

# 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.*

March – April – May 2018    A Publication of Seminole Audubon Society

## Birding Basics Course Inspires New Birders



Over thirty people with a budding interest in birding attended our Basic Birding course in January. Classes were taught by our past President, Faith Jones, and were held at the Ed Yarborough Nature Center in Geneva Wilderness Area, in cooperation with Seminole County Natural Lands. This year the classes were treated to a private tour of the Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive, thanks to Rosie Mulholland, Land Mgt. Specialist, St Johns River Water Management District. In addition to the classroom work and walks at Geneva Wilderness Area, there was a field trip to Merritt Island National Wildlife

Refuge where over 50 species were identified. During the guided tour, participants tested their new knowledge of bird identification. Faith is always there, encouraging each student to look for field marks and how to use their field guides.



**Photo: Mick Montell**

Mick Montell was a new participant this year. He is not a professional photographer, but he picked up his phone and focused on a beautiful Tri-colored Heron perched in a bush. Suddenly, a Snowy Egret rose from the bushes beneath the bird with his wings in a furious, attack mode and screaming his warning. This is *his* territory and he will defend it. Mick calmly turned and remarked, "I think I got that." Here was the shot all photographers wait for ... the unexpected action shot you may get once in a lifetime. Nice going, Mick, and I'd like to declare Mick "Photographer of the Year." We hope to see more of him and his photos in our chapter, Seminole Audubon Society.

**2017-2018**  
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**407-797-4636**  
**seminoleaudubon@gmail.com**

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Vacant	Programs	
Vacant	Field Trips	
Vacant	Audubon Adventures	
Vacant	Historian	

**WELCOME**  
**NEW MEMBERS**  
**& NEW to OUR CHAPTER**

Sophie Bailey	DeBary
Elizabeth Brown	DeBary
Bob Bugnacki	Sanford
Michael Daley	DeBary
Edward Feldman	Sanford
Karen Hamblett	Lake Mary
David Lagrange	Deltona
Justin & Jo Ellen Morgan	Lake Mary
Mireille Morrill	Lake Mary
Stephen Preston	Lake Mary
Jean Pritchard	Lake Mary
John Salsbury	Sanford

Christina Seavey	Deltona	Nelly N. Ortiz	Sanford
John P. Sullivan III	Sanford	Ruth M. Scherbarth	Sanford
Patsy Young-Davis	Lake Mary	Diane V. Statter	Deltona
Hongjie Zhu	Lake Mary	Karen H. Sutton	Sanford
Joseph Abraham	Sanford	John Verderosa	Sanford
Lois Brandt	Deltona	Susan Knickerbocker	Geneva
John Carr	Sanford	Jeannie Fooshee	Longwood
Donna M. Francisco	Lake Mary	Danny O'Hara	Oviedo
Judy Haywood	DeBary	Caryl J. Campbell	Oviedo
Mary Kear	DeBary	Brennan Murphy	DeBary
Patty Maenner	Deltona	Gus Kraye	Sanford
Edwin J. Metrin	Lake Mary		
Gary C. Minor	Geneva		



Seminole Audubon would like to say how much we appreciate all of the generous donations we have received in response to our appeal letter. Thanks to you we've raised over \$2100 to help support our conservation projects!

A little bird told me it's not too late to donate! You can still help out by visiting our website at [seminoleaudubon.org](http://seminoleaudubon.org) and clicking on the "Donate" button.

## Volunteer Opportunities



**HELP WANTED!** There are openings on Seminole Audubon Society's Committees and Board of Directors. Help is needed with planning field trips and programs, Hospitality, Energy, Audubon Adventures, and more. Contact current leadership at [seminoleaudubon@gmail.com](mailto:seminoleaudubon@gmail.com)

### Outreach Chair

We are pleased to announce that our new Outreach Committee Chair is Phyllis Hall. Phyllis is a retired registered nurse and adult educator. She has been actively involved with Audubon and other organizations since retirement. Phyllis is also a volunteer with Wekiva Basin Banding Station at Lake Lotus. Phyllis says she is an avid reader and self-proclaimed science geek.

Seminole Audubon Society is involved with the following Outreach Activities. Please email [seminoleaudubon@gmail.com](mailto:seminoleaudubon@gmail.com) if you are able to help with any of these!

