

# APALACHEE AUDUBON SOCIETY

Apalachee Audubon Society Mission Statement:

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

NEWSLETTER OF THE APALACHEE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

NOVEMBER – DECEMBER 2014



## Speaker Series

Free and open to the public

Social begins at 7 pm & Speaker Series meeting at 7:30 pm (unless otherwise noted). **Please note change:** Speaker Series programs are held at the **Unitarian Universalist Church, 2810 N. Meridian Rd., Tallahassee.** For directions or more information please see [www.apalachee.org](http://www.apalachee.org).

### 2014-2015 Program Dates

September 25, 2014	February 26, 2015
October 23, 2014	March 26, 2015
November 20, 2014 *	April 23, 2015
* 3rd Thursday	May 28, 2015 *
None in December	* Tentative date
January 22, 2015	

## Inside This Issue



President's Message	3
Officers & Directors	2
115 <sup>th</sup> Christmas Bird Count	3
Climate Myths	4
Audubon Adventures	4
In The Yard	5
YardMap	5
Hummer Update - 1	6
Swift Night Out 2014	7
Early AAS History	8
Wakulla Springs Notes	10
Wildflowers	11
Breeding Bird Atlas	12
Mission San Luis	13
Holiday Decorating	14
Native Nurseries Holiday	14
Books for Your Enjoyment	15
St. Marks Monarch Garden	16
2015 Wildlife-Friendly Tour	16
Field Trips & Activities	17

November Program: Thursday, Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>  
Social at 7 p.m. & Program at 7:30 p.m.

**“Ecology of Smalltooth Sawfish in Florida and the Bahamas:  
Research to Support Recovery of a Critically Endangered Species”**

**Dr. Dean Grubbs**

**Florida State University Coastal & Marine Laboratory**

The smalltooth sawfish is a formidable predator that is the only native marine fish listed as Endangered under the United States' Endangered Species Act. Sawfish declined due to overfishing. Fishery by catch remains the largest source of direct mortality. Habitat loss from urban development, agriculture, and freshwater diversion also hinder recovery. In the Northwest Atlantic the remaining sawfish population is concentrated in southwest Florida and portions of the Bahamas.



**Dr. Dean Grubbs**

Dr. Dean Grubbs uses archival satellite tracking of adult smalltooth sawfish to: 1) examine regional fidelity, migration and exchange between population segments, 2) determine if aggregation sites related to feeding, mating or pupping exist and 3) assess mortality risk due to interaction with commercial and recreational fisheries. Their research has recently been featured in documentaries such as Public Television's (WPBT) “Changing Seas: Saving Sawfish”. Following a screening of this short film, Dr. Grubbs will discuss his research findings to date.

Dr. Grubbs is a fish ecologist with interests in the biology of recreationally and commercially important species of estuarine and marine fishes. Much of his research addresses specific biological gaps necessary for management and conservation of fisheries resources, especially coastal and deep-water sharks and rays as well as large pelagic species. Dean is Associate Research Faculty and the Associate Director of Research at Florida State University's Coastal and Marine Laboratory, [www.marinelab.fsu.edu](http://www.marinelab.fsu.edu), where he mentors graduate and undergraduate students, engages in community outreach, and maintains an active research program on the ecology of deep water and coastal fishes.

## Apalachee Audubon Society, Inc.

2014 - 2015  
Officers & Directors

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

**President:** Adrienne Ruhl 813 293-1081  
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P. O. Box 1237 - Tallahassee, FL. 32303

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

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

This newsletter is published by the Apalachee Audubon Society, Inc.  
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For more information and to sign up for our AAS Google Groups email notification list, please see [www.apalachee.org](http://www.apalachee.org)



**Best wishes for the Holidays**  
**Happy New Year!**



## You can join or give a gift of National Audubon Society & Apalachee Audubon 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 and website along with Audubon Florida will keep you informed of local and statewide Audubon birding and conservation information, news and other nature-related events.

To pay for your membership (or gift membership) using a credit card, please call National Audubon's toll free membership number, 1-800-274-4201. **Please mention our chapter code, E19, for Apalachee Audubon to get credit for a new membership.** You can also go to Apalachee Audubon's website and join online (click on "Join" in the left-hand column). If you prefer to pay by check, make your check payment to National Audubon Society and please include Apalachee Audubon's chapter code, **E19**. In your check memo section, please also indicate "For Audubon Membership (\$7.50 for Magazine)" and mail to:

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

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

### 2014-2015 Committee Chairs

**Anniversary Celebration**  
Suzanna MacIntosh & Karen Wensing

**Audubon Adventures**  
Judy Goldman

**Awards Committee**  
Nick Baldwin

**Birdathon**  
Harvey Goldman

**Conservation Committee**  
Jan Bordelon & Elizabeth Platt

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**Program Committee**  
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**Publicity**  
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**St. Marks NWR Butterfly Pollinator Garden**  
Ann Bruce

**Wildlife-Friendly Yards Tour Committee**  
Ann Bruce & Tammy Brown



"To cherish what remains of the Earth and to foster its renewal is our only legitimate hope of survival." - Wendell Berry

## President's Message

By Adrienne Ruhl

Apalachee Audubon President



Adrienne Ruhl

The days are getting colder and shorter, but the birds are busily passing through our coastal area on their trek South for the winter. Join me in celebrating the change in season as we look toward a new year. It's an exciting time of year when we delight in migration, watching weather forecasts for fronts, keeping an eye out at backyard feeders, sharing sightings on listservs and eBird, trekking out at a moment's notice to a hotspot at St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge.

Many of you may also be visiting new locales throughout the holidays. If you're from outside the Panhandle Florida region and just stopping in for a short time, please visit our website at [www.apalachee.org](http://www.apalachee.org) and check out our calendar for local activities. If you are from our chapter and traveling elsewhere, I encourage you to see what local chapters are doing in places you will visit. Perhaps there is a field trip or program meeting you can participate in. And no matter where you are from December 14, 2014 through January 5, 2015 there is likely a Christmas Bird Count you can participate in. This tradition was first suggested in 1900 to replace traditional shooting competitions. Now in its 115<sup>th</sup> year, and with the silent threat of climate change affecting where we see birds, the longest running citizen science survey in the world brings together people of various backgrounds, ages, and experiences to collect data in an effort to protect species and their habitats.

*Adrienne Ruhl*

## 115<sup>th</sup> Christmas Bird Count

By Suzanna MacIntosh

The Christmas Bird Count is the longest running Citizen Science survey in the world! Thanks to Frank Chapman, the ornithologist who came up with the idea, the first count took place in 1900. Since then each year citizen scientists have been compiling this bird census throughout the Western Hemisphere. Information collected during the CBC provides invaluable data to help track the long-term health and status of bird populations across the United States. The dates for this year's counts are from December 14, 2014 through January 5, 2015. During a 24-hour time period teams will fan out in a 15 mile diameter circle, counting every bird they see or hear that day.

To learn more, please see: <http://birds.audubon.org/about-christmas-bird-count>

**Update from Jim Cox:** CBCs provide great information on winter bird distributions and trends, but they are not casual bird outings. The ability to identify a majority of our winter birds by sight and sound is a prerequisite, and most parties work from dawn to dusk with short breaks for food and coffee. Wet, mud encrusted boots and torn shirts also are common come the end of the day, and parties covering remote areas frequently have limits to their sizes imposed by a need for 4-wheel drive and other transportation issues. The Florida Ornithological Society posts a listing of the CBCs throughout Florida, so give it a look to see when and where counts are taking place.

