Director: Karen Willes is a recently retired musician. Before her retirement in August 2014, she was Organist at East Hill Baptist Church from 1972-2005 and Minister of Music from 2005-2014. In addition, she taught Choral Music in Grades K-12 at Maclay School during 28 of those years -- 1977-2005. She holds degrees in music from Stetson University (B.M.) and Florida State University (M.M). In addition to her career as a musician, Karen enjoys spending time photographing wildlife, especially birds. Her images have been published by The Nature Conservancy, Florida Wildlife Federation, St. Marks NWR, Operation Migration, International Crane Foundation, St. Augustine Alligator Farm Zoological Park, Camp Denali, & The MILEPOST. Karen has volunteered with St. Marks NWR, Operation Migration, and Florida Wildlife Federation.

In May 2014 Karen received a Community Leadership Award from Apalachee Audubon Society for her education efforts and protection of Whooping Cranes 11-09 & 15-09 that have become known as the "Cow Pond Cranes." With the help of Apalachee Audubon Society members and others, she documented these two cranes twice daily during their overwinter months for the past two years. Blog articles about her "citizen scientist" work with the cranes were written by Susan Cerulean and Kathlin Sickel. Karen has donated the use of her images to Florida Wildlife Federation for three sets of notecards including the images for the newly-published 2015 Spring Cards.



Rob Williams, Director: After receiving his Bachelor of Arts in Economics from the University of Michigan and his Juris Doctorate from Harvard Law School, Rob joined Florida Rural Legal Services in Immokalee, Florida, in 1975 as a staff attorney, practicing and litigating cases brought under Farm Labor Contractor Registration Act and the Migrant and Seasons Agricultural Worker Protection Act.

In 1993, he received the Florida Bar Association's Legal Aid Public Service Award and in 2012 President Barack Obama presented Rob with the "Champions of Change: Cesar Chavez Legacy" award in recognition of his service to others, knowledge, innovation, acceptance of all people, respect for life and the environment, and

dedication to improving the lives of others. He was honored at a White House ceremony, along with the nine other recipients of the award.

Rob is the director of the Migrant Farmworker Justice Project for Florida Legal Services, Inc. and is based in Tallahassee. He currently serves on the board of the Wakulla Springs Alliance and in an "of counsel" role on the Center for Earth's Jurisprudence Springs Initiative.

Rob has been an avid birder for his entire life and has been a member of Audubon for over 25 years. He travels often in search of new birds for his "life list."

Thank You for Your Donation to Birdathon!



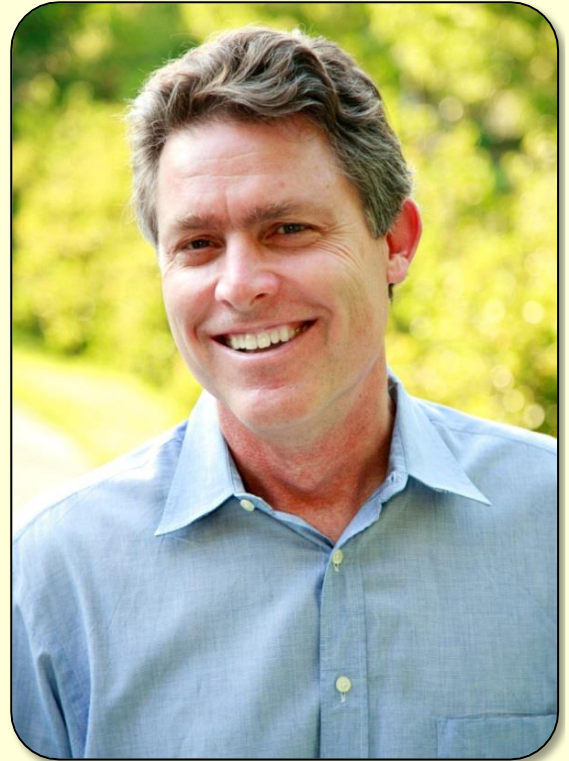
For many years Apalachee Audubon's Birdathon has helped provide AUDUBON ADVENTURES to requesting elementary teachers in surrounding counties. In 2014 as Audubon Adventures celebrated its 30th year, the Apalachee Audubon Society was recognized for its outstanding efforts as one of the top 50 chapters across the nation supporting this important program, www.audubonadventures.org. AAS Birdathon also helps raise the funds needed to provide a scholarship for a local teenager to attend a fantastic summer birding program known as Camp Talon (See this year's scholarship winner on page 12). These are just two of the important goals of Birdathon. "Thank You" for your generous donation and "thank you" to this year's great AAS Birdathon teams and longtime coordinator Harvey Goldman for helping make 2015 Birdathon a success!

May Annual Banquet & Awards Dinner Lafayette Presbyterian Church - May 21, 2015

Apalachee Audubon's Annual Banquet & Awards Dinner was held on May 21st at Lafayette Presbyterian Church. Guest Speaker Eric Draper, who is not only Audubon Florida Executive Director but also a Past-President of Apalachee Audubon, shared a message with the theme of "Building On a Legacy - Celebrating 50 Years of Service". Eric recognized the many men and women whose work built and sustained Apalachee Audubon over the last 50 years and he inspired us to look forward to the next 50 years of service, its opportunities and challenges. Many thanks go to Eric for a wonderful message and for his help throughout this year's anniversary celebration. Thanks also to Friends of Wakulla Springs President Madeleine Carr and her husband, Palmer, for joining us to share this special evening and for the help of Friends of Wakulla Springs, Wakulla Springs State Park and Eric Draper for helping make Apalachee Audubon's 50th Anniversary Celebration at Wakulla Springs State Park in April during the Wakulla Wildlife Festival so special.

"Thank You!" to Chef Tim Smith and his wife, Heather, for preparing a delicious meal featuring meatloaf, mashed potatoes with gravy, vegetable medley, field peas, greens, tomatoes and okra, mac and cheese, and cornbread. Thank you to Tim and Heather for the gift of their time and service to the chapter. Thank you to Native Nurseries and Wild Birds Unlimited for helping with ticket sales, to each of you who bought a ticket and came to the Banquet, and to all the many behind the scenes volunteers who worked hard to make this a success. Special thanks to the LeMoyne Center for the Visual Arts for the generous donation of one of early AAS member Karl Zerbe's (1903-1972) famous serigraphs, *Two Egrets*, and congratulations to the winning bidding donor!

Special thanks go to AAS Board Member and Awards Committee Chair Nick Baldwin. Nick designed each special award selecting a beautiful photograph especially for the recipient. Awards presented this year were: the *Dr. Huey B. Long "Great Egret Award"* (renamed in honor of AAS 1st President Dr. Huey B. Long) which was presented to Eric Draper in recognition of his many years of service as a leading advocate for conservation and the protection of our irreplaceable natural resources; the *Elizabeth J. Platt Meritorious Service Award* to Carol Franchi and to Pat Press for their sustained, dedicated leadership as Board members and Co-Chairs of the Education Committee; the *Community Leadership Award* to Colleen Chase and to Claire Timm, in recognition of their many years of volunteer work with Operation Migration reintroducing Whooping Cranes to Eastern North America; a *Service Award* to 2014-2015 AAS President Adrienne Ruhl in recognition of her service to the Apalachee Audubon Society helping the chapter reach its goals of education, appreciation, and conservation; and a special, once in a lifetime award, the *Energetic Osprey Award*, to Suzanna MacIntosh for her work during the 50th anniversary year.



Eric Draper
Audubon Florida Executive Director



Dr. Huey B. Long Great Egret Award

Left to Right: Adrienne Ruhl, Eric Draper and Nick Baldwin

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Elizabeth J. Platt Meritorious Service Award

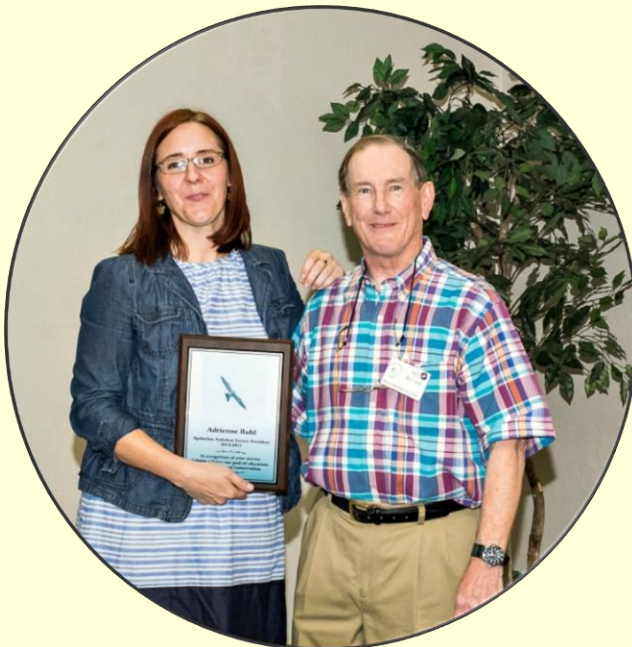
From left: Adrienne Ruhl, Pat Press, Carol Franchi & Nick Baldwin



Community Service Award

For Operation Migration Work Reintroducing Whooping Cranes

From left: Claire Timm, Adrienne Ruhl & Nick Baldwin
(Colleen Chase was unable to attend)



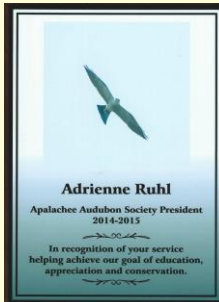
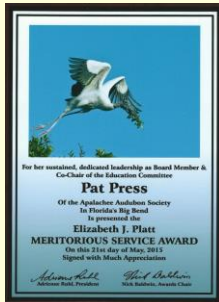
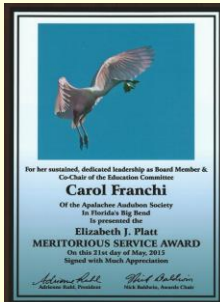
Service Award

Apalachee Audubon President Adrienne Ruhl & Nick Baldwin



Energetic Osprey Award

From left: Adrienne Ruhl, Suzanna MacIntosh & Nick Baldwin






Judy and Harvey Goldman with Eric Draper
All Photos by Nick Baldwin



Chef Tim Smith
From left: Harvey Goldman, Laurie Jones, Adrienne Ruhl & Eric Draper



For his vision and many years of service as a leading advocate for conservation and the protection of our irreplaceable natural environment.

