

APALACHEE AUDUBON SOCIETY



Speaker Series

Free and open to the public.

Social begins at 7 pm & meeting at 7:30 pm (unless otherwise noted).

Speaker Series programs are held at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 2810 N. Meridian Rd., Tallahassee.

Directions and more information:

www.apalachee.org.

2015-2016 Program Dates

2015	2016
September 24	January 28
October 22	February 25
November 19*	March 24
*3 rd Thursday	April 28
None in December	May 26

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

NEWSLETTER OF THE APALACHEE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC. MAY-JUNE 2016

Apalachee Audubon Events

Apalachee Audubon Fundraising Night

Monday, May 16, 2016 / 4:00 - 8:00 PM

Panera Bread / 3523 Thomasville Road / Tallahassee, FL

Apalachee Audubon will receive a portion of the sales for each separate order that is accompanied by the flyer on page 7 either printed out or shown on a smartphone or tablet when ordering between 4-8 PM on Monday, May 16.

Good for Dine-in, Take Out, and Drive-through orders.

You are invited to

Apalachee Audubon Society's Annual Awards Banquet

on

Thursday, May 26, 2016

Dinner will begin at 6:30 pm

Lafayette Presbyterian Church

4220 Mahan Drive - Tallahassee, FL

This year's menu features "Super Soup & Salad".

Tickets are \$10 per person and they may be purchased in advance at Native Nurseries or Wild Birds Unlimited.

If you wish to buy your ticket at the dinner, please call Tim Smith at (850) 933-5979

by Wednesday, May 25, to make your reservation.

Please come and bring a friend...non-members are welcome.

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

Guest Speakers Jeff Caster and Eleanor Dietrich

"Roadside Wildflower Corridors for Birds, Beauty and Wildlife"

Jeff Caster, Florida State Transportation Landscape Architect, and Eleanor Dietrich, Florida Wildflower Foundation liaison with the FDOT on behalf of the Foundation and the Panhandle Wildflower Alliance, will describe how the Florida Department of Transportation and the Florida Wildflower Foundation and the Panhandle Wildflower Alliance are working together to encourage managing roadsides for wildflowers and wildlife and how citizens can help.

Apalachee Audubon Society, Inc.
2015 – 2016
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Jim Cox Karen Willes
Ben Fusaro Rob Williams
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All memberships and contributions are
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Wildlife-Friendly Yards Tour Committee
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The Apalachee Audubon Society is established as a nonprofit corporation for the purposes of environmental education, the appreciation of wildlife and natural history, and the conservation of the environment and resources.

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.

Editorial Note from Karen Willes ~ This May-June 2016 edition contains articles which focus on the upcoming annual Awards Banquet for Apalachee Audubon Society. This issue contains many articles on wildflowers to feature the special program by Eleanor Dietrich and Jeff Caster at our Annual Awards Banquet on Thursday, May 26, at Lafayette Presbyterian Church. In addition, there are landscape articles, book reviews, birding opportunities, and information about many other activities in our area. 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.

President's Message

Seán E. McGlynn, Ph.D.

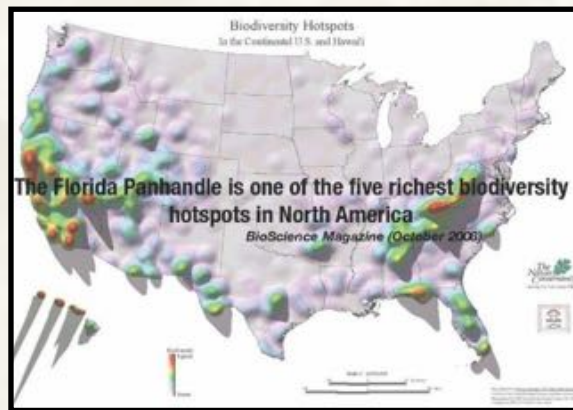


Dr. Seán E. McGlynn

Photo by Nick Baldwin

Our Newsletter highlights local events of environmental significance in the 'Other Florida.' Everything is linked to our environment, wild and pure, common and rare. We hope to beguile you with tales of wings and wildlife as well as intriguing treatises on the environments they inhabit. The winter wrath and coldness was subdued this year, with only an occasional light brushing of frost. Spring broke early causing simultaneous blossoming symphonies of color. After arid semi-drought conditions the rains have returned, and with the mildness of spring, the world has turned green. What a spectacular wildflower season. Every field and highway is alive with color, flowers and very special birds. The lakes are full and the springs are bubbling.

Apalachee Audubon is a unique Chapter whose founders touched my life through family ties that go way back in time. My Grandfather, while not a member of Apalachee Audubon, was a composer in residence here at FSU and was a close friend with some of the founding members of Apalachee Audubon, Gloria Jahoda, Laura Jepson and Karl Zerbe. They had a few things in common. They were not from here, but were fascinated by the quaint little town of Tallahassee and the rural areas of the Florida Panhandle. They were all outsiders, looking in. They all worked at FSU (i.e. Gloria's husband). They were all creative people.



http://www.masternaturalist.ifas.ufl.edu/docs/newsletters/res/biocience_biodiversity.pdf

Laura Jepsen was a Shakespearean scholar who built a Tudor home beside the most glorious tree she had ever seen. Her estate on High Road, Lichgate, allowed her to be transported to another place and time. The Tudor house and Lichgate Tree were saved and preserved by Laura, and a host of volunteers. Gloria Jahoda was an American author best known for her book about the Hillsborough River, River of the Golden Ibis, and her collection of essays, The Other Florida, about parts of our Florida. My grandfather, Earnest von Dohnányi, was a student of Johannes Brahms who composed classical music infused with elements of Hungarian folk music. Some of his most popular works were his Serenade in C major for string trio, and Variations on a Nursery Tune for piano and orchestra.

However his favorite composition was his Cantus Vitae a Symphonic Cantata (Song of Life), a powerful and monumental play, somewhat similar to Milton's Paradise Lost. Adam and Eve, cast out from Paradise, are led by Lucifer through various moments of humanity's history, to learn whether human existence has a meaning and purpose. While their hopes are crushed in each scene, they never cease dreaming about and fighting for a better future.

These 'foreigners in a strange land' formed a close bond and intellectual circle. After the early deaths of my Grandfather and Gloria, Laura Jepson remained a boon companion of my widowed Grandmother. After my Grandmother's death it was my Mother who nursed Laura, at Lichtgate, for months so she could remain in her beloved home as long as possible. In her last days, the estate was in such disrepair that my Mother had to climb over the gate. My Mother's major professor was Karl Zerbe a German-born American painter, significant as a distinguished artist of European sensibility, who interpreted the physical and cultural scene of the New World, particularly the birds. He too is another founding member of Apalachee Audubon, and also a stunningly creative artist at FSU. He too delved into the endless tragedy of our existence here on Earth. He strove to not only paint abstractions of birds but caught the angst of the civil rights movement with his tumultuous Expressionist style.

Being immersed in this perpetually optimistic notion that while we would always strive for improvement, equality and survival of all forms of life on Earth, we are all, ultimately, endlessly pursued by the threat of failure. It is particularly true when people come together as a group coordinated in a systematic attempt to eradicate wildlife.

Residents on some of the lakes I am studying got permits to kill Anhingas. They started shooting them regularly. The fisherman



Anhinga

Photo Credit ~ Karen Willes

believed the Anhingas were consuming all the fish. Literature showed that anhinga's primarily feed on disease or weakened fish and that having them generally benefits the fish population by culling out the sickly and thereby making more habitats for the healthy survivors. So why were the fishermen so upset with the Anhingas? After extensively studying the problem I found that they had killed all the shoreline vegetation with herbicides, so the fish had no cover and the Anhingas (and other wildlife) were getting all the fish. It was not the Anhingas' fault. It was

the residents' fault for removing the plants and the cover that protected the fish.

In some areas people are battling the invasive exotic island apple snails introduced from

South America. They were found to be a plague in newly constructed ponds where they ate all the vegetation meant for shoreline buffers and stormwater treatment. They were eradicating them with poisonous sprays that killed more than just snails. Yet the apple snails can be kept in check by native predators, like the shellcracker (*Lepomis microlophus*) which dines on mollusks and snails. Another voracious predator of these snails is the Limpkin (*Aramus guarauna*), also known as the crying bird, a wonderful bird that looks like a large rail but is skeletally closer to cranes. A small Limpkin can eat 40 softball sized apple snails a day. The Limpkin had all but disappeared from our area with the demise of our native apple snails, and these invasive apple snails brought our native Limpkins back from the brink of extinction. And the Limpkins, where present, can control the snails.



