

The 18th Annual Space Coast
birding & wildlife
Festival 2015



Presented by **The Brevard Nature Alliance**

Titusville, Florida • January 21-26, 2015 • Eastern Florida State College North Campus



Why so excited?

- ☐ Just saw a Kirtland's Warbler
- ☐ Just made new friends
- ☐ Just experienced firsthand what the **ABA** is all about
- ☒ All of the above!

aba.org/join



We are proud to sponsor
Brevard Nature Alliance's
18th Annual Space Coast
Birding & Wildlife Festival

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on the cover

The featured bird for the 2015 Festival is the Red-cockaded Woodpecker, an endangered species that makes its home in mature pine forests. The Red-cockaded Woodpecker is best seen in Brevard County in the St. Sebastian River Preserve State Park and in nearby Orange County in the Hal Scott Regional Preserve & Park. Presentations and Field Trips during the Festival will introduce you to these interesting birds. The Red-cockaded Woodpecker has an ecological niche in the life of our pine forests. We used two different photos of these hard-to-photograph birds to show a juvenile, with the identifying red coloring on the head, and an adult. We thank Roy Thoman and Roy Halpin for their admirable patience and determination in making these two classic and enviable photographs that grace the 2015 Festival Program cover.

The Waiting Game: Photographing the Red-Cockaded Woodpecker

Photo by Roy Thoman

I've photographed the Birding Festival for many years now. I was asked if I had any photos of a Red-Cockaded Woodpecker. This is a hard bird to find, let alone photograph, so no, I didn't have any RCW photos. Thanks to last year's fieldtrip to St. Sebastian River State park, I knew where some would be nesting. After a two mile hike, I was able to locate a nest cavity with chicks. So the waiting game began. The adult bird would return to the nest every 20 minutes (it felt like hours!) and stay for 2 tenths of a second. Thanks to 5.5 frames per second, I was able to get a few photos! In this photo, the bird landed on a tree close by after feeding the chicks. I got one photo, this one. I used a Nikon D600 with a Sigma 50-500mm lens at 500mm. My settings were ISO800, f/6.3, 1/500sec. I shoot in manual mode. I also used a monopod and a nearby tree to lean on to steady the shot and, more importantly, to hide myself.

Photographing the Red-Cockaded Woodpecker

Photo by Roy Halpin

Red-cockaded Woodpeckers nest early. When I was tasked to provide a photo was for the 2015 SCBWF program, I was skeptical as to being assured of a photo. I searched three days from central Florida to North Florida before finding an active nest. If a nest is not active it is very hard to film this bird in suitable light. After finding an active nest in the Ocala National Forest, I spent another three days filming. The young birds fledged in 4 days after the find. I was shooting Digiscoping equipment, Kowa TSN-884, 25-60X eyepiece, Paul Sayegh's Digidapter, Lumix GX-7 camera body, Lumix 20mm f1.7 II ASPH Lens.

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map inside back fold-out

Every effort was made to assure the accuracy of the information within this publication; however, the Brevard Nature Alliance cannot guarantee total correctness due to possible human and/or mechanical error.

welcome

to Florida's Space Coast & the 18th Annual Space Coast Birding & Wildlife Festival

The Brevard Nature Alliance is proud to assemble a prestigious group of locally, nationally and internationally recognized scientists, biologists, photographers, ornithologists, naturalists, artists and authors. Additionally, the Brevard Nature Alliance is fortunate to continue relationships with the many sponsors, partners and volunteers who support the Space Coast Birding & Wildlife Festival. Lastly, we could not present this premier event without the variety of bird species that come to us via the Atlantic Flyway and the plethora of wildlife and plants that make their home on Florida's Space Coast.

The Space Coast Birding & Wildlife Festival focuses on the abundance and diversity of the natural world around us, from the Atlantic Ocean westward through the Indian River Lagoon estuary system to the St. Johns River and surrounding wetlands. Educational emphasis is placed on the preservation and management of species and their habitats, as well as the cultural heritage and historical venues to be found in East Central Florida. The Space Coast Birding & Wildlife Festival features bird and wildlife watching opportunities, nature and technology tours, boat and kayaking trips, field trips, seminars, workshops, photography sessions and evening keynote presentations.

The Brevard Nature Alliance partners with a number of businesses and organizations ---local, national and international---for each Festival in order to offer a variety of immediately topical presentations, field experiences and published authors. For the 18th Annual Space Coast Birding & Wildlife Festival, we are teaming with Swarovski Optik to focus on the emerging and popular photography method, Digiscoping. The concept is simple. Place a digital camera next to the eyepiece of a spotting scope and fire away, but, there is more than the concept to consider. Clay Taylor, along with his group of erudite digiscopers, have planned a week-long program to introduce you to Digiscoping and for the more experienced, challenge your skills by offering new techniques. See the Program Section devoted to Digiscoping for specifics.

Thank you for attending the Space Coast Birding & Wildlife Festival. We invite you to the Afternoon Socials - held on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday - as they are your chance to meet and mingle with attendees, presenters, field trip leaders, sponsors, and exhibitors from around the world, as well as the Festival staff and volunteers. Plan a visit to Historic Downtown Titusville on Wednesday for our opening Welcome Reception as we team with the Titusville Playhouse at the Historic Emma Parrish Theater, or go for a stroll through the specialty shops, art galleries and enjoy a meal at one of our fine area restaurants.

The Brevard Nature Alliance



history of the brevard nature alliance

- The Brevard Nature Alliance, Inc. (BNA) was formed in December 1998 to provide a strategic alliance among all Brevard stakeholders for natural resource initiatives. The BNA is chartered as a not-for-profit corporation under the laws of the state of Florida and is designated by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501 (c) (3) tax-exempt, charitable organization. BNA members are a coalition of representatives from key organizations who combine their knowledge to protect the distinct ecology and raise the awareness of citizens and visitors to the value and importance of the natural resources of Brevard County, Florida.

- The mission of the Brevard Nature Alliance, Inc. is to build public awareness and appreciation of the value of Brevard County's natural resources by fostering and promoting ethical nature based ecotourism.

- The Alliance serves as one of the primary advocates of community-based nature activities in Brevard County, dedicated to the enrichment of the community through an understanding and appreciation of natural resources, nature-based tourism and ecosystem needs.

- The BNA seeks to increase awareness of the County's natural resources and work with the community toward sensible growth management. The BNA does this by offering technical and funding support to educational projects such as the annual Space Coast Birding & Wildlife Festival, organizing community workshops to form a strategic conservation plan for the County as part of the Brevard Tomorrow Initiative, providing environmental documentation to myregion.org and working with Brevard County to enhance functional ecological design for new development.

festival staff

Brevard Nature Alliance & Space Coast Birding & Wildlife

Laurilee Thompson, Founder

Rhonda Harris, Director of Operations

Neta Harris, Financial Services Coordinator

Dianne George, Community Relations Coordinator

Volunteers from this community are the life of every activity offered during the Festival. These dedicated people bring a diverse energy to the tasks that help to make the Festival a success. In all of the evaluations we receive regarding the effectiveness of the Festival, the attitude, helpfulness and caring of the people on the front line of contact have always been given the highest marks of satisfaction. Visit the Volunteer section on www.spacecoastbirdingandwildlifeFestival.org

Brevard Nature Alliance Board of Directors & Staff

Bart Gaetjens, Chair/FP&L

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Anne Birch, The Nature Conservancy

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Nancy Evans, Fairfield Inn and Suites

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Vince Lamb, Community Advocate

Martha Long, Titusville City Council

Carol Noble, Canaveral Port Authority

Laurilee Thompson, Dixie Crossroads Restaurant

Beth Ann Tucker, Community Advocate

Keith Winsten, Brevard Zoo

join us

2015 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email Address _____

Business/Organization Name _____

Business URL _____

☐ By checking this box, I attest to being a Nature-based Service Provider. **A Nature-based Service Provider is defined as any business, organization, or individual conducting ethical educational, recreational, or research-based activities with the involvement of the general public.*

If a Business/Corporate Member, please state your business objectives for joining the Brevard Nature Alliance (50 words max.):

☐ By checking this box, I agree to support the Brevard Nature Alliance's goals and objectives and will actively promote the mission of the Brevard Nature Alliance.

☐ I give permission to the Brevard Nature Alliance to use my name in on-line and printed materials as a member in good standing.

☐ Please do not send e-mail. I prefer to have correspondence from Brevard Nature Alliance delivered to me via US Postal Service.

(Make checks payable to *Brevard Nature Alliance* and mail to: PO Box 517, Titusville, FL 32781-0517)

INDIVIDUAL/FAMILY MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS: (PLEASE SELECT ONE)

- ☐ \$20 Gopher Tortoise Level
- ☐ \$50 Scrub Jay Level
- ☐ \$100 Roseate Spoonbill Level
- ☐ \$150 Alligator Level
- ☐ \$250+ Sand Hill Crane Level

BUSINESS/CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS: (PLEASE SELECT ONE)

- ☐ \$250 Osprey Level
- ☐ \$500 Indigo Snake Level
- ☐ \$1,000 Sea Turtle Level
- ☐ \$5,000 Panther Level
- ☐ \$10,000+ Live Oak Level

PAYMENT OPTIONS:

- ☐ Pay with Credit Card. Visit brevardnaturealliance.org or call 321-268-5224
- ☐ Pay by Check. Send invoice to address provided above
- ☐ Pay by Check. Send invoice to the following address:

membership options

ALL members receive the following standard membership benefits:

1. Thank you letter signed by Chair of the Board
2. BNA Member decal with essential numbers
3. Quarterly newsletter via e-mail
4. Invitation to Annual Meeting

Additional benefits to Nature-based Service Providers:*

NBSPs in good standing will receive the membership benefits at any level of their choosing, as well as the following:

- + Prominent listing as Member Provider in the Provider Directory at BrevardNatureAlliance.org.
- + Discounted sponsorship rates (15% off) for Space Coast Birding and Wildlife Festival.

INDIVIDUAL/FAMILY MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS:

Gopher Tortoise Level - \$20 Includes all standard membership benefits

Scrub Jay Level - \$50

1. Print copies of Adventure Guide and Festival Program
2. 1 Birding Festival Registration Fee (value of \$20)

Roseate Spoonbill Level - \$100

1. Print copies of Adventure Guide and Festival Program
2. 2 Birding Festival Registration Fees (value of \$40)
3. Name included in the Members Section at BrevardNatureAlliance.org

Alligator Level - \$150

1. Print copies of Adventure Guide and Festival Program
2. 2 Birding Festival Registration fees (value of \$40)
3. Name included in the Members Section at BrevardNatureAlliance.org and in next edition of Adventure Guide

Sand Hill Crane Level - \$250+

1. Print copies of Adventure Guide and Festival Program
2. 4 Birding Festival Registration fees (value of \$80)
3. Name included in the Members Section at BrevardNatureAlliance.org and in next edition of Adventure Guide

BUSINESS/CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS:

Osprey Level - \$250

1. Print copies of Adventure Guide and Festival Program
2. 2 Birding Festival Registration fees (value of \$40)
3. Table space at Annual Meeting
4. Business name included in the Members Section at BrevardNatureAlliance.org and in next printing of Adventure Guide

Indigo Snake Level - \$500

1. Print copies of Adventure Guide and Festival Program
2. 4 Birding Festival Registration fees (value of \$80)
3. Table space and logo on signage at Annual Meeting
4. Business name and URL included in the Members Section at BrevardNatureAlliance.org and in next edition of Adventure Guide

Sea Turtle Level - \$1,000

1. Print copies of Adventure Guide and Festival Program
2. 4 Birding Festival Registration fees (value of \$80)
3. Table space, logo on signage, and podium remarks at Annual Meeting
4. Business logo and URL included in the Members Section at BrevardNatureAlliance.org, business logo included in printed BNA brochure and in next printing of edition of Adventure Guide

Panther Level - \$5,000 – Includes 25% discount on SCBWF sponsorship

1. Print copies of Adventure Guide and Festival Program
2. 6 Birding Festival Registration fees (value of \$120)
3. Table space, logo on signage, podium remarks and giveaways at Annual Meeting
4. Business logo, URL, and 25 word profile included in the Members Section at BrevardNatureAlliance.org, business logo included in printed BNA brochure and in next edition of Adventure Guide

Live Oak Level - \$10,000+ – Includes 30% discount on SCBWF sponsorship

1. Print copies of Adventure Guide and Festival Program
2. 6 Birding Festival Registration fees (value of \$120)
3. Table space, logo on signage, podium remarks and giveaways at Annual Meeting
4. Business logo, URL, and 50 word profile included in the Members Section at BrevardNatureAlliance.org, business logo included in printed BNA brochure and in next edition of Adventure Guide

the festival opening welcome reception

An Evening with Julie Zickefoose

Wednesday, Jan. 21, 6:00pm-8:30pm; Titusville Playhouse Inc. at the Historic Emma Parrish Theatre; \$30 includes keynote and reception.

Directions: leave the EFSC Titusville campus and proceed S on N Washington Ave (US1, left turn) for 2.1 miles; Julia St is on the right, however parking is to the left of the theatre.

You are cordially invited to spend an evening with Julie at the newly renovated Titusville Playhouse in historic downtown Titusville.

6:00pm-7:00pm – Playhouse Lobby. Wind down with your choice of wine, beer or cocktail at the cash bar. Enjoy heavy hors d'oeuvres prepared by our local chefs. Serve yourself to scrumptious deserts from our best bakers.

7:15pm – Find your seat – ushers will be available to assist you at this time or earlier in the evening.

7:30pm-8:30pm – Julie Zickefoose

**** Please note** – parking will be in the lot across the street and directly east of the Playhouse. Titusville police will be available to ensure safety in crossing the street on arrival and departure. Additional parking will be directed by the Titusville police.

Sponsored by



Titusville Playhouse 50th Anniversary

The Titusville Playhouse was established in the historic Emma Parrish Theatre on August 26, 1965. In celebration of the Titusville Playhouse 50th Anniversary, TPI is undergoing a 3-year renovation and expansion project to improve the quality and experience of patrons and artists in Northern Brevard County. The theatre has experienced a renaissance the last three years and is producing quality community productions, expanded its youth education programs, and has demonstrated financial sustainability.

We want each of you to enjoy today and every day you chose to spend with us for the 18th Annual Festival.



afternoon socials

Thursday, Jan. 22, Friday, Jan. 23 & Saturday, Jan. 24, 5:00pm-6:00pm; Free; Served in the Exhibit Center

We cordially welcome you to Afternoon Socials on Thursday and Friday. Visit our Exhibitors while you enjoy a glass of wine or other beverage and light foods prepared and served by a local food service business.

Please Note: No food or drink allowed in the Auditorium, Classroom or Keynote presentations, and the Art Show.

Children must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

The Festival is ADA accessible to classrooms, restrooms, food service, Exhibit Area, Art Show & Competition, and Silent Auction. Arrangements for participation in Field Trips, Boat & Kayak Trips are handled on an individual basis.

how to get here

The 18th Annual Space Coast Birding & Wildlife Festival will be based at Eastern Florida State College (EFSC) - Titusville Campus, 1311 N. US 1 from January 21 through 25, 2015. Registration desk, classroom presentations, field trip staging, exhibits, silent auction, art show and food service can be found there.

festival information

• Contact the festival office by phone at 321-268-5224 or by e-mail to festival@brevardnaturealliance.org. Our mailing address is P.O. Box 517, Titusville FL 32781-0517.

• The office is staffed from 9:00am to 4:00pm Monday through Friday. Office functions will move to Eastern Florida State College - Titusville campus (1311 North US 1, Titusville, FL 32796) on Jan. 20, 2015 to facilitate the set-up of the Exhibit Center. Our telephone numbers and email address remain the same for contact during the Festival.

• The Festival Registration Desk is located in the Lobby of the Gymnasium and will be open each day to facilitate early Field Trips.

Tuesday, Jan. 20 – 1:00pm to 5:00pm for courtesy pick up of ID and Welcome Bag only.

Wednesday, Jan. 21 through Saturday, Jan 24 – 6:00 am to 4:00 pm

Sunday, Jan. 25 – 6:00 am to 10:00am (Festival closes at 1 pm)

• Food service will be available Wednesday through Sunday in the Snack Bar area as follows:

• Free Coffee or Hot Tea provided by the Brevard Nature Alliance – available for you to serve yourself Wednesday through Sunday.

• Lunch: Variety of items served 11am-2pm by local food service providers in the snack bar as well as outside concessions. Some vendors will have breakfast type items available as well.

• Tables are available in the south hall of the Gym building and outside in the covered Pavilion near the Art Show entrance.

• Water is available on each Field Trip bus and per bottle for car pools – field trip leaders will provide on trips, see registration desk for carpools.

Please Note: No food or drink allowed in the Auditorium, Classroom or Keynote presentations, and the Art Show.

If You Are Driving

Take Interstate 95 to Titusville.

• From the south, exit at SR406 (Exit 220). Go east to US 1. Go north on US 1 for 1.9 miles. EFSC is on the right, just north of the Parrish Medical Center.

• From the north, exit at SR46 (Exit 223). Go east to US 1. Go south on US 1 for 2.4 miles. EFSC will be on the left.

If You Are Flying

• From Orlando International Airport:

Go east on SR528 (Beachline/Toll Road) to I-95 (follow the sign that directs you to I-95 North). Go north on I-95. Follow above driving directions coming from the south.

• From Melbourne International Airport:

Follow signs directing you from the Airport to I-95. Go north on I-95. Follow above driving directions coming from the south.

14th annual art show & competition

The Space Coast Birding & Wildlife Festival and the Titusville Art League are proud to present the 14th Annual Birding and Wildlife Art Show and Competition. This traditional event is made possible through the exceptional generosity of Geomar Environmental Services.

All competition entries will be on display at Eastern Florida State College (EFSC), Titusville Campus, Community Dining Room, from Jan. 21-25. All competitors will be judged on how well they express the natural environments and ecosystems of Florida. First place in each category will receive \$225, with all prize monies totaling over \$1,600.

Each entry into the art competition will cost \$15. All entries should be works completed within the last 24 months and express the natural environments and ecosystems of Florida.

A Poster Competition will be held for children. Top prize for the winning poster is a \$50 gift certificate, with a special \$100 award given to the school art department of the winning poster. No entry fee is charged for children's posters. Size of entry should be half of a standard poster board.

Competition categories

Photography

2-Dimensional art (including painting, mixed media, graphic arts and watercolors)

3-Dimensional art (including sculpture, clay art, wood, glass and fiber art)

Prizes

Photography	2-Dimensional	3-Dimensional	Children's Posters
1st.....\$225	1st.....\$225	1st.....\$225	1st.....\$50
2nd.....\$125	2nd.....\$125	2nd.....\$125	2nd.....\$25
3rd.....\$75	3rd.....\$75	3rd.....\$75	3rd.....\$15
2 Merits.....\$25	2 Merits.....\$25	2 Merits.....\$25	3 Merits.....\$10

Entries must be submitted at the EFSC Community Dining Room between 2:00pm and 6:00pm, Wednesday, Jan. 21. *For ease of delivery and pick-up, Please drive to the rear of the Community Dining Room and enter through the back door.*

Judging will be held at 2:00pm Thursday, Jan. 22. All artwork must be available for display through 10:00am on Sunday, Jan. 25. All artwork must be picked up between 12 noon and 3:00pm on Sunday, Jan. 25.

For more information about the 2015 Space Coast Birding & Wildlife Festival Art Show and Competition, contact Linda Krupp, Titusville Art League President, lindakrupp@cfl.rr.com, and Candi Thorpe, Festival Art Show Coordinator, candithor@aol.com or visit the website at www.titusvilleartleague.com.



Rules

1. All artwork must be appropriate for viewing by all ages.
2. All work must be the original work of the submitted artist. No copyrighted work will be accepted unless the submitting artist holds the copyright.
3. No copies, reproductions or kits will be accepted.
4. Each submission should be work that was completed within the last 24 months and may not have been previously entered into a SCBWF Art Show & Competition.
5. The size for hanging pieces shall be no larger than 36 inches in width or height.
6. Framed entries with glass shall not exceed 20 inches by 24 inches. Larger works that require protection must use plexi-glass or similar material. Over-sized pieces of glass are too fragile and too heavy for display panels.
7. All hanging work must be framed with the following exceptions:
 - a. Stretched canvas work that has been gallery-wrapped and has no unfinished edges and wall hangings
 - b. Work painted on wood panels must have finished and/or painted edges.
8. All hanging work must be ready to hang with securely fastened screw eyes and braided picture wire. In the case of metal frames, the fasteners inserted in the frame with screws to which the wire is attached are acceptable. Saw tooth hangers will NOT be accepted. Wall hangings must be able to hang from a standard pegboard hook. **ALL WORK THAT IS TO HANG MUST MEET THESE REQUIREMENTS.**
9. All entries must remain on exhibit throughout the show.

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Consultants Inc.
Conserve & Preserve
Florida's Natural Resources



Reviewing Art Exhibit. Photo by Joel Reynolds

silent auction

We cordially invite you to participate in our annual Silent Auction via donation of auction item(s), as well as bid on the items we have collected. Proceeds from the Auction benefits the Festival.

Welcome Donors: Items should be new or well cared for (as in cases of rare nature books, artwork and the like). Please contact Dianne George in advance at 321-626-9146 to arrange delivery of or a receipt for your donated items.

Welcome Bidders: The Silent Auction will run during the Festival from 9:00am on Thursday, Jan. 22 to announced closure on Saturday afternoon, Jan. 25. Winners' names will be posted at the Silent Auction booth after 4:00pm on Saturday.

Winners may pick up their items Saturday 5:00pm-7:00pm, and Sunday 9:00am-1:00pm. Payment for bidding winners may be made by VISA, MasterCard, Discover Card, American Express, check (with copy of driver's license) or cash. No items will be mailed.

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. Registration # CH19903 - Florida Solicitation of Contribution Act.



Sponsored in part by the Brevard Co. Board of County Commissioners through the Brevard Cultural Alliance, Inc.
www.artsbrevard.org



www.visitSpaceCoast.com

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sponsors & partners

We encourage you to patronize the sponsors, partners, and advertisers, and visit the parks and preserves that have generously donated to this event. Through their support, they have made a commitment to protect our natural resources.

