



APALACHEE AUDUBON SOCIETY

Apalachee Audubon Society Mission Statement:

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

NEWSLETTER OF THE APALACHEE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

50TH ANNIVERSARY - APRIL 2015



Great Egret

Photo by Nick Baldwin

Please Join Us and Help Celebrate
Apalachee Audubon Society's 50th Anniversary
Wakulla Wildlife Festival
"Wings Over Wakulla"

Saturday, April 18, 2015 – 10 am to 3 pm

With Audubon Florida Executive Director Eric Draper

The theme of this year's Wakulla Wildlife Festival is "Wings Over Wakulla" in recognition of the Apalachee Audubon Society's past 50 years of conservation efforts at Wakulla Springs and throughout the Big Bend. Audubon Florida Executive Director and AAS Past-President Eric Draper will be joining us---you won't want to miss his midday welcome address on the Green. Please stop by the Apalachee Audubon tent on the Green, pick up a name tag, say "Hello" and learn more about the Audubon Society and Apalachee Audubon's history, initiatives and many activities.

See www.wakullawildlifefestival.com to learn more about this year's Wakulla Wildlife Festival. Register early for the Sunrise Serenity Cruise with Dana Bryan, the River Road Neo-Tropical Birding Tour with Mark & Selena Kiser, and the Nature Photography Boat Tour with Nick Baldwin and Budd Titlow. Enjoy a morning "Introduction to Birding" with Helen King, an afternoon presentation by Susan Cerulean, and help congratulate this year's "Aspiring Artists"...plus there's much more! Many thanks to Friends of Wakulla Springs and Wakulla Springs State Park for helping AAS celebrate in such a special way. Park entrance fee applies.

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

Apalachee Audubon Society

Florida Audubon Executive Director
C. Russell (Russ) Mason
Presents AAS Charter to
Apalachee Audubon Society's
1st President
Dr. Huey B. Long

Russ Mason with Dr. Huey B. Long, left to right
Photograph courtesy of Dr. Huey B. Long

Please see page 19 for a list of
1964-2014 Apalachee Audubon
Presidents, Officers, Board Members & Committee Chairs



Apalachee Audubon Society, Inc.

2014 – 2015

Officers & Directors

All telephone numbers are in the 850 area code, unless otherwise noted.

President: Adrienne Ruhl 813 293-1081
Vice-President: Budd Titlow 320-6480
Secretary: Helen King 765-2488
Treasurer: Harvey Goldman 385-5222
Past-President: Seán McGlynn 570-1476

Directors:

Nick Baldwin 877-0249
Kathleen Carr 322-7910
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Carol Franchi 459-2066
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Apalachee Audubon Society, Inc.
P. O. Box 1237 - Tallahassee, FL 32303

Apalachee Audubon Society, Inc. (AAS) is an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization.

The success of our work depends upon your support. All memberships and contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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For more information and to sign up for our AAS Google Groups email notification list, please see www.apalachee.org.

Join National Audubon Society for just \$20 a year & receive a year's free membership in the Apalachee Audubon Society and Audubon Florida!

Membership includes **Audubon**, National Audubon's bimonthly flagship publication. Each issue of this award-winning publication features beautiful photography and engaging journalism. Our Apalachee Audubon chapter newsletter and website along with Audubon Florida will keep you informed of local and statewide Audubon birding and conservation information, news and other nature-related events.

To pay for your membership (or gift membership) using a credit card, please call National Audubon's toll free membership number, 1-800-274-4201.

Please mention our chapter code, **E19**, for Apalachee Audubon to get credit for a new membership. You can also go to Apalachee Audubon's website and join online (click on "Join" in the left-hand column). If you prefer to pay by check, make your check payment to National Audubon Society and please include Apalachee Audubon's chapter code, **E19**. In your check memo section, please also indicate "For Audubon Membership (\$7.50 for Magazine)" and mail to:

National Audubon Society
P. O. Box 422249
Palm Coast, FL 32142-2249

Allow 4-6 weeks for the arrival of your first issue. The cost of membership is tax deductible except for \$7.50 (which is allocated to Audubon magazine).

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2014-2015 Committee Chairs

Anniversary Celebration

Suzanna MacIntosh & Karen Wensing
Helen King, Seán McGlynn & Budd Titlow

Audubon Adventures

Judy Goldman

Awards Committee

Nick Baldwin

Birdathon

Harvey Goldman

Conservation Committee

Jan Bordelon & Elizabeth Platt

Education Committee Chairs

Carol Franchi & Pat Press

Field Trips

Helen King

Hospitality

Pam Flory & Elizabeth Platt

Membership

Kathleen Carr

Newsletter

Suzanna MacIntosh

Nominating Committee

Seán McGlynn

Program Committee

Jim Cox

Publicity

Kathleen Carr

St. Marks NWR Butterfly Pollinator Garden

Ann Bruce

Wildlife-Friendly Yards Tour Committee

Ann Bruce & Tammy Brown



"Everyone needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and give strength to body and soul."
— John Muir



Adrienne Ruhl

President's Message
The Second Fifty Years...
By Adrienne Ruhl

My final president's message has two focuses: celebrate where we have come from and look toward the second fifty years.

SAVE THE DATE: We are celebrating our chapter's 50th anniversary this Spring! All members are invited to join us in the celebrations – we would love to see you.

Saturday, April 18th, 2015 10 am - 3 pm

Wings Over Wakulla Festival – FREE with park entry!

Held at Wakulla Springs State Park, Apalachee Audubon has activities scheduled throughout the day including photo classes, bird walks, children's hands on activities. Everyone is invited to visit our tables and sign the guestbook. Eric Draper, Audubon Florida's Executive Director, is scheduled to speak midday. Author Susan Cerulean, guest speaker at last year's Apalachee Audubon Banquet, will speak about her new book *Coming to Pass* about St. Vincent, St. George and Dog Islands. So many partner organizations will be sharing information on the green. We are thrilled to support this year's Aspiring Artists showcase of student artists from Wakulla County. It's an event not to be missed.

Thursday May 21st, 2015 6:30 pm

Apalachee Audubon Society Annual Banquet:

"The Future of Audubon" - \$10 per person, open to the public - Our annual chapter banquet will feature Audubon Florida's Eric Draper speaking about the future of Audubon. This year we will auction an original heron print by the late artist Karl Zerbe. IN addition to a great program, meal and door prizes, this is an excellent chance to socialize with other chapter members as we ease into the summer months. We are excited to see how far we've come and think ahead to the next 50 years.

In addition to the celebration events, it is important that we look toward where we are headed as a chapter. With that said, more information will be coming out soon about the upcoming Audubon Academy in Fall 2015 in Panama City. This conference is a fabulous way for anyone interested to learn more about Audubon. It's also a great way to meet other members from nearby chapters in the Panhandle including Bay County, Francis M. Westin and Choctawhatchee Audubon Societies, learn how to get involved in leadership, and enjoy a little birding. Another great way to get involved is simply to talk to the board and chapter members. You can see many of us at program meetings, events, and festivals. Have an idea? Drop us a line! Together we can forge ahead to make the next 50 years great for conservation, education and appreciation of birds and wildlife.

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 \$15/per person. More information will be coming soon!

Northwest Florida Audubon Academy
 Saturday May 9, 2015
 8:00 am – 4:00 pm
 Bay County IFAS Extension Office
 2728 East 14th Street
 Panama City, FL 32401





“Wings Over Wakulla”

* Common Loon
Courtesy Steven D'Amato

The theme of this year's Wakulla Wildlife Festival is “Wings Over Wakulla” in recognition of Apalachee Audubon past 50 years of conservation efforts at Wakulla Springs and throughout the Big Bend. During Apalachee Audubon's anniversary celebration we are honoring the men and women, the members of Apalachee Audubon and partnering organizations who have shared their time, talents, and love for the natural environment to help with conservation efforts that benefit the world around us and us all. These efforts are a living legacy for coming generations and set an example with their dedication for all of us to try to follow. Please join us as we look back at the accomplishments of the past and look forward to the next 50 years.

Special thanks to Janisse Ray for sharing her poem “Boat Ride at Wakulla Springs”. We hope you will join us at Wakulla Springs on Saturday, April 18, 2015 and that you too will come back from a boat ride at Wakulla with more than money can buy.



Limpkin (above)
Great Blue Heron at Wakulla Springs

Photo by Nick Baldwin
Photo by Bob Thompson



Boat Ride at Wakulla Springs

by Janisse Ray

from *A House of Branches*



By lying about the fare and hustling them past the ticket counter, we hoodwinked our parents onto a flat-bottomed boat that circles the Wakulla River.

They preferred a flea market, they said, where you can take something home, until the river wrapped its arms around them like sleepy children. Disappearing sun

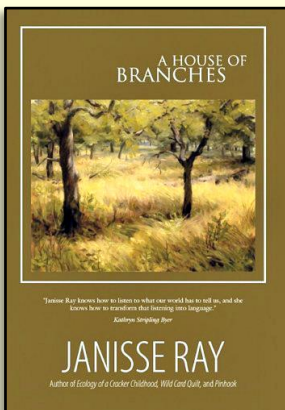
struck wide across the swamp, alligators on high tussocks. Moorhens with scarlet beaks scuttled among swaying grasses, unchaining great pearls of apple snails.

Our father, on and off his feet, praised the deer, anhingas with wings outspread, water snake draped through wild roses, gray log knotted with seven Suwannee cooters.

Wood ducks parted the blue pickerel-weed. Turkey vultures, readying for night, lowered by the dozens in easy loops, knitting a black curtain slowly through the cypress.

When the ride ended, it was true.
We walked off the boat empty-handed.

Reprinted with permission from Janisse Ray
Janisse Ray is a past Apalachee Audubon Vice-President & Board member.




