Apalachee Audubon Board Minutes

November 13, 2019

6:30 – 8:30pm, Audubon Florida Office

Submitted by Donna Legare, Secretary

**Board members attending**: Peter Kleinhenz, Donna Legare, Amelia Fusaro, Peter Kelly, Dara Miles Wilson, Howard Kessler, Chase Brestle, Rob Williams, Kathleen Carr, Harvey Goldman, Peter Goren, Jake Hartung

**Intern attending:** Nelson Ball

**Guests attending**: Liz Schold, Natasza Fontaine

**October Board Minutes were approved**. Elizabeth will post on website.

**Updates**

-Apalachee Audubon was awarded **Chapter of the Year** at Florida Audubon Assembly. Peter thanked everyone for their participation. We will display award at the welcome table before each program meeting.

-Peter submitted comments for Lake Talquin State Park Management Plan. Please submit comments for Plank Road State Forest (9000 acre forest north of Horne Springs – entrance on Tram Rd. or Old Plank Rd.) to Peter asap if you have them.

-Lilly and Tessa from Leon County sustainability department would like us to consider a program by Tessa in January, February or March on **single use plastic**. We all agreed this would be appropriate. Our usual program meetings are already set for the year so we will need to schedule something new if we decide to do this. Perhaps we can participate in the session she is doing at Native Nurseries.

**Audubon Assembly**

**CLI (Conservation Leadership Initiative)** – Nelson was one of 25 to receive a full scholarship to the Assembly. Donna was assigned to be his mentor. Peter was also a mentor but felt the program this year was not conducive to the mentoring process. Field trips were excellent. Nelson and Donna had plenty of time together partly because we traveled to Gainesville together and our field trip lent itself to talking along the way. Donna also had time to talk with other mentees on the field trip and at lunch.

**Learning Sessions** – excellent – Treatment Wetlands, Partnering with Agricultural Producers (ranches, forests, farms) Nelson is providing video for those who are interested.

Peter had dinner with **Loren Smith from National Audubon**. Loren is willing to review our grant proposals in the future. He values projects that have longevity, like the Lake Elberta project. Donna also talked with Loren Smith about internship stipends. He advised that we do not need to report them to the IRS.

**Audubon House**

Michael Sheridan is still interested in pursuing the purchase and donation of a house that would serve as an office for Audubon Florida in Tallahassee. A committee had met two years ago to explore the possibility of our chapter being involved. The last we talked with Mike, it was understood by us that he and his wife would find the house and get back with us. After some discussion at this board meeting, the board instructed Peter to let Mike know that he needs to work with Audubon Florida in selecting the house according to their needs. AAS does not have the volunteer structure to be involved on a regular basis, though some of us would certainly help design a native landscape.

**New Board Members**

The board decided that we would welcome new board members who show an interest by attending a meeting and expressing their desire to serve. Our 2 guests this evening introduced themselves and we voted to add them to the AAS board.

**Natasza Fontaine** – second year graduate student who is currently leading birding field trips for AAS. She would like to organize workshops for younger birders and use art to help children under 12 learn to identify and appreciate birds. She is also willing to coordinate the Lake Elberta educational effort going forward – working with interns and coordinating monthly birding sessions.

**Liz Schold** – coordinates the birding trail for FWC. She is currently serving on the Old Growth Forest Network committee and would like to work on a citizen science program for our members and the public. She has in mind Audubon Climate Watch where folks would monitor 7 species of birds. Rob would like to talk to her about a citizen science project.

Norma Skaggs also is interested in the AAS board but was unable to attend this meeting. Donna has invited her to the January meeting.

**Member Update**

Amelia – Old Growth Forest Network, Feb 2021

Donna – Secretary and Program Chair

Kathleen – Volunteer Coordinator, Membership, Field Trip Coordinator, Banquet Committee

Chase – learning and assisting, active at Lake Elberta, Banquet Committee

Harvey – Treasurer, may need some tech help

Jake – Field Trip Leader, Tabling

Dara – Pineview Elementary, Program Committee, Outdoor Afro, Placemaking for Bluepriint

Peter Goren – Banquet Committee, Lake Elberta January planting, currently working on master gardener certification

Howard – fills in when needed, advisor

Peter Kelly – sustainable agriculture – part of theme for next year, led igrow for outdoor afro
Rob – Conservation Chair working on large scale efforts with Florida Forever – Upper Apalachicola River, Knight Tract and supporting Tall Timbers’ efforts, interested in Urban Bird Treaty which we would need to apply for by January 30 (US Fish and Wildlife Service) – could work well with Debbie Lightsey Park improvements

Peter K – President – lead chapter, think future, main AAS contact person, Pineview Chair, Conservation Committee (reviews management plans), manages interns, wrote 3 grants and grant reporting, outreach facebook and Instagram, write monthly piece for Limpkin Times, when he steps down as President he will continue to co-ordinate Pineview Bird Club

Ben and Elizabeth not at meeting.

**Lake Elberta – Nelson reporting**

Event Updates – November event – 16 volunteers planted 625 plants, took down martin gourds and stored at Native Nurseries. Peter? will organize an afternoon in January to hoist them up again with Bond Community center children. Donna and Jody are willing to help.

December 8 – youth Christmas Bird Count

January – tree planting

March – wildflower planting and some event with Black History Month at Lake Elberta

**Programs**

Doug Tallamy – would like to move from King Building which seats 160 - 180 to a bigger venue. Looking at Goodwood Carriage House which holds 125 plus. Price for non-profit is $1100 but may be able to work a trade for invasive plant removal. If we could get it for $500, we could ask Magnolia Chapter to be co-sponsor for $500.

Howard suggests looking into Westminster Oaks McGuire Center which now has great parking facility and easy access. He is researching this and will report to Donna.

**Social – with Sierra Club – Thursday, December 12, 6-8pm, Waterworks**

There has been no advertising thus far. Donna will ask Elizabeth to put it on the web site. Need to get it on social media. If you have photos of chapter activities, send to Amelia by Tuesday and she will get them to Grant Gelhardt. Donna will ask Lilly to put it on NN email closer to the date.

**Sustainability Fellowship**

Students in geography, urban planning or environmental science can apply through FSU. Peter proposed a semester long project tracking the flow of trash using GIS from the FSU campus into Lake Elberta. The student would design and complete the project for a class and would present findings to us at Banquet and to the City of Tallahassee and FSU administration. If you have ideas, send to Peter. Peter will send information about the students that FSU proposes. We voted to spend $500 as a stipend.

**Aucilla/St. Marks Watersheds** – In his new position at Tall Timbers, Peter is currently working on a grant to protect 5000 – 7000 acres of land in this watershed. He can include AAS involvement in the grant if we want to be involved. Let him know ASAP if you have any ideas.

We did not discuss whether we would meet as a board in December. I don’t believe we met last year.