

# The JAY

www.seminoleaudubon.org



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

January - February 2022



**Shirley F. Folse**

May 18, 1931—Nov. 1, 2021

## SAS Has Lost A Pillar

Faith Jones

Shirley and her family moved from Louisiana to Rockledge in the 1960s. There she befriended Alan Cruickshank who had retired to the area. Alan had grown up in New York with his friend Roger Tory Peterson. They were the renowned "Birding Buddies". Peterson wrote field guides, and Cruickshank was photographer and bird educator for the National Audubon Society. He became Shirley's birding mentor and got her involved with the Audubon Society. Shirley said this was during a rough point in her life, and becoming involved with birds had pulled her through.

When Shirley moved to Chuluota, she, along with Roger Grimshaw, Darrell Leidigh, Sam Kendall, and Launa Orr, were instrumental in revitalizing Seminole Audubon Society.

Shirley was the type of person who never met a stranger. She would strike up a conversation with anyone on just about any subject. This made her the perfect person to handle the SAS phone line, a job she performed almost until her death. Shirley liked to talk. Now that really is an understatement! When you called Shirley you needed to be sure you had some time. She had so many interests and such a wide variety of knowledge that she loved to share. Conversations were always interesting and a learning experience.



*Shirley, helping participants in the SAS Junior Nature & Outdoor Programs that were held monthly 2003-2006.*

Shirley also loved to "brainstorm" ideas. These sessions resulted not only in SAS programs and field trips, but in many presentations at schools, Girl Scout troops, 4-H clubs, and more. Her brainstorm sessions also resulted in two successful educational projects for SAS. Our Junior Nature & Outdoor Programs (originally the ABC



*Shirley, teaching one of our first Birding Basics classes at Orlando Wetlands Park. Fittingly, her memorial service was held in this very pavilion and followed by a walk through the park. Shirley would have been proud of the attendees she taught over the years who were able to identify over 40 species of birds on that memorial walk.*

Continued on page 2

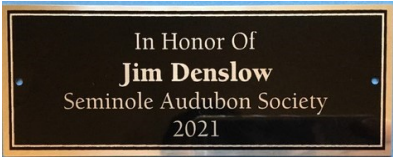
Club) was active from 2003-2006 with monthly outdoor programs for children. Meeting were held at various locations and each month featured a different topic. The other SAS project that was the result of one of Shirley's brainstorming sessions was the SAS Birding Basics course. The course included three classroom sessions and a field trip to Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge (MINWR). The course was so popular that it was often offered two and three times a year to meet the demand. The course ran for fifteen years.

Shirley was passionate about so many things: stars, butterflies, lichen, and citizen science to name a very few. But, birding was her main love. It is hard to determine just how many people were positively impacted by Shirley. She inspired countless people to have an appreciation of the natural world, and motivated many to become birders. Her passion was contagious.

During the Birding Basics classes, to illustrate the importance of keeping records, Shirley often told of records she kept from visits to Lake Apopka that proved very useful in documenting what birds had been there prior to the huge bird kill at Lake Apopka in the late 1990s. She also had data from bird surveys at MINWR that proved useful to researchers. Of course, this was before the days of eBird.

When we talked about "spark" birds, Shirley shared that it was the Pileated Woodpecker that truly sparked her interest in birding. It was the first bird that fascinated her. The size, plumage, call and behaviors caught her attention. It remained one of her favorite birds even after she had seen hundreds of other species. So, next time you see a Pileated Woodpecker with its distinct black and white pattern and its undulating flight, or watch one peck away at a tree in search of ants, think of Shirley.

## Bench Installed at Crystal Lake Preserve to Honor Jim Denslow



Jim resting on the new bench

Jim Denslow has served for many years as a volunteer and board member of SAS. In addition, he has been an active volunteer and board member of Crystal Lake Preserve (CLP).

Jim found a calling at CLP. For many years he spent one morning a week at CLP where he documented the plants on the property, removed invasive exotic plants, maintained trails, constructed and installed trail markers, created a map, and did general maintenance. Bill Clapham worked with Jim weekly for a few years, until his death.

Jim shared his encyclopedic knowledge of botany and plants with guests on guided tours of the property. Because of health reasons, Jim has requested to back away from his volunteer work with SAS. The board and committee chairs wanted to honor his many years of service as a volunteer at CLP and with SAS, so they installed a bench in his honor at CLP. The bench is made from recycled plastic. Thanks to our treasurer, Jan Peters, for ordering the bench and to Jim Peters for putting it together and installing it with Mark Leidigh at CLP.



