



santafeaudubon

<http://www.santafeaudubon.org>



Santa Fe Audubon Society - Florida

**Santa Fe Audubon Society**

Melrose, FL



## **SPEAKER SERIES PROGRAM "BATS"**

**Tuesday, OCTOBER 14  
(WEATHER PERMITTING)  
speaker Donna Bear**

**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!

Join us for Donna Bear's program about Florida's bat species and the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens work with acoustic bat monitoring.



Donna Bear is the Curator of Species Management at the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens. She has worked at the zoo in various capacities since 1993, previously the Curator of Birds (and Bats). She has been a member of the Florida Bat Working Group since 2009. Though the main focus of her position is record keeping and permits for the zoo, she is responsible for several local conservation involvements with FWC. She participates with the FWC long-term bat monitoring project as well as the Timucuan Shorebird Group. The local bird rookeries on zoo grounds are monitored by her and her staff. She works closely with USFWS for wood stork monitoring in Duval county. In 2012, she assisted the FLBWG president in putting on the 2012 Bat Blitz here in Florida.

Donna enjoys most things involving local conservation efforts and attempts to volunteer with bat projects as much as possible as well as assisting at the Jekyll Island Bird Banding Station as a volunteer every year. Donna enjoys encouraging her coworkers to participate in these events as well. She also enjoys kayaking and reading.

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

The safety and well-being of our membership and board members is our top priority; therefore, our in-person Speaker Series may be postponed or canceled on short notice due to health related concerns. Cancellation notifications will be sent out via email, posted on our website and Facebook page.

## **FIELD TRIP SMITH LAKE PRESERVE Saturday, OCTOBER 11 (WEATHER PERMITTING)**

**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED  
15 person maximum**

**to reserve your spot contact  
Mark Manning [mmanning@nflt.org](mailto:mmanning@nflt.org)**

Join us alongside the North Florida Land Trust for a tour of Smith Lake Preserve, near Gold Head Branch State Park, Keystone Heights, FL

This conservation area supports 4 different critical fire-dependent habitats within the O2O wildlife corridor, which bolsters protected areas for wildlife amongst the neighboring lands of Mike Roess Gold Head Branch State Park, the much larger Camp Blanding, as well as Milam preserve to the north east which is also protected thanks to the land trust. Learn about ongoing stewardship, how these lands are acquired and protected for the long run and much more.

The tour will begin at the Smith Lake shop and will take around 2-3 hours including an open-air tram tour.

Difficulty level: 1, Open-air tour with very little walking on rough or uneven terrain.

### **RESTROOMS ARE AVAILABLE AT THIS LOCATION**

Snacks and water refill will be available.  
**PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN WATER CONTAINERS.**

Preferred timing would be 9:00am -11:30am

SFAS contact (Mark Manning) will provide meet up time and address upon making your reservation.

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

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

**FREE ADMISSION!  
FAMILY FRIENDLY!**



*presents the...*

## **O2O Wildlife Observation Camera Project**

**4 & 5:30 PM** presentation by **UF** CENTER FOR LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION PLANNING

**Dan Smith, Assistant Research Scholar &  
Stephanie Medo, Graduate Research Assistant**

***Saturday, October 11th 3-6:30 PM***

**Azalea City Brewing Co. - 120 S 7th Street, Palatka**

***come learn about local conservation efforts within the  
Ocala-to-Osceola Wildlife Corridor & wildlife cameras***

*live music by*

**3-6 PM Dim Lights**

**7-10 PM The House Cats**

**5-8 PM Food Trucks**

**Trail Cam Photo Booth  
& Animal Masks**

*joined by*

**FLORIDA WILDLIFE FEDERATION  
NORTH FLORIDA LAND TRUST  
CONSERVATION FLORIDA  
DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE  
SANTA FE AUDUBON SOCIETY  
FRIENDS OF DUNNS CREEK STATE PARK**



**82°F**

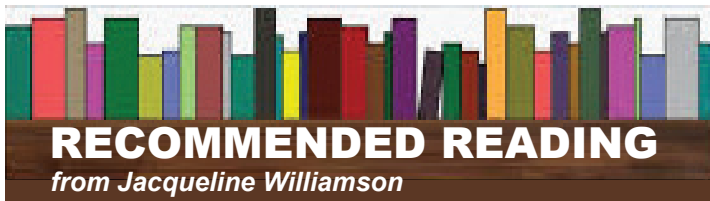


**10 / 11 / 2025**

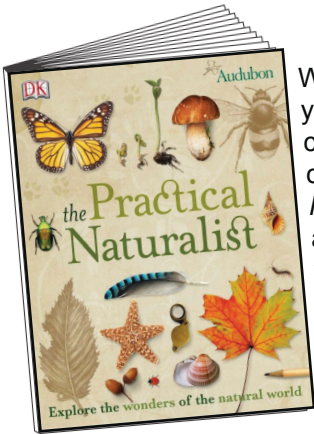
**03 : 00 PM**

**PLC CAM 2**





## THE PRACTICAL NATURALIST



Whether the natural world is at your doorstep, in the heart of a concrete jungle, by the sea, or in a cabin in the woods, *The Practical Naturalist* gets readers outdoors and shows how to experience the wonders of the world, and shows what is living in each habitat.

