

APALACHEE AUDUBON SOCIETY

Apalachee Audubon Society Mission Statement:

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

NEWSLETTER OF THE APALACHEE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2013



Speaker Series

Free and open to the public.

Social begins at 7 pm & meeting at 7:30 pm (unless otherwise noted). Located at the Historic Amtrak Station, 918 Railroad Avenue, Tallahassee. For more information: (850)322-7910 or www.apalachee.org Map: <http://tinyurl.com/3q9q77s>

2013-2014 Program Calendar

November 21
December - No program
January 23
February 27
March 27
April 24
May Banquet – TBA

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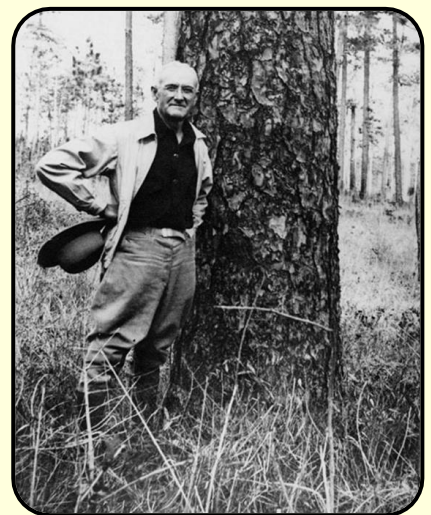


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November Program: Thursday, Nov. 21
Social at 7 p.m. with Program at 7:30 p.m.

T. Herbert Stoddard: Founding Father of Ecosystem Management
Jim Cox, Vertebrate Ecology Program Director
Tall Timbers Research Station & Land Conservancy

If you use the phrase “ecosystem management” in an Internet search, you’ll find over a million entries, many of them associated with management of cherished national forests, state parks, and wildlife preserves. Did you know this approach to land management was first developed and practiced in a meaningful manner on Killearn Estates and other properties north of Tallahassee? Herbert Stoddard was the consulting land manager for a vast swath of sports hunting estates that lie between Tallahassee and Thomasville. Killearn Plantation, which eventually became Maclay State Gardens and a large residential development, was one of the estates where Stoddard provided guidance on land management using natural types of disturbance that included use of frequent prescribed fire and natural regeneration of pines. Stoddard’s approach was unique at the time and was firmly guided by a philosophy of attempting to keep all attributes of a forest in place, including rare species. His efforts were admired far and wide by the likes of Aldo Leopold and other conservationists whose names are much better known today. *Jim Cox heads up the Stoddard Bird Lab at Tall Timbers Research Station and Land Conservancy, www.talltimbers.org, and will present details on this unique and little known piece of local history that now plays out on an international stage.*



T. Herbert Stoddard



Jim Cox with telescope

Apalachee Audubon Society, Inc.

2013 – 2014

Officers & Directors

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Apalachee Audubon Society, Inc. (AAS) is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization. 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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*Remember, Please Save
Your Used Postage Stamps
to Help Injured Eagles!*

Yes, it's true! All you have to do is cut postage stamps from your mail, leaving at least 1/4 inch of paper all around the stamp or just bring the envelope and I will trim them. Any postage stamp is useful—big, small, U.S. or foreign! The Audubon Center for Injured Birds of Prey in Maitland, FL collects used postage stamps and sells them to wholesalers for sale to collectors all over the world. There will be a box to collect them at Audubon meetings. If you have questions or want to arrange for a pickup, please call Eileen Bontelle at (850) 656-3346.

THANK YOU for helping injured eagles!

You can join National Audubon Society & Apalachee Audubon for just \$20 a year!



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

You can pay for membership using a credit card by calling Audubon's toll free membership number, 1-800-274-4201. **(Please mention our chapter ID, E19, for AAS to get full credit for a new membership).** If you prefer to pay by check for an annual membership, send your \$20 check made payable to National Audubon Society **(please add Apalachee Audubon's chapter ID, E19)** and mail to:

National Audubon Society
P. O. Box 422246
Palm Coast, FL 32142-2246

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).

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far more than he seeks."* - John Muir



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President's Message

Seán McGlynn



Seán McGlynn

Photo by Nick Baldwin

Apalachee Audubon has numerous exciting announcements in this November newsletter! The first is that the Monarch Butterflies came back to St Marks, just in time for the festival. We are having a wonderful program series, courtesy of one of the nation's leading land trusts, one that focuses on conservation in North Florida and South Georgia. They have conserved more than 160,000 acres with conservation easements. At our October Program Meeting we were lucky to have a great speaker, Neil Fleckenstein, the Tall Timbers Planning Coordinator, who enlightened us with the inestimable value and economic stimulus their conservation has engendered. Economic surveys showed that the average salary of workers in the conservation areas is \$35,000 per year. What a nice place to live! Neil Fleckenstein's program speech followed Kevin McGorty, the Tall Timbers Land Conservancy Director, who showed us the true value of conservation. This month we will have the third speaker in this series, our own Jim Cox, Tall Timbers Vertebrate Ecology Program Director, who will explain how Killearn Estates Plantation, on Thomasville Road, is where this dream began.

