Apalachee Audubon Board Meeting Minutes 8-11-2021

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 6:33pm.
* Minutes from 2021 Retreat were approved
  + Nelson will send Retreat minutes to Elizabeth along with Treasurer’s report
* Membership—Kathleen
  + Current chapter membership is 858 as of July 31, 2021.
* Treasurer’s Report—Harvey
  + Current balance is $21,743.15
  + Kathleen and Harvey will obtain PDF statement for us
* Program Committee—Norma
  + 2021-2022 Program Schedule and Venues
    - We’re set up to meet at the King building, but may need to utilize Zoom instead for fall programs given the current state of the pandemic in North Florida.
    - Donna suggests Zoom programs for Sept-Dec and “check website” for 2nd half of the year
    - Donna will cancel reservations at King Building before Jan.
      * We have a contact for tech support if/when we return to that building
  + Brochure—Should we print one? Are we doing Zoom-only programs?
    - Elizabeth can update and have it ready in time if we decide to do it.
    - Rob asked about the contents if we are unsure whether or not we do in-person programs
    - Brochure will be clear that we may or may not have in-person meetings in January
    - We should move towards making it possible to attend all programs virtually and advertise this
    - Include info to refer people to the website/Facebook or AAS email for information on fall Zoom meetings
    - Maybe 1500 printed brochures: 850 in mail, rest to distribute to airport, local stores, etc.
    - Donna and Norma will talk to Elizabeth tomorrow and get the brochure completed and submitted to print by the deadline (15th)
  + Unanimous vote to proceed with plans outlined above
  + Programs
    - SEPTEMBER 16 ECOLOGY & DIVERSITY OF SHOREBIRDS
      * Caroline Stahala [Caroline.Stahala@audubon.org](mailto:Caroline.Stahala@audubon.org)
      * SEPT 18 COASTAL CLEANUP field trip to St. Teresa Bluffs
    - OCTOBER 21 FLORIDA RIVERS BIRDS AND WILDLIFE
      * Doug Alderson [dougalderson@comcast.net](mailto:dougalderson@comcast.net)
    - NOVEMBER 13 SATURDAY FIELD TRIP TO LOST CREEK FOREST with Red Hills Audubon
      * Red Hills Audubon may not be forming
        + The show goes on!
    - NOVEMBER 18 LOST CREEK FOREST A CONSERVATION STORY IN PROGRESS
      * Beth Grant [bethgrant@bellsouth.net](mailto:bethgrant@bellsouth.net)
    - DECEMBER 9 5:30-8 SOCIAL WITH SIERRA CLUB
      * Grant Gelhardt
      * WINTER ENVIRONMENTAL HAPPY HOUR
      * at Waterworks, 1133 Thomasville Rd, Tallahassee, FL.
    - JANUARY 20 ACOUSTIC ESCAPADES FROM THE FIELD: BIRDING BY EAR
      * Natasza Fontaine [nfontainester@gmail.com](mailto:nfontainester@gmail.com)
      * This talk will give tips on how to get started, recording equipment recommendations, and stories on how I got started listening to nature and recording birds.
    - FEBRUARY 17 CONSERVATION LANDS IN FLORIDA AND BENEFITS TO BIRDS
      * Panel of 3
        + Shane Wellendorf – Conservation Coordinator at Tall Timbers
        + Kent Wimmer – Defenders of Wildlife
        + Jason Lauritsen – Florida Wildlife Corridor [jason@floridawildlifecorridor.org](mailto:jason@floridawildlifecorridor.org) (not confirmed)
    - MARCH 17 CONSERVATION ECOLOGY OF SHORT-TAILED HAWKS, SWALLOW-TAILED KITES, AND SNAIL KITES
      * Gina Kent [ginakent@arcinst.org](mailto:ginakent@arcinst.org)
      * Gina will share details on remote tracking, monitoring, and migration while updating listeners on the latest research for these three magnificent Florida raptors.