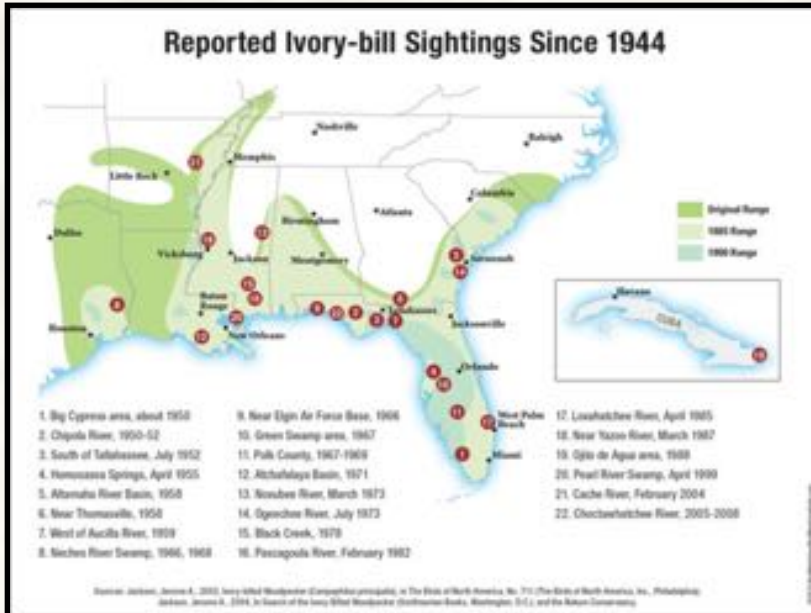
Limpkin

Photo Credit ~ Karen Willes

Animals don't always cooperate. Their actions are often misconstrued and seen as annoying. It is usually the human that is at fault for not understanding the animal's behavior and facilitating bad behavior. Almost any wild animal you feed can become a nuisance, if it is not fed in captivity. Some birds are a good exception to this rule, but many waterfowl, like Canada Geese, can be just as ill behaved. Feeding alligators is another prime example. Abandoned cats also create a challenge for animal and bird lovers. Trapping, neutering and releasing feral cats is not an ideal solution as all pets deserve a loving home, but studies have shown that it is more effective at reducing the number of feral cats than agencies trying to trap and euthanize an endless supply of abandoned cats. If we really want to control the cat population, we need to encourage responsible pet ownership by encouraging owners to keep cats safely inside, encouraging affordable spaying and neutering programs, and discouraging people from abandoning unwanted cats.

My Mother always loved birds, and would stock feeders with the best grains and seeds, until she no longer had the strength to get up and look out the window. In her last days, surrounded by her loving family, it was a cat that also cared for her. That cat came and sat by her through the last weeks of her life, gave her companionship and solace. While my Mother gave solace and hospice to Laura Jepson, all my Mother had was her cat. At the end, even the birds did not come for her, but I'm sure they missed her. Furthermore, her

cat, which was an alpha cat, called Cat-Man, frustrated her in that the birds took off when he was around. He did try to catch the birds but was mostly ineffective. More birds died flying into her windows than from that cat. My Mother will come to her final resting place, in the family plot, here in Tallahassee, with her Mother, her Father, Laura and Karl.



The biggest killer of birds is habitat loss. That big new building they are erecting downtown will have glass windows to reflect the giant live oaks on Park Avenue. The mirrored windows will make it fit in, but it will make it a death trap for birds. That building will kill more birds than all the cats downtown. The Mormon Church is now the largest landowner in Florida. They bought much of the St. Joe land here that was undevelopable. They are

transforming this land into farms. First they clear cut, then they herbicide, then they farm. This habitat destruction will kill more birds than all the cats in the region.

It has meant a lot to me to lead Apalachee Audubon, as your president for two terms now. I was happy to step in when your last President resigned, and sadly now, I would have to do the same, if we don't completely drop the cat euthanasia issue. Audubon signifies the protection and sanctity of wildlife, all wildlife, furred, feathered, finned and planted, which we endeavor to save and preserve against the tragedy created by man. My Mother told me never to be a biologist. It is a very bad job. It is depressing; the natural world continually deteriorates. We are the cause. We are the tragedy. We are destroying the Earth. Nature is essentially our slave; we take from it without giving back or recognizing any basic rights, while it suffers continuous exploitation. We push species to extinction. We foul the air and the water. We find new ways to extract and exploit the ground. We changed the climate. However the ultimate tragedy is our unwavering optimism that there will not be a price to pay for this and that things will improve. Fortunately, I have also found a group of people who strive to heal the earth and struggling creatures, even the termite, they too have their intrinsic value! And it has been my greatest honor to serve you as your president for the past year. Thanks.

Apalachee Audubon Fund Raising Night

Thank You and Thanks to Panera Bread for supporting Apalachee Audubon Society!
Panera Bread at 3523 Thomasville Road in Tallahassee

Monday, May 16, 2016 / 4:00-8:00 PM

Print this page or show the flyer image below on your smartphone or tablet for Apalachee Audubon to receive a portion of Panera sales from 4-8 PM on Monday, May 16. Each order must be purchased separately for the credit. Good for Dine-in, Take Out, and Drive-through orders.



FUNDRAISING NIGHT



Help support

Apalachee Audubon Society Chapter E19

Monday, May 16, 2016

4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

at the Panera Bread bakery-cafe at
3523 Thomasville Road

Bring this flyer when you dine with us on Monday, May 16, 2016, and we'll donate a portion of the proceeds from your purchase to Apalachee Audubon Society Chapter E19. It's a handcrafted, delicious meal, all for a great cause!

Learn more about Fundraising Nights at Panera Bread at:
www.PaneraBread.com/fundraiser

Panera Bread® Gift Card, Panera Catering and online purchases are excluded from this event.
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“Thank You” Lafayette Presbyterian Church

This will be the eighth consecutive year that Apalachee Audubon members and guests have had the pleasure of meeting at Lafayette Presbyterian Church to celebrate the Annual Awards Banquet and the completion of another successful year of volunteer service. The chapter is very appreciative of the church's hospitality. Thank you to Reverend Stephen E. Graves and the members of Lafayette Presbyterian Church for the opportunity to meet at your outstanding church.



Lafayette Presbyterian Church in Tallahassee, Florida - 1958

*Photo courtesy of the State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory,
<https://www.floridamemory.com/items/show/261474>*

Lafayette Presbyterian Church will soon be celebrating its seventieth anniversary. Here is some history of the second oldest Presbyterian Church in Tallahassee: Lafayette Presbyterian Church, a mission of First Presbyterian Church, began worshiping as Lafayette Community Church in 1946. In 1947 the church was organized as Lafayette Presbyterian Church (LPC) and for the next 35 years met on Perry Highway (now Apalachee Parkway).

On January 3, 1982 Lafayette Presbyterian Church held its first service on the church's new property on Mahan Drive in "God's Little House", as it was called then. This is the building now referred to as "The Rock" behind the parking and playground areas. The first Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall was completed by the end of the year and on July 31, 1983, Lafayette Presbyterian Church moved into its present worship space heralded by bagpipes. The stained glass windows in the Sanctuary were recovered from the Sanctuary of the original church on Apalachee Parkway before it was demolished and the bell from the original church steeple is on display now in the church entry.



Lafayette Presbyterian Church
Photo Courtesy of Lafayette Presbyterian Church

Lafayette Presbyterian Church is surrounded by nearly twelve acres of beautiful natural woodland providing an outdoor sanctuary for all and shelter for birds and other wildlife. The beautiful lighted fountain in the pond at the front of the church was given in loving memory of Peyton Don Stovall by his family and was dedicated on February 13, 2005.

Lafayette Presbyterian Church hosts Scout programs for both girls and boys and the scouts (and scouters) have been recognized for their exceptional accomplishments and

honored with many awards. The beautiful memorial garden on the west side of the church was built as an Eagle Scout Project in 2005 and the prayer trail, with Scripture markers and meditation benches, was added from the front pond to the Memorial Garden as another Eagle Scout Project in 2006. This information and more is available at www.fountainchurchtallahassee.org.

AAS Banquet Speakers Jeff Caster and Eleanor Dietrich Roadside Wildflower Corridors for Birds, Beauty and Wildlife

Roadsides are the State and nation's most visited and visible public lands and they connect long stretches of natural areas that are well suited for wildflowers, which in turn support pollinators and the caterpillars necessary for birds to raise their young.



Roadside Wildflowers

Photo Credit ~ Eleanor Dietrich

Jeff Caster, Florida State Transportation Landscape Architect, and Eleanor Dietrich, Florida Wildflower Foundation liaison with the FDOT on behalf of the Foundation and the Panhandle Wildflower Alliance, will describe how the Florida Department of Transportation and the Florida Wildflower Foundation and the Panhandle Wildflower Alliance are working together to encourage managing roadsides for wildflowers and wildlife and how citizens can help.