Eagle

Space Coast Office of Tourism
 Dixie Crossroads
 Bird Watching Magazine

Bird Watcher's Digest
 Swarovski Optik

Panther

American Birding Association

Scrub Jay

FLORIDA TODAY
 Victor Emanuel Nature Tours
 Carl Zeiss Sport Optics
 Leica Sports Optics, USA
 Eagle Optics

Florida Power & Light
 Canaveral Port Authority
 Brevard Business News
 10,000 Birds
 Panasonic North America

Pelican

Coastal Anglers Magazine
 City of Titusville
 Waste Management
 Merritt Island Wildlife Association
 Nikon, Inc
 Princeton University Press
 Farmton/Miami Corporation

Wells Fargo
 Vanguard Sporting Optics
 Geomar Environmental Consultants
 Opticron
 Celestron, LLC
 Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex
 Rockjumper Worldwide Birding Adventures

Red-Cockaded Woodpecker

Quality Inn - Titusville
 Hunts Photo and Video
 Ace Hardware - Titusville

Canopy Tower Family
 Ron Jon Surf Shop

Partners

All Cities Expo Services, Inc.

Brevard Co. Environmentally Endangered Lands Program
 (Pine Island Archaeological Project, Dicerandra
 Scrub Sanctuary, Ulamay Sanctuary, South Lake
 Conservation Area, the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary,
 Barrier Island Sanctuary, Fox Lake Sanctuary)

Brevard Co. Parks & Recreation

Brevard Co. Solid Waste Management - Recycling

Brevard Cultural Alliance

Brevard Zoo

Clear Channel Outdoors

Cocoa Beach Regional Chamber of Commerce

Eastern Florida State College

Fla Department of Environmental Protection (T.M.
 Goodwin Marsh)

Fla Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission (Tosohatchee
 Wildlife Management Area, Salt Lake Wildlife
 Management Area)

Fla Public Archeology Network

Fla State Parks (Sebastian Inlet State Park, St Sebastian
 River Buffer Preserve State Park)

Fla Trails Association

Forever Fla/EcoSafaris

Marine Science Center

Melbourne Regional Chamber of Commerce

NASA

North Brevard Heritage Foundation

National Park Service (Canaveral Nat'l Seashore)

Novatech Computers

Ocean Potion

Palm Bay Regional Chamber of Commerce

Space Coast Audubon Society

Space Coast Paddlers Club

St. Johns River Water Management District (Lee Tract-
 Charles H. Bronson State Forest, Seminole Ranch
 Conservation Area, Lake Monroe Conservation Area,
 Lake Jessup Conservation Area, Little-Big Econ State
 Forest, Lake Apopka, Hal Scott Preserve)

Jim and Johnnie Swan

The Nature Conservancy

TiSH Media

Titusville Art League

Titusville Area Chamber of Commerce (Titusville Area
 Visitors Council)

Titusville YMCA

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (Merritt Island National Wildlife
 Refuge, St. Johns National Wildlife Refuge, Archie
 Carr National Wildlife Refuge, Pelican Island National
 Wildlife Refuge)

VISIT FLORIDA

exhibit center



2014 Exhibit Area. Photographer unknown

The Exhibit Center, located in the Gymnasium, is the site of important Festival traditions and activities in which we invite you to visit and participate. Here you will find the annual Bird Count List, Silent Auction, and more than 75 excellent exhibitors: artists, crafters, wildlife & birding organizations, nature-specialty businesses, photography, optics from the most-recognized companies, nature tour companies and outdoor equipment. The Raptor Project will be on stage providing scheduled educational shows.

Classroom presentations and field trips are arranged so that there is time to view beautiful art and craftwork, find out more about the area and birds spotted, and acquire a gift for someone, including yourself.

Exhibit Center Hours:

Wednesday, Jan. 21, 2:00pm – 5:00pm

Thursday, Jan. 22, 10:00am-7:00pm

Friday, Jan. 23, 10:00am-7:00pm

Saturday, Jan. 24, 9:00am-7:00pm

Sunday, Jan. 25, 9:00am-1:00pm

A New Look-Redeck Bling
www.anewlook.us.com

American Birding Association (Sponsor)
www.aba.org

Bat Belfrys Inc.

Bird Watcher's Digest (Sponsor)
www.birdwatchersdigest.com

Birding Ecotours
www.birdingecotours.co.za

Birding in Portugal
www.birdinginportugal.com

BirdQuest & Wild Images
www.birdquest-tours.com

Birdwatching Magazine (Sponsor)
www.BirdWatchingDaily.com

Briar Knots Wood Carving

Canaveral National Seashore
www.nps.gov/cana

Canopy Tower Family (Sponsor)
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Carefree Birding
www.carefreebirding.com

Carl Zeiss Sports Optics (Sponsor)
www.zeiss.com/sports

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Cheepers! Birding on a Budget
www.cheepersbirding.com

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Everglades Nature Tours
www.evergladesnaturetours.com

Florida EcoSafaris at Forever Florida
www.floridaecosafaris.com

Florida Ornithological Society
www.fosbirds.org

Focus Frog, LLC
www.focusfrog.com

Happy Bee Honey
www.happybeehoney.net

Holbrook Travel
www.holbrooktravel.com

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Images in Africa Safaris
www.imagesinafricasafaris.com

JK Artistic Designs

Joanne Williams Photography, Inc.
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John Furches Gallery
www.johnfurches.com

Kayaks by Bo
www.kayaksbybo.com

KOWA America
www.kowa-usa.com

Lake Woodruff Wildlife Refuge

Leica Sport Optics (Sponsor)
www.en.leica-camera.com/sport_optics/

Little St. Simons Island
www.littlessi.com

Marcy Gray Design Studio

Merritt Island Wildlife Assn. (Sponsor)
www.merrittislandwildlifeassociation.com

Milton Heiberg Studios
www.miltonheiberg.com

Nikon, Inc (Sponsor)
www.nikonportsoptics.com

Novagrade USA

One Good Tern
www.onegoodtern.com

Opticron USA (Sponsor)
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Exhibitors

keynote speakers

"The Best of Birding From A to Z"

Julie Zickefoose.....Jan. 21

Main Event of the 2015 Space Coast Birding & Wildlife Festival
Opening Welcome Reception

Elsa Alvear.....Jan. 22

Jeff Bouton.....Jan. 23

Bill Thompson III.....Jan. 24

Elsa Alvear

Birds and Birding in the National Parks

Jan. 22, 6:30pm-8:00pm

AUD; Limited to 150 registrants; \$25

When most people think of national parks, they think of scenery. But birders understand that habitat is the key to being able to see birds. The mission of the National Park Service, to preserve natural resources unimpaired for this and future generations to enjoy, is vital to allow a diversity of bird species to survive into the future. Elsa will discuss how the National Park Service is helping to connect people to birds. Join Elsa as she explores the great variety of bird habitats within National Parks; the importance of visitors to the National Park Service; the impact of the park service has on local economies; the ease of travel with the parks; the study of birds in "living laboratories", their natural habitats; and the volunteer opportunities available. What better place to spend the day counting birds than in one of the over 400 parks, seashores, recreation areas, and historic parks managed by the National Park Service!

Elsa Alvear is the Chief of Resource Management of Biscayne National Park,



managing the natural and cultural resource programs near Miami, Florida. She deals with endangered species, coral reef and seagrass restoration from vessel groundings, water quality, fisheries management, and is the park lead on a proposed new management plan with far-reaching marine conservation issues. She's a birder in a national park best known for its marine resources, but upon arrival was struck by the diversity and numbers of avifauna and considers the park a secret birding treasure spot. She initiated the agency's first certificate-earning birding program, the Biscayne Birding Trail, and coordinated several volunteers to make the Trail a reality. The Biscayne Birding Trail is inspiring other national parks to do the same, to recognize and encourage birders to bird in their national parks. She did her master's thesis on timing of nesting of Roseate Spoonbills compared to water management regimes in Everglades National Park. On her free time, she volunteers for a wildlife rehab organization, a bird banding station, and birds in national parks in the United States and around the world. Her "wow" birding moment was a solo birding/backpacking expedition through Chilean Patagonia where she was treated to a flock of Andean condors. Elsa would like new and experienced birders to feel welcome in their national parks and become passionate advocates of birding in national parks.



Jeff Bouton

Birding Past, Present, and Future

Jan. 23, 6:30pm-8:00pm

AUD; Limited to 150 registrants; \$25

Join Jeff Bouton for an amusing & introspective look at the world of birding. Beginning with the historic, solid foundations on which we all still rely like the earliest field guides, to the rapidly emerging electronic trends that have changed the birding world forever. These revolutionary trends shape the way the next generation of birders approaches our beloved hobby and it's infinitely different than just a decade past. It has also changed the way many new birders are drawn to birding in the

first place. Using humorous anecdotes and graphic examples, Bouton will review these current and emerging trends to offer insight on how these changes have already changed many aspects of birding (social dynamic, bird clubs, field guide, usage, etc.) and highlight new and creative approaches many are using with success to reach the next generation of new & young birders today. He will even ponder what the near future of birding might well look like. Through his position with Leica Sport Optics,



Jeff interfaces personally with thousands of birders annually at the World's largest birding events and is extremely fortunate to work with some of the nation's most successful young birder programs. Drop in for a laugh and hopefully pick up a new birding tip or two as well.

Jeff Bouton began his birding career as a volunteer bird bander as a teenager in Rochester, NY and spent the following decade plus wandering around the country as "binoculars for hire" working for nearly any agency or non-for-profit organization that would pay him to do what he loved more than anything in the world, being in the field birding. He spent much of this time chasing, capturing, banding, and following radio-tagged raptors, searching for passerine nests, and guiding professionally all over the United States, including Alaska. He finally settled down in the Gulf Coast of Florida with his family 16 years ago and has worked for Leica Sport Optics 10 years now as Manager of the Birding / Nature Markets in the Americas. He is a contributing author to the American Birding Association's Bird-finding Guides to Alaska & Florida respectively, plus Houghton Mifflin's "Good

Birders Don't Wear White" and has written countless articles and had hundreds of images published in most of the national birding publications. His favorite was a column that ran in every issue of "WildBird" magazine for 6 years entitled, "Adventures with Austin"; anecdotes of a father and son from the field with tips on how to inspire young birders.



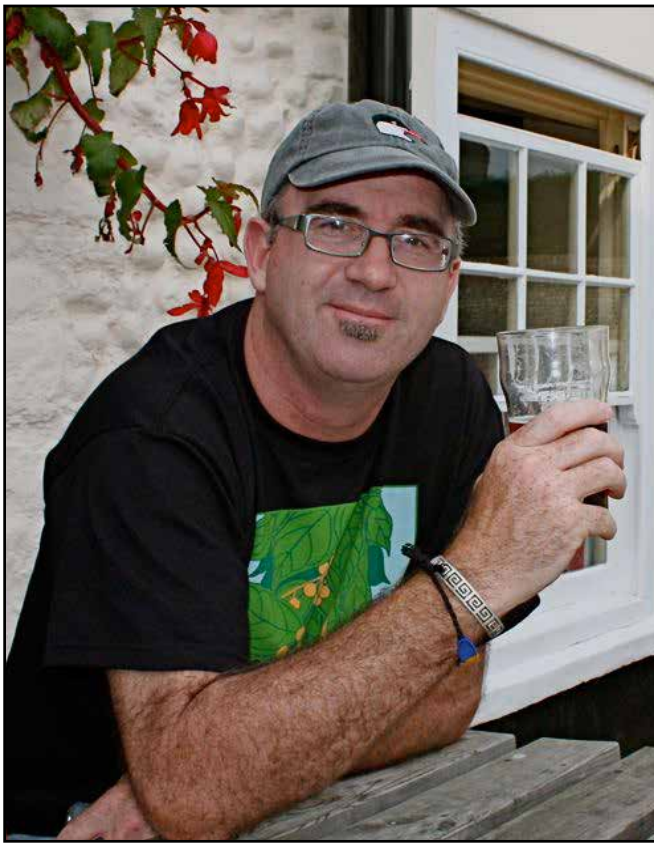
Bill Thompson III

More Perils & Pitfalls of Birding

Jan. 24, 6:30pm-8:00pm

AUD; Limited to 150 registrants; \$25

Bill Thompson III has been birding for four decades and in that time he has had some—ummm—unusual experiences, met some unusual people, and learned a great many lessons (the hard way) about birding and human nature. In this completely new take on his wildly popular *"Perils & Pitfalls"* talk Bill tells tales of birds, birders, and the amazing things that happen when you're out there watching. As has been his standing policy, if you don't laugh at least once during this talk, Bill will clean the binoculars of everyone present.



Bill Thompson III (or BT3 as he is better known) is a lifelong birder, the co-publisher of Bird Watcher's Digest (BWD), and the author of many books on birds and nature. He's been on the editorial team of BWD since May of 1988, and during that time has watched birds in 49 U.S. states (still missing Hawaii) and more than 30 countries. Bill writes the Bill of the Birds blog and creates and hosts a podcast called "This Birding Life" which gets more than 750,000 episode downloads annually. He is the president and a founding board member of The Ohio Ornithological Society, and also serves on the board of directors for the Roger Tory Peterson Institute. He is devoted to introducing kids to nature and birding and considers his Young Birder's Guide to Birds of North America to be his proudest professional achievement. Bill lives on a farm in southeastern Ohio with his wife, Julie Zickefoose, and their two children, Phoebe and Liam. In his spare time, Bill writes music and performs with his country-rock band The Rain Crows. His favorite North American bird is the red-headed woodpecker.



Julie Zickefoose

The Bluebird Effect: Uncommon Bonds with Common Birds

Jan. 21, 7:30pm-8:30pm

TITUSVILLE PLAYHOUSE; Limited to 250 registrants; \$30

Join writer/artist Julie Zickefoose for an evening exploring the intersection of birds and spirituality in our lives. Can a bird become a demigod to some? Can certain species achieve the level of a totem or spirit guide? Are there phenomena that occur at the intersection of man and nature that cannot be explained by conventional means? These are concepts that have surfaced over a lifetime of helping broken birds and mothering those who are orphaned, and in so doing coming to know birds from the inside

Julie's Keynote Presentation is the main event of the 2015 Space Coast Birding and Wildlife Festival Opening Welcome Reception.

(See information regarding the reception on page 6).



out. A scientist at heart, Julie has lately found herself wondering more than knowing. This talk will help you keep your spirit "open to the thrust of grace," thinking about the unexplainables in your own life.

Julie Zickefoose makes her living interpreting what she finds wonderful, beautiful, fascinating, and disturbing about nature, especially the boundary where it intersects with people. Her job is to look closely, figure out what might be going on and how she feels about it all, then share what she finds. She has parlayed this job description into two well-received books: *Letters from Eden: A Year at Home, In the Woods*, and *The Bluebird Effect: Uncommon Bonds with Common Birds*. She's now at work on a third magnum opus: a book about the day-to-day development of nestling songbirds, as interpreted in words and watercolors, made directly from life.



field trips

North Brevard Hotspots Field Trip. Photo by Ray Scory



what to wear

January is typically Florida's coldest month, but temperatures can fluctuate wildly. Expect average temps to be in the 40s and 50s at night and the 60s and 70s in the daytime. Temperatures can dip into the 30s at night and never leave the 50s during the daytime after a strong cold front. Rain is very scarce in January, however, a cold front may be accompanied by a squall line. Plan to layer your clothing. It can be very cold at sunrise and then warm up nicely during the day. It could be chilly out on the water on kayak and boat trips, so dress warmly. Be sure to bring rain gear if you are going on the pelagic trip! More than likely the wind will blow and spray will fly. The Gymnatorium can be chilly too. Bring a sweater or a jacket if you are an exhibitor.

field trip tips

- A long sleeved shirt or light jacket may make your classroom experience more enjoyable – all rooms are air-conditioned.
- The field trip staging area is in front of the Gymnatorium. Bus trips will depart from that area. Carpool groups will meet there. You will be directed to your bus location by the Transportation Monitors, who will be available for each departure. Departure times are firm - arrive 15 to 20 minutes early.
- Please bring sunglasses, sunscreen, a hat, insect repellent, and rain gear (just in case). It is recommended for field trips that you wear comfortable shoes/sneakers, comfortable shirts, and long pants (protection against insects and thorns). Some field trips may require boots.
- Don't forget your camera, binoculars, or other equipment that will make your festival experience more memorable.

Festival field trips are designed to showcase the best regional wildlife sites as well as the exceptional research and preservation work being conducted in this area.

1) Please note that in order to keep the Festival as cost efficient as possible for our guests, some of the field trips will be established as car pools instead of utilizing hired transportation services.

2) Unless otherwise noted, all trips depart from the traffic circle in front of the Gymnatorium at Eastern Florida State College, Titusville Campus.

3) Due to the importance of scheduled arrivals at field trip sites, as well as schedules for the balance of the day, all vehicles will leave promptly when indicated. Please arrive 15 minutes early and board the bus at departure time.

4) Water is available.

PLEASE NOTE: Field Trips by bus are designed so that each participant may take full advantage of the trip experience as well as meeting time expectations = meeting the trip at the site is NOT allowed.

A Butterfly Excursion

Jan 24, 2pm-3:30pm; limited to 24 registrants; \$25

Meet in EFSC bus circle at 1:45 to form a carpool that utilizes as few cars as possible.

John Serrao (Naturalist, Writer & Photographer)

Join John Serrao as he identifies in the field many of the butterflies shown in his power point presentation, "The Butterflies of Central Florida". Get close-up views of swallowtails, longwings, sulphurs, and many other species that make central Florida such a great place to observe and photograph these beautiful insects. Observe a butterfly's amazing proboscis and traits that distinguish two of our largest groups – the brush-footed butterflies and the skippers.

We'll drive along Bio Lab Road, stopping at several places along the way where wildflowers attract a high diversity of butterflies.

(John Serrao received his M.S. degree with an emphasis on entomology from Cornell University and has been a professional Naturalist, writer, photographer, and tour leader for 40 years. He has written 7 books about natural history, and his photos have appeared in hundreds of magazines, textbooks, field guides, and museums. He lives in DeLand, Florida)

A Drive at Blue Heron Wetlands

Jan. 23, 7:00am-10:00am; Limited to 12 registrants; \$25

Meet at 7:00am at the south parking area of Cracker Barrel Restaurant near I-95 exit 215. Be prepared to carpool. Bring binoculars, water, cell phone, camera, light rain gear and scope if desired.

Matt & Lora Heyden (Space Coast Audubon Society) and Ric Zarwell (Rockjumper Birding Tours)

Explore the engineered wetlands of Blue Heron, an outstanding birding site and magnet for wildlife. This is a 3-mile driving adventure on the gravel road that surrounds the wetlands. Be prepared to pull completely off the road and exit your vehicle at intervals in order to gain better viewing and to use your scope American Bittern, Purple Gallinule, Limpkin, Sandhill Crane, Roseate Spoonbill, Black-crowned and Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Black-necked Stilt, Gadwall, Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Bobolink, Northern Harrier, Marsh Wren, Red Shouldered Hawk, and Gull-billed Tern are just a few of over 100 species sighted at Blue Heron. Birders may also see alligators.

A Walk at Blue Heron Wetlands

Jan. 21 & 25, 7:00am-10:00am; Limited to 12 registrants; \$25

Meet at 7:00am at the south parking area of Cracker Barrel Restaurant near I-95 exit 215. Bring binoculars, water, cell phone, camera, light rain gear and scope, if desired.

Matt & Lora Heyden (Space Coast Audubon Society); Jan. 21 with Michael O'Brien and Louise Zemaitis (VENT); Jan. 25 with Selena Kiser



Photography Field Trip. Photo by Roy Thoman



Painted Bunting, Male. Photo by Roy Halpin

Explore the engineered wetlands of Blue Heron, an outstanding birding site and magnet for wildlife. This is a 3-mile walk on the gravel road that surrounds the wetlands. The pace will be leisurely in order to fully appreciate the birds you will see. American Bittern, Purple Gallinule, Limpkin, Sandhill Crane, Roseate Spoonbill, Black-crowned and Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Black-necked Stilt, Gadwall, Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Bobolink, Northern Harrier, Marsh Wren, Red Shouldered Hawk, and Gull-billed Tern are just a few of well over 100 bird species sighted at Blue Heron. Birders may also see alligators.

Afternoon Hayride

Jan. 24, 2:00pm-5:30pm; Limited to 20 registrants; \$20

Meet at Black Point Wildlife Drive on Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge. Park on the grass along the road - make sure your car is off the road. Bring water and snacks. Dress warmly!

David Hartgrove (Florida Nature Tours), Daryl Foreman (MINWR) and Stan Howater (MINWR)

Take a slow ride through a Florida paradise around Black Point Wildlife Drive. There's no better way to view so many birds!

Animal Clues for Children

Jan. 24, 11:00am-12:30pm; Limited to 20 registrants; Free

Meet at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary: Drive south on US 1 about 8 miles to the south end of town and turn right on SR405/Columbia Blvd. Drive about ½ mile and turn into the entrance of the EFS on right Sarah Kraum (EEL Program)

Explore, tracks, scat, burrows, and more! You may not always see an animal, but you can find clues that they were once there! Learn how to find and ID these animal signs. Also make a plaster animal track to take home. This program includes a short presentation and hike. Please wear closed toed shoes, bring water, and sunscreen. For ages 7-12, adults must accompany child.

Beach Birds Intro & Field Trip

Jan. 24, 8:30am-5:00pm (Intro 119, 8:30am-9:45am, Field Trip 10:00am-5:00pm); Limited to 32 registrants; \$45

After classroom intro at EFSC drive to Smyrna Dunes Park for field trip.

Directions to Smyrna Dunes Park: From EFSC turn right onto US 1 and travel north for about 32 miles. In the town of New Smyrna Beach, take a right on Washington Street - its name will change to North Causeway after about 1/2 mile. Continue east on Washington Street/North Causeway for about 2 miles. Just after you cross the big bridge, take your first left onto N. Peninsula Ave and follow it for a couple of miles until it dead ends at Smyrna Dunes Park. Please eat lunch or pick something up to eat at the park. No food will be provided. Bring water.

