

21ST ANNUAL SPACE COAST
Birding & Wildlife
FESTIVAL GUIDE 2018



LOOK INSIDE FOR:
Schedule of Field Trips,
Photography, Speakers
& Workshops

Presented by
**Dixie Crossroads Restaurant &
Swarovski Optik**

WELCOME KEYNOTE BY:
**Pete Dunne &
Kevin Karlson**

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On the Cover

Peregrine Falcon by Clay Taylor, Swarovski Optik. Photo captured 1/22/2016 on the road to Black Point Wildlife Drive using: ATX 95 Spotting Scope, TLS APO 23, Panasonic GH4, ISO 500 @ 1/640sec.

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Mission

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 tourism.

The Brevard Nature is a 501(c)(3) organization. The value of your donation may be deductible for tax purposes. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling toll-free within the State. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the state. Call 1-800-HELP-FLA (435-7352) or go to www.FloridaConsumerHelp.com. Registration #: CH19903 - Florida Solicitation of Contribution Act.

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Welcome

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Brevard Nature Alliance, and the entire Festival Planning Team, we are delighted that you are here.

There's something special about the number "21". It implies all grown up, and able to stand on its own merit. That is exactly how we feel about welcoming you to the 21st Annual Space Coast Birding and Wildlife Festival. As the festival gets older, so do we. We learn by our mistakes every year and so this year – no wrapped bus windows!! Registration badges will be printed and waiting ahead of time assuming you registered in advance. We are keeping your day shorter since you have gotten up so early, and now provide you an opportunity to get into town and out to dinner and into bed earlier so you can keep going on our awesome field trips. We are only going to do two special events, the Opening Ceremonies on Wednesday night, and the Saturday Night Celebration.

Have a wonderful time. Hopefully you have registered for one of our outstanding field trips. As a registered festival participant, take in as many free classroom presentations as your schedule permits. Enjoy one of our newly featured "Spotlight Presentations" and workshops led by some of the best in the birding world. The keynote speakers are outstanding in their fields and we feel particularly honored that Pete Dunne has chosen to come and speak with Kevin Karlson about their newly released book on raptors. We are privileged to have world class photographers here, and the optics and camera companies at the Exhibit Center provide an outstanding array of equipment to enhance your birdwatching abilities. While in the Exhibit Center, discuss that bucket list birding trip with one of the tour companies, buy one of the latest birding publications, say hello to local organizations doing their part in preserving our natural resources, and explore the variety of other exhibitors looking forward to meeting you.

We will honor the memory of Neta Harris during our Opening Ceremonies and finish the festival with a Saturday Night Celebration supper and musical performance by the Rain Crows. Be sure to enter a bid in the Silent Auction to have a chance to play the cowbell on stage with them, it's an event you'll never forget.

Welcome to Florida in January, a great place to be!

Barb Eager, Executive Director
Laurilee Thompson, Festival Founder/Chair

FESTIVAL REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Register Online - PREREGISTER by going to www.SCBWF.org or our Facebook page (Space Coast Birding and Wildlife) and clicking the Registration link for quick and secure online registration - follow the easy fill-in-the-blank instructions. Your confirmation will be emailed to you. Please make note of your password - you can return at any time to update your session selections. **BADGE PICKUP** will be at the registration area located in the lobby of the Exhibit Center. Please note: if you wish you may print your confirmation email, or just have it available on your phone or iPad for viewing.

Have questions? Please contact scbwf.register@gmail.com; Ruthie Cook at ruth.cook@brevardnaturealliance.org or call 321-268-5224.

Badge pick-up and walk-in registration hours:

Tue., Jan. 23, 12pm-5pm; Wed., Jan. 24, 8am-5pm; Thur., Jan. 25, 9am-3pm; Fri., Jan. 26, 9am-3pm; Sat., Jan. 27, 9am-3pm.

Onsite Food Services - Light snacks will be available to purchase daily in our snack bar area. There will be coffee, juice, and light breakfast options each morning. During lunch, drinks, and quick pick-up-&-go lunch options will be offered. 1 to 2 Local food trucks will be providing lunch daily outside the exhibit center. The food trucks will feature a variety of cuisine, including Mexican, BBQ, Southern, Seafood, etc.

With an earlier evening release time this year, evening socials in the exhibit hall have been discontinued. This provides our visitors the opportunity to go into the community and experience our local cuisine. Restaurant guides will be available to help facilitate nearby food choices. Enjoy the diversity that Titusville has to offer.

Tribute to Neta

Neta Harris – In Memoriam



Neta Harris was an integral part of the Space Coast Birding and Wildlife Festival until her death after a brief illness this past spring. The festival was a passion of hers and she helped put Florida birding on the map. Neta made Titusville a must go to destination for traveling birders and was a beloved figure among the thousands of birders who have attended the festival over the years.

Neta's one request was to be remembered for her love of the birds! There could never be any doubt. Because of her work, the festival is not just known by Space Coast residents, but by birders from across the country and around the world. With her persistence, time, and energy the festival became one of the best and well known in the country. There isn't anyone who is anybody in the birding world that does not know Neta Harris.

Neta was very active in the community and played a pivotal role on advisory boards for the Brevard Country Parks and Recreation. She was a tenacious, consummate professional whose kind and generous spirit, and passionate advocacy has benefited all who visit or call Space Coast home. She was a strong advocate for the promotion, protection, and use of the Space Coast resources as an outstanding destination for birding and wildlife, cultural and nature based eco-tourism activities. She loved sharing ideas, experiences, and knowledge with others to nurture and mentor.

The Brevard Nature Alliance and Birdwatchers Digest are creating a Neta Harris Young Birders scholarship in her honor.

We'd like to think there is one more bird singing in heaven!



EXHIBIT CENTER INFORMATION

Exhibit Center – The Heart of the Festival!

The Exhibit Center is the central hub of the festival. Located in the Building 4 Gymnasium, adjacent to the Registration Area, there will be more than 80 exhibits geared towards the birding, wildlife and nature enthusiast.

Exhibits will include destination tour companies, wildlife and birding organizations, nature based businesses, book sellers, photography, and an outstanding representation of camera and optic equipment.

Field trips and presentations are scheduled so there is time to visit the Exhibit Center on numerous occasions. Snack stands will be stationed throughout the Center and it is also the location for the Silent Auction. Say hello to our sponsors, purchase a camera from Hunt's Photo and Video or optics from Time and Optics, stop by Swarovski and thank them for their generous support of the festival, and check the bird list board. The vendors have gone to a lot of time and effort to be there, let's show them our appreciation by visiting them often!

Exhibit Center hours are:

Open	Wed., Jan. 24	12:00pm – 6:00pm
Open	Thurs., Jan. 25	12:00pm – 6:00pm
Open	Fri., Jan. 26	12:00pm – 6:00pm
Open	Sat., Jan. 27	10:00am – 4:30pm

Silent Auction

Proceeds from the Silent Auction are used to fund our **"Giving Back to Conservation"** initiative. Every year we take 100% of the Silent Auction proceeds and donate them to a worthy environmentally related cause in Brevard County, home of the Space Coast Birding and Wildlife Festival. Last year we raised over \$4000 which was donated to Spoil Island Restoration. The recipient of this year's proceeds, as voted on by the Brevard Nature Alliance Board of Directors is the Enchanted Forest, Titusville, FL.

Please Browse and Bid on Zeiss, Kowa, Tamron and Opticron products, birding books from Princeton Press, Fairy Jar gift basket, Rockjumper discount on birding/photography wildlife tour, framed wildlife picture, DVDs and bird houses just to name a few. This year we also have the fun of bidding on the "cowbell" – get up and play the cowbell with the Rain Crows!

Location – Right side of the stage in the rear of the Exhibit Center – just follow the signs!

Bidding starts at 12:00pm on Wednesday, January 24th. **Bidding will close** on Saturday, January 27th at 1:30pm. Items will be available for pick up from 2:30pm – 4:00pm in the same location. We will accept cash, check (must provide copy of driver's license) Visa, Mastercard and Discover.

No items will be mailed. Bids will be voided on any item not picked up by 4:00pm and will be available until 4:30pm to the next bidder.

The Brevard Nature Alliance is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization. The value of your donation may be deductible for tax purposes. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling toll-free within the state. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the state. Call 1-800-HELP-FLA (435-7352) or go to www.FloridaConsumerHelp.com. Registration # CH19903 Florida Solicitation of Contributions Act.

Giving Back to Conservation

The Brevard Nature Alliance is pleased to announce that the recipient of the 2018 Space Coast Birding and Wildlife Festival initiative "Giving Back to Conservation" is the Enchanted Forest.

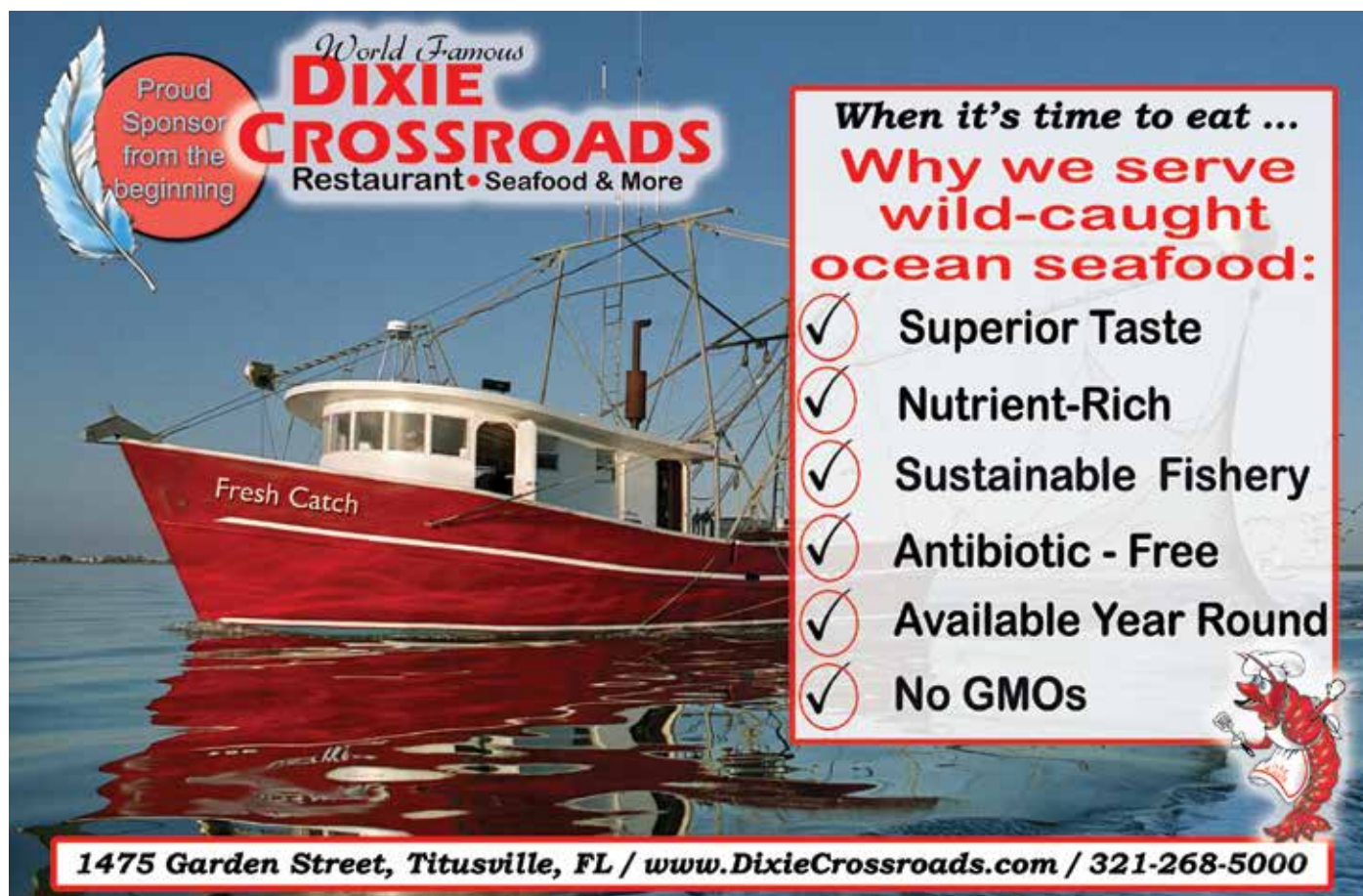
The Enchanted Forest Sanctuary was the first conservation property purchased under the Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Referendum. This 470-acre nature preserve is part of a sanctuary network that includes 24 sites and 3 environmental education centers throughout Brevard County.

Located in the southern limits of the City of Titusville, the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary preserves a diversity of natural habitats. Several miles of hiking trails allow visitors to enjoy the natural beauty of the region. Wildlife observation, nature photography, and hiking are popular recreational activities. A wonderful wealth of plant life also abounds as both temperate (northern) and subtropical (southern) species grow in the Sanctuary together. The Management & Education Center interprets the Sanctuary's unique natural features for visitors of all ages and abilities.

There are five basic habitat types found at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary: oak scrub, mesic and hydric hammock, wet prairie, and pine flatwood. Wildlife species found here include the Eastern indigo snake, Florida scrub lizard, gopher tortoise, white-tailed deer, and bobcat.

The Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program was established in 1990 to protect the natural habitats of Brevard County by acquiring environmentally sensitive lands for conservation, passive recreation, and environmental education.

This was made possible by citizens who voted to tax themselves to protect Brevard's natural areas and provide passive recreation, and environmental education opportunities. Residents reaffirmed their support for the Program in 2004 under a second referendum. The mission of the EEL Program is to protect and preserve biological diversity through responsible stewardship of Brevard County's Natural Resources.



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KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Kevin Karlson/Pete Dunne

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Birds of Prey: Hawks, Eagles, Falcons and Vultures of North America



Jan. 24, 5:30pm-6:30pm; Aud; \$30

This visually stunning program reflects the mood and content of a new book (*Birds of Prey*) by Pete Dunne and Kevin Karlson (April 2017, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishers). Pete shares his inspiration for the book, and some interesting anecdotes and natural history stories about raptors as only he can. Photos and stories about select raptor species are also presented, with both speakers relying on over 80 collective years of experience viewing, studying and counting birds of prey. A musical ending with some of the most spectacular raptor images ever assembled by 15 top

photographers will send everyone home with amazement for the talent involved in this work. Pete and Kevin will be available to sign copies of their newly released book.



Pete Dunne has been one of the most influential birders, author and nature writers in North America for the last 40 years. He is the founding director of the Cape May Bird Observatory, and now serves as ambassador for the NJ Audubon Society. Kevin Karlson is an accomplished birder, tour leader, professional wildlife photographer/instructor, and keynote/workshop presenter. He has authored a number of books on birds and photography, including *The Shorebird Guide* and *Birding by Impression*. Together they will fascinate and entertain you with stories and mind-blowing photos of birds of prey.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Kevin Loughlin

Sponsored by



Protecting Wild Places... One Trip at a Time



Jan. 25, 5:30pm-6:30pm; \$20

Kevin Loughlin, owner of Wildside Nature Tours, founded his company after a life-changing vacation to Belize in 1993. He was so taken by this tiny country's wildlife, its people and their desire to protect natural areas that he returned home, quit his job and designed his first tour. Since then Kevin has shared amazing experiences with thousands of people worldwide.

Experiences are so much more valuable than things. Things break or we get tired of playing with them, while experiences are with us forever. Long after returning home from an adventure, we continue to share stories and photos of our travels with friends and family while looking forward to the next great experience!

Have you ever thought about how your adventures have helped those who make our experiences so special? The local guides, the people in the communities of these far-off lands, and especially the wildlife can all benefit from our immersion in any destination.

In this colorful photographic presentation, Kevin will share how your travel experiences have helped conservation efforts in well-known tourism destinations like the Amazon and the Galapagos. Kevin will also share an incredible story of conservation in the unknown, remote destination of Nagaland. Along with renowned author, Scott Weidensaul and some help from Zeiss Optics, Kevin launched an expedition to assist

a conservation tourism project to protect hundreds of thousands of Amur Falcons that migrate through this rugged region with little tourism infrastructure. This is a success story you don't want to miss!

Kevin Loughlin was raised to appreciate nature while exploring the woodlands of Pennsylvania as a child. At age six, during a family trip through the American West, Kevin became fascinated with photography as well seeing the new and different birds and wildlife throughout North America. Instilled with a love for travel and seeking new exciting destinations, Kevin felt a desire to share his experiences with others and in 1993 he created Wildside Nature Tours.

Kevin leads tours and photo workshops while writing articles and offering presentations across the USA. His photographs and articles have appeared in publications such as *Nature Photographer*, *WildBird*, *Audubon* and *Philadelphia* magazines. His photos have also been included in many natural history books as well, including a dozen images in the recent *Peterson Reference Guide to the Owls of North America* and *the Caribbean* by Scott Weidensaul.



Michael Brothers

Sponsored by



Voyagers on the Open Sea - The Pelagic Birds of Florida



Jan. 26, 5:30pm-6:30pm; AUD; \$20

Black-capped Petrel, White-tailed Tropicbird, Bulwer's Petrel, Manx Shearwater, Band-rumped Storm-Petrel – these are names that set a birder's heart racing in Florida. 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 limit 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.

Michael Brothers is the Director of the Marine Science Center in Ponce Inlet, Florida. He specializes in the bird life and flora of Florida, especially gulls and seabirds. Michael has led natural history tours throughout Florida, the Galapagos Islands, Kenya, and the Amazon. He has been leading pelagic birding expeditions off of Florida and Georgia for the last 12 years. He is also the Florida editor of the journal *North American Birds*. Michael is currently banding Lesser Black-backed Gulls in Volusia County in hopes of determining the breeding source of Florida's Lesser Black-backed Gulls.