<http://fosbirds.org/sites/default/files/CBC/2014FLA-CBC.pdf>



Short-eared Owl  
Courtesy of D. S. Kilby



**WE DID IT – TOGETHER!**

**THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR VOTE!**



## Challenging Climate Change Myths

by Elizabeth Platt

Conservation Committee Co-chair



On August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014, the New York Times published an article by R. H. Frank about six myths that must be challenged in order to combat climate change. Frank claims that more forceful action must be taken, but such measures are met with myths, “rooted in bad economics.”

*Myth 1: The enormous uncertainty of climate science argues for a wait-and-see strategy.* Rebuttal: Uncertainty in the face of the predicted disasters suggests the need for insuring against worst-case scenarios.

*Myth 2: Slowing the pace of climate change would be prohibitively difficult.* Rebuttal: A carbon tax would promote the reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and make a big difference. Cap and trade systems have already proven effective where they are put in place.

*Myth 3: A carbon tax would destroy jobs.* Rebuttal: Having rendered many energy-using processes obsolete, strong incentives for developing more efficient processes would come into play.

*Myth 4: The cost of reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions would be prohibitively high.* Rebuttal: We are already realizing the costs of inefficient energy production when we experience damaging weather events. Such costs must be borne now.

*Myth 5: It's pointless for Americans to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, since unilateral action won't solve global warming.* Rebuttal: If America and Europe impose the tax, other countries will have to pay higher tariffs on goods produced inefficiently.

*Myth 6: Penalizing greenhouse gas emissions would violate people's freedom.* Rebuttal: Freedom to pollute and waste energy causes harm to others. So claims to such freedom are poor ones. If we do nothing to reduce greenhouse gas emissions now, by 2100 life as we know it will be destroyed.

For the full article log on to [http://www.nytimes.com/2014/08/03/upshot/shattering-myths-to-help-the-climate.html?emc=edit\\_th\\_20140803&nl=todaysheadlines&nid=33292244&r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/08/03/upshot/shattering-myths-to-help-the-climate.html?emc=edit_th_20140803&nl=todaysheadlines&nid=33292244&r=0)

**THANK YOU FOR  
MAKING THIS POSSIBLE!**

### AUDUBON ADVENTURES KITS GO DIGITAL

New this year is Audubon's Digital *Audubon Adventures* Classroom Kit. Teachers have the option this year to receive a digital classroom kit entitled “Birds, Bees, and Neighborhood Biomes”.

Teachers will access student magazines, background information, and hands-on activities by downloading and printing these documents from the Audubon website. The teacher will receive six monthly eNewsletters with ideas for implementing *Audubon Adventures* in the classroom.

The teacher can download and print an Educator's Guide, and access online activities. One advantage of this order will be to allow a teacher to print and serve larger classes than 32 students.

Teachers still have the option to order a printed kit, serving 32 students. This year they are offered a choice from previous years' topics. These printed kits include “Sharing Our World With Birds”, “Exploring Ecosystems”, “Feathers, Furs, Fins and You”, “Wildlife on the Move”, “Action for Planet Earth”, “Feats of Nature”, “Wings and Things” and “Cool Critters”. One set provides copies for 32 students. (For more description of the kits, check out [www.Audubon.org](http://www.Audubon.org) under Education.)

This fall our chapter offered free subscriptions to both types (printed or digital) of *Audubon Adventures* teaching kits to 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers who teach science in Leon, Wakulla, Jefferson, Gadsden, and Franklin Counties. To date, 27 teachers in 15 schools have requested *Audubon Adventures*. About half of the teachers ordered a printed kit and about half ordered a digital kit.

A note of thanks to Beth Mims, a Wakulla County School Academic Officer and Dr. Ann Johnson, a Leon County School Science Curriculum Administrator, for their continuing help in disseminating our Chapter's offer of subscriptions to the appropriate elementary teachers of their respective counties.





## In The Yard by Fran Rutkovsky

Many of our resident feeder birds have been elsewhere this fall, taking advantage of the fruits, berries, and insects. Now the winter birds are beginning to arrive in the yard. At first they may drop in to take a bath, drink some water, or check to see if the feeders are still in the same places. But as soon as we have that first really cold weather, they'll settle in for the winter. One of the most abundant feeder birds we have during this time is the Chipping Sparrow, who prefers white millet seeds.

Two other active birds coming in for the winter are Ruby-crowned Kinglets and Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warblers. The Yellow-rumped can sometimes be found in large numbers, especially if there are Wax Myrtle bushes planted in your yard. If you're lucky, Baltimore Orioles will find your yard and add color for the winter. Birds need fresh water all winter and will appreciate your clean birdbaths.

Project FeederWatch, [www.feederwatch.org](http://www.feederwatch.org), begins in early November and goes through early April. Participants choose a site and periodically count birds that come to their feeders. The data that is submitted helps scientists keep track of winter bird movements and long-term trends. AAS member Glenda Simmons has two photographs in the 2014-2015 Project FeederWatch calendar. *Congratulations, Glenda!*



Baltimore Oriole

*Photo by Glenda Simmons*

YardMap, [www.yardmap.org](http://www.yardmap.org), is a Citizen Science project at Cornell Lab of Ornithology. The interactive web site allows participants to draw a map of their own yard (or garden, school, birding location, etc.) and connect with others in a network across the country. The goal is to promote better bird habitats.

If you want a good all-purpose informative web site, check out Cornell's All About Birds. Click on "How to Attract Birds to Your Yard" (<http://www.allaboutbirds.org/Page.aspx?pid=1189>) for ideas about making your yard even more bird-friendly. Don't forget to watch for winter hummingbirds!



Chipping Sparrow  
*Photo by Janeen Langley*

### The Cornell Lab of Ornithology YardMap

**YardMap** is a Citizen Science project developed by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology to help cultivate a richer understanding of bird habitat, for both professional scientists and everyone concerned with their local environments. **YardMap** is funded by the National Science Foundation to help fulfill the mission of the Citizen Science Program.



Yellow-rumped Warbler  
*Photo by Brenda Scott*

**YardMap** is designed to help you attract more birds to your yard, to explore your habitat and to map your own yard with the help of online resources. You can learn and help science through an interactive citizen scientist social network that connects you to the work of like-minded individuals in your neighborhood and across the country. Together you can share strategies, maps, and successes to build more bird habitat. Here are some questions **YardMap** is seeking to answer:

- ✓ What practices improve the wildlife value of residential landscapes?
- ✓ Which of these practices have the greatest impact?
- ✓ Over how large an area do we have to implement these practices to really make a difference?
- ✓ What impact do urban and suburban wildlife corridors and stopover habitats have on birds?
- ✓ Which measures (bird counts? nesting success?) show the greatest impacts of our practices

To learn more about **YardMap** or get started now, please see [www.yardmap.org](http://www.yardmap.org).

# Hummer Update Number 1 - from Fred Dietrich

October 23, 2014



**Calliope Hummingbird**

© Photo courtesy of Dan Pancamo

Greetings,

The 2014-15 winter hummer season got off to a very early start this year when I banded an adult male Rufous at Bill and Pat Libby's home near Eastpoint, FL on July 21st. This is our first July banding and the earliest date a Rufous has ever been banded in the southeast. There were a handful of other reports of Rufous in Alabama, Georgia and Florida over the next few weeks but as usual for that time of the year, all of those birds moved on in just a day or so.

