Apalachee Audubon Board Minutes

August 21, 2019

6 – 7:45pm, Audubon Florida Office

Submitted by Donna Legare, Secretary

**Board members attending**: Peter Kleinhenz, Lilly Anderson-Messec, Donna Legare, Kathleen Carr, Ben Rangel, Peter Goren, Amelia Fusaro, Peter Kelly, Elizabeth Georges, Dara Miles Wilson, Howard Kessler, Jake Hartung, Chase Brestle, Harvey Goldman

**Treasurer’s report** – opening balance $24,610.69, one check written thus far to Big Bend Forestry for $125

**Board Retreat Minutes were approved** with a few minor changes. Elizabeth will post on website.

**Purpose of meeting** – to update on items discussed at board retreat

**News:**

**Ferrell Tract approved** – Peter attended the cabinet meeting. This land will connect Wakulla Springs to Apalachicola National Forest

**Audubon Assembly** – October 25 – 26 – in Gainesville – Peter highly recommends, focus will be on plants for birds. He also recommends participating in the Mentorship Program at the Assembly.

**Lake Elberta** – Wildflower signs have been installed (thank Peter G. for donating posts). A kiosk has been built by the City of Tallahassee and Elizabeth and Chase will maintain the information within the kiosk. Elizabeth is creating a poster of upcoming programs and will print off a bird list from e-birds. Mowing is underway. Lilly and Native Nurseries volunteers will install plants near the pond edges where mowing has occurred. Lilly has selected the plants and will bill AAS for plants and for NN birdhouse, pole and raccoon/snake guard, which will be installed at a future event. Peter will give a card and gift card to the main mower person who has been mowing conscientiously. Interns will be Nelson from FSU and Harbria from FAMU. They will have more responsibility than last year and will be paid more. There will be an event for invasive plant removal and planting of natives in late September or early October.

**Field Trips** – Kathleen has volunteered to coordinate birding field trip leaders and trips. 4 dates are set – Jake 9/21 Phipps Park, Natasha 9/8, Jim Cox advanced 1/11/20 Tall Timbers, Jim Cox beginner 2/22/20. Others have volunteered with no specific dates yet.

**Programs** – all are set for the year. Elizabeth will submit brochure to the printer this week for mailing to all members right after Labor Day. Jake will place some at St. Marks visitor center. Elizabeth will bring some to Wild Birds Unlimited and Native Nurseries. Some should go to the airport. See end of minutes for a listing. The room at King Building has been reserved through Dr. Fran James. Johanna Imhoff will serve as our A/V Tech again this year. She has lined up a substitute for the first meeting since she will be out of town.

Ben reports that we can team up with Environmental Service Program to share a table at FSU Market Wednesday on the Wednesday before our monthly programs to encourage FSU students to attend. He will contact FAMU to see if they have a similar event. Jake suggested also doing a campus bird walk – maybe with Natasha.

**Conservation Activities/Projects** suggested by Amelia

**Community Conservation Programs**: collaborative & expansive program with long-term education and conservation goals. Involves relationship-building with a potentially wide range of stakeholders which may be “non-traditional conservation partners. We voted to give this process a try to work on the protection of the **wood stork colony** with Jim and Tara. Involve AAS, church, local schools, road managers, rail to trail, citizen science program to track wood storks locally. Peter, Amelia, Ben, Jake and Howard volunteered to work on this. (Was there anyone else?)

**Wildlife Sanctuary Certification**: Atlanta Audubon very successful with this program. See [www.atlantaaudubon.org/wildlife-sanctuary-certification.html](http://www.atlantaaudubon.org/wildlife-sanctuary-certification.html). We agreed this is more than we are willing to take on; however, Lilly will contact Mark Tancig (extension agent) to volunteer teaching a session for Master Gardeners and Master Wildlife Program on how to incorporate native plants and other bird friendly ideas into their landscape consultations. We will encourage Master Gardeners to attend Doug Tallamy’s presentation and invite them to all AAS meetings. Peter G. will be in the next class of Master Gardeners and will promote Bird Friendly Yards as much as possible. Jake and Donna are also willing to teach sessions if needed.

**Old Growth Forest Network program**: See [www.oldgrowthforest.net/](http://www.oldgrowthforest.net/) Support the goal of providing public access to old growth forests (not truly old growth, but good examples of more mature forest ecosystems such as beech/magnolia forest, long-leaf pine flatwoods and sandhills etc) in every US county. Work with landowners to receive certification, work collaboratively with city government to host urban forestry public lecture, training/private meetings for professionals and private events with founder **Joan Maloof (**[**www.oldgrowthforest.net/our-team**](http://www.oldgrowthforest.net/our-team)**)** from Maryland. We voted to support this project for the 2020-2021 year. We might have our theme have something to do with Urban Forest. **Amelia will contact Maloof now to find out when she is available and how much she charges to come.**

**Wildlife Friendly Celebration Initiative:** as an alternative to fireworks on holidays. Use more acoustically friendly fireworks or get city or county or church or neighborhood to sponsor laser light show. A few people volunteered to write article for newspaper (Lilly, Peter) to drum up interest. Need to form a coalition of veterinarians, veterans, autistic children families, dementia caregivers, wildlife enthusiasts. I don’t remember hearing anyone volunteer to actually approach the city or county on this. I think we agreed to start with some articles or letters to editor. On the articles supporting acoustically-friendly fireworks. We agreed that individually we’d talk to our veterinarians, physicians and others who may be interested in participating or leading the charge, to help gauge local interest. Amelia has a couple of sample articles and info that folks can use for reference, will email separately to everyone as soon as she pulls them together.