Saturday Evening Celebration Party

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Dinner on Saturday, January 27th will start at 5:00pm. We will feature an exciting new opportunity for socializing and fun. Kick back your heels for a relaxing night of great food and fabulous music!

The evening will begin with a delicious dinner featuring a Loaded Baked Potato Bar with a variety of tempting toppings such as pulled pork and other meats, delicious sauces, and vegetarian options. A macaroni salad and a green salad will accompany the meal, and it will end with the perfect dessert. A buffet will be set up in what

was the registration area so you can fill a plate and socialize with presenters, trip leaders, photographers, and all the other people who made the festival possible. Dinner will be followed by an exciting and rocking concert by the one and only Rain Crows. You certainly will not want to miss this event! Don't forget to bid on the chance to play the cowbell on stage with the band! The Rain Crows will be performing in the auditorium from 6:00pm to 7:45pm.

Cost for dinner and band - \$30 per person. Space is limited. Registration required.

The Rain Crows are a rare species. There are millions of bands on this planet, but only a small percentage of them create their own original music. Even fewer invest the time (and expense) to record their songs in a studio or to play their music for live audiences. The Rain Crows do all three.



Based in rural southeastern Ohio, in the foothills of the Appalachians, the members of the Rain Crows let the landscape, nature, and life of the region blend into their original songs. Having played music

all the way to their middle-aged years, the band writes songs like a tree drops its fruit—out of sheer joy, and a need to make music out of the stuff life tosses at them.

From rootsy Americana through comfy southern rock to shimmering pop power ballads and Celtic instrumentals, The Rain Crows' two albums: "Looks Like Rain," and "Dream of Flying Dream" wind like a good country road, with a new delight around each bend. Some songs are stripped to their bones; others are All Skate. Four of the five members of the band contribute as songwriters, and three as singers. All five are birders and nature lovers.

The Rain Crows are: Bill Thompson III - bandleader, lead guitar, and vocals; Wendy Clark - Keyboards and vocals; Julie Zickefoose - Vocals, flute, pennywhistle, percussion; Craig Gibbs - bass, slide, and classical guitar; Mike Austin - drums

The Rain Crows are pleased to be making their first, full-band appearance in Florida at the Space Coast Birding & Wildlife Festival in Titusville, Florida on Saturday, January 27, 2018. Contact: billthompson3@me.com, 740-350-5285

Facebook: The Rain Crows

www.reverbnation.com/theraincrows

SPOTLIGHT

Clay Taylor

Hawks and Me – 40 Years of Chasing Hawks with Binocular, Camera, and Bow Trap Jan. 24; 1:00pm-2:00pm; AUD; \$10

When he first started birding in the 1970s, Clay Taylor was an avid race car photographer. So, long before he bought his first binocular, he “birded” through his telephoto lens. Once he discovered the fall hawk migration along the coast of Connecticut, hawk watching and hawk photography became a particular fascination. In the 1980s, Clay started catching and banding migrating hawks in Connecticut in the fall and New York in the spring.

In 1999, he was employed by Swarovski Optik as their “birder.” Since then he has had the opportunity to visit some of the premier North American hawk-watching sites, and has met some of the top hawk experts in the world. He moved to Corpus Christi, TX in 2008 in order to be close to the



famous Hazel Bazemore Park Hawk Watch (and get away from New England winters, too).

Enjoy listening to stories and viewing a few slides.

Greg Miller

DIY Big Year (Do It Yourself Big Year) Jan. 24, 4:00pm-5:00pm; AUD; \$10

Have you ever wanted to do a Big Year but you don't have the time or money to do it? Or maybe you have no desire to go after a World Record but you would like to set your own personal record. Maybe you want to see 400-600 species of birds in a year. How much effort will that take? How many trips will you need to make? What will this effort cost? Where do you go? How do you start planning? If you want to do a DIY Big Year, this presentation is for you.

Greg Miller has birded in all 50 states and much of Canada during his 50 years of birding. In 1998 Greg traveled 130,000 miles to try to see as many species of birds in one calendar year as possible. He passed 700 species -- an achievement many birders aspire to in a lifetime. But there was competition. Two other birders did “Big Years” the same year as Greg and also passed 700. Their competitive quests are documented in the 2004 non-fiction book, *The Big Year*, by Pulitzer Prize winning author Mark Obmascik. And unbelievably, a full-length motion picture was inspired by the book! Greg is currently a speaker and a tour guide for Wildside Nature Tours. He serves on many bird-related boards and committees and has been instrumental in decisions on listing and conservation.



Pete Dunne, Kevin Karlson, Michael Brothers, Amar Ayyash

Gulls Simplified: Ask the Experts Jan. 25, 3:30pm-5:00pm; AUD; \$20

Based on a new book by Pete Dunne and Kevin Karlson (Princeton Univ Press, 2018), this workshop presents numerous photos of common gulls at various ages, with composite images showing numbers of expected plumages during the year. Comparative real life and digitized photos show similar species side by side to help with persistent ID problems. The book is designed to allow birders who previously did not want to identify gulls to see them in a whole new light, without complicated terms and complex details to remember.

If you thought they were too hard before, come and give gulls a try with our simpler, comprehensive visual ID approach. This panel is comprised of some of the most notable gull experts in North America.



Top Left: Comparison of br and nonbr Laughing and Franklin's gulls.

Bottom Left: Glaucous, Herring, Lesser Black-backed, Laughing gulls at Daytona Beach Shores, FL.

Top Right: American Oystercatcher losing food to Ring-billed Gull, Florida.

SPOTLIGHT

Sam Fried

Continental Drift – A Journey Across North America

Jan. 26, 4:00pm-5:00pm; AUD; \$10

Starting in Titusville, Florida, Sam and Gale Donnelley drove their compact Roadtrek RV all the way to Prudhoe Bay, Alaska -- as far as they could go in North America without getting wet. They flew to Nome and the Pribilof Islands during their 1.5 months in The Last Frontier, then wandered through the Rockies and across the northern plains before drifting back toward Florida. This was a five-month journey of exploration and wonder that included birds, mammals, spectacular scenery and adventure. You are invited to come along for the ride!

Here are a few numbers from the trip:

- Number of bird species seen on trip: 473
- Gale's lifers: 86, for a life list of 616 in the ABA area
- Sam's lifers: 8, for a life list of 762
- Sam's life photographs: 10, for a total of 746
- Photos taken: somewhere over 30,000
- Mammal species seen: 63
- Road kill species (all inclusive): 48



Sam Fried is a widely published wildlife photographer and writer. He founded Flights of Fancy Adventures 20 years ago, with the goal of making birding and nature travel affordable. Sam says, "Nothing gives me more pleasure than showing species and places to people for the first time. When their eyes widen with joy and excitement, I know I've done my job well."

Julie Zickefoose

Baby Birds: An Artist Looks into the Nest

Jan. 27, 1:00pm-2:00pm; AUD; \$15

Why and how do baby songbirds develop so quickly, some launching into flight only 11 days after hatching? In 2002, Julie Zickefoose began to draw and paint wild nestlings, day by day, bearing witness to their swift growth. Over the next 13 years, Julie would document the daily changes in 17 bird species from hatching to fledging. Baby Birds is the enchanting result, with more than 500 life studies that hop, crawl and flutter through its pages. In this talk, Julie shares her influences as well as her artistic process, a must-see for the aspiring natural history artist.

Art and science blend in every Zickefoose pursuit, as the scientist's relentless curiosity joins the artist's quest for beauty. The work, wonder and fun of studying nestlings, including being foster mother to orphaned hummingbirds, chimney swifts and bluebirds, makes for an irresistible and highly inspirational presentation.



Julie Zickefoose of Whipple, Ohio, author of the heavily illustrated *Letters from Eden* and *The Bluebird Effect*, is a Contributing Editor to *Bird Watcher's Digest*. Her new book is *Baby Birds: An Artist Looks Into the Nest* (2016), with more than 500 watercolor studies of the development of nestling birds. She loves to encourage people to watch wildlife more closely and carefully, speaking and leading trips at a number of festivals around the country.



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Please check website Sponsor link for updated lists.

FESTIVAL SUPPORT TEAM



■ **Barb Eager, Executive Director**

Barb is responsible for all operational activities of the Alliance, with the number one event being the Space Coast Birding and Wildlife Festival (SCBWF). She brings a background of over 35 years in tourism, non-profit management and national event planning with a strong emphasis on organizational, financial and time management skills. After a very successful 20th SCBWF in January 2017, Barb is the primary organizer of the keynote and spotlight speakers, Exhibit Center and works closely with the registration services provider. Barb travels extensively nationwide promoting the festival going to the American Birding Expo, Cape May Fall Festival, Rio Grande Valley Birding Festival and the San Diego Birding Festival. Barb is also working closely with the BNA Board of Directors to nurture future growth of the BNA in line with the BNA's mission.

■ **Laurilee Thompson, Festival Chair and Founder**

Laurilee is the co-owner of Dixie Crossroads Seafood Restaurant. In 1997, Laurilee rallied some friends to create an event to highlight Brevard County's extraordinary natural resources, demonstrating their value to the community's economy and quality of life. That event is the Space Coast Birding and Wildlife Festival which now attracts participants from all over the world. Through her business, as well as her personal life, Laurilee is an influential advocate for the promotion, protection, and use of our natural resources in a responsible manner. Laurilee is the primary organizer of the field trips, photography events and presenters.

■ **Danica Romeyn, Outreach and Development Coordinator**

Danica is a professional archeologist with six years of experience working for the National Park Service as a Cultural Resources Program Director. During her tenure, she was responsible for community outreach among local cultural groups, and designed and implemented several different cultural festivals, workshops, and trainings that showcased local history, architecture, and archeology. She brings her wealth of experience, passion for local culture, history, and environment, and contagious enthusiasm to the Brevard Nature Alliance and the Space Coast.

■ **Jim Eager, Social Media**

After being associated with the festival for 10 years as a field trip leader, Jim is now also responsible for social media for the Space Coast Birding & Wildlife Festival (SCBWF) as well as the Brevard Nature Alliance (BNA). In addition to the SCBWF Jim is also a field trip leader for other birding festivals in the state, as well as guiding in the Central Florida area with his own company Obsessive Compulsive Birding. Jim is a newly appointed board member of the Florida Ornithological Society (FOS) as well as Associate Editor (for bird distribution), *FOS Florida Field Naturalist*.

■ **Ruthie Cook, Administrative Support**

Ruthie Cook was a Software Quality Engineer after graduating from Florida State University with a B.S. in Computer Science. She received the Governors Excellence Award for creating the first Quality Assurance Department for an Informative Technology Software company. As part of the "Festival Planning Team", Ruthie works closely with the Festival Chair to provide support in the planning and implementation of the field trips, presentations and photography events. She also provides phone support and is willing to assist with any need. Ruthie's personal passion for the Space Coast, trees, birds and wildlife bring enthusiasm and energy to each festival.

EXHIBITORS

Note – Bold denotes Sponsors – Please thank them when you visit their booth!

American Birding Association

Avesfoto/Birding with Tom

Bat Belfrys Inc./Florida Bat Conservancy

Bird Watchers Digest

Birding Ecotours

Birds & Nature Tours Portugal

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Cheepers! Birding on a Budget

City of Titusville

Cornell Lab of Ornithology

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Please check the website Exhibitor link for updated lists.

Field Trips

The festival field trips have been chosen to highlight the best birding areas in East Central Florida. As usual, the field trips will be staffed by some of the world's finest birding guides, most of whom have not been assigned yet. A list of leaders and their affiliates will be available on the web site after Thanksgiving. Lists of the birds seen on 2017 field trips as well as the master list of the 177 birds seen for the entire 2017 festival are available on the web site now. Please make sure that you fill up your water bottle before leaving on a field trip and take it with you. Dress warmly in layers and wear closed toed shoes.

TRIPS ON THE WATER

Beach Birds Intro & Field Trip

Jan. 27, 7:30am-9:00am Classroom Intro in Rm.119, then 10:00-3:30pm Field Trip; Limit 36 Registrants; \$85

Adam and Gina Kent, Michael Brothers &

After the classroom intro, pick up your box lunch at the snack bar in the lobby. Next drive to Smyrna Dunes Park for the field trip, 2995 N. Peninsula Ave., New Smyrna Beach, FL. Entry Fee is \$10 per car. Meet at the large pavilion where the restrooms and picnic tables are located. Drive time from the college is approximately 45 minutes. There is a marine head on the pontoon boat, but it is highly recommended that you use the restrooms at Smyrna Dunes Park before leaving on the boat tour. Bring water and sunscreen.

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 in the classroom portion of the day. Explore their variations and sort through some of the subtleties of their shapes and behaviors as we look at our fascinating beach birds. Weather permitting, the field trip portion will begin at low tide with a three-hour trip on the Coast Guard certified 40-passenger pontoon boat, Discovery. We will travel up the Halifax River to a pelican rookery island near the Dunlawton Bridge. The large sandbar on the west side of the island often has good numbers of gulls, terns and shorebirds. We will make stops along the way back to look at birds that are gathered on sand bars. Following the boat trip, a walk along the shore at the park will allow 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 Atlantic Ocean, Ponce Inlet and the Halifax River estuary as well as the opportunity to get close looks at beach birds. There is always a possibility of finding rarities such as a Glaucous or Iceland Gull. Twenty species of shorebirds are possible here, including American Oystercatchers, Piping and Wilson's Plovers, Purple Sandpipers and Red Knots.

Mosquito Lagoon Restoration Boat Tour

Jan. 28, 9:00am-12:00pm; Limit 35 Registrants; \$50

Meet at the pavilion by the boat ramp at Riverbreeze Park, 274 H. H. Burch Road, Oak Hill, FL where a 30-minute orientation on the restoration projects will precede the 2 ½ hour boat trip. Bring water and snacks and sunscreen. There is a marine head on the boat but it is highly recommended that you use the restrooms at Riverbreeze Park prior to leaving on the boat tour.

If you've been wondering exactly what Indian River Lagoon restoration entails, then this is the trip for you. Join Captain Guy

onboard the Discovery, a 40-passenger Coast Guard certified pontoon boat operated by the Marine Discovery Center. You will learn how in 2007, Dr. Linda Walters, Dr. Melinda Donnelly and a team of undergraduate and graduate students from the University of Central Florida (UCF) embarked on a mission to begin restoration of one of Florida's most diverse and productive estuaries. On the boat tour, you will see their first venture, which was to restore the estuary's vast oyster reefs, many of which have been turned to piles of empty shells from the constant washing of boat wakes. Hundreds of community volunteers created the stabilized oyster mats and helped to deploy them. Next came work to halt the erosion of significant archaeological treasures within Canaveral National Seashore where boat wakes and rising water threaten the shorelines of Turtle Mound and Castle Windy, two Native American shell middens on Mosquito Lagoon's eastern shore. Instead of building a sea wall to protect the mounds, they used living shoreline techniques, which utilize native plants and animals to restore the shoreline's natural structure and function. They planted mangroves in the upper intertidal zone, planted grasses in the mid-intertidal zone and placed oyster mats and oyster bags in the lower intertidal zone to recruit live oysters. School-aged children in central Florida public schools grew the plants used in restoration and community volunteers helped with the installation. Passage of time has shown that these living shoreline and oyster reef restorations have effectively reduced erosion and actually promoted sediment build-up at a rate that exceeds local sea level rise. You will be amazed and encouraged to see how quickly the ravaged shoreline has turned to a natural habitat that is teeming with wildlife.

Your guides today:

Dr. Linda Walters is a Pegasus Professor of Biology at UCF, whose research for the past 20 years has focused on the Indian River Lagoon. She has helped us understand the ecology of oyster reefs as well as the importance of their restoration for ecosystem functioning.

Dr. Melinda Donnelly is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow and Instructor at UCF. Her research focuses on mangroves and living shoreline stabilization along Florida's east coast.

Dr. Duane DeFreese is the Executive Director of the Indian River Lagoon Council and the Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program where our motto is:

One Lagoon – One Community – One Voice.

Laurilee Thompson is a fifth generation Florida river rat and founder of the Space Coast Birding and Wildlife Festival.

Port Canaveral/Lagoon Boat Tour

Jan. 24, 25, 26, 27 & 28, 2:00pm-4:30pm; Limit 47 Registrants; \$35

A drink, snack and lunch from Fishlips Waterfront Bar and Grill are included on Jan. 27.

A drink and snack are included on Jan. 24, 25, 26 & 28. Departs from Kelly Park, 2550 N. Banana River Drive, Merritt Island, FL. Please arrive 15 minutes early. Bring water and sunscreen. There is a marine head on the boat but it is recommended that you use the restrooms at Kelly Park prior to going on the boat tour. Welcome aboard the Blue Dolphin, a 49-passenger Coast Guard approved pontoon boat operated by Mark and Michele Anderson. They have been running eco-tours in this part of Florida as Space Coast River Tours for more than 15 years. This two-hour trip will take you into the Banana River, through the Canaveral Locks and into Port Canaveral - the 2nd busiest cruise ship port in the world, where you may see cargo tankers, U.S. Navy ships, commercial fish houses, local marinas and plenty

FIELD TRIPS CONTINUED

of birds! In addition, we'll be sure to see dolphins and, weather depending, possibly manatees. Large flocks of American White Pelicans are normally seen at the entrance to the locks and during the cruise you will see Ospreys and other raptors, Wood Storks, Northern Gannets, pelicans, cormorants, gulls, terns and lots of egrets and herons. Past trips have produced such uncommon visitors as Common Eider, Magnificent Frigatebird and Sabine's Gull; Common Eider and Long-tailed Duck were seen last year. After touring the port we'll head inland up the Barge Canal for more wildlife and nature viewing; we may even see an alligator. Tours are relaxing, educational and provide an excellent platform for photography. Dress warmly as it can be chilly out on the water in January.

