

Cedar Keys Audubon



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Audubon Florida Chapter of the Year 2017

Advocating for Birds and Conservation

The Avocet Newsletter

January/February 2020

Welcome to Cedar Keys Audubon. The Chapter encompasses all of Levy County, FL. Pass this newsletter along to folks you think might be interested in learning, helping, and contributing.

Cedar Key Bird Rescue Program update

- Don't forget to SEND REPORTS for any bird rescue activity and the outcome if known (even if you were not able to catch the bird). You can call or text (804) 305-6014 Dr. Savanna Barry or [email her](#).
- Bird rescue equipment is available at the Nature Coast Biological Station in the yard shed between Island Place and NCBS. Please feel free to borrow this equipment any time and let Dr. Barry know if there are any issues.

Critical Juncture for this Chapter

When this Chapter was formed 4 years ago, a few folks stepped up to make everything happen. Now, some of the current board members will be leaving the area. Consequently, we have some wonderful opportunities for new folks to step up and help with our ambitious goals. If you have a few hours a month to devote to actively advocating for birds and conservation, please consider joining the board. Critical tasks that need your help are: keeping the web page updated; monitoring and posting to Facebook; recording and tracking membership; creating and distributing this Avocet Newsletter; Secretary (recording meeting minutes, answering correspondence, checking mail box and email, etc). Respond to this email if you are able to help.

Annual Membership Meeting and Election of Officers and Board Members

Mark your calendars to join us in the Island Hotel Court Yard for an informal fireside type event. We will update you on the chapter, what we have accomplished and where we want to go, and how we will get there with your help. If you are not a member you may [join](#) at the event. See invitation on last page of newsletter.

Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge Swallow-tailed Kite project. You can [track](#) the migratory route of "Suwannee", a swallow-tailed kite that was tagged in the Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge, as it makes it way to its nesting grounds in Brazil.

Citizen and Community Science Opportunities:

Check here for ongoing citizen science opportunities listed in previous [Newsletters](#).

We need some help. From time to time we get requests for visitors who would like a guide to show them around to our good birding spots and to ID any birds that are seen. We have a couple of people who are willing to show the places, they are not always available to do the actual tour and stay with the visitor. Even if you are a short time visitor, but know birds, we could use your help. I know from the interactions I have had on nature walks that there are a lot of you who are good at bird ID. If you are willing to lead a bird walk, let us know. [Send a message](#) with times you are available and you will be added to the list.

Living Shorelines Projects

As a part of the living shorelines projects, there are 3 weeks of volunteer events for students, faculty, and the community to get involved with. Currently, we have set aside January 28-30, February 12-14, and March 10-12 for living shoreline volunteer days in Cedar Key. Each day would be roughly 4 hours of work with volunteers



starting off by meeting at the Nature Coast Biological Station. The type of work volunteers would be involved in includes reef outline marking, oyster sill construction, marsh transplants, and more. More details and the link to the event is on NCBS' Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/846218515830874/>. Additionally, the volunteer signup page can be found here: <https://volunteersignup.org/E4BYT> . We are trying to get at least 6 people per day, with a maximum of fifteen people per day.

Brazilian Pepper Busting

It's that time of year again. Volunteers and staff from the Lower Suwannee and Cedar Keys National Wildlife Refuge, their Friends Group, and the Cedar Key Garden Club will be working each Thursday (weather permitting) at 9:00 to try to control this invasive noxious plant that is becoming more noticeable in Levy County. New folks willing to do some hard dirty work are welcome. Contact [Roger McDaniels](#) for more info and to get on the notification list of where to meet. All materials and equipment are provided. UPDATE on biological control of Brazilian Peppers **"Tiniest tool in the box: thrips join the arsenal in the fight against Brazilian Pepper"?** Presentation 25 January 10:30 in Cedar Key Library



Purple Martin Housing

With guidance from Dr. Jason Fischer, Program Manager-birds at Disney's Animal Kingdom, and a grant from Audubon Florida, the Cedar Keys Audubon's goal to establish a breeding population with two starter complex is advancing. Much appreciation to Scott Wright for taking on this project and getting the two complexes installed. One can be seen next to the hardware store on First Street and the other at Scott's house on Hodges. Plans are in the works to make this a community project by helping residents set up their own bird apartments. The photo in the center below shows a flock on utility lines in Cedar Key.



Feeders in Cemetery Point Park

A big shout out to Andrea and Dick Clough for volunteering to service the feeders in Cemetery Point for the month of January. This is an ongoing effort and all volunteers are welcome. Just let us know when you can help.

