



Habi-Chat

Newsletter of the Merritt Island Wildlife Association

Volume 20 Number 3

Winter 2015

Refuge Update

Cooler weather and winter visitors (both 2-legged and feathered) have started descending upon the refuge. Just in time for the invasion, Black Point Wildlife Drive has been graded and the vegetation along the shoulders mowed to provide excellent wildlife viewing opportunities for our visitors.



Black Point Wildlife Drive.

Photo by: Dale Nichols

Congress recently passed the fiscal year 2015 Federal budget. The National Wildlife Refuge System received a slight increase of \$2 million from last year, but most refuge programs' budgets are flat from 2014. We have been able to fill the Refuge Manager position at Lake Woodruff National Wildlife Refuge (NWR): Candice Stevenson, currently the Refuge Operations Specialist at Merritt Island (NWR), has accepted the position and will report for duty in January.

Also, we have a list of applicants for Merritt Island NWR Deputy Refuge Manager and will be making a selection after the New Year. We are sad to report that Supervisory Refuge Ranger Sandy Mickey resigned on November 28 due to family medical issues. We will be filling that position in early 2015. We have not yet filled the equipment operator position that was vacated in November 2013, but hope to make a selection this spring. We currently do not know if we

will be able to fill Candice's former position. We are also hiring a temporary six-month Refuge Ranger to assist Nancy Corona with visitor services.

Due to structural and operational issues with the current visitor center building and the need for more capacity to serve visitors and the environmental education program, the refuge staff has started the planning and design for a new visitor center. Liollo Architecture from Charleston, S.C. is working with refuge and MIWA staff to develop a conceptual design and site plan for the new visitor center. Standby for more information and details on this project in the coming months!

We continue to work with FAA on the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Shiloh Space Launch. We were asked to be a cooperating agency with the Surface Transportation Board on another EIS for a railroad extension through the refuge that Port Canaveral is proposing to build across the Banana River, through the Kennedy Space Center/Merritt Island NWR and connect up with the NASA rail system to transport freight. Our responsibility as cooperating agency is to provide technical expertise and information on potential impacts to refuge resources.

Happy Holidays!

Layne Hamilton, Refuge Manager



Spoonbills on the Refuge.

Photo by: Connie Foreman



Here at the Refuge we love our MIWA members! When you become a member you help promote conservation, awareness and appreciation of the MINWR, as well as provide assistance to Refuge programs. We are pleased to welcome new MIWA Life Members: **Wilson Timmons** of Cocoa, FL. He became a Life member this November 2014. **John and Dorothy Andrews** of Titusville, FL became Life Senior Couple members this December 2014. Thank you for supporting the Refuge and MIWA!

A Little Refuge Sunshine for Our MIWA Members



Gulf Fritillary
Photo by: Bill Nunn

Do you notice something different about your latest copy of the *Habi-Chat*? Maybe something blue about the water or orange about the butterflies? Yes, this is the first ever color edition of the MIWA *Habi-Chat*! We wanted to share the beauty of the refuge with our wonderful members and what better way to do that than in full bright colors. Be sure to take a look at the photo section on pages six and seven where we have showcased the refuge through the lenses of our local photographers and refuge volunteers.

We are sure you will enjoy this newsletter and hope that we will be able to print future winter editions in color as well. Since the printing cost is greater for MIWA, we are seeking donations or sponsors to help. If you would like to help provide support please contact the MIWA office at 321-861-2377. So take a break from whatever winter weather you are in, from the snow of the North to

the heat of the South, and spend a little time on the Refuge.

Connie Cranston, MIWA Manager



The purpose of the Merritt Island Wildlife Association is to promote conservation, awareness, and appreciation of the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge and to provide assistance to Refuge programs.

President	Dan Click
Vice President	Charlie Venuto
Treasurer	Al McKinley
Secretary	Eric Gardze
President Emeritus	George English

Board Members

Tom Altif, Thad Altman, Jim Butts, Bob Champaigne,
James Clark, Chris Fairey, Clay Henderson, Darleen Hunt,
Robert Hutchison, Truman Scarborough, Ned Steel,
Diane Stees, & Laurilee Thompson

Refuge Manager Layne Hamilton
NASA Liaison John Shaffer

The Merritt Island Wildlife Association (MIWA) is a nonprofit, cooperating association for the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge. The *Habi-Chat* is published quarterly. For MIWA information, call **321-861-2377**.