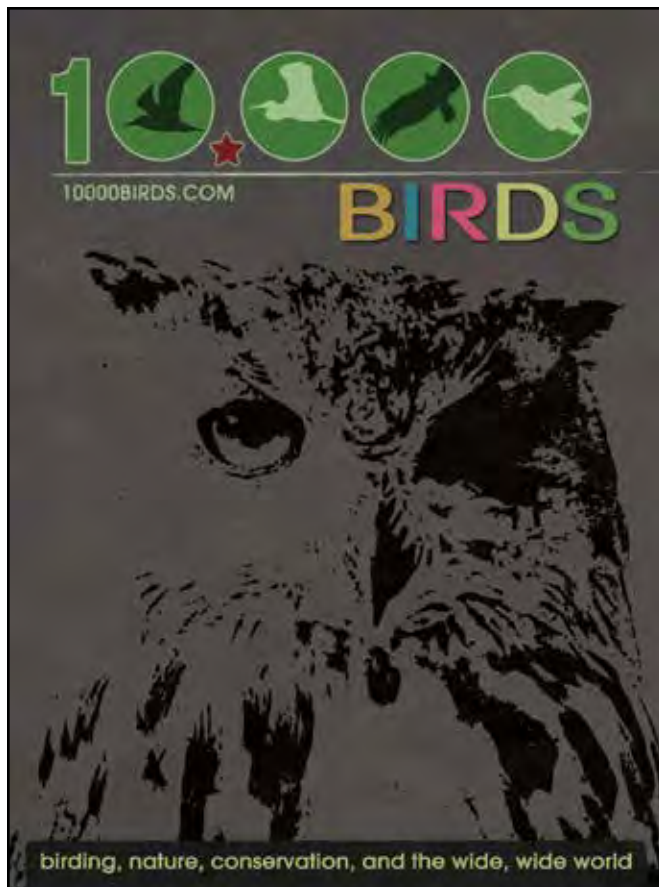
Adam Kent (Florida Ornithological Society) with Michael Brothers (Marine Science Center), Gina Kent (Avian Research & Conservation Network), Amar Ayyash (North American Gulls) and Sarah Linney (Space Coast Audubon Society)

NOTE: Bring cash for the entrance fee (\$5.00 per car, up to 8 people).

What's the difference between a tern and a gull, or a sandpiper and a plover? Where does the Willet fit in? Explore their variations and sort through some of the subtleties of their shapes and behaviors in this look at these fascinating beach birds. You see them all the time - running from the surf, perched on pilings and soaring over the water. If you think they are nondescript grayish variations on the same theme, you are only partially correct. Have fun learning identification and natural history of the common but often difficult-to-identify birds found on Florida's beaches in the winter. The session begins near low tide. Participants will take a pontoon boat shuttle to the Disappearing Island sandbar for a close look at the numerous shorebirds, pelicans, cormorants, and up to 15 species of gulls, terns, and skimmers that gather there. Falling tide is the best time to visit Disappearing Island. After spending some time at the island, participants will return to the park when birds are concentrated along the shore near high tide, allowing for close observation and identification practice. The leaders will work closely with participants to demonstrate the process of determining age and separation of difficult gull plumages. This spectacular beachside park offers panoramic views of the ocean, inlet and estuary as well as the opportunity to get close looks at gulls, terns and jaegers. There is always a possibility of finding rarities such as a Glaucous or Iceland Gull. Twenty species of shorebirds are probable here, including American Oystercatchers, Piping and Wilson's Plovers, Purple Sandpipers and Red Knots.

Beginning Birding Intro & Field Trip

Jan. 22, 8:00am-12:00pm; Limited to 40 registrants; Free



Jan. 24, 11:30pm-4:00pm; Limited to 40 registrants; Free

Meet at Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center. Intro is followed by a field trip by carpool to Black Point Wildlife Drive.

Nancy Corona (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service), Sandy Walters (MIWA), Carey Salter and Betty Salter

Birding is far more than a hobby. It is an open door to the world of nature, a touch point that connects people to the outdoors. Birding inevitably leads to a discovery of turtles, butterflies, wildflowers and all the interconnections of nature. In an informative talk, Nancy will cover field guides and other literature. She will provide helpful hints for beginners on where to find birds and how to identify them, pointing out interesting behaviors, typical silhouettes and identification tricks of the birding trade. Cary will give an overview of optical equipment and how to properly use it. A free field trip to Black Point Wildlife Drive will follow the classroom session so you can get right out in the field and put your new knowledge to work.

Beginning Bird Walk at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary

Jan. 24, 8:00am-10:00am; Limited to 20 registrants; Free

Meet at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary: Drive south on US 1 about 8 miles to the south end of town and turn right on SR405/Columbia Blvd. Drive about ½ mile and turn into the entrance of the EFS on right.

Joe Swingle (EELS Program) with Steve Swingle.

Birdwatching is one of North America's fastest growing recreational sports - but did you know that a majority of people who enjoy birdwatching are beginners? This program is for anyone age eight to adult who considers him or herself a 'hatchling' birdwatcher. We will begin with a brief indoor presentation, introducing a few easy birding techniques. Next, we'll leave the 'nest' and head outside for some binocular skills practice (bring yours or use ours). Then take your new skills for a test flight as we hike for 45 minutes on the trails in search

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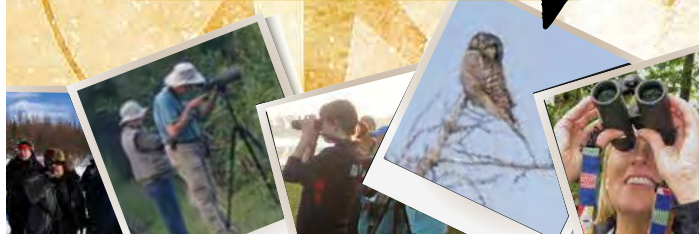
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of a few birds in the EFS.

Birding by Impression with Kevin Karlson and Mariel & Angel Abreu

Jan. 25, 8:00am-12:00pm; Limited to 15 registrants; \$40

Kevin Karlson (Kevin T. Karlson Photography) and Mariel & Angel Abreu

Meet to form a carpool at the Gym north exit just past the restrooms. For this walk, wear comfortable closed toed shoes and bring water. Join Kevin and special guest leaders Angel and Mariel Abreu for a relaxed birding experience to one of the week's most productive birding locations within a half hour drive of the College. Kevin will choose the location and we will car pool to our birding destination, where the leaders will share a different approach to birding as highlighted in Kevin's upcoming book in the Roger Tory Peterson Reference Series called *Birding by Impression: A Different Approach to Knowing and Identifying Birds*. This trip will only accept up to 15 participants so that you can get to know the leaders and share a different approach to bird ID that concentrates initially on unchangeable physical features and typical movements of each bird species.

Birds of a Feather Hike

Jan. 24, 8:00am-11:00am; Limited to 15 participants; \$10

Christin Pruett, PhD (Ornithologist, Florida Institute of Technology)

Meet at the Maritime Hammock Trailhead at 6200 South A1A in Melbourne Beach. This is at the Maritime Hammock Sanctuary which is in the Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge.

Directions: Take US 1 south to Garden Street and turn right and go about 2.8 miles. Take I-95 south for about 39 miles to the SR192 exit in Melbourne. Go left (east) over the Melbourne Causeway to US A1A. Turn right (south) and drive for about 10 miles to the Trailhead sign on your right.

This trip will begin with a 2.5 mile hike in the Maritime Hammock Sanctuary, followed by a tour of the nearby Barrier Island Center. Explore the barrier island's disappearing treasure on this visit to the magical maritime forest. Look for birds of prey in sprawling live oaks and listen for song-birds calling from the canopy. Wear closed toe shoes, bring sunscreen, water, a snack and insect repellent.



Black Rails. Photo by Mike Legare

Black Rails at the St. Johns NWR

Jan. 22, 23 & 25, 4:00pm-7:00pm; Limited to 24 registrants; \$35

Jan. 22 with Mike Legare (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service) and Dave Goodwin (Florida Ornithology Society); Jan. 23 with Mike Legare (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service) and Corey Finger (10,000 Birds); Jan. 25 with Mike Legare (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service) and Mitchell Harris (Florida Ornithology Society)

Meet in EFSC bus circle at 3:45pm to create a carpool that utilizes as few cars as possible.

Dress warmly - it will be chilly on the marsh. Bring Water and wear old closed-toed shoes – your feet will get wet.

Join Mike Legare, US Fish & Wildlife Service Lead Biologist at MINWR, on a sunset hayride through the pristine salt marsh habitat of the restricted St. Johns National Wildlife Refuge. At various stops through the marsh, Mike will talk about Black Rails, their secretive habits, salt marsh habitat and the research he conducted on these elusive marsh birds at this site. The marshes of the St. Johns River west and northwest of Titusville are the only marshes along the St. Johns where Black Rails are found within the river's floodplains. That's because saline water seeps to the surface from a layer of salty water that lies above the Florida aquifer in this area, creating marine type habitats in the midst of a huge freshwater floodplain. These biological islands are home to the same vegetation that you will find in the salt marshes of the Merritt Island NWR. As the sun sets on the marsh horizon, Mike will stop at different places and play tapes to try to entice Black Rails to call. The elusive Black Rail has become a much sought life bird.

Building Birding Skills

Jan. 23, 6:30am-12:30pm; Limited to 20 registrants; \$40

Meet at the EFSC bus circle to arrange carpool.

Michael O'Brien (VENT) and Louise Zemaitis (VENT)

Becoming an accomplished birder involves an array of skills from recognizing birds by sight and sound to learning patterns in bird distribution related to geography, season, and habitat. This walk will delve into all of these, and will focus simply on patient field observation and building birding skills.

Central Florida Specialties

Jan. 23 & 25, 5:00am-4:00pm; Limited to 26 registrants; \$80

Meet at EFSC bus circle to board bus. Price includes lunch at Forever Florida Wilderness Preserve.

Jan. 23 with David Simpson (Birding with David Simpson), Dave Goodwin (Florida Nature Tours) and Elsa Alvear (Biscayne National Park); Jan. 25 with Bill Thompson III (Editor, Birdwatchers Digest) and Dave Goodwin (Florida Nature Tours)

This tour will start at Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area in the early morning hours to try to catch a glimpse of Red-cockaded Woodpeckers. Other pineland species expected at Three Lakes include Bachman's Sparrow, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Pine Warbler and Eastern Bluebird. White-tailed Kite is a possibility. Next stop is Overstreet Landing on Lake Kissimmee to look for Whooping Cranes that have been reintroduced to the Kissimmee River prairie. The extensive wetland and prairie complexes of Central Florida host a variety of wading and waterbirds including almost all of Florida's herons and egrets; Least and American Bittern, Glossy and White Ibis, Wood Stork; Limpkin, King Rail, Anhinga, grebes, shorebirds and various ducks, as well as, a unique suite of birds that includes the Sandhill Crane, Crested Caracara, Burrowing Owl, Mottled Duck and Grasshopper Sparrow. Overstreet Landing is a good place to look for Snail Kite, Bald Eagle and various raptors, Mottled Duck and other waterfowl; Longbilled Dowitcher, Purple Gallinule and Limpkin. Crested Caracara, Eastern Bluebird, American Kestrel, Sandhill Crane and Wild Turkey may be seen along the road. After lunch, a trip to Lake Lizzie Park will hopefully produce Red-headed Woodpecker and Florida Scrub-Jay. If time allows, other sites to be visited include Whaley's Landing, Cypress Lake and Lake Kissimmee.

Dicerandra Scrub Sanctuary Walk

Jan. 22, 9:00am-12:00pm; Limited to 24 registrants; Free

Meet at Dicerandra Scrub Sanctuary entrance: From Exit 215 on I-95 take SR50 east 3 miles. Turn right on Key Largo Dr. Go 0.4 miles and turn right on Karen Dr. Go less than 0.1 mile, turn right and go to the end of Melissa Dr. Enter on foot.

From US 1 go west 0.7 miles on SR50. Turn left on Key Largo Dr. Wear comfortable closed-toed shoes. Bring water.

Jay Barnhart and Jim Stahl (Florida Native Plant Society and Friends of the Enchanted Forest)

Join avid mushroom hobbyist Jay and retired biologist Jim for a walk through the beautiful scrub of real Florida. This Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands (EELs) property consists mostly of scrubby flatwoods and a large depression marsh. It is adjacent to the Titusville Wellfield, which also supports scrub, extending the protection area and enhancing the Sanctuary. Protected plant and wildlife species documented on site include Florida Scrub-Jay, Eastern Indigo Snake, Gopher Tortoise and Dicerandra thincicola, a rare scrub mint known only to occur in the northern region of Brevard County.

eBird Field Trip - Ritch Grissom Memorial Wetlands at Viera

Jan. 23, 6:30am-11:30am; Limited to 26 registrants; \$55

Meet at EFSC bus circle to board bus.

Jason Guerard (Tampa Audubon Society)

Note: Wear closed-toe comfortable walking shoes. You may want to register for the companion classroom presentation, also on Jan. 23rd. eBird has grown in popularity in recent years due to its ever continuing ease of use for birders of all skill levels. The advantageous part of the eBird database is that it allows the user to engage at whatever extent desired. No other database at the birder's disposal allows us to use the hobby we enjoy so much to help make such a significant impact to science and conservation by simply watching and counting birds. But, there are considerations to be made before heading in to the field to count birds for entry into eBird. We will explore Ritch Grissom Memorial Wetlands at Viera in effort to build a list of observations that will be used in the classroom portion, where the data entry and submission process will be discussed. During the trip we will discuss the three major observation/protocol types, when to choose which and effort levels that eBird asks the user to record, how to approach counting birds in the field and why it is important to actually count and "record all species". We will discuss list-keeping phone applications that aid



Photo by DeeAnn Keisel

in keeping your list as accurate as possible. Most importantly, as eBird states it, learn how to make your "checklist more meaningful".

Floodplains & Hammocks at Lake Monroe Conservation Area

Jan. 21, 6:00am-12:00pm; Limited to 26 registrants; \$25

Meet in EFSC bus circle at 6:00am to make carpool arrangements. This is a 4-mile walk, some of which may pass through mud and standing water. Dress accordingly and bring water. Water-friendly footwear would be a good idea.

Maria Zondervan (St. Johns River Water Management District), Sarah Linney (Space Coast Audubon), Lorne Malo (Department of Environmental Protection) and Ric Zarwell (Rockjumper Birding Tours)

This conservation area contains 90% of the floodplain of Lake Monroe and covers more than three miles of St. Johns River and Lake Monroe shoreline. Wetlands make up 94% of the conservation area. The fields, marshes, hammocks, flatwoods and scrub at this site are good for marsh birds, warblers and sparrows. Numerous wading birds and raptors are expected along with deer and alligators. Wild Turkey, Florida Scrub-Jay, Bachman's, Vesper and Grasshopper Sparrows, American Bittern, Wood Stork, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Bald Eagle, Cooper's Hawk, Crested Caracara, Virginia Rail, Limpkin and Sandhill Crane have all been recorded here. Please be advised that this hike is rather vigorous, due to uneven terrain, often high temperatures, and the pace required between birding stops to cover 4 miles in 4 hours.

Florida Scrub-Jay & Scrub Fire Ecology

Jan. 23 & 24, 8:00am-12:30pm; Limited to 40 registrants; Free

Meet at Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge Center. Intro followed by field trip. Bring water.

David Breininger, PhD and Paul Schmalzer, PhD (IHA)

Pre-registration is a must! Because of security requirements at Kennedy Space Center, we are restricted to offering this trip to US citizens only. All person's registering to attend this event must provide a valid driver's license at the time of registration.

The Florida Scrub-Jay, fascinating from both biological and conservation perspectives, is the only avian species restricted entirely to Florida. Endemic to the scrub habitats of peninsular Florida, Florida Scrub-Jays exhibit a suite of remarkable adaptations. Florida's desert-like prehistoric sand ridges are home to wondrous animals such as Gopher Tortoises, Eastern Indigo Snakes, scrub lizards, Crested Caracara, Burrowing Owl, and the Florida Scrub-Jay. Seminar followed by free NASA bus trip into restricted areas of Kennedy Space Center to see Florida Scrub-Jay families. We will focus on the Florida Scrub-Jay, its habitat use, demography and sociobiology in different types of habitat with an emphasis on fire ecology. Dave Breininger is a wildlife ecologist and Paul Schmalzer is a plant ecologist for IHA at the Kennedy Space Center.



SB Dowitcher. Photo by Roy Halpin



Florida Scrub Jay. Photo by DeeAnn Keisel

Florida Scrub-Jays at Cruickshank Sanctuary

Jan. 22 & 25, 8:30am-10:30am; Limited to 20 registrants; \$30

Meet at the Helen & Alan Cruickshank Sanctuary. From US 1 in Rockledge, go west on Barnes Blvd. and travel for 0.4 miles. Look for sign and entrance gate on right. From I-95 take Fiske Blvd. Exit-195. At off ramp light, head east on Barnes Blvd. and travel 2.2 miles to entrance on left.

Vince Lamb (Preserve Brevard); Jan. 22 with Carlos Betancourt (Canopy Towers); Jan. 25 with Julie Zickefoose (Author)

The Helen & Alan Cruickshank Sanctuary in Rockledge is considered one of the best local places to observe Florida Scrub-Jays, a threatened species that is Florida's only endemic bird. When the land meets their needs, Florida Scrub-Jays will spend their entire lives on the same lands. The Cruickshank Sanctuary is located on the Atlantic Coastal Ridge, an ancient beach that extends along the Florida mainland from Jacksonville to Miami. Since the Environmentally Endangered Lands (EELs) Program started performing land management at this 140 acre sanctuary, the Florida Scrub-Jay population has increased from just a few visitors to approximately 30 birds today. Gopher Tortoises, Red-bellied Woodpeckers, scrub lizards and other species that favor scrub habitat are likely to be observed. Please come prepared to hike approximately two miles mostly on sandy trails at a slow pace.

Forest Biodiversity Hike

Jan. 24, 9:00am-11:00am; Limited to 15 registrants; Free

Meet at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary: Drive south on US 1 about 8 miles to the south end of town and turn right on SR405/Columbia Blvd. Drive about 1/2 mile and turn into the entrance of the EFS on the right. Bring water, binoculars and camera.

Elaine Williams, Bill Thompson III (Editor, Birdwatchers Digest) and Sharon Bohlmann (Friends of the Enchanted Forest)

A unique insight into Florida's geological structure will be viewed as we stand atop the Ancient Atlantic Coastal Ridge. Historic use of the land by humans will be discussed, including current conservation practices. Interactive educational activities will draw families and friends together while enjoying the beauty of the Enchanted Forest. Employ all your senses as we discover activities of animal life through observation and investigation of tracks and scat, sounds and scents. Encounter biodiversity and beauty while hiking along trails through three distinct habitats within the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary. Attributes of the forest flora and fauna will be discussed in relation to the land, building an appreciation of adaptation and nature's design. This will be an easy hike and family friendly.

Fox Lake Guided Hike

Jan. 23, 9:00am-11:00am; Limited to 15 registrants; \$10

Meet at the entrance to Fox Lake Park, 4400 Fox Lake Road, Titusville

Xavier de Seguin des Hons (EELs North Region Land Manager) and Selena Kiser (Great Florida Birding & Wildlife Trail).

Directions: Go south on US 1 about 2.4 miles into downtown Titusville. Turn right onto South Street and drive for about 3 1/4 miles. Turn right on Fox Lake Road and follow to the end at Fox Lake Park.

A 2-mile hike of the Fox Lake Sanctuary, the trail will provide views of both Fox and South Lakes and a chance to see some wading birds. The hike will also be focusing on the recent effort by the EEL Program to restore scrub habitat on the Sanctuary. Also, learn about the site's latest archeological discoveries from Archeologist, Tom Penders. Wear closed toe shoes and bring bug spray, sunscreen and water.

Gull Fly-In at Daytona Beach Shores

Jan. 22 & 23, 3:30pm-6:00pm; Limited to 40 registrants; \$40

Meet at Frank Rendon Park: North on I-95 to Exit 256. Merge on SR421 toward Port Orange and follow Atlantic Ave. to A1A. Turn left on A1A for approx. 3 miles to Frank Rendon Park on your right, immediately south of the Daytona Shores Resort on A1A. Free parking is available. Meet in the parking lot near the beach to begin the field trip. Drive time approx. 50 minutes.

Michael Brothers (Marine Science Center), Amar Ayyash (Author) and Steve Ritt (Naturalist)

This beach at Daytona Beach Shores hosts what may be the largest congregation of gulls on any beach in the United States. In addition to the amazing array and density of gulls is the fact that the birds allow such close approach. No need to peer through a scope at a distant speck. Here the birds allow you walk right up to them. This presents an extraordinary opportunity to observe and photograph the minute details on each species, and a chance to compare the various plumages and age classes. This extraordinary concentration builds to possibly as many as 30,000 gulls each evening. This beach has consistently turned up gull species that are rare in Florida, including the only record of Vega Gull in Florida. Laughing, Franklin, Ring-billed, Herring, Bonaparte's; Lesser Black-backed, Great Black-backed, Glaucous, Iceland, Thayer's, and California Gulls have all been recorded. In addition, possible European Herring Gull, Yellow-legged Gulls and even a possible Slaty-backed Gull have appeared in the last two years. In addition to the gulls, this beach is the best location in Florida to regularly see jaegers from shore. Each evening the gulls leave the beach and settle on the



Gull Fly in at Daytona Beach Shores.

ocean just beyond the breakers. Jaegers regularly patrol these huge groups, harassing the gulls. Virtually every night Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers can be seen from the beach.

Historic Pritchard House & Family History Gardens Tour

Jan. 22 & 23, 2:30pm-4:30pm; Limited to 25 registrants; \$20

Meet at the Pritchard House. Drive south on US 1 2.4 miles. Turn left into parking lot, just past Julia St., across from Emma Parrish Theater.

Roz Foster and the North Brevard Heritage Foundation

In 1876 Captain James Pritchard and his family settled on the Delespine Grant located south of Titusville, where they grew sugar cane and citrus. They moved to Titusville after their crops were destroyed by the 1885-86 freeze. Capt. Pritchard was one of the first real estate agents in Titusville, organized Titusville's first bank in 1888 - the Indian River State Bank, and built Titusville's first electric generating plant in 1890. In June of 1891 construction began on the Queen Anne style house located at 424 S. Washington Ave. and the Pritchard family moved in the following October. The house was placed on the National Register in 1990. Family members continuously occupied the house until it was purchased by Brevard County for historic preservation in 2005. Docents in period dress will conduct tours of the house museum that includes vintage furnishings and collections and the Family History Gardens.

Historic Sites of Canaveral National Seashore

Jan. 23, 8:30am-5:00pm; Limited to 26 registrants; \$55

Meet at EFSC bus circle to board bus. Bring money for lunch at J.B.'s Fish Camp on Mosquito Lagoon.