Offshore Birding and Wildlife Adventure

Jan. 29; 7:30am-5:00pm; Limit 67 Registrants; \$170 (Includes tips for the crew)

Leaders: Michael Brothers with Julie Albert, Jim Danzenbaker, Dave Goodwin, David Hartgrove, David Simpson and more.
Meet at the Canaveral Princess, 670 Glen Cheek Drive, Port Canaveral, FL; Phone: 321-784-6300. www.orlandoprincess.com. The Canaveral Princess docks between Rusty's and Milliken's Reef Restaurants in Port Canaveral. Please arrive 20 minutes early. Bring: food and beverages, seasickness medicine, sunscreen and personal items. Food service will not be available on the boat. Dress warmly, bring full rain gear and wear waterproof shoes! Join us on the Canaveral Princess, an 85-foot, single-hull boat with excellent observation areas on the upper deck, bow and stern. Our destination is an undersea formation known as "The Steeples," a productive setting of cliffs and seamounts that create upwellings and current edges along the western edge of the Gulf Stream. We will first visit working shrimp boats for the birds that follow them. Our chumming behind the boat will result in a never-ending crowd of gulls, terns, pelicans and gannets to watch from amazingly close quarters. Once we've collected some birds to follow our boat, we'll set out for the Gulf Stream. Our targets will be all of the wildlife we can find, including jellyfish and fish. Bottlenose and Spotted Dolphins are expected. Sea turtles and Humpback Whales are possible, as are North Atlantic Right Whales. Whale researcher, Julie Albert will be onboard, thus giving us the ability to approach right whales if they are encountered. Birds likely to be seen include Northern Gannet; Pomarine and Parasitic Jaeger and several species of gulls and terns. Birds we hope to see include Audubon's, Cory's, Great and Manx Shearwater; Wilson's, Leach's and Band-rumped Storm Petrel; Bridled and Sooty Tern; Masked and Brown Booby; Red and Red-necked Phalarope and Sabine's Gull. You never know what you might encounter on the sea, the prospect of spotting something extraordinary is always there. If the weather is too rough to get offshore, a half-day will be spent instead closer to shore playing with the shrimp boats. Rehabilitated sea birds and/or sea turtles will be released if any are ready.

TRIPS ON THE LAND

A Drive at Blue Heron Wetlands

Jan. 27, 7:20am-10:30am; Limit 16 Registrants; \$30

Lora Losi & Matt Heyden with...

Meet at 7:20am at the south parking area of Cracker Barrel Restaurant near I-95 exit 215. Be prepared to car pool. There are no restrooms on the dikes.

A variety of waterfowl, wading birds and marsh birds congregate in the created wetlands at Blue Heron Water Treatment Facility. 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, Gadwall, Wood Duck, Blue-winged and Green-winged Teal, Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Caspian and Gull-billed Tern and Marsh Wren are just a few of over 100 species sighted at Blue Heron. Birders may also see alligators.

A Walk at Blue Heron Wetlands

Jan. 26 & 28; 7:20am-10:30am; Limit 16 Registrants; \$30

Lora Losi & Matt Heyden with...

Meet at 7:20am at the south parking area of Cracker Barrel Restaurant near I-95 exit 215. There are no restrooms on the dikes.

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. See the description above for more details.

Beginning Birding Field Trip at MINWR

Jan. 24 & 26, 8:00am-11:30am; Limit 12 Registrants; \$25

Bill Stewart, John Lowry & Betty Salter

Meet at Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center to board a small bus. There are restrooms at the Visitor Center. There are restroom facilities midway through the Black Point Wildlife Drive.

Bill Stewart is the Director of Conservation and Community for the American Birding Association (ABA). John Lowry is in charge of advertising for ABA. Betty Salter is a long-time volunteer at the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge. Join them for an intimate morning of instruction and observation along the highly acclaimed Black Point Wildlife Drive where there will be birds galore. They will help you learn helpful hints for beginners on where to find birds and how to identify them, interesting behaviors, and identification tricks of the birding trade. 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.

Beginning Bird Walk at Chain of Lakes

Jan. 24, 25 & 26, 1:30pm-3:30pm; Limit 10 Registrants; \$15

Jan. 27, 10:00am-12:00pm; Limit 10 Registrants; \$15

Selena Kiser

Meet outside in front of the EFSC Gym.

If you're a beginning birder and you feel a little hesitant to join one of the larger field trips, look no further! Selena, an avid birder and wildlife biologist, will escort you on a two-hour adventure adjacent to the Festival grounds at Chain of Lakes Park. We'll weave along the paved paths, pausing to look at wintering waterfowl, wading birds, and songbirds along the way. We'll climb an observation tower to get a glorious view of the Indian River, including chance encounters of flying raptors at eye level. We'll take our time viewing birds, so you can learn how to identify them. If you have binoculars, please bring them. Selena will have a spotting scope, but if you have one you wish to carry, feel free to bring it along, too.

Birding by Ear

Jan. 25, 7:30am-9:30am; Limit 16 Registrants; \$15

Lora Losi and Matt Heyden

Meet at Enchanted Forest Sanctuary, 444 Columbia Blvd., Titusville, FL.

FIELD TRIPS CONTINUED

Using bird sounds is an important tool for all birders, and can make you seem clairvoyant! Explore how to get started with various techniques, hints and technologies to help you learn. See how doing a little preliminary work and using your ears before your eyes and binoculars can enhance your birding experience. Following a classroom presentation, we will practice our new powers of observation with a walk through the forest.

Birding by Ear and Habitat

Jan 27 & 28; 6:30am-12:30pm; Limit 12 Registrants; \$45

Paddy Cunningham (Birding Adventures)

Meet at the Oak Hammock Trail parking lot, 1/2 mile east of the MINWR Visitor Center. There are no restrooms here however a restroom stop will be made at the Refuge Visitor Center following the walk on the trail.

Birding by habitat helps you determine what birds you are likely to see in an area. Birding by Ear helps to locate and identify the unique sounds of each bird. In this session, a variety of field techniques will be covered to help you increase your birding skills. We will travel to various habitats: scrub, pinelands, open field, shoreline, open water, wetlands, and roadsides to see the role of habitat in identification. Handouts will be distributed and discussed. Historically, this workshop has tallied as many as 80-plus species with a high of 96 species for both days. Paddy Cunningham is a Naturalist, owner of Birding Adventures, and Everglades Birding Festival Coordinator. Her motto is "You learn the ID," and she excels in teaching birding skills in a non-intimidating field experience.

Birding for Beginners

Jan 26, 8:00am-9:30am; Limit 20 Registrants; \$15

Joe Swingle

Meet at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary, 444 Columbia Blvd., Titusville, FL.

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 activity to hone a few easy birding techniques, and then do some practice with binoculars (bring yours or use ours). Next, we'll leave the 'nest' and head on the trails to take your new skills for a test flight as we hike for an hour or so in search of a few birds in the Sanctuary.

Black Rails and the St. Johns NWR

Jan. 24 & 25; 4:00pm-7:00pm; Limit 14 Registrants; \$55

David Simpson, Kimberly King-Wrenn &...

Meet at the EFSC bus circle to board the bus. There are no restrooms at the site. This is a walk THRU the marsh, not on a boardwalk, trail, or a levee. You may get wet walking through water, mud, and grass. Old shoes, or 'knee' boots are advised depending on the amount of rain on the site. It will get cold - you may be out after dark. Please dress warmly.

Take a trailer ride through the restricted access St. Johns National Wildlife Refuge. The marshes west of Titusville are unique because here saline water seeps to the surface from a layer of salty water that lies above the Floridan Aquifer, creating marine-type habitats in the middle of a huge freshwater floodplain - perfect for secretive marsh birds. King Rails and Virginia Rails are

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FIELD TRIPS CONTINUED

possible too. As the sun sets on the marsh horizon and wading birds flock to their roosts, we will make stops and play tapes to try to entice rails to call.

Celebrity Walk with Kevin Karlson and Pete Dunne

Jan. 26, 8:00am-12:00pm; Limit 16 Registrants; \$60

Meet at the Parrish Park Boat Ramp parking lot. There are no restrooms on the dikes of MINWR with the exception of restroom facilities located halfway through the Black Point Wildlife Drive.

This special walk includes the distinctive ID styles and banter of Pete Dunne and Kevin Karlson, which is always an entertaining experience. We will observe many species of birds in the Merritt Island area, and give you a new perspective on how to ID them. The enthusiasm that Pete and Kevin have for birds as fascinating creatures of our natural world is uniquely special, and you will leave with a new appreciation for birds that you might have overlooked before. Pete will also entertain you with stories about birds that reflect decades of his writing for the NY Times and other publications about birds and our natural world. This field trip with two venerable leaders of the bird community is one not to be missed, since we are getting older every day.

Central Florida Specialties

Jan. 24, 26 & 28, 5:00am-4:00pm; Limit 25 Registrants; \$105

Jim Eager (Obsessive Compulsive Birding) & David Goodwin with...

Meet at the EFSC bus circle to board the bus. Box lunch provided. Restroom stops will be made along the way.

A pre-dawn start at Three Lakes WMA will target Red-cockaded Woodpeckers, Bachman's Sparrows, Brown-headed Nuthatches, Pine Warblers and Eastern Bluebirds. Next stop is Lake Marian Marina to look for Limpkins, night-herons and Bonaparte's Gulls. A short drive to Peavine Road takes us to where King Rails were found breeding. Next destination is Joe Overstreet Road to search for Red-headed Woodpeckers. Burrowing Owls have bred here in the past. Along the road, Eastern Meadowlarks, Savannah Sparrows, Sandhill Cranes, Wild Turkeys, American Kestrels and other raptors may be seen. Crested Caracaras and Bald Eagles nest in this area. At Joe Overstreet Landing on Lake Kissimmee we'll look for Snail Kites, Limpkins and Purple Gallinules in addition to the usual wading birds and inland gulls and terns. At Chapman's Double C Bar Ranch a Whooping Crane is often found with Sandhill Cranes. Last stop will be at the Cruickshank Sanctuary in Rockledge for Florida's only endemic bird, the Florida Scrub-Jay.

Dicerandra Scrub Sanctuary Walk

Jan 25, 9:00am-12:00pm; Limit 16 Registrants; \$15

Jay Barnhart & Jim Stahl

Meet at the Dicerandra Scrub Sanctuary entrance: 4900 Melissa Drive, Titusville, FL. There are no restrooms at the site.

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 (EEL) 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 Thunbergii, a rare scrub mint known only to occur in the northern Brevard County.

Eagle Families

Jan 27, 10:30am-12:00pm; Limit 20 Registrants; \$15

Martha Pessaro

Meet at Sams House, 6195 N. Tropical Trail, Merritt Island, FL.

Do you know what Eagles need for building nests? Participate in a "nest" building project and hear a legend about the Eagles. Our resident Eagles may be sitting on the nest or tending chicks at the time of our expedition. Families will be able to check their wingspans against a wall chart of many birds. There will be an easy 0.8 mile hike out to the nest overlook site.

Evening Owl Prowl at Sams House

Jan. 26, 6:00pm-8:30pm; Limit 20 Registrants; \$15

Kaitlin Hurley & Susan Boorse

Meet at Sams House, 6195 N. Tropical Trail, Merritt Island, FL.

Bring a flashlight.

This program will be an easy hike (in darkness) of approximately 1 mile. Discover the wonders of our night time hunters and flyers, the owls. We will begin by meeting a great horned owl and a screech owl who are the rehabilitation wards of Susan Boorse, after which our expedition will set off on a nocturnal observation journey in search of resident Barred Owls and other creatures of the night. We will listen for the distinctive call of the Barred Owl, and others, while searching the overhead branches for signs of movement, flight, and nighttime activity. In this rare opportunity to explore the Sams House trails after dark, we are entering the world of those who habitually live in the dark.

Florida Scrub-Jay & Scrub Fire Ecology

Jan. 26 & 27, 8:30am-12:30pm; Limit 40 Registrants; \$15

David Breininger, PhD & Paul Schmalzer, PhD

Meet at Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center.

Intro followed by field trip. 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 persons registering to attend this event must provide a valid driver's license at the time of registration. No restrooms are available once you leave the MINWR Visitor Center.

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 – much like humans, they live in family units. This is a seminar followed by a trip on a NASA bus 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 at the Kennedy Space Center.

Gull Fly-In at Daytona Beach Shores

Jan. 24; 3:30pm-6:00pm; Limit 40 Registrants; \$45

Amar Ayyash, Michael Brothers, Chris Brown & ...

Meet at Frank Rendon Park, 2705 S. Atlantic Ave, Daytona Beach Shores, FL. There are restrooms at the park.

This beach has what may be the largest congregation of gulls on any beach in the US. In addition to the amazing array and density of gulls, the birds allow close approach. This presents an extraordinary opportunity to observe and photograph minute details on each species, and a chance to compare various plumages and age classes. The amazing concentration builds to possibly as many as 30,000 gulls each evening. Seen consistently here are species that are rare in Florida, including the only record of Vega Gull. Laughing, Franklin, Ring-billed, Herring, Bonaparte's, Lesser Black-backed, Great Black-backed, Glaucous, Iceland, Thayer's and California Gulls have all been recorded. Possible European Herring Gull, Yellow-legged Gull and a Slaty-backed Gull have appeared. This beach is also the best location in Florida to regularly see jaegers from shore. Each

FIELD TRIPS CONTINUED

evening the gulls leave the beach and settle on the ocean just beyond the breakers. Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers regularly patrol these huge groups, harassing the gulls.

Lake Apopka Restoration Area

Jan. 24, 25 & 26, 5:30am-4:30pm; Limit 25 Registrants; \$105

Jan. 24: Jim Peterson with...

Jan. 25: Rosi Mulholland with Gian Basili, David Goodwin &...

Jan. 26: Pam Bowen with Adam & Gina Kent & Paddy Cunningham

Meet at EFSC bus circle to board bus. Box lunch included. There are porta potties located throughout the restoration area.

This may be one of the best birding areas on the Eastern Seaboard. In the 1940s, Lake Apopka's north shore marsh was drained to create farms. Farming required flooding the fields to kill nematodes. The water drained into the lake creating habitat for migrating shorebirds. The St. Johns River Water Management District purchased the farms in the 1980s and 1990s to restore wetland habitat and improve water quality in Lake Apopka. Shorebirds remained into winter and were joined by unprecedented numbers of waterfowl. Flycatchers, sparrows, and other passerines also used the area. In 1998, the first Christmas Bird Count here established a national inland record with 174 species. Highlights from previous fieldtrips include as many as 13 sparrow species, including LeConte's and Clay-colored, and unique flycatcher species like Western, Tropical and Gray Kingbirds and Ash-throated Flycatchers. First state records of Rough-legged Hawk, Eurasian Kestrel, and Ferruginous Hawk were recorded here.

Lake Woodruff National Wildlife Refuge

Jan. 27 & 28, 5:00am-12:30pm; 25 Registrants; \$65

David Hartgrove with...

Meet at EFSC bus circle to board bus. Snack packs included. You may want to bring snacks as well. There is a composting toilet in the parking lot but no facilities out on the dikes.

If you love nature and don't like to fight the crowds, this is the place for you! The refuge impoundments at Lake Woodruff National Wildlife Refuge provide important nesting and feeding areas for large numbers of waterfowl, wading birds and shorebirds. Winter is an exceptionally good time of the year to visit this Great Florida Birding and Wildlife Trail site. Large flocks of Glossy Ibis are present and Limpkins are a common sight. We should see Blue-winged and Green-winged Teal, Mottled Duck and Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs in addition to alligators, marsh bunnies, river otters and turtles. On this approximately 2 3/4-mile walk, we will scan the reed beds for American Bitterns and listen for Sedge Wrens and look for a variety of sparrows, including Swamp, Savannah and, if we're lucky, LeConte's Sparrows.

Little-Big Econ State Forest (Demetree & Kilbee Tracts)

January 25 & 28, 5:45am-11:30am; Limit 16 Registrants; \$40

Lorne Malo with...

Meet in the BCC parking lot south of the Gymnasium at 5:45 to make car pool arrangements. Rest rooms are not available at either site. A stop at a convenience store will be made on the way to and on the way from the Demetree Tract. Walking distance for combined sites will be around 4 miles, some of which may be through mud and standing water. Water-friendly footwear is recommended.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Biologist Lorne Malo will lead this hike, starting at the Barr Street entrance to the Demetree Tract (951 Barr St., Oviedo, FL 32765). We will hike through riparian woodlands along the Econlockhatchee River to a Bald Eagle nest tree. Upon returning to the parking lot

we will drive to the C.S. Lee Boat Ramp Park (4600 E. State Road 46, Geneva, FL 32732) to search the adjoining Kilbee Tract along the St. Johns River from the S.R. 46 bridge. Numerous woodland birds, marsh birds, wading birds and raptors (approximately 200 species) have been recorded here.

Little-Big Econ State Forest (Yarborough Tract)

January 26, 5:45am-12:30pm; Limit 16 Registrants; \$40

Lorne Malo with...

Meet in the BCC parking lot south of the Gymnasium at 5:45am to make car pool arrangements. There are no restrooms at the site. A stop at a convenience store will be made on the way. Walking distance for this site will be around 6 miles, some of which may be through mud and standing water. Water-friendly footwear is recommended.

Biologist Lorne Malo will lead this hike, starting at the Brumley Road entrance to the Yarborough Tract (2820 Brumley Rd., Chuluota, FL 32766). We will walk through riparian woodlands, wet prairies and marshes along the Econlockhatchee River and the St. Johns River floodplain. This is a large site with the best birding out on the St Johns River floodplain. Numerous woodland birds, marsh birds, wading birds and raptors (approximately 200 species) have been recorded.

