Apalachee Audubon Board Meeting Minutes 5-12-2021

Submitted by Nelson Ball, Secretary

In attendance: Donna Legare, Dara Wilson, Kathleen Carr, Amelia Fusaro, Harvey Goldman, Peter Kleinhenz, Heather Levy, Nelson Ball, Norma Skaggs, Howard Kessler, Peter Kelly, Tallulah Biletzskov, Chase Brestle

* Donna thanks departing board members
  + Amelia Fusaro, Peter Kelly, Peter Goren, Chase Brestle, Liz Schold—thank you for your service!
* Minutes from April meeting were approved
  + Nelson will make changes suggested by Kathleen and send minutes to Elizabeth to post on the website
* Harvey emailed out a treasurer’s report
  + Current balance in bank account is roughly $22,500.00
  + Treasurer’s report approved.
* Discussion about Zoom account
  + Possibly cancel webinar portion (monthly fee), or maybe just downgrade
  + Zoom meeting feature (annual fee) will likely be worth keeping
* Ballot report—Kathleen
  + 42 people have voted so far
* Communication
  + May Newsletter is out.
    - June newsletter to be assembled
    - No newsletter in July or August
  + Tallahassee Democrat – Donna submitted a press release for our May program
  + FOS Newsletter—Heather
    - Heather is restarting the Florida Ornithological Society’s newsletter and is looking for contributions for the first issue
* Environmental Education
  + April – Nicole Jackson
    - A lot of notice and recognition online
    - 60 registered, 43 attendees
  + May –Jeff VanderMeer
    - Dara put newer graphic on the website
    - Donna submitted press release to Tallahassee Democrat
    - Spread word on social media
    - Dara will set up practice meeting with Jeff and Donna
  + May field trip –Deep Roots Meat
    - Peter Kelly reports that 10 people have signed up by the 3/31 deadline—registrations are full!
  + Lake Elberta
    - Pete—Sarah’s presentation was good. Pete and Heather now have all of the materials for the bat house sign since it has fallen through with the intern. Pete will contact Ben about possibly helping.
    - Wildflower bed weeding. Pete says they look great—back bed has some weeds, front is amazingly clear.
    - Donna and Jody will take the gourds down this summer, store at Native Nurseries
    - Future meeting/Retreat agenda item: discuss contacting City Commissioners about installing grates on storm drainage openings in mapped Lake Elberta drainage area.
    - See Chloe’s article on WFSU ecology blog and cool Lake Elberta postcards that she and Rob created. Postcards will have short descriptions on back.
      * <https://blog.wfsu.org/blog-coastal-health/2021/05/how-does-all-this-trash-get-to-lake-elberta-a-high-schoolers-perspective/>
    - There is now a link that takes people to a page that features all Lake Elberta stories going back to 2019
      * <https://blog.wfsu.org/blog-coastal-health/lake-elberta-building-an-urban-habitat-in-the-heart-of-tallahassee/>
  + Carrabelle Library Birding Program—Tales and Tails
    - Kathleen – June 25th, 1:30pm
      * Backyard Birding Basics: How to attract birds to your yard and how to identify them
    - Pete – July 10th, 11am-Noon
      * Herps! Pete will bring some examples of reptiles and amphibians to discuss how these amazing animals are adapted for survival and what these creatures might teach us about our native ecosystems.
    - Dara and Nelson are interested in helping, schedules permitting
* Conservation Updates
  + Sign-on letter to EPA re: drilling in Big Cypress National Preserve (Center for Biological Diversity)
  + Single Use Plastic Issue – with Big Bend Sierra Club, League of Woman Voters, Sustainable Tallahassee
    - Donna will call Grant about this
  + October Florida Forever deadline—Pete will be submitting new project for Aucilla River that focuses on all remaining unprotected portions.
    - Pete will be in touch with Rob to ask about writing
* Retreat
  + Sunday, June 13th, 2-4pm. Indoors at Donna’s house.
    - Zoom meeting for those that will be out of town or who may not want to attend in person
* Additional Items
  + Heather is seeking help for leading birdwatching trips next year
  + Dara and Peter co-lead a birding trip at Lake Henrietta for the Leon County Sustainability Summit and it was great!