Rachel Wentz (Florida Public Archaeology Network and Archaic Adventures) and David Hartgrove (Florida Nature Tours)

When European explorers touched the shores of the New World in the late 15th century, the northern areas of the Space Coast had been inhabited for thousands of years by indigenous peoples who were called the Timucua. They left behind a wealth of archaeological sites and resources, many of which have yet to be discovered. Among these resources are some of the largest and most extensive prehistoric shell mounds in the nation. Many were so high they were used as major navigational landmarks during early colonial times. More than 100 pre-Columbian mounds lie within the boundaries of Canaveral National Seashore. This field trip visits three of them and the El Dora Statehouse. One of the oldest archaeological sites in Florida, Seminole Rest is a 4,000-year-old Timucuan shell midden located on the Oak Hill waterfront. Named for its resemblance to a giant turtle and used as a navigational aid for centuries, Turtle Mound shows up on Spanish maps as early as the 16th century. A climb to the top reveals a scenic panorama of ocean, estuary and beaches. Castle Windy is a smaller mound that lies in the shadows of thick coastal maritime hammock



Red-cockaded Woodpecker. Photographer Roy Thoman



Rosette Spoonbills. Photo by Ray Scory

right along the edge of Mosquito Lagoon. Birding can sometimes be quite good along the trails to and on the mounds as middens provide resting space and feeding areas for Neotropical migratory songbirds. The El Dora Statehouse is a restored 1800s pioneer home that stands as the last remnant of an old Florida waterway community. This is a great trip combining historical sights and coastal birds.

Malabar Scrub Hiking Tour

Jan. 22, 8:00am-10:00am; Limited to 24 registrants; \$10

Meet at the Malabar Scrub Sanctuary, 1501 Malabar Woods Blvd., Malabar, Florida

Take US 1 south to Garden Street and turn right. Take I-95 south for about 47 miles to the Malabar Road exit. Turn left on Malabar Road and go about 2.9 miles. Turn left into Malabar Community Park. Meet at the parking area by the bathrooms.

Chris O'Hara (South Management Region Land Manager)

This is a two mile hike through the scrub, pine flatwoods and wetlands areas of the Sanctuary. Focus will be onsite restoration efforts for the Florida Scrub Jay. Wear closed toe shoes, bring water and sunscreen.

Marl Bed Flats - Lake Jesup CA

Jan. 21, 22 & 25, 6:00am-12:00pm; Limited to 26 registrants; \$25

Meet in EFSC bus circle to make carpool arrangements. Bring water. Be prepared to walk 2-3 miles, some of which may be through mud and standing water. It can sometimes be wet in areas, so rubber boots are recommended as well as insect repellent. It is also a fairly lengthy walk so water and trail snacks are advised.

Tom Dunkerton (Nikon, Inc); Jan. 21 with Carlos Bethancourt (Canopy Tower Family); Jan. 22 with Chip Clouse (Novagrade USA); Jan. 25 with Corey Finger (10,000 Birds)

Come join us for a hike that is sure to hold surprises. The Marl Bed Tract is a large hammock that lets out onto a pasture/wet prairie presenting us with an excellent diversity of habitat providing potential for an amazing array of Florida's native wildlife. The hammock is home to Great Horned and Barred Owls as well as wintering migrants such as Yellow-throated, Black & White and Orange-crowned Warblers, Northern Parulas, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, Blue-headed Vireos, Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers and more. As we exit the hammock, we will walk out onto the floodplains of Lake Jessup. The marsh vegetation and surrounding pastures can be filled with many surprises like Henslow's, LeConte's and Lincoln Sparrows, a male Vermillion Flycatcher, and American Woodcock. Countless Eastern Meadowlarks in addition to Savannah Sparrows, American Pipits; Least Sandpipers and other shorebirds can be encountered here while Bald Eagles, Northern Harriers, Peregrine Falcons and other raptors patrol the skies above us. This is sure to be an adventurous morning hike for any skill level of birding.

MINWR's Winter Sparrow Walk

Jan. 22, 6:30am-11:30am; Limited to 12 registrants; \$30

Meet at Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center.

Adam Kent (Florida Ornithological Society) and Mitchell Harris (Florida Ornithological Society)

Please wear comfortable closed-toed shoes and be prepared for occasional wet walking areas. Bring water.

Learn to be a sparrow sleuth. Join us in search of the sparrows that winter on MINWR. Sparrow expert Adam and local birder Mitchell will lead this walk pointing out what clues to look for when trying to identify this perplexing group of birds. MINWR typically gets a nice diversity of wintering sparrows and on this morning sparrow walk we plan to search for both the marsh sparrows and upland sparrows. We'll start the morning out in the marshes and with luck should be able to find Swamp, Saltmarsh and Nelson's Sparrow. We should also find both Marsh and Sedge Wren. The sparrow possibilities of the upland sites include: Savannah, Chipping, Grasshopper, Song and White-crowned Sparrow. Other sparrows that have been found at these sites in the past several winters include: Field, White-throated, Clay-colored, Vesper, Lincoln's and LeConte's Sparrow. We should have plenty of time to ask questions and learn Mitchell's and Adam's sparrow secrets.

Mythology of Birds for Children

Jan. 24, 2:00pm-3:00pm; Limited to 15 registrants; Free

Meet at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary: Drive south on US 1 about 8 miles to the south end of town and turn right on SR405/Columbia Blvd. Drive about ½ mile and turn into the entrance of the EFS on right Sarah Kraum (Naturalist, Brevard County EELS Program)

Soar into the world of bird lore through hands-on activities. Learn about how ancient cultures revered and infused birds into their societies. For ages 7-12, adults must accompany child.

Night Tour of Fox Lake Sanctuary

Jan. 22, 6:30pm-9:00pm; Limited to 20 registrants; \$10

Meet at the entrance to Fox Lake Park, 4400 Fox Lake Road, Titusville Xavier de Seguin des Hons (North Region Land Manager) and Mike Knight (EELS Program Manager)

Directions: Go south on US 1 about 2.4 miles into downtown Titusville. Turn right onto South Street and drive for about 3 1/4 miles. Turn right on Fox Lake Road and follow to the end at Fox Lake Park.



Female Belted Kingfisher. Photo by Joel Reynolds



Coots. Photo by Tom Dunkerton

This is an after dark driving tour of the nature sanctuary. Visitors will ride on a trailer with bench seating. Some limited seating is also available in 4x4 vehicles. The trip will include a 1/2 mile hike with owl calling experience. Wear closed toe shoes and bring insect repellent, water and a flashlight.

Nocturnal Nature Hike

Jan. 23, 6:30pm-8:30pm; Limited 20 registrants; Free

Meet at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary.

Joe Swingle and Sarah Kraum, (Naturalists, Brevard Co. EELs Program)

Meet at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary: Drive south on US 1 about 8 miles to the south end of town and turn right on SR405/Columbia Blvd. Drive about 1/2 mile and turn into the entrance of the EFS on the right. Bring water and wear comfortable closed toe shoes.

Whoooo... is ready for a nocturnal adventure at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary? Join Naturalists on a night of discovery and exploration. Please wear closed-toe shoes and bring water, bug spray and flashlight.

North Brevard Hotspots

Jan. 21, 22, 23, & 24, 6:30am-2:00pm; Limited to 26 registrants; \$55

Meet at EFSC bus circle to board bus. This trip requires moderate walking. Wear comfortable closed-toed shoes. Bring lunch money for Dixie Crossroads.

Doug Stuckey; Jan. 21 with Selina Kiser (Great Florida Birding and Wildlife Trail); Jan. 22 with Elsa Alvear (Biscayne National Park) and Jeff Bouton (Leica Sport Optics); Jan. 23 with Chuck Hagner (Editor, Birdwatching Magazine) and Sarah Linney (Space Coast Audubon); Jan. 24 with Jason Guerard (Florida Ornithological Society).

Hop on the bus for a trip through the pines and palmettos of North Brevard's scrublands and wetlands to learn about some of our favorite, not so famous hotspots. Northern Brevard County has much to offer in well-known birding sites like Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge and Canaveral National Seashore. We also have productive, yet lesser-known areas, Seminole Ranch, Hatbill Park, Buck Lake, Salt Lake, Hammock Road and others. Along with the usual wading birds, shorebirds and waterfowl, various woodpeckers, Painted Bunting, Loggerhead Shrike, Limpkin, Roseate Spoonbill, Reddish Egret, Bald Eagle, Wood Stork, Florida Scrub-Jay and Sandhill Crane are possible. This trip has counted approximately 108 species previously. Specific sites to be visited will be determined during pre-festival scouting trips. Our trip will resume after lunch.

Pish-Free Birding

Jan. 25, 7:00am-10:00am; Limited to 12 registrants; \$25

Meet at MINWR Oak & Palm Hammock parking lot, just past the MINWR Visitor's Center on the left.

Dee and David Simpson (Birding with David Simpson)

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Picture yourself sitting at home in the kitchen. You are just about to sit down with a PB&J and a nice cold glass of milk, when suddenly you hear a voice yelling, "WHAT'S THAT? WHAT'S THAT? WHAT'S THAT?" You get up, look around, and there is no one there. After a while you calm down and go back to eating a now soggy sandwich and warm milk. This doesn't sound like a fun time now does it? This is basically what you are doing when you pish for birds - you are interrupting their daily business by making a warning call. Join us for a quiet, polite birding field trip where we will look and listen for birds on their terms, not ours. Pishing, tapes and calls are NOT allowed on this field trip.

Plants & Their Uses through History from Ancient to Modern Times

Jan. 24, 12:00pm-2:30pm; Limited to 20 registrants; Free

Meet at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary. Drive south on US 1 about 8 miles to the south end of town and turn right on SR405/Columbia Blvd. Drive about ½ mile and turn into the entrance of the EFS on the right. Wear comfortable, closed-toed shoes and bring water.

Jay Barnhart and Jim Stahl (Florida Native Plant Society and Friends of the Enchanted Forest)

Titusville's 470-acre Enchanted Forest Sanctuary is the flagship property for the Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program. Preserving a significant sample of the original natural communities, the incredible diversity found throughout the Sanctuary's varied habitats include xeric oak scrub, mature hardwood forests, wetlands and pine flatwoods. In one of the few places in Central Florida where subtropical and temperate plant species are found together, visitors can also see the exposed layers of coquina rock that form the Atlantic Coastal Ridge. Your interpreters for this session will be trail guide volunteer and avid mushroom hobbyist Jay Barnhart and retired land manager and biologist Jim Stahl. Your leisurely guided walk will begin on the well-named Biodiversity Loop Trail, which passes through dry scrub areas as it gently ascends to the sandy, higher elevation known as the Atlantic Coastal Ridge. From there it descends to humid wetlands and across a boardwalk that passes over a swampy ecosystem where the black topsoil is known as Tomoka muck. This will bring us to the beginning of the Magnolia Loop Trail, where we will continue under a dense mature forest canopy of impressively large southern magnolias and stately old oak trees. Traveling these diverse ecosystems will hopefully introduce you to many of our treasured Enchanted Forest Sanctuary plants as we provide some interesting

stories associated with them.

Red-cockaded Woodpeckers & More at Hal Scott Regional Preserve & Park

Jan. 24, 5:15am-11:00am; Limited to 26 registrants; \$50

Meet at EFSC bus circle to board bus. Portions of the site may require crossing mud and standing water, so be prepared for a wet and wild adventure! Water-friendly footwear would be a good idea.

Maria Zondervan and Lorne Malo (Department of Environmental Protection)

Join St. Johns River Water Management District biologists Maria Zondervan and Lorne Malo at the Hal Scott Regional Preserve and Park for an exciting half-day adventure in pursuit of some of east Orange County's resident birds. We will start out by visiting an active Red-cockaded Woodpecker colony as the birds awaken from their roost. From there we will explore the pine flatwoods, wet prairies, and the Econlockhatchee River swamp in search of such common inhabitants as the Eastern Bluebird, Eastern Meadowlark, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Bachman's Sparrow, Wood Duck, Sandhill Crane, Bald Eagle, and Barred Owl. With some luck we may find Wild Turkey, Hairy Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Hermit Thrush, Orange-crowned Warbler, Sedge Wren, Sharp-shinned Hawk, and Cooper's Hawk. In addition to many bird species, Gopher Tortoises, White-tailed Deer, and River Otters can also be found.

Reptiles of the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary

Jan. 21, 9:00am-11:00am; Limited to 20 registrants; Free

Joe Swingle (Naturalist, Brevard Co. EELs Program), and Becky Bolt, (Senior Biologist, IHA)

Meet at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary: Drive south on US 1 about 8 miles to the south end of town and turn right on SR405/Columbia Blvd. Drive about 1/2 mile and turn into the entrance of the EFS on the right. Bring water and wear comfortable closed toe shoes.

Discover gopher tortoises, snakes, and other reptiles that make call the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary home. This program includes a hands-on presentation on reptile biology and a short hike to view reptiles and their habitats. Participants will also get the opportunity to meet the nature center's resident red rat snake.

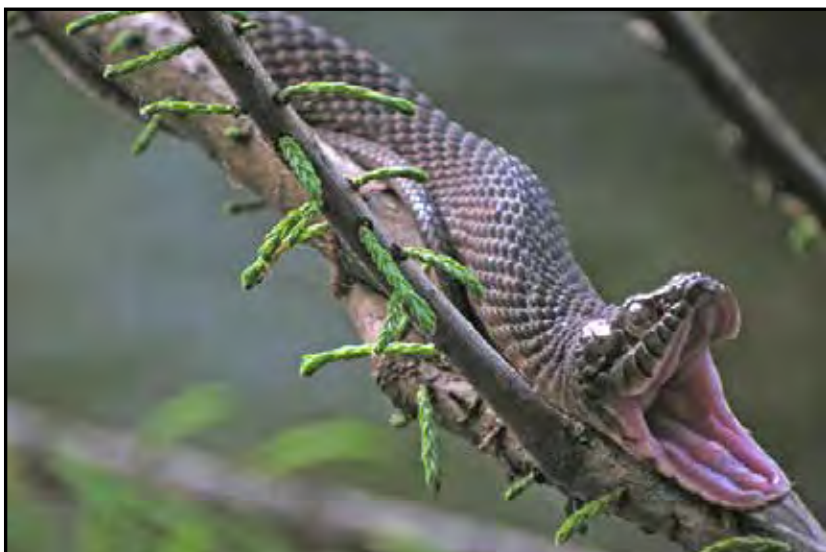
Ritch Grissom Memorial Wetlands at Viera

Jan. 21, 22, & 25, 6:00am-12:00pm; Limited to 26 registrants; \$50

Meet at EFSC bus circle to board bus.

Jan 21: Dan Click (Merritt Island Wildlife Association) with Corey Finger (10,000 Birds); Jan. 22: Michael O'Brien and Louise Zemaitis (VENT) with Sarah Linney (Space Coast Audubon); Jan. 25: Carlos Bethancourt (Canopy Tower Family), with Elsa Alvear (Biscayne National Park)

Viera Wetlands is a series of connected ponds created to treat wastewater from the Central Brevard area. Since opening in 2001, this site has rapidly gained recognition as a premier destination within Brevard County for birders, wildlife watchers and photographers. During fall and winter, a remarkable diversity of bird species uses these wetlands and nearby prairie hammocks and cabbage palm savannahs. An active Bald Eagle nest is visible from the dike road, two families of Crested Caracaras maintain territories around the wetlands, and Black-bellied Whistling Ducks are regularly seen. Thousands of wintering ducks concentrate here, including Green-winged and Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Mottled Duck, Hooded and Red-breasted Merganser, Lesser Scaup, Ring-necked Duck, Northern Pintail, Bufflehead and Ruddy



Banded Water Snake. Photo by Roy Halpin

Duck. Ponds on the north side of the complex are productive for shorebirds when water levels are low, especially during migration. Since opening in 2000, Viera Wetlands has been visited by several rarities, including the first North American record of Mangrove Swallow.

Salt Lake WMA/Seminole Ranch Conservation Area

Jan. 23 & 24, 6:45am-11:30am; Limited to 30 registrants; Free

Meet at Salt Lake WMA, 1590 Arch Rd., Mims. From the intersection of US 1 and SR46, drive west on SR46 for 2.3 miles. Turn left onto Turpentine Rd. Go south on Turpentine Rd. It turns to dirt near the end. Follow the dirt road around the right curve where Turpentine Rd. turns into Panther Lane. Take Panther Lane straight past the stop sign at Tomato Farm Rd. Panther Lane curves to the left and becomes Arch Rd., which ends at a gate just past a ditch. This is the gate into Salt Lake WMA. This adventure will utilize trailers pulled by 4-wheel drive trucks. Participants will sit on hay bales. Portions of the properties may be wet and muddy. Wear closed-toe comfortable walking shoes. It may be cold. Please dress appropriately. Bring water and snacks. There is one port-o-let facility located at the Salt Lake WMA main entrance. No restroom facilities are available during the trip.

Dave Turner and Bryan Ames (FWC); Jan. 23 with Chip Clouse (Nova-grade USA); Jan. 24 with Fritz Davis (Florida State University)

Home to a diverse range of natural communities, pine flatwoods, hardwood hammocks and oak scrub occupy higher ground. Wetter locales include oak/cabbage palm hammocks, swamps, freshwater marshes, wet prairies, and salt flats. Numerous wading birds, shorebirds, waterfowl, and raptors can be found on the lakes and river. White-tailed deer, feral hogs, river otters, alligators and turtles may also be seen. Bald Eagles and Wild Turkeys are common on both properties and Crested Caracaras are occasionally found. The flatwoods at Salt Lake WMA provide good habitat for woodpeckers and songbirds, such as the Eastern Bluebird and Bachman's Sparrow. Florida Scrub-Jays and Gopher Tortoises are found in the oak scrub on the Salt Lake



Photo by Tom Dunkerton

property. Many salt-tolerant and marine dwelling organisms present here are not found elsewhere in the Middle or Upper St. Johns River Basins. The salinity also influences the marsh vegetation surrounding the lakes. In some places, the soil is so salty that it can be tolerated only by one plant species - glasswort. Salt flats which border the lakes offer good opportunities to view numerous shore birds and wading birds when water levels are not too high. Eastern Pygmy-Blue butterflies are very common at the salt flats on the St. Johns River during spring and summer if water levels are low. At least 136 species of birds have been documented at the Salt Lake WMA. Approximately 178 bird species have been recorded on the Seminole Ranch CA. The 7,805-acre Salt Lake WMA is jointly owned by the St. Johns River Water Management District and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and is

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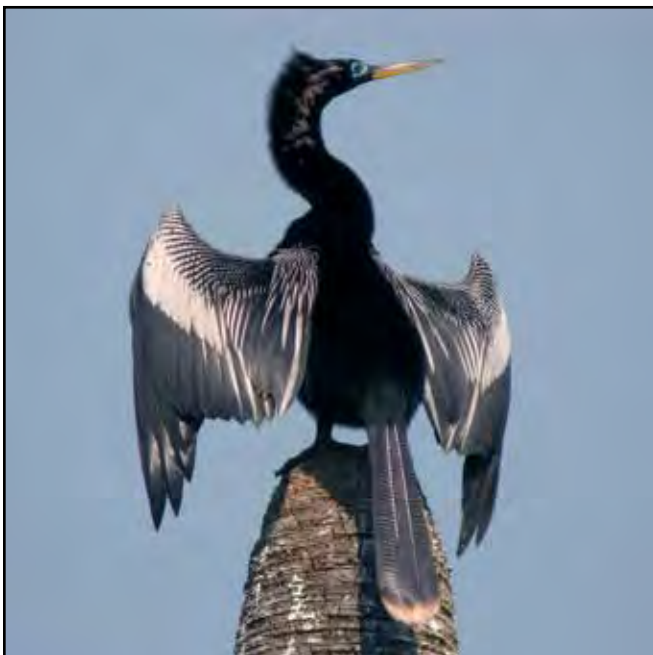
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Anhinga Male Breed. Photo by Roy Halpin

managed by the FWC.

Scottsmoor Flatwoods Sanctuary Exploration Ride

Jan. 22, 9am-11am; 16 participants; \$10

Meet at Parrish Park Scottsmoor, 4055 Magoon Ave. Scottsmoor, FL
Directions: Drive north on US 1 for 10 miles, turn left on Magoon Ave in Scottsmoor - the Park is at the end of the street.

Javier de Sequin des Hons (EEL Program North Area Land Manager), Sarah Kraum (EEL Program Naturalist) and Joe Swingle (EEL Program Naturalist)

Enjoy a leisurely trailer bench ride through pine flatwoods and other habitats. Relax as we explore local flora and fauna and learn about recent land management activities.

Shorebird Workshop for Advanced Birders

Jan. 23, 8:00am-12:00pm; Limited to 30 registrants; \$50

Meet at Parrish Park boat ramp area located on the left (north side adjacent to the picnic pavilions) just across the Titusville Bridge.

Kevin Karlson (Kevin T. Karlson Photography), Steve Ritt and Corey Finger (10,000 Birds)

Join author and professional field trip leader Kevin Karlson as he shares a more effective approach to shorebird ID as highlighted in his bestselling book, *The Shorebird Guide*. This class is tailored for more advanced birders who want to take their shorebird ID skills to the next level. Kevin and his co-leaders will share advanced tips on how to identify age and sex of shorebirds. These tips will emphasize structural features such as plumage to reach a more complete ID conclusion. This workshop will elevate your evaluation skills of all shorebirds for future ID challenges.

Shorebird Workshop for Beginners

Jan. 22, 8:00am-12:00pm; Limited to 30 registrants; \$40

Meet at Parrish Park boat ramp area located on the left (north side by the picnic pavilions) just across the Titusville Bridge.

Kevin Karlson (Kevin T. Karlson Photography), with Amar Ayyash (Author), Steve Ritt and Michael Brothers (Marine Science Center).

Join author and professional field trip leader Kevin Karlson as he shares a simple and effective approach to shorebird ID as highlighted in his bestselling book, *The Shorebird Guide*. With an initial focus on

basic impressions of size, shape and behavior, a more effective ID starting point is achieved. This outdoor workshop caters to beginning birders with little or no experience with shorebirds, and Kevin and his co-leaders will share basic tips for separating different shorebird families, and for building a solid foundation to take your shorebird ID skills to the next level. If you have trouble with shorebird ID and feel hopelessly stuck in a rut, this is the class for you.

St. Sebastian River Preserve State Park

Jan. 21 & 22, 4:30am-2:00pm; Limited to 12 registrants; \$80

Meet at bus circle at EFSC to board VAN. Please bring money for lunch at Marsh Landing. During the field trip, participants will sit on hay bales in the back of pick-up trucks. Some walking through pine-woods and saw palmettos will be required for moderate distances.

