

APALACHEE AUDUBON SOCIETY

Apalachee Audubon Society Mission Statement:

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

NEWSLETTER OF THE APALACHEE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2014



Speaker Series

Free and open to the public.

Social begins at 7 pm & 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.

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	

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Important Change!

Beginning this September the Speaker Series programs will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 2810 N. Meridian Rd., Tallahassee, Florida

September Program: Thursday, Sept. 25th

Lasagna Potluck Dinner & Hummingbird Program!

Please bring your favorite side or dessert and the Board will provide lasagna and tea
Dinner & Social at 6:30 p.m. with Program at 7 p.m.*

*Starts 1/2 hour early

The Big Things that Come in Small Packages – Hummingbird Banding in Tallahassee

Fred Dietrich

Hummer/Bird Study Group - Tallahassee, FL

Fred Dietrich has been helping to band hummingbirds in our area since 2001. It's difficult to distinguish some hummingbird species without holding the birds physically in hand. By marking these small jewels with uniquely numbered metal bands, Fred has helped to reveal important new information on their amazing migration routes and diversity, including the longest documented migration route of any hummingbird. Fred joined the *Hummer/Bird Study Group* banding crew in 2009 and completed his hummingbird bander training later that summer. He will discuss the change in the local hummingbird population that can be expected over the coming weeks and also present some of his stellar pictures of these marvelous birds.



Fred Dietrich & Friend

Thursday, October 23

Social at 7 pm with Program at 7:30 pm

Limpkins, Wetlands and Manatees, Oh My!

Dr. Seán McGlynn

McGlynn Laboratories, Inc., Tallahassee, FL

The Woodville Recharge Basin in southeastern Leon County feeds directly into one of our most cherished natural features: Wakulla Springs. Dr. McGlynn who has been assessing nutrient loading in this recharge area for years will present information on the changes



Dr. Seán McGlynn

Photo by Nick Baldwin

Continued on page 2

Apalachee Audubon Society, Inc.

2014 – 2015

Officers & Directors

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

President: Adrienne Ruhl	813 293-1081
Vice-President: Budd Titlow	320-6480
Secretary: Helen King	765-2488
Treasurer: Harvey Goldman	385-5222
Past-President: Seán McGlynn	570-1476
Directors:	
Nick Baldwin	877-0249
Kathleen Carr	322-7910
Jim Cox	942-2489
Carol Franchi	459-2066
Ben Fusaro	297-2052
Pat Press	539-5765

Parliamentarian: Ben Fusaro

AAS Logo Design: Charlotte Forehand

Newsletter Editor: Suzanna MacIntosh
Aasnewsletter2011-audubon@yahoo.com

Web Administrator: Kathleen Carr 322-7910

Apalachee Audubon Society, Inc.
P. O. Box 1237 - Tallahassee, FL. 32303

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

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

This newsletter is published
by the Apalachee Audubon Society, Inc.
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**You can join National Audubon Society for just \$20 a year
& receive a year's free membership in the
Apalachee Audubon Society and Audubon Florida!**

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

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

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

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

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

Continued from page 1

Limpkins, Wetlands and Manatees, Oh My! - Dr. Seán McGlynn

that have occurred both in the wildlife associated with the area and water chemistry. Dr. McGlynn served as President of Apalachee Audubon last year and has over 33 years of experience addressing a wide range of environmental issues. He began working on aquatic systems at LSU in the late 1970s and served as Director at FSU's Center for Aquatic Research and Resource Management. He has worked in most ecosystems from Florida to Texas, including Apalachee Bay, Amelia Estuary, Apalachicola Bay, Choctawhatchee Bay and Perdido Bay. McGlynn Laboratories, www.mcglynnlabs.com, offers a wide range of expertise in environmental clean-up and restoration and, most importantly, active environmental management so that restorations are not necessary. *Dr. McGlynn serves as Past-President on the Board of Apalachee Audubon; he also serves on the Board of Friends of Wakulla Springs and is President of the NW Florida Chapter of the Florida Lake Management Society.*

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

Education Committee Chairs

Carol Franchi & Pat Press

Field Trips

Helen King

Hospitality

Pam Flory & Elizabeth Platt

Membership

Kathleen Carr

Nominating Committee

Seán McGlynn

Program Committee

Jim Cox

Publicity

Kathleen Carr

St. Marks NWR Butterfly Pollinator Garden

Ann Bruce

Wildlife-Friendly Yards Tour Committee

Ann Bruce & Tammy Brown

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



"Our task must be to free ourselves by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature and its beauty." - Albert Einstein

Welcome!

By Adrienne Ruhl
Apalachee Audubon President



Adrienne Ruhl

Welcome! I am excited to announce that our chapter is celebrating its 50th Anniversary this year. I am honored to be working closely with so many dedicated and passionate people with Apalachee Audubon. I want to thank my predecessors including past presidents, board members and devoted chapter members who have come before me. Without their tireless work, celebrating this year would not be possible.

Inside this edition, you will find our slate of directors and committees. I would like to personally thank each of our committee chairs who have stepped up to lead the charge for projects this year. And because it is a big year, we have a special committee for this year only: newsletter editor Suzanna Macintosh and Karen Wensing are heading up the Anniversary Committee which will touch nearly everything the chapter does this year. We're collecting photos, old editions of the newsletter, newspaper articles and even your personal stories with Apalachee Audubon. If you have a piece of chapter history you would like to share, please contact them.

We are excited to see everyone again and will kick off our Fall programs with the traditional lasagna potluck dinner and a very special presentation by Fred Dietrich on hummingbirds on Thursday, September, 25th at 6:30 p.m. Please note our new location at the Unitarian Universalist church, 2810 N. Meridian Road in Tallahassee, Fl. Our committee members will also be on hand to talk about their work in the coming year. With such a large year ahead, we're delighted to have folks learn more and find out how you can participate. It is an excellent time to get involved.

We have a great slate of programs and activities planned. Keep an eye out in the newsletter, in your email inbox, and on our website as more information is posted. The strength in AAS is in the level of involvement of all of you. If you would like to get involved, have a talent or skill you would like to share, or just want to learn more please feel free to contact me or any board or committee member. Our website provides contact information for all of us so you may reach us easily. I look forward to seeing you at one of the many upcoming events this year. Come out and join us!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Adrienne Ruhl".

**Make it a Big Year for
Florida's Land, Water, and
Wildlife**

**Audubon Assembly 2014
Hutchinson Island, Florida
October 17-18**

Photo by Kim Seng

Audubon's Mission:

*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.*

Don't miss Florida's premiere conservation event!

***Make It a BIG YEAR for Florida's
Land, Water, and Wildlife***

Audubon Assembly 2014

October 17-18

Hutchinson Island, Florida

[Click here to reserve your tickets](#)

*To register by mail or by phone,
contact Jonathan Webber at 850-222-2473*

Hutchinson Island Marriott Beach Resort & Marina

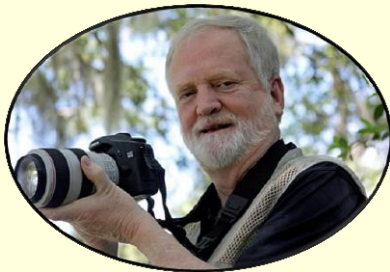
Please note: You must book your room by September 26th.

Group rate is \$119 a night.

Introducing Apalachee Audubon Society's 2014-2015 Officers & Board Members



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



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

surveys and led birding field trips on sites throughout the eastern United States. The Globe-Pequot Press recently published Budd's latest book, *Bird Brains: Inside the Strange Minds of Our Fine Feathered Friends*. He has authored two other natural history photo books: *Rocky Mountain National Park – Beyond Trail Ridge* and *Seashells – Jewels from the Ocean*. Budd is currently working as a Food Safety Consultant for local farmers while teaching birding/ecology courses at the Tallahassee Senior Center and Florida State University's Osher Lifelong Learning Center - OLLI. *The Tallahassee Democrat* is also featuring his birding photo-essays each week in their Friday *Home and Garden* section. Budd has a B.S., Biology, Florida State University, 1970 & M.S., Wildlife Ecology, Virginia Tech, 1973.