As some of you may already know, on September 7<sup>th</sup>, we lost Bob Sargent, co-founder of the Hummer/Bird Study Group, and one of the greatest friends to our birds. Bob and Martha Sargent ran the banding program at Ft. Morgan each year for two weeks in the spring and fall, during the peak of the north and south migrations. Over the years more than 175 different species were banded there. On average about 2,500 birds of 70 species were banded and the public was given the chance to see these birds up close and release them after they were banded. This was the only public banding operation from Texas to Miami and Bob was a tireless voice on the bird's behalf, educating the public about the birds and the importance of preserving their habitat for future generations. I was very fortunate to be one of more than 100 hummingbird banders Bob trained and I was on the crew for the last 13 Ft. Morgan banding sessions. While we all are deeply saddened at the loss of such a giant of a man, we will be forever grateful of having the chance to work with him and share in the tremendous love he had for the birds we worked with.

The non-profit Hummer/Bird Study Group will be discontinued along with the Ft. Morgan banding sessions, but our winter hummingbird research efforts will continue as in the past. Several years ago we established a separate non-profit for our research so that in case something would happen to Hummer/Bird Study Group, our banding would continue. You can visit our website for the latest events in our research – <http://www.bummingbirdresearch.net/>.

As Bob's health declined this spring, he asked me if I would fill in for him and conduct this summer's hummingbird bander training. A separate federal certification is required to band hummingbirds and over the years Bob worked closely with the federal Bird Banding Laboratory to develop the specialized training program for hummingbird banders. In August I went up to Elkins, WV and trained two new banders who have now received their certifications. Elkins is my wife's hometown so I can combine the training and vacation each summer. There are several wonderful homes there that have thousands of hummingbirds streaming through their yards each summer as they pass through on their annual fall migration to the tropics. At the peak of migration the birds at these sites can go through 5 gallons of sugar water a day! It is truly a magical place to be at that time of the year.

The first week of September I went to Holly Springs, MS where they have a hummingbird festival each year, and banded hummingbirds for the thousands of guests to see. It was while we were at this festival that we got the word that Bob had passed away. It was a sad time for all of us but we knew he was still watching us as we banded each bird.

The Ruby-throats will soon be gone but more western hummingbirds will be making their way to the southeast to take their place. By November 1<sup>st</sup> all the Ruby-throats that are going to spend the winter in the tropics will have left and those that are at your home will have come from somewhere else. Where they come from is one of the things we are trying to discover with our research and it's just a matter of time until we begin to uncover the clues to these birds.

We are making new discoveries each year, none of which would be possible without your willingness to share "your" birds with. Hope to hear from you soon. You can contact me anytime.

Fred Dietrich

(850) 591-7430 / [fdietrich@gmail.com](mailto:fdietrich@gmail.com)



## 2014 SWIFT NIGHT OUT at WAKULLA SPRINGS STATE PARK

By Jeff Hugo

*Courtesy of Jim McCulloch*

It was overcast. The clouds were still trying to wring the last few drops of moisture from their wispy clothing. But that did not deter 26 stalwart citizen scientists from participating in the 2014 Swift Night Out at Wakulla Springs State Park.

The fun began at 7:30 p. m. with some role playing coordinated by Park Services Specialist Jeff Hugo. Both older and younger swift watchers participated in a game designed to see how many insects (tokens) each swift (participant) could retrieve in the time allotted.

Each person did well helping the 'swift' in them to a healthy meal. Unfortunately, environmental conditions eventually played a role in dispersing the insects (fewer tokens to collect) and making maneuverability (hopping on one leg) more difficult. The 'swifts' did more poorly during that leg of the game.

Park Ranger Patty Wilbur took the reins following the game and presented the group with both common and little known facts about Chimney Swifts. As clipboards, journals, and pencils were handed out to everyone, Jeff reminded the group that their data would be significant and that the Chimney Swifts could be tricky. He warned that some swifts feign entrance to the chimney and actually go around for another try. Everyone quickly took notes in their journals on weather conditions and where important data such as the time of first and last descent would go. They also filled in the blanks regarding Chimney Swift biology...the journal would be a good evening's keepsake.



Park Ranger Patty Wilbur with Citizen Scientists at Wakulla Lodge

*Photo courtesy of Clifford Nabser*

By 8:02 p. m. the first Chimney Swift of the now swirling mass descended into the chimney. Others followed slowly. The spectators were heard calling out in unison the same number. That would soon change as the birds would drop by groups at a time into the chimney to roost. The silence was deafening. Everyone was hard at work concentrating on counting.

The last bird entered the roost (chimney) at 8:20 p. m. Folks returned their pencils and clipboards and reported their numbers to Patty Wilbur. The average number of birds counted was 581. It was up about 60 birds from 2013. It had been a great spectacle. *Jeff Hugo is Park Services Specialist at Wakulla Springs State Park, [www.floridastateparks.org/wakullasprings](http://www.floridastateparks.org/wakullasprings).*

### CHIMNEY SWIFT FACTS FROM NATIONAL AUDUBON

- Chimney Swifts have declined by over 50% in just the last 40 years
- Small, agile, fast-flying bird that is readily identified by its "flying cigar" profile
- Breeds across much of eastern North America
- Historically nested and roosted in hollow trees
- Readily adapted to the insides of masonry chimneys
- Winters in the Amazon Basin

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## Early Apalachee Audubon History

By Suzanna MacIntosh

*Special thanks to Charles Lee with Audubon Florida and to Apalachee Audubon's first President Dr. Huey B. Long for their invaluable help and for their generosity and commitment to the values that have made Audubon successful over the years.*

Any discussion of the early history of Apalachee Audubon needs to include some background about Florida Audubon's Executive Director C. Russell Mason and his outstanding leadership and vision. Russ Mason served as President of Florida Audubon from 1937-1940 during a time when there was no paid staff. Mason was employed as a Vice-President of the Stokes Seed Company, managing their Florida operations from an office in Sanford, Florida. In 1940 Mason left Florida to become Secretary/Treasurer of the Massachusetts Audubon Society. Later he became their Executive Director and among his many accomplishments were the formation of the Natural Science Workshop to train teachers and youth leaders in natural history education and the founding of residential camp Wildwood.

As their paths would cross again in Florida, it's important to note that Mason followed Carl W. Buchheister as Massachusetts Executive Director and that Buchheister went on to become President of National Audubon in 1959. Buchheister had also served as Director of the Hog Island Audubon Camp of Maine where he "established programs and workshops for adults in the principles of ecology and conservation which became widely accepted as models of their kind." (<http://archives.mpl.org/mss/2099>) Russ Mason served as Massachusetts Audubon's Executive Director until he was recruited in 1957 to return as Florida Audubon's Executive Director. At that point, Florida Audubon's membership and fundraising had fallen very low and over the next 14 years Mason revitalized Florida Audubon and set a course that would guide Florida Audubon successfully into the future.

Mason worked to build conservation partnerships and was very successful raising money and increasing membership for Florida Audubon. Speaking in 1963 to the Dunellon Garden Club, Mason shared that "contrary to a rather general impression, Audubon does not confine its efforts to only bird conservation" and that while in 1957 Florida Audubon had only two sanctuaries, there were by 1963 over 35 in addition to the privately owned areas whose owners cooperated in conservation. Of particular interest was the 650,000 acre Bald Eagle Sanctuary stretching from Kissimmee to Okeechobee where most of the remaining Bald Eagles in the United States nested.

