

22nd ANNUAL SPACE COAST

Birding & Wildlife Festival

FESTIVAL GUIDE 2019



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

WELCOME
KEYNOTE
SPEAKER

Denver Holt
Owl Research
Institute



Photos by Clay Taylor

Presented by
Dixie Crossroads Seafood Restaurant & Swarovski Optik

January 23-28, 2019 • TITUSVILLE, FLORIDA

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On the Cover

Barred Owl & Great Horned Owl pictures by Clay Taylor, Swarovski using Optik ATX 85 spotting scope with TLS APO 30 and Pentax K3 camera.

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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.



Register early for these popular presentations as space reservations fill up quickly.

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Welcome

As the first major birding festival in the U.S. that rings in a new year, there's a lot of pressure to set the bar on providing a premier birding experience. Last year we had one of our best festivals ever, and were particularly pleased that we were able to provide Linda Easter, festival attendee from California, the opportunity to add life birds 648 (Florida Scrub Jay, Canaveral National Seashore), 649 (Painted Bunting at Merritt Island NWR Visitors Center), and 650 (Snail Kite at Joe Overstreet Landing during Central Florida Specialties). Linda was kind enough to provide a quote – "I really enjoyed participating in the Space Coast Festival and the field trips were exceedingly well run with great leaders and patient volunteers making sure we all got to the right place. Of course, the birds in Florida are fantastic and I highly recommend the Festival, especially for those who are not very familiar with Florida's birds." To us, this is the highest compliment regarding the caliber of activities we offer a participant. Hopefully your experience this year will be just as memorable. So, how do we top that? This year, we have outdone ourselves by offering the best Space Coast Birding and Wildlife Festival experience ever. Our keynote speakers are bar none, with Denver Holt, Founder of the Owl Research Institute, kicking the festival off during our Opening Ceremonies on Wednesday and Mac Stone, Florida conservation photographer extraordinaire, closing the festival out during our Saturday Evening Celebration. In between, we will feature Scott Weidensaul and Iain Campbell. The 2019 festival theme is owls with an outstanding schedule of owl focused activities. We continue offering Spotlight Presentations and Workshops from the best in their respective fields. We're excited to introduce new field trip options, including a chance to see manatees at Blue Springs State Park. After all, we are a wildlife festival too! Speaking for myself (Barb), I want to thank everyone for how warmly I have been included in the birding world from day one - sponsors, exhibitors, speakers, field trip leaders, and attendees... I am grateful and the one thing I always tell people about being involved with this event - they are the nicest people in the world. I mean that sincerely. You have made my job so much easier, time flies when you love what you do and who you do it with. In closing, a special shout out to the Support Team (Jim, Danica, and Tiffany) and amazing volunteers! Please be sure to visit the Exhibit Center, where nearly 80 exhibitors with cameras, optics, destinations, publications, birding products, a Silent Auction and a Swarovski BTX raffle will be there just for you! On behalf of the Brevard Nature Alliance Board of Directors and the Support Team, welcome to Florida's Space Coast!

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

FESTIVAL REGISTRATION INFORMATION

To **REGISTER** using any computer, tablet or smartphone: Go to www.SCBWF.org or our Facebook page (Space Coast Birding and Wildlife), then click the REGISTRATION link. Open and review the Instructions link (on the Registration landing page) before you begin.

Have questions? Open and review the FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) document link, also available on the Registration landing page. For further assistance contact scbwf.register@gmail.com; or call 321-268-5224.

Badge pick-up and walk-in registration:

Attendees who register by **Sunday, January 13th** can expect to find their badge preprinted and available for pickup in the Lobby of the Exhibition area.

If you are registered for an early Wednesday bus trip – your badge will be in the Field Trip packet.

Computers will be available in the lobby for walk-ins and are available for any registrant to make updates. Badges for late registrants will be printed on-site.



Register early for these popular presentations as space reservations fill up quickly.

Tue., Jan. 22,	12pm-5pm
Wed., Jan. 23,	8am-5pm
Thur., Jan. 24,	9am-3pm
Fri., Jan. 25,	9am-3pm
Sat., Jan. 26,	9am-3pm

EXHIBIT CENTER INFORMATION

Exhibit Center – The Heart of the Festival!

The Exhibit Center is the heart of our 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 include destination tour companies, wildlife and birding organizations, nature based businesses, book sellers, photography, and an outstanding representation of camera and optic equipment. In addition, Swarovski will be offering to clean and inspect your optics equipment, regardless of brand, so take advantage of that wonderful offer!

Field trips and presentations are purposefully scheduled so there is ample time to get back to the campus and visit the Exhibit Center on numerous occasions. Sips N Bits receptions will be scheduled Wednesday - Friday evenings from 5:00pm - 5:45pm, snack station Saturday 3:00pm-3:30pm. There's a snack bar located near the entrance serving hot dogs, hamburgers, daily specials, and the Exhibit Center is also the location of the Silent Auction and the Swarovski BTX Raffle. Only 200 raffle tickets will be sold to win a \$8070.00 BTX package deal for only a suggested donation of \$50.00 per ticket.

Say hello and thank you to our sponsors, purchase optics from Time and Optics or a camera from Hunt's Photo and Video. Stop by Swarovski and thank them for their generous support of the festival. Say hello and thank you to our other sponsors. We have Time and Optics, Ltd as the exclusive seller of optics and Hunt's Photo and Video as the official seller of cameras. LAST BUT NOT LEAST CHECK OUT THE BIRD LIST BOARD located inside the Exhibit Center near the entrance.

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. 23	12:00pm – 6:00pm
Open	Thurs., Jan. 24	12:00pm – 6:00pm
Open	Fri., Jan. 25	12:00pm – 6:00pm
Open	Sat., Jan. 26	10:00am – 4:30pm

ONSITE FOOD SERVICES

There will be coffee, juice, and light breakfast options each morning. During lunch, our café will be fully stocked with a variety of options to tempt every appetite - hot dogs, hamburgers, salads, daily specials, etc. During lunch, drinks and quick pick up and go lunch options will be offered. Light snacks will be available to purchase daily in the cafe snack area. The food trucks will offer a variety of cuisine, some possible menus might include Mexican, BBQ, Seafood, etc.

Sips n Bits - Our evening receptions with light hors d'oeuvres is returning this year. On Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday we will host a social from 5:00pm to 5:45pm in the Exhibit Center. Be sure to take the time to stroll through the Exhibit Center and see the incredible variety of exhibitors and their products. After the keynote speaker we encourage you to discover the variety of fantastic food options available in Titusville for dinner. Stop by the Titusville Chamber of Commerce booth in the Exhibit Center for suggestions.

Sponsored by:

Leica Sports Optics - Wed.



SPORT OPTICS

Rockjumper Worldwide
Birding Adventures - Thur.



ROCKJUMPER
Worldwide Birding Adventures

Holbrook Travel/
Selve Verde Lodge - Fri.



HOLBROOK
TRAVEL



City of Beaumont & Port Arthur TX CVB - Sat.

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 net 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 \$5,000 , which was donated to The Enchanted Forest, Titusville, FL. The recipient of this year's proceeds, as voted on by the Brevard Nature Alliance Board of Directors, is the **Florida Wildlife Hospital, Melbourne, FL.**

Please Browse and Bid on a Limited edition print from *Birdwatchers Digest*, Kowa and Zeiss Binoculars, a Wildside Big Year Tour, birding books, field guides, camera accessories, just to name a few. Look for the "Buy it Now" tags on certificates for local restaurants and taverns.

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 23rd. Bidding will close on Saturday, January 26th at 3:00pm. Items will be available for pick up from 3:30pm – 4:30pm 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 4:30pm and will be available until 5:00pm 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 2019 Space Coast Birding and Wildlife Festival initiative "Giving Back to Conservation" is the Florida Wildlife Hospital & Sanctuary.

Florida Wildlife Hospital & Sanctuary(FWH) opened its doors as a grassroots non-profit facility in 1973. The mission has always remained the same: to aid injured, sick and orphaned Florida native wildlife and migratory birds and return them to their place in the ecosystem. Patient numbers have increased steadily with about 5000 patients now annually getting care. There is no charge to drop off an animal in need -- some remain for 6 months or more. The average cost per patient per day is about \$5.00.

FWH is a unique and important resource for Brevard County. In addition to providing quality animal care, FWH answers questions regarding wildlife in need, ranging from what to do with a baby animal that may have been found, to why that woodpecker is pounding on the gutters.

With the great number of patients and a limited budget, FWH could not function without dedicated volunteers, who range from high school students to retirees. Staff and volunteers keep our hospital running, provide educational programs and work with our live ambassador animals, fulfilling another important role of FWH: wildlife education. These programs are a hit for school groups, summer camps and retirement facilities. Last year, our volunteers contributed over 16,000 hours helping to keep wildlife wild. There are many rewarding volunteer opportunities available at FWH.

FWH is licensed by the state and federal government but receives no funding from them. We have built great relationships with many organizations including Brevard County Sheriff's Office Animal Control, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Vero Beach Humane Society, as well as other Florida wildlife rehabilitators. These relationships are important for creating the best outcome for wildlife in our area.

Our goal is to use the funds raised in the silent auction for medical equipment upgrades, medications, and diagnostic testing currently not available to us.



Photo by Tom Dunkerton

Serving Wild-Caught Seafood All The Time

1475 Garden Street, Titusville, FL | www.DixieCrossroads.com | 321-268-5000

Denver Holt



Jan. 23, 6:00pm-9:00pm; \$60

Note: This presentation takes place away from the college at Playalinda Brewing Company - The Brix Project, 5220 South Washington Ave, Titusville, FL.

There are about 268 species of owls in the world. They occur on all continents except Antarctica and even populate the world's most remote islands. Owl fossils date back to the Paleocene and native cultures around the world are rich with stories and myths surrounding them. Owls are Hollywood celebrities, sports teams claim them as their mascots, companies use them in their marketing, and the list goes on and on. Owls, it seems, are everywhere.

Despite their worldwide distribution and cultural popularity, most people will never see a wild owl in their lifetime. Why are they so hard to find? Adaptations. Owls have evolved specialized traits, or adaptations, to render them inconspicuous and give them their best chance at survival. These traits range from nocturnal and roosting behaviors; to cryptic coloration and plumage patterning; to unique camouflaging techniques. When

you put all these adaptations together, finding an owl feels akin to finding a needle in a haystack.

Join owl expert Denver Holt for an exciting lecture where he uncovers and explains many of these incredible adaptations. How well can they see at night? Can they turn their heads all the way around? Why can't I hear them fly? What is their hearing like? And, why do people recognize and admire owls so much? Educational and entertaining, you will gain new appreciation for the making of an owl.

Bio

Denver Holt has been a leader in owl research, education, and conservation for over 30 years. While much of today's research is conducted remotely, or builds on existing data, Holt has been unwavering in his commitment to boots-on-the-ground data collection. A classic, hardcore field researcher, he has spent a lifetime in the field with wild owls – observing, recording, measuring, and enjoying the natural world. The resulting body of work, and its implications to conservation, is an incredible gift and legacy. He is responsible for some of the longest running studies of their kind in the world.

OPENING NIGHT DINNER WITH KEYNOTE SPEAKER DENVER HOLT/ AMERICAN BIRDING ASSOCIATION 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION KICKOFF

Not only will Denver Holt be our Opening Keynote speaker, he will be recognized by the American Birding Association (ABA) for his many outstanding contributions to birder education and bird conservation by presenting him the 2018 ABA Chandler Robbins Award for Education/Conservation after dinner and before his presentation. Denver Holt has been a leader in owl research, education, and conservation for over 30 years. While much of today's research is conducted remotely, or builds on existing data, Holt has been unwavering in his commitment to boots-on-the-ground data collection. A classic, hardcore field researcher, he has spent a lifetime in the field with wild owls – observing, recording, measuring, and enjoying the natural world. The resulting body of work, and its implications to conservation, is an incredible gift and legacy. He is responsible for some of the longest running studies of their kind in the world.

Playalinda Brewing Company - Brix Project is where craft beer, fresh food, and good vibes collide. At this Space Coast Birding and Wildlife exclusive event attendees can expect an experience like none other on the Space Coast. Brix Project's renovated lumber yard has been transformed into a stunning taproom showcasing the natural elements of the building's past while providing a unique



and cozy space for our special guests to enjoy creative craft beer, craft cocktails, and food items inside or outside in the beer garden. Whether you're a craft beer novice or a self-proclaimed beer geek, a wine sipper, craft cocktail connoisseur, or foodie - there's something here for everyone to enjoy!

Sponsored in part by



*A St. Johns River
AirBoat Tour*

Begin your unique, and private, evening with conversation and an open bar of craft beers, signature wines, and hand-crafted cocktails. For dinner, enjoy an upscale pasta bar - made to order with your choice of pasta - with Italian beef, roasted chicken, or shrimp and load on the artichokes, bacon lardons, an array of assorted veggies, imported cheeses, and sauces - including rose, alfredo, and marinara. After your keynote speaker, a Viennese dessert table will open with more open bar options and coffee service. The evening will conclude with an option for an exclusive tour of the brewery, or continued conversations with new and old friends!

