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# SUN CITY CENTER AUDUBON CLUB

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April 2021

## *Ponderings from your prez*

*Mary*

April begins the new “year” for our Board. New members of the Board are installed. (We will take a few minutes of our April 3<sup>rd</sup> Zoom meeting to do this.) We hope to be back in the Florida room when we resume in October (fingers crossed). In the meantime, Patsie has been able to get some great speakers on Zoom who might not have been able to come to Sun City Center due to distance.

First, I would like to say a big thank you to three people who are no longer on the Board. Ray Webb will no longer be Field Trip Chair. He has organized and led field trips for the club year-round for many years. We have all benefitted from his work and owe him many thanks. At this time, we do not have a new Field Trip Chair.

Ann Fennimore has been Co-Vice President for three years. Her job has been to organize our activities for Fun Fest and for Hi Neighbor. She always did a super job – and her unofficial job on the board was as a continuous source of support and encouragement. Linda Menier will take her position.

Melanie Higgins has been a Co-Chair for the Conservation Committee. Her knowledge, enthusiasm and grant writing skills have been a real asset to the club. She is still working as manager of the latest grant. Peter Aluotto is our new Conservation Chair.



## *Our New Board: 2021-2022*

**President – Mary Duncan** -- Mary has been president for three years. She is hoping to do some travel this year and Betty Giles has agreed to be a substitute if Mary has to miss a meeting.

**Co-Vice President – Patsie Ginley** –Patsie has been in charge of programs for three years now. She has done a terrific job and goes out of her way to attend meetings elsewhere in the state in order to find speakers who are both knowledgeable and good presenters.

**Co-Vice President – Linda Menier** – This will be Linda’s first year and we really welcome her to the Board. This Club cannot run without people stepping up to volunteer. Linda will be working on the Fun Fest and Hi Neighbor activities.

**Secretary – Betty Giles** – Betty is not only an efficient secretary in taking notes of our Board meetings; this year she has also been our Zoom leader. She plans and supervises the zooming for both Board Meetings and our General Meetings.

**Treasurer – Rod Rodrigues** -- Rod has been our treasurer for some time. We are very lucky to have him as he keeps meticulous records of all of our finances.

**At Large Members** – these will be appointed by the President. (An excellent opportunity to get involved without any large responsibilities – so let Mary know if you are interested.)

***Board Continued:***

Besides our elected board, our board consists of the many Committee Chairs. Many hands make light work – and these are the people who make everything work:

**Name tags – JoAnn Wilkinson** - JoAnn will start taking orders for name tags once we start meeting again.

**Field Trips** - \_\_\_\_\_

**Master Birder – Ray Webb** – We all depend on him for bird spotting.

**Refreshments – Pat Dean** – Pat will be back on the job whenever we are able to serve refreshments again.

**Historians – Ed & Clara Clancy** – There isn't much they don't know about the history of the club.

**Membership – Dennis Morris** – Dennis has done a thorough and conscientious job of keeping our membership lists up to date.

**Conservation – Peter Aluotto** – Peter has jumped in with both feet to bring our Earth Day celebration at the Nature Trails a reality.

**Newsletter – Denise Rosen** – We all depend on her to get out the news – and she is always there.

**Publicity – Susan Shuttleworth** – We are lucky to have her expertise in getting the word out about our activities.

***Earth Day on the Trails***

I know Peter has written more about this elsewhere in the newsletter. But I want to encourage you all to come – and to bring your friends – especially those who have never been – or who don't even know where it is! Where your Audubon name tag and show your support.

***Recent Field Trip  
Sarasota Jungle Gardens  
March 19<sup>th</sup>***

A small group from the Audubon Club took a trip to the Sarasota Jungle Gardens. There were many animals and birds to see as well as a walk through the “jungle” garden.

No new birds were spotted; but it was a great opportunity to get up close and personal with the flamingoes. Some strode through the crowd proudly and unconcerned with who might be in their way; others waited for a hand-out. Feeding the flamingoes is always fun.



**Our next field trip:  
Fort DeSoto – April 21<sup>st</sup>**

This is the last field trip for now and it should be a great one. This is the maximum time for the birds migrating north for the summer and Fort DeSoto is a resting place for many. Our Master Birder, Ray Webb, will be on hand to help us find the perfect location for viewing the birds. Bring a sack lunch to eat on the picnic tables afterwards. Dessert will be provided!

We meet at 9:00 am in the Community Hall parking lot. If you have had your Covid vaccinations, consider car-pooling with others due to the distance and parking (and to help the environment!). Directions and our meeting spot will be handed out that morning. There will be no need to register beforehand – and no reminder calls will be made. Just meet on the 21<sup>st</sup> at 9:00am for a great day.

## Earth Day-Nature Trails Saturday, April 22 at 9:00am

Come to the Nature Trail on Thursday, April 22, at 9:00 a.m. and join your fellow Audubon Club members as we welcome our Sun City Center neighbors to explore the trails with us. There will be 3 guided tours by our resident experts featuring talks on native birds, trees, and bugs.

The purpose of this event is to commemorate the 51st anniversary of the first Earth Day in 1970 which brought environmental awareness to the general public. In a similar fashion, this event will bring environmental awareness of our local natural assets to our residents. Refreshments of free water, granola bars and fresh fruit will be available for all registrants.

In addition, all visitors who tour the trail will receive a trail map and a flyer which will entitle them to a 10% discount on their next purchase at Sweet Bay Nursery in Parrish.

