Apalachee Audubon Board Meeting Minutes 9-8-2021

Submitted by Nelson Ball, Secretary

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

* Meeting called to order at 6:35pm.
* Minutes from August 2021 Board Meeting were approved
  + Nelson will send minutes to Elizabeth
* Membership—Kathleen
  + Current chapter membership is 865 as of August 31, 2021.
    - Up 7 members since July
    - 15 expired 3 months ago, will be deleted
    - 11 new members
    - 2 rejoins
    - 21 renewals
* Newsletter Process
  + Send newsletter contributions (text & photos) to Kathleen
  + Donna will review
  + Kathleen will submit to Chris Grossman
  + Norma to be a backup reviewer
* AAS Email
  + Kathleen and Dara will handle emails
  + Mission San Luis asked if we wanted to table at an event
    - Pass this year due to covid concerns
* Grant Opportunities
  + Plants for Birds/Bird Friendly Communities
    - Application due 9/11
    - Pass this time due to short notice
  + FLEDJE (Future Leaders for Equity, Diversity, and Justice in the Environment) Training—$1000 Grant
    - A six-month EDI training for select chapters that could earn each chapter a $1,000 grant from NAS if successfully completed.
    - Refer to 8/31 email for more info
    - Application deadline is 9/12
    - Need 2-3 people and a project
    - Howard and Tallulah are volunteering to enroll in the training if AAS is selected
    - Peter & Nelson to help brainstorm project ideas at Lake Elberta Park
    - Proposal does not need to be detailed and it can change as we need to
    - Donna suggests possibly tying in Purple Martin gourds and the kids at Walker Ford Community Center
    - Peter suggests kids’ art in the kiosk that tells a story of how they associate with nature
* Treasurer’s Report—Harvey
  + Current balance $20,951.42 as of 9/2/21
  + PO Box fee to be paid soon
  + We will add another signatory
* Program Committee—Norma
  + Brochures are out and look great!
    - There are more available at Native Nurseries – see Elizabeth for more
    - Write down where you are taking brochures on notecard in box so we don’t double up distribution
  + Online social before our Program – 30 minutes prior
* FieldTrip Committee—Heather
  + Heather and Natasza will change times as necessary since some trips may run longer than the original estimate
  + Kathleen and Rob to help with 10/3 field trip to Lafayette Heritage Trail Park—eBird on phones prior to showing up at event
* Conservation Committee—Peter
  + Caleb got AAS a $3000 grant!
    - Perhaps an interpretive sign for our bat house
      * We have materials, this $ would cover costs for finishing and installation
      * Peter plans to finish text and gather photos by next week
      * Peter will have design cost quote to Caleb soon
      * 2 months to fabricate
      * Kenny from City will review beforehand
  + Lake Elberta Park 10/16 event
    - Clean-up, planting and invasive removal day
    - Water and land clean-up crews
    - Invasive removal
  + FSU ESP and Hillel have clean up at Lake Elberta on 9/12
    - Plan to make LEP a focus area for work days
  + Florida Forever update
    - AAS signed on to support Aucilla FF project
  + Sustainable Campus Fellow proposal
    - One idea from Heather: Have a student design, implement, and analyze a study that assessed recreation activities of our local parks/refuges (say within a 20 mi range). This could provide stakeholders with a general idea of the most popular activities in different recreation areas (e.g., hunting vs wildlife viewing vs exercise), and provide the student with experience in survey design, communications, and analysis.
    - Project with owls—Dara and Heather to talk about proposal
    - Heather will take lead, but will have limited time to commit
    - Caleb will help facilitate day-to-day, but does not want to take lead
    - Peter will also help
* Education Committee—Donna
  + Chimney Swift Tower
    - Jody talked to Kenny today about design/how to build
    - Kenny will bring plans to higher ups and report back to us
    - Costs to be calculated, presented to Board
    - Jody will welcome help during build! Building in Donna and Jody’s carport
  + Intern—Cierra Nelson
    - Donna will meet with her this Friday at 2pm at a coffee shop
    - Donna proposes that she be Jody’s apprentice for our chimney swift tower
    - Cierra will attend Swift Night Out
    - Nature art at Lake Elberta, event for tower installation
    - Other ideas?
  + Summer camp?
    - Howard proposes this idea
    - Essay contest to fund a an elementary school aged student
    - Talk to teachers at Pineview to identify one or two students with interest in nature and who would benefit greatly
    - Camp TALON (Teen Adventures Learning Ornithology & Nature)
      * Ages 14-19
      * $450 for 6 days, 5 nights
    - We can look for another camp to cater to our friends at Pineview
    - FWC has summer camps—one good one in Everglades
    - Howard will reach out to Cornell University to see if they have resources/ideas for us
* Communications Committee—Dara
  + Google Calendars
    - Field Trips, Programs, AAS Administrative
  + NAS Social Media Collaboration weekly meetings
    - Meeting tomorrow at 3pm that Kathleen will attend with Dara
  + Coordinate with Conservation Committee
  + Updates to website for events, bios, etc.
* Additional Items
  + Trash Flow study has been re-submitted to journal after edits
  + Internal-use only BOD contact list
  + Share our programs and events on social media!!!