Helen Jelks King, Secretary – Helen moved to Tallahassee from the Sarasota area in October 2012. Helen led a weekly birding group in Sarasota for 5 years and she currently leads Apalachee Audubon birding trips twice a month where she has met fantastic people who are devoted birders with great knowledge of the area and the wildlife who are happy to share their knowledge with those new to birding. Please watch for birding trip announcements and join in when you can. Helen serves as Secretary of the Apalachee Audubon Society. Helen is also an optometrist, working at a practice in Monticello.



Harvey Goldman, Treasurer – Dr. Harvey Goldman retired from the FSU Physics Department in 2004. He has kept the Apalachee Audubon books straight and paid the bills for about 18 years. Every year he and 4 women regularly hit the road on Apalachee Audubon's Birdathon--as a team sometimes known as Harvey's Harriers.

Harvey enjoys spending time with his wife, Judy, and visiting his grandkids, hitting at tennis, and travel.



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

for TMDL sampling of surface waters for priority pollutants and various biological indices. With expertise in sampling, analysis, hydrographic modeling, dye studies, habitat assessment and restoration as well as database assessment, quality assurance and quality control and environmental resource permitting, McGlynn Laboratories offers a wide range of expertise in environmental clean-up and restoration and, most importantly, active environmental management so that restorations are not necessary. Dr. McGlynn serves on the Board of Friends of Wakulla Springs and is President of the NW Florida Chapter of the Florida Lake Management Society.



Nick Baldwin, Board Member – At the age of 12 Nick became a member of Illinois/Vermilion County Audubon (which his parents helped establish), almost 60 years ago. The son of world traveling, nature-cinematographer and naturalist parents, Nick had photographed in over 122 countries before the age of 19 and he remembers bird walks along the Jersey shore with R.T. Peterson and taking Peterson's and James Fisher's photos when they came to tour the Great Smoky Mountains with his father as their guide. Nick sold his first nature photos in 1959 which he had taken in 1956 in the Belgian Congo to Prentice-Hall. Nick has been a professional wedding/event photographer, www.nickbaldwinphotography.com, for over 40 years. His beautiful nature photographs are included in the chapter's new birding guide.

Nick is a dedicated founding member of St. Marks NWR "Refuge Ambassador," program and he watches and records Bald Eagles for Audubon EagleWatch and assists in the tracking/recording of migrating Loons. He is a Master Naturalist, and Certified Florida Green Guide. He also teaches Nature Photography at the Tallahassee Museum. He has traveled twice to Audubon's Hog Island, Maine to participate in workshops and plans to return there in 2015 as a volunteer. Nick Baldwin has resided in Tallahassee since 1967 with his wife, Lori. They have two children and three grandchildren.



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

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



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



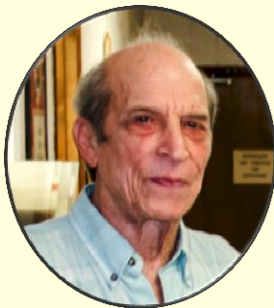
Carol Franchi, Board Member - I reside in Havana, Florida and share a house with my sister and my two nephews. I attended Florida State University and received my B.A. in French and Foreign Language Education in 1968, a Master's in 1970, and began work on my PhD while working as a teaching assistant in French. In 1967, I spent the summer taking classes at the University of Paris (Sorbonne). I began my teaching career at Thomasville High School in 1975. In 1980, I earned a PhD in French, a life-long dream. During this time I also taught at the Thomas College and at the Thomasville Scholars Academy. I retired in 2007 after a 33 year career as an educator but continued to teach part-time until 2010. I have traveled to many countries with my family and my students.

My travels have included England, France, Holland, Belgium, Switzerland, Italy, Canada, Mexico and the Bahamas. I have traveled to many states in the United States to enjoy the state, national and historical parks with my family. Since retiring I enjoy volunteering at the Thomasville Food Bank and with the Audubon Society. I also enjoy the fine arts, painting classes, reading, gardening, birding and retail therapy. I am greatly concerned about the degradation of the environment and want to do my small part to help preserve the species we have left.



Pat Press, Board Member – I arrived in Tallahassee as a wide-eyed freshman in 1966, during the middle of the famous 60's college experience. I received my B.A. in English/Humanities in 1971 from Florida State. After working for the State and FSU for 5 years I began my 37 year teaching career in Thomasville, Georgia, in 1975, the year I also married Edward Press, my college sweetheart. I went on to receive my M.S. in Reading from Florida State and later an Education Specialist Degree in Early Childhood Education from Georgia Southwestern State University in 2005. I also taught evening classes at Southwest Georgia Technical College for 10 years. I am now a widow and a retired teacher with two lovely Border Collies who keep my sister, Carol, my two sons, and me very

entertained. We live on a 30 acre forested ranch near Havana, FL and enjoy the wildlife in our neighborhood. I spend my time volunteering, taking art classes, reading, writing and traveling.



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

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

Apalachee Audubon 2013-2014 Year-End Report

By Dr. Seán McGlynn

2013-2014 President

Being president of our Apalachee Audubon Chapter (AAS) for the past year was an honor, a tribute and a distinction I will cherish for the rest of my days. I consider myself exceptionally lucky to have been given the chance to steer your AAS course through these turbulent waters. We did all right and I need to thank all those who helped, especially our trusty and distinguished Board for all their hard work. AAS has cause to celebrate. We actually made some money, starting out with \$11,618.64 and ending with \$14,574.44. This was accomplished as we donated to worthy causes and sent members to birding camps and information-gathering meetings, as well as developed and implemented numerous educational outreach projects protecting the environment through education, appreciation, and conservation.



Hog Island

Photo by Nick Baldwin

We charged up the batteries and revitalized environmental instincts among our Board Members who attended workshops at National Audubon's summer camp at Hog Island, Maine. Pat Press and Carol Franchi, Board members and retired educators, attended and learned lots of useful information to help throughout the year chairing the AAS Education Committee. Nick Baldwin took even more amazing photographs of puffins and other birds while Kathleen Carr, our webmaster, relived her childhood love of summer camp singing-a-long at the nightly bonfire. Our first Program Meeting of the year featured anecdotal accounts by our traveling board members as well as their photos and information. They spoke of the plight of the puffins, whose traditional food of hake and herring have moved due to climate change, and the efforts to save them. We sent an enterprising young birder who is a great teen scholar, enthusiastic young naturalist and local high school student, who won our essay contest to Camp Talon on Cumberland Island. We sent board members to the Audubon Assembly and Audubon Academy to represent AAS and bring back important information to share with members.

I would like to thank Jim Cox, the noted biologist from Tall Timbers Research Station & Land Conservancy (TTRS), for organizing an enlightened and enthralling program series this year. I will mention just a few of the outstanding presentations: "The Billion Dollar Industry Just North of Tallahassee", by Neil Fleckenstein, TTRS; "T. Herbert Stoddard: Founding Father of Ecosystem Management", by our own Jim Cox, TTRS; and "The Remarkable Life of a Dead Tree", by Jim A. Stevenson retired and legendary Chief Biologist for the Florida State Park System.

We thronged to Wakulla Springs State Park to welcome the Swifts back, at the "Swift Night Out" celebration, as almost 500 swifts descended into the lodge chimney, especially poignant since the Swifts were missing and absent the previous year (whereabouts unknown). We participated in the 114th annual Christmas Bird Count; members helped with Project FeederWatch and the Great Backyard Bird Count and our spring Birdathon. We worked throughout the year circulating petitions and disseminating information about the Florida Water and Land Legacy Campaign, a campaign to preserve water, land, and wildlife habitat. Apalachee Audubon donated endless volunteer hours helping them get on the ballot and pushing for a win in November for Amendment 1. We had educational festival booths at the 25th Annual St. Marks NWR Monarch Festival, Thomasville's Plantation Wildlife Arts Festival and the Wakulla Wildlife Festival.

