

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.

January – February 2018 A Publication of Seminole Audubon Society

Wekiva Parkway Update #2

The Central Florida Expressway Authority Board met in December to discuss the addition of an interchange to the Wekiva Parkway near Mount Plymouth and *rejected the proposed change to the road plan!* The Wekiva Parkway is planned to connect Interstate 4 near Sanford and SR 429 near Apopka, which will complete the loop around Orlando. The plan to build the Wekiva Parkway was developed after extensive public hearings and input from all stakeholders- transportation authorities, environmentalists, public officials and developers. The final plan to build the Wekiva Parkway called for the number of interchanges to be limited in order to protect the fragile ecosystem of the Wekiva River Basin.

Seminole Audubon and our environmental partners were stunned to hear of the last-minute call to add an interchange to the Wekiva Parkway. Leslie Campione, Lake County Commissioner, and Bryan Nelson, Orange County Commissioner, championed this proposed change. Fortunately, this plan appears to be defeated, as Seminole County, Orange County, the City of Apopka and now the Central Florida Expressway have expressed their opposition to any changes to the current Wekiva Parkway and Protection Act.

Refer to the lead article in the previous Jay for more background information on the Wekiva Parkway.

Pam Meharg

Christmas Bird Count

On Saturday December 16, 2017, Seminole Audubon Society participated in Audubon's 118th Christmas Bird Count. We mainly focused our count in areas 10 and 11 of the Wekiva Christmas Bird Count Circle, which is broken into 15 areas. The results of the counts are used to help determine the long-term health and status of bird populations. The data has been especially useful to climate change research. (cont. page 3)

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.

2017-2018
Board of Directors & Committee Chairs (eff. 7/1/17)
407-797-4636
seminoleaudubon@gmail.com

Sarah Donlan	Co-President	sarahdonlan42@gmail.com
Marguerite Terwilleger	Co-President	mterwilleger51@gmail.com
Vacant	Vice President	
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
Shirley Folse	Telephone Comm.	407-797-4636
Faith Jones	Ornithology	faithaudubon@gmail.com
Sam Kendall	MeetUp	samuelk32@embarqmail.com
Energy	Vacant	
Boni Sivi	Newsletter Editor	bonisivi@comcast.net
Peggy Stickney	Publicity	peggyrn@bellsouth.net
Corrinne Wertz	Newsletter Distribution	cwertz127@aol.com
Vacant	Hospitality	
Vacant	Programs	
Vacant	Field Trips	
Vacant	Audubon Adventures	
Vacant	Historian	

WELCOME
WELCOME
NEW MEMBERS
& NEW to OUR CHAPTER

Richard Hermann
Jean Nicolas

DeBary
Lake Mary

Faith Jones returned to an area she has counted for 29 years and tallied 46 species, the highlight being a Sedge Wren. She noted what seemed like more crows, Palm Warblers, Chipping Sparrows, and American Goldfinches than in previous years, but fewer grackles, Cattle Egrets, Yellow-rumped Warblers, and Northern Cardinals.

Photo: Common Goldeneye by Ken Schmidt



Lewis Gray spotted a Yellow Warbler, which is unusual for this time of year; he patiently waited 40 minutes to take a photo confirming his sighting. A Summer Tanager, Purple Gallinule, Kestrel, and Common Goldeneye were counted along with American Wigeons, Wood Ducks, and numerous water birds.

Seminole Audubon will soon be publishing our final count and it should be an impressive number of species.