Newsletter Editors Jenny Golyer and Lindsay Hobart

Layout & Design Connie Cranston

Technical Consultant Cheri Ehrhardt

Habi-Chat **Committee** Connie Cranston and Nancy Corona

Thank You to Our Corporate Sponsors

Black's spray Service

BNY Mellon-Orlando

Courtyard by Marriott Cocoa Beach

Delaware North Parks and Resorts

Dixie Crossroads Restaurant

R.E. George, D.V.M.

Halifax River Audubon Society

Holbrook Travel

Indo Medic Health Applications, Inc.

Jon's Fine Jewelry

Space Coast Audubon Society

URS at KSC

THE MERRITT ISLAND WILDLIFE ASSOCIATION (REGISTRATION #CH29759) HAS COMPLIED WITH THE REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS OF CHAPTER 496, FLORIDA STATUTES, SOLICITATION OF CONTRIBUTIONS ACT. A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE (800-435-7352) WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.

Brevard Watercolor Society Exhibits at the Refuge

The Brevard Watercolor Society (BWS) held its 11th annual opening reception and exhibition at the Refuge Visitor Center in early December. Thirty four original watercolor paintings from 28 artists were juried into the show. Earlier this year artists were given an escorted tour of the Refuge to gather reference photos for their paintings. The show was juried by Jackie Borsanyi, Exhibits Curator of the Foosner Art Museum and Sandy Mickey, MINWR Fish and Wildlife liaison, and the Refuge Award was selected by Layne Hamilton, Refuge Manager.



"Fast Food Alfresco" by Adele Park



"The Eyes Tell the Story"
by Therese Ferguson

Award winners were: 1st place fauna, "Fast Food Alfresco" by Adele Park; 1st place flora, "The Sky's the Limit" by Lolly Walton; 2nd place and refuge award, "The Eyes Tell the Story" by Therese Ferguson; 3rd place, "Stinky" by Beth Kring; merit awards were presented to "Force of Nature" by Kathie Benson; "Canaveral Sunrise" by Anita Chandler; "Red-bellied Woodpecker" by Jeanette Drake; "Bob" by Sherry Gorey; "Beauty in the Beast" by Darleen Hunt; "Birds of a Feather..." by Lori Pitten Jenkins; and "Great Blue" by Susan Cole Stone. The show will be in place until January 29. Please be sure to stop in and see this fabulous exhibit. Paintings are priced for sale with a portion of the proceeds donated to MIWA. Prints are also offered for sale in

the Bookery. Two originals have sold so far.

Darleen Hunt, MIWA Board Member & BWS Artist

Refuge Planning Update

We still have multiple planning projects underway these days, most notably: the Surface Transportation Board Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Port of Canaveral rail extension, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) EIS for the proposed Shiloh Launch Complex, and the EIS for the Kennedy Space Center (KSC) Master Plan. Information is available at the Refuge's website: <https://www.fws.gov/merrittisland/>.

Proposed Port of Canaveral Rail Extension: The Surface Transportation Board has employed a contractor to prepare an EIS to evaluate the application by the Canaveral Port Authority to: construct and operate 11 miles of new rail that would cross the Banana River Lagoon, connect to KSC's existing 17 miles of rail, and connect to Florida's East Coast Railroad north/west of the existing Jay-Jay Railroad Bridge. Several agencies are potential cooperating agencies on this EIS, including: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), National Park Service, U.S. Coast Guard, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Public scoping meetings were conducted in Titusville and Cape Canaveral in November 2014. The public scoping comment period closed on December 19, 2014. The contractor for the Surface Transportation Board is currently preparing a draft EIS to evaluate the proposal. For more information: <http://www.portcanaveralraileis.com/>.

Proposed Shiloh Launch Complex: Space Florida, the State of Florida's aerospace economic development agency, has proposed a commercial launch facility on KSC and the Refuge in the Shiloh area through the proposal to the FAA for a launch site operator license. Several agencies are designated cooperating agencies on FAA's EIS, including: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, NASA, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, and State Historic Preservation Office (Florida Department of State). The FAA conducted public scoping meetings in February 2014. The contractor for the FAA is currently preparing a draft EIS to evaluate the proposal. For more information: http://www.faa.gov/about/office_org/headquarters_offices/ast/environmental/nepa_docs/review/documents_progress/shiloh_launch_statement/.