We had a wonderful Wildlife-Friendly Yards Tour (Pam Flynn, founding chair, passed the torch at the end to a new generation after 7 great years as coordinator). Thanks to a great committee, member support and great hosts, as well as great local environmentally green wildlife-friendly yards, we collected \$1730. We had a successful Birdathon, a venerable event, thanks in great part to our distinguished longtime Birdathon Chair and Treasurer, Harvey Goldman and his lovely wife Judy and their great teams.



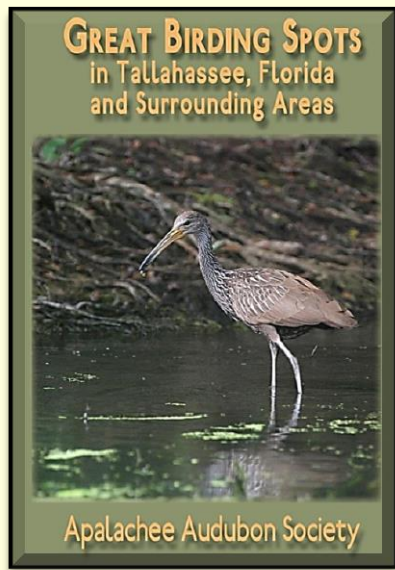
L to R: Board Members Pat Press, Carol Franchi, & President-Elect, Adrienne Ruhl at the Wakulla Wildlife Festival

Photo by Nick Baldwin

Continued on page 8

Thank you to all our members for your great support of this important annual fundraiser, a wonderful tribute to our 50th AAS anniversary, our Birdathon collected \$4,414.05 (all net!). Apalachee Audubon was also recognized by National Audubon for AAS's outstanding 2012-2013 efforts as one of the top 50 chapters across the nation supporting Audubon Adventures which Birdathon helps make possible. We celebrated Audubon Adventures 30th Anniversary with a donation of \$991.35 to this educational outreach program for schoolchildren, utilizing numerous volunteer hours to distribute the educational kits to local school teachers.

We did our best for ecological education in other ways too. We wrote a new edition of the Apalachee Audubon Birding Guide, *Great Birding Spots in Tallahassee, Florida and Surrounding Areas* and by the end of the year we sold 349 books, 70% of what we printed, for \$6,008.80. The initial cost was \$5,500 so we are in the black and we helped 349 birders to some really good birding spots.



In addition to our financial success and educational outreach we shared information in numerous ways about the beauty and importance of the natural resources and the work that Audubon and our many great partner organizations are doing to preserve these resources for our enjoyment and for the benefit of those coming after us. We initiated a project to collect and document the history of AAS, recovering historic documents and papers from our inception here in the Florida Panhandle to archive and share and to help with our 50th anniversary celebration.

I want to thank our members and partnering organizations for helping with our AAS newsletters with articles and photographs, especially our wonderful editor, Suzanna MacIntosh. And thanks to the many men and women who shared their time, talent, and information that filled the body of these newsletters with enlightening and educational articles and beautiful photographs. By working together we hope to support one another and provide an opportunity to share information about our common mission to protect, preserve and enjoy our natural resources with an expanded audience which ultimately helps us all. There are so many people who helped; it'd be hard to list them all individually.

We enjoyed a great end of the year Banquet with Guest Speaker Susan Cerulean, a gifted writer, as well as an advocate and lover of wild birds, whose talk "Can Sveit Save Us? Strengthening our Connections to our Place" refocused our attention and inspired us bringing us back to our roots and our sense of place. Thanks too to Chef Tim Smith and his great wife, Heather, for another delicious meal. We need to thank Nick Baldwin, not only a great photographer, but the Chair of our Awards Committee for composing heartwarming tributes with exquisite awards, including beautiful bird photographs notably individualized for each award. *(Please see page 9 for more on the Banquet and Annual Awards.)*

Most of all I want to thank all the members of AAS who made this a great year. As AAS celebrates its 50th season in the sun, we want to thank you all for supporting our mission "Protection of the environment through education, appreciation, and conservation." Thanks to our great AAS Board and membership for a successful year. I am looking forward to another great year in 2014-2015 with President Adrienne Ruhl and a great Board with a wonderful membership.

AAS 2013 – 2014 Officers & Directors

President: Seán McGlynn - **Vice-President:** Adrienne Ruhl

Secretary: Helen King - **Treasurer:** Harvey Goldman

Past-President: Kathleen Carr - **Directors:** Nick Baldwin,

Jim Cox, Carol Franchi, Ben Fusaro, Aubrey Heupel, Pat Press, Budd Titlow



Field Trip to Lost Creek Forest

AAS Field Trip Chair Helen King, 3rd from left

Photo by Beth Grant

Annual Banquet & Awards Dinner

Apalachee Audubon's Annual Banquet & Awards Dinner was held on May 15th at Lafayette Presbyterian Church. Susan Cerulean, writer and advocate and lover of wild birds, was this year's very special speaker and Susan spoke about 'sveit' and strengthening connections to our special 'place': to our time on earth, in history, to nature, to humanity and to one another.

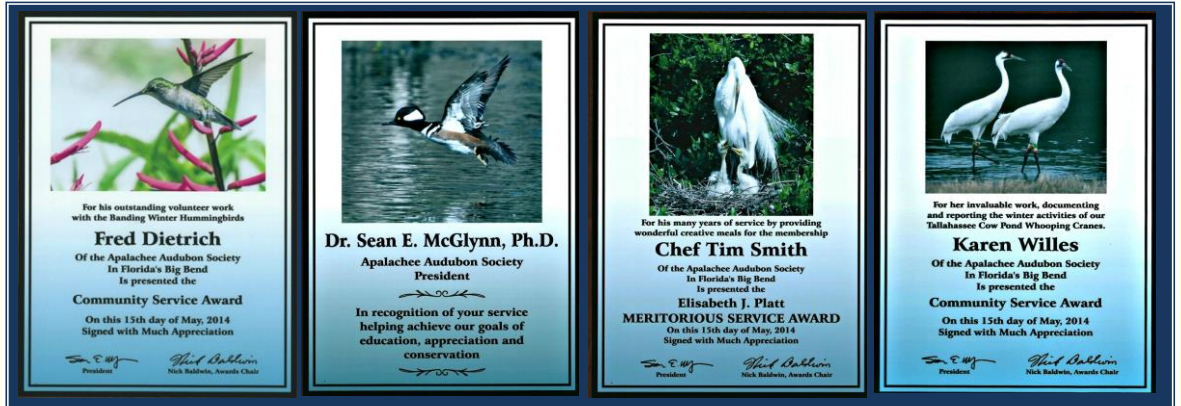
Thanks go to everyone who made this year's event a success. Chef Tim Smith and his wife, Heather, prepared a wonderful meal. This year's menu featured an Alfredo Pasta Bar and was it a hit! Thank you to Native Nurseries and Wild Birds Unlimited for helping with ticket sales, to everyone who bought a ticket, and to all the many behind the scenes volunteers who worked hard to make this a success. Special thanks go to AAS Board Member and Chair of the Awards Committee Nick Baldwin. Each of this year's beautiful award plaques was designed especially for the recipient and each featured one of Nick's very special photographs.