Eric Draper
Executive Director of Audubon Florida
Past President, Apalachee Audubon Society

Is presented the
**DR. HUEY B. LONG
GREAT EGRET AWARD**
On this 21st day of May, 2015
Signed with Much Appreciation

Adrienne Ruhl
Adrienne Ruhl, President

Nick Baldwin
Nick Baldwin, Awards Chair



Palmer & Madeleine Carr




AAS Members & Guests



The Dr. Huey B. Long
Great Egret
A•W•A•R•D

By creating this award, Apalachee Audubon also honors Apalachee Audubon's first President, Dr. Huey B. Long, who in 1963, when asked by then Florida Audubon's outstanding Executive Director C. Russell (Russ) Mason to help establish a local chapter in the Tallahassee-Big Bend area, unhesitatingly stepped up to serve. From the beginning Apalachee Audubon and Audubon Florida have been interested in the selfless efforts of men and women who have worked tirelessly to fulfill the conservation mission of Audubon.

Adrienne Ruhl
Adrienne Ruhl, President



Nick Baldwin
Nick Baldwin, Awards Chair



From right:
Budd Titlow,
Eric Draper,
Kathleen Carr,
Seán McGlynn,
Adrienne Ruhl &
Ben Fusaro



Eric Draper - "Building On a Legacy - Celebrating 50 Years of Service"



Scott Davis, St. Marks NWR Ranger Helps Out Cutting Anniversary Cake

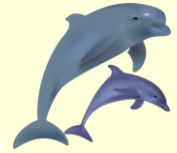
Congratulations to Michael Phillips, this year's Camp TALON Scholarship Winner!



Michael Phillips, 2nd from right, with Family
Photo by Nick Baldwin

Days at Camp TALON

By Michael Phillips



To start this essay, I want to thank you all at the amazing Audubon Society for choosing me to go to Camp TALON for free. When I was at the camp, I really enjoyed my stay and wanted to tell you some things that I learned about and did there.

While at Camp TALON, I learned large amounts of information on birds. I also made new friends and had tons of fun with the other campers. But finally, I learned that some birds have very similar calls and/or songs.

Firstly, I wanted to share with you some of the random facts that I learned about birds while at Camp TALON. Mockingbirds are very common, something I did not know until I attended camp. Birds have better lungs than us; birds have very amazing lungs that keep them from getting tired by keeping a constant supply of oxygen in them. There are more birds than just mockingbirds that will imitate other sounds; the brown thrasher will also imitate other birds. Birds will also reabsorb moisture from their urine so as to conserve water. I also learned that there are different types of bluebirds than the Eastern Bluebirds, of which we have multiple generations living around our house.

I thoroughly enjoyed staying at the camp and the cabins. I met some good friends, whom I hope to see again, and will be staying in contact with some of them. When they gave us free time between meals, classroom, and field trips, we would go out to the field nearby and play ultimate Frisbee. I enjoyed the food they served in the buffet style cafeteria very much. While at the camp and on field trips, I got more exercise than usual. One day while waiting for the bus, some of the campers, including me, were out on the dock when we saw some dolphins.

Camp TALON

(Teen Adventures Learning Ornithology and Nature)

What?

- A five-day camp for teens interested in birds and nature
- Tons of birding and a little classroom instruction
- Sponsors: Georgia Department of Natural Resources, the Georgia Ornithological Society, and the Atlanta Audubon Society
- 3:1 student to teacher ratio. Instructors are professional biologists and teachers, all with 20+ years of experience

When? May 31 - June 4, 2015



Where? The camp will be based at Epworth by the Sea on St. Simons Island. We'll be birding on Little St. Simons Island, Wassaw Island NWR, Sapelo Island, Harris Neck NWR, Jekyll Island, Altamaha WMA, and St. Simons Island.

Who? Hosting 16 students, ages 12-16. Older students may be eligible.

How much? \$300 for early registration (<May 1st). Includes meals, lodging, and bus from Macon. \$350 >April 30th.

How can I register? Look for the form at www.charliceliott.org/camps or www.gos.org or www.atlantaudubon.org

Contact Julie at Jdwildlife15@gmail.com (770) 313-5762 or Bob at kywarbler@cox.net (478) 397-7962



While at camp I learned how to differentiate the songs and/or calls of birds, and I will proceed to give examples. Cardinals and warblers have a curiously similar “chik” sounding call. The Painted Bunting, Indigo Bunting, and Blue Grosbeak all have very similar songs. Most crows have a hoarse “caw” sounding call. Virtually all hawks have similar calls. Almost all warblers have the same call but at different tempos.

Camp TALON taught me almost everything I now know about birds. I enjoyed learning about birds, camping with friends, and identifying birds by their calls. Thank you, again, Audubon Society, for giving me free admission to Camp TALON.

A Swift Night Out at Wakulla Springs

By Seán McGlynn

The Lodge at Wakulla Springs State Park has a full chimney of guests each year as the long hot summer draws to a close. They are not your average tourist but are hundreds of Chimney Swifts which, after feasting off the lush local land all summer, having finished mating and raising their young, congregate into a huge communal roost of hundreds or thousands of birds. Come see the gregarious roosting Chimney Swifts descend into one of the giant chimneys at the Wakulla Springs Lodge for their annual stopover.

Swift Night Out was quite predictable for years; you could have safely bet on the Chimney Swifts arrival, until the year before last, 2012, when the swifts vanished, and never came to roost in Wakulla. Nobody knows where the swifts went, but last year they returned, swirling at great speed, synchronized, and forever, incrementally approaching, closer and closer, to the towering chimney, until finally, one by one, they suddenly ceased forward motion and plummeted straight down into the small opening on top of the chimney.

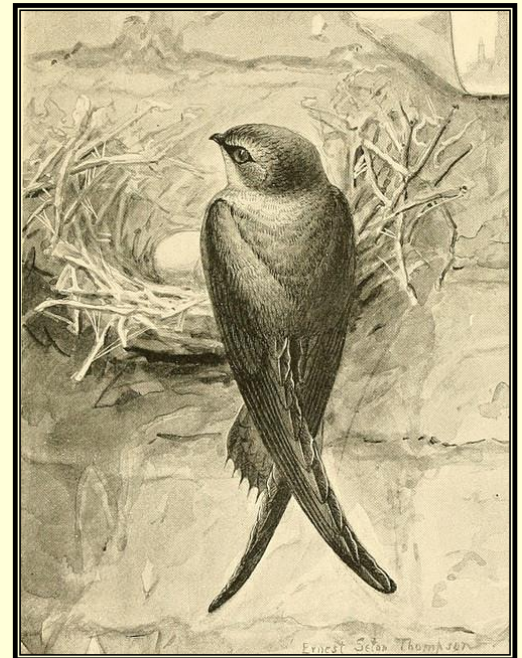
The Chimney Swift is a gregarious species and is seldom seen alone. It generally hunts in groups of two or three, migrates in loose flocks of maybe twenty individuals and after the breeding season is over, sleeps in huge communal roosts of hundreds or thousands of birds. Swifts are rarely seen at rest; they drink, eat and bathe on the wing. During the breeding season nesting adults eat around five thousand housefly-sized insects per day.

Chimney Swifts have not always lived in Chimneys, but they have always dined on insects. They switch hemispheres twice a year, migrating between the southern and northern hemispheres, catching the peak production of insects, alternately in North and South America.

Chimney Swift numbers have declined significantly in recent years. Probably because the chimney, which once adorned every home, has become obsolete. Chimneys are no longer common and most building codes require chimneys to be covered so that rainwater and swifts are excluded.

Don't miss *Swift Night Out* at Wakulla Springs State Park on Saturday, September 12th at 7:30 pm for this year's ranger-led program to see one of nature's most amazing spectacles. Come early and join Elizabeth Platt at 6 pm for an AAS field trip excursion around the property (see *page 24 for details*).

