**February Board Meeting Apalachee Audubon**

February 28, 2008 – 6:30 pm

Waterworks Restaurant

Members Present: Kathleen, Peter, John, Elizabeth, Ann, David, Lilly, Rob

Guest Present: Jake Hartung (interested in being active and perhaps serving on board)

1. Approve January Board Meeting Minutes – Approved

2. Treasurer’s Report: Harvey sent out an email. Information will be entered into spreadsheet

3. 2018Volunteer Needs

* We need help for the May 17th banquet with setting up and cleaning
* We have an approved table at Springtime Tallahassee that we need help for (April 7). Jake volunteered to help out.
* We have a volunteer to help at the Apalachicola Symposium, David will follow up with Scott Copeland.
* Pineview volunteers still welcomed.

4. Committee Reports

Special Apalachicola Conference: David reported that everything was good to go with the Conference. Suggested continuing to advertise as registration was low. No extra help needed (other than Scott). A space for the AAS display is reserved in the King Building for Wednesday and the University Conference Center for Thursday and Friday. Tallahassee Democrat ran an article on the conference and Apalachee Audubon was mentioned in the article.

Programs: Promoting the April Event. Peter will write emails to other organizations. HE is also willing to write an article for the Tallahassee Democrat if Donna does not want to. (Follow up?) To fund the program, we need approximately $3,500. We have $1,000 from AAS, $500 from Native Nurseries and $1,000 from Native Plant Society. Still looking for more support.

May Banquet: We tentatively suggested the following agenda for the evening:

6:30- 7:15 eating

7:10: -- Kathleen will have a brief talk and intro

(Elizabeth will put together a slide show to run in background of the accomplishments of the year)

7:15-7:45 Dana Bryant talks

7:45–8:00 Questions for Dana

Note: Rob will not be there so no need to discuss Conservation Issues.

It was unknown what we will be paying the Church (Sean would know what was planned)

5. Birdathon – time to form teams and solicit donations. It was suggested that the entire AAS member list would be shared on Google Docs and it would be good for people who are targeting individuals on that list to “mark” them so that folks do not get contacted multiple times. Sending a letter would be a good touch. (Note: Harvey sent an email reminding everyone of how important this fund raiser is)

6. Conservation. Rob reported that the Apalachicola Land Project got voted as #1 on the list for critical lands; there was also a high ranking for obtaining a large tract of land west of Bald Point State Park known as St. James Island. A part of the Gulf Restoration Fund being administered through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation has been recommended to be spent on a project for Lake Wimico, which is in Gulf County and a part of the Apalachicola Drainage Basin.

New Item: John Outland reported on a new issued having to do with Ward’s Creek, a parcel of wetlands which is a tributary of Lake Miccosukee. The Jefferson County Commission opposed the State Lands proposal to surplus this land, which has been in State ownership for many years. Despite that opposition there are rumors that a land owner has renewed interest in acquiring this land, which is a completely natural area open to hunting and fishing for the public. While no pending decision was identified, it is worth keeping watch on for possible letters or action.

New Item: Julie Wraithmell forwarded an e-mail from the Wakulla County Chapter of the Native Plant Society. They are very concerned about a proposal to change roadside mowing which would result in damage to many important plants that grow in these open spaces, especially plants important to butterflies. Rob was going to follow up to see if someone in Wakulla County could go to the County Commission meeting on Monday night to speak on the issue.

7. Education: Pineview outreach effort continues to go well, especially because of the efforts of Betsy Sullivan and Niles (our FAMU Volunteer). Kathleen would like to get a membership for Niles.

8. Publicity: We would like to increase our publicity efforts, especially sharing information on Facebook and cooperating with Sierra Club on cross-promotions.

9. Sweat equity memberships – Kathleen has proposed that we have some kind of Board direction on giving out memberships to volunteers as a way to increase participation at some events

10. Nominations for the 201-2019 Board of Directors – John Outland agreed to recruit. It appears that Don will be stepping aside. Unclear if Sean is also stepping aside.

11. Other business: Ann discussed the Cascades Development Tree Removal. She continues to provide tours. There has been good publicity of the issue. A chapter letter to the City Manager and Commission was recommended. The frustrating news was that the City was already starting work in the area.

12. Future Business: Rob suggested that we may want to consider a focus on a “Bird Friendly” Theme for next year. There are many different aspects that could be explored.

Might want to consider moving the “Bird Friendly Yards” tour to later in the year for 2019.

13. Next Board Meetings: March 28th and April 25th.