Photos: Gadwall and Yellow Warbler by Lewis Gray



SAS History 1969 - 1974

Seventh in a Series

Meetings

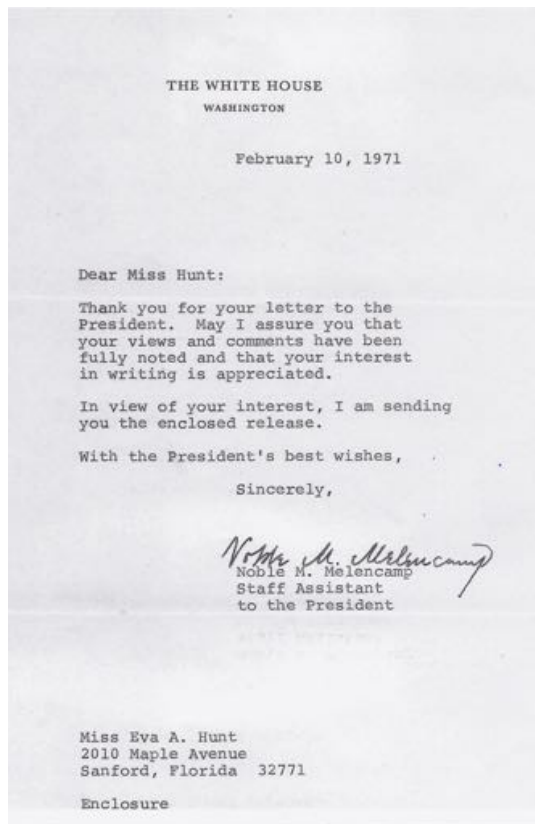
Meetings during these years were held at the Holy Cross Episcopal Church Parish House, the Sanford Chamber of Commerce, or the Audubon House in Maitland. Beginning in January 1975, meetings were to be held at the new Florida Power & Light building on Myrtle Avenue in Sanford.

SAS periodically donated \$50.00 - \$150.00 to Florida Audubon Society for their projects. At the May 1973 meeting it was announced that membership dues should be sent to National Audubon Society rather than to Florida Audubon Society.

Programs

The program for October 1969 was an illustrated talk given by Joseph Kenner, naturalist for Florida State Parks. He showed how birds, animals and insects survive in the forests and how everything is dependent on other things for survival. Other programs included bird identification and another by Joseph Kenner in March 1972 on Florida history thirty thousand years ago with the Ocala area emerging from the ocean.

In March 1974, Jack Hannah, Director of the Zoo, spoke on the importance of zoos in the preservation of different species. SAS supported the campaign to Save our Zoo, and gave several donations.



Conservation

During 1972-1973 there was a movement in Sanford to plant a tree for every tree cut down. The Sanford Chamber of Commerce under the direction of Mr. Krider was backing this project as well as a group called "Trees Unlimited."

During the October 1973 meeting, correspondence from the Governor in favor of the preservation of Rainbow River was read.

The notebook of minutes for these years contains a press release from the White House. It is entitled a "Statement by the President" dated January 19, 1971, so it was from then President Richard M. Nixon. The Statement was "ordering a halt to the construction of the Cross

Florida Barge Canal to prevent serious environmental damages." Enclosed on White House stationery, was a typed letter to Eva Hunt, President of SAS, thanking her for sharing her views. It was dated February 10, 1971 and was signed by a White House staff assistant.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JANUARY 19, 1971

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY

THE WHITE HOUSE

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

I am today ordering a halt to further construction of the Cross Florida Barge Canal to prevent potentially serious environmental damages.

The purpose of the Canal was to reduce transportation costs for barge shipping. It was conceived and designed at a time when the focus of Federal concern in such matters was still almost completely on maximizing economic return. In calculating that return, the destruction of natural, ecological values was not counted as a cost, nor was a credit allowed for actions preserving the environment.

A natural treasure is involved in the case of the Barge Canal -- the Oklawaha River -- a uniquely beautiful, semi-tropical stream, one of a very few of its kind in the United States, which would be destroyed by construction of the Canal.

The Council on Environmental Quality has recommended to me that the project be halted, and I have accepted its advice. The Council has pointed out to me that the project could endanger the unique wildlife of the area and destroy this region of unusual and unique natural beauty.

The total cost of the project if it were completed would be about \$180 million. About \$50 million has already been committed to construction. I am asking the Secretary of the Army to work with the Council on Environmental Quality in developing recommendations for the future of the area.

The step I have taken today will prevent a past mistake from causing permanent damage. But more important, we must assure that in the future we take not only full but also timely account of the environmental impact of such projects -- so that instead of merely halting the damage, we prevent it.