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Presented by



Iain Campbell



Jan. 24, 6:00pm-7:00pm; AUD; \$20

In the thirty-five years that Iain has been avoiding homework, relationships, university study, and real work, he has employed a range of different birding styles to achieve his goal. These styles have changed over time, and anyone who has gone out birding recently is sure to have noticed that birders increasingly

use cameras in addition to, and sometimes as a replacement for, binoculars. Photographers are also spending more time observing birds and wildlife than they used to. In this talk we go through the changes in birding, and we use stats from interviewing birders to show those changes. We will also look at the different opportunities we have for getting more people into birding in all its modern forms. Sounds dull? Well maybe, but it really isn't, and we look forward to some highly animated discussion about what is happening to birding.

Bio

Originally (kind of) Australian, Iain ended his career as a geochemist in West Africa when it dawned on him that chasing birds was far more important than looking for gold. He

Are Birders Having An Identity Crisis? What Birding Has Been, What It Is Now, and Where It Is Going

packed up his G-pick, said goodbye to fufu, and headed to South America, which better suited his style, where he built Tandayapa Bird Lodge. He lived for many years in Ecuador, but now resides in the US. Besides being one of the original guides of Tropical Birding, Iain is near fanatical about getting more people into birding and wildlife photography. He used to be a passionate lister, but now much prefers to photograph the world's specialties. He has written a few Australian field guides but promises not to plug them during this talk.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Presented by



Scott Weidensaul



Jan. 26, 6:00pm-7:00pm; AUD; \$25

The winter of 2013-14 saw the largest invasion of snowy owls into the eastern United States in perhaps a century -- and marked an unprecedented opportunity to learn more about these mysterious Arctic hunters. Author and researcher Scott

Weidensaul will share the story of Project SNOWstorm -- how a huge, collaborative research effort focused on snowy owls came together in a few frantic weeks, funded with the help of people from around the world. Today, more than 40 scientists, banders, wildlife veterinarians and pathologists -- working largely as volunteers and supported almost entirely by small donations from the public -- continue to make discoveries and unexpected insights into the life and ecology of this great white raptor.

Bio

Scott Weidensaul is the author of more than two dozen books on natural history, including the Pulitzer Prize finalist *"Living on the Wind,"* about bird migration, *Return to Wild America, The*

Caught in the SNOWstorm

First Frontier: The Forgotten History of Struggle, Savagery and Endurance in Early America, and his latest book, *The Peterson Reference Guide to Owls of North America and the Caribbean*. Weidensaul is a contributing editor for *Audubon*, a columnist for *Bird Watcher's Digest* and regular contributor to *Living Bird*; he lives in the mountains of eastern Pennsylvania, and studies the migration of owls and hummingbirds.



SATURDAY EVENING TACO BAR with MAC STONE



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Mac Stone

Jan. 26, 6:30pm-7:30pm; AUD \$30 Includes Taco Bar



"After more than a century of draining and development, half of Florida's greatest wilderness is now gone and the other half is an ecological mess. The U.S. has launched the world's largest environmental restoration project to try to resuscitate the River of Grass. The Everglades is important as a model for restoration and a symbol of sustainability. But it's also important as

a really cool and extraordinary place – not only for the gators and panthers and royal palms and ghost orchids that you see on postcards, or the majestic wading birds that once darkened the South Florida sky, but also for the sawgrass and algae and other flora and fauna that make the Everglades what it is. That's why it's important to have photographers and communicators like Mac Stone – to bear witness to the Everglades that exists." Michael Grunwald from his introduction in Mac Stone's extraordinary book, *Everglades: America's Wetland*.

From the Kissimmee River to Florida Bay, from inside the bone-crushing jaws of an alligator to the storms that race across the blackwater backcountry, award-winning conservation photographer Mac Stone will share a visual journey through the Everglades. His striking photographs showcase the natural beauty of this unique wetland, capturing the amazing depths of

Dinner on Saturday, January 26th will start at 5:00PM. Catered by Tijuana Flats - a taco bar which will include your choice of hard or soft shelled tacos, ground beef or chipotle chicken, rice, beans, and all the toppings including onion, tomatoes, lettuce, sour cream, cheese, and for the brave taco lovers - jalapenos and spicy signature sauces will be available. To compliment the meal, chips, salsa, queso, guacamole, sweet and unsweet iced tea, and dessert will be served.

A buffet will be set up in the snack bar area in the registration lobby area with very informal seating so you can fill a plate and socialize with our attendees, volunteers, or one of the many field trip leaders, presenters, photographers, exhibitors or sponsors that made the festival possible.

Photos by Mac Stone



Presented by

Sponsored in part
by Laurilee Thompson



Everglades: America's Wetland

its landscapes, the diversity of its wildlife, and the resilience of the largest subtropical wilderness in the United States.

As a biologist for the National Audubon Society, Stone traveled to the most remote areas of the Everglades to collect his images. With his camera, he explored Everglades National Park, Corkscrew Swamp, Fisheating Creek, and dozens of sites that few are permitted to visit. His stunning photographs capture the innumerable facets of this ecological marvel while speaking to the importance of wilderness conservation and the need to protect these amazingly wild wetlands. The need has never been greater than now.

Bio

Mac Stone is an acclaimed photographer, speaker and author from Gainesville, Florida. Growing up exploring the springs, swamps, and hammocks of North Central Florida, he developed a passion for photography at a young age. His images and stories have appeared in BBC, National Geographic, CNN, NPR, Audubon, WWF and many others. Through photography, Stone strives to start new conversations and expose the dynamic relationship between mankind and the natural world. After spending five years living and working in the Everglades watershed, he released a 304-page coffee table book about the heralded River of Grass. *Everglades: America's Wetland*, has won a silver medal with the Florida Book Awards and is in its second printing.

SPOTLIGHT

Sam Fried (Flights of Fancy Adventures)

Owls of North America

Jan. 23, 3:30pm-5:00pm; AUD; \$10

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.

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."



Kevin T. Karlson

Birds of Prey of the Southeastern U.S.

Jan. 24, 1:00pm-2:30pm; AUD; \$10

This casual seminar shares some of the life histories and interesting stories about the birds of prey that can be seen in Florida and nearby states. Spectacular photos from Kevin and Pete Dunne's book and keynote at last year's Space Coast Festival will be shown, along with Kevin's personal anecdotes and stories about these birds of prey. Some identification tips will also be shared, with comparative photos of similar species shown in digital photo arrays. Hawks, eagles, falcons and vultures are the stars of this show, so come and enjoy the photos and life stories of our fabulous birds of prey. The musical ending shares photos from the book that are

some of the best ever taken of raptors by a series of top North American photographers. This presentation is based on a new book by Pete Dunne and Kevin T. Karlson: *Birds of Prey: Hawks, Eagles, Falcons and Vultures of North America*.

Kevin Karlson is an accomplished birder, author, professional tour leader and wildlife photographer/instructor. He is a regular at bird and nature festivals in North America, where he gives keynote presentations, workshops on bird identification, and photo instruction. He has written several books that really help make things easier for people when identifying birds; the newest one is *Gulls Simplified: A Comparative Identification Approach*.



Clay Taylor (Swarovski Optik)

Birding South Texas – Adding to your North America List!

Jan. 24, 2:45pm-3:45pm; AUD; \$10

While birding in Florida is a great experience, your first trip to South Texas will definitely add new species to your North American Life List. If you start in Corpus Christi, head down through the Rio Grande Valley and back up through the Texas Hill Country, you will see great birds, meet friendly people, eat lots of good food (Texas Barbeque!!) and add to your Texas and North American eBird lists. If you still have time for a drive to West Texas and the Big Bend area, more unique birds await. Clay will share bird photos, stories, and tips about maximizing your Texas birding experience.

Clay's North American life list is over 700 bird species, most of which he has photographed either with slide film or digitally. He was hired by

Swarovski Optik North America in 1999 to be their Naturalist Market Field Coordinator. 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). He discovered that using a spotting scope for super telephoto photography was remarkably good. Clay not only adopted DSLR Digiscoping as his choice for nature photography, he also helped Swarovski Optik to develop their current line of spotting scopes and dedicated adapters for Digiscoping.



usage are likely factors. In 2016, Partners in Flight estimated Long-eared Owl populations in the United States and Canada at a staggering 91% decline from 1970 – 2014; the sharpest decline for any North American owl species.

If these numbers are true, Long-eared Owl estimates are similar to those of the Flammulated Owl and Spotted Owl, both of which have federal, state, and regional status concerns. However, despite the evidence of Long-eared Owl declines in many regions of the United States, no federal action has been undertaken. Even in Montana, it remains difficult to convince state agencies to be concerned. Join us for a slide show and lecture as Denver talks about Long-eared Owls, his 31 years of research, and the need for conservation efforts around this seldom seen species.



Denver Holt (Owl Research Institute)

Long-eared Owls: Indicators of Grassland Health

Jan. 24, 4:00pm-5:00pm; AUD; \$10

The Long-eared Owl is a year-round resident in western Montana where Denver Holt and the Owl Research Institute have studied populations for 31 years. During this time, they have banded over 1,900 Long-eared Owls, including 600 nestlings; located about 235 nests; discovered 25 major winter-roosting sites; and recorded more than 40,000 prey items. As a top-of-the-food-chain predator, the Long-eared Owl is an ideal indicator of grassland health throughout their range. Sadly, our data indicates a clear downward trend for Long-eared Owls in west-central Montana; a trend which is consistent with other open-country species of temperate zones. Reasons remain speculation; however, habitat loss and change in

SPOTLIGHT

Kevin Loughlin (Wildside Nature Tours)

Owl All Over the Place

Jan. 25, 1:00pm-2:00pm; AUD; \$10

Kevin Loughlin, owner of Wildside Nature Tours, founded his company after a life-changing vacation to Belize in 1993. Since then he has traveled to every continent except Australia, visiting 17 countries in the past 25 years. Kevin returns to many of his favorite destinations every year, leading groups of birders and photographers on fantastic adventures. His most recent trip to South Africa landed him four new 'life owls!' Though not always able to get good photos of owls, Kevin has amassed a fair collection of owl photos, many of which have been used in books

and magazine articles. Join Kevin as he re-lives some of these adventures and hear about the tribulations of getting great (and some not so great) photos of owls (plus a few potoos and nightjars) while leading tours!



Kevin Loughlin was raised to appreciate nature. Instilled with a love for travel, Kevin felt a desire to share his experiences with others and in 1993 he created Wildside Nature Tours. Kevin's photos and articles have appeared in *Nature Photographer*, *WildBird*, *Audubon* and *Living Bird Magazines*, as well as many natural history books, including the recent *Peterson Reference Guide to the Owls of North American and the Caribbean* by Scott Weidensaul.

Gina Kent (Avian Research & Conservation Institute)

Great Horned Owls the Ultimate Predator: A Kite's Perspective

Jan. 25, 2:30pm-3:30pm; AUD; \$10

Great Horned Owls are known for their massive talons, silent flight, and incredible night vision. These traits have made them one of nature's most feared hunting machines. By conducting telemetry studies, the Avian Research and Conservation Institute (ARCI) has learned more about the secret lives of these majestic yet voracious predators. Habitat use, home-range size, local distribution, and density of owls per acre indicate how effective these birds are at capturing a wide variety of prey including adult Swallow-tailed Kites. Great Horned Owls have caused abandonment

of Kite nesting neighborhoods and a host of other negative impacts. Learn more about ARCI's exciting research and conservation activities.



Since 2000, Gina Kent has been based in Florida with the Avian Research and Conservation Institute, www.arcinst.org. Whether conducting bird surveys from small planes, boating around the Florida Keys, or climbing up 100-foot tall trees, Gina has worked with many Florida specialty birds including Short-tailed Hawks, Snail Kites, Swallow-tailed Kites, Reddish Egrets, White-crowned Pigeons and others. She travels throughout the Southeast US and internationally to capture birds for telemetry studies, to follow migrating birds, and to gather data to inform management and conservation. Her free time is spent birding, traveling, and guiding trips with her husband Adam.

Dr. Richard Raid (University of Florida)

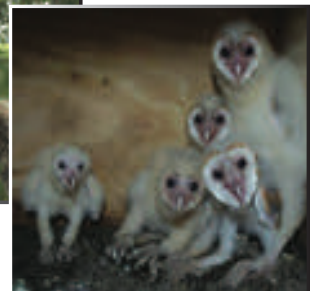
Barn Owls: Nature's Mousetrap

Jan. 25, 4:00pm-5:00pm; AUD; \$10

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.

Rick has been employed by the University of Florida as a professor of plant pathology. In 1994, He initiated a program using barn owls for sustainable rodent control. Raid has used this project as an educational outreach program and thousands of local students have learned the benefits of this spectacular raptor through his frequent lectures, workshops, and displays.

