



Sun City Center Audubon Club

March 2023

Prez Ponderings

Greetings!

Please plan to attend our SCC Audubon Club Meeting

DATE: Saturday, March 4th
PLACE: FLORIDA ROOM
TIME: 9:15 AM Social
10 AM Meeting & Program
"Woodpeckers, Nature's Woodworkers"
Speaker: Renier Munguia

2023 Nominations and Election of Audubon Club officers currently occurs at our March 4th meeting. **The present officers standing for election are:**

President: Dennis Morris
V. President Patsie Ginley
Secretary Betty Giles
Co-Treasurers Pam & George Viner

If you wish to be involved, please contact me.

Our February 4th meeting had 127 in attendance. Our Club already has 83% of our total 2022 membership, as 2023 paid memberships are over 160.

Only 10 raffle tickets remain for the John Costin etching, which will be displayed at the meeting. Don't miss your chance to possibly win this beautiful artwork.

Funfest is on March 11, 9 AM -- 2 PM. Our Audubon Club has been planning for this event. Our *NEW* double-table location is on the corner, near the Pottery Studio. Stop by and say *Hello!*

The Bluebird Trail Dedication Ceremony and reception honoring Ed and Clara Clancy was a highpoint of the year for our Audubon Club. It's very important that we remember our Club history, and our long-serving members.

Mark your calendar! The SCC Audubon Club **Earth Day Celebration** event at our SCCCA Nature Trails will be held on **FRIDAY, April 21.** Specific times and events will be announced next month.

NEW Trail Marker Posts have been ordered and are scheduled to be installed during March. The color-coded posts will make hiking the Trails more enjoyable and safer.

Bluebird Nesting Boxes are now available at our Sales Table at each of our monthly meetings, and at FunFest. The cost is \$30, or \$60 with delivery and installation included.

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"There's always one annoying piece left over."

Thank You to these volunteers:

1. **Melanie Higgins has been appointed Conservation Committee Chair.** As a *Florida Master Naturalist*, ecology and the outdoors have been a lifelong passion for her. Melanie is the originator and coordinator of our SCC Audubon Bluebird Box Project. Dennis Morris will continue to serve as co-chair.
2. **John Perian has been appointed as Publicity Chair.** John helped his uncle with the Christmas Bird Counts, and considers himself a lifelong birder. John was a newspaper staff writer for many years, retired from the military, and then retired from civilian health care as an RN.
3. **Carl Zajac**, already a Bluebird Project monitor, has volunteered to be a Project co-coordinator.

SCC Audubon Club memberships are due at this time. Membership applications are available.

1. on our website
2. attached to our newsletters
3. available at monthly meetings

You can check the status of your membership at the check-in table at each meeting – just ask!

Looking forward to seeing you at our March 4th monthly meeting!

Dennis Morris, President

BY-LAWS

Please Review the Proposed Changes to the SCC Audubon Club Bylaws Attached to this Newsletter.

A vote on the attached proposed bylaw changes will be on the agenda at our April 1st general membership meeting.

Language to be deleted is "struck through" with a line. Language that is changed or added is italicized.

Highlights of the changes:

Article III – Membership
Changes conform with current SCCCA policy.

Article V -- Board of Directors
(2) Quorum reduced to one-half for Board meetings.

Article VI – Officers
(2) Elections changed to a calendar year basis.
(3) Language unneeded due to current SCCCA policy.

Article XII – Amendments
Allows amendments with 30 days' notice in our Newsletter.

Questions? Please contact:

Dennis Morris, President
SCC Audubon Club
570-814-2803
5w3d15h80y@gmail.com

Important March Dates

March 4 Club Meeting

March 11 Fun Fest

March 15 Field Trip

April 21 SCC Audubon Earth Day

March Program to Drill Down on Woodpeckers

Which birds can chisel through wood more effectively than a power tool? Woodpeckers, of course. This group of highly adapted birds will be featured at our March 4 meeting. Reinier Munguia, a full-time naturalist and nature photographer, will present “Woodpeckers: Nature’s Woodworkers.” He will discuss the life of this keystone species in forest ecology. Woodpeckers (subfamily Picinae) not only create shelters and obtain food from trees and other wood sources, after breeding they leave behind cavities that other birds and mammals can claim for their own homes.

Reinier got his start in photography as a college student on amphibian biology expeditions in Puerto Rico. His work has appeared in books, magazines and scientific publications. In his spare time, Reinier leads photography workshops in exotic destinations including the Galapagos Islands, Costa Rica and Panama.

The meeting will be held in the Florida Room. Doors will open at 9:15 a.m. for socializing and refreshments, followed by the presentation at 10:00.