Field Trips

The field trips between 1969 – 1974 included the following:

Spring 1970, a three-day trip to Myakka State Park.

Fall 1971, a three-day trip to Sanibel Island. Efficiencies cost \$5.00 per night, per person.

In March 1973, there was a successful boat trip on the St. Johns River with a capacity group of 50 participating.

Memoriams

Memoriams were read at meetings, a number of which are in the notebook of minutes. At the December 30, 1971 meeting, Eva Hunt, President, read one in memory of Randall C. Chase, a prominent resident of Sanford. He was the son of Seminole County pioneers, a civic leader, and Sanford Mayor. He was interested in birds and ecology, and a lifetime member of SAS. In the July 1938 copy of *The Florida Naturalist*, he is listed as a patron of the Florida Audubon Society.

Parks

In 1970, Seminole County voters approved a bond issue to purchase park lands. Operation of Big Tree Park was transferred from the Sanford-Seminole Jaycees to the Seminole County Commission in 1972-73. The land had already been a park for many years.

By October 1972, using bond money the County acquired two sites on Lake Monroe and a site near Lake Jesup, which at the time was called Big Tree Park, East. It was accessible from State Road 419 near Winter Springs.

In a newspaper clipping from June 1977 Seminole Audubon Society met for breakfast at the "Senator" or "Big Tree" in

Breakfast With The Senator

The Senator, a giant cypress tree which has brooded over the Spring Hammock area of Seminole County for some 2,000 years (right) was the silent honored guest at a breakfast held by members of the Seminole Audubon Society this week.

The group (below), which is vitally concerned in the battle to save Florida's wetlands from encroaching civilization, gathered at Big Tree Park on Tuesday morning to enjoy one another's companionship in the sylvan setting before parting for the summer vacation.

Miss Eva Hunt, club president, said she hopes to make the breakfast a regular feature.



Spring Hammock west of U.S. Highway 17/92 on General Hutchinson Parkway. In a photograph members formed a human chain around the tree as their honored guest.

At the time of its unfortunate demise, on January 16, 2012, the "Senator" was over 3500 years old and it was the largest tree by volume east of the Mississippi River. I think it is appropriate to share this newspaper clipping with you on the sixth anniversary of the "Senator's" death.

Left to right: Mr. Griffiths, Arlene Wimmer, Marion Wilson, Eva Hunt, Olive Wood, Stanley Weller, Lois Weller, Frieda Gielow, Ethel Weller, Annabell Merrill, Mary Brewster, Ruth Porter, Dottie Winkler, Katherine Wigley, Bessie Yandell, Ernest Kennard, Edie Winchell, Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Francke, Miss Francke.

Myra Platel



The Board of Directors of Seminole Audubon Society would like to thank all of our members and friends who responded so generously to our recent appeal letter. Your support is motivating and will inspire us to continue our conservation and education work. Your donations will be used wisely.



Work has begun on the Darrell Leidigh Native Trees Arboretum at Crystal Lake Preserve. The native trees for the first phase of the project have been planted. More will be planted in stages over the next two years. Thank you to those of you who donated to this project.

Orlando Wetlands Festival

The Orlando Wetlands Festival will be held from 9 am-3 pm on Saturday, February 17, 2018, at Fort Christmas Historical Park. The Orlando Wetlands Festival highlights the Orlando Wetlands Park, the City's 1,650 acre water reclamation wetland. More information can be found at <http://www.cityoforlando.net/wetlands/>



Volunteer Opportunities



Seminole Audubon Society is basically a group of like-minded volunteers trying to promote awareness and protection of plants and animals to sustain the beneficial coexistence of nature and humans. We do this primarily through educational and other enjoyable activities. We have listed here a few volunteer opportunities. We hope that at least one of these will be of interest to you. We do have other opportunities not listed here. Look at the vacant committee chairs on page 2. For more details and/or to volunteer, please call Shirley (407-797-4636) or email Faith faithaudubon@gmail.com. You can also volunteer at a meeting.

