Apalachee Audubon Board Retreat Meeting Minutes 6-13-2021

*Chapter Mission: Protecting the rich biodiversity of the Florida Panhandle*

*through education, appreciation, and conservation.*

Submitted by Nelson Ball, Secretary

In attendance: Donna Legare, Kathleen Carr, Dara Wilson, Harvey Goldman, Peter Kleinhenz, Heather Levy, Nelson Ball, Norma Skaggs, Howard Kessler, Rob Williams, Caleb Crow

AAS Membership Information:

* + 863 chapter memberships as of May 31st.
	+ 440 active NAS members emailed to vote in board election. (Not all members provide email addresses.)
	+ 44 people voted to confirm this year’s slate.
	+ 1,714 subscribers for The Limpkin Times.
* Call to order and approve minutes from May 2021 meeting
	+ Meeting called to order at 2:10pm
	+ Minutes approved
* Treasurer’s Report: Balance will be $21,421.68 after check to FAMU Pollinator 4H Project is cashed.
	+ Harvey will submit PDF bank statements to the board every month
	+ Besides the treasurer, nobody is currently authorized to sign checks
		- Kathleen asks that a backup be added
	+ Donna asks about $250 from Wraithmell—Harvey confirms that it has not come in yet
	+ Harvey sent $1000 check to FAMU but it has not yet been cashed
* Introductions
* Board Member Roles and committee involvements.
	+ Everyone should commit to serving on or chairing a committee and/or volunteering for an activity—tabling, backyard tour, writing an article for The Limpkin Times, etc.
* Zoom for Board and committee meetings
	+ Downgraded our Zoom account to remove webinar feature
		- May do lower level of webinar and stream programs live elsewhere to save money
	+ Our Zoom account still active for meetings over an hour
* AAS has a Google Drive that can be used for creating and sharing documents, spreadsheets, and storing files.
	+ Working Bylaws document will be made available so we can all have input
* Meeting schedule
	+ Board meetings remain 2nd Wed of month @6:30pm
	+ Next Board Meeting Sept. 8th @6:30pm, via Zoom
	+ Programs depend on venue, but hoping to keep it 3rd Thurs of month
* Keeping our goals for the year manageable,
	+ Get more people involved and have well-defined goals and tasks
	+ Develop a chapter job jar and recruit people for those jobs.
* Continuing topics from this past year.
	+ Climate watch participation decision
	+ T-shirt and other sale items
		- Harvey makes the point that previous shirts were expensive to have made, slow to sell, and provided little return.
	+ Update and print Great Birding Spots guide.
		- Probably not worth the expense to print since most people use digital guides now
		- Rob and Peter will help update text
		- PDF to be put on web with hyperlinks to eBird Hotspots
	+ Chimney swift tower
	+ Lake Elberta - pushing for grates on storm drains
	+ Pines to palms continuation
		- Leon county and possible joint sponsorship with new South Georgia Audubon chapter on Lost Creek Forest
	+ CLI - mentors
	+ Student Director Position for Tallulah Biletzskov?
		- They would like to be a Board Member serving in this role for the next year
		- Voted on by the Board! Welcome Tallulah!
	+ Chapter Land Acknowledgement
	+ Board Member Attendance Policy
* Standing Committees
	+ **Programs:**
		- Norma Skaggs, Chair
		- Dara, Donna, Kathleen, Heather, Howard to join committee
		- Proposed theme ideas: “For the Love of Birds”, “For the Fun of Birds”, something highlighting local bird diversity/migratory birds that utilize our local lands
			* Mississippi Kites
				+ Heather has contact with someone at ARCI (Avian Research and Conservation Institute)
			* Colonial Wading Birds
				+ Wood storks
			* Aerial Insectivores
				+ Chimney Swifts, Purple Martins
		- FSU was $40/month to have somebody help run the tech
		- Not sure if FSU wants to continue holding meetings, need to contact
		- Possibly move to somewhere near other communities in hopes to increase diversity
			* Donna suggests Leon Public Library—no charge, possible deal for no parking fee or maybe we can pay a fee to cover parking
				+ we can form a partnership and support their events in our newsletter
		- “Broadcast” meetings live via Facebook and/or YouTube Live.
			* Investigate options
			* Caleb can help with mics/tech
		- Discontinue hospitality for meetings?
			* Bringing in food and beverages is taxing without a person/committee handling that task
			* Some venues won’t allow refreshments on site.
			* Howard, and others, feel that while hospitality is not the only reason people come, but that it is a nice gesture for our attendees
	+ **Conservation:**
		- Peter Kleinhenz, Chair
		- Rob Williams to be on committee
		- Goals for this year.
			* Bluffs of St Theresa in Dickerson Bay (FFProj) – Bird Survey?
