



# Sun City Center Audubon Club

October 2021

## *Ponderings from your prez*

*Mary*

***Hooray, hooray*** we are finally having a meeting in person! I hope to see you on Saturday in the Florida room. Patsie, as usual, has found a fascinating speaker for us. Hunter Douglas will speak on Ocean Conservation. While we are all excited to finally having live meetings, we are being cautious as well.

While I imagine that most of us are vaccinated, Covid can still be an issue. Only a very low percentage of people catch the virus once they are vaccinated, and the results are usually mild – or even not noticeable. The problem is that the virus can still be passed on to others with possible catastrophic consequences for the non-vaccinated. And, in fact, those who are vaccinated could still get quite sick. Our dear Audubon friends, Ed and Clara Clancy, were vaccinated but caught the virus somehow – they don't even know how. They were both very ill – and it lasted for a month. (Clara said I could share this with you all since we are both advocating being very careful.) My heart goes out to Ed and Clara and I want to be sure that we keep everyone as safe as possible when we meet.

The Audubon Club Board met and decided on the following precautions. 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). Since the snowbirds aren't back yet, I don't anticipate that this will be a problem. We will require masks upon entering.

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. The Board is bringing the refreshments and they will be individually wrapped to minimize handling. We will have hand sanitizer and extra masks available if you need them.

We will unlock the doors at 9am so everyone has time to sign in, mingle a bit, get their refreshments and be ready for the meeting at 10am. We'll have a short meeting and then our special presentation.

There will also be a chance to sign up for our field trips. The first field trip in October is to Sawgrass Lake Park in Pinellas.

It was a little difficult to write this as the precautions we are taking may seem over-cautious, but I want everyone to feel safe and welcome.

And you all are indeed welcome. Hope to see you there.





## *Trail Blazing*

*John Lampkin*

Butterfly and moth tongues are often described as being like soda straws. However, a close look in the field shows that this is a poor analogy. A lepidopteran doesn't take in fluids through a hole in the end of the tongue as if it were a straw, but rather lays it flat like the Black-dotted Spragueia Moth is doing in the photograph. Electron microscope images confirm that the tongue is a complex organ with sensory organs, glands and an open architecture that suggests an absorbent sponge more than a straw.

When laid flat, the absorbent surface area is dramatically increased, perfect for soaking up even the minimal amounts of nectar in flower crannies. Males also can often be observed with their tongues lying flat to absorb the moisture and salts in mud flats or stream banks. In fact, the tongue, scientifically called a proboscis, evolved for absorbing such fluids millions of years before flowering plants with their nectar evolved.

This beautiful moth was taking nectar from a saw palmetto flower on the Sun City Center Nature Trails. The plants flower abundantly in the spring and sporadically throughout the year, saying to all pollinators, "Come and get me!" Butterflies and moths respond to the offer with their tongues hanging out, not their soda straws!

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.



## *News from our Master Birder*

*Ray Webb*

Right now, we are in transition. Fall bird migration is in full swing, and we are fast approaching the winter season. I took a walk at the West Campus Nature Trails this morning, expecting to possibly see the season's first palm warblers or gray catbirds. Not yet!

Our summer breeders such as great crested flycatchers, summer tanagers, northern parulas and purple martins are long gone, passing through now are more northern breeders such as rose-breasted grosbeaks, indigo buntings, Baltimore orioles and many species of warblers.

I noticed a touch of fall in the air this morning. While the temperature was 76 degrees, it was not oppressive; a gentle northerly breeze was refreshing. This is a sign of things to come! Maybe tomorrow morning you will look out your window and see little brown birds with yellow under their tail - palm warblers - chasing insects in your backyard.



*A butterfly or moth's tongue is not at all like a straw!*

## *Field Trips*

*Ray Webb*

*October 7 - Sawgrass Lake Park*

*November 16 - Morris Bridge Park*

Sawgrass Lake Park, located in the center of Pinellas County, has traditionally been a good place to see fall migrants. We will go there seeking warblers, vireos, and whatever happens to be around. Birding will be easy; mostly in the parking lot! There is a boardwalk also, leading to the lake. Following our walk, we will have luncheon at Spring Garden Family Restaurant, 1018 62nd Ave. S., (727) 528-2722, about a mile from the Park. We will meet at 9 AM at the Community Hall parking lot (north side). and carpool to the park.

Morris Bridge Park is located off exit 266 on I-75, and from there out Morris Bridge Road. It features a boardwalk through a cypress swamp and along the Hillsborough River. The entire walk will be on the boardwalk, which goes under the road and continues a short distance there. It offers a peaceful, idyllic morning stroll! I am suggesting we bring a sack lunch, to enjoy after the walk at one of the park's picnic tables. There is a \$2 fee per vehicle to use the park. As for the October trip, we will meet at 9 AM at the Community Hall. Both parks have restroom facilities.

