

Cedar Keys Audubon

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Advocating for Birds and Conservation

The Avocet Newsletter

October 2017

Welcome to Cedar Keys Audubon. The chapter encompasses all of Levy County, FL which breathed a collective sigh of relief as we came through Hurricane Irma with minimal impact. 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

Join us for our first meeting of the season 25 September at 5:00 p.m. in the Cedar Key Library and see our newly developed presentation that we will be using to spread the word on what we have accomplished, our partnering efforts, the plans we have, and how you can help. We will also discuss our by-laws (attached) and vote on the changes that we have made to bring them into alignment with how our chapter works. It will be a short session and then time for some socializing. Light refreshments will be served.

Bird Rescue Program

In the midst of preparing for Irma, Doug Maple took time to rescue birds. This bittern with a broken wing was spotted by Dave Davis on SR 24 at the Methodist Church. Libby Cagle noticed him as she drove by and called Captain Doug who came after he finished rescuing a gull with a broken leg by the Jiffy Store. The bittern and gull were not happy to be in the same cage, even temporarily. Before Doug left town he rescued another gull. All three were delivered to veterinarian Dr. Dawn Miller in Gainesville.



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.

[Audubon Florida Assembly](#)

Join us for an inspiring keynote speaker about Florida's liquid wealth, the Floridan Aquifer by Jennifer Adler. She is a conservation photographer and National Geographic Explorer with a focus on freshwater conservation. Jenny uses her skills at underwater photography and cave diving to connect audiences to the aquifer beneath their feet. A PhD student at the University of Florida, she has created an environmental education program called Walking on Water that immerses elementary school students in Florida's springs, cameras in hand. She is a TEDx speaker and has exhibited her photography throughout Florida and at the Royal Geographical Society in London. Renaissance St. Augustine Resort - Marriott, 500 South Legacy Trail, St. Augustine, FL 32092, 904-940-8000 October 20-21, 2017, noon Friday to noon Saturday [More info](#)



[Suwannee Community Cleanup -](#)

Boat, walk or ride your golf cart to help de-litter the roads and waterways around the village of Suwannee. Lower Suwannee NW Refuge staff will transport volunteers down the river from Fowlers Bluff. There is room for 16 onboard.

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

Contact: Debbie Meeks 352-278-5088

RSVP for the Fowlers Bluff boat ride

[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.

[314 bird species are at risk of significant declines due to drastic shifts in their breeding or winter distributions](#)

Sea level rise is already evident along our eroding coastlines, but we cannot hold back the ocean indefinitely with hard structures like seawalls. One alternative is to preserve and protect undeveloped lands adjacent to coastal beaches and salt marsh habitat so that as sea level rises, habitat can reestablish naturally farther inland and the coastal birds that depend on these habitats for survival will have a place to live in our future. [Read what you can do to help.](#) After Hurricane Irma blew through, roseate spoonbills were seen in Cape May, NJ which is way north of their usual distribution.

Please contact your elected officials.

Events relating to birds and conservation

[County Road 347 Friends Adopt a Highway](#)

October 2, 2017 (and the first Monday of each month) - 9 to 10 a.m.

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

September 25, 2017 5:00 p.m.

Cedar Key Library

Come to our first meeting of the season to see our newly developed presentation that we will be using to spread the word on what we have accomplished and all the plans we have. It will be quick and then time for some socializing.

Bird walk in Waccasassa Bay Preserve State Park

October 14, 2017 6:30 a.m.

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. We will meet in the Cedar Key Scrub parking lot. 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 serve event. ~~If you are interested, get on our list by emailing us.~~ All slots taken.

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

RSVP for the Fowlers Bluff boat ride

2017 Audubon Assembly

October 20-21, 2017 (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, 2017

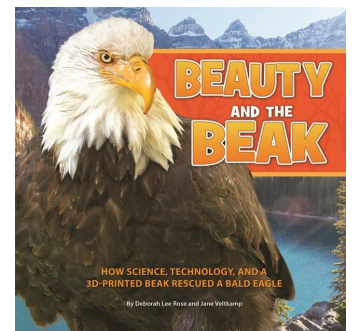
Come by our booth and say hello.

Author Event

October 26, 2017 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.



Beauty was featured on: Nat Geo WILD's "Unlikely Animal Friends"; the National Wildlife Federation's *Ranger Rick*; as a Green STEM Resource on the NWF Eco Schools website; and on the National Academy of Engineering's EngineerGirl. The Junior Library Guild also selected Beauty and the Beak to their reading list in April 2017.

About the authors: Deborah Lee Rose is an internationally published and award-winning author of 15 children's books. Janie Veltkamp is the raptor biologist who led the team that developed Beauty the Bald Eagle's prosthetic beak. She is the founding director of Birds of Prey North West

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, 2017

Meet at north end of Bridge Four at 7:30 a.m.

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

Bird walk in Waccasassa Bay Preserve State Park

January 1, 2018 6:30 a.m

Florida State Parks First Day event in conjunction with CK Audubon

Williston Garden Club

January 10, 2018

10:00 a.m. 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.



Numbers to call for

Bird Rescue Help

615 337 3213

352 949 1995

352 262 6665

Your officers

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