Jeff Caster, Florida State Transportation Landscape Architect, has been with the Florida Department of Transportation since 1993. Jeff was born in the Garden State and is celebrating 39 years of good fortune... to live in La Florida, the land of flowers. Jeff is a lifelong conservationist and he is a Life Member of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs.

Jeff taught as Adjunct Assistant Professor of Landscape Architecture at Florida A&M University, School of Architecture, from 1997-2007 and served as 2005 President of the Florida Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects and as 2010 President of the Florida Wildflower Foundation. Jeff has degrees from Purdue University, Florida A&M University, and Cornell University.

Eleanor Dietrich has been a member of the Florida Native Plant Society for over 30 years. For the past three years she has served as liaison for the Florida Wildflower Foundation with the Florida Department of Transportation on behalf of the Foundation and the Panhandle Wildflower Alliance. One of her primary responsibilities is assisting local wildflower enthusiasts with securing county wildflower resolutions and requesting wildflower areas.



You can learn more about and join the Panhandle Wildflower Alliance at <http://flawildflowers.org/fpwa.php>. There is also a Florida Panhandle Wildflower Alliance Facebook page where you can post and which has current wildflower information and questions.

Roadsides as Natural Corridors

By Eleanor Dietrich, Florida Wildflower Foundation liaison
with the Florida Department of Transportation

For the past few years, the Florida Wildflower Foundation has been working closely with the Florida Department of Transportation to support a different kind of management for our roadsides, a kind of management that continues to emphasize and recognize compatibility with safe operation of roadsides while also supporting roadsides as biological corridors. Natural corridors are important because they connect fragmented habitats and thereby allow much greater biodiversity to exist and hopefully flourish. Without biodiversity, ecosystems become weak and inadequate. All living things, including us, need healthy ecosystems in which to dwell.

Doug Tallamy, author of [Bringing Nature Home](#), says that plants and animals are the rivets that hold the ecosystem together. Plants are the bottom line of the food web, and that makes them literally a matter of life or death. No plants, no insects. No insects, no birds. And so it goes. And not just any plant will do. Over the course of evolution, plants have developed chemicals to keep them from being devoured by every kind of insect. Insects then began to select certain plants on which to forage, and they developed an immunity to the toxic chemicals of those selected plants. That means that a particular group of insects must have a particular group of plants on which to dine. Monarch butterflies may be the most well-known example of this; their larvae require milkweed plants to eat. So, the diverse insect population requires a diverse selection of plants in order to survive. However, the way we manage our lawns, our gardens, and our roadsides is heavily dependent upon plants that are not native to the areas in which we plant them. If we change our management procedures to bring back plants native to the area in which we live, we can begin to mend those vital connections.



**Native Plants Provide Beauty and
Important Habitat
Along Florida Roadsides**

Photo Credit ~ Eleanor Dietrich

Fortunately, this is often not all that difficult to do if you let the wildflowers come back in natural areas. For example, as pictured here, in north Florida, State Road 65 runs north and south through the Apalachicola National Forest. For many years almost all of the roadsides were regularly mowed the full width of the right of way, often right up to the tree line. The consequence of this was the elimination of roadside wildflowers and other edible native plants. Now roadsides may not seem to be so important when you look at all of the land in the national forest. However, roadsides that have sunlight, moisture, and minimal competition from larger plants, provide ideal habitat for a wide variety of native plants that do not have this same advantage within wooded areas of the forest. As you can see above, wildflowers now grow in abundance along these roadsides because they can. All that needed to be done was to mow less during the growing season, and mow the full right of way after the seeds had set in the fall.

It takes a diversity of people to care for our roadsides as natural habitat, and it takes many connections between a variety of people that come together to manage the roadsides for wildflowers; no one person or entity alone can do this effectively, and it's complex. In the Florida Department of Transportation, for instance, the mowing line for state-maintained roads starts in the office of the Secretary of the Department, runs down the corridor to the office of the

person in charge of all maintenance operations of the department, then picks up the State Transportation Landscape Architect before branching out into all eight FDOT Districts. Each District has multiple field operations offices where mowing is one of many duties performed. In turn, the maintenance field offices contract out much of the mowing operations to a company, which then contracts with local mowers who are the people on the tractor, and who have the ultimate responsibility to mow correctly. One fall, one of the mowers in our area was instructed to avoid mowing down large stands of wildflowers that were an essential food source for migrating butterflies. When the mower became aware of this, she took pictures of the flowers and the butterflies (one of her photos is shown here) and took pride in their protection. This was something she had not known about before, but she became an important part of the team when it came to modifying roadside wildflower management practices; a connection was made.



Morning Glories with Yellow Sulphur Butterfly

Photo by Mowing Team-Member

Several years, then FDOT Secretary Ananth Prasad learned that routine mowing practices were cutting down the wildflowers and he declared that that had to change. “We love wildflowers,” he said, and with that,



**FDOT District 3 Wildflower Coordinator
Dustie Moss & Dr. Loran Anderson
Monitoring Roadside Wildflowers**

Photo Credit ~ Eleanor Dietrich

action to modify FDOT mowing practices to allow management of wildflower areas began. The new procedures took effect in January of 2014, and efforts are underway to implement them. It won't be quick, it's a big change, but much progress has already been made. Each FDOT District now has a District Wildflower Coordinator. In District 3, which covers the western 16 counties in the Panhandle area, Dustie Moss is our Wildflower Coordinator and she is already hard at work identifying sites that can be designated as wildflower areas and managed accordingly. This picture shows her working with botanist Dr. Loran Anderson to identify roadside wildflowers. But this is not her job alone, we must help her. People tell me about how sad they are to see wildflowers cut down on a certain road. I say, now you can do something

about that. We must shoulder some responsibility, we are all part of the team. The Florida Wildflower Foundation (FWF) is a partner on the team. They are supporting the Panhandle Wildflower Alliance which is a communication network of people who care about wildflowers. There is a page on the FWF website (<http://www.flawildflowers.org/fpwa.php>) where anyone can report on sites of beauty and/or places of concern. They also support counties in developing wildflower resolutions (<http://flawildflowers.org/resolution.php>) that allow a county to make requests to FDOT for managing state roadsides for wildflowers; this resolution also allows the county to do the same thing for county roads.

Together we have great power to influence the establishment of wildflower areas on our roadsides, let's exercise that power. I used to see beautiful places on the roadsides and feel helpless to save them. I don't feel that way anymore because there is both opportunity and access now in place. And it takes a team that includes our FDOT wildflower coordinator, coordination with county officials, and identification efforts by all of us.

Carve Out a Morning for the Birds Saturday, May 14 By Jim Cox

Changes in bird populations can take years to discern. When my wife and I moved into our home in Indianhead Acres over 20 years ago, we heard breeding Wood Thrushes, Acadian Flycatchers, and Louisiana Waterthrushes in the early morning hours.

Today, all 3 breeding birds have vanished, and the numbers of several other species are much lower.

Documenting such changes throughout Florida may seem like a daunting task, but that is precisely what you can do if you participate in Florida's second Breeding Bird Atlas.

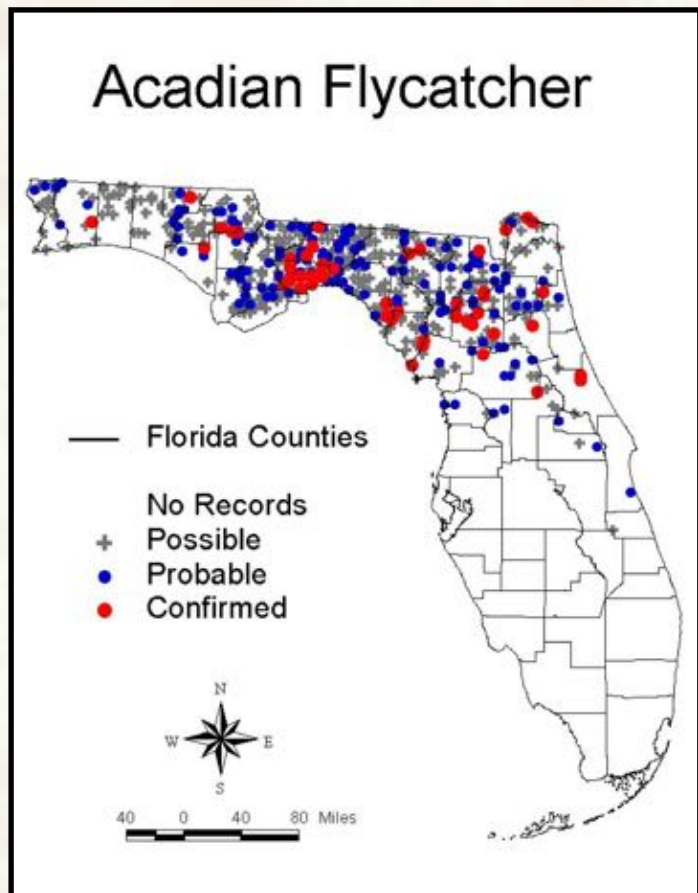
The breeding bird atlas takes a snapshot of bird occurrences at different times. The first bird atlas for Florida was conducted in the early 1990s, and a second atlas is underway that will conclude this year and offer a unique perspective on the many changes that have ensued.