Apalachee Audubon is also part of the conservation effort. Apalachee Audubon's efforts and member's support helped Audubon Florida purchase the Lanark Reef and we are striving to be successful stewards of what is said to be the most valuable biological site in Florida for winter shorebirds. We need to contemplate the wintering shore birds as the heat of the summer abates and the crispness of fall permeates the air. We are preparing for the cold winter months. Reminiscences from this glorious summer are riveting.

Have you noticed that Apalachee Audubon is striving to fulfill its mission of *"Protection of the environment through education, appreciation, and conservation"* and the mission of National Audubon *"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"*? If you peruse our newsletters, you will find that we are interested and involved with conserving every type of habitat, including all types of water: oceans, lakes, estuaries, rivers, streams and wetlands. In addition, we are increasing our understanding of the complexity of groundwater and surface water interactions as they relate to our springs and our aquifer. We have always focused on birds, which are so important, and upland habitats, but we are truly diversified. Birds go everywhere and everything is interconnected, so we are working to protect our environment on every level. Now, if we only had some mountains...



FLORIDA'S Water & Land Legacy

*The momentum is building towards the November 30th deadline!
Will you be part of creating the Legacy?*

Florida's Water & Land Legacy, a coalition of the state's leading conservation organizations including Apalachee Audubon, Audubon Florida, The Trust for Public Land, Florida Wildlife Federation, and many others, has launched a campaign to place the Florida Water and Land Conservation Amendment on the November 2014 ballot. Through a constitutional amendment, Floridians can assure that adequate funding is dedicated solely to restoring critical natural areas, like the Everglades, and protecting Florida's magnificent waters and lands for future generations. To place this important amendment on the ballot, we need your signature and your help gathering the remaining critically needed signatures! To support the campaign and learn more, please see <http://floridawaterlandlegacy.org/> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=67O3X2ar-v4>

Thanks to Your Efforts, Lanark Reef is a Bird Sanctuary

By Dr. Seán E. McGlynn



Black skimmers gather on the sand's edge on Lanark Reef. The mostly submerged island is a haven for nesting sea and shore birds, as well as migratory and wintering species.

island of condominiums, named the Lanark Reef Resort. Franklin County even gave him permission to put septic tanks on the island. Luckily the economic collapse ended the development. Audubon used this as an opportunity to save the shorebird nesting site and purchased Lanark Reef from the holding company. Lanark Reef is an extremely important, if not the most significant, biological site for winter shorebirds in Florida.¹

With this move Audubon saved and preserved one of the last examples of what used to be common in Florida, undeveloped dynamic barrier islands. This unique habitat is shaped by wind and currents, hosting vibrant communities of indigenous Florida wildlife. Lanark reef is finally safe from development. There never was and never will be a septic tank, golf course or a condominium on Lanark Reef. Lanark Reef lies slightly less than a mile offshore, to the south of Lanark Village in Franklin County, Florida. Its pristine waters are fed by the Apalachicola River and the relentless tides of the Gulf of Mexico. This reef stretches for approximately six miles parallel to the coast. The submerged lands constituting most of the reef is less than a half mile wide. The submerged areas host luxurious sea grass beds. Emergent areas occupy about a mile of the reef and total about four acres. The eastern emerged section is heavily vegetated with grasses and shrubs.

Continued on page 5



Lanark Reef is a barrier island located in the St George Sound, Apalachicola Bay, FL

The western emerged area, which is Type 1 shorebird habitat, is a low, ephemeral sand dune ridge. This reef lies in very shallow water and is accessible only by boat at high tide.

The island has been designated an important birding area by Audubon. More than 250 species of birds and 3 exotic species visit the Lanark Reef every winter. Many of these birds are rare with declining populations and are listed as endangered or threatened. Lanark Reef has been designated by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) as Critical Habitat for the Piping Plover, a shorebird that is rapidly declining due to habitat loss. This area is also critical for Snowy Plovers and American Oystercatchers. This narrow barrier island provides essential habitat to some of the Gulf of Mexico's most imperiled species.