Now, more widely recognized for barn owls than plant pathology, Raid and the UF Barn Owl Project have been featured on CNN, the National Geographic Society's website, and PBS's Nature series.



Left: Rick Raid with Short-eared Owllet in Israel
Right: Rick Raid with young barn owlets in nesting box

FESTIVAL SUPPORT TEAM

■ **Barb Eager, Executive Director**

Barb came onboard as the Executive Director of the BNA in May 2016. She is responsible for all operational activities of the Alliance, with the number one event being the Space Coast Birding and Wildlife Festival (SCBWF). Starting with a very successful 20th SCBWF in January 2017, Barb became the primary organizer of the Sponsors, Exhibitors, Keynote and Spotlight Speakers, and works closely with the Festival Chair and onsite service providers. Along with mentoring the rest of the support team, 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 works 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. Her passion is the restoration of the Indian River Lagoon. Laurilee is the primary organizer of the field trips, photography activities 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 at two different parks in the West. During her tenure, she

was also responsible for community outreach among local cultural groups and developed many meaningful relationships with local community organizations and native communities. She also 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.

■ **Tiffany Barrineau, Community Outreach Coordinator**

Tiffany Barrineau is a Bachelor of Science degree holder from Bloomsburg University, Bloomsburg, PA. Her degree is in Biology, with a course concentration in Marine Biology. While in college, Tiffany was part of an internship with the National Aquarium in Baltimore, monitoring the population of Bottlenose Dolphins residing in the Atlantic Ocean, near Chincoteague/Assateague Island, in Virginia. After moving to Florida, she became the Environmental Program Coordinator for the City of Satellite Beach, running Marine Biology Summer camps. She volunteered for a short time with FWCC, monitoring manatees in Satellite Beach, FL.

■ **Jim Eager, Social Media**

After being associated with the festival for 12 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 the Everglades Birding Festival, Florida Birding & Nature Festival, The Biggest Week In American Birding as well as guiding in the Central Florida area with his own company Obsessive Compulsive Birding. Jim is a board member of the Florida Ornithological Society (FOS), Merritt Island Wildlife Association (MIWA) as well as Associate Editor (for bird distribution), FOS "Florida Field Naturalist".

We're turning

50!

Help us celebrate our 50th anniversary as we kick off the 2019 celebrations here at the festival. Stop by the ABA lounge at our booth to have a cup of our award-winning **Song Bird Coffee** and learn more about the year we have planned.



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In 1990, Brevard county citizens approved the first of two environmental referendums that would authorize \$110 million dollars earmarked for conservation, resulting in three incredible education centers and over 24,000 acres of sanctuary lands representing a legacy of natural Florida habitats in a network of sites throughout the county. This visionary program became a model for land acquisition efforts for other communities around the nation.



Top; EEL Marsh in Pine Flatwoods

Left: EEL Pine Flatwoods

The Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program captures our citizens' desire for the long-term protection of Brevard's outstanding biological diversity, natural communities and rare, threatened and endangered species. Working with State, Federal and Non-profit Organizations, Brevard County established a regional nature sanctuary network that complements the State and Federal network of conservation lands. Those sites represent every major Florida ecosystem natural to central Florida.

Three education centers provide environmental education opportunities to citizens, school children and visitors. Flagship of the EEL Program, the 471-acre **Enchanted Forest Sanctuary in Titusville** encompasses one of the last remaining large tracts of coastal hardwood forest in east central Florida. Walking and learning trails

wander through timeless scrub, mesic and hydric ecosystems with their wide variety of endangered and threatened species. Here you can descend 15 to 20 feet from the desert-like scrub on the ancient Atlantic Coastal Ridge into the shadowy, moist mesic hammock with its huge tree canopy. The inter-relationship of elevation, soil, water, nutrients, and botany becomes evident as plants of the temperate climate overlap with the plants of the sub-tropics in an unusual display of vegetation.

The Education Center offers a hands-on Exhibit Room, Discovery Room, gift shop, reference library and restrooms. There is an outdoor, open-air butterfly garden and the screened porch and amphitheater provide venues for outdoor education.



Enchanted Forest Sanctuary in Titusville

Sams House is a historical complex within the 880-acre **Pine Island Conservation Area** located on North Merritt Island. From Ice Age animals to Native Americans to early pioneers, this site has a rich history. Mastodon tusks, pottery shards and 19th century farm tools found here help piece together the story of this special place. Come inside the oldest standing home in Brevard County, the 1875 Sams family cabin. Travel back in time here and along the paved trail where interactive exhibits highlight Pine Island's many past inhabitants. Enjoy hiking, biking, horseback riding, fishing, canoeing, and kayaking through five different habitats and over six miles of trails. Wading birds, bald eagles, alligators, manatees, and bobcats are just a few of the animals that you may see.



EEL Sams House Education Center

With access to the Atlantic Ocean, the Indian River Lagoon and everything in between, the **Barrier Island Center** is located inside the **Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge**. The focal point for the Carr Refuge, Barrier Island Center is a 34-acre sanctuary that offers nature enthusiasts and visitors a place to explore the barrier island's diverse habitats through interactive exhibits, a presentation hall, a small research

library, ongoing educational programs and a hiking/nature trail. This stretch of beach within the Archie Carr NWR is home to the most important sea turtle nesting habitat in the United States. Public passive recreational opportunities that are consistent with conservation goals within the EEL Program include over 70 miles of trails that provide opportunities for hiking, environmental education, paddling, bicycling, horseback riding and nature-based tourism. Also of great importance is the EEL wetlands network within the Indian River Lagoon watershed that protects more than 35 miles of pristine shoreline. The EEL Program enhances public understanding and awareness of Florida's rich natural resources, conservation values and the benefits of maintaining functional and productive ecosystems. Come and join the EEL staff and volunteers for these outstanding activities offered during the birding festival.



Barrier Island Center

An EEL Sanctuary is...

- A place of wonder, contemplation and discovery
- A resource for environmental education
- A preserve to protect biodiversity and natural resources
- An opportunity to experience Florida as the early inhabitants did
- A place to learn about Brevard County's unique natural communities
- A source of community identity for Space Coast residents and visitors

North Region

Birding by Ear

Jan. 24, 7:30am-9:30am; Limit 16 Registrants; \$15

Lora Losi and Matt Heyden

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

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.

Nocturnal Nature Hike at Enchanted Forest

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

Alex Robertson, Jen Howell, Patty Rendon

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

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

Really Rare Plant Walk

Jan 26, 9:00am-12:00pm; Limit 16 Registrants; \$15

Jim Stahl

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

Come and see the rarest of the rare plants in Brevard County where there grows a mint that exists nowhere else in the world but right here in Titusville in a sanctuary named for it, the Dicerandra Scrub Sanctuary. Join retired biologist Jim Stahl for a leisurely walk through this beautiful example of Florida scrub habitat. Scrub is among Florida's most threatened ecosystems. Because they are dry, more than 90% of the state's historic scrub lands have been developed. Dicerandra Scrub is one of the most important properties in the EEL collection of special places. It consists mostly of scrubby flatwoods and a large depression marsh and 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 this site include Florida Scrub-Jay, Eastern Indigo Snake, Gopher Tortoise and, of course, Dicerandra thincola, at its only known occurrence in the world.

Scottsmoor Flatwoods Sanctuary Trailer Tour

Jan. 24, 9:00am-11:00am, Limit 16 Registrants; \$15

Selena Kiser, Jen Howell, Deb Robinson

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

The 1500-acre Scottsmoor Flatwoods Sanctuary 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.

Snake Presentation at Enchanted Forest

Jan. 24, 10:00am-11:00am, Limit 20 Registrants; \$15

Alex Robertson

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

Come out to the forest and learn all about these fascinating reptiles during this informative talk. Meet some live snakes!

South Lake Conservation Area

Jan. 23, 9:00am-10:30am, Limit 20 Registrants; 15

Damien Keene, Jonny Baker

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

The South Lake Conservation Area is a 155-acre property managed by the EEL Program following its 1999 acquisition from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a Florida Scrub-Jay mitigation property. This land consists primarily of scrub and scrubby flatwoods communities. In December 2008, four Florida Scrub-Jays were successfully relocated onto the property by the Brevard Zoo and the EEL 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.

Central Region

Florida Scrub Jay Hike at Cruickshank Sanctuary

Jan. 24 & Jan. 27, 8:30am-10:30am; Limit 20 Registrants; \$15

Vince Lamb and Mark Prynoski

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

The Helen and Alan Cruickshank Sanctuary in Rockledge is considered to be one of the best EEL Sanctuary properties 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. The Cruickshank Sanctuary is located on the Atlantic Coastal Ridge, a sandy relic maritime dune line that extends along the Florida East Coast from Jacksonville down to Miami. Patches of oak, sand pine scrub, and freshwater depression marshes add to the Sanctuary's diversity. 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. (Be sure to wear a hat, closed toe shoes, bring water, and sunscreen).

Owls of Florida

Jan. 24, 6:00pm-8:30pm; Limit 20 Registrants; \$15

Corianne Conway, Martha Pessaro and Featuring Susan Boorse

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

Meet in the oldest standing structure in Brevard County as you meet two representatives of our Owl species that reside in Florida, and learn about the habitat and importance of the owls of Florida. Susan Boorse will present a program on the World of Florida Owls featuring her ambassadors who are her rehabilitation wards, Boots, a Great Horned Owl, and Dora, an Eastern Screech Owl. After the presentation we will take a short trip into the habitat of the Sams House Trails where we will make our expedition on a nocturnal observation journey to discover the After Dark World of the Sanctuary trails (good hiking shoes advised, as well as a flashlight for the Trail hike).

South Pine Flatwoods Hike at Pine Island Conservation Area

Jan. 26, 10am-12:00pm; Limit 20 Registrants \$15

Corianne Conway

Meet at the Sams House at Pine Island Conservation Area 6195 North Tropical Trail Merritt Island, FL.

This adventure will commence at the Sams House at Pine Island Conservation Area and carpool up to the Trailhead. The Pine Island South Pine Flatwoods Trail features several opportunities to observe our raptors in action. This is an easy hike through conservation

EEL Con't

lands that span over 880 acres of the Pine Island Conservation Area bordering the saltmarsh and Indian River Lagoon. Walk through areas that have been managed by the EEL Program using various techniques, including prescribed burns. The flora of the area supports a myriad of wildlife, including many migratory species that may be observed on this beautiful trail. Learn about the origins of names of the Pine Island area as you enjoy this walk through a less traveled area. (Wear hats, closed toe shoes, bring water and sunscreen).

Pine Island Conservation Area Trailer Tour

Jan. 27, 9:00am-11:00am, Limit 16 Registrants; \$15

David DeMeyer, Martha Pessaro

Meet at Pine Island Conservation Area, 2100 Pine Island Road, Merritt Island, FL.

The 880-acre Pine Island Conservation Area preserves a fine example of restored saltmarsh habitat and pine flatwoods communities that once covered larger areas of Brevard County bordering the Indian River Lagoon. 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, as well as the origin of the name Pine Island. We will enjoy a leisurely bench-trailer ride through the conservation area to view birds and other wildlife, and discuss the land management techniques employed by the County. Learn about the flora and fauna from the vantage point of this modern wildlife observation trailer.

South Region

Malabar Scrub Hiking Tour

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

Chris O'Hara, EEL South Region Manager

Meet at the Malabar Scrub Sanctuary, 1501 Malabar Woods Boulevard, Malabar, FL.

Malabar Scrub Sanctuary is a 400-acre property that was once slated for a 700-home subdivision. It was purchased by the EEL Program and turned into a nature preserve. The variety of habitats found here make it an ideal place for visitors to learn how wetland and upland communities interact. This 3-mile easy hike will take you through scrub, pine flatwoods and close to several wetlands. The hike will focus on several projects that improved the scrub habitat for the Florida Scrub-Jay, Gopher Tortoise and Eastern Indigo Snake.

South Beach Region

Shorebirds of the Carr Refuge

Jan. 25, 9:30am-11:00am; Limit 15 Registrants; \$15

Mike Lee, EEL Volunteer, Master Naturalist, and Shorebird Alliance Surveyor

Meet at the Barrier Island Sanctuary, 8385 S. Highway A1A Melbourne Beach, FL 32951

Observe and Identify shorebirds from the Barrier Island Sanctuary overlook and along the adjacent beach. Learn about the Shorebird Alliance and how you can become a citizen scientist. Water and insect repellent recommended.

Up-cycled Bird Feeders and Nesting Dispensers (Youth)

Jan. 27, 1:00pm-2:30pm; Limit 15 Children + 15 accompanying adults; \$15

EEL Staff and Volunteers

Meet at the Barrier Island Sanctuary, 8385 S. Highway A1A Melbourne Beach, FL 32951

Repurpose single use food containers into bird feeders and nesting dispensers. Children (recommended ages 5 -12) will create and take home a one-of-a-kind eco-art piece for the yard that is also functional. Wear clothes appropriate for painting. One child per registered adult, please.