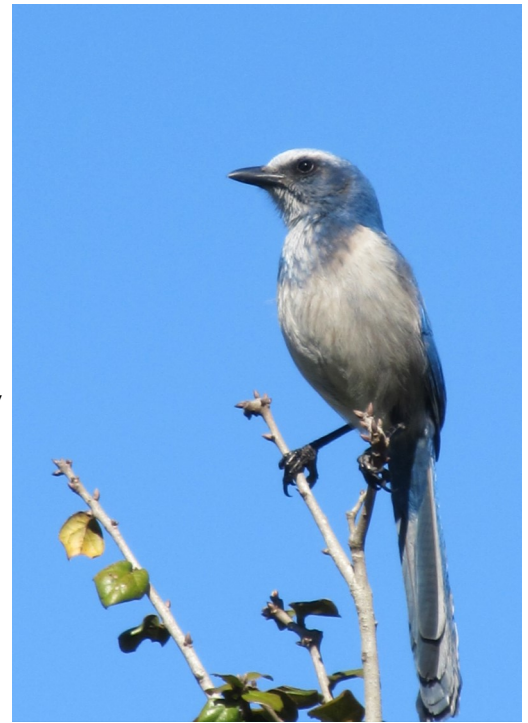
Jim enjoying the view of Crystal Lake from the new bench



# Jay Watch Update

by Chuck Honaker

The Florida Scrub-Jay, our state's only endemic bird, is the focus of a statewide Audubon-directed community science project called Jay Watch. Our threatened Florida Scrub-Jay continue to require Audubon Florida's and others conservation efforts to protect their habitat from segmentation, roads and development. This year a toll road project, **M-Cores**, which threatened prime Florida Scrub-Jay habitat, was stopped by passage of Senate Bill 100. In our growing state, road projects will continue to be an ongoing concern for scrub jays and other wildlife. Habitat management, such controlled burns, by land managers and Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection (FDEP) in our state parks helps to keep the scrub habitat in condition to sustain healthy scrub jay populations. Numbers vary, but FDEP estimates the population to be 7,700 to 9,300 individuals. Translocation of jays from Ocala National Forest to other areas of the state has helped with genetic diversity and the establishment of family groups such as those at Rock Springs State Preserve in Lake County. Unfortunately, Palm Beach County has experienced extirpation of its jay population. Florida Scrub-Jay need the support of volunteers and many organizations to remain viable.



On November 20<sup>th</sup>, being a long-time volunteer, I attended the Audubon Florida's annual Jay Watch educational, celebratory event at Highlands Hammock State Park near Sebring. This was a celebration, of not only Jay Watch, but of volunteers from across Florida being able to meet together for the first time in two years. The meeting agenda included a presentation on the importance of fire and controlled burns to maintain scrub jay habitat. Also a FWC biologist presented a scrub jay study which examined the role of helper birds in family groups. The scrub jay is a cooperative breeder that mates for life. Family groups usually include at minimum a breeding pair of jays plus at least one helper jay that assists in care and feeding of juvenile jays. Additionally, there was discussion of jay watch surveys and corporate sponsors. Long-time sponsor Disney will not participate after this year. A new Florida Scrub-Jay educational brochure for elementary age children was recently published by Audubon Florida.

Audubon Florida has a new Director of Bird Conservation, Audrey DeRose-Wilson, who was introduced at the meeting. She replaces Dr. Marianne Korosy. Ms. DeRose-Wilson has an extensive background in shorebird and passerine banding, research and bird conservation. She most recently headed up shorebird conservation statewide with FL Dept. of Fish & Wildlife (FWC). I was able to speak with her personally at the meeting and learned that, as part of her role, she plans to visit Jay Watch sites around the state.

Covid-19 restrictions have impacted Jay Watch activities. In 2020 and this year, there were fewer volunteers doing surveys and some sites were not accessible to volunteers at all. The 2020 annual meeting was done via Zoom as was annual volunteer training. Despite obstacles in 2020, 57 volunteers completed surveys on 35 of 45 sites statewide. The Florida Scrub-Jay tally included 166 family groups, 118 juveniles and 455 adult jays. The total number of volunteers who attended on-line training was 151. The 2021 survey report is still pending as it undergoes data analysis by Ms. DeRose-Wilson. The entire 2020 annual report and others can be viewed at [FL Audubon.org](http://FLAudubon.org). \* The 189 Jay Watch volunteers donated 1,151 hours of their time to Florida Scrub-Jay in 2020. Interested in becoming a volunteer? Visit: [fl.audubon.org/get-involved/jay-watch](http://fl.audubon.org/get-involved/jay-watch).

## Keep Up With SAS

Visit our website **SeminoleAudubon.org**

or follow us on



# Playalinda Brewing Company: A Toast to Raising Awareness for Florida Scrub-Jays

By Robin Pitlon FCHP  
Audubon Florida CLI Student

I will never forget my first time seeing Florida Scrub-Jays. I was attending a guided walk through Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge as part of a Birds & Brews event in Titusville. Suddenly, two specks of blue arose from the vast scrub. This pair of Scrub-Jays was gathering acorns along the trail path and storing them in a distant tree. One of the Florida Scrub-Jays took a break on a nearby shrub, the bright sun further revealing its brilliant blue color. It was truly like finding a diamond in the rough – or should I say, “a sapphire in the shrub.”

The Florida Scrub-Jay lives exclusively in Florida and depends on oak-scrub habitats to survive. Natural or prescribed fire is required to prevent plant overgrowth and keep this habitat suitable for Florida Scrub-Jays. Unfortunately, 90% of the Florida Scrub-Jay population has been lost in the past 50 years. The remaining population continues to be threatened by factors such as increasing development, fire suppression, and climate change. Thankfully, Audubon Florida is leading the effort to protect Florida Scrub-Jays. Audubon advocates for policies that mitigate the effects of climate change to conserve Florida Scrub-Jays and their habitats. Audubon Florida also coordinates Jay Watch, a volunteer program in which community scientists survey the total number of Florida Scrub-Jays and their nesting success.



