



Sun City Center Audubon Club

January 2022

Ponderings from your prez

First, a reminder that our meeting is on **January 8th** – the second Saturday (The CA is closed on the first Saturday – which happens to be New Year’s Day.)

Second, our meeting will again be in the ***Community Hall*** on the south side. (The Florida Room was unavailable on the 8th.) Please share this information with others who may have seen conflicting information in the Observer.

As we celebrate the New Year of 2022, there is much to think about. There are many anniversaries to remember:

- 1) Sun City Center just celebrated its 60th anniversary. I’ve only been here 11 years but have seen a lot of new homes go up. This creative enterprise from 60 years ago has certainly been a success. It was based on volunteerism which meant many clubs and services for those who were retiring and who might not otherwise afford them.
- 2) A little over five years ago Linda Floyd, our president at the time, said “Yes” when the CA asked if SCC Audubon would take over management of the SCC West Campus Nature Trails. Melanie Higgins led the project to install a kiosk and many volunteers helped to clear and prepare the site. The kiosk was completed in April of 2016. John Lampkin started publishing his Trail Blazing Column in May of that year and started leading his monthly interpretive walks on 10/4/2016. Ray Webb’s first weekly bird count of the Nature Trails was on 10/9/2016. Ray has rarely missed a week since.

We will have a Conservation Committee meeting right after our regular meeting to discuss further work on the trail. We have some possible plans to reduce the fire load and so prevent a large forest fire. Join us if you are interested in being part of this discussion.

- 3) The Sun City Audubon Club was formed 25 years ago. A small group of bird lovers sat around the kitchen table and started the Club. It has grown from a handful of members at that time to well over 100. And we are growing again post-covid closing. During that time, we have not only managed the Nature Trails; we have had monthly general meeting with speakers from all over the state, monthly field trips to various places around us, annual workshops were given, three-day trips were held yearly until covid, summer field trips were also planned until recently.

We have provided a great service to Sun City Center over the years. Hundreds of people have enjoyed our programs and the Nature Trail has thrived.

- 4) I have been President for five years. I was approached five years ago by Ray Webb who said they had no other volunteers to take this on. My husband and I had joined Audubon within a month of moving here. My husband was an avid birder; I enjoyed nature and we both really enjoyed the friends we had made through the club. I had no previous experience on the Board – and neither had the two new Vice Presidents. We learned together and decided that we would go for a second year. Somehow it is now five years, and we are actively looking for a new President. Please step up! It isn’t hard at all.

Mary Duncan

**HAPPY NEW YEAR
2022**

Membership Committee January Report

2022 Audubon Club dues (\$10) and registrations are due at this time. You can mail your 2022 registration OR submit it at the membership registration table at the next meeting. The Membership Registration form is attached.

The SCC Audubon Club membership year runs from January 1st through December 31st. THANK YOU to the 95 members who have joined or renewed since September -- you are already paid-in-full 2022 members.

Audubon Club paid membership is currently 150 strong, an increase of 13% since November. The Club's excellent programs at meetings and field trips are most often mentioned as reasons for joining our Club.

WOW! 36 Membership Registrations were processed at the December 5th meeting (one every 2 minutes). The best part is that 15 of those registrants were NEW memberships!

Attendance at the December 5th meeting increased to 101, a 57% increase over the previous month! Most folks came to see Matt Edmond's excellent "flying birds" program. However, the live piano music and fresh baked refreshments might have stolen the show! Since Community Hall is spacious, there was plenty of room for spaced seating.

Membership Committee volunteers efficiently handle the check-in and member registrations at meetings, and assist with greeting at the door, name tag sales, and field trip registration. Please thank them -- their efforts really help each meeting run smoothly!

REMINDER: The next meeting is January 8th at Community Hall. We're looking forward to seeing you! As always, all SCCCA residents are welcome to attend, so bring a neighbor with you.

Dennis Morris
Membership Chairman

Greetings!

Whether we last saw you a month ago or a year ago, we're hoping you'll join us at the January Club meeting! However, a recent news article contained incorrect meeting information.

The correct information is below:

The next meeting of the SCC Audubon Club is:

Saturday January 8, 2022

Community Hall, S. Pebble Beach Blvd.

Doors open 9:15 AM

Meeting starts at 9:30 AM

Program:

**"The Florida Conservation &
Technology Center"**

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>

News from our Master Birder

Ray Webb

December 19 was a very busy day for several Sun City Center residents, as we participated in the annual Alafia Banks Christmas Bird Count, sponsored by the National Audubon Society.

These Christmas Bird Counts, or CBCs, are conducted from Canada to Argentina over a 17-day period around Christmas.

