



Sun City Center Audubon Club

November 2021

Ponderings from your prez

As I write this, I am about to leave for a few days of camping at Oscar Scherer State Park. Some time ago (years maybe?), the Audubon Club did a field trip here looking for Scrub Jays. I thought at the time that it would be a great place to spend a few days. I'm looking forward to it and also reminded just how valuable our field trips are for everyone.

But also, as I write this, I'm looking at several vacancies on the board. We really need people to step up to fill these positions. Those who have left, have done a wonderful job and will be missed dearly, but now we need YOU.

I've given the job descriptions that we have in our By-Laws. Our nominating committee has a fuller description of each job so contact one of them if you are interested: Dennis Morris, Ray Webb, and Betty Giles.

Treasurer

The Treasurer will receive and be custodian of all monies of the Club and will deposit all such funds in the name and credit of Club in such depositories as may be designated by the Board. (Bylaws, Article VI, Section 2-4)

The Treasurer will disburse all funds of the Club as may be approved by the Board, taking proper vouchers therefore... (Bylaws, Article VI, Section 2-4)

The Treasurer will approve use of the club credit card by members as authorized by the board. (Bylaws, Article VI, Section 2-4)



Conservation Chair(s)

Duties include one time and ongoing conservation projects, legislative updates for members on conservation issues, education, and community outreach on conservation issues. (By-laws, Article IX, section 3). The job is primarily that of looking after our Nature Trail with help from others. (E.g. letting the CA know when it needs to be mowed, checking on work that needs to be done).

Field Trip Chair

Plan and organize and provide publicity for monthly field trips for the year. (By-laws, Article IX, Section 5) Even with having different monthly leaders, an overall organizer is needed.

Hospitality/ Greeters Chair

This position is not in our by-laws, but is in our policies with these specific duties:

1. An At-Large Board member should take on this duty.
2. Recruit helpers for the meeting and provide instructions regarding their duties.
3. Move large sign from storage cabinet out into entry way at least one hour prior to meetings.
4. Find someone to do 50-50 tickets.
5. Greet and give a warm welcome to members and guests as they arrive.
6. Be sure large sign is returned to cabinet at the end of the meeting.

I'm also including President as the Board will be up for election in March. Both Patsie (Vice-President) and I have been on the Board for five years. As much as we enjoy it, it is time for new blood. But no President can run this club unless the previous positions get filled!!!

(Ponderings Continued)

President

The President(s) will preside at meetings of the Club, including the meetings of the Board of Directors. The President(s) will appoint all committee chairpersons, make the yearly room arrangements with the Community Association office, sign checks as required, and assume other responsibilities as may be deemed necessary by the Board. The President will serve as an ex officio member of every club committee. The President will sign all legal documents with the approval of the Board and will act as the spokesperson for the club. (Bylaws, Article VI, Section 2-1)

I'm hoping that next month's Ponderings will be filled with welcoming our new volunteers...and possibly with a great picture of a Scrub Jay.

Mary



Let's Talk Turkey!
Fascinating facts about turkeys

Only male turkey's gobble.

Turkeys make a variety of different sounds such as "purrs," "yelps," and "kee-kees," but the "gobble" call is only done by males during mating season.

Wild turkeys can fly.

Wild turkeys have been known to fly up to 55 mph in short bursts. For domesticated turkeys, this is unfortunately not the case. They're bred to be heavier in weight, almost twice as much as a wild turkey so they won't be flying anytime soon.

Wild turkeys sleep in trees.

Turkeys spend most of their time on the ground but when it's time to sleep, they fly up into trees. This is because turkeys can't see well at night and to protect themselves from predators, they roost at dusk and fly down at dawn.

They can change colors.

Well, their heads do at least! You can tell a turkey's emotions by the color of their heads. Colors can change from red to blue to white, depending on how excited or calm they are.



Their poop identifies their gender.

Are they girls or boys? One certain way to find out is by checking their droppings. A male's poop will be shaped like the letter J, while the female's is more spiral-shaped.

Benjamin Franklin preferred the turkey to the bald eagle.

He called the turkey a "much more respectable bird", "a bird of courage", and "a true original native of America."

Turkeys can see better than humans.

Turkeys have three-times better vision than humans. They can also see in color and their eyesight covers 270 degrees.

Presidential pardons for turkeys started in 1989.

It's widely believed that the first presidential pardon for turkeys started when Abraham Lincoln's son pleaded that the bird intended for Christmas dinner had a right to live just like any other creature, but it wasn't until 1989 during George H.W. Bush's administration that the official pardoning ceremony started.

Turkey snoods are for mating.

Snoods, the fleshy appendage that extends over a turkey's beak is for finding a suitable mate. According to the Journal of Avian Biology, females prefer males with longer snoods, and snood length can also be used to predict the winner of a competition between two males.

46 million turkeys are killed each year for Thanksgiving.

If each turkey weighs about 30 pounds on average, that means Americans will consume 1.4 billion pounds of turkey.

Source: World Animal Protection



Trail Blazing

John Lampkin

Happy fifth anniversary! In early 2016, the Sun City Center Audubon Club became the official steward of the SCC West Campus Nature Trails. A few years previously, the Trails were the brainchild of Mike Raff and the SCC Hiking Club and were laid out and installed in cooperation with the SCC Community Association.

Audubon club president at the time, Linda Floyd, saw the importance of safeguarding our community's last remaining chunk of "wild Florida" and enlisted the support of the board. Melanie Higgins spearheaded a campaign to install a kiosk which was built and installed pro bono by Ken Fletcher and the CA personnel. A band of volunteers, dubbed the "Stalwart Stewards," cleared the site of many piles of trimmings and debris left by TECO during their routine power line right of way maintenance.