In spring and summer, Lanark Reef is home to extensive breeding colonies of Brown Pelicans, nesting American Oystercatchers, Black Skimmers, Willets and more. In the fall and winter, migrant and wintering birds like Red Knots, Piping and Snowy Plovers, flock to the islands to forage for seafood in the rich tidal flats and sea grass beds surrounding the islands. Or they come to rest. In the early 1990s, a banding effort by the Jeff Lewis Wilderness Preserve on nearby Dog Island recorded large numbers of Neotropical migrants, including over 6000 Gray Catbirds in a single day.



Pelicans

Photo by Nick Baldwin

The shallow island is prone to storm surges. The Royal Terns had been observed nesting at the western end of Lanark Reef from 1991-1995. Hurricane Allison eliminated the breeding colony in 1995. They were nesting on the largest exposed segment of Lanark Reef. Their nesting site was sparsely vegetated, about three feet above the high tide and less than sixty feet from a small channel cut through the reef. The Royal Terns formed a compact monospecific breeding colony, although they occasionally shared the islet with nesting Laughing Gulls. When the Royal Terns are absent, Least Terns and Black Skimmers nested on the site.



Short-billed Dowitchers

Photo by Nick Baldwin

“Lanark Reef has long been important to Florida’s iconic coastal landscape,” said Eric Draper, Audubon Florida’s Executive Director. “This dynamic island, shaped by wind and waves, is a glimpse of what was once common along the Gulf Coast: shifting sands and swaying marsh grass supporting abundant wildlife. Audubon looks forward to working with the local community and our partners to support this special piece of Florida for future generations,” said Julie Wraithmell, Audubon’s Director of Wildlife Conservation.

Continued on page 6

Now that Audubon owns the Lanark Reef, there is a new rule. It is too fragile and delicate for walking. Hikers upset nesting shore birds. We ask you not set foot on the Lanark Reef. It is accessible by boat at high tide. Feel free to sail around it and look at the birds through binoculars. The most numerous species on Lanark Island based on maximum counts from the International Shorebird Surveys are: Black-bellied Plover, BBPL (153); Long-billed Curlews, PIPL (96); American Oystercatcher, AMOY (110); Willet or Wandering Tattler, WILL (704); Ruddy Turnstone, RUTU (78); Red Knots, REKN (212); Sandpipers, SAND (323); Short-billed Dowitcher, SBDO (401); Curlew Sandpiper, DUNL (965) and Marbled Godwit, MAGO (254).



1. Gary Sprandel, *The Distribution of Wintering Shorebirds in Coastal Florida*, Journal of Ornithology 17(4), 1997

Short-billed Dowitcher, winter plumage

Photo by Nick Baldwin

Dr. Seán E. McGlynn serves as President of Apalachee Audubon. He is Technical Director, McGlynn Laboratories Inc., and serves as Director Florida Lake Management Society and Board Member of Friends of Wakulla Springs,

PROJECT FEEDERWATCH 2013

By Fran Rutkovsky



Baltimore Oriole (female)

Photo by Glenda Simmons

This is a fun endeavor, easy to do, and helps you learn more about the birds that frequent the feeders in your own yard. Participants keep track of birds that come to feeders/birdbaths/fruited trees & shrubs within a count area on designated days. The details and instructions, along with photos and data from past years, are available on the Project FeederWatch web site, www.feederwatch.org.

AAS member, Glenda Simmons, has had many of her photographs published in the PFW materials. Fran Rutkovsky is also a long time feederwatcher.

Project FeederWatch is a joint project of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Bird Studies Canada

IN YOUR YARD

By Fran Rutkovsky



Baltimore Oriole (male)

Photo by Glenda Simmons

What's in your yard? A couple of weeks ago a female Baltimore Oriole briefly visited my yard, followed by a visit the following day from a beautiful male Baltimore Oriole. He sampled some suet and the nectar in the hummingbird feeder, then took off. A few days later the male was back, and this time he looked into my jelly dish as if to say, "hey, where's the jelly?". The little tin dish had been empty since last April! I think I can say this bird has been in my yard before. This time of year, after the migrants have come and gone, I look forward to seeing the winter residents reappear.

I've been counting birds for Project FeederWatch (*see article on page 6*) since 1999, and every year is different. I remember one year when I had just 8 birds total to visit my feeders and birdbaths during the 2-day period for the first count in mid-November. There were, of course, birds flying over and through the ravine and yard. But for PFW, the count is only for the birds that come to my designated "count area", whether they actually take food or water or just come down to look. So I know this is part of the cycle, and I wait for them to return. I'll welcome back the Chipping Sparrows, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Hermit Thrush, Orange-crowned and Yellow-rumped Warblers, and Goldfinches and hope for Purple Finches and Pine Siskins. Recently we've had Summer Tanagers and Catbirds coming to feeders all winter; in the past we've also hosted Western Tanagers and Bullock's Orioles during winter along with the Baltimore Orioles. It can be quite colorful! I will also be watching for new or returning winter hummingbirds. And if I see one, you can be sure I'll quickly contact Fred Dietrich, our resident certified hummingbird-bander. You may not see any hummingbirds for a period of time, but if you'll leave out a feeder, especially if we have some cold fronts, you may find a visitor. You don't have to fill it, just put enough for a hungry hummer to find some. Once the flowers are killed off by frost, a wandering hummingbird will appreciate the nectar in a feeder. I have had 5 species of hummingbirds banded in my yard.

