

Birdsong Nature Center

July - August 2015

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July

- Thur. July 2 Butterfly Garden Work Day
- Wed. July 8 Bluebird Monitoring
- Sat. July 11 Bluebird Monitoring
Summer Morning Trailer Ride and
WHIP Project Site Visit
- Sat. July 18 Butterflies at Birdsong
- Wed. July 22 Bluebird Monitoring
- Sat. July 25 Bluebird Monitoring
Chorus of Frogs, Evening Listening
Walk

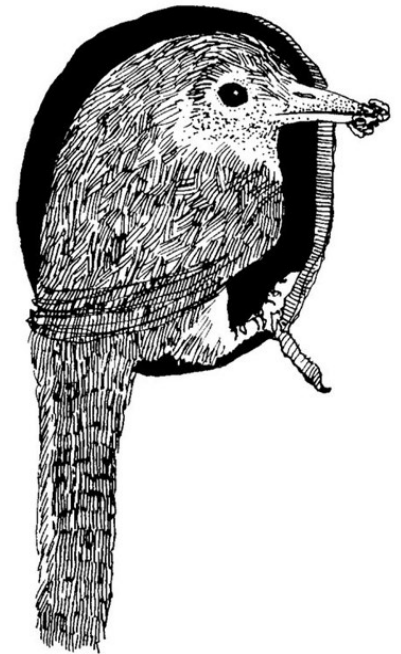
August

- Sat. Aug. 1 Take a Child Outside for a Natural
Scavenger Hunt!
- Wed. Aug. 5 Bluebird Monitoring
- Thur. Aug. 6 Butterfly Garden Work Day
- Sat. Aug. 8 Bluebird Monitoring

August Closures

Trails and Butterfly Garden: Open August 1 - 14
Closed August 15 - September 1
Reopen September 2

House and Bird Window: Open August 1 - 2
Closed August 3 - September 1
Reopen September 2



BIRDSONG NATURE CENTER

WEB SITE: www.birdsongnaturecenter.org

EMAIL: birdsong@birdsongnaturecenter.org

TWITTER: @BirdsongNatureC

FACEBOOK: Birdsong Nature Center

YOUTUBE: Birdsong Nature Center



BIRD WINDOW AND TRAIL HOURS

Wednesday	9 AM - 5 PM
Friday	9 AM - 5 PM
Saturday	9 AM - 5 PM
Sunday	1 PM - 5 PM

Bird Window and Nature Trails

Welcome to Birdsong! Enjoy the beauty and serenity of the Bird Window and learn to identify resident and visiting birds up close. Walk the Nature Trails to observe wildlife in a variety of habitats and enjoy the sounds of nature at the Listening Place. Before you leave, you may want to visit the Chickadee Corner Gift Shop. We hope you enjoy your stay!

All visitors please sign in at the Registration Center. Trail maps are provided. Pets, trash and fires are not permitted.

Registration

Please register for all programs by calling or emailing: (229) 377-4408, 1 (800) 953-BIRD, Birdsong Office
Fax line (229)-377-8723, or birdsong@birdsongnaturecenter.org

Dear Birdsong Members,

We wanted to take this final opportunity to let you know of the Board's recent decision to increase Birdsong's membership dues. As was mentioned in previous newsletters, dues have not changed since Birdsong was founded in 1986. An adjustment to membership dues was included as one part of an overall effort to help support the long-term stability of the Nature Center.

The new membership dues will go into effect on July 1, 2015. Only the first three of our membership categories are affected by the change: dues for Individual Friends increases from \$25/year to \$30/year, Family Friends from \$35/year to \$45/year, and Friends of the Cardinal from \$50/year to \$60/year. All other category amounts remain unchanged.

Before July 1 arrives, we encourage all of our Individual, Family, and Cardinal members to renew and extend current memberships at today's rates. For example, if your membership expires on March 1, 2016, you can renew before July 1 at pre-increase rates and have your membership extended to March 1, 2017. Your membership expiration date is printed on the label of your newsletter.