Samantha McGee (SSRPSP) and David Simpson (Birding With David Simpson); Jan. 221 with David Hartgrove (Florida Nature Tours); Jan. 22 with Jason Guerard (Tampa Audubon Society)

This field trip is offered in two smaller groups in order to provide an extraordinary personal experience and less stressful effects on the species being observed. We will leave early in order to catch Red-cockaded Woodpeckers leaving their nest cavities at sunrise. This 22,000+ acre site is home to many of the sought-after pine-woods specialties. Nine families of Red-cockaded Woodpeckers and more than 40 families of Florida Scrub-Jays call the preserve their home. Bachman's Sparrows are abundant, though sometimes difficult to see in the winter months. Brown-headed Nuthatches are often encountered among the mixed-species feeding flocks. There will be a truck ride through the interior of the preserve where David and the preserve biologist, Samantha McGee will give you the inside scoop on how the preserve is managed for these special birds and their habitats. After watching the Red-cockaded Woodpeckers emerge, we will tour other parts of the preserve in search of Florida Scrub-Jays and the species found here.

Tosohatchee I: Meet Native Florida

Jan. 21 & 23, 5:30am-12:00pm; Limited to 26 registrants; \$50

Meet at EFSC bus circle to board bus. Comfortable, older walking shoes with closed toes are recommended.

Lynn Proenza (FWC); Jan. 21 with Elsa Alvear (Biscayne National Park) and Mitchell Harris (Florida Ornithological Society); Jan. 23 with Julie Zickefoose

The Tosohatchee marshes are feeding areas for wading birds and,



Limpkin. Photo by Roy Halpin

during winter months, host large numbers of migrating waterfowl. Forested uplands support deer, Bobcats, Gray Foxes, Wild Turkeys, woodpeckers, hawks, owls and songbirds. Some of the threatened and endangered species found at the reserve include Bald Eagle, Wood Stork, Eastern Indigo Snake, Gopher Tortoise and, on rare occasions, the Florida Panther. Birds of interest include Bachman's Sparrow, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Eastern Bluebird, Red-headed Woodpecker and Florida Sandhill Crane. Shaped by alternating cycles of fire and flood, Tosohatchee WMA is a mosaic of marshes, swamps, pine flatwoods and oak hammocks. Deep inside the reserve, Jim Creek flows through some of the last remaining virgin cypress swamps in all of Florida. Bordering 19 miles of the St. Johns River in eastern Orange County, the reserve is named for Tootosahatchee Creek, which flows through its northern portion. The abundance of wildlife must have been attractive to the Native Americans who lived at Tosohatchee long before the arrival of the first Europeans. Mounds within the reserve indicate that Timucuan Indians occupied the area for several centuries. Seminoles lived here too, fiercely defying the U.S. government's attempts to eradicate them.



Photo by Tom Dunkerton

Tosohatchee II: The Wilder Side

Jan. 22, 5:30am-2:00pm; Limited to 26 registrants; \$60

Meet at EFSC bus circle to board bus. This is a hike of intermediate skills. Trails may be wet, so please wear older, comfortable closed toe shoes and bring snacks and water. This tour includes box lunches.

Lynn Proenza (Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission) and Selena Kiser (Great Florida Birding & Wildlife Trail)

With 30,700 acres and 60 miles of multiuse trails and dirt roads to wander, Tosohatchee WMA has plenty to offer birders and wildlife watchers (see Tosohatchee I). While one visit barely scratches the surface of this wild and scenic property, this new tour showcases some of Tosohatchee's wilder spots and features destinations not included on the original tour. You'll want to lace up your hiking boots for this one; we'll be walking several miles of trails away from the main roads. Depending on pre-festival scouting results, we'll choose from among the wide array of ponds, wooded creeks, hammocks, pine forests and marshes in search of ducks, wading birds, rails, raptors, owls, songbirds and more. The WMA's checklist includes roughly 220 species, with rarities such as Crested Caracara, Short-tailed Hawk, King Rail, Limpkin and Rusty Blackbird.

Turkey Creek Tract - Charles H. Bronson State Forest

Jan. 21 & 23, 7:30am-11:30am; Limited to 10 registrants; \$40

Directions to 3800 Curryville Rd., Chuluota, FL 32766: From the intersection of I-95 (Exit 223) and SR46: Go west on SR46 for 16.4 miles. Turn left at traffic light in Geneva; go south on CR426 for 0.8 miles. Bear left onto Snow Hill Rd.; go 5.2 miles. Turn left onto Ave. H; go 0.1 miles. Turn left onto Brumley Rd.; go east 1.0 miles. Turn right onto Lake Mills Rd.; go 1.2 miles. Turn left onto Curryville Rd.; go 2.6 miles. Parking lot for Chuluota Wilderness Area is on the right just past the power lines. From the intersection of I-95 (Exit 215) and SR50: Go west on SR50 for 10.3 miles. Turn right on Fort Christ Rd.; go north for 9.7 miles. Turn right on Lake Mills Rd.; go 0.8 miles. Bear straight-ish/rightish (do not turn left) to go onto Curryville Rd.; go 2.6 miles. Parking lot for Chuluota Wilderness Area is on the right. Participants must ride inside extended-cab 4-wheel drive pick-up trucks. Some walking (1-2 miles) may be necessary, depending on water levels. Portions of the property will be wet and muddy – be sure to dress appropriately. And wear comfortable closed toe shoes. Bring snacks

and water. There are no restrooms here. No restrooms are available during the trip.

Stephen Stipkovits (Florida Forest Service); Jan 21 with Dave Goodwin (Florida Ornithological Society); Jan. 23 with Mitchell Harris (Florida Ornithological Society)

Among Florida's most significant conservation efforts, the public lands cover 125 square miles west of Titusville. The Turkey Creek Tract is among the final shoreline acquisition properties in one of the most truly wild sections of the St. Johns River. Large portions of the Turkey Creek Tract are pasture interspersed with hardwood hammocks and pine flatwoods, which are home to hundreds of wintering Sandhill Cranes, dozens of Wild Turkeys and Northern Bobwhites, and numerous other grassland birds, including Eastern Meadowlark, American Kestrel, Red-tailed Hawk, Loggerhead Shrike, and Grasshopper Sparrow. Bald Eagles nest immediately off-site to the north and a pair of Crested Caracaras inhabit the St. Johns River marsh on the east side of the tract. Numerous shorebirds, wading birds, and waterfowl can be found on the river's floodplain.

St. Johns River Water Management District and State of Florida property is an addition to the Charles H. Bronson State Forest which has allowed the Festival to again tour this property. Approximately 140 species of birds have been identified here to date.

Warbler Sounds & Sightings

Jan. 22, 7:00am-12:00pm; Limited to 26 registrants; \$50

Meet at EFSC bus circle to board bus. There will be multiple stops on this trip for opportunity to see and learn more about warblers. 1) The home of Doug & Susie Stuckey (1855 Cowan Dr, Titusville 32796) and 2) Lori Wilson Park, Cocoa Beach

Joel Reynolds (Photographer) and Keith Winsten (Brevard Zoo)

Warblers are some of the most beautiful birds of the world. But their beautiful colors often blind birders to many of their most important ID points. Identifying the warblers and other species singing in the field is one of the most enjoyable and satisfying aspects of birding. This is an outstanding opportunity to spend time with Tom and Scott and Keith to learn more about Warblers in our local habitats.



Photo by Tom Dunkerton

Wildflowers, Plants, & Other Things: North Brevard Area

Jan. 21, 8:00am-3:30pm; Limited to 20 registrants; Free

Jan. 23, 9:00am-4:30pm; Limited to 20 registrants; Free

Meet at Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge Visitors Center for intro, followed by carpool field trip. Moderate amount of walking on dry trails will be required.

Jim Stahl and Jay Barnhart (Florida Native Plant Society and Friends of the Enchanted Forest)

NOTE: Please bring money for lunch at one of Titusville's fine historic downtown dining establishments.

Florida was named for the abundance of flowering plants that early explorers found here. Today the many habitats of Florida (hardwood and palm hammocks, deciduous forest, pine flatwoods, scrub, sand hills, prairie, coastal dunes, roadsides, marsh, swamp and riverine) support over 4000 species of native and naturalized wildflowers plus numerous exotics from the horticultural trade. This program will present slides of wildflowers, trees, shrubs, ferns and other plants with comments on their natural history, uses by people and wildlife, home landscaping values and occurrences. The presentation will highlight plants that can be seen during the festival week. Information on books for identifying and locations for finding Florida plants will be included. The field trip will present diverse habitats in and around Brevard County including mature deciduous/semi-tropical forests, pine flatwoods, oak-palm hammocks, cypress swamps, freshwater marshes, brackish lagoons, lakes, scrub, sedge meadows, and coastal dunes. With so many habitats, the region supports numerous plant species, majestic trees, shrubs, beautiful wildflowers, grasses and sedges and ferns. On this trip we will observe and discuss many species of plants and their habitats, plus anything else (birds,

reptiles, butterflies and other insects) that we might come across.

Zellwood & Lake Apopka

Jan. 22, 23 & 24, 5:30am-4:30pm; Limited to 26 registrants; \$80 Meet at EFSC bus circle to board bus. Box lunches will be provided. Wear comfortable closed toe shoes.

Jan. 22: Jim Peterson (St. Johns River Water Management District) with David Hartgrove (Florida Nature Tours); Jan. 23: Pam Bowen (St. Johns River Water Management District) with Adam Kent (Florida Ornithological Society) and Gina Kent (Avian Research & Conservation Network); Jan. 24: Gian Basili (St. Johns River Water Management District) with Dave Goodwin (Florida Nature Tours)

Despite its long history of great birding, this area may be one of the very best but least-known birding areas on the Eastern Seaboard. In the 1940s, 20,000 acres of marsh on Lake Apopka's north shore were drained to create muck farms which fed millions for over half a century. Farming practices required flooding the fields each summer to kill nematodes. Over several weeks, the water was drained into the lake, creating ideal habitat for migrating shorebirds. In the early 1950s, birders began visiting

the area and received great cooperation from the landowners. The St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) purchased most of the farmlands in the 1980s and 1990s to restore wetland habitat and improve water quality in Lake Apopka. Shorebirds that normally would have left remained into winter and were joined by unprecedented numbers of waterfowl. Large numbers of flycatchers, sparrows, and other passerines also used the area. In 1998, the first Christmas Bird Count (CBC) in the area established a national inland record with 174 bird species. SJRWMD has been supportive of the birding community and has provided help each year with the CBC. Highlights from previous fieldtrips include as many as 13 sparrow species, including rarities like LeConte's and Clay-colored, and unique flycatcher species like Western, Cassin's, Tropical and Gray Kingbirds and Ash-throated Flycatchers. The first state records of Roughlegged Hawk, Eurasian Kestrel, and Ferruginous Hawk were recorded here, as well as second state records for the Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, White-cheeked Pintail and Ross' Goose.



Zellwood & Lake Apopka Field Trip. Photographer Roy Thoman

classroom presentations

Reflections of the day. Photo by Tom Dunkerton



what to wear

January is typically Florida's coldest month, but temperatures can fluctuate wildly. Expect average temps to be in the 40s and 50s at night and the 60s and 70s in the daytime. Temperatures can dip into the 30s at night and never leave the 50s during the daytime after a strong cold front. Rain is very scarce in January, however, a cold front may be accompanied by a squall line. Plan to layer your clothing. It can be very cold at sunrise and then warm up nicely during the day. It could be chilly out on the water on kayak and boat trips, so dress warmly. Be sure to bring rain gear if you are going on the pelagic trip! More than likely the wind will blow and spray will fly. The Gymnatorium can be chilly too. Bring a sweater or a jacket if you are an exhibitor.

classroom tips

- A long sleeved shirt or light jacket may make your classroom experience more enjoyable – all rooms are air-conditioned.
- The classroom staging area is in front of the Gymnatorium. Bus trips will depart from that area. Carpool groups will meet there. You will be directed to your bus location by the Transportation Monitors, who will be available for each departure. Departure times are firm - arrive 15 to 20 minutes early.
- Please bring sunglasses, sunscreen, a hat, insect repellent, and rain gear (just in case). It is recommended for classrooms that you wear comfortable shoes/sneakers, comfortable shirts, and long pants (protection against insects and thorns). Some classrooms may require boots.
- Don't forget your camera, binoculars, or other equipment that will make your festival experience more memorable.

how to get here

The 18th Annual Space Coast Birding & Wildlife Festival will be based at Eastern Florida State College (EFSC) - Titusville Campus, 1311 N. US 1 from January 21 through 25, 2015. Registration desk, classroom presentations, field trip staging, exhibits, silent auction, art show and food service can be found there.

If You Are Driving

Take Interstate 95 to Titusville.

- From the south, exit at SR406 (Exit 220). Go east to US 1. Go north on US 1 for 1.9 miles. EFSC is on the right, just north of the Parrish Medical Center.
- From the north, exit at SR46 (Exit 223). Go east to US 1. Go south on US 1 for 2.4 miles. EFSC will be on the left.

If You Are Flying

- From Orlando International Airport:
Go east on SR528 (Beachline/Toll Road) to I-95 (follow the sign that directs you to I-95 North). Go north on I-95. Follow above driving directions coming from the south.
- From Melbourne International Airport:
Follow signs directing you from the Airport to I-95. Go north on I-95. Follow above driving directions coming from the south.

A Quarter Century of Superb Photography By Chuck Hagner (Editor, BirdWatching Magazine)

Jan 22 10:00-11:00am; 119; Limited to 40 registrants; \$25

"To present the fascinating story of birds and birding to all bird enthusiasts." That's the way Founding Editor Eldon Greij (pronounced GRAY) described the goal of BirdWatching magazine in 1987. The best way to achieve that goal, he wrote, is to showcase the inherent beauty of birds through "superb photography."

For over a quarter century, the magazine's goal has remained unchanged, while its reliance on superb photography has only grown. In this presentation, Chuck Hagner, editor-in-chief of BirdWatching, will use a gallery of the best photos to have appeared in the magazine -- ranging from a Gyrfalcon photographed on Ellesmere Island to a Red-tailed Tropicbird shown gliding over the island of Hawaii -- to describe what he and the other editors look for when choosing photos.

Annual Journey of the Swallow-tailed Kite: Breeding Requirements, Migration Route & Winter Destinations

Jan. 22, 3:00pm-4:00pm; 121; Limited to 40 registrants; \$20

Gina Kent, Avian Research & Conservation Institute (ARCI)

Gina Kent, who has worked for ARCI and studied Swallow-tailed Kites for over 13 years, will share the latest in technology and field methods and the fine details of this spectacular bird's long-distance, seasonal movements and fascinating behaviors. Learn the results of ARCI's latest research on Swallow-tailed Kites. Find out what they look for in a breeding territory, how they are one of North America's most social raptors, and the challenges they face throughout the year as they migrate 10,000 miles between their U. S. nesting areas and winter locations in South America.

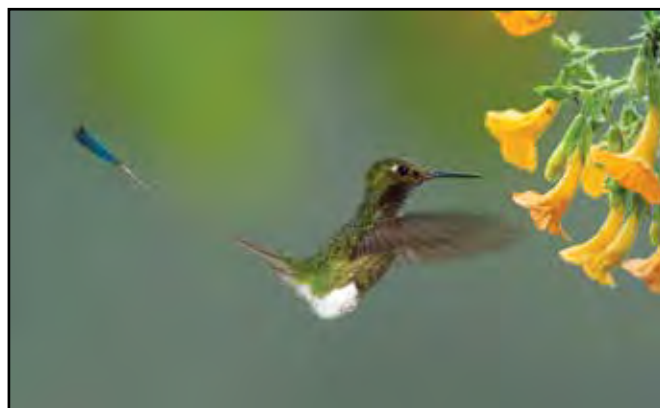
Barn Owl Pellet Dissection or "What's for Dinner?"

***Jan. 24, 10:30am-12:00pm; Gazebo; Limited to 24 registrants; Free
Richard Raid, PhD (University of Florida)***

This workshop is nature's version of CSI! Have you ever wondered what sort of prey raptors capture and feed on? Due to the alkaline nature of a Barn Owl's stomach, many of the bones, fur and chitinous parts of a Barn Owl's prey are left undigested. Such remains are routinely regurgitated through the mouth in the form of a compact pellet. By collecting and dissecting these pellets, researchers can find out exactly what these marvelous raptors have been eating. Discover for yourself why Barn Owls have frequently been termed the most beneficial bird on the planet. This workshop will enable each adventurous participant to dissect his or her very own owl pellet(s), discovering what lies inside. Then, by comparing skeletal remains utilizing bone charts, you will be able to figure out exactly what a Barn Owl eats. With a bit of collaborative sleuthing, registrants may even discover what type of ecosystem is inhabited by the owls that spit up these pellets. Think picking through owl regurgitation is disgusting? Think again! Believe it or not, pellet dissection is a favorite lesson at many schools throughout the nation. Adults, but especially kids of all ages, will find this workshop highly entertaining and informative. Sterilized owl pellets, dissecting tools and bone charts will be furnished to all registrants free of charge.



Barn Owls.



Booted Racket-tail Hummingbird. Photo by Reinier Munguia

Barn Owls: Nature's Mousetrap

Jan. 23, 1:00pm-2:30pm; 119; Limited to 40 registrants; Free

Richard Raid, PhD (University of Florida)

Since 1994, the University of Florida has been involved in a program promoting Barn Owls as a sustainable means of rodent control. Hundreds of nesting boxes now dot the Everglades Agricultural Area of south Florida. The UF Barn Owl Project has met with great success in increasing Barn Owl population in the Glades, with boxes exhibiting nearly 100% occupancy. Agriculture and wildlife are not the sole beneficiaries. In this seminar, presenter Dr. Richard Raid will describe the biology of these marvelous raptors and detail the project's progress. Attendees will also be treated to amusing stories and video involving the use of Barn Owls and regurgitated owl pellets for youth education, not to mention, free pellets for their own enjoyment.

Employed by the University of Florida as a professor of plant pathology, Dr. Raid initiated a program promoting the use of barn owls for sustainable rodent control in 1994. The UF Barn Owl Program quickly gained the acceptance of the agricultural industry with which Dr. Raid worked, providing the Everglades Agricultural Area with some of the highest Barn Owl densities in North America. Not one to miss an opportunity for engaging kids in nature, Raid has used the project as an educational outreach program. Now, more widely recognized for Barn Owls than plant pathology, Dr. Raid and the UF Barn Owl Project have been featured on CNN, the National Geographic Society's website, and PBS's Nature series.

Beneficial Bats

Jan. 23, 10:00am-11:00am; 121; Limited to 40 registrants; \$15

Jan. 24, 1:00pm-2:00pm; 121; Limited to 40 registrants; \$15

Shari Blissett-Clark (Bat Belfrys, Inc.)

Bats fulfill critical environmental roles on every continent except Antarctica, helping to control insect populations, disperse seeds, and pollinate plants. Yet these fascinating mammals frequently fall victim to misinformation, superstition, and ignorance. This program will dispel commonly held myths and misconceptions about bats and present a glimpse into their amazing world. Attendees will have an opportunity to meet live amBATssadors after the presentation. Suitable for families with school-aged children.

Best of Birding North America with Carl Zeiss

Jan. 24, 9:15am-10:15am; 121; Limited to 40 registrants; \$10

Stephen Ingraham (Carl Zeiss Sports Optics)

A virtual tour of the best birding, birding spots, and birding festivals on the Carl Zeiss yearly schedule. It is the next best thing to being there yourself... and perhaps enough motivation to get you there next year.

Birding by Ear

Jan. 25, 11:00am-12:30pm; 119; Limited to 40 registrants; \$25
Michael O'Brien (VENT)

For many birders, both beginner and expert, attempting to learn bird sounds can be a daunting, if not a seemingly impossible task. So many species and so much variation – where does one start? This workshop will get you going by taking an analytical approach and focusing on helpful techniques for remembering bird sounds. Our emphasis will be on birds likely to be heard during the Festival, including some of those hoped-for Florida specialties.

Birding Ecuador

Jim Beckman (Cheepers Birding on a Budget); Jan 21, 8:45-9:45; 123 limited to 40 registrants; \$15

Ecuador is a birdwatchers' paradise. This South American country, roughly the size of Nevada, harbors amazing diversity in habitat and wildlife. Over 1640 species of birds inhabit Ecuador, including an incredible 131 species of Hummingbirds! Jim and Cindy Beckman, owners of Cheepers! Birding on a Budget, will share their Ecuadorian birding adventures with you based on five Ecuador trips they have led since February 2010. From the elfin forest of Yanacocha to the bird-rich Tandayapa Valley to the paramo of the high Andes, and on to the montane forests of the eastern slopes and the Amazon Basin, each change in habitat offers new bird species to see as new adventures unfold.

Birding In Brazil

Jim Beckman (Cheepers Birding on a Budget); Jan 24, 9:15-10:15; 123 limited to 40 registrants; \$15

Join us as we take you through 4 biomes in Brazil, from the world-famous Cristalino Lodge in Amazonia, to the Pantanal (the largest freshwater wetlands in the world and home to Jaguars), to the Cerrado savanna which covers 1.2 million square miles, and finally to the Atlantic Forests (home of more endemic bird species than anyplace on earth).

Take a tour of this amazing country with Jim, exploring its truly breathtaking scenery, amazing wildlife, and abundant birdlife through photographs and stories. See Jaguars, Harpy Eagles, Hyacinth Macaws and much more.

Conservation in Action: How Eco-Tourism Lodges in Central & South America Are Fighting Deforestation & Habitat Loss

Jan 25, 9:30am-10:30am; 119; Limited to 40 registrants; \$15

Jim Beckman (Cheepers! Birding on a Budget)

Millions of acres of forest are lost each year and more and more birds and wildlife are facing extinction. Logging, deforestation, fire, hunting, and invasive species are all contributing to habitat loss.

Acquisition of land, employment alternatives and education are effective tools to reduce and offset the slash and burn of forests and the resulting bird and wildlife habitat loss.

Jim and Cindy Beckman, owners of Cheepers! Birding on a Budget, have completed over 20 personal and business birding trips to Central and South America in the last 5 years. They have stayed and birded at many lodges that are expending considerable time, effort and money to counter deforestation and habitat loss. Join Jim as he shares the stories and accomplishments of several Central and South American eco-tourism lodges in their efforts to save and protect habitat.

eBird Classroom Workshop

Jan. 23, 12:30pm-2:00pm; AUD; Limited to 150 registrants; \$40

Note: Bring your phone, iPad or laptop to this workshop. You may want to register for the companion field trip on page 19. WiFi available for this class.

Jason Guerard (Tampa Audubon Society)

eBird has become the go to resource for keeping your bird observations in one easy to use database. It's a wealth of information and an



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increasingly powerful tool that is useful to birders on a local, state and national level. In this classroom portion of the eBird workshop we will use our observation counts from the RGMWV field trip to discuss the data submission process. Discussion will include data entry tips and shortcuts. We will explore the various types of data output available (maps, bar charts, graphs and count data, etc.) and how we as birders can use this data to further our personal knowledge of avian status and distribution locally and nationally. Jason will discuss how scientists use the data we submit to eBird and how eBird is useful to the traveling birder and those searching to find specific species in their own region. We will explain the use of list keeping phone applications and their interaction with the eBird data base.

