

# Cedar Keys Audubon

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Audubon Florida Chapter of the Year 2017



Advocating for Birds and Conservation

## The Avocet Newsletter

March 2018

Welcome to Cedar Keys Audubon. The chapter encompasses all of Levy County, FL. February and March are jammed pack with wonderful things to do. 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 and/or making a tax deductible contribution.

### Cedar Key Bird Rescue Program

We have 6 new volunteers!! Over the past month, we have reached out to neighboring communities (Yankeetown and Williston) asking for assistance with transport of birds to and from Homosassa. Several people answered the request and they have agreed to meet another transporter to take the bird the rest of the way. THANK YOU and WELCOME!

Not sure why, maybe the super cold weather, but there were no rescues in January. If anyone has rescue reports or photos to submit - please send them! Even when 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 inconvenient. 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 anything you can remember about rescue activities. Photos are also essential to the record keeping.

*Numbers to call for rescue are at the end of this newsletter and are on each page of the website.*

### Our Newest Project - No More Plastic Straws

We use 500 million plastic straws everyday in the United States. If we don't act now, by 2050 there will be more plastic than fish in our oceans. An estimated 71% of seabirds and 30% of turtles have been found with plastics in their stomachs. When they ingest plastic, marine life has a 50% mortality rate. At the very least, say "NO PLASTIC STRAW, PLEASE!" Get in the habit of asking for no straw when you order a beverage. Be ready to tell your server why. We will be handing out cards at our meetings and other events that can be given to your servers in restaurants.



### Nature World Wildlife Rehabilitation Center Work Day

Some hardy souls met for a workday at this critical rehabilitation center where we take many of our rescued birds. A new outdoor holding facility is close to completion. Another workday is needed, but not yet scheduled. If you can help contact Crosby Hunt for more info: [crosby.hunt@mtsu.edu](mailto:crosby.hunt@mtsu.edu) Read more: <http://cedarkeynews.com/index.php/activities/20-conservation/3650-cedar-keys-audubon-in-homosassa>

### Florida Online Trail Guide

Florida residents and visitors can now find all of their trail information in one location, thanks to a new online trail guide that boasts more than 1,300 trails. The interactive map features every known hiking, biking, paddling, equestrian, multi-use and motorized off-road trail in Florida. It was developed by the Office of Greenways and Trails (OGT) and includes 2,561 miles of hiking trails, 448 miles of biking trails, 601 miles of equestrian trails, 859 miles of motorized off-road trails, 4,962 miles of paddling trails and 1,657 miles of paved multi-use trails. Consolidating trail information that traditionally exists in dozens of locations into a single application makes it easier for Floridians and visitors to plan their outings and vacations.

Through a search engine, users can find trails near cities, towns, counties or major geographic features, or they can pan and zoom to explore trails anywhere in the state. Land trails on the map are indicated by brown lines and paddling trails by blue.

<https://floridadep.gov/parks/ogt/content/online-trail-guide>

### Grand Re-Opening of Gilchrist Blue Springs State Park Campground

HIGH SPRINGS, Fla. The 407-acre Gilchrist Blue Springs property was purchased for \$5.2 million with Florida Forever funding in June of 2017, and is now the 175th state park. The six natural springs and one mile of frontage along the Santa Fe River, provide opportunities for recreation, including swimming, paddling, hiking, and birding. It is a great place to unwind and connect with nature.

### Work Out on Waterfront

February 24 - Cedar Key Waterfront

<https://www.facebook.com/events/124266584941049/>

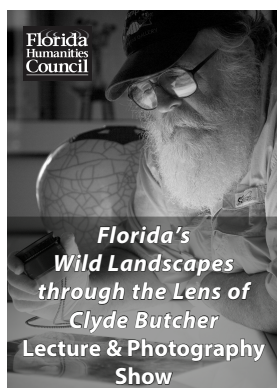
Come visit our table between 11 am and 1 pm to get your “No More Straws” cards along with other information of what we are doing for your community.

### CKA Membership Meet and Greet and Annual Business Meeting

February 26 at 5 pm - Cedar Key Library

Catch up on what we have accomplished, what is planned, and how you can help then Florida Audubon's Jacqui Sulek will present “At Home in the Florida Scrub”.

