

# APALACHEE AUDUBON SOCIETY

Apalachee Audubon Society Mission Statement:  
Protection of the environment through education, appreciation, and conservation.

NEWSLETTER OF THE APALACHEE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC. MARCH-APRIL 2017



## Speaker Series

*Free and open to the public. Social begins at 7 pm, meeting at 7:15 pm, & program at 7:30 pm (unless otherwise noted). Speaker Series Programs are at the King Life Science Building, FSU Campus. See directions and map in this newsletter or on the AAS website: [www.apalachee.org](http://www.apalachee.org).*

## 2016-2017 Program Dates

2016	2017
September 15	January 19
October 20	February 16
November 17	March 16
December - No Program	April 20

**May Banquet — May 18, 2017**  
**Lafayette Presbyterian Church**  
**6:30 PM / Tickets \$10.00**

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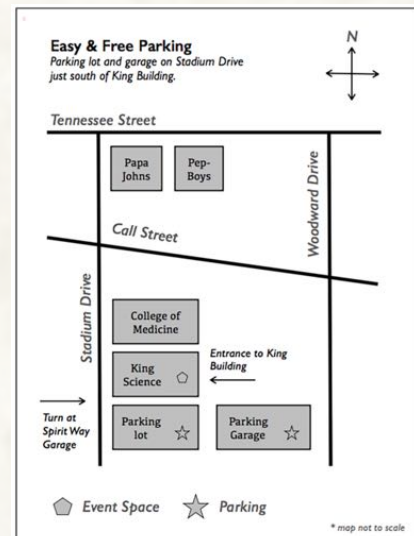
Congratulations to AAS President Budd Titlow on the publication of **PROTECTING THE PLANET – Environmental Champions from Conservation to Climate Change** by Budd and his daughter, Mariah Tinger.

Available at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

## Meeting Location for Apalachee Audubon Society's 2016-2017 Speaker Series Programs King Life Science Building Auditorium at FSU

The Apalachee Audubon Society's 2016-2017 Speaker Series programs are being held at the FSU King Life Science Building, Room 1024 (Auditorium), 319 Stadium Dr., Tallahassee, unless otherwise noted. There are two easy and free evening campus parking areas. Please see the map at right for directions.

Please join us for AAS Speaker Series programs, field trips and other special activities. Programs are free and open to the public. For program information and more, please see [www.apalachee.org](http://www.apalachee.org).



## Apalachee Audubon Speaker Series

Thursday, March 16, 2017  
**14,000 Years of Climate Change  
in North Florida**

Jim Dunbar

Thursday, April 20, 2017  
**Wakulla Springs  
and Our Water Future**

Dr. Sean McGlynn

Thursday, May 18, 2017  
**What Woodlands Tell Us  
about Woodpeckers**

Chuck Hess

See page 4 for additional  
program information.

## Apalachee Audubon Society, Inc.

2016 - 2017  
Officers & Directors

**President:** Budd Titlow  
**Vice-President:** John Outland  
**Secretary:** Donna Legare  
**Treasurer:** Harvey Goldman

### Directors

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Nick Baldwin	Don Quarello
Kathleen Carr	Karen Willes
Peter Kleinhenz	Rob Williams
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**Parliamentarian:** TBA

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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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## 2016-2017 Committee Chairs

**Audubon Adventures**  
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**Awards Committee**  
Nick Baldwin

**Birdathon**  
Harvey Goldman

**Bylaws Committee**  
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**Coastal Cleanup**  
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**Publications and Publicity Committee** (2 sections)  
Newsletter & Publications: Karen Willes & Suzanna MacIntosh  
Media Liaisons: Kathleen Carr & Donna Legare

**Webmaster**  
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**Wildlife-Friendly Yards Tour Committee**  
Tammy Brown

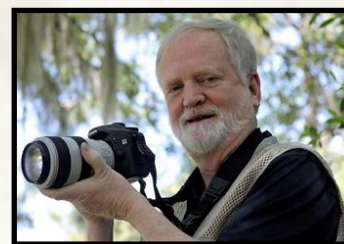
The Apalachee Audubon Society is established as a nonprofit corporation for the purposes of environmental education, the appreciation of wildlife and natural history, and the conservation of the environment and resources.