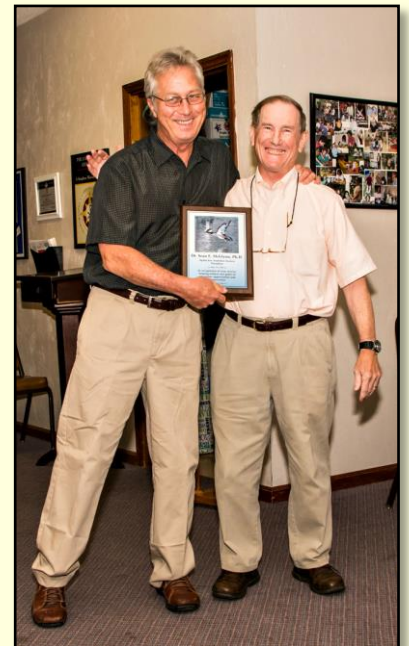
Susan Cerulean

Congratulations to this year's award recipients: Fred Dietrich, Dr. Seán McGlynn, Chef Tim Smith (and his wife, Heather), and Karen Willes. Thank you for all you do and for your many contributions to our special 'place'.

More Banquet photos, page 10.



Photos top, from left: Fred Dietrich, center, with Seán McGlynn & Nick Baldwin; Heather & Tim Smith; Seán McGlynn & Nick Baldwin



Below: Karen Willes center with Seán McGlynn & Nick Baldwin; Tim Smith, center standing, and from left Adrienne Ruhl, Elizabeth Platt, Ben Fusaro, Kathleen Carr, Dean and Sally Jue, standing, and Paul Rutkovsky



Annual Banquet & Awards Dinner Photographs

Continued from page 9



Photos top, from left: Alfredo Pasta Bar and Apalachee Audubon members and guests, Susan Cerulean far right with Jim Stevenson; Harvey Goldman, Adrienne Ruhl with Suzanna MacIntosh. Second row, from left: Susan Cerulean sharing handout with Board Member Ben Fusaro with Jody Walthall and guest, seated left; Adrienne Ruhl and Seán McGlynn, standing center with Dean Jue, right; Seán McGlynn and guests.

Camp Talon Teen Scholarship Winner

By Sarah E. Tharpe

Thank you again for selecting me to go to Camp TALON. I had an amazing time and learned so much. As soon as we got to camp, we quickly unpacked and began birding. From then on, we were immersed in bird identification, bird calls, bird habitats and talks from experts. We even got up before sunrise, so great was our dedication to the birds. One thing I learned about at camp that struck a particular chord is the importance of conservation. Many species of birds, as well as other organisms, are threatened by habitat loss and pollution. Camp TALON taught us (the campers) the simple joy of watching such complex creatures in their natural habitats. We visited many of these habitats, including: Jekyll Island, Little Saint Simons Island, Saint Simons Island, Sapelo Island, Okefenokee Swamp and a few other places. Thank you so much for giving me an opportunity to go to such a great camp.



Apalachee Audubon

Celebrating 50 Years of History

Fifty years ago the Apalachee Audubon Chapter was established in Tallahassee with a charter membership of twenty-six persons. The first President was Dr. Huey B. Long; Vice-Presidents, Mrs. A. D. Aldrich and O. Earle Frye; Secretary-Treasurer, William R. Kidd.

Lest we forget the great earlier AAS members and their outstanding efforts, we are compiling our chapter's history in celebration of our anniversary. *To do this the Anniversary Committee needs your help.* If you have memories, photographs or newspaper clippings you could share, please let us know at Asnewsletter2011-audubon@yahoo.com. Thank you for helping with this important task!

Suzanna MacIntosh and Karen Wensing

Wild Birds Unlimited



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

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In The Yard

by Fran Rutkovsky

For a couple of weeks recently I went almost daily to our former residence (now a rental) near the Florida State University campus to get the house ready for new tenants. We first rented the house ourselves in the summer of 1982, then bought it from the owners. Around 1984 I put the first birdbath in the backyard and gradually added birdfeeders. At the time this was a quiet woodsy area, before all the overdevelopment of student apartment buildings. I kept my binoculars and my Peterson bird guide near a window and tried to figure out what the birds were. I worked in my home studio and took breaks to see what birds were in the yard.



Ironweed

Photo by Fran Rutkovsky

One of my favorite yard birds there was the Gray Catbird, an uncommon nester in Leon County. It arrived in spring and nested somewhere nearby. I enjoyed the funny rambling song that could be heard in summer from morning to night. One day recently when I was working at that house, I was happy to hear a Catbird singing from a tree. Another day I looked out and saw three Robins in the front yard hanging out with a Brown Thrasher. And on another day I'm pretty sure I saw a Cerulean warbler at the birdbath. I didn't have binoculars with me at the time, but you can be sure I took them after that. I spent many years looking out that same window with binoculars, so I have no excuse for not being prepared for anything that could have shown up.

When we lived there a neighbor down the street did volunteer work for St. Francis Wildlife. Among the rescue animals she cared for were baby birds in summer, and when they fledged, they made a bee-line to my yard. One day I looked out the window and saw a peacock hanging around the feeding area. We never did find out where it came from or where it went. We moved away from that house 18 years ago to our current location, which has turned out to be a fine birding area. Our former yard has had a birdbath in the backyard for 30 years. If I had only known then what I know now about birds and "birdscaping" a yard, I wonder what else I would have seen there?

Fall migration is underway. I'll be spending more time looking out the windows and peering up into the trees from our deck, getting "warbler neck" as I watch for glimpses of migrants. As bird banders, Fred Bassett and Fred Dietrich, would say, "sort through" the hummingbirds that are coming through and watch for anything "different". Outside my kitchen window is a mini-jungle of Passionvine, Ironweed, Pokeweed and other plants. This area stays active all day long with hummingbirds, butterflies, pollinators, and various birds. Keep your birdbaths clean and filled, and always have your binoculars handy!



Gray Catbird

Photo by Brenda Scott



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Wood Thrush - Nature's Flutes

By Budd Titlow



Many years ago, I was walking through a lovely old-growth stand of northern hardwoods on a glacial moraine hillside in northeastern Connecticut, conducting a bird survey for a proposed residential subdivision. With each step, my mind slipped deeper into despair over sacrificing this beautiful woodland habitat for human housing.

Suddenly, my senses were filled by the most beautiful sound I had ever heard in the field. The lilting notes of a flute—eh-oh-lay, oh-lay-eeee—came wafting ethereally through the misty shafts of sunlight and shadow. I was listening to the wonderfully mellifluous tones of my first Wood Thrush—eh-oh-lay, oh-lay-eeee—first rising then falling in pitch every five seconds!

Cornell Lab of Ornithology's "All About Birds" website describes the wood thrush as, "... a consummate songster ... (that) can sing internal duets with itself. In the final trilling phrase of its three-part song, it sings pairs of notes simultaneously, one in each branch of its y-shaped syrinx, or voicebox. The two parts harmonize with each other to produce a haunting, ventriloquial sound."



Taking a break from scouring the leaf litter for food, this wood thrush is bathing in a cool rivulet at the Birdsong Nature Center located just north of Tallahassee.

Photo by Budd Titlow

The Wood Thrush is a distinctly North American songbird, about the same size as a robin to which it is closely related. Like so many of our other songbird species, adult Wood Thrushes spend their winters in the Neotropical hardwood forests of Mexico and Central America. They then fly long distances back to the eastern US to nest and serenade us throughout the spring and summer.

Living in solitude except during the nesting season, Wood Thrushes spend the majority of their time serendipitously scrabbling through leaf litter in their tightly forested homes. Moving slowly along, they abruptly bob upright every now and then holding a juicy caterpillar, beetle, millipede, snail, or small salamander which they gobble down before resuming their leafy searching.

Because of its uniquely beautiful voice and exclusive preference for old-growth woodlands, the Wood Thrush has become a "poster child" for the far-reaching impacts of deforestation and forest fragmentation in both its over-wintering and nesting habitats. In fact, Wood Thrush populations have declined almost 50 percent since 1966. "Forest fragmentation" is a fancy term for clear-cutting bold swaths through what had been virgin or old-growth timberland.

Fragmentation severely affects wildlife in several ways. First, it wipes out large areas of habitat that were formerly available to naturally-occurring forest wildlife communities. Next it cuts off traditional migratory pathways, permanently eliminating wildlife access to feeding, escape, and breeding cover.

