

The Avocet Newsletter

December 28, 2016

Welcome to Cedar Keys Audubon.

The newest chapter in the Audubon Florida network and encompasses all of Levy County. We had our first organizational meeting in March of 2016 and we already have almost 100 members.

The members of the current Executive Board are:

Deborah Anderson - Co-president

Crosby Hunt - Co-president

Doug Maple - Vice-president

Treasurer - Nancy Hanson

Secretary - Libby Cagle

Communication - Mandy Offerle

Education - Janie Veltkamp

Hooked Bird Rescue Program - Savanna Barry

Accomplishments - In collaboration with Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission, Nature Coast Biological Station, and City of Cedar Key, volunteers were trained in the proper method of removing hooks from birds and signs have been placed around town on fishing spots with instructions. So far there have been almost 70 volunteer hours recorded for this effort which comes to about \$1549 time value. Since August, twenty birds of eight different species have been [rescued](#). There have been seven successful releases.

CKA worked with the City of Cedar Key keeping 50 kids occupied for six weeks over the summer in nature based programs that included bird identification.

Goals for the coming year include setting up some regular outings for birding and nature experiences, having a better presence at festivals like the Sea Food festival, outreach to members throughout the county, getting into the local schools with educational outreach programs, continuing our work with bird rescue, continue relationship building and collaborative effort, and expanding our membership.

General membership meetings are scheduled for the fourth Monday of the month at 1700. Because of damage from Hurricane Hermine in Cedar Key the location is To Be Determined (TBD) but will be announced on Facebook and through emails.

Friend us on Facebook for updates. Pass this newsletter along to folks you think might be interested in learning, helping, and contributing. If you have nature related activities let us know at: [email](#). This is a [link](#) to our membership application.

Events

First Day Hike Cedar Key Scrub State Reserve

Sunday, January 1, 2017 - 9:30am to 10:30am

Get the NEW YEAR started off on the right track with a HIKE in the Cedar Key Scrub State Reserve. Guests will be led by rangers along one of our sandy trails through the increasingly rare Florida scrub habitat.

This hike will begin at the trail head located on SR-24, 6 miles northwest of Cedar Key.

<https://www.floridastateparks.org/park-events/Cedar-Key-Scrub>

Cedar Key Bird Rescue Training Workshop

Monday, January 30th, 2017

3:00 - 5:00 PM

FWC/FWRI George Kirkpatrick Marine Lab

11350 SW 153rd Ct., Cedar Key, FL 32625 Bird Rescue Class

Janie Veltkamp, Licensed Rehabilitator

Birds of Prey Northwest

Savanna Barry, Regional Florida Sea Grant Extension Agent

UF IFAS Nature Coast Biological Station

Topics Covered:

- Background about the Cedar Key Bird Rescue Initiative
- Observe and practice bird handling and dehooking skills
- Cover logistical details (accessing rescue equipment, contact information)

Who should attend?

- Any person interested in volunteering with the program in any capacity (transporter, handler, or both) -OR-

- Any person interested in learning bird rescue skills. Attendance at the workshop does not require committing to volunteer.

Participation in the workshop is mandatory for you to be involved in the program and all attendees and volunteers must be at least 18 years of age. Please

feel free to invite others.

Please RSVP using this link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/cedar-key-bird-rescue-workshop-tickets-28941680345> or contact [Savanna Barry](#).

Big Bend Science Symposium

February 1 -3

The 2017 Big Bend Science Symposium will be held in Cedar Key on February 1 - 3 hosted by UF/IFAS Nature Coast Biological Station and the Big Bend Science Partnership.

<https://ncbs.ifas.ufl.edu/news/>

Florida Master Naturalist Coastal System Class

Levy County

March 22 - April 17, 2017

Senator George Kirkpatrick Marine Lab - FWC

11350 SW 153rd Ct., Cedar Key, FL 32625

Registration closes at 10:00am EST on March 16, 2017

<http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/fmnp/cs17-05.html>

Old Florida Celebration of the Arts

Cedar Key

8 - 9 April 2017

Downtown Cedar Key

Visit our booth

Cuba - Ecological Riches & Cultural Exploration

with Cedar Key Audubon

May 8 - 16, 2017

CKA will receive \$100 for each participant in this tour.

Discover the unique wildlife of Cabo de San Antonio National Park.

Take guided hikes in Viñales National Park, home to the distinctive limestone formations known as mogotes.

Enjoy a snorkeling expedition by boat to reefs around the tip of the Guanahacabibes Peninsula.

Visit the Soroa Waterfall & Orchidarium and Sierra del Rosario, home of Las Terrazas, a self-sustained community named after the reforestation project initiated in 1967.

Uncover Cuba's unique culture as you meet local farmers, artists, and musicians, and visit important historical sites in Old Havana.

Look for the Bee Hummingbird and others of Cuba's most interesting bird species, including the endemic blue-headed quail-dove.

Walk through the famous limestone cave where Ernesto "Che" Guevara and his men headquartered during the Cuban Missile Crisis.

For more info contact:

[Contact](#)