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CHANGING THE CURRENT.



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 yet been assigned. A list of leaders and their affiliates will be available on the web site after Thanksgiving. Lists of the birds seen on 2018 field trips as well as the master list of the 186 birds seen for the entire 2018 festival will also be available on the web site. Please make sure that you fill up your water bottles before leaving on a field trip and bring them with you. Dress warmly in layers and wear closed-toed shoes.

TRIPS ON THE WATER

Barrier Island Center and Pelican Island Sunset Fly-In

Jan. 24, 9:30am-7:30pm; Limit 25 Registrants; \$125

Anne Birch (The Nature Conservancy) & Ross Hinkle (University of Central Florida) with...

Meet at the EFSC bus circle to board the bus. Bring money for late lunch at Blackfin's Riverfront Grill at Capt. Hiram's Resort in Sebastian, FL. Price includes a snack bag.

This trip begins with a personal tour of the Barrier Island Center (BIC), a video and a walk from the Atlantic Ocean to the Indian River Lagoon estuary through maritime hammock and salt marsh. You will love the Giant Land Crabs! The BIC is located inside the Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge (ACNWR) on South Melbourne Beach. The focal point for the Carr Refuge, BIC offers nature enthusiasts and visitors a place to explore the barrier island's diverse habitats through interactive exhibits, a presentation hall, a small research library, ongoing educational programs and a hiking/nature trail. The stretch of beach within the ACNWR is home to the most important sea turtle nesting habitat in the United States. More loggerhead sea turtles nest within the Carr Refuge than anywhere else in the Western Hemisphere – over 20,000 loggerhead nests were recorded in 2016. Additionally, there has been a significant increase in both green and leatherback sea turtle nesting here. Following a short bus ride to Sebastian, you will arrive at Capt. Hiram's Resort for a late lunch and a boat tour to Pelican Island on the River King, a 45-foot USCG approved pontoon boat. On the way to the island, the boat will pass over sea grass beds and past mangrove islands of the Indian River Lagoon (IRL) so you can see its amazing wildlife. Named as an Estuary of National Significance in 1990, the IRL is one of the most biologically diverse estuaries in the United States. Pelican Island became the first National Wildlife Refuge in the United States when it was designated as a bird sanctuary by President Roosevelt in March 1903. The refuge is famous for its Brown Pelican rookery, but 15 additional species also nest on the 4.2-acre Pelican Island, including Wood Stork, Anhinga, American Oystercatcher, and many herons and egrets. The amazing spectacle of hundreds of birds flying to the island at sunset is a remarkable sight that you don't want to miss. On the water look for American White Pelicans, Lesser Scaup, Mottled Ducks, Common Loons, Horned Grebes, Pied-billed Grebes, Red-breasted Mergansers and many gulls and terns. Bottle-nosed dolphins are probable and sea turtles are possible. Lunch will be served at Blackfin's Riverfront Grill. Starters, soups, salads, and sandwiches range from \$9-\$14; entrees from \$14-\$27.

Beach Birds Intro & Field Trip

Jan. 26, 7:00am-8:30am Classroom Intro in Rm.119, then 9:30am-4:00pm Field Trip; Limit 36 Registrants; \$90

Adam Kent (FOS), Gina Kent (Avian Research & Conservation Institute), Michael Brothers & Jim Danzenbaker

After the classroom presentation, 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. Box lunch is included.

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. Explore their variations and sort through some of the subtleties of their shapes and behaviors in the classroom portion. Weather permitting, the field trip portion will begin with a 3-4-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. If conditions permit, the boat trip will end at Disappearing Island near high tide, when large concentrations of gulls, terns and shorebirds congregate there. Following the boat trip, a walk along the shore at the park will allow for close observation and identification practice. This spectacular beachside park offers panoramic views of the Atlantic Ocean, Ponce Inlet and the Halifax River estuary and 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.

Manatees of Blue Spring and St. Johns River Cruise

Jan. 24 & 25, 7:15am-2:15pm; Limit 34 Registrants; \$110

Madison Hall (University of Central Florida) & Tiffany Barrineau, with ...

Meet at the EFSC bus circle to board the bus. There is a marine head on the boat but it is highly recommended that you use the restrooms at Blue Spring State Park prior to leaving on the boat tour. Price includes lunch.

This special trip will be led by University of Central Florida Conservation Biology PhD Candidate, Madison Hall, Marine Biologist, Tiffany Barrineau, and a couple of outstanding birding tour leaders. Time will be spent at Blue Spring State Park (BSSP) in Orange City along the shore of Blue Spring to observe and learn about Florida's most charismatic megafauna, the West Indian Manatee. Next a catered lunch will be served on a river cruise onboard the "Eagle," a U.S. Coast Guard approved pontoon boat. The Eagle was specially designed to ply the shallow backwaters of this unique section of the historic St. Johns River. The captain is a licensed Coast Guard captain who knows the history of the area and the wildlife that abounds. It leaves from BSSP, passes through an old historic cypress logging canal into the Hontoon Dead River, where you will experience wild and pristine Florida as it has been over the centuries. BSSP includes the largest spring on the St. Johns River. What makes BSSP so unique and special is that during colder months its crystal clear waters are one of Florida's best places to observe manatees and other wildlife such as fish, turtles, birds and alligators in their natural habitat. During manatee season, which runs approximately from mid-November through March, several hundred manatees can be viewed atop the spring's overlooks on cold days. Nicknamed the "sea cow" because of the way it grazes on sea grasses, the manatee is one of nature's gentlest creatures. With a wrinkled snout bristling with whiskers, tiny eyes glowing like black buttons, and a comical pudgy body, the manatee is reminiscent of a child's plush stuffed animal. No wonder the manatee was chosen as our state marine mammal in 1975. Come and see why.

FIELD TRIPS CONTINUED

Mosquito Lagoon Restoration Boat Tour

Jan. 27, 9:00am-12:00pm; Limit 35 Registrants; \$45

Meet at the pavilion by the boat ramp at Riverbreeze Park, 274 H. H. Burch Road, Oak Hill, FL. 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.

In 2007 Dr. Linda Walters, Dr. Melinda Donnelly and a team of undergraduate and graduate students from University of Central Florida embarked on a mission to begin restoration of one of Florida's most diverse and productive estuaries. On this boat tour, you will see their first venture, which was to restore some of Mosquito Lagoon's vast oyster reefs. For this ongoing project, hundreds of community volunteers created 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. Here they used living shoreline techniques, which utilize native plants and animals to restore the shoreline's natural structure and function. 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 promoted sediment build-up at a rate that exceeds local sea level rise. You will be amazed and encouraged to see how this ravaged shoreline has transitioned to a natural habitat that teems with wildlife. The need for this type of research and restoration is crucial. As sea levels rise and storms become increasingly severe, coastal communities will be challenged in unprecedented ways. Nowhere is that more apparent than in Florida, with its 1200 miles of coastline.

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.

Jessy Wayles is the Coordinator for the Marine Discovery Center's "Shuck and Share" program, where oyster shells are collected from local restaurants for use in lagoon restoration. She is a certified Florida Master Naturalist.

Laurilee Thompson is a fifth generation Floridian, Indian River Lagoon advocate and founder of the Space Coast Birding and Wildlife Festival.

Port Canaveral/Lagoon Boat Tour

Jan. 23, 24, 25, 26 & 27, 2:00pm-4:30pm; Limit 47 Registrants; \$35
Mark & Michelle Anderson with...

A drink, snack and lunch from Fishlips Waterfront Bar and Grill are included on Jan. 26.

A drink and snack are included on Jan. 23, 24, 25 & 27. 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 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; a pair of Common Eiders was 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. 28; 7:30am-5:00pm; Limit 68 Registrants; \$185

(Includes tips for the crew)

Leaders: Michael Brothers, Jim Danzenbaker, Tom Dunkerton, Jim Eager, Dave Goodwin, David Hartgrove, David Simpson & Raymond VanBuskirk

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 Gator's Dockside Restaurants in Port Canaveral. 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. Weather permitting, 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. 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, the 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. 26, 7:20am-10:30am; Limit 16 Registrants; \$35

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.

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-

FIELD TRIPS CONTINUED

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. The highlight at this property in 2018 was the extraordinary sight and sounds of more than 1,000 Black-bellied Whistling Ducks.

A Walk at Blue Heron Wetlands

Jan. 27; 7:20am-10:30am; Limit 16 Registrants; \$35

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. 23 & 25, 8:00am-11:30am; Limit 12 Registrants; \$30

Jeff Gordon (ABA), Liz Gordon (ABA) & 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.

Jeff Gordon is the president of the American Birding Association. There's very little about birds, birding, and birders that he doesn't find fascinating. Liz Gordon is ABA Events Coordinator. Betty Salter is a long-time volunteer at the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge. John then 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. 23, 24 & 25, 1:30pm-3:30pm; Limit 10 Registrants; \$20

Jan. 26, 10:00am-12:00pm; Limit 10 Registrants; \$20

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.

Black Rails at the St. Johns NWR

Jan. 23 & 24; 4:00pm-7:00pm; Limit 14 Registrants; \$60

David Simpson (Birding with David Simpson), Kimberly King-Wrenn (USFWS) with...

Meet at the EFSC bus circle to find your truck. 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.

A caravan of USFWS trucks will carry attendees into the restricted access St. Johns National Wildlife Refuge. Preserved as the last home of the now-extinct Dusky Seaside Sparrow, these 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 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.

Blowing Rocks Preserve and Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute

Jan. 25, 7:00am-6:00pm; Limit 13 Registrants; \$125

Anne Birch (The Nature Conservancy)

Meet at EFSC bus circle to board the van.

This field trip will visit two important coastal centers: a picturesque preserve where estuary restoration is foremost and a leading marine research facility. Blowing Rocks Preserve is a unique barrier island sanctuary owned and operated by The Nature Conservancy. In 1969 far-sighted and generous residents of Jupiter Island donated 73 acres of their island to the Conservancy, establishing the preserve and ensuring its preservation. The preserve is named for its unique ocean beach, which features the largest outcropping of rocky Anastasia limestone on the U.S. Atlantic coast. During large wave events the sea blows through holes in the rock formation, blasting geysers of foamy water high into the air. Blowing Rocks Preserve underwent a large-scale, 20-year native habitat restoration that resulted in the clearing of more than 4,000 Australian pines and other non-native species to make room for native habitats including coastal strand, mangrove swamp, and tropical hardwood hammock. This field trip will include a preserve tour, easy beach walk, and a hands-on stewardship activity (weather-dependent) such as seine netting on the lagoon side of the preserve or plant propagation and planting. This part of the field trip will be outdoors and involve walking on natural trails and through sand. Participants should wear close-toed shoes and comfortable clothing.

Founded in 1971, Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute is a leading marine research facility located in Fort Pierce, FL. In 2007, the institute joined Florida Atlantic University and has grown into a community of approximately 200 researchers, staff and students working to promote "Ocean Science for a Better World". The Ocean Discovery Visitors Center is a destination where the community can come to learn about the institute's cutting-edge research. Your visit will include an hour-long tour of the center's five educational exhibits (Marine Drug Discovery, Marine Mammal Research & Conservation, Aquaculture & Stock Enhancement, Marine Ecosystem Health and Ocean Engineering) as well as time to visit the "no-bones" touch tank, gift shop and student information center. The lunch stop will be at Guanabanas Waterfront Restaurant and Bar in Jupiter where you will enjoy their lush tropical open air setting and great cuisine and cocktails. All of their seafood is from Florida. Starters, salads, tacos and sandwiches range from \$7-\$14. Entrees run from \$20-\$35.

Celebrity Walk with Denver Holt and Kevin Karlson

Jan. 24, 7:45am-11:30am; Limit 18 Registrants; \$70

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 is a special field trip where the interaction between the leaders and participants may very well overshadow the birds that we see. Both leaders are long time authors, close friends, and keynote presenters, and their collective unique

FIELD TRIPS CONTINUED

perspectives on birds and nature from around the world promises to make this an event not to be missed. Leaders will also share their tips and stories about the birds that we see, and provide natural history information about birds and nature that will make our birdwatching experience extra special. Come out and enjoy this special event and the vast birding and ornithological background of these accomplished authors, speakers and guides. Humor and fun are requisites for attending this field trip, and the leaders will do their best to make these qualities a big part of this event.



Celebrity Walk with Scott Weidensaul and Alex Lamoreaux

Jan. 25, 8:00am-11:30am; Limit 18 Registrants; \$70

Meet at the Parrish Park Boat Ramp parking lot. There are no restrooms on the dikes of MINWR that this trip will utilize.

