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.