



# Sun City Center Audubon Club

March 2022

## *Ponderings from your prez*

The March business meeting will be an important one. We will be electing new officers for the coming year. At our Board meeting, we passed a resolution to also install the new board at this meeting after the election.

At one point, I feared that, without an elected board of officers, there would be no club. But, in the nick of time, some highly qualified people stood up:

**Dennis Morris –for President**

**Patsie Ginley and Linda Menier, incumbents, for Co-Vice Presidents**

**Elizabeth Giles, incumbent, for Secretary**

**Pam and George Viner – for Co-Treasurers**

I know they will do an excellent job. Each has already shown their commitment to making the SCC Audubon Club one we can all be proud of.

Two important pieces of information: starting on Monday you may hear a brush chopper at work on the Nature Trail site. It is important to cut down shrubs that have become too tall and constitute a fire load that could lead to a serious fire if we should get a lightning strike (such as the one that hit last summer but was caught before it spread).

The second piece of information is that Ray has agreed to plan out field trips for the summer and for next year. He needs your input though. A meeting is set for March 29 in the Armstrong Room at 11:00am to 12:30pm. Please come and give some ideas. We will also be creating a list of those who wish to be included in the summer trips (with their emails) so they can easily be notified of trips. (Sorry, snow birds)

My husband and I moved to Sun City on Memorial weekend eleven years ago. A couple of weeks later someone told us about the Audubon Club and the summer trips. Ed and Clara were leading them at the time, and I don't think we missed a single one. The friends we made on those trips are still friends today. So, I hope you join them this summer.

I have been the President of the Audubon Club for almost half of the time I've lived here. Ray approached me five years ago and asked if I'd run for the one-year term. And somehow, I just kept saying "yes" each year. It has been an honor and a privilege. I love seeing all of the familiar smiling faces at meetings and I even enjoy all of the calls with questions about birds or the club. I smile when they ask, "are you the bird lady?" (I've learned where to direct people for answers even though I'm not a master birder.)

Once in a while difficulties arise but most of the time the job is easy due to our marvelous Board members who each take on the responsibilities that keep the club running smoothly. It has been rough personally at times due to health problems, caring for my husband all these years and then his death two years ago. I need to be able to get away and do things now, but the club has been so much a part of my life that it is bittersweet to leave. Thank you to all who have made these five years special.



*Mary On the Road Again!*

## *March Membership Committee Report*

Thank YOU! to the 143 MEMBERS who have joined or renewed since September 2021 - you are paid-in-full 2022 members.

Believe it! 2022 PAID membership is *already* 95% of our 2021 Club membership!

**Due at this time: 2022 Club dues (\$10) and registrations.** Mail your 2022 registration OR submit it at the next meeting on March 5th. **January 1st through December 31st is the membership year** of the Audubon Club.

**Not sure if you joined for 2022?** Ask about your membership status at the meeting check-in table.

**WOW! 93 attended the February 5th Club meeting.** In addition to membership renewals, we added 10 NEW MEMBERS to our list.

**Join us at the NEXT MEETING on Saturday March 5th** in the Florida Room. As always, **all SCCCA residents are welcome to attend**, so bring a neighbor with you! Have a cup of coffee and pastries, chat with friends, then enjoy a great birding presentation!

**HELP WANTED:** The Membership Committee needs a chairperson! Here are the basics of the position:

- List the members and their information
- Receive registrations and dues
- Organize the meeting check-in tables
- Submit an annual CA report
- Serve as a Club board member

If you are interested or have questions, please contact Dennis Morris or any Club board member.

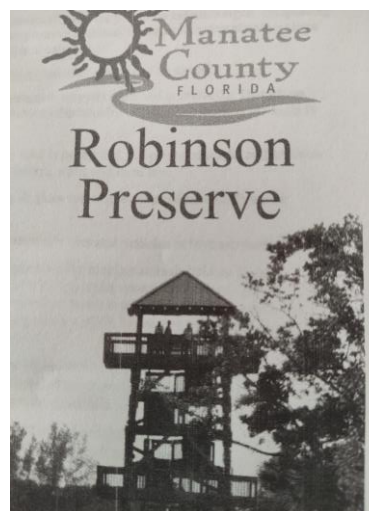
*Dennis Morris*  
*Membership Chairman*  
*(570) 814-2803*  
[5w3d15h80y@gmail.com](mailto:5w3d15h80y@gmail.com)

## *March Field Trip*

Tuesday 03/08/22  
Palma Sola Botanical Park  
Manatee County, FL



We'll be meeting at the community hall parking lot at 9 AM on Tuesday March 8. From there we'll carpool to the Palma Sola Botanical Park. There will be a tour of the gardens. We then cross the street to do our bird sighting at Robinson Preserve. Lunch will be at Joey D's, just a few minutes away.



*Linda Menier*

## *News from our Master Birder*

*Ray Webb*

It's late February, and we are technically in the heart of winter. You wouldn't know it lately if you stuck your head outdoors; it seems more like May. Fine by me! The days are getting longer, and the early spring bird migrants are arriving; already here are the purple martins, the first birds of the year to return.