Please contact me at (813)-469-3994 or email at [rjw1434@yahoo.com](mailto:rjw1434@yahoo.com), to sign up for these trips..



*Sawgrass Lake Park*



*Morris Bridge Park*

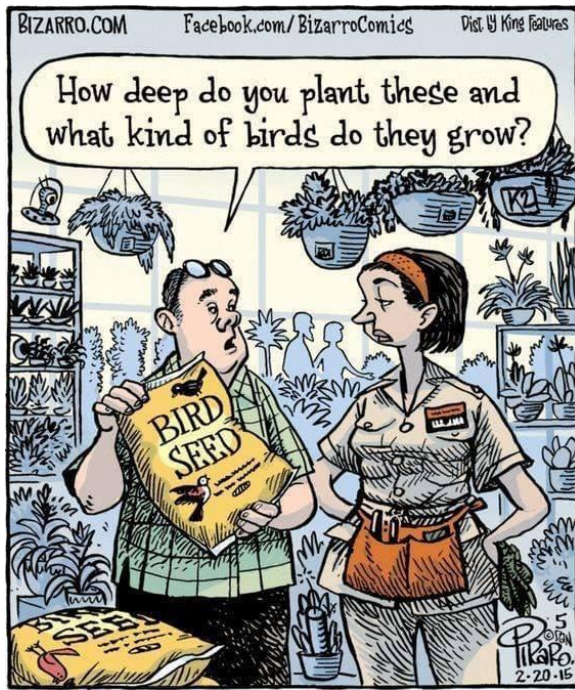


## *Membership*

*Dennis Morris*

For your convenience, please find a copy of our Membership Form included in this newsletter. Along with a copy attached to your email. You may also obtain a copy on our website at [www.sccaudubonclub.com](http://www.sccaudubonclub.com)

We look forward to seeing everyone at our October meeting.



## *Program & Meeting*

*Patsie Ginley*

At this time, we are planning on a program for our first meeting on October 2, 2021, in the Florida room in the Atrium. Coffee Social will be held at 9:30am and Business Meeting at 10 with program following.

Hunter Miller will be the October speaker for Audubon Club. Hunter is Oceana's Field Representative for Southwest Florida. Oceana, founded in 2001, is the largest international advocacy organization focused solely on ocean conservation.

Before joining Oceana in 2017, Hunter was an organizer with Environmental Youth Council in Northeast Florida where he worked on climate change and sea level rise education, led campaigns to stop pollution in Florida rivers, and helped craft the Young Riverkeeper program for the Matanzas Riverkeeper.

He led the campaign in his community to engage and educate citizens and local elected officials about the threats of seismic air gun blasting and offshore drilling in the Atlantic to coastal communities. As a result, the city of St. Augustine and St. Johns County passed resolutions of opposition which became blueprints for municipalities across Florida to stand up to the oil industry.

Hunter is a sixth-generation Floridian and has always had a connection to its waters. As an avid fisherman, surfer and paddler he found his love and appreciation for our oceans and believes it is his moral obligation to conserve, heal and protect the waters which have given him so much. Hunter has a degree in Public Administration from Flagler College in St Augustine, FL. When he is not organizing for the environment, you can find him in the nearest body of water with his partner Jaryn and dog, Baxter.



### **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, October 2, 2021***

***Florida Room***

***9:30am Refreshments***

***10:00am Business Meeting***

***10:30am Program***

***Florida Birding and Nature Festival***  
***October 15-17, 2021***



The Florida Birding and Nature Festival will take place October 15-17 at the Manatee Viewing Center in Apollo Beach. There will be three days of field and boat trips, expert seminars, keynote speakers, and a great nature expo!

Here's what you can expect. Two days of Zoom broadcast seminars from experts in their fields. There will be seminars on coyotes, butterflies, horseshoe crabs, tortoises, Florida bees, and many more. The Nature Expo is free of charge and full of nature organizations, original artwork, and more. There will be field and boat trips, many of which will take you out to sites not normally accessible to the public (\$25-\$60). The keynote events take place both Friday and Saturday (\$20 on Zoom, \$40 in person). Enjoy an hors d'oeuvres buffet and drinks.

The opening Keynote speaker is Craig Pittman, renowned American journalist and author of books mostly about Florida. He was a reporter and columnist for the *Tampa Bay Times*. In 2020 the Florida Heritage Book Festival honored Pittman as a 'Living Legend.'" Lunch will be available for purchase from 11 am to 2 pm from the Manatee Viewing Center's cafeteria on Friday and Saturday. For more detailed information go to the website: [floridabirdingandnaturefestival.org](http://floridabirdingandnaturefestival.org)

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

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





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.

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Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Cash \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(In-Person only)

Name (Please print legibly) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ New Member \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal

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### 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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### 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