An amazing total of 8 hummingbird species has been banded by Fred in Leon County: Allen's, Broad-billed, Black-chinned, Buff-bellied, Calliope, Costa's, Ruby-throated, and Rufous. Fred says: "The majority of the birds are banded in December and January, so don't give up if you haven't seen one by Thanksgiving."

Please help by contacting Fred Dietrich at 850 591-7430 or fdietrich@gmail.com if you see a hummingbird. Fred will come out and do his best to trap and band your bird. You can view all the previous Hummer Updates from the banders at the Hummingbird Research web site: www.hummingbirdresearch.net/p54.html

By providing food, water, and a variety of plantings (especially native plants), you will be helping wildlife and may be rewarded with unexpected sightings.



Fred Dietrich with Banding Trap

Photo by Fran Rutkovsky

Is Beautyberry for the Birds?

American Beautyberry (Callicarpa americana)

By Eleanor Dietrich



When we cleared out the Ardesia, English Ivy, Nandina, Ligustrum, and Camphor trees out of the woods behind my house, I was surprised to see one shrub surviving in abundance – Beautyberry! And I was even more pleased to learn that its fruit is a good source of food for birds. It seems it is not the first choice of food for many birds, but it is a long-lasting source, so it is available after other sources have disappeared.

I have read that Bobwhite Quail, Mockingbirds, Robins, Towhees, and Brown Thrashers like these berries. I have seen Cardinals eating mine. I have seen large patches stripped of the fruit after a flock of Wild Turkeys have foraged their way through an area. I have read that Robin flocks will descend on and devour the fruit. Seems pretty clear that the berries are worth having for wildlife.

Sometimes I think we overlook Beautyberry as a desirable garden plant because it is so common. In open woodlands it can be a dominant understory shrub. In my wooded yard it pops up everywhere, although not prolifically; surely the seeds have been spread by birds.

Beautyberry bushes can grow to 6 or so feet tall and tend to be spreading. Their leaves are light green and deciduous. In late May and early June, small clusters of pink flowers form along the stems right next to where the opposite leaves appear. Over the next few months, the berries begin to form until in the fall of the year they form clusters of bright purple berries on the branches. These berries are very showy and persist after the leaves have fallen off. They are popular in fall flower arrangements.



Beautyberry, *Callicarpa americana*

Photo by Eleanor Dietrich

I find this to be a very graceful plant, I enjoy having it in my woodland garden, and I think the birds are happy to have it there as well. If you do not have any of these plants, you might consider adding one to your landscape.

Eleanor Dietrich is a longtime member and Past President of the Magnolia Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society, FNPS, www.magnolia.fnpschapters.org.



Beautyberry Blossoms

Photo by Eleanor Dietrich

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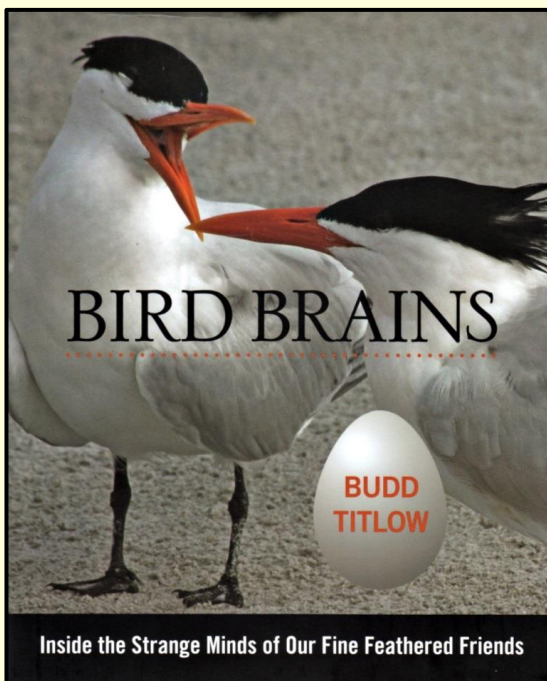
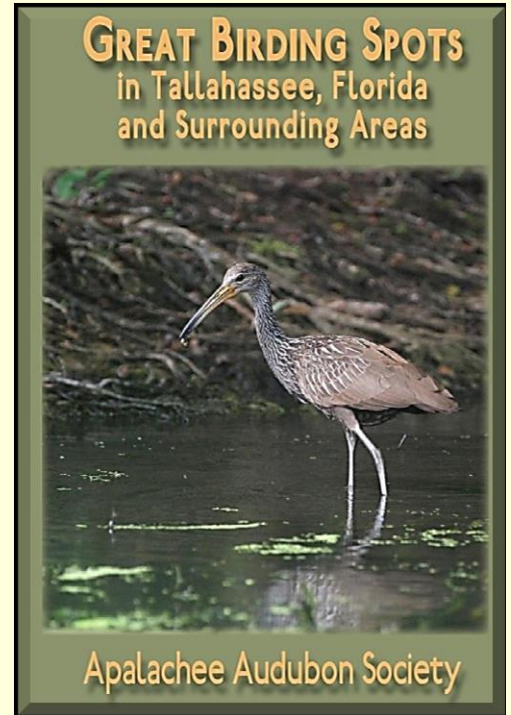
Book Recommendations for the Giving Seasons