To learn more about
Janisse Ray and her work
and to order books, see:
www.janisseray.weebly.com

Winner of the Southern Independent
Booksellers Award for Poetry 2011



Wakulla Springs – Wakulla Wildlife Festival

By Jeff Hugo

It seems like spring was holding back this year. But as I write this in mid-March, the floodgates of spring have burst their bonds. The trip down park drive early on this March morning was punctuated by the dazzling white blooms of Walter’s viburnum and plum trees. The deep pink of redbuds and golden yellow of Carolina jessamine heralded spring’s arrival. And barring a late season freeze, the floral display within the park will phase through many peaks over the next several weeks. It is as if a great party is being planned and the floral display is welcoming all to attend.

And so it is! On Saturday, April 18, Wakulla Springs State Park will host the Wakulla Wildlife Festival. The theme of this year’s festival is *Wings Over Wakulla* in recognition of the past 50 years of Apalachee Audubon’s conservation efforts at Wakulla Springs and throughout the Big Bend. The festival boasts a family-friendly atmosphere as it celebrates the area’s wildlife and the habitats that support it.

The festival is especially inviting for children and the child in everyone. Besides the presentations and exhibits designed to captivate young minds, children can participate in a wildlife related game, craft and /or face painting at the Children’s Activity Tent.



Red-tailed Hawk

Photo by Sandy Beck

Some of the exhibitors are wildlife rehabilitators and will have area wildlife on exhibit. Many of the creatures have become ambassadors of the natural world, unable to be released as a result of injuries which they have sustained. Together with their human caretakers, they offer a glimpse into not only what makes them special, but necessary elements of our world.

Sandy Beck, the education director at the St. Francis Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, is a master at communicating the contributions wildlife, and in particular birds of prey, make to the quality of life both we and they enjoy. She will be presenting two different and special programs on Saturday highlighting the birds of prey which live in our area.

The first program is entitled “Tigers in the Sky”. It will take place on The Green (the picnic area) from 10:30-11:30 am. Sandy will have four different owls – the Great Horned, Barred, Barn, and Screech – to explain the unique features which make each a spectacular night-time predator. At 2:00pm, Sandy and six remarkable bird of prey species will have a “Talon Talk”. The birds will amaze the crowd with their beauty, strength, and little known facts regarding their relevance in the world and to our lives.

In between the birds of prey shows, festival goers can enjoy music provided by Coon Bottom Creek. The group plays both traditional bluegrass and the newer styles of acoustic music. Food is provided by the Lodge at Wakulla Springs. Both fine dining and more casual fare will be available. Guests are welcome to pack their own picnic lunches and enjoy them on the picnic tables in front of the stage.

The big event at this year’s festival is the celebration of Apalachee Audubon’s 50th anniversary. Eric Draper, the Executive Director of Audubon Florida, will be the keynote speaker. He will highlight Apalachee Audubon’s major contributions to the area’s wildlife, water, and quality of life.



Picnic Area

Photo by Lou Kellenberger

Be certain to visit Apalachee Audubon’s tent to find out about their many great activities. Discover how to make your yard an oasis for your feathered friends and why habitat is important to birds and other wildlife. Stop by early to enjoy a morning “Introduction to Birding” walk with Helen King. And remember, they are celebrating a birthday. There could be cake!

Continued from page 5 – **Wakulla Wildlife Festival** by **Jeff Hugo**

Guests will want to take time to visit with the many other exhibitors. Never seen a whooping crane? Find out how. Do you know how many creatures share a gopher tortoise residence? It's amazing? Want to know some of the best trails to hike or bicycle in the area? There will be someone who can tell you. Visit the festival website, www.wakullawildlife festival.com, and follow the links for each of the exhibitors (and see page 12).



Wakulla Wildlife Boat Tour

Photo by Glenda Simmons

The world-class wildlife viewing boat tours will be running all day. Tickets can be purchased at the Waterfront Visitors Center. The Waterfront will serve as the second venue for presentations as well. Meet Bill Boothe at 11:30 am to learn about the beautiful butterflies of the region and how to attract them to your yard.

A very special guest, gifted writer Susan Cerulean, will talk about her new book, *Coming to Pass*, beginning at 12:35 pm. Her beautiful photographs and inspiring words will beg those present to decide how each will respond to what is valued. Her focus will be on St. Vincent, St. Georges and Dog islands, but her theme transcends local interest and encourages all to take a good look at what is taken for granted.

Following Ms. Cerulean's presentation, the many talented young artists of Wakulla County will be recognized. Students were challenged to create works of art around the festival's theme of *Wings Over Wakulla*. There are four divisions comprised of primary, intermediate, middle school and high school. We hope that everyone will take the time to appreciate their efforts and enjoy their work on display at the Waterfront. Awards will be presented by Apalachee Audubon beginning at 1:15 pm.

The festival continues to offer a few special tours as well. For an extra fee, festival guests can enjoy a sunrise cruise on the Wakulla River, a rare birding walk in the park's sanctuary, or a photo tour to capture the park's amenable wildlife in all their digital glory. Tour spaces can be purchased on the festival's website (www.wakullawildlife festival.com).

The festival is also fortunate to host Meret Wilson from Tomoka State Park. For two hours Saturday morning from 8:30 am until 10:30 am, she will be capturing, banding, and releasing birds just behind the park's Concession Building. Her work is fascinating and offers the opportunity to witness colorful songbirds up close as rarely seen. It is a great moment for parents and grandparents to share with younger members of the family.

And so it is! A great party is planned. We celebrate the remarkable wildlife of the region. We celebrate the friendship and partnership of Apalachee Audubon. And we celebrate the talent and dedication of young and old alike as both reflect upon *Wings Over Wakulla*. (More page 10)

*Jeff Hugo is Park Services Specialist at
Wakulla Springs State Park
www.floridastateparks.org/wakullasprings.*



Great Blue Heron

Photo by Bob Thompson



Wakulla Springs – Its History and Its Future

By Dr. Seán McGlynn

Going to Wakulla Springs is like stepping back in time, into a prehistoric timeless world. Wakulla is primeval. It leaves you awestruck, breathless and invigorated. Wakulla Springs has not really changed much over the past 10,000 years.

There are few places on earth that can claim that distinction. The spring vent sports visible Mastodons bones and other fossils from the last ice age. Wakulla Springs is a lost world. There are numerous birds, manatees, alligators and other wildlife. Cabbage palms and ancient cypresses, thickly draped in Spanish moss with their giant knees rising from the water, take you back to a time long ago, when the earth was wild and primeval.



Little Blue Heron

Photo by Bob Thompson

Wakulla Springs is currently the largest single vent spring in Florida. Formerly larger springs are now diminished in flow, making Wakulla the largest spring in North America. Two larger springs nearby, the St. Marks and Spring Creek, have multiple vents and thus are not single vent springs. And Spring Creek, previously counted as the largest spring in Florida, has stopped flowing most of the time. The Wakulla spring is the largest and deepest spring in North America, renowned for crystalline water and wildlife viewing, and deserves the highest level of protection.

We can only truly protect something when we recognize its value. Wakulla Springs is the most significant natural feature in North Florida. It has an average flow of over 300 million gallons each day and the highest flow of any spring with a single vent in Florida. It is one of Florida's finest state parks, attracting up to 200,000 visitors a year. Wakulla Springs State Park generates an annual employee payroll of \$1.8 million annually and has a total local economic impact of \$22 million per year.

There are some fantastic new opportunities for Wakulla Springs. Floridians recently approved a constitutional amendment that will provide more than \$10 billion dollars, over the next 20 years for conservation, management, and restoration of our land and water. In addition, the Governor recently approved \$37 million for spring's projects. Now they announced that another \$55 million will be specifically dedicated to springs protection efforts. The \$55 million recommendation dedicates \$25 million in funding for water quantity and quality protection and restoration projects.

While there have been recent improvements at Wakulla Springs, this spring is in great danger and in desperate need of protection and needs to get a significant share of this funding. Wakulla Springs is one of the premiere wildlife observation areas in the state.

Manatees have increased in number by a hundred percent . As many as eighty wintered at the springs last year. However this year we seem to have only 10.

Continued on page 8



Men holding mastodon bones on a dock at Wakulla Springs, 1931

Pictured are George Christie, geologist Herman Gunter, Gerald M. Ponton and diving team member J. Clarence Simpson. (GE1318) - Photo right: Diver holding lower jaw during recovery of a mastodon from Wakulla Springs, 193-. (PR10690) - Photographs courtesy of the State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory, www.floridamemory.com



Hydrilla, an invasive exotic plant that used to completely cover the spring, has greatly diminished. Many equate the disappearance of this noxious weed with the herbivory of the manatees, or to a reduction in nutrients or due to light limitation (because of the dark color of the water). A manatee can eat 100 to 140 pounds of hydrilla per day. Nutrient pollution in Wakulla Springs has been reduced by 60%.

Wildlife, over 34 species, were monitored, for the past 20 years, in the Park. Only two species have actually increased: the Pied-billed Grebe and the Florida manatee. Ten species had significant losses including the Purple Gallinule, Common Moorhen, Anhinga, American Alligator, Green Heron, Wood Duck, and Snowy Egret. Three species have almost disappeared: the Blue-winged Teal, American Widgeon, and Limpkin. The native apple snails are basically gone too, but they are not included in the Park survey. Surprisingly, the park currently hosts one limpkin that seems subsisting on a diet of mussels, a far cry from the population of 40 or more limpkins that called the park home 50 years ago. There is currently no monitoring of fish or amphibians. There is also no regular monitoring of biology or water quality outside the park in the Wakulla River.



Snowy Egret

Photo by Nick Baldwin

Wakulla Springs has gotten darker. Spring Creek, in resuming its flow, did not cause the Wakulla Springs to run clear again. Also, when Spring Creek started flowing, traces of salt water began coming up in Wakulla Springs.

