

Cedar Keys Audubon

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Audubon Florida Chapter of the Year 2017



Advocating for Birds and Conservation

The Avocet Newsletter

March/April 2019

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. An application is attached to this email for those interested in joining and/or making a tax-deductible contribution. Come to the Annual Meeting on 25 March to vote and meet the new officers.

Cedar Key Bird Rescue Program update from Dr. Savanna Barry



I am happy to report that we have ten new volunteers joining our ranks! We had a training event on Friday, Feb 1st and we welcome new volunteers.

Reminders:

- Gas cards are available to volunteers who help transport birds to rehab. These were provided through a grant that Deborah and Crosby won for the club. Please take advantage of these as a thank you for helping out the birds!
- Don't forget to **SEND ME REPORTS** if you have any bird rescue activity (even if you were not able to catch the bird). You can call or text (804) 305-6014 or [email me](#).
- 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 me know if there are any issues.

January CKA Membership Meet and Greet

Because Dr. Jeffrey Gleason, USFWS GOMMAPPS Coordinator was involved in the Government shutdown, he was not prepared to give his presentation "Establishing the importance of the Gulf of Mexico to North American seabirds and beyond". Thank you to Roger McDaniels for stepping in on short notice to provide information on the Cedar Key Invasive Species Control. If not for him and his volunteers, Brazilian Peppers would quickly take over this area and choke out natives as has happened in most areas of Florida. It is a constant effort that was started over 20 years ago by the Cedar Key Garden Club but is now sponsored by and accomplished in collaboration with the staff of the Lower Suwannee and Cedar Keys National Wildlife Refuges. Volunteers are always needed for the weekly forays. This is a great opportunity for seasonal visitors to help keep this invasive at bay. Boots, gloves, tools, and everything needed are supplied. If you would like to help or want more information you can [email](#) Roger. It is a wonderful way to meet new people.



We will try to reschedule Dr. Gleason, so keep an eye out for a notice.

[The Great Florida Birding and Wildlife Trail](#) is a network of 510 premier wildlife viewing sites across the state. When you want to know where to go in Florida to see native birds, butterflies, and more, [head for the Trail](#). It's Your Road to Adventure!

Citizen Science Opportunities:

Horseshoe Crab Watch

March 8 10:30 am - 4:00 pm

Location: [FWC Kirkpatrick Lab in Cedar Key](#)
([Register Here](#))



[Purple Martin Conservation Association](#) <https://www.purplemartin.org/> has some citizen science opportunities for those interested in reporting where they are nesting and roosting.

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

What's at Stake - Florida Legislature

Our state legislature is already having committee meetings in preparation for the annual 60 day session that starts on 5 March. About 2500 bills have been submitted for consideration. Many have to do with our environment and natural resources. There are too many for all to make it very far in the process. I encourage you to go to [My Florida House](#) to see what bills are in work and how far they have gotten.

Write or call your State Representatives and Senators to let them know what you think is important.

Events Relating to Birds and Conservation

Tracking Birds

February 21- 5 pm - Cedar Key Library
Dr. Ken Myer



Friends of the Lower Suwannee and Cedar Keys NWR Annual Meeting

February 23 - 9 am - 2 pm - Lower Suwannee NWR Headquarters off CR 347 near Fowler's Bluff - Members free or \$10 to join.

Shari Blissett-Clark, President of the [Florida Bat Conservancy](#), will outline the everyday life of Florida's most common bats and discuss conservation strategies that anyone can use on their property to encourage bat activity.

Weather permitting, there will be guided hikes at River, Shell Mound, and Dennis Creek Trails.



CKA Membership Meet and Greet

February 25 - 5 pm - Cedar Key Library

Dr. Peter Frederick, Oyster reef restoration update. Dr. Frederick is the principal coordinator of the project. As a research professor at the UF Department of Wildlife and Conservation, Dr. Frederick has been an expert on wetland management as well as coastal and avian ecology. He has done extensive research on long-legged shorebirds, particularly white ibis, wood storks and roseate spoonbills.