For consistency, the State of Florida has been divided into thousands of small blocks that extend about 5 miles north-south and east-west. The blocks used in the second atlas are the same as those used in the first project, and the goal is to document the breeding birds found in each area.

It's a great way to spend a morning. You don't simply note the bird species you find, but you also look carefully for breeding evidence, such as adults feeding young or birds sitting on nests.

Maps of each block are available on line (<http://www.fosbba.org/>) as are field forms, data entry, and maps of the data collected thus far. There are also maps indicating blocks that lack adequate coverage in our region, a major focus for this final year of data gathering.

We'll be conducting a special Apalachee Audubon Field Trip on Saturday, May 14, to gather information for an atlas that has not been covered adequately. This will be a great introduction to the contributions that you can make by visiting other atlas blocks this year. Contact Jim Cox (jim@ttrs.org) to sign up for the field trip.



(the attached map shows the distribution of Acadian Flycatchers as recorded in the first atlas project)

Early Audubon History
**National Association of Audubon Societies for
the Protection of Wild Birds and Animals**

By Suzanna MacIntosh, AAS History Committee Co-Chair

What are the principles that have guided Audubon's course and what does Audubon stand for today? It's interesting to explore Audubon's history and learn about the men and women who fought hard to build one of America's great environmental conservation associations. If we keep in mind the path set by leaders of National Audubon and Apalachee Audubon many years ago, it may help us stay on course and honor the promises made and the conservation legacy left behind and entrusted to us to carry on.

The mission of the National Audubon Society is "To conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity" and Apalachee Audubon's mission is "Protection of the environment through education, appreciation, and conservation". What does this really mean? Fortunately, there are records from these early years to help us understand what the Audubon movement has been all about. Much of the history of the Audubon Society is archived in the New York Public Library in the Archives and Manuscripts section, <http://archives.nypl.org/> (and many of John James Audubon's prints can be found in the NYPL digital collections, <http://digitalcollections.nypl.org/> too). There are also other invaluable documents archived online by Audubon and others and some great books to help us out. An informative and entertaining history of the first 100 years of Audubon is *The Audubon Ark: A History of the National Audubon Society* by Frank Graham, Jr. which was written at the urging of and in collaboration with late Audubon President Carl Buchheister.



Tawny Thrush, Male (Habenaria Lacera - Cornus Canadensis) By John James Audubon <http://digitalcollections.nypl.org/items/510d47d9-72b1-a3d9-e040-e00a18064a99> - From The New York Public Library Digital Collections

Apalachee Audubon is fortunate too to have the recollections of AAS's founding President, Dr. Huey B. Long, who shared information about the establishment of the chapter. His remarks can be found in the Nov.-Dec. 2014 AAS newsletter which is archived at www.apalachee.org under "Newsletters". Dr. Long emphasized that the chapter's founding members had a strong commitment to conservation and the environment and that a holistic outlook was at the heart of the chapter's work.

One of the most important events in the history of Audubon occurred in 1905 when National Audubon received much needed financial support (which would be valued at millions of dollars today) from Mr. Albert Willcox. This arguably allowed Audubon to survive as an organization. As Audubon President William Dutcher shared in 1906 "the Association has been changed from a weak and struggling Society to a permanent and strong organization". In return Albert Willcox asked that Audubon honor a promise to broaden its mission and incorporate as the *National Association of Audubon Societies for the Protection of Wild Birds and Animals*.

Continued on next page

It is recorded in *Bird Lore, Volume VIII 1906** (pages 179 & 226), that Mr. Willcox “in all his conversations his desire to benefit and care for wild birds and animals was his principal theme.” It is recorded that his gift was given “on condition that the said one-half of my residuary estate shall be held by the said Association in trust, however, for the purposes of its incorporation, provided, however, that one-half of the income derived therefrom shall be applied to the protection of bird and animal life as provided in the Certificate of Incorporation of said Association, and that the other half of said income, so far as needed, may be applied to the employment of solicitors who shall seek permanent endowments for the general benefit and purposes of the aforesaid Association.” Audubon President William Dutcher shared upon Mr. Willcox’s death:

In Memoriam

It is again a painful duty to record the death of a valued member of this Association. Mr. Albert Willcox, of New York City, who died August 13, in his fifty-ninth year.

Great modesty, combined with an intense love for all helpless creatures, made his character exceedingly attractive. He was the unknown benefactor who contributed so largely to the working fund of this Association during 1905 and the present year. With his first money gift to the Society he compelled a pledge from the President that the name of the donor should not be divulged during his life. In all his conversations his desire to benefit and care for wild birds and animals was his principal theme. On one occasion he remarked to the writer that he "was almost a Brahmin in his love for all helpless creatures." His good works will not cease with his death, for he left to this Association an immediate legacy of \$100,000, and, in addition, made the Society his residuary legatee to the extent of one-half of his estate, payable on the death of his brother, his sole surviving next of kin. Mr. Willcox's love for birds and animals was no passing interest, but will be everlasting. With one stroke of his pen he perpetuated the work of bird and animal protection in this country.

*‘I would not have this perfect love of ours
Grow from a single root, a single stem,
Bearing no goodly fruit, but only flowers
That idly hide Life's iron diadem:
It should grow always like that eastern tree
Whose limbs take root and spread forth constantly;
That love for one, from which there doth not spring
Wide love for all, is but a worthless thing.
Not in another world, as poets write,
Dwell we apart, above the tide of things,
High floating o'er earth's clouds on fairy wings;
But our pure love doth ever elevate
Into a holy bond of brotherhood
All earthly things, making them pure and good.’ — W. D.*

Though today Audubon members may not know about Mr. Willcox, his concern for helpless animals has shaped Audubon down through the years and many members today share Mr. Willcox’s love and concern for all animals.

* https://www.audubon.org/sites/default/files/bird_lore_v8-1906_national_audubon.pdf

Plant Native Perennial Wildflowers for Long Lived Beauty in the Garden

by Donna Legare, Native Nurseries

The toughest, longest lasting perennials in our garden are native wildflowers. When placed properly, I don't think I exaggerate in predicting they will be with me for a lifetime. Many of my favorites are early spring woodland wildflowers such as bloodroot, trillium, Jack-in-the-pulpit, green dragon, mayapple, columbine and woodland phlox.

In late April, Indian pink's bright red tubular flowers attract hummingbirds and each plant matures to two feet tall by three feet wide. It is mild mannered, spreading nicely by seed as long as it is not mulched heavily.



**Purple Coneflower with
Spicebush Swallowtail**

Photo Credit ~ Janeen Langley

For the sunny garden, plant purple coneflower. Its large pink daisy-like blossoms on three to four foot stems are striking in late spring and early summer and attract both bees and butterflies. We planted one purple coneflower in our front yard garden over 20 years ago and now have a multitude of plants. They multiply by clumping as well as from seed. The flowers cut nicely for use in arrangements.

Another stellar native perennial for a sunny spot is oxeye sunflower, also known as Heliopsis. This plant, with abundant sunny yellow flowers, starts blooming in early spring and blooms into fall. It is bushy but only gets to 2 1/2 feet tall. Heliopsis attracts lots of pollinating insects.

I also recommend dwarf ironweed and narrowleaf sunflower for their value as pollinator plants and for their toughness and vivid colors. However, both spread aggressively and form large masses so are best used on larger properties or where you would like a mass of purple or yellow. Ironweed blooms mostly in the summer while the sunflower is at its peak in autumn.

All of the native perennials in this article have performed well for me. You may have to experiment to find the right ones for your yard. Most perennials do best in soil that is well drained and rich in organic matter. Mix in abundant mushroom compost or homemade compost to the soil prior to planting. Healthy soil pays dividends in the vigor of plants and in the ease of maintenance of the garden. Match the plants to the soil and light conditions in your yard.

These are just a few of the many native perennials that grace our yard. I am committed to trying new ones as well. This year I planted twinflower in our butterfly garden. It is low growing with violet flowers and is a larval food plant for buckeye butterflies. We have had a few caterpillars already! I'll be able to comment on its longevity in a few years.....