After my first encounter with Florida Scrub-Jays, the Birds & Brews event led us to Playalinda Brewing Company. In addition to their fantastic food and atmosphere, Playalinda Brewing Company raises awareness of Florida Scrub-Jay conservation through their limited release Scrub Jay Lemon Wheat Beer. I had the pleasure of trying this brew, and it was delicious – smooth and easy to drink with a sweet, lemony finish. I can speak confidently on behalf of everyone at Audubon that we are incredibly thankful for partners, such as Playalinda Brewing Company, who can uniquely showcase Florida Scrub-Jays and the habitat they need to survive.



## Other Activities of Interest



### Name of the event:

Hike to Hidden Springs

**Date:** January 16th, 2022

**Time:** 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

**Location:** Cassia Trailhead, 0 Brantley Branch Rd, Eustis

**Registration required:** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/hike-to-hidden-springs-tickets-228304714547>



### Name of the event:

Blue Spring State Park Manatee Festival

**Date:** January 22nd & 23rd, 2022

**Time:** 8:30 AM- 5:30 PM

**Location:** Blue Spring State Park 2100 W French Ave, Orange City, FL 32763

### Name of the event:

Hydrologic Cycle Bike Tour

**Date:** February 12th, 2022

**Time:** 8:00 AM- approx. noon

**Location:** Wekiwa Springs State Park  
Tickets available one month in advance

Details: <https://www.wekivawildandscenicriversystem.com/hydrologic-cycle-bike-tour-at-wekiwa-springs-state-park/>



# St. Johns River Water Mgt. Dist. Ocklawaha Survey Results



Rodman Dam

Photo Courtesy of Free the Ocklawaha River Coalition

Thanks to everyone who submitted comments on the online public survey launched in October by St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) regarding the future of the Kirkpatrick Dam and Rodman Reservoir. The survey resulted in 10,482 responses. Initial analysis of the results indicated overwhelming support for restoration. Of 9,793 submittals answering the question “What would you like to see happen with the Rodman Reservoir and Kirkpatrick Dam moving forward?” over 86.5% of the respondents expressed a desire to restore a free-flowing Ocklawaha River, and only 5.9% were in favor of retaining the dam and reservoir. The remaining responses did not reflect a clear pro-restoration or pro-dam and reservoir position.

According to the SJRWMD press release launching the survey, the process was designed “to collect feedback from local community members and stakeholders regarding the Kirkpatrick Dam and Rodman Reservoir” and “to help inform future key decisions regarding the best path forward — continued management and operation of the structures or an alternative restoration strategy.” The complex survey requested written answers to four questions. SJRWMD posted the raw online survey results at <https://www.sjrwmd.com/rodman>.

Margaret Spontak, Chairperson Free the Ocklawaha River Coalition for Everyone, commented, “In addition to the extremely positive pro-restoration responses survey-wide, we were very pleased to see the strong pro-restoration results from Marion and Putnam counties, two counties bordering the Rodman Reservoir and Ocklawaha River.” The initial analysis revealed that 63.6% of survey respondents in Putnam County indicated they were pro restoration of the Ocklawaha River with 19.5% supporting retention of the dam and reservoir. In Marion County 75.3% of respondents logged in pro restoration answers with 15.6% responding in support of maintaining the dam and reservoir.

The SAS board and FL Audubon will continue to support the efforts to influence key political leaders to provide the funding and support needed for this project.

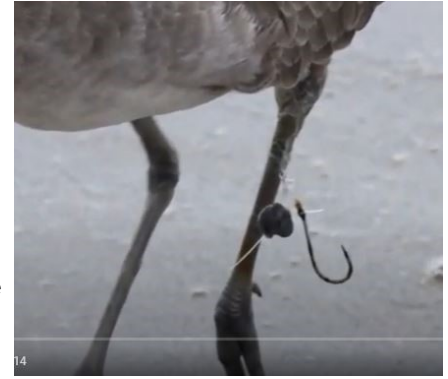


Manatees in the Ocklawaha River

Photo Courtesy of Free the Ocklawaha

# How to Rescue Entangled Birds

Fishing gear entanglement has been identified as the main cause of death and injury for Brown Pelicans in Florida by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and Audubon Florida. The Tampa, St. Petersburg, and Manatee County Audubon Societies worked with videographer Dee Fairbanks Simpson to produce a short documentary describing the danger of fishing gear to birds, especially pelicans, and how to safely release entangled birds. This documentary uses puppets, actors, interviews, and live-filmed releases to demonstrate the problem, show how to avoid catching a bird in fishing gear, how to carefully reel it in, and how to cut a barb off a hook or the line wrapped around a wing or foot.



Short Form (5 minutes) - shows how to rescue a pelican: <https://youtu.be/PQU9V1IS8fg>

Long Form (21 minutes) - describes the issue and ways to prevent it plus how to rescue a pelican: <https://youtu.be/dkcMdpBaZ3s>



Fishing is a great activity for all ages, and part of fishing is taking responsibility for managing the fishing line and releasing non-target animals caught by accident. If a person accidentally snares a bird, it should be released so that it can live wild and free.