Audubon Adventures Chairperson

This person is responsible for promoting the National Audubon Society educational program designed for schools, after-school programs and home-schoolers. We would like you to contact Elementary Schools in our territory and other education providers to promote this environmental education tool kit.

Meeting Set-up and Clean-up Committee

We need volunteers to set up the meeting room with tables and chairs at the library before our Sunday afternoon meetings. You would also help put the chairs away and make certain we leave the room in the condition we found it. If you would like to be on this committee, even for just one meeting, please let us know or sign up at a meeting.

Hospitality Committee

Volunteers act as "Greeters" at our meetings and/or bring refreshments. We would like at least two volunteers for each meeting. If you would like to help SAS in this manner please let us know!

Upcoming Programs

Unless otherwise noted, our meetings are held on the second Sunday of the month at 2:00 pm in the meeting room of the Seminole County Public Library, North Branch -150 N. Palmetto Ave., Sanford. Meetings are free and open to the public with door prizes.

Sunday January 14, 2018 Gopher Tortoise



Our speaker, Carissa Kent, has been involved in gopher tortoise rescue relocation efforts since 2006 when she started a project in collaboration with HSUS to save tortoises from sites that had permits to bury them. She works closely with the FWC, developers, environmental consultants and others in outreach, permitting, field operations, rescue, transport, data collection and release. Carissa completed the Ashton Biodiversity Institute Gopher Tortoise Relocation Training and has assisted in the rescue of over 6000 gopher tortoises in Florida. She will share her experiences with gopher tortoises and we look forward to actually having one visit us.

Sunday February 11, 2018 Climate Change and Birds

Reinier Munguia, photographer and conservationist will present on the effects of climate change on birds.

Upcoming Events

Seminole County Gardening Expo

Sat, March 3, 2018

9:30 am – 3:30 pm EST

UF/IFAS Extension Seminole County

250 W. County Home Road

Sanford, FL 32773

This event is sponsored by UF/IFAS Extension Seminole County and Master Gardener Volunteers. Activities include hydroponic demonstrations, organic & butterfly gardening, children's activities, "how-to" clinics, vendors selling plants & gardening-related products, "Ask the Experts", food, entertainment and much more. Guest speakers include Tom McCubbin!

SAS will have a display table at the expo and Pam Meharg will give a presentation on plants/trees that will attract birds and butterflies. If you can volunteer at our table for a few hours on that day, please contact Phyllis Hall at phylliscath814@gmail.com.

Phyllis Hall

Earth Day Events at Seminole State College

SAS will have display tables from 12 noon to 2 pm on the Sanford Campus for Earth Day on April 18th and on the Oviedo Campus on April 19th.

SAS is also sponsoring a showing of the DVD movie, *Water's Journey: The Hidden Rivers of Florida*, on campus during that week. This video is part of an award-winning PBS series which follows a team of underwater cave explorers as they trace the dynamic journey of water through the underground system of caves and tunnels on its way to the Florida springs. The ground team uses the radio receiver to track the divers as they travel under golf courses, homes, industrial areas and even a restaurant.

Phyllis Hall

Program Notes

Florida Scrub-Jay

Our November 12th program started out with some excitement as we realized our planned location was not available, but like typical birders Seminole Audubon Society adapted! A big thank you to the Historic Sanford Welcome Center for opening their doors to us. It was a cozy meeting but worked out fine. Our presenter Ralph Risch, Florida Scrub-Jay Biologist at Seminole State Forest, took the small space in stride; he set up his exhibit table on which he presented items used for banding jays. Ralph educated and amused us about the Florida Scrub-Jay and habitat. His primary duty is to monitor and try to enhance the habitat of the Florida Scrub-Jay at Seminole State Forest where he has been the biologist for over 11 years. Ralph captures the birds, bands them, monitors them, and records information.

