**March Board Meeting Minutes**

Apalachee Audubon Society

March 13, 2019

6:30 – 7:38pm

Native Nurseries, 1661 Centerville Road

Submitted by Donna Legare, Secretary

**The following board members were present:**  Donna Legare, David Arnold, Peter Kleinhenz, Jake Hartung, Rob Williams, Howard Kessler, Harvey Goldman, Kathleen Carr, Elizabeth Georges, Ann Bidlingmaier

**Guest:** Anne Van Meter (guest of Howard Kessler)

**Treasurer’s Report** not reported this month

**February 2019 Minutes** were approved

Board approved $200 memorial donation to Lafayette Presbyterian Church in memory of Tim Smith, who organized and cooked for the May AAS banquets for ten years.

**Board Members for Next Year**

Kathleen is nominating chair. Thus far we have three nominees – Nico Weiss, Tyler Dye and Amelia Fusaro. **Please continue to seek out potential board members** before the April board meeting. The ballot has to be ready by the May banquet. **Rob plans to ask George Wilson** since he is an expert on conservation issues especially future land acquisition.

We need to **fill President position and Vice President position** as well.

**By-laws**

Before we change the by-laws, Kathleen will check with Audubon Works to see what is required by National Audubon. If possible, we would like to see the following changes:

1. remove the 1 year restriction for office of the President
2. add a qualification that board members be paying members of Audubon
3. remove the requirement of 6 issues for sending out newsletters

**Education Updates** (Peter)

**Lake Elberta –** Wildflower plants were planted in the wildflower meadow area that had been seeded by the City of Tallahassee with seed provided by AAS. Lilly recommended the appropriate wildflowers and helped Peter plant them along with Chase from Native Nurseries. The City had not prepared the area properly prior to planting and then one of their mowers mowed the new seedlings down, thus the need for the new plants. There was enough money in the grant to cover the plants. Also, the City planted another meadow area beneath the power lines.

**Audubon Action Grant received** – Peter K. wrote the grant and received $4300 grant. We discussed how to use the funds and we all agreed to focus on making Lake Elberta more accessible for the people in the surrounding neighborhoods. The interns surveyed the residents and found that they would like a picnic area and grills for gathering and a play place for children. We brainstormed some ideas. Maybe a natural play space like the one at Cascades Park. We could fund and have the City build it. We could lobby the city for more picnic tables. We could also develop a Passport type program for children, modeled after state and national park passport programs. A deck on the lake. A marquis. An education center. Cigarette receptacle at end of bench or encourage city to ban smoking in park. Christmas Bird Count as part of passport program. Lots of ideas. **Send ideas to Peter if you think of others.**

**City Nature Challenge** – main day is Saturday, April 27 at Lake Elberta from 9 – 2 – need volunteers from AAS for this part of the challenge. See the website which is now up.

**Audubon Convention** (Peter)

Peter applied for scholarship but still hasn’t heard. Intern Carolyn is going and received full scholarship. It is in Milwaukee. We voted to fund a scholarship for Peter K. to attend. This will include full registration and his share of the room. He has free airfare.

**Conservation** (Rob)

**Apalachicola River** – this is ongoing – Rob is in touch with Professor Roady who is handling the Amicus Brief.

**Gems Lands Florida Forever Project** – We agreed to support this as requested by Tall Timbers. It involves the purchase of a conservation easement on Cherokee Plantation which runs from Lake Iamonia to Lake Miccosukee. **Rob will write a letter of support**.

**Telogia Creek Project in Liberty County** – The owners went to FWC with a proposal to continue silviculture on the uplands and to sell the wetlands intact (fee simple**). Rob will look into this and write a letter of support.**

**Engagement**

**Social** – Lilly and Elizabeth report that they were not able to make arrangements for an event at Proof. We agreed we would have a **Meet-up at Lake Elberta on Sunday, April 21**. Details to be announced.

**Science Salon** – Peter is scheduled to speak about the Lake Elberta project on April 23 at 7:25pm at Waterworks – **please come to support him**!

**Birdathon** (Harvey)

Board members and others should **form a group to bird in April and seek donations** from the membership. Harvey will write a paragraph for the e-newsletter to inform members. This is really our only fundraiser each year (other than Wildlife Friendly Yard Tour, which is really more of an event).

**Outreach**

**No booth at Springtime Tallahassee this year.**

**Earth Day at Maclay Garden State Park on Friday, April 19, 10am – 2pm –** Eric Draper asked AAS to participate in Florida’s designated Earth Day Celebration. We plan to promote the City Nature Challenge. We will also give out **packages of wildflower seed** with information about AAS on them. **Rob will purchase more Cats Indoors brochure**s from American Bird Conservancy so we can distribute those.

**Audubon’s Plants for Birds Program – a Deep Dive**

Rob and Donna reported on the National Audubon Society’s webinar that they both watched. Both have reservations about recommending their Native Plant Data Base for our area. It needs major work.

Meeting adjourned at 7:38pm. The board will meet next on Wednesday, April 10 at 6:30 at Native Nurseries.