Florida Raptors - Part I: Vultures through Accipiters

Jan. 22, 2:00pm-3:30pm; AUD; Limited to 150 registrants; \$30

Jason Guerard (Tampa Audubon Society)

There are 21 species of diurnal raptors, including both species of vultures, that are regularly found in Florida. Hawks are frequently described as difficult to identify. It takes considerable hours with binoculars pointed skyward to hone skills necessary to identify a raptor that is a speck on the horizon or high in the sky. Join Jason who continually studies and has counted hawks at some of the nation's best hawk watching locales. The focus of this presentation will be on close range and distant flight identification using shape, silhouette and flight style. We will discuss migration strategies and routes, status in Florida, identification references, plumage and general life history. There will be a quiz to assess your new found hawk identification skills. Part I will cover vultures, Ospreys, kites, Bald Eagle, Harrier and the eternally vexing Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks. On January 25 Jason will present Part II the Buteos through Falcons. These sessions can equip you with knowledge to spend a day as official counter at your local hawk watch site.

Florida Raptors - Part II: Buteos through Falcons

Jan. 23, 10:00pm-11:30am; AUD; Limited to 150 registrants; \$30

Jason Guerard (Tampa Audubon Society)

This presentation follows Raptors Part I: Vultures through Accipiters classroom presentation. As hawks are acknowledged as difficult to identify as a speck raptor on the horizon or high in the sky, join Jason as he guides you through his focus on close range and distant flight identification using shape, silhouette and flight style. Also, Jason will discuss migration strategies and routes, status in Florida, identification references, plumage and general life history. There will be a quiz to assess your new found hawk identification skills. Today the Buteos, Golden Eagle, Caracara and the Falcons will be covered. This session will help you develop further knowledge for your hawk searches and counts.

Harpy Eagle Quest into the Darien Province of Panama

Jan. 22, 12:30pm-1:30pm; 119; Limited to 40 registrants; \$15

Jim Beckman (Cheepers! Birding on a Budget)

Join us as we take you from the rainforests of Central Panama, to the historic ruins of Panama City, to the Panama Canal, and to the jungles surrounding a remote native village, while enjoying the spectacular avian fauna for which Central America is renowned.

This is the story of a group of birders on their quest to observe a young Harpy Eagle that had not yet left its nest in the Darien Province of Panama. Jim and Cindy Beckman led a group of 11 birders to one of the most remote areas of Central America, and they have many anecdotes and photos to share. The group had the good fortune to live for several days among the Embera tribe in a primitive village, the closest site to begin the 7-hour hike to the nest site.

Intro to Birding: Young Birders Edition

Jan 24, 10:30-12:00; 113 ; limited to 25 registrants ; FREE



Scoliid Wasp on Passion flower. Photo by DeeAnn Jennings Kiesel

Join Angel & Mariel Abreu for a fun-filled introduction to birding! This interactive workshop/field trip will focus on the basics of birding, identifying birds and how to use and choose the right binoculars for kids. After our indoor workshop we will venture outside where we will put your new birding skills to the test. Bring your field guide and binoculars if you have them, if not we will have binoculars available for loan. See you there!

Monarch Migration

Jan. 22, 2:00pm-3:00pm; 119; Limited to 40 registrants; \$25

Louise Zemaitis (Victor Emanuel Nature Tours, Swallowtail Studios)

Monarchs are famous for the dramatic journey they make each autumn through eastern North America to their winter roosts in Mexico. Louise Zemaitis, coordinator of the Monarch Monitoring Project in Cape May, New Jersey, has been studying these butterflies for the past 20 years. In this presentation she will describe the natural history of Monarchs, their migration, and the work being done to further our understanding of this amazing butterfly.

(The) Natural History of South Africa

Jim Beckman (Cheepers Birding on a Budget); Jan 23, 10:00-11:00; 113 limited to 30 registrants; \$15

South Africa is one of the most exotic and captivating places in the world. Its stunning combination of culture, history, people, and landscapes have made it a dream place to visit for large numbers of tourists. For birders and wildlife enthusiasts, this unquestionably gorgeous country at the most southern point of the dark and mysterious African continent offers a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Jim Beckman will share his experiences on the Cheepers! Birding on a Budget South African tours taken in October 2011 and October 2013. Take a tour of this amazing country with Jim, exploring its truly breathtaking scenery, amazing wildlife, and abundant birdlife through photographs and stories.

Nature Journaling Workshop

Jan. 21, 1:30pm-3:30pm; EFS; Limited to 20 registrants; Free

Meet at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary.

Sarah Kraum (Environmentally Endangered Lands)

Nature journaling is an excellent way to record your observations, reflections, and responses to the environment. It defies definition as some people may sketch, some may write poetry, or others may simply



Gladiator Frog. Photo by Reinier Munguia

list their sightings. The beauty of it is that there are no rules; it's just you, your experiences, and the natural world. However, getting started can be the tricky part. Come learn some helpful tricks and tips, hone in on your sketching skills, and then experience the outdoors through your nature journal while we hike through the Enchanted Forest. Journals will be provided.

Natural Splendor of Panamá!

Jan. 24, 2:30pm-3:30pm; 121; Limited to 40 registrants; \$20

Carlos Bethancourt (Canopy Tower Family)

Join the knowledgeable and entertaining head guide of the Canopy Tower, Carlos Bethancourt, on a photographic journey across Central Panamá, where myriad tropical birds, bizarre mammals and unusual reptiles and amphibians are seen in their natural setting! From Toucans to hummingbirds, Mouse Opossums to tongue-wielding Orange Nectar Bats, Panamá, though scarcely the size of South Carolina but perfectly positioned as a narrow land bridge between North and South Americas, is blessed with an incredible natural beauty and biodiversity second to none. More than 976 bird species, hundreds of mammals, reptiles and amphibians, and a staggering 10,000 plant species have been recorded there. Carlos will keep you spellbound with his stories of discovery and vivid images. Come experience why Panamá is indeed the country of Natural Splendor!

Our Amazing Arachnids – Florida's Spiders And Their Kin

Jan 24. 11:00 – 12:00; 119; limited to 40 registrants; \$10

A Slide Presentation by John Serrao

People are fascinated by spiders, scorpions and other arachnids, but not always in a positive way. This slide program will dispel myths and misconceptions about these beneficial creatures and showcase the fabulous diversity of colors, shapes, and sizes exhibited by Florida's many species. More than 65 species will be shown, ranging from tiny, silvery "dewdrop spiders" that loiter in the webs of big orb-weavers to steal unattended prey, to gigantic fishing spiders that can overpower and eat tree frogs. Scorpions and their bizarre cousins, the whip scorpions and wind scorpions, will also be shown, as well as daddy-long-legs, ticks, and other relatives of spiders. Besides highlighting their beauty and diversity, this program also emphasizes the important role that spiders play as predators – and as prey – in our natural communities, and how 99% of Florida's species are harmless to humans.

(John Serrao received his M.S. degree with an emphasis on entomology from Cornell University and has been a professional Naturalist, writer, photographer, and tour leader for 40 years. He has written 7 books about natural history, and his photos have appeared in hundreds of magazines, textbooks, field guides, and museums. He lives in DeLand, Florida)

Painting Birds

Jan 22; 10:30-11:30; 121; limited to 40 registrants; \$25

Julie Zickefoose (Author)

Have you ever wondered how an artist goes about gathering inspiration and reference for a painting? How a painting is done, from the first sketches to the final wash? How an artist manages to make a living drawing and painting natural history subjects? Widely-published artist Julie Zickefoose opens her sketchbooks, studio, and gallery for a walk-through in this slide talk. 50 minutes.

Pelagic Birds of Florida's Northeast Coast

Jan. 21, 10:30am-11:30am; 121; Limited to 40 registrants; \$20

Michael Brothers (Marine Science Center) and Amar Ayyash (Author)

Note: Register for and attend this class and receive a \$10 discount when you register for the Pelagic Boat Trip.

The pelagic birds are one of the last frontiers of our understanding of Florida's avifauna. These birds of the open ocean come from distant shores of the Arctic, or remote islands of the Caribbean and South America, or from the coast of Europe, northwest Africa, and even islands off Antarctica. These great travelers pass by our shores largely unseen. The difficulties of offshore access limits the numbers of observers, and this is compounded by the challenges of identification. Our knowledge is often limited to coastal observers getting a brief glimpse of a Shearwater or Storm Petrel.

Systematic studies of Florida's oceanic birdlife are very few. This program will offer an introduction to this challenging group of birds as we continue to try to unravel the dynamics of the occurrence of these birds and their relationship to the oceanic environments. Black-capped Petrel, Razorbill, Red-billed Tropicbird, Bulwer's Petrel, Manx Shearwater, Band-Rumped Storm-Petrel – these are names that set a birder's heart racing in Florida.

Point-and-Shoot for Wildlife

Jan. 22, 4:00pm-5:00pm; 119; Limited to 40 registrants; \$15

Stephen Ingraham (Carl Zeiss Sport Optics)

If you have ever dreamed of bringing back frame filling photographs and videos of the birds and animals you see in the field, but hesitated



Photo by Tom Dunkerton



Yellow-throated Warbler. Photo by Tom Dunkerton

to invest in, or carry, the substantial gear normally required, Stephen Ingraham of Carl Zeiss Sports Optics will present a compact, efficient, and cost effective solution. A Point-and-Shoot digital camera behind the eyepiece of a high-quality spotting scope mounted on a light-weight tripod will capture images and video that will definitely surprise you. It is not difficult, and the results are more than satisfying. We will also cover today's advanced P&S super-zooms as a wildlife option. Come see how it is done. Why leave the birds in the field when you can bring them back in living color and full stereo sound to enjoy in your home (and to show off to friends!)? We cover spotting scope choice, camera choice, adaptor options, and basic technique, plus you get to see a variety of samples to delight :) and inspire you.

Profoundly Unscientific Bird Identification

Jan. 23, 11:00am-12:00pm; 119; Limited to 40 registrants; \$15

Dee Fairbanks Simpson (Space Coast Audubon Society)

Join Dee (known as Space Coast Audubon's "The Very Bad Birder") to learn her utterly and profoundly unscientific methods for bird identification. These methods include anthropomorphizing, comparing birds to cartoon characters, and when all else fails, making up huge lies. Dee is a well respected birder with a birding life list of over 40,000.

Radar Birding 101

Jan 24. 9-10am; 113; limited to 30 attendees; \$15

Angel and Mariel Abreu (Nature is Awesome Tours)

Have you ever wondered how many birds fly over Florida under the cover of night during migration? Thanks to advances in Doppler weather radars we are now able to investigate and answer this question. Join Angel and Mariel Abreu in this workshop as you are taught how to use radar to analyze bird migration. You will learn how to interpret radar images and how to put this technology to use when choosing where to bird during migration. How weather plays a crucial role as to when and where birds will migrate will also be covered. After this workshop you will be able to "see in the dark", adding a new tool to your birding toolkit that can take your birding to the next level.

(The) Red Cockaded Woodpecker

Roy Halpin; Jan 21, 10 am – 11 am; 123; limited to 40 attendees; \$20

This program will discuss the most fascinating story of a single species of Piciforme – the Red-cockaded woodpecker. Their range is limited to the southeastern U.S. and is totally restricted to a properly maintained long leaf pine forest. The behavior of this unique species is quite fascinating: foraging, communications, nest building, nesting, raising young, fledging, and cooperation within a family unit. Learn how we almost lost this species and the active effective recovery plan that is in

effect, with participation of state, local, federal governments and most importantly individual efforts. Experience how a nesting colony looks and sounds. Understand where the nesting colonies can be found from the Everglades to North Florida, how to find them, when and how to approach them. Presentation includes photos and audio/videos.

Seven-Fold Path to Better Birding

Jan. 21, 9:15am-10:15am; 121; Limited to 40 registrants; \$15

Stephen Ingraham (Carl Zeiss Sports Optics)

NOTE: This is an ideal class to take before attending the Beginning Birding session on Saturday at MINWR!

What do good birders know that you don't (yet)? Here are seven simple disciplines that will make any birder a better birder and increase your enjoyment of the time you spend in the field. Great for beginners and any birder who wants to improve!

Stephen Ingraham is the Birding and Naturalist Product Specialist for Carl Zeiss Optics. He is well known from his years as the editor of the "Tools of the Trade" section in Birding magazine, his frequent articles in WildBird, Birder's, Birdwatching Magazine and Birdwatch (UK) magazines, his appearances at ABA conventions and birding events around the country and as the founder and editor of Better View Desired and betterviewdesired.com. Bring paper and pen and be ready to take notes.

Simple Strategies to Prevent Bird-Window Collisions

By Chuck Hagner (Editor, BirdWatching Magazine)

Jan 24;10:45-11:45; 121; limited to 40 registrants; \$25

Every year in the United States, between 365 and 988 million birds are killed after colliding with buildings.

Contrary to conventional wisdom, the greatest mortality does not occur at gleaming, glass-covered high-rises, but at shorter buildings, and especially at residences.

This means that homeowners across the country have a great opportunity: By decreasing the number of birds that strike their windows, they can dramatically improve the state of our birds.

In this presentation, Chuck Hagner, editor-in-chief of BirdWatching Magazine, will describe proven strategies and effective products that homeowners can use to keep birds from striking the windows of their home.



Northern Pintail. Photo by Roy Thoman

Situational Awareness and the Art of Disappearing

Jan 24; 11:00-12:00; 123; limited to 40 registrants; \$25

Julie Zickefoose (Author)

Being in nature has the power to heal us and bring us closer to the creative power that resides inside us, waiting to be released. Julie Zickefoose offers simple tools to help you tap into nature's power to restore and revive that spirit. Situational awareness is a key part of our evolutionary heritage, and we lose a little of it each time we plug into our omnipresent devices. Yet we can also use them to forge a deeper connection with nature. With prose, poetry, Julie will demonstrate how she hooks into something larger each time she steps outside, and translates that into content—and contentment.



Field trip participants at Lake Woodruff. Photo by Roy Thoman

Sparrow ID

Jan. 22, 1:00pm-2:30pm; 121; Limited to 40 registrants; \$20

Adam Kent (Florida Ornithology Society)

This workshop introduces the basics for identification of inland sparrows found east of the Mississippi River. Even though most North American sparrows lack the bright colors of many warblers, sparrows' distinctive shapes, interesting behaviors and subtly beautiful patterns can allow us to identify them with only a quick glance. Sure, sparrows and their often secretive behaviors can present identification challenges in Florida in the winter. The trick is being prepared. Once you understand the basics

of the combination of shapes, behaviors and patterns, you too can do away with the term "Little Brown Job." You may even find yourself saying you are going "sparrowing" instead of birding this winter. Adam is the unofficial sparrow id authority. This is a great opportunity to get your sparrow fix for the day.

Vermin to Sentinels: Raptors & American Environmentalism

Jan. 23, 11:00am-12:30pm; 121; Limited to 40 registrants; \$20

Frederick "Fritz" Davis, PhD (Florida State University)

"Vermin to Sentinel" explores how the status of raptors went through a profound transformation over the course of the Twentieth Century. Early in the century, farmers viewed hawks and eagle as rapacious predators. Like wolves and coyotes, many birds of prey carried bounties. Hunting hawks became a popular pastime, particularly at points of congregation along the coasts and mountain ridges. As scientists came to appreciate the vital role of predators in ecology, raptor reputations changed. Naturalists began to argue for the protection of hawks and eagles at migration sites. In *Silent Spring*, Rachel Carson drew upon migration data to argue that raptor populations were falling. The years after DDT was banned in 1972 saw the recovery of many species including Peregrines, Bald Eagles, and Osprey. Even today, raptors serve as sentinels of environmental change.

Frederick "Fritz" Davis, Ph.D. is an associate professor of environmental history at Florida State University. His first book was *"The Man Who Saved Sea Turtles: Archie Carr and the Origins of Conservation Biology."* He is currently finishing a book on Pesticides and Toxicology in the Twentieth Century. A lifelong birder and naturalist, Davis served as one of the official counters at Lighthouse Point Hawkwatch in New Haven, Connecticut for four seasons while he was completing his Ph.D. at Yale.

Why Should I Go Birding?

Jan 21, 3:00-4:00 pm; 121; limited to 40 registrants; \$20

Jan 24, 2:00-3:00 pm; 123; limited to 40 registrants; \$20

Dee and David Simpson (Birding with David Simpson)

Look! Up in the sky! It's a bird! It's a plane! Wait, no, it's bird... a kinda' greyish bird with legs and a maybe it has a head? ...Ugh, I give up!!" Does this sound like you when you see something fly by? If so, join Dee and David to learn the real basics of birding, starting with, "Why should I go birding?" and ending with a bird walk where we will start you on your first life list.

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Photographers

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Seashore Sunrise, South Brevard. Photo by Robert Amoruso



Photography

The Benefits of Spot Metering in Bird, Nature and Landscape Photography

Jan 22; 3:00-4:00, 123; limited to 30 participants; \$25

Joe Brady (MAC Group)

While today's cameras have wonderful metering systems that perform well under many conditions, finding the perfect exposure for birds in flight or white clouds in a landscape often presents problems. The light in these types of subjects can be fleeting and change quickly. Not getting the shot correct in-camera the first time often means you missed the moment. A handheld spot meter capable of being calibrated to your camera can help eliminate these challenges. Join Joe Brady as he shows how a calibrated Sekonic L-758DR meter can give you the information for perfect exposure under practically any lighting conditions. No more blown-out plumage, no more white holes where the clouds used to be and no need to under expose to prevent burnouts that result in noisy, low contrast, low detail images in post process. A calibrated spot-meter gives you the information you need to get the best possible digital capture every time. No more missed shots as you wait for the perfect light, pose or flight for that great photograph. Confidently shoot at the perfect moment to get the shot you want.

Amoruso: Photography Field Workshops – MINWR

Jan. 22 (BPWD), 6:15am-10:00am; Limited to 12 registrants; \$60

Meet at 6:15 am at Parrish Park boat ramp parking area (north side adjacent to the picnic pavilions) just across the Max Brewer Causeway Bridge. The sun will rise at 7:15am, so please be on time. Though not required, carpools are recommended and will be arranged at meet-up. We will proceed to MINWR from there.

Robert Amoruso (Wildscape Images)

Join wildlife and nature photographer/Certified Florida Master Naturalist Robert Amoruso for a morning of in-depth field instruction at the area's best location for avian and wildlife photography. Robert's images have won numerous national and international contests and have been featured in publications including Audubon Magazine. His image of Royal Terns Courtship Dance won the Birds category of the 2006 Nature's Best Windland Smith Rice Int'l Photography Competition and was displayed at the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History for a year. Locations we will visit include MINWR's Black Point Wildlife Drive but may include Peacocks Pocket and/or Gator Creek Road if time allows or conditions warrant. Bring cameras, wide-angle lens,



Great Egrets aerial battle, Sanibel. Photo by Robert Amoruso

longest telephoto lens and tripods. We will be shooting close to the vehicles. Instruction includes metering/exposure, composition, designing pleasing backgrounds, handling equipment, shooting birds in flight and a host of other topics. Go to http://www.wildscapeimages.biz/blog/?page_id=50 for a detailed description of this workshop.

Amoruso: Photography Field Workshop - Ritch Grissom Memorial Wetlands at Viera

Jan. 23, 6:45am-10:30am; Limited to 12 registrants; \$60

Meet at the parking lot of the Cracker Barrel at 7225 George T Edwards Drive, Melbourne, FL at 6:30am. We will proceed to Ritch Grissom Memorial Wetlands at Viera from there. The Wetlands open at 7 am, so please be on time. Though not required, carpools are recommended and will be arranged at meet-up. Those carpooling will leave their vehicles at the Wetlands parking – not at Cracker Barrel.

Robert Amoruso (Wildscape Images)

Join wildlife and nature photographer/Certified Florida Master Naturalist Robert Amoruso for a morning of in-depth field instruction at one of Brevard County's most popular wetlands. Normally at this time of the year multiple breeding pairs of Great Blue Herons will be courting, displaying and nest-building at the wetlands. Bring cameras, wide-angle lens, longest telephoto lens and tripod if you have one. We will be shooting close to the vehicles. Instruction includes metering/exposure, composition, designing pleasing backgrounds, handling equipment, shooting birds in flight and a host of other topics. Go to http://www.wildscapeimages.biz/blog/?page_id=50 for a detailed description of this workshop.



Photo by Clay Taylor

Amoruso: Sunrise Landscape Photography / Bird Photography Field Workshop – Canaveral National Seashore / MINWR-BioLab Road

Jan. 24, 6:00am-10:30am; Limited to 12 registrants; \$60

Meet at 5:30 am at Parrish Park boat ramp parking area (north side adjacent to the picnic pavilions) just across the Max Brewer Causeway Bridge. The sun will rise at 7:15 am, so please be on time. Early meet-up is requested to allow us time to go over some basic instructions and be at the Seashore entrance gate at 6:00 am sharp. We will leave the boat parking lot at 5:45 am sharp so please be on time. Light is best starting ½ to ¾ hours before sunrise so I want to be on location to capture it. After sunrise we will travel Playalinda Road and Bio Lab Road for bird photography opportunities.

Robert Amoruso (Wildscape Images)

Join wildlife and nature photographer/Certified Florida Master Naturalist Robert Amoruso for a morning of in-depth field instruction photographing the beautiful seashore during sunrise. He will demonstrate the techniques that he uses to create expressive, creative imagery including using neutral density filters, slow shutter speeds, hyper-focal distance and what it all means. Recommended equipment includes a tripod, wide-angle lens and camera. A handout will be provided covering the techniques that he will demonstrate and help you with that morning. It is highly recommended that you attend his Landscape Photography classroom seminar in advance where he will cover in detail the techniques he uses in the field. After sunrise we will continue the workshop along the beach access road and BioLab Road for additional landscape and bird photography opportunities. So bring your longest lens for the bird photography. Go to http://www.wildscapeimages.biz/blog/?page_id=50 for a detail description of this workshop

Amoruso: Landscape Photography

Jan. 22, 12:30pm-2:30pm; 123; Limited to 30 registrants; \$35

This workshop is not a repeat of the 2013 workshop. New and improved, Robert will discuss basic compositional techniques, how to setup your cameras and tripods correctly, exposure settings and using filters in the field.