*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](http://www.apalachee.org).*

Editorial Note from Karen Willes ~ This March-April 2017 Newsletter includes information on the Spring Special Speaker Series and the AAS May Banquet. In addition it includes a thank you article on the Wildlife-Friendly Yards Tours, a special invitation to the Conservation and Cocktails fundraiser for Audubon Florida, activities at Edward Ball Wakulla Springs State Park and other events in the area. On a personal note, this edition is my final AAS newsletter and I am happy to introduce Peter Kleinhenz, AAS Director, who will be the new AAS Newsletter editor. Peter has written a great article (page 8) about his recent trip to Cuba. Thanks to all who provided copy — those who wrote articles and provided photographs. I hope you will find the newsletter interesting, informative, and worthy of sharing with others.

# The President's Opinion

Budd Titlow



**Budd Titlow**

*Photo Credit ~ Debby Titlow*

Climate change is now threatening the existing world order, and the United States—like the “unsinkable” Titanic—has just hit a melting iceberg and is about to turn nose up in the water. It’s now past time for us to wake up, smell the carbon emissions, and immediately start transitioning our energy development, production, and use policies. Otherwise, we will soon become an also-ran—falling way behind Communist China as well as other countries—in the race toward a Global Clean Energy Economy.

This is true for several reasons. First and foremost, as my daughter Mariah, and I write in our recently published book, *PROTECTING THE PLANET: Environmental Champions from Conservation to Climate Change*, implementation of a *carbon fee* on all CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and uses is the easiest—and by far most effective way—to reverse the ongoing trend of annual global temperature rise. And rising it is—16 out of the past 17 years have been the hottest ever recorded on Earth. To date—while the U.S. Congress and several states have often debated a *carbon fee*—they have yet to take any action.

Now let’s take a look at the country we consider the greatest threat to our economic and socio-political wellbeing—China. As recently highlighted in episode 8, Season 2 of the National Geographic Channel’s *Years of Living Dangerously (YLD)*, China is currently implementing a *carbon fee* through a national *cap-and-trade program* and will be producing at least 20 percent of its energy from non-fossil fuels by the year 2030. Also by 2030, China plans to add more solar and wind power to its energy reserves than exists collectively in the world today.

Meanwhile—under the new Trump Administration—we are preparing to expand our dependence on coal mining and coal-fired power plants. This despite the fact that coal is no longer a viable commodity in today’s world economy. Trump is also championing more oil and gas development—notably featuring the dirtiest crude on Earth which is being tediously squeezed out of Canada’s Alberta Tar Sands.

As I write this during the first week of Trump’s Presidency, our new leader has already brought back two previously “dead in the water” oil pipeline projects (the Keystone XL and Dakota Access Pipelines) and called for massive reductions in funding for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) air and water pollution control programs. This latter action will—of course—lead the way for more power generation from the mining and burning of coal. To top things off, Trump has stated his intent to get rid of President Obama’s ambitious Clean Power Plan while also rescinding our commitment to the historic Paris Climate Agreement that the U.S.—along with 195 other countries—signed in December 2015.

So while China is showing the world it knows how to efficiently and permanently cut back its CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, the Trump Administration is—in terms of power production and generation—leading the U.S. back into the Stone Age!

What can we do about this? For starters, we need to resist Trump’s attempts to undo the climate change successes of the Obama Administration. We need to reach out to our legislators and insist that the Clean Power Plan and the Paris Climate Agreement are kept while the Keystone XL and Dakota Access Pipelines remain defeated. Then we need to ramp up and keep the hammer down on our transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy resources. As China and many other countries (including all of Scandinavia, plus Slovenia, Poland, Switzerland, the Netherlands, and the UK) are demonstrating, a *carbon fee*—either implemented through a *cap-and-trade program* or as a direct additional cost to emitters—is the best way to accomplish this. Charging fees for existing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and uses will force our utility companies to either switch or make way for new companies that feature only renewable energy resources—wind, water, and solar power.

In summary, we can’t afford to fall further behind in the Global Clean Energy Race. We must heed the old Chinese proverb that reads: “*Be not afraid of growing slowly, be afraid only of standing still.*” We must quit standing still and immediately start moving forward toward full reliance on carbon free energy sources. Otherwise, we must hope that there will be enough lifeboats for us all when our ship finally goes down!