<http://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1356&dat=19630123&id=hfvjAAAAIIBAJ&sjid=EmUEAAAAIIBAJ&pg=1677.4461356>

Eventually Mason developed a system of cooperative Bald Eagle sanctuaries with ranchers and other landowners covering 3 million acres of eagle nesting habitat in Florida. Through his interest in Central American birds and their conservation, Russ was

*Continued on page 9*



**Recognizing the Establishment of Apalachee Audubon**  
*Audubon Florida Executive Director C. Russell (Russ) Mason with Apalachee Audubon 1<sup>st</sup> President Dr. Huey B. Long (left to right)*

*Photograph courtesy of Dr. Huey B. Long*



**Birdsong Nature Center – Building Partnerships**

*H.L. Stoddard, Ed Komarek, Russ Mason, Henry L. Beadel, Sonny Stoddard*

*Left to Right – Photograph courtesy of the State Archives of Florida, circa late 1950s*



## Early Apalachee Audubon History - Continued from page 8

instrumental in the establishment of the Asa Wright Nature Center in Trinidad and the Cerro Punta Sanctuary in Panama, in founding Audubon Societies in Mexico, Belize and Panama, and in forming "Amigos de la Naturaleza," a coalition of conservationists from Central and South American countries. (<https://sora.unm.edu/sites/default/files/journals/auk/v103n01/p0209-p0209.pdf>)

In 1963 under the leadership of Director Carl Buchheister National Audubon leased Wakulla Springs' 4,000 acres in a management agreement with Ed Ball and Wakulla Springs was designated as a wildlife and bird sanctuary. Soon afterwards in the fall of 1963 Russ Mason approached Dr. Long about the establishment of a local Audubon chapter in the Tallahassee area and by early 1964 the Apalachee Audubon Chapter had been established with twenty-six charter members. The first officers were President, Huey B. Long; Vice-Presidents, Mrs. A. D. Aldrich and O. Earl Frye; and Secretary-Treasurer, William R. Kidd. All members were required to hold membership in Florida and National Audubon as well as Apalachee Audubon. At that time A.D. Aldrich was Director of the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission and later Earl Frye would become Executive Director of the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission; William R. Kidd was Chief Engineer with the State of Florida and had served as Chairman of the State Recreational Committee (<http://ufdc.ufl.edu/UF00072549/00001/1j>). One of Russ Mason's greatest gifts was his ability to build partnerships to further the conservation mission of Audubon. From the very beginning Apalachee Audubon was made up of an influential group of individuals who had the ability to make an impact by working together sharing information with one another and with the public while strengthening the effectiveness of the chapter.

Dr. Long kindly provided the following information: "As to the formation of the Apalachee Audubon Society, I think it emerged in the following manner. As a District Information and Education Forester with the Florida Forest Service my job included opportunities for close relationships with the Florida Park Service, Florida Conservancy (as a Board Member), as well as the Florida Audubon Society (as Vice-President). Later I was promoted to Assistant Branch Chief of the Information & Education Branch of the Florida Forest Service and shipped to Tallahassee in the fall of 1963. Russ Mason came to Tallahassee where we discussed the idea of a chapter.

We had no overt connection with any birding group to my knowledge. Some of the early members of the Society could have been associated to one or more without my knowledge. We were fortunate to have some strong reputational leaders as members: Bill Miller was Florida Parks Director and Earl Frye was Assistant Director of the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. Betty McCord, wife of Judge McCord, and Karl Zerbe internationally known artist and his wife were among our early members. There was also an ornithologist-biologist Bob (?), and the head of the Science Education Department at FSU Dr. (?), and an architect whose names I have forgotten. \*

As I recall we began a travel nature film series soon after our creation. From there we moved on to regular field trips led by specialists from our group and others. Many members of the chapter shared a scientific interest and holistic outlook and appreciated the relationships and interdependence within our natural world. We went to places such as a plantation, Tall Timbers, near Thomasville, St. Mark's Wildlife Refuge, and Wakulla Springs. Subsequently we organized two major weekend programs, one in the spring and one in the fall. These usually began with a film and reception on Friday evening, a special field trip featuring a selected plant, bird, or geographic feature with dinner on Saturday night. Because of the scholarly and scientific knowledge among our members these were well received trips. For example, the member who was head of the Science Education Department was an expert on pitcher plants and when we visited selected sites her information was outstanding, as when we visited Wakulla to see small orchids in bloom (*See page 10*). Bob, the ornithologist, was a great birder and Zerbe often carried a pouch for the collection of plant material he would incorporate in his paintings. Chuck Salter followed me as AAS President and also followed me as Assistant Branch Chief of the Florida Forest Service I&E Branch and later when the Florida Forestry Service and the Department of Agriculture were reorganized he became Chief of the Branch. Malcolm Johnson, Editor of the *Tallahassee Democrat*, was likely a member and we may have had a board meeting at his home "Half-Hill" on Meridian Road.

I left the employment of the Florida Forestry Service in 1964 and became the first Director of Public Relations for the City of Tallahassee and worked on my Ph.D in Higher Education at FSU. Upon receiving my degree in 1966 I accepted the position of Assistant Director of FSU's Urban Research Center in Titusville, FL. and became Director in 1967. During these years I maintained a close relationship with Russ Mason. Unfortunately for me I lost contact with that fine group of individuals who comprised the leadership of the Apalachee Audubon Society. Any comments on the chapter's history should praise those early members who provided great leadership and devoted many enthusiastic hours to projects." *To be continued...*

*\* Do you know who these men and women may have been? We need your help! If you have any AAS history or photographs you can share, please contact Suzanna MacIntosh at [Aasnewsletter2011-audubon@yahoo.com](mailto:Aasnewsletter2011-audubon@yahoo.com), or Karen Wensing or Judy Goldman. Thank you for your help.*

# Wakulla Springs Notes and News

By Jeff Hugo



**The Shadow Witch (*Ponthieva racemosa*)**

*This orchid blooms at Wakulla Springs from October into November*

beauties that adorn corsages. Rather, the blooms are often white or greenish and penny-sized or less. But the blooms are often set in racemes (a stem-like structure) like gems imbedded in a piece of fine jewelry. For the eye trained to look, it makes them noticeable.

Dr. Huey B. Long, the first president of the Apalachee Audubon Society, was an early seeker of these woodland gems many years ago. He recounts how a fellow AAS member and botanist led a field trip to the park in search of orchids around the Wakulla Springs Lodge (*See page 9*). Of course, they did some birding while marveling at the diversity of life all around them. The value of biodiversity was a theme that Dr. Long and Apalachee Audubon members have valued for 50 years. It has made them advocates for much more than individual species or individual parks. Rather, AAS has always taken a holistic approach to supporting the environment and its ecosystems because all living things are connected and as a result all are affected by both natural and man-made events.