This is a very bad sign. We are obviously suffering from a lack of pure, clean, deep, Floridan aquifer water. The water in Wakulla Springs is now tainted by surface waters, mostly tannic waters from nearby swamps and marshes, as well as green water from surrounding sinkhole lakes. Furthermore numerous septic tanks constantly rain nutrients into the aquifer, causing excessive algae growth in the spring, mostly dark, green, greasy, filamentous algae (*Lyngbia spp.*) a blue green algae. The nutrients cause the excessive growth of exotic invasive plants and algae. Dense mats of algae impede navigation, make swimming difficult and obliterate native wildlife habitat. The changes in wildlife have caused us to look at our environment more closely to discern possible causes.

The ecology and health of Wakulla Springs is in trouble. It was famous for extremely clear water, which is now often stained a dark brown with tannic swamp water. The iconic glass bottom boats do not run in this 'black water.' Underwater movies, like **Tarzan** and **Creature from the Black Lagoon**, that were filmed at Wakulla Springs can no longer be filmed here; the water is not clear, but is brown like root beer.

The dark water rising in the Wakulla spring is often linked to the death of nearby Spring Creek Spring. The theory is that when Spring Creek stopped flowing, Wakulla Springs captured its flow, including its highly colored water. Spring Creek changed from dark, tannic, fresh water, full of largemouth bass, into a stagnant salt water lagoon full of sheepshead fish, oysters and barnacles. They said that the dark water went to Wakulla Springs. Oddly enough, Spring Creek started flowing again, much like in the old days, after we got significant deluge of rain on 2014 Christmas Eve (15 inches in some places) and Spring Creek continues to flow today due to continued wet weather. And yet,



Least Bittern

Photo by Nick Baldwin

There is no longer enough head pressure in the Floridan Aquifer to keep all of our springs flowing clear and clean. The lack of aquifer water has caused an increase in darker, tannic colored water to Wakulla Spring and saltwater intrusion to the Floridan Aquifer through the cave system that connects the two springs.

Continued on page 9

Water in our wetlands is stained dark brown, like tea, from the leaves of the cypress and tupelo trees that grow in the water.

We need to have a long-term safety plan, something new for Wakulla Springs. The legendary biologist and springs champion, Jim Stevenson aptly stated, “You do not protect a spring by buying it. All you get is a hole in the ground.” It is not possible to protect the Wakulla/Spring Creek system if we do not protect the entire springshed. We need to purchase and protect karst features and recharge areas. We need to upgrade existing septic systems and prevent the installation of new ones, relying only on advanced wastewater treatment in vulnerable areas of the springshed. We need to understand the state of that system, its ecological drivers, and the major threats to system health. This research is essential to measure changes and to guide ecological management restoration efforts. All biological, hydrologic, and water quality must meet highest standards for federal and state regulatory programs.

We need this funding that is being offered. The funding comes at a crucial time for Florida Springs. Wakulla Springs is a spring we can definitely save. Wakulla Springs has not suffered the fate of other Florida Springs. It is not dead yet. It still flows. We will truly have a treasure. Our springs attracted the first Europeans; it was the quest for the ‘Fountain of Youth’ that brought the Spaniards here. They were drawn to these magical issues of water that burble from the ground with crystalline purity. The springs are ancient and were considered eternal by Native Americans.

Some of the earliest words penned about Wakulla Springs, were by the mapmaker John Lee Williams. In his book, *The Territory of Florida*, about Wakulla Springs in 1837, “Rising from the earth, presents the finest spring in West Florida, probably the world. It is perfectly transparent. In looking into it, the color is similar to a clear sky; except that the reflection of the surrounding verdure, gives it a slight shade of green.”

Nothing is certain. Right now Wakulla is preserved; it is set aside from the crush of development, isolated and safe. Yet nothing is promised, sacred and inviolate, without the coordinated efforts of Apalachee Audubon, the Wakulla Springs Alliance, the Friends of Wakulla Springs, and all who love this amazing spring of rebirth.

Dr. Sean McGlynn, *Apalachee Audubon Past-President, serves as Chair of the Wakulla Springs Alliance, www.wakullaspringsalliance.org, and as Vice-President of Friends of Wakulla Springs, www.wakullasprings.org.*



Wakulla Springs

Photo by Lou Kellenberger



Hooded Mergansers

Photo by Bob Thompson

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850-386-8882 NativeNurseries.com



Wakulla Wildlife Festival – “Wings Over Wakulla”

At a Glance

See www.wakullawildlifefestival.com for more!

Special thanks to the Wakulla Wildlife Festival for sharing information, write-ups and photographs.

To reserve space for these special activities, please go to the Wakulla Wildlife Festival website, www.wakullawildlifefestival.com.



Sunrise Serenity Cruise, 6:45 am - 8:15 am: Join Florida Park Service Biologist Dana C. Bryan on a dawn Wakulla Springs boat tour. Savor the tranquility as the early morning light triggers the dawn chorus and breakfast activity of birds on the river. Bring binoculars, cameras, insect repellent (just in case), and a flashlight to help you navigate in the pre-dawn darkness. **\$15.00 - Pre-registration required.** Meet at the Waterfront Building at boat docks, Wakulla Springs State Park.

Photo: Courtesy State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory, <http://floridamemory.com/items/show/258679>



Wood Thrush*

Photo by Budd Titlow

River Road Neo-Tropical Birding Tour, 9:00am - 12:00 Noon: Enter an untouched old growth southern forest with Green Guides Mark and Selena Kiser. They will lead a small group of birders on a three-hour trip along the River Road within the park’s sanctuary. (*The sanctuary is accessible for only a few guided tours each year.*) The group will look for those hard to find species typically found in this extra-ordinary environment. This will be a special opportunity. Space is limited. **\$15.00 - Pre-registration required.** Meet at the Tour Headquarters, Wakulla Springs State Park. *More about the Wood Thrush: http://neotropical.birds.cornell.edu/portal/species/overview?p_p_spp=547916



Nature Photography Boat Tour, 1:35 pm – 3 pm: This workshop looks at different types of camera equipment and accessories, but the main focus is on developing a “photographic eye”. Embark on a slower than usual Wakulla River boat cruise to take some of your own photographs. Bring any type of camera, but you’ll have more fun with a zoom or telephoto lens. Workshop leaders are respected naturalists and photographers – Budd Titlow (*more page 14*) and Nick Baldwin (*more page 16*). **\$15 - Pre-registration required.** Meet at the Waterfront.

Left: Purple Gallinule - Photo by Nick Baldwin



Eric Draper

On the Green:

12:10 pm - 12:25 pm: Eric Draper - Audubon Anniversary Celebration

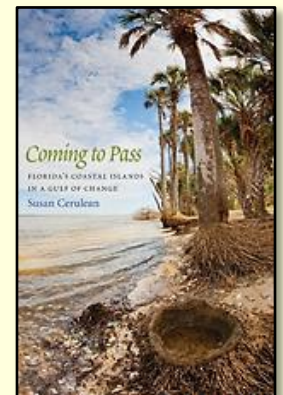
Eric Draper is Executive Director of Audubon Florida, <http://fl.audubon.org/>, and an Apalachee Audubon Past-President. He has played an integral role in Florida Audubon’s growth which in turn has helped make it the state’s most effective advocate for conservation. Mr. Draper will high-light over 50 years of contributions Apalachee Audubon has made to the Big Bend Region’s wildlife, water, and quality of life. Come celebrate with us!

Dogwood Pavilion:

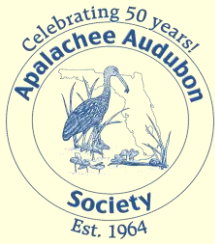
12:35 pm - 1:10 pm: Susan Cerulean and *Coming to Pass* - Susan Cerulean is a gifted writer, naturalist and activist. Her words woo the disinterested to note the overlooked and that which is taken for granted. In her new book, *Coming to Pass*, she takes the reader on a journey to St. Vincent, St. George and Dog islands. Both familiar to those who have lived in the area for generations and loved by those who have newly discovered them, the necklace of islands begs the question of how each of us will respond to what we value. To learn more be sure to check out Susan’s blog, <http://comingtopass.com/blog/>, and http://www.ugapress.org/index.php/books/index/coming_pass.



Susan Cerulean

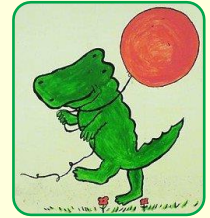


Wakulla Wildlife Festival - On The Green:



Apalachee Audubon Tent

Apalachee Audubon is celebrating 50 years of conservation efforts at Wakulla Springs and throughout the Florida Big Bend. Working closely with Audubon Florida and National Audubon, its members have joined with like-minded men and women to forge ties with other organizations with compatible goals in efforts to protect and preserve the natural environment. The theme of this



year's Wakulla Wildlife Festival is Wings Over Wakulla in recognition of Apalachee Audubon's past 50 years of service. We hope you'll stop by and say "Hello" and we hope you'll make new friends, renew existing friendships, and learn more about Apalachee Audubon's history, current activities and initiatives. Education Co-Chairs Carol Franchi and Pat Press will be on hand with lots of great information. You can view a beautiful serigraph, *Two Egrets*, by one of Apalachee Audubon's founding members and esteemed artist Karl Zerbe (page 13), pick up some photography tips and learn about AAS Vice-President Budd Titlow's book, *Bird Brains: Inside The Strange Minds Of Our Fine Feathered Friends* (page 15). Copies of Apalachee Audubon's birding guide, *Great Birding Spots in Tallahassee, Florida and Surrounding Areas* will be available for purchase and Apalachee Audubon's beautiful new t-shirts too!