**Apalachee Audubon Society**  
**Spring Calendar 2017**  
[www.apalachee.org](http://www.apalachee.org)

The programs on March 16 and April 20 will be held at the King Life Sciences Building Auditorium on the FSU campus on the third Thursday of each month. Social starts at 7:00 PM, followed by announcements at 7:15 and the featured speaker from 7:30-8:30. See the front page of this newsletter for a map. There is easy and free parking.

**March 16, 2017 — 14,000 Years of Climate Change in North Florida**  
**Program Speaker — Archeologist Jim Dunbar**

Jim Dunbar will discuss climate change during the past 14,000 years that people have inhabited the karst areas of North Florida (including Wakulla Springs) and how changing sea levels affected the geography and diversity of food sources. According to Jim, the most important archaeological and paleontological resources in the Americas still remain undiscovered at Wakulla Springs. Jim provides a fresh perspective on the distant past and an original way of thinking about early life on the land mass we call Florida.

JAMES S. DUNBAR retired after more than 35 years of service with the Florida Bureau of Archaeological Research. He currently serves as an archaeological consultant and is a founder of the Aucilla Research Institute, Inc.

**April 20, 2017 — Wakulla Springs and Our Water Future**  
**Program Speaker — Dr. Sean McGlynn**

This program will emphasize the history of involvement with Wakulla Springs by National Audubon, the Wakulla Springs Working Group and Wakulla Springs Alliance. The talk will feature original Ball era video clips of Carl Buchheister at Wakulla Springs.

**May 18, 2017 — May Banquet — Lafayette Presbyterian Church, 4220 Mahan Drive**  
**6:30 PM / Tickets \$10.00**

**What Woodpeckers Tell Us about Woodlands — Program Speaker, Chuck Hess**

We are grateful to Chef Tim Smith, who will be preparing our meal for the 10th year. This year will be his last year as the AAS Volunteer Chef for this event. We are indebted to Chef Tim for his service and to Lafayette Presbyterian Church for their hospitality.

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**Introducing Peter Kleinhenz, AAS Newsletter Editor**

Contact Peter via e-mail — [pnkleinhenz@gmail.com](mailto:pnkleinhenz@gmail.com)



**Peter Kleinhenz**

*Photo Credit ~ Avery Bristol*

Peter Kleinhenz works as an interpretive writer for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. He graduated from Miami University with degrees in zoology and media production and graduated from Southern Oregon University with a Master of Science degree in environmental education. He has worked as a television producer, frog biologist, zookeeper, camp counselor, and has even sold renewable energy upgrades door-to-door. In his free time, Peter enjoys caving, herping, and birding.

## Thank you for a great 2017 Wildlife-Friendly Yards Tour!

The day started out rainy, but the sunshine broke through around lunchtime and made for another wonderful tour this year. Every yard had a constant stream of visitors throughout the day, even during the rain. Having sold 121 tickets, attendance was down somewhat, but it was still a very successful and fun tour. We had so many wonderful people working behind the scenes for months to bring it all together. Everyone's contributions and outstanding efforts are very much appreciated.

Special thanks to the Tallahassee Democrat for publishing our article and pictures on the front page of the Chronicle. There is no doubt this helped increase awareness and introduced some new people to our yard tour tradition. Another special thanks to Native Nurseries and Wild Birds Unlimited. For the tenth year, they have graciously acted as our ticket outlets as well as promoted the event, and we couldn't pull this off without them!

Our deep appreciation goes to our five outstanding yard hosts this year, who shared their homes and knowledge with friends and strangers. They truly went above and beyond!



*Photo Credit ~ Tammy Brown*

Upon arriving at **Don and Hazel Dixon's**, a group of Baltimore orioles were bickering over an oriole feeder in the front yard, near an Eastern bluebird box with nest-building underway. Once in their beautiful back yard, there were four different levels of viewing their very active bird feeding area. Numerous birds were seen, including more orioles, yellow-rumped warblers, pine warblers, an orange-crowned warbler (my first!), and a catbird. Don's hand-made peanut butter feeder alone attracted many of them.

Don and Hazel even graciously offered hot cider and coffee to help guests deal with the damp weather.