Malabar Scrub Sanctuary Hiking Tour

Jan. 26, 8:00am-10:00am; Limit 16 Registrants; \$15

Chris O'Hara and Selena Kiser

Meet at the Malabar Scrub Sanctuary, 1501 Malabar Woods Boulevard, Malabar, FL. Restrooms are available at the adjacent Malabar Community Park.

The variety of habitats found on this 395-acre Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands property make it an ideal place for visitors to learn how wetland and upland communities interact. The sanctuary is a refuge for the Florida Scrub-Jay, gopher tortoise and eastern indigo snake. This is a two-mile hike through the scrub, pine flat woods and wetlands areas of the Sanctuary. Focus will be on restoration efforts for the Florida Scrub-Jay.

Marl Bed Flats - Lake Jessup Conservation Area

Jan. 24, 25 & 28, 5:45am-11:30am; Limit 26 Registrants; \$40

Tom Dunkerton with...

Meet in the BCC parking lot south of the Gymnasium at 5:45 to make car pool arrangements. There are no restrooms at the site. A stop will be made at a convenience store on the way. Be prepared to walk 2-3 miles and wear good shoes as the footing can be uncertain in the pasture due to muddy holes made by cow's hoofs.

The Marl Bed Tract is a large hammock that borders a pasture/wet prairie presenting an excellent diversity of habitat. The hammock is home to Great Horned and Barred Owls as well as wintering migrants. Exiting the hammock, a walk onto the floodplains of Lake Jessup's marsh vegetation and surrounding pastures can be filled with many surprises. Wading birds, marsh birds and shorebirds will be encountered while raptors patrol the skies above. This is sure to be an adventurous morning hike for any skill level of birding.

Nocturnal Nature Hike at Enchanted Forest

Jan. 27, 6:30pm-8:30pm; Limit 20 Registrants; \$15

Joe Swingle and Patty Rendon

Meet at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary, 444 Columbia Blvd., Titusville, FL.

Whooooo... is ready for a nocturnal adventure at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary? Join Naturalists on a night of discovery and

FIELD TRIPS CONTINUED

exploration. Please wear closed-toe shoes and bring water, bug spray and flashlight.

North Brevard Hot Spots

Jan. 25, 27, 28, 6:30am-3:30pm; Limit 25 Registrants; \$80

Sarah Linney with...

Meet at EFSC bus circle to board bus. This trip requires moderate walking. Bring money for lunch at Dixie Crossroads. Restroom stops will be made at public restrooms and convenience stores along the way.

Join Sarah and the other leaders for a laid-back trip through the pines and palmettos of North Brevard's scrublands and wetlands to learn about some of our favorite, but not so famous hot spots. 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, including Seminole Ranch, Hatbill Park, Buck Lake, Salt Lake, Hammock Road and others. Numerous woodland birds, marsh birds, wading birds and raptors are possible -- this trip has tallied approximately 108 species over the years. Specific sites to be visited will be determined during pre-festival scouting trips and will include Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge and Canaveral National Seashore.

Orlando Wetlands Park Trailer Tour

Jan. 26, 27 & 28, 6:30am-11:30am; Limit 20; \$55

Simon Thompson (Ventures Birding Tours) with...

Meet at the Orlando Wetlands Park parking lot. Restrooms are available at the parking lot but not out on the dikes.

This regional water treatment area, owned by the City of Orlando, began receiving reclaimed water in 1987, submerging the 1700-acre Sun Charm Ranch beneath millions of gallons of treated sewage. For 30 years the City closed the park during winter months for hunting until 2016 when it bought the rights from the former owners. Join us as we take a trip into the park where more than 220 bird species have been identified including Wood Storks, Bald Eagles, Crested Caracaras, Limpkins, Purple Gallinules, rails and spoonbills. Painted Buntings lurk in some of the dense vegetation bordering the 20 miles of roads and woodland trails leading through marshes, hardwood hammocks and along scenic lakes. Large numbers of waterfowl are expected; 14 duck species were observed during last year's festival trips. We will be touring on a hay wagon with several stops for walking.

Pioneer Hike to Pine Island Conservation Area

Jan. 28, 10:30pm-1:30pm, Limit 20 Registrants; \$15

Martha Pessaro

Meet at Sams House, 6195 N. Tropical Trail, Merritt Island, FL.

The John H. Sams Family settled the area known as Courtenay on North Merritt Island. Their home is among the oldest residences in Brevard County. It is now an Environmentally Endangered Lands Program Education Center. Martha will lead a walk along moderate hiking on trails that lead to the Pine Island Conservation Area. They wind through areas once traveled by both archaic peoples and then pioneers. Following the Garnet Trail and heading north through meandering tree canopied pathways, one is reminded of the earlier travels. Arriving at the Saltmarsh, newly opened horizon to horizon visual habitat is encountered. Dredge-spoil adjacent to Sams Creek was removed to restore high-saltmarsh wetlands. You will tour this restoration area, view the nicely restored marsh and learn about salt-marsh ecology and vegetation.

Plants & Their Uses through History

Jan. 27, 12:00pm-2:00pm; Limit 20 Registrants; \$15

Jay Barnhart & Jim Stahl

Meet at Enchanted Forest Sanctuary, 444 Columbia Blvd., Titusville, FL.

Titusville's 472-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 volunteer naturalist and avid mushroom hobbyist, Jay Barnhart and retired land manager and biologist, Jim Stahl. Your leisurely guided walk will pass through mesic, hydric and xeric ecosystems featuring a forest canopy of impressively large southern magnolias and stately old oak trees.

Playalinda Beach: Sea-birding from Shore

Jan. 27, 7:15am-10:00am; Limit 12 Registrants; \$35

Mitchell Harris

Meet at the Parrish Park Boat Ramp parking lot.

Sea-watching is looking for birds over the ocean from shore, best done with spotting scope and binoculars. It's more challenging because one has to learn to identify most of the birds in flight. This field class will focus on clues to look for and how best to approach identifying flying seabirds. Learn what conditions improve one's chances of seeing the largest diversity of seabirds from shore. Playalinda Beach will be our classroom and although bird flights along the shore have wide variability depending on conditions, I can guarantee we'll have seabirds to work with. Some of January possibilities from Playalinda include: six common species of gulls and 3 rare ones; Parasitic Jaeger, Common and Red-throated Loon, Red Phalarope (occasional), all three scoters with Black being the most common, Northern Gannett and Manx Shearwater (rare). So, join us for a day of sea-spray and sulids. It will be an eye-opener.

Red-cockaded Woodpeckers & More at Hal Scott

Jan. 24 & 27, 5:00am-11:30am; Limit 16 Registrants; \$55

Maria Zondervan & Lorne Malo

Meet in the BCC parking lot south of the Gymnasium at 5:00 to make car pool arrangements. There are no restrooms at the site! Walking distance for this site will be around 2 miles (or you can stay in the eco-buggy), some of which may be through mud and standing water. Water-friendly footwear is recommended.

Biologists Maria Zondervan & Lorne Malo will lead an early morning trip at the Hal Scott Regional Preserve & Park (4500 Dallas Blvd., Orlando, FL 32833). On-site transportation will be done by eco-buggy to first visit an active Red-cockaded Woodpecker (RCW) cavity tree cluster to stake out roost trees and await the rise of a RCW family as they begin their morning foraging. From there we will search for other inhabitants of the pine flatwoods and wet prairies, and work our way to the Econlockhatchee River swamp. Numerous woodland birds, marsh birds, wading birds and raptors (> 150 species) have been recorded here, including Bachman's Sparrow and Brown-headed Nuthatch.

FIELD TRIPS CONTINUED

Ritch Grissom Memorial Wetlands at Viera

Jan. 24, 25, 26 & 28, 6:30am-11:30am; Limit 25 Registrants; \$60
Ray Van Buskirk & Michael Hilchey (BRANT) with...

Meet at EFSC bus circle to board bus. There are porta potties in the parking lot but none out on the dikes.

Join your leaders for a laid-back morning of birding at one of Brevard County's premier birding sites. Since its opening, this site has rapidly gained popularity with 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. A variety of waterfowl winter here. Several families of Crested Caracaras maintain territories around the wetlands, and Limpkins and Black-bellied Whistling Ducks are regularly seen. Ponds on the north side of the complex are productive for shorebirds when water levels are low, especially during migration.

Salt Lake WMA/Seminole Ranch Conservation Area

Jan. 24 & 25, 6:45am-11:30am; Limit 20 Registrants; \$20
Dave Turner & Bryan Ames with...

Meet at Salt Lake WMA, 1590 Arch Rd., Mims. There is a porta pottie located at the Salt Lake WMA main entrance. No restroom facilities are available during the trip.

This adventure will utilize a trailer pulled by a 4-wheel drive truck where participants will sit on hay bales. 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. 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.

Scottsmoor Flatwoods Sanctuary Trailer Tour

Jan. 24, 9:00am-11:00am, Limit 16 Registrants; \$15
Selena Kiser, Tiffany Gray, and Ron Chicone, Jr.

Meet at Scottsmoor Flatwoods Sanctuary/Parrish Park, 6000 Magoon Ave., Scottsmoor, FL

The 1500-acre Scottsmoor Flatwoods Sanctuary (Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands Program) preserves a fine example of the upland and wetland communities that once covered larger areas of Brevard County. The effects of natural prescribed burning and other habitat restoration efforts here have resulted in a striking old Florida landscape that supports a high number of endemic plant and animal species. We will enjoy a leisurely bench-trailer ride through the flatwoods to view birds and other wildlife, and discuss the land management techniques employed by the County.

Shiloh's Sharptails, Marsh Birds and More

Jan. 25 & 26; 6:15am-11:00am; Limit 16 Registrants; \$50
Mitchell Harris with...

Meet at the Kangaroo Express, 6400 US Highway 1, Scottsmoor FL. Use the restroom there if necessary because there are no restrooms available for the remainder of the morning.

This trip begins in the marshes where Turnbull Creek drains into the north end of the Indian River Lagoon. There we will look for both Nelson's and Saltmarsh Sparrows, Sedge Wrens and Clapper Rails. Short-eared Owls are seen here occasionally

as well. After ample time in the marsh we'll walk east along the dike system that skirts the edge of Shiloh's extensive marshes and impoundments looking for ducks, shorebirds and waders. This is an area of rich estuaries and ponds that teem with wildlife. Bring Muck Boots or shoes that you don't mind getting wet for the sparrow search. You can change your shoes before starting on the walk, which will be 3-4 four miles long.

Smyrna Dunes Park

Jan. 24 & 25, 8:00am-11:30am; Limit 26 Registrants; \$35

Laurilee Thompson, Bill Thompson III (Birdwatcher's Digest) &...
Special Guest: Kevin Karlson on Jan. 24

Meet at Smyrna Dunes Park, 2995 N. Peninsula Ave., New Smyrna Beach. Entry Fee is \$10 per car. There are restrooms at the trailhead/picnic area.

This spectacular beachside park at Ponce Inlet offers panoramic views of the ocean, inlet and estuary as well as the opportunity to get close looks at gulls, terns and shorebirds. Take a leisurely two-mile walk via boardwalk over pristine coastal dune habitat (watch for Gopher Tortoises) and along the shoreline, beginning around low tide. Brown and White Pelicans, Black Skimmers, Common Loons, cormorants and numerous species of gulls and terns are found here and there is always a chance to discover a rare gull. Up to twenty species of shorebirds are possible, including American Oystercatchers, Piping and Wilson's Plovers, Purple Sandpipers and Red Knots. Bait fish activity at the inlet's mouth attracts sea birds, especially Northern Gannets. Sparrows and passerines are possible in the salt marsh.

St. Sebastian River Preserve State Park

Jan. 25 & 27, 4:30am-12:00pm; limit 16 Registrants, \$75

Samantha McGee & David Simpson with...

Meet at bus circle at EFSC to board bus. There are restrooms at the Visitor Center at the Park. No restrooms are available during the trailer tour, which will last approx. 3 ½ hours. Snack packs included. You may want to bring snacks as well. During the field trip, participants will sit on hay bales in the back of pick-up trucks. Some walking through pinewoods and saw palmettos will be required for moderate distances.

Join us on this exclusive trip where the small group size will provide an extraordinary experience and reduce stress on the birds. The early start allows us to catch Red-cockaded Woodpeckers leaving their nest cavities around sunrise. Many pinewoods specialties call this 22,000+ acre site home. Several Red-cockaded Woodpecker families and more than 40 families of Florida Scrub-Jays are found here. Bachman's Sparrows are abundant, though only just beginning to sing at this time of the year. Brown-headed Nuthatches commonly join the foraging flocks of songbirds. 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 other woodland birds.

South Lake Conservation Area

Jan. 26, 9:00am-11:00am; Limit 20 Registrants; \$15

Damien Keene and Jonny Baker

Meet at South Lake CA, 4500 Lancaster Lane. There are no restrooms at the site.

The South Lake Conservation Area is a 155-acre property managed by the Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands (EELs) Program following its 1999 acquisition from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a Florida Scrub-Jay mitigation. This land

FIELD TRIPS CONTINUED

consists primarily of scrub and scrubby flatwoods communities, which were overgrown as a result of 20 to 40 years of fire exclusion. In December 2008 four Florida Scrub-Jays were successfully relocated onto the property by the Brevard Zoo and the EELs Program. In addition, two birds naturally moved to the property. The site is currently home to several Florida Scrub-Jay families. Join this field trip to explore the conservation area, observe the native flora, watch the Florida Scrub-Jay flyovers and occasional landings on your head. Another asset of this land is that it sits right in Titusville for wonderful morning and afternoon hikes.

T. M. Goodwin WMA – Broadmoor Unit

Jan 24, 26 & 28; 5:00am-3:00pm; Limit 25 Registrants; \$85

David Simpson (Birding with David Simpson) with...

Meet at bus circle at EFSC to board bus. Box lunch included. Once at the site, restrooms are limited to a porta pottie out on the dike. The bus will stop at a convenience store on the way.

Join us for a special driving tour of the back side of this 3,870-acre wetland restoration project located in the Upper Basin of the St. Johns River. The Upper Basin Project is a model for the much larger endeavor to restore Florida's Everglades. This is the best trip of the Festival for the possibility of seeing Fulvous Whistling-ducks and Gray-headed (Purple) Swampheens. Both were seen on last year's trip. Snail Kites have become downright common and we should have good looks at Roseate Spoonbills, Limpkins, Purple Gallinules and more. It takes a while to get to the Broadmoor Unit and to sort through the abundance of waterfowl and wading birds. Although we may have to pass by some birds on the way, the end result will be worthwhile.

Tosohatchee Wildlife Management Area

Jan. 24, 25 & 26, 6:15am-11:30am; Limit 18 Registrants; \$40

Lynn Proenza & Casey Dorsch with...

Meet at site, 3365 Taylor Creek Road, Christmas FL 32709. There are composting toilets at the entrance but not out on the roads and trails. This will be a car trip with stops along the way where attendees can get out and walk for short distances.

The Tosohatchee marshes are feeding areas for wading birds and, 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 that borders 19 miles of the St Johns River. Deep inside the reserve, Jim Creek flows through some of the last remaining virgin cypress swamps in Florida.

Tropical Flora Hike

Jan. 25, 9:00am-11:00am, Limit 20 Registrants; \$15

Ron Chicone, Jr. & Tiffany Gray

Meet at Enchanted Forest Sanctuary, 444 Columbia Blvd., Titusville, FL

The 472-acre Enchanted Forest Sanctuary (Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands Program) contains one of east coast Florida's few remaining original hardwood hammocks that lies at the climatic confluence of tropical South Florida and temperate Southern US. This impressive slice of natural Florida has

been shaped by the ancient geology and soils of the Atlantic Coastal Ridge, the overlap of climatic zones, and the lack of human disturbance. A 1.3 mile walk along the Magnolia Trail will take us through the heart of this unspoiled mesic hammock to learn about the plants that create its exceptional botanical diversity.

Turkey Creek Tract - Charles H. Bronson State Forest

Jan. 24, 26; 6:45am-11:00am; Limit 9 Registrants; \$50

Stephen Stipkovits, David Hartgrove &...

Meet at Chuluota Wilderness Area, 3895 Curryville Rd., Chuluota, FL. There are no restrooms here. No restrooms are available during the trip. Portions of the property will be wet and muddy - be sure to dress appropriately.

Among Florida's most significant conservation efforts, public lands cover 125 square miles west of Titusville. The Turkey Creek Tract was one of 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, 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. A Short-tailed Hawk was seen on last year's festival trips. Numerous shorebirds, wading birds, and waterfowl can be found on the river's floodplain. Some walking (1-2 miles) may be necessary, depending on water levels. This 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.

Wildflowers, Plants, & Other Things of the North Brevard Area

Jan. 24 & 26, 9:45am-3:30pm; Limit 16 Registrants; \$15

Jim Stahl & Jay Barnhart

Meet at the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center. Bring money for lunch at one of Titusville's fine restaurants.

The many habitats of Florida (deciduous forest, oak/palm hammocks, pine flatwoods, scrub, sand hills, coastal dunes, prairies, marshes, swamps, roadsides) support more than 4,000 species of native and naturalized plants as well as many horticultural exotics. Over one-quarter of these are found here on the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge. Our day will start with slides of the more common plants on the refuge followed by short walks thru an oak hammock, pine flatwoods, scrub, and by a brackish marsh. Commentary will include identification hints, family relationships, habitats, plant uses by people and wildlife, and good plant books. During the day when we come across birds, reptiles, spiders, butterflies and other insects, we will point them out, but emphasis will be on the plants. The refuge is home to many beautiful and unique plants and animals and you never know what you might encounter.