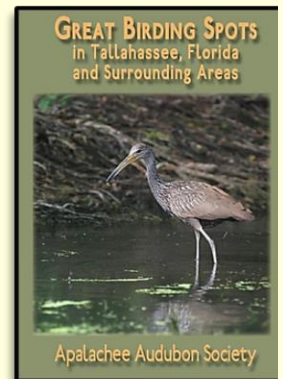
Helen King

Bring binoculars and a field guide if you have them. Meet in the Wakulla Springs Lodge parking lot. Free with park admission. Call Wakulla Springs State Park, (850) 561-7286, to make your reservation. More: <https://www.floridastateparks.org/park/Wakulla-Springs>

Introduction to Birding with Helen King

Stop by Apalachee Audubon's tent on the Green Saturday morning and join Helen King on a short introductory birding walk around the grounds near the Lodge, perfect for beginning birders and more experienced ones too. Learn some important tips about the best times to look for birds, easy ways to start learning to identify species, and some great ways to attract birds to your own backyard.

Helen King will also lead a "Beginner's Birding Walk" at Wakulla Springs State Park geared just for those who have always wished to better know the birds around them by sight or by sound on Sunday, April 26, 8:30 - 10:30 am.



More – On The Green



8:30 - 10:30 am - The Magic of Bird Banding: Meet Meret Wilson from Tomoka State Park as she demonstrates bird banding and the information that can only be gathered with a bird in the hand. Get up close and personal with winged wonders and learn how bird banding has unveiled the mysteries of migration and survival in the avian realm. Meet behind the Concession Building.



Red-tailed Hawk
Photo by Sandy Beck

10:30 - 11:20 am - Tigers in the Sky: The 4 owl species that live year-round in north Florida — the Great Horned, Barred, Barn and Eastern Screech Owls — will help Sandy Beck, Education Director at the St. Francis Wildlife Association, explain the unique adaptations that enable owls to be spectacular nocturnal hunters. Learn specific actions we can take to help protect these fascinating birds.

2:00 - 3:00 pm - Talon Talk: Sandy Beck of St. Francis Wildlife Association will introduce her audience to two native hawks, four owls, a falcon and a kite. Each is uniquely structured to make a living in its particular Florida habitat. Participants will be mesmerized by their beauty and strength.



Coon Bottom Creek

11:30 am - 12:05 pm & 12:40 pm - 1:40 pm - Coon Bottom Creek: Named for an historic North Florida community, Coon Bottom Creek (CBC) plays both traditional bluegrass and the newer styles of acoustic music as well as traditional gospel and spirituals. The band features Dennis Hardin on banjo, Daryl Langston on guitar, David Langston on fiddle, and Maria and Mischa Steurer on bass and mandolin, respectively.

Continued on page 12

More – The Dogwood Pavilion



11:30 am - 12:25 pm - For the Love of Butterflies: Get to know the common butterflies that thrive in the Florida Panhandle. Bill Boothe, a local naturalist, wildlife photographer, writer and member of the North American Butterfly Association, will open your eyes to the joy of inviting these “flying flowers” to your back yard.



Aspiring Artists Awards

1:15 pm – 1:35 pm

Waterfront Visitors Center



Talented young student artists from throughout Wakulla County have submitted artwork produced by the best of the best. These artists were challenged to create works of art around the festival’s theme of “*Wings Over Wakulla*”. There are four divisions comprised of primary, intermediate, middle school and high school.

View the display Saturday from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm. Come meet the winning artists from 1:15 pm - 1:35 pm at the Waterfront Visitors Center (where the boat tour tickets are sold) as they are awarded and recognized for their accomplishments. Awards will be presented by Apalachee Audubon beginning at 1:15 pm. We hope that everyone will help congratulate these talented student artists.



The Soda Fountain

Enjoy Delicious Food from the Lodge!

Wakulla Springs Lodge

www.wakullaspringslodge.com

The Soda Fountain & Dining Room

The Soda Fountain in the lodge at Wakulla Springs will be offering snacks and lighter fare. Best of all, hand-dipped ice cream treats await those who wish to indulge in pure pleasure. Don’t forget to try a Ginger Yip!



Dining Room of Wakulla Springs Lodge

If you would like to treat yourself to the elegance of lunch in the Dining Room of Wakulla Springs Lodge, don’t hesitate to make reservations at the front desk. The half-pound Wakulla Burger is a lunchtime favorite. Sample the delectable fried-green tomatoes or savor shrimp served over a bed of lettuce with tomatoes, peppers and olives. The offerings are varied and will delight both the light and hearty appetite.

You’ll Enjoy These Exhibitors Plus Great Crafts & Much More!

Apalachee Audubon Society – www.apalachee.org

Apalachee Chapter Florida Trail Assoc. – www.apalachee.floridatrail.org

Big Bend Sierra Club - <https://www.facebook.com/SCBigBend>

Defenders of Wildlife - www.defenders.org

Florida Wildlife Federation – www.fwfonline.org

Florida Wild Mammal Association – www.fwma.org

Friends of Wakulla – www.wakullasprings.org

FWC – Black Bear Management & Gopher Tortoise Program

www.myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/managed/bear

www.myfwc.com/gophertortoise

Gulf Specimen Marine Lab - www.gulfspecimen.org

Hairstreak Chapter of the North American Butterfly Association
www.hairstreakchapter.weebly.com

Magnolia Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society –
www.magnolia.fnpschapters.org

Operation Migration - www.operationmigration.org

St. Francis Wildlife Association - www.stfranciswildlife.org

Ssnakes - www.ssnakes.com

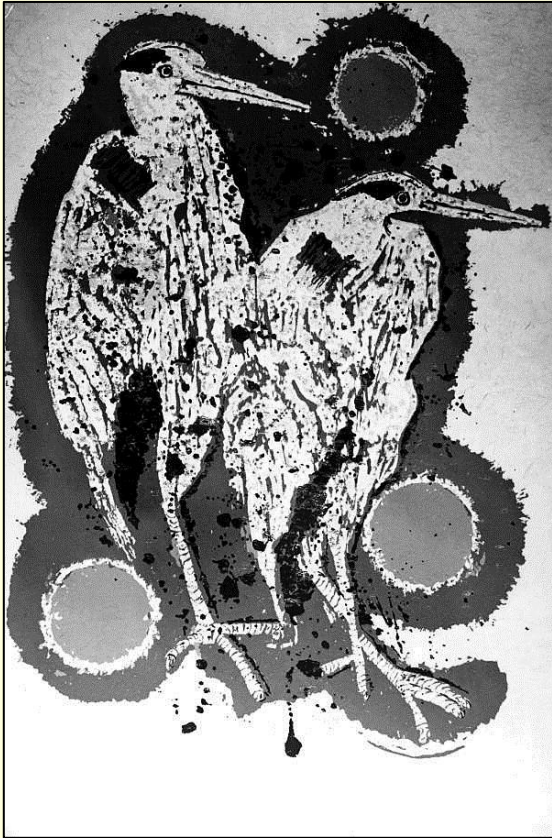
Tallahassee Museum - www.tallahasseeuseum.org

The Tallahassee-St. Marks State Parks and Trail -

www.floridastateparks.org/trail/Tallahassee-St-Marks

Apalachee Audubon Society Celebrates Wings Over Wakulla with a Showing of Karl Zerbe's Work of Art, "Two Egrets"

By Jan Bordelon



Two Egrets by Karl Zerbe

Photo courtesy State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory,
<http://floridamemory.com/items/show/78701>

Apalachee Audubon Society celebrates its 50th Anniversary with the showing of one of Apalachee Audubon's founding members Karl Zerbe's (1903-1972) famous serigraph, *Two Egrets*, at the Wakulla Wildlife Festival, *Wings Over Wakulla*, on April 18, 2015.

Karl Zerbe, a native of Berlin, Germany, came to Tallahassee, Florida, in 1955 as a professor in the Fine Arts Department of Florida State University. An eminent artist, Dr. Zerbe's works are represented in private and public collections and galleries throughout the world.

Karl Zerbe's love for birds and wildlife originated from his childhood in Germany and continued through his work and life. He became absorbed in studying birds and their habits, particularly migratory birds, and began painting birds in the 1950's. His portfolio of birds for a traveling exhibition contained serigraphs of native Florida birds, including ibis, ducks, owls, herons, egret, and eagles, among others.

Dr. Zerbe and his wife, Marion, were both avid "birders." Two of their favorite observation spots were Wakulla Springs and St. Marks Wildlife Refuge, with its abundance of birds. In addition to their fascination for bird-watching in Florida and other coastal areas of the United States, they explored Brazil, Trinidad, Jamaica, Canada, and myriad exotic locations, in their quest to add to their Life List of birds.

A founding member of Apalachee Audubon and longtime member of the Florida and National Audubon Societies, Dr. Zerbe's avid enthusiasm for birding was reflected in his films of hummingbirds from Central and South America. As a member of the American Ornithologists Union, he provided the first photographic proof to the American Ornithology Society in 1958 that the Greater White-fronted Geese (*Anser albifrons*) could be found at St. Marks Refuge. He was also among the first to photograph and record the Eared Grebe (*Podiceps caspicus*) in Florida.

Apalachee Audubon Society expresses their sincere appreciation to the generosity of LeMoyne Art Foundation and the efforts of Linda Van Beck, a Tallahassee artist, in providing Zerbe's wonderful serigraph to help us celebrate the importance and beauty of birds in art and in our environment. It has been said that through Zerbe's eyes his birds reflect very human characteristics - joy or playfulness - despair or frustration, the lights and shadows of human existence. Dr. Zerbe's art and life symbolized his environmental consciousness and his deep belief in the interdependency of all life forms.



Karl Zerbe, May 25, 1970

Courtesy State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory,
<http://floridamemory.com/items/show/10248>



THE JOY OF BIRDING

By Budd Titlow

Professional Wildlife Biologist and Wetland Scientist (Emeritus)

Vice President of Apalachee Audubon Society



“For many people birds symbolize freedom and escape from restraint.”

—Roger Tory Peterson

Wild birds are my friends. I like talking to them. Nothing too deep, mind you. Just stuff like, “Well, hello there guys. How are you doing today? Beautiful weather we’re having, isn’t it? Your feathers are sure looking nice and fluffy this fine morning.”

