

The JAY

The mission of the Seminole Audubon Society is to promote awareness and protection of the plants and animals in the St. Johns River basin in order to sustain the beneficial coexistence of nature and humans.

September – October 2016

A Publication of Seminole Audubon Society

Stork Brings Least Tern!



As another Least Tern breeding season ends, we say goodbye to our local rooftop colony at Monroe's On The Lake in Sanford. As in other years we saw plenty of breeding behavior as we watched from the ground, and many small forage

See Least Tern, page 8

Gemini Springs Update

The City of DeBary recently approached the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) with a request to transfer 102 acres of the Gemini Springs Addition to the city in order to facilitate private development in their Transit-oriented Development (TOD) zone. The Gemini Springs Addition was acquired in 1999 by the Florida Department of Transportation as mitigation for the widening of I-4 and the construction of SR 417, and was designated as conservation land to be held in perpetuity. The area provides critical habitat for wildlife as well as protection of the watershed of Gemini Springs and The St. Johns River.

See Gemini, page 9

The printing and mailing of this newsletter is made possible in part by the generous donations of Bob and Inez Parsell and ACE Hardware stores in Sanford, Longwood, Casselberry, and Oviedo.

2016-2017
Board of Directors & Committee Chairs (eff. 7/1/16)
407-797-4636

seminoleaudubon@gmail.com

Sarah Donlan	Co-President	sarahdonlan42@gmail.com
Marguerite Terwilleger	Co-President	mterwilleger51@gmail.com
Peggy Stickney	Vice President	peggyrn@bellsouth.net
Lewis Gray	Treasurer	lewisngray@bellsouth.net
Shirley Reilly	Secretary	shirleyreilly34@aol.com
Jim Denslow	CLP Liaison	bdenslow@cfl.rr.com
Leslie Martin	Shorebird Coordinator	leslielou63@gmail.com
Pam Meharg	Conservation	pam.semaudubon@gmail.com
Joy Rector	Education	joy7audubon@aol.com
Marty Shepherd	Membership	gindad@cfl.rr.com
Tom Tobin	Field Trips	runner4464@gmail.com
Shirley Folse	Telephone Comm.	407-797-4636
Faith Jones	Ornithology	faithaudubon@gmail.com
Sam Kendall	Energy/MeetUp	samuelk32@embarqmail.com
Boni Sivi	Newsletter Editor	bonisivi@comcast.net
Peggy Stickney	Publicity/Field Trips	peggyrn@bellsouth.net
Corrinne Wertz	Newsletter Distribution	cwertz127@aol.com
Vacant	Programs	
Vacant	Audubon Adventures	
Vacant	Hospitality	
Vacant	Historian	

WELCOME

NEW MEMBERS

and Members NEW to our Chapter

Mel Amos	DeBary
Clarence Anderson, Jr.	Sanford
Fields Cjdr	Sanford
Cathy Connell	Deltona
David & Phyllis Currie	Sanford
Annette Diaz	Lake Mary
Jeff Engelking	Osteen
Katrina Hall	Deltona
Angelina Harris	Deltona
Lisa Harris	DeBary
Marjorie Henderson	Deltona
Mary Lynn Kotmour	Sanford
Timothy Kotmour	Sanford

Melissa Lemelin	Deltona
Barbara Papoi	Deltona
Kathleen Pizzo	DeBary
June Rhodes	DeBary
Dennis Scully	Deltona
Patricia L. Smith	Geneva
Greg Stevens	Sanford
Sarah Stevens	Sanford
Angela Stratis	Lake Mary
Deborah Wotton	Deltona

Tom Tobin,
New Board Member

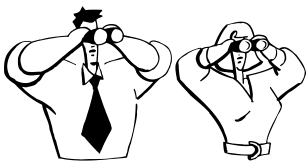
Originally from Wilmette, IL, Tom's family moved here when he was eleven. Tom grew up in Winter Park and his hobbies were camping, fishing,

boating and doing stuff outdoors with his friends. He's not that different now.