#### **Seminole County Gardening Expo**

**March 3** (Saturday) 9:30 am – 3:30 pm, UF/IFAS Extension Seminole County  
250 W. County Home Road, Sanford, FL 32773

#### **Seminole College Earth Week**

**April 18<sup>th</sup>** (Wednesday) 12 noon - 2:00ish "outside the bookstore" in Sanford,



100 Weldon Blvd. Sanford, FL 32773

**April 19<sup>th</sup>** (Thursday) 12 noon - 2:00ish at the "courtyard between our 2 buildings"  
in Oviedo, 2505 Lockwood Blvd. Oviedo, FL 32765

**Lake Lotus Earth Fest**

**April 22** (Sunday) Lake Lotus Park, 1153 Lake Lotus Park Rd., Altamonte Springs, FL 32714  
Set up at 9 am. Event 10 am – 2 pm

**Earth Fest Casselberry**

**April 28** (Saturday) from 10 am – 2 pm 127 Quail Pond Circle, Casselberry, FL 32707

# 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 refreshments and door prize.



**Sunday March  
11 Shorebirds of  
Florida  
Please take  
note of time  
change!  
Daylight Saving  
Time begins  
(Spring  
forward)**

We are delighted to have Michael Brothers speak at our March program. Mr. Brothers is currently the Director of the Marine Science Center in Ponce Inlet, FL, where he has worked since

2004. He is the former director of museums in Florida and Georgia and has worked as a professional interpretive naturalist for over 40 years.

Michael Brothers has been studying Florida birds for the last 45 years and has been leading pelagic birding trips off of Florida and Georgia for the last 12 years. These trips extend to the Gulf Stream and even out 100 miles to the 3,000-foot deep canyons beyond the Gulf Stream. He has extensive natural resource and natural science interpretive experience including specializations in the bird life and flora of Central Florida, as well as leading birding tours throughout Florida, the Okefenokee Swamp, the Galapagos Islands, Kenya, Machu Picchu and

the Amazon. Michael Brothers' research specialty is in the coastal and oceanic birds of Florida. He is currently a member of the Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee, which evaluates reports of birds recorded in the wild in Florida and is responsible for updating the scientific record of Florida's avifauna. He is also the Florida editor for the journal *North American Birds*.

The shorebirds are a fascinating group of birds. They are at the same time familiar and yet often have secret parts of their lives. We so often take for granted the small sandpipers that we see on the beach. Each time we walk the surf these small creatures scurry along the shore, chasing the waves like little wind-up toys. They allow such close approach and appear to fly only a few feet; this belies a part of their lives that few will ever see. Who would expect that these small birds would leave our shores in May and fly all the way to northernmost edge of the Arctic tundra to nest? They find a mate, build a nest, lay eggs and raise their young in the Arctic. Yet, they will be back on our beaches before most of us realize that they have even left. Other species breed right here in Florida; however, the pressures of development along our coast threatens these denizens of the coastal strand. They have adapted to life on the open ocean, saltwater, freshwater or even on pastures and upland environments. Each member of this fascinating group of birds has its own unique story. They can also be a great challenge to identify. This program will explore the lives of these intriguing birds and try to de-mystify the identification of Florida's shorebirds.

**Pam Meharg**

### **Sunday April 8 Wekiva River Potluck and Kayaking (note the event time has changed)**



Join us for food, fellowship, and kayaking during our last program of the 2017-2018 season. Bring the entire family! Bring food to share. This event replaces our monthly meeting at the library. We will meet at 164 Wekiva Park Drive, Sanford, FL 32771, near Katie's Landing. There will be kayaking at 10 am, potluck at 12 noon, and more kayaking at 1 pm. Kayaks will be available or bring your own. Thank you to the Russells for inviting us to their property for fun on the river!

## **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](mailto:phylliscath814@gmail.com).

### 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 18<sup>th</sup> and on the Oviedo Campus on April 19<sup>th</sup>.

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

## Saving Florida's Gopher Tortoises: January 14<sup>th</sup>



Carissa Kent has been involved in gopher tortoise rescue relocation efforts since 2006 when she started *Saving Florida's Gopher Tortoises*. The goal of *Saving Florida's Gopher*

*Tortoises* is to rescue tortoises off of Incidental Take Permit sites that had permits to bury them. Seminole Audubon had approximately 50 attendees for her program where she discussed anatomy and behavior of gopher tortoises, details about their burrows, and information about her rescue program. Some facts we learned were that the female is larger and stays in one burrow for a longer period of time than the male who often has multiple burrows. They have an internal GPS/homing system and their optimal habitat temperature is 72 degrees. Their burrows average 15-18 feet long and 6-8 feet deep. They typically dig down to the water table in order to find cool, moist sand that enables them to cool down after foraging and sunning. It is important to note they are keystone species, which means hundreds of other species depend on their burrows for survival.

