

Cedar Keys Audubon

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Audubon Florida Chapter of the Year 2017



Advocating for Birds and Conservation

The Avocet Newsletter Spring 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.

For Dr. Barry's overview and update on the Rescue Program [click here](#).



Johnnie Arellano and Ron Kamzelski clean and repair 9 cages for future bird rescues.



[Read](#) how It took a Fishing Village to successfully rescue two pelicans tied together with a fishing line.



This was a pair of screech owls rehabbed at Nature World Wildlife Center in Homosassa and ready for release. They were a bit reluctant to leave the crate but finally flew off to their new home at the Cedar Keys State Museum Park.



Annual Membership Meeting and Election of Officers and Board Members

Our Annual Membership meeting was held for the first time at the Island Hotel in Cedar Key. This was an exciting event and marked the four year anniversary milestone for the Chapter. We hope to make this a yearly event. The weather was great, the food wonderful, and the conversation lively. Welcome to our newest Board members, Bill Seyfarth, who as agreed to be a vice president and president elect; Tom White, who will be coordinating and leading nature walks; and Scott Wright, who is the head Purple Martin foster parent. It was great to get some new faces with fresh ideas and energy to keep moving forward.

A chart of the officers is at the end of this newsletter. One thing you will notice is that we still need a secretary whose duties are recording meeting minutes, answering correspondence, checking post office box and email, etc. Also, because of the relocation of a couple of board members we have opportunities for folks to contribute a few hours a month helping maintain the webpage, monitoring and posting to Facebook, recording and tracking membership, and creating and distributing this Avocet Newsletter. Respond by email to or to any of the board members if you can help to keep your chapter moving forward.



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 and back. He is on his way home.

Citizen and Community Science Opportunities:

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

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 work 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 [Ed DeHaan](#) for more info and to get on the notification list of where to meet. All materials and equipment are provided.

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. If you would like to be foster parents contact [Scott](#).



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.

M-CORES aka The Road to Nowhere

[Read](#) about how this project could affect our birds, wildlife, water quality, and way of life.

Levy County Commission chair Matt Brooks requests feedback on M-CORES.

*We are starting to form our guiding principles as a task force. Some of the public feedback at the meetings I am hearing are that, we are being led to a YES to get the road built, but during our meetings there is an abundance of caution and definitely an awareness to protect our fragile landscape and way of life. I want to hear more especially from Levy County (if you're receiving this email and not from Levy County your feedback is still welcome) on the issue and I would like your opinions as to what you see in our guiding principles so far.**



1. Are we strong but flexible in the principles we are putting forward?
2. Is there wording that you'd like to see changed?
3. Are we missing anything as a task force you'd like to see added?
4. If you are for the NO BUILD option I would like to hear from you as well.
5. Does Levy County BOCC need to take a position for or against this project?

Send your comments to district5@levycounty.org

Events Relating to Birds and Conservation

CK Library Lecture Series

March 5, - 5 pm - Cedar Key Library
Preserving Wild Florida – Linda Wilinski (Cedar Key Arts Center)

CK Library Lecture Series

March 12, - 5 pm - Cedar Key Library
Dr. Mark Clark and Dr. Savanna Barry - The Past and Future of Daughtry Bayou's Shoreline

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 Sturmmmer 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 – **The Story and Significance of Shellfish Aquaculture in Cedar Key** Ms Sturmer of the UF/IFAS Shellfish Aquaculture Extension, will share an overview of the shellfish industry including its origins, current status, and introduction to farming components. The environmental benefits that clam farming provides and importance of water quality on its sustainability will be discussed.

An Update on the Snake Key Rookery of Cedar Keys NWR - Since the 2015 nesting colony collapse on Seahorse Key, Snake Key has become the new choice for some nesting shorebirds and seabirds. Vic's presentation will discuss the current state of nesting activities on Snake Key and provide an update on Seahorse Key activity. In addition, Vic will give an overview of artificial nesting platforms for shore and sea birds.

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 is Fire Management Officer and Wildlife Biologist for the Lower Suwannee NWR and was recently recognized as the 2019 Employee of the Year for all National Wildlife Refuges.



On my morning walk a week or so ago, I noticed that several kinds of birds were gathering near a pool of water at low tide by the canal bridge. The sun was just coming up and lighting the birds. I fast-walked home to get my camera. Boy was I glad that I did! By the time I got back to the bridge, more than a dozen birds had arrived at the spot. There were great egrets, snowy egrets, ibis, a little blue heron and several tri-colored herons. As I photographed, the birds took turns flying from one side of the canal to the other, dipping in to catch a fish on the way. This happened over and over again. The really wonderful part about it for me was that I was

photographing them from above. This gave me the opportunity to get wonderful images of their wings they you don't often see. Another fabulous moment in Cedar Key. 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
VP/President Elect	Bill Seyfarth	weldtestserv@bellsouth.net
Treasurer	Linda Kimball	blkimbal@hotmail.com
Secretary	Open	