## BIRD OF THE MONTH

### BARRED OWL (*Strix varia*)

band code "BADO"

The Barred Owl's hooting call, "Who cooks for you? Who cooks for you-all?" is a classic sound of old forests and treed swamps. But this attractive owl, with soulful brown eyes and brown-and-white-striped plumage, can also pass completely unnoticed as it flies noiselessly through the dense canopy or snoozes on a tree limb. Originally a bird of the east, during the twentieth century it spread through the Pacific Northwest & southward into California.



### COOL FACTS:

Barred Owls don't migrate, and they don't even move around very much. Of 158 birds that were banded and then found later, none had moved farther than 6 miles away.

For more information about Barred Owls visit:

[https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Barred\\_Owl/](https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Barred_Owl/)

**Fun Fact:** Barred Owls have many collectively nouns including "bazaar", "glaring", "parliament", "stooping" and "wisdom" of owls.

# GOOD NEWS

from Kai Sucsy

## GOVERNOR & CABINET APPROVE FUNDING FOR 20,000 ACRES OF CONSERVATION LANDS!



Last Tuesday, on September 30th, the Governor and Cabinet approved the funding for the acquisition of over 20,000 acres within the State of Florida.

This approval allows the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to pursue six projects around the State. Two of these projects are located in North Central Florida, with 3,094 acres being located in Putnam County and 546 acres in Duval County.

These projects ensure the protection of wildlife habitat, water quality, and sustainable resources. The majority of these projects are located within the Florida Wildlife Corridor, which is an interconnected roadway of both private and publicly owned natural areas spanning the state. While the Florida Wildlife Corridor is not fully protected, these recently approved projects will strengthen connectivity within this corridor and close gaps between existing conserved lands.

These recent approvals are not only for purchasing properties outright, which is typically referred to as "fee sales", but also for Conservation Easements. Conservation Easements allow the landowner to retain ownership and control of a property while selling the development rights, conserving the property in perpetuity.

Link to Article:

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/FLDEP/bulletins/3f545c3>

Link to agenda packet

<https://floridadep.gov/cab/cab/content/agendas>



DISCOVER  
**200**  
1824-2024

**ALACHUA  
COUNTY**  
BICENTENNIAL



**UF** IFAS Extension  
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

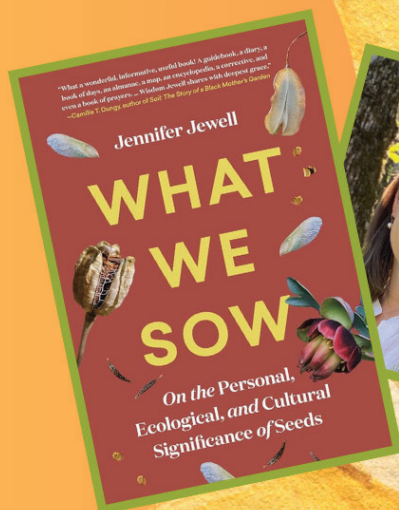


# Fall Horticultural Expo & Plant Market!

## October 18, 2025

Alachua County Agriculture  
& Equestrian Center  
23100 W Newberry Road

- 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Free Entry
- Over 75 Vendors
- Wildflower Seeds
- Bugs, Birds & More
- KIDS ZONE
- Demonstrations
- Food Trucks



## Jennifer Jewell

Keynote Speaker  
“Cultivating Place” - Host  
Nationally Syndicated Public  
Radio Program & Author

WHERE THE  
**WILD**  
THINGS  
GROW  
2025

Create Your

# BEST FALL GARDEN!



An Equal Opportunity Institution

# ABOUT FIELD TRIPS

## RESERVATIONS REQUIRED FOR ALL FIELD TRIPS

*Please see contact info on page 1  
to make your reservation.*

*When you make your reservation, please be sure to include your name, phone number and email and 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!***

### **FIELD TRIP DIFFICULTY CHART**

- 0** - Impaired mobility has been considered for this trip. The SFAS Contact has details.
- 1** - Trip within easy access to the vehicle and/or level terrain; 1 mile or less.
- 2** - May involve uneven terrain; 1-2 miles.
- 3** - May involve elevation change, uneven terrain, and/or be greater than 2 miles.



## 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 HOME or away from group, or if possible, in vehicle
- Respect other birders
- Wear earth tone color clothing, when possible



# **SPEAKER SERIES PROGRAMS 2025 - 2026**

November 11 .... **SANDHILL CRANES** - speaker Tim Dellinger

December 9 ..... **THE HISTORY OF HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS  
WITH WATERFOWL** - speaker Dr. Paul Gray

January 13 ..... **BLACK BEARS** - speaker Allan Hallman

February 10 ..... **BUTTERFLIES & POLLINATORS** - speaker Dr. Jaret Daniels

March 10 ..... **SFAS Conservationist of the Year, Election of Officers & Photo Show**

April 14 ..... **HORSESHOE CRABS** - speaker Dr. Jane Brockmann

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

*You do not need to be a Santa Fe Audubon Society 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.*

## **FIELD TRIPS 2025 - 2026**

***Reservations will be required. Field trips are subject to date change or cancellation due to weather, etc.***

Saturday, November 15 ..... GTMNERR (Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine  
Research Reserve) - Ponte Vedra Beach

Saturday, January 17 ..... Boat Trips on Santa Fe Lake - Melrose

Saturday, February 21 ..... Masters Tract Stormwater Treatment Facility - Hastings

Saturday, March 21 ..... Satsuma Springs Easement Property - Satsuma

Saturday, April 18 ..... Orange Lake Overlook - Micanopy

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