Wakulla Springs State Park has long benefited from Apalachee Audubon's presence and support. Informational field trips, participation in park activities, and advocacy for protection of the park's natural resources have been trademarks of a long-standing relationship. For that reason, it is appropriate that the 2015 Wakulla Wildlife Festival which will be held on Saturday, April 18, 2015, will make special efforts in cooperation with Apalachee Audubon to recognize and celebrate AAS's conservation legacy to the park and the region. The festival's theme will be **Wings over Wakulla**. The 2015 festival will return to its roots and focus on the area's wildlife, its unique habitats and activities that fire the imagination of children and those of a kindred spirit. In the coming months, please visit [www.wakullawildlife festival.com](http://www.wakullawildlife festival.com) to keep abreast of the festival's activities, exhibitors and presenters. *Jeff Hugo is Park Services Specialist at Wakulla Springs State Park.*



**The Green Fly Orchid (*Epidendrum magnoliae*)**

*This orchid usually blooms in June high in oak or magnolia trees*  
*Photos courtesy of Jeff Hugo*

## Florida Department of Transportation District 3 Success for Naturally Occurring Wildflower Areas

By Eleanor Dietrich

When you enter Washington and Jackson Counties via Interstate 10, you will see a wonderful display of fall wildflowers along the roadsides. In FDOT District 3, the Marianna Operations office (which maintains state and federal roadsides in Jackson and Washington counties), led by Operations Engineer Chris Connor, has been safely leaving large areas of roadsides in their natural state for many years. As a result, large stands of naturally occurring wildflowers, as shown in the photos here, have been able to flourish. This is exactly the intent of the new FDOT Wildflower Management Program procedures, <http://www2.dot.state.fl.us/proceduraldocuments/procedures/bin/650030001.pdf>. However, in most areas throughout the state, these new procedures are just beginning to be implemented, so it will take time to modify mowing practices statewide, and allow wildflowers to begin to naturally re-establish their growth and bloom. FDOT District 3 is in perfect position to demonstrate what we can look forward to seeing along Florida's state-maintained roadsides.



In late September of 2014, I visited the Jackson County section of I-10 with Mr. Connor, and was able to get a close look at what the future can look like with modified management procedures for roadside maintenance. Safety is, of course, the first consideration. With wide rights of way, it is possible to keep all of the more narrow medians and the areas adjacent to the pavement well mowed. On the large slopes along the I-10 roadsides in Jackson and Washington counties, five feet up the slope are mowed and then the rest of the slope is allowed to grow freely from spring through fall. Once the fall blooms have set their seed, the slopes are fully mowed for the winter, cutting back the woody plants that would take over the whole area if left uncut. The result is stunning. No planting or tending is required, nature does the necessary work. When I walked in these areas, pollinators were abundant.



Reduced mowing programs have many benefits. Less mowing costs less. Nature can do the work of bringing lovely flowers to the roadsides so it doesn't require FDOT to plant flowers. Motorists are more alert from the ever-changing beauty on the long highway. Pollinators have abundant sources of food. The Florida Transportation Plan goal of connected biological corridors is met. FDOT District 3 is leading the way in showing how possible and how successful this approach can be.

For more photographs of this beautiful roadside, visit [www.flickr.com/photos/wildflowersflorida](http://www.flickr.com/photos/wildflowersflorida) and look at the album "I-10 in Jackson County, Florida".

*Eleanor Dietrich is a Past President of the Magnolia Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society, [www.magnolia.fnpschapters.org](http://www.magnolia.fnpschapters.org), and currently serves as Florida Wildflower Foundation / Panhandle Alliance liaison with FDOT, [www.flanwildflowers.org](http://www.flanwildflowers.org).*

# Florida's Second Breeding Bird Atlas (the BBA2)



The BBA2 is an exciting citizen science project that gathers information about breeding birds across the entire state. The project generates the following products:

- Updated distribution maps of breeding birds in Florida.
- Change maps highlighting differences in the breeding distribution of each species over the past 25 years.
- Comparison of BBA trends with Breeding Bird Survey trends.
- Relative abundance maps for all of Florida's breeding birds.
- Breeding chronology information specific to birds in Florida.
- Specific location information for some species of conservation interest.

Atlasing is fun! It's much like a birding trip except that the site you visit is often underbirded and you pay closer attention to behaviors that could indicate breeding. Atlases also have important conservation implications such as illustrating how bird distributions have changed over time.

Anyone can participate! You don't have to be an expert, but you should be able to identify the breeding birds where you will be atlasing. You don't need to make a big time commitment either, just a few mornings is enough to gather a lot of information.

The BBA2 began collecting data in 2011 and will likely finish data collection in 2016. Most field data is collected between May and July, but breeding evidence can be recorded at any time of year for some species. See the Field Card for your region (posted on the FOS website, [www.fosbirds.org](http://www.fosbirds.org)) for dates when you can count breeding evidence.

How do you get started? Contact Rick West Coordinator for more information. You will receive a field card and a map and you can get started collecting data!

[RickLWest@aol.com](mailto:RickLWest@aol.com) or 850-766-9041 for Leon and other counties or Helen King at Apalachee Audubon Society meetings.



Artwork Courtesy of D. S. Kilby



One of Our Favorite Places!  
*Mission San Luis*



Mission San Luis is a great place to visit any time of year. There are always wonderful things going on and no matter how many times you visit you, your family and friends will always find something new or 'old' to enjoy.

Just a few miles from the heart of Tallahassee the Julia Munroe Woodward Nature Trail at Mission San Luis winds through the forest to the Castillo de San Luis. This is a great place to view birds, butterflies and other wildlife in an easily accessible tranquil setting. Be sure to stop by the Visitor Center to pick up a map of the trail and brochures to help identify some of birds and butterflies you might see. Tour the museum within the Visitor Center to learn more about the archeological research and history at Mission San Luis. The property was purchased by the State of Florida in 1983 when archeological excavations began on the largely undisturbed site.

Mission San Luis is the only reconstructed Spanish mission in Florida and it serves as not only an archeological and cultural site, it is also a living museum dedicated to faithfully reflecting the native Apalachee and Spanish cultures that existed side by side in 1703. It is a National Historic Landmark and is managed by the Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources. In 2006 it was honored with the prestigious "Preserve America" Presidential Award which recognized the outstanding archeological efforts and research by the State of Florida and the many partners who worked together to recreate the 60 acre site, [www.missionsanluis.org](http://www.missionsanluis.org).



**Mission San Luis Council House**

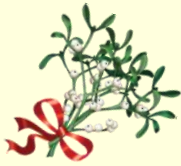
*Photo by Roy Lett and courtesy Mission San Luis, Florida Department of State*

Mission San Luis was one of over 100 mission settlements established in Spanish Florida between the 1560s and 1690s and from 1656 to 1704 it was the principal village of the Apalachees and as well as the Spaniards' westernmost military, religious, and administrative capital. Many of the original buildings which were destroyed in 1704 when the British arrived have been meticulously reconstructed. You will feel as if you have stepped back in time as you tour the friary (convento) where Franciscan monks lived. There is a beautiful church complete with pulpit and altar, choir loft, confessional and limestone baptistery. The Apalachee Council House, which measures over 140 feet in diameter, and the Chief's House have also been reconstructed. A stockade and Fort San Luis which are located on the grounds were originally built in the 17<sup>th</sup> century to defend the Mission and its inhabitants. The Fort contains barracks and gives a glimpse of military life at the time.

You'll want to save time for the gardens which include an Apalachee Field Crop, Friary Apothecary Garden, Spanish House Herb Garden, and a Spanish Field Crop Garden. All of the produce grown at Mission San Luis is part of the Historic Foodways Program and it is used in cooking demonstrations. In 2012 a 'xeric' drought-tolerant garden was planted at the entrance to the Mission which was designed to help control erosion and runoff in an attractive low-maintenance garden.

There are activities and demonstrations at Mission San Luis throughout the year and so you can look forward to going back again and again. On Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, the Winter Solstice Celebration will be held from 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. *AAS Board Member Helen King will lead a morning Field Trip beginning at 10 a.m. (meet in the lobby of the Visitor Center) and Apalachee Audubon members will be on hand during the Solstice Faire from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. See pages 17-18 for more information.*

Mission San Luis is located in Tallahassee at 2100 West Tennessee Street. The Mission with its historic village is open Tuesday through 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 and their families. Please see [www.missionsanluis.org](http://www.missionsanluis.org) for much more information.