In 2007 FWC uplisted tortoises from a "Species of Special Concern" to "Threatened." In 2012 USFWS placed the Florida gopher tortoise onto the *candidate* list for federal protection under the Endangered Species Act, but



they are not yet federally protected since they are still on the candidate list. The areas that tortoises like to make their home are also attractive to developers in Florida. In 1991, Incidental Take was adopted by FWC as a tool for mitigation between land that was wanted for development and the imperiled species that resided on that land. The developer could “take” the tortoise on a site in exchange for a “mitigation payment” for the protection of tortoises and purchase of land elsewhere. FWC ended “take” in 2007 after grassroots efforts that opposed it. No more ITPs (Incidental Take Permits) could be purchased, but all of the previously issued permits are still legal. FWC recommends humane relocation as an alternative to using the ITPs still in existence. Over 100,000 tortoises have been permitted throughout the state to be buried alive since 1991 due to these previously issued permits. ITPs are an inhumane option.

It was an uphill battle but Carissa partnered with HSUS and came up with a proposal based on a development that had an ITP in Ponce Inlet. Carissa’s idea was to amend the ITP to allow for the rescue of the tortoises and their relocation to safety. The developer agreed, FWC approved, and the project started. The first official humane rescue relocation of gopher tortoises was completed by *Saving Florida’s Gopher Tortoises* in 2006. The tortoises adjusted well to their new home and laid eggs resulting in hatchlings. That was just the beginning. Carissa completed the Ashton Biodiversity Institute gopher tortoise relocation training and also trains authorized agents across the state. In collaboration with Nokuse Plantation, Avalon Plantation, Eglin Air Force Base and The Humane Society of the United States, *Saving Florida’s Gopher Tortoises* has rescued and relocated over 6,000 gopher tortoises and thousands of commensal species from these incidental-take-permitted sites where they could be buried alive or entombed legally.

*Saving Florida’s Gopher Tortoises* works closely with FWC, developers, environmental consultants, non-profits and citizens in outreach, permitting, field operations, rescue, transport, data collection, and release. Carissa works with the full spectrum of tortoise issues including injured and sick tortoises with her partnerships with SwampGirl Adventures and Central Florida Wildlife Center, waif tortoises, rescue relocation projects, citizen concerns, backyard tortoise habitats, EcoCamps, education and conservation and FWC Law Enforcement situations.

Carissa was awarded Conservationist of the Year by the Florida Wildlife Federation and also received the Conservation Education Award from the Gopher Tortoise Council in 2016.



How can you help with *Saving Florida’s Gopher Tortoises* rescue projects?

- Help identify ITP sites where they can save tortoises.
- Report wildlife violations.
- Donate! *Saving Florida’s Gopher Tortoises* has a matching funds grant.
- Become a tortoise volunteer.

Volunteer to survey, dig tortoises, transport and more on Carissa’s projects. FWC also has numerous volunteer opportunities to help.

- Create a Backyard Wildlife Habitat.
- Educate family, friends, and colleagues on the importance of tortoises and other wildlife.

## **Climate Change and Birds: February 11th**

Reiner Munguia, wildlife photographer from Lakeland Audubon, spoke at the February meeting of Seminole Audubon. Reinier also leads birding and photography tours in Central and South America and rescues birds for the Birds of Prey Center in Maitland. “Climate Change” is defined as seasonal changes over long periods of



time. Short- term climate variations are normal; long-term are signs of climate change. The main culprit in climate change is the emission of greenhouse gases, mainly CO2. Almost everything we do from turning on lights to driving a car emits CO2. And the United States produces the most per person than any other country. Signs of climate change are fires, melting ice, dry spells, extreme weather, sea level rising, and ocean warming.



Climate change affects birds greatly in several areas: migration, habitat, food, breeding, and range. With warmer weather spring is earlier, signaling birds to start their migration. When they reach their destination, the food expected may not be there yet. Extended dry weather dries up ponds and other smaller bodies of water while flooding may destroy nesting colonies. So too much or too little water can affect habitat. An example of decreased food sources is from warming oceans, which affects the phytoplankton needed in the food chain of many birds and animals. Breeding is affected when birds need to travel further to obtain food for their young as plant life and insects shift. In general birds are nesting 10 days earlier and further north at the present. Many birds are developing new ranges in order to obtain food.