As a professional wildlife biologist, part of my job always involved identifying as many birds as I could whenever I conducted a field assessment. At first, I was highly envious of those who could readily identify every birdsong and call they heard. But no matter how much I listened to the traditional bird song identification tapes—*birdsong, bird name—birdsong, bird name—birdsong, bird name*—on and on ad infinitum—I just couldn’t get the hang of it. I just found these tapes boring.

Then came my true epiphany as a birder. I discovered Richard Walton’s *Birding by Ear* program and my career as a serious birder was born. I suddenly began hearing and recognizing individual birdsongs out of the cacophony of sounds that flooded spring woodlands and summer fields. Before long, I was able to identify more than 90 percent of wild birds by songs and calls alone. Actually seeing them became just an extra added benefit.

My identification skills—and thus my enjoyment—increased exponentially. Now it’s amazing to me how most people—even those with highly trained ears—don’t seem to hear or respond to individual birdsongs. To many, these wondrous sounds just seem to be part of nature’s background noise. In his book, *Music of the Birds*, nature recordist Lang Elliott eloquently describes it this way: “To the naïve ear, the sounds all mix together to create a pleasurable sensation, but this is like listening to an orchestra without knowing the musical instruments.” I now had the dual thrill of listening to the entire “avian orchestra” - as I would a Beethoven Symphony - while simultaneously hearing the mellifluous chords of each feathered “instrument”!

My newfound expertise to hear, listen to, and identify wild birds any time I’m outdoors—no matter the time of day or the season of the year—allowed me to finally fully understand the widespread allure of bird-watching or, as it’s known to the purists, simply “birding.” According to US Fish and Wildlife Service, there are currently more than fifty million birders in the United States alone, and this number continues to grow annually.



Avian Feeding Frenzy at Fort De Soto Park

Photo by Budd Titlow

To me now, birds are nature’s great communicators. They always let me know when they’re around—by both sight and sound. And they provide a window to the natural world, giving me open looks into the wide variety of natural habitats they call home.

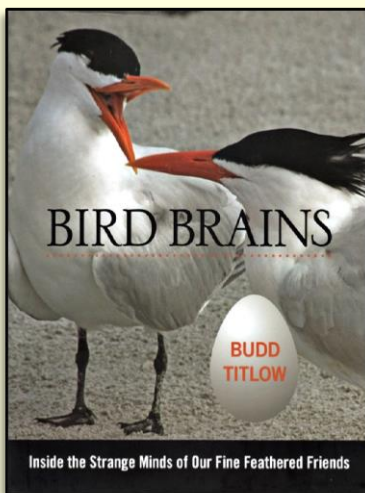
This point was vividly driven home to me during a trip to Fort De Soto Park in Pinellas County (near St. Petersburg), Florida. Late one afternoon, I was standing near the end of the park’s long fishing pier.

Continued on page 15

I was photographing brown pelicans, terns, and gulls placidly diving for fish in the aquamarine waters of the Gulf of Mexico when suddenly the birds all swooped together over the water in one huge flock and started going berserk—shrieking and wildly flailing their wings while they tumbled and collided with one another in a frenzied state unlike anything I had ever seen.

When I looked into the water beneath the birds, I saw the reason for their wild antics. Millions of fingerling fish shimmered like glass shards across every square inch of the water's surface. The birds were going crazy competing for them. Plus just below the fingerlings, thousands of larger fish flashed silver as they boiled up to the surface and gorged themselves full of the minnows. Meanwhile, all fifty or so people fishing from the pier started catching fish as fast as they could cast their lines out—reeling in three and four fish they called “jacks” at a time. It was nature in the raw—a classic oceanic feeding frenzy, complete with a human element. And it was the birds that first alerted me to everything else that was going on below the surface of the water.

In my forty-plus years as a professional wildlife biologist, I've watched birds do some pretty extraordinary and, in some cases, just plain wacky things. I've seen sage grouse strutting like pimps in a parking lot high in the Colorado Rockies, marsh wrens merrily celebrating the onset of spring in Massachusetts, blue-footed boobies diving like blazing skyrockets in the Galapagos Islands, and a great blue heron subduing and swallowing a monstrous water snake in Florida. These observations—plus many others—provided the impetus and ideas for creating my recent book, *BIRD BRAINS: Inside the Strange Minds of Our Fine Feathered Friends* – which features one hundred of my most memorable birding moments.



In writing *BIRD BRAINS*, it was my profound hope that using my experiences with the wonderful world of wild birds would inspire readers to take their families out and explore nature. To leave their cell phones, computers, and other assorted electronic devices behind and join the great and revered naturalists of yesteryear—John Muir, Aldo Leopold, Rachel Carson, Henry David Thoreau, Charles Darwin, Carl Linnaeus—in “networking with nature.” Just watch, observe, and get to know the wild birds and other marvelous creatures with which we share life on earth. You'll really be glad you did!

“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

Editor's Note: Bird Brains: Inside the Strange Minds of Our Fine Feathered Friends, consists of a hundred vignettes about the antics, behaviors, and curious doings of wild birds accompanied by photographs by Budd Titlow, a professional biologist and award-winning wildlife photographer. Bird Brains is available locally, on www.amazon.com and other online book sellers.



Black-crowned Heron
Courtesy David Kilby

Birdathon 2015

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Thank You for Your Help!

Apalachee Audubon Society, Inc. is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization; all contributions are tax-deductible as allowable by law.

A Boat Ride to Remember!

By Nick Baldwin

Apalachee Audubon Society Board Member



Wakulla Springs

Photo by Nick Baldwin

A number of years ago I was tasked to provide Ed Ball's manager with slides to sell in the gift shop and a friend of mine, Bob, was doing some filming for the same reason. So we combined forces and the uncle of the famous Wakulla Springs Boat Guide, Luke Smith, took us out in a flat bottom wooden boat that was maybe 18 feet long. It had an old engine to get us to places; then he would turn off the motor and use a very long cypress pole, longer than the boat, to hold us steady.

We were on the back side, just beyond where the tour boat now turns-- where the turtles all line up on the log. Bob was in the bow, a small area of plywood covering the forecastle where the lifejackets were supposed to be, filming from a tripod. I was near the back and the boatman was up in the stern sheets, with one foot on the stern and one on the last thwart. I guess he was just absorbed in watching us, but we slowly swung parallel to the bank. It wasn't enough movement to bother Bob's shooting of an osprey's nest and I was looking through my 35 mm camera's viewfinder when I heard or felt a thump in the boat.

We had slid into an overhanging limb of a tree whose roots reached down into the water and thus the lowest limbs were sometimes above and sometimes right at water level. What had happened was we jarred it just enough for a very large moccasin to be shaken from the limb right into the boat! To make matters more interesting there were no flotation compartments under the thwarts so anything in the bottom of the boat had freedom to travel from the forecastle to the stern, unimpeded.

The boatman seemed bemused by the visitor while I was just the opposite and vociferously urged him to do something. I was up on my thwart, cheek by jowl with the driver so it was not the easiest or most comfortable refuge. Bob took the initiative and dismantled his 16mm camera from the wooden tripod and from the vantage point of his somewhat studier platform tried to dislodge the intruder with the 3 legs held together. The snake ignored that advance by merely climbing right up the tripod and every time Bob tried to leverage him overboard he would drop off the tripod, no worse for the adventure and probably more energized.

The driver decided to use one of the oars but that involved his asking me to step off the thwart, and bend forward, freeing it from the oarlock and handing it back to him. Why I had to do this was simple to him, I was closer.

Anyway it didn't work. I actually tried it the first time in self-defense as the snake saw me and decided to explore my end of the boat, or vent his wrath on me. Nevertheless I couldn't leverage him out. There was too much snake to fit on the blade and I wasn't steady enough to hold it perfectly flat either. Besides that, the blade made his access to me even easier than the tripod and that was too much for me. I only succeeded in dumping him closer to our end of the boat. And for the driver to try, we would have had to trade places with me trying the pole...he wisely decided to abandon that tactic, benefiting from my failed test run.

It would have made for a great Laurel and Hardy comedy skit except for the fact the star was very venomous and agitated, and quite frankly in charge of the script! So the boatman began to slowly pole us backwards which seemed to take forever. And time, which depending on who is relating it, was either standing still or screamingly rushing to a terrifying conclusion. But he managed to move all 4 of us away from the tree backwards to some sloping but uncovered bank maybe 20 feet away. He then announced that we should disembark and leave the snake to the boat.

Bob in the bow readily agreed and using his tripod, poled the bow, closer so he could climb out and stabilize the boat more or less parallel. Emphasis on the "more or less," as I had no branch within reach and luck placed my end of the boat maybe 2 feet from the shore. That didn't seem to bother the boatman who was reminding me he couldn't hold his position forever, I had to make up my mind or he would leave me in the boat with the moccasin.

Continued on page 17

Continued from page 16 – A Boat Ride To Remember! by Nick Baldwin

For a college educated zoologist/naturalist/photographer that choice could have been one to ponder...for me, in the here and now, with a healthy respect for venomous reptiles---I had seen and photographed many in my short life---it was instantaneous. I was, as the kids say nowadays, “so out of there!”--- water, slippery mud and questionable depth be damned. I secured my camera underarm instead of just dangling around my neck and went overboard, turning as I did to have the gunwale in both hands so as not to sink into oblivion, into the very cold- 67 degree year-round water which is still very cold in mid-summer.

I guess the boat driver was more relaxed about the whole thing since he must have known I wouldn't disappear as a reincarnation of the “Creature.” I ended up on a shelf of bank only maybe 2 feet deep from which I was able to scamper up aided by the extended arm of my cohort in adventure, Bob. The driver then tossed us one of the lines which we held tightly while he used the boat pole to lithely sort of vault ashore.