Waccasassa Bay Preserve State Park and Cedar Key Scrub State Reserve

February 27 - 5:30 pm

FWC Kirkpatrick Marine Laboratory, Cedar Key

Review of the 10 year draft management plan open to all. This is a great time to push for opening the Waccasassa Bay trails to hikers and birders. You are encouraged to review the [Management Plan](#) and can contact Ferlain Hoover, the Park Manager, at 352 543 5567.



Cedar Key Garden Club Plant Sale

March 2 - 9 am

C Street next to City Hall

They will have some native, bird friendly plants.



Coffee with the Birds

March 2 - 8 am - 11 am

[Silver Springs State Park](#) 1425 NE 58 AVE Ocala FL 34470

Museum area pavilion, river trail trailhead Every 1st Saturday (October - April), take a walk on the bird side with birdwatchers of varying experience levels, from novice to expert. The short walk leaves from the river trail located in the museum area. Coffee will be provided. Please bring binoculars and sturdy walking shoes as well as anything else you need to be comfortable in the great outdoors, such as a hat, insect repellent, or other personal items. Other birdwatchers will have field guides but feel free to bring your own. Contact [Craig Littauer](#)



Ranger Chat

March 2 - 9 am - 10 am

La Chua Trail At Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park

Free with park admission. \$4 per vehicle; cash only.

Experience the wildlife and open vistas of Paynes Prairie. If you've never been to Paynes Prairie before, this is a great place to start. On La Chua Trail, you can encounter a little of everything this park has to offer. Water, wildlife, and wide open views - this trail has it all. Meet a ranger at the first pavilion on the boardwalk, near the Alachua Sink, and learn why this feature plays an important role in Florida's first state preserve. Each week on Saturday morning a ranger will be in this location between 9 and 10 AM to share what makes this park special and provide recommendations for other areas you may want to explore. Come learn about the park, ask questions, and experience the wild of Paynes Prairie with a ranger. Contact [Amber Roux](#) [Participation Requirements](#)

Family Birding with Alachua Audubon

March 2 - 9 am - 11 am

La Chua Trail 4801 Camp Ranch RD Gainesville FL 32641

Free with park admission - \$4 per vehicle (cash only) or free with a FL State Parks Annual Pass.



We welcome you the first Saturday of each month - October through April - to join us for a hike on La Chua Trail and learn about birds. Children are welcome, but must be accompanied by an adult. Meet us in the La Chua Trail parking lot; the north entrance to Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park by 9:00 a.m. Hikes are limited to 20 people. Reserve your spot for individual hikes at www.prairiefriends.org Hikes are free, but regular park admission fees apply. Park admission at La Chua Trail is \$4.00 per vehicle, cash only, or free with a Florida State Parks Annual Pass. Binoculars are available for loan during the hike, but supplies are limited and preference given first to those with reservations. No pets permitted. This program is supported by Paynes Prairie and Alachua Audubon volunteers. Contact [Amber Roux](#)

Ranger Program

March 2 - 1 pm - 2 pm

[Manatee Springs State Park](#) 11650 NW 115 St. Chiefland FL 32626

Free with park admission of \$6 per vehicle.

Join a Park Ranger at Manatee Springs State Park and learn some exciting new things! A Ranger's Choice Program could include one of the following: Make a Manatee Program, Snakes, Fire Programs, scavenger hunts, Predator and Prey, mystery boxes and much more. So, if you want to learn something new and have a good time come to Manatee Springs! Contact [Kelly Hite](#)



Gulf Coast Weather: Normal and Extremes

Thursday, March 7 - 10 am

Ken Nash

Friends of the Withlacoochee Gulf Preserve

1001 Old Rock Road, Yankeetown



Birding at the Head Springs

March 15 - 7:30 am - 10 am

Silver Springs State Park Main Entrance, 5656 E Silver Springs Blvd. Silver Springs FL 34488