The steps for safely releasing an accidentally-hooked bird are simple:

- Enlist another person to help you hold the bird while you unhook or disentangle it.
- Wear sunglasses to protect your eyes.
- Secure the head firmly, fold the wings against the bird's body gently, and hold the feet.
- Gently covering the bird's eyes with a towel or cloth will help calm the bird, making it easier to remove the hook or line.
- Use a wire clipper to cut the barb, and back the hook out of the bird's flesh. Cut and remove any line.
- Check the wings, legs, and body for additional hooks or line, as many birds have been entangled before.
- Point the bird's head towards the water and step back as you release the bird.

## Seminole Solar Co-op will open on Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day, 2022, will be a great day to share your love for clean, non-carbon energy. Solar United Neighbors of Florida has chosen this date to open a third solar co-op in Seminole County. Going solar through a co-op provides homeowners with the confidence that their installer has been thoroughly questioned and vetted about past performance to ensure a reliable and safe installation. This, provides the best price available in the local market. Joining the co-op is also a great learning experience for people just thinking about going solar. Members can attend comprehensive discussions to learn about the process of going solar and all your questions will be answered. Bring your neighbors to a meeting. Membership is free. Read more about Solar United Neighbors of Florida at <https://www.solarunitedneighbors.org/florida/>

## Audubon Advocate Newsletter

The Advocate is Audubon Florida's monthly newsletter featuring up-to-the-minute developments in environmental issues. Sign up to receive the Advocate for yourself. <http://fl.audubon.org/signup/>



# Can We Break Free From Plastic Pollution?

By Sam Kendall

Does anyone remember when state governments started mandating plastic recycling? This was a big victory for the environmental community. Only recently I realized that it was also a huge victory for the plastic production industry. Now plastic plants could mass produce products of all sorts knowing that cities would get the tab to clean it all up. All they had to do was put those little triangles on every piece of plastic. The result is plastic gone wild, trashing marine and avian wildlife even sending micro-particles into our own bodies. A pilot study released in September 2021 showed that infants now have higher amounts of certain micro plastics in their stool than adults.\*



We now have what's been called a 'near permanent contamination of the natural environment'. Since China refused to take any more of our plastic trash in 2017, cities have been overwhelmed with the burden. Only 9% of plastic reaches a recycler.\*

Yet a new plastic production facility came on line in Pennsylvania last year with an application for another in Louisiana's cancer alley. The contamination isn't slowing down. Climate change rules are cutting in on oil company profits, so the oil is being shifted to more plastic production.

Why was it assumed to be the responsibility of cities to tax and provide the recycling service? Did anyone think the industry had any responsibility? Not surprisingly, the US lags behind much of the developed world with our pandering indulgence of industry excess. Producer responsibility laws are in place in nearly all the EU countries as well as Japan, South Korea, Brazil, Cameroon, Australia and some Canadian provinces. They make industry pay for recycling.

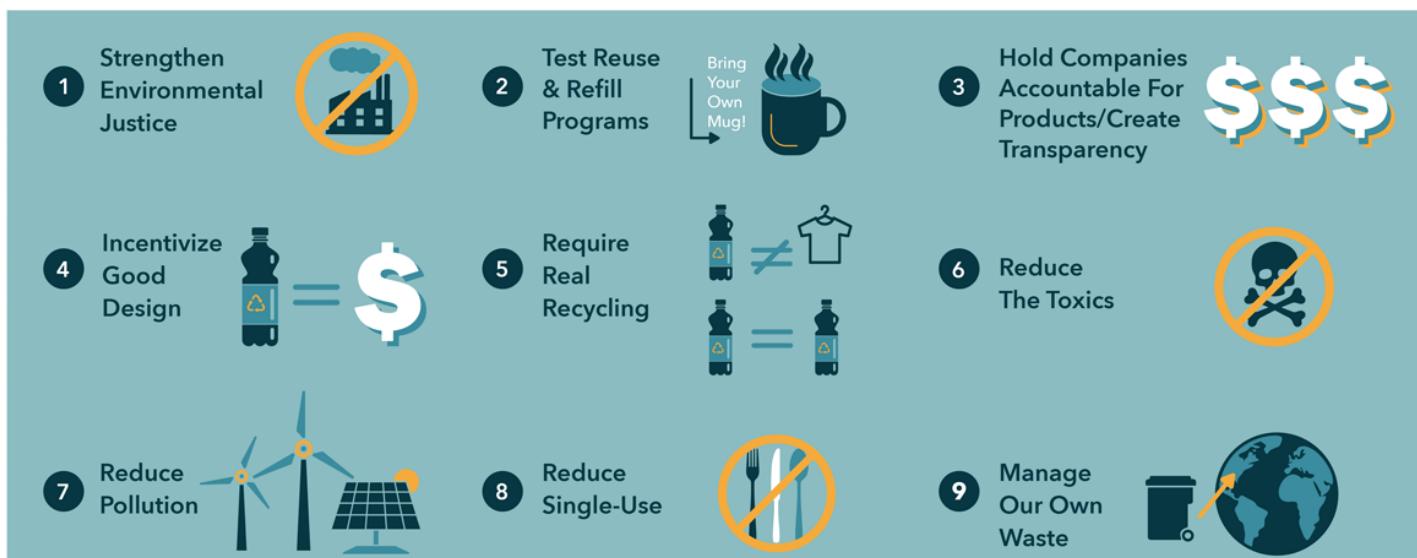
Is there hope for us? Maine and Oregon have passed laws shifting the responsibility to producers. The Maine law requires producers to pay 100 percent of cities' recycling costs. Oregon makes companies pay 28 percent of costs. Maryland, New York, Hawaii, California, Vermont and Massachusetts also had similar bills in committees that didn't make it to the floor, but will be reintroduced in 2022.

