Apalachee Audubon Board Meeting Minutes 10-13-2021

Submitted by Nelson Ball, Secretary

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

* Meeting called to order at 6:35pm.
* Minutes from September 2021 Board Meeting were approved
  + Nelson will send minutes to Elizabeth
* Revised by-laws are now available
  + https://www.apalachee.org/bylaws
* Membership—Kathleen
  + Current chapter membership is 876 as of September 30, 2021.
    - Up 11 members since August
    - 21 expired 3 months ago, will be deleted
    - 15 new members
    - 8 rejoins
    - 16 renewals
* FLEDJE (Future Leaders for Equity, Diversity, and Justice in the Environment) Update:
  + AAS has been selected (1 of 6 chapters selected) for $1000 grant
  + Howard and Tallulah will participate in 6-month training starting this month.
  + They will report to the AAS Board monthly about their work
* David Arnold, request for travel support
  + David wrote us saying, "I have been selected to serve on a Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Working Group to advise the agency on addressing non-native wildlife.  I will be the primary representative for environmental groups in Florida and my alternate will be Chris Kelly who works for Florida Audubon over in Jacksonville. Grant Gelhardt from Sierra Club supported my nomination as well as a number of other organization reps.
  + Would AAS consider donating some funds for his travel?
  + What would David be doing, exactly, and would he give us updates?
  + Not representing AAS, but acting with AAS’ interests
  + Donna will talk to David for more details
  + Donna will email AAS Board members to vote on funding hotel room, Harvey seconds motion
* Spring Special Speaker program
  + Noah Strycker - <https://noahstrycker.com/about/birdboy/>
  + Brian Dusseault, Program Chair of Bay County Audubon, joins our meeting
  + Noah will be in Panama City in late-March, early-April for event
  + Brian gives background on Noah
  + Invites AAS to join Bay County Audubon’s lecture (Sat, April 2nd--$25 admission) and possibly for birding at St Marks NWR or another area
  + AAS asks Brian to see if Noah may be interested in extending his trip by a couple days to come visit us—Brian agrees
* Treasurer’s Report—Harvey
  + Current balance $23,606.51 as of 10/8/21
  + Kathleen Carr has been added to the bank account as a signatory
  + Kathleen has two checks on hand for any occasions that require payment by check and Harvey is not available
  + She also has access to the account online records.
* Lake Elberta Cleanup—Caleb Crow
  + Caleb will pick up the supplies from the City and leave them with Donna
  + Harvey will bring them to the event if she cannot
  + Howard will check the AAS supplies at his house to see if we have gloves and bags—will email after checking
  + If any other supplies are needed, Donna can pick them up before the event
  + Nelson can help return supplies to Native Nurseries if need be
  + We’ll have people park along FAMU Way, meet at Bat house
  + Kathleen and Jim will bring video cameras
* Program Committee—Norma
  + Doug has been confirmed for next week—Kathleen and Dara will be in touch with Doug about Zoom
  + AAS brochures are at Native Nurseries if anybody wants to distribute some!
  + Donna asks about sending a reminder email for our program since our newsletter went out so early—Kathleen will send that
  + Tallulah will remind people on social media
* Education Committee—Donna
  + Chimney Swift Tower update and estimate
    - Cost: $759.10 so far. Discuss funding.
    - Kenny from City gave us the green light to start building—will discuss placement in the future
    - Jody forgot some items on the list we received—materials would cost ~$1000
    - Donna proposes that we work on an interpretive sign—Ann Morrow has agreed to help. Sign will be on the structure. Cost TBD.
  + Intern—Cierra Nelson
    - Reminder: AAS received $1000 from National Audubon for intern and Pineview for 21-21 school year. Pineview has cancelled due to Covid.
    - Cierra received the CLI scholarship!!! Congratulations! Dara will be her mentor
    - Harvey has paid her half of her stipend for the semester
    - Contact at Pineview has asked AAS to help clean feeders and donate birdseed
    - Donna has contacted our former intern Harbria, who put her in touch with her supervisor—Cierra can help set up a bluebird trail at Joe Budd
    - Donna suggests day camp at Joe Budd -- $195, grades 3-5, 4 days
    - Cierra to ask the FAMU Outdoor Club to help build 10 bluebird houses—material cost details TBD in the future
* Communications Committee—Dara
  + Follow up on the social media/conservation training with NAS
  + Land acknowledgement statement
    - Tallulah will get a draft going
* FieldTrip Committee—Heather
  + AAS grants for research & education
    - Apply for a single grant and break it up, or do several smaller ones
      * Typically $500 or less
      * Contest to give $ to fund their research/education and have them do a program for us at the end
      * Previous chapter Heather was involved with funded undergrad/grad student that needed extra funds. Also binoculars for Black students. Pollinator garden projects.
    - Recruit volunteers, get good work done without us having to do it
    - Heather will start writing plan out
    - Donna would join committee
  + Potential for a FL Panhandle Lights Out Program
    - Scientists can predict high traffic nights during migration and this would promote going no lights on those nights to help them travel through
    - Carol from Duval Audubon—they and other chapters in the area, as well as Jax Zoo, have started a Lights Out Program
  + Field trip updates
    - Peter and Heather led a paddle down the Slave Canal and everyone enjoyed it
    - Birding Social 11/6—all ages
    - Lost Creek Forest walk 11/13
* Conservation Committee—Peter
  + Aucilla Corridor FF project submitted—will keep AAS updated
  + Keep close eye on Wakulla County
    - Large developments proposed in the area
    - Conversations between public and elected officials, AAS may want to provide statement eventually
  + Action item to provide comment for removal of on St Johns—check for Audubon’s link in Limpkin Times
* Additional Items
  + Share our programs and events on social media!!!