The Florida Scrub-Jay has very specific habitat requirements. Scrub-Jay habitat is characterized by short, shrubby oaks, open patches of sand, and few trees. Habitat loss and degradation due to fire suppression, urbanization, and agriculture have caused widespread population declines throughout the Florida Scrub-Jay's range, and the species is federally listed as Threatened. The low, open habitat conditions preferred by scrub-jays and many other scrub plants and animals are maintained by periodic fires. The scrub oak can take 10 to 15 years to reach a height of two to three yards tall when grown from an acorn. We learned that the scrub-jay helps these important scrub oaks to spread. Each bird buries 6,000 to 9,000 acorns for the winter, and each needs about 2,000 to 3,000 acorns to survive.

Florida scrub-jays are non-migratory and live in family groups ranging in size from two to eight birds. Breeding pairs typically mate for life and establish permanent territories. Acorns produced by scrub oaks are an important food source, especially in the winter months. Scrub-Jays cache acorns in sandy openings throughout their territory.

Ralph took questions at the end of the program and was asked when he became interested in birding. He stated that his kindergarten teacher brought in an injured hummingbird wrapped in a handkerchief to show the class. He thought it was beautiful and he was 'hooked' on birds from then on. **Marguerite Terwilleger**

Florida Conservation Voters Education Fund



Aliki Moncrief, Executive Director of Florida Conservation Voters Education Fund (FCV Education Fund), gave a fascinating and informative presentation at our December 10th program. The FCV Education Fund is the successor organization to the Florida Water and Land Legacy campaign that sponsored the Water and Land Conservation Amendment (Amendment 1) in 2014. This amendment passed with over 75% voter support and directed that 1/3 of the documentary tax in Florida be directed to land and water conservation for the next 20 years.

Ms. Moncrief explained that the expenditures for land conservation have fallen from an average of \$300 million/year from 1990-2009 to zero appropriations last year, in spite of the voters'

passage of the Water and Land Conservation Amendment! This year there is a Senate Bill sponsored by Senator Bradley, SB 370, that would direct a minimum of \$100 million/year to the Florida Forever Program to purchase environmentally sensitive land and protect it from development. Although Seminole Audubon, Audubon Florida and the FCV Education Fund support a higher level of funding, we support this bill as a positive start to the efforts to restore funding for land acquisition in Florida.

Ms. Moncrief also described the FCV Education Fund mission as a mission to advocate for other environmental issues to the Florida Legislature. Notable issues that they have championed are: a ban on fracking, support for the solar amendment that was passed last year that opened Florida to solar expansion and opposition to the amendment that would have limited that expansion, and action to prevent the opening of Florida's coast to offshore drilling. The FCV Education Fund fills a gap in the environmental community's efforts and we appreciated hearing about those efforts from Ms. Moncrief.

Photo and Article: Pam Meharg

Upcoming Trips



Saturday Jan 20 Crystal Lake Preserve, Lake Mary

Crystal Lake Preserve (CLP), the largest parcel of undeveloped land in Lake Mary, was saved from development by SAS members Darrell & Bettye Leidigh. It is located west of Crystal Lake, adjacent to the Timacuan subdivision. The varied habitats on the property provide the opportunity to see a variety of flora and fauna. A number of Gopher Tortoises live on CLP so you will be able to see some of the things discussed by Carissa Kent during her January 14 Gopher Tortoise presentation.

CLP has limited public access. This trip will provide an opportunity to visit this

unique property. We will meet at 8:30 am in the Timacuan Golf Club parking lot, 550 Timacuan Blvd., Lake Mary. Please park in the section farthest from the building. For Registration and further details email or call Corrinne Wertz, cwertz127@aol.com or 407-314-5792. **Photos: Faith Jones**

Saturday Feb 17 Great Backyard Bird Count, Lake Mary

Come join Seminole Audubon Society for bird watching fun! We will meet at 8:00 am to participate in The Great Backyard Bird Count



(GBBC) February 17 at Liberty Park, 455 N. Country Club Rd, Lake Mary.



The 21st annual GBBC will be held Friday, February 16, through Monday, February 19, 2018. It engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of bird populations. Anyone can take part in the Great Backyard Bird Count, from beginning bird watchers to experts, and you can participate from your backyard, or anywhere in the world. GBBC Participants are asked to count birds for a minimum of 15 minutes or as long as they wish. Please visit <http://www.birdcount.org/> for more information and to submit your checklist.

