

Audubon of SW Florida, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting
Feb. 19th 2009
Eco Living Center, Rutenberg Park, Ft. Myers

Chair: VP Carol Newcomb Jones

Board Members Present: Gene Csonka, Tina Csonka, Mari Hanley, Mary Lee Mann, Gerri Reaves, Carl Veaux, Fran Williams, Kelly Williamson

Guests: Tammy Schimke, Frank Mann

Meeting called to order at 6:10 p.m.

Jan. 19 minutes approved as posted to web.

Membership: Post Card to paid membership for legal notice of annual meeting will be mailed. (Update: Printer notified Feb 20.) Membership remittance envelop redraft ready.

New membership schedule approved: \$15 student/teacher/senior, \$20 regular, \$50 organizations, \$1000 life chapter-only memberships dues.

Treasury: Check for \$194 for support of River Ruts Run. Tony gave treasury summary via email earlier in the day. Our portfolio lost 24% in 2008. If significant bills need to be paid, notify him so funds can be transferred into checking. Gene and Fran are awaiting reimbursements for which they've submitted paperwork/vouchers. After meeting: Carol received \$20 from the Harn's Marsh field trip and \$11 in refreshment donations from Fran.

Education programs: Kelly received grant funds from CHNEP. Feb. 7 wading trip at Bunche Beach had six sign-ups; however, Kelly did not attend. She will lead the next trip in March.

Conservation report: Chapter supported designation of pole/troll zones for Estero Bay and Matlacha and dredging of channels to public facilities. Signed-on to letters on lawn water restrictions, support for purchase of US sugar lands, stimulus money for eco-infrastructure projects, and study of flooding issues in south Lee.

Field trips: Dan Van Norman reported (after the meeting) that four people attended the Harn's Marsh field trip on Feb. 15. The Fichter's Creek Strand outing is on March 21 with Roger Clark.

Programs:

The March 19 Annual meeting keynote speaker will be Jerry Jackson, who will discuss Florida owls.

Fairs and festivals: Gene and Tina will represent the chapter at the Burrowing Owl Festival on Feb. 21; The chapter will also take part in the Earthday celebration at Koreshan. Volunteers needed. Gene will be unable to attend the FMB Town Hall Meeting on the same day as our annual meeting, but invited another volunteer to represent the chapter. There was discussion about the need for an informative handout to give to festival-goers.

The chapter has two tickets for the RiverWatch cruise leaving from LaBelle on Feb. 21.

Web report: Send all calendar posts to Mari at info@AudubonSWFL.org.

PR/Flyways: The winter newsletter was finished weeks ago and has now started to arrive in mailboxes after delays due to permit renewal. Press releases were set out for Pamela Jones Morton's program, and they will be sent out for Jerry Jackson's. Send news items to Kelly, who will be the new Flyways editor.

Old Business: By-law revisions approved.

Proposed slate of directors/officers for 2009 accepted/approved. New officers take office on March 19, 2009:

President: Gerri Reaves

VP President - Carol Newcomb Jones

VP Treasurer - David Green

Secretary - Pete Quasius

Web Master - Pete, Mari Hanley (calendar coordinator)

Parliamentarian - Tony Miller

Programs - Gerri, Carl Veaux

Newsletter - Kelly Williamson (editor), Gerri, Carol

Festivals - Gene Csonka (Tony to assist in organizing Nov. 2009 eco-b'fast)

Trips - John Cassini Hospitality - vacant

Education - Rebecca Austin, Tina Csonka, Gene, Kelly

Membership - Maria Quasius

Birdathon - vacant

Conservation - PQ (chair), David, Carol, Tony.

Mary Lee Mann initiated a discussion of Bonita Bay's North River Village. Approved a motion not to support North River Village at this time until further discussion by board.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15.

Program on Lovers Key Least Tern Nesting Season given by Pamela Morton Jones, Ph.D. was enjoyed by all.