Just a short walk across Los Robles Park was **Winnie and Wolfgang Adolph's** bird sanctuary. They graciously offered inside viewing (along with homemade cake and chocolates!) from their bird windows overlooking the whimsical feeders and beautiful ponds. For a break from the rain, Wolfgang showed pictures and videos to guests in his home office. The birds were still showing up outside, with a female eastern bluebird perched on the feeder station for quite some time, perhaps wondering who all the people were in "her" yard.



*Photo Credit ~ Tammy Brown*

**Fran and Paul Rutkovsky's** National Wildlife Federation certified yard offers the perfect retreat for wildlife. Many feeders, native plants and water features attract a wide variety of birds and butterflies to their yard year-round. Viewing from an upper-level deck features a wooded ravine with a stream at the bottom as a wildlife magnet. Fran and Paul continue to add native plants and allow wildflowers to grow free in order to attract even more beneficial insects to their yard. Fran's knowledge and experience no doubt enhanced her guests' visits and viewing.



*Photo Credit ~ Tammy Brown*

Across the street at **Mary Jean and Jon Yarbrough's** yard are also many native plants along with bird feeders and two bee hives. Jon was nice enough to share his bee-keeping knowledge with his many interested guests. Both hives were quite active already, too. Bird feeders in the front yard stayed busy with quick feedings in between guests walking by.

Next door, **Nona Dawson's** home featured a beautiful back-yard getaway. The tranquil ponds surrounded by assorted plants were the perfect backdrop for her bird feeding stations and bird bath. Nona was a wonderful hostess strolling around her yard with visitors and identifying her many plants and shrubs for them. Despite our activity, the birds still dropped in for snacks.

Heartfelt thanks go to all our wonderful yard volunteers, too! They certainly helped the visitors have a friendly and informative visit, and we couldn't do it without you. Our yard volunteers this year were Elizabeth Platt, Glenda Simmons, Ed Woodruff, Karen Wensing, Pat Teaf, Karissa Moffett, Jane Fleitman, Sally Jue, Diane Quigg, Pat and Carol Press, Dee Wilder, Adrienne Ruhl, Michael Tucker, Kathleen Carr, and Judy Goldman.

With all the fun and success, we are already thinking about next year's tour, so please keep it in mind if you know anyone who would be a good yard host or volunteer to be a part of this wonderful experience.

Again, my deepest thanks to all for your contributions; each one of you was a vital part to the enjoyment and success of this year's tour!



*Photo Credit ~ Tammy Brown*

Consider sponsoring this worthwhile cause

*Reddish Egret \$5,000*

Six tickets to event, membership to Audubon Florida, recognition in event program, invitation to Michael Sheridan's home to meet event honoree, recognition in Florida Naturalist, your choice of pontoon boat ride or kayak trip for four to Audubon Florida's sanctuary at Lanark Reef, your choice of a private tour of the Phipps' Plantation or a private birding tour led by Audubon leaders, and recognition at event as sponsor.

*American Oystercatcher \$2,500*

Four tickets to event, membership to Audubon Florida, recognition in event program, invitation to Michael Sheridan's home to meet event honoree, recognition in Florida Naturalist, and pontoon boat ride or kayak trip for two to Audubon Florida's sanctuary at Lanark Reef.

*Black Skimmer \$1,000*

Two tickets to event, membership to Audubon Florida, recognition in event program, invitation to Michael Sheridan's home to meet event honoree, your choice of private tour of the Phipps' Plantation or a private birding tour led by Audubon leaders, and recognition in Florida Naturalist.

*Brown Pelican \$500*

Two tickets to event, membership to Audubon Florida and recognition in event program.

*All funds are donated to Audubon Florida to support coastal conservation.  
For more information or to sponsor this event, contact Helen Marshall  
at [hmarshall@audubon.org](mailto:hmarshall@audubon.org) or 305-371-6399 ext. 140.*



*Judy Wilson and Michael Sheridan, Anne and Colin Phipps, Lester Abberger, Lynn Peterson and Rob Williams, and Debby and Budd Tulose invite you to attend*

## Conservation and Cocktails

An evening with Audubon Florida  
recognizing Sandy Proctor for Lifetime  
Achievement for Nature in the Arts

The Swan House  
497 Woodbrook Drive  
Tallahassee, Florida 32312

Join us for drinks, hors d'oeuvres, and music on:  
Thursday, March 2, 2017  
5:30 - 8:30 p.m.