Last year, more than 160,000 participants submitted their bird observations online, creating the largest instantaneous snapshot of global bird populations ever recorded.

Photo: Shirley Reilly

Thursday February 22 Blue Heron River Tour, DeLand

This is a 2-hour narrated pontoon boat tour of St. Johns River focusing on the effect of climate change while viewing manatees, shorebirds, and some nesting sites. There is a \$25 fee. Reservations required. Call Sarah Donlan at 407-687-6087 for more information.

Trip Notes



Seminole State Forest

Biologist Ralph Risch led Seminole Audubon Society members on a tour of some beautiful areas within Seminole State Forest. This November 18th field trip began at the Bear Pond parking lot where we split up into cars, and caravanned our way to some select spots. Many areas could be viewed from the car and others involved a short hike deeper into the woods. It was a photographer's paradise for taking photos of Florida Scrub-Jay as they posed in scrub oaks. Seminole State Forest consists of nearly 28,000 acres of wild lands in Lake County and its various habitats include over 6,000 acres of Florida scrub, home to Florida's only endemic bird species, the Florida Scrub-Jay. It was exciting for some members to spot two Red-headed Woodpeckers. Others heard a Brown-headed Nuthatch during a hike into the woods.

Photo: Marguerite Terwilliger



Photo: Shirley Reilly

Yankee Lake Regional Wastewater Reclamation Facility

Florida Scrub-Jays, one of the most habitat-specific federally-listed birds, are residents at Seminole County's Yankee Lake property. In 1993 the County applied to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for a permit modification to allow the construction of Rapid Infiltration Basins (RIBs). Herb Kale, Florida Audubon Society Ornithologist, provided the survey and management plan that was submitted with the application. Twenty-five scrub-jays were documented representing six family groups. As mitigation for the destruction of 28 acres of Florida Scrub-Jay habitat, Seminole County agreed to preserve the remaining 222 acres of scrub habitat in perpetuity for the Florida Scrub-Jays. It was estimated this property could easily support ten families.

In 2000, the USFWS informed Seminole County the conditions of the management agreement were not being conducted satisfactorily. The County responded by contracting PBS&J's (now Atkins) professional environmental team to restore suitable habitat and prepare another plan to perpetuate the conditions necessary for the long-term survival of the Florida Scrub-Jays.

On December 1st fifteen SAS members and guests took advantage of the opportunity to visit the Florida Scrub-Jays on

Seminole County's Yankee Lake property. This is likely the only remaining location for Florida Scrub-Jays in Seminole County. Our tour was led by two environmental scientists familiar with the property, Susan Shaw and Craig Stout. We were able to confirm the existence of seven birds in three family groups. Nest predation, likely



by snakes, continues to be a problem. It has been a number of years since there has been a successful nesting. One family of two unbanded birds, and possibly one other individual were likely fledged in the Seminole State Forest population and relocated themselves to Yankee Lake. Some vegetation concerns and evidence of feral hog damage were noted during the tour.

Although our avian species count of 26 is a far cry from the 50 we regularly sighted in visits in the early 2000s, we also did not visit all sections of the property, and there was no water in the RIBs. In addition to the Florida Scrub-Jays, the highlights of

the morning were sightings of an adult Bald Eagle and White-tailed Deer.

Thanks to Phyllis Hall and David Engstrom for arranging this trip.

Faith Jones



Bird Classes

SAS will offer an individual class on backyard birds in addition to our 4-session Birding Basics course. These classes are provided in cooperation with Seminole County Natural Lands Program. Classes are held in the Ed Yarborough Nature Center, Geneva Wilderness Area located at 3501 County Rd. 426 in Geneva.

Backyard Bird Class

Ever wonder what bird that is, visiting your yard? Eating at your feeder? Drinking and bathing at your bird bath? This class will teach a basic method of bird identification. We will focus on frequently-seen species. The class will be held on Wednesday November 15 from 2:00 – 4:00 pm. Cost is \$5.00. Registration will be between 1:30 – 2:00 at the Nature Center.