## Holiday Decorating with Native Plants

By Donna Legare



My favorite native plant for holiday decorating is wax myrtle. The gray waxy berries stand out on wreaths of Fraser fir or grapevine and hold up throughout the season. However, they have a way of disappearing sometimes before the season is over. Wax myrtle berries are highly sought after by both Yellow-rumped Warblers and Ruby-crowned Kinglets.

One year at Native Nurseries our supply of wax myrtle berries for decorating wreaths was discovered by a kinglet. This diminutive bird, in its constantly flitting manner, put on quite a show for staff and customers alike as it picked wax myrtle berries from wreaths and from the supply pile on the front porch. Then it discovered its reflection in a nearby silver gazing globe. For several days it could be seen flashing its normally hidden red feathers on its head at the interloper in the globe.

I also use holly berries from both yaupon and dahoon hollies; however, they have a short shelf life on a wreath, turning black after a day or two. They hold up longer in water so I sometimes gather sprigs and keep them fresh on the mantel in small mason jars positioned behind pine cones.

Pine cones, especially from slash pine and longleaf pine, are useful. I was collecting the rich brown, newly fallen slash pine cones from my neighbor in mid-October for December wreath decorating when another neighbor stopped, commenting how beautiful these pine cones are. They are not real prickly to the touch, like loblolly cones, so are good for craft projects. She bleaches the cones for her decorating projects. We cut the cones into "slices" with tree pruning loppers to fashion a flowerlike wreath decoration.

The foliage of red cedar, magnolia and spruce pine can be tied together into a swag and adorned with a bright red or blue ribbon. Sprays of these species do not stay fresh as long as North Carolina's Fraser fir, but they can be used for shorter periods of time. Cut in the morning and soak them in a bucket of water before using them.

It is a good time to plant some of these plants for future autumn bounty for you and the birds. If you have a sunny section of the yard, try planting a mixed hedge row of wax myrtle, yaupon holly, dahoon holly, red cedar and longleaf pine. The first three will bear fruit in a few years; the pine is for the future. Start the New Year with wildlife in mind; plant a native tree or shrub today!

*Donna Legare is co-owner of Native Nurseries, [www.nativenurseries.com](http://www.nativenurseries.com)*



### *Please Join Us at Native Nurseries*

#### **Holiday Open House**

**Sunday, November 30<sup>th</sup> from 2 – 4 pm**



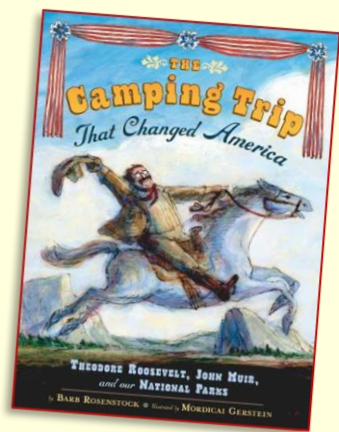
**Enjoy a stroll through our fragrant Fraser Fir Christmas tree forest and visit the Wren's Nest Christmas Shop. Join our staff for a cup of hot cider, home baked treats and listen to the music of local bluegrass band, Grass Gone Blue.**

*Native Nurseries will be open 10 am - 5 pm on Sundays between Thanksgiving & Christmas*

*1661 Centerville Road, Tallahassee, Florida – 850 386-8882*



[www.nativenurseries.com](http://www.nativenurseries.com)

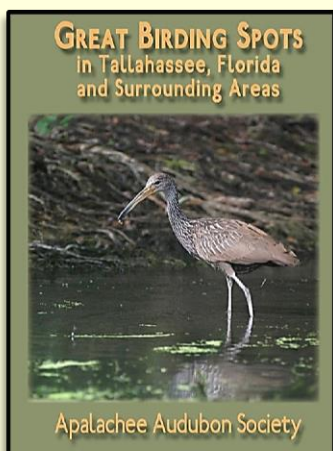


A Book Review by Pat Press

## *The Camping Trip That Changed America*

This amazingly creative biography by Barb Rosenstock tells the story of the camping trip taken in 1903 by Teddy Roosevelt and John Muir, the famous naturalist and premier environmentalist. After reading one of Muir's books the President wrote a letter to Muir asking to come to California to see this beautiful wilderness described in Muir's writings. What came about was an incredible escapade by these two very different men on a camping trip in the Sierra Nevada Mountains that changed history.

Roosevelt arrived in California amid his usual profusion of reporters, bands playing, and adoring crowds. Muir led him by horseback into the quiet, formidable, and awe inspiring Mariposa Grove of towering Sequoias which for once left Teddy speechless. They camped in the Yosemite wilderness among birds, bears, and the wondrous sites of Glacier Point, El Capitan, Half Dome and waterfalls so astonishing that Roosevelt returned to civilization a changed man. He had been convinced by John Muir's determination that these areas needed to be set aside and saved for future generations, which is what they actually accomplished together along with the other activists of their day. This wonderful little book tells the story of these two great personalities of American history in a very readable narrative which should be shared with children, teachers, environmentalists, and families. Buy this book and read it, then give it to your child's teacher, to a grandchild, or to the school library. It is a gem worth sharing. Look for this book at your favorite bookstore. It is also available on [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) or from [www.scholastic.com](http://www.scholastic.com). Pat Press serves on the Board of Directors of the Apalachee Audubon Society along with her sister, Carol Franchi. Together they co-chair the AAS Education Committee. Please see the Apalachee Audubon website, [www.apalachee.org](http://www.apalachee.org), for the Education Committee's recommendations of more great books for "Young Readers" and "Teens and Adults".



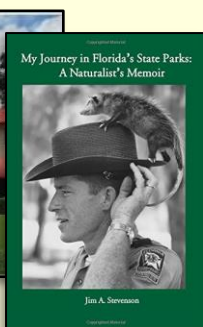
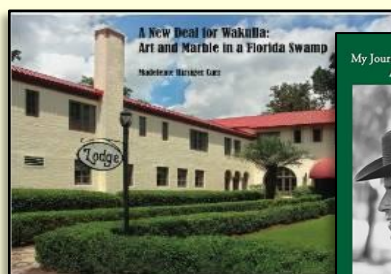
### *Get a Head Start on the Holidays!*



### More Great Books For Your Holiday Gift List!

A great book for bird and nature lovers is *Great Birding Spots in Tallahassee, Florida and Surrounding Areas* compiled by Bob Henderson, Kathleen Carr and other Apalachee Audubon Society members with beautiful photographs by AAS member Nick Baldwin. This guide is very useful because it tells about local birding spots and ease of access and it includes up-to-date maps, directions, and details about birds often viewed at each spot.

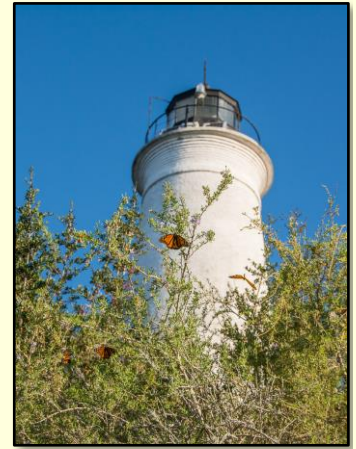
Another great gift idea is a beautiful book by AAS President-Elect Budd Titlow. His book, *Bird Brains: Inside the Strange Minds of Our Fine Feathered Friends*, consists of a hundred vignettes about the antics, behaviors, and curious doings of wild birds accompanied by photographs by Budd Titlow, a professional biologist and award-winning wildlife photographer. *Bird Brains* is available locally, on [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) and other online book sellers.