This was way before portable phones of any kind or ship to shore communications, as far as Wakulla Springs was concerned. So we waited on the verge of the “jungle,” until one of the regular tour boats came into sight to rescue us. As we waited my first thought was relief, which turned into disappointment when Bob asked me if I had taken any photos of the unwelcomed reptilian guest to our close quarters! I had the camera, I had a good view, I had taken photos of charging rhinos and elephants in Africa, I had in fact taken national award winning photos of pygmy natives in the (then) Belgium Congo preparing poison arrows with which we went to hunt monkeys. But take a simple shot of a cotton-mouth in the bottom of our



Wakulla Springs Tour Boat

Photo by Nick Baldwin

boat...I never even thought about it! Furthermore, where were we...on the bank, yes, but where did that snake come from? Yeah, not very far from we were standing! Did it occur to either of my comrades that we may literally have gone from the frying pan into the fire! Nah I wasn't really that worried, considering what we had just been through, but I did advise against careless exploring.

Needless to say a boat did spot us and maneuvered bow in so we could scamper aboard and try to relax. The pole boat was secured behind and uneventfully towed back, not even impeding the usual excursion.

As for the moccasin, I never did see it again. When we landed they wouldn't let me have a go at taking his photo as “it would be too dangerous and they had liability issues.” Liability issues...hey we were the ones IN the boat with the snake. Their reply, quite logically really, was that I should have taken his photo when I had the opportunity!

They apparently managed to get the snake out safely to all concerned with a large leaf rake and he swam away eager to share his adventures with his fellow inhabitants of the fantastic springs. Years later this conclusion was related to me by Luke, one of my good friends at the Springs. He would always slow the boat for me to get shots---without me asking---as he knew why I wanted a photograph!

Join Nick Baldwin and Budd Titlow at 1:35 pm for a “Nature Photography Boat Tour”. \$15 - Pre-registration required (more, page 10). Nick Baldwin serves on the Board of Directors of Apalachee Audubon.

Wild Birds Unlimited

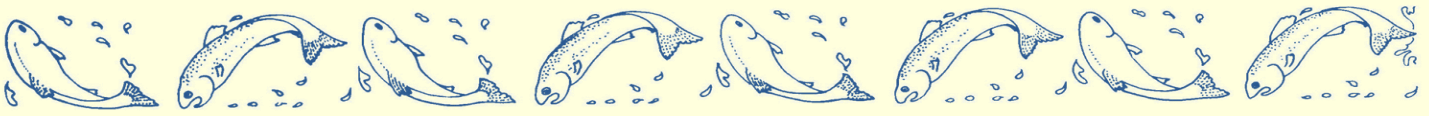


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THE NIGHT OF THE MULLET ATTACK

By DANA C. BRYAN

5 MAY 2011

On the night of April 1 (but this is really true), I was leading a night boat tour at Wakulla Springs for the annual Wakulla Wildlife Festival. I do it every year, and this time Allan Ritchie was the staff driver. It was dark (two days before the new moon), and the only lights we had on board were my Q-Beam and a few flashlights. There were about 25 paid visitors on the boat. Normally we listen to frog choruses, spy on a few roosting birds, and look at alligator eye-shine.

We were coming back up the Back Jungle almost to where Sally Ward spring run comes in, and it was about 10 p.m. The Back Jungle is pretty narrow there, and we came up on a school of mullet in the run. I did a tour the next morning and they were still there, so they must have favored that spot for some reason. Anyway, when we came upon them that night, they seemed to panic. Maybe it was just a boat being there unexpectedly at night, maybe it was our lights, or maybe they felt trapped in the narrow run. In any case, all the mullet started jumping at once.

I was in the back of the boat and there were some teenage girls and younger kids up front, along with some photographers and other adults. When the mullet started jumping I could see them best out in front of the boat, so I shined my Q-Beam on them over the heads of the people who all stood up to see what was going on. Everybody started talking and as the volume grew I realized that there was also the thumping noise of mullet hitting the sides of the boat, and then the mullet started flying into the boat and everybody started screaming. Later up at the lodge, they said they could hear us screaming out on the river and couldn't figure out what the heck was happening to us.

So everybody was shouting and screaming and I was trapped in the back, trying to point my beam so people could see the hundred fish still jumping out in front of the boat, and the people up front were bending down to pick them up off the floor of the boat to throw them back overboard. And a woman was shouting that a mullet had hit her on the head, and the teenage girls had fallen back onto the floor of the boat when the fish started coming in the front, and Alan and I were looking at each other asking whether either of us had seen anything like this before!

This went on for the longest time, maybe 5 minutes of chaos with the water all around us churning with jumping mullet! Finally the mullet calmed down, but everybody was still talking, so it took another few minutes to quiet everybody down. I asked if anybody was hurt, and everybody started talking again.

We got the last of the mullet off the boat and I asked how many came aboard, and one guy said eight, and that was the only estimate I heard. Back at the dock, Allan and I were policing the boat, and there were fish scales and blood on and under the first seat. Up at the lodge, a Friends board member who was on the trip took some video on her cell phone, and I could see some flashing which could have been the flashlights or the mullet, but I could certainly hear the screaming. I joked that she should put the recording into the park archives to document the "Night of the Mullet Attack"!!

Dana Bryan is a Past President of Apalachee Audubon

Fish Border Courtesy of Rosemary Gilbert Bell

**You are invited to Apalachee Audubon Society's Annual Awards Banquet
With Guest Speaker, Eric Draper**

Thursday, May 21, 2015

Lafayette Presbyterian Church - 4220 Mahan Drive - Tallahassee, Florida

Dinner will begin at 6:30 pm and will be provided by Chef Tim Smith

*Tickets are \$10 per person and can be purchased in advance at Native Nurseries or Wild Birds Unlimited in May.
If you wish to buy your ticket at the dinner, please call Tim at (850) 933-5979 by May 18 to make your reservation.*

For more information, please see www.apalachee.org.

1964 -2015

Apalachee Audubon Society Presidents, Officers, Board & Committee Chairs

Compiled by Karen Wensing & Suzanna MacIntosh

“Leadership among volunteers is a rather dependent in beautiful ways on shared values and commitment, on understood visions expressed in workable mission statements, and on moral purpose. When people work for love, leaders help them move toward potential and service.”

– Max De Pree

In the fall of 1963 Florida Audubon Executive Director Russ Mason met with Dr. Huey B. Long and other leaders in the Tallahassee-Big Bend area to work towards forming a local chapter of the Florida Audubon Society. The Apalachee Audubon Society’s Charter was signed on December 7, 1963 by Kenneth P. Morrison, President of Florida Audubon. Florida Audubon Executive Director Russ Mason presented this to Dr. Huey B. Long.

1964 – 1965 – 1966

Huey B. Long, President

Mrs. A. D. Aldrich & O. Earle Frye, Vice-Presidents; William R. Kidd, Secretary- Treasurer

There were 26 members to begin with. - Early members include: Betty McCord, Chuck Salter, Malcolm Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Karl (Marion) Zerbe, Dr. Melvina Trussell, Tom Morrill, and Bill Miller

1967 – 1968 – 1969

Chuck Salter, President

19--

Bill Craig, President

1973

Albert P. Simmons, President

“Hux” Coulter, V-P; Helen Grissett and Barbara McCrimmon, Co-Secretaries; Chuck Salter, Treasurer

Board: Dr. Henry Stevenson, 1971-74; Mrs. Spurgeon Camp, 1971-74; Lee Goulding, 1972-75;

Mrs. Eunice Christensen, 1972-75

1974

C.* O. Dunning, President (*Carl)

1975 - 1976

Helen Grissett, President

David LaHart, Vice-President; Mary Nourse, Secretary; Ellen Roberts, Treasurer

Board: Eunice Christensen, Katie Moeller, Marvin Cook, Henry Stevenson, Charles Salter, Richard Husband

Committees: Membership, Peggy Boggs; Tom Harris, Field Trips; James Greene, Program;

Lecture Series, Jean Bordeaux

1976-1977

Tom Harris, President

Katie Moeller, Vice-President; Mary Nourse, Secretary; Hazel Beasley, Treasurer

Board: Don & Martha O’Connell, Marvin Cook, Jim Greene, Al Simmons

Committees: Newsletter, Nancy Sawyer; Hospitality, Katie Moeller; Youth & Education, Helen Grissett;

Membership, Dorothy Leukanech; Program, Jim Greene;

Field Trips, Bill Stephens; Conservation, Mark Gamula

1977 – 1978

R. Marvin Cook, President

Charles Gray, Vice-President; Mary Nourse, Secretary; Clair Davis, Treasurer

Committees: Newsletter, Nancy Sawyer; Field Trips, Barry Williams; Program, James C. Greene; Education, Helen Grissett; Publicity, Donna C. Sumner; Membership, Dorothy Leukanech

1979-1980

Barry C. Williams, President

Judy L. Spier, V.-P.; Nancy Sawyer, Secretary; J. C. Gayhartt, Treasurer

Committees: Newsletter, Judy L. Spier; Program, Sharon Clark; Education, Helen Grissett; Publicity, Jean Smith; Membership, Mary Nourse; FAS Liaison, James L. Greene; Bird Notes, Mike Doyle; Refuges, Mary Tebo; Blue Birds, Donna Legare

(The Apalachee Audubon Society was incorporated on April, 30, 1980)

1980-1981

Robin Carter, President

J. C. Gayhartt, V.-P.; Josephine Tharpe, Secretary; Barry Williams, Treasurer

Committees: Newsletter, Nancy Sawyer; Membership, Louise Dunning; Bird Notes, Todd Engstrom

1981-1982

Robin Carter, President

J. C. Gayhartt, V.-P.; Kathy Cavanaugh, Secretary; Barry Williams, Treasurer

Committees: Newsletter, Donna Legare & Steven Carter-Lovejoy; Membership, Steven Carter-Lovejoy; Bird Notes, Todd Engstrom