    - APRIL 21 DECLINING INSECT POPULATIONS AND THE EFFECT ON BIRDS
      * Dr. Bob Cooper waiting for final confirmation
    - MAY 15 SUNDAY FIREBIRDS AND THE HISTORY OF THE STODDARD BIRD PROGRAM
      * Jim Cox
      * PICNIC AT TALL TIMBERS
        + 4pm open, 5:30pm dinner
        + Eventbrite for registration so we know how many people to expect
        + Free to attend
        + Bring a covered dish
        + Heather will officially reserve the barn at Tall Timbers
        + Tall Timbers is flexible on the $300 rental fee
* FieldTrip Committee—Heather
  + Heather proposes one educational field trip and one field trip to correspond to program each month
  + Limited to 10-15 people due to COVID
  + Social distancing and masks encouraged
  + Jim McGinity from SW FL has visions to start a Young Birders Club in Florida
    - Kids aged 9-17
    - Goal is to hold an annual statewide conference
    - looking to partner with both individuals and Audubon chapters for field trips and education
    - mainly in Tampa right now
    - FOS just sponsored the club and Heather is on a committee for it
    - Heather says AAS could be the extension for the panhandle area
    - Donna will be in communication with Heather about this for Education Committee
    - Rob is interested in possibly helping with older kids
  + Natasza will lead a shorebird trip at Bald Point SP and St. Marks the weekend following our September program
* Conservation Committee—Peter
  + Lake Elberta City Park clean-up event. 9/25
    - Supplies are at Howard’s house
    - Possibly get volunteer waivers
    - Grabbers for people in boats
    - Providing snacks/drinks
    - Possible educational moment for invasive plants, though City may not be available for herbicide application on weekend
  + Caleb is applying for a grant
    - Grant Maximum is $3,000
    - 250 words to describe how we might spend that amount for the application due Aug 20th
    - Thanks to Caleb for taking lead on this!
    - Perhaps an interpretive sign for our bat house
      * We have materials, this $ would cover costs for finishing and installation
      * Draft of text for sign is already written—would take minor adjustments
      * Probably would leave us with a little $ leftover
      * 2 months to fabricate
  + Future LEP event in October
    - Possible clean-up, planting and invasive removal day
  + Florida Forever update
    - This year $400 million
      * $300 of this to go towards high priority Ecological Greenways
    - Aucilla River Corridor FF Project being worked on by Tall Timbers ~12,000 acres
  + Sentinel Landscapes
    - Project proposal due at the end of Aug
    - Designates from Aucilla River west to Perdido River (Alabama) as Sentinel Landscape
    - Would allow for more conservation lands in FL Panhandle
    - AAS to communicate with other Panhandle Audubon Chapters to get letter signed in support of this designation
    - Would be one of the largest Sentinel Lands in the country
* Education Committee—Donna
  + Donna contacted people that are interested in helping that are not on our Board
    - They are interested in helping with Pineview
    - Pineview said no visitors for 9 weeks
    - Donna will contact the school about contributing something even if we don’t do after-school
      * Possibly donating bird seed for feeders
  + St Marks has canceled their Monarch Fest this year
  + Donna will contact City about allowing us to install Chimney Swift Tower
    - Jody will build and we are welcome to help
  + Bus trips to St Marks are canceled again this year
    - Title 1 schools should be paying for the bus trips, not AAS
  + Peter suggests short videos for our YouTube channel
    - 30 sec-few mins
    - “How to” and general information
* Communications Committee—Dara
  + NAS Social Media Collaboration weekly meetings
    - Clarity among existing committees and commitment
    - Consistency across chapter platforms and through media channels
    - Next meeting is Wed 18th at 3pm, all are welcome
    - Dara will send us notes from NAS
  + Send things that we do as AAS to Dara and/or Tallulah so they can share on our social media accounts
  + Zoom
    - Dara will send us Zoom tips she received
    - Dara mentions that we can stream to Facebook live without having more expensive Zoom account
* Additional Items
  + We should start getting our newsletter sorted out for the Fall
    - Kathleen will contact Chris to ask her when our deadline is
  + AAS will add Martin County Audubon’s photo contest to their social media and newsletter
  + Alexis and Nelson are working on edits for their Lake Elberta Trash Flow study—a journal is interested and has sent reviewer’s notes