The national *Break Free From Plastic Pollution Act* goes further than simply requiring recycling the plastic. This bill, reintroduced in 2021 by Senator Jeff Merkley and Representative Alan Lowenthal, shifts recycling costs to producers and also phases out the most widespread pollution like plastic bags and utensils as well as foam containers and drinkware. It also funds programs to remove micro plastics from the environment.\*\*

\* <https://insideclimatenews.org/news/24112021/biden-infrastructure-bill-plastics-recycling/>

\*\* <https://www.breakfreefromplastic.org/pollution-act/>

## What *The Break Free From Plastic Pollution Act* Will Accomplish:



# Program Notes

## Wild Turkeys

On November 14th, everyone was very pleased to meet in person for the first time in nearly two years! The UF IFAS education building is spacious so the group was able to spread out for social distancing.

Dr. Jay Exum was our guest speaker for this program. In the early 1900s Wild Turkeys had been hunted nearly to extinction. Through various conservation efforts, their numbers have increased so they are now frequently seen. There are 5 subspecies across the eastern US and into Mexico. Florida is home to two subspecies of wild turkey — the eastern wild turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo silvestris*) and the Osceola or Florida wild turkey (*M.g. osceola*). The Florida wild turkey is best distinguished from the eastern subspecies by the white barring on its wing feathers. On Florida wild turkeys, the white bars on the primary wing feathers are narrower than the black bars and are irregular or broken, which tends to give the wing an overall darker appearance compared to eastern wild turkeys. The Florida wild turkey is found only in peninsular Florida. North of the peninsula and across the panhandle, it interbreeds with the eastern subspecies.

Dr. Exum explained the differences between the hens (females) and the tom or gobbler (males). The hens typically begin nesting in late March or early April. The female builds a shallow nest on the ground where she lays an average of 9 to 11 eggs. It takes 25-26 days of continuous incubation for them to hatch. Newly hatched wild turkeys, called poults, are highly mobile and can feed themselves soon after hatching. Poults are flightless until they are about 2 weeks old.

## Nature Photography

Reg Garner was our guest presenter for our December 12th program. Reg showed his sensational photos of various natural locations around the Sanford area. During his presentation he provided tips on how to photograph nature and birds.

Reg Garner is a professional photographer with a passion for capturing the beauty of nature. Much of his photography is on Lake Monroe. He also provides photography boat tours. Follow him on Facebook. His studio is located at 116 Park Avenue in Sanford.

## Trip Notes

### Mead Botanical Garden November 20

Mead Botanical Garden is on 47 acres that include a boardwalk and trails



Photo by Sarah Donlan

through pine trees and a butterfly garden. Fourteen members and friends braved the rainy morning to find birds along the boardwalk, creek, and around the ponds. The morning started out slowly, but then sightings improved when there was a break in the weather. Twenty species were observed including Pine, Palm, Yellow-throated, and Black-and-white Warblers, Chipping Sparrows, Eastern Phoebe, a Gray Catbird, a Ruby-throated Hummingbird, and an American Redstart. We had a new birding visitor from Utah who logged a new life bird of Northern Cardinal. It was a good reminder to us all not to take our “common” birds for granted. We all enjoyed helping him see other birds to add to his life list.



Gray Catbird

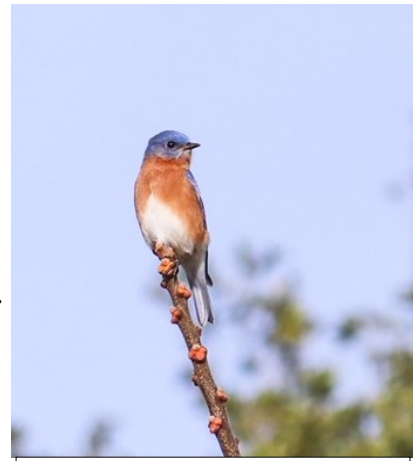
by Sarah Donlan



# Wekiva Christmas Bird Count

December 18

This is the longest-running, citizen-science project in the world. The Christmas Bird count began in 1900 as an alternative to a tradition of seeing how many birds or other animals hunters could take down. The first Christmas bird census was held Christmas Day 1900. It was started by ornithologist Frank Chapman. Twenty-seven birders participated in that first count and they tallied 90 species. Since that time Christmas Bird Counts have provided valuable data about the status of bird species which helps to inform conservation decisions. Each year Christmas Bird counts are held in organized count circles between December 14 and January 5. SAS is responsible for two zones within the Wekiva Christmas Bird Count Circle. Under the direction of Leslie Martin, SAS Zone Leader, groups were formed to survey in the Sanford area. Results had not yet been compiled at the time of this newsletter's publication.