1982-1983

Steve Carter-Lovejoy, President

Todd Engstrom, V.-P.; Kathy Cavanaugh, Secretary; Ron Christen, Treasurer

Board: Dana Bryan, Janice Carter-Lovejoy, Cynthia Christen, Debbie Hoffman, Susan Mashburn

1983-1984

Dana C. Bryan, President

Cynthia Christen, V.-P.; Gloria Claiborne, Secretary; Ron Christen, Treasurer

Board: Elspeth Stowell, Kathy Cavanaugh, Tracy Andreae, Ellen Slater, Lavinia Short
Newsletter, Mary Ann Neal & Paula Pharr

Committees: Conservation, Cynthia Christen; Membership, Tracy Andreae; Field Trips, Dana Bryan; Publicity, Kathy Cavanaugh

1984-1985

Dana C. Bryan, President

Kathy Cavanaugh, V.-P.; Gloria Claiborne, Secretary; Ron Christen, Treasurer

Board: Ginny Vail, Don Morrow, Elspeth Stowell, Cynthia Christen, Susan Drake
Newsletter, Gary & Peggy Griffin

Committees: Conservation, Cynthia Christen; Education, Dana Bryan; Membership, Elspeth Stowell; Outings, Ron Christen; Programs, Dana C. Bryan; Publicity, Kathy Cavanaugh; Volunteers, Cynthia Christen

1985-1986

Dana C. Bryan, President
Kathy Cavanaugh, V.-P.; Robin Will, Secretary; Gary Griffin, Treasurer
Board: Ginny Vail, Elspeth Stowell, Kathleen Rose, Don Morrow, Susan Drake
Newsletter, Peggy Griffin

1986-1987

Cynthia Christen, President
Dana C. Bryan, V-P; Robin Will, Secretary; Gary F. Griffin, Treasurer
Board: Susan Drake, Kathleen Rose, Joe Reinman, Brenda Scott, Jane Storm
Committees: Newsletter, Peggy Griffin; Conservation, Elspeth Stowell; Education, Dana C. Bryan;
Membership, Brenda Scott; Programs – Trips , Ron Christen; Publicity, Gary F. Griffin;
Florida Audubon Chapter Representative. Joe Reinman

1987-1988

Cynthia Christen, President
Dana Bryan, V. -P.; Robin Will, Secretary; Gary F. Griffin, Treasurer
Board: Kathleen Rose, Joe Reinman, Elspeth Stowell, Jane Storm, Gloria Claiborne

1988-1989

Elspeth Stowell, President
Dana Bryan, V.-P.; Robin Will, Secretary; Gary F. Griffin, Treasurer
Board: David Arnold, Dave Eslinger, Jane Storm, Cynthia Christen, Gloria Claiborne

1989-1990

David Arnold, President
Elspeth Stowell, V. P.; Cynthia Christen, Secretary; Gary Griffin, Treasurer
Board: Dana Bryan, Bob Walker. Sally Jue, Jane Storm, Dave Eslinger

1990-1991

David Arnold, President
V. P. ? ; Cynthia Christen, Secretary; Gary Griffin, Treasurer
Board: Gail Fishman, Gino Snodgrass, Cathy Sellers,
Committees: Membership, Sally Jue; Education Chair, Robin Will; Pamela Hammock, Conservation

1991-1992

Bob Henderson, President
Cynthia Christen, V.-P.; Sally Jue, Secretary; Gary Griffin, Treasurer
Board: Alan Strowd, Cathy Sellers, Gail Fishman, Ken Echternacht, Connie Cauley
Committees: Newsletter Editor, Tom Swihart & Newsletter Coordinator, Ken Echternacht; Field Trip
Coordinator, Jay LaVia; Membership, Donna Wells; Hospitality, Cathy Sellers; Program, Alan Strowd;
Education, Connie Cauley; Conservation, Ken Echternacht; Local Government Issues, Cathy Sellers;
Birdathon, Dawn Hummer; Audubon Adventures, Robin Will;
Chapter Representative to FAS, Ken Echternacht

1992-1993

Robert K. Henderson, President

Cynthia Christen, V.-P.; Cathy Sellers, Secretary; Donna Wells, Treasurer

Board: Sandy Beck, Connie Cauley, Ken Echternacht, Don Kelly, Betsy Sullivan

Committees: Newsletter Editor, Tom Swihart & Newsletter Coordinator, Ken Echternacht;

Audubon Adventures, Sally Jue; Birdathon, Cynthia Christen & Cathy Sellers;

Education, Cathy Cauley ('92) & Jane Storm ('93); Field Trip Coordinator, Cathy Sellers; Highway Beautification, Peg Griffin; Local Government Issues, David Therique; Conservation, Ken Echternacht;

Publicity, Gary Griffin; Chapter Representative to FAS, Bob Henderson

1993-1994

Bob Henderson, President

Cynthia Christen, V.-P.; Cathy Sellers, Secretary; Donna Wells, Treasurer

Board: M. B. Adelson, Don Kelly, Janisse Ray, Pat Simmons, David A. Theriaque

Committees: Newsletter Editor, Tom Swihart; Audubon Adventures, Sally Jue; Birdathon Co-Chairs,

Cynthia Christen and Cathy Sellers; Conservation, Cathy Sellers; Education, Pat Simmons; Highway

Beautification Co-Chairs, M. B. Adelson & Pat Simmons; Local Government Issues, David A. Theriaque;

Membership, Donna Wells; Publicity, Janisse Ray; Chapter Representative to FAS, Cathy Sellers; Partners-

In-Flight, Harry Hooper

1994-1995

Cathy Sellers, President

Janisse Ray, V-P; Harry Hopkins, Secretary; Pat Simmons, Treasurer

Board: Jay Alexander, David Best, Bob Henderson, Dean Jue, Jo Penrose,

Committees: Education, Dee Wilder

1995-1996

Cathy Sellers, President

Harry Hooper, V-P; Pat Simmons, Secretary/Treasurer

Board: Jay Alexander, Bob Henderson, Dean Jue, Janisse Ray, Karen Wensing, Dee Wilder

Committees: Newsletter Editor, Cathy Sellers; Audubon Adventures, Sally Jue; Birdathon, Bob Henderson

& Cathy Sellers; Conservation Chair, Bob Henderson; Education, Dee Wilder; Highway Beautification, Pat

Simmons; Membership, Donna Wells; Publicity, Karen Wensing; Chapter Representative to FAS, Cathy

Sellers; Partnership-In-Flight, Harry Hooper

1996-1997

Kevin Songer, President

Leslie Paugh, V-P; Harvey Goldman, Treasurer; Karen Wensing, Secretary

Board: Jay Alexander, Jennifer Eichelberger, Bob Henderson, Dean Jue, Judy Rice, Pat Simmons

Committees: Education & Field Trips, Jay Alexander; Newsletter Editor, Jennifer Eichelberger;

Conservation, Bob Henderson; Membership, Dean Jue; Publicity, Pat Simmons

1997-1998

Bob Henderson, President

Elizabeth Fairbanks, V-P; Harvey Goldman, Treasurer; Donna Wells, Secretary

Board: Jim Cox, Jim Crews, Judy Rice, Jim Shelton, Pat Simmons

Committees: Birdathon & Hospitality, Beth Nichols; Conservation, Jim Cox; Education, Ellen Shelton; Membership, Jim Crews; Newsletter, Bob Henderson; Publicity, Judy Rice; Special Projects, Pat Simmons; Field Trip Coordinator, Jim Shelton; Chapter Rep to FAS, Jim Crews

1998-1999

Jim Shelton, President

Roger Atchison, V-P; Harvey Goldman, Treasurer; Donna Wells, Secretary

Board: Marvin Collins, Jim Crews, Ed Gartner, Joe Newton, Judy Rice

Committees: Birdathon, Beth Nichols; Conservation, Roger Atchison; Education, Ellen Shelton; Hospitality, Ed Gartner; Membership, Jim Crews; Newsletter, Bob Henderson; Publicity, Judy Rice; Field Trip Coordinator, Jim Shelton; Chapter Rep to FAS, Jim Crews

1999-2000

Jim Shelton, President

Jim Crews, V-P; Harvey Goldman, Treasurer; Ellen Shelton, Secretary

Board: Mary Blakeslee, Marvin Collins, Bob Cross, Hans Van Tol, Robin Wills

Committees: Birdathon, Beth Nichols; Conservation, Marvin Collins; Education, Ellen Shelton; Hospitality, Ed Gartner; Membership, Jim Crews; Newsletter, Val Weeks; Publicity, Hans Van Tol; Judy Rice; Field Trip Coordinator, Jim Shelton; Chapter Rep to FAS, Jim Crews

2000-2001

Jim Crews, President

Bob Cross, V-P; Harvey Goldman, Treasurer; Ellen Shelton, Secretary

Board: Bob Daniels, Marvin Collins, Bill Lowrie, Larry Thompson, Hans Van Tol

Committees: Birdathon, Larry Thompson; Conservation, Marvin Collins; Education, Ellen Shelton; Hospitality, Ed Gartner; Membership, Harvey Goldman; Newsletter, Val Weeks; Publicity, Hans Van Tol; Field Trips, Jim Shelton; Ex-Officio, Sierra Club Liaison, Grayal Farr

2001-2002

Larry Thompson, President

Open, V-P; Harvey Goldman, Treasurer; Jim Crews, Secretary

Board: Bob Daniels, Marvin Collins, Bill Lowrie, Hans Van Tol

Committees: Birdathon, Larry Thompson; Conservation, Marvin Collins; Education, Ellen Shelton; Hospitality, Ed Gartner; Membership, Harvey Goldman; Newsletter, Val Weeks; Publicity, Hans Van Tol; Field Trips, Jim Shelton; Ex-Officio, Sierra Club Liaison, Grayal Farr