SCC Audubon Club membership and event attendance are limited by SCCCA regulations to the following groups: SCCCA members, Freedom Plaza residents, eligible Aston Gardens residents and Kings Point Gold Card holders.



Red-bellied woodpecker



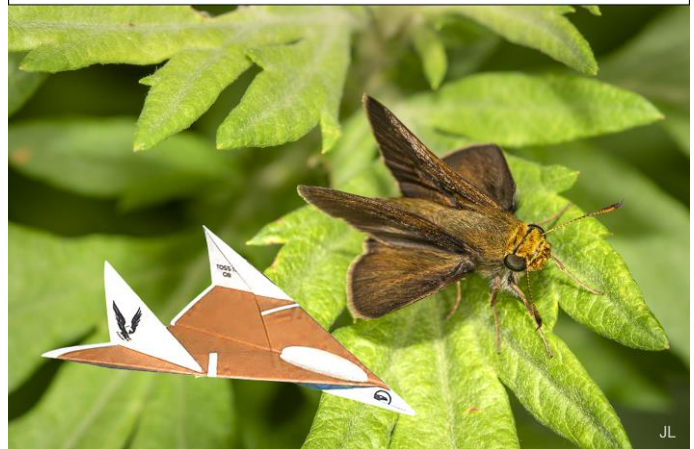
Trail Blazing

John Lampkin

What do skipper butterflies and jet planes have in common? Well, they both fly very fast, and when at rest, a skipper’s hind wings lie flat while the forewings are elevated, resembling certain types of fighter jets. Some resources like the Kaufman, “Butterflies,” call this the jet-plane position.

2000+ species of skippers fly worldwide and 12 have been photo-documented on the SCC West Campus Nature Trails. Since about 50 can be found in Florida, no doubt we will find more. The family is called grass skippers because the caterpillars feed on grasses. We protect our small native grass meadows on the Nature Trails by keeping them free from encroaching oaks and palmettos which historically were kept in check by naturally occurring periodic wildfires.

Grass skippers, like this Dun Skipper, have a unique way of holding their wings. The forewings are held upright and the hind wings, flat. The result is a strong resemblance to some jets or even paper airplanes.



A female skipper lays several hundred eggs, most hatch and develop as caterpillars before forming chrysalises. All life stages are food for other species like foraging Palm Warblers, Robins and Bluebirds. So, although jets and paper planes don’t fly on our Nature Trails, the skippers sure do and are part of the world-wide food web.

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. Join us as we marvel at both the macro and micro wonders of Nature.

February Program

Another successful and fun SCC Audubon gathering held in the CA Florida Room on February 4th. Highlights of this special event included our favorite pianist John Lampkin tickling the ivories, an adorable, delicious celebration cake, a very exciting and fun presentation by Dr. James “Buddy” Powell, the executive director of the Clearwater Marine Aquarium Research Institute (CMARI) educating us on the difference of Mermaids and Manatees. A packed room of laughter, good food and a great time.



Photos by Dennis Morris pictured above with Pat Dean our Refreshment Chair



*February 4th Meeting
Check In*



Dr. James "Buddy" Powell, Ph.D.

*Photos by
John Perian*



*There are still
10 more
chances to win
the John
Costin
Etching. Do
you feel lucky?
Raffles on sale
at the next
meeting on
March 4th.*

News from our Master Birder

Ray Webb

TECO Restoration Area, Sarasota County, FL

On Feb. 17, twenty-eight of us gathered for our field trip to the TECO restoration area. TECO owns 500 acres of property, from the Manatee Viewing Center south to the Florida Conservation and Technology Center, where we were met by Stan Kroh.

Mr. Kroh is TECO's Senior Manager of Land and Stewardship Programs, and a good friend of Audubon over the years. He showed us TECO's progress in restoring this property, to include removal of exotic vegetation and bringing the property back to a natural state. He led us on a walk along their Osprey Interpretive Trail, discussing changes that have been made. Following this, most of us went to Finn's Dockside Bar and Grill, on Apollo Beach Blvd. for a very enjoyable luncheon.

On March 15, we will be visiting the Sweet Bay Nursery in Parrish. There is a short birding trail behind the nursery, and the owner, Tom Heitzman, will discuss Florida native plants, and we can select from many varieties of plants to purchase. On April 19, we will be going to Fort Desoto County Park in Pinellas, for our annual spring birding outing. Migration will be in full swing, and we could see many beautiful birds in breeding plumage!



FunFest March 11, 2023

SCC's largest annual event occurs in March. Our SCC Audubon Club will have 2 tables located across from the pottery rooms. We will have info on the club and upcoming programs, free pens, and maps of the Nature Trail. There will be bird magnets, pins, and insulated cups with the club logo for sale (\$5) at the table.