Join researcher, natural historian, and birding biographer Scott Weidensaul on this special field trip along the Indian River Lagoon Shoreline and West Gator Creek. We will visit Sand Point Park and stop along the Max Brewer causeway to overlook the Indian River in search of waterfowl, terns and gulls, shorebirds, and waders! The river is a natural corridor for foraging water birds, and the nearby freshwater ponds and patches of trees congregate wintering songbirds and offer close views of ibis, herons, and Wood Storks. Depending on time, we will also loop through the West Gator Creek portion of Merritt Island NWR to look for shorebirds and saltmarsh specialties. Scott Weidensaul's knowledge, enthusiasm, and story-telling abilities will leave you with a new appreciation for just how incredible and essential birds are as components of our natural world. This leisurely trip offers birders an opportunity to stroll along the Indian River and chat with Scott about local birds, current research, or anything you'd like while also enjoying the birdlife of coastal Florida! A former intern under Scott's guidance, Alex Lamoreaux of Wildside Nature Tours, will be co-leading this trip.



Central Florida Specialties

Jan. 24, 25, 26 & 27, 5:00am-4:00pm; Limit 24 Registrants; \$115

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

Meet at the EFSC bus circle to board the bus. Box lunch is provided. Restroom stops will be made at porta potties.

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. Next destination is Joe Overstreet Road to search for Red-headed Woodpeckers. 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, large flocks of Sandhill cranes are often found. Last stop will be the Cruickshank Sanctuary in Rockledge for Florida's only endemic bird, the Florida Scrub-Jay.

Florida Scrub-Jay & Scrub Fire Ecology

Jan. 25 & 26, 8:30am-12:30pm; Limit 40 Registrants; \$15

David Breiningner, PhD & Paul Schmalzer, PhD

Meet at Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center for the 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.

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FIELD TRIPS CONTINUED

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 near Happy Creek 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.

Happy Creek is less than three miles from the historic Space Shuttle Launch Pads, LC 39-A and LC 39-B. The SpaceX Falcon 9 and Falcon Heavy rockets now launch from LC 39-A.

Florida Wildlife Hospital Tour

Jan. 24, 9:00am-11:00am; Limit 20 Registrants; \$15

Meet at the Florida Wildlife Hospital, 4560 North U.S. Highway 1, Palm Shores FL, 32935 (Just south of the big red cross).

So, you think you might want to try wildlife care? Come and learn what it takes to rehabilitate sick, injured or orphaned Florida native wildlife and migratory birds. You will see the tricks of the trade, from the creative anesthesia mask for pelicans to strength training for long-term patients. You will enjoy behind-the-scenes access to this unique facility where a bobcat can come in one minute and a warbler the next. Ever since opening in 1973, our mission has always remained the same: to aid injured, sick and orphaned Florida native wildlife and migratory birds and return them to their place in the ecosystem. Patient numbers have increased steadily over the years with about 5000 animals now annually getting care.

Historic Pritchard House and Gardens Tour

Jan. 24 & 25, 2:30pm – 4:30pm; Limit 16 Registrants; \$20

Jan. 26, 12:30am – 2:30pm; Limit 16 registrants; \$20

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. 26, 8:30pm-4:30pm; Limit 12 Registrants; \$80

John & Edie Stiner

Meet at EFSC bus circle to board bus.

Bring money for lunch at J.B.'s Fish Camp on Mosquito Lagoon.

An undeveloped beach with up to 8,000 sea turtle nests each summer contains a variety of resources. Walk with former National Park Service 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 make 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.

Lake Apopka Northshore

Jan. 23 & 24, 5:00am-4:00pm, Limit 19 Registrants; \$115

Rosi Mulholland (SJRWMD), Jim Peterson (SJRWMD) & Maria Zondervan (SJRWMD) with

Jan. 23: Jim Eager (Obsessive Compulsive Birding), David Goodwin (FOS) with...

Jan. 24: Adam Kent (FOS), Gina Kent (Avian Research & Conservation Institute) with...

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

This property is one of the premier locations in the southeastern United States to observe birds. A 1998 Christmas Bird Count identified 174 species of birds in the area, the highest species total for an inland count in the 115-year history of the CBC. The list of birds found here continues to grow, with 362 species having been recorded. During the winter months, more than 150 species regularly use the property, from showy herons and egrets to numerous tiny warblers and flycatchers. Other wildlife found here includes alligators, turtles, bobcats, otters, raccoons, snakes and coyotes. Former farmlands make up the Lake Apopka North Shore, a restoration area where the St. Johns River Water Management District's major activities include marsh and floodplain restoration and the creation of a marsh flow-way that filters Lake Apopka's waters by circulating lake water through restored wetlands, returning cleaner water to the lake. The district's work here also includes enhancing wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities. If the weather allows, attendees on this trip will get to experience the District's brand-new bench trailer, starting with the dawn chorus at the most optimum spot and continuing on the wildlife drive, which will be closed to the public. Ninety-three species of birds were seen on last year's SCBWF trips to the North Shore, including 14 species of ducks.

Lake Woodruff NWR

Jan. 26 & 27, 5:00am-12:30pm; 24 Registrants; \$80

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. Festival attendees on this trip last year were treated to great looks at a very cooperative LeConte's Sparrow.

FIELD TRIPS CONTINUED

Learning to Look - Orlando Wetlands Park

Jan. 24 & 25, 7:00am-10:30am; Limit 14 Registrants; \$60

Richard Crossley

Meet at the OWP parking lot.

These trips, with Richard Crossley, will be spent as a slow leisurely walk learning to identify every bird that we see. The emphasis will be on looking at birds rather than counting them. Richard is the author of the award-winning Crossley ID Guide series. His newest book is The Crossley ID Guide: Waterfowl. People are often surprised how much information they can gather when there is seemingly so little to see. Have you ever wondered how the experts identify a distant dark speck without lifting their binoculars? The focus will be on waterfowl and waders, gulls and terns, raptors and anything else that flies by. Richard will expose their secrets and show that the best observers do it by mastering the basics. But, what are the basics? 'Learning to look' will change the way you look at birds!



Orlando Wetlands Park Tram Tour

Jan. 25, 26 & 27, 6:30am-11:30am; Limit 18 Registrants; \$65

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 so that the former owners could hunt waterfowl, until 2016 when it bought the hunting rights. 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 and wading birds are expected. Other wildlife found here includes alligators, turtles, deer, hogs, bobcats, otters, raccoons, opossums, snakes and coyotes. We will be touring on trams driven by OWP volunteers. There will be multiple stops with walking to spy the best birds.

Playalinda Beach: Sea-birding from Shore

Jan. 26, 7:15am-10:00am; Limit 12 Registrants; \$45

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 seaspray and sulids. It will be an eye-opener.

Red-cockaded Woodpeckers & More at Hal Scott

Jan. 25, 5:00am-11:30am; Limit 16 Registrants; \$60

Maria Zondervan (SJRWMD) & Lorne Malo (FWC)

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 bench trailer 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.

Ritch Grissom Memorial Wetlands at Viera

Jan. 23, 26 & 27, 6:15am-11:30am; Limit 17 Registrants; \$65

Tom Ledford 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, bitterns 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.

River to the Sea Rundown (Formerly North Brevard Hotspots)



Jan. 23, 24, 26 & 27, 6:30am-3:30pm; Limit 24 Registrants; \$85

Lorne Malo (FWC) & Sarah Linney with...

Meet at EFSC bus circle to board the 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.

Yep, we used to call this trip the North Brevard Hotspots. Twenty years ago, this part of the county was loaded with little pockets of undeveloped land. And although the smaller pieces have succumbed to moderate growth, northern Brevard is fortunate to be home to some of the nation's most significant conservation lands. Join us for a laid-back trip through the pines and palmettos of North Brevard's scrublands and wetlands to see as many birds as we can. We will celebrate the dawn chorus and relish the rising sun along the banks of the St Johns River, then work our way across the landscape to the high energy beaches of the Atlantic Ocean. Numerous woodland birds, marsh birds, wading birds, beach 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 Hatbill Park, Seminole Ranch, Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge and Canaveral National Seashore. A lunch stop will be made at Dixie Crossroads Seafood Restaurant. Starters, soups, salads, sandwiches and baskets range from \$7-\$21; entrees from \$11-\$40.

Salt Lake Wildlife Management Area

Jan. 25, 6:45am-11:30am; Limit 24 Registrants; \$20

Dave Turner (FWC) & Bryan Ames (FWC) 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.

Salt Lake WMA's 8,000 acres border three large lakes and the St. Johns River in northern Brevard County. Don't miss this chance to explore it in a bench seat trailer. Home to a spectacular

Birding

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FIELD TRIPS CONTINUED

range of natural communities, this beautiful property includes pine flatwoods, hardwood hammocks and oak scrub on higher ground; oak and cabbage palm hammocks, swamps, freshwater marshes, wet prairies, and salt flats occupy the wetter locales. Numerous wading birds, shorebirds, waterfowl, and raptors can be found on the lakes and marshes and the river. Bald Eagles and Wild Turkeys are commonly seen. The flatwoods 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. Deer, feral hogs, river otters, alligators and turtles may also be seen. This extraordinary opportunity to be able to ride through the management area rather than walk it, as well as the reasonable cost, is a benefit of the Watchable Wildlife public access program of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

Shiloh's Sharptails, Marshbirds and More

Jan. 24 & 25; 6:15am-11:00am; Limit 16 Registrants; \$60

Mitchell Harris with...

Meet at the Kangaroo Express, 6004 US Highway 1, Scottsmeer

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 northern 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. 26 & 27; Limit 26 Registrants; \$35

Joan Tague with...

Jan. 27: Special Guest: Kevin Karlson

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. 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. 24 & 26, 4:30am-12:00pm; limit 16 Registrants, \$75

Samantha McGee (Florida State Parks) & David Simpson (Birding with 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 truck tour, which will last approx. 3 1/2 hours. Snack packs are 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.

T. M. Goodwin WMA – Broadmoor Unit

Jan 23, 25 & 27, 5:00am-3:00pm; Limit 24 Registrants; \$100

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. 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. 23, 24 & 25, 6:15am-11:30am; Limit 18 Registrants; \$40

Lynn Proenza (FWC) & Casey Dorsch (FWC) 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. Entrance fee is \$3 per car.

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.

Turkey Creek Tract - Charles H. Bronson State Forest

Jan. 23 & 25; 6:45am-11:00am; Limit 8 Registrants; \$60

Stephen Stipkovits (Florida Forestry Service) & David Hartgrove with...

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 now cover 125 square miles of land west of Titusville. The Turkey Creek Tract was one of the final shoreline acquisition properties along the most truly wild section of the St. Johns

FIELD TRIPS CONTINUED

River. An exclusive van tour will access this unique property, which is home to hundreds of wintering Sandhill Cranes and dozens of Wild Turkeys as well as Northern Bobwhite, Eastern Meadowlark, American Kestrel, Red-tailed Hawk and Loggerhead Shrike. 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. 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 the property.

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

Jan. 23, 8:45am-3:30pm; Limit 16 Registrants; \$20

Jan. 25, 9:45am-4:30pm; Limit 16 Registrants; \$20

Jim Stahl

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. Retired Land Manager and Wildlife Biologist, Jim Stahl will start the day 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, they will be pointed out, but the 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.

The Brevard County Landfill is NOT open for the members of the public to just drive into.

Members of the general public who are not part of official Birding Festival Landfill visits should follow these procedures:

- Check in at the scale-house at the main entrance and sign in as a bird watcher;
- Receive a dashboard placard, safety vest, and birding map/rules;
- Place the dashboard placard on your dashboard, wear the vest when outside of your vehicle, and adhere to the rules;
- Check out at the scale-house when leaving and return all items.

HOTELS

Headquarters - 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 LBIRD rate. Also, you can book online at <http://www.qualityinn.com/ires/en-US/html/ArrivalInfo?hotel=FL332&srp=LBIRD&pu=no> Rooms must be booked before December 31, 2018.

Fairfield by Marriott

4735 Helen Hauser Blvd., Titusville, FL 32780

Brevard Nature Alliance member.

Hotel next door to Cracker Barrel. Hotel will be serving a free limited "early bird" breakfast January 24-27 beginning at 3:30am each day. The full free hot breakfast buffet will begin at 6:30am weekdays and

7am Sat and Sun. Hotel features free wireless Internet, 24-hour business center, exercise room, and outdoor heated pool. Rooms have mini-refrigerators and microwaves. Reservations must be made before December 31st and are subject to availability so book early. Festival room rate is \$149 and can be reserved by calling (321) 385-1818 and asking for the Birding Festival Rate or visit <https://www.marriott.com/meeting-event-hotels/group-corporate-travel/groupCorp.mi?resLinkData=the%2022nd%20Annual%20Space%20Coast%20Birding%20%26%20Wildlife%20>

TownePlace Suites Titusville Kennedy Space Center

4760 Helen Hauser Blvd., Titusville, FL 32780

321-603-0811

Brand New Hotel. Complimentary continental breakfast at 3am for the early birders. A more traditional breakfast featuring hot items will be from 6am - 9:30am. The hotel also includes complimentary WiFi and a heated saltwater pool, outdoor grill and fire pit. All rooms

feature kitchenettes. This Green Hotel features in room recycling, dispensers for bath amenities, linen and towel reuse program, light touch housekeeping service for extended stay guests, and electric car charging station. Birder's Discount starts at \$149 for a King Studio and \$159 for Double Queen Studio. Please call the hotel directly and ask for the Birder Discount. Rooms must be booked by Dec 31, 2018.