Swift Night Out is a free event with park admission; please call Wakulla Springs State Park at 850 561-7286 to let them know you plan to attend.



Chimney Swift

By Ernest Thompson Seton

Image courtesy Biodiversity Heritage Library and digitized by Smithsonian Libraries. www.biodiversitylibrary.org

A SWIFT NIGHT OUT



Swift Night Out at Wakulla Springs

**Saturday, September 12
7:30 - 8:30pm**

Free with Park Admission

During *Swift Night Out* people all over the country stand beneath chimneys to watch and count chimney swifts enter their roost. The Lodge at Wakulla Springs has a large flock that roosts in one of its inactive chimneys. Come to witness the "flying cigar" shaped birds perform their swirling aerial dance prior to their descent into the chimney. Be part of a nationwide program to estimate their numbers. Enjoy this unusual ranger-led program to see firsthand one of nature's amazing spectacles. Please call 561-7286 to let us know you are planning to attend.



In the Yard By Fran Rutkovsky



Purple Passion Flower Vine

Passion Flower vine is a host plant for Zebra Heliconian (our state butterfly) and Gulf Fritillary butterflies. Although they seemed late this year, I've been watching the caterpillars and looking for chrysalises. This summer I also saw a tiny beetle on it that I had not seen before--Passionflower Flea Beetle. Both larvae and adults use this as a host plant.

Another vine I've allowed to grow is Eastern Anglepod/Angularfruit milkvine, *Matelea gonocarpus* (which showed up on its own)--a twining vine in the milkweed family. A colorful bug I found on it was the Swamp Milkweed Leaf Beetle, *Labidomera clivicollis*. I also saw Red-spotted Purple butterflies nectaring on the small unusual flowers. I've seen various types of flies, moths, crickets, bees, anoles, other caterpillars among these vines. Birds will be taking the pokeberries this fall as well as the caterpillars (keep in mind that birds need insects to successfully raise their young).

Take time to inspect your mini-jungles for pollinators, predators, and prey. You just never know what you'll find!




Gulf Fritillary caterpillar on Passion Flower vine tendril; *Below: Red-spotted Purple Butterfly*

Eastern Anglepod Flowers

Photos by Fran Rutkovsky



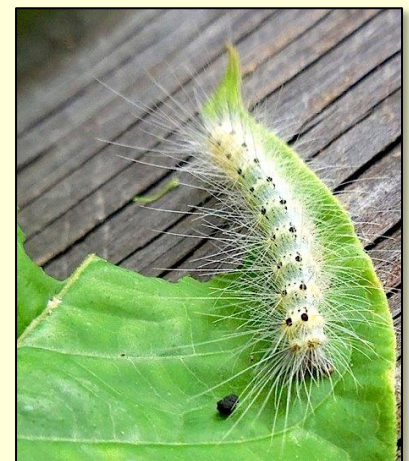


"Our studies have shown that even modest increases in the native plant cover on suburban properties significantly increase the number and species of breeding birds, including birds of conservation concern."

- Doug Tallamy, author of *Bringing Nature Home*



*Above: Passionflower Flea Beetle
Right: Tussock Moth Caterpillar*



Plant a Sassafras for Wildlife

By Donna Legare



Spicebush Swallowtail Caterpillar on Sassafras

Photo courtesy of Donna Legare

In her 1965 book *Natives Preferred*, Caroline Dorman wrote, "The simplest way to feed birds is to plant their food." She was referring to sassafras, a lovely native tree. She noted, "The pretty berries, borne in graceful sprays, ripen early, and are snapped up so fast by the birds one scarcely gets to see them." Like holly, sassafras is dioecious, meaning that male and female flowers are found on separate plants. Only females produce fruit.

Another way that sassafras provides food for birds is through the production of caterpillars. Spicebush swallowtails lay eggs on sassafras and other plants in the laurel family such as redbay, spicebush, swamp bay and the non-native camphor tree. Caterpillars are hatched from the eggs; not all will live to metamorphose into adult butterflies. Many will provide protein to hungry birds.

I have always loved sassafras, from the days of childhood scavenger hunts going door to door asking for a green mitten, which was the clue to look for a sassafras tree in the neighbor's yard. Sassafras has leaves of three different shapes on the same plant - entire, mitten-shaped and three-lobed.

In Florida, sassafras is a small tree, but is commonly found forming shrub-like or small tree thickets, spreading from underground runners. All parts are aromatic; the root has a distinctive root beer fragrance. Ground leaves are used to make filé, the spice that flavors and thickens gumbo. The flowers are yellow/green, the fruits are small dark blue elliptical drupes and the leaves provide pretty fall color from yellow/orange to red.

If you plant one, you will eventually find leaves that have been folded. Peek inside the fold to find the unusual spicebush swallowtail caterpillar!



BEE One in a Million!

Take the "Million Pollinator Garden Challenge"

*"The **Million Pollinator Garden Challenge** is a nationwide call to action launched by the National Pollinator Garden Network in an effort to preserve and create gardens and landscapes that help revive the health of bees, butterflies, birds, bats and other pollinators across America. Everyone can make a difference – from individuals, to schools, community groups, and businesses!"*

*Pollinators are responsible for **1 out of 3 bites** of food we take each day, and yet pollinators are at critical point in their own survival. Many reasons contribute to their recent decline. We know more nectar and pollen sources provided by more flowering plants and trees will help improve their health and numbers. Increasing the number of pollinator-friendly gardens and landscapes will help revive the health of bees, butterflies, birds, bats and other pollinators across the country."*

Learn more at: www.millionpollinatorgardens.org.



“Bring Back the Monarchs”

By Robin Will

Supervisory Ranger St. Marks NWR



Refuge Ranger Joshua Faylo assists in moving milkweed flats

Photo courtesy of Robin Will

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service launched a major campaign this year aimed at saving the declining monarch butterfly. While monarchs are found across the United States -- as recently as 1996 numbering some 1 billion -- their numbers have declined by approximately 90% in recent years, a result of numerous threats, particularly loss of habitat due to agricultural practices, development and cropland conversion. A new cooperative effort is gathering steam to build a network of diverse conservation partners and stakeholders to protect and restore important monarch butterfly habitat, while reaching out to Americans of all ages who can play a central role.

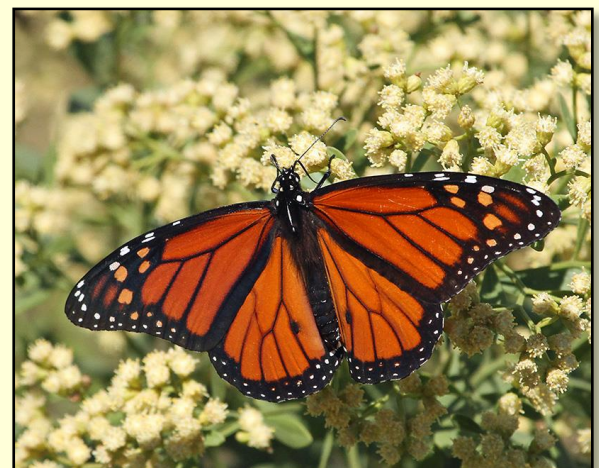
From California to the Corn Belt, the Service will fund numerous conservation projects totaling \$2 million this year to restore and enhance more than 200,000 acres of habitat for monarchs while also supporting over 750 schoolyard habitats and pollinator gardens.

St. Marks NWR is proud to receive \$20,000 in Monarch Conservation funding this year. The Refuge plans to educate visitors and the local community about the monarch butterfly population crisis as the catalyst to expand native pollinator nectar plant landscaping. Here's how we plan to do this:

- 1) Set up a small nursery to initiate propagation of native pollinator nectar plants, including the five species of native milkweed to Wakulla County, Florida. Staff and volunteers will schedule regular work days in the nursery and in the field to survey and census additional milkweed populations on and near the Refuge by spring 2015.
- 2) Develop an education strategy for local schools with outreach programs, publicity and educator training to expand pollinator gardens from the coast to the Florida state line, connecting gardens to the Rosalynn Carter Butterfly Trail, originating in Plains, Georgia, by early summer 2016.
- 3) Develop training and implementation dates for partners to become involved in expanding the native milkweed propagation sites to continue garden development for pollinators. Include Florida Native Plant Society chapters, Audubon chapters, Xerces Society, Panhandle Wildflower Alliance, Florida Department of Transportation, North American Butterfly Association chapters, Florida Wildflower Foundation, Florida State University, Florida A & M University, Tallahassee Community College, and Emory University by spring 2016
- 4) Develop an outreach program for Refuge volunteers to educate groups on and off-site about the value of increasing pollinator habitat. Create a PowerPoint program, handouts, and resources and train interested volunteers in September, 2015. Utilize these Monarch Magic volunteers at 27th Annual Monarch Butterfly Festival and target 200 participants for outreach by May 2016.

St. Marks NWR has been involved in monarch butterfly conservation since the late 1970s and will continue to promote habitat expansion with nectar plants for all pollinators, especially monarch butterflies. Florida has already documented significant economic benefits from wildflower and butterfly viewing, which helps native pollinators. The sustainability of this project will depend on the commitment from partners such as Apalachee Audubon to support pollinator gardening, milkweed propagation, and to share resources with other urban areas. (To see some “Common Fall Butterflies of St. Marks NWR”: http://www.fws.gov/uploadedFiles/butterfly_brochure.pdf.)

