

# Flyways

A PUBLICATION OF



**Audubon**  
*of Southwest Florida*

*Protecting Nature... For People Too.*

WINTER 2018-19

## President's Message

Inside....

- 21st Annual Environmental Breakfast Recap
- 2019 Programs
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...and more!

**Announcements:** Steve Buczynski of Hendry-Glades Audubon is the new representative of SW Florida chapters on the board of Audubon of Florida.

Sean McCabe of ASWF is now the chair of the Audubon Regional Conservation Committee.

For the past 27 years, a group of professional organizations and educational institutions have joined together to host the Southwest Florida Water Resources Conference. The annual conferences have included topics on water supply, water quality, surface water, ground water, the Caloosahatchee Basin, Estero Bay, climate change, economics, hurricanes, floods, and drought. Audubon of Southwest Florida has been a part of the Steering Committee and a co-host of these conferences for approximately 26 years.

The Chapter will be co-hosting the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Southwest Florida Water Resources Conference on Friday, January 25, 2019, at the Cohen Center Ballroom at Florida Gulf Coast University. The theme is “**Bridging Troubled Waters: Uniting to Promote Regional Solutions.**” Topics will include presentations on regional collaboration on hydrology restoration and water quality projects, strategies for building resiliency in water systems, water reuse, legislative updates and emerging issues, and the effects of harmful algae blooms. The keynote speaker is James Metcalf, PhD, Brain Chemistry Lab, who will speak about the health impacts of harmful algae blooms.

Advanced registration is recommended. Full technical program and other details are available at [www.swfwrc.org](http://www.swfwrc.org).

Dan VanNorman

The mission of Audubon of Southwest Florida is to protect plants, animals, and their habitats and to promote environmental education and a greater community involvement with the natural world. ASWF is an affiliated chapter (E33) of the National Audubon Society and Audubon of Florida.

A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE (800-435-7352) WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.

# Environmental Breakfast Recap

Our 21st annual Environmental Breakfast held on October 25th was a success with over 95 attendees.

Our honored speaker this year was Lt. Col. Jennifer A. Reynolds of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. John Cassani, Calusa Waterkeeper, was the recipient of our Environmental Advocate of the Year Award, and the recipient of our 2018-19 scholarship at Florida Gulf Coast University was Courtney Kern.

Thanks to all of our speakers and volunteers with a special thanks to our sponsors: Boylan Environmental Consultants, Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife, Brian Cotterill & Judy Ott, Calusa Waterkeeper, Daltry Family, Ding Darling Wildlife Society, Eco-Voice, Estero Bay Buddies, Hans Wilson & Assoc, Jim Green Realty, Passarella & Assoc, Publix, Gerri Reaves, Responsible Growth Management, Rodenfels Family, Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation, Southwest Florida Watershed Council, and Spikowski Planning Assoc.

*Thanks to all of our speakers and volunteers with a special thanks to our sponsors.*

## ***Considering making a charitable donation?***

Qualified Charitable Distributions from your IRA may be a good tax strategy if you are at least age 70½ and are considering making donations to your favorite charities.

A direct charitable distribution from your IRA may be used towards satisfying any Required Minimum Distribution (RMD), and best of all is excluded from your taxable income regardless of whether you itemize deductions (a real bonus under the new tax laws effective with 2018). To qualify, the funds must be transferred directly by the IRA trustee to your eligible charity.

Audubon of Southwest Florida is a perfect recipient – we are a public charity under 501(c)(3) and donors may deduct contributions as provided in IRC section 170. We are also registered with the State of Florida's Division of Consumer Services under registration number CH30193.

**A copy of our tax-exempt determination letter may be requested by contacting us at:**  
audubon.southwest.florida@gmail.com

**Contributions may be mailed to:**  
Audubon of Southwest Florida  
PO Box 61041  
Fort Myers, FL 33906-1041

## **ASWF Board**

### **Directors**

*Brad Cornell  
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Sean McCabe  
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Membership - Jayne Johnston  
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# 2019 Programs

**UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, PROGRAMS BEGIN AT 7 PM AT THE SOUTHWEST FLORIDA MASONIC CENTER, 10868 METRO PKWY, FORT MYERS.**

**January 17:** Python Updates and Nonnative Wildlife Identification: Daniel Quinn, Biologist, Nonnative Fish and Wildlife Program, FWC

**February 21 --** Caloosahatchee Rookeries/Drones, CHNEP grant project: Church Roberts, Ecologist, Church Environmental

**March 21 --** Burrowing Owls: Beverly Saltonstall & Pascha Donaldson, Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife

**April 18 --** Babcock Ranch: History, Amenities, and Future Vision: Rick Vorell, Town Ambassador, Babcock Ranch

**Saturday, June 1 –** Annual Dinner: District's SW Florida Projects & Florida Legislative Update, Phil Flood, South Florida Water Management District

*ASWF's Board of Director Meetings and Programs all take place at the Southwest Florida Masonic Center, located at 10868 Metro Parkway in Fort Myers (just south of Circle K), unless otherwise noted. Our meetings and programs are open to the public. Board meetings begin before each program at 6:00 p.m., and programs begin at 7:00 p.m., unless otherwise noted.*



*Blue-crowned Motmot (stock)*

Join our chapter on an international trip where 20% of all earth's bird species can be found. The country of Colombia! Spend 10 bird filled days in November 2019 among mountains and paramo habitat on a variety of reserves and sanctuaries. You'll enjoy this trip of a lifetime while supporting our chapter, the National Audubon Society, and the local economy of Colombia. Please register here: <https://www.holbrooktravel.com/where-we-travel/americas/colombia/colombia-birding-audubon-southwest-florida>.



*Collared Trogon by Ian Segebarth*

## Audubon of Southwest Florida

### 2018 Field Trips

Members and non-members / beginner to advanced birders – all are welcome!

Events are free; but, donations are always appreciated. Depending on the nature of the outing, you may want to bring a camera, field glasses, sunscreen, water, or even a folding chair. Dress appropriately for the weather. Parking or rental fees sometimes apply.

**Lee County Manatee Park**

**Kayak with the Manatees**

**Note! You have a choice of two different date options:**

**Saturday, January 26, 2019, 9:00 AM or Monday, January 28, 2019, 9:00 AM**

Lee County Manatee Park, 10901 Palm Beach Blvd., Fort Myers, FL 33905

One of our favorite annual outings, we launch onto the Orange River from Manatee Park and are almost immediately surrounded by manatees. Bring your own kayak, or rent from the on-site outfitter, Calusa Blueway Outfitters (239) 481-4600. Please do RSVP for this event. Space is limited.

RSVP [audubon.southwest.florida@gmail.com](mailto:audubon.southwest.florida@gmail.com)

**Rotary Park Environmental Center**

**17<sup>th</sup> Annual Southwest Florida Burrowing Owl Festival**

**Saturday, February 23, 2019, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM**

Rotary Park Environmental Center, 5505 Rose Garden Rd., Cape Coral, FL 33914

Please join the Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife at this family fun filled event which celebrates the start of the burrowing owl nesting season. Audubon of Southwest Florida will be represented with an exhibitor table, and will have a separate kids table will be at the Children's Creative Corner. Check the Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife website <http://www.ccfriendsofwildlife.org> for details. \$5.00 donation requested over age of 16.

**J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge**

**Ding Darling Bicycle Tour**

**Sunday, February 24, 2019, 8:30 AM**

J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge, 1 Wildlife Dr., Sanibel, FL 33957

Another annual favorite, we bicycle the 8-mile round trip on Wildlife Drive with incredible views of herons, egrets, ibises, storks and spoonbills.

RSVP [audubon.southwest.florida@gmail.com](mailto:audubon.southwest.florida@gmail.com)

**Barefoot Beach Preserve**

**Saturday, April 13, 2019, Field Trip is 8:00 AM – 9:30 AM & Program is at 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM**

Barefoot Beach Preserve, 505 Barefoot Beach Blvd., Naples, FL 34134

Barefoot Beach Blvd. is off (south) of Bonita Beach Rd.

The field trip will be led by Jayne Johnston, Vice President and Education Chair of Audubon of Southwest Florida followed by the program where Jayne will talk about shorebirds – information, summer nesting and winter band resighting. The program is sponsored by the Friends of Barefoot.

No reservations required. The field trip and program are free, but there is an \$8.00 entrance fee into the park for those who do not have a current Collier County beach parking permit. For the program, park in the first parking area on the right and meet at the Learning Center.

#### **Membership:**

You may not be aware Audubon of Southwest Florida, while an affiliated chapter of the National Audubon Society, is, like all other local chapters, a separate organization (chapter code E33). We are including you in our annual mailing in the hope that you will consider joining our local chapter if you are not currently a member, or renewing your current annual membership. Annual calendar-year memberships may be renewed either on-line at our website, or by using the enclosed envelope. We appreciate your support. It enables us to continue the good work our chapter does to protect our local resources.