



Sun City Center Audubon Club

December 2021

Ponderings from your prez

Mary

I hope you all had a joyous Thanksgiving.

We are preparing for my favorite meeting of the year. The December Audubon Club meeting will be at the Community Hall and features live birds and even a raptor flying across the room. Last time, I swear I felt the breeze on my hair as he flew past. Bring your friends, the room is large enough to accommodate lots of people.

In addition to the program, there will be home-baked refreshments as well as tea and coffee. John Lampkin will be playing some Christmas music and **we will have baskets to raffle off**. Our baskets are always crammed full. And, there will also be the first ever:

Audubon Club “Used Bird Book Silent Auction”

The books are all high quality “coffee table” books with wonderful illustrations. There are two or three real collector’s items including two Audubon books – one is the Baby Elephant Folio (called that for the size). I looked up the prices today and the prices (even for used) are high, but the beginning bid on these will be very low. You can get some real bargains as gifts for Christmas or for your own collection.

Bring your checkbook!



We now have three new Members-At-Large to help with Audubon Club events: Linda Floyd, Nancy Schrom, and Laura Butler. Welcome to the Audubon Board. You will see them at our meeting helping in various positions. Laura is filling in at the Name-Tag table, Linda is the Greeter, and Nancy is filling in at the Registration Table.

There are still some vacancies and sign-up sheets will be going around for the conservation (nature trail) committee, the field trip committee and a chance to learn the ropes as the Treasurer.

Thanksgiving with my grandchildren is always something that makes me thankful. I am also thankful for our great board members who make things run so smoothly and for all of you who come and bring such friendliness, curiosity, and spirit to each meeting. The Audubon Club is special to many of us.

Membership Committee Report

Can you assist us at the upcoming December 4th Audubon Club meeting? From 9-10 AM, we need help at the check-in and registration tables. (Some of our regular volunteers can't attend.) You'll be teamed with an experienced volunteer who will provide guidance. Please call or email me. Thanks!

2022 Audubon Club dues (\$10) and registrations are due by December 31st. The 57 folks who have joined or rejoined since September are already 2022 members. You can mail your 2022 registration or leave it at the membership registration table at the next meeting.

Audubon Club paid membership has steadily increased to 132. November's meeting attendance was 64, up from 39 in October. That's a 39% increase!

The Membership Committee is the group of 8 dedicated volunteers who greet, check-in, and register attendees at Audubon Club meetings. We welcome new volunteers to join our team. If interested, please contact me.

Dennis Morris
Membership Chairman
(570) 814-2803
5w3d15h80y@gmail.com

Live Animal Encounters at the December Meeting

Our **December 4** meeting will feature "Wonders of Nature," a fast-paced, live show featuring fascinating animal behaviors. You'll watch raptors flying overhead, listen to a talking parrot that mimics human speech and other sounds, and much more. This popular show is narrated by Matt Edmonds, a former keeper at Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo. After learning he had a talent for interpreting and shaping animal behavior with rewards, Matt left the zoo in 2002 and started Wonders of Nature.

Matt uses the training method usually referred to as "positive reinforcement," where the animal is rewarded for desired behaviors. He has trained a wide variety of animals, from parrots, hawks, eagles, owls, and falcons to rats, squirrels, servals, caracals, porcupines, sheep, foxes, rhinos and elephants.

To provide more space for the animal encounters, this meeting will be held at the Community Hall, 1910 South Pebble Beach. It will begin at 9:15 a.m. with socializing and refreshments. We will be raffling off two baskets with restaurant gift certificates, and there will be "free" table with bird books and 2022 bird/nature calendars.

Please bring your own coffee mug. The business meeting will start at 10 a.m., followed by Matt's presentation.



Matt Edmonds – Wonders of Nature

SCC Audubon Meeting December 4th, Saturday Community Hall

The Audubon Club continues to take precautions for your safety. There will only be six chairs per table to help with social distancing. Masks are highly recommended.



Trail Blazing

John Lampkin

The Shortleaf Rose-gentians on the SCC Nature Trails have perfect flowers. Although indeed they are beautiful, that isn't a value judgment! "Perfect" in botany means that both male and female organs appear in a single flower. In general, long-term survival of a species depends on a robust gene pool, and plants have evolved various strategies to avoid self-pollination. Our Rose-gentians use a clever technique to promote sexual encounters with the neighbors away down the path a bit.