			* Focus on FL Forever projects
			* Possible Program to highlight conservation lands in our area that help birds
		- RCC: Who will attend meetings besides Kathleen (still RCC secretary this year)?
			* Next meeting is June 15 in Defuniak Springs.
			* AAS will provide Zoom access if the Verizon signal is strong enough.
			* Peter and Rob will plan to attend virtually
		- Blueprint
			* Norma is not interested in continuing her role.
			* Peter will be involved to the extent that he is able
	+ **Education:**
		- Donna Legare will recruit members and serve as chair if need be.
		- Audubon Adventures (Judy is retiring from this task. Need)
			* 3rd-5th grade teachers get packet for kids from National Audubon
			* We need a new point person
		- Resumption of Pineview afterschool bird club
			* Cierra Nelson is our paid intern that will take this over
			* Start after Labor Day
			* Donna has talked to a teacher at Pineview and she is excited to have us again
			* Once every other week
			* Lesson plans, like Flying Wild, for teachers
			* Caleb interested for his son’s school (probably Hawks Rise), as well
			* Pines to Palms for Leon County
				+ Moved to Programs
		- Binoculars (also relevant to Field Trips Committee)
			* Contact companies to ask for discount/donation
			* Possible used binocular donation drive
			* Possible donation jar for buying binoculars at our Programs and tabling events
	+ **Field Trips:**
		- Heather Levy
		- Possible standing committee to garner help for field trips
		- Potential Summer pine woods breeding bird walk – potential Newsletter to advertise this (and binocular drive)
		- Caleb mentions he and his wife have a non-profit that has a Fellow who is designing a scavenger hunt—possible field trip?
		- Maybe Jim Cox will do one/two
		- Natasza Fontaine, will volunteer for bird walks and nature/art events
		- Possible Beginner’s walk at Lake Elberta/Lake Henrietta
		- Birdsong Nature Center—Marvin conducts bird walks at Birdsong, may be willing for AAS (entrance fee)
		- Red Hills Audubon joint field trip?
		- Outdoor Afro field trip?
	+ **Communications:** (Publications and Publicity)
		- Dara Wilson, Communications Chair and Zoom-master
		- Elizabeth Georges, AAS Website
		- Kathleen Carr and Dara Wilson, Facebook
		- Dara Wilson, Instagram & Twitter
		- Kathleen Carr, AAS YouTube channel
		- Kathleen Carr & Chris Grossman, The Limpkin Times newsletter
			* The Limpkin Times is suspended for the summer.
			* Next newsletter to be sent right after Labor Day
		- Tabling (Suggest that tabling be moved to this committee instead of education, but could straddle both.) All materials are being stored at Howard’s house.
			* Need to establish event dates and recruit volunteers.
		- Donna has developed a plan to coordinate the newsletter/website/social media.
		- Brochure/Rack Card
			* Last printing was ~$1000 for 2000 tri-fold brochures
			* Printer does mailing for us
			* Elizabeth Georges will likely create a free brochure if we ask
			* Have program schedule set and design done by mid-August in order to have printed and sent out by early September
			* Single panel rack card for the airport. The TLH airport would like us to keep materials in their community information area.
				+ Brochures may end up being out of date after some time.
				+ Might be more cost effective, not time dependent.
	+ **Membership:**
		- Kathleen Carr, Chair
		- Kathleen will try to garner some help with this. To be discussed more at first Board Meeting.
		- Membership benefits from chapter membership.
			* None at the moment, just NAS benefits.
			* Can we create an additional benefit that would entice people to join NAS?
		- Evaluate how we can utilize the membership information from NAS to engage our
		- membership.
			* Most probably don’t know that they are also chapter members.
		- Restart Welcome Wagon process where we mail a brochure and welcome letter to new members every month.
			* We get this information from NAS
		- Contact members whose membership is about to lapse.
	+ **Other committees and activities:**
		- Harvey Goldman, **Birdathon**
		- VACANT (formerly Suzanna Macintosh & Karen Wensing), **Chapter History**
		- Judy Goldman & Harvey Goldman, **September Coastal Cleanup**
		- VACANT, **Volunteer Coordinator**
		- Tammy Brown﻿, **Wildlife-friendly Yards Tour**
		- Peter Goren?, **Banquet**
			* Usually at a church
			* Covered dish
			* Possible venue change ideas:
				+ Maclay Gardens
				+ Tall Timbers Research Station

Joint event with Red Hills Audubon Chapter?

* Topics not discussed today will be discussed at the September Board Meeting (Sept. 8th @6:30pm)
* Motion to adjourn from Peter, seconded by Heather. Adjourned at 4:50pm.