Monarch Butterfly - Photo by Lou Kellenberger



27th Annual Monarch Festival at St. Marks National Wildlife Festival!

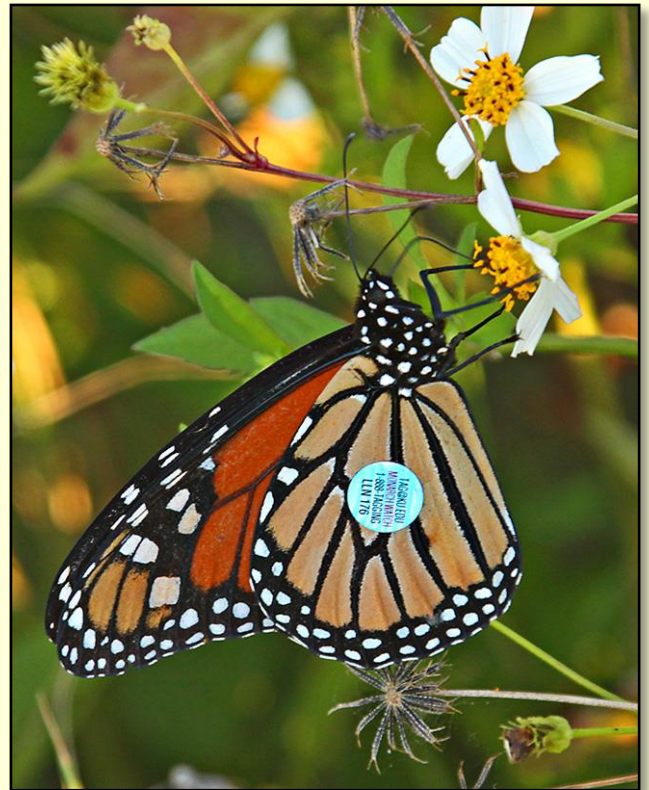
By Betsy Kellenberger

Monarch butterflies will be flying along the coast on their annual migration to Mexico in late October. The St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge will be celebrating this amazing event on October 24th to educate visitors about ways to help these butterflies. Their numbers have declined through habitat loss including the lack of milkweed plants which is their only host plant.

Volunteers led by SMR Ranger Scott Davis have been growing native milkweed plants in a special greenhouse to transplant to gardens on the Refuge. These flowering plants will attract monarchs while they are migrating north and south. Information will be available about which plants to add to your garden to help the monarchs. Native plants offer support for butterflies as well as other pollinators such as bees and moths.

Every year during the festival volunteers capture and tag monarchs to help determine where they go on their migration. Children and adults can participate in the tagging operation which is held near the lighthouse. Monarch Watch, www.monarchwatch.org, a program at the University of Kansas, is encouraging the continued tagging of monarchs to research shifts in migration.

The Monarch Festival will host a number of booths near the Visitor Center to inform, entertain and educate children and adults about monarchs and other pollinators. Children's crafts, hot dogs, music and other fall activities will be in the spotlight. *Betsy is a Past President and currently serves on the Board of Directors of the St. Marks Refuge Association, www.stmarksrefuge.org.*



Photos by
Lou Kellenberger



St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge Presents the 27th Annual Monarch Butterfly Festival



Saturday, October 24, 2014

10am to 4pm

www.fws.gov/refuge/st_marks/

St. Marks NWR AAS Monarch Pollinator Garden

By Ann Bruce



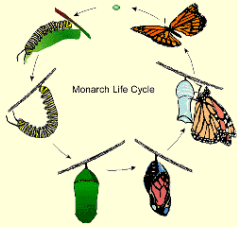
Partnering with the St. Marks NWR and the St. Marks Refuge Association, the Apalachee Audubon Monarch Pollinator Garden was dedicated in October 2009 with the purpose of providing enjoyment for the public and an opportunity for people to learn about the importance of native plants and pollinators. AAS volunteers will be at the garden which is located at Picnic Pond on Lighthouse Road during the Monarch Festival on Oct. 24th. Please stop by and say "Hello". We hope you'll enjoy the garden!

How You Can Help – Start a Butterfly Garden!

By Robin Will



Butterflies can identify their favorite plants from miles away and travel for hours to taste the nectar of the flowers, according to Karen Garland who encourages in her publication, “Fluttering through Gardening, Creating a Butterfly Habitat,” that even a windowsill planter can attract butterflies to your home. By bringing native plants back into your local area, you are helping preserve many species of butterflies that are threatened by ongoing destruction of their habitat and the use of commercial or foreign varieties of landscape plants. For a successful butterfly garden Karen recommends:



- 1) Sunny locations - at least 6 hours of sunshine per day
- 2) Shelter from wind
- 3) Nectar-rich blooms
- 4) Host plants for specific butterflies so that they can lay eggs
- 5) Moist sand or mud for “puddling”
- 6) Flat rocks or other light colored flat surfaces for basking



Add plants that will support the various stages in a butterfly’s life:

- 1) Egg – two days; 2) Caterpillar – two weeks; 3) Pupa or chrysalis – two weeks; 4) Adult – two weeks to two months.

The Florida Native Plant Society has a comprehensive list of host and nectar plants available to help you select plants for your garden conditions at <http://www.fnps.org/plants/butterflies>. The Florida Museum of Natural History provides information and brochures for download at <https://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/wildflower/books.asp> to help with the identification of common Florida butterflies and wildflowers and links to additional resources.

Please visit the St. Marks NWR AAS Monarch Pollinator Garden at the Picnic Pond area during the 27th annual Monarch Butterfly Festival on Saturday, Oct. 24th. Apalachee Audubon volunteers will be on hand and there will be butterfly gardening tips, demonstrations, and copies available of the publication “Fluttering through Gardening, Creating a Butterfly Habitat”.



A Short History

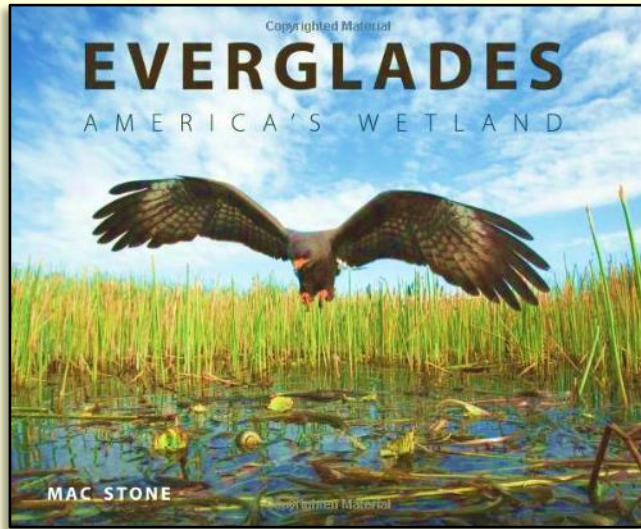
AAS Monarch Pollinator Garden at St. Marks NWR

In September 2009 Apalachee Audubon began a very special project. It began when AAS members Elizabeth Platt and Sunny Phillips spotted information about MonarchWatch’s Waystation program, www.monarchwatch.org, and shared a vision of a garden with the purpose of providing enjoyment and an opportunity for the public to learn more about the importance of native plants and pollinators. AAS President Ed Gartner and St. Marks NWR’s Robin Will collaborated to perfect a plan and thanks to Audubon’s Jacqui Sulek timely alert, AAS volunteer grant writers Ann Bruce and Lynn Reynolds sought out a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to help fund the project.

Many people and organizations worked together to help make the garden a reality. Partnering with the St. Marks Refuge Association (President Gail Fishman) and the Hairstreak Chapter of NABA (President Sally Jue) and thanks to Native Nurseries, St. Marks NWR Photography Club, ‘Waystation’ Consultant Sue Martindale, Crowder Excavating & Land Clearing, the Phoenix Club of Leon High School and their Sponsor Scott Brown, Lincoln High Horticulture Instructor Jim West, the Wakulla High School Advanced Placement Environmental Science class taught by Angie Williams, and the efforts of many more volunteers, the Apalachee Audubon Monarch Pollinator Garden was planted on October 17, 2009 at Picnic Pond at St. Marks NWR and was dedicated on October 24, 2009 during the St. Marks NWR Annual Monarch Butterfly Festival as AAS President Ed Gartner and Committee members Ann Bruce, Harry Hooper, and Lynn Reynolds along with other AAS members and partners celebrated this milestone. Lou Kellenberger documented this early history in his beautiful photographs at <http://loukellenbergerphotography.zenfolio.com/audubonpollinatorgarden>.

Since that day much work has gone into sustaining and expanding this early work. Much credit goes to the efforts of longtime AAS Garden Chair Ann Bruce and today the garden is filled with native plants, migrating Monarchs during the spring and fall, and a variety of butterflies and other pollinators throughout the year. Please stop by and enjoy the garden!

