

Apalachee Audubon

The Newsletter Of The Apalachee Audubon Society, Inc.

Vol. 105, no. 5

www.apalachee.org

February, 2005

Thank a Teacher

Eric Draper, President

We lost a friend over the holidays. Jo was a teacher and enthusiast of the natural world. She once had me speak to her elementary school class about the Everglades. She seemed to gain even more than her students from that brief presentation and over the years she reminded me again and again of some points I made that day.

She also requested, and I was glad to provide, a subscription to *Audubon Adventures* (environmental education curriculum kits). She wanted to make sure she could offer her students every possible resource to awaken the kind of curiosity and passion for wildlife that some teacher long ago must have instilled in her.

Jo lived in my neighborhood. On walks that took us past her home, my wife and I would admire her garden and be amused by the circus of birds working the feeders in her yard. She was conforming her landscape to her view of the world - an inviting place of beauty and abundance for people and wildlife alike. In this way, too, Jo was a teacher and embraced a very Audubon ideal. Look, learn, and share this wonderful world!

At the memorial service one of Jo's close friends, Kathy Barnett, offered some beautiful words. They inspired me and I think they will inspire you.

"I loved the childlike sense of wonder she brought to the world around her...from the heavens above to the insects crawling around below to the fish in the deep blue sea. She was just another of God's creatures in a natural world, intrigued by it, awed by it, enveloped in it

"We shared the love of gardening, and the desire to bring butterflies and hummingbirds and bumblebees into our little piece of earth. But she always did it with such flare. She had festive birdbaths and stepping stones and the most vibrant homestead purple verbena that bloomed in the spring. She had multiple bird feeders outside the kitchen window so that

every human meal came with its own reality TV show...squirrels constantly seeking a way to get their fair share, bigger birds nudging out the lesser ones at the food trough...but always a constant flow of activity and color and life. She had gardenias outside her front door for years—she loved the scent and the creamy white gardenia blossoms-- and she'd walk several of those blossoms over to my house on occasion just so my house could smell like that, too. And her butterfly gardens were full of butterflies—for which she knew the names, and habitats, and migratory patterns. She was the one who found the monarch chrysalis on the outcropping of my mailbox. She knew where to look, she knew how to look; it was almost as if she'd been a butterfly in some former life, sent back this time around to give the rest of us appropriate butterfly counseling.

"If we walked past your house and you had something sweet smelling in your garden, like roses or gardenias or wisteria, she'd walk right on up to your front porch, if necessary, to take a

(continued on Page 3)

Thank a Teacher

(Continued from Page 1)

whiff, urging me on to trespass with her. I'm

Program Highlight

Wednesday, February 23rd

Social: 7:00 PM; Program: 7:30 PM

(United Church at 1834 Mahan Drive)

There has been a major effort for a number of years to establish a population of Whooping Cranes in Florida. This has included heroic efforts to lead a migrating flock to Florida using ultra light airplanes - and it's working!

Pat Casselberry, former President of Citrus County Audubon, will describe efforts to protect Florida's growing flock of migratory and resident Whooping Cranes.

Membership Report

Karen Wensing, Membership Chair

Since the November 2004 report the following new members have joined Apalachee Audubon: Jill Allen, Helen Allison, Rick Barrett, Sandy & Bob Beck, Paul Beckham, Irene Berkowitz, Andrew Borom, Alice Catts, Karen Celandar, D.K. Christensen, Patrie Coleman, Dorothy Conde, Kirtley Cook, Art Cooper, Herb Daws, J.S. Dillon, Donna Dubey, Charles Farrell, Gale Field, Susan Fitzgerald, Pam Flynn, Kathy Ford, Marianne Gengenbac, Tracie Hamersley, Keith Harrison, Nancy Hart, C.R. Hill, Norma Holtsclaw, Wade Hopping, Lance Horne, Al Johnson, Richard Johnson, Diane Kremkau, Paul Lamaster, Philip Lepoudre, Helen Light, Bascom Mahaffey, Robert Maiden, Nancy Markovich, Angus McDowell, Harry Miley, Ann Miller, Charles & Julia Miller, Jim Montague, Robert Moore, Beth Novinger, Patrick Penick, Jenna Perry, Dorothy Powel, Mrs. William Radebaugh, Marc Reichelderfer, Melynda Reid, Paul & Fran Rutkovsky, Bill Schmitt, Betty Schweitzer, Ella Simmons, Sue Spencer, Mr.&Mrs. Victor Swab, C.L. & Ione Swinden, Louis Tucker, Pamela Victor, Karen Weimer, Jame Whitehead and Jane Woodyard. Claire Arment and Ruth Wing have recently transferred into the chapter. Welcome to all of you.

Membership meetings are free and open to the public, so feel free to invite your friends to any meetings you think might interest them. If YOUR friend decides to join during our meeting, the chapter will give the new member a bird-chiming clock (or alternate gift) and you will receive a membership pin. Board meetings are open to all chapter members. Meetings are normally held at 7 pm on the fourth Wednesday of the month.

We continue to build our directory of member email addresses. Please share yours on the meeting attendance sign-in sheet or send an email to the Membership Chair (kwensing@mailers.fsu.edu). This information will not be shared. If any member needs to report an address change or make any membership correction, it is easy to contact the national office by phone (1-800-274-4201) or email (chadd@audubon.org).