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 barbecues. After a day of exploring area attractions, our spacious accommodations provide a comfortable place to relax and unwind. Guests can only make reservations by calling 321-269-9100. Ask for the Space Coast Birding and Wildlife Festival rate at \$74.99 per night. Reservations must be made by Dec 31 or the room rates and availability cannot be guaranteed.

Holiday Inn Express Cocoa

301 Tucker Lane, Cocoa, Florida 32926

Come discover the convenience and down home hospitality the Holiday Inn Express & Suites Cocoa has to offer you. Our upscale hotel offers a variety of rooms and suites to accommodate nearly every person and family. We also include a hot breakfast to get your morning started quickly and conveniently. Early Birders can get even get their breakfast at earlier times if requested in advance. Our pool, spa, and Fitness Center will allow everyone to relax and enjoy our quiet, convenient location. Getting work done is just as easy with our complimentary high-speed wireless throughout the hotel as well as a Business Center. Be use to ask for the Birding Festival Rate using BWF as the code for a rate of \$113 a night.

Use code BWF on their website <https://www.ihg.com/holidayinnexpress/hotels/us/en/cocoa/coiaa/hoteldetail> or call (321) 635-9975 and mention the code when booking.

HOTELS CONTINUED

Days Inn Titusville

3755 Chenny HWY, Titusville, FL 32780

The Days Inn offers free breakfast from 6am – 10am, free Wi-Fi, 24-hour onsite guest laundry, large guest rooms that can have a refrigerator and microwave upon request, and the outdoor pool in our area. The hotel is offering 20% off room rates to anyone coming to town for the festival. Rates fluctuate between about \$84 & \$109 plus tax depending on how soon in advance guests' book. When booking, guests can either reference the discount code, which is LBL5, or the Birding Festival. There will no deadline for booking. Please call the hotel directly at 321-269-4480.

For additional information on local accommodations for camping, rv-ing, or Airbnb, please contact the Titusville Chamber of Commerce at (321) 267-3036 or visit their website at <http://titusville.org/> Or contact the Space Coast Office of Tourism at (321) 433-4470 or visit their website at <http://www.visitspacecoast.com/>

Workshops

Birding by Ear and Habitat

Jan 26 & 27; 6:30am-12:30pm; Limit 12 Registrants; \$60

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 averages 80 species with a high of 96 species for both days. Paddy Cunningham is a Naturalist, owner of Birding Adventures, and the 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 by Impression

Jan. 23, 7:30am-11:30am; Limit 18 Registrants; \$60

Kevin T. Karlson and João Jara (Birds and Nature Tours Portugal)

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.

Join Kevin and João for a relaxed birding experience to Black Point Drive and other productive nearby locations. These professional guides will share a different approach to birding as highlighted in Kevin and Dale Rosselet's book in the Roger Tory Peterson Reference Series called *Birding by Impression: A Different Approach to Knowing and Identifying Birds*. We will concentrate initially on the relative size, shape and behavior of each bird, and then use conventional field marks and details to form a comprehensive ID picture. This trip only accepts 18 participants so that you can get to know the leaders and experience a different ID approach that is more personal in nature. Come and share a different way of looking at birds, with the main emphasis on having fun with the group. Kevin is an author and João runs the tour company, "Birds and Nature Tours Portugal." Kevin will sign copies of his books during this trip or at the Merritt Island booth in the Exhibit center.

Eastern Warblers – A Comparative Interactive Workshop

Jan. 26, 1:00pm-2:30pm; 4-119; Limit 40 Registrants; \$15

Kevin T. Karlson

This workshop mostly includes Eastern warblers, with a few extralimital species. Each species is shown in digital photo arrays that have most of the plumage possibilities in one frame (breeding male/female, nonbreeding, and immature). This comparison allows you to see the differences in each species in one view, which helps with your retention of important ID points. Similar species are also shown together in digital arrays to allow for direct comparison of differences. Most photos are from Kevin's popular "Warblers of North America" laminated foldout guide. Thirty minutes of quiz photos test your power of retention at the end. Come and witness the challenges of warbler ID, and see the power of comparative viewing to separate similar species.

Gulls and More at Jetty Park

Jan. 26 & 27, 7:30am-11:30am; Limit 18 Registrants; \$30

Amar Ayyash & TBD

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 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 larids loaf, providing outstanding opportunities to observe, photograph and compare various plumages and age classes in gull species in a natural habitat versus a landfill. Terns, gannets, shorebirds and wading birds are also probable.

Gull Fly-In at Daytona Beach Shores

Jan. 24 & 25; 3:30pm-6:00pm; Limit 30 Registrants; \$45

Amar Ayyash & Michael Brothers with additional Leaders TBD

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 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.

Gull ID at the Brevard County Landfill

Jan. 23, 24 & 25, 7:30am-11:30am; Limit 10 Registrants; \$25

Amar Ayyash & Michael Brothers with Joel Reynolds & Rita Perini

Meet at the north side of the parking lot at the Titusville IHOP Restaurant, 3755 Cheney Highway, in order to car pool to the Landfill. 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.

You don't want to miss this rare opportunity to interact with two of the country's most knowledgeable gull experts where thousands of gulls gather. Conditions will allow for close comparison of



WORKSHOPS CONTINUED

similar species with many different age classes and plumages. Commonly seen are Bonaparte's, Laughing, Ring-billed, Herring and Lesser Black-backed Gulls. Possible rare ones include Glaucous Gull, Iceland (Kumlien's) Gull, Thayer's Gull and California Gull. Who knows what may turn up? A Black-headed Gull was found in 2018 – an exceedingly rare occurrence in Florida. Your hosts for this adventure are Rita Perini, Environmental Scientist at the Solid Waste Operations Facility, and Wildlife Photographer, Joel Reynolds.

Gulls Simplified: A Comparative Approach to Identification

Jan. 23, 1:00pm-2:30pm: AUD; \$15

Kevin Karlson and Michael Brothers

Gull ID has always been troublesome for birders, largely due to the variety of plumages that gulls show at different ages. Hopefully Pete Dunne's and Kevin's new book, *Gulls Simplified: A Comparative Identification Approach* (Princeton University Press, 2018) will change that. This workshop starts with a simple review of basic ID terms relating to gulls without technical jargon, and then moves to a review of Eastern U.S. gulls' non-changeable features, including size, body shape, and general plumage patterns to form a solid foundation for your ID. Comparative photos showing similar species together in real life and digitized photo arrays of a species plumage variation help you to understand the differences between gulls. Give gulls one more chance and share this simpler approach to ID with Michael and Kevin.

Learning Gull ID – Intermediate and Advanced Topics

Jan. 23, 3:30pm-5:00pm; 4-119; Limit 40 Registrants; \$15

Amar Ayyash (Blogger/Speaker)

Gulls have gained a love-hate relationship with many birders. Among these larids are some of the most coveted bird species in the world, but not without their challenges. 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 identification obstacles that aren't often addressed in many field guides. This talk will emphasize several essential topics in gull identification such as the aging process, variable plumages and feather molt. Come join us and take your Gull ID skills to the next level!

Shorebirds Simplified: A Different Approach to Field ID

Jan. 25, 3:30pm-5:00pm; 4-119; Limit 40 Registrants; \$15

Kevin T. Karlson

This indoor workshop helps to remove confusion that exists with field identification of shorebirds. Formerly a difficult task reserved for experts, shorebird ID becomes easier for all levels of birders if a relatively simple approach is taken. Starting with non-changeable features of general size, structure and behavior, a simple yet accurate first impression is formed. This is the foundation for then applying feather details and plumage patterns to reach a more complete ID picture. This program is suitable for birders of all skill levels, but we will keep the ID premise simple for casual birders. Comparative photo arrays of similar species will help with recognition of subtle differences in structure and plumage. Kevin is one of the authors of the bestselling book "The Shorebird Guide", and has published a laminated foldout guide "Shorebirds of North America" for Quick Reference Publishing of Florida. A short quiz at the end of the program will test your powers of retention, with easy to challenging photos.

Shorebird ID Workshop

Jan. 26, 7:30am-11:30am; Limit 18 Registrants; \$60

Kevin T. Karlson & Raymond VanBuskirk (BRANT)

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 field trip/workshop shares a different approach to field ID that merges physical features with plumage details to reach a more complete ID picture. Leaders will encourage participants to note their general impressions of relative size, body shape, and structural features of each shorebird to form a personal mental picture that is unique to each person. Basic plumage patterns and behavior are then added to complete your ID. This 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 all birds seen on this trip. Come and experience a different way of looking at birds, and enjoy Kevin's simple way of explaining the ID of a bird family that often causes confusion for birders. Kevin is an author and photographer and Raymond is an owner of the tour company, BRANT (Birding Research and Nature Tours).

Sparrow ID Indoor Workshop

Jan. 25, 1:00pm-2:30pm; 4-119; Limit 40 Registrants; \$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.



TWO TAPROOMS IN TITUSVILLE

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- BREWERY EATS MENU	- CRAFT COCKTAILS & WINE

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Classroom Presentations

Included in the Cost of Festival Registration

14 Must-Know Tips for Choosing Your Next Nature Photography Workshop or Tour

Lisa Langell (Langell Photography)

Lisa will cover the good, the bad and the disastrous! Learn from insiders about the essential, often little-known tips and secrets, that will help you to protect yourself. You'll learn the right questions to ask to help ensure you choose the right tour leader, company, locations and time of year for your next adventure. You'll also learn what to ask before you book your tour so that you will know exactly what you'll be getting and what's not included.

Birds and Culture in Southern Portugal

João Jara (Birds & Nature Tours Portugal)

Southern Portugal offers a fantastic diversity of habitats and a large variety of birds in a relatively small area, so this enables you to visit several species rich areas without needing to travel long distances. But Southern Portugal has also a rich cultural heritage, with winding streets, historic plazas and squares, an array of castles, cathedrals, museums, Roman ruins, promenades, culinary delights and great wines. Why not combine the best of both -- the Birds and the Culture?

Birding in Iberia

João Jara (Birds & Nature Tours Portugal)

This is a photographic presentation with an emphasis on why the Iberia Peninsula (Portugal & Spain) is such a special region in Europe and in the world, from the birds and wildlife point of view. Here you will find several endemic bird species. In addition to its wonderful nature, there are also numerous other interesting facets to explore in this fascinating region. Joao will talk about some of the practical aspects, should you plan a visit.

Birding Northeastern India (Assam)

Simon Thompson (Ventures Birding Tours)

When we think of India we often think of heat, ancient sites and crowded cities, but India is one of the richest countries in the world for birds. With almost 1300 species found in the country, it's a must-visit birding destination - especially as there at least 60 of these are endemic to India. A perfect start is a visit to Assam in the northeast with Kaziranga National Park being the jewel in the crown. Indian Rhinos are common, as are Water Buffalo and Asian Elephant. Birding is also terrific with 50+ species being seen during a morning visit, including the globally-imperiled Greater and Lesser Adjutants.

Birding the Silk Road in Uzbekistan

Simon Thompson (Ventures Birding Tours)

We have heard of the Silk Road for years, but who has ever gone birding in this part of the world? The ancient cities of Samarkand and Bukhara steal the show, and it's entertaining to watch Alpine Swifts fly in and out of these ancient buildings. The birding during the spring and early summer can be excellent; Shrikes, Bee-eaters and Rollers are common, Wheatears are abundant but the star bird has to be the Pander's Ground-Jay - a very unusual bird restricted mainly to Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan.

Choosing the Right Binoculars for Birding

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

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.

Birding by Season - Right Place, Right Time, Right Bird

Paddy Cunningham (Birding Adventures)

Discover when and how to find the bird you seek, by learning to Bird by Season. Through the use of checklists, annual graphs, range maps and apps you will learn to find target and life birds. The class will include an informative power point, and hand outs. If you have bird apps on your phone bring it.

Birding, Bird Photography, and Birding with a Camera in Thailand

Iain Campbell (Tropical Birding)

In 1989, when Iain first birded Thailand, it was full of birds and wild, but the birds were very skittish because of widespread hunting and trapping. Things are very different now because of the sheer numbers of Asian birders and photographers protecting the remaining birding areas. It is without doubt unparalleled in Asia. This talk explores the vast variety of birding and photography opportunities that exist, from the smoldering lowland rainforest of the Thai Peninsula to the foothills of the Himalayas at Doi Inthanon where they even hold a frost festival. The optimal locations and activities vary depending on your focus, but this talk can cover all of them, and even offers a few tricks, so that you can have your birding/photography vacation, and your non-birding spouse can think they are having a normal cultural vacation. It is a technique the author has mastered over a series of failed relationships called Guerilla Birding: promise it is a normal vacation but see lots of birds and take loads of bird photos along the way.