Two Terrific Books about the Everglades



The first book I will review is called **Everglades: America's Wetland** by Mac Stone published by the University of Florida Press in 2014. Mac Stone, an Audubon biologist, has done in pictures what so many others have done with words. He has depicted the Everglades in all their glory and breathtaking wonder. Stone spent many months in all areas of this giant wetland to bring to the viewer unbelievably beautiful photographs of the flora, fauna, water, air, clouds, storms, and nature in images never seen before. This book has stunning pictures of double page aerial views, sunrises, sunsets, hurricanes, mists, fogs, rain, and even some mysterious images to ponder over. You can tell that Mac Stone is in love with this adventure and that his project is the work of a lifetime which asks you, the viewer, to cherish and protect and appreciate the Everglades as much as he does.

In putting together his compendium Stone has visited just about every bog, swamp, river, beach, and mud hole in this vast wetland of South Florida. Some of the places explored were Everglades National Park, Corkscrew Swamp, and Fisheating Creek. As a native of Florida and an Audubon enthusiast, birds were well-represented in Stone's book. His fearlessness and love of nature make this explorer's journey one that birders and environmentalists should treasure and want to share with others. The Forward was written by Michael Grunwald, the Introduction by Former Governor Bob Graham, and the Afterword was penned by Eric Draper, our very own Audubon leader, all who urge each of us to continue to work on our mission to restore, educate, appreciate, and protect the environment.

As an educator I would like to share with you one of my all-time favorite picture books for children of all ages. It is called **The Everglades** by Jean Craighead George (*Scholastic, 1997, Level 5.5*). Jean George, a naturalist and environmental educator, presents here the epic history of the Everglades from the point of view of a Native American tribal leader speaking to young children, telling them of the ancient lands of South Florida and how they have changed over time and centuries of evolution and the introduction of the element of man to nature's lands. The Seminole speaker narrates a lovely story of the thousands of years of environmental history and then carries the listeners into the present day with an inspirational message about how to treat the Earth with love and respect. This book is a great gift book for any child, a read-aloud book for parents, a terrific present for any teacher's classroom, or for a story-telling activity for yourself. Both of these books are available at amazon.com.

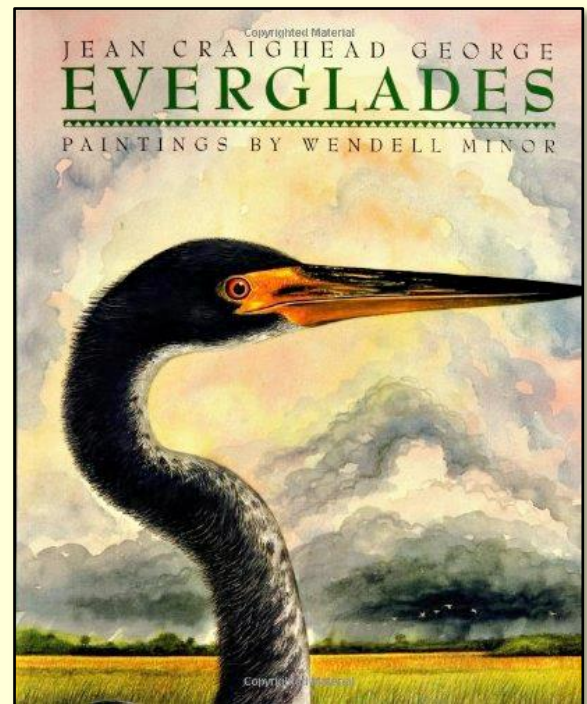
Pat Press and Carol Franchi, serve as Co-Chairs of the Education Committee of the Apalachee Audubon Society. Please see www.apalachee.org for more of the Education Committee's book recommendations for you and your family to enjoy.

Top right of page illustration of "Great Blue Heron in Habitat" courtesy of Steven D'Amato

Everglades Map, 19--

Courtesy of State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory

<https://floridamemory.com/items/show/29958>



LANDSCAPE FOR LIFE™

Based on the principles of the Sustainable Sites Initiative™

Developed by the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center and the United States Botanic Garden

Shared by Suzanna MacIntosh

“A true conservationist is a man who knows that the world is not given by his fathers, but borrowed from his children.”
– John James Audubon

Sustainability is important to us all, to our families and coming generations. Fresh air to breathe, pure water to drink, access to the beauty and the restorative values of a natural unspoiled environment are foundations of the American experience. What we do in our own yards and gardens can have an important far-reaching impact on the environment, our lives and the birds and wildlife we love. When National Audubon issued a “Wakeup Call” in 2007, <http://www.audubon.org/news/disappearing-common-birds-send-environmental-wakeup-call>, it was in response to the newly-released State of the Birds Report which showed steep declines in a significant number of common birds over the preceding 40 years. A leading cause was attributed to habitat loss and degradation. These statistics are important to us not only because of the alarming decline of many common birds, but because birds also act as barometers and reflect the health of our environment.



The **Landscape for Life™** program developed by the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center and the United States Botanic Garden provides common sense ways we can add beautiful as well as functional sustainable landscape and garden elements to our own yards that will help restore some of the balance that has been lost. The Landscape for Life™ is based on the principles of the Sustainable Sites Initiative™ (SITES™). SITES is the nation’s first rating system for sustainable landscapes (www.sustainablesites.org) and it is an interdisciplinary collaborative effort by the American Society of Landscape Architects, the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center at The University of Texas at Austin, and the United States Botanic Garden along with a diverse group of stakeholder organizations. We are indebted to the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, www.wildflower.org, the United States Botanic Garden, www.usbg.gov, and Landscape for Life, www.landscapeforlife.org, for sharing this material.

This article is the 1st of a 5-part series based on the Landscape for Life™ program in which we’ll discuss how to enhance the beauty and function of our yards and work with nature to create and maintain a more sustainable landscape. We’ll look at ways to add native plants and sustainable materials to yards, increase the fertility of soils naturally and its ability to conserve water, minimize runoff and pollution, use fewer pesticides and herbicides, and we’ll learn how to create a natural space that enhances health and well-being not only for birds and other wildlife, but for our families and those we love in the natural sanctuary that we create.

Continued on page 20

Courtesy U. S. Department of State

(C) U.S. Department of State

Sustainability is based on the ethic of stewardship and the Landscape for Life (LFL) program defines sustainability at its core “as the process of attempting to meet the needs of today without compromising the needs of tomorrow.” Here are some of the benefits a sustainable garden and landscape provide as listed by LFL:

- ✓ **CLEAN AIR:** Plants absorb pollutants from the air, sequester atmospheric carbon, and provide the oxygen we breathe. Sustainable gardens maintain healthy and established vegetation that can more effectively provide clean air benefits.
- ✓ **CLEAN WATER:** Plants and healthy soils capture and cleanse pollutants from stormwater. Stormwater runoff from developed land is the leading cause of water pollution in urban areas. As stormwater moves across roadways, roofs, driveways, and other impervious surfaces, it increases in temperature and accumulates pollutants that adversely affect water quality. Sustainable gardens help slow water, allowing much of it to soak into the ground and replenish aquifers. Design features of sustainable gardens, such as bioswales or rain gardens, capture and cleanse water on site preventing the spread of water pollutants.
- ✓ **STORE FRESH WATER:** Healthy soil serves as a natural water reservoir, which can prevent flooding and sustain vegetation in times of drought. Over-compaction and low levels of organic matter are two common factors that limit the soil’s ability to absorb and retain water. Sustainable gardens protect and restore the soil’s ability to capture fresh water and support vibrant vegetation.
- ✓ **CONTROL EROSION AND SEDIMENT RUNOFF:** Vegetation holds soil in place and decreases the likelihood of erosion and sediment runoff. Sedimentation is a major cause of polluted rivers and streams in the United States. Sustainable gardens use vegetation and mulch to protect soils from erosion and keep soil from entering water bodies.
- ✓ **MAINTAIN SOIL HEALTH AND FERTILITY:** Natural ecosystems often rely on decayed organic matter for healthy soils. Many good sources of organic matter are found in home gardens, including leaves and plant clippings. Each year, millions of tons of yard waste in the US end up in our landfills. Creating sustainable gardens can help minimize this waste by transforming plant trimmings into valuable and enriching resources such as compost or mulch.
- ✓ **MITIGATE THE URBAN HEAT ISLAND EFFECT:** Vegetated surfaces help to moderate air temperatures by providing shade and releasing moisture into the air. Urban development replaces vegetation with dark surfaces such as roofs, roads, and buildings that absorb and trap heat, causing cities to have warmer temperatures than their rural surroundings. This phenomenon, known as the **urban heat island effect**, increases the demand for cooling energy in buildings and accelerates the formation of ground-level ozone and smog. Sustainable gardens favor vegetated surfaces, shaded dark surfaces, and light-colored materials to mitigate urban heat island effects.
- ✓ **PROVIDE HABITAT:** Sustainable gardens can provide habitat for a variety of plants, animals, and microorganisms. For example, a single gram of soil can contain between 1,000 and 10,000 different species of bacteria and fungi that support the growth of associated plants species.
- ✓ **SUPPORT HUMAN HEALTH AND WELL-BEING:** Physical and visual access to natural settings can support many aspects of human health and well-being. Social scientists and psychologists have found that everyday encounters with nature, such as green views from an office window, a lunchtime stroll through a nearby park, or schoolyards with trees and other vegetation can restore our ability to concentrate, calm feelings of anxiety, and reduce aggression. Sustainable gardens seek to provide community and personal access to natural settings.