### Clyde Butcher



March 3 at 1:30 - 3:00 p.m.

Cedar Key Community Center, 809 6th Street, Cedar Key, FL  
Book signing and lecture

March 3 at 5pm

Cedar Key Arts Center, 547 2nd Street, Cedar Key, FL  
Exhibit opening reception

Florida's most iconic landscape photographer, Clyde Butcher, will share hand-selected images honed for the Nature Coast audience and present a lecture about his photography and an exhibit at the Cedar Keys Arts Center. Details here: <http://cedarkeyartscenter.org/Information%20webpage.pdf>

[Here is a video that shows a little more about Clyde.](#)

### CKA Membership Meet and Greet

March 26 at 5 pm - Cedar Key Library

General Membership Meeting open to the public, as are all our meetings.

Vic Doig, Wildlife Biologist & Fire Management Officer, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Lower Suwannee NWR



### Wading Bird Rookeries of the Cedar Keys NWR

The islands of the Cedar Keys National Wildlife Refuge have been important nesting grounds for many species of wading and shorebirds for a long time. The Refuge was established in 1929 due to its critical importance in providing nesting grounds. In this presentation, Doig will discuss the current state of nesting activities on Snake Key, give an update on Seahorse Key activity, and also give an overview of the artificial nesting platform for shorebirds and seabirds at Atsena Otie Key.

### Cedar Key Garden Club Annual Plant Sale

March 10 next to City Hall

This winter was unkind to many of our landscapes. With the spring weather arriving it is time to freshen up your yard with bird and pollinator friendly plants. The Garden Club always has an excellent selection at reasonable prices and you don't have to travel long distances. You may be able to talk them into delivering if you are in Cedar Key.

### Audubon Photography Contest

Entry Period January 8, 2018–April 9, 2018

You're crazy about birds and photography. Now combine your twin passions by entering your best bird photos in the 2018 Audubon Photography Awards. You could win a cash prize or, if you're our Youth winner, a special trip that will help you become an even better bird photographer. Winning photos will be published in a future issue of *Audubon* and in *Nature's Best Photography* magazine. They will be displayed within the 2018 Nature's Best Photography Exhibition at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History. More details are at: <http://www.audubon.org/photoawards-entry>

## **Citizen Science Opportunities:**

### Florida Horseshoe Crab Watch

Help collect data on nesting horseshoe crab. For anyone who is interested in getting involved in the FL Horseshoe Crab Watch program, see below for more information:

To learn a bit more about the program, visit: <https://ncbs.ifas.ufl.edu/extension/florida-horseshoe-crab-watch/>

To register for the March 5th training workshop in Cedar Key (11 am – 5 PM), follow this link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/florida-horseshoe-crab-watch-training-workshop-tickets-36546138484>

To view the schedule for spring 2018 and sign up for sampling days, follow this link and read the instructions at the top. Please only sign up for sampling days if you are trained or plan to attend the training. Link: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1sWdUKfbEOIDYOXVgMj6Dj8C-FN9xqK4IIHL7dXQymhU/edit#gid=0>

The training videos can be viewed at the following link as a refresher for trained volunteers or as a preview of what you will learn in the training: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pV0Nf-Mq69A&list=PL49ILpscAX53wrtdt3waiF-DdPlexhIWQK>. The videos add up to about 30 minutes of watch time.

### More

There are other ongoing citizen science opportunities listed in previous newsletters that can be found at <https://www.cedarkeysaudubon.org/citizen-science.html>.

### What's at Stake - Suwannee River Water Management District's Lukens Tract.

## **Attention Beachgoers:**

Help us collect data on nesting horseshoe crabs by reporting tagged animals



If you see a tagged crab (like the ones in the photo on the left):  
1) Snap a picture of the tag or record the tag # (number is on the bottom of the tag, shown in the photo on the right).  
2) Note the date, location, and general condition of the crab (alive or dead)  
3) Report data using the online form at ([www.fws.gov/crabtag/](http://www.fws.gov/crabtag/)) or by calling 1-888-546-8587 (1-888-LIMULUS).