Proposed KSC Master Plan: Completely separate from the above planning activities, NASA is preparing a programmatic EIS for Center-wide operations for KSC for a twenty-year planning horizon. Several agencies are designated cooperating agencies on the NASA EIS for the KSC Master Plan, including: FAA, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and National Park Service. NASA conducted public scoping meetings in June 2014. The Master Plan is posted online at: <http://masterplan.ksc.nasa.gov/>. For more information: <http://environmental.ksc.nasa.gov/projects/peis.htm>.

Cheri Ehrhardt, AICP, Natural Resource Planner, FWS

MIWA 2014 Annual Meeting & Silent Auction



Attendees enjoying the evening.
Photo by: Lindsay Hobart

On Saturday, October 25th the Merritt Island Wildlife Association held the 2014 Annual Meeting and Silent Auction Fund Raiser. It was a beautiful Florida fall evening at the Debus Center. Everyone once again enjoyed the amazing view of the illuminated Rocket Garden. This year saw 106 members in attendance. Florida Wildlife Hospital staff and owl greeted the attendees with information on their rehabilitation efforts.

MIWA President, Dan Click, hosted the evening's program that included: Board Nominations by Darleen Hunt, Propositions to be voted on by the Board, Refuge Report by Layne Hamilton and Keynote Program "The Florida Manatee: Biology and Conservation" by Dr. Bob Bonde.

Dr. Bonde's is a research wildlife biologist with over 36 years dedicated to studying manatees. He gave a fantastic presentation to the members, signed copies of his book "The Florida Manatee: Biology and Conservation". Thank you Dr. Bonde!

MIWA Board Member Nominations/Election were as follows:

- Re-elected Board Members are: Jim Butts, Dr. James Clark, Darleen Hunt, Robert Hutchison, Truman Scarborough, Net Steel, Diane Stees and Laurilee Thompson.
- Newly Elected Board Members are: Clay Henderson

MIWA Officer Election were as follows:

- President-Dan Click, Vice President-Charlie Venuto, Secretary-Eric Gardze and Treasurer-Al McKinley. Congratulations to all! Officer nominations were held at the November MIWA Board Meeting.

The silent auction was a huge success with \$2,867 collected in silent auction bids! We would like to give a big **Thank You** to the following: **Delaware North** for hosting the event and **Emily McQuade** of Delaware North for all of her help and assistance, as well as the staff of Delaware North Parks and Resorts for the lovely venue and delicious dinner. **Thank You** to **Florida Wildlife Hospital** for providing our guests with the opportunity to get up close to a great horned owl. A great big **Thank You** to **Tom and Linda Altif** of Kayaks by Bo for their donation of a Tarpon 120 Kayak valued at \$935 for our Silent Auction which was won by **Sue Metzger**. What a great donation and prize! Preparations for the evening would not have been possible without the help of our staff and volunteers Vivian Brown, Maddy Chamberlain, Connie Cranston, Zachary Day, Jenny Golyer, Patrick Golyer, Joanne Heenan, Lindsay Hobart and Valerie Stanley.

MIWA Bookery Staff



Bidders check out the silent auction items
Photo by: Lindsay Hobart

Thank you to all the 2014 Silent Auction Donators:

Robert Amoruso	Witha Lacuesta	Jim Wills	Eagle Optics
Kathy Benson	William Lathrop	Daniel Witmer	Hampton Inn
Susan Blakeslee	Pat Looney	Susan Wooldridge	Houghton Mifflin Harcourt
Jim Boland	Al McKinley	Ken Wyant	Kayaks by Bo
George English	Dale Nichols		Residence Inn by Marriott
Rosemary Georganna	Bill Nunn	Bok Tower Gardens	Rusty's Seafood & Oyster
Amy Gottsche	Joan Otto	Brevard Nature Alliance	Bar
Layne Hamilton	Earlene Pelham	Brevard Zoo	Sea World
Joanne Heenan	John & Clarie Subanich	Butterfly World	Storey Publishing
Melody Hendrix	Jeff Thamert	Busch Gardens Tampa Bay	The Florida Aquarium
Darleen Hunt	Cassie Veltman	California Princeton	Walt Disney World
Giacomo Illardi	Charlie Venuto	Courtyard by Marriott	
Beth Kring	Sandy Walters	Creative Handcrafts	
Lindsey Lacich	Tom Williamson	Dixie Crossroads	