In the Yard

By Fran Rutkovsky



What's in your yard? This time of year our yards are active with all kinds of living things. I can always find something of interest in our 1/2 acre, whether it's a tiny insect or a raptor flying overhead or parent birds feeding babies or any number of wildflowers that I've allowed to grow wherever they come up.

An interesting article in the March-April Audubon magazine, "Bird Brainiacs: American Crow", describes research and experiments with crow behavior and the effect development has on birds. Wildlife biologist, John Marzluff, suggests that as forests are converted to suburbs, some birds thrive. The article states, "we could treat backyards more seriously as bird refuges." I would add that we could easily treat our yards as mini-wildlife refuges by adding native plants to the landscape and following guidelines from the online site of Audubon - Conservation: Creating Bird-Friendly Communities. <http://www.audubon.org/conservation/creating-bird-friendly-communities>



**Photos, top from left to right:
Yarbrough Yard being converted to a wildflower garden,
Honeybees on Hairy Leafcup/Bear's Foot,
Coneflower,
Coral Bean.**

Photo Credits ~ Fran Rutkovsky

My neighbors, Jon and Mary Jean Yarbrough, are turning their front and back yards into wildlife havens by adding

native plants and converting part of their front yard into a wildflower garden. I'll have even more fun with my camera and close-focusing binoculars to see what insects and flowers are in both of our yards. At night I check the lights for moths. You just never know what you'll find in your own mini-refuge when you step outside--and you don't have to be an expert to enjoy it!

LANDSCAPE FOR LIFE

Based on the principles of the Sustainable Sites Initiative™

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

Shared by Suzanna MacIntosh

Landscape For Life™ was developed by the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center and the United States Botanic Garden. It is based on the principles of the Sustainable Sites Initiative, SITES™, which is the nation's first rating system for sustainable landscapes. SITES, (www.sustainablesites.org), is an interdisciplinary collaborative effort by the American Society of Landscape Architects, the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center at the University of Texas at Austin, and the United States Botanic Garden along with a diverse group of stakeholder organizations. The Landscape For Life (LFL) program defines sustainability “as the process of attempting to meet the needs of today without compromising the needs of tomorrow” and it provides common sense ways we can add beautiful as well as functional sustainable landscape and garden elements to our own yards. We are indebted to the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, www.wildflower.org, the United States Botanic Garden, www.usbg.gov, and Landscape For Life, www.landscapeforlife.org, for sharing this material. This is fifth in a five part series.

The Role of Materials in Sustainable Gardening



Courtesy of Landscape For Life, www.landscapeforlife.org

The principles of “reduce, reuse, and recycle” can help in selecting the materials needed to create sustainable home gardens and surrounding landscapes. Using reused or recycled materials and reducing the quantity, transport, and packing of these products can conserve energy and decrease pollution throughout a material’s life cycle.

Homeowners can minimize waste, energy consumption, and pollution associated with the manufacturing process by limiting the use of new materials and other products. Of the reduce, reuse, and recycle hierarchy, reducing the amount of materials or products imported into a project provides the greatest benefits.

REDUCE: Some strategies are especially helpful to reduce the materials imported into a project:

- * Design garden features using standard material sizes to avoid waste and additional cuts and labor.
- * Select manufactures or suppliers that reuse or eliminate packaging materials.
- * Use durable materials that will last the life of the project and can be reused in the future.
- * Design garden elements to be exposed. Avoid covering garden elements with additional materials for aesthetic purposes, such as covering a wall with brick or stone facade.

Continued on next page

REUSE: Reuse is one of the most effective strategies for offsetting the initial environmental and human health impacts of material or products because a majority of the material's life cycle can be bypassed. Reuse is the repurposing of materials in a way that requires little or no processing. For example, reusing reclaimed brick, rather than allowing the brick to go to the dump, bypasses the raw material extraction, manufacturing, and disposal portions of the brick's life cycle. If the brick is reclaimed from the site, the pollutants released during transportation and distribution can also be eliminated. In addition to providing numerous environmental benefits, using reclaimed materials in the garden can also provide design details unique to the site and help reduce costs. Strategies for reusing materials include the following:

Consider The Options: Reclaimed materials can be used in whole form or deconstructed and dismantled to create a completely new object.

Be Creative: Homeowners should be open to new and creative ways in which materials may be incorporated into the garden. When reusing materials it is often helpful to let the material inspire design.

Locate Materials Early In The Design Process: Determining what materials are available for reuse early in the design process will allow time for creativity and design exploration.

Select Materials That Can Be Reused: When designing new site features, homeowners can encourage the reuse of materials in future projects by selecting durable and non-toxic materials that come in modular and/or standard sizes.

Design For Deconstruction: Design site features to allow them to be disassembled with reasonable effort and without extensive damage to the material. For example, use screws instead of nails and avoid the use of glues or other liquid adhesives.

RECYCLE: Recycled materials should be considered after options to reuse and reduce materials have been fully explored.

Homeowners can support the use of recycled materials in two ways. First, they may purchase materials with recycled content. Typically, the higher the recycled content, the better. Second, they may purchase materials that can be easily recycled in their local area. Using materials produced in the region has multiple advantages. It reduces the fossil fuels required for shipping and their associated pollutants, including greenhouse gas emissions. It supports local businesses and the larger regional economy. One of the additional benefits of landscaping with local materials is that they can showcase the region's unique sense of place.



Ideas from Native Nurseries
www.nativenurseries.com

Photo Credit ~ Suzanna MacIntosh

Continued on next page

What constitutes “local” varies to some extent, depending on the type of material. The heavier the material, the more energy it consumes and the more pollutants emitted during transport, and therefore the closer the source should be.

Every material or product in a garden has environmental, economic, and human health impacts. The manufacturing of materials is a consumptive and an often wasteful process. Each phase, including the raw material extraction, processing, manufacturing, packaging, distribution, installation, and disposal, requires energy and can produce harmful air, water, and soil pollutants and wastes. Sustainable gardens minimize these negative impacts by creating a circular material life cycle that is built upon the use of local, recycled or reused materials.

** The life cycle of materials is a circular process, in which materials and products are reused or recycled to avoid the extraction of raw materials and minimize energy and resource consumption.*

** Materials represent the regional identity of the area and support the local economy.*

** When selecting materials, consideration is given to not only the cost but also the human health and environmental impacts.*

SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPES:

✓ **Use Minimally Processed Materials:** The ecological and human health impacts of materials typically increase with each additional manufacturing phase. Therefore, materials that have reduced manufacturing and processing requirements often pose fewer environmental and human health risks.

✓ **Use Certified Wood:** Experts are hesitant to compile definitive lists of sustainable wood species because variability in harvesting techniques can lead to a tree being endangered in one area and responsibly harvested in another. In the case of domestic trees like Douglas fir, it is not the species itself but rather the old-growth forests from which specimens can be cut that are becoming rare. The best way to guarantee that the lumber and other wood products you purchase have been harvested sustainably is to choose products certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), www.fscus.org, or other independent nonprofit organizations that have determined that the materials meet a set of rigorous standards.

✓ **Avoid PVC:** Polyvinyl chloride (PVC) releases dioxin, a known carcinogen, during its manufacturing and disposal phases. PVC is commonly used in products such as plastic fencing, irrigation pipe, decking, and garden hoses. It cannot be recycled and has a relatively short life span. Homeowners should consider alternatives to PVC such as high-density polyethylene (HDPE) piping or wooden decking or fencing.

✓ **Use No or Low VOC Products:** The term volatile organic compounds (VOCs) refers to a large number of mostly petrochemical-derived substances that readily volatilize, or become a gas, at room temperature. VOCs can be bad for the environment and harmful to human health. Among the hundreds of VOCs found in consumer products are formaldehyde; benzenes; toluene; styrene; xylenes; and chlorinated solvents such as trichloroethylene, carbon tetrachloride, and methylene chloride. Garden products that contain VOCs include primers, paints, stains, sealers, other finishes, paint strippers, adhesives, caulks, and pesticides. While VOCs were once necessary for good performance in many products, most companies now produce effective and cost-competitive alternatives. For example, paints that meet the Green Seal standard are certified lower than 50 g/l for flat finish or 100 g/l for non-flat finish.