Gift memberships can also be purchased to be given any time this calendar year at the current rate, to be honored starting on the date of the intended gift (e.g., Christmas gifts could be "ordered" and paid for now, and delivered in December, for a year's membership starting on the December date of delivery).

Memberships can be purchased or renewed using the form included in this newsletter, or by using the "Memberships" page on our Web-site: www.birdsongnaturecenter.org. Please see how to renew online on page 5.

We want very much to continue maintaining this beautiful place for current and future generations alike, and for Birdsong to continue being a great value to its members. We greatly appreciate your support – as members, donors, and volunteers – in making Birdsong the irreplaceable asset to our community that it has become. The Nature Center wouldn't be here today for all to enjoy but for your generous efforts in helping to preserve this special place, and in supporting Birdsong's educational mission.

We thank each of you for being the greatly appreciated member and supporter that you are, and we hope you will continue to be for many years to come.

Sincerely yours,
Joe Peresich
Board President



PLEASING PLANT COMBINATIONS

Serious flower gardeners spend a lot of time and energy digging up plants and planting them back in a different place. Much of this work is unavoidable to maintain the health and vigor of the plants, as when daylilies or rudbeckia get too crowded and need dividing. But a lot of digging and rearranging is done for aesthetic reasons, such as when you decide something with a pink bloom at one end of the garden would look good next to something white which is now at the other end. Out comes the shovel.

A lot of work and stress on your plants could be saved if gardeners were able to put pleasing plant combinations together from the beginning. One project of the Birdsong Old-Timey Plant Sale committee this year is to spot these combinations in their own gardens throughout the year and then present those plants together at the March 19 sale along with a photograph showing them in bloom. Some keen observation and plant knowledge goes into this.

You have to know that the plants growing together have the same soil, light, and water requirements; that one won't aggressively crowd out its partner; that their flowering or showy season happens at the same time. We have some really pretty photographs so far that you can see on Birdsong's website: a yellow austrinum azalea blooming behind a white silverbell tree, pink garden phlox and white shasta daisies, black-and-blue salvia with magenta bee balm, coral-colored *Sinningia sellovii* with blue agastache, and white flowering tobacco with a pink rose.

Be looking at your garden for gaps where you might put some of these plant combinations. In a seasonally changing garden it can help to mark with a flag or plastic label stuck in the ground with a note to yourself where each season's gaps are. The 2016 plant sale will be held on the third Saturday in March, March 19, the perfect time to fill these holes in your garden.

-June Bailey White
Plant Sale Chair

SUMMER HOURS FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST 2015

We are making plans to get some restorative work done this summer on the main house, garden and driveway at Birdsong. We plan to get the house painted inside and out and get the driveway graded and improved. The painters will need to build scaffolding around the building and have access to it for about a month.

We typically close the Center for the last two weeks in August, so this does not impact our usual summer schedule, but these activities will require us to close the house for the entire month. The trails will remain open through Friday, August 14th.

Here is the August schedule:

Trails and Butterfly Garden open as usual from Saturday August 1 through Friday, August 14; closed August 15 through September 1. Re-open Wednesday, September 2.

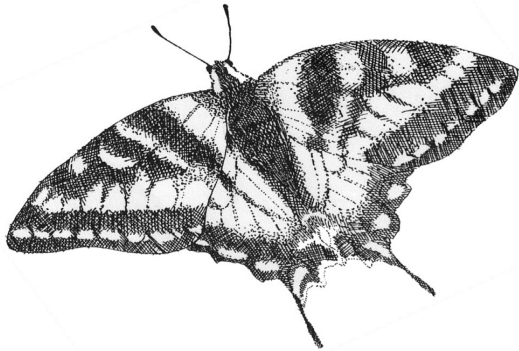
House (Bird Window and Gift Shop) open Saturday and Sunday August 1 and 2; closed August 3 through September 1. Re-open Wednesday, September 2.

