# Apalachee Audubon 2020-2021 Retreat

## Meeting Notes

In attendance: Amelia, Ben, Chase, Dara, Donna, Harvey, Heather, Howard, Kathleen, Liz, Natasza, Nelson, Norma, Peter Kelly, Peter Kleinheinz, Peter Goren, Rob

* Donna would like us to work as a team and says we can’t do everything we always want to put on our plate, so we need to prioritize.
* The newer member introduced themselves
	+ Norma: Interested in conservation communication and helping with Debbie Lightsey
	+ Heather: Wants to work with Lake Elberta and field trips. She needs to write up a bio.
	+ Liz Schold: Will help fill gaps, do educational and conservation work
	+ Natasza: Interested in working with Blueprint
	+ Nelso: Will help fill gaps, continue with Lake Elberta, hands on outreach
* There was a unanimous approval of the meeting notes from the previous meeting.
	+ Ben to receive all the old meeting minutes from Donna to digitize them and get them on the website, then store or recycle them.
* May Budget: $20,003
	+ Harvey paid post office $150.00 after that above total
* Kathleen spoke on membership:
	+ In June, there were 775 members, which means 12 new members. 1,375 people are subscribed to the newsletter according to Constant Contact. Usually around 300—400 people actively read the newsletter
* Environmental Education
	+ Amelia reported on Pines to Palms project
		- About six members have been working on in this project for the last few months
		- Now planning a series of program to highlight native original forest. The focus will be on Leon at the beginning, but if this is successful it could morph into a multi-year, multi-county event.
		- The goals are to get people out to the forests and aware of our old growth forests
* Pineview Elementary afterschool program
	+ On hiatus because of Covid
* St. Marx field trip
	+ On hiatus because of Covid
* Lake Elberta
	+ The planted beds are doing great. Peter, Nelson and Ben have been maintaining
	+ Beds need watering and weeding
	+ A new interpretive sign was installed in the front bed. Was funded by the Florida Power and Light grant
	+ Going forward:
		- The kiosk should be updated with announcements.
		- Peter is going to meet with the heads for the stormwaters divisions to decide when we want to mow along the water’s edge. The beds might need to be mowed.
		- We should do an invasive plan removal in October, but there are issues with the city letting use do so because of Covid
* FSU Sustainability Fellowship
	+ A new student will do work at Elberta regarding working on grants to support the project. They will receive eBird training to conduct surveys and work with the city for a course of action on building a bat house
	+ Nelson updated the board: Trash flow project is in the data analysis and writing phase of the study.
		- Going forward this study needs to move into the hands of a government agency (city, county, state, etc.)
* Grant Programs
	+ RCPP grant through Tall Timbers
		- Audubon will offer two fieldtrips a year in the St. Marks and Aucilla Watersheds. This counts as a match for the grants
	+ Cornell Lab of Ornithology
		- Land Trust FL
			* Three land trusts pair with three Audubons
			* Great opportunity: Land trust staff that monitor easements will organize to do eBird checklist on this conservation lands that are lacking them. Helps fill distribution gaps on private conservation lands.
			* Should take place Oct. 2020 through Oct. 2021
* Binocular donation
	+ Heather brought up this idea
		- During Covid, people are turning to birding as recreation. Many cannot afford binoculars. We could start a program to collect old binoculars from our membership and distribute them to people who cannot afford them.
		- Heather to write up a request for the newsletter.
	+ Conservation
		- Rob: Goals for this year:
			* Would like us to take and overhead view of our accomplishments. Few chapters have 50% of their coverage in conservation as we do. Growing every year by 10,000 acres.
			* Rob would like us to dust off our conservation plan and figure out what we are missing from our area
		- Florida Forever
			* The trick is to have your projects become a high priority FF project. Need local advocacy; ARC pays attention to this.
		- Federal Funding
			* Every year there is funding for expanding conservation land.
			* Need to fire up our representative to expand St. Marks and St. Vincent
		- Private conservations land
			* We should try to work with Tall Timbers to support this
		- Need to comment on management plans
		- Write letter in support of legislation
		- Peter says Tall Timbers is working on projects adjunct to public lands. We can support grant funding by directly support financially.
	+ RCC-Regional Conservation Committee
		- Kathleen: Four chapters that set conservations goals for strategic conservation in our area. Disaster preparedness for chapters in the path of hurricanes.
	+ Blueprint
		- Debbie Lightsey Nature Preserved
			* AA has been involved with Blueprint planning in advance. They seem to be taking use seriously. We a heave emphasized more native plants.
		- We need someone to take lead on Blueprint
* Leon Co. Office of Sustainability
	+ Peter and Ben met with sustainability manager Tess Schreiner to discuss parts of their strategic plan that we can help and/or advocate for.
	+ Ben will set up having Tessa come to a board meeting to explain
* Programs
	+ Was decided to do a theme along the line of “Access to Nature” in light of Black Lives Matters and issues surround accessibility for many different types of non-traditional nature area users.
	+ We will not have live programs for Sept. Oct., and Nov. So, we will not do a brochure
	+ First meeting will be webinar with Doug Tallamy
	+ Dara: We should look into digital programs and digital outreach. Look to the Grove’s walking tours.
* Communication
	+ Dara and Donna wrote up something for a diversity statement. Needs to be reviewed, edited and put on the webpage. Need to make sure our actions reflect our statement
* Ben to take over newsletter liaison
* Dara to head a communications committee
	+ Ben: newsletter
	+ Dara: Social media
	+ Elizabeth/Ben: Webpage
* Storage Shed
	+ Need a shed or space as AA materials are at different people’s houses
	+ Ask businesses or put something in the newsletter