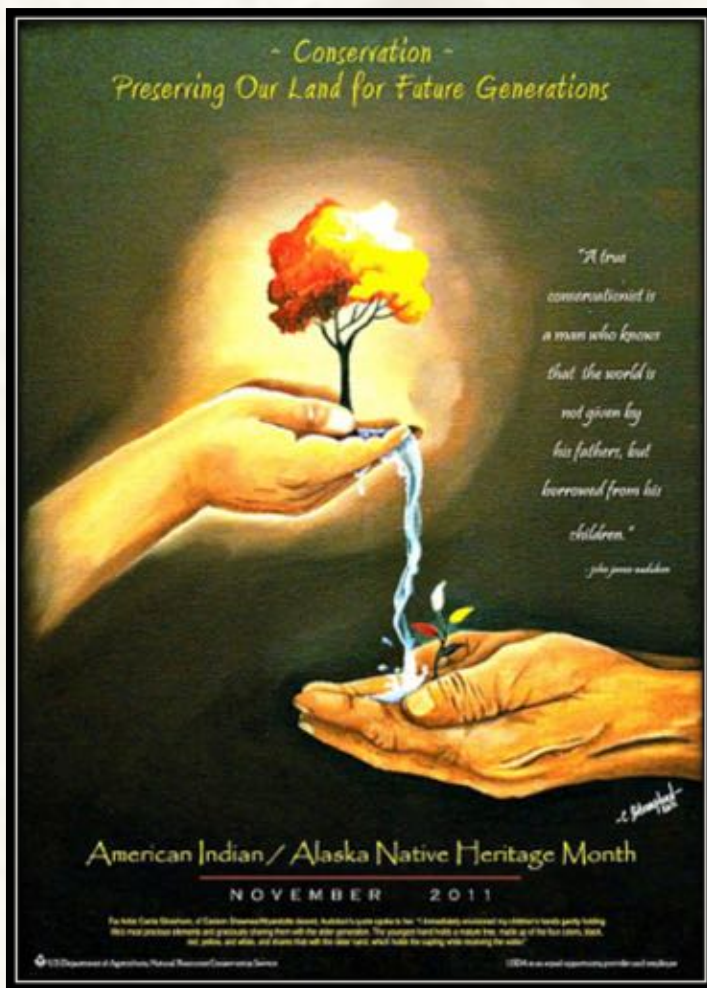
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IN CONCLUSION: There are now over 7 billion people inhabiting the earth. The growing population places increasing pressure on the planet's soils, waters, forests, and other natural resources. Sustainable gardens can help alleviate the pressure on the Earth's ecosystems by working with nature to provide clean air and water, fertile soils, wildlife habitat, and other essential ecosystem services. Significant portions of our urban environments are made up of residential land, which can impact the health and well-being of an entire region. Creating and maintaining sustainable gardens imparts a wide range of ecological, health, and economic benefits to homeowners and the surrounding community. Sustainable gardens also help protect and restore vital habitat that endangered birds, pollinators, and other wildlife need to survive. By embracing the ethic of stewardship, we can become stewards of the land by making sustainable changes in the way we manage of our immediate landscape. If each of us does a little, it will help a lot!

We are indebted to the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, www.wildflower.org, the United States Botanic Garden, www.usbg.gov, and Landscape For Life, www.landscapeforlife.org, for sharing this material. Many thanks to Jonathan Garner, LFL Program Coordinator and Professional Development Coordinator and to Tanya Zastrow, Education Manager, at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center; without their help this series would not have been possible.

This concludes the fifth in a five part series. More about sustainable gardening is available at Landscape For Life: www.landscapeforlife.org.

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Courtesy of NRCS/USDA

Additional Resources

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center
www.wildflower.org

Audubon—A Bird-Friendly Yard <https://www.audubon.org/magazine/july-august-2013/how-create-bird-friendly-yard>

Florida Wildflower Foundation
www.flawildflowers.org

Florida Landscaping Handbook <http://www.floridayards.org/landscape/FYN-Handbook.pdf>

Cornell Lab of Ornithology — Yardmap
www.yardmap.org

The New American Landscape
Book by Thomas Christopher (Editor)

Bringing Nature Home
Book by Dr. Doug Tallamy
<http://www.bringingnaturehome.net/gardening-for-life.html>

The Seed Underground
Book by Janisse Ray <http://janisseray.weebly.com/>

Native Nurseries
1661 Centerville Road, Tallahassee
www.nativenurseries.com

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Apalachee Audubon is an all-volunteer organization and the success of our work depends upon your support. Although AAS works collaboratively with the National Audubon Society on issues of mutual concern, very little funding comes from National Audubon. Funds raised during Birdathon helps fulfill Apalachee Audubon's mission. Apalachee Audubon Society, Inc. is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization; all contributions are tax-deductible as allowable by law. A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION FOR THE APALACHEE AUDUBON SOCIETY, A FLORIDA-BASED NONPROFIT CORPORATION (REGISTRATION NO. CH41912), MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE 1-800-HELP-FLA (435-7352) WITHIN THE STATE OR VISITING THEIR WEBSITE, WWW.FRESHFROMFLORIDA.COM. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.



Team Mellow Yellowlegs

Photo Credits ~ Top left — Fran Rutkovsky, Top right — Rob Williams, Bottom — Paul Rutkovsky

Saving Wakulla Springs Overland Tour

Tour Date — May 21

By Jim Stevenson

Wakulla Spring, the “Capital” spring, is one of Florida’s largest springs and one of the largest in the world. It also has one of the longest and deepest underwater cave systems in the world. The property was developed and managed as a private park for 50 years by Florida king-maker Ed Ball. The State of Florida purchased the spring in 1986 and established the state park that has attracted 5 million visitors since then.

The spring and river have been one of Florida’s outstanding wildlife observation areas for decades with the Limpkin, alligator, otter and manatee being featured species. Unfortunately human activities in the 1300 square mile springshed have altered the ecology of the spring and river causing an ecological collapse. The freshwater fish are gone. Manatee, moorhen and Wood Duck have declined and the Limpkin and its food the apple snail have disappeared. The water is too dark for glass bottom boat tours and algae and hydrilla have smothered the native eelgrass.



Overlooking Wakulla Spring

Photo Credit ~ Cynthia Paulson

The Wakulla Spring Basin Working Group was active for 18 years striving to stop the degradation and restore the spring to its former health. There have been many accomplishments during that period. When DEP eliminated the working group in 2011 there were 20 scientific projects being conducted by six agencies to further our understanding of this remarkable spring system. The world’s foremost team of cave divers (WKPP) have explored and mapped 32 miles of this immense cave system which extends into Leon County.



Emerald Sink

Photo Credit ~ Cynthia Paulson

There is hope. The progress made to date would not have been possible without the support of the Friends of Wakulla Springs State Park (www.wakullasprings.org), the Wakulla Springs Alliance (www.wakullaspringsalliance.org), the Florida Wildlife Federation (www.fwfonline.org), 1000 Friends of Florida (www.1000fof.org) and former Attorney General Charlie Crist. The Tallahassee Democrat has been very supportive and enabled many citizens to give their voice to this important undertaking.

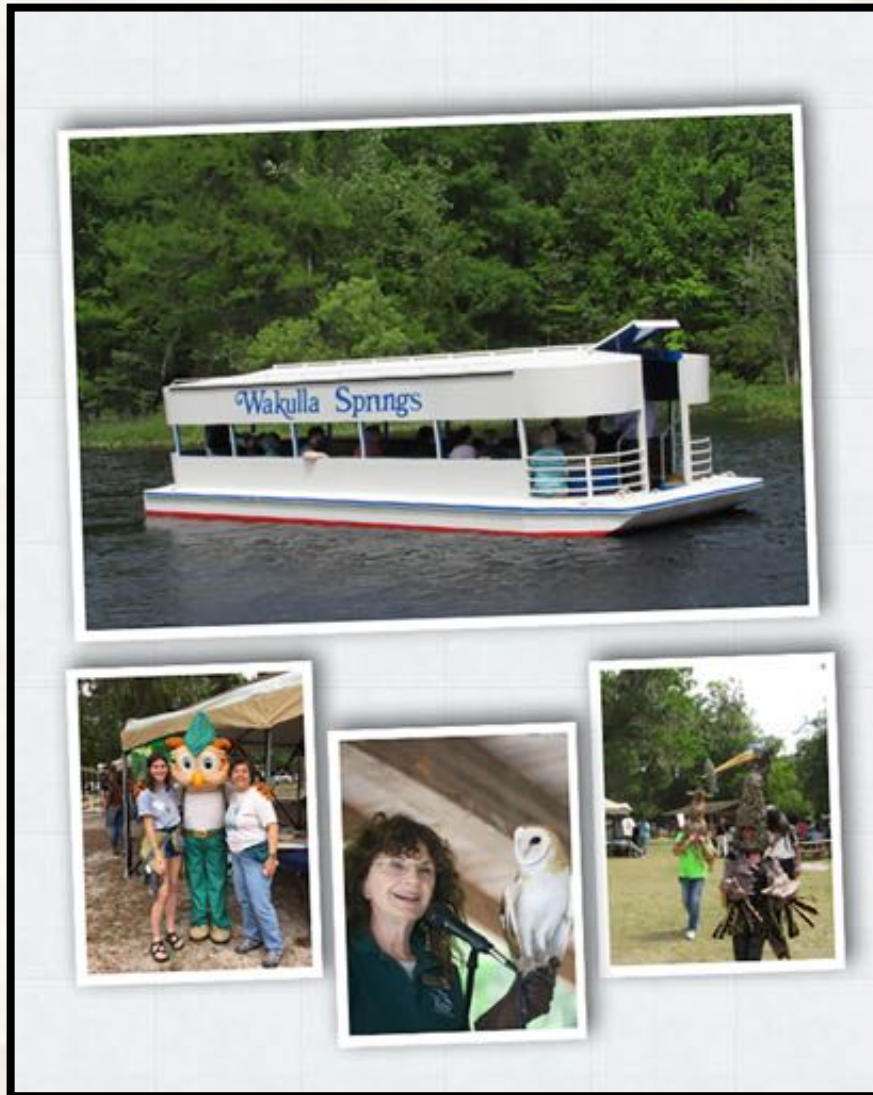
The overland tour begins in Tallahassee at an elevation of 200 feet and follows the water on its journey across and under the landscape to five feet above sea level at Wakulla Spring. We make 9 stops along the 15 miles to observe lakes, sinkholes, swallets and springs. We discuss the action that is needed to restore the spring and the steps that each of us can take to make a difference. During this four hour tour, you will learn the values of this magnificent spring, the threats to those values and the solutions to overcome the threats.