Tom lives in Winter Springs in the same home for 41 years now. He retired from Johnson & Johnson 10 years ago, where he was a Senior Account Manager for the Ortho Clinical-Diagnostics Division. Tom represented Central and North Florida and South Georgia for J & J Laboratory Products, primarily Blood Banking, Coagulation, Infectious Disease and Chemistry Instruments and Reagents.

Tom got into Photography a couple of years ago and was immediately fascinated with birding, wildlife, landscapes, etc. Having a lot of problems with bird identification brought Tom to Seminole Audubon. We are happy to welcome Tom to the SAS Board of Directors.



Backyard Birds Class

Tuesday September 20

Ever wonder what bird that is, visiting your yard? Eating at your feeder? Drinking and bathing at your birdbath? This information-packed class will focus on frequently seen species and teach basic methods of bird identification.

This class is offered in cooperation with Seminole County Natural Lands Program. It will be held at the Ed Yarborough Nature Center in Geneva Wilderness Area, 3501 County Road 426, Geneva FL 32732 on Tuesday September 20 from 2:00 – 4:00 pm.

Tuition is \$5.00 and can be paid between 1:30 - 2:00 pm. on September 20. This class will also be offered on November 15.

New Meeting Location

Historic Sanford Welcome Center

230 E 1st St, Sanford

Seminole Audubon Programs and meetings will be held at the Historic Sanford Welcome Center, the second Sunday of September, November, December, January, February and March. The meetings begin at 2 pm. The October meeting will be The Big Sit! which is located at Lake Jesup Park. There will be more information to come regarding our April 2017 Meeting/Picnic/Kayaking event. The Welcome Center is a great location in downtown Sanford. Members can grab a bite to eat at nearby restaurants or take a stroll along the River Walk.



We are thankful to The First Presbyterian Church in Sanford, which was our home for meetings during the 2014 and 2015 seasons.

Seminole Audubon 'Has your back!'



Check out the new Seminole Audubon logo on these drawstring back-packs! Toss your hat, sunscreen, etc in the bag and be ready to go birding. The backpacks will be available at our meetings. We suggest a \$5 donation per bag.

Jay Watch Update

The Florida Scrub-Jay is an important species for Seminole Audubon as it was the bird chosen for our logo. The Florida Scrub-Jay is our state's only endemic bird species, found nowhere else in the world. It is federally listed as Threatened under the Endangered Species Act of 1987, largely due to loss of its scrub and scrubby flatwoods habitat and decades of fire suppression that allows the scrub to become overgrown and unsuitable for Scrub-Jays.

Jay Watch is a long-term citizen science project originated by The Nature Conservancy and now conducted by Audubon Florida. Data collected by Jay Watch volunteers is essential to informed land management decisions about where and when to apply prescribed fire, without which Florida Scrub-Jays disappear. Seminole Audubon was well represented at Jay Watch this year. We participated in surveys at Lyonia Preserve, Blue Spring State Park, and Lake Monroe Conservation Area.



Photos: Shirley Reilly

We thank all our volunteers and hope to see you out again next summer.

Faith Jones



July Jane Isle Survey



Tom Tobin

Even the birds thought it was too hot for much activity during the recent July 27th Jane Isle survey as the number of birds entering and leaving the island was fewer than usual. Seminole Audubon appreciates "Captain" Joe Arcuri taking us out for a second time on his pontoon boat. Jane Isle survey chairman Lewis Gray, Faith Jones, and Nini Toro, all armed with binoculars, kept count of the birds entering and leaving the island while Marguerite Terwilleger tallied the count. Tom Tobin and Sarah Donlan were busy photographing the birds and scenery.



The most abundant birds were Cattle Egrets, totaling 189. Glossy Ibis, White Ibis, Great Egret, Great Blue Heron, Anhinga, Snowy Egret, and Tricolored Heron were also noted. It was exciting to see two Least Bitterns, an immature Bald Eagle, Barn Swallows, Little Blue Herons, Ospreys, and Boat-tailed Grackles. We look forward to the next survey, several months from now.