For songbirds—like the Wood Thrush—clear-cutting also creates "edge habitat," allowing invasive nest parasites like the Brown-headed Cowbird to gain a foothold. Unfortunately, Wood Thrushes readily accept and raise cowbird eggs, which severely reduces their success at reproducing their own young. Fortunately, the fragmentation issue is now being addressed in many forest management plans which call for selective cutting of mature trees instead of wholesale clear-cutting.

This is good news for birders, biologists, and outdoor lovers everywhere. Now there is hope that we can always count on the spring thrill of hearing the fluting virtuosity of the Wood Thrush, the James Galway of our deep eastern forests. We are fortunate here in north Florida to have Wood Thrushes around from April through October, since they typically don't show up anywhere else south of the panhandle.

To learn more about Wood Thrush conservation, see: <http://birds.audubon.org/woodthrush-conservation>.

HAVE FUN & Help Citizen Science

By Bonnie Samuelsen



Courtesy of Daniel S. Kilby

AMAZING state, national and international little travelers are flying through our state! They are on migration and heading to their wintering grounds! There are Piping Plovers, Red Knots, and Snowy Plovers to name a few. We invite you to join us for a walk and ask your help in gathering band resight information to help biologists. Resights help gather valuable information. Some examples: Migration = Did this bird come from Brazil and was then seen in Canada? Did you help document that a Wilson's Plover left Florida and is now in Costa Rica? Habitat Use = why are these birds feeding on Florida's shores for so long? Longevity = Did you know a black skimmer was resighted that is 17 years old!? Band resights are an important component of conservation efforts. Become a part of it!

Be forewarned!! While it takes some patience and perseverance while learning to read these unique colored bands, you may ultimately become hooked!

JOIN US FOR A GUIDED WALK

Join us for a coastal shorebird walk! Contact: Bonnie Samuelsen, Audubon Florida's Coastal Bird Stewardship Coordinator at bsamuelsen@audubon.org.

Audubon Florida, Florida Park Service, FWC and partners are all involved in these state wide efforts. Some of us will be conducting migratory shorebird walks across the Panhandle. Some walks we will be conducting official non-breeding bird surveys; some walks will be casual in nature to see what we can find. ALL walks will be documenting band resight information if found! We hope you will join us not only on one of our walks, but in helping gather banded bird information. Every time you are out exploring Florida's beautiful coastal areas, please take a moment to gather this valuable shorebird data.



Piping Plover with unique colored bands Photo by Julie Merritt

Document Your Banding Resights

You Can Help!

If you observe a banded bird:

1. Note the date, time and location. (with GPS if possible)
2. Note the species
3. Note which leg or legs have bands on them.
4. Note the band colors and top to bottom order of color-banded birds
5. Upper Left // Lower Left : Upper Right // Lower Right
6. If the band or flag has an alphanumeric code, note the code.
7. Take photos to verify species and bands if you are able to without disturbing birds.

HAVE FUN!

Additional links:

Report Band Resights: <http://fl.audubon.org/banded-birds>

Additional information: www.bandedbirds.org

FB page: Florida Banded Bird Resightings

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/534138593343790/>

Audubon Florida You Tube video on banded birds

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qNKkktC8x9s>

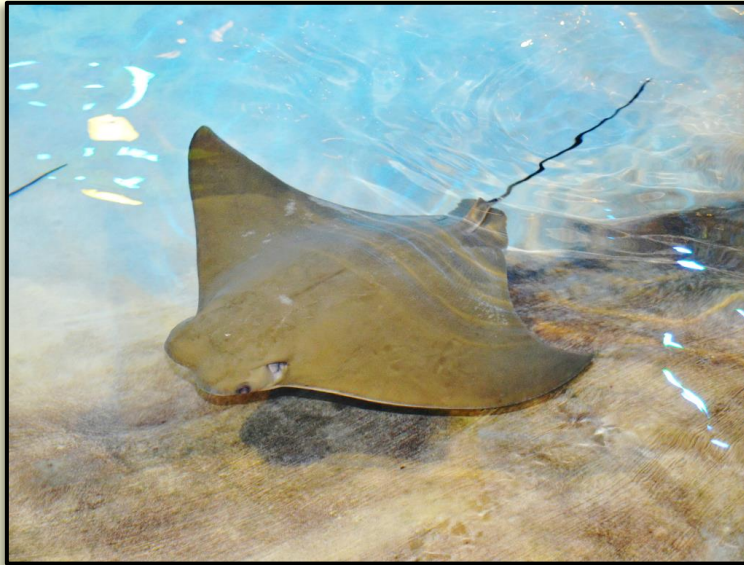
Mass Migration of Cownose Rays

By Tom Harrah

Gulf Specimen Marine Laboratories and Aquarium at Panacea



Cownose rays are a species of eagle ray commonly found in the Gulf of Mexico. They can grow up to 48 inches wide from wing tip to wing tip. They are thought to live 13 to 18 years and are found in waters up to 72 feet deep. Cownose rays feed on oysters, clams, snails and crabs. These graceful creatures glide through the water by flapping their wings like a bird flying through the sky.



Cownose Ray


Photo courtesy of Gulf Specimen Marine Lab

Recently the staff at Gulf Specimen Marine Lab and Aquarium (GSML) while out on a collection trip, were lucky enough to witness one of the mass migrations of cownose rays. On our way back in from a dive we came upon a huge school of rays. Thousands of these rays were swimming together. Spaced out uniformly every few feet were rays as far as we could see, swimming in unison.

We stopped the boat, shut off the engines and everyone on board fell silent for a moment as we watched. It was a beautiful fall day, the temperature around 75 degrees, the sky picturesque and the surface of the water like glass.

The rays passed by the boat in what seemed like an endless procession, each with a wing span of around 3 feet. It was a humbling sight that gives a person respect for Mother Nature and the ocean. Seeing one of these migrations is an experience you will remember forever.

Cownose rays are social creatures known to migrate in schools of up to 10,000. In the late spring the rays migrate northward and migrate southward in the late fall. Scientists believe that changes in temperature coupled with the sun's orientation may trigger the seasonal migrations. It is also suggested that the southward migration may be influenced by solar orientation while the northward migration may be influenced by water temperatures cooling below 22 degrees Celsius. The cownose ray population is currently listed as near threatened. Some believe that the population is growing but because they reproduce slowly it is hard for their population to recover from threats.

If you would like to see a video of the mass migration we observed, please look for the post on our Facebook page. 

Aquarist, Collector, Sea Mobile Manager, Volunteer and Internist Coordinator Tom Harrah is also a biologist and educator. Gulf Specimen Marine Laboratories and Aquarium at Panacea is open Monday through Friday from 9 am - 5 pm, on Saturdays from 10 am - 4 pm and Sundays from 1 - 5 pm. Closed some holidays. For more information and directions, please see www.gulfspecimen.org.