*Business or Cocktail Attire Recommended*

Individual tickets are \$125 each and include  
a membership to Audubon Florida



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# Birding in Cuba

by Peter Kleinhenz, new Editor of the Apalachee Audubon Newsletter

Let's face it; here in Florida, we're fortunate when it comes to bird diversity. Over 200 species breed within the state, with rarities drifting our way almost weekly. But do you ever get the urge to see a whole new suite of birds?

Maybe you take off to the lower Rio Grande Valley, perhaps to the Chiricahuas. I've visited those places and they're certainly incredible. But you, reading this, live in Florida. Remember our neighbor to the south? Only 90 miles away from our border exists a place with 25 endemic birds and arguably the best remaining habitats to see them in the Caribbean. That's right: I'm talking about Cuba.

As I drifted along a narrow canal, deep within the famous Cienega de Zapata of south-central Cuba, I mentally patted myself on the back for making the choice to go birding down there. Endemic Zapata sparrows



**Our guide and boat captain try to lure the elusive Zapata Wren.**

*Photo Credit ~ Peter Kleinhenz*

perched curiously on nearby vegetation. A Cuban pewee called from a branch dangling just overhead. Two Cuban bullfinches seemed intent on breaking every seed in the vicinity with preposterously-massive bills. But don't let me trick you. Birding in Cuba may be easy, but Cuba itself is not. Space does not even remotely allow me to describe the hardships associated with travel there. And, besides, you want to read about birds.

Cuba is about as good as it gets when it comes to birding. Three endemic woodpeckers, two endemic owls, two Psittacines, and perhaps even the ivory-billed woodpecker call the massive island home. But I had two birds I wanted to see above all else and both were far from guaranteed.

Short of the ivory-billed woodpecker, Cuba's two rarest birds could both be found in a swamp I describe as the Cuban equivalent of the Everglades. Cienega de Zapata sprawls west and north of the infamous Bay of Pigs and provides the only known habitat for the Zapata wren and Zapata rail.

As our small boat was pole-pushed up the canal, our guide described both birds. The Zapata rail, contrary to what I had read, had not been reliably seen since the early 1930's. I asked him if we were at least in the right habitat. He looked at me seriously for a second, laughed, and responded in his broken Spanish.

"You can say you tried. But we will not see one."

I stared into the wall of marshy sawgrass swamp on both sides of the canal. Yep. The guide was right. But what about the more common, yet still critically-endangered, neighbor of the Zapata Rail? For this, I had hope.

The "captain" of our boat pulled alongside a wooden boardwalk leading into the swamp. My friend and I looked at each other as if to say, "Is this actually happening?" We walked off the boat and to the end of the boardwalk. Our guide motioned for us to crouch. He walked to the end of the boardwalk, placed a portable speaker on the ground, and began playing\* the complex, inimitable call of the Zapata Wren.

*Continued on next page*



Five minutes elapsed. Nothing. But then, somewhere off in the swamp, we heard an echo of the playback. Incredibly, a Zapata wren was calling back to us. I was ecstatic. Here I was, in a place I had always dreamed of visiting, listening to one of the most endangered birds on the planet call as its species had done for thousands of years. We listened to this exchange for perhaps twenty minutes. But the bird, unfortunately, never came closer.

Our guide explained that some groups don't even get to hear them. I nodded. I thought, well that was cool. But then our guide shocked us. A flash of a grin, a step off the boardwalk, and a quick glance indicated that we were to leave the boardwalk. Huh?

Turning to my friend and I, he stated, "I can tell that you two are up to this. Let's try to find a wren."

We walked approximately 150 yards into the swamp. At times, I was up to my upper calves in muck. The guide stopped. Again, he played a call. This time, unbelievably, we heard a response immediately...directly in front of us! All of our binoculars were glued to the sprawling bush twenty feet ahead. The wren was in there somewhere.



This canal provides the only access to this part of Cienega de Zapata.

*Photo Credit ~ Peter Kleinbenz*

We looked, and we looked, and we looked some more. Not even the guide could make out anything resembling a wren. Suddenly, I shouted, "I've got it!" There, at the edge of the bush, was a male Zapata wren. Its curved black bill reflected the sunlight and gave it away. Its tan plumage and propensity for calling from inside the bush had made it all but invisible despite it being about the size of a robin.