Galapagos: Ecuador's Enchanted Islands

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.

How to Find Owls

Raymond VanBuskirk (BRANT)

Elusive and beautiful, owls are highly sought-after birds on any serious birder's life list. Their mysterious nocturnal lifestyle captures our imagination and fuels our desire to find them. For that same reason they are often hard to find and even harder to see -- unless you know how to look for them. This workshop is geared not so much at owl ID (although we will definitely cover that, too) as at HOW to find owls. I hope to improve your owling skills to the point where you feel confident to plan and execute a productive owling adventure on your own!

CLASSROOM PRESENTATIONS CONTINUED

How to Choose the Best Places to Photograph Birds Around the World

Iain Campbell (Tropical Birding)

There are just so many options to bird around the world and take photos, it can be daunting figuring out your best options. The best birding and best bird photography locations are often not the same areas. This talk concentrates on the areas where you can get a very big return on your time depending on the type of photography you want and the gear you have. For example Costa Rica and Ecuador can be better for different types of photographer; a trip to the Amazon is amazing for birders, but you have to modify your expectations depending on your gear. We cover all the continents other than North America in this talk, so expect to learn things like animals vs. birds in Africa and set-ups vs. opportunistic shooting in Asia, eastern or western Australia. This talk is designed to be extremely informative, so bring a note pad and be ready with loads of questions.

Making Informed Decisions About Gear

Lisa Langell (Langell Photography)

As an increasing number of birders and nature enthusiasts are turning to photography, the choices can be overwhelming for gear and accessories. This session will introduce the main categories of cameras available, as well as the pros and cons of each type of camera—from point-and-shoots, DSLR and mirrorless cameras -- and even digiscoping. You'll learn the basic terminology, key pros-and-cons of each type of camera, and how to determine your needs so that you select what's right for you. Tips for selecting tripods, tripod heads, and truly helpful accessories will also be provided -- all with a practical, budget-minded perspective so that you get what you need without over-buying gadgetry.

Otters of the Indian River Lagoon

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.

Owls in Myth and Legend

Dr. Richard N. Raid (University of Florida IFAS)

Perhaps more than any other avian, owls are the focus of hundreds of myths and legends. Featuring nocturnal habits, exaggerated neck rotation, silent flight, and calls which may range from a soft coo to a blood-curdling screech, these predatory birds are held both in high esteem as creatures of wisdom.... or as foolish objects. Their images may be found on ancient Greek medallions and on the walls of Egyptian pyramids, as well as in movies such as Harry Potter. Come, learn about the many superstitions that have evolved over the millennia regarding these wonderful birds, alleviating fears while inspiring awe!

Seven-Fold Path to Better Birding

Stephen Ingraham (Carl Zeiss Sport Optics)

Note: This is an ideal class to take before any of the Festival's Beginning Birding activities.

What do good birders know that you don't know (yet)? Here are seven simple disciplines that will make any birder a better birder and increase your enjoyment of the time you spend in the field. Great for beginners and any birder who wants to improve. Stephen Ingraham, ZEISS Senior Brand Advocate for Birding and Nature, is well known from his years as the editor of the "Tools of the Trade" section in *Birding* magazine, his frequent articles in the birding magazines, his

appearances at birding events around the country and as the founder and editor of *Better View Desired* and betterviewdesired.com. Bring paper and pen and be ready to take notes.

Southeast Arizona's "Most Wanted" Birds

Luke Safford (Tucson Audubon)

Elegant Trogon, Red-faced Warbler, Montezuma Quail, Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher...many of us remember the first time we saw one—whether in real life or in the pages of our Sibley or Golden Guide. Join Southeast Arizona Birding Festival coordinator, Luke Safford, as we discuss what makes birding in the Tucson area so amazing and how to go about planning your first (or next) trip to the Sonoran Desert and Sky Islands of Southeast Arizona.

The Magnificent Behavior of Shorebirds

Brian Zwiebel (Sabrewing Nature Tours)

Join Brian for an exploration into the magnificent behavior of shorebirds. From migration to the breeding grounds and beyond Brian will share his passion for shorebird behavior through his award-winning photography and personal experiences on the breeding grounds of the high Arctic. You will learn of the mind-bending migrations of the Whimbrel and Bar-tailed Godwit and Brian will recount his personal observations of breeding behavior not seen in the scientific literature. Be forewarned, you may never look at a wintering shorebird on a beach or mudflat the same way again!

The Mysterious Cranes of China

Simon Thompson (Ventures Birding Tours)

During the second world war, Axel Hemmingsen, A Danish man stranded in Eastern China after the attack on Pearl Harbor, spent the remaining war years studying the birds and bird migration in this coastal area of Hebei Province. In the 1980's various groups of birders revisited this spot and produced some amazing sightings 50 years later. I was fortunate to be a member of one of these China Cranewatch expeditions studying cranes, birds of prey and passerine migration. Come and learn about what I witnessed.

The Best Places to Start Bird Photography in the USA

Iain Campbell (Tropical Birding)

There are a plethora of locations in the country to take your birding to a new level with bird photography. The problem is that while opportunities are numerous, some areas are not forgiving to the beginner, and are better when you gain a little more experience. I will take you through a range of locations where you will get seemingly unlimited chances to make mistakes and learn from them. We will cover the locations, the timing, the best lenses, and how to get there. I will also go through the types of shots you can expect from different kind of gear from basic entry level cameras to the very best setups. We finish the talk with talking about the most challenging, but potentially rewarding sites.

Full disclosure here; I am a bird guide and take people on tours, but this talk is not about plugging tours. I do not run tours to most of the places mentioned, and the information given will be straight down the line.

World Wide Birding from Cruise Ships

Ken Burgener (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 this 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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- The **Neta Harris Young Birders Scholarship**, will benefit with a Wildside donation for each trip registration. This scholarship was designated in honor of Neta's long-time dedication to the Brevard Nature Alliance and the Space Coast Bird & Wildlife Fest.

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- Scott Weidensaul book signing opportunity on Friday, from 3pm-4pm. Bring your own books or purchase Scott's *Peterson Reference Guide to Owls of North America and the Caribbean*
- Sign up for a **FREE 30-minute session for ONE-ON-ONE Photo Instruction**
- Meet some the Wildside tour leaders
- Learn about our upcoming birding tours and photo workshops and **ENTER TO WIN A 2-for-1 TOUR**
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Join Wildside owner, Kevin Loughlin, for his spotlight: **Owl Over The Place**
See the festival schedule for time and location



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Photography

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.

Cindy Walpole and Chuck Fritsch

Focus Frog

Hummingbirds of Costa Rica

www.focusfrog.com

Photographing Hummingbirds of Costa Rica is a long-term, joint project for Chuck and Cindy. The numerous logistic and technical challenges have made it particularly exciting, but the special reward is in the power of the resulting images. Their techniques capture an instant of time that not only shows minute details of the birds but also reveals their exquisite colors. Hummingbirds everywhere face threats due to loss of habitat. Their goal for this project is to enhance awareness both internationally and within Costa Rica of these flying treasures by means of unique hummingbird-based artwork that reveals their extraordinary beauty. They hope to stimulate the political will and gather the international support that will ensure a bright hummingbird future.

High Speed Hummingbird Photography

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

Jan. 26, 10:45am-12:15pm; 4-123; \$35

Hummingbirds were one of the first applications for high speed photography. Cindy and Chuck will discuss the history of high speed photography and how it applies to hummingbird photography. They will share their methods for getting good images with minimal equipment, including some of the concepts that are the foundation of multiple flash high speed photography. Those basic techniques can improve a photographer's work no matter what equipment is used.

David Akoubian

Bear Woods Photography

bearwoodsphotography.com 678-231-1752

bearwoodsphoto@gmail.com

Sponsored by **Tamron** tamron-usa.com

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

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

Building a Bird Environment in Your Backyard

Jan. 25, 10:45am-12:15pm; 4-119; \$35

We all want to enjoy observing and photographing birds close to home. In this course, David will discuss how he has successfully transformed his yard from getting less than 10 species a day to an average of more than 20, including over 20 varieties of warblers. He will discuss how to set up natural plants and supplementing the area with small feeders when needed. For the photographer, David will discuss placement of posts and perches that will allow you to capture incredible bird images without leaving your porch or home. All of this can be done with little or no investment as well!

Landscape Photography

Jan. 24, 10:45am-12:15pm; 4-119; \$35

In this course David will discuss preparing for and successfully capturing landscape images. For over 25 years David has travelled as a professional nature photographer to many of the nation's iconic locations. He will share the planning process as well as how to pack the right gear. He will discuss camera settings and compositional tips. David will share some of his favorite images that will hopefully inspire you to book a trip soon!

Painting a Photograph

Jan. 23; 10:45am-12:15pm; 4-119; \$35

Jan. 26; 10:45am-12:15pm; 4-119; \$35

In this course David will discuss how he, as a classically trained illustrator, put down his pencils and brushes and started photography. What makes this unique is his approach to photography through the eyes of an illustrator. David will discuss the paint we use as photographers, which is light, as well as the brush strokes we have, which are shutter speeds. David will discuss "why" we have simple rules like the "rule of thirds" and why they should be followed and broken. David will also discuss the effects camera lenses can have on composition in photography. This course also will help you for those "when God gives us lemons, make lemonade" scenarios. Come be inspired to think outside of the box on your next photography outing.

OUTDOOR WORKSHOPS

Bird Photography at Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge

Jan. 23, 6:30am-9:30am; Limit 12 Registrants; \$60

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

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

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

Meet at the north side of the Parrish Park boat ramp parking lot.

PHOTOGRAPHY CONTINUED

Bird Photography at Orlando Wetlands Park

Jan. 23, 3:30pm-6:30pm; Limit 12 Registrants; \$60

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

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

Meet at the Orlando Wetlands Park parking area.

Bird Photography at Viera Wetlands

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

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

Meet at the Viera Wetlands parking area.

In this course David will demonstrate proper settings on the camera for photographing birds, both stationary and in flight. Learn the best modes of the camera to use to maximize the number of "keeper" photographs. Birds in flight are thought of as very difficult, but with a few simple tips, photographing them becomes much easier and can actually be enjoyable! David will teach you how to incorporate birds and wildlife into environmental portraits. Showing the area as well as the animal will often give an image a more pleasing look. With environmental portraits in mind, David will discuss and demonstrate the best compositions to make the scene more pleasing. Depending on whether the class is early or late, we will also work to incorporate wildlife into a sunrise or sunset.

Lisa Langell

Langell Photography

www.langellphotography.com

lisa@langellphotography.com

602-345-0883

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

"For me, it's not just about the photos. It's about creating shared experiences."

Originally from Michigan, Lisa lives in Scottsdale, Arizona. She has "done" a lot of things to make an enjoyable living -- from managing a pizzeria, to working as a master floral designer, a licensed psychologist, an international speaker, professional trainer and consultant in K-12 education, Chief Business Development Officer for an education technology company, a researcher, a writer, an artist and even a recruiter! She began her photography business in 2010. Though photography was always a favorite activity for her, it wasn't until she combined photography with teaching and tour guiding that it all came together: Creating one-of-a-kind, exciting, emotionally rewarding learning experiences for others! Lisa is passionate about providing creative, memorable and educational experiences that enrich, invigorate and expand minds emotionally and cognitively -- all while having fun together!

INDOOR CLASSROOMS

Art of Composition: Nature, Photography and Negative Space

Jan. 26, 3:00pm-4:30pm; 1-114; \$35

Elevate your photography to new levels as you expand your technique. This fun, upbeat and inspiring class has something to offer just about anyone with a camera! Whether or not you have "long lenses," this class will provide you inspiration to infuse art within your bird photography and expand your senses beyond just "tight, close-up shots!" Focusing on key elements of composition, with an emphasis on using positive and negative space, this seminar

will teach you how to create images that are emotionally infused and leave lasting impressions with your audience.

Getting Started with Bird Photography:

Jan. 26, 10:45am-12:15pm; 4-121; \$35

Do you wish you could "move the dial off of Auto" but feel overwhelmed with all the settings and options? This class is perfect for the birder / photographer who is newer to photography and ready to take a step forward, but doesn't want photography to feel overly complicated. This class will start you out with the how's and why's of using two simple-to-use settings that take you off "Auto" and improve your bird-photo success rate without leaving you frustrated and confused. You will also learn several simple techniques that will improve your images and make you a happier photographer in the process! (Best for those with Mirrorless or DSLR camera systems.)