Marguerite Terwilleger

Show Off Your Photos

We now have a vehicle for sharing your photos on our Seminole Audubon Facebook Page. It's the Seminole Audubon Member Showcase. All of them will be posted monthly, as a group catalog. It's not a contest; it's a sharing of what we do. Photos from cell phones to dslr's are welcome. Here are the guidelines:

Submissions to: semaudshowcase@gmail.com
Include:

- 1) Your name
- 2) ID of Bird or other Wildlife
- 3) Location



Guidelines:

Wild birds, mammals, reptiles, insects, etc., only
Nature Landscapes
They should be recent photos
Photos can come from any location (ex. birding on vacation)
Please limit to 4 photos per member, per month
Please do not give exact location of any nesting birds.
Tom Tobin

Upcoming Programs

Upcoming Programs
Sept 11 Birding at the Next Level



Reinhard Geisler, a published, professional photographer and passionate birder, will be our guest speaker at our season opening meeting on September 11. Reinhard has photographed over 400 species of birds in Florida. He currently has over 3,600 photos on Flickr, mostly birds and mostly

Florida Birds. His topic will be Rare Birds of Florida, with a fun audience ID participation and an entertaining look at some of his best captures and how he got them.

Oct 9 BIG SIT!



Instead of our regular meeting in October, SAS will participate in the annual **BIG SIT!** Sunday October 9th from 7:30 am until 12 noon at the Lake Jesup Wilderness Area Park (LJWA) in Sanford. Grab your coffee and come join us under the beige tent for birding and hanging out with other members. The **Big Sit!** is an international birding competition. This is how it works: find a good spot for bird watching, create a circle 17 feet in diameter and sit inside the circle counting all the bird species you see or hear. Our team, the *Seminole Sitters*, has chosen LJWA as our birding location. In conjunction with the **BIG SIT!** there will be a **guided nature walk** through LJWA at 10:00 am. Members will be available throughout the day to answer all your birding questions.

Nov 13 Swallow-tailed Kites



Dr. Ken Meyer, Director at the Avian Research and Conservation Institute will be the guest speaker at our November meeting. He will tell us about his Swallow-tailed Kite research.

Upcoming Trips

Saturday September 17

Orlando Wetlands Park, Christmas

Our field trip for Saturday, September 17 will be to the Orlando Wetlands Park in Christmas, FL. The tour will start at 8:00 am and will be on a tram, with multiple stops to get off, look around and take photos. This wetland is a landmark location in the US that is being duplicated around the country and around the world for removing nitrates, phosphates, etc., from treated wastewater. The side benefit is the wildlife heaven it has become. Beginning this year, this park will be open year-round. A Friends of Orlando Wetlands volunteer will guide us. The Park accepts donations that go to the Park and the Education Center.

We are asking each attendee to donate \$5 for this amazing tour and photo shoot. We'll collect the donations the day of the tour. Meet at the park by 8 am or meet for the car pool, which will leave from the parking lot across the street from the Sanford Library, at 7:15 am sharp. Library address: 150 N. Palmetto Ave, Sanford, FL 32771

Friday September 23

Yankee Lake Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility, Sanford

This will be a guided tour on part of this 3000-acre wildlife area along the St. Johns River. There are protected Florida Scrub-Jays on the property, the only ones remaining in Seminole County. In addition to the Florida Scrub-Jays we will look for birds and other wildlife.

Meet: 8:00 am at the facility on Yankee Lake Road. It is on the north side of SR 46 between Orange Blvd. and Longwood-Markham Road.

Saturday October 15

Bio Bingo, Gemini Springs Park

Pokemon Go? We say Pokemon No! Play Bio-Bingo with Seminole Audubon Society, Gemini Springs Park, DeBary, Saturday October 15, 9:00 am. We'll visit Gemini Springs, one of Florida's Special Places, for a rousing game of Bio- Bingo! It's a biology treasure hunt meets Bingo. Explore the park, find the flora and fauna on the Bio-Bingo card, snap a picture and win! Play on your own or form a team of the best butterfly, bird, bug and plant people you know!