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The newsletter is published 8 times yearly (Sept. – May, except Dec.) by the Apalachee Audubon Society, Inc., P.O. Box 1237, Tallahassee, FL 32302-1237.

This newsletter is printed on partially recycled paper.

Mission
Protection
environment



Statement
of the envi-
through edu-
cation, appreciation and conserva-
tion.

Concerned About Road Construction in Tallahassee? Get Involved!

We are seeking a volunteer to represent Audubon on a Public Advisory Group (PAG), a focus group for a Blueprint 2000 project. They are studying alternative Capital Circle SW routes (south of Blountstown Highway to Orange Avenue) in lieu of widening Capital Circle south of Blountstown Highway to Orange Avenue. The Capital Circle segment which currently goes to the Tallahassee Airport, would become an access road.

The PAG has identified ten alternative routes, nine of which are illustrated in a recent "Tallahassee Democrat" article (January 23rd). Two Orange Avenue routes impact the Black Swamp Nature Preserve and one route bisects the swamp. The tenth route goes through the National Forest behind the airport. Apalachee Audubon is seeking a volunteer to represent us at the meetings of this PAG. The goal is to narrow the choices to three or four routes for presentation to the joint City/County Commissioners' meeting on May 16. ***If you would be able to attend one Tuesday evening meeting a month with this PAG, please contact Eric Draper at 222-2473.***

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Apalachee Audubon is already represented on the Public Advisory Group (PAG) of another Blueprint 2000 road project for Capital Circle NW/SW. This project involves widening Capital Circle from W. Tennessee St. south to Blountstown Highway (Rte 20).

Barely noticeable as one drives south on Capital Circle, past car dealers and other businesses, is Gum Swamp, on the east side after crossing Tennessee, which harbors a wetlands' bird population. On February 17th and March 17th PAG meetings will present Environmental Analyses of this road project. The public is invited to attend these meetings which are held at 6 p.m. at the Economic and Workforce Development Building (EWD) on the south end of Tallahassee Community College campus.

sure she figured no one would plant something that sweet smelling unless they intended for everyone to partake in it."

Now, thinking about Jo's legacy and her passion, I know that each of us has a duty to share our love of the natural world with others. We especially have the duty to make sure schoolchildren get the chance to both learn the science and experience the beauty of nature.

I am proud that Apalachee Audubon Society distributes *Audubon Adventures* curriculum kits to 52 Leon and Wakulla County classroom teachers. If those teachers, burdened as they are with teaching for standardized tests, use these materials, more than 1000 students will get regular lessons in natural history. We will awaken in some of those students that love of science and nature that was so much part of Jo's life.

When one of the teachers lets us know that they are using the kits, I will think of Jo and do what we should all do - *thank a teacher.*

ABARK Fundraiser

Apalachicola Bay and River Keeper's annual fundraiser is on Sunday, February 13, at Tall Timbers Research Station from 5-8PM. Senator Bob Graham will be the guest speaker. Dale Crider and Barley Thar will perform. Tickets are \$50, children under 10, free. Gumbo, Frogmore Stew, and beverages included. For tickets, call Roger Martin at ABARK, (850) 670-5470 or e-mail roger@abark.org

Monthly meetings, field trips, conservation activities and bird walks

Audubon Calendar

Monthly meetings are free and open to the public. They are held at the United Church at 1834 Mahan Drive. Most evenings begin with an informal social at 7:00 p.m. followed by announcements and the program at 7:30. Note the time of departure in the description for each trip. For more info visit our web site at www.apalachee.org.

Saturday, February 12. Apalachicola Bay and River Keepers Fundraiser – See page 3.

Saturday, February 12. Fieldtrip. Bradley Smith will show us important bird areas around St. Joseph State Park. This is one of his favorite areas and we should see good birds and other wildlife and match them to their habitat. To carpool, meet at the Wachovia Bank on North Monroe (across from Fairgrounds) at 7:30 AM or the St. Joseph State Park entrance on Cape San Blas at 9:30 AM EST.

Friday – Monday, February 18 - 21. Great Backyard Birdcount. See description in January issue or on our website – www.apalachee.org.

Wednesday, February 23. Membership program. See front page for Program Highlights.

Saturday & Sunday, February 26 – 27. Field Trip. Payne's Prairie. Leaving early Saturday, returning Sunday night. **Plan on a five mile hike.** Camping or local motel. If interested, call Marvin Collins by February 11th 850/224-9549 and leave a message. He will provide details for accommodations and transportation.

Friday – Sunday, March 18 – 20. Audubon Academy 2005. See description in January issue or on www.audubonofflorida.org.

Wednesday, March 23. Membership program. Jim Cox will discuss the current research findings at Tall Timbers on Bachman's Sparrow and the Brown-headed Nuthatch.

Saturday, March 26. Field trip. Jim Cox will lead a field trip to Tall Timbers. Meet at the Bradfordville Publix on Thomasville Road at 8:00 AM.

Saturday, April 9. Pinewoods Bird Festival. The third installment of the Festival will take place on at Pebble Hill Plantation. Visit www.pinewoodsbirdfestival.com for details.

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