Meet at the ticket booth just inside the park. Free. Bring your own binoculars or borrow some from the park. There will be a short walk through the park's gardens or on Ross Allen Island to listen for and look for some of the birds that call the park home or might be passing through. All skill levels welcome. Contact [Craig Littauer](#)



Florida Forestry

March 19 - 10 am

Ludie Bond

Friends of the Withlacoochee Gulf Preserve

1001 Old Rock Road, Yankeetown



Plant Toxicity

March 22 - 10:30 am

Marc Frank

Friends of the Withlacoochee Gulf Preserve

1001 Old Rock Road, Yankeetown

CKA Annual Membership Meeting



March 25 - 4:30 pm Cedar Key Library

Join us to hear the status of our organization and to vote for new board members. If you are interested in helping CKA in any way, now would be a great time to step forward.

We are looking for folks to fill the secretary slot, help with membership, and work with our Education Committee during summer months prepping for fall activities at the school.

If you can help, contact [Jay Bushnell](#).

This will be a short session before Meaghan Wallrichs tells us about the [Florida Shore Bird Alliance](#). Shorebirds and seabirds face many challenges in Florida. Fortunately, there are many dedicated organizations and individuals throughout the state diligently working to protect Florida's amazing diversity of shorebirds and seabirds. Come learn more about FSA, our partners, the birds, and how you can get involved.

Old Florida Celebration of the Arts

March 30 - 31 - All day - Downtown Cedar Key, FL

Visit our booth by the park to say hello and to see the art display from Cedar Key School K-5 classes.

Bird Walk on Pepper Creek Trail

Saturday, March 30 - 8:45 am - 12 pm

[Ellie Schiller Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park](#)

4150 South Suncoast Boulevard, Homosassa FL 34446



There is no charge to attend this event, however normal park admission applies if participants decide to enter park after the walk. The State Park, in cooperation with Citrus County Audubon Society, will host a monthly bird walk on Pepper Creek Trail. An experienced birder from Citrus County Audubon

will lead the walk on this trail--one of 19 birding trails in Citrus County that are part of the West Section of the Great Florida Birding and Wildlife Trail. Participants should meet at 7:45 a.m. at the entrance to the park's Visitor Center. The bird walk will begin at 8:00 a.m. Binoculars and a field guide are suggested, but not required. Pepper Creek Trail is approximately 3/4 mile in length and follows along the park's tram road, connecting the Visitor Center on U.S. 19 and the West entrance on Fishbowl Drive. Participants can either walk back down the trail or wait and take the first returning boat after the park opens.

Contact [Katherine Spratt](#)

[Alachua Audubon Cedar Key Bird Walk](#)

April 14 - 7 am

North end of Bridge 4



[Birds and Boats](#)

April 19 - 8:30 am - 12 pm

Silver Springs State Park - Main Entrance 5656 E Silver Springs Blvd. Silver Springs FL 34488

Free with paid park admission, launch fee, or rental

The Marion Audubon Society will lead birding by kayak trips.



Meet at Silver Springs State Park (Main Entrance) Kayak Launch at 9:00 a.m.. You may rent your kayak at the kayak concession table as soon as you arrive. If you have your own kayak launch fee is \$6 and you must bring life vest with a whistle. All kayakers are required to bring water, sun hat, lunch and a snack. Total time is four hours on the river. We will stop for a break at the ramp, which has bathrooms and tables, two miles downstream. [Marion County Audubon](#)

Contact [Craig Littauer](#)

[CKA Membership Meet and Greet](#)

April 22 - 5 pm - Cedar Key Library

Jamie Letendre is the Sea Grass and Marine Health Specialist in the St Martins Marsh/ Big Bend Aquatic Preserve surrounding Cedar Keys.



[Citrus County Audubon Bird Walk](#)

April 24 - 8 am - Meet at Cedar Key Scrub State Preserve

[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.

[Alachua County Audubon Field Trips](#)

[Check here for schedule](#)

Numbers to call for Bird Rescue Help

615 337 3213

615 944 3714

352 949 1995