The male anthers are blade-like and mature first, producing copious amounts of pollen luring visiting pollinators while the female stigma stays tightly coiled, looking much like a unicorn horn (top image). After the male organs are depleted, they wither and drop off while the female organ literally springs open, exposing the forked corkscrewed sticky stigma to a second wave of floral visitors (bottom image). The photos are of two different flowers shot after heavy rain, hence the water droplets. Rain or shine, the staggered male-female maturity guarantees cross-pollination, thus insuring a rich and healthy genetic heritage.

A perfect plan for a perfect flower!

Find Shortleaf Rose-gentians on the SCC Nature Trails! The trailhead is located opposite North Lake on Del Webb West between Vincennes and Seton Hall. John Lampkin leads wooded walks on the first Tuesday of each month at 9 am, or by appointment.

John Lampkin

JohnLampkin@JohnLampkin.com

845 367-3210



Two phases of the Shortleaf Rose-gentian flower: male, top; female below.

-- JL



*Morris Bridge Park
Field Trip
11/16/21*



***Officers & Committee Chairs
2021-2022***

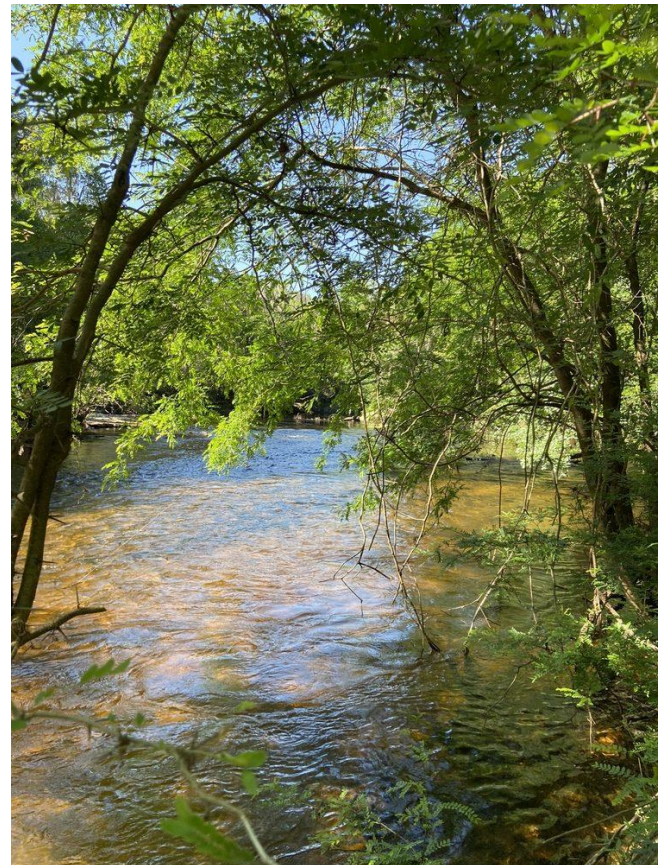
<i>President</i>	<i>Mary Duncan</i>
<i>Co-Vice-Presidents</i>	<i>Patsie Ginley Linda Menier</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Betty Giles</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>TBD</i>
<i>At Large</i>	<i>Linda Floyd Nancy Schrom Laura Butler</i>
<i>Name Tags</i>	<i>Jo Ann Wilkinson</i>
<i>Field Trips</i>	<i>TBD</i>
<i>Master Birder</i>	<i>Ray Webb</i>
<i>Refreshments</i>	<i>Pat Dean</i>
<i>Historian</i>	<i>Ed & Clara Clancy</i>
<i>Membership</i>	<i>Dennis Morris</i>
<i>Conservation</i>	<i>TBD</i>
<i>Newsletter</i>	<i>Denise Rosen</i>
<i>Publicity</i>	<i>Susan Shuttleworth</i>

Field Trips

12/09/21	Lithia Springs Cons Park Hillsborough County, FL
01/25/22	Shell Key Preserve Pinellas County, FL
02/22/22	Myakka River State Park Sarasota County, FL
03/08/22	Palma Sola Botanical Park Manatee County, FL
04/21/22	Venice Rookery Venice, FL

To sign up visit our website at:

WWW.SCCAUDUBONCLUB.COM



*Lithia Springs Park
December 9, 2021*





SUN CITY CENTER AUDUBON CLUB
 www.sccaudubonclub.com
Membership Registration

2021-22

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	_____ 3-Day Trip
_____ Conservation	_____ December Meeting
_____ Publicity	_____ Field Trips
_____ Refreshments	_____ Serve on Board
_____ Greeters	