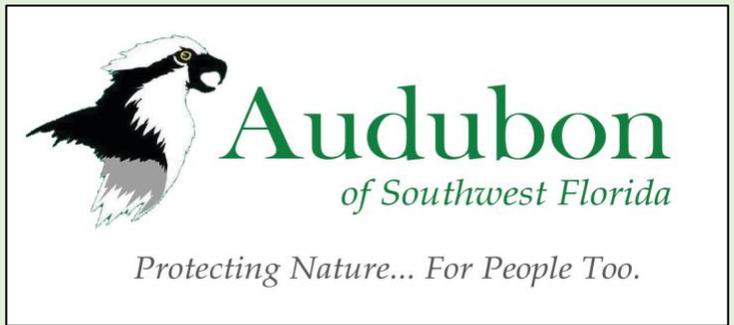


Flyways

A PUBLICATION OF



President's Message

Fall 2019

- 2019 Audubon Assembly
- Everglades Coalition Conference
- Our Chapter in History
- Annual Environmental Breakfast
- ...and more!

Welcome to the 2019-20 season with Audubon of Southwest Florida. Our programs for this season will include presentations on local water quality issues, climate change, hiking on new trails in Lee County's Conservation 20/20 preserves, and Audubon Florida's conservation initiatives. Our field trips will include opportunities for birding, hiking, biking, and kayaking. We will also make our presence known to the public through informational exhibits at local festivals and events.

One event that you should mark your calendars for is the 22nd Annual Environmental Breakfast at 7:00 am on Thursday, October 31, at the Riverside Community Center in Fort Myers. Ruth Watkins, President of the Calusa Waterkeeper will give a presentation on "Troubled Waters and Public Health."

Please review the programs, field trips and other activities that Audubon of Southwest Florida has scheduled for this season in this newsletter and participate in as many of them as you can. Also, check out the Chapter's website, at www.audubonswfl.org.

Best,
Dan VanNorman



2019 Audubon Assembly

Secure Your Spot! October 25-26, 2019

Save your spot and join us in Gainesville for Florida's premier conservation gathering, where grassroots leaders from around the state connect with Audubon's professional staff and partners to grow their knowledge and skills to protect Florida's precious natural resources.

Date: October 25-26, 2019

Location/Lodging: **Hilton University of Florida Conference Center Gainesville, 1714 SW 34th St., Gainesville, FL 32607. Rooms start at \$119/night plus taxes/fees. [Book your hotel now.](#) The discounted rate is available until Sept. 27, 2019 or until rooms sell out. If you are trying to book dates before or after October 24-26, the discounted rate will not be available online; please call the hotel directly 352-371-3600 and mention the Florida Audubon Society group code: FLAS19.**

Sponsorship: **Exciting [sponsorship opportunities](#) are available. Contact Victoria Johnston at 305-371-6396 or VJohnston@audubon.org to secure your sponsorship spot today.**

Registration: **Secure your spot now before our early-bird registration of \$135 ends on Sept. 27, 2019. [Click here to register today.](#)**

*Please register for your field trips when you register for the Assembly. **Learn more here: <https://fl.audubon.org/about-us/audubon-assembly>**

ASWF is a sponsor of Eco-Voice.org!

<http://www.eco-voice.org/>

Every morning before 6 am a selection of news items, great photos, and announcements of environmental events relevant to South Florida, with links to sources and additional information, is e-mailed to subscribers and posted to our Facebook page. Check it out!



35th Annual Everglades Coalition Conference

January 9 - 12, 2020

The Coalition's Annual Conference seeks to raise critical, timely issues for in-depth debates in an open, accessible forum. Community leaders and political figures come to discuss their positions, pledge their support and offer challenges to the community. The conference is attended by decision-makers from federal, state, local and tribal governments, agency representatives, stakeholders and a vast array of public and private interests including scientists, educators, contractors, conservationists, the media, students, and the general public. The conference is the largest annual forum to advance Everglades conservation and restoration.

*Location: South Seas Island Resort in Captiva, Florida
Hosted by the "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society*

Learn more here: <https://www.evergladescoalition.org/conference>

Our Chapter in History...February 1988

By Gerri Reaves

“News of Note”: Chapter president Cindy Bear recently traveled to Tallahassee to lobby for Lovers Key and to Daytona Beach to represent Audubon on Land Acquisitions. At the previous meeting, Frank and Catherine Pirog, board director and corresponding secretary, respectively, raised \$63.45 for the chapter by selling their dry bean soup mix. Birders at the previous month’s very cold field trip to Fort Myers Beach counted 46 species.