Eastern Bluebird seen during CBC

## Upcoming Programs

**Location:** The decision was made by the Board of Directors that it is time once again to meet in person. Our meetings will be held at the University of FL IFAS Extension, 250 W. County Home Road , Sanford 32773

**Nametags** will no longer be stored by SAS. Pick up your nametag at the meeting and then keep it to wear at future monthly meetings and outings.

**Refreshments.** Bring your own drink. If you would like to bring a treat to share, let Marguerite Terwilleger know [mterwilleger51@gmail.com](mailto:mterwilleger51@gmail.com)



ST. JOHNS  
RIVERKEEPER®

### St. Johns River Presented by Lisa Rinaman, Riverkeeper

January 9, 2022 at 2:00 PM

The St. Johns River is the longest river in Florida and its most significant one for commercial and recreational use. At 310 miles long, it flows north and winds through or borders twelve counties. Numerous lakes are formed by the river including Lake Monroe in Sanford. Lisa will explain some of the ecological challenges relating to the river and

her role as the chief advocate and the public's voice for the river. Lisa will provide an update on the status of the planning for restoration of the Ocklawaha River.

Lisa Rinaman was formerly a staff member for Jacksonville Mayor John Peyton. She has helped implement numerous environmental initiatives and policies. Lisa was instrumental in leading the effort to develop and implement irrigation, fertilizer and *Florida Friendly* landscaping ordinances to better protect the St. Johns and local waterways. Also, she has played a key role in securing state funding for water quality improvements.

### Florida State Parks Presented by Dr. Robert Brooks, CPRP, Park Manager Wekiva River Basin State Park

February 13, 2022 at 2:00 PM

Wekiva River Basin State Parks encompass three contiguous properties within Florida's state park system: Wekiwa Springs State Park, Rock Springs Run State Reserve, and Lower Wekiva River Preserve State Park. These units of the Wekiva River Basin State Parks are located in Lake, Orange, Seminole and Volusia Counties. The parks are contiguous with natural and cultural resources connected. Robert Brooks is the park manager for these parks. He will explain his role as well as the ecology and conservation challenges for the parks.



## Upcoming Trips

It is essential to notify us in advance if you plan to attend one of our trips. Meeting places and times may be changed at the last minute. Trips are open to the public. Liability release must be signed.

**January 22, Saturday**

### **D Ranch Preserve** Osteen

Owned and managed by *Conservation Florida*, D Ranch Preserve is a beautiful piece of wild Florida that is now protected forever. In addition to buffering public conservation lands, D Ranch further protects the Lake Monroe watershed. In addition, a freshwater stream on the preserve flows through Lake Monroe Conservation Area wetlands and into Lake Bethel, which feeds both Lake Monroe and the St. John's River. The preserve contains 149 acres of critical Florida scrub habitat and 60 acres of scrubby flatwoods. Many iconic Florida species require this habitat for their survival, including Florida Scrub-Jays, Sand Skinks, Eastern Indigo Snakes, Wood Storks, Burrowing Owls, and Gopher Tortoises. This special property's rare ecosystems provide habitat for Florida's wildlife. It also builds on current conservation areas and helps protect Florida's freshwater.



Meet at the preserve at 8:30 am, 2655 Reed Ellis Road, Osteen, FL 32764. Moderate walking over uneven terrain. No restroom. All levels and ages of birders are welcome. *Contact Sarah Donlan 407-687-6087 or email [sarahdonlan42@gmail.com](mailto:sarahdonlan42@gmail.com)*

**February 19, Saturday**

### **Boat Tour of the Indian River Lagoon** New Smyrna Beach

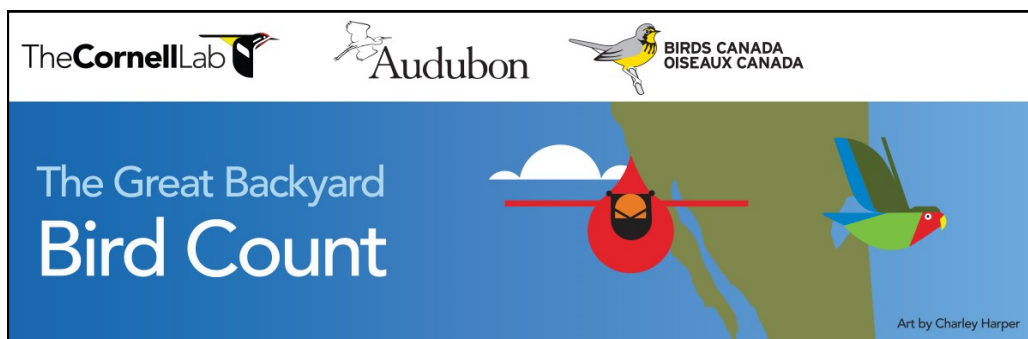
Guided eco boat tour of the Indian River Lagoon departing from the Marine Discovery Center in New Smyrna Beach at 1:00 PM. Tour the mangroves and explore the variety of species that call the lagoon home. Meet at the Marine Discovery Center, 520 Barracuda Blvd., New Smyrna Beach, FL 32169 at 12:30 PM.