Saturday November 19

Disney Wilderness Preserve

Save the date! Our field trip will be led by Dr. Ross

Hinkle, UCF. He will be joined by Zach Prusak, manager of Disney Wilderness Preserve. During the buggy tour Dr. Hinkle and Zach will talk about the restoration of the site, ecosystems at the site, and ongoing and past research at the facility by UCF and other organizations. The buggy holds up to 20 members.

SAS History 1949-1952

According to the minutes, the meeting to re-organize the Seminole Audubon Society was held on November 28, 1949, at the home of Mrs. C.E. Ginn in Sanford with the executive director of the Florida Audubon, Merritt Farrar, conducting the meeting.

The next meeting on December 12, 1949, was for the purpose of electing officers with Roger Harris being chosen as President. He was the current music teacher at Seminole High School. Subsequently, regular meetings were held October through May each year from 1950 to 1952 at the Sanford Garden Center in downtown Sanford. Later meetings were moved to various locations.

Field trips were held each month to places like Lake Jesup and Mullet Lake Park. Programs included speakers using slides or films. At one meeting a "chalk talk" on birds was thought to be one of the most interesting. An educational program in the schools was conducted. The publicity chairman sent articles concerning activities to the newspapers.

At the March 1952 meeting it was reported that membership totaled sixty-six (66). **Myra Platel**

Natural Lands



Seminole County Natural Lands Program has a lot going on this Fall, from hikes to nature classes. Click on the following link for the newsletter:

<http://www.seminolecountyfl.gov/core/fileparse.php/3187/urlt/2016-September-December-Newsletter-working-file-4.pdf>

Audubon Assembly 2016 St Petersburg, FL October 28-29, 2016

Website for details, accommodations, and registration: <http://fl.audubon.org/about-us/audubon-assembly>



Keynote Speaker: Julie Wraithmell, Audubon Florida Deputy Executive Director

The theme for the Assembly is "One Gulf." Florida's Gulf Coast is vital to the survival of many different wildlife species, including many nesting and migratory birds. Sadly, there are numerous challenges to Florida's Gulf Coast including increased development, disturbance, dwindling resources, predators, and sea-level rise. All of these threaten birds and other animals at every stage of their lives. The focus of this year's Assembly will be celebrating and promoting discussion about how we can protect and enhance Florida's coastline for future generations.

The Audubon Assembly is a great chance for you to reconnect with natural Florida. Attend interesting workshops with leading guest speakers, join local Audubon chapter leaders for field trips to their special places, take part in Audubon Florida's unique conservation agenda setting session ... and much more!

Price: All-inclusive early-bird tickets are \$129, which includes Friday Lunch & Dinner and Saturday breakfast. Note there is a special room rate of \$139 at Sirata Beach Resort if reserved by Oct 1st.

Returning Board Member



Joy Rector looking at the Himalayan Mountains in Nepal

Joy Rector's love of birds and nature was instilled in her by her father, Harry Ziegler. This glass slide of a Cedar Waxwing was made by him in a science class at Withrow High School in Cincinnati, Ohio in the late 1920's. Harry Ziegler had a high school teacher who instilled the love of birds in his students. Joy has now passed on this love of birds and nature to her grandson, Josh, who attended one of Faith Jones' birding classes and still talks about the class. Joy taught school for 38 years. She introduced her students to environmental issues in the hope that they would be aware of how we impact our beautiful Earth.

Dr. Andrew Meyerriecks and Dr. Woolfenden were two of Joy's professors at the University of South Florida in the 1960s. Dr. Meyerriecks introduced Joy to a new field of biology - animal behavior. Joy remembers Dr. Woolfenden telling the class that he and other biologists went on a hike to see one of the first nesting sites of a rare bird in Florida- the Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*).

