



<http://www.santafeaudubon.org>

 Santa Fe Audubon Society - Florida

SPEAKER SERIES PROGRAM

IMPORTANCE OF SALT MARSH AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE

Tuesday, FEBRUARY 11
speaker Heather Nagy

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!



Please join us and learn how salt marshes play a crucial role in climate resiliency by serving as natural buffers against storm surges and coastal erosion, mitigating the impacts of extreme weather events. Also, the presentation will explain how NFLT (North Florida Land Trust) has worked to specifically target regionally significant properties with salt marsh environments in order to implement the goals of stakeholders in the region to protect those environments and realize their resiliency potential.

To learn more about North Florida Land Trust go to their web site <https://www.nflt.org>

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 TRIPS

Saturday, FEBRUARY 22
MIKE ROESS

GOLD HEAD BRANCH STATE PARK

Join us as we explore examples of prescribed fire seen at the December 10th "Prescribed Fire" program, along with some bird watching. Approx. 2 - 3 hours

DIFFICULTY LEVEL 2: May involve uneven terrain; 1 to 2 miles.

TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT CONTACT
Anne Pierce santafeaudubonfl@aol.com

Entry Fee: \$5 per vehicle (two to eight people)
\$4 single-occupant vehicle and motorcycles

Meet at Gold Head's picnic/parking area
(1.7 miles from the entrance) **at 8:30 AM**

Entrance address is 6239 State Road 21, Keystone Heights
ask for a park map to locate the picnic/parking area

Saturday, MARCH 8 **GTM NERR - RESEARCH RESERVE**

Teeming with life, the Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve (GTM NERR Research Reserve) is a dynamic, ever changing place with many interconnected habitats from the ocean to the forests, which provides for a great diversity of plants and animals. Approx. 2 - 3 hours

DIFFICULTY LEVEL 2

May involve uneven terrain; yellow trail is 2.2 miles round trip

PARKING FEE: \$3.00 per vehicle up to 8 people

TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT CONTACT
Laura Berkelman iberkelman@windstream.net

To caravan from Melrose meet on the west side of Heritage Park at **7:15 AM OR**

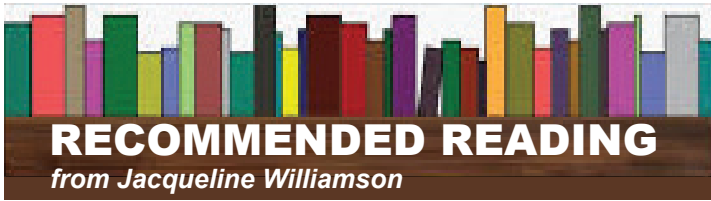
GTM Reserve - 505 Guana River Rd, Ponte Vedra Bch at **9:00 AM** at the trailhead parking lot which is straight back as far as you can drive once you turn off A1A (over a fourth of a mile beyond the visitor center turnoff). Restrooms are near the entrance and the parking lot, where we will meet.

<https://gtmnerr.org>

We ask that all observe personal distancing and suggest bringing a mask for everyone's protection, in case it is needed.

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.

Field Trip guidelines are on page 5

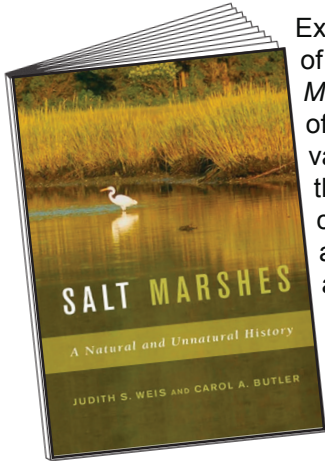


RECOMMENDED READING
from Jacqueline Williamson

SALT MARSHES

A Natural and Unnatural History

by Judith S. Weis and Carol A. Bulter



Exploring the fascinating biodiversity of these boggy wetlands, *Salt Marshes* offers readers a wealth of essential information about a variety of plants, fish, and animals, the importance of these habitats, consequences of human neglect and thoughtless development, and insight into how these wetlands recover.

GOOD NEWS
by Jacqueline Williamson

The Great Backyard
Bird Count



FEBRUARY 14 to 17

Launched in 1998 by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, The Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) was the first online citizen science project (sometimes referred to as “community science”) to collect data on wild birds and display results in near real time. Birds Canada joined the project in 2009 to better support participation in Canada. In 2013, the GBBC became a global project when it started using the app eBird (world’s largest biology related citizen science project) for data entry.

For complete details and rules for participation, go to the website: <https://www.birdcount.org>



WANTED

NATURE PHOTOS
for March 11, 2025
Photography Show

Please select 10 of your best nature photos and a photo of yourself

BEFORE MARCH 1, 2024
give or send to Laura Berkelman

“Flash Drive” preferred & will be returned or email lberkelman@windstream.net

SANTA FE AUDUBON SOCIETY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

If anyone has a suggestion for a new board member please email our nominating committee (Bill Chitty, Joy Segall or Sandy McGee) at santafeaudubonfl@aol.com with your suggestion along with their contact information.

Current board directors up for re-election, by the SFAS membership, at our March 11 Program, for a new two year term are:

- Laura Berkelman
- Anne Pierce
- Joy Segal
- Bettina Moser

Proposed new board director:
Kai Sucsy

Current officers up for election & re-election, by the SFAS Board of Directors, for a new one year term to be announced in the April 2025 issue of the Kite.

RALLY FOR LAND CONSERVATION IN NORTHCENTRAL FLORIDA

Saturday, March 1, 2025, 2:00PM to 6:00PM

First Magnitude Brewing Company 1220 SE Veitch St, Gainesville, FL 32601

HOSTED BY PUTNAM LAND CONSERVANCY, INC.