I can't remember ever being so excited about a bird. I stood there, mouth agape, for maybe two minutes as I stood watching this icon of the swamp. Then, as quickly as it appeared, it was gone. John and I had smiles stretching across our faces. So did our guide. He explained that less than 1,000 Zapata wrens remain on Earth. Illegal brush fires, started to hunt an endemic

mammal known as a hutia, have resulted in drastic declines of these special birds. Without serious measures, the Zapata wren would disappear within our lifetimes.

As he led us back to the boat, he stopped. He turned around and, with a serious expression on his face, simply stated, "You two are lucky to get to experience that."

I thought back on the spectacular birds, amphibians, and plants we had seen elsewhere in Cuba. I thought about the warm people we met who welcomed us into our homes and who had solved our many problems. Mostly, I thought about the fact that I was standing in a place that would have been almost impossible for me to visit only a year ago. As I think back on his statement, our guide may as well have been describing the entire trip.

\*Playback is discouraged by many birders, including myself, for its potential to disrupt natural behaviors. However, it's customary to use it in Cuba and ecotourism there, in many cases, is the sole factor keeping the populations of some species intact.

## Wakulla Springs News and Notes

By Jeff Hugo

March is a beautiful time at Wakulla Springs State Park. Although the winter months are filled with their own charm and seasonal solace, March is the awakening.

The azaleas were coaxed to bloom early thanks to the warmer than usual January. The rose red, double flowered 'Professor Sargent' camellias have been in their glory since late December. February brought the white bouquets on the Walter's viburnum, the crimson seeds of the red maples, and the pink flush of redbud trees. All of these blooms may tarry into March, but their time of resplendence nears its finale.

The multi-hued greens of new leaves clothe the majestic hardwoods and understory vegetation. They are the forerunners of the dogwood blooms. The dogwood's snow-white florescences usually veil the trees along the park drive by mid to late March. When they are at peak, it is one of the region's great floral spectacles.

Park Ranger Charlie Baisden is enthralled to walk his limited group of morning hikers through the budding and seemingly enchanted forest on Saturday, March 25. Those who have signed up for the *Morning Nature Walk* by calling 850-561-7286 will meet Charlie in the lobby of the lodge at 9:00am. The 90-minute walking program introduces participants to the forest's often unnoticed flora and fauna. Breakfast in the lodge dining room prior to the event would be a phenomenal way to begin the day.

On that same day, park guests can pack a picnic lunch, meet at the park's campfire circle (just west of the lodge), and have *Lunch with the Archaeologists* from 11:00am-1:00pm. Guests can feel free to come and go as they please. But be warned, it is likely that many will be drawn into the life and death struggles of people of the past not so different from themselves. The stories the experts discuss are based upon the artifacts recently unearthed nearby in the park.

Of course, the whole while spent walking, being captivated by stories, or absorbing the natural beauty of the surroundings, there are the songbirds. They aren't big and showy like the wading birds along the river. But they fill the air with music. They are often colorful. But they dance to their songs amongst the foliage of the trees. Wouldn't it be great to have an expert point them out?

Park Biologist Patty Wilbur knows her songbirds. Her limited cadre of participants will start out on a *Songbird Walk* from the lobby of the lodge at 8:00am on Saturday, March 11. With binoculars and field guides in hand (participants should bring their own), Patty will lead guests on some of the most productive and easy to reach birding areas of the park. Please call 850-561-7286 to be included in this 90-minute program.

*Continued on next page*



All of the foregoing activities and more will be re-emphasized and expanded during the Wakulla Wildlife Festival on Saturday, April 15. If you love the outdoors, the areas' natural beauty and wildlife, and want to know more about the park's past, then set the day aside on your calendar and make a point to swing by. Please visit [www.wakullawildlifefestival.com](http://www.wakullawildlifefestival.com) for more information and to sign up for premium tours.

March is the awakening at Wakulla Springs. Don't sleep through it.