FIELD TRIPS CONTINUED

Allan and Helen Cruickshank: Environmental Educators Extraordinaire

"At several lectures across the country, people always say, aren't you sorry NASA came into your area, doesn't that ruin it for you? And I say that it is the best thing that could have happened from the conservation angle for Central Brevard. For 15 years, ever since I got here, a group of us have been trying to get some of the area on Merritt Island set aside, and it was impossible until NASA came in."
Allan D. Cruickshank, (1966). *Kennedy Space Center Report*.

In 1961 the Federal Government decided to launch civilian rockets from North Merritt Island. Although sparsely populated, the land was home to several towns and communities. It was well recognized as a premier natural area known for outstanding hunting and fishing. But it was even more famous for its wildlife and in particular its birds. The National Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count in nearby Cocoa had led the nation in species since 1955 under the leadership of Allan Cruickshank with a little help from friends such as Roger Tory Peterson. The Cocoa CBC was highlighted not just in NAS publications but also in the New York Times and Sports Illustrated. Cruickshank worked with NASA and the Bureau of Fisheries & Wildlife to initially preserve 25,000 acres of the NASA land as a refuge. Eventually this would expand to over 140,000 acres. Without the effort of Cruickshank there may not have been a wildlife refuge here and without the refuge, there might not be a Space Coast Birding & Wildlife Festival.

Presentation: The Cruickshanks: From Hog Island to Florida

Jan 24 & 27, 4:00pm-5:00pm; 4-119

Charlie Venuto (Space Coast Audubon)

Allan and Helen Cruickshank educated millions on the importance of nature. Allan was a National Audubon Society (NAS) lecturer and photographer and for 22 years taught at the NAS Hog Island Camp. Allan was THE primary force behind the creation of the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge. In this presentation, Charlie will discuss the Cruickshank's impact on conservation from Maine to Florida and explore how they helped to transfer the conservation movement to the environmental movement. It will include historical footage from the University of Florida archives of the first CBC at MINWR. Much of Charlie's research on the Cruickshanks was funded by the American Public University and for that we are very grateful.

A Walk Around the Cruickshank Trail

Jan. 26, 1:30pm-5:30pm; Limit 20 Registrants; \$15

Charlie Venuto with Ned Steel & Chris Brown

Meet at the Parrish Park Boat Ramp Parking Lot. This will be a car tour of the Black Point Wildlife Drive and a walking tour of the Cruickshank Trail. Restroom facilities are available at the trailhead. The expected duration of the walk is 2 hours.

Through Allan Cruickshank's vision, enthusiasm, determination and influence, NASA and the US Fish and Wildlife Service reached an agreement in 1963 which created the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge. To pay tribute to this man's unique contribution to the National Wildlife Refuge System, a five-mile trail was dedicated to his memory. This easy 5-mile walk around the Cruickshank Trail will take participants through marshlands with the likelihood of observing wading birds, shore birds, wintering warblers and birds of prey. Along the way, Charlie will entertain you with stories of Allan and Helen Cruickshank's influence on the environmental movement. Ned Steel has stories too as he birded with Allan

Cruickshank as a young man. While driving to the trailhead, stops will be made along the Black Point Wildlife Drive to look at concentrations of birds.

Florida Scrub-Jays at Cruickshank Sanctuary

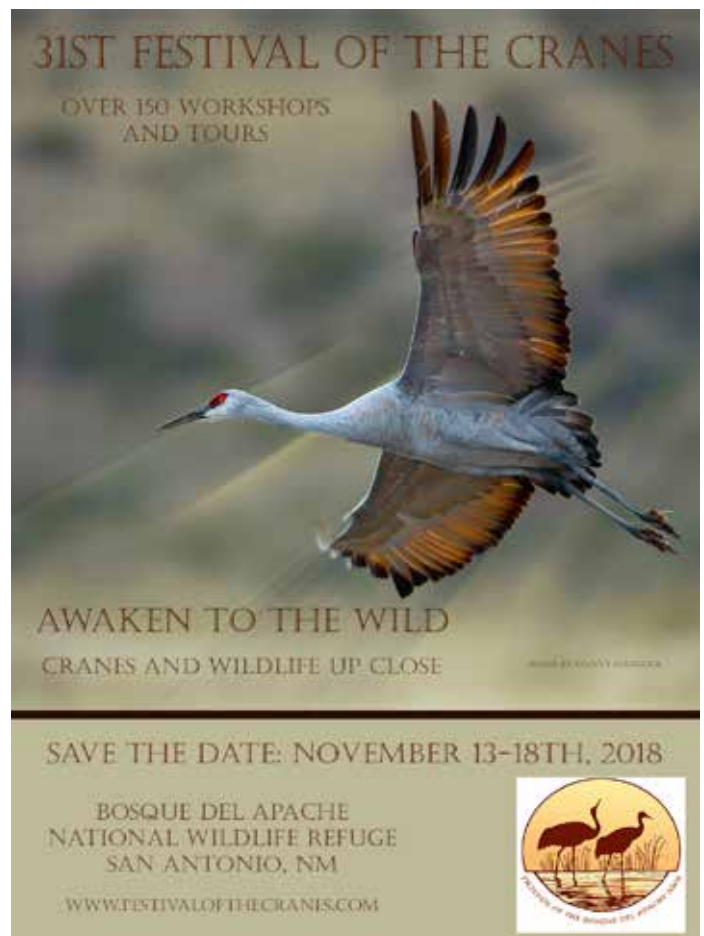
Jan. 25 & 28, 8:30am-10:30am; Limit 20 Registrants; \$15

Vince Lamb, Mark Prynoski & Charlie Venuto

Meet at the Helen & Alan Cruickshank Sanctuary, 360 Barnes Blvd., Rockledge, FL. There are no restroom facilities at the site.

Another property that was designated in of honor this influential couple, the Helen and Allan Cruickshank Sanctuary in Rockledge is considered to be one of the best Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) properties to visit in order to observe Florida Scrub-Jays, a threatened species that is Florida's only endemic bird. When the environment meets their needs, Florida Scrub-Jays will spend their entire lives on the same lands. Since the EEL Program began land management at the 168-acre Sanctuary, the Florida Scrub-Jay population has increased from a few visiting birds to established colonies today, approximately 22 birds in 5 separate families. Gopher Tortoises, Red Bellied Woodpeckers, Scrub Lizards and other species requiring scrub habitat are often observed in the Sanctuary.

"Much of Charlie's research on the Cruickshanks was funded by the American Public University and for that we are very grateful."



TOURS OF HISTORIC GEMS

Historic Pritchard House and Gardens Tour

Jan 25 & 26, 2:30pm – 4:30pm; Limit 25 Registrants; \$15

Jan. 27, 10:30am – 12:30pm; Limit 25 registrants; \$15

Roz Foster (North Brevard Heritage Foundation, Inc.)

Meet at the historic Pritchard House, 424 South Washington Ave. (US 1), Titusville, FL.

This fine example of Queen Anne style architecture was built of heart pine on this site in 1891 for Capt. James Pritchard and family. Capt. Pritchard organized Titusville's first bank in 1888, and later built Titusville's first electric generating plant. The house was placed on the National Register in 1990. Five generations of Pritchards continuously occupied the house until it was purchased by the County for preservation in 2005. The house has been beautifully restored and is furnished with period antiques and accessories. Various collections are exhibited throughout the house with tours conducted by docents in period dress. See a display of vintage feathered hats and learn how early conservation efforts established laws to prohibit the slaughter of native birds. Gardens with plaques that tell the history of early settlers are open for self-guided tours throughout the day. Song birds, ospreys, and egrets often visit. For additional information call 321-607-0203 or visit www.pritchardhouse.com.

Historic Sites of Canaveral National Seashore

Jan. 27, 8:30pm-4:30pm; Limit 26 Registrants; \$75

John Stiner with...

Meet at EFSC bus circle to board bus. Bring money for lunch at J.B.'s Fish Camp on Mosquito Lagoon. There are restrooms at three of the four stops.

An undeveloped beach with up to 8,000 sea turtle nests each summer contains a variety of resources. Walk with former NPS Ranger John Stiner as he visits four sites and unfolds intriguing secrets. Turtle Mound, one of the tallest, best-known archeological sites in Florida is displayed on Spanish maps in the 16th century, being an important navigational guide. Climb to the top and view a panorama of ocean, estuary and beaches. Castle Windy is a smaller mound, lying in the shadows of maritime hammock on the edge of Mosquito Lagoon. Learn of the mystery here for birders to ponder. Seminole Rest dates back 4,000 years. Archeological discoveries and dialog with Native Americans makes this site worth visiting. El Dora State House displays life along Florida waterway in the early 1900's, reflecting a less hectic era. Learn about a dramatic clash between French Huguenots and Spanish soldiers in 1565 that may have changed the history of Florida, leaving clues about a still undiscovered shipwreck in park waters.

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HOTELS

Quality Inn Kennedy Space Center

3655 Cheney Highway, Titusville, FL 32780

This is our official Festival Headquarters hotel. They will be offering complimentary continental breakfast at 3am for the early birders. A more traditional breakfast featuring hot items and their famous waffles will begin at 6am. The hotel also includes complimentary WiFi and a lovely heated pool with waterfall. \$79 for a standard second floor room. HOTEL HAS NO ELEVATORS so be sure to request first floor if needed. The cost will be slightly higher for a first-floor room. Call 321-269-7110 or 888-326-9468 and ask for the LBIIRD rate. Also, you can book online at <http://www.qualityinn.com/ires/en-US/html/ArrivalInfo?hotel=FL332&srp=LBIIRD&pu=no> Rooms must be booked before December 31, 2017.

Fairfield Inn and Suites

4735 Helen Hauser Blvd, Titusville, FL 32780

They will be serving a free limited "early bird" breakfast January 24-27 beginning at 3:30am each day. Their regular hot breakfast buffet will begin at 6:30am weekdays and 7am Sat and Sun. Room rates are \$124 and can be obtained by calling (321) 385-1818 and asking for the Bird Festival Rate. The hotel was recently renovated in 2016 and includes high-speed wireless Internet, a well-equipped 24-hour business center, exercise room, and outdoor heated pool. Rooms have mini-refrigerators and flat screen TVs. Microwaves available on request. Pet friendly with fee. Reservations must be made before December 31. Please use the following link to make online reservations: [Book your group rate for the 21st Annual Space Coast Birding & Wildlife Festival.](#)



Hampton Inn Titusville/KSC

4760 Helen Hauser Blvd., Titusville, FL 32780

We provide our travelers a warm and inviting "home away from home." Some of our amenities include:

- Free hot breakfast offered daily, allowing your guests to start their day off right without an additional charge.
 - Free high-speed and Wireless Internet access in the lobby and all guestrooms, allowing your guests to easily stay connected to their customers and family while at our hotel.
 - Guests have the option to earn both HHonors points & airline miles.
- Each individual reservation has a 48 hour prior to arrival cancellation policy. Guests can make reservations by calling 321-383-9191 or 800-426-7866 and asking for the Birding & Wildlife Festival Rate, \$125 per night. Reservations must be made by Dec 26 or the room rates and availability cannot be guaranteed.

Best Western Space Shuttle Inn

3455 Cheney Highway, Titusville, FL 32780-2502

The family-owned and American-operated Best Western Space Shuttle Inn offers premium amenities and personalized service for an unforgettable Titusville hotel experience. We offer every guest a complimentary full breakfast, free Wi-Fi, the convenience of our on-site Durango Steakhouse and Lounge, access to the lobby computer and printer, cable satellite television and full use of property barbeques. After a day of exploring area attractions, our spacious accommodations provide a comfortable place to relax and unwind. Guests can make reservations by calling 321-269-9100 or going online at <http://bestwesternflorida.com/hotels/best-western-space-shuttle-inn>. Ask for the Space Coast Birding and Wildlife Festival rate at \$75 per night. Reservations must be made by Dec 31 or the room rates and availability cannot be guaranteed.

For additional information on local accommodations, please contact the Titusville Chamber of Commerce at (321) 267-3036 or visit their website at <http://titusville.org/>



Peregrine
Falcon



Photos by Clay Taylor, Swarovski Optik



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Workshops

Beginning Waterfowl ID: The Most Important Things to Know

Jan. 25, 1:00pm-2:30pm; AUD, \$15

Dr. Kevin McGowan (Cornell Lab of Ornithology)

This workshop introduces the diversity of waterfowl and points out the best ways to get started identifying them. Although paying attention to size, shape, color pattern, markings, behavior, habitat, range, and calls can all help to make an identification for any kind of bird, the two most important things to concentrate on for waterfowl are shape and color pattern. Especially important is to know “where’s the white?” You will learn how to characterize the various subgroups of waterfowl based on shape. You will learn the importance of using shape to identify female ducks and how spotting patterns of white can be the key clue to identifying ducks, geese, swans, loons, and grebes. This talk is supported by the three foldout guides in the Cornell Lab of Ornithology Waterfowl ID Series, available from Waterford Press, authored by Dr. McGowan.

Gulls and More at Jetty Park

Jan. 27 & 28, 7:30am-10:30am; Limit 16 Registrants; \$30

Amar Ayyash & Alex Lamoreaux

Meet at the east end of Jetty Park by the boardwalks to the beach.

There is a fee for entrance to Jetty Park: \$5 per car for Brevard County residents and \$15 for non-residents.

There’s a lot going on at this beachside park where the waters and the boats of Port Canaveral kiss the sea. It features a 1200-foot fishing pier over the top of a rock jetty that teems with wildlife. Watercraft of all shapes and sizes come and go, from commercial and recreational fishing boats to some of the world’s largest cruise ships. Lush vegetated dunes give way to a wide beach, where gulls and terns loaf and shorebirds chase the waves, providing the same outstanding opportunities to observe, photograph and compare various plumages and age classes in each gull species in a more natural habitat than a landfill. It will certainly smell better.

Gull ID at the Brevard County Landfill

Jan. 24, 25 & 26, 7:30am-11:30am; Limit 10 Registrants; \$25

Amar Ayyash & Chris Brown with Joel Reynolds & Rita Perini

Meet at parking lot of the Titusville IHOP Restaurant, 3755 Cheney Highway. There are restrooms in the Administration Building at the Landfill where the initial attendee orientation occurs.

Welcome to the Brevard County Central Disposal Facility in Cocoa, Fla. — a birder’s paradise.

Don’t miss this rare opportunity to interact with some very knowledgeable gull experts where thousands of gulls gather and conditions allow for close comparison of similar species with many different age classes and plumages. Possible rare ones include Glaucous Gull, Iceland (Kumlien’s) Gull, Thayer’s Gull, California Gull, and European Herring Gull. Who knows what may turn up? Your hosts for this adventure are Rita Perini, Environmental Scientist at the Solid Waste Operations Facility and Wildlife Photographer, Joel Reynolds.

Note: The Brevard Landfill is NOT open to the public. Please do not come here on your own.

Learning Gull Identification Indoor Workshop

Jan. 26, 3:30pm-5:00pm; 4-119; \$15

Amar Ayyash (Blogger/Speaker)

Often approached with apprehension, gulls have gained a love-hate relationship with many birders. Among the larids are some of the most coveted bird species in the world, but recent genetic data and frequent hybridization in this family compel us to reassess the very concept of a species. Amar will touch on these topics as he highlights key identification field marks for separating our winter gull species. He’ll also touch on some of the often-ignored topics in gull-study such as the aging process and molt. Come learn why an increasing number of

people are being drawn to this family of birds and are eagerly calling themselves “larophiles”.

Raptor Identification: How to Get Started

Jan. 26, 1:00pm-2:30pm; AUD; \$15

Dr. Kevin McGowan (Cornell Lab of Ornithology)

This workshop introduces the diversity of raptors and the best ways to get started identifying them. Although paying attention to size, shape, color pattern, markings, behavior, habitat, range, and calls can all help to make an identification for any kind of bird, the two most important things to look for on raptors are shape and behavior. You will learn the various types of raptors, and how to break them into subgroups based on shape. You will learn how to determine a raptor’s body proportions by measuring it with itself. You also will learn how behavior can be a key component of raptor identification, especially flight style and foraging methods, what to look for, and which raptor does what.

Shorebird Outdoor ID Workshop with Kevin Karlson and Pete Dunne

Jan. 25, 8:00am-12:00pm; Limit 16 Registrants; \$60

Meet at the Parrish Park Boat Ramp parking lot. There are restrooms at Parrish Park and halfway through the Black Point Wildlife Drive on MINWR.

This interactive workshop shares a different approach to field ID that Kevin calls *Birding by Impression*, the title of his book in the Roger Tory Peterson Reference Series. Shorebirds are the focus of this trip, and the leaders will encourage participants to note basic impressions of relative size, body shape, structural features and behavior to form an accurate mental picture of every bird. Plumage details are then added to create a strong holistic ID picture. This ID approach is similar to the one in Kevin’s bestselling book, *The Shorebird Guide*. Natural history information is also shared to enhance your appreciation of birds. Come and experience a different way of looking at birds, and enjoy Pete and Kevin’s unique wit and interaction in the field.

So, You Think You Know Warblers: An Interactive Workshop

Jan. 27, 2:20pm-3:50pm; AUD; \$15

Kevin T. Karlson (Photographer, Author, Tour Leader)

This workshop covers the regional warblers that are seen in a particular geographic area. Since there are about 53 species of warblers that can reliably be seen in North America, Kevin will go over the regional species in detail. After showing seasonal and age variations, Kevin shows similar species in the same view from his popular “Warblers of North America” laminated guide that has almost every warbler plumage seen in North America at any season (Quick Reference Publishing, 2015). Quiz photos from the show test your power of retention at the end. Come and witness challenges in warbler ID, and see the power of comparative viewing with similar species.