Art for Wildlife Showcase at The Downtown Art Gallery

The 7th Annual Art for Wildlife Showcase highlighting the work of Dale Nichols and 15 other nature minded artists will be held at The Downtown Art Gallery on Friday, January 23rd from 5:00pm to 9:00pm. Goers will be inspired by beautiful pictures of bobcats, eagles, kingfishers, spoonbills and gorgeous landscapes of our beautiful Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge and surrounding areas.

Enter our Wacky vs Wonderful Wildlife Tie Contest (sponsored by Hank Evans) or just come vote for your favorite!

Join the Live Auction in our Backroom Gallery. Bid on an awesome **Helicopter Excursion** over the Wildlife Refuge or a **One-on-One Birding Trip** with an expert guide at the MINWR or many other exciting prizes! Proceeds benefit the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge.

This event is free and open to the public. A \$1 donation at the door enters you into drawings to win numerous art prizes donated by our talented artists and local business owners. Wine and hors d' oeuvres will be served.

The Downtown Art Gallery is located at 335 S. Washington Avenue in downtown Titusville. For more information see our Facebook page at The Downtown Gallery/Titusville or call 321-268-012.

Heidi Thamert, The Downtown Art Gallery



Bobcat at the MINWR.
Photo by: Dale Nichols



Save the Date



18th Annual Space Coast Birding & Wildlife Festival

January 21-26, 2015 at Eastern Florida State College, Titusville Campus. Activities include birding and wildlife classes and field trips, keynote presentations, art show and competition, photography workshops and much more.

For more information please visit www.SpaceCoastBirdingAndWildlifeFestival.org.



Art for Wildlife Art Show

January 23, 2015 5pm -9pm at the Downtown Gallery in Titusville. Help raise funds for the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge at this wonderful event.



15th Annual Orlando Wetlands Festival

Saturday, February 21, 2015 at Fort Christmas Historical Park 9:00am to 3:00pm. This is a FREE event with exhibits, door prizes, wilderness hikes, guided photography hikes, live animal demonstrations and much more.

For more information please call 407-568-1706 or visit www.cityoforlando.net/wetlands.



6th Annual Florida Scrub-Jay Festival

Saturday, February 28th, 2015 at the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Information Center 10:00am to 3:30pm. This is a FREE family event with live music, guided nature walks, live animal displays, activities for children and much more.

For more information call 321-861-5601 or visit <http://www.fws.gov/merrittisland/Calendar.html>.



Pictures from the Refuge



Great Horned Owl
Photo by Chuck Teague



Spoonbills
Photo by Al McKinley

Lunch Time!
Photo by Connie Foreman



Florida Scrub Jay
Photo by Al Brayton



Redhead
Photo by Jim Boland



Painted Bunting

Photo by: Tom Dunkerton



Mangroves on the Refuge

Photo by: Bill Nunn



Blue Winged Teal

Photo By: Chuck Tague



Black Point Wildlife Drive

Photo by: Connie Foreman



White Pelicans

Photo by: Bill Nunn



Gator on Platform

Photo by: Tom Dunkerton

Rogue Turkey

As many know, wild turkeys have become increasingly common across the refuge. In years past, they could only be found north of Haulover Canal, but the population has been steadily increasing, and turkeys are now found all the way to the south boundary of the refuge. It's not unusual to see them within the Kennedy Space Center's security area, often within developed areas that support the nation's space program.



Turkey on the loose!
Photo: Bill Robb

Given that the turkey population has expanded, it's not surprising that eventually biological staff at the refuge would have to respond to a wildlife call involving turkeys. Over the past couple years, a number of turkeys have made nuisances of themselves by standing in the middle of roadways, chasing cars, pecking at their reflections in office windows, or just hanging around looking like they're up to no good. However, one turkey stands out above all the others.