BUTTERFLIES AT BIRDSONG

With Dean and Sally Jue

Saturday, July 18

9:30 – Noon or later



Join butterfly experts Dean and Sally Jue on a leisurely walk to find and identify butterflies at Birdsong. We will start with a visit to the Butterfly Garden and then go out on the trails. You will really enjoy learning your butterflies with Dean and Sally; they are excellent teachers and very good company. You will also learn about the Hairstreak Chapter of the North American Butterfly Association.

Bring a hat, sunscreen, water and binoculars (close-focusing ones if you have them). If you want to stay past noon, feel welcome to bring a picnic lunch.

RESERVATIONS, PLEASE. Please call the office or email by 4pm Friday July 17th to reserve a space.

SUMMER MORNING TRAILER RIDE

and WHIP project site visit

Saturday, July 11

9:00 – 11:00AM

Join Executive Director Kathleen Brady for a summer morning trail ride. Our primary destination will be the WHIP project site where we will stay for a while and look for bird activity. We will make a number of additional stops to discuss Birdsong's ecology, land management and history, including places such as the Spring Pond, gopher tortoise neighborhood, Big Bay Swamp, Listening Place, Star Pasture and others. We will point out gopher tortoise burrows, look for birds that may be raising their final brood, any other signs of wildlife, and summer wildflowers in bloom.

RESERVATIONS, PLEASE. Please call by noon on Friday, July 10th to reserve a space. Geared for adults and mature children - we will be sitting still and watching birds for an extended period of time. There is room for 15 people on the trailer. Dress for the weather, bring binoculars and bug spray.

\$6 Friends, \$10 nonmembers, children half-price.

A CHORUS OF FROGS

EVENING LISTENING WALK

Saturday, July 25

8:30 – 10:00PM

Join Nancy Ann Thomas for an evening field experience to practice your listening skills and learn to identify our woods and aquatic frogs by their calls. We will take a trailer ride out and make stops at the Farm Pond, Big Bay Swamp, Big Bay Pond and the Frog Pond to hear the early evening chorus. There will be some walking to the ponds from our stopping points along the way. Dress for the weather, and bring bug spray and binoculars. Nancy has an excellent handout for you, and she has a frog guide for purchase.

RESERVATIONS, PLEASE. This program is geared for adults and mature children. Please call the office or email by 4pm Friday July 24th to reserve a space on the trailer.

\$4 Friends, \$8 non-members.

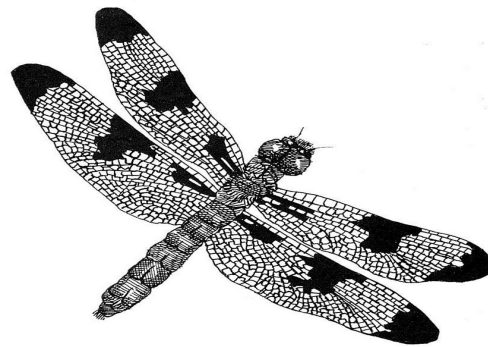
**TAKE A CHILD OUTSIDE
FOR A NATURAL SCAVENGER HUNT!
Saturday, August 1
9:30-11:30AM**

Celebrate summer at Birdsong with your favorite child or children. Leader Sandra Sallee and Executive Director Kathleen Brady will take our group on a scavenger hunt and see what Mother Nature has to offer! We want to give you and your youngsters an opportunity to really practice your nature observation skills – as a team! We will provide bags for collecting your treasures.

Be prepared to walk off the beaten path; closed-toed shoes and long pants are a good idea. We will go collecting and come back to the Barn to sort our loot and show it to our new friends. Bring water, sun protection, and lunch if you want to stay and picnic afterward. Enjoy learning something new and have a special experience with your child in the great outdoors.

RESERVATIONS, PLEASE, so we know how many to prepare for. Please call by noon, July 31 to reserve your spot.

\$3 Friends, \$5 nonmembers, children half-price. Includes a handout and resource list for year-round outdoor activities with children.