In Florida changes are seen in our birds: brown pelicans and spoonbills are moving to inland lakes. Least terns are nesting on rooftops. Purple martins are showing up later. And the Florida scrub jay is losing insect food sources through drought and fires.

YES, CLIMATE CHANGE IS REAL!!! **Peggy Stickney**



## Upcoming Trips

**Saturday March 17, Ponce Inlet and Marine Science Center**

Ponce Inlet in Volusia County is a birding hotspot known to attract many species of shorebirds and the occasional pelagic species. The long pier is a great place to scope the jetty and inlet for Purple Sandpipers and other rarities. After we have birded the park, we will visit the Marine Science Center. The Marine Science Center is involved in turtle and seabird rehabilitation, as well as research. We will tour their facilities and exhibit gallery as we learn about their mission to protect the delicate coastal environment and the wildlife that calls it home.

We will depart from the Jo-Ann Fabrics at Seminole Town Center at 7:30 am if you want to carpool or meet in the Ponce Inlet main parking lot by the pier at 8:45 am. There are fees to both enter the park and the Marine Science Center that vary by age and car occupancy, so be sure to bring some cash. Please let us know if you plan to join us by emailing us at [seminoleaudubon@gmail.com](mailto:seminoleaudubon@gmail.com)

## **Saturday April 14, Gatorland, Orlando**

**Photo: Sarah Donlan**



What a great opportunity to photograph a prime wading bird rookery! We will be admitted early into the park and be met by a guide to go to the rookery area – gators below and birds nesting above. Cost: \$20.00, to be paid by March 15, 2018. You may pay at the March 11<sup>th</sup> Seminole Audubon program/meeting or mail a check made out to Seminole Audubon Society to Seminole Audubon Society, P.O. Box 2977, Sanford, FL 32772-2977.

Meet at the Gatorland Park, 14501 S. Orange Blossom Trail, Orlando, FL 32837 at 7:00 am. Carpool will meet 6:00 am at Jo-Ann's near Seminole Towne Center. For a great place to check out Gatorland and see pictures taken there in the past just "Google" GatorlandBirdRookery, Orlando, FL. Please email [seminoleaudubon@gmail.com](mailto:seminoleaudubon@gmail.com) with any questions or call Marty Shepherd at 407-829-4485.

# **Trip Notes**

## **Crystal Lake Preserve**

Seminole Audubon Society had a fantastic trip to Crystal Lake Preserve on Saturday, January 20th! In addition to the numerous bird species we observed, we got a look at an urban coyote and the resident gopher

tortoises. Many thanks to our tour guides for the update on the efforts to restore the vegetation to a native habitat.



The mission of CLP is to protect and preserve the natural state of Crystal Lake Preserve for the benefit of native flora and fauna. The motto is *the best impact on the environment is the least impact possible*.



Seminole Audubon Society, Inc., works in partnership with CLP, Inc., to manage the property. Although there were, and are, still a few invasive exotic plants, they have not been a major problem on the property. A team headed by Jim Denslow spends one morning a month doing what needs to be done. This is generally done on the Thursday after our SAS program on the second Sunday. He would love assistance. If interested please email or call Jim. Contact information: 407-323-4506 or [bdenslow@cfl.rr.com](mailto:bdenslow@cfl.rr.com)

Marked trails and benches have been installed. Bird, butterfly, and plant surveys are conducted. There are resident Gopher Tortoises.

The Darrell Leidigh Memorial Native Plant Garden will be planted in a section of the property where there was hurricane damage. The garden area is being planted in stages and will include various levels of native plants (ground cover, shrubs, trees).



## Great Backyard Bird Count

On Saturday Feb. 17th Seminole Audubon contributed to citizen science by participating in The Great Backyard Bird Count. The GBBC started in the US and Canada to get a snapshot of the number of birds in an area before spring migration started. Now birders from around the world submit their counts. It was a foggy start to the day but we were able to identify 35 species at Liberty Park in Lake Mary. There was also a gull that had us all puzzled. It would not fly over a second time to allow us a better look.



*Photos: Sarah Donlan*



It was a fun morning. Thanks to all of you who joined us.

**Leslie Martin**

## Blue Heron River Tour





Bird class attendees and guests from Michigan were all part of Seminole Audubon Society's group of 30 who joined the Blue Heron River Tour on Thursday, February 22nd. Josh, our guide, pointed out abundant bird life and alligators along with tree damage from Hurricane Irma. The weather was beautiful and we all enjoyed the tour.