#### **IMPORTANT:**

-DO NOT remove the tag. When recording the tag #, try to limit disturbance to the crab (try not to pick it up and if you must pick it up, NEVER pick it up by the tail).

Data goes into a national database maintained by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and contributes to knowledge about horseshoe crab movements and population numbers.



As you come into Cedar Key, you pass the Lukens Tract on both sides of SR 24 before you get to Bridge 4. It is owned by the Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD) and managed as a part of the Lower Suwannee and Cedar Keys National Wildlife Refuges. The public has access through the entire tract, but the section on the south side all the way to the kayak launch, requires a Special Use Authorization permit and you must stay on the 60-foot public access road while crossing the private inholdings. These tracts are great places for birding. You obtain the permit by telephoning Mr. McCook at the SRWMD at (386) 362-1001. Mr. McCook will send the permit either by mail or email. The only way to assure that this property stays accessible to the public, is to show our support by requesting a permit. The more permits requested, the more the District knows that the public wants the land to remain accessible to the public for kayaking, birding, picnicking, etc.

### **Events Relating to Birds and Conservation**

#### **County Road 347 Friends Adopt a Highway**

The first Monday of each month - 9 to 10 am

Every little bit helps. Meet at "Adopt-A-Highway" sign near SW 77th Place for gloves, vest, and bags. We never know what we will find. Be sure to wear appropriate clothes — long pants, good walking shoes or boots, hat, repellent, sunscreen, etc.

#### **Brazilian Pepper Eradication**

Tuesday mornings 9 am

Contact Roger McDaniels at 321 698 1688 or [rogermac4@yahoo.com](mailto:rogermac4@yahoo.com) to get on his list so you know where to meet each week.

#### **Cedar Key Library Lecture Series**

February 22 at 5 pm - Cedar Key Library

Kate Helgren - Green Education

#### **National Skip the Straw Day**

February 23

In conjunction with the "No More Plastic Straws" Campaign

#### **CKA Membership Meet and Greet**

February 26 at 5 pm - Cedar Key Library

Annual Business Meeting

#### **Cedar Key Library Lecture Series**

March 3 at 1:30 pm - Cedar Key Community Center

Clyde Butcher - Wild Landscapes

5 pm - Cedar Key Arts Center

#### **Coastal Master Naturalist course**

Levy County

March 7 - April 6, 2018

Registration closes at 10:00am on March 2, 2018

(Course Code: cs18-07)

Classroom Facility Information

UF/IFAS Nature Coast Biological Station - Main Lab - Conference Room

552 1st Street, Cedar Key, FL 32625

#### **Cedar Key Library Lecture Series**

March 8 at 5 pm - Cedar Key Library

Dan Kline - Mosquitoes

### Cedar Key Garden Club Annual Plant Sale

March 10 from 9 am to 12 pm next to Cedar Key City Hall

### Friends of Refuges Annual Meeting and Open House

March 10 from 10 am until 2 pm at Lower Suwannee NW Refuge Headquarters

Speaker is Dr. Ken Sassaman who will discuss his latest work "Shell Mound: Portal to Another World" and introduce the new interpretive version of Shell Mound Trail.

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Vic Doig, Wildlife Biologist & Fire Mgmt Officer, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Lower Suwannee NWR

*Wading Bird Rookeries of the Cedar Keys NWR*

### Nature Walk in Waccasassa Bay Preserve State Park

Date TBD to align with spring migration

Waccasassa Bay Preserve still offers sweeping vistas of natural landscapes uninterrupted by buildings, power lines, and bridges. The Preserve is home to numerous rare, threatened, or endangered plant and animal species and commercially important marine species. Through special arrangement with the staff at Waccasassa Bay Preserve, they will take 10 **members of CKA** on a trip to a great birding spot that is not normally accessible to the public. This will be about a half day, so bring a snack or picnic lunch, water, and be sure to wear appropriate attire for walking in swampy areas and be prepared for bugs, lots of bugs. [http://www.stateparks.com/waccasassa\\_bay\\_preserve.html](http://www.stateparks.com/waccasassa_bay_preserve.html)



### **Numbers to call for**

#### **Bird Rescue Help**

**615 337 3213**

**615 944 3714**

**352 949 1995**

**352 262 6665**

#### **OFFICERS**

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