WILDFLOWERS OF BIRDSONG
A Photographic Collection
Accessible on our website
www.birdsongnaturecenter.org

Summer is a nice time to walk the trails at Birdsong and observe our native wildflowers in bloom. Right now we are seeing the vining lavender Butterfly Pea, orange Butterflyweed, and the last of the Ladies' Tresses Orchid. If you want to learn more about the flowers at Birdsong, we recommend that you investigate the outstanding photographic collection created by Eleanor Dietrich found at the "Birdsong Wildflowers" link on our web site at www.birdsongnaturecenter.org.

Several years ago, Eleanor Dietrich created this collection of images to help visitors learn to identify the flowers they find along the trails. She organized it in a series of sets of the most visible/viewable flowers seen on Birdsong's trails for any given month. The collection is very easy to use; Eleanor's photos are beautiful and each one is a great representative of that species. Just go to the month of your choice and look for the flower you want to identify. You can click on a particular photo and see additional information about the flower including its scientific name and where it may be seen at Birdsong.

We thank Eleanor for creating this beautiful educational tool. We know you will enjoy using it.

BUTTERFLY GARDEN WORK DAYS
Thursdays, July 2 and August 6
9:30AM to Noon

Please join our Butterfly Garden volunteers on the first Thursday of the month to tend our beautiful Butterfly Garden! Bring gardening gloves, knee pads, clippers, and lunch if you wish to stay afterwards. For more information call Donna Legare at (850)386-1148 or Birdsong at (229)377-4408.

BLUEBIRD TRAIL MONITORING
July 8, 11, 22, 25
August 5, 8
8:30AM (summer starting time)

Our Bluebird Trail team checks nest boxes every other Wednesday and Saturday. Join these veteran Bluebird volunteers for a fascinating morning in the field and learn all about Bluebirds! The job of visiting the 43 boxes, counting eggs and fledglings, recording observations, and cleaning/repairing boxes is a very valuable service to the Bluebirds and to Birdsong. Bring a friend and help the Bluebird! Please note the 8:30am summer start time. Call for more information at (229)377-4408.

THE WHIP GRANT PROJECT Summer 2015

As described in prior newsletters, Birdsong is receiving support for a three-year federal grant from the Natural Resource Conservation Service, a division of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The funding comes from the Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program and provides a portion of the cost of a series of projects intended to improve gopher tortoise habitat at Birdsong. We had been considering these projects for some time, but were aware that they can be costly and labor-intensive. We are very pleased to be the recipients of a grant that will help us with the financial and technical aspects of this undertaking. These measures include efforts such as eradicating bahia grass and replacing it with native grass species; removal of excessive numbers of hardwood trees, such as sweet gum, that are prolific reproducers and will take over an open understory where gopher food plants typically grow; regular prescribed burning; planting of longleaf pine in soils that gophers use; and introducing more native groundcover food plants that support gophers. Except for the prescribed burning, these are significant efforts for us, many are new to our land management repertoire and most require the use of specific herbicides, something we have not done before. We are learning all we can about the most appropriate herbicides to use, as well as the best methods and equipment.

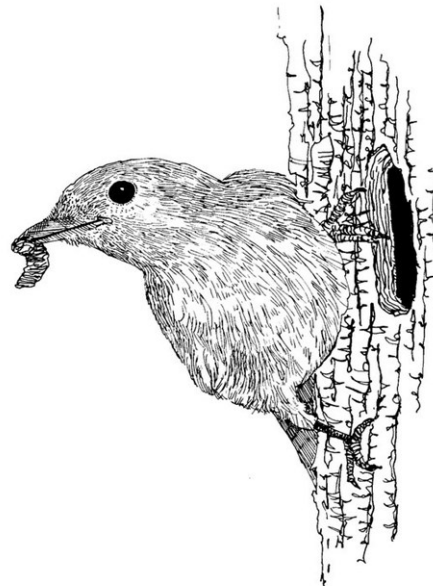
We recently have completed the first stage of a longleaf pine-planting project in Big Bay Field. We worked hard for many years to keep this field a field. Even with hot burning and mowing, shortleaf pines persisted and we finally decided to let them grow. They have done well on this site over the last 10 or more years. One of the efforts in the suite of WHIP grant projects is the clearing of shortleaf on this 17.4 acre section, followed by burning and then treatment of shortleaf and bahia grass with highly targeted herbicides that will allow future planting of native grasses and longleaf pine. Longleaf, with its associated groundcover plants, is known to provide ideal habitat for gopher tortoises.