What's at Stake - 2020 Florida Legislative Session - Happening now

The annual session of the Legislature is ongoing until the end of March. There are quite a few bills in the works that have to do with conservation issues. Some are languishing in committees but others are moving through quite rapidly. MyFloridaHouse.gov is an excellent tool to see what has been introduced and which are progressing. If you see ones that will have an impact, whether positive or negative, contact your state representative or senator to express your opinion. Contact info can also be found on the website.

Events Relating to Birds and Conservation

CK Library Lecture Series

January 23, 2020 - 5 pm - Cedar Key Library - Bats 101 - Megan Wallrichs, FL FWCC

CK Library Lecture Series

January 25, 10:30 - Cedar Key Library

UPDATE on biological control of Brazilian Peppers “Tiniest tool in the box: thrips join the arsenal in the fight against Brazilian Pepper”?

CKA Membership Meet and Greet

January 27 - 5 pm - Cedar Key Library

Dr Jeffrey Gleason, GOMMAPPS Seabirds - Dr. Gleason is with US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) at Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge. He is the Gulf of Mexico Migratory Bird Coordinator for GOMMAPPS (check it out on line), an ambitious multi-agency, multi-year assessment of marine life in the Gulf of Mexico. Data is being collected by aircraft, satellite, and sea vessels with a view toward future energy development policy- including waters off Cedar Key.



CK Library Lecture Series

February 1, 10:30 - Cedar Key Library

Kayaking - Eco Tours - Dr. Paul King

CK Library Lecture Series

February 6, - 5 pm- Cedar Key Library

Cedar Key Dolphos Project - Dr. Stephanie Gadda

CK Library Lecture Series

February 15, - 10:30 - Cedar Key Library

Juvenile Seatrout Recruitment – Samara Nehemiah, UF-IFAS

CKA Annual Membership Meeting

February 16, - 4 pm - Island Hotel Courtyard

CKA Membership Meet and Greet

February 24, - 5 pm - Cedar Key Library - Joleen Dudley, Assistant Park Manager - Manatee Springs SP

Friends of Lower Suwannee and Cedar Keys NWR Annual Membership Meeting

February 29, - 10 am at the Refuge Headquarters off CR 347

CK Library Lecture Series

March 5, - 5 pm - Cedar Key Library

Preserving Wild Florida – Linda Wilinski (Cedar Key Arts Center)

4th Annual Workout on Waterfront

March 14,

This year the WoW activities, as in years past, include four separate activities/challenges (Bow WoW, Coastal heritage 5K, Atsena Otie Kayak Challenge, and the Re-Purpose-It-Regatta), plus lunch and a silent auction.

[Check out Flyer for more info.](#)

Pulitzer Prize winning Author Jack Davis

March 14, - 10:30 - Cedar Key Library - In his book “The Gulf: the making of an American Sea” Mr. Davis highlights Cedar Key with special mention of Sue Colson and Leslie Sturmer and their part in protecting the old Florida nature of Cedar Key. A review of the book is available - <https://cedarkeynews.com/index.php/arts-ents/4782-authors-readers-corner-bushnell-the-gulf>

CKA Membership Meet and Greet

March 23, - 5 pm - Cedar Key Library
Leslie Sturmer, UF/IFAS – Cedar Key Aquaculture

CK Library Lecture Series

March 28, - 10:30 - Cedar Key Library
Marine Paleontology, Dr. Michal Kowalewski, FL Museum of Natural History

CK Library Lecture Series

April 11- 10:30 - Cedar Key Library **BEES 101**. Cindy and Bill Turner and their bees.

CKA Membership Meet and Greet

April 27, - 5 pm - Cedar Key Library
Vic Doig, Wildlife Biologist at Cedar Keys and Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuges

Below is a photo of Ron Kamzelski holding one the two Shearwaters that we rescued while fishing in Panama. These birds would dive for tiny fish in large groups (second photo) catching tiny bait fish. Twice we had them get tangled in our fishing lines. Both times we were able to carefully reel them in, get them untangled, and released with no apparent harm. by **Ann Kamzelski**



**Number to call for Bird
Rescue Help
352-477-0057**

OFFICERS

President	Jay Bushnell	djbushne@bellsouth.net
Vice President	Doug Maple	captaindoug758@gmail.com
Treasurer	Linda Kimball	blkimbal@hotmail.com
Secretary	Open	

**Cedar Keys Audubon
Annual Membership Party
Sunday, February 16**

***Celebrating Recent Successes
Sharing Future Goals***

4 - 6 pm

Island Hotel Patio

Second Street, Cedar Key

Appetizers Cash Bar

Cedar Keys Audubon T-Shirts and Hats

Not already a Member?

New Membership Sign-up at the Door!

cedarkeysaudubon@gmail.com