

Apalachee Audubon

The Newsletter of the Apalachee Audubon Society, Inc.
www.apalachee.org

Vol. 106, No. 1

September 2007

Apalachee Audubon Society is back from summer vacation!

Apalachee Audubon is returning from summer vacation with a full schedule of events for the month of September! All events are open to members and non-members alike and all events are free unless field trip site charges admission. Audubon is Florida's oldest conservation organization, and Apalachee Audubon serves Tallahassee and the Big Bend with the mission of "protection of the environment through education, appreciation, and conservation."

Come join us, meet new folks, enjoy Florida outdoors, and see what Audubon is all about!

September 15

International Coastal Clean-Up and Awareness Day Bottoms Road Beach Clean-Up

Bottoms Rd. runs through some of the most beautiful marshes of the St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge, ending on the Gulf of Mexico. Scott's Seaside Sparrows and Clapper Rails, trilling Marsh Wrens and nesting Wilson's Plovers are home here... and unhealthy amounts of human trash. Come spend the day to help restore this scenic Florida to natural beauty.

Meet at: 8AM at the end of Bottoms Rd. Reach Bottoms Rd. from the US 98/ CR 319 split in Medart (Wakulla Co.), by driving 2.5 miles south towards Panacea on US 98. Just outside of Panacea, Bottoms Rd. is on left. Follow road to end at parking lot/ boat launch.

Expect to be done by: early afternoon. **Level of difficulty:** Tasks to accommodate all levels of ability.

Be sure to bring: gloves, closed-toed shoes to get muddy, sunscreen, insect repellent (if desired), water

Expect to be done by: noon

Level of difficulty: Walking on level, unpaved trails

Be sure to bring: binoculars, if you have them

For more information, contact: Melissa Forehand, Vice President, (850) 510-4877, greentreefrog@earthlink.net

September 16: Field Trip

Birding Basics at Lake Lafayette with Melissa Forehand and Marvin Collins

Join Melissa Forehand and Marvin Collins for an exploration of the woods and waterfront of Lake Lafayette, and introduction to basics of birdwatching! Likely to see Great Egrets and soaring Osprey as well as songbirds like Brown Thrashers and White-eyed Vireos. Been wondering what birding is all about? This is the walk for you! All walk participants are guaranteed to leave wanting more...

Meet at: 7:30 AM at Wild Birds Unlimited at Governors Square Blvd & Magnolia Dr. for carpooling (encouraged) or 8:00 AM at Lafayette Capital Park (at 950 PineyZ Plantation Rd.) **Expect to be done by:** noon. **Difficulty:** Walking on level, unpaved trails.

Bring: Binoculars

For more information, contact: Andy Wraithmell, lbtours@comcast.net, (850) 443-0770

September 26: Field trip

St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) with Simon Thompson and Andy Wraithmell

Join featured speaker, Simon Thompson, and local birding expert Andy Wraithmell for a trip to Big Bend birding jewel St. Marks NWR! Migrating birds will convince you autumn is on its way! Enjoy resident wading birds, Brown-headed Nuthatches, Great Horned Owls and more; look for migrant warblers and shorebirds in Lighthouse Road habitats. Our guides will share identification skills and interesting natural history tidbits.

Meet at: Wachovia Bank on S. Monroe at 7:30 AM for carpooling (encouraged) or at the St Marks NWR Visitors Center at 8:00 AM

Expect to be done by: noon

Cost: \$4/car admission to National Wildlife Refuge

Level of Difficulty: Walking on level, unpaved and paved trails

Be sure to bring: binoculars, water and insect repellent if desired and a packed lunch. Event t-shirts and trash bags will be provided.

For more information contact: Melissa Forehand, Vice President, (850) 510-4877, greentreefrog@earthlink.net

September 26: Monthly Program

Why is North Carolina So Good for Birding? by Simon Thompson

From Black-throated Green and Blackburnian Warblers of the Blue Ridge, Barred Owls and Red-shouldered Hawks in lowland swamps, to Black-capped Petrels and Bridled Terns in the Gulf Stream, North Carolina offers some of the finest birding in the country. Join Simon Thompson on a photo expedition exploring the Carolinas from the mountains to the sea. Simon owns and operates his bird watching and natural history tour company, Ventures, Inc., based in Asheville, NC and leads small groups of naturalists and birders both in North America and locations throughout the world.

Time and location: 7:00 PM at the United Church in Tallahassee, 1834 Mahan Dr.

For more information, contact: Elizabeth Platt, President, (850) 385-9043, ejplatt@embarqmail.

President's Message

Elizabeth Platt

Dear Audubon members and friends,

Welcome back to a new year of wonderful programs, field trips, and other special activities planned by the board and various members of Apalachee Audubon. This year we have linked several of our programs and field trips to the conservation goals of the state and national organizations. And we have also planned hands-on activities to directly support the following goals:

- 1 Land conservation/acquisition and management
- 2 Growth and transportation
- 3 Water for the environment
- 4 Wildlife and protected species
- 5 Global warming

Each of these goals is addressed in at least one of our programs or special events. Last year our chapter accomplished objectives within each of these goals, and this year we hope to involve many more members. If you can't help with a beach or park clean-up, maybe you can build and install a birdhouse or feeder. If you can't help count birds during the Christmas Bird Count or the Birdathon, you can read messages about our area birds on the North Florida Birds Online at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/nflbirds/>.

There is timely information here about unusual birds that folks are seeing locally. Most importantly, you surely can teach a child or a neighbor something about birds!