We hired our friend and neighbor Bruce Welch to come in and do the cutting project the last few weeks in May. Bruce has a mid-sized tractor with a grapple and mower, ideal for what we wanted to accomplish. He and his assistant Brian, who manned the chainsaw with help from volunteer Mike Miller, completed the cutting project last week. It was ten days of heavy work in hot weather and they did a very nice job. They went to great lengths to saw the tree stumps down as low as possible for aesthetic reasons and also so Chuck can use the brush-cutter here without destroying the blades. We are extremely pleased with the result.

The next steps will be to first burn the field and pine tops in about six weeks when the logs dry out, and then conduct the herbicide treatment in September or so after

the grass and trees have re-sprouted. The site will then be ready for planting longleaf seedlings in December.

We originally weren't very enthusiastic about cutting the shortleaf down, having become fond of them over time, but we have been pleased with how the cut turned out and are surprised by the level of bird and wildlife activity on the work site. Please see the land management notes in this newsletter for some stories. You can walk out south of Big Bay Swamp and visit the site for yourself. We will be placing a bench on the south side of the trail west of the pond so you can stop here and enjoy it in the morning shade. Please let us know what you see going on out at the site – we want to document as much activity as we can.



ONLINE MEMBERSHIP PURCHASES AND DONATIONS

Birdsong can accept membership purchases, renewals, and donations to the Center online via our Web-site, www.birdsongnaturecenter.org. To use the online service, please see the "Memberships" and "Donations" links shown on all of our Web pages. Credit and debit card purchases and donations can be made, with PayPal providing card-processing services. You do not need a PayPal account to use the service. Note that for membership purchases and renewals, the mailing address can be different from the card billing address. Both membership purchase and donation processes allow for special instructions or notes to be entered for Birdsong. We hope that you will find the online service convenient and easy to use. Please let us know if you experience any problem or have questions about the service.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT NOTES

June 4, 2015

Weather We've had a beautiful, cool Spring. Although we are experiencing the inevitable increase in temperature as the season progresses, the mornings have been cool, breezy, dry, ideal. The frequent rains we had all winter and early spring have tapered off, with just a few intense storms coming through. The heat comes on strong by afternoon and reminds us of what will be coming in July and August. It has been dry enough over the past month that we are now glad to have the rain, both for the moisture and to help cool off these hot afternoons.

Purple Martins Life during nesting season is intense for Purple Martins. The parents have worked very hard for the past six weeks taking care of eggs and now babies. Because the Martin pole is in such an accessible location, we get to observe the entire nesting cycle. The activity at the pole, usually a very busy place, leveled off for a time when the females were sitting on eggs and then feeding began and things were back to normal. For the first week or so after hatching the babies were too small to sit up and be seen from our vantage point below. Then small, sleepy faces began appearing inside the gourds. Over the past two weeks, the youngsters have grown rapidly and their entire demeanor has changed; they grew from having little pale gray pin-feathered faces with wide beaks and yellow lips, to dark, sleek, fully feathered, alert fledglings. When they got to the curious stage, leaning out of the gourds, we were pleased to learn that four of the ten gourds had four babies each – big broods. It is entertaining to see them at this point – all four birds wedged in the gourd entrance hoping to be the first fed on the parent's next trip home with a bug. Just last week when the first brood fledged the entire colony got excited – there is always tremendous racket and loud encouragement by all adults when fledging starts. By the end of the day, four little Martins were sitting up in the highest branches of the nearest pecan tree, attended by their father, who loudly made repeated attempts to urge them off their perches, even making contact on one of his fly-bys. It wasn't successful that time - all four held on tight; they'd had enough flying for one day. Shortly afterward, both parents came by and fed their offspring, and the next day they were gone, having rejoined the colony at the gourds. The Martins are continually fascinating – I hope you get to come visit and sit at the pump house bench and just watch them for a while before they leave. It is amazing what you can learn by just seeing them in action. There is one more brood to fledge and then we will see what happens. Last year they left two weeks earlier than expected, mid-June. Life at Birdsong changes when the Martins leave; their intensity and cheerful noisy presence will be missed.

