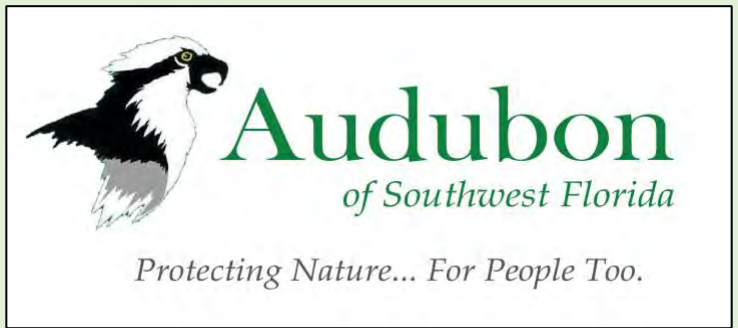


Flyways

A PUBLICATION OF



Winter 2019

- Field Trips
- Programs
- Our Chapter in History
- ...and more!

President's Message

The Chapter will be co-hosting the 29th Annual Southwest Florida Water Resources Conference on Friday, January 24th, 2020 in the Cohen Center Ballroom at Florida Gulf Coast University. The theme is "FGCU Water School and Emerging Priorities for Our Region." Florida Gulf Coast University initiated the Water School in response to the problems of protecting Florida's water resources and the need to develop thoughtful widespread responses. The conference will include the Water School's researchers and other professionals in the region and allow them to exchange ideas about priorities for dealing with current water issues.

The keynote speaker is George Hornberger, College of Engineering, Vanderbilt University, Chair of the National Academy of Science Committee, who will speak about "Water Priorities for the Nation". Advanced registration is recommended. The full technical program and other details are available at www.swfwrc.org.

Our 22nd annual Environmental Breakfast held on October 31st was a success with over 90 attendees. Our speaker this year was Ruth Watkins, President of Calusa Waterkeepers. Cathy Olson was the recipient of our Environmental Conservationist of the Year Award. The recipient of our 2019-20 scholarship at Florida Gulf Coast University was Courtney Kern. Thanks to all of our speakers and volunteers with a special thanks to our sponsors.

Additionally, if you are interested in getting more involved with Audubon of Southwest Florida, it is never too early to consider serving on the Chapter's Board of Directors. If you are interested in being on the board or volunteering in another way, you can send me an email at audubon.southwest.florida@gmail.com, or talk to one of the board members at one of the upcoming programs or field trips.



Best,
Dan VanNorman

Audubon of Southwest Florida 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.

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.

Kayak with the Manatees II Lee County Manatee Park Monday, January 20, 2020, 9 AM 10901 Palm Beach Blvd. Fort Myers, FL 33905

Please do RSVP for this event. Space is limited.

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.



Ding Darling Bicycle Tour
J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge
February 16, 2020, 8:30 AM
1 Wildlife Dr.,
Sanibel, FL 33957

Please do RSVP for this event. Space is limited.

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



Having a blast exploring the Conservation 20/20 parcel at Six Mile Cypress Slough

2020 ASWF Programs

Evening programs are held 7:00 PM at the Southwest Florida Community Foundation Collaboratory located at 2031 Jackson St, Fort Myers, FL 33901.

Presentation topic to be announced

Thursday, Jan. 16, 2020

Presentation by Jennifer Hecker, Executive Director
Coastal & Heartland National Estuary Partnership

Florida, Our Eden, Is Under Threat from the Effects of Climate Change

Thursday, Feb. 20, 2020

Presentation by Ariel Hoover, Chair
Climate Reality Leadership Corps, Lee County Chapter, Climate Reality

Prescription for a Healthy Liquid Heart

Thursday, March 19, 2020

Presentation by Doug Gaston, Northern Everglades Policy Analyst,
Audubon Florida

Audubon Florida's Conservation Initiatives: Connecting Local, Regional, and Statewide Priorities

Thursday, April 16, 2020

Presentation by Stephen Buczynski, SW Regional Representative to Audubon Florida
& President, Hendry/Glades Audubon

Annual Membership Meeting and Dinner

Saturday, May 30, 2020

Presentation by Chauncey Goss, Chair, South Florida Water Management District Governing Board
Dinner begins at 5:30 pm. Presentation begins at 7:00 pm.

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

Our Chapter in History... January 1995

By Gerri Reaves

In *Flyways* 25 years ago, Brian Murphy asked anyone interested in participating in the Bird-a-thon in early March to contact him. The annual fundraiser's goal was \$10,000, with 20% to be donated to national and state Audubon Societies to fund projects in Southwest Florida. In his regular "Birding Hot Spots," Vince McGrath noted that it was nesting season for several species, notably the osprey and several owl species. Lyle Danielson reported in his "Conservation Corner" column that most of the Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods parcel, a significant wildlife corridor, had been recently acquired by the State. The announced January program was "Effects of Hurricanes on Mangroves and Birds" by Tom Smith, research coordinator for Rookery Bay National Estuarine Reserve. The focus was surveys before and after 1992 Hurricane Andrew.

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

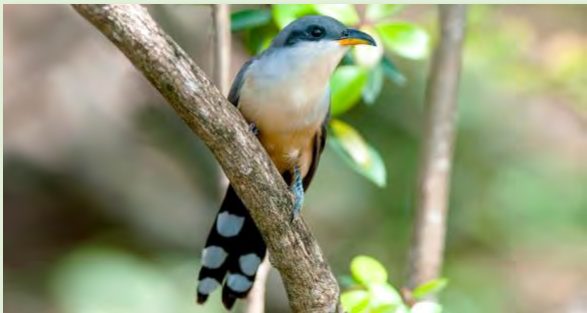
Courtney Kern

Sean McCabe

Carol Newcomb

Pete Quasius

Carl Veaux



Committees -

Conservation – Brad Cornell

Education – Vacant

Field Trips – Sean McCabe

Newsletter – Courtney Kern

Membership – Jim Rodenfels

Programs – Gerri Reaves

Publicity – Carol Newcomb

Hospitality – Carol Mariany

Membership

You may not be aware that 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 online 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 5pm 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 email 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!

ASWF is a sponsor of Eco-Voice.org! <http://www.eco-voice.org/>

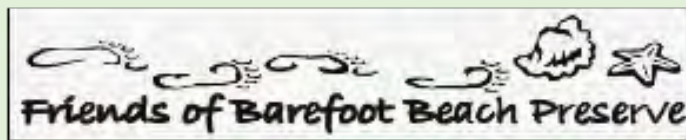
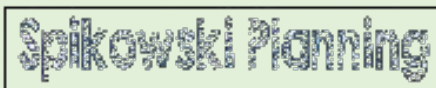
Every morning before 6 am a selection of news items, great photos, and announcements of environmental events relevant to South Florida, with links to sources and additional information, is emailed to subscribers and posted to our Facebook page. Check it out!

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.

Thanks to the Sponsors of our 22nd Annual Environmental Breakfast



Brian Cotterill & Judy Ott
 Wayne Daltry
 Don & Linda Doggett
 Brian Murphy & Neil Wilkinson
 Gerri Reaves
 Rodenfels Family