



Sun City Center Audubon Club

September 2021

Ponderings from your prez

Mary

The Board has been planning for the new season and our first meeting in October. Patsie has speakers lined up for us for the year and it should be exciting. Let's hope that Covid 19 doesn't put a crimp in our plans as it did last year. We will have social distancing and a mask mandate for our meetings. The first Saturday in October is the second so be prepared...I know September will go quickly.

I was away in June and July but I'm usually here and have found the summer field trips to be a great way to get to know people, get outside, and explore different places around us. I really miss not having something on the calendar for these months. We really need a summer field trip coordinator. It means planning trips for May through September. These haven't just been birding trips and have included such things as the Railroad Museum ride, Yuengling Brewery tour, boat rides, native plant nursery etc. In other words, places to go and see together during the summer. We really need someone to speak up and take this over – or maybe share the job with someone. Let's not miss out next summer. (I just re-read this and was going to edit out the number of times I put in "really" – instead, I'll just add – we really, really, really need you to volunteer.)

With the loss of our field trip organizer (and bless him for all of his hard work over the years), the Board has offered to take on even more responsibility this year and have a different board member leading a trip each month. (Thank you, Board Members!) There will be some really nice trips this year and I hope you will be able to join us.

I have told the board that I don't want anyone to have to lead more than one – but right now, we don't have a leader for the November trip to Morris Bridge. I hope we find someone in time as this is a really nice park.

OK, speaking of field trips, I'd like to encourage carpooling. It is an easy thing that we can do to ease pollution and save our planet. Chatting in the car is also a good way to get to know people. We should also go back to our suggestion of giving the driver \$5 to help out with gas, etc. It gives the driver a little incentive and it makes those of us who need a ride feel better.

Alright, enough pondering on business. Let's just enjoy the rest of summer and then come together to enjoy our club meetings and field trips. It will be so nice to see everyone!



News from our Master Birder

Ray Webb

August is typically a transition month for the birds. Breeding season is over, and all of the summer residents are on their way south. During my last walk on the West Campus Nature Trails, I saw one male purple martin, definitely a late migrant. They are the first to arrive, in January, and also among the first to leave. I also saw a barn swallow; this species is also heading south now.

While we are losing our summer residents, the winter residents have yet to arrive. The first of these, the belted kingfisher, is now due; I have seen one along the trail. Palm warblers, yellow-rumped warblers, blue-headed vireos, yellow-bellied sapsuckers and eastern phoebes, to name a few, will arrive later. You will notice that the laughing gulls, which are here year-round, no longer have black heads. Common grackles, boat-tailed grackles and European starlings have gathered into large flocks and are also molting into winter plumage.

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

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

HAPPY
Labor Day

Field Trips

Ray Webb

I have been asked to lead our first two field trips of the 2021-22 year. These are;

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, to sign up for these trips..



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

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.



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