Robert Amoruso (Wildscape Images)

A landscape photographer for over 30 years, Robert has photographed the natural wonders of the Northeast and Southwest. Since arriving here in 1999, Robert has been photographing the beaches of Brevard County including the lovely Canaveral National Seashore. Creating expressive imagery is more than pointing the camera and snapping the shutter. This workshop will delve into those aspects of landscape photography Robert uses to create his expressive imagery. It is highly recommended that you attend his Landscape Photography Field



Florida Scrub-Jay. Photo by Milton Heiberg

Workshop at Canaveral National Seashore (followed by a few hours of bird photography) where we will put techniques discussed here into practice photographing sunrise. Sign-up at the session and receive a download link by email to the classroom presentation so you'll always be able to refer to what you've been taught. Go to http://www.wildscapeimages.biz/blog/?page_id=50 for a detailed description of this workshop and examples of the images you can create. This presentation is for all levels of digital camera users.

Amoruso: Advancing your Bird Photography Skills

Jan. 23, 12:30 pm-2:30pm; 119; Limited to 30 registrants; \$35

New for 2014, Robert will cover basic bird photography techniques he uses.

Robert Amoruso (Wildscape Images)

This workshop will cover those skills Robert has developed over the years that have allowed him to become a contest winner, a contest judge and successful photographic instructor. Did you know that your subject's background influences your exposure more than the subject in most cases? We will discuss why. Learn to understand light and how to use it to present your images artistically. Our session will include a slide show and a question and answer period. If you are attending one of Robert's field workshops and would like to get a leg up, plan on attending this informative session in advance. Sign-up at the session and receive a download link by email to the classroom presentation so you'll always be able to refer to what you've been taught. Go to http://www.wildscapeimages.biz/blog/?page_id=50 for a detailed description of this workshop. This presentation is for beginners and above digital camera users.

Amoruso: Basic Post-Processing Techniques

Jan. 24, 12:30pm-2:30pm; 119; Limited to 30 registrants; \$35

New for 2014, Robert will cover his post-processing techniques.

Robert Amoruso (Wildscape Images)

Lightroom and Photoshop users will find this workshop educational



Great Blue Heron. Photo by Milton Heiberg

as Robert discusses the post-processing techniques he uses to create his imagery. Adobe Camera Raw in Photoshop and Developer Module in Lightroom will be used to post-process images in real time [Adobe Elements users will find much shown here helpful too]. He will demonstrate his favorite Nik and Topaz filters. Sharpening will be discussed. Recording and using actions will be demonstrated. Learn how to create a small JPG for uploading to websites and emailing. Sign up at the session and receive a download link by email to the classroom presentation and actions demonstrated so you'll always be able to refer to what you've been taught. Computers are not required. Go to http://www.wildscapeimages.biz/blog/?page_id=50 for a detailed description of this workshop.

Heiberg: Bird Photography - How To

Jan. 22, 1:00pm-2:00pm; 113, Bldg 1; Limited to 30 registrants; \$35

Milton Heiberg (Milton Heiberg Studios) www.miltonheiberg.com

Author of *The Essentials of Nature Photography*, and 35-year veteran of teaching nature photography, Milton Heiberg will show you how to capture the beauty of the birds, how to approach the birds with telephoto lenses, and the technique of photographing birds in flight. He will also show you how to set up your camera for maximum performance when processing with Photoshop and other enhancement software. If you are planning to attend any of Milton's field trips to Bio Lab Road, you should seriously consider this hands-on class.

Heiberg: Close up Photography with Milton Heiberg

Jan. 23 2:00-3:00 pm; 113, Building 1; limited to 30 registrants, \$35

Students will learn new skills needed to capture the fascinating world of small nature subjects close up, using tools such as macro lenses, bellows attachments, telephoto lenses with extension tubes, and flash. Learn how to make fully focused close-ups from front to back using "Stacking Technique." You need not own this equipment at the start. We will explore techniques needed to photograph small subjects from wildflowers to flying insects, and practice these newly learned skills.

Heiberg: Photography - Digital Processing Workflow

Jan. 22, 2:00pm-3:00pm; 113, Bldg 1; Limited to 30 registrants; \$35

Milton Heiberg (Milton Heiberg Studios) www.miltonheiberg.com

This hour deals with the other half of digital photography - the computer. The agony of a wildlife photographer deals with getting up at half-past dark, and fighting the elements of nature to experience the beauty of nature. The ecstasy is bringing those hard-earned images to life in the computer. Using the holistic approach to photography, we will briefly go through the steps of making good images in camera with the computer in mind, and then make them great using up-to-date software. We will be focusing on Lightroom 5, NIK/Google plug-ins, and some of the highlights of Photoshop that we can't live without.



A Day at Merritt Island. Photo by Milton Heiberg



Photo by Maxis Gamez

Heiberg: Photography Field Workshop

Jan 23, 24 & 25, 5:45am-10:00am; Limited to 12 registrants; \$60

Milton Heiberg (Milton Heiberg Studios) www.miltonheiberg.com

Meet at 5:45am at Parrish Park boat ramp area located on the left (north) side, just across the Titusville Bridge

We will drive and stalk birds and wildlife along the beautiful water edge of Bio Lab Road as the sun rises over the lagoon.

Bring tripod, and a 300+mm lens. Milton Heiberg, is a 35+ year veteran of nature photography, teacher of the subject for 20 years at the New York City Audubon Society and for the past 15 years at The Crealdé School of Art in Orlando. He is also the Central Florida instructor for Digital Photo Academy - a national school sponsored by Ricoh-Pentax based in NYC. He is the author of seven books on photography. Many of his students have become well published and noted nature photographers (which includes Florida's own Arthur Morris).

You will receive a gratis copy of Milton's classic book: *The Essentials of Nature Photography*.

Gamez: Field Techniques for Every Bird Photographer – Ritch Grissom Memorial Wetland at Viera

Jan. 21, 6:45am-10:00am; Limited to 12 registrants; \$60

Meet at Starbucks' parking lot off N. Wickham RD. (7351 Shoppes Dr. Melbourne, FL 32940).

Join bird and nature photographer Maxis Gamez for a morning of field techniques every bird photographer needs to be aware of. Learn what it takes to create award winning images from experienced Nat. Geo published bird photographer Maxis Gamez.

Field techniques includes: Before approach equipment settings, what to look for and avoid, how to take full advantage of the opportunity, what works and what doesn't work and much more. Bring your camera, long lens, flash and of course a tripod.

Gamez: From Bird Watcher to Bird Photographer – Ritch Grissom Memorial Wetland at Viera

Jan. 21, 4:00pm-6:30pm; Limited to 12 registrants; \$60

Meet at Starbucks' parking lot off N. Wickham RD. (7351 Shoppes Dr. Melbourne, FL 32940).

You love birding and you want to learn how to create better photos. This field workshop is for you! Join bird and nature photographer Maxis Gamez for an afternoon of everything you need to know about getting you started in bird photography. Learn how to do it right from the very beginning and avoid the hassle and frustration many new photographers go thru. From equipment, camera settings to advanced field techniques. This seminar is for everyone getting into bird photography!



Photo by Maxis Gamez

Gamez: Birds in Flight Photography – My Secrets! – Blue Heron Wetlands

Jan. 22, 6:45am-10:00am; Limited to 12 registrants; \$60;

Meet at Cracker Barrel's parking lot off Cheney Hwy. (4745 Helen Hauser Blvd, Titusville, FL 32780).

Are you having a difficult time photographing birds in flight? Are you looking for a different technique that can help you improve your chances of photographing birds in flight? Learn step-by-step how to successfully photograph birds in flight. This hands-on equipment seminar is all about panning and how to manage your focusing system using a very unique technique. Topics covered during this seminar are: Long lens panning technique using your tripod, hand held panning techniques using your short and long lens, how to manage your focusing system to work for you and how manual exposure affects your final results.

The Blue Heron wetland area is a popular site for bird watching and photography enthusiasts. It is listed in the Great Florida Birding Trail. It is often included as a field trip for the renowned annual Space Coast Birding and Wildlife festival.

Gamez: Manual Exposure, Studying Your Histogram, Composition and How-To Optimize Your Fill Flash Technique

Jan. 22, (12:30pm – 2:00pm) Limited to 30 registrants; \$35; Room 113

Manual exposure is a topic a lot of photographers struggle with. Learn how to manage your exposure by studying and analyzing your histogram. This seminar is full of information and will help you understand the key element of a successful fill flash technique that will change your photography. Let Maxis Gamez, a professional photographer, be your guide and help you understand how to make these techniques work for you. Topics covered in this seminar: understanding manual exposure; how to read and analyze your histogram for the ultimate exposure control; a key tool every photographer should have and how to use it; composition and subject interaction; and fill flash the easy way. No more boring images!

Gamez: Shorebird Photography Tips, Techniques, What You Need and The Perfect Approach

Jan. 22, (3:00pm – 4:30pm) Limited to 30 registrants; \$35 ; Room 113

This seminar is dedicated to help you photograph shorebirds like never before! Learn how to make your subject powerful in the frame. From perspective to equipment care, this seminar will change your bird photography!

Topics covered in this seminar include: The perfect approaching technique, How to handle your equipment from the elements, The

importance of perspective, When low is too low, How to keeping your horizon straight, What Works-and-Doesn't Work, and much more.

Karlson: Wildlife Photography Basics

Jan. 24, 3:30pm-5:00pm; 113; Limited to 30 registrants; \$40

Kevin Karlson (Kevin T. Karlson Photography)

This short indoor workshop covers the importance of composition in every wildlife image you take. Many photographers on all levels don't understand the impact that background scenery and lighting plays when taking a telephoto wildlife image. While landscape photographers incorporate a number of compositional rules when shooting the 'perfect scene', telephoto photographers often concentrate only on their subject and neglect the supporting scene. The presence of dark shadows and harsh lighting are two major problems for creating a pleasing photograph, as is a cluttered or annoying background that lacks proper balance. This workshop covers a few compositional basics, but concentrates on trying to instill a conscious awareness for quickly analyzing the entire scene to eliminate a number of problems while shooting a wildlife subject. Your artistic evaluation of the scene is a key to creating a more pleasing wildlife image, and this right brain exercise may be fine tuned with practice. Kevin will share his insight with composition, lighting and overall artistic balance of a wildlife scene, and also explain how to enhance and improve your photographs using a few basic Photoshop corrections when unwanted backgrounds cannot be avoided. This is not a technically orientated workshop, but one that covers basic composition and photo preparation. Bring a couple of your favorite photos on a flash drive (jpegs) for review by Kevin and the class.

Karlson: Outdoor Session: Wildlife Photography Basics

Jan. 22, 6:45am-11:00am; Limited to 12 participants; \$60

600 mm f-4 lens with 1.4 teleconverter
1000th of a second, f-5.6 @ 1600 ISO!
trade-off: more shutter speed; more noise;
no problem with noise reduction software applied.



Semipalmated Sandpiper lift-up. Photo by Kevin T. Karlson



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"With fast, accurate focusing and seamless transitioning between 4K video and stills, hybrid photography with the Lumix GH4 can now diversify my portfolio."

— Bence Máté, Hybrid Photographer

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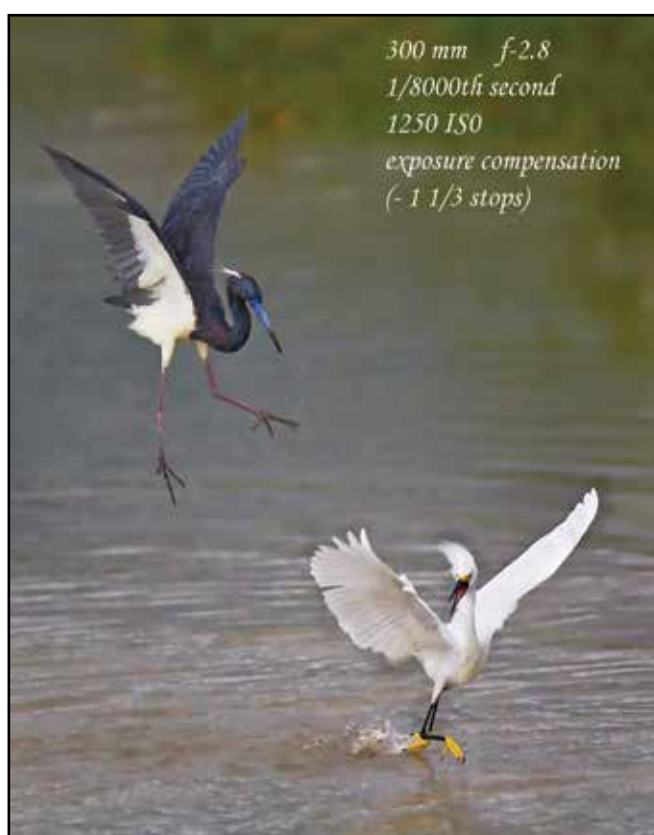
Bence Máté is adding value to his portfolio and revenue to his business with the GH4:

- 4K cinematic in-camera memory recording
- Fast Tracking Full Area AF
- 8.8-megapixel HD photo capture from 4K

See Bence's GH4 nature stills and 4K video at www.LumixLounge.com.

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Tricolored Heron and Snowy Egret dispute. Photo by Kevin T. Karlson

Meet in the parking lot of Ritch Grissom Memorial Wetlands at Viera at 7:00am. Be prepared to start our trek along the dikes at that time.

Kevin Karlson (Kevin T. Karlson Photography)

Viera Wetlands is a wonderful location to practice your compositional skills, and awareness of lighting and backgrounds, with a variety of accommodating wildlife subjects. Kevin will work with a small group of photographers and explain different perspectives for shooting each scene. Lighting, composition and overall artistic balance will be the focus of this workshop, with hands-on experience a great way to learn how to create a better wildlife photograph. We will also work on techniques for capturing the best possible flight and action photo, with camera settings and panning techniques included. Individual attention will be given to each participant, so come and take your bird and wildlife photography skill to the next level.

Knight: Hybrid Nature Photography

Jan 22, 9:00-10:00; 119; limited to 40 registrants; \$20

Virtually every digital camera on the market today is capable of capturing high definition video, but many photographers don't use this feature. Maybe they don't know the best settings for shooting video, or maybe they just don't know what to do with their video clips. How about you? Are you taking advantage of the video features inside of your camera? Panasonic LUMIX Luminary Rob Knight will show you how you can add video into your workflow to make your photography POP. This program is not about how to replace your still photography, it is about how to enhance and support your photos by adding motion. You'll learn tips and techniques for capturing great video with your DSLR and you'll learn what features make shooting stills and video easy. Rob will demonstrate some examples of "hybrid photography" and show you how to use inexpensive easy-to-use software to blend your video clips and still images into presentations you can be proud of.



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INC.

301 Julia Street - 321-268-1125
www.TitusvillePlayhouse.com

Disney — CAMERON MACCARTHY

MARY POPPINS

THE BROADWAY MUSICAL

January 16 - February 1

Digiscoping

Introduction to Digiscoping

Jan. 23, 9:15am-10:30am; 123; Limited to 40 registrants; \$15

Ben Lizdas (Eagle Optics)

Digiscoping is a simple and effective way to capture images of wildlife at a distance using a spotting scope and digital camera, even your cell phone's camera.

This seminar will cover the equipment basics of a good digiscoping set-up, including adapters, scopes, eyepieces, cameras, and tripods. We will discuss cost-performance benefits of different types of glass and how it can affect your digiscoped photos. We will also touch on field technique and image post-processing. We will conclude with a question and answer session.

Digiscoping Field Trip

Jan. 23, 8:00am-11:00am; Limited to 30 registrants; \$15

Jan. 24, 2:00pm-5:00pm; Limited to 30 registrants; \$15

Jan. 25, 8:00am-11:00am; Limited to 30 registrants; \$15

Meet in the parking lot for Parrish Park Boat Ramp (north side by the picnic pavilions) at the east end of Titusville Cswy.

Clay Taylor (Swarovski Optik)

This field workshop serves as a "how-to" for new digiscopers and those interested in starting digiscoping as well as refining techniques for current digiscopers. Participants should bring their scopes, tripods, cameras and adapters. We will cover the basics of field shooting with emphasis on hands-on instruction.

Digiscoping with Digital SLR Cameras

Jan. 22, 8:30am-10:00am; 123; Limited to 40 registrants; \$15

Clay Taylor (Swarovski Optik)

Recent popularity of interchangeable-lens D-SLR cameras creates new opportunities, as well as problems, for digiscopers. If you are contemplating the purchase of a D-SLR or already own one and want to use it for digiscoping, we will cover the equipment needed, help you do the math and cover field techniques.

Digiscoping with Cell Phone

Jan. 22, 10:00am-11:30am; 123; Limited to 40 registrants; \$15

Clay Taylor (Swarovski Optik)

Digiscoping has been around for at least a dozen years, giving birders the



Photo by Rob Knight

ability to photograph distant birds through their spotting scope by using a digital camera. Here's the catch - you have to bring your camera with you while you're out birding. There are a LOT of birders that forget to pack the camera, so when a great bird shows up, they can't get a photo. What's the camera that you don't leave home without? Your cell phone! Here is a program that will help you learn how to take remarkably good photos and videos using your cell phone through a spotting scope. Bring your phone and spotting scope, and we will discuss setups, adapters, and field techniques.



Photo by Brevard Nature Alliance



Photo by Brevard Nature Alliance

world digiscoper meeting

Sponsored by Swarovski Optik



Photo by Joel Reynolds

Placing the lens of a digital camera to the eyepiece of a spotting scope to take photos is called “digiscoping.” It’s caught on big-time with birders because you can take good (often great) pictures without a long, expensive, heavy telephoto lens.

More recently, as cell phone cameras have been improved to the point where they take photos with excellent quality, cell phone photographers have created a new type of digiscoping – now called “Phonescoping”. Especially for birders that are not avid photographers, Phonescoping is an increasingly popular way to document birds in the field and immediately share them with friends and social media outlets like Instagram and FaceBook.

Digiscopers from North America and across the world are invited to attend the World Digiscopers Meeting, held simultaneously at the Space Coast Birding and Wildlife Festival, meeting face-to-face with other digiscopers that they might have

known for years only through online forums send e-mail communications.

Clay Taylor, Swarovski Optik Naturalist Market Manager, wants to provide an opportunity for this growing accessory to birding and wildlife watching to be explored, discussed, shared, used competitively and pleasurably and as an essential learning experience. The Festival activities listed below encourages those experienced in this technique, beginners and those interested in starting digiscoping to be a partner in these added classroom and field workshops.

Be sure to bring your phone, favorite camera and spotting scope. If you do not have all these items, plan to participate with what you have. This will be fun, a great way to meet others who are into this AND an outstanding learning experience.

Please observe parking and driving guidelines posted at most area locations such as Viera Wetlands, Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, Blue Heron Wetlands and others.

schedule

Please register for the WORLD DIGISCOPE MEETING at www.spacecoastbirdingandwildlifefestival.org. The cost per person is \$160.

This one-time registration will provide your check-in and entry to the following activities:

Tuesday, 1/20/2015**Meet and Greet at Dixie Crossroads, 4:00-6:30pm**

Receive your Information Packet – Review & discuss activities for the week – Presentations by Clay Taylor and others from the Swarovski Digiscoping Group – Selection and break into Competition Teams – Set-up and locations for Digiscoping Team Competition on Wednesday, January 21, 2015 – Cash Bar and select meal from Dixie Special Menu.

Wednesday, 1/21/2015 ALL DAY**Space Coast Digiscoping Team Event**

(SCBWF Credentials may assist your entry to area locations). This event is open to all those registering for the World Digiscoper's Meeting. Teams of two digiscopers each will have all-day Wednesday to travel throughout FL and take pictures of birds, mammals, insects, or whatever else interests them.

Thursday, 1/22/2015**Digiscoping Team Luncheon at Holiday Inn, Titusville, 12:30-3:00pm**

Meet at Holiday Inn – Hwy 50 and I-95. All THE Digiscoping Teams will meet on Thursday for Lunch and to then show their best images from the day before. All attendees of the Showcase will vote on their favorite images in 6 categories

****Non-digiscopers can also attend the Luncheon and Showcase. Please Register separately for this event as listed on the Registration Form cost: \$20.00**

Friday, 1/23/2015**The Art of Digiscoping – North, Central and South Americas** EFSC AUD, 2:00-3:00**The Art of Digiscoping – Europe, Africa and Asia** EFSC AUD, 3:30-4:30**Saturday, 1/24/2014****The Art of Digiscoping – Digiscoping Videos** EFSC AUD, 2:00-3:00**The Art of Digiscoping – Digiscoping with Your Cell Phone** EFSC AUD, 3:30-4:30

These presentations showcase the best images from the collections of some of the top digiscopers in the world. The images will be presented by the digiscopers themselves, with comments about the where, when, and how they were taken. The four themes will be –

- *The Americas – North, Central and South Americas
- *Europe, Africa and Asia
- *Digiscoping Videos
- *Digiscoping with Your Cell Phone

There will be multiple presenters within each presentation, including (but not limited to) Tara Tanaka, Robert Wilson, Kevin Bolton, Sharon Stiteler, and Clay Taylor from North America, Danny Porter of "Danny's Digiscoping" from the UK and Gudrun Kaufman, Jorg Kretzchmar and Dale Forbes from Europe.

the world digiscoping blitz

Photo by Joel Reynolds

Sat., Jan. 24, 8:00am-Noon

The World Digiscoping Blitz is modeled after the "Bio Blitz" event first organized by Peter Alden in MA, where biologists had 24 hours to inventory EVERY living creature within a city park.

The World Digiscoping Blitz is simple – DIGISCOPERS ACROSS THE WORLD from the West Coast of North America to Eastern Europe will SIMULTANEOUSLY go out into the field and in only FOUR HOURS digiscope every bird, insect, arachnid, or mammal (maybe even fish?) that they can find. If it walks, crawls, or flies, it is eligible for inclusion.

They will then post their images (with species names) to an online site within 8 hours. The goal is to see how many different species IN TOTAL can be digiscoped, identified, and posted. Covering all of North America, Central and South America, Western Europe, Africa and Madagascar, there are potentially ten thousand species that might be included. How many can you contribute?



More details will be available as the event draws near. Watch the Festival web site as changes cannot be made to the Program printed info. All is a work in progress...

