Apalachee Audubon Board Meeting Minutes 2-12-2020

* Setting up our fieldtrips on the Meetup website: Liz Schold will set us up an account
* A thank you card for FWC, who provided wood duck boxes, will be signed at the program meeting
* Approval of minutes: Peter moved, Kathleen second, unanimous approval
* Reminder from Peter to get involved
  + Members should check all opportunities sent through email
* Old Growth Forest Dedication at Wakulla Spring on 3/18 at 11:00 am
  + Peter invited the board members to join with him to meet Joan Malooth at the dedication
* Josh Romero, Director of Legislative Affairs for FL Audubon spoke
  + Promoted a chapter training on climate change advocacy
  + 4 hour step-by-step seminar
  + After training we will work on ordinances pertinent to our area
  + Laura Aguirre will be organizing; she is taking over some roles for Josh who is take a hiatus
  + Ok to invite allies, people outside the chapter
  + Josh or Laura can take any questions we might have
  + Would like to get this set up for second half of March.
  + Ben will take the lead on organizing the date/time and getting participants
* Programs
  + Jim Cox
    - Any needs besides usual food, etc.: no.
  + This is a good talk/field trip to invite outside groups (Sierra, NPS, Ollie, Outdoor Afro)
  + Can we get flyers for these events?
    - Liz Schold will provide a template
  + Need volunteers for Backyards Tour
    - Nelson will contact ESP
  + Chase provided Doug Tallamy update:
    - Chase handed out flyers
    - Now held at FAMU
      * Capacity is 480 people vs. 180 at King Building
      * Partnering with a professor at FAMU
      * Will have to pay an IT person and a policeman ($30 an hour for the IT person, not sure about the policeman. Trillium Gardens is giving $250.00 towards this)
    - The last Limpkin had a map to the new spot. Ask Peter for the .pdf if needed
    - Lot of room for tabling. We already have some partners
    - No food or drinks
    - Personal invitations: Vanessa Christler
    - Yard tour involved with Tallamy talk
      * On Sunday 11:00—3:00.
      * Three yards, max of 80 people
      * Will be publicized, but addresses will only be given to people that get tickets—Want to attract people who have not been on the yard tour before
        + Should we put out a donation bucket at the yard tour? Board members said yes, but we did not hold a vote
    - We can expand our advertising because we have a bigger space
    - Susan Cerulean agreed to say something at the event about Native Nurseries and Donna and Jody
    - Ben will mention something in FWC newsletter
    - Ben will write a follow-up article on the event for the Limpkin
    - Nelson flyered an presented on the event to ESP
    - Elizabeth G. will send the .pdf of flyer out to the board
* Amelia and Bill Program
  + Peter K. says the fieldtrip is set up
* Banquet
  + Kathleen gave an update
    - Fellowship Hall at Presbyterian Church has been reserved
    - Peter G. and Chase volunteered to help
    - Committee will get moving on this
* The two graduate students will make a presentation on the trash flow issue at Lake Elberta.
  + Peter says they are excellent students
  + The two will come to the March meeting to present
  + Anyone can contact them with questions
  + Might be able to meet with them at Lake Elberta – Peter will organize
* Nelson gave an intern update
  + Jan. 21 they put up the purple martin gourds at Elberta with the Walker Ford Community Center kids
  + Work day at Elberta was on Jan. 26
  + Feb. 7 Ben, Nelson and Harbria put up two wood duck boxes at Elberta
  + Ben, Chase, Harbria and Nelson went to the FlyingWild workshop at Joe Budd
  + Interns put together seed packets to hand out
    - Harbria and Kathleen will hand some out to Pineview Kids
    - Nels and Harbria are going to hand them out at FAMU
  + Coming up:
    - Intro to Birdwatcher’s Event at Elberta with ESP kids
    - Potential to meet up with 4H Club to a light event (attract moths, etc.)
    - STEM for girls program: Interns are working on a plan
    - Outdoor Afro is available in June to do another bird walk
  + Nelson did lobbying for Everglades Coalition as part of Audubon Assembly mentorship program
* Dara updated on fish farm issue
  + She does not think it is a good approach to try to stop it from getting built through checking permits, etc.
  + Other orgs are not going that route of stopping it getting built, but trying to mitigate the issue after it is built
  + Dara checked on building permits and they are ok – She will inform Beth Alvey
  + Friends of Wakulla Springs is getting funds to establish baseline studies before the fish farm is up and running (concerning nitrates, etc.)
    - This will be a quarterly initiative. Dara will get more info
  + Fish farm is jumping through all the hoops conservations groups are putting up
  + We should advocate to get FDACs to fix the BMPs. Currently they are very lax.
* Haiti
  + We are not able to do advocacy or outreach on their behalf
  + Rather state or national Audubon should be contacted
  + Peter says we have already put a nail in this
  + Ben will contact to say we cannot get involved
  + Peter K. suggested the organization Aid Still Required as an alternative
* Blueprint (Coal Schute Pond)
  + Dara printed out the blueprints and member looked at them
  + Blueprint volunteered to do this and make these blueprints
  + This is 1,000s of plants
  + Will Audubon have to maintain?
    - Peter does not think so, as they said so previously
  + Elizabeth pointed out that certain plants are invasive
  + Dara pointed out that more amenities will go in (playground, etc.), which will affect our decision
  + Charlie is the landscape designer and contact. He is open to changes and edits.
  + Snails might be an issue. It happened at Debbie Lightsey Park
  + Dara suggested we do an interpretive sign for Coal Chute.
    - Peter says yes.
    - It will cost $1,500.
    - We will need a grant.
* Fieldtrip issues
  + No one showed up to the last one Jake did
  + These are hit or miss. Need to boost outreach
  + Need to raise the profiles of the guides.
    - Ben to write up bios?
  + Locations might be part of the issue
    - Start doing places we’ve never done before
  + Leaders should “sell” the trips more. Right now, the info is barebones. Could write up paragraphs describing how the trips will be.
  + Ben and Elizabeth will change the website to put fieldtrips with the other events
  + Should we start a fieldtrip committee?
    - Liz says she and others could step up to do logistics of fieldtrips if they are not leading the trips
    - Elizabeth, Kathleen, Rob, Jake (?) and Natasha (?) will meet as a committee to discuss this all