This will be an excellent opportunity to recruit new members to our club so save the date and encourage your neighbors to come.

Come early for the best parking spots.

### *Events at the Nature Trails*



## *April General Zoom Meeting* Saturday April 3, 2021 09:30 AM

Please unmute when you sign into meeting.

### Link for meeting

<https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fus02web.zoom.us%2Fj%2F85347846529%3Fpwd%3DcF0xeGxQR1dKRzAvVzhTTTBueEdxQT09&data=04%7C01%7C%7C78f8a1a40bd04a6c605208d8ea1c320c%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C637516754105335356%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Iik1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sddata=DHzPbUaVgEkbOq1ZrLZ7CwighiJ8YuimRz46LfiAucw%3D&reserved=0>

### *History of Conservation in Florida*

#### *Speaker Ann Paul*

Ann Paul, retired Audubon biologist, will share the dramatic history of Florida's role in the conservation of wildlife and landscapes in our state, including actions by leaders here in the Tampa Bay area. Protecting birds and other wildlife carries over into providing significant benefits to humans, too. Much of the early conservation of the natural history of the United States started here in Florida, and that initiative continues today.



## News from our Master Birder

Ray Webb

Seasons are changing. The ring-necked ducks and lesser scaup are long gone from our waters, and so are the yellow-rumped warblers from our woods. March is a transition month, with winter visitors leaving and just the beginnings of spring migration. There is still a gray catbird or two left, and a few palm warblers, but they too will soon be heading north to raise families.

This morning, on our West Campus Nature Trails, I was greeted by a beautiful swallow-tailed kite overhead, and a great crested flycatcher on the wire; both are March arrivals. Migration begins in earnest in April.

Mrs. great horned owl is no longer alone in the nest at La Jolla Ave and N Pebble Beach Blvd; I saw an extra pair of "ears" next to her. We can watch her youngster (or youngsters) grow up in the coming weeks.



[www.sccaudubonclub.com](http://www.sccaudubonclub.com)



## TRAIL BLAZING

By John Lampkin

A jumping plant louse on the Sun City Center Nature Trails can somersault in midair twenty times faster than an Olympic gymnast! For example, Simone Biles when executing her epic triple-double rotated at approximately two rotations per second while the SCC jumper executes an initial rate of 39 per second, making it the fastest forward-rotating species on the planet! How do we know? Dr. Adrian Smith at North Carolina State filmed them at 14,000 frames per second, slowed the film down, counted and did the math. You can watch his stunning and entertaining video by visiting,

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=pqH3b17cTuQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pqH3b17cTuQ).

Our jumper is the Red Bay Psyllid, *Trioza magnoliae*, that spends its entire youth as a wax-coated larva in a leaf gall as shown above. The distinctive galls are easy to spot and since jumping plant lice are species-specific, the galls are an easy way of identifying Red Bay trees. The galls cause only cosmetic damage, doing no lasting harm to the plant. Red Bays though do succumb to laurel wilt disease, caused by a fungus farmed by a tiny ambrosia beetle. But that is a topic for another column.

The larvae are easy to find, just slice open a gall. Come join Sun City Audubon on Earth Day, April 22 between 10 and 11 at the trailhead and I will show you how it is done. Guided trail walks and other fun and educational activities are planned as well. What a great way to celebrate Earth Day!

The Nature Trails is an ongoing project of the SCC Audubon Club in cooperation with the SCC CA. The trailhead is located opposite North Lake on Del Webb West between Vincennes and Seton Hall. Join us for interpretive walks and discoveries large and small on the first Tuesday of the month at 9 am. For more info, email me at [JohnLampkin@JohnLampkin.com](mailto:JohnLampkin@JohnLampkin.com)



SUN CITY CENTER AUDUBON CLUB  
www.sccaudubonclub.com

## 2021 Membership Registration

Annual Dues: \$10 for CA and Kings Point Gold CA Access Card holders

Print this form, fill it in, and bring it with you to the next in-person meeting. One form per person or mail it to Dennis Morris, 373 Club Manor Dr., Sun City Center, FL 33573. Make checks payable to SCC Audubon Club.

1

Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Cash \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(In-Person only)

Name (Please print legibly) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ New Member \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal



2

To become a member, you must sign below.

### Liability and photo release

I voluntarily choose to participate in field trips sponsored by the Sun City Center Audubon Club. I recognize the field trips may expose me to harm or injury resulting from travel to and from the field trip site, and due to forces of nature and natural wildlife, including, but not limited to birds, animals, plants, and other wildlife. I expressly assume the risk of any harm that may occur directly or indirectly from travel to and from the field trip site, or from the forces of nature or wildlife that I may be exposed to. I release the Sun City Center Audubon from any and all liability arising from or in connection with the field trips.

I grant to the Sun City Center Audubon Club, its representatives and members the right to take photographs of me and my property in connection with field trips or other activities of the Sun City Center Audubon Club. I authorize the use of same in print and/or electronically.

Member Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

3

Enter only NEW or CHANGED information in this box.

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Address (SCC) \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_ CA/KP # \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday Month \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_

Please let us know if you are interested in volunteering on the following committees:

\_\_\_\_ Membership  
\_\_\_\_ Conservation  
\_\_\_\_ Publicity  
\_\_\_\_ Refreshments  
\_\_\_\_ Greeters

\_\_\_\_ 3-Day Trip  
\_\_\_\_ December Meeting  
\_\_\_\_ Field Trips  
\_\_\_\_ Serve on Board