Sustainable practices recognize and attempt to balance the long-term impacts on environmental, economic, and social well-being.

In the coming months we’ll explore these topics. A great way now to get started is to become more familiar with your yard. One way is by drawing a base map of your property. This can be as simple or as detailed as you like, but as someone who started with a simple draft, may I suggest it helps later on to have the scale and details on your map. You can use colored pencils and graph paper to draw your home and property to scale, allowing about a quarter inch per foot.

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology also has a great new Citizen Science project, YardMap, which is designed to let you make landscape maps of your yard and other green spaces. YardMap is a great tool you may want to use to help map your yard and it also provides lots of useful information about creating habitat. Here is a link to YardMap and more information, www.yardmap.org.

It's helpful to have a base map that includes the following:

- ✓ All paved surfaces, such as driveways, walks, and patios
- ✓ The footprint of each building
- ✓ Utility lines such as gas, sewer, and electric
- ✓ North arrow
- ✓ Scale of the base map

Make several copies of your base map or use tracing paper over the base map and add the following information on separate base map copies.

1. Add your trees and shrubs, noting if they are deciduous, and begin to watch the changes in sunlight patterns throughout your landscape and as the sun shifts across the horizon throughout the day and over the year. Notice prevailing wind direction. Mark any native plants and plant communities. Note your large trees and circle the areas they shade over the course of the day, noting areas that receive sun all day long and note those that receive morning sun, midday sun, afternoon sun only, or full shade.
2. On another copy note areas in your yard where the soil is relatively undisturbed native soil and where there is vegetation that should be protected, as well as problem areas where topsoil was removed or compacted, where it stays wet, or where it is dry and exposed. (*We'll discuss soil in more detail in the next segment.*) Identify and note a well-drained spot on your property shaded from the hot afternoon sun where you can locate a compost pile.
3. On a fresh copy, show where rainwater may come rushing off roofs or gutters, where it flows across your property and down paved surfaces, and where it pools during storms. Note any water features, such as a nearby stream and note the type and location of your irrigation system, if you have one.
4. On another copy note shady, protected, or private areas for relaxation or socializing. Mark areas in full sun where it would be appropriate to grow wildflowers, herbs, vegetables, or fruits.

If this seems daunting at first, you'll find as you go along it's really a lot of fun. We are so fortunate in Tallahassee to have many great resources close at hand. One of my favorites is the continuing series of great workshops at Native Nurseries about the many facets of sustainable landscapes; they can provide practical gardening advice taking into account the special growing and weather conditions of the area too. National Audubon has some great information also about creating a bird-friendly yard here: <https://www.audubon.org/magazine/july-august-2013/how-create-bird-friendly-yard>

This series will be continued in the November-December Apalachee Audubon newsletter.

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Congratulations!



Winners of the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center's "Picture a Roadside" photography competition, held in honor of this October's 50th anniversary of the Highway Beautification Act, have recently been announced and congratulations go to Eleanor Dietrich for her beautiful photograph of wildflowers along a roadside in Florida's Apalachicola National Forest. To view Eleanor's photograph along with other beautiful roadside photographs, please see: <http://www.wildflower.org/feature/?id=161>! Don't miss Eleanor's wildflower program on Saturday, September 19th at Native Nurseries (see page 28 for more information) and a wonderful follow-up Apalachee Audubon field trip sponsored by the Florida Wildflower Foundation with Eleanor on Saturday, October 10th to see fall wildflowers in bloom along SR 65 (see page 24 for more information).



Habitat Hints for Migrating Birds

By Kay Charter



It is a sad truth that too many conservationists, even those engaged in teaching about habitat, have no idea that native plants are an important key to help stem the decline of our bird populations. A perfect example of this disconnect occurred several years ago. While I was attending an International Wildlife Conference in Columbus I was engaged in a conversation with the educational director of a state Audubon Society and mentioned the fact that native plants host the majority of the insects that support our migratory birds. The educational director, a biologist, challenged my statement. He asked if we really know that is true.

We do! Those who question that assertion will gain a lot by reading Dr. Doug Tallamy's fine book, *Bringing Nature Home*. In his book Dr. Tallamy, an entomologist, documents the importance of native plants, and the insect abundance hosted by those plants, to a healthy bird population. (For more: <http://www.bringingnaturehome.net/>)

If you want to be a part of the solution in turning around declining numbers for our wonderful migrating birds, create a rich haven in your yard by picking up a flat of wildflowers, or half a dozen berry-bearing shrubs that are native to your region. Add some native trees. Plant them on your property. Next year do the same thing. Packing your yard with native plants will create habitat by hosting life-giving insects. Then watch for Red-eyed Vireos or Gray Catbirds to come and nest there...even if you live in an urban area. Keep an eye out in spring for spectacular songbirds returning from the Tropics, which will land in the oasis you have offered for rest and refueling.

There are other things we also can do. Keep our cats indoors, which is not only better for birds, it's also better for kitty. Estimates of birds taken by free roaming pet and feral cats range up to a billion individuals a year. Protect birds from plate glass windows. Dr. Daniel Klem, the leading expert on bird window kills says that up to a billion birds a year die in collisions with plate glass windows. Avoid using pesticides, which kill the insects birds need, and can kill the birds outright. Drink bird friendly coffee, which will protect wintering habitat.

Imagine what our bird populations would look like if everyone took the above actions. So join us. Plant natives in your yard, act on the other issues, and then revel in the results!

Grow a Bird Feeder

Availability of insects is crucial to migrating and nesting birds. Only native plants support insect biomass. Grow a Bird Feeder by planting native trees, shrubs, flowers and grasses.

Insects Insect biomass is essential to healthy bird populations. Virtually all terrestrial nestlings are raised on insects. This Common Yellowthroat and Black-capped Chickadee have captured food for their young. To provide birds with this most important food source, use insect-hosting native plants in your landscape.

Birds Birds, especially warblers, depend heavily on moth and butterfly larvae during migration. According to Douglas Tallamy (*Bringing Nature Home*, Timber Press, 2009) the top three larval hosts are oaks (*Quercus* species), native cherries (*Prunus* species) and willows (*Salix* species). Plant those native to your region in your home garden.

Butterflies For butterflies, incorporate larval host plants in your landscape. For Gray Hairstreak – native legumes; for Luna Moths – native cherries, oaks and walnuts.

For more information on butterfly larval host plants, see Kenn Kaufman's *Field Guide to Butterflies of North America*, 2003. Houghton Mifflin.

Common Yellowthroat, Photo: Jeff Kasper
 Pileolated Spiny Milk Thistle, Photo: Doug Tallamy
 Black-capped Chickadee, Photo: Robert Ryan
 Black-throated Blue Warbler, Photo: Jeff Kasper
 Common Yellowthroat, Photo: Jeff Kasper
 Pileolated Spiny Milk Thistle, Photo: Doug Tallamy
 Gray Hairstreak, Photo: Jeff Kasper
 Tiger Swallowtail, Photo: Doug Tallamy
 Luna Moth, Photo: Robert Ryan
 Baltimore Checkerspot, Photo: Robert Ryan
 Great Southern White, Photo: Robert Ryan

Poster Sponsors: Saving Birds Thru Habitat (www.savingbirds.org), Janey F. New Foundation (www.jfnfoundation.org), Little Garden Club of Leland, MI © 2010

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Send your request plus \$5 to:
SBTH, P.O. Box 288, Omena, MI 49674



Guest columnist Kay Charter is Executive Director of *Saving Birds Thru Habitat*, www.savingbirds.org, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to educating people about the decline of our migrating bird populations and how to improve those numbers. Kay is also co-owner of Charter Sanctuary, <http://leelanauconservancy.org/blog/landownerstory/charter-bird-sanctuary-omena/>, a private effort on behalf of migrating and nesting songbirds and author of *For the Love of Birds*.

Reprinted from *Apalachee Audubon Jan.-Feb. 2012 newsletter*.



Reunite Baby Squirrels with Mom

By Sandy Beck



Baby bird season is winding down now, and baby squirrel season has just begun. Every year from August to October, people in our community discover hundreds of baby squirrels that have fallen from their nests. Assuming the babies are orphaned, wildlife lovers often scoop them up and take them to St. Francis Wildlife.

While St. Francis' dedicated staff and volunteers do an excellent job of raising these babies, nobody knows how to raise a baby squirrel better than a mother squirrel. So unless he is injured, you rescued him from a pet's mouth (he will need antibiotics), his mother is dead or he is covered with insects, try to reunite the baby squirrel with his mother.

Many people wonder if the mother will reject her baby if a human handles him. I once saw a mother squirrel attack a large grey rat snake that was approaching her nest. She grabbed the snake in her mouth, ferociously shook it, and then flung it 30 feet to the ground. I've also seen a mother squirrel jump a Barred Owl that was too close to her nest. The surprised (humiliated?) Barred Owl flew away. With a maternal instinct as powerful as this, you can bet that a little eau de human will not deter her.