Audubon of Southwest Florida

2019-2020 Field Trips

Whether you are new to birding or an experienced birder, our field trips offer you the best birding and nature locations in Southwest Florida. Better yet, you will get to meet others in our community who love birding and nature and who are engaged in environmental issues in Lee County and beyond! Be sure to wear appropriate clothing for the weather, and be ready to take bug spray and sun screen, especially for our trips in early Fall and late Spring. You may also wish to bring water, a camera, field glasses, or even a folding chair, depending on the outing. Members and non-members/beginner to advanced birders – all are welcome! All chapter-sponsored field trips are free; but donations are always appreciated. Parking or rental fees sometimes apply. Below is a list of our field trips and you may RSVP as an optional courtesy. However, do RSVP if you intend to go to the “Kayaking with the Manatees” events and the “Exploring the Prairie Tract of the Preserve” hike, as space is limited for these outings.

Hawk Watch
Sanibel Lighthouse
Saturday, October 19, 2019, 8 AM
112 Periwinkle Way
Sanibel, FL 33957

One of our signature birding outings—this is our 16th Annual Sanibel Island Hawk Watch—where we can view several species of birds of prey at work at the height of migration season. Also, opportunities to see shorebirds as well as a host of warblers, or even a Painted Bunting, in the offshore hammocks. Hosted by our stalwart birder Vince McGrath.

\$6 to cross the Sanibel Causeway
\$5 per hour parking

Exploring the Prairie Tract of the Preserve
Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve
Saturday, December 7, 2019, 8 AM-10 AM
Southern section of the Slough
Fort Myers, FL

Explore the Prairie Tract of Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve. This is in the southern section of the Slough in an area that is newly opened to public access for primitive hiking. Wildlife abounds in this more remote area of the Slough, far from the popular boardwalk. Wildlife sightings may include red-shouldered hawks, woodpeckers, warblers, and deer. The trail condition is at-grade and hiking level is moderate. The roundtrip hike led by Conservation 20/20 staff will be approximately 2 miles. Please pack a water bottle, hat, sunglasses and sunscreen. You may also bring a camera and binoculars. Wear closed-toed shoes that can get muddy or slightly wet. There may be some wet areas along the trail.

Please do RSVP for this event. Space is limited.

**Annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count
Orange River Circle
Saturday, December 21, 2019
*Save the Date***

Check the Chapter website (www.audubonswfl.org) for details on this count circle as they become available. For general information on the Christmas Bird Count or where else you can join a Bird Count, visit www.christmasbirdcount.org.

**Kayak with the Manatees
Lee County Manatee Park
Saturday, January 18, 2020, 9 AM
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: \$20 per hour single kayak; \$35 per hour tandem kayak.
Parking is \$5.

Please do RSVP for this event. Space is limited.

**Kayak with the Manatees II
Lee County Manatee Park
Monday, January 20, 2020, 9 AM
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: \$20 per hour single kayak; \$35 per hour tandem kayak.
Parking is \$5.

Please do RSVP for this event. Space is limited.

**Ding Darling Bicycle Tour
J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge
February 16, 2020, 9:30 AM
1 Wildlife Dr.,
Sanibel, FL 33957**

Another annual favorite, with incredible views of herons, egrets, ibises, storks and spoonbills.

All bicyclists must obey the one-way rule of the road.

From the Education Center, it is an 8-mile loop along Wildlife Drive returning along the main bike path along Sanibel-Captiva Rd., or a 4-mile loop along Wildlife Drive returning along the Indigo Trail (a perfect distance for youngsters!). Be sure to dress appropriately and bring your bicycle, binoculars, cameras, and water.

Entrance to the park is \$1 (free if you have an annual pass) and there is the \$6 toll to cross the Sanibel Causeway.

March, April and May 2020 field trips TBD

**Mark Your Calendars!
2019 CHNEP Nature Festival
November 16
Hosted by: Coastal & Heartland National Estuary Partnership**

2019-2020 ASWF Programs

All meetings and programs held at Collaboratory, except for October's Environmental Breakfast.