Restrooms in the Discovery Center. Uneven pathway to the boat ramp.

Tickets paid at the Discovery Center: Adults/Seniors/Students \$25 & Children \$15

**Limited to 20 people. Reservations required by February 1.**

*Contact Sarah Donlan 407-687-6087 or email [sarahdonlan42@gmail.com](mailto:sarahdonlan42@gmail.com)*



**25th Annual GBBC**

**Feb. 18-21, 2022**

The Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) is a free, fun, and easy event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of bird populations. Participants are asked to count birds for as little as 15 minutes (or as long as they wish) on one or more days of the four-day event and report their sightings online at [birdcount.org](http://birdcount.org). 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.



## Unsung heroes – Our Website Team

Our website was created by April Bell with a redesign in 2016 under the direction of Pam Meharg. It is updated each year on the sections for programs and field trips for the upcoming season as well any other updates that are needed. If changes are needed during the year, they are made either by Ken Bell or April Bell. They also upload the newsletter each time that it is available.

April Bell is the founder of [Tree of Life Legacies](https://treeoflifelegacies.com), a story-telling and wisdom-keeping project based in the San Francisco Bay Area. April's main passion is around helping people tell, share, and pass on their most meaningful stories. She does this through leading storytelling courses and retreats, and by capturing video interviews that ultimately serve as an heirloom gift for future generations. She also creates full length private documentaries for folks (usually families). She and her business partner, Urs Brauchli, developed and created an app for video storytelling, [StoryCatcher® for iPhone](https://storycatcher.app), which launched in 2013 and may be found on the [Apple App Store](https://apps.apple.com/us/app/story-catcher/id689792581?ls=1) (an android version is still in development). April began working in multimedia and graphics in the early 1990s while obtaining her degree in psychology. She then spent 13-years in the exciting world of major daily newspapering. In 2008, she launched Tree of Life Legacies, which is when she also learned to build websites. She's assembled a small stable of website clients over the years, mostly serving non-profits and creatives. She loves designing a beautiful home on the web, at a fair price, for artists and people doing work that matters. She's a lover of nature and an avid outdoors person who enjoys photography, making her regular visits to Florida a wonderful destination. She delights in partnering with her dad, Ken Bell, to help SAS shine on the web!

Ken Bell is a long-time member of Seminole Audubon Society. He provides his technical skills, offering website support as a volunteer to the chapter. Ken spent his professional days working firstly for Pacific Telephone in the San Francisco Bay Area, and then nationally and abroad as a pioneering engineer during the startup days of wireless networking. He and his wife, Neta Villalobos-Bell, first moved to Florida in the late 1980s where they eventually chose to settle permanently. Both enjoy volunteering with various environmental groups. Ken has been volunteering his technical skills with several non-profits in Central Florida for many years now. He began helping April with her modest website business post 2008 as he mused, "it's much more fun than doing crossword puzzles" to keep his mind sharp. Both Ken and April are grateful for the opportunity to support SAS!

Tree of Life Legacies: <https://treeoflifelegacies.com>

StoryCatcher Website: <https://storycatcher.app>

StoryCatcher on App Store: <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/story-catcher/id689792581?ls=1>

### Shirley & the Other Shirley

It was a sad year for Seminole Audubon Society (SAS). In 2021, we lost both Shirleys.

**Shirley Reilly** served SAS as Secretary, Meeting Greeter, and assisted with birding classes. She became passionate about Florida Scrub-Jays and was the primary volunteer jay conditioner at Lake Monroe Conservation Area.


For many years, **Shirley Folse** was SAS Education & Outreach Chairman. She introduced countless people to birding. See page 1 for more information about Shirley.

In addition to the Shirleys, **Richard Poole**, botanist, founder of the Wekiva Bird Banding Stations and active SAS member, died in 2021.



Shirley Folse & Shirley Reilly

**SAT, FEBRUARY 26, 2022**  
**9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.**

 **250 WEST COUNTY HOME RD.  
SANFORD, FL 32773**

**Visit the SAS Booth!!**

**FREE**  
ADMISSION  
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# WELCOME

## NEW MEMBERS or NEW to OUR Chapter

Toni Boelsen	Sanford
Donald Brady	Deltona
Cully Chapman	Lake Mary
Judi Cooper	Lake Mary
Deborah Domroski	Lake Mary
Richard Domroski	Lake Mary
Melvin Gibson	Sanford
Linda Greaney	Lake Mary
Chris Kintner	Sanford
Ralph Lembrich	Lake Mary
Roger Mathews	Geneva
Deborah McCall	Enterprise
Ann McDaniel	Lake Mary
Sandra Schutt	Lake Mary

**Introductory offer For New Members Only      \$20.00/ 1 year**

Join on our website [SeminoleAudubon.org](http://SeminoleAudubon.org) using Chapter Code E31

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

**Seminole Audubon Associate Membership \$10.00 / year**

Available to Audubon Society members assigned to other chapters.