Harry Ziegler also instilled in his family the love of travel. Joy and her sister, Margaret Ziegler, have carried on this family tradition by traveling to all seven continents on our wonderful Earth. In Antarctica she walked among several thousand Adelie Penguins. On the Falkland Islands the 20-inch Rockhopper Penguins hopped out of the big crashing waves on to the steep rocky shore. In New Zealand the rarest penguin in the world, Yellow-eyed penguin was seen along the beach. In Australia the Little Blue Penguin was sighted. In Iceland there were many Whooper Swans. In Bhutan at Tiger's Nest the yellow-billed blue magpie

or gold-billed magpie (*Urocissa flavirostris*) was seen. On the Galapagos Islands a favorite was the Blue-Footed Booby (*Sula nebouxii*). On the Seminole Audubon Holbrook trip to Alaska in June 2016 with Peggy Stickney, 89 species of birds were identified—including the Arctic Tern (*Sula nebouxii*) and over 20,000 Common Murre (*Uria aalge*) at Kachemak Bay. Our guide in Alaska told us about seeing one rare Black Vulture a few years ago. He told us Eagles in Alaska take the niche vultures fill in Florida.



Joy's one thought to each of you- **Share your love of nature and our Earth with others.**

We welcome Joy Rector to the Seminole Audubon Society Board of Directors.

Critical Wildlife Areas

Audubon Florida has partnered with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) to expand the network of Critical Wildlife Areas (CWA). Critical Wildlife Areas are established by the FWC to protect important wildlife concentrations from human disturbance during critical periods of their life cycles. The landowner must support the CWA designation before a site can be considered for establishment and the periods of time that the CWA is closed varies by area. After an area is designated as a CWA, the area is posted and closed to human activities to protect the wildlife during the critical periods.

This year the FWC will be holding public hearings for the 14 sites being considered for CWA designation. Most of the sites are nesting sites for breeding birds, but there are also CWA's being considered for bats and gopher tortoises. Seminole Audubon members attended the public hearings for two sites in Brevard County and one area in Volusia County,

the Port Orange Colony. All of the sites have nesting water birds and the designation will allow for the posting of an enforceable buffer on the water around the sites during the breeding season. The Port Orange Colony in Volusia County is also one of our field trips this year and we hope to watch the nesting Brown Pelicans, American Oystercatchers and other wading birds from a safe distance.

The FWC will finish their public hearings in August and then will present the results to the FWC Commissioners at their September meeting. The proposed plans will be finalized in November by the Commissioners. We hope that there will be 14 new CWA's to protect our wildlife next year.

Pam Meharg

Correction

We laid an egg when we misidentified these Royal Terns as Black Skimmers in our last issue. Thanks to Roy Peterson for catching this and allowing us a chance to get it right!



Royal Terns

Like Us!

If you have a Facebook account, please take a few minutes to 'like us' and invite your friends to like us as well. If you have bird photos or information of interest to members, please email it to seminoleaudubon@gmail.com.



Follow us on Twitter at: Seminole Audubon @AudubonSeminole.



Scan the QR Code below with your mobile device to go to our web site.



Least Tern from page 1



fish scooped from Lake Monroe and brought back to the rooftop. But the parapet on the roof's edge which provides safety for the terns also keeps us from getting a good look at what's happening up there. We could not document any successful breeding.

Until this year! Thanks to one of our dedicated Least Tern Watch monitors we were able to document the juveniles. Meet Reggie, our first fledged Least Tern!



Many thanks as always to the management and staff of the hotel for being such wonderful hosts, and having a bird-friendly rooftop. And to the Least Tern Watch team, see you next spring.

Leslie Martin

Gemini from page 1

Seminole Audubon was opposed to the plan to transfer this land when it was first reported in the *Daytona News Journal*. We were active with the City of DeBary, Volusia County and the SJRWMD in expressing our opposition to the development of critical conservation land and in endorsing the recommendations of the SJRWMD Land Assessment of 2012 that recommended the transfer of the Gemini Springs Addition to Volusia County with a conservation easement attached. Volusia County has a well earned reputation as an excellent manager of their conservation lands and we feel they will be great stewards of this property.

