



Santa Fe Audubon Society

Melrose, FL

**APRIL 2026  
NEWSLETTER**



santafeaudubon

<http://www.santafeaudubon.org>



Santa Fe Audubon Society - Florida

## **SPEAKER SERIES PROGRAM HORSESHOE CRABS**

**Tuesday, APRIL 14**

**speaker DR. JANE BROCKMANN**

**6:45 PM** at Trinity Episcopal Parish Hall  
204 SR 26 downtown Melrose

You do not need to be a Santa Fe Audubon Society chapter member to attend our Speaker Series programs. All are welcome!



The horseshoe crab eggs are critical for the Red Knots to feed on during their 1,000 mile migration.

***The safety of our membership is of utmost importance. We encourage everyone to, please, wear a mask.***

Our in-person Speaker Series may be postponed or canceled on short notice due to health related concerns.

## **FIELD TRIP Saturday APRIL 18**

**Marjorie A. Hoy Memorial Park  
at  
ORANGE LAKE OVERLOOK  
(Micanopy)**

Acquired by the Alachua Conservation Trust in 2019, the property hosts a marked loop trail of 1.2 miles, with a 0.3 mile shortcut trail near the middle.

Astriking beautiful landform, Orange Lake Overlook provides distant vistas that are rarely encountered in Florida. Inhabited by the Timucua centuries ago, the hillside eventually became a large farm with citrus groves and cattle.

Iconic of old roadside Florida attractions, a building at the top of the hill once served fresh orange juice to folks traveling through the area.

Approx. 2 - 3 hours

***DIFFICULTY LEVEL 2 - May involve uneven terrain***

**TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT EMAIL  
CELINA ROHMAN [virgil1946@att.net](mailto:virgil1946@att.net)**

Meet at Orange Lake Overlook at **8:30 AM**  
**19865 US-441, Micanopy (just south of McIntosh)**

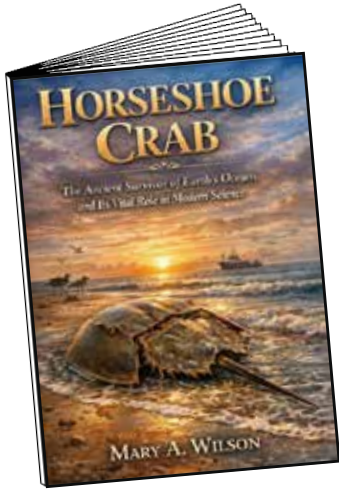
**NO RESTROOMS AT THIS LOCATION**

Reservations for each trip will be filled on a first-come first-served basis with waiting lists in case of participant cancellation. Please be sure to include the field trip name and date along with your name, phone number(s) and e-mail address, in case we need to notify you of any changes.

RECOMMENDED READING  
from Jacqueline Williamson

## Horseshoe Crab

by Mary A. Wilson



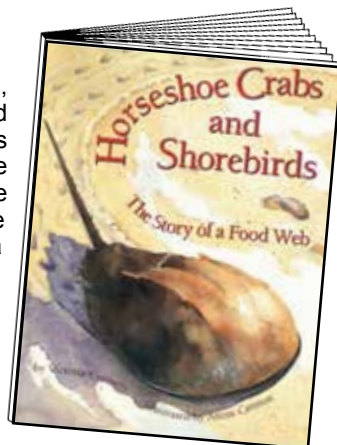
Inside this book, readers will discover:

- The evolutionary history that allowed horseshoe crabs to survive mass extinctions.
- Anatomy and behavior explained in simple, engaging terms.
- The life cycle, habitat, and feeding habits of horseshoe crabs.
- Why horseshoe crab blood is critical to modern medicine and vaccine safety.
- The species' role in marine food chains and coastal ecosystems.
- Conservation challenges and what is being done to protect them.
- Whether you are a student, wildlife enthusiast, educator, or simply curious about ocean life, this book offers valuable insights into a creature that connects Earth's distant past with today's scientific advancements.

## Horseshoe Crabs and Shorebirds

by Victoria Crenson

With a reading age from 6-9 years, and illuminated with warm, detailed watercolors, *Horseshoe Crabs and Shorebirds* demonstrates the delicate relationship between these animals and is an excellent resource for ecology lessons, as well as a dramatic storybook for sharing.



## Kestrel Corner

by Bill Chitty

Santa Fe Audubon conducted the season's first monitoring on all 24 Kestrel nest boxes on March 26. Results were a little disappointing but definitely inconclusive as far as how successful this year is going to be.

The big surprise of the day was the number of boxes being used by Great Crested Flycatchers. These tyrant Flycatchers are not usually in evidence until a little later in Spring. We have often not had any until late April but this year we found 7 boxes being used by Great Crested already.

Three boxes had Kestrel eggs, one box had Eastern Bluebird eggs and one box had three baby gray squirrels. There were a number of boxes that had obviously been visited by one bird or another, several of which had evidence of Kestrels, so we have high hopes for the next visit to reveal more Southeastern American Kestrels.



## GOOD NEWS

### CHARLIE PEDERSEN HONORED MARCH 10, 2026



Bill Chitty

Charlie Pedersen

At our March 10 program, Charlie Pedersen was presented *The Joyce King Santa Fe Audubon 2026 Conservationist of The Year* award.

Bill Chitty spoke about Charlie's many years of service to the field of conservation. In addition to his work with the endemic Etoniah Rosemary plant, Bill also touched on Charlie's conservation work with the endemic Florida Scrub-Jay, the Red-cockaded Woodpecker and many other *listed species*.

Photos courtesy of Celina Rohman  
from the March 21, 2026  
Satsuma Springs Field Trip

Satsuma Springs is private land  
by reservation only



# SPEAKER SERIES PROGRAM 2026

May 12. . . .**FROGS & AMPHIBIANS**  
speaker Dr. Jon Johnson



## FIELD TRIP 2026

**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED  
FOR ALL FIELD TRIPS**

*So we may contact you in case of last minute change or cancelation. Please be sure to include your name, phone number, email and the number of participants. Please see contact info on page 1, to make your reservation.*

**FRIDAY, May 22 - Anastasia Island for  
Beach Bird Nesting  
St. Augustine**

- **BRING:** Water, binoculars, hat, sunscreen, rain gear and face covering.
- **WEAR STURDY WALKING SHOES.**
- **STAY HYDRATED**
- **Be Safe and have FUN!**

SFAS has sanitized binoculars to loan. We all must remember to maintain safe personal distancing. We suggest you bring your face mask just in case it is needed. It is easy to forget during the excitement of bird watching.