

Cedar Keys Audubon

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Advocating for Birds and Conservation

The Avocet Newsletter

November 2017

Welcome to Cedar Keys Audubon. The chapter encompasses all of Levy County, FL. We are now ready to hit our fall/winter season running. 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.

Membership Meet and Greet

We had a good first of the season meeting where we unfolded our new introductory slide show detailing our brief history including the collaborative efforts we have participated in with local partners. You can [See it here](#). We will be taking this show on the road around the county in the next few months letting folks know who we are and what we do in hopes of gathering support for our mission. If you missed this meeting, come to one of the ones we have scheduled in January with Williston Garden Club and Withlacoochee Gulf Preserve. Details are below.

Bird Rescue Program

Unfortunately, not all rescue attempts are successful. Rick Anthony and Crosby Hunt borrowed a boat to try to capture this pelican that has been hanging out by 83 West. It had other ideas and kept managing to escape just as they thought they were close enough. They took a good stab at it. Thanks to Tom Liebert's Kayak Cedar Keys for the use of its two-seater kayak. Since this program started, as of 24 September, there have been 101 rescues, 81 of which were this calendar year.



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.



[Waccasassa Bay Trip](#)

Chris Camargo from the State Parks graciously and expertly led a group of nine early riser to a hidden gem that is usually not accessible to the public. The tracks in the muck showed that we were not the



earliest ones there. Did you know that if you follow resurrection fern up a tree you just might find an orchid plant? He also showed us some almost microscopic things that live under bark.

[November Meet and Greet](#)

November 27 at 5 pm

Cedar Key Library, General membership meeting open to the public

Mackenzie Russell will speak on Marine Mammal Rescue

[Bird Count at Cedar Key State Museum](#)

We have been asked by Chris Camargo of the State Parks to start a routine, regular bird count on the museum property. This sounds like a fun project and Doug Maple has agreed to coordinate. There are a lot of folks who walk in that area, and we are hoping some of you will agree to help with this. The goal is to record which birds are around at what time of year. We want to do the count throughout the year, but that doesn't mean the same person has to do it each time. Even if you don't know all the birds, this is a good way to learn some new ones. Respond to this email if interested in this project in any capacity.

[Cedar Key American Oyster Catcher Study](#)

At the Nature Coast Shorebird Partnership 2017 Post-Season Meeting, UF PhD student Nick Vitale reported that reproductive efforts of American oyster catchers are high, but productivity is low. One reason is the over washing of the nests. He has video footage to show some of the occurrences. He is unsure why chicks have a good survival rate up to day 35 and a poor rate at day 65, but predation is suspected. The study will continue next season. Joe Marchionno of FWC is looking for volunteers to monitor two sites (near airport and Corrigan's Reef) that have been reconstructed for oyster catcher nesting. If you are up early and out in your boat, this could be a way to help save our oyster catchers.

[Bird Feeders in Cemetery Point Park](#)

Now that we have lost so many of the trees in the cemetery area from storms and diseases, our feeders are even more important. We can use some help keeping them filled and donations of seed is always appreciated. If you walk around there anyway, how about pitching in. Let us know how you can help by replying to this email.

[Night Time Nature Walk in Lower Suwannee NW Refuge](#)

We are working with the Friends of the Refuges and the Refuge manager to set up a special, for members of the Friends and CK Audubon only, night nature walk and marshmallow roast. Keep an eye on our [calendar](#) for time and date to see the night time creepy crawlies with naturalists specializing in plants, bugs, birds, and bats.

[What's at Stake - Reviving the Everglades](#)

Humans may be relatively recent arrivals, but it didn't take us long to throw the Everglades ecosystem wildly out of whack. The pre-settlement Everglades was, in essence, a river without banks—a shallow

sheet of water slowly flowing through what is now Everglades National Park to Florida Bay, the estuary between the mainland and the Florida Keys. [Read entire article](#)

Events relating to birds and conservation

Suwannee Community Cleanup

October 18 at 8:30 am

Suwannee Community Center, 23465 SE Hwy 349 (opposite the Salt Creek Restaurant)

Free smoked chicken lunch provided by Jerry Everett of the Waterfront Market.

Contact: Debbie Meeks 352-278-5088 to RSVP for the Fowlers Bluff boat ride

Honey Bees

October 20 at 10 am

Withlacoochee Gulf Preserve Education Center, Yankeetown

Florida native and master beekeeper Melody Taylor will be talking about honey bees, their importance and recent threats to their survival.

2017 Audubon Assembly

October 20-21 (Assembly is from noon on Friday to noon on Saturday)

World Golf Village Renaissance St. Augustine Resort - Marriott

This year's theme is Water for Florida's Future. Additional details are available at this link: <http://fl.audubon.org/about-us/audubon-assembly> If you have any questions, please call 305-371-6399.

Cedar Key Seafood Festival

October 21-22

Come by our booth and say hello.

Author Event

October 26 by Janie Veltkamp at Cedar Key School

The Cedar Key elementary (3rd-5th graders) students will learn about a new nonfiction children's book entitled Beauty and the Beak published by Persnickety Press, a sister arm of Cornell Lab Publishing Group.

This breathtaking, nonfiction picture book tells the full story of Beauty the bald eagle who was shot, rescued, and received a pioneering 3D printed prosthetic beak. The story follows Beauty as a baby eagle using her beak to emerge from her eggshell, through her hunt when she uses her powerful beak to feed herself, to the day she is shot and left helpless. This truly heart-lifting story continues through her rescue, into months of engineering her prosthetic beak and intense hours of surgery, to the moment she takes her first drink with her new beak.

The educational guide to Beauty and the Beak is available to download free at www.birdsofpreynorthwest.org

Alachua Audubon Cedar Key Bird Walk

October 28

Meet at north end of Bridge Four at 7:30 am

An expert bird guide will lead this walk that will meander through Cedar Key and its out-lying areas such as Shell Mound.

County Road 347 Friends Adopt a Highway

November 6 (and 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.

CKA Membership Meeting

27 Nov at 5 pm
Cedar Key Library

Bird Walk in Waccasassa Bay Preserve State Park

January 1

Florida State Parks First Day event in conjunction with CK Audubon
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



This is a first come, first served event. Please respond to this [email](#) if interested.

Williston Garden Club

January 10 at 10 am Williston Presbyterian Church

CKA will spread the word on what we have accomplished, our partnering efforts, the plans we have, and how we can help each other.

Withlacoochee Gulf Preserve

January 22 at 10 am Yankeetown WGP Education Center

CKA will spread the word on what we have accomplished, our partnering efforts, the plans we have, and how we can help each other.

Numbers to call for

Bird Rescue Help

615 337 3213

352 949 1995

352 262 6665

Your officers

Co-Presidents	Deborah Anderson & Crosby Hunt	deborah.anderson@mtsu.edu crosby.hunt@mtsu.edu
Vice President	Doug Maple	captaindoug758@gmail.com
Treasurer	Nancy Hanson	0412nancy@live.ca
Secretary	Libby Cagle	libbysart@netscape.net