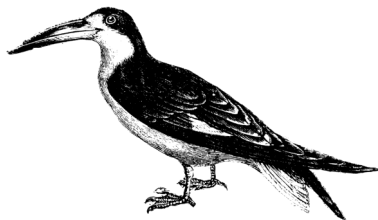
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## 2021-2022 Board of Directors & Committee Chairs (eff. 7/1/21)

[SeminoleAudubon@gmail.com](mailto:SeminoleAudubon@gmail.com)

Term	Name	Office/Committee	Email
2020/2022	Phyllis Hall	President, Web Site, Programs	<a href="mailto:phylliscath814@gmail.com">phylliscath814@gmail.com</a>
2021/2023	Leslie Martin	Vice President, CBC, GBBC	<a href="mailto:woodstork.martin@gmail.com">woodstork.martin@gmail.com</a>
2021/2023	Jan Peters	Treasurer	<a href="mailto:jan@janetkpeters.com">jan@janetkpeters.com</a>
2020/2022	Peggy Stickney	Secretary, Press/Publicity, Field	<a href="mailto:stickneymargaret@gmail.com">stickneymargaret@gmail.com</a>
2021/2023	Sarah Donlan	Field Trips	<a href="mailto:sarahdonlan42@gmail.com">sarahdonlan42@gmail.com</a>
2020/2022	vacant	CLP Liaison	
2021/2023	Lewis Gray	Jane Isle Survey	<a href="mailto:lewisngray@bellsouth.net">lewisngray@bellsouth.net</a>
2021/2023	Nat Harrison	CLI Student	<a href="mailto:natsscem@gmail.com">natsscem@gmail.com</a>

Committee Chairs	Committee	Email
Marty Shepherd	Membership	<a href="mailto:gindad@cfl.rr.com">gindad@cfl.rr.com</a>
Margaret Loring	New Member Welcome Letter	<a href="mailto:MLoring@CFL.rr.com">MLoring@CFL.rr.com</a>
Marguerite Terwilleger	Past President, Big Sit data, Scholarships, Hospitality, Refreshments	<a href="mailto:mterwilleger51@gmail.com">mterwilleger51@gmail.com</a>
Cecilia Carey	Meetings PowerPoint, Monthly Reminders on Meet Up, Facebook	<a href="mailto:cacarey@cfl.rr.com">cacarey@cfl.rr.com</a>
Leslie Martin	SAS Premiums	<a href="mailto:woodstork.martin@gmail.com">woodstork.martin@gmail.com</a>
Vacant	History Archives	
Jim Peters	Purple Martin Nests	<a href="mailto:jim@jameshpeters.com">jim@jameshpeters.com</a>
Sam Kendall	Energy	<a href="mailto:samuelk32@embarqmail.com">samuelk32@embarqmail.com</a>
Faith Jones	Newsletter Compiler	<a href="mailto:faithaudubon@gmail.com">faithaudubon@gmail.com</a>
Corrinne Wertz	Publications	<a href="mailto:cwertz127@aol.com">cwertz127@aol.com</a>

**Eagle Watch:** Michelle Vaughn, Sarah Donlan

**Jay Watch:** Chuck Honaker, Marty Shepherd

**Jane Isle Survey:** Lewis Gray (Chair), Marguerite Terwilleger

**Conservation:** Phyllis Hall (Chair), Sam Kendall, Faith Jones, Cecilia & John Carey, Mindy Hellman, Marguerite Terwilleger, Sarah Donlan  
SAS is represented on these community committees: Wekiva Wild and Scenic River Advisory Committee, Wekiva River Basin Commission, Central FL Audubon Regional Conservation Committee. In addition, Seminole Planning and Development agendas are reviewed each week.

**Outreach:** Phyllis Hall (Chair), Marty Shepherd, Leslie Martin, Cecilia Carey

Events: Seminole Garden Expo – February, Altamonte Springs/Lake Lotus Festival – around Earth Week, Casselberry EarthFest - Earth Week, Seminole College Earth Week

**Hospitality/Refreshments:** Marguerite Terwilleger (Chair)

**MailChimp, Facebook & Meet Up:** Cecilia Carey (Backup: Phyllis Hall)

**PO Box Mail Pickup:** Michelle Vaughn (Backup: Marguerite Terwilleger)

**Lake Monroe Purple Martin Nests:** Jim Peters. Helpers: Jim & Cecilia Carey, Phyllis Hall, Richard Hagen

**Lake Jesup Park Clean Up:** Leslie Martin, Marguerite Terwilleger

**Scholarships:** Marguerite Terwilleger (Chair), Corrinne Wertz, Joy Rector, Michelle Vaughn

**School/Eco-Camp Connections:** Eco Camp-Ed Yarbrough Nature Center: Marguerite Terwilleger for scholarships. Using Audubon Adventures & SAS speakers for camps  
Central FL Zoo Camp: Michelle Vaughn  
Goldsboro Elementary - Sanford: Joy Rector  
TW Lawton Elementary - Oviedo: Phyllis Hall  
Walden Community School – Winter Park: Phyllis Hall  
Seminole State College - Phyllis Hall