Activities at  
**St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge**

(850) 925-6121    [www.stmarksrefuge.org](http://www.stmarksrefuge.org)

March 5, 9:00 AM - Noon  
Behind the Gates Birding & Wildlife Tour  
with Matt & Cindy Johnstone  
Call (850) 925-6121 for reservations.

March 5, 2:00 PM  
First Sunday at the Refuge  
Celebrating the legacy of Aldo Leopold's land ethic  
and how to apply it to present and  
future land, water, and wildlife protection  
Ranger Gail Fishman

March 13, 9:00 AM - Noon  
Behind the Gates Birding & Wildlife Tours  
with Matt & Cindy Johnstone  
Call (850) 925-6121 for reservations.

**Join National Audubon Society  
& enjoy free membership in  
Apalachee Audubon & Audubon Florida  
for just \$20 a year!**

**EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY!  
Changes for Audubon Membership Check Payments**

If you are planning to join Audubon, or renew your dues, **BY CHECK, DO NOT** send your check to National Audubon. Apalachee Audubon will now be accepting and processing your membership checks. Please bring your check to a program meeting or mail it to:

Apalachee Audubon Society  
PO Box 1237  
Tallahassee, FL 32302-1237

If you are planning to pay by phone or online at the National Audubon Society web site, there will be no changes. If you are joining as a brand new member, please remember to select our Chapter ID, E19, so our chapter can get credit for the full membership amount.

Audubon membership is a terrific three-fer deal! Join National Audubon and you automatically get a membership in Audubon Florida and the Apalachee Audubon Society. We encourage members to pay by phone (844-428-3826) or online ([www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org)). It's easy and will help ease the check processing workload for our chapter.

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

**Audubon Memberships Make Great Gifts!**

Join us for smartphone photography  
at St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge!



The smartphone photography class that AAS Board Member Karen Willes is teaching at St. Marks NWR is open to all. In this free 3-hour class, participants will experience the process of smartphone or tablet photography from composing to processing their own images taken during the class.

The classes are May 6 & October 7, 2017 (1-4 PM). Call St. Marks NWR at (850) 925-6121 for more information or to sign up.

**SPECIAL EVENT  
MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

*The AAS is sponsoring a very special event on Thursday, March 2, 2017 from 5:30 to 8:00 PM at the Swan House (449 Lacy Woods Court in Woodbrook). This function recognizes the accomplishments of Sandy Proctor—internationally renowned painter, sculptor, and Tallahassee native. Much of Mr. Proctor's remarkable work features wild birds. This event will also offer live jazz, scrumptious hors d'oeuvres, free Audubon memberships, and a good time for all. Proceeds will benefit the work of AAS. Please get your tickets and come join us!*

## St. Francis Wildlife Association Wildlife Rescuer Position

### St. Francis Wildlife is hiring after-hours wildlife rescuers.

If you have some experience handling wildlife and you are interested in this job, please send an e-mail with your resume requesting a "wildlife rescuer job description" to:

Teresa Stevenson Director  
wildlifecarenow@yahoo.com

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](http://www.stfranciswildlife.org).

St. Francis Wildlife  
5580 Salem Road, Quincy, FL 32352

## Mission San Luis

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. More information, [www.missionsanluis.org](http://www.missionsanluis.org).

## St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge



1255 Lighthouse Road  
St. Marks, Florida 32355  
(850) 925-6121

[www.fws.gov/refuge/st\\_marks/](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/st_marks/)

## Gulf Specimen Marine Lab



222 Clark Drive  
Panacea, FL 32346  
850 984-5297

[www.gulfspecimen.org](http://www.gulfspecimen.org)  
Fun for the whole family!



Birders at Birdsong Nature Center  
Photo Credit ~ Karen Willes

## Apalachee Audubon Birding Trips

All are welcome to join us on Apalachee Audubon Birding Trips with Helen King. Specific information about the field trips will be announced on Google Groups. For notification of coming field trips, please subscribe to Apalachee Audubon's Google Groups email notification list that is available at [www.apalachee.org](http://www.apalachee.org). Field Trip birding reports are recorded at ebird, NFB, and with Apalachee Audubon.

E-mail Helen King at [thekingsom@gmail.com](mailto:thekingsom@gmail.com) if you plan to attend any of the AAS birding trips.

*Come bird with us!*

*If you truly love nature, you will find beauty everywhere.* Vincent van Gogh