NOTES FOR

September Board Meeting Agenda

Apalachee Audubon Society

September 12, 2018

6:30 – 9:00

Sakura Restaurant, 1318 North Monroe Street

**Attendees:** David A., Peter, Kathleen, Rob, Peter G, Ann B., Jake, Elizabeth G., Howard K, Lilly

**Guests:** Mike Sheridan; Julie Wraithmell,

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6:30 – 6:45

Announcements (Peter, Kathleen)

* Membership
	+ 884 Members *as of end of August*
	+ Kathleen looking into methods to keep membership info up to date
	+ *Target provided a list of addresses that did not go through – she was able to submit 18 change of address notices to National to update*
* Upcoming Program *Mindy Mohrman, Urban Forester will be presenting*
* Meeting Place
	+ **Decide If We Want To Continue Meeting Here ---** *folks were OK with the meeting place so far. Julie offered their Florida Audubon meeting space if we would like that.*
* Approval of Retreat Minutes
	+ **Approve Minutes** *– minutes approved (Rob moved and Kathleen 2nd)*
* Calendar Updated Online – *making every effort to get as much as possible onto the calendar; birding, meetings, activities*
* Two Limpkin Times Released
	+ **Send Content To Chris Grossman at** **bgrossman4@comcast.net***Chris does not write content, she just assembles layout. The deadline for content is 5 days before mail out will take place and she will have a schedule soon.*
* Audubon Assembly
	+ **Can We Afford to Send Peter (and others) To Audubon Assembly**
	+ *Board agreed to pay for Peter’s lodging and registration, so he can attend president’s meeting on Thursday in West Palm Beach.*
	+ *Discussion on paying for Rob as well. Moved and passed*

6:45 – 7:15

Michael Sheriden and Julie Wraithmell present Audubon House idea

* **Decide, as a chapter, if we can commit to helping create and maintain a native plant and/or pollinator garden**

Mike shared his background and his approach. He is on Florida Audubon Board (longest serving currently). He would like to see a “place” in Tallahassee that is a signature place for Audubon Florida and local chapter use. He envisions a back yard with habitat and bird feeding; a library with lots of Florida books, a meeting place for other folks who come to Tallahassee on Audubon related business. Open up somewhat to the community as an environmental safe haven, demonstration center, etc. His wife is in real estate so he is confident that they can get a place and they would like to have some buy in on how to help take care of it in the future. Volunteer commitment would help cover things like maintaining bird feeders; schedule some demonstration times for community outreach, help maintain library, etc..

Julie shared the current location of Florida Audubon is a typical office, and it would be hoped that a future “Audubon House” would house their offices. Florida Audubon would keep the house up and Apalachee Audubon would work on the externalities and perhaps some of the community outreach opportunities.

Mike also thinks it might help to have some “birders” to help set up criteria for what would at least be possible and desirable from a site selection standpoint.

Rob thought it was a great concept and he would hope that a good landscape effort could be made and try to design something worthy of awards. A focus on coming up with a lower maintenance native yardscape that others might adopt is of value. Most yard choices in Tallahassee tend to be made so that it is easier to keep looking nice, not so they have to work on it every day.

Ann B. mentioned that the master gardeners are always looking for projects as well.

Kathleen would see value in having something that people could get excited about doing and helping.

Lilly mentioned the maintenance costs for good yards are an important consideration.

All of the experience they have suggests that weeding and caring for native landscapes is high maintenance. And having enough people to do this based on experiences as a chapter is a challenge.

Discussion about other networking with environmental organizations; outdoor volunteers, people who want to learn. David pointed out future Audubon meetings are going to focus on backyards so a natural opportunity for recruitment of volunteers if the project is clear by then.

Julie W. helped clarify that Apalachee Audubon really would be only dealing with outside, and there are numbers of ways to approach it.

Howard supports the backyard birding habitat effort. And it would give our Chapter a chance to take a leadership role in the area.

Peter’s thoughts were that our success is really based on how much effort we want to put into it.

Mike is open to finding the right solution that will work for everyone. Start down a pathway and then work out kinks as it continues to evolve. Members can contribute energy in the future as well.

Lilly thinks a yard is much easier to gain support around than a park.

Peter thinks we want to keep moving forward with the discussions and working out details as needed.

Mike would like to deal with us as partners in the future. Once we get a place that can work, not everyone will be 100% pleased but will hopefully be supported by everyone.

Jake agreed to serve on an AA sub-committee to help evaluate options. Peter G has interest in evaluating for sustainability. Peter would be the contact Mike would call and then move forward.