We are pleased that the SJRWMD Board voted in

June to transfer the land to Volusia County as their staff recommended in 2012. We will monitor the language of the conservation easement to ensure that it provides optimal protection to the land. It was great to work with our conservation partners and the local activists to protect this wonderful conservation property. It is a great example of what we can accomplish when we work together.

Pam Meharg

Calendar from page 12

BIRD CLASS

Sept 20 & Nov 15 **Backyard Birds** Ed Yarborough Nature Center in Geneva WA 2-4 p.m. \$5

OTHER EVENTS Offered by Seminole County Natural Lands Program. Guided hikes and classes. \$3-\$5. Pre-registration required. 407-349-0959. Call for details or find their online newsletter.

Sept 17 Swamp Walk @ Spring Hammock Preserve

Sept 24 Nat'l Public Lands Day @ Black Bear WA

Nov 5 Plants and Their Purpose @ Econ River WA

Nov 12 Birds & Bagels Hike @ Lake Harney WA

NATURE CLASSES – These classes held at Geneva Wilderness Area, Ed Yarborough Nature Center

Sept 3 Reptiles of Florida

Sept 10 Insect Adventure Class

Oct 8 Geocaching 101

Oct 15 The Story Behind the "Shot"

Oct 22 Dog Safety in the woods and on the trail

CRYSTAL LAKE PRESERVE, Lake Mary. Work mornings.

Thu. Sep. 15, Oct. 13, Nov. 17. Please contact Jim at 407-323-4506 or bdenslow@cfl.rr.com for time and meeting location.

BE AN SAS SUPPORTER

Yes, I want to help
Seminole Audubon Society
achieve its mission by
contributing toward
the Chapter's conservation projects
and educational programs.

name: _____

address: _____

city: _____

state: _____

zip code: _____

Please accept my contribution
of \$ _____

Mail your check to:
Seminole Audubon Society
P.O.Box 2977
Sanford, FL 32772-2977

Membership Application

For New Audubon Members Only

JOIN for the special rate of
\$20.00 for 1 year - that's \$15 off the regular
membership dues!

When you join Seminole Audubon Society you also
become a member of Audubon of Florida and the
National Audubon Society. Your membership
benefits include our newsletter *The JAY*, *Audubon
Magazine*, and the *Florida Naturalist*. Most
importantly, your membership will help us work for
better preservation of the environment for the
benefit of all species, including mankind.

Make checks payable to:
National Audubon Society,
and mail with this form to:
Seminole Audubon Society
P.O. Box 2977
Sanford FL 32772-2977

Name

Address

City

State _____ Zip _____

Phone and e-mail

If you join elsewhere, please use our Chapter Code:
C6ZE310Z

Seminole Associate Membership
\$10.00 / year
Available to Audubon Society members assigned to
other chapters. Make check payable to Seminole
Audubon Society.

Memberships are good gifts!

The JAY

Seminole Audubon Society
PO Box 2977
Sanford FL 32772-2977

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Calendar of Events

www.seminoleaudubon.org

PROGRAM MEETINGS are held at 2:00 pm on Sunday afternoons at the Historic Sanford Welcome Center located at 230 East First Street, Sanford. Call 407-797-4636 for details.

- Sun Sept 11** **Birding at the Next Level.** Reinhard Geisler, Birder and Professional photographer will speak on rare birds of Florida and share some of his photos with us.
- Sun Oct 9** **Big SIT!** Lake Jesup Park, 5951 S. Sanford Ave. Dawn-noon. Guided nature walk 10 am.
- Sun Nov 13** **Swallow Tail Kites.** Dr. Ken Meyer, Director at the Avian Research and Conservation Institute, will share information about his research.

- FIELD TRIPS** Details (time to meet, parking, car-pooling, registration, etc.) are in this issue of The JAY and on www.meetup.com/seminoleaudubon-com. Additional Information email seminoleaudubon@gmail.com.
- Sat Sept 17** Orlando Wetlands Park
- Fri Sept 23** Yankee Lake Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility
- Sat Oct 15** Gemini Springs Park, Bio-Bingo
- Sat Nov 19** Disney Wilderness Preserve

See Calendar, page 9