In addition to showcasing SCC's clubs, there is plenty of great food, a free health fair, free entertainment and demonstrations, business vendors, and exhibits by nonprofit organizations. Stop by our tables anytime between 9am and 2pm on Saturday March 11. See you there!

A-ticket, a-tasket, An Earth Day basket!

The raffle table at Earth Day at the Nature Trails on Friday, April 21st will feature both live plants and a few really nice baskets.

Sign-up vouchers (with suggestions for contents) for the following baskets will be available at the March 4th meeting:

- Gardening Basket
- Gourmet Cook Basket
- Wine & Entertainment Basket

Do a basket yourself

OR

Do a group basket with some friends!

SCC Audubon Board Meetings

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

All Members are invited.



A group of SCC Audubon Club members prepare to set off along the trails of TECO's wildlife Restoration Area, during their field trip last February 17th. TECO owns 500 acres of property, from the Manatee Viewing Center south to the Florida Conservation and Technology Center. They were guided along the trail by TECO'S Senior Manager of Land and Stewardship Program, Stan Kroh. The Club's Master Birder, Ray Webb, helps identify the myriad of birds that are residents or who are just migrating through. He leads the club's field trips to numerous area nature and birding reserves.



TECO Restoration Field Trip 2/17



Stan Kroh is TECO's Senior Manager of Land and Stewardship Programs, and a good friend of Audubon over the years. He showed us TECO's progress in restoring this property, to include removal of exotic vegetation and bringing the property back to a natural state. After the tour, most of us went to Finn's Dockside Bar and Grill, on Apollo Beach Blvd. for a very enjoyable luncheon.

Touring the Osprey Interpretive Trail

Photos by Ray Webb

Field Trip Schedule 2022-2023

Ray Webb

03/15/23 Sweet Bay Nursery
Parrish, FL
On March 15

We will be visiting the Sweet Bay Nursery in Parrish. There is a short birding trail behind the nursery, and the owner, Tom Heitzman, will discuss Florida native plants, and we can select from many varieties of plants to purchase.

04/19/23 Fort Desoto County Park
Pinellas County, FL

On April 19, we will be going to Fort Desoto County Park in Pinellas, for our annual spring birding outing. Migration will be in full swing, and we could see many beautiful birds in breeding plumage!

To sign up for our field trips, please visit our website:

www.sccaudubonclub.com



Too many berries, too little time!

Photo from Tom Bredesen

Program Schedule

3/04/23	Woodpecker, Nature's Wood-worker Reiner Munguia
4/01/23	Garden to Attract Bird/ Butterflies Terry Brockway
4/21/23	SCC AUDUBON EARTH DAY CELEBRATION AT THE NATURE TRAILS



BYOM

In an endeavor to support our conservation beliefs, please bring your own mug to our Saturday morning meetings. We appreciate your cooperation.

For those of you who use the recycle water bottles, the CA has installed water fountains in the atrium to conveniently refill your water bottles.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

March 2023

Roselyn Cruthis
Pat Dean
Carolyn Deming
Susan Dogan
Marshia Hall
Erika Horvath
Sharon Jakobi
Maryclaire Jones
Jeanne Laferriere
Ron Matelski
Pati Messick
Susan Mitchell
John Perian
Thomas Perusse
Helene Peterson
Catherine Petit
Bryant Pomrenke
Mariano Rodrigues
Diane Van Der Woude



Officers & Committee Chairs 2022-2023

<i>President</i>	<i>Dennis Morris</i>
<i>Vice-President & Programs</i>	<i>Patsie Ginley</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Betty Giles</i>
<i>Co-Treasurers</i>	<i>Pam & George Viner</i>
<i>Immediate Past</i>	<i>Mary Duncan</i>
<i>Greeter</i>	<i>Linda Floyd</i>
<i>Refreshments</i>	<i>Pat Dean</i>
<i>Membership</i>	<i>Dennis Morris</i>
<i>Name Tags</i>	<i>Jo Ann Wilkinson</i> <i>Laura Butler</i>
<i>Historian</i>	<i>Clara Clancy</i>
<i>Master Birder & Field Trips</i>	<i>Ray Webb</i>
<i>Newsletter</i>	<i>Denise Rosen</i>
<i>Conservation</i>	<i>Melanie Higgins</i>
<i>Publicity</i>	<i>John Perian</i>

Let's Share

Have you captured some photos on our field trips or seen some of our local birds strolling our neighborhood, if so, please share your pictures with us. Send submissions to deniser49@live.com

Please include your name, phone number and a description of the photo.