By Pat Press & Carol Franchi

If you want to give a book to a child we greatly urge you to choose one of our favorite books about the environment and community activism called *A River Ran Wild* by Lynne Cherry, the author of *The Great Kapok Tree*. This book is subtitled *An Environmental History* because it traces the history of the Nashua River in Massachusetts which by the 1960's was so polluted it was a dead river. Then along came a woman who made a difference, Marion Stoddart. Not only did she restore the river, but her activism helped create the Environmental Protection Agency and the Clean Water Act of 1970. This book is available at www.amazon.com at very reasonable prices. It is a special experience for kids and adults who want to read something with goodness and greatness in it.

Another great book for all you bird and nature lovers is *Great Birding Spots in Tallahassee, Florida and Surrounding Areas* put together by Bob Henderson, Kathleen Carr and other Apalachee Audubon members. All the photos were done by our own Nick Baldwin. This guide is very useful because it tells about local birding spots, ease of access, giving up-to-date maps, directions, and details about birds often viewed at each spot. This guide is available from Apalachee Audubon and will be available at the November program meeting on November 21st.

Another great gift for you or for a friend is Budd Titlow's *Bird Brains: Inside the Strange Minds of Our Fine Feathered Friends*. This recently published book is a gem for any bird or wildlife lover. *Bird Brains* consists of a hundred short vignettes about the antics, behaviors, and curious doings of wild birds. The wacky and wonderfully intriguing behaviors of these birds is detailed and documented from the eye of Budd Titlow, a professional biologist and award-winning wildlife photographer. Apalachee Audubon is proud to celebrate this outstanding offering by one of our own Board members.



Put this book on your list of favorites and give someone the happy gift of learning more stories about birds and their unrivaled ability to entertain us all. *Bird Brains* is available locally and at The Bookshelf in Thomasville, Georgia, as well as on amazon.com and other online book sellers.

Pat Press and Carol Franchi are sisters and Apalachee Audubon Board Members. Together they co-chair the AAS Education Committee.



Get a Head Start on the Holidays!

*Great Birding Spots in Tallahassee, Florida
and Surrounding Areas*

&

Bird Brains:

Inside the Strange Minds of Our Fine Feathered Friends

will be available for purchase

at the AAS Program meeting on November 21st (see page 1)

Native Plants Make Great Holiday Gifts

By Donna Legare



Happy New Year! Forget about diet and exercise; my New Year's resolution is to increase the percentage of native plants in our yard and on our nursery's grounds. With this in mind, my Christmas list always includes at least one native plant. We have added American Beech, Arrowwood Viburnum, Leatherwood, various Wild Azalea species, Spruce Pine, Dwarf Wax Myrtle, Elliot's Blueberry and Deerberry (to name a few) from my Christmas list over the years. I list, Jody gifts!

Each year we try to add more native plants to the yard. We choose native plants in the landscape to promote the unique relationships between native plants and animals, from the smallest microorganisms to insects and other invertebrates to birds, foxes and raccoons. We know that native wildlife has evolved throughout the eons with its native flora and that they need each other.

Last week I was admiring a beautiful American Beech tree that is fast becoming the dominant feature in Ann and Don Morrow's backyard. Ann reminded me that Jody and I had given them this tree many Christmases ago. Here it stands, a testament to our many years of friendship and a valuable part of their landscape for wildlife.

Start the New Year with wildlife in mind; plant a native tree or shrub today!