Sparrow ID Indoor Workshop

Jan. 24, 2:15pm-3:45pm; AUD; \$15

Adam Kent (Florida Ornithological Society)

This workshop introduces the basics for identification of inland sparrows of the eastern U.S. Even though North American sparrows lack the bright colors of many warblers, sparrows’ distinctive shapes, interesting behaviors and subtly beautiful patterns can allow you to identify them with only a quick glance. Sure, sparrows with their often-secretive behaviors can present identification challenges. 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. This is a great opportunity to get your sparrow fix for the day.

Classroom Presentations

Included in the Cost of Festival Registration

Choosing the Right Binoculars for Birding:

Jan. 25, 1:00pm-2:00pm; 4-119

Clay Taylor (Swarovski Optik)

The worst feeling in birding is when the person standing next to you is raving about how beautiful a bird is, and you cannot even find it in your binocular view. No, it is NOT your eyes – you probably need a better binocular! However, there are LOTS of binoculars on the market – how to choose? Clay's talk will be a common sense-driven review of binocular choices: what the "numbers" mean, power vs. light gathering, field of view vs. eye relief, optical types, pricing, and more. Bring your current binocular for a quick inspection and evaluation.

Choosing a Spotting Scope – Up Your Birding Game:

Jan. 25, 2:30pm-3:30pm; 4-119

Clay Taylor (Swarovski Optik)

Are you fed up with seeing tiny bird-shapes in the sky, across the lake, or perched in distant treetops, but you cannot identify them? If yes, you are ready to buy a spotting scope. Once you bring your scope into the field with you, those distant birds are magically transformed into Peregrine Falcons, Red-necked Grebes, or Olive-sided Flycatchers. Don't have a scope? We will discuss the options for buying and using a spotting scope: size and weight, power and zoom choices. Almost as important is picking a tripod. So, we will cover tripod heads and legs, too. The final part will be a quick review on how to document what you see through your scope, using either a Smartphone or DSLR camera.

Barn Owls: Nature's Mousetrap

Jan. 27, 11:00am-12:00pm; AUD

Dr. Richard Raid (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. Originating from a high school student's science fair project, the UF Barn Owl Program quickly gained the acceptance of the local agricultural industry and hundreds of nesting boxes now dot the Everglades Agricultural Area of south Florida. This area now supports some of the highest Barn Owl densities in North America. In this seminar, Rick 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. Dr. Raid and the UF Barn Owl Project have been featured on CNN, the National Geographic Society's website, and PBS's Nature series.

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

Jan. 27, 1:00pm-2:30pm; AUD Foyer; Limit 24 Registrants; \$5

Dr. Richard Raid (University of Florida)

This workshop is nature's version of CSI! Have you ever wondered what sort of prey raptors feed on? Due to the alkaline nature of a Barn Owl's stomach, the bones and fur of its 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 owls have eaten. 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 their very own owl pellet, and by comparing skeletal

remains utilizing bone charts, you will be able to figure out exactly what a Barn Owl eats. Believe it or not, pellet dissection is a favorite lesson at many schools throughout the nation. Adults and kids of all ages will find this workshop highly entertaining and informative. Sterilized pellets, dissecting tools and bone charts will be furnished.

Birding Brazil - Six Spots, Two Months, 760 Species

Jan. 24, 2:30pm-3:30pm; 4-121

Jan. 25, 1:00pm-2:00pm; 4-123

Jay Packer (Tropical Birding)

In 2014, my wife and I decided to go birding in Brazil. Teachers both, we used our entire summer break to see as many birds as possible. By any measure, we were wildly successful. From the Amazon to the Atlantic Forest, from the world's largest tropical wetland in the Pantanal to one of the world's largest savannas known as the Cerrado, we sampled the best of Brazil. In this talk, I'll discuss the country, why it holds the record for the highest number of endemic birds, and share the highs (and lows) of birding every day for two months straight.

Birds of Cuba

Jan. 24 & 25; 2:30pm-3:30pm; 4-123

Arturo Kirkconnell (Partnership for International Birding)

Arturo Kirkconnell (referred to as R2) has been a professional bird guide in Cuba for nine years, and he has been birding in Cuba for over 20 years. Arturo is working to complete the *Photographic Field Guide to the Birds of Cuba* and an app for the Birds of Cuba. His father, Arturo Kirkconnell (R1), is the most famous Cuban bird guide, who wrote the *Field Guide to the Birds of Cuba*. Arturo (R2) has participated in many of his father's expeditions since he was age nine. He has helped on his father's ornithological study tours, as a bird researcher and field assistant. Arturo will review with you the key birding locations in Cuba and share stories about a number of the Cuban endemics.

Birding in Western North Carolina

Jan. 24 & 26, 4:00pm-5:00pm; 4-121

Simon Thompson (Ventures Birding Tours)

Western North Carolina offers some of the finest birding in the Eastern United States. Tree-covered mountains hold over 20 species of breeding warblers and colorful wildflowers carpet the forest floor before the leaves open in the spring. There's "nothing finer" than to be in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Western Carolina as life starts to creep into the mountains after the calm and brown hues of winter. Join Asheville, NC resident, Simon Thompson, for an insight into the rich birding of our Southern Mountains.

Birding the Great White North

Jan. 24, 1:00pm-2:00pm; 4-119

Tom Hince (Bird with Tom)

Well, your good friends in the Great White North, are close, safe, economical and so easy to visit - EH!

The birding and photography opportunities will wow you. Magnificent northern owls! The spectacle of millions of nesting puffins and other seabirds. Prairie potholes brimming with colorful shorebirds and ducks. Expanses of boreal forest teeming with showy breeding warblers. All this and stunning scenery, right on your doorstep. Come and experience the spectacle of birding with your friendly, hockey loving, donut eating Canadian neighbors!

CLASSROOM PRESENTATIONS CONTINUED

Birds and Beasts of South Africa

Jan. 26, 1:00pm-2:00pm; 4-121

Jim Beckman (Cheepers! Birding on a Budget)

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 will share his experiences from four South African tours he co-led. Take a tour of this amazing country, exploring its breathtaking scenery, amazing wildlife, and abundant birdlife through photographs and stories.

Birds of Southern Portugal

Jan. 25 & 27; 2:30pm-3:30pm; 4-121

Jaoa Jara (Birds and Nature Tours Portugal)

This is a presentation with slides showing the key regions to visit and the main habitats and birds one can see in this country. The focus will be on understanding why Portugal is a wonderful birding destination and on practical aspects, for example when to visit, other wildlife and fine points of interest and travel in Portugal. From the tidal mud flats of the Tagus estuary and the parched rocky hills of the steppe country to the great concentrations of the soaring raptors of Sagres, the abundant bird life of Portugal is easily accessible. Questions and discussion are welcome.

Confessions of a Tour Leader

Jan. 25, 4:00pm-5:00pm; 4-121

Simon Thompson (Ventures Birding Tours)

What really goes on behind the scenes of a birding tour? Is it all just delicious meals and colorful birds? Do tour leaders ever really work or are they on a permanent holiday? Wouldn't you really like to know just a little more of the juicy details? From missing planes to snowstorms, from cocaine to sewage farms, join Ventures Birding tour leader, Simon Thompson, for a lively and somewhat tongue-in-cheek look at leading a birding tour.

Ethics for Birders and Photographers... working together to save our natural world

Jan. 24, 1:00pm-2:00pm; 4-123

Robert Wilson (Kowa)

The rising interest in birding and nature photography has put a strain on wildlife like never before. Education and collaboration is the answer to solving many of these problems. This presentation is an introduction to opening up dialogue between birders, photographers and environmentalists to discuss your concerns about the mounting pressures on our natural world. We all have the same mission. We all want a world for future generations and our children to enjoy. Be prepared for a frank open discussion.

Everglades: Unique and Precious

Jan. 27, 4:00pm-5:00pm; 4-121

Paddy Cunningham (Birding Adventures)

Explore this unique place on the planet, the Everglades, an International Biosphere. Begin to understand the natural history forces that created this amazing place, its habitats and the diversity of birds and wildlife that exist there. This talk will include a trip through Everglades National Park and tips on where to find target species you seek.

Everyday Birding - Close By

Jan. 27, 4:00pm-5:00pm; 1-114

Ray Scory (Halifax River Audubon)

Ray Scory finds himself evolving into a suburban birder/photographer. He enjoys searching the nooks and crannies of his immediate environment, always anticipating the surprise of a spectacular birding experience. His efforts have yielded a collection of interesting bird images photographed along city streets, parking lots, city parks, neighborhood and backyards - all close by his home. Eighty-seven bird species honestly presented and set in eye-catching scenic Florida compliment this eye-opening story of birds discovered close by. See the beauty and become aware of the birds that are right around us.

From Birds to Books

Jan. 26 & 27, 2:30pm-3:30pm; 4-123

J.R. Ripley

J.R. Ripley is a long-time bird watcher and acclaimed novelist who currently writes the Bird Lover's Cozy Mystery series for Kensington Publishing. He will discuss how he has successfully combined his passion for bird watching, nature and travel with his passion for writing. J.R. often gets asked about the writing process as many people dream of writing a book themselves. He will provide guidance and share insights and anecdotes into how others can combine their hobbies with a love for the written word. And he just might sing a few bird-related song parodies, too! For more information about J.R., visit facebook.com/jrripley.

Galapagos: Ecuador's Enchanted Islands

Jan. 26 & 27, 1:00pm-2:00pm; 4-119

Reinier Munguia (Holbrook Travel)

Some 600 miles off the coast of Ecuador in the Pacific Ocean, life has found a way not only to survive, but to thrive, despite sometimes harsh terrain and precarious environmental conditions. The archipelago is famous among nature and wildlife lovers for its unique inhabitants: giant tortoises, the world's only ocean-going lizard, curious and endemic Galapagos fur seals, plus iconic birds like the Blue-footed Booby, Flightless Cormorant, Galapagos Penguin, and more than a dozen species of Darwin's finches, all amidst breathtaking vistas. Join Reinier Munguia, professional photographer and founder of Wildstock Photography, for this informative introduction to the Galapagos. View stunning, finely detailed photos of the islands, their landscapes, and their flora and fauna and learn why these "Enchanted Islands" are like no place else on Earth.

Introduction to Birding in the American Tropics

Jan. 25, 4:00pm-5:00pm; 4-119

Jim Beckman (Cheepers! Birding on a Budget)

Are you ready for your first birding trip to the American Tropics? Join us as Jim Beckman, co-owner of Cheepers! Birding on a Budget, shares his experiences from co-leading over 50 birding tours to the Central America countries of Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, and Panama and the South America countries of Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, and Guyana. Gain insight about what to expect: the birds, birding guides, birding sites, lodges, food, transportation, weather, tipping, and preparation for the trip. Bring your questions, and Jim will do his best to answer them.

CLASSROOM PRESENTATIONS CONTINUED

Native Plants for Birds

Jan. 27, 1:00pm-2:00pm; 4-123

Jenny Welch (Florida Master Naturalist)

Audubon now promotes the use of native plants for birds. Learn which plants are native plants. Learn why diversity of native plants is key to attracting a wide range of birds, butterflies and wildlife. Learn the reason insects are so vitally important to all wildlife including birds. Learn which native plants the birds, butterflies, and other wildlife need to survive. For instance, the salt bush/Baccharis halimifolia is important to warblers and sparrows as well as our monarch butterflies. Information will be given on where to locate native plants for your gardens.

Otters of the Indian River Lagoon

Jan. 27, 2:30pm-3:30pm; 4-119

Megan Stolen (Hubbs Sea World Research Institute)

There are thirteen species of otters throughout the world. The North American river otter is found throughout Florida, including the Indian River Lagoon. Otters are inquisitive and appear playful but they are also fierce top-level predators. Little is known about their populations in Florida. Hubbs-SeaWorld Research Institute has launched a new river otter study which includes a citizen science program called "Otter Spotter". We will present an overview of otters throughout space and time and give you details about becoming an Otter Spotter to help study and conserve this amazing species.

Overland Birding – Namibia

Jan. 24, 2:30pm-3:30pm; 4-119

Jan. 26, 2:15pm-3:15pm; 4-119

Wian van Zyl (Birding Ecotours)

Join Wian van Zyl from Birding Ecotours, as he takes you through the best of birding in Namibia. This dry, desert-like country offers some truly top-class birding, including hosting a number of regional endemics, and also offers truly exceptional game viewing experiences as an aside, for when the birding gets slow. You will soon see exactly why this is a very popular destination of choice.

Owls of North America

Jan. 25, 1:00pm-2:00pm; 4-121

Sam Fried (Flights of Fancy Adventures)

Undoubtedly the most mysterious and little seen family of birds in North America, the owls hold our fascination, as they have for thousands of years. Mysterious, silent and ferocious birds of prey, owls are almost everywhere. Learn about all 19 species that inhabit our continent and listen to their eerie calls.

Panama's Wondrous Natural History

Jan. 25 & 27; 4:00pm-5:00pm; 4-123

Carlos Bethancourt (Canopy Family)

Panama is blessed with incredible natural beauty and biodiversity. Over 1,004 bird species, hundreds of mammals, reptiles & amphibians, and a staggering number of plant species have been recorded here. Join Canopy Family's knowledgeable and entertaining senior guide on a photographic journey of the tropical birds, bizarre mammals, unusual reptiles & amphibians and spectacular habitats from the Canal Zone, into the foothills of western Panama, and then into the wilds of the Darién in eastern Panama. From toucans to hummingbirds, mouse opossums to tongue-wielding Orange Nectar Bats, Carlos will keep you spellbound with his stories of discovery and vivid images. Come experience why Panama is indeed the country of wondrous natural history!

Photography for People Who are Birders

Jan. 26, 1:00pm-2:00pm; 4-123

Jay Packer (Tropical Birding)

Like you, my interest in birds began with birding, not photography. From the age of 12, it was all I wanted to do. But as the digital revolution swept through photography, transforming both the price and the quality of the equipment, I found myself birding with a camera. I still put birding first, not wanting to miss a single bird, but when I recognized the moment, I'd allow myself to focus on getting the shot. In this talk, I'll discuss strategies and share some funny stories I've experienced over the last five years of birding with a camera.

The Cruickshanks: From Hog Island to Florida

Jan 24 & 27, 4:00pm-5:00pm; 4-119

Charlie Venuto (Space Coast Audubon)

Allan and Helen Cruickshank educated millions on the importance of nature. Allan was a National Audubon Society (NAS) lecturer and photographer and for 22 years taught at the NAS Hog Island Camp. Allan was THE primary force behind the creation of the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge. In this presentation, Charlie will discuss the Cruickshank's impact on conservation from Maine to Florida and explore how they helped to transfer the conservation movement to the environmental movement. It will include historical footage from the University of Florida archives of the first CBC at MINWR. Much of Charlie's research on the Cruickshanks was funded by the American Public University and for that we are very grateful.

They Do It All Night Long

Jan. 24 & 26, 4:00pm-5:00pm; 4-123

Bill Stewart (American Birding Association)

Examining the facts, fiction and lore of bird migrations and other interesting stuff you didn't know birds could do: Did you know birds often migrate all night...and all day...for five, six, seven days in a row? How high do they fly? When and why do birds migrate? How do Broad-winged Hawks and other raptors find one another for that long migration flight? Do birds sleep on 'the wing'? Come find out the answers and learn so much more during this fact-filled and whimsical look into bird migration and other fascinating bird antics!

Walking in the Footsteps of Birding Giants

Jan. 24 & 26, 2:30pm-3:30pm; 4-121

Tom Hince (Bird With Tom)

May 29th, 2018 will be a day for birders to celebrate. A hundred years to the day one of the continent's greatest birding meccas, Point Pelee, Canada, officially became a National Park. Long before fancy Apps, technical field clothes and cutting-edge field guides, birders like Percy Taverner and William Saunders painstakingly documented the spectacle of migration on Lake Erie's north shore. Without their vision, passion and determination, a national park would instead be wall to wall cottages with zero public access. Join us as we walk in their footsteps... and thank them for the many that have followed in the last century.

World Wide Birding from Cruise Ships

Jan. 24 & 27, 1:00pm-2:00pm; 4-121

Ken Bergener (Carefree Birding)

Learn how and where to bird from a cruise ship. We will discuss the best options for seeing the local birds while enjoying all the comforts of a cruise. You will learn how to save money and where to find information about local birds. Short videos and pictures will help you understand the unique way to travel and bird in foreign lands. You'll get tips on how to prepare for your trip and how to navigate the terrain of the country you are in.

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- **Hawks Aloft, Inc.** a raptor conservation organization based in Albuquerque, NM.
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Important Information:

During the Festival, the sun will rise around 7:15am, so please be at your meet-up spots at the time indicated in the activity descriptions. Early meet-up is requested for sunrise to allow time to go over some basic instructions and be at the workshop locations as the golden hour approaches. Light is best starting ½ to ¾ hours before sunrise so you want to be there to capture it. Instructors will not wait for those who are late. The sun will set around 6:00pm. Though not required, car pools are recommended and will be set up at the meet-up spots. Bring water, snacks, sun protection, biting bug protection, wear warm clothes and waterproof shoes. Directions to meet-up spots will be posted on the festival web site. The \$15 charge for the activities conducted by industry representatives is an administrative fee. Please note that some photography activities have the same or similar names. Make sure that you sign up for the correct photographer when you register.

David Akoubian

Bear Woods Photography

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David resides in the mountains of North Georgia with his wife Evelyn. Early in his career David traveled with, learned from and taught beside some of the masters of nature photography including John Shaw, Art Wolfe, Galen Rowell, Bryan Peterson, Pat O'Hara, and Rod Planck. David has been teaching photography in the classroom and leading workshops around the United States since 1994. His photographs and articles have appeared in publications such as *Nature Photographer*, *Audubon Magazine*, *Blue Ridge Country*, *Birder's World*, *Outdoor Photographer*, *Backpacker Magazine*, and many local publications. David is a Tamron Image Master as well as being designated as a Sirui Professional.