## Jane Isle Wading Bird Surveys Restart

After a 2017 season that saw an early period of drought and low water levels in Lake Jesup force an abandonment of all but the first of four planned surveys over the nesting season, our hopes for a more successful effort in 2018 were first dependent on the abatement of late-year flood conditions on the St. Johns river system and potential impacts on anticipated nesting activities. Luckily, with water levels having returned to more normal conditions by mid-January, we were able to return to Jane Isle in early February on a bright but breezy day. As it turned out, we found nesting activities by Great Blue Herons and Great Egrets to be in progress at a combined level that might be comparable to last year. Thus, a handful of Great Blues appeared to have established probable nesting sites atop the cluster of Cabbage Palms, while an unusually high count of flight activity by Great Egrets was observed, along with several transporting nest material. A summary table for the wading bird observations is shown as the total count of birds flying either to or from the island over a 1-hour period.

An additional sighting of note was the arrival of a pair of adult eagles that proceeded to perch atop the

highest snag on the island and demonstrate interest in mating rituals. Other identifiable observations included a group of 4 American White Pelicans, some 15 Laughing Gulls (on the lake), and examples of more common species such as Forster's Tern, Fish Crow, Boat-tailed Grackle and Red-winged Blackbird.

Species	Count
Anhinga	16
Double-crested Cormorant	1
Great Blue Heron	5
Great Egret	28
Little Blue Heron	2
Snowy Egret	1
White Ibis	6

**Lewis Gray**

## Tsunami in a Birdbath



Since owning a birdbath, I have become accustomed to seeing birds of different species sharing visits to our birdbath at the same time, often taking turns to thrash around and create ripples in the water's surface. Common visitors have included species ranging in size from wrens and warblers up to doves and American Robins. Imagine my surprise when, alerted by the agitated calls of a nearby Red-shouldered Hawk, I turned to observe a juvenile Cooper's Hawk that had entered our birdbath and was already standing in the center at the deepest point, appearing to make sure that there would be no challengers to interrupt his visit. Not surprisingly, no smaller birds were in sight!

With barely enough time to reach for my camera, I felt very lucky to capture several shots as this bird settled down into the water and went through several thrashing sequences. Each was accompanied by a cloud of water droplets flying in all directions and tsunami-sized waves crashing over the rim in large sheets. The photos tell the story. Three days later, he was seen to return for more of the same. This was definitely one cool bird that enjoyed a bath! Guess I will just need to keep the water level topped up!

**Lewis Gray**





## Purple Martin Houses – Round Two

Habitat for purple martins was re-established on January 15, 2018, at the Sanford Marina, near the picnic shelter, and near the intersection of Seminole Blvd. and Mellonville Ave. in Sanford. The habitat provides for up to eight purple martin bird nests at each site.

Left: Sarah Donlan, Co-President, Seminole Audubon Society  
Right: Jan and Jim Peters, Members



*Teacher Peggy Higgins with the Eagle puppet and the Eagle cam on the monitor.*

## Bald Eagles and Joan Walker Elementary School

On January 10, 2018, Joy Rector (Seminole Audubon Society) presented a program on Bald Eagles to Peggy Higgins' class at Joan Walker Elementary School in Chuluota, Florida. The day began with a discussion of John James Audubon, his accomplishments and his legacy. The focus then turned to Bald Eagles.





**Photos this page: Nini Toro**

Joy has created a life-sized Bald Eagle model with a 78" wingspan. Each student stood in front of the model and had his or her "arm span" compared to that of the Bald Eagle. This class was the recipient of an Audubon Adventures Kit. Joy's program complemented the current newsletter in the kit, *Baldy's Back*. The newsletter is filled with information about eagles. The students seemed most surprised by the fact that a Bald Eagle's head and tail are not white until the bird is five years old. Until that time, a Bald Eagle's head and tail are brown.





A map showing Bald Eagle nests near the school was shown to the students. The students then shared their personal stories of Bald Eagles they have seen in their neighborhoods. If you are interested in knowing if there are Bald Eagle nests in your neighborhood, visit

<https://public.myfwc.com/FWRI/EagleNests/nestlocator.aspx#search>



The students then were able to watch the live stream from the Northeast Florida Bald Eagle Nest Cam. It was impossible for them to contain their excitement as they watched an adult Bald Eagle arrive at the nest with a fish for the eaglets. This live stream is available at <https://www.nefleaglecam.org>.

The final activity of the day was puppet making. Each student was given the materials and was able to make a Bald Eagle puppet to take home. Peggy Higgins, teacher, is pictured with a puppet standing in front of the monitor displaying the live stream from the Bald Eagle nest.