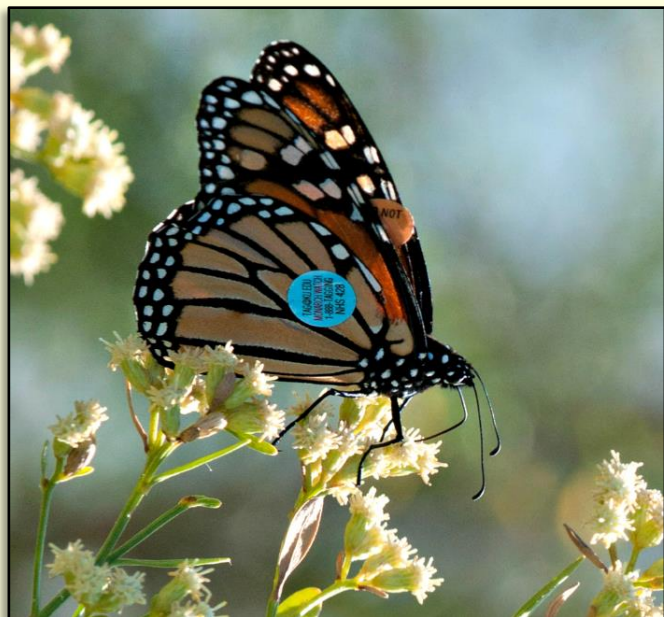
Cownose Ray School

Photo courtesy of Gulf Specimen Marine Lab

St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge

Monarch Butterfly Update 2014

By Robin Will



Monarch Butterfly with tags

Photo by Nick Baldwin

Monarch butterfly populations have been declining for the last 10 years, leading to a strong effort to restore monarch butterfly habitat and increase native milkweed plantings (the monarch's host plant). MonarchWatch, the program at the University of Kansas that tracks monarch population changes and tagging programs, strongly encourages long-time taggers to keep it up. This is the key way to monitor numbers and track shifts in the origins of monarchs that reach Mexico. According to Dr. Chip Taylor of MonarchWatch, the totals tagged each year roughly parallel the numbers recorded in Mexico each winter, giving an independent assessment of the numbers in the migration. Regional tagging success also helps demonstrate how monarchs respond to the physical conditions and quality of the habitats in these areas. Dr. Taylor goes on record that there will be a "modest increase" in the monarch migration this year. This seems to be supported by the better numbers of monarchs surveyed during the 4th of July North American Butterfly Association counts. For more information: www.monarchwatch.org.

How You Can Help – Start a Butterfly Garden!

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



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

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

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

The Florida Native Plant Society has a comprehensive list of host and nectar plants available to help you select plants for your garden conditions at <http://www.fnps.org/plants/butterflies>. The Florida Museum of Natural History provides information and brochures for download at <https://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/wildflower/books.asp> to help with the identification of common Florida butterflies and wildflowers and links to additional resources. Please visit the St. Marks NWR Butterfly Pollinator Gardens at the Picnic Pond area during the 26th annual Monarch Butterfly Festival on Saturday, Oct. 25th. Apalachee Audubon volunteers will be on hand and there will be butterfly gardening tips, demonstrations, and copies available of the publication "Fluttering through Gardening, Creating a Butterfly Habitat".

St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge



Presents the 26th Annual
Monarch Butterfly Festival

Saturday, October 25, 2014

10am to 4pm

www.fws.gov/refuge/st_marks/



Photo by Nick Baldwin

St. Marks NWR Butterfly Pollinator Garden

By Ann Bruce

Apalachee Audubon's Butterfly Pollinator Garden, located at Picnic Pond on Lighthouse Road, was initiated in October, 2009 with the purpose of providing enjoyment for the public and an opportunity for people to learn about the importance of native plants and pollinators. Please stop by and enjoy the garden.

A Day at St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge

By Nick Baldwin

There is always something to see at St. Marks NWR. The burn earlier in the year at St. Marks plays an important part along with the later flooding in reestablishing food and habitat for our wonderful Fall migrants. St. Marks NWR is noted for the stopover and/or over-wintering of dozens (maybe even as many as 4-5 dozen) northern species that many people would otherwise never see. And often a rarity that no one here has ever seen around. Some of these photos were taken on a cloudy bright day with a light shower just past.

The series show the weather maker coming in rapidly from the west-looking north, while out to sea it's other half was evident, looking south. The Lighthouse has seen them all, just come and go and still stands, a token of man's impermanence-trying to endure.



Nick Baldwin is a founding member of St. Marks NWR "Refuge Ambassador," program and an AAS Board Member.

http://www.fws.gov/refuge/St_Marks/seasons_of_wildlife/index.html

Farewell Summer, Hello Fall

By Eleanor Dietrich



Sometimes we think of Spring as having the showiest wildflower display, but I think this time of year wins that title. Somehow nature has worked this out. Pollinators are abundant, gathering their provisions before cold weather comes. The Fall wildflowers are taller too, having had the whole summer to grow.

One of the abundant late Summer – early Fall wildflowers is Blazing Star, or another common name for it is Gayfeather. The genus is *Liatris* and there are 19 documented species in Florida. It is in the composite family, and each group of flowers is made up of many individual flowers that are tubular in shape. The flower stems of this plant can be quite tall and it often grows in colonies so you can see the beautiful lavender color waving in the wind. The flowers on the long stalk begin opening at the top, and then continue down over time, giving it a long bloom season. It is a favorite of butterflies. Many nurseries that carry native plants have this for sale, so you can also have it in your garden.



Dotted Horsemint or Spotted Beebalm (*Monarda punctata*) is in the Mint Family and all parts of the plant are aromatic. What makes this plant showy are the pink bracts (a leaf-like structure right under the flowers). The actual flowers are yellow with purple spots, or dots, on them, which give the flower its name. The flowers have two lips, the upper one being longer and the lower one being lobed. It grows to three or so feet tall, often in open, dry, and sandy areas including roadsides. It seeds easily, resulting in large groups of these plants. It is said that American Indians used a leaf tea of this plant to treat flu, colds, fevers, and coughs; and medical doctors once prescribed it to treat digestive disorders.

Narrowleaf Sunflower (*Helianthus angustifolius*) may be the queen of Fall wildflowers. The flowers are large, the plants are tall, and colonies of them may fill the damp roadside areas. These flowers are available at nurseries that sell native plants, and if you want to include them in your garden, give them plenty of room to spread. This flower can be identified by the combination of the dark center and the very narrow and stiff leaves all down the flower stalk. It is a composite; what look like yellow petals are actually individual ray flowers, and the center is also composed of individual tubular disk flowers.

Photos by Eleanor Dietrich, from top: **Blazing Star** (*Liatris*), **Spotted Beebalm** (*Monarda punctata*), **Narrowleaf Sunflower** (*Helianthus angustifolius*)



These flowers are quite common and you will be able to see them in a variety of places. The Apalachicola National Forest is a wonderful location to see them in abundance. Fall is a perfect time to enjoy a day trip along State Road 65. You can stop and enjoy shopping and lunch along the way. To help plan your trip, see www.flawildflowertrips.org. To see more Fall wildflowers, you can visit www.flickr.com/photos/wildflowersflorida/sets and then click on the “Fall on SR 65” album.

Eleanor Dietrich is a Past President of the Magnolia Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society, www.magnolia.fnpschapters.org, and currently serves as Florida Wildflower Foundation FDOT/Panhandle Alliance liaison, www.flawildflowers.org.



*Adrienne Ruhl with Mississippi Kite just before release
Photo by Kathleen Carr*

Audubon Florida Releases Mississippi Kites in Tallahassee By Adrienne Ruhl

On Saturday August 16, 2014, three juvenile Mississippi Kites were released at the Apalachee Regional Park near Tallahassee, Florida after being rehabilitated at Audubon Center for Birds of Prey in Maitland, Florida, <http://fl.audubon.org/audubon-center-birds-prey>. They were brought to Tallahassee because many Mississippi Kites are staging in the area for their fall migration. Audubon Florida's Director of Wildlife Conservation Julie Wraithmell coordinated the release along with Audubon Center for Birds of Prey rehabilitator Dianna Flynt, who transported the birds from Maitland.

Over twenty-five people and children gathered in an open field at the park for the release. Dragonflies, a food source for the kites, buzzed in the fields and the children chased them and each other while waiting for the birds to be brought out.

The kites were released by Apalachee Audubon Society President Adrienne Ruhl, Audubon Florida Board member George Wilson, and Audubon Shorebird Stewarding volunteer Karen Berkley. AAS Board member Nick Baldwin and past president Kathleen Carr took pictures and [video](#) of the release. Visit www.apalachee.org for more.