2002-2003

Larry Thompson, President

Eric Draper, V-P; Harvey Goldman, Treasurer; Jim Crews, Secretary

Board: Marvin Collins, Bill Lowrie, Karen Wensing

Committees: Conservation, Eric Draper; Chapter Rep to State Board, Larry Thompson; Development, Larry Thompson; Education, Ellen Shelton; Hospitality, Vacant; Membership, Karen Wensing; Newsletter, Val Weeks; Publicity, Judy Rice; Population, Harvey Goldman; Field Trips, Marvin Collins; Programs, Marvin Collins;

St. Marks NWR Liaison, Robin Will; Ex-Officio, Sierra Club Liaison, Grayal Farr; Webmaster, Hans Van Tol

2003-2004

Open , President

Eric Draper, V-P; Harvey Goldman, Treasurer; Jim Crews, Secretary; Larry Thompson, Past President

Board: Marvin Collins, Sally Jue, Bill Lowrie, Karen Wensing, Bonnie Wright

Committees: Conservation, Eric Draper; Chapter Rep to State Board, Larry Thompson; Education, Ellen Shelton; Hospitality, Elizabeth Platt; Membership, Karen Wensing; Newsletter, Val Weeks; Publicity, Judy Goldman; Population, Harvey Goldman; Field Trips, Marvin Collins; Programs, Marvin Collins; St. Marks NWR Liaison, Robin Will; Ex-Officio, Sierra Club Liaison, Grayal Farr; Webmaster, Open

2004-2005

Eric Draper, President

Sally Jue, V-P; Harvey Goldman, Treasurer; Open, Secretary; Larry Thompson, Past President

Board: Ray Bieber, Marvin Collins, Grayal Farr, Kim Libroth, Bill Lowrie, Jim Shelton, Karen Wensing, Bonnie Wright

Committees: Conservation, Eric Draper; Chapter Rep to State Board, Larry Thompson; Education, Judy Goldman; Finance, Ray Bieber; Hospitality, Elizabeth Platt; Membership, Karen Wensing; Newsletter, Bill Lowrie; Publicity, Kim Libroth; Field Trips, Marvin Collins; Programs, Marvin Collins; St. Marks NWR Liaison, Robin Will; Ex-Officio, Sierra Club Liaison, Grayal Farr; Webmaster, Hans Van Tol

2005-2006

Eric Draper, President

Sally Jue, V-P; Harvey Goldman, Treasurer; Elizabeth Platt, Secretary

Board: Marvin Collins, Kathy Hartley, Kim Libroth, Elizabeth Vigil, Karen Wensing

Committees: Big Bend Environmental Forum Liaison, Bob Henderson; Conservation, Eric Draper; Development, Open; Education, Judy Goldman; Finance, Open; Hospitality, Open; Membership, Kathy Hartley; Newsletter, Donna Kay Tharpe; Population, Harvey Goldman; Publicity, Kim Libroth; Field Trips, Marvin Collins; Programs, Marvin Collins; Special Projects, Bob Henderson; St. Marks NWR Liaison, Robin Will; Ex-Officio, Sierra Club Liaison, Open; Webmaster, Hans Van Tol

2006-2007

Elizabeth Platt, President

Melissa Forehand, V-P; Harvey Goldman, Treasurer; Dawn Saucier, Secretary
Board: Jan Bordelon, Marvin Collins, Eric Draper, Lynn Reynolds, Elizabeth Vigil,
Nico Wienders, George Willson

Committees: Awards, ---; Banquet, Elizabeth Vigil; Bylaws Revision, Karen Wensing; Big Bend Environmental Forum Liaison, Bob Henderson; Conservation, Eric Draper; Development, Open; Education, Judy Goldman; Field Trips, Marvin Collins; Finance, Open; Hospitality, Jan Bordelon; Membership, Jan Bordelon; Newsletter, Lynn Reynolds; Population, Harvey Goldman; Programs, Elizabeth Vigil; Publicity, George Willson; Special Projects, Bob Henderson; Special Projects (2), Karen Wensing; St. Marks NWR Liaison, Robin Will; Ex-Officio, Sierra Club Liaison, Open; Webmaster, Hans Van Tol

2007-2008

Elizabeth Platt, President

Melissa Forehand, V-P; Harvey Goldman, Treasurer; Dawn Saucier, Secretary
Board: Marvin Collins, Eric Draper, Elizabeth Vigil, Nico Wienders

Committees: Awards, Tim Smith; Backyard Birding, Fran Rutkovsky; Banquet, Tim Smith; Big Bend Environmental Forum Liaison, Bob Henderson; Birding Spots Editor, Bob Henderson; Conservation, Marvin Collins; Development, Open; Audubon Adventures, Judy Goldman; Field Trips, Melissa Forehand; Finance, Open; Hospitality, Elizabeth Vigil; Membership, Pam Flynn; Newsletter, Ann Bruce; Population, Harvey Goldman; Programs, Melissa Forehand; Publicity, Julie Wraithmell; Special Projects, Bob Henderson; State Board Liaison, Eric Draper; St. Marks NWR Liaison, Robin Will; Ex-Officio, Sierra Club Liaison, Ben Fusaro; Webmaster, Hans Van Tol

2008-2009

Ben Fusaro, President

Ed Gartner, V-P; Harvey Goldman, Treasurer; Open, Secretary

Board: Elizabeth Platt, Past-President; Melissa Forehand, Harry Hooper, Lynn Reynolds, Karen Wensing
Committees: Audubon Adventures, Judy Goldman; Newsletter Editor, Ann Bruce; Programs, Melissa Forehand; Webmaster, John Boutelle

2009-2010

Ed Gartner, President

Harry Hooper, V-P; Harvey Goldman, Treasurer; Lynn Reynolds, Secretary

Board: Ben Fusaro, Past-President; Jan Bordelon, Chris Borg, Ann Bruce, Melissa Forehand, Karen Wensing
Committees: Audubon Adventures, Judy Goldman; Newsletter, Kathleen Carr; Webmaster, John Boutelle;

2010-2011

Julie Wraithmell, President

Jan Bordelon & Elizabeth Platt, V-P; Harvey Goldman, Treasurer; Ann Bruce, Secretary

Board: Past-President, Ed Gartner; Chris Borg, Melissa Forehand, Ben Fusaro,

Dr. Seán McGlynn, Sunny Phillips, Leann Watts Williams

Committees: Audubon Adventures, Judy Goldman; Newsletter Editor, Kathleen Carr;
Webmaster, John Boutelle

AAS Logo Design, Charlotte Forehand

2011-2012

Julie Wraithmell (2011)/Kathleen Carr (2012), President
Kathleen Carr, V-P; Harvey Goldman, Treasurer; Elizabeth Platt, Secretary
Board: Julie Wraithmell, Past-President (2012); Melissa Forehand, Ben Fusaro, Ed Gartner, Laurie Jones,
Mark Kiser, Selena Kiser, Dr. Seán McGlynn, Leann Watts Williams
Committees: Audubon Adventures, Judy Goldman; Newsletter Editor, Suzanna MacIntosh;
Webmaster, John Boutelle

2012-2013

Kathleen Carr, President
Dr. Seán McGlynn, V-P; Harvey Goldman, Treasurer; Jan Bordelon, Secretary
Board: Nick Baldwin, Jim Cox, Ben Fusaro, Aubrey Heupel, Laurie Jones, Adrienne Ruhl,
Julie Wraithmell, Past-President
Committees: Audubon Adventures, Judy Goldman; Newsletter Editor, Suzanna MacIntosh;
Webmaster, Bob Henderson

2013-2014

Dr. Seán McGlynn, President
Adrienne Ruhl, V-P; Harvey Goldman, Treasurer; Helen King, Secretary
Board: Nick Baldwin, Jim Cox, Ben Fusaro, Carol Franchi, Aubrey Heupel, Pat Press, Budd Titlow
Kathleen Carr, Past-President
Committees: Audubon Adventures, Judy Goldman; Newsletter Editor, Suzanna MacIntosh;
Webmaster, Bob Henderson

2014-2015

Adrienne Ruhl, President
Budd Titlow, V-P; Harvey Goldman, Treasurer; Helen King, Secretary
Board: Nick Baldwin, Kathleen Carr, Jim Cox, Ben Fusaro, Carol Franchi, Pat Press
Dr. Seán McGlynn, Past-President
Committees: Anniversary Celebration, Suzanna MacIntosh, Karen Wensing, Helen King, Dr. Seán McGlynn
& Budd Titlow; Audubon Adventures, Judy Goldman; Awards Committee, Nick Baldwin; Birdathon, Harvey
Goldman; Conservation Committee, Jan Bordelon & Elizabeth Platt; Education Committee Co-Chairs, Carol
Franchi & Pat Press; Field Trips, Helen King; Hospitality, Pam Flory & Elizabeth Platt; Membership,
Kathleen Carr; Nominating Committee, Dr. Seán McGlynn; Program Committee, Jim Cox; Publicity,
Kathleen Carr; St. Marks NWR Butterfly Pollinator Garden, Ann Bruce; Wildlife-Friendly Yards Tour
Committee, Ann Bruce & Tammy Brown; Newsletter Editor, Suzanna MacIntosh;
Parliamentarian, Ben Fusaro; Webmaster, Kathleen Carr

Our deepest gratitude goes to Dr. Huey Long for his invaluable help with the early history. He has lovingly shared his recollections of the men and women who helped found Apalachee Audubon along with information on founding goals and early activities. Dr. Long also searched for and found saved photographs from these first years to share. Many thanks also to Audubon Florida's Charles Lee for going the extra miles helping us locate the earliest AAS history; without his help we might never have known the founding dates and first leaders.

This has been a monumental task. AAS is creating a special history section on our website and we would greatly appreciate your help correcting any errors, filling in any blanks, or helping in any way. Thank you! ~ Karen Wensing and Suzanna MacIntosh