Apalachee Audubon Board Meeting Minutes 2-12-2020

* Setting up our fieldtrips on the Meetup website: Liz Schold will set us up an account
* A thank you card for FWC, who provided wood duck boxes, will be signed at the program meeting
* Approval of minutes: Peter moved, Kathleen second, unanimous approval
* Reminder from Peter to get involved
	+ Members should check all opportunities sent through email
* Old Growth Forest Dedication at Wakulla Spring on 3/18 at 11:00 am
	+ Peter invited the board members to join with him to meet Joan Malooth at the dedication
* Josh Romero, Director of Legislative Affairs for FL Audubon spoke
	+ Promoted a chapter training on climate change advocacy
	+ 4 hour step-by-step seminar
	+ After training we will work on ordinances pertinent to our area
	+ Laura Aguirre will be organizing; she is taking over some roles for Josh who is take a hiatus
	+ Ok to invite allies, people outside the chapter
	+ Josh or Laura can take any questions we might have
	+ Would like to get this set up for second half of March.
	+ Ben will take the lead on organizing the date/time and getting participants
* Programs
	+ Jim Cox
		- Any needs besides usual food, etc.: no.
	+ This is a good talk/field trip to invite outside groups (Sierra, NPS, Ollie, Outdoor Afro)
	+ Can we get flyers for these events?
		- Liz Schold will provide a template
	+ Need volunteers for Backyards Tour
		- Nelson will contact ESP
	+ Chase provided Doug Tallamy update:
		- Chase handed out flyers
		- Now held at FAMU
			* Capacity is 480 people vs. 180 at King Building
			* Partnering with a professor at FAMU
			* Will have to pay an IT person and a policeman ($30 an hour for the IT person, not sure about the policeman. Trillium Gardens is giving $250.00 towards this)
		- The last Limpkin had a map to the new spot. Ask Peter for the .pdf if needed
		- Lot of room for tabling. We already have some partners
		- No food or drinks
		- Personal invitations: Vanessa Christler
		- Yard tour involved with Tallamy talk
			* On Sunday 11:00—3:00.
			* Three yards, max of 80 people
			* Will be publicized, but addresses will only be given to people that get tickets—Want to attract people who have not been on the yard tour before
				+ Should we put out a donation bucket at the yard tour? Board members said yes, but we did not hold a vote
		- We can expand our advertising because we have a bigger space
		- Susan Cerulean agreed to say something at the event about Native Nurseries and Donna and Jody
		- Ben will mention something in FWC newsletter
		- Ben will write a follow-up article on the event for the Limpkin
		- Nelson flyered an presented on the event to ESP
		- Elizabeth G. will send the .pdf of flyer out to the board
* Amelia and Bill Program
	+ Peter K. says the fieldtrip is set up
* Banquet
	+ Kathleen gave an update
		- Fellowship Hall at Presbyterian Church has been reserved
		- Peter G. and Chase volunteered to help
		- Committee will get moving on this
* The two graduate students will make a presentation on the trash flow issue at Lake Elberta.
	+ Peter says they are excellent students
	+ The two will come to the March meeting to present
	+ Anyone can contact them with questions
	+ Might be able to meet with them at Lake Elberta – Peter will organize
* Nelson gave an intern update
	+ Jan. 21 they put up the purple martin gourds at Elberta with the Walker Ford Community Center kids
	+ Work day at Elberta was on Jan. 26
	+ Feb. 7 Ben, Nelson and Harbria put up two wood duck boxes at Elberta
	+ Ben, Chase, Harbria and Nelson went to the FlyingWild workshop at Joe Budd
	+ Interns put together seed packets to hand out
		- Harbria and Kathleen will hand some out to Pineview Kids
		- Nels and Harbria are going to hand them out at FAMU
	+ Coming up:
		- Intro to Birdwatcher’s Event at Elberta with ESP kids
		- Potential to meet up with 4H Club to a light event (attract moths, etc.)
		- STEM for girls program: Interns are working on a plan
		- Outdoor Afro is available in June to do another bird walk
	+ Nelson did lobbying for Everglades Coalition as part of Audubon Assembly mentorship program
* Dara updated on fish farm issue
	+ She does not think it is a good approach to try to stop it from getting built through checking permits, etc.
	+ Other orgs are not going that route of stopping it getting built, but trying to mitigate the issue after it is built
	+ Dara checked on building permits and they are ok – She will inform Beth Alvey
	+ Friends of Wakulla Springs is getting funds to establish baseline studies before the fish farm is up and running (concerning nitrates, etc.)
		- This will be a quarterly initiative. Dara will get more info
	+ Fish farm is jumping through all the hoops conservations groups are putting up
	+ We should advocate to get FDACs to fix the BMPs. Currently they are very lax.
* Haiti
	+ We are not able to do advocacy or outreach on their behalf
	+ Rather state or national Audubon should be contacted
	+ Peter says we have already put a nail in this
	+ Ben will contact to say we cannot get involved
	+ Peter K. suggested the organization Aid Still Required as an alternative
* Blueprint (Coal Schute Pond)
	+ Dara printed out the blueprints and member looked at them
	+ Blueprint volunteered to do this and make these blueprints
	+ This is 1,000s of plants
	+ Will Audubon have to maintain?
		- Peter does not think so, as they said so previously
	+ Elizabeth pointed out that certain plants are invasive
	+ Dara pointed out that more amenities will go in (playground, etc.), which will affect our decision
	+ Charlie is the landscape designer and contact. He is open to changes and edits.
	+ Snails might be an issue. It happened at Debbie Lightsey Park
	+ Dara suggested we do an interpretive sign for Coal Chute.
		- Peter says yes.
		- It will cost $1,500.
		- We will need a grant.
* Fieldtrip issues
	+ No one showed up to the last one Jake did
	+ These are hit or miss. Need to boost outreach
	+ Need to raise the profiles of the guides.
		- Ben to write up bios?
	+ Locations might be part of the issue
		- Start doing places we’ve never done before
	+ Leaders should “sell” the trips more. Right now, the info is barebones. Could write up paragraphs describing how the trips will be.
	+ Ben and Elizabeth will change the website to put fieldtrips with the other events
	+ Should we start a fieldtrip committee?
		- Liz says she and others could step up to do logistics of fieldtrips if they are not leading the trips
		- Elizabeth, Kathleen, Rob, Jake (?) and Natasha (?) will meet as a committee to discuss this all