Two more books you'll treasure for years to come are *My Journey in Florida's State Parks: A Naturalist's Memoir* by Jim A. Stevenson which is an informative and entertaining set of short stories and essays of the evolution of Florida's state parks from 1965-1989 and *A New Deal for Wakulla: Art and Marble in a Florida Swamp* by Madeleine Hirsiger Carr which includes a history of the early days of the Wakulla Springs Lodge along with a close-up look at the beautiful images which were painted over three-quarters of a century ago on the hand-hewn cypress panels on the ceiling beams in the reception area. Available locally and on [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).



**St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge  
26<sup>th</sup> Annual Monarch Festival  
Monarch Butterfly Garden  
By Ann Bruce**



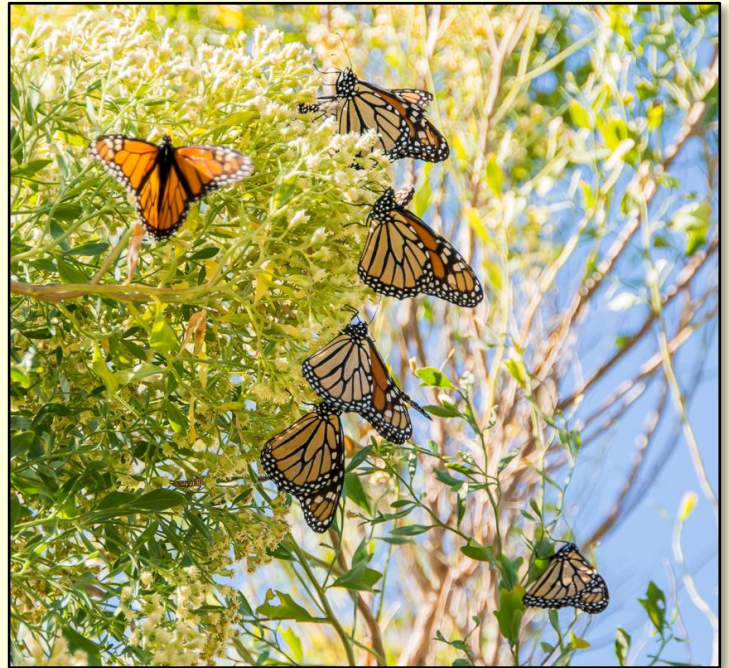
Beautiful weather and many visitors were at the St. Marks Wildlife Refuge for the 26th Annual Monarch Butterfly Festival on Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup>. The refuge estimated that over 3,500 folks attended the festival.

Monarchs were fluttering all day long in the Apalachee Audubon Society Pollinator Butterfly Gardens, located at Picnic Pond on Lighthouse Road. The AAS display at the garden provided related educational materials and information about AAS activities.

AAS Board Members and Education Committee Co-Chairs Pat Press and Carol Franchi set up and handled the AAS display for the first half of the day. Ann Bruce took over later on until it was time to pack up and go home. SMWR Rangers Gail Fishman and Scott Davis lent their time and expertise all day long answering questions about native plants and explaining the growth and maintenance of the gardens.

Although work by Apalachee Audubon and other cooperators first initiated the gardens in 2009, the time and dedication of SMWR staff has ensured that the gardens still thrive. Ranger Scott Davis, an expert on the propagation and growth of native plants, presently oversees the gardens.

Please stop and see the gardens the next time you visit the refuge! If you are interested in learning more about the gardens or volunteering in the coming year, contact Garden Chairperson Ann Bruce, [annbruce7@gmail.com](mailto:annbruce7@gmail.com) and 850/766-3061.



**Monarch Butterflies at St. Marks NWR**  
*Photos by Nick Baldwin*

*Save the Date*



***Apalachee Audubon's 8th Annual Wildlife-Friendly Yards Tour!***

***Saturday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015 from 10 am – 4 pm***

*Another great AAS Yards Tour is on its way! See 5 outstanding Tallahassee yards where the 'bones' of wildlife-friendly yards are visible. You'll see many different ways to attract and sustain wildlife. We hope you'll pick up some ideas to use in your own yard! Tickets will be available for purchase beginning January 21<sup>st</sup> at Native Nurseries and Wild Birds Unlimited.*

*We need volunteers to cover 2-hour shifts at each of the yards. Volunteers help direct people around yards, assist yard hosts and point out yard features. You won't need to buy a ticket for yourself if you volunteer; you can enjoy visiting the other yards without cost!*

*To volunteer or for more information please contact:*

*Ann Bruce [annbruce7@gmail.com](mailto:annbruce7@gmail.com) (850) 766-3061 or Tammy Brown [tcbrown798@aol.com](mailto:tcbrown798@aol.com) (850) 933-8154  
Newcomers are welcome as volunteers! You don't have to be an expert to help - We'll show you what to do!*



## Some November & December Birding Field Trips and Other Activities



### Coming Field Trips By Helen King

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

If you plan to attend any of these field trips, please contact me, Helen King, at [thekingsom@gmail.com](mailto:thekingsom@gmail.com) or call 765-2488.

#### **Saturday, November 15 - Bald Point State Park**

We will join John Murphy, Audubon Florida Shorebird Technician, for a guided walk looking for migratory and wintering shorebirds and along the way we can learn new skills for identifying birds and searching for banding data. John's knowledge and excitement is contagious. Bald Point SP is a wonderful spot to see migratory and wintering birds with easy beach access. If you would like to carpool, meet at the Publix parking lot at Capital Circle and Crawfordville Highway at 7 a.m. Please indicate if you are a willing driver. The riding fee will be \$5. If you would like to meet directly at the park, meet at 8 a.m. at the first parking area inside the stone gate (restroom facilities).

#### **Sunday, November 30 - Robert Williams Birding Trail/Lake Henrietta**

Meet at 8 a.m. at the parking lot of Lake Henrietta on Spring Hill Road. We will carpool to the Robert Williams Birding Trail and then return to bird at Lake Henrietta.

#### **Sunday, December 14 - Mission San Luis**

There is a Winter Solstice Celebration at Mission San Luis on this day starting off at 10 a.m. (*see below*). We will bird from 10 a.m. til noon. Please meet me in the lobby of the Visitor Center.

*Please respond if you plan to attend no later than 24 hours before each trip. For notification of coming field trips, please subscribe to Apalachee Audubon's Google Groups email notification list available at [www.apalachee.org](http://www.apalachee.org).*

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

*Come bird with us!*

## Winter Solstice Celebration at Mission San Luis

By Pat Press

Apalachee Audubon will be hosting an educational display at the Winter Solstice Celebration at Mission San Luis in Tallahassee on December 14, 2014. Helen King, our birding tour leader, will be leading a birding walk on the nature trail and grounds as well that day (*see above*). The annual celebration is held to observe the sun standing at its southernmost position in the sky leading to the shortening of days during the winter months. During the day-long celebration there will be crafts for sale from local artisans, drum and flute music, presentations on history and astronomy, and foods from local vendors. In the evening there will be powerful scopes available to view the stars and the planets.

Mission San Luis is an archeological site and museum run by the state of Florida and is located on one of Tallahassee's highest hills. For directions and further information go to their website, [www.missionsanluis.org](http://www.missionsanluis.org). Please see page 12 featuring Mission San Luis and page 18 for more activities.

Mission San Luis has parking, a picnic area, a museum, a gift shop, an Apalachee Native American council house, a Spanish mission church, and numerous Spanish mission and native artifacts on display. Mission San Luis has a nature trail and lovely grounds to enjoy while birding or taking a walk with nature.