Donna Legare is co-owner of Native Nurseries, www.nativenurseries.com

Please Join Us at Native Nurseries

Holiday Open House

Sunday, December 1st from 2 - 4 pm



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

Native Nurseries will be open 10 am - 5 pm on Sundays between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

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

Save the Date!

**Apalachee Audubon's 7th Annual
Wildlife-Friendly Yards Tour
February 15, 2014**



We are putting together another great Apalachee Audubon Wildlife-Friendly Yards Tour for your enjoyment on February 15th. Please save the date! We are looking forward to seeing you then at this fun and educational event. You can see beautiful yards firsthand that are landscaped to benefit our birds and other wildlife.

We need volunteers and we are always looking for special yards to share. It's a lot of fun and for a fabulous cause!

If you can help, please contact Pam Flynn at 850 322-6287 or pflynn57@gmail.com.

114th Christmas Bird Count

The Christmas Bird Count is the longest running Citizen Science survey in the world! Thanks to Frank Chapman, the ornithologist who came up with the idea, the first count took place in 1900. Since then each year citizen scientists have been compiling this invaluable bird census throughout the Western Hemisphere. Information collected during the CBC provides invaluable data to help track the long-term health and status of bird populations across the United States. The dates for this year's counts are from December 14, 2013 through January 5, 2014. During a 24-hour time period teams will fan out in a 15 mile diameter circle, counting every bird they see or hear that day. To learn more, please see: <http://birds.audubon.org/faq/cbc#t598n615>. Please see page 12 for CBC Field Trip Workshop information.



Short-eared Owl

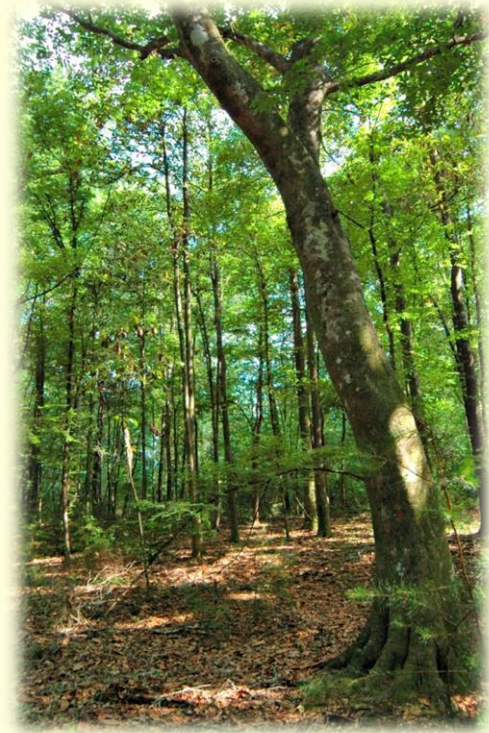
Courtesy of D. S. Kilby

Autumn Tours at Lost Creek Forest

By Beth Grant

Lost Creek Forest was featured in the recently published UGA Press book, *The Natural Communities of Georgia*. Lost Creek Forest is a rare remaining original, old growth hardwood hammock forest and wetlands that is located in Thomas County. Very few parcels of this type of forest remain, and this is one of the best. It is a natural heritage gem that complements Thomas County's other forest treasures on private land, the old growth longleaf pine savannas of Greenwood Plantation's Big Woods and Acadia Plantation's Wade Tract. This makes Thomas County one of the richest places in the Southeast with remnants of our quickly-disappearing natural heritage, climax forests that are found today much as they were hundreds or even thousands of years ago.

Lost Creek Forest is a publicly owned forest in Thomas County that was saved from industrial development through the efforts of a dedicated group of local activists. The city and county governments have decided that access to the forest is limited to tours by The Friends in order to protect this public treasure. Autumn tours are scheduled for Veteran's Day on Monday, Nov. 11th from 11-2 pm which will be an educational hike and picnic led by expert biologist Will Sheftall, and on Wednesday, Nov. 20th from 4-5:30 pm, and on Thursday, Dec 12th from 4-5:30 pm. You can come and see, hear, and feel the beauty of an old growth hardwood forest as it prepares for winter. The hickory and sourwood trees will be turning their fall colors and the migrant birds stopping over for rest and refueling. To sign up for a tour, please register at www.lostcreekforest.eventbrite.com (more tours may be listed here) or you can call Beth Grant at 229 227-9844.



Lost Creek Forest Trail - Photo by Jerry Turner

The Friends are happy to schedule group tours, too: school classes, garden clubs, scouts, church groups, nature groups, and other groups are welcomed. Please contact Beth Grant at bethgrant@bellsouth.net. There are no charges for these tours. Please let your friends know too. By your showing an interest in the forest, you help with the work towards establishing conservation status. For more information, please go to www.lostcreekforest.org and www.facebook.com/pages/Friends-of-Lost-Creek-Forest/514076791968808.