It was a wonderful learning experience for this classroom, and we thank Joy and Peggy for making it possible. If you are interested in sharing your knowledge of birds with local schools, please contact Joy Rector at [joy7audubon@aol.com](mailto:joy7audubon@aol.com).

The children made thank you cards for Mrs. Rector. Many of them echoed this sentiment:

"Dear Mrs. Rector,  
Thank you for coming."

My favorite things were the puppet and the live cam."

Another student included his drawing of an eagle on his note.

## Remembering....



### **William Hayes Clapham**

November 21, 1941 - January 9, 2018

William H Clapham, Bill, will be dearly missed by friends and members of Seminole Audubon Society. He was an active member who willingly accepted a position on the Board where he served for several terms until his health caused his resignation. He was married for 25 years to Joan King, an active member of SAS. They enjoyed tennis, traveling, and simply spending time together. It was always fun to hear stories about their recent travels.

Bill was gregarious, friendly, and always eager to lend a helping hand. At his recent memorial service friends and family spoke of his positive outlook on life and what a happy person he was. He was a Marine

and proud to have served his country.

Bill was a regular volunteer at Crystal Lake Preserve where he and Jim Denslow spent many hours working side by side. Jim describes Bill as his "right-hand man."

We will miss Bill's smile and friendship. SAS extends our deepest condolences to Joan and the rest of their family.

## **Ninivonne (Nini) I. Toro**

April 16, 1953 - February 15, 2018



SAS has lost one of our active members. It is with tremendous sadness that we share the news of the passing of Nini Toro. In addition to attending many meetings and field trips, Nini was an EagleWatch volunteer. She gave a presentation for us about EagleWatch last season. Nini also spoke on our behalf at Public Hearings regarding matters affecting our local environment.

Many of us have wonderful memories of the excitement she expressed in being a part of our community. She was motivated by all things Audubon, and had a keen interest in supporting our organization. Her energy, enthusiasm, and joy were so wonderful. On a field trip to Jonathon Dickenson State Park she rode her bike 7 miles each morning to meet the group. She showed up full of energy at sunrise every month for the Black Bear Wilderness Surveys where she walked the nearly eight miles in hopes of improving her birding skills.

She was an enthusiastic birder who got such pleasure out of adding to her Life List. Nini was very proud of being able to prove with a photo that she had seen a thrush on a camping trip. It was a sighting the local E-bird reviewer seriously doubted was possible. One of her best birding days was probably a memorable pelagic trip she took with seven other SAS members. She no doubt added at least 10 hard-to-find species that day.

Our deepest condolences are extended to her husband Victor, her children, and her mother.

## **Find Us!**

If you have bird photos or information of interest to members, please email it to [seminoleaudubon@gmail.com](mailto: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 20)

### OTHER EVENTS

#### CRYSTAL LAKE PRESERVE LAKE MARY. WORK MORNINGS.

Th Mar15 Apr12 Please contact Jim at 407-323-4506 or [bdenslow@cfl.rr.com](mailto:bdenslow@cfl.rr.com) for time and meeting location.

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Please email [seminoleaudubon@gmail.com](mailto:seminoleaudubon@gmail.com) if interested in volunteering.

Sat Mar. 3 **Seminole County Gardening Expo.** 9:30 am – 3:30 pm

Apr.18 & 19 **Seminole College Earth Week.** 12 Noon – 2 pm

Sun Apr. 22 **Lake Lotus Earth Fest.** 9 am – 2 pm

Sat Apr. 28 **Earth Fest Casselberry.** 10 am – 2 pm

# The JAY

Seminole Audubon Society  
PO Box 2977  
Sanford FL 32772-2977

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



## Calendar of Events

[www.seminoleaudubon.org](http://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.

### PROGRAM

**Sun Mar. 11 Shorebirds of Florida** Michael Brothers, director of the Marine Science Center, will share his knowledge about the wide range of shorebirds.

**Sun Apr. 8 Wekiva River Potluck & Kayak. Location & Event Time Change.** Bring food to share. 10 am kayak, 12 pm eat, 1 pm kayak. 164 Wekiva Park Drive, Sanford, FL 32771.

**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](http://www.meetup.com/seminoleaudubon-com). Additional Information email [seminoleaudubon@gmail.com](mailto:seminoleaudubon@gmail.com)

**Sat Mar. 17 Ponce Inlet and Marine Science Center**

**Sat Apr. 14 Gatorland, Orlando**

**See Calendar on page 19**