INDOOR CLASSROOMS

Designing a Landscape

Jan. 27, 1:00pm-2:30pm; 1-131; Limit 30 Registrants; \$35

During this lecture David will discuss how he has taken many of the principals learned in his years as a painter and carried them over to photography. He will discuss how to identify subjects and elements within a frame, then how to arrange them to be visually pleasing to your viewer. David will discuss simple things like vertical vs. horizontal, symmetrical vs. asymmetrical, leading lines, "C" and "S" Curves to guide the viewer through a frame. Learn to create images vs. simply taking photographs.

Macro Photography

Jan. 24, 1:00pm-2:30pm; 1-114; Limit 30 Registrants; \$35

Join David Akoubian as he discusses techniques to improve your macro photography. David will discuss everything from the basics of "what is macro" to the equipment needed to do it right without spending a fortune. David will also discuss the importance of composition when creating macro images. David

will discuss everything from sharp simple images to abstract and "dreamy" images. David's experience and techniques help the photographer to capture images of the small world around us and get us to look at things completely differently. You will learn to see the tiny world in a grand way.

Photographing Wildlife

Jan. 25, 10:30am-12:00pm; 4-121; Limit 30 Registrants; \$35

Join David Akoubian as he talks about photographing wildlife, both in a controlled environment as well as in the wild. David uses several techniques in his backyard to practice his skills so that when he is out in the wild photographing wildlife is second nature. David will discuss how to isolate subjects as well as including them in the "bigger picture" to give an environmental look to your images. David will discuss considerations when photographing animals in the wild to not only maximize your chances but to stay safe as well. Geared for beginners and advanced photographers.

OUTDOOR WORKSHOPS

Birds and Wildlife in Landscape Images Workshop

MINWR, Jan. 25; 6:30am-9:30am; Limit 12 Registrants; \$60

Meet at the Parrish Park boat ramp parking lot.

OWP, Jan. 26; 6:30am-9:30am; Limit 12 Registrants; \$60

OWP, Jan. 27; 3:30pm-6:30pm; Limit 12 Registrants; \$60

Meet at the Orlando Wetlands Park parking area.

Many of us like to photograph landscape images, while probably an equal amount enjoy wildlife photography. In this workshop David will discuss and demonstrate how to combine the two and incorporate wildlife and birds into a landscape. We all spend time trying to fill the frame with the subject but often we lose part of the story by excluding the environment in which the animal lives. David will discuss the correct settings within the camera to properly expose, while discussing and demonstrating how the composition of the image enhances the final product.

Capturing Birds in Flight Workshop

Viera, Jan. 24 & 25; 3:30pm-6:30pm; Limit 12 Registrants; \$60

Meet at the Viera Wetlands parking area.

MINWR, Jan. 26, 3:00pm-6:00pm; Limit 12 Registrants; \$60

MINWR, Jan. 27, 6:30am-9:30am; Limit 12 Registrants; \$60

Meet at the Parrish Park boat ramp parking lot.

During this workshop David will discuss the optimum settings for your camera, including shutter speeds, ISO, and aperture to get the sharpness you want in capturing birds in flight. David will discuss and demonstrate other settings, such as focus and drive modes, to improve your chances on keeping the birds sharp within your frame. David will also demonstrate how and what equipment will best improve and serve the photographer as he captures in flight images. Birds in flight can be very difficult to capture, and these techniques will improve your field photography substantially.

Sunrise at Jetty Park

Jan. 24 & 28, 6:30am-9:30am; Limit 12 Registrants; \$60

Meet at the east end of Jetty Park by the boardwalks to the beach. There is a fee for entrance to Jetty Park: \$5 per car for Brevard County residents and \$15 for non-residents.

PHOTOGRAPHY CONTINUED

Join David for a sunrise shoot with elements that just say "Florida". There's a lot going on at this beachside park, which features a 1200-foot fishing pier over the top of a rock jetty. From there you will have great shots as boats of all sizes come and go, from commercial and recreational fishing boats to some of the world's largest cruise ships. Lush vegetated dunes give way to a wide beach, where gulls and terns loaf and shorebirds chase the waves, providing outstanding opportunities to shoot landscapes and portraits of birds in the landscapes as well as nice tight images of birds and birds in flight.

Mark Buckler

Mark Buckler Photography

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Mark has been an active photographer for over 30 years. He resides in the Outer Banks of North Carolina where he pursues his passion for nature, wildlife and landscape photography. His degree in wildlife biology and his experience as a wildlife field biologist provide him with a deep understanding of nature and animal behavior, enhancing Mark's ability to capture unique and interesting nature images and put his workshop clients into the right spots to capture the best images. Additionally, his 15 years of experience as a high school biology teacher contributes to Mark's ability to offer engaging, meaningful and enjoyable workshops and presentations. Mark is a renowned photographic instructor who has been invited to teach workshops or give presentations nationwide. His highly acclaimed images have received numerous international, national, regional and local awards.

INDOOR CLASSROOMS

Mastering the Art of Bird and Wildlife Photography

Jan. 27, 3:00pm-4:30pm; 1-131; Limit 30 Registrants; \$35

It takes a lot more than the right equipment to take compelling images of birds and wildlife. Renowned wildlife and nature photographer (and former wildlife biologist), Mark Buckler, will share his secrets to creating amazing bird photos and provide you with the tools that you need to make more interesting and artistic bird photos.

Photographing the Night Sky - How to Create "Stellar" Images

Jan. 26, 10:30am-12:00pm; 4-123; Limit 30 Registrants; \$35

Learn how easy it is to photograph the landscape at night... it's really not as difficult as most people think. Advancements in digital technology have made it easy to capture amazing photos of the spectacular night sky. We will go over the entire process from image capture to post-processing so that you can make some "stellar" images of your own.

Essential Elements to Great Photographs

Jan. 25, 1:00pm-2:30pm; 1-114; Limit 30 Registrants; \$35

Crafting great photographs of nature requires a solid technical

foundation, creativity and a great deal of thought. Professional photographer, Mark Buckler, will share some of his spectacular images and give you a series of tips so that you can make stunning, dynamic and compelling images of your own. From start to finish, Mark will give you insight into the process of how he approaches various photographic situations.

OUTDOOR WORKSHOPS

Bird Photography at Orlando Wetlands Park

Jan. 24 & 25, 6:30am-9:30am; Limit 12 Registrants; \$60

Jan. 25 & 26, 3:30pm-6:30pm; Limit 12 Registrants; \$60

Meet at the Orlando Wetlands Park parking area.

Orlando wetlands park provides exceptional opportunities to photograph a variety of birds such as Purple Gallinule, American Bittern, herons, egrets, Red-winged Blackbird, wrens, Sandhill Crane, hawks, owls, whistling ducks, Limpkin, ibis and many more. Professional photographer, Mark Buckler, will take you to the best places in the park to photograph the abundant birds and teach you how to take more compelling photos of these birds. You will learn about composition, exposure, focusing strategies and camera settings that will allow you to get better bird photos. You will also learn how to photograph birds in flight and effective strategies for getting close to birds.

Bird Photography at Merritt Island NWR

Jan. 24, 3:30pm-6:30pm; Limit 12 Registrants; \$60

Jan. 26 & 28, 6:30am-9:30am; Limit 12 Registrants; \$60

Meet at the Parrish Park boat ramp parking lot.

Merritt Island NWR is a renowned bird area that provides great opportunities to photograph a number of bird species (including shorebirds, waterfowl and wading birds...such as Roseate Spoonbill). Professional photographer, Mark Buckler, will take you to the best spots on the refuge and provide you with engaging instruction about composition, exposure, focusing strategies and camera settings that will allow you to get better bird photos. You will also learn how to photograph birds in flight and effective strategies for getting close to birds.

Creating Spectacular Landscape Photos: from Start to Finish

Jan. 27, Time 6:15am-12:00pm; Limit 12 Registrants; \$95

Meet at Smyrna Dunes Park, 2995 N. Peninsula Ave., New Smyrna Beach. Entry Fee is \$10 per car.

The classroom portion will be in 4-123.

This comprehensive photography experience will guide you through the steps of capturing an image in the field and finalizing your vision through the use of image editing software. We will start by photographing sunrise at Smyrna Dunes Park where Mark will lead you through the steps necessary to capture a quality image with your camera. You'll find an abundance of subjects to photograph at this spectacular beachside park where the waters of the Halifax River estuary meet the sea and five ecosystems (ocean, river, dunes, scrub zone, saltwater marsh) are home to a wide variety of animals, birds, reptiles, marine life and vegetation. Following the early morning shoot, we will then return to the classroom where you will learn how to process your images so that they look remarkable. This is a great opportunity to work with a professional photographer and learn how to make spectacular images from start to finish.

Vinny & Annette Colucci

Escape to Nature Photography Workshops

www.escapetonaturephotography.com 252-349-1121

vinny@vinnycolucci.com

Sponsored by **Hunt's Photo and Video**

huntsphotoandvideo.com

Stop by the Hunt's booth for the best prices on the newest camera and video products.

Educate – Inspire – Entertain Vinny and Annette Colucci have been conducting quality photography workshops since 2003. Their goal is simple – to give you the best photographic adventure possible with high quality photography instruction. A veteran of numerous photographic trips to Florida, Vinny knows this area well. He calls Orlando Wetlands Park a Mini-Everglades with photo opportunities around every corner. Although well versed in all camera gear, Vinny is a Nikon professional and a member of Nikon's Professional Services. If you are a Nikon shooter, Vinny can help you fine tune your camera for the best results.

INDOOR CLASSROOMS

ABC's of Wildlife & Bird Photography

Jan. 27, 10:30am-12:00pm; 4-121; Limit 30 Registrants; \$35

Professional photographer, Vinny Colucci has updated this event from last year with a simplified format on how to set up and capture amazing wildlife and birding images. This session includes information on the basic camera setup as well as which lens to pick for different situations. Tripod technique as well as outdoor flash techniques will be discussed. Photographing birds in flight and getting sharp images will be covered. This class is for the beginner to intermediate Digital SLR shooter that wants to raise their level and success of capturing wildlife images.

Flash Photography for Wildlife

Jan. 26, 10:30am-12:00pm; 4-119; Limit 30 Registrants; \$35

This class is specifically for the wildlife and birding photographer who wants to know how to balance his flash's light with the ambient light outdoors. From manual to TTL and the newer intelligent TTL you will see how you can set your flash to give you natural looking non-flash images. This is a class that is good no matter who is the manufacturer of your camera gear. Want to know what a Better Beamer is? This simple add on to your flash unit will increase the range of your flash with a simple \$40.00 attachment.

Image Critiques

Jan. 26, 1:00pm-2:30pm; 1-131; Limit 20 Registrants; \$35.00

Do you want for your images to be critiqued? Award winning photographer, Vinny Colucci can do just that. As a member of Nikon Professional team, Vinny has seen many images from many photographers. Bring three images to this session and Vinny will go over each one. Have your images ready on a thumb drive for down loading. Images should be in JPEG only. The class will look at each image and Vinny will go over the image in a learning environment. Images should be of a wildlife or nature scene to stay within the theme of this Space Coast event.

OUTDOOR WORKSHOPS

Birds in Flight at Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge

Jan. 25, 3:00pm-6:00pm; Limit 12 Registrants; \$60

Jan. 26, 3:30pm-6:30pm; Limit 12 Registrants; \$60

Meet at the Parrish Park boat ramp parking lot.

Birds in Flight at Orlando Wetlands Park

Jan. 24, 3:30pm-6:30pm; Limit 12 Registrants; \$60

Jan. 25, 6:30am-9:30am; Limit 12 Registrants; \$60

Jan. 27, 6:15am-9:15am; Limit 12 Registrants; \$60

Meet at the Orlando Wetlands Park parking area.

Birds in Flight at Viera Wetlands

Jan. 24, 6:30am-9:30am; Limit 12 Registrants; \$60

Jan. 26, 6:15am-9:15am; Limit 12 Registrants; \$60

Jan. 27, 3:00pm-6:00pm; Limit 12 Registrants; \$60

Meet at the Viera Wetlands parking area.

Photographing birds in flight has always been a challenge. Join Vinny Colucci to discover his award-winning techniques. Learn how to take portrait shots of subjects on the ground. Vinny will cover camera settings and telephoto lens techniques for use with tripod gimbals and hand-held photography. Vinny will also go over flash techniques in the field. Do you have a Better Beamer? Learn how to get the most out of this simple way to amplify light from your flash while photographing birds and wildlife. Recommended equipment: One or two camera bodies; telephoto lens up to 600mm; landscape lens for landscapes and sunrise/sunset -- 24-70 is a good general range; tripod with a ball head or a Gimbal head; polarizing filter and a 3-stop graduated filter. Vinny will have some grad filters to loan.

Sunrise at Cocoa Beach Pier

Jan. 28, 6:00am-9:00am; Limit 12 Registrants; \$60

Meet at the east end of the Cocoa Beach Pier parking lot at 401 Meade Ave., Cocoa Beach. Look for the lighted sign for the Pier.

There is a \$10 fee to park in the parking lot.

Learn to photograph sunrise and early morning light, anchoring the sunrise and morning light with the Pier and on-coming waves. Metering the complex lighting of a sunrise over the ocean will be demonstrated. Vinny will cover filter techniques as well as composition and the use of slower shutter speeds to show motion and freeze action to create different perspectives. The use of leading lines and diagonals will be taught as a landscape technique. Following sunrise, practice those these techniques with close-ups of seashells, starfish and other macro type objects. Learn to shoot slow shutter speeds to capture soft wave motion around your subject. Recommended equipment: Camera body; 70-200 telephoto lens; 24-70 wide angle lens; close up lens for shell photography; neutral density filter and polarizer; 3-stop graduated filter; tripod and ball head. Vinny will have some grad filters to loan.

Kevin T. Karlson

Kevin T. Karlson Bird and Nature Photography

kevintkarlson.com 609-465-2138

karlson3@comcast.net

Advanced Photography Workshop: Flight and Action; Light Awareness; Composition Basics; Creative Exposure

Jan. 27, 7:00am-11:00am; Limit 12 Registrants; \$60

Meet at Parrish Park boat ramp parking lot.

This interactive workshop explains a variety of techniques and principles for capturing a perfect wildlife/nature image. It will cover basics of flight and action, including handheld technique; proper exposure and subject acquisition; awareness of lighting and its use in field situations; quick compensation for white or dark subjects; basic compositional rules and artistic balance; and creative light exposures using manual exposure

PHOTOGRAPHY CONTINUED

or compensation in other modes. Each participant gets individual attention during this workshop. If you want to take your wildlife/nature photo skills to the next level, come to this workshop with long time professional wildlife/nature photographer Kevin Karlson.

Roman Kurywczak

Roamin' With Roman Photo Tours

roaminwithroman.com 908-241-0500

roaminwroman@comcast.net

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Stop by the Sigma booth to check out the latest camera products to try out in the field. You can find his schedule of instructional tours and lectures, galleries, videos, blog, gear reviews, e-books and more at: www.roaminwithroman.com

Roman Kurywczak is a professional nature photographer and proud member of the Sigma Pro team who conducts lectures and workshops across the globe. His boutique tour company, Roamin' with Roman Photo Tours, caters to small groups (only 4) to provide the ultimate learning experience for participants. His down to earth and easy to follow teaching style make him a highly sought-after lecturer. The author of several instructional eBooks on nature photography, Roman strives to share his passion for photography as others have shared with him. You can find his schedule of instructional tours and lectures, galleries, videos, blog, gear reviews, e-books and more at: www.roaminwithroman.com

INDOOR CLASSROOMS

A Paradigm Shift in the World of Bird Photography

Jan. 25, 3:00pm-4:30pm 1-114; Limit 30 Registrants; \$35

Jan. 27, 1:00pm-2:30pm; 1-114; Limit 30 Registrants; 35

This instructional program represents a fundamental change in the way today's bird photographers should think and do things, especially when it comes to birds in flight! Roman will cover everything from gear to settings and techniques while also covering some of the most common mistakes photographers make in this exciting field. Questions will be encouraged and answered throughout the presentation so that those attending gain a clear understanding of the principles of bird photography.

Create Tack Sharp Macro Images - without a tripod!

Jan. 25 & 27; 9:00am-12:00pm; 4-119; Limit 12 Registrants; \$60

Tired of carrying around your tripod for macro photography? Many flower shows and arboretums don't allow the use of a tripod as well. During the lecture Roman will provide you with the settings and secrets to creating your own tack sharp macro images whether you are out in the field or inside a facility that doesn't allow the use of tripods. The secret to his success is effectively using flash as well as other light sources. Everything from gear, camera settings, to accessories will be covered in this instructional program. After the lecture portion, there will be an approximately 2+ hour shoot where you can put what you learned to use with flower setups and more. Bring your camera with fully charged battery, memory cards, and a flash (if you have one).

For the Love of Landscapes

Jan. 26, 10:30am-12:00pm; 1-114; Limit 30 Registrants; \$35

Join professional nature photographer and Sigma Pro Roman Kurywczak on this inspirational journey showcasing the magic of

the landscapes near and far. Roman will provide you with tips, settings, techniques, as well as necessary gear for capturing stunning images of your very own. Questions are encouraged throughout the lecture.

Photographing the Nighttime Landscape

Jan. 24; 10:30am-12:00pm; 4-119; Limit 30 Registrants; \$35

Roman has designed this educational how-to program to show you the possibility of photographing landscapes with the star filled sky as a backdrop all with just one shot. Whether it is the natural landscape with the star filled sky as a backdrop or even venturing out to photograph the city lights, Roman will cover everything from equipment, camera settings, tips, and techniques so participants can create stunning night images of their own. He will discuss "light painting" of a foreground subject as well as overcoming obstacles when the conditions are less than ideal. Students will leave with a clear understanding of the techniques required and implement them out in the field for themselves.