Pick up the baby and examine him. If he is cold, but appears otherwise healthy, first warm him up. Put the baby in an old t-shirt (not a towel) in a shoebox. Place half the box on a heating pad set on low. Or fill a water bottle or zip-close bag (double bag it) with warm water, wrap it in another t-shirt and place it in the box. Never try to feed the baby or give it milk.

When the baby is warm, place the box at the base of the tree from which it fell so mom can come to pick it up. Or tie the box as high as possible to the tree to avoid predators. Go inside (take pets inside too) and monitor the baby squirrel from a window. If the mother does not return by dusk, take the baby inside for the night and keep it warm. Then try putting him outside again first thing in the morning. If she does not return, take the baby to St. Francis Wildlife. Never attempt to handle baby raccoons, foxes or other mammals that are known rabies vectors. Florida's squirrels, opossums and rabbits are uncommon rabies vectors.

Would you like to learn how to raise orphaned baby squirrels? You would first need to spend some time volunteering at the wildlife hospital, caring for the babies with staff. When you are experienced in animal care, you may be able to care for baby squirrels at your home. Volunteers must be at least 18, have their own health insurance and transportation and no immune-compromised diseases. To care for babies at home, you would need a quiet space in your home away from pets, and be able to feed and care for the orphans until they are released at the age of 12 weeks. If this interests you, read more at www.stfranciswildlife.org/GetInvolved.html and then call (850) 627-4151.

If you find an injured or truly orphaned baby squirrel or other wildlife, call St. Francis Wildlife at 850 627-4151 or go to www.stfranciswildlife.org for directions to their rehabilitation center.

You can also take it, 24/7, to the Northwood Animal Hospital or Allied Emergency Veterinary Hospital.

Sandy Beck serves as St. Francis Wildlife's education director. Her Wild Classroom outreach programs use disabled wildlife from the St. Francis Wildlife Association to nurture a personal connection with the natural world. Learn more at www.stfranciswildlife.org.



Every year St. Francis Wildlife raises hundreds of orphaned baby squirrels like these. If possible try to reunite these wild babies with their mother.

Photo by Teresa Stevenson



September & October Field Trips

By Helen King



Least Bittern
Courtesy of
Daniel S. Kilby

We have some great field trips planned for you. We hope you will join us.

Please email Helen King at thekingsom@gmail.com if you have any questions.

For September, there is no requirement to respond if you plan to attend AAS field trips, but please advise Wakulla Springs State Park if you are planning to attend *Swift Night Out*.

In September we will visit two contrasting areas & in October we have a special field trip along SR 65 planned for you!

Friday, Sept. 4: Lake Jackson Mounds Archaeological State Park

3600 Indian Mounds Road, Tallahassee

Meet at the main entrance parking lot at 8 am. If time permits, we will also visit some of the Lake Jackson landings.

There will be some walking required.

Saturday, Sept. 12: AAS Field Trip & Swift Night Out at Wakulla Springs State Park

Meet Elizabeth Platt at the main entrance of the Wakulla Springs Lodge at 6 pm

to enjoy an excursion around the property just prior to *Swift Night Out*.

Swift Night Out and the counting of the Chimney Swifts will begin at 7:30 pm. Meet at the entrance to the Lodge to enjoy this unusual ranger-led program and to see firsthand one of nature's amazing spectacles. *(More information on page 12.)*

Free with Park Admission. Please call 850 561-7286 to let Wakulla Springs State Park know you are planning to attend.

Saturday, Oct. 10: State Road 65 through the Apalachicola National Forest to see Fall Wildflowers

October is the big bloom month for the fantastic show of fall wildflowers!

Join Eleanor Dietrich for a field trip down SR 65 through the Apalachicola National Forest, sponsored by the Florida Wildflower Foundation. **Please contact Eleanor at Eleanor43@aol.com to reserve your space.** The trip will be limited to 15 people or 4 cars (we can carpool at the meeting location; and, if anyone has a van, that would be great). Meet at the Park and Ride at the Telogia Grocery at the intersection of SR 65 and CR 67, to depart at 9:30 am. Come early and have breakfast at T&P Foods with Eleanor at 8:30 am. You can also pick up something at the grocery; we'll plan to have lunch at the Family Coastal Restaurant in Sumatra at the end of the trip.

You are of course welcome to continue exploring the area on your own after that. You may see the places and flowers we will be seeing by visiting www.flickr.com/photos/wildflowersflorida and looking at the album "Fall on SR 65", <https://www.flickr.com/photos/wildflowersflorida/albums/72157627874151842>. If you are not able to go on this field trip, you can download a guide at: http://www.flawildflowers.org/resources/pdfs/pdf2012/Pan_Wildflower_Broch_online.pdf. The guide will also be available at the various stores on the route. Learn more about Florida wildflowers at: <http://flawildflowers.org/index.php>

Sunday, Oct. 11: "The Big Sit!" at St. Marks NWR Lighthouse

St. Marks NWR has invited us to help on Sunday, Oct. 11, 2015 with The Big Sit!, a fun annual, international, noncompetitive birding event hosted by Bird Watcher's Digest and founded by the New Haven (Connecticut) Bird Club. St. Marks NWR has hosted a team, the "St. Marks Spotters", since 2008. Working in shifts from 8 am - 5 pm "Spotters" will sit in a circle together down at the Lighthouse and document all bird species seen and heard during this event. The St. Marks Spotters hope to earn #1 in the state of Florida this year for the most species recorded. Please call or email Robin Will at 850 925-6121 or robin_will@fws.gov if you are able to help for a 1-2 hour block of time as a "Spotter" to record birds on this date. It is a FEE-FREE day as the start of National Wildlife Refuge Week too! More about The Big Sit!: <http://www.birdwatchersdigest.com/bwdsite/connect/bigsit.php>

For notification of coming field trips, subscribe to Apalachee Audubon's Google Groups email notification list available at www.apalachee.org. Field Trip birding reports are recorded at ebird, NFB, and with Apalachee Audubon.

Come bird with us!

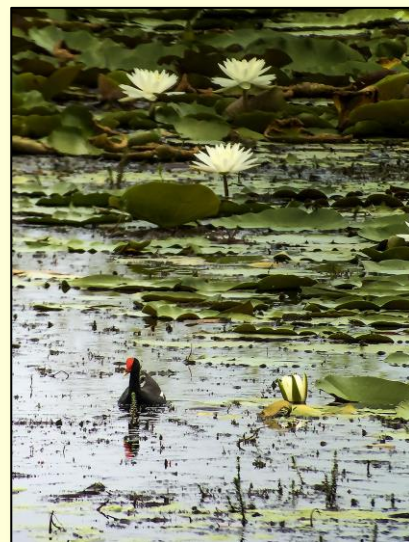
Thank you to Karen Willes and Brian Lloyd for sharing photos from summer field trips on the following pages.

Summer Field Trips

Thank you to Karen Willes and Brian Lloyd for sharing photographs from AAS summer field trips. We hope you'll enjoy them. Come bird with us when you can. We have a great group, learn from one another, and have a terrific time!



*L to R: Goslings at Cascades Park,
Limpkin at Lake Henrietta,
Common Gallinule at Lake Jackson*
Photos by Karen Willes



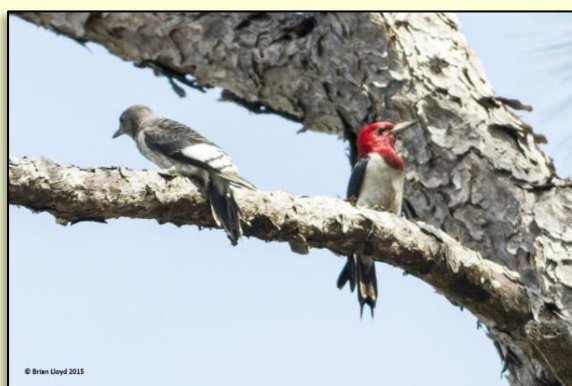
Field Trip Participants
Ochlockonee River State Park
Photo by Brian Lloyd



Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Ochlockonee River State Park
Photo by Brian Lloyd



Wood Storks – Long Pond Killearn
Photo by Karen Willes



Above: Red-headed Woodpeckers
Ochlockonee River State Park
Right: Belted Kingfisher
Lafayette Heritage Trail Park, Piney Z
Far Right: Yellow Warbler
Lafayette Heritage Trail Park, Piney Z
Photos by Brian Lloyd



Black-bellied Whistling Duck & Chicks
Rhoden Landing – Lake Lafayette
Photo by Brian Lloyd



*To learn more, pick up a copy of AAS's birding guide, **Great Birding Spots in Tallahassee, Florida and Surrounding Areas** Apache Audubon Society*

Coming Fall Activities and Events

AUDUBON ASSEMBLY 2015

Friday, October 23 - Saturday, October 24

Sheraton Orlando North, Maitland, Florida

- The Audubon Assembly is Florida's premiere conservation event
- Join friends for two days of informative workshops with exciting guest speakers and unforgettable field trips

To learn more and to make your reservation, please see:

<http://florida-audubon.ticketleap.com/audubon-assembly-2015/>



Save the Date!

