

The Avocet Newsletter

February 2017

Welcome to Cedar Keys Audubon. The newest chapter in the Audubon Florida network and encompasses all of Levy County. General membership meetings are scheduled for the fourth Monday of the month at 1700 in the Cedar Key Library on Second Street. Board meetings are held the third Monday, 1500, at the Library. You are welcome to attend and offer assistance to our committees and projects.

Friend us on Facebook for updates. Pass this newsletter along to folks you think might be interested in learning, helping, and contributing. An application is attached to this email for those interested in joining.

Beauty and the Beak - Over 80 folks showed up for Janie Veltkamp's presentation detailing her rescue efforts of a bald eagle that had its beak partially shot off. Be on the look out for her children's book coming out in August.

We had a very detailed and informative guided tour with Ranger Kim Chaney for our outing to Sweetwater Wetlands Park In Gainesville. It is a wonderful place for birders as well as a great strolling or hiking trail. You might get lucky and see a sora walking on water. Limpkins are in abundance now. Their clicking sounds are amusing. (Photo by Libby Cagle)

Events relating to birds and conservation

"Ovster reef enhancement to benefit wintering American Ovstercatchers"

with Janell Brush and Joseph Marchionno.

Thurs. Feb 23 5 p.m.

Cedar Key Library

(Photo by Sandra Heckler)

Diamondback Terrapins in the Cedar Keys National Wildlife Refuge with Dr. Ben Atkinson and Dr. Coleman Sheehy.

Sat Feb 25 10:30 a.m..

Cedar Key Library

Sue Mullins - Citizen Advocacy: Speaking Up for Conservation in Florida

Monday February 27 5:00

Cedar Key Library

Our general membership meeting, open to all

Sue Mullins is a public policy and campaign professional based in Tallahassee Florida, where she has served as an advocate for environmental, affordable housing and related issues for 23 years. Sue established a full service lobbying, campaign and public relations firm in 2007 to advocate issues for clients in numerous fields including natural resource protection, energy and climate change policy, business regulation, election law, corporate governance and public finance. Sue's representation includes advocacy before the Florida Legislature and Cabinet, Congress, state agencies, and local and regional governments. She holds a Bachelor's in Sociology from St. Leo College and a Masters in Anthropology from Florida State University. Sue's campaign experiences include managing all aspects of political, grassroots and public campaign planning, operations and communications for district and statewide offices, issues and referenda, including winning 17 local conservation ballot initiatives and four Florida House races. Sue joined Ramba Law Group, LLC as policy advisor in January 2015 after serving as lead policy analyst for two years



Bird Rescue Program - Dr. Savanna Barry trained 32 attendees on 30 January and increased our volunteer total from 12 to 28. Since the beginning of the year, we have had 25 rescues reported. While there are not clear status reports on all of the rescue outcomes yet, there have been a high number of successful disentanglements, and most of the pelicans that have gone to Mary Opall at Nature Coast Wildlife Rescue have been returned to us for successful release like the one in these photos that was released after the training session.

If anyone has rescue reports or photos to submit - please send them! Even if the rescue was "unsuccessful" (e.g., if you went looking for a bird but could not find it or could not catch it) we need to keep track. A text, email, or phone call (804-305-6014) to Dr. Barry with the info about the rescue would suffice if the paper form is too much of a burden. She needs the species, type of injury, volunteers that helped, approximate amount of time spent (including transport to rehab, if any), and outcome of rescue (if known). Even if you cannot remember all details, please send me anything you can remember about rescue activities.

Dog crates - We could use a few extra large dog crates for transporting pelicans and other birds for rehabilitation. If you have one setting around in your garage or under your house that needs a

good home, we will put it to good use.

Open House - Withlacoochee Gulf Preserve in Yankeetown

Sunday, February 26th

Join the Friends of the WGP from 11am to 2pm at the Preserve. The Education Center will be open with coffee and cookies.

Activities: It's game day! Bring your own favorite game (indoor or out) or play one at the Center.

Nature walks with our own Master Gardener, Sue Steinhorst.

Bird observation from the Education Center.

Florida Black Bears in the Big Bend Region

Vic Doig

Thurs. March 2 5 p.m.

Cedar Key Library

Annual Membership meeting Friends of Lower Suwannee and Cedar Keys National Wildlife Refuges

Lower Suwannee Refuge Headquarters

Sat March 4 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

County Road 347 Friends

March 6 (and the first Monday of each month) - 9 to 10 a.m.

Every little bit helps

Meet at "Adopt-A-Highway" sign near SW 77th Place

for gloves, vest, and bags

Cottonmouth Snakes on Seahorse Key - Mark Sandfoss

Thurs. March 16 5 p.m.

in the Senate Minority Office.

Butterflies of North Florida - Barbara Woodmansee
Sat March 18 10:30 a.m..
Cedar Key Library

Florida Master Naturalist Coastal Systems Class
Levy County
March 22 - April 17, 2017
Senator George Kirkpatrick Marine Lab - FWC
[11350 SW 153rd Ct., Cedar Key, FL 32625](http://11350SW153rdCt.CedarKeyFL32625)
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 and International Migratory Bird Day Event
Cedar Key
8 - 9 April 2017
Downtown Cedar Key
Visit our booth

Sanctuaries - Ann Paul Tampa Bay Regional Coordinator for Audubon Florida
Membership meeting, open to all
Monday April 24 5 p.m.
Cedar Key Library
Ann Paul, Regional Coordinator for Audubon's Florida Coastal Islands Sanctuaries, will present a brief history and discuss the current programs and projects of the Florida Coastal Islands Sanctuaries. The Sanctuaries include waterbird nesting and habitat islands in the west central Florida estuaries, including St. Joseph Sound, Clearwater Harbor, Tampa Bay, Sarasota Bay, and north Charlotte Harbor and Estero Bay. Pelicans, herons, egrets, ibis, spoonbills, storks, oystercatchers, gulls, terns, and skimmers nest on these sites. Ann will discuss Sanctuary staff activities to protect the birds from disturbance by boaters and the management of the islands' habitats.

Numbers to call for
Bird Rescue Help
615 337 3213
352 949 1995
352 262 6665
208 582 0797 (Jan-May)

Cedar Key Library

Suwannee River Sturgeon - Ken Sulak
Thurs. March 23 5 p.m.
Cedar Key Library

New Findings in the LSNWR - Dr. Ken Sassaman
Sat March 25 10:30 a.m..
Cedar Key Library

Planting for Birds - Jacqui Sulek of Audubon Florida
Membership meeting, open to all
March 27 5 p.m.
Cedar Key Library

Story of Cedar Key's Water - John McPherson
Thurs. March 30 5 p.m.
Cedar Key Library

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