Join AAS for a Field Trip to Lost Creek Forest in November! Please see page 12 for information.

Apalachee Audubon Field Trips



Fall Field Trips By Helen King

This month we will concentrate on searching out those little migrant warblers. If you plan to attend, please email me at thekingsom@gmail.com. The trips are limited to 12 participants. Both of these trips will be finished by lunchtime. Here are two upcoming trips:

Saturday, November 9: This will be a 3 location trip on the south side of town. Meet at 8 a.m. at Lake Henrietta Park, which is off Springhill Rd. We will concentrate on a small area with multiple level plant life and not attempt to walk the entire lake (unless of course the place is popping with birds). Then we will travel to Robert Williams Birding Trail which is just past Springhill Rd. on Orange Ave. From there we will end at Innovation Park which is further down Orange Ave. Please email me at thekingsom@gmail.com if you plan to attend. There will be a fair amount of walking. We will be finished by lunchtime.

Thursday, November 14: We will travel to Lost Creek Forest which is an old growth forest near Thomasville. There we will have to use our binocs and our ears to identify birds. Meet at 8:00 a.m. in front of Bonefish Grill off Thomasville Road if you would like to carpool. If you would rather meet at the forest, please contact me and I will give you directions. The riding fee is \$5. Please email me at thekingsom@gmail.com if you plan to attend and please indicate if you are a driver, rider, or will meet us directly there. We will be finished by a late lunchtime.

Both trips are limited to 12 participants. Please respond if you plan to attend no later than 24 hours before each trip.

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

Come bird with us when you can!

Christmas Bird Count Field Trip Workshop

By Helen King



The Christmas Bird Count is one of the most important birding events of the year. Long-standing teams are already beginning to coordinate for this event. If you a beginning birder or want to learn more by participating in a CBC Field Trip Workshop, please contact me, Helen King, at thekingsom@gmail.com. If there is enough interest, we will schedule a CBC Field Trip Workshop between the dates of December 14th and January 5th.

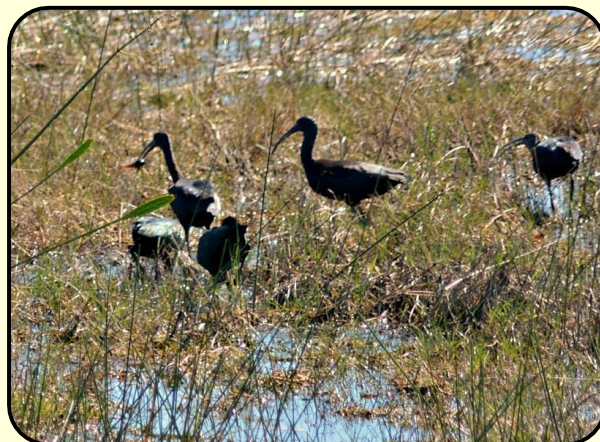
Happy Birding!



Elinor Klapp-Phipps Park - Saturday, October 5

Photo by Helen King

A day to experience the importance of weather patterns to a day of birding!



Glossy Ibis (top) - American Avocet (above)

Photos by Brian Lloyd

St. Marks NWR - Saturday, October 26

A perfect day to bird, especially the FOS Ruddy Duck, Avocets, Black-necked Stilt, and Snowy Plover.

Some Activities With Our Friends!

Enjoy a Wagon Tour Field Trip At Tall Timbers!



Saturday, November 23
8 – 11 a.m.

Jim Cox will lead a wagon tour field trip to Tall Timbers Research Station on Saturday, November 23rd from 8–11 a.m. Please contact Jim Cox at jim@ttrs.org to reserve your spot.

Limited to 20 people for the wagon.



Plantation Wildlife Arts Festival

November 15-17, 2013

Thomasville Center for the Arts

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

Over 70 of the nation's best wildlife and sporting artists will be exhibiting their work for show and sale at the Thomasville Center for the Arts this year. You can enjoy a weekend of festival activities for all ages with fascinating lectures, demonstrations and special events! Professional zoologist Jim Fowler returns to the Festival and will speak daily and Busch Wildlife Sanctuary will also perform a daily animal show.