Two weeks ago, when I did a walk at the West Campus Nature Trail, there was little bird song, and no northern parula warblers. Two days ago, the place rang with bird song everywhere. I found EIGHT parulas, all happily singing their heads off. Their arrival is right on schedule. Another February migrant, the red-eyed vireo, is so far absent. This is the most abundant breeding bird in North American hardwood forests in summer, including here in Florida; On the other hand, on our field trip to Myakka River State Park on February 22, our group saw a swallow-tailed kite, typically a March migrant.

Soon to arrive will be great crested flycatchers, which will nest here in Sun City Center. Also, we will see the beginning of the major spring migration in coastal locations, with waterthrushes, hooded warblers and orchard orioles at the vanguard of the season.

### *Our newest resident in the Atrium Birdhouse!*



## *Officers & Committee Chairs 2021-2022*

<i>President</i>	<i>Mary Duncan</i>
<i>Co-Vice-Presidents</i>	<i>Patsie Ginley</i> <i>Linda Menier</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Betty Giles</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Pam &amp; George Viner</i>
<i>At Large</i>	<i>Linda Floyd</i> <i>Nancy Schrom</i> <i>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 &amp; Clara Clancy</i>
<i>Membership</i>	<i>Dennis Morris</i>
<i>Conservation</i>	<i>Peter Aluotto</i>
<i>Newsletter</i>	<i>Denise Rosen</i>
<i>Publicity</i>	<i>Susan Shuttleworth</i>

### **April Field Trip**

**Thursday 04/21/22  
Venice Rookery  
Venice, FL**

### **SCC Audubon Board Meetings**

**Board Meetings are held in the Heritage Room at 7:00pm on the third Monday of every month.**

**All Members are invited.**





## *Trail Blazing*

“What’s shakin’ on the SCC Nature Trails?” If you ask one of our native bees, the answer might be Pale Meadow Beauty, a stunning wildflower that populates grassy pockets among the pines and saw palmetto.

The vibrant purples and yellows are visually stunning and presumably a strong attractor to pollinators, but it’s all looks and little show because when a bee visits, there is no nectar to be found! And the pollen is released only if the bee knows how to “buzz pollinate” the blooms. Non-native honeybees don’t know the trick, but our native bumble bees do—as in my photograph above, they grasp the anthers and vibrate their flight muscles. A Harvard researcher recorded the average resultant buzz at near the pitch of C# above middle C which is 277 cycles per second. The vibrations shake the flower, and the pollen flies out of a tiny pore at the tip of the anther, ready for mama bumble bee to pack it for a return trip to the nest where it becomes bumblebee baby food. If she stops at another Meadow Beauty, some of the pollen will likely stick to the receptive stigma, the female organ, thus fertilizing the plant.

Some plants are extraordinarily generous with their pollen. For example, in spring our cars turn yellow if we park near an oak tree because oaks primarily rely on the wind to pollinate and only a tiny fraction of the pollen reaches a target stigma. Such pollen has near zero nutritive value. An insect could lick a thousand bumpers and hoods and still starve to death! However, the pollen of plants like our Meadow Beauty is comparatively nutrient-rich and represents a considerable investment of the plant’s resources. It makes perfect sense that they have evolved the trick of bestowing access to only those pollinators that know the “buzz” and stand a good chance of fertilizing that stunning Meadow Beauty next door.

Come see what else is shakin’ 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.



*Meadow Beauty anthers look inviting, but it requires “buzz pollination” to release the pollen.*

## *Protecting the Florida Scrub Jay Topic of March Meeting*



The Florida Scrub Jay, a unique species for our state, is under threat – including at Oscar Scherer State Park’s 462-acre refuge. Our next program, scheduled for Saturday, March 5, will focus on these iconic birds. You will hear about ongoing efforts to protect and expand the population of Scrub Jays from the Oscar Scherer State Park Manager, Matthew Kruse.

Join us for an overview of this blue-and-gray bird’s behaviors, life cycle and dependence on a specialized habitat of low-growing oak shrubs (scrubby flatwoods). Learn about the importance of prescribed burns to maintain the jays’ environment and find out how you can “adopt” a Scrub Jay.

The meeting will be held in the Florida Room beginning at 9:15 a.m. with socializing and refreshments. Please bring your own coffee mug. The business meeting will start at 10 a.m., followed by Matt’s presentation.

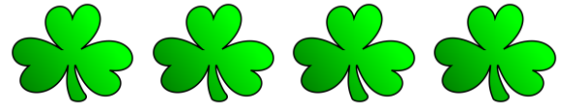
Photo caption: Florida Scrub Jay



### *Happy Anniversary*

To Ed & Clara on their 65<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary!

Ed & Clara have been long-time members of the Audubon Club. It’s an honor to celebrate this special event with them.



### **SCC Audubon Meeting Saturday March 5<sup>th</sup> Atrium-Florida Room**

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

*Join us for refreshments at 9:15am*



**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	