In early 2014, refuge staff started getting complaints about a young tom that was hanging around the Kennedy Parkway/NASA Causeway interchange. He was blocking traffic, chasing cars, and behaving like a delinquent. Steven, Stan and I had made several attempts to respond to the complaints, but like a typical teenager up to no good,

he would make himself scarce when the "law" appeared. One afternoon he was holding up traffic near the NASA causeway guard shack. Stan and I responded, and like a scene from Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom, chased him around in a vain attempt to capture and relocate him. Of course wild turkeys can run more than twenty miles per hour and he proved impossible to wrangle. Eventually he grew tired of our antics and flew off into the nearby forest.

Fast forward to March 24, 2014...

On that morning, I was assisting Frank Robb (a state licensed alligator trapper) wrangle an alligator that had wandered a little too close to the old Space Life Sciences lab. After we had loaded the ten foot gator into Frank's truck, we noticed our young turkey (now named "Jake" by the KSC employees) hanging around the parking lot. On the way out, Frank stopped to take a photo of the turkey with his cell phone. I half-jokingly warned Frank about the turkey's reputation, and to be careful. Frank approached the turkey to snap a portrait, where upon Jake lunged at Frank and gave chase. Frank, fearing a certain



Do the crime, pay the time.
Photo: Bill Robb

mauling, beat a hasty retreat back into his pick-up, Jake close at his heels.

Later that same day.....Steven gets a somewhat frantic call. It seems that Jake had entered the NASA Causeway guard shack, causing the armed security guards to hastily bail out, locking the bird inside. Steven and I responded, finding the flustered security guards looking back inside their shack, while Jake flew and ran about, depositing copious amounts of turkey "leavings" on the floor, desks and chairs. But since the turkey was now trapped inside, we knew we would get the bird....I mean, our bird.

Steven and I cautiously entered the shack. We quickly cornered Jake, and Steven, braving a flurry of beating wings and flailing claws, finally managed to apprehend our suspect.

Fortunately, this story has a happy ending. We drove the refuge's bad boy way north, past Haulover Canal, up to the former settlement of Shiloh. As we drove down a sand road to the chosen release site, Steven saw a flock of hen turkeys ahead. We quickly stopped, and unloaded our captive. It appears that our young rogue Jake finally found what he was REALLY looking for. He has not chased a car since....



Return to the freedom.
Photo: Bill Robb

James Lyon, FWS Biologist

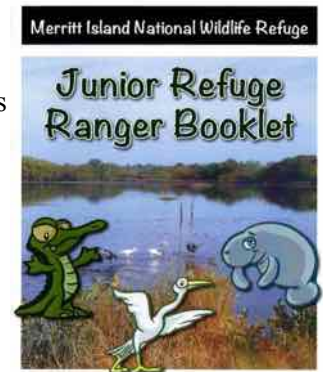
First MINWR Junior Refuge Ranger Activity Book

Visiting children can now stop by the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Information Center and pick up a MINWR Junior Ranger Activity Book. The book is for all youngsters (and those young at heart!) ages 4 to 11+ years old and consists of twenty-one pages of activities. Age classes for the book are Manatee for ages 4 to 7, Crane for ages 8 to 10 and Alligator for those 11 years and up. Some of the included learning activities are: nature journaling, learning about prescribed fire, hiking and pishing.

Upon completion of their activities, participants receive a badge and post card. They are then certified as a Junior Refuge Ranger! Besides being fun, the activities impart valuable information about the refuge and the environment.

So round up the kids and grandkids and come out to the Visitor Center to become an official MINWR Junior Ranger today.

Connie Foreman, Refuge Work Camper



Sightings on the Refuge

The migratory birds are arriving at the Refuge and we are happy to see the return of eagles, coots, roseate spoonbills, pied-billed grebes, white pelicans and many others. Some uncommon winged visitors have been spotted on the refuge as well.



A male painted bunting at one of our new feeders.
Photo by: Lindsay Hobart

They include the gadwall, wood duck, Eurasian wigeon, canvasback, redhead, surf scoter, black scoter, red-breasted merganser and ruddy duck.