Although our purpose is to educate local residents about the spring, we have been pleased to have guests from Sweden, Finland, Indonesia and the states of Georgia, Wisconsin and Ohio join us. We look forward to taking you on this journey.

See www.palmettoexpeditions.com for additional information and registration.

Thank You for a Great 2016 Wakulla Wildlife Festival!

Photo Credits ~ Kathleen Carr, Calvin Jamison, Karen Willes



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Birding Field Trips By Helen King

This month we will be doing a variety of excursions in different habitats.

Saturday, May 14: Special Birding Trip with Jim Cox
See "Carve Out a Morning for the Birds" (page 12) to read about this field trip.
Please e-mail jim@trs.org if you plan to attend this trip.

Upcoming Trips during May with Helen King

Please e-mail thekingsom@gmail.com if you plan to attend any of these trips listed below.

Friday, May 13- Munson Hills Bike Trail

There are two options for this trip. One is a guided 10.75 mile rambling bicycle ride loop to seek out our resident woodpeckers, most of which will have fresh fledglings. This is off road biking. Option two is a 2-mile slow hike to see the birds. Meet at 8 am at the main parking lot of the St. Mark's Rails to Trails on Woodville highway. Please indicate if you intend to bike or hike this trip. We will compare notes between the two groups when finished.

Sunday, May 15- South Georgia Bird Rookery Trip

We will once again be visiting the ibis rookery, expecting more nesting and baby birds. Meet at 4:15 pm at the Hourglass on 1480 Timberlane Rd in the back parking lot OR at 5 pm at Granddaddy's BBQ in Thomasville, GA on SR84. Please indicate if you are a willing driver as we will be carpooling to the property.

Friday, May 27- Joe Budd WMA

Meet at 8 am at the Pilot Gas Station on US90 West. Please indicate if you are a willing driver.

Specific information about the field trips will be announced on Google Groups.

For notification of coming field trips, subscribe to Apalachee Audubon's Google Groups email notification list available at www.apalachee.org.

Field Trip birding reports are recorded at ebird, NFB, and with Apalachee Audubon.

Come bird with us!



Photos from March/April Birding Trips with Helen King

Saturday, March 12
J. R. Alford Greenway
Canopy Bridge
Lake Lafayette

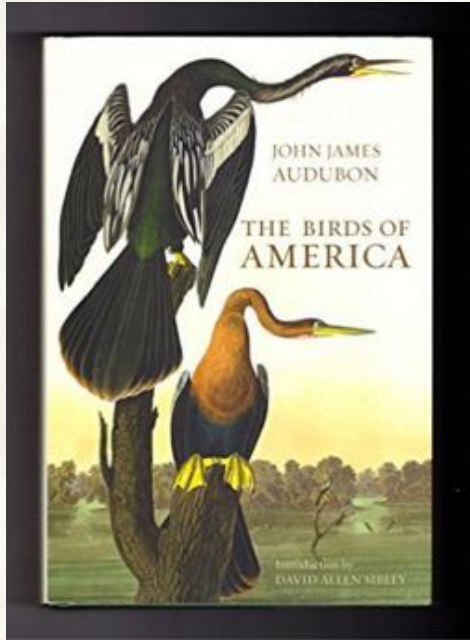
Friday, March 18
Bald Point State Park
Bottoms Road

Friday, April 8
Natural Bridge &
Environs

Saturday, April 23
Hickory Mound WMA

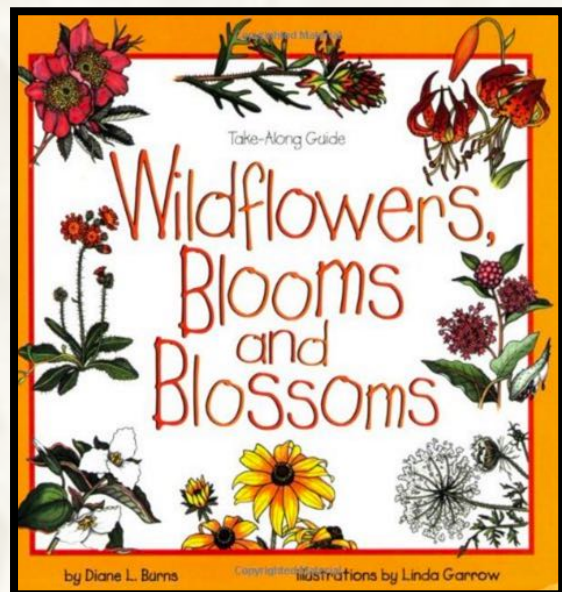
Photo Credits
Brian Lloyd & Karen Willes

Collector Books about Birds and Wildflowers Reviews by Pat Press



John James Audubon's *The Birds of America* has been printed numerous times in many editions from double elephant folio sized to tiny-size stamps. However, a recent edition in hard-cover published by Metro Books of New York in 2012 is delightful and well-priced at \$22.59 (amazon.com). This new edition contains 440 pages with 435 J. J. Audubon prints and is beautifully executed in full folio size. The introduction is done by David Sibley, an Audubon expert with great knowledge of the man's life and works. This new folio edition comes in a box and has an illustrated jacket, forest green cloth boards with gilt imprinting on the cover and spine. Also included are five extra pages for your own notes and commentary. Audubon's *The Birds of America* will delight bird lovers, ornithologists, book collectors and librarians. I believe this is a first class coffee-table edition that will entertain your guests and yourself for many years to come. It is also available at local bookstores and on the internet.

Wildflowers, Blooms and Blossoms was written by Diane L. Burns and illustrated by Linda Garrow. It is one of a collection of "Take Along Books" published by Northword Books for Young Readers. This colorful and entertaining guide to wildflowers will delight young readers from 5 to 15 and beyond. The guide is 48 pages long with seven extra pages in the back for notes, sketches, comments and your own pictures. The author provides a ruler along the edge of the book for measuring while in the field. There are added pages with activities for babysitters, parents and grandparents to do as additional extensions of learning. For example there are directions for a Container Rainbow to be made from an empty plastic ice cream bucket poked with holes and a packet of wildflower seeds. There are also directions for making a Wildflower Paperweight and for how to preserve wildflowers by putting them between wax paper and two bricks as a press. I remember doing this as a child and it still brings back fond memories of times spent with my siblings collecting and pressing flowers. Another stab from the past was "How to Make a Friendship Bracelet" by twining stems of daisies and other wildflowers together. We used to make daisy chains and wear them as crowns just like we were in a Jane Austin novel. The book also tells you about the different wildflowers, where they grow, who eats them, what they look like and smell like, and interesting facts about them. For example, wild lilies of the valley are sometimes called "mayflowers" because they bloom in the springtime. This book would be great for summertime fun activities for children. I also would recommend it for homeschoolers, science teachers, and children interested in science. It is available on the internet and in local bookstores.





Wilson's Plover and Chick

Photo Credit ~ Rick Greenspan

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

You Can Help Beach Birds Nest in Peace

By Bonnie Samuelsen

To help Florida's beach-nesting birds nest **safely and successfully**, Audubon and our partners post signs and twine around their nesting areas. For added protection, volunteers chaperon these posted areas on busy warm-weather weekends to educate beach-goers about the birds and the reason for the posted areas. Research has found beach-goers are **nine times more likely** to respect posted areas when stewards are present.