Photographing Water-from the Mountains to the Sea

Jan. 26, 1:00pm-2:30pm; 1-114; Limit 30 Registrants; \$35

In this instructional program, Sigma Pro Roman will provide you with tips and techniques for capturing flowing water in the landscape. He will discuss gear, settings, and other technical choices that today's digital photographer faces out in the field including using filters or undertaking exposure blending. This program will cover everything from stunning waterfalls to majestic seascapes and everything in between. Water covers over 70% of the earth's surface so come learn the techniques to artistically capture it and create stunning images of your very own.

OUTDOOR WORKSHOPS

Birds in Flight Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge

Jan. 24 & 26, 6:30am-9:30am; Limit 12 Registrants; \$60

Meet at the Parrish Park boat ramp parking lot.

Birds in Flight Viera Wetlands

Jan. 28, 6:30am-9:30am; Limit 12 Registrants; \$60

Meet at the Viera Wetlands parking area.

Want to learn how to take sharp images of birds in flight? Join Roman for this hands-on workshop and he will teach you how you can capture stunning bird in flight images of your very own. He will show you how to get the proper exposure every time and why manual mode is essential to photographing birds in flight. Participants should bring a fully charged digital SLR camera with a minimum 300mm focal length lens. Don't forget to bring extra memory cards. As a proud member of the Sigma pro team Roman has taught countless photographers across the country just how exciting and fun bird in flight photography can be.

Night in the Field

Jan. 25 & 27; 3:00am-5:00am; Limit 12 Registrants; \$60

Meet at the Parrish Park boat ramp parking lot.

Join Roman, as he leads an in-the-field workshop on photographing the nighttime sky. It is recommended (but not required) that participants attend the lecture on Wednesday so they are more comfortable for the shoot. Before the shoot, Roman will help you test your gear and find the focus point on your lens. Participants should bring a fully charged DSLR with memory card. A lens in the range of 10-24mm and an f/stop or

PHOTOGRAPHY CONTINUED

4 or faster is recommended. A sturdy tripod is also a must. Don't forget to bring a small flashlight or headlamp to help you get around at night!

Michael Milicia

Michael Milicia Photography

michaelmiliciaphotography.com 781-275-8285

mike@miliciaphoto.com

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huntsphotoandvideo.com

Stop by the Hunt's booth for the best prices on the newest camera and video products.

Mike is motivated by a love of nature, a fascination with wildlife, and the never-ending challenge of finding that perfect combination of good light, cooperative subject, attractive setting, and beautiful background that allows creation of an artistically pleasing image. His passion for taking photographs is rivaled only by his delight in teaching photography. During his years as a software engineer, he was continually faced with the need to analyze complex subjects and break them down in a well-organized, step by step manner that made them easier to understand and communicate. He finds that this approach also works when teaching the technical aspects of photography. Mike enjoys teaching at all levels, whether it is helping beginners get acquainted with the world of digital photography or helping more experienced photographers take their images to the next level.

INDOOR CLASSROOMS

Bird Photography: Insights and Inspiration

Jan. 26, 3:00pm-4:30pm; 1-131; Limit 30 Registrants; \$35

Mike will present a selection of his bird images along with commentary intended to inform, entertain, and inspire. Using example photos, he will demonstrate several key elements that help to transform a bird photo from a simple documentation shot to an artful and compelling image with emotional impact. The presentation will also include some tips on camera settings and field techniques that will boost your productivity and increase the artistic and technical quality of your images. You will leave with a greater insight into the multitude of components that must all come together to create a successful bird photograph.

Focus on Sharpness

Jan. 24, 10:30am-12:00pm; 4-121; Limit 30 Registrants; \$35

One of the main objectives in avian photography is to capture the fine detail in a bird's plumage. This class will explore a variety of tools and techniques which help to maximize image sharpness. We will take an in depth look at the many features and tuning options of today's autofocus (AF) systems and how they can be best utilized for bird photography. Other topics will include live view AF, back button focus, tripods and heads, long lens technique, handholding, and microfocus adjustment.

Manual Exposure : It's Easier Than You Think

Jan. 27, 10:30am-12:00pm; 1-114; Limit 30 Registrants; \$35

This session on metering and exposure begins with the basics and builds on them in a step by step manner which makes it uniquely geared toward all skill levels. Although automatic exposure modes will be discussed, the main goal is to make the participants comfortable with shooting in Manual mode. In certain situations, Manual exposure mode provides many advantages over the automatic modes and mastering its use can dramatically increase your percentage of "keepers". Once you grasp the underlying concepts, you will see that working in Manual mode is no more difficult than working in any other exposure mode and, in many situations, it is actually easier. **It is suggested that you bring your camera and a small lens to class.**

What You Need to Know About Digital Technology

Jan. 26, 10:30am-12:00pm; 4-121; Limit 30 Registrants; \$35

A basic understanding of some of the technology behind digital capture will enable you to make better and more informed choices in the field and obtain maximum image quality. This session will provide valuable insight into four very important aspects of digital image capture. You will learn what is really contained in a RAW image file, how ISO is implemented in the digital world, what causes noise and how to minimize it at capture time, and how on-camera histograms are built and how to interpret them. The presentation will be kept at a conceptual level and is suitable for all skill levels and backgrounds.

OUTDOOR WORKSHOPS

Bird Photography at Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge

Jan. 24, 25 & 27, 6:30am-9:30am; Limit 12 Registrants; \$60

Meet at the Parrish Park boat ramp parking lot.

Bird Photography at Orlando Wetlands Park

Jan. 24 & 27, 3:00pm-6:00pm; Limit 12 Registrants; \$60

Jan. 28, 6:30am-9:30am; Limit 12 Registrants; \$60

Meet at the Orlando Wetlands Park parking area.

Bird Photography at Viera Wetlands

Jan. 25 & 28, 3:00pm-6:00pm; Limit 12 Registrants; \$60

Meet at the Viera Wetlands parking area.

These instructional field sessions are aimed at helping participants create artful and compelling images of birds with visual and emotional impact. On the technical side of things, we will go over camera settings and how to quickly and consistently achieve optimal exposures which maximize image quality and minimize noise. We will also discuss a myriad of artistic considerations like composition, background, light angle, pose, avoiding distractions, and capturing the decisive moment. All of this will be done while also emphasizing the importance of fieldcraft and being proactive in the field. Mike will be spending the week before the festival scouting these local hotspots for the best bird photography opportunities and we will proceed accordingly. There will be a moderate amount of walking required along the birding loop trail at Orlando Wetlands Park.

Roy Thoman

Roy Thoman Photography

<http://roythoman.wordpress.com>

robroyphotography@cfl.rr.com

Roy has been the SCBWF photographer for many years. In fact, you may have seen him following you around on field trips taking your picture! If not, you have definitely seen his photos in the festival booklet and website. An avid photographer for over 35 years, Roy has loved photography since he was a young boy. His favorite subjects include landscapes and abstract fine art photography. Light is the key to any great photo and Roy likes to use unusual lighting conditions to create beautiful images.

Take Your Camera off Auto!

Jan. 24, 10:30am-12:00pm; 4-123; Limited to 30 registrants; \$35

Learn to take advantage of more of the functions and capabilities of your camera. Using other modes such as shutter priority, aperture priority, and manual can take your photography to a new level. Learn what the different modes are and why and when to use them. Roy will discuss the relationship between aperture, depth of field, and shutter speeds. This class is for beginning and intermediate photographers. Bring any camera that's capable of manual settings and your camera manual, if you have it. This class is for beginning and intermediate photographers. **There is also a photo walk companion workshop to this class.**

Take Your Camera off Auto! Photo Walk

Jan. 24, 3:30pm-6:30pm; Limited to 12 registrants; \$60

Meet at Sandpoint Park in the large pavilion.

This is a photo walk and sunset photography workshop focusing on use of other modes of your camera. Learn to take advantage of more of the functions and capabilities of your camera. Using other modes: shutter priority, aperture priority, and manual, can take your photography to a new level. I hope to take you out of your comfort zone using a camera mode that you don't normally use and to give you confidence to use an unfamiliar setting on your own. Bring any camera that's capable of manual settings, wide-angle to moderate telephoto lens and your camera manual, if you have it. This class is for beginning and intermediate photographers. Prepare for very cold and windy conditions!

Nighttime Photography at the A. Max Brewer Bridge

Jan. 26, 5:15pm-8:00pm Limited to 12 registrants; \$60

Meet at Parrish Park boat ramp parking lot.

Take a walk on the dark side to explore the wonderful world of Nighttime Photography. This hands-on workshop emphasizes tips, techniques, ISO, shutter speed, aperture settings and using composition to create beautiful nighttime photographs. Starting with sunset photos, we will then photograph various areas around the bridge and the fishing pier as darkness descends. Underwater lights utilized by fishermen are a highlight in this hot spot for fishing and shrimping. With a beautifully lit bridge and plenty of activities to photograph, we should get very striking photos. Open to all skill levels; individual attention will be provided to each participant. Bring any camera that's capable of manual settings and a tripod. A cable release is preferable; a self-timer on your camera will suffice. Bring extra camera batteries and a flashlight. Prepare for very cold and windy conditions!

Ken Hubbard

Field Services Manager, Tamron USA, Inc.

Ken Hubbard Photography

www.kenhubbardphotography.com 516-314-3342

khub1969@earthlink.com

www.tamron-usa.com

Stop by the Tamron booth to check out the latest camera products to try out in the field.

From Birds to Butterflies: Capturing Great Nature Images

Jan. 26, 3:00pm-4:30pm; 1-114; Limit 30 Registrants; \$15

Join Ken Hubbard as he presents this informative and fun seminar on capturing great nature images! Whether you enjoy photographing small bugs and butterflies, larger mammals such as whales, or even birds in flight, this seminar is for you. Ken will go over many techniques that will help you capture the images you want, plus he will also cover subjects such as camera settings, composition and looking for that good light.

Capturing Birds and Wildlife in their Habitat

Jan. 27, 6:15am-9:15am; Limit 12 Registrants; \$15

Meet at the Parrish Park boat ramp parking lot.

Take all you know and have learned about wildlife photography into the field to capture some amazing images. Whether it is a bird in flight hovering over its prey or wading in the flats during early morning light, Join Ken Hubbard as he searches for some great images. From correct camera setting to good composition, Ken will also be giving hands on instruction and guidance to help you capture the images you are looking for.

Stephen Ingraham

Point & Shoot Nature Photographer Lightshedder

psnp.lightshedder.com 207-423-2038

lightshedder@gmail.com

Introducing Point and Shoot Nature Photography: Birds and Wildlife, Macro and Landscape

Jan. 25, 10:30am-12:00pm; 1-123; Limit 20 Registrants; \$15

Serious nature photography is no longer the sole domain of the well-equipped DSLR photographer. As thousands of photographers have discovered over the past few years, today's long zoom Point and Shoot digital cameras, in the hands of a thoughtful and creative photographer, are capable of amazingly satisfying images of everything from birds and wildlife, to macros of wildflowers and insects, to grand landscapes and sweeping panoramas under dramatic skies...all in a relatively small, compact, and inexpensive package. This workshop provides a basic introduction to the cameras (including how to choose the best one for your needs) and techniques that put nature photography within the reach of anyone with the desire to share what they appreciate in the natural world. Part inspiration and part instruction, it will change the way you look at nature photography...and convince you that it is indeed possible to be a "real" nature photographer with a Point & Shoot camera.

PHOTOGRAPHY CONTINUED

Field Techniques for P&S Nature Photography

Jan. 26, 9:00am-10:30am; Limit 10 Registrants; \$15

Meet at the Merritt Island Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center.

We will spend time in the field exploring the basic camera settings and important attitudes for bird, wildlife, macro, and landscape photography with a Point and Shoot camera. The camera is going to do most of the hard work, but you do need to know how to point it in the right direction... both in its basic setup (menus etc.) and in a more literal sense of what to take pictures of, and how those choices determine what you ask the camera to do. This workshop should build your confidence in both the camera's and your own abilities. Bring whatever camera you have and we will share.

Advanced and Specialized Modes for P&S Nature Photography

Jan. 27, 8:00am-9:30am; Limit 10 Registrants; \$15

Meet at the Merritt Island Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center.

There is way more to your P&S superzoom than immediately meets the eye. HDR for dramatic landscapes. Sweep panorama. Hand-held night scene mode. Sports mode for action and birds in flight. Macro mode or macro settings. Creative Styles. Etc. Expand your understanding of your camera and your vision!

P&S Nature Photography Field Workshop at Viera Wetlands

Jan. 28, 8:00am-12:00pm; Limit 12 Registrants; \$15

Meet at the Viera Wetlands parking lot.

This is an opportunity to get out and take pictures with your Point & Shoot camera in a supportive, nurturing atmosphere... and a beautiful spot with opportunities for birds, wildlife, butterflies, dragonflies, flowers, land and waterscapes.

Shiv Verma

Panasonic Lumix Luminary Team

www.shivverma.com 617-759-0010 sv@shivverma.com

www.panasonic.com

Stop by the Panasonic booth to check out the latest camera products to try out in the field.

Mirrorless Cameras – The Next Generation of Photography

Jan. 24, 3:00pm-4:30pm; 1-114; Limit 30 Registrants; \$15

New technology has made wildlife and birds-in-flight photography easier than ever since mirrorless cameras have entered the realm of nature, wildlife and action photography. This session will focus on the advantages of the most enticing and popular cameras available. They are light and compact with a full complement of lenses and exceptional photo and video quality. Learn the concepts of hybrid photography, capturing stills from 4K video, 4K photo modes and more. "Post Focus" shooting modes and image stacking for sharpness of an entire scene will be a highlight. See how mirrorless cameras can change your photography and spark your creativity.

Photowalk with Shiv Verma

Jan 26, 7:00am-10:00am; Limit 12 Registrants; \$15

Meet at the Parrish Park boat ramp parking lot.

Do you love taking nature and wildlife images or would you like to learn how to? Would you like to be with a professional photographer who could help you see, compose and give you helpful tips and pointers on how to improve your photography? Would you like to try using the next generation of equipment, mirrorless cameras and light zoom lenses? If these are of interest, then bring your camera and lenses and join me on one of my photo walks. I will help you get great images, in-flight shots and action shots so you can take your photography to the next level. Photographers of all experience levels are welcome. Your equipment can be a DSLR, point and shoot camera or fixed or interchangeable lens camera. Best of all, I will have lots of loaner Panasonic Lumix cameras and lenses, including a powerful scope, for you to try.

Digiscoping

Clay Taylor

Swarovski Optik Naturalist Market Manager

www.swarovskioptik.com

clay.taylor@swarovskioptik.us

Digiscoping Field Workshop

Jan. 26, 8:00am-11:00am; Limit 15 Registrants; \$15

Meet at the Parrish Park boat ramp parking lot.

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.

Robert Wilson

Robert Wilson Photography

photographyworldblog.com

Field Representative for Kowa U.S.

Digiscoping With Robert Wilson

Jan. 25, 8:00am-11:00am; Limit 12 Registrants; \$15

Meet at the Parrish Park boat ramp parking lot.

Do you own a spotting scope or are you thinking of purchasing one to photograph birds with? Enjoy time with Robert Wilson, field representative for Kowa U.S. to learn the secrets of capturing photos of birds through a spotting scope. Topics to be covered include technique, equipment and photography tips, including digiscoping with your cell phone.

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BTX uses the visual power of both eyes to make the image appear more natural and vivid. The BTX features an adjustable forehead rest, an angled ocular system and the fact that both eyes can be used for viewing with maximum comfort over long periods. The BTX Modular uses the 95 mm, 85 mm and 65 mm Objectives of the current SWAROVSKI OPTIK ATX/STX Modular system. The 95 mm objective is a fixed 35X.

The 85 objective a fixed 30X. The 65 objective a fixed 30X.

Features SWAROVISION Technology – Field Flatteners and High Definition Lenses: Gives perfect edge to edge clarity, eliminates several kinds of distortion, brings out the highest color contrasts and offers increased eye relief. The interpupillary distance is adjustable, just like on a binocular. In the case of the BTX the eyepieces operate simultaneously so they remain centered – No need to move away from the forehead rest while adjusting. The black housing which incorporates the forehead rest, can be removed for cleaning.



BTX PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- Swarovski Optik BTX with 95mm objective
- Swarovski Optik ME 1.7x Magnification Extender
- Swarovski Optik BR Balance Rail
- Swarovski Optik PTH Professional Tripod head
- Swarovski Optik CT – 101 carbon fiber tripod legs
- Swarovski Optik iPhone adapter

TOTAL MSRP
RETAIL VALUE - \$7400.00

**Only 75 Raffle Tickets Will Be Sold
During Regular Exhibit Center Hours**
as posted for a suggested donation of
\$100.00 per ticket.

We accept cash, check (must provide copy of drivers license), Visa, MasterCard or Discover.

Raffle Package will be on display in the Silent Auction Area located on the right side of the stage in the rear of the Exhibit Center.

A random ticket drawing will be held at
**1:30pm on Saturday,
January 27th, 2018.**

The ticket will be drawn by a representative of Swarovski Optik.



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TITUSVILLE

GATEWAY TO NATURE AND SPACE



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Canaveral National
Seashore

Kennedy Space Center

Merritt Island National
Wildlife Refuge

Titusville Municipal
Marina

Space Walk of Fame
Museum

Pritchard House

Enchanted Forest

Warbird Museum

North Brevard
Historical Museum

Coast-to-Coast
Bike Trail



Enjoy your stay!

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