Shooting the Darkside

Jan. 23, 10:45am-12:15pm; 4-121; \$35

Jan. 24, 10:45am-12:15pm; 4-123; \$35

A well-photographed image of wildlife in silhouette can often elicit as much or more emotion from your audience than images of most well-lit subjects. Learn how to maximize your shooting day, add diversity to your portfolio, and create powerful emotion with your photography through silhouette, back-lit and rim-lit photography. This fun, creatively enriching session will cover what subjects work best in these lighting conditions, settings for silhouette photography, and how to utilize this special light. Discover the beauty as you learn technical mastery to shoot "on the darkside."

OUTDOOR WORKSHOPS

A Flight to Remember at Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge

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

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

Meet at the north side of the Parrish Park boat ramp parking lot.

A Flight to Remember at Orlando Wetlands Park

Jan. 23, 6:30am-9:30am; Limit 12 Registrants; \$60

Meet at the Orlando Wetlands Park parking area.

A Flight to Remember at Viera Wetlands

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

Meet at the Viera Wetlands parking area.

Photographing birds in flight and motion can be challenging for even the most experienced photographers. Via warm, friendly and supportive instruction, Lisa will show you skills that include focus settings (AF-C or AI Servo), setting the proper focus point, finding the best aperture and shutter speed settings for photographing birds in motion and finding the bird in the frame before you can photograph it. She will give personal attention and determine what settings and techniques work best for you. Lisa will also teach composition, panning, and related techniques for artistic effect and how to envision the design, look, and feel of your image prior to shooting. This hands-on, in-the-field workshop is designed for those with DSLR and mirrorless cameras.

Afternoon, Sunset, Silhouettes and the Darkside

Jan. 23, 3:30pm-6:30pm; Limit 12 Registrants; \$60

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

Meet at the Viera Wetlands parking area

Viera Wetlands is a mecca for nature photographers. Amateurs and professionals enjoy the wide diversity and availability of wildlife

PHOTOGRAPHY CONTINUED

found in the wetlands, especially waterfowl, long-legged waders, raptors and alligators. Spend a productive afternoon photographing birds and wildlife. Then at sunset and twilight take the opportunity to put to use what you learned in the Darksides class. Learn how to create powerful emotion with your photography through silhouette, back-lit and rim-lit photography.

Photographing Birds of Prey

Jan. 25, 9:00am-11:00am; Limit 12 Registrants; \$60

Meet at the Florida Wildlife Hospital, 4560 North U.S. Highway 1, Palm Shores FL, 32935 (Just south of the big red cross).

This popular field workshop will provide extraordinary access to photo opportunities that are rarely available in the wild. FWH will provide a variety of beautiful native Florida raptors that include Great Horned Owl, Barn Owl, Red-shouldered Hawk and American Kestrel. These beautiful birds will be perched on native perches, thus providing perfect conditions to produce amazing, intimate images of these fantastic birds. Lisa will share tips on the best camera settings, depth of field choices, lighting angles, perspective and background selection and answer any other questions you might have.

Maresa Pryor-Luzier

www.maresapryorluzier.com

mpluzier@gmail.com

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Maresa is a life-long resident of Florida. She studied photography at Daytona State College. She specializes in wildlife behavior, and knows her subjects well. As a long-time birder, her compassion shows in her work, winning numerous awards for her fine art photography. Her images have appeared in *Audubon*, *Living Bird*, *Mother Earth News*, *National Geographic Kids & Book Series*, *National Wildlife*, *Outdoor Photographer*, *Ranger Rick*, and other periodicals. Maresa is a founding member of the North American Nature Photographers Association, a former board member of the Sarasota Audubon Society, and the American Society of Media Photographers of Central Florida.

INDOOR CLASSROOMS

Basic Camera Settings for Bird Photography

Jan. 25, 10:45am-12:15 pm; Room 4-123; \$35

Maresa will give a presentation on how to get sharp beautiful images with your camera. She will explain the differences in full-frame sensors vs. cropped, and how that affects the quality of the image, as well as using your histogram for proper exposure, ISO settings, depth of field, proper shutter speeds for effect, composition, and more. Additionally, she will touch on field technique and etiquette. Whether you're a beginner or in need of a refresher course, Maresa will head you in the right direction to getting higher quality images and enjoying your experience in the field. For the last 45 minutes, Maresa will be happy to review your image(s). Bring 1-2 images on a thumbnail.

How to Set Up Your Backyard for Photography

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

Preserving wildlife starts right in your backyard. It doesn't matter

how large or small your property is, by just providing 3 important factors, the wildlife will come. Maresa will give a presentation on what she has done with her property. By building a sustainable habitat, she now enjoys more than 13 nesting birds, butterflies, amphibians, and yes, reptiles. Additionally, she will explain the different uses for flash photography and will have available different units to look, including: Macro flash, ring light, and a hot shoe flash w/ MagBeam attachment made for telephoto flash photography. She will demonstrate the different uses in each unit and what will work best for your photography, giving tips for setting up your exposures, lighting, and so on.

OUTDOOR WORKSHOPS

Bird Photography 101 – Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge

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

Meet at the north side of the Parrish Park Boat Ramp parking lot.

Watch Your Backgrounds – Viera Wetlands

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

Meet at the Viera Wetlands parking area.

Bird Behavior – Orlando Wetlands

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

Meet at the Orlando Wetlands Park parking area.

Each workshop will focus on basic to intermediate settings for bird photography. Maresa will work with you one-on-one to show you ISO, shutter speeds, apertures and explain the importance of each setting. We will look at getting proper exposures and when to compensate in order to achieve the best results. Observing bird behavior and watching your backgrounds will be key to getting the best photograph. For the best results on all of these settings, Maresa recommends a 300mm or longer lens, monopod, or tripod for lower light situations.

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.

INDOOR CLASSROOM

Introduction to Post-Processing

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

I didn't care for the new cloud-based Photoshop, also PS has always been expensive! So, I found an alternative program to PS: ON1 Photo RAW. Using ON1, I will demonstrate my workflow for post-processing my photos. I will do an overview of ON1 and a basic enhancement of sharpening, highlights, shadows etc. needed for most images. I will also do a more involved enhancement using masking and B&W conversion. This classroom presentation will be great for photographers who have done little or no post-processing, as well as Photoshop users who like me, are looking for an alternative program. I am not affiliated with ON1, it's just what I'm using right now. Other programs use similar tools and

PHOTOGRAPHY CONTINUED

techniques, this class should give you a feel for post-processing in any program.

OUTDOOR WORKSHOP

Nighttime Photography at the A. Max Brewer Bridge

Jan. 24 & 25, 5:15pm-8:00pm Limited to 12 registrants; \$60

Meet at the north side of the 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!

Brian Zwiebel

Sabrewing Nature Tours

www.sabrewingnaturetours.com

Brian began his journey with birds by enrolling in an Ornithology class at Hocking College in 1993. Six years later he began photographing the subjects he had come to know so well. Warblers are among Brian's favorite subjects. He spends much of his free time in May photographing warblers at northern Ohio's Magee Marsh Wildlife Area. His work has been prominently displayed in exhibits throughout Ohio and more than thirty of his songbird images were featured at the National Center for Nature Photography in Toledo, OH. Brian's award-winning photography has been internationally published in books and magazines including *Birder's World*, *Bird Watching*, *Bird Watcher's Digest* and the American Birding Association's magazine *Birding*.

INDOOR CLASSROOM

Waterfowl Photography (From the Duck's Eye View)

Jan. 23, 1:00pm-2:30pm; 1-113; \$35

Jan. 26, 10:45am-12:15pm; 4-123; \$35

What does it take to make stunning duck portraits? How can you best capture action and behavior in your waterfowl photography? The slide program "From the Duck's Eye View", presented by Brian Zwiebel, will teach you this and more with each talking point supported by Brian's award-winning photography.

OUTDOOR WORKSHOP

Waterfowl Photography (From the Duck's Eye View)

Jan. 24, 7:00am-10:00am; Limit 12 Registrants; \$60

Jan. 27, 7:00am-10:00am; Limit 12 Registrants; \$60

Meet at the north side of the Parrish Park boat ramp parking lot.

The following morning you will put what you learned in class to the test as Brian leads the group to photograph ducks and other birds we encounter. Bring your camera, fresh batteries and flash cards along with your longest telephoto lens for this fun filled outing.

Steven 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. 24, 10:45am-12:15pm; 4-121; 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.

Field Techniques for P&S Nature Photography

Jan. 25, 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. 26, 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. 27, 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.

Composition: The Instrument of Photographic Communication

Jan. 1:00pm-2:30pm; 1-113; \$15

The ability to communicate your message is crucial in photography. Organizing the elements into a strong and compelling composition and then exposing are the primary components of this program presented by Panasonic's pro, Shiv Verma. The advent of digital equipment allows for instant feedback, but it is you, the maker, who needs to use this vehicle of instant feedback to improve and strengthen the message. Furthermore, software-based editing tools allow you to refine and enhance the design elements even after the camera has exposed and the message captured-conveyed. The digital medium allows us to communicate in ways that would have been too complex or virtually impossible in the analog capture.

Nature Story: How to Capture Great Bird Images Using Mirrorless Cameras

Jan. 25; 7:00am-10:00am; Limit 12 Registrants; \$15

Meet at the north side of the Parrish Park boat ramp parking lot.

The camera technology of the last several years has made wildlife, birds and birds in flight photography easier than it was before. New DSLR cameras have made action photography much easier than it was when manual focus was the rule rather than the exception. Now Mirrorless Camera technology allows these light and nimble camera systems to enter the realm of nature, wildlife and action photography. Join Panasonic's photography pro, Shiv Verma, as he presents this field workshop program and addresses the various features of Mirrorless Cameras and how to set them up to obtain images that are at par with the best of DSLRs. You will learn how to obtain tack sharp images, exposure, auto focus modes, manual focus, flight shot techniques, hand-held and using a tripod with an appropriate lens mount, panning techniques and much more.

Ken Hubbard

Field Services Manager, Tamron USA, Inc.

Ken Hubbard Photography
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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. 25, 10:45am-12:15pm; 4-121; \$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. 26, 6:30am-9:30am; Limit 12 Registrants; \$15

Meet at the north side of 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.

Digiscoping

Clay Taylor

Swarovski Optik

Naturalist Market Manager
www.swarovskioptik.com clay.taylor@swarovskioptik.us

Digiscoping Field Workshop

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

Meet at the north side of 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.
www.kowa-usa.com

Digiscoping: Just Another Tool in the Photographer's Bag

Jan. 24, 8:00am-11:00am; Limit 12 Registrants; \$15

Meet at the north side of the Parrish Park boat ramp parking lot.

While Robert Wilson has used conventional equipment for more than 40 years as a professional photographer, digiscoping is his new passion. Digiscoping is achieved by attaching cameras and now cell phones to spotting scopes for focal lengths of 1000mm - 3000mm in order to capture photos and videos of birds and wildlife. Join Robert to pick up simple tips and tricks to advance your photography skills. Learn how to get more use out of your scope for birding by attaching your cell phone. Robert Wilson is a 30-year (now retired) staff photographer for Lockheed Martin. He is now the Kowa Sporting Optics U.S. Brand Ambassador.



Snail Kite photo courtesy of Mac Stone.

RAFFLE

Presenting
Sponsor



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OPTIK

A REVOLUTIONARY VIEWING EXPERIENCE COULD BE YOURS!

Own the latest product from Swarovski combining the
benefits of binoculars and spotting scope!

IMMERSE YOURSELF. DISCOVER. ENJOY.



BTX 95 uses the visual power of both eyes to make the image appear more natural and vivid. The BTX 95 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 95 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 PCT – Carbon Tripod
- Swarovski Optik Variable Phone Adapter with Three Rings

**TOTAL MSRP
RETAIL VALUE - \$8,070.00**

Only 200 Raffle Tickets Will Be Sold During Regular Exhibit Center Hours

as posted for a suggested donation of
\$50.00 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
**3:00pm on Saturday,
January 26th, 2019.**

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



Brevard Nature Alliance is a 501 (c) (3) tax exempt organization. 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 1-800-HELP-FLA (435-7352) or www.FloridaConsumerHelp.com. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the state. Registration # CH19903 Florida Solicitation of Contributions Act.

Titusville

BLAZING TRAILS



Photo Courtesy of
The Downtown Art Gallery

Historic Downtown
Art & Antiques
Restaurants
Canaveral National
Seashore
Kennedy Space Center
Merritt Island National
Wildlife Refuge
Titusville Municipal
Marina
Converging Multi-Use
Trails
Space Walk of Fame
Museum
Pritchard House
Enchanted Forest
Warbird Museum
North Brevard
Historical Museum
Titusville Welcome
Center



East Coast
Greenway
ALLIANCE

The Coast-to-Coast Trail is part of a 250-mile trail that will link Titusville with St. Petersburg. Titusville is the southern tip of the 260-mile St. John's River-to-Sea Loop. This merges with the East Coast Greenway that is one-third complete along its 2,900-mile route between Maine and Florida.



Titusville.com
Titusville.org