Kings Point resident Frank Sandford joined me at 4:30 AM (yes, AM) to listen for owls before dawn. We found 2 Eastern Screech-owls. The count got underway in earnest at 7:30 AM, as John Lampkin, Steve and Jan Burkholder, Don and Liz Grozis and a visitor (Merrill Tawse) joined the fun.

We split into three groups and covered all of SCC and Kings Point and some surrounding areas. Our coverage included a golf cart tour of Renaissance Golf Course (compliments of Club Link) and evening coverage of roosting islands on Middle Lake (in Ken Payson's boat).

We wound up with 63 species of birds in our sector of the circle, which is about average for us. The entire 15-mile-diameter circle usually tallies about 150 species. A good time was had by all, as we contributed valuable data to the enormous sum of information tabulated by about 2,000 separate counts.

To hear more about the Christmas Bird Count, attend the Kings Point Audubon Club Meeting on

Monday, January 17, 2022, at 1:20pm

St Andrew Presbyterian Church

1239 Del Webb Blvd, Sun City Center

www.eagleaudubonflorida.org

Field Trips

- 01/25/22 **Emerson Point Preserve**
Palmetto, 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



January Field Trip
Emerson Point Preserve in Palmetto on
January 25, 2022





Trail Blazing

“So how was your nuptial flight, Mr. and Mrs. Eastern Subterranean Termite?”

“Great, but now we can’t wait to get rid of these wings!”

Termites don’t talk, of course, but if they could, that is what they might say during mating swarm. Fertile adults grow wings while still living underground on the Sun City Center Nature Trails and when a certain time comes, they emerge en masse, clumsily flying around to disperse from their colony. They land, shed their wings as shown in the above image, find a suitable partner, mate, and then form a new subterranean nest. Unlike bees, a male doesn’t die after mating but stays with the female in their colony, and they live together as king and queen. They can survive for five decades, producing hundreds of thousands of offspring.

Of course, we do not want these wood munchers in our houses as they do an estimated billion dollars worth of damage every year. But we DO want them in our natural areas! Like vultures, fly larvae, and dung beetles, they are Nature’s clean up and recycling crew. They eat not just dead wood, but also the other woodland detritus—leaves, stems and even dung. Because they return nutrients to the soil and are food for some mammals and birds, they are an essential element of healthy ecosystems.



A termite sheds its wings after its nuptial flight.

For more information on these truly fascinating creatures, Google “Termite Wikipedia.” Most other websites are focused on pest control. At the Nature Trails though, we welcome termites wholeheartedly and wish them many more happy landings in the years ahead.

Come fly with us on the SCC Nature Trails! The trailhead is located opposite North Lake on Del Webb West between Vincennes and Seton Hall. John Lampkin leads walks on the first Tuesday of each month at 9 am, or by appointment.

John Lampkin

JohnLampkin@JohnLampkin.com

Lithia Springs Park



Florida Conservation and Technology Center to be Featured at January Meeting

The Florida Conservation and Technology Center (FCTC) in Apollo Beach offers environmental attractions from three partner organizations: the Florida Aquarium, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and Tampa Electric Company (TECO). You can learn more by attending our next meeting on Saturday, January 8. Stanley Kroh, senior manager for Land and Stewardship Programs at TECO, will give a presentation on FCTC and its mission, programs and facilities.

Highlights of the 500-acre campus, which is free to the public, are the TECO Manatee Viewing Center and TECO Clean Energy Center, the Florida Aquarium's Conservation Campus focused on coral conservation and sea turtle rehabilitation, and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission's Marine Fisheries Enhancement Center. There are walking trails, a wildlife observation tower and a sting ray touch tank.



Photo by Stanley Kroh

Stanley has worked at TECO for over 20 years. Previously, he was a wetland scientist with the Environmental Protection Commission of Hillsborough County. He is president of the board of trustees for Keep Tampa Bay Beautiful, is a board member for the Florida Birding and Nature Festival and participates in several other environmental organizations.

SCC Audubon January Meeting 1/8/22

The meeting will be held in the Community Hall beginning at 9:15 a.m. with socializing and refreshments. As always, please bring your own coffee mug. The business meeting will start at 10 a.m., followed by Stanley's presentation.

SCC Audubon Board Meetings

Board meetings are held in the Heritage Room at 7:00 pm on the third Monday of every month. All members are invited to attend.

Wishes for a Happy, Healthy Year to all our

Sun City Center Audubon Birders!

From

Sun City Center Audubon Board






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
- ____ Conservation
- ____ Publicity
- ____ Refreshments
- ____ Greeters

- ____ 3-Day Trip
- ____ December Meeting
- ____ Field Trips
- ____ Serve on Board