Final results and other associated information will be announced by Clay Taylor:

- a. By email to all who participated
- b. On the Festival FaceBook page
- c. On the Festival web site front page

pelagic birding boat trip

Jan. 26, 6:30am-6:00pm
Limited to 110 registrants; \$120

Trip Leader will be Michael Brothers (Marine Science Center); co-leaders will be Tom Dunkerton; Trip Photographer (Nikon Pro Staff); Amay Ayyash (Author); Dave Godwin (Florida Nature Tours); David Hartgrove (Florida Nature Tours); Ric Zarwell (Rock Jumper); Laurilee Thompson (SCBWF Founder); Steve Ritt (Naturalist)

Meet at the Pastime Princess/Dolphin View Seafood Restaurant: I-95 north from Titusville. From I-95, take Exit #249, go east approx. 3 miles (past Walgreens on the right). Get into the left lane and look for a sign that says Business 44 Left. Take this left fork and follow the road over the railroad tracks and through the traffic lights (Dixie Fwy). The road becomes Canal St. and ends at the water. Turn left onto Riverside Dr. and continue north (approx. 300 feet) on Riverside Dr. until you reach the Pastime Princess/Dolphin View Seafood Restaurant on the right. From US 1, go east on Canal St. to the dead end at the water. Turn left on Riverside Dr. and go to Pastime Princess/ Dolphin View Seafood Restaurant on the right. Drive time is about 45 minutes. Please be onboard the boat by 6:00am. Pastime Princess 386-427-5393. There will be food available for purchase on the boat or you can bring a small cooler with your lunch. Be sure to bring full rain gear and wear waterproof shoes as it is likely the wind will blow and spray will fly! **Weather Back-up Day is Jan. 27, 6:30am-6:00pm.**

SPECIAL NOTE: Receive a \$10 discount toward this Pelagic Boat Trip when you register for and attend the classroom presentation "Pelagic Birds of Florida's Northeast Coast."

Pelagic birds are species that spend a significant portion of their lives on the open ocean, rarely venturing to land except to breed. Pelagic birds are powerful fliers that can remain aloft for hours while gliding

or soaring. Long-time birders know that a pelagic trip can be as exciting as birding can get, and offshore pelagic trips in Florida offer a new frontier. New birders are in for an unforgettable experience. For all birders, this is an exciting opportunity to add to your life-list. We will steam out of Ponce Inlet aboard the 100-foot fishing boat - Pastime Princess with Pelagic-trip-experienced



Photo by Tom Dunkerton

Captain George at the helm - to look for some of the sought-after bird species in Florida.

Our destination will be to reach a productive location near the western edge of the Gulf Stream. However, we may alter course from time to time as the Trip Leader may observe the gathering of birds in another direction or to chase down a bird or flock of birds for a closer look. One way to get the birds nearer to the boat is to chum. Chum is produced using a number of food items and is periodically tossed overboard to attract the birds as well as other sea creatures.

These birds are commonly seen on the East Coast and may be seen on this trip:

Mottled Duck	Lesser Scaup
Black Scoter	Common Loon
Brown Pelican	Northern Gannet
Double-crested Cormorant	Brown Booby
Razorbill	Great Blue Heron
Great Egret	Snowy Egret
Black-crowned Night-Heron	Osprey
Bald Eagle	Cooper's Hawk
Black-bellied Plover	Greater Yellowlegs
Ruddy Turnstone	Purple Sandpiper
Red Phalarope	Pomarine Jaeger
Parasitic Jaeger	Bonaparte's Gull
Laughing Gull	Ring-billed Gull
Herring Gull	Lesser Black-backed Gull
Great Black-backed Gull	Bridled Tern
Common Tern	Royal Tern
Sandwich Tern	Forster's Tern
Black Skimmer	Belted Kingfisher
American Robin	Rock Pigeon
Boat-tailed Grackle	

Although the emphasis of our Pelagic trip is clearly on birds, we want this to be a well-rounded experience with all of the offshore wildlife - birds, whales, dolphins, fish, sea turtles, or something else - to be observed. The endangered northern right whale is a possibility as the destination is within their wintertime calving grounds. These sea-dwellers were seen on the January 2012 trip: Right Whale - 8 individuals; Humpback Whale - 1 individual breaching; Bottlenose Dolphin; Pantropical Dolphin; Loggerhead Turtle and an Ocean Sunfish.



TOP: Photo by Tom Dunkerton. BOTTOM: The Pastime Princess.

special features & family fun

All Festival activities are suitable for young people and many are of educational value for K-12. The following activities may be of particular interest to families. Youth under 12 years of age are admitted free to all Classroom presentations and Keynote presentations when accompanied by a paying adult. Registration is required. Please see pages listed for information.

Children must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

When Eagles Roar
with James Currie.....pg 48

The Raptor Project.....pg 49

Learn to Make an Oyster Mat
special festival project.....pg 49

Make Your Own Bird Feeder
special festival project.....pg 50

Rendezvous with the Raptors
4th annual.....pg 50

Family Scavenger Hunt
2nd annual.....pg 50

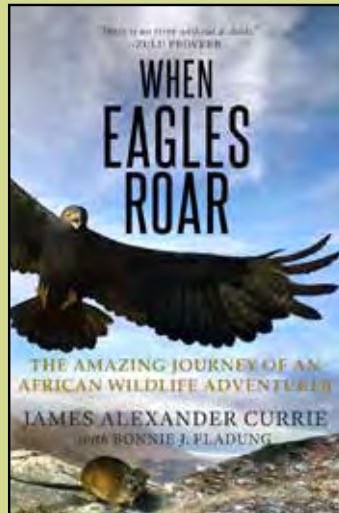
JAMES CURRIE of Nikon's Birding Adventures TV presents

when eagles roar

The Amazing Journey
of an African Wildlife Adventurer

Jan 22, 8:15pm-9:15 pm; aud; limited to 150 registrants; \$20

Most people know James Currie as the host of the popular Birding Adventures TV show. Join James Currie as he tells stories and reads excerpts from his upcoming book *When Eagles Roar*. James' story begins with his roots in South Africa growing up under apartheid. His love of wildlife and birds, craving for adventure, and his mischievous nature lead him into humorous and life threatening situations. A childhood spent roaming freely on Table Mountain, exciting adventures as a game ranger and birding guide, working as the Managing Director of Africa Foundation and his emotional decision to move to the States to start his own birding TV show are described in detail in this book. But, as the Zulus say, "there is no river without a shade". James provides a rare personal glimpse into the profound effect that AIDs is having on society in his homeland. He details his own journey overcoming physical challenges and finding the balance between following passions and what's important in life. Join James for a book signing after the talk.



BirdWatching
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the raptor project

www.raptorproject.com

The Raptor Project is an extraordinary and outstanding array of eagles, hawks, falcons and owls that have won the attention of enthralled audiences throughout the nation. The Raptor Project leads the way in outstanding, top quality, professional wildlife education.

Jonathan Wood, president and founder of The Raptor Project is a federally licensed Master Falconer, Wildlife Rehabilitator, Raptor Propagator and Game Bird Breeder and is also licensed to handle eagles and endangered species for educational programs.

The Raptor Project is one of the largest traveling collections of birds of

prey in the world, with raptors from every habitat on the planet. His frequent road tours take him to many major events, fairs and festivals as well as

a variety of colleges, schools, museums and wildlife centers. Along with his feathered friends he is regularly highlighted on national television including ESPN, CBN, TBN, Animal Planet, The Learning Channel, The Today Show, Good Morning America and The Early Show.

Many of the birds in The Raptor Project have permanent handicaps and have been donated to his project by crowded wildlife centers around the country. Unable to be re-introduced to the wild they have been trained to educate the public as charming ambassadors of their species and the environments they inhabit. This presentation is appreciated by all ages.

EFSC Gym Stage; Limited to 50 participants per performance \$5; (Children under 12 Free – must be accompanied by an adult).

Please register for a reserved seat.

Show Times

Thursday, Jan. 22 10:00am, 2:00pm & 3:30pm

Friday, Jan. 23 10:00am, 2:00pm & 3:30pm

Saturday, Jan. 24 10:00am, 2:00pm & 3:30pm

Sunday, Jan. 25 11:00am

Note: Seating is available for 50 persons. All children must be seated with an adult. Cameras are allowed, but please do not block others views when taking photos.

PER FIRE REGULATIONS: There will be no standing in the aisles.



Photo by Roy Thoman

learn to make an oyster mat

A Special Festival Project

Jan. 24 & 25, 10:00am-3:00pm; See the Information Desk for more information

Melinda Donnelly, University of Central Florida and member, BNA Board of Directors

Easy to do – enjoy visiting with others – no competition.

Help our local environment and pay it forward by helping to lower your carbon impact associated with travel to and in Brevard County. This is a special project in partnership with the Brevard Zoo and the University of

Central Florida.

The Oyster Restoration Project is unique in that it is a powerful tool in restoring aquatic habitat and it provides an opportunity for everyone to participate in hands-on conservation effort. Oysters have great potential for restoring the health of the Indian River Lagoon. An oyster can filter up to 50 gallons of water a day and can remove excess nitrogen in the water that leads to brown tides and other algae blooms.

Dr. Linda Walters, researcher at University of Central Florida, began this project several years ago. Working at first with the Nature Conservancy, the project used volunteers from many organizations as well as school Environmental groups and set up mat-making at events throughout Brevard County. Volunteers are taught to place plastic lattice mats with oyster shells tied on them to recruit new oysters. They drill holes in the oyster shells and zip-tie them to the plastic mats. The mats then

placed in select water areas and weighted down the mats with the concrete rings normally used to guard yard sprinkler heads.

To date, volunteers have restored 1.8 acres of oyster reef, adding almost 4.2 million oysters to Mosquito Lagoon. That's enough to filter 210 million gallons daily, or about 318 Olympic-sized swimming pools.



Oyster mat photos



4th annual

rendezvous with the raptors

Hosted by the Brevard Zoo



Nyami Nyami River Lodge at Brevard Zoo

Please park in the south parking lot.

**This event is to benefit the 18th Annual
Space Coast Birding & Wildlife Festival**

Saturday, Jan. 17, 2015, 5:30pm-8:00pm; Tickets \$30

You may register at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/4th-annual-rendezvous-with-the-raptors-tickets-13910451535>

**OR for reservations please email or call Rhonda Harris at
321-268-5224 or festival@brevardnaturealliance.org**

Spend a casual but exciting evening with outstanding eagles, hawks, falcons and owls that have won the attention of enthralled audiences throughout the nation. Hors d'oeuvres and Cash Bar. Door prizes and 50/50 Photo opportunity for an up-close and personal photo with a Raptor.

make your own
bird feeder

2nd annual

family scavenger hunt

The BNA is super excited! Saturday, January 24, along with the Space Coast Chapter of the Audubon Society and the Young Birders of Brevard, we will have our 2nd Annual Family Scavenger Hunt.

Stop by the Space Coast Audubon Society booth to pick up a bird checklist. Search for bird photos randomly placed at assorted booths throughout the exhibit hall. Have fun and see how many birds you can locate and identify. Check off the bird and write the booth number on your list and return your list to the Space Coast Audubon booth. Each family will receive a gift for their participation.

The event will run from 11 am to 4 pm.

Hurry In! Space is limited.



Photo by Tom Dunkerton

Sponsored by Ace Hardware - Titusville

Ace Hardware is furnishing the hangers and birdseed for this project. You will be able to help your child with placing the hanger in a plastic bottle, filling it with birdseed and finding a good spot for hanging your new feeder in a tree at home. See the Information Desk for more information.

local area information

Welcome to Titusville and Florida's Space Coast!

*Titusville and the entire Brevard County Area is a fabulous place to visit for anyone who loves outdoor adventures and exploring natural places. The area boasts a variety of habitats to explore - from coastal scrub and forest uplands - to open prairies and maritime hammocks. Brevard County - The Space Coast- has incredible biological diversity due to its location. Wildlife including aquatic creatures like manatees, dolphins, and sea turtles and airborne species including the Roseate Spoonbill and Bald Eagle, are just a kayak trip or boat ride away! We hope you take the time to **GET OUTSIDE** and explore the wonderful sites of Titusville and the Space Coast while you are here attending the 18th Annual Space Coast Birding and Wildlife Festival.*



Roseate Spoonbill. Photo by Reinier Munguia



Photo by Brevard Nature Alliance



Photo by Brevard Nature Alliance

area restaurants

Asian House Restaurant.....321-269-8900
407 Cheney Hwy., Titusville

Bapa's Bistro & Bar.....321-383-0200
Inside Holiday Inn, 4715 Helen Hauser Blvd., Titusville

Beef O'Brady's.....321-268-2929
2825 Garden St., Suite 9, Titusville

Buffet Village.....321-268-1778
3125 Columbia Blvd., Titusville

Cafe' Chocolat.....321-267-1713
In Historic Downtown, 304 S. Washington Ave., Titusville

Chops.....321-385-2467
In Historic Downtown, 336 S Washington Ave., Titusville

Cracker Barrel.....321-268-9911
4575 Helen Houser Blvd., Titusville

David's Café.....321-269-2545
2480 S Washington Ave., Titusville

Denny's.....321-268-4527
In Ramada Inn KSC, 3500 Cheney Hwy., Titusville

Dixie Crossroads.....321-268-5000
1475 Garden St., Titusville

Dogs 'R' Us.....321-269-9050
4200 S Washington Ave., Titusville

Durango's.....321-264-2499
In Best Western complex, 3435 Cheney Hwy., Titusville

El Leoncito.....321-267-6743
4280 S. Washington Ave., Titusville

Honeysuckles.....321-267-9533
2203 N. US Hwy. 1, Mims

Kelsey's Pizza.....321-268-5555
2845 Garden St., Titusville

Kloiber's Cobbler.....321-383-0689
In Historic Downtown, 337 S. Washington Ave., Titusville

La Bamba.....321-268-6960
3758 S. Washington Ave., Titusville

Louis's BBQ Shack.....321-264-1446
2191 N. US Hwy. 1, Mims

Loyd Have Mercy.....321-269-1008
In Searstown Mall, 3550 S. Washington Ave., Titusville

Mr. Submarine & Salads.....321-383-1616
2850 S. Hopkins Ave., Titusville

Portofino Italian Grill.....321-567-0636
3350 S. Washington Ave., Titusville

Shiloh's Steak & Seafood.....321-269-3133
3665 S. Washington Ave., Titusville

Sonny's Bar-B-Que.....321-385-2665
2900 Cheney Hwy., Titusville

The Coffee Shoppe.....321-267-9902
125 Broad St., Titusville

Valentino's Family Restaurant.....321-268-5999
St. Johns Plaza, 3241 Garden St., Titusville

Valentino's NY-Style Pizza.....321-269-9559
In Searstown Mall, 3550 S. Washington Ave., Titusville

Victorios.....321-267-1950
1701 N. US Hwy. 1, Titusville

Viet River Restaurant.....321-600-0800
1817 S. Washington Ave., Titusville

Village Inn.....321-267-6611
2925 S. Washington Ave., Titusville

get your exercise on at the titusville ymca



The Titusville YMCA wishes to welcome our Space Coast Birding & Wildlife Festival visitors. The purpose of our Y is to improve lives of all in Central Florida by connecting individuals, families and communities with opportunities based on Christian values that strengthen Spirit, Mind & Body. We wish to invite you and your family to exercise with us at the Titusville YMCA while participating in the festival and visiting the beautiful Space Coast. We are located at 2400 Harrison St, Titusville, FL 32780. We can be reached at 321-267-8924. Please be sure to bring photo identification and complete a guest waiver prior to using our YMCA facility.

things to do

for the non-birding family member or friend

The 2015 Festival offers many local alternatives for non-birders and recommends some Festival events as well.

- **Tour the Titusville Historic Museum (Downtown Titusville)**
- **Tour the Space Walk of Fame and Museum (Downtown Titusville)**
- **Visit the quaint shops and art galleries in Downtown Titusville, then have lunch in one of the great restaurants.**
- **Tour the Police Hall of Fame and Museum.**
- **KSC Visitor Center, Bus Tour, Atlantis Viewing Opportunity and the Astronaut Hall of Fame.**
- **Visit the Space Coast Geocaching Store in Merritt Island.**
- **Tour the Exploration Tower at Port Canaveral.**
- **Visit the Brevard Zoo in Melbourne.**
- **Visit the Dinosaur Store and Museum in Cocoa Beach.**
- **Visit the Exhibit Center, Silent Auction and Art Show.**
- **See our Water Adventures Section on page 50 for Additional Outdoor Fun!**
- ***Sign up for the Raptor Project - on stage in the Exhibit Center.**
- ***Tour the historic Pritchard House with docents in period dress.**

*These activities require that you complete a SCBWF Registration as seats/trip space is limited. A great afternoon meeting place will be the afternoon Keynote Social where you can enjoy a beverage and snack and meet new or old friends.

We are available by phone to discuss alternative preferences and suggested non-birder and family-oriented activities. Contact the Festival office at 321-268-5224.



Ponce Inlet Lighthouse. Photo by Tom Dunkerton

area lodging

Hotels

Quality Inn Kennedy Space Center, Titusville	321-269-7110
2015 HOST HOTEL	
Best Western Space Shuttle Inn, Titusville.....	321-269-9100
Days Inn Kennedy Space Center, Titusville.....	321-269-4480
Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott, Titusville	321-385-1818
Hampton Inn Titusville-Kennedy Space Center.....	321-383-9191
Holiday Inn Titusville-Kennedy Space Center.....	321-383-0200
Ramada Inn & Suites, Titusville	321-269-5510
Super 8, Titusville-Kennedy Space Center.....	321-269-9310
Best Western Cocoa Inn, Cocoa	321-632-1065
Country Inn and Suites, Cape Canaveral	321-868-8582
Courtyard by Marriott, Cape Canaveral-Cocoa Beach...	321-784-4800
Doubletree by Hilton Oceanfront, Cocoa Beach.....	321-783-9222
Hampton Inn, Cape Canaveral-Cocoa Beach.....	321-799-4099
Radisson Resort at the Port, Cape Canaveral.....	321-784-0000
Residence Inn, Cape Canaveral.....	321-323-1100
Royal Mansions, Cape Canaveral-Cocoa Beach	321-784-8484
Best Western Ocean Beach Hotel & Suites, Cocoa Beach ...	321-783-7621
Cocoa Beach Suites, Cocoa Beach.....	321-783-6868
Days Inn, Cocoa Beach	321-784-2550
Four Points by Sheraton, Cocoa Beach.....	321-783-8717
International Palms Resort Cocoa Beach	800-206-2797
Sea Esta Villas, Cocoa Beach	321-783-1739
Fairfield Inn & Suites, Viera/Melbourne/Palm Bay.....	321-722-2220
Holiday Inn Expresss, Palm Bay	321-220-2003
Hampton Inn, Viera	321-255-6868
America's Best Value Inn & Suites, Melbourne	321-768-8439
Candlewood Suites, Melbourne.....	321-821-9009
Hilton Rialto Place, Melbourne.....	321-768-0200

Bed & Breakfasts

Casa Coquina Bed & Breakfast, Titusville	321-268-4653, 877-684-8341 (USA only)
Sea Glass Inn, Melbourne Beach	321-725-7558

RV Parks (RVs only)

Great Outdoors Golf & Country Club, Titusville.....	321-269-5004, 800-621-2267
Seasons in the Sun RV Park, Titusville-Mims.....	321-385-0440
Willow Lakes RV & Golf Resort, Titusville.....	321-269-7440, 877-787-2571

Campgrounds

Cape Kennedy KOA, Titusville.....	321-269-7361, 800-562-3365
Manatee Hammock Campground, Titusville.....	321-264-5083

water adventures

With an abundance of rivers, creeks and estuaries to explore, these trips showcase some of the Space Coast's very best locales. Estuary trips may provide glimpses of bottle-nose dolphin. Sightings of manatees in open estuarine waters at this time of the year are possible depending on water temperatures. The weather can be uncertain at the end of January. It is advisable that you contact the provider on the afternoon before the scheduled trip. Be sure to ask the provider what you need to bring to make your trip more enjoyable.

Note: Make reservations directly with Water Adventure provider as required. The Festival is not responsible for transactions between providers and attendees.

AirBoat Rides at MidWay

Reservation Info: 407-568-6790, fax 407-568-6792, or email info@airboatridesatmidway.com. Special SCBWF.

One Hour Eco Tour

Jan. 21, 22, 23, 24 25, 26, 9:30am-3:30pm; \$35/person

Merritt Island Boat Tours

Reservation info: 407-927-8869 or www.merrittislandboattours.com. Daily boat tours through Haulover Canal and surrounding islands. Call for more info.

2-hour photography sunrise bird by boat tour to Mullethead Migratory Bird Island

Jan. 22-26, 4:15pm-6:15pm; \$40/person; Reservations only.

Kayaks by Bo Hobie Kayak Demonstrations



Jan. 22-25; 12:00-3:00; Chain of Lakes Park, Titusville; Free

Meet at Chain of Lakes Park – From Eastern Florida State College, turn north on US 1 and go to the first traffic light – turn east on Truman Scarborough Way – follow this road to the entrance of the park and turn right to go to the lake nearest the soccer fields. Signs will direct you where to park. Kayaks by Bo will have an array of Hobie kayaks for you to “kick the tires” and see how you fit in one of these well-made and outstanding performance kayaks. Tom Altif (Kayaks by Bo) and others will be available to assist you and answer your questions. Participation is free with no registration required.



Photo by Kevin Karlson



Kayaks at Chain Of Lakes. Photo by Ray Scory

Palm Bay Kayaks

Reservation info: www.palmbaykayaks.com, 321-215-1707 or tours@palmbaykayaks.com.

Turkey Creek Sanctuary Paddle and Hike

Jan. 21 & Jan. 25, 8am-12pm; \$49/person; Limited to 10-12 participants.

Meet at Pollak Boat Ramp on Main St. just West of RR tracks and Rt. 1 off Palm Bay Rd.

2 Hour Paddle into Goat Creek

Jan. 22, Sunrise, 6:30am-9am; Midday, 11am-1:30pm, \$35/person with kayak rental, \$20/person with own kayak; Limited to 10-12 participants.

Meet just north of Valkaria Rd. on Eastern side of Rt. 1.

3+ Hour Paddle to Spoil Islands and Goat Creek

Jan. 23, Sunrise, 6:30am-10am; Afternoon 12pm-3:30pm, \$39/person with kayak rental, \$20/person with own kayak; Limited to 10-12 participants.

Meet just north of Valkaria Rd. on Eastern side of Rt. 1.

3+ Hour Paddle Turkey Creek Sanctuary

Jan. 24, 26, 8:30am-12pm; 1:30pm-5pm, \$39/person with kayak rental, \$20/person with own kayak; Limited to 10-12 participants.

Meet at Pollak Park Boat Ramp on Main St. just West of RR tracks and Rt. 1 off Palm Bay Rd.

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