Courtesy International Crane Foundation, www.savingcranes.org

Fall 2014 Whooping Crane Update By Kathleen Carr

Cow Pond Whoopers: #15-09 and #11-09 spent their third winter (2013-14) in Tallahassee, roosting most nights at their favorite cow pond. They were seen dancing on March 7 and were gone the next day. They were confirmed back at Necedah NWR on April 1 and soon were nesting. The pair hatched chick W8-14 in May! The status was uncertain as of the May 29 aerial survey flight, as the pair and their chick could not be located. (Neither adult has a working transmitter.)

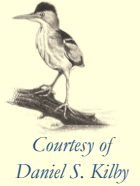
A total of 13 chicks hatched to wild pairs in Wisconsin this summer. Only one, W3-14, is still known to be alive and was confirmed to have successfully fledged on August 13! Of the 16 chicks hatched in captivity, 7 are currently in training with Operation Migration, 4 have been sent to Louisiana to be released in the non-migratory Whooping Crane population at the White Lake Wetlands Conservation Area, and 5 parent-reared chicks will be released this fall near a wild crane pair without chicks, in hopes the pair will adopt the chick and lead it on migration. This is the second year for this part of the Whooping Crane reintroduction program.

Thanks to Operation Migration, www.operationmigration.org, and to Journey North, <http://www.learner.org/jnorth/crane/> for this information. Please see their websites for more information in the weeks to come.

	<p>Martha Died September 1, 1914 Last of Her Species Passenger Pigeon Extinct</p> <p><i>Photo courtesy of Smithsonian Institute, www.si.edu</i></p>	<p>Passenger Pigeons</p> <p>It is believed that there were 3 to 5 billion Passenger Pigeons here when the Europeans discovered North America. Once they constituted between 25 and 40 percent of the bird population of the United States.</p> <p>For more information, please see: http://www.si.edu/encyclopedia/Si/nmnh/passpiq.htm</p>
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Wakulla County's Natural Treasure

By Jim A. Stevenson



Jim A. Stevenson

Those who appreciate and support Wakulla Springs State Park are striving to maintain its health for the children of today and generations to come. Some Florida springs have become too polluted for swimming and other springs no longer flow because officials have ignored science and continue to make wrong decisions. Local communities have lost the economic, recreational and natural values of their springs. An economic study by FSU found that Wakulla Spring State Park generates \$22 million annually for the local economy. Our "Capital Spring" is an international tourist destination and visitation has been as much as 200,000 per year.

The volunteer guardians of Wakulla Spring have accomplished more to protect our spring than has been accomplished for any other Florida spring. Some voices are quick to place blame for the recent decision to stop an ill-conceived project proposed by the TCC Wakulla Environmental Institute. This project would have:

1. "Taken" 2,000 acres of the state park that has been managed by experienced park service land managers for 14 years.
2. Developed an unneeded RV campground even though two public, underutilized campgrounds are just 20 minutes away.
3. Risked contamination of Wakulla Spring from an extensive sewer system which would have negated the reason the Governor and Cabinet approved the acquisition of this property which cost over \$5 million to protect the caves and water flowing to the spring.

The WEI desire for this proposed project can easily be met by establishing "cooperative agreements" with the national forest, the national wildlife refuge, the state forest, the county park and two state parks all of which are in Wakulla County. Experienced rangers and resource managers can teach restoration and campground management to students while performing their daily work.

An unanswered question is will there be students for such a program if there are no jobs? Lake City Community College dropped their Park Technology Program in 1985 because of a lack of students. State jobs have been eliminated in recent years. There are commonly over 100 applicants for a state park ranger position and many of the applicants have four year degrees.

We all hope the Wakulla Environmental Institute evolves into a premier educational center and we commend those who opposed this inappropriate venture before serious mistakes were made and millions of public dollars wasted. Florida's state parks are valuable and deserve the highest level of protection. They are not surplus land for the taking.

The Florida Springs Institute, www.floridaspringsinstitute.org, has just published a comprehensive plan for the restoration of Wakulla Springs; you can read it [here](#).

Jim A. Stevenson served as Chief Biologist for the Florida State Park System for 20 years. He was Chairman of the Florida Springs Task Force that developed a protection strategy for Florida's springs and he was Director of the Governor's Florida Springs Protection Initiative that implements springs protection projects. Jim coordinated the Wakulla Spring Basin and the Ichetucknee Springs Basin Working Groups for 18 years. He serves on the boards of the Wakulla Springs Alliance and the Florida Springs Institute.

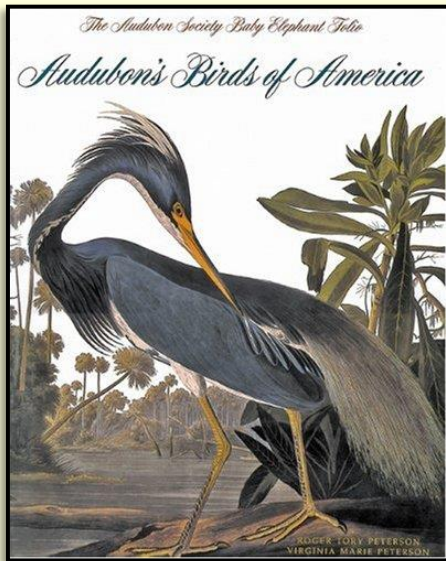
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"Never, never, never give up."

- Winston Churchill



**In Praise of the Past:
A Book Review of *Birds of America*
By Pat Press**

Sometimes we birders and nature lovers get supremely caught up in the present and all its trimmings and forget to look back at our past, our roots, and our connections to them. This summer we were installing new carpet which meant moving all the books out of our bookcases and back in again. In the process I pulled out John James Audubon's *Birds of America*, a limited edition from 1997. I was immediately drawn into his fantastic watercolor paintings and wonderful commentaries. I felt transported back to the past with every page turning. His detailed depictions of beautifully positioned birds in their glorious plumage set in their natural habitats were stunning. The birds seemed to fly off the page.

I loved reading the notes attached in his unique Victorian tone and passionate observation. Here is what he wrote about the Scarlet Tanager: "The migrations of this species take place at night. Its flight on ordinary occasions is even and swift, and it passes through the woods in a gliding manner, when the glowing contours of the males render themselves as conspicuous as pleasing to the sight. On the branches their movements are rather sedate, and it is seldom that they emit their musical notes when in motion. These are by no means musical, although oft repeated. They have well been imitated by Wilson, who represents them by the syllables 'chip, churr.'" Just thumbing through this fantastic book reminded why I love being a part of the Audubon Society.

Pat Press serves on the Board of Directors of the Apalachee Audubon Society along with her sister, Carol Franchi. Together they co-chair the Education Committee.

Editor's Note: National Audubon provides John James Audubon's work online at http://web4.audubon.org/bird/BoA/BOA_index.html and the University of Pittsburgh has a copy of Audubon's complete double elephant folio set of Birds of America, accompanied by his Ornithological Biography, available at <http://digital.library.pitt.edu/a/audubon/>.



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

Saturday, February 14th, 2015 from 10am – 4pm
By Ann Bruce



2014 Yards Tour
Photo by Glenda Simmons

Another great Apalachee Audubon Wildlife-Friendly Yards Tour is on its way!

Learn how to make your yard more attractive to birds and other wildlife. While viewing beautiful migrating birds, you will discover the bones of the winter garden that keep birds visiting throughout the year.

At our September 25th program meeting, there will be a volunteer sign-up sheet in case you want to help in carrying out this year's tour. We hope you will join us--it is so much fun and we learn so much each year about the great landscaping ideas that make our hosts yards "wildlife-friendly". Newcomers are welcome as volunteers! You **don't** have to be an expert to help!

For more information contact either:

Ann Bruce, annbruce7@gmail.com, OR Tammy Brown, tcbrown798@aol.com

Some Fall Birding Field Trips and Activities

A Birding Field Trip with Helen King

Come bird with us when you can! Happy Birding!