At our first program meeting you will have a chance to meet our excellent new and returning officers, committee chairs, and event coordinators. I know you will be as impressed with them as I am. All of us hope you can help with the work of the chapter. OK, so now let's get ready for the fall migration!

Elizabeth Platt

**ATTENTION ALL AAS MEMBERS — BOARD SEEKS YOUR INPUT!!!!
PLEASE VOTE BY...**

**ATTENDING SEPTEMBER 26 MEMBERSHIP MEETING
OR
USING MAIL-IN BALLOT BEFORE SEPTEMBER 26**



The Board of Directors is asking for your vote on its proposal to amend the AAS Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws.

Because of the lack of a quorum at the May annual membership meeting, a vote by the membership could not be held as originally planned. As a result, the vote has been rescheduled for the September 26th membership meeting.

Note: One of the proposed bylaws revisions is a reduction in the percentage of the membership required to constitute a quorum for the purpose of conducting AAS business at membership meetings.

All of the proposed revisions are available for review on the AAS website Please take a few minutes to review revisions on our web page at:

www.apalachee.org

Then cast your vote at the September 26th membership meeting or by mail (by September 26th.)

Cut here. Place in envelope and mail. Or just turn ballot over, apply 41¢ stamp, mail.

**APALACHEE AUDUBON SOCIETY
MEMBER BALLOT**

Member Name(s): _____

Member Address: _____

- YES, I APPROVE** the proposed amendments to the AAS Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws.
- NO, I DO NOT APPROVE** the proposed amendments to the AAS Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws.

If not attending Membership meeting, please mail completed ballots by September 26

**Apalachee Audubon Society
P.O. Box 1237
Tallahassee, FL 32302-1237**

Serve to Preserve: Summit on Climate Change

There was strong energy in the air when over 600 leaders from industry, government, and environmental organizations convened for Florida Governor Charlie Crist's ***Serve to Preserve: Summit on Climate Change*** in Miami this summer, July 12-13. The event featured keynote presentations from California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and Theodore Roosevelt IV. At the Summit, Governor Crist signed three Executive Orders calling for reduced green-house gas emissions, a new building code, a renewable energy portfolio for all utilities, net-metering and new state government standards (... and signed partnership agreements with England, Germany and California). These muscular leadership moves bring Florida to the front lines of action to combat climate change. For more details see the State of Florida web site www.myfloridaclimate.com

Supporters cheered and critics noted the challenges. Whatever the spin, Florida is moving forward on climate change matters. More importantly, Florida industry is taking up the challenge. Summit attendees included representatives from the **Council for Sustainable Florida** (CSF), which promotes Best Management Practices for sustainability such as:

- **Seminole Electric Cooperative** (a CSF Partner) is seeking proposals for a CO² capture demonstration project.
- **Progress Energy** is building a renewable energy project (biomass from wood waste) to get 75 MW of electricity
- **Florida Power and Light** (a CSF Partner) senior management spoke to the U.S. Senate about the most direct way to price carbon and is in the preliminary stages of using windmills in St. Lucie County to generate electricity.
- **Orlando Utilities Commission** (a CSF Partner) is using biodiesel fuel in some of its fleet, is building its new headquarters using LEED standards, and generates electricity from gas collected from the landfill.

At the Summit, Governor Crist also announced his appointments to his ***Action Team on Energy and Climate***. Its first report is due November 1. Please see the new Department of Environmental Protection website on Climate Change <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/climatechange>

Contributed by:
Tim Center, Executive Director, Council for a Sustainable Florida
Steve Urse, volunteer, Big Bend Climate Action Team
See: <http://www.sustainableflorida.org>

Apalachee Audubon Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 1237
Tallahassee, FL 32302-1237

Apalachee Audubon Society
P.O. Box 1237
Tallahassee, FL 32302-1237

LIMEYBIRDER TOURS

Half and Full Day Birding Tours
in the Big Bend with
Professional Bird Guide Andy Wraithmell

For more information, email
lbirdtours@comcast.net or call (850) 443-0770

Tour schedule at www.lbtours.blogspot.com/

Apalachee Audubon Society, Inc.

Apalachee Audubon

Apalachee Audubon
P.O. Box 1237
Tallahassee, FL 32302-1237

To check membership status, or to change address, call the National Audubon Society Office at 1-800-274-4201.

AUDUBON CALENDAR

Monthly meetings, field trips, conservation activities, and bird walks

Monthly programs are free and open to the public. They are held on the fourth Wednesday of each month from September through May, at the United Church of Tallahassee, 1834 Mahan Dr., unless otherwise noted. Most evenings begin with an informal social at 7:00, followed by the program at 7:30. For more information, check out our website at www.apalachee.org.

SEPTEMBER

15: Event – Bottoms Road beach clean-up for International Coastal Clean-up & Awareness Day

16: Field trip – Lake Lafayette birding basics with Melissa Forehand & Marvin Collins

26: Field trip – St. Marks with Simon Thompson & Andy Wraithmell

26: Monthly Program – Migration in North Carolina by Simon Thompson

OCTOBER

13: Field trip – To Be Announced; See details later at web site www.apalachee.org

20: Field trip – Talquin State Forest with Mike Tucker

24: Program – Wakulla Springs & the Aquifer by Jim Stevenson

27: Field trip – Tall Timbers with Chris Borg

27: Related event: Monarch Butterfly Festival at St. Marks NWR