

The Avocet Newsletter

30 January 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.

Bird Rescue Workshop. Even though the bird rescue workshop on Monday 30 January is full, we can squeeze 3-5 extra people in during the Q&A from 4:30-5:00 PM if any of the members feel that would be useful for them. Also, if any of the Audubon membership would like to join the group for the pelican release directly following the workshop, come to the #4 bridge fishing pier around 5 PM on Monday.

If anyone has rescue reports to submit - please send them! I have heard of several rescues lately that have not been reported. The most recent rescue report in my records is 1/6/2017 and I know there have been at least 2-3+ since then. 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 me with the info about the rescue would suffice if the paper form is too much of a burden. I need 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 since Jan 6th.

We are filling up the calendar with events that can get you involved.

Events

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/>

Beauty and the Beak

February 4

Cedar key Library

Cedar Key winter resident Janie Veltkamp will be the featured presenter at the Saturday, February 4 talk at the Cedar Key Public Library. The talk will begin at 10:30 am.

In her new upcoming book, *Beauty and the Beak*, we learn how Veltkamp, a raptor biologist, created a prosthetic beak for a bald eagle from Alaska. Once wild and free, Beauty's world was shattered by an illegal bullet that damaged her entire upper beak leaving her helpless to feed herself. That's when Veltkamp created the "Beauty Team" of biologists, dentists, engineers and veterinarians and who designed through collaboration a 3D printed beak for the bald eagle. Her upcoming book describes the natural history of bald eagles from hatching to the time at age 4, as a sub adult Beauty was injured and right up to the 3 hours of surgery that would restore her bald eagle beak! Would it function? Learn more about this unique eagle and her north Idaho journey!



Janie Veltkamp is a raptor biologist and rehabilitator, wildlife educator, trained nurse, and master falconer. She has lifetime care of Beauty the bald eagle and led the engineering team who made Beauty's prosthetic beak. Jane is founding director of Birds of Prey Northwest, in Idaho, which educates the public about raptor conservation, including through live raptor programs, and provides medical treatment and rehabilitation to thousands of injured birds of prey. She is the eagle expert for the Coeur d'Alene Tribe's Native American Aviary. Visit birdsofpreynorthwest.org.

County Road 347 Friends

February 6...9 TO 10 AM and every first Monday

EVERY LITTLE BIT HELPS

MEET AT ADOPT- A -HIGHWAY SIGN

NEAR SW 77TH PLACE

FOR GLOVES, VEST, BAGS

Sweetwater Wetlands Park ranger guided hike

February 9th, Thursday, at 10:00 a.m.

325 SW Williston Road, Gainesville, FL 32608

Parking costs \$5; meet at the first pavilion by the bathrooms a little before 10:00 on that day. I told the ranger to expect 6-10 people, so we need to talk

this one up as much as possible.
<http://www.sweetwaterwetlands.org/>

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

February 27

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 in the Senate Minority Office.

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://www.fwc.state.fl.us/11350SW153rdCtCedarKeyFL32625)

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.

[react-text: 164.holbrooktravel.com](mailto:164.holbrooktravel.com)

Nature's Best 2016 Photography at the Smithsonian

(featuring 2016 Audubon Photography Awards winners)

Washington, D.C.; through September 2017

Take a journey through the wild within the walls of the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History by visiting the Nature's Best Photography

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Nature's Best 2016 Photography at the Smithsonian

(featuring 2016 Audubon Photography Awards winners)

Washington, D.C.; through September 2017

Take a journey through the wild within the walls of the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History by visiting the Nature's Best Photography exhibition. Head to the second floor to see the 82 winning photos, chosen from 25,000 entries. The exhibit includes five winning photographs from the 2016 Audubon Photography Awards, along with video features highlighting the photographers and the stories behind each image. Once you've taken a look at last year's winners, see if you've got the chops to be featured in the gallery next year. The 2017 Audubon Photography Awards will accept entries between January 6 and February 20.

More information: <http://naturalhistory.si.edu/exhibits/natures-best-2016>

Numbers to call for

Bird Rescue Help

615 337 3213

352 949 1995

352 262 6665

208 582 0797 (Jan-May)