Please see www.pwaf.org for up to date event schedule and ticket information.
229-226-0588



Wakulla Springs State Park

One of the monthly activities at Wakulla Springs is a ranger-led nature walk which provides an opportunity to learn more about the park's varying forest communities. Habitats alter with slight changes in elevation. Space is limited to 10 participants. Please call (850) 561-7286 to make your reservation or online at <http://www.floridastateparks.org/wakullasprings/events-cfm>

The next scheduled walks are as follows:

November 16, 2013 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM

December 28, 2013 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM

Birdsong Nature Center

2106 Meridian Road
Thomasville, Georgia



Birdsong's Fall Open House & Raffle

Sunday, November 10th
1:00 - 5:00 p.m. - Free

You are invited to enjoy Hayrides, Guided Nature Walks, Tours of the Butterfly Garden, and other fun activities. The Gift Shop will be located outside so you can do some early holiday browsing. There'll be string music by Steve Hodges and friends on the front porch of the historic house and there will be picnic lunches available for purchase under the cedars around back or you can bring your own picnic. Raffle Drawing at 4:30 p.m. Please see [Open House](#) for event details and [Raffle Prizes](#) for a list of this year's prizes. *This is a great opportunity to enjoy a beautiful afternoon in natural surroundings before the intensity of the holidays begins!*

A WINTER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION

Saturday, December 21st
5:00 - 10:00 p.m.

Cost: \$15 adults, \$10 children

Light the bonfire in honor of the Winter Solstice and help celebrate the memory of Birdsong co-founders Betty and Ed Komarek. Music and song by Velma Frye; didgeridoo and drums by Bradley White and friends. Hot drinks, chili or vegetarian soup included in cost. A great bonfire and closing circle. Then off to the Star Pasture to contemplate the Universe. *All proceeds go to Birdsong's basic operations.*

For more information
about these and many other great activities,
please see www.birdsongnaturecenter.org
or call 229 377-4408 or 800-953-BIRD (2473)



Some Activities With Our Friends!



Mission San Luis

Giving Thanks: 17th-Century Apalachee & Spanish Foodways

Saturday after Thanksgiving - November 30, 2013: 10 am–4 pm

See demonstrations of traditional food preparation by historical interpreters in period dress. Visitors can observe outdoor cooking with native and European plants from the site's gardens and fields. There will be demonstrations of meat and fish smoking on the barbacoa as well as activities for children. Learn how people and foods from the New and Old Worlds came together to create a cross-cultural cuisine. Call 850-245-6406 for more information.

Winter Solstice Celebration and Commemorative Mass

Sunday before the Solstice - December 15, 2013: 10 am–8 pm

Native American Stories, Skills, and Traditions

Enjoy a new holiday tradition by observing the occasion of the “sun standing” at its southernmost position in the sky. While their lives were different than ours, we share the same sky with the Apalachee Indians and Spanish settlers who lived here more than three hundred years ago. Shop for fine crafts from local artisans, join a drum circle, listen to storytellers, view the heavens through powerful telescopes, and more! Call 850-245-6406 for more information.

Mission San Luis is a pet-friendly site, so bring your companions and enjoy the beautiful park setting and living history programs. Please join us for these & other events at Mission San Luis, 2100 West Tennessee Street, Tallahassee.

For more information, please call [850-245-6406](tel:850-245-6406) or see www.missionsanluis.org

Wolf Creek Trout Lily Preserve

By Beth Grant

Wolf Creek Trout Lily Preserve is 140 acre forest that protects literally millions of trout lilies blanketing 8-10 acres and thousands of trillium. They bloom together for a few weeks in Jan-Feb. It was saved from residential development by a group of volunteers from Tallahassee's Magnolia Chapter of the Native Plant Society.

Volunteers gather monthly on the second Tuesdays for work days to remove invasive plants. It is a rewarding activity working in the woods with enthusiastic friends, and you are welcome to join the effort. For more information contact Beth Grant at bethgrant@bellsouth.net and visit the website at www.wolfcreektroutlilypreserve.org. You can request to be added to the notification list for the bloom schedule each year. You don't want to miss this magnificent sight!



White-tailed Ptarmigan

Photo by AAS Board Member, Budd Titlow

Holiday Wishes

Apalachee Audubon President Seán McGlynn

I would like to wish everyone a wonderful holiday season and a Happy New Year! On behalf of the AAS Board, I'd like to especially thank all our members. You are Apalachee Audubon! Your continued participation is vitally important and we look forward to seeing you in 2014. During the holidays, may you be surrounded by loved ones and find time to share treasured moments together and celebrate those intangible gifts you are blessed with. Working with all of you is one of my blessings. In lieu of gifts, I share with you the thoughts Lady Bird Johnson once said, "The environment is where we all meet; where all have a mutual interest; it is the one thing all of us share. It is not only a mirror of ourselves, but a focusing lens on what we can become." That was 45 years ago and it rings true today. Remember, the words of Albert Camus, the French Nobel Prize winning author, journalist, and philosopher, "In the depth of winter, I finally learned that within me there lay an invincible summer."