DATE	PROGRAM, 7 p.m.	PRESENTER
Thursday, Oct. 31 Environmental Breakfast	Troubled Waters and Public Health	Ruth Watkins President Calusa Waterkeeper
Thursday, Nov. 14, 2019 **2nd Thursday	Hiking at Lee County's Conservation 20/20 Preserves	Jason Boeckman Coordinator, Conservation 20/20 Program Lee County Parks & Recreation Department
Thursday, Dec. 19, 2019 Holiday Party	Billy's Creek	Gene Gibson Calusa Waterkeeper
Thursday, Jan. 16, 2020	TBA	Jennifer Hecker Executive Director Coastal & Heartland National Estuary Partnership
Thursday, Feb. 20, 2020	Florida, Our Eden, Is Under Threat from the Effects of Climate Change	Ariel Hoover Chair, Climate Reality Leadership Corps, Lee County Chapter, Climate Reality
Thursday, March 19, 2020	Prescription for a Healthy Liquid Heart	Doug Gaston Northern Everglades Policy Analyst Audubon Florida

Thursday, April 16, 2020	Audubon Florida's Conservation Initiatives: Connecting Local, Regional, and Statewide Priorities	Stephen Buczynski SW Regional Representative to Audubon Florida & President, Hendry/Glades Audubon
Thursday, May 21, 2020	Board Meeting Only	NO PROGRAM
Saturday, May 30, 2020 Annual Meeting	TBA	Chauncey Goss Chair, SFWMD Governing Board
Thursday, June 18, 2020	Board Meeting Only	NO PROGRAM

Also- Check out events on our Facebook page! Thank you, FGCU SERVICE LEARNING program volunteers!

https://www.facebook.com/pg/AudubonSWFL/events/?ref=page_internal

We are asking for your financial help sponsoring the 22nd Annual Environmental Breakfast hosted by *Audubon of Southwest Florida*.

This event is attended by public officials, business leaders, environmentalists, and educators who come to network and share ideas about current issues. Thanks to your appreciated support, the event is open to the public and free with breakfast prepared by members of Audubon of Southwest Florida. Coffee will be ready by 7:00 am (bring your own mug!) and breakfast begins at 7:30 am.

This popular breakfast will be held on **Thursday, October 31, 2019, at the Riverside Community Center** just off Palm Beach Boulevard in Fort Myers.

You are cordially invited to attend. Please RSVP to audubon.southwest.florida@gmail.com

Your sponsorship will be recognized in the program, on table placards, and in our newsletter. A suggested donation of \$100 will help cover costs, with any surplus supporting our ongoing mission.

Checks may be made payable to "Audubon of Southwest Florida" and mailed to -

Audubon of Southwest Florida
P.O. Box 61041
Fort Myers, FL 33906-1041

We are a 501(c)(3) organization and all donations are fully deductible.

An electronic copy of your logo and how you would like your sponsorship to be listed is requested. Please e-mail to audubon.southwest.florida@gmail.com

Audubon of Southwest Florida is pleased to announce the recipient of our 2019-20 scholarship at Florida Gulf Coast University – Courtney Kern, an Environmental Science major working on her master's degree.



Courtney works under Dr. Kara Lefevre in the Ornithology lab at FGCU, studying the population dynamics of black skimmers in the Southwest Florida region. She is the Senior Naturalist for FGCU Colloquium and sits on the University Colloquium Advisory Committee. She is also an Environmentor for the university and guides undergraduate students who are science majors on their college journey. When she isn't studying, she is often found doing bird surveys with the volunteers of Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary or showing off her pet reptiles. She is excited to present her research at the Wilson Ornithological Society and Association of Field Ornithologists meeting in Cape May this October.

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. Your IRA advisor will be happy to assist.

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



ASWF Board

Officers -

President – Dan VanNorman
Vice President – Vacant
Treasurer & 2nd VP – Jim Rodenfels
Secretary – Gerri Reaves

Directors -

Brad Cornell
Wayne Daltry
Courtney Kern
Sean McCabe
Carol Newcomb
Pete Quasius
Carl Veaux

Committees -

Conservation – Brad Cornell
Education – Vacant
Field Trip – Sean McCabe
Newsletter – Courtney Kern
Membership – Jim Rodenfels
Programs – Gerri Reaves
Publicity – Carol Newcomb
Hospitality – Carol Mariany



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.



Interested in joining the Board? Come to a meeting! Board meetings are at 6pm before the membership meetings and programs at 7pm. We would love to have you!

How to reach us -

We invite you to stay in touch through our website www.audubonswfl.org or on Facebook. Just search under “Audubon of Southwest Florida” and please send us your e-mail address. That way you can be sure you receive advance notification of any upcoming events, programs, field trips, etc., and can also receive our e-newsletter. Just send a note to audubon.southwest.florida@gmail.com If you prefer, you may mail us at P.O. Box 61041, Fort Myers, FL 33906

Thank you for your support!



Mission Statement and Required Charitable Solicitation Statement -

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.