If you have been to the MINWR Visitor Information Center lately, you have probably noticed that there are more bird feeders up by the beginning of the boardwalk. These new feeders were purchased by the Merritt Island Wildlife Association in November. At these feeders you may see painted buntings, red-winged black birds and mourning doves among others.

This birding season looks like it is going to be a great one. So head on out to the refuge as soon as you can, then stop by the MINWR Visitor Information Center and tell us what you have seen!

Lindsay Hobart, MIWA Bookery Staff



Hello....Daryl and Connie Foreman! We are very happy to be back for our 9th year here at MINWR, as work campers. We enjoy the refuge, all of our friends here and of course the warm weather. We both were born, raised and live in southwest Michigan near Kalamazoo. We have 3 children, 10 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren. Thanks for having us back again this year!

Hello again to **Patrick Barns** also! It's good to be back at Merritt Island National Wildlife



Patrick the intern.
Photo: Lindsay Hobart

Refuge. Starting in 2011 I worked at the refuge as an intern, funded first through MIWA, then SCA and lastly as a firefighter. I am now working with the refuge biologists again on a number of different restoration projects and I'll also be helping out at the Visitors' Center. Since I was here last I've spent time working for the University of Minnesota and Washington State Dept. of Ecology, and hope to attend graduate school at the UCF next fall studying wildlife biology and/or ecology. MIWA helped me get my start here at the Refuge and I'm very grateful for all the opportunities I've had as a result.



Daryl & Connie

Goodbye...

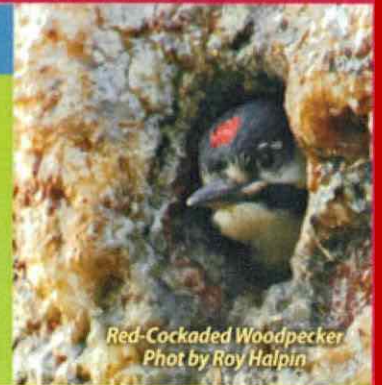


Work camper **Rick Harris** went back to Texas. Enjoy the Longhorn State! **Valerie Stanley** has finished her internship with us here. She will be greatly missed at the Visitor Center and we wish her the best in her new adventures. **Sandy Mickey** has stepped down from Supervisory Park Ranger in order to be with her family. We wish her and her family the best. Congratulations to **Candice Stevenson** on her promotion to Manager of Lake Woodruff this January 2015. She was our Refuge Operation Specialist. Enjoy your new position, we will miss you!

JAN. 21-26, 2015 – EXPERIENCE THE 18TH ANNUAL

Space Coast Birding & Wildlife Festival

www.SpaceCoastBirdingandWildlifeFestival.org



800-460-2664



Located at Eastern Florida State College in Titusville, Florida & featuring:

- Variety of Birding & Wildlife Classes & Field Trips
- Pelagic Birding Trip • Keynote Presentations • The Raptor Project
- Nature-based Exhibitors • Photography Classroom & Field Workshops
- **World Digiscoper Meeting Sponsored by Swarovski Optik**
- Hands-On Optics Workshops • Silent Auction • Afternoon Socials
- Art Show, Competition & Kids Poster Contest



VISITFLORIDA.COM

This project received financial assistance from VISIT FLORIDA®

18th Annual
Space Coast Birding & Wildlife Festival
January 21-26, 2015 • Eastern Florida State College, Titusville Campus
www.SpaceCoastBirdingAndWildlifeFestival.org

2015 Festival Activities

Variety of Birding & Wildlife
Classes & Field Trips
Keynote Presentations
Art Show, Competition & Kids
Poster Contest
Special Digiscoping Workshops
Pelagic Birding Trip
Hands-On Optics Workshops
Photography Classroom & Field
Workshops
Sketching in the Field Workshops
The Raptor Project
Nature-based Exhibitors
Silent Auction
Afternoon Socials



www.VisitSpaceCoast.com

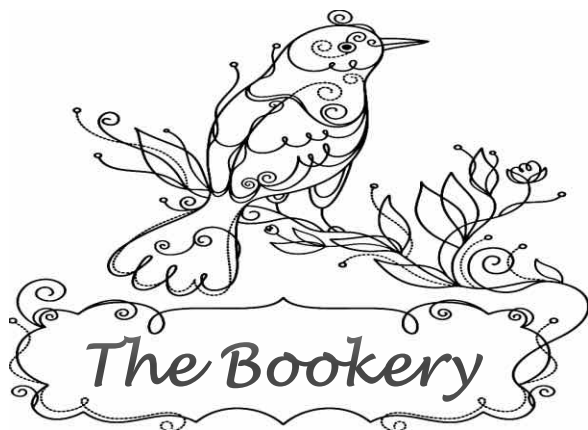


VISITFLORIDA.COM
This project received financial assistance from VISIT FLORIDA®



Don't forget to stop by the MIWA booth at the festival and say hello!