If you would be willing to hang out with cute chicks at the beach for an afternoon, *we need you!* To learn more about how you can help, contact Bonnie Samuelsen at 941-951-7704 or bsamuelsen@audubon.org. Kayakers and boaters are also needed for coastal island nesting areas.

Please contact Bonnie today. A few hours of your time spent relaxing at the beach can **make the difference** for these remarkable birds!

Sites will vary from weekend to weekend depending upon where active nesting is occurring. Opportunities exist at:

Franklin County

Lanark Reef

St. George Island State Park

Phipps Preserve, Alligator Point

St. George Island Causeway

Gulf County

St. Joseph Peninsula State Park

Bird Stewards are Critical to the Conservation of Beach-Nesting Birds Join Us for a Beach Walk

By Bonnie Samuelson, Project Coordinator for
Audubon Florida's Coastal Bird Stewardship Program
in the Florida Panhandle

Join Audubon Florida and partners across the Panhandle for FREE guided walks on area beaches. The more bird stewards we have volunteering at our local beaches, the better the chances for a successful breeding season! Walks are scheduled **May 9 & 10 and May 16 & 17** at area beaches across the Panhandle. Contact FLConservation@audubon.org to learn more.

During the spring and summer, Gulf Coast beaches come alive with nesting seabirds and shorebirds. Noisy colonies of Least Terns and Black Skimmers swirl above the sand. Wilson's Plover and Snowy Plover parents stand alert while their tiny, fuzzy youngsters crouch in the dune grasses or feed along our shorelines. For most people, the beach is an area to play and relax. For several species of birds, the beach is the only place they can nest and raise their young. Disturbances of the birds – especially disturbances making the parents take flight – threaten the survival of the young. When the birds are disturbed, whether by people coming close or dogs walking nearby, the eggs and chicks on the beach are exposed to the hot killing sun and everpresent predators like crows, gulls and raccoons. If the adults are disturbed repeatedly, they may even abandon their nests. YOU can help prevent this by volunteering as a Bird Steward. What does it take to be a bird steward? The most important thing you need to be a bird steward is the desire to help our beach-nesting birds have a successful nesting season! Once you have this, there are many people that will help supply you with the information you will need. In general, these are the important details:

Bird stewarding mainly involves sitting near marked nesting areas at local beaches, serving as an "ambassador for the birds." This may involve educating people interested in the birds or reminding individuals to avoid disturbing the birds.

Volunteers usually work 4-hour shifts at a local beach, or as often as possible (every shift helps), particularly on weekends and holidays.

Many volunteers bring their own chairs and sunshades, but these may be available for you to use at some locations. Binoculars and spotting scopes may be provided at some locations too.

You will be provided with a short training session so you can learn about the birds nesting at your location and the role of the bird stewards in their protection.

You will be provided with a handout that summarizes the key points about the birds and your role as a steward.

Learn more about Audubon Florida's Coastal Bird Stewardship Program - Your Help Makes A Difference! Learn more about Coastal Conservation at <http://fl.audubon.org> and statewide efforts at www.flshorebirdalliance.org. Copy and paste the following link to enjoy these beautiful videos as you learn more. <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLMTyD5gKJeFo75F1vXFW8YanvRdPcAnv6>

Workshops to Enjoy at
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1661 Centerville Road, Tallahassee, FL 32308
Monday-Saturday, 8am-6pm
850-386-8882 www.nativenurseries.com

SAVING THE MONARCHS WITH NATIVE MILKWEED

Saturday, May 14, 2016
10:00am - 11:00am \$5.00

\$5.00 fee includes a native milkweed seedling
Class size limited - call (850) 386-8882 to register.

MAKE YOUR YARD FLORIDA-FRIENDLY

Saturday, May 21, 2016
10:00am - 11:00am Free

Low-maintenance and Sustainable Yards and Gardens
w/Mark Tancig

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

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

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 will keep you informed of local and statewide Audubon and other nature-related events and will share birding and conservation information and news.

You can pay for membership using a credit card by calling Audubon's toll free customer service number, 1(844)428-3826. *(Please mention our chapter ID, E19, for AAS to get full credit for a new membership.)* If you prefer to pay by check for an annual membership, send your \$20 check made payable to National Audubon Society *(please add Apalachee Audubon's chapter ID, E19)* and mail to:

National Audubon Society
225 Varick Street, 7th Floor
New York, NY 10014
Attn: Chance Mueleck

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!

Announcing the St. Marks Shutterbugs

Join us for a new Smartphone Photography Class!



AAS Board Member Karen Willes is teaching a new smartphone photography class at St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge for children in grades 3-8 with a parent or other adult. In this free 3-hour class, children and adults will experience the process of smartphone or tablet photography from composing to processing their own images taken during the class. Call St. Marks NWR at (850) 925-6121 for more information or to sign up. The class before school is out is offered on Saturday, May 28 from 1 PM - 4 PM. Class size is limited to 10 children, accompanied by an adult.

Read more about photographing birds with a smartphone in the recent Audubon magazine article that includes Karen Willes' phonescoped image of a young Barred Owl.

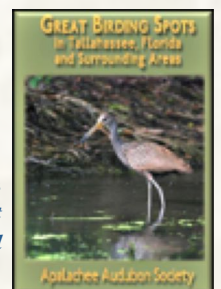
http://www.audubon.org/magazine/may-june-2016/how-photograph-birds-iphone?utm_source=engagement&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=2016-04-25-iPhone



**A Great Gift Idea
to enjoy all year long!**

*A great book for bird and
nature lovers!*

Please see www.apalachee.org for a list of locations where the Apalachee Audubon Society's *Great Birding Spots in Tallahassee, Florida and Surrounding Areas* is available.



Enjoy Outdoor Activities in Tallahassee and Surrounding Areas

St. Francis Wildlife Association

St. Francis Wildlife, a non-profit organization founded in 1978, provides humane care and rehabilitation for thousands of wild birds and animals in our community each year as well as unique wildlife education programs. You are invited to these upcoming events to support St. Francis Wildlife.

Annual St. Francis Wildlife Baby Shower

Saturday, May 7, 9 AM - 2 PM,
at the Downtown Marketplace, Ponce de Leon Park,
Park Ave. and N. Monroe, Tallahassee

Help St. Francis Wildlife celebrate their 38th wild baby season. Meet hawks, owls and a falcon. Learn how to help wild babies. Raffle to release a rehabilitated raptor. Please bring a wild baby gift from their Wish List on their website at www.stfranciswildlife.org/Donate.html.

2nd Annual St. Francis WildlifeFest

Saturday, May 28, 9:30 AM - 2:00 PM, at White Dog
Plantation (formerly Nicholson Farmhouse),
200 Coca Cola Avenue, Havana (SR-12/Havana Hwy)

"Wild Family Fun Under the Oaks" with lots of furry, feathered, and scaly wild animals along with Nature Tours and Programs, live music and a silent auction. There will be many participants including Apalachee Audubon Society. All proceeds benefit St. Francis Wildlife. 1 adult - \$15, 2 adults - \$25, school-aged children with adult - \$5, 5 & under with adult - free. Early-bird prize for first 50 people/families.

In Concert for Wildlife

Friday, June 10, 7:30 PM - 10 PM at the Warehouse,
706 W. Gaines Street, Tallahassee

Popular local musicians — Pierce Pettis, Mimi Hearn and Mike Palecki — show their devotion to the environment and wildlife by dedicating their music to help local injured, orphaned, and sick wildlife. Tickets are \$25, and all proceeds benefit St. Francis Wildlife. Seats are limited, so please arrive early.

To learn more: www.stfranciswildlife.org.

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

Lemoyne
CENTER FOR THE VISUAL ARTS

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

St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge



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

www.fws.gov/refuge/st_marks/

Gulf Specimen Marine Lab



222 Clark Drive
Panacea, FL 32346
850 984-5297



www.gulfspecimen.org

Fun for the whole family!

Wakulla Springs State Park

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

Morning Nature Walks

Free with Park Admission (Meet in the Lodge Lobby)
Please call (850) 561-7286 to make your reservation.

Saturday, May 7 ~ 9:00-10:30 EDT

Saturday, June 11 ~ 8:00-9:30 EDT

Join a ranger-led trek through Wakulla Springs State Park's varying forest communities. Enjoy the habitat before the heat of the day sets in. The songbirds have returned with their melodies of spring. Let your guide make the most of your visit as he points out nature's nuances. Arrive early and fuel up with breakfast prior to the walk in the historic Wakulla Springs Lodge. <https://www.floridastateparks.org/park/WakullaSprings>

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.

Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better. Albert Einstein