**Peter agreed the chapter will continue to move forward with Mike.**

**7:38** –

Education Updates (Peter, Rob, Jake, Ben)

* Lake Elberta Grant
	+ Interns Hired – *4 hired and paid some already, 2 FSU, 2 FAMU*
	+ Meeting Next Week To Determine Next Steps – *events, vision, etc*
	+ Seed Purchased – *a pound of Florida wildflower seed and a lb of native seeds; dealing with when to plant*
	+ First Bird Walk Was A Success – *Rob and Jake and Niles helped guide 7-8 kids*
	+ **Do Others Want To Be Involved**? *E-mail Peter once events are known and you want to help*
* 10 FSU Students Split Between Peter and Rob
	+ **Do Others Want To Be Involved?** *If we have ideas, they need to spend 25 hours volunteering.*
* Pineview Visits – *First visit was yesterday and it was really good. 2-3rd graders this year.*
	+ Tuesdays 4:30-5:30, biweekly
* Bond Elementary
	+ Elizabeth Platt, John Outland, Ben Fusaro, Jake Hartung  *Working On This*
* Audubon Adventures
	+ **Do we have a waiting list of teachers? Do we have any feedback on how useful the material is and how teachers are using it? Should we think about asking for sponsorships in addition to the annual Bird-a-thon fundraiser?**

*David opened the conversation about is this the most effective tool. Would Judy be willing to contact some of the teachers and get feedback. How many kids, is the material good, would other approaches be better****? Peter will ask her to report in October.***

* + **Should We Do Additional Fundraising For This (And Other) Educational Initiatives**

*David also suggested that fundraising for a specific purpose might could be better way to go rather than only using bird-a-thon.*

*Mike S. echoed that the more specific you can be on how you are going to spend the money the more success you will have. Let people know afterwards how you spent their money and how well the reception was.*

*Rob asked for feedback on the field trip we did last year for kids to St. Marks. Should we consider doing that again and perhaps raising funds specifically for that effort.*

**Peter asked for everyone to think about fundraising ideas for October and possible education program ideas.**

7:58

Volunteer Recruitment (Kathleen)

* Volunteer Wishlist
	+ **Create A Personal Wish List For Volunteers and Send To Kathleen –** *do this via email prior to meetings so she can make sure to try and generate volunteers.*

8:00

Programs/Field Trips (David, Peter)

* First Field Trip With Jeff O’Connell A Success! - *Peter went along, 20 people turned out, Jeff knows bird calls very well, very excited.*
* Speaker Stipends -- $200
	+ **Do We Want To Donate To Charitable Cause with Harvey Handling The Check Upon Receipt of the Charity Address or Contact Info?** YES
* Student Technician --
	+ **What Will We Pay Our Student Technician?** *$40 per program*
* Promotion Of Programs and Field Trips
	+ **Newsletter, Brochure, Facebook, Website –** Lilly - Democrat, and Kathleen facebook, Elizabeth – website ; Chris for newsletter
	+ **Could We Do More?** *Keep promoting what is going on with us and with others.*
	+ **Newsletter Submissions And Deadlines** See Above
* Annual Banquet
	+ **Who Will Be In Charge and What Will Budget Be?** *Kathleen -will coordinate; we will visit the budget and decide on ticket prices based on our budget.*
* Partner Field Trips
	+ **Do We Want To Add More Partner Field Trips?** *Share the ideas freely if a field trip idea comes up.*

8:17-

Website (Kathleen, Peter, Elizabeth)

* Donate Button On Main Page
	+ **Decide If This Is A Good Idea *–*** *A Square/Pay Pal account link can be made. Have to transfer the money eventually to the bank. Kathleen and Elizabeth are going to follow up on setting this up.*
* Missing Bios
	+ **Who Is Doing This (And Other) Web Updates And When Will Bios Be Finished?** *Elizabeth will check to see what she can find and let us know what needs to be finished.*

**8:23-**

* Miscellaneous Items Still Needing Discussion

*How does the Audubon Moment on NPR work? Businesses are supporting but how are we connected? Apalachee Audubon needs to somehow get connected. Peter G will follow up.*

*Discussion was held about having mini-auctions at the monthly meetings. Consensus was it was OK to try. Items to be auctioned should be brought to the meeting (NOTE: We need to have a means to gather bids, etc.)*

Rob discussed the chapter goals that are set each year. Last year one was SWIM plans and so the Water Management Districts based on input did put lots of money into land conservation efforts as a part of the Plans. This year one idea is a special designation to protect green space from and for military use. Another is determining national level heritage landscapes and seeking Panhandle designation. Another is designation of an official trail (bikes) from Pensacola to Wakulla County and support it and other eco-tourism based initiatives. Finally continue to support acquisition of conservation lands through Florida Amendment 1 funding, RESTORE Act funding, and meeting land conservation goals of SWIM plans. Important to make a case why buying land in the Panhandle is important.. support the military and support local economy.

8:45 Adjourned.