Join the Apalachee, Bay County, Choctawhatchee & Francis M. Westin Audubon Societies for the 2015 Northwest Florida Audubon Academy. There will be a morning field trip, workshops, and lunch. Registration is only \$20/per person. Please register by Wednesday, Sept. 9th.

Northwest Florida Audubon Academy

Saturday Sept. 12, 2015

9:45 am – 4:00 pm

(Field Trip 7:30 – 9:00 am)

Bay County IFAS Extension Office

2728 East 14th Street

Panama City, FL 32401



Please phone (850)233-1313 or email maryjocapra@hotmail.com if you have questions or to confirm space is still available.

Join Us!

Head to the coast and join Audubon Florida staff for a shorebird walk to look for Red Knots, Piping Plovers, Marbled Godwits and more!



Marbled Godwit Photo by Rich Greenspan

Come learn about band resighting and become part of this statewide effort. Contact Bonnie Samuelsen at BSamuelsen@Audubon.org for more information.

Would you like to learn more?

See the Florida Shorebird Alliance

<http://flshorebirdalliance.org/resources/banded-birds.aspx>



Starting in September!

Budd Titlow

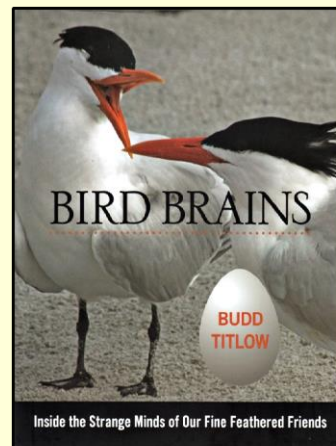
“The Behavior of Wild Birds”

at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

Behavior of Wild Birds - Identify, Watch, and Enjoy! (Tuesdays, 9:30am - 11:30am)

This course will feature class presentations based on Budd's book, *Bird Brains: Inside the Strange Minds of Our Fine Feathered Friends*, and his weekly Birding Column in the “Home & Garden Section” of the Friday Tallahassee Democrat. Using close-up portraits of each bird -- coupled with engaging behavioral videos -- the class will discuss the crazy things we've all seen wild birds do...the wackier, the better! There will be two field trips to local birding hot spots to try and catch some of avian superstars in action. In the process, the class will talk about the keys to finding and identifying birds (including songs and calls), some of the best places to go to watch birds in Florida, and how to attract a wide array of wild birds to your very own backyard. To learn more and how to register, please see: <http://www.campusce.net/fsu/category/category.aspx?C=6&S=48&sc=6> or call the OLLI office at 850 644-7947.

Photo top left: Sandhill Crane with Chick by Budd Titlow



2015 COASTAL CLEANUP

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19th

Bottoms Road – Meet at the Boat Launch

8:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.

Apalachee Audubon volunteers will meet at Bottoms Road at the boat launch at 8:30 am. Volunteers will be provided trash bags and directions to areas to be cleaned. Please return by 11:30 am to the site captain, Harvey Goldman, to turn in your completed data card, drop off your bags and head over to Wooley Park for lunch. If you have a question, please call Harvey at 850 385-5222. Helping with the Coastal Cleanup is an AAS tradition!

For more information, contact
Keep Wakulla County Beautiful at
850-745-7111, helpkwcb@gmail.com,
or visit www.kwcb.org.



Lost Creek Forest By Beth Grant



Many interesting activities are planned for this fall at **Lost Creek Forest**, an old-growth hardwood slope forest and wetlands in Thomas County near Thomasville. As events are scheduled for this very special place, they'll be posted on Facebook and at www.lostcreekforest.eventbrite.com.



Birdsong Nature Center



2106 Meridian Road
Thomasville, Georgia

Wednesday, Friday & Saturday, 9 am-5 pm;

Sunday, 1-5 pm

Admission: \$5-adults; \$2.50-children, 4-12 years

Free to members

For a schedule of special activities, please see

www.birdsongnaturecenter.org & Facebook

or call 229 377-4408 or 800 953-BIRD (2473)



Birdsong Nature Center

Celebrating 30 years in April 2016!

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125 North Gadsden Street - Tallahassee, Florida 32301
850.222.8800 - www.lemoyne.org



St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge

Presents the 27th Annual

Monarch Butterfly Festival

Saturday, October 24, 2015 – 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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.

Visitors will be able to watch the tagging process at the 27th annual Monarch Butterfly Festival on Saturday, Oct. 24, 2015 from 10 am to 4 pm. This 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, taking tours and much more! Be sure to stop by the Monarch Pollinator Garden at Picnic Pond and say “Hello” to AAS volunteers.

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

www.fws.gov/refuge/st_marks/



Coming Activities at

Mission San Luis



Blessing of Animals

Saturday, October 3, 2015, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. FREE

Blessing of Animals is held near the Feast Day of St. Francis [Major], the patron saint of animals. It is a day to celebrate and bless the animals that are part of our lives. There will be pet blessings in the Church, demonstrations, hands-on activities, and animal welfare and rescue groups. Furry, feathered, or other animal friends are invited to be blessed at this annual event. The Blessing of Animals originated in the 13th century in remembrance of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals and the environment, who believed that all animals should be treated with dignity and respect. Mission San Luis is a pet-friendly site, so bring your companions and enjoy the beautiful park setting and living history programs year-round.

The Mission with its historic village is open Tuesday - Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is \$5 for adults; \$3 for seniors (65+); \$2 for children 6 to 17; and free for members, children under 6 and active duty military with ID.

See www.missionsanluis.org for more information and activities.



Mission San Luis, 2100 West Tennessee Street, Tallahassee
850.245.6406



Wakulla Springs State Park

465 Wakulla Park Drive,
Wakulla Springs, Florida 32327 - (850) 561-7286

For more information and additional activities, please see
<https://www.floridastateparks.org/park/Wakulla-Springs>

Swift Night Out* - Saturday, September 12, 7:30 - 8:30 pm

Free with Park Admission - Please call 850 561-7286 to let Wakulla Springs Park know you are planning to attend. More information about Swift Night Out on page 12. *See AAS Field Trip notice on page 24.

National Public Lands Day – Cherokee Sink Landscaping Saturday, September 26, 9:00 am – Noon

Free with Registration - Meet at Cherokee Sink Parking Lot Wakulla Springs State Park & Friends of Wakulla Springs State Park will host a landscaping event at Cherokee Sink to celebrate National Public Lands Day. Volunteers are needed to help plant trees to reduce erosion, plant wildflowers for monarchs and other pollinators, and install fencing to reduce foot traffic in sensitive areas. Volunteers need to provide work clothes and shoes. Work gloves, a water bottle, and a lunch are suggested and encouraged. Space is limited and registration required; please call Jackie Turner at 850-561-7281.

Morning Nature Walk: Saturday, Sept. 26, 9:00-10:30 am

Free with Park Admission - Meet in the Lodge Lobby
Description: Wakulla Springs State Park will host a ranger-led early morning trek through its varying forest communities. Be on the alert for fall-blooming ground orchids and beech drops. To register, please call (850) 561-7286 to make your reservation.

Morning Nature Walk - Saturday, Oct. 17, 9:00-10:30 am

Free with Park Admission - Meet in the Lodge Lobby
Wakulla Springs State Park will host a ranger-led early morning trek through its varying forest communities. Migrating songbirds and autumn colors create the potential for a special walk through the woods in the early morning light may hold some surprises. Please call 850 561-7286 to register.

For dining reservations at the historic Wakulla Springs Lodge, call (850) 421-2000 and for more Lodge information, please see www.wakullaspringslodge.com.

Friends of Wakulla Springs State Park




Conserving The World's Largest
and Deepest Freshwater Spring

<http://wakullasprings.org/>



Workshops to Enjoy at Native Nurseries

1661 Centerville Road, Tallahassee, FL 32308
Monday-Saturday, 8am-6pm
850-386-8882

Please see www.nativenurseries.com and  for more great workshops and information

Wild About Wildflowers

Saturday September 19th 10am Free
Eleanor Dietrich will cover the importance of biodiversity and biological corridors, including how individuals can contribute by using native plants in their own yards. She will also discuss the native plants that can be used in different seasons and habitats, particularly focusing on fall wildflowers. (See page 24 for an AAS field trip to view wildflower along SR 65 with Eleanor.)

TALON TALK WITH SANDY BECK

Saturday October 17th 10:00 am - 11:00 am
Cost \$3.00 for adults & \$1.50 for children
Class size limited - **Registration required**; call 386-8882. Funds benefit St. Francis Wildlife. St. Francis Wildlife education director, Sandy Beck, will dive into the characteristics that define raptors. Meet several native species—owls, hawks, a kite and a falcon; learn how each is perfectly adapted to its particular habitat and what you can do to help them.



St. Francis Wildlife Association

St. Francis Wildlife, a non-profit organization founded in 1978, provides humane care and rehabilitation for thousands of wild birds and animals in our community each year as well as unique wildlife education programs. To learn more: www.stfranciswildlife.org.



St. Francis Wildlife - 5580 Salem Road, Quincy, FL 32352
850 627-4151

Hairstreak Chapter

NORTH AMERICAN BUTTERFLY ASSOCIATION

The Hairstreak Chapter of the
North American Butterfly Association
<http://hairstreakchapter.weebly.com/>