The Nature Trails kiosk, "Trail Blazing," weekly bird counts, and monthly guided walks celebrate their five-year anniversary!

John Lampkin headed the stewards, started an inventory of all vascular plants and animals, began his ongoing series of monthly interpretive walks, and wrote the first "Trail Blazing" column in April 2016. Ray Webb did his first of his ongoing weekly bird surveys in October 2016. For such a small site, the lists of documented species are impressive: 108 birds, 50 butterflies, 38 dragonfly and damselflies, 25 mammals, reptiles and amphibians, and 292 plants. These, together with a huge number of yet-to-be-categorized insects, lichens, briophytes and the like, all call the Nature Trails home.

The Trails are an ongoing project—there are always challenges to face and accomplishments to applaud, such as new signage provided by the Haines Fenimore Memorial fund in 2017, and a successful habitat restoration, recognized as the "Environmental Project of the Year" by the Tampa Bay Association of Environmental Professionals. But today, the SCC Audubon Club celebrates five years of stewardship of this unique and truly marvelous chunk of wild Florida.

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 on the first Tuesday of the month at 9 am.



Guided Tours

Memories on the Nature Trail



Clean Up Crew



John Fenimore Dedication



Bench Dedication for Juanita Kent

Bird Love at the November Meeting



Great Egret display

For our November 6 meeting, the Sun City Center Audubon Club will present “Love Is in the Air,” a talk on bird courtship and breeding behaviors by Reinier Munguia. Reinier is a wildlife photographer who has traveled the neotropics to capture its immense diversity of flora and fauna.

He will discuss the intimate lives of birds and all the changes they go through in preparation for breeding - from territory selection to finding a mate. This presentation will cover many aspects of bird reproduction including physical and behavioral adaptation, with examples from Florida and around the world.

The meeting will be held in the Florida Room beginning at 9:30 a.m. with socializing and refreshments. Attendees are asked to bring their own coffee mug. The business meeting will start at 10 a.m., followed by Reinier’s presentation.

Photos by Reinier Munguia



Waved Albatross

News from our Master Birder

Ray Webb

Pine warblers are weird!!! They are pretty warblers. In breeding plumage, the males are bright yellow below and pale blue-gray above, with two bright white wingbars. The females are similar but duller. In winter there is a wide variation of colors, from yellow to dingy gray. They are one of the few warblers which are correctly named. Nashville warblers don't live only in Nashville, and Connecticut warblers aren't only found in Connecticut. But pine warblers are faithful to pine forests. They live there and breed there, throughout Florida.

So why did I have one on my sunflower feeder today? Why was one hopping around on my patio, while another one chased insects on my back lawn? Turns out that they are pretty smart. They leave the pine forests, and join mixed flocks of songbirds, such as chipping sparrows, palm warblers, Eastern bluebirds, tufted titmice, and downy woodpeckers, for the winter. In the open country, I have seen such flocks containing well over a hundred birds.

These flocks are forming now. As wintering species arrive, they will join these flocks. All the better to find food and have plenty of eyes to spot hawks. There is no need for territoriality now; the main goal is to survive to breed next year.

Palm warblers have arrived. You may have already seen them in your yard. Gray catbirds are also here. This week I saw the season's first Eastern phoebe. The season marches on.



Pine Warbler



Palm Warbler



Gray catbird



Eastern phoebe



BYOM

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

General Meeting

Saturday, November 6, 2021

Florida Room

9:30am Refreshments

10:00am Business Meeting

10:30am Program

Membership

Our SCC Audubon Club membership continues to steadily increase. Club meetings during the past year were held virtually using Zoom. The Audubon Club's "Earth Day at the SCC Trail" was well attended and produced several new members. By summer, our paid 2021 membership stood at 102.

Since our October 2nd in-person general meeting, and our SCC Fall Fest info booth on October 16th, our SCC Audubon Club 2021 paid membership is now at 120, including 28 NEW members.

Much credit goes to the team of Membership Reception volunteers who have greeted, checked-in and registered attendees at the above events.

Reminder: by joining or renewing now, your SCC Audubon Club membership is fully paid for 2022.

Thanks,

Dennis Morris
Membership Chairman

SCC Audubon Club Meeting Protocol

The Audubon Club is continuing with the following precautions for meeting. We will have the room set up to keep social distancing standards. This means that we can only seat 75 people (4 at a table and spaced chairs in the back). We will require masks upon entering. Hand sanitizer and extra masks are available if you need them. Go ahead and socialize and once you have your tea or coffee and your refreshments, please take a seat and you can take your mask off.



Veterans Day November 11

"This nation will remain the land of the free only so long as it is the home of the brave."

Elmer Davis

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

President	Mary Duncan
Co-Vice-Presidents	Patsie Ginley Linda Menier
Secretary	Betty Giles
Treasurer	Rod Rodrigues
At Large	
Name Tags	Jo Ann Wilkinson
Field Trips	
Master Birder	Ray Webb
Refreshments	Pat Dean
Historians	Ed & Clara Clancy
Membership	Dennis Morris
Conservation	Peter Aluotto
Newsletter	Denise Rosen
Publicity	Susan Shuttleworth
Membership	Dennis Morris

Field Trips

11/16/21	Morris Bridge Park Hillsborough County, FL
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



Field Trip to Sawgrass Lake Park



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