Helen plans two field trips per month, one on a weekday and one on a weekend to give everyone a chance to join in. Helen tries to plan one trip that is local in the Tallahassee area and one trip out of town each month. Some field trips may have particular interests such as bicycling, kayaking, or youth oriented. For notification of coming field trips, please subscribe to Apalachee Audubon's Google Groups email notification list available at www.apalachee.org. Birding reports are recorded at eBird and with Apalachee Audubon.



Tricolored Heron
Courtesy Daniel S. Kilby

Saturday, Sept. 6th: Wakulla Springs State Park

Prior to the annual Swift Night Out, which occurs at 7:30 pm at the Lodge, we will take a walk around the property. Meet at 5:30 pm at the Wakulla Lodge parking lot. No need to confirm; just show up.

(See notice below)



Wakulla Springs State Park

Swift Night Out at Wakulla Springs - Date: Saturday, September 6 from 7:30 -8:30 pm*

Free with Park Admission *(Meet at the Entrance to the Lodge)* (*See Field Trip notice above)

Description: During *Swift Night Out* people all over the country stand beneath chimneys to watch and count Chimney Swifts enter their roost. The Lodge at Wakulla Springs has a large flock that roosts in one of its inactive chimneys. Come witness the “flying cigar” shaped birds perform their swirling aerial dance prior to their descent into the chimney. Be part of a nationwide program to estimate their numbers. Enjoy this unusual ranger-led program to see firsthand one of nature’s amazing spectacles. Please call (850) 561-7286 to let the Park know you are planning to attend. For directions and more information, <http://www.floridastateparks.org/wakullasprings/events.cfm?viewevent=12158#12158>

To learn more about Swift Night Out, a nationwide event, please see: www.chimneyswifts.org.



2013 Swift Night Out
Photo courtesy of Clifford Nabsar

Morning Nature Walk - Dates: Saturday, September 20 from 9:00-10:30am

Free with Park Admission *(Meet in the Lodge Lobby)*

Description: Wakulla Springs State Park will host a ranger-led early morning trek through its varying forest communities. Be on the alert for fall-blooming ground orchids and beech drops. For those early rising guests in the magnificent Wakulla Springs Lodge, those wishing to burn a few calories after or in preparation for breakfast in the dining room, or for those who are simply curious, this walk through the woods in the early morning light may hold a surprise or two. The tour is free with paid park admittance. Please call (850) 561-7286 to make your reservation



Medicinal Plant Walk - Date: Saturday, October 11 from 9:00am – 10:00am

Free with Park Admission. *(Meet in the Lodge Lobby)*

Description: Take a guided walk into the woods of Wakulla Springs State Park to discover plants with healing properties. Plants will be identified and the past and present uses discussed. Meet in the lobby of the Wakulla Springs Lodge. Enjoy breakfast before or lunch afterwards at the historic Wakulla Springs Lodge. Restaurant reservations are suggested. Call (850) 561-7286 to sign up for the walk. Call (850) 421-2000 for breakfast or lunch reservations.

Creature from the Blues Lagoon Dates: Saturday, October 25 from 5:30-10:30pm - *Meet in the Picnic Area*

Tickets prior to October 25, 2014 are \$12 per person (available online under 'Events/Projects' at www.wakullasprings.org)

Tickets Day of Event \$15 at Park Entrance Station

Description: Wakulla Springs State Park and the Friends of Wakulla Springs State Park proudly present the local blues sound of the Jamie Eubanks Band, the tour-de-force presentation of the Jeff Jensen Band out of Memphis, Tennessee, and the locally familiar ACME Rhythm and Blues Band. All of the bands will deliver a fresh dose of enthusiasm to a receptive audience under the stars. Who knows, the Creature from the Black Lagoon may be among those jammin'. Food and libations will be available for purchase. Bring lawn chairs or a blanket as you settle back and relax to fine music far away from the big city.

Tickets prior to October 25, 2014 are \$12 per person and can be purchased online at www.wakullasprings.org.

Tickets may be purchased on October 25 at the Wakulla Springs State Park entrance station at a cost of \$15 per person.



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

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

Some Fall Activities with our Friends!

Save the Date


Big Bend Environmental Forum: Thursday, Oct. 9th 5:30 – 9 p.m.
Wildlife-Friendly Yards Tour: February 14, 2015

More information to follow

Lost Creek Forest

By Beth Grant



Many interesting activities are planned for this Fall at Lost Creek Forest, an old growth hardwood slope forest and wetlands in Thomas County near Thomasville. Joe Burnam, who teaches Land, Forest and Wildlife Management at Southwest Georgia Technical College, will conduct a program on primitive skills. He makes bows, arrows, cordage and other items from forest plants. There may be a poetry reading with the Thomas University poetry club and a scavenger hunt is in the works for children/families. You can hike in the wetlands and the forest and there will be a program on natural history on Nov. 8th by Will Sheftall, Leon County Extension Agent. Apalachee Audubon will have another birding field trip to the forest. As events are scheduled for this very special place, they'll be posted on www.lostcreekforest.eventbrite.com & Facebook. 



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.

St. Francis Wildlife

5580 Salem Road, Quincy, FL 32352

850 627-4151



Bok Tower Gardens
1151 Tower Blvd, Lake Wales, FL 33853

[Click here to learn more.](#)



St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge Presents the 26th Annual Monarch Butterfly Festival

Saturday, October 25, 2014 – 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Fall is in the air and so are the migrating monarch butterflies, making their 2,000 mile trip from the northern American boundary to the mountains of central Mexico.

Visitors will be able to watch the tagging process at our 26th annual Monarch Butterfly Festival on Saturday, Oct. 25, 2014, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. The event is filled with the wonder of folks of all ages charting their own "migration," making butterfly crafts, talking with monarch butterfly researchers and other exhibitors, learning about landscaping to help all pollinators, taking tours and much more! Be sure to stop by the Pollinator Garden at Picnic Pond and say "Hello" to AAS volunteers.

St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge

1255 Lighthouse Road

St. Marks, Florida 32355

www.fws.gov/refuge/st_marks/

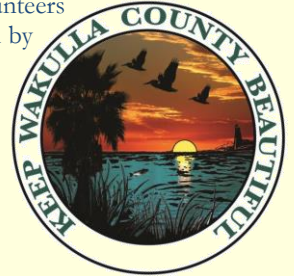
2014 COASTAL CLEANUP

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20th

Bottoms Road – Meet at the Boat Launch
9 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.

Apalachee Audubon volunteers will meet at Bottoms Road (*more information to follow*). All volunteers will be provided trash bags and directions to areas to be cleaned. Please return to the site captain with garbage by 10:30 a.m. to turn in your completed data card, drop off your bags and head over to Woolley Park where volunteers are invited to a free lunch hosted by Wal-Mart.

For more information, call
Keep Wakulla County Beautiful
at 850-745-7111, email
helpkwcb@gmail.com,
visit www.kwcb.org and
follow on Facebook 



Birdsong Nature Center



2106 Meridian Road

Thomasville, Georgia

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

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

For a schedule of special activities, please see

www.birdsongnaturecenter.org & Facebook 

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



Workshops to Enjoy Native Nurseries

1661 Centerville Road, Tallahassee, FL 32308

850-386-8882 www.nativenurseries.com

WILD ABOUT WILDFLOWERS

Saturday September 27th 10 a.m. Free

Eleanor Dietrich will cover the importance of biodiversity and biological corridors, including how individuals can contribute by using native plants in their own yards. She will also discuss the native plants that can be used in different seasons and habitats, particularly focusing on fall wildflowers.

TALON TALK WITH SANDY BECK

Saturday October 18th 10 a.m.

Class size limited; registration required;

call (850) 386-8882 \$3.00 (adults) \$1.50 (children)

St. Francis Wildlife education director, Sandy Beck, will dive into the characteristics that define raptors. Meet several native species—owls, hawks, a kite and a falcon; learn how each is perfectly adapted to its particular habitat and what you can do to help them.

See www.nativenurseries.com & Facebook  for more.