*Volunteers are needed to staff the Apalachee Audubon display table from 1 pm – 3 pm. Please call Pat Press or Carol Franchi at 850-539-5765, if you can help.*



**Mission San Luis Friary**

*Courtesy Mission San Luis, Florida Department of State*

Coming Activities at  
Mission San Luis



**Giving Thanks: 17th-Century Apalachee & Spanish Foodways Cooking Demonstrations**

**Saturday after Thanksgiving - November 29, 2014 from 10 am–4 pm**

Mission San Luis invites the public to experience demonstrations of traditional food preparation from the 17<sup>th</sup> century during Thanksgiving weekend at Mission San Luis. All cultures are grateful for a good harvest, and the Apalachee and Spanish residents of Mission San Luis were no exception. “Living History” interpreters in period dress bring the Mission’s unique culinary history to life, smoking meat and fish on the barbacoa and demonstrating the use of native and European plants from the Mission’s gardens and fields. Learn how people and foods from the New and Old Worlds came together to create a unique cuisine.

**4<sup>th</sup> Annual Winter Solstice Celebration**

**Sunday before the Solstice - December 14, 2014 from 10 am–8 pm**

**A day of American Indian culture, music, astronomy, and fun!**

Enjoy a different holiday tradition by observing the occasion of the “sun standing” at its southernmost position in the sky. This event is an ongoing recognition of American Indian heritage and culture and its importance to history. A complete story and understanding of the contributions of all the people—The Apalachee Indians and the Spanish settlers—who treasured Mission San Luis, immeasurably enriches this National Historic Landmark. While their lives were different than ours, we share the same sky with the Apalachee Indians and Spanish settlers who lived here more than three hundred years ago. Shop for fine crafts from local artisans, join a drum circle, listen to storytellers, view the heavens through powerful telescopes, and more! The Solstice Faire will be held from 10 am – 3 pm and there will be other activities throughout the day. Call 850-245-6406 for more information.

*Mission San Luis is a pet-friendly site, so bring your companions and enjoy the beautiful park setting and living history programs. Please join us for these & other events at Mission San Luis, 2100 West Tennessee Street, Tallahassee. The Mission with its historic village is open Tuesday through 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 and their families. See [www.missionsanluis.org](http://www.missionsanluis.org) for more.*



**Plantation Wildlife  
Arts Festival**

November 21-23, 2014  
Thomasville Center  
for the Arts

*One of America’s premier wildlife  
and sporting arts festivals*

Featuring 65 of the nation’s best wildlife and sporting artists. Painters, Sculptors, Carvers, Photographers, Jewelers, and Artisans will be exhibiting their work for show and sale at the Thomasville Center for the Arts this year. You can enjoy a weekend of festival activities for all ages with fascinating lectures, demonstrations and special events!

Please see [www.pwaf.org](http://www.pwaf.org) for up to date event schedule and ticket information.

229-226-0588

*Stop by the AAS display in the Wildlife Discovery Area*



**St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge**

1255 Lighthouse Road  
St. Marks, Florida 32355

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

A GREAT PLACE  
TO VISIT  
ALL YEAR LONG!



**Native  
Nurseries**

- WILD BIRD SHOP
- WILDLIFE GARDENING
- LANDSCAPE DESIGN



1661 Centerville Rd., Tallahassee, FL  
850-386-8882 [NativeNurseries.com](http://NativeNurseries.com)

## Wakulla Springs State Park



**Morning Nature Walk** - Date: Saturday, November 15<sup>th</sup> from 9:00-10:30 a.m. If timing, conditions, and watchful eyes are aligned, participants may spot a lingering native orchid---a Shadow Witch (*Ponthieva racemosa*) or a graceful yet diminutive Fragrant Ladies Tresses (*Spiranthes odorata*). Space is limited; to be part of Charlie's hour and a half long expedition, please call 850-561-7286 to make your reservation. The tour is free with paid park admittance. *(Please see page 11 for more information on the native orchids at Wakulla Springs State Park.)*



**Morning Bicycle Ride** – Date: Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup> from 10:30 a.m.- 12:30 p.m. For those park guests who would like to explore the park trail by bicycle, join Park Ranger Jonah Snelling on Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>. This ranger-led bicycle tour through Wakulla Springs' varying forest communities' climaxes at "Hidden Spring". The six-mile round trip journey will take participants through hardwood uplands, longleaf flatwoods, and cypress sloughs. Surrounded by nature, guests will make stops to investigate the connections between plants, fungi, wildlife, and human history. Participants will need to bring a bicycle with good suspension, water, snacks (i.e. fruit or granola), and a bicycle helmet. As space is limited, please call (850) 561-7286 to make your reservation.



**Morning Nature Walk** - Date: Saturday, December 27<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. -10:30 a.m. Join this ranger-led trek through Wakulla Springs' varying forest communities. Glean tidbits of park history and observe the nuances of nature with the aid of your guide. Fuel up with breakfast in the historic Wakulla Springs Lodge prior to the walk. There's no better time of year to enjoy the old-growth Southern hardwood forests of the park. Meet in the lobby of the lodge. Space is limited. Please call (850) 561-7286 to make your reservation.

Get connected to the outdoors. Come visit us at Wakulla Springs State Park, [www.floridastateparks.org/wakullasprings/](http://www.floridastateparks.org/wakullasprings/).

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

For more information, visit <http://www.floridastateparks.org/wakullasprings/>



### St. Francis Wildlife Association

St. Francis Wildlife was founded in 1978 and ever since has been contributing to the community as a wildlife rehabilitation and educational organization. To learn more: [www.stfranciswildlife.org](http://www.stfranciswildlife.org).

**St. Francis Wildlife**

**5580 Salem Road, Quincy, FL 32352**

**850 627-4151**

### **Audubon Originals on Display at FSU Museum of Fine Arts**

**530 W Call Street - 250 Fine Arts Building**

**Tallahassee, FL 32306-1140**

**Phone: (850) 644-6836**

The exhibit "Birds of the Enlightenment: Predecessors and Rivals of John James Audubon" will be on display at the FSU Museum of Fine Arts through Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup>. Three Audubon prints are on display in this beautiful show along with numerous prints, etchings, oils, watercolors and sketches done by Audubon's peers of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. The FSU MoFA's hours and other information can be found at [www.MoFA.fsu.edu](http://www.MoFA.fsu.edu).



### Birdsong Nature Center

**2106 Meridian Road**

**Thomasville, Georgia**

Wednesday, Friday & Saturday, 9 am-5 pm; Sunday, 1-5 pm

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

#### **EXPLORE BIRDSONG AT DUSK**

**Saturday, November 15**

**4:30 pm – 7:30 pm**

*Join Marvin Collins and Kathleen Brady for an evening walk at Birdsong.*

#### **AUTUMN MORNING TRAIL RIDE**

**Saturday, November 22**

**9:30 am - 11:30 am**

*Join Executive Director Kathleen Brady for a leisurely autumn morning trail ride.*

#### **TAKE A CHILD OUTSIDE FOR THE HOLIDAYS!**

**Saturday, December 6**

**9:30 am-11:30 am**

*Bring your favorite child to Birdsong and enjoy a morning in the woods with Sandra Sallee.*

#### **RESERVATIONS, PLEASE!**

*Call or email by noon on Friday preceding the event.*

*Space is limited and some fees apply.*

*For more information and a schedule of activities, please see [www.birdsongnaturecenter.org](http://www.birdsongnaturecenter.org) & Facebook*



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

*Birdsong will be closed December 24<sup>th</sup> through January 2<sup>nd</sup>*