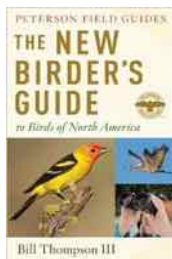


The New Birder's Guide

By Bill Thompson III

.....\$16.95

An easy to use book for the beginner or the expert. Covering 300 of the most common birds in the US and Canada with information about how to identify birds, behaviors, where and when to look for them and their calls and songs. *Meet Bill Thompson III at the 2015 SCBW Festival*

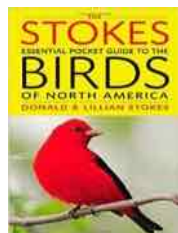


The Stokes Essential Pocket Guide to the Birds of North America

By Donald & Lillian Stokes

.....\$15.00

This new pocket guide by Stokes is compact enough to carry in your pocket yet contains everything you need to identify and enjoy birds. A welcomed companion for hikes and outdoor adventures, the book features color code tabs for quick referencing.

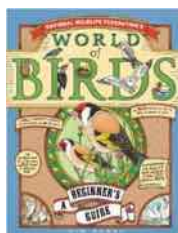


NWF World of Birds

By Kim Kurki

.....\$15.95

Our newest addition to children's book is produced in conjunction with the National Wildlife Federation and will introduce your child to more than 100 birds arranged by habitat. Each page is filled with colorful art, fun facts and interesting information that adults will find highly entertaining as well!



Manatee Zip Up Hoodie

.....\$35.00

Ladies, warm this winter and support our refuge at the same time with our new sweater. It is a beautiful 100% cotton zipper hooded sweatshirt in pale blue and has the refuge logo and two manatees on the front.



Visitor Information

Center Hours

Monday – Sunday 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

The Refuge is open daily
from sunrise to sunset



**DONATIONS IN REMEMBRANCE OF LOVED
ONES AND FRIENDS CAN BE SENT TO:**

MIWA

P.O. Box 2683

Titusville, FL 32781

Merritt Island Wildlife Association

Supporting the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge
Joining is simple. Just fill out this form and mail it to the Merritt
Island Wildlife Association at: P.O. Box 2683, Titusville, FL 32781
or join online at www.MerrittIslandWildlifeAssociation.org

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Phone Number _____

Email _____

Type of Membership:

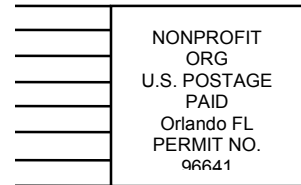
- ☐ **Seniors and Students** – \$10
- ☐ **Individual** – \$15
- ☐ **Senior Couples** – \$15
- ☐ **Family Membership** – \$20
- ☐ **Supporting Membership** – \$50
- ☐ **Senior Couple Supporting** – \$75
- ☐ **Life Membership** – \$250
- ☐ **Patron** – \$1000
- ☐ **Optional** – Donation \$ _____

Total Enclosed _____

Make checks payable to MIWA. For credit card payments
please call the MIWA office at **321-861-2377**.



Merritt Island Wildlife Association
P.O. Box 2683
Titusville, FL 32781
www.MerrittIslandWildlifeAssociation.org



Make sure to visit
our booth at the
Space Coast Birding &
Wildlife Festival
Jan 21-26



Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge Beginning Bird Watching Tours

Meet a refuge Volunteer at the MINWR Visitor Center for a guided bird tour in the refuge shuttle bus. Learn how to identify a variety of bird species. The program typically lasts three hours. Water, cameras, binoculars, bug spray and comfortable walking shoes are recommended. The fee is \$5.00 per person, with child under 16 free.

Space is limited so please call 321-861-2377 for reservations.