**Other ideas from Amelia**:

**Summer Nature Movie Series** – we voted to start with one movie in June 2020, probably Hometown Habitat. It would be an event, with refreshments, free but donations welcome. Volunteers: Peter, Peter G., Ben, Elizabeth, Dara, Chase, Amelia.

* Summer Movie Series: provide programming during the summer lull, modelled after Science Cafes. Educational & optimistic screenings with refreshments & expert-lead discussions (potentially young researchers).
  + Examples
    - *Hometown Habitat* <https://themeadowproject.com/hometown-habitat/>

Stories of Bringing Nature Home (Doug Tallamy), a 90-minute environmental, education documentary showing how and why native plants are critical to the survival and vitality of local ecosystems.

* + - *Birds of Prey* <http://birdofpreymovie.com/?utm_source=Cornell+Lab+eNews&utm_campaign=1db537bdd7-Cornell-Lab-eNews-2019-06-13&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_47588b5758-1db537bdd7-277519181> Cornell Lab of Ornithology sponsored world-renowned wildlife cinematographer, Neil Rettig, to find and film the rarest eagle on the planet.  An expertly woven tale with stunning cinematography, *Bird of Prey* journeys deep into the vanishing world of the Great Philippine Eagle and reveals an inspiring group of people that are determined to save the world's most critically endangered eagle species from extinction.
    - “Secrets of the Longleaf Pine” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MmKgvKiP59w> takes you on an unprecedented journey to examine some of the unique plants and animals that can only be found here. From the producers of “Chattahoochee Unplugged” comes a documentary about the forgotten Longleaf Pine forest that once blanketed the coastal plain of the Southeastern United States. Once comprising ninety million sprawling acres, by the 20th century, human pressures had reduced the forest to just three million. Just a tiny fraction of precious old growth remains. These remarkable patches of old growth Longleaf forest display more biodiversity than any other ecosystem in the northern hemisphere, rivaled only by the Amazon.

**Be a co-sponsor at Word of South by inviting David Haskell** (The Songs of Trees). Dghaskell.com

We agreed that this would go along with the following year’s Urban Forest theme, but we should contact Mark Mustian or Jeff VanderMeer now to find out how to be involved. Donna will get some information on this.

A few other reminders:

**Pineview Elementary Bird Club Volunteers** – starts Tuesday 9/17 at 4:30 and takes place every other Tuesday. Let Peter know if you will be there.

If you have anything for the **email newsletter**, email it to Chris Grossman at [bgrossman4@comcast.net](mailto:bgrossman4@comcast.net) by Wednesday August 28.

**Next Board Meeting**: Wednesday September 11, 6:30pm at Audubon Florida office.

**2019-2020 Program Series**

**Living in Harmony with Nature**

Sept. 19 – The Rich Biodiversity of the Knight Tract, 55,000 acres in Washington County and Why it is Worthy of Purchase by the State of Florida with Dr. Bruce Means

Oct. 17 - Storyteller and biologist Jim Stevenson begins with “Stork Notes”, observations of wood storks in his home swamp, and transitions into “The Life in a Dead Tree”

Nov. 21 – Birding Japan in Winter and Spring and Conservation of Birds in Japan with Bernard Grossman, AAS member and excellent photographer

Jan. 16 – The Birds of St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge with Don Morrow, author of CHECKLIST The Birds of St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge

Feb. 20 – Moving Beyond Cardinals in Five Easy Steps: Introduction to Bird Identification with Jim Cox, Director of Stoddard Bird Lab, Tall Timbers Research Station

Mar. 19 – The Insect/Native Plant Connection: How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants with Dr. Doug Tallamy, Author and Entomology Professor, University of Delaware

Apr. 16 – Backyard Habitat Restoration for Birds and Other Wildlife, an ongoing project on their two-acre property with AAS members Amelia Fusaro and Bill Everitt

May 21 – Annual Banquet: Nature as Inspiration with Jeff VanderMeer, Tallahassee author of Annihilation, which was made into a feature film

Special Events (Details in e-newsletter and website)

9/14/19 Swift Night Out at Wakulla Springs (help count Chimney Swifts at Lodge)

9/21/19 International Coastal Cleanup – meet Harvey and Judy Goldman at Bottoms Road at 8am

12/12/19 December Social, AAS and Sierra Club at Waterworks, 6 – 8pm

1/11/20 Birding Field Trip (more advanced) with Jim Cox at Tall Timbers

2/15/20 Wildlife Friendly Yards Tour, 10am to 4pm

2/22/20 Beginning Birding Field Trip with Jim Cox at Tall Timbers

4/18/20 Great Southern Forestry Field Trip, Jefferson County with Leland Taylor - Sustainable Agriculture: using rotationally grazed domestic hogs for natural land management and regenerative agriculture 9am