2018 Birding Basics Course

Our 4-Session beginning bird-watching course will be offered:

January 11, 16, 18, 23

Thursday/Tuesday 1:00-4:00 pm

Field Trip will be morning or afternoon Tuesday 1/18

January 13, 20, 21, 27

Saturday mornings 9 am – Noon

Field Trip Sunday 1/21 morning or afternoon

Seminole Audubon Society, in partnership with Seminole County Natural Lands, will offer a 4-session beginning bird-watching course designed for students of all ages.

Each session includes classroom and field experience. Topics will include use of bird-watching tools, how to look at and identify birds, creating wildlife habitat and more. The third class will be a field trip to Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge. Cost of the full course is \$40.00.

To register send your name, address, telephone number or e-mail address with a check to Seminole Audubon Society P.O. Box 2977, Sanford FL 32772-2977. To register electronically, send the requested information in an e-mail to faithaudubon@gmail.com and make your payment by using the "Donate" button on our website seminoleaudubon.org. For more information call 407-797-4636.

Environment Club at Seminole State College



Phyllis Hall is now the liaison with the Environment Club at Seminole State College (SSC). In November she gave presentations to the clubs at the Sanford and Oviedo campuses. The presentation included a history of Audubon, how Audubon is organized and a list of resources on birding, native plants, and nest boxes. The SAS 2017-2018 Calendar brochure and birding classes flyer were also provided as handouts. Students at the Sanford campus are interested in developing a bird feeding station with native plants by a new building. Students at the Oviedo campus are interested in a bird survey on their campus and adding nest boxes as well as native plants to attract birds. Phyllis will be on both campuses during Earth Week in April. SAS has purchased the documentary DVD on Florida's aquifers, *Water's Journey: The Hidden Rivers of Florida*, which will be

shown as a special event on campus during Earth Week. Dr. Debbie Socci, Environment Club advisor, is planning a learning trip to Peru for birding in the spring. That trip will be open to the public. We will provide more information on that trip when it becomes available.

Phyllis Hall

Find Us!

If you have bird photos or information of interest to members, please email it to seminoleaudubon@gmail.com.



If you have a Facebook account, please take a few minutes to 'like us' and invite your friends to like us as well.



Follow us on Twitter at: [@AudubonSeminole](https://twitter.com/AudubonSeminole).



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

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!

Joining Seminole Audubon Society makes you also a member of Audubon of Florida and the National Audubon Society. Membership benefits include our newsletter *The JAY*, *Audubon Magazine*, and the *Florida Naturalist*. 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_____

E-mail_____

If you join elsewhere, please use our Chapter Code: **C8ZE310Z**

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

Memberships are good gifts!

Calendar (con't from page 16)

Thu. Feb. 22 **Blue Heron River Tour**, DeLand. Narrated pontoon boat tour. \$25. Reservation req.
Sat. Mar. 17 **Marine Science Center/Ponce Inlet**. Birding followed by visit to the center. Fees.

Bird Classes

Jan 2018 **Birding Basics Course** T/Th Jan 11, 16, 18, & 23 or weekends Jan 13, 20, 21, & 27.

Other Events

Jan 24-29 **Space Coast Birding & Wildlife Festival**
Sat Feb 17 **Orlando Wetlands Festival**

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 in the Meeting Room of the Seminole County Public Library located at 150 N. Palmetto Ave., in downtown Sanford.
Call 407-797-4636 for details.

- Sun Jan 14 **Gopher Tortoise** Activist Carissa Kent will discuss her involvement with and the importance of this keystone species.
- Sun Feb. 11 **Climate Change and Birds** Reinier Munguia will present on the effects of climate change on birds.
- Sun Mar. 11 **Shorebirds of Florida** Michael Brothers, director of the Marine Science Center, will share his knowledge about the wide range of shorebirds.

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. For additional Information email: seminoleaudubon@gmail.com

- Sat Jan 20 **Crystal Lake Preserve** - guided walk searching for gopher tortoises. 8:30 am.
- Sat. Feb. 17 **Backyard Bird Count**

See Calendar on page 15