This is a public event focused on the need for land conservation in north Florida. Local conservation and environmental organizations will be present to showcase their efforts in the region. Learn about conservation in the Florida Wildlife Corridor that helps support valuable ecosystems to maintain quality of life for Floridians. The event will feature a keynote speaker, showing of the recent documentary film O2O: Path to Connection, and live music by Gumbo Limbo Cajun Band. First Magnitude Brewing will be serving beer, wine and nonalcoholic drinks, and food trucks will be on site.

There is no admission charge, but a \$10 donation is suggested, and donors will receive wristbands for discounted drinks.

LOCAL CONSERVATION ORGANIZATIONS ATTENDING:

Alachua Conservation Trust • North Florida Land Trust • Alachua County Forever/Wild Spaces Public Places
Santa Fe Audubon Society • Alachua Audubon Society • Florida Defenders of the Environment
UF Center for Landscape Conservation Planning Florida Wildlife Federation
Florida Native Plant Society-Paynes Prairie Chapter • Florida Wildlife Corridor Foundation • Defenders of Wildlife

EVENT SCHEDULE

2:00 Event starts
2:30-3:15 Band first set
3:15-3:45 Welcome by
PLC Guest speaker
3:45-4:30 Band second set
4:30-5:00 Film showing
5:00-5:45 Band third set
5:45-6:00 Wrap-up



Gumbo Limbo Cajun Band (left to right)
Bob Stone, steel guitar
Mike Stapleton, accordion/fiddle
Dan Peterson, bass guitar
David Massey, fiddle/lead vocals
Susan Marynowski, drums
Marietta Massey, percussion
Bill Paine, acoustic guitar

For more information contact alan.w.hodges@gmail.com or plc@putnamlandconservancy.org.



North Florida OUTDOOR EXPO

HUNT • FISH • KAYAK • CAMP • HIKE • CONSERVE

Feb. 22, 2025
10am-3pm

Cuscowilla
210 SE 134 Ave
Micanopy, FL 32667

ALL DAY
family **FUN**

GET OUTDOORS!

- All-day activities and education
- Guided, interactive nature tours
- Interact with outdoor vendors and specialists

Raffle for a lifetime hunting/fishing license!



REGISTER ONLINE:
<https://2025NFOE.eventbrite.com>

\$5

UF | IFAS Extension
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



BIRD OF THE MONTH

SNOWY EGRET (*Egretta thula*) band code "SNEG"

Among the most elegant of the herons, the slender Snowy Egret sets off immaculate white plumage with black legs and brilliant yellow feet. Those feet seem to play a role in stirring up or herding small aquatic animals as the egret forages. Breeding Snowy Egrets grow filmy, curving plumes that once fetched astronomical prices in the fashion industry, endangering the species. Early conservationists rallied to protect egrets by the early twentieth century, and this species is once again a common sight in shallow coastal wetlands.



COOL FACTS:

Adult Snowy Egrets have greenish-yellow feet for most of the year, but at the height of the breeding season their feet take on a much richer, orange-yellow hue. The bare skin on their face also changes color, from yellow to reddish.

The oldest Snowy Egret on record was at least 17 years, 7 months old. It was banded in Colorado in 1970 and found in Mexico in 1988.

For more information about Snowy Egrets go to:

https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Snowy_Egret/overview

Fun Fact: A group of egrets has many collective nouns including a "congregation", "heronry", "RSVP", "skewer" and "wedge" of egrets.

ABOUT FIELD TRIPS **RESERVATIONS REQUIRED** **FOR ALL FIELD TRIPS**

When you make your reservation, please be sure to include your name, phone number and email & the number of participants.



- **BRING:** Water, binoculars, hat, sunscreen, rain gear and face covering.
- **WEAR STURDY WALKING SHOES.**
- **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.

Stay hydrated, be safe and have FUN!



BIRDING ETHICS **(including photography)**

Practical guidelines that aim to mitigate the stress birds and their habitats face when humans intrude.

- Leave pets home
- Bring binoculars
- Mute cell phones
- Gently close vehicle doors
- Talk softly/whisper
- Keep bird call playback and pishing to a minimum.
- Walk quietly in woods (pick up feet)
- Avoid using a flash when taking photographs
- Keep your distance
- DO NOT flush or disturb birds (especially during spring nesting season)
- Stay on established trails
- Be alert for bird sounds/movements
- Coughing/sneezing? Stay away from group or, if possible, in vehicle
- Respect other birders
- Wear earth tone color clothing, when possible

FIELD TRIPS 2025

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED FOR ALL FIELD TRIPS

Saturday, February 22

Mike Roess Gold Head Branch State Park

Keystone Heights, FL

(Details on Page 1)

Saturday, March 8

GTM NERR (Salt Marshes) Ponte Vedra, FL

(Details on Page 1)

Friday, April 18

Sweetwater Wetlands Park Gainesville, FL

For Bobolinks and more

*Field trips are subject to date change
or cancellation due to weather, etc.*

SPEAKER PROGRAMS 2025

March 11

CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR AWARD
presented to Dr Ken Meyer,

**ANNUAL REPORT, ELECTION OF OFFICERS
and PHOTO SHOW**

April 8

Putnam Land Conservancy's Film

"O2O PATH TO CONNECTION

Protecting The Florida Wildlife Corridor"

May 13

**HOW TO BECOME A RECIPIENT PROPERTY
AND WHY ARE GOPHER TORTOISES SO
IMPORTANT AND FUN TO HAVE AROUND**

speaker Aaryn Tarver

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chapter member to attend our Speaker Series
programs. All are welcome!*

*Program topics and speakers are subject to change
at the last minute for various reasons.*