Land Management We burned 130 acres, the entire east wing and Mill Field, on April 8 and 9. On the first day, it was very hot work and hard on the crew, so we cut back on

our original plan and came back and finished it the following day. We are very pleased with the results. It did a good scorching of sweetgum brush, especially east of the Frog Pond, and opened up the mulchy grass and ground cover. The gopher tortoise area looks very good, and we know that the young tortoises are eating well, because member Ed Dunley actually saw two young ones eating grasses and greenery near their burrows. We plan to do several more burns during the summer months and see if we can knock out some of our brush problems. Chuck will continue his heavy brush-cutting projects around the place. You may have seen the nice work he has done opening up the south side of the trail to the Listening Place.

I would like to thank our crew: veterans Chuck Eason, Mike Miller, Sandra Sallee, Bob Bearss and Alan Parker, and more recent burn volunteers Russ Barrett and his sister-in-law Martha, and Ed Dunley.

The Big Bay Field Work Site I am sitting in the shade at the east edge of the work site just west of Big Bay Pond, looking out over the entire project area. The piled pine tops are just beginning to dry and turn the color of rust, and the now-open mowed field is greening up. For a recently cut wooded area, it looks very nice. I'm glad we left the old dead shortleaf snag and three live oak trees; they are excellent perching and gleaning sites. We kept the only three longleaf pines too and they are popular perching (and nesting) sites. Right now, as I'm writing these notes, a bright blue male Bluebird is singing incessantly from the top of the shortleaf pine snag, a loud and beautiful song. A Red-headed Woodpecker is calling from a high branch and a Kingbird is dashing out to bully the Pine Warblers and return to his perch. Several Yellow-billed Cuckoos are working their way around the perimeter of the cut together, making that intriguing clicking call. There is a White-breasted Nuthatch circling a water oak directly behind me, buzzing as he goes. A male Summer Tanager is singing in the trees along the swamp.

It has been two weeks since the cutting project began and it took ten days to complete. We were originally somewhat apprehensive about the cutting, concerned that it would have some negative effects on the bird population, especially since it is nesting season. I started coming out a few days after the project started, at times when it was quiet and the workers were not here, and was amazed by how much was happening. There were birds everywhere. Here are a few interesting things I've seen in the past two weeks:

Ten days ago or so, after only the south side of the road had been cut, there was a lot of Summer Tanager activity in one of the longleaf pines – a male and a female were chasing off another male. After a while, I was finally able to see what the fuss was about – the pair had built a nest on a low-hanging longleaf bough and were defending their territory. Over the next few days, the female could be seen spending more and more time there. The shallow nest was made of fine weeds and grasses and it blended in well with the color of the branch. When the female was home you could see her

gold head and tail at either end if you knew where to look, but otherwise it was very hard to find. I had high hopes for the fledging of a nest full of tanagers, but when I came back after the Memorial Day weekend, there were no tanagers in sight. I went close to the nest and climbed up on my vehicle to see in; the nest was undisturbed but there were no eggs. This most likely means that a white oak snake found the nest and consumed the eggs. I have not seen a female tanager anywhere on the site since then. A male is singing, so we hope they will start over soon and raise a brood without being found.

There are two pairs of Eastern Bluebirds active around the site. They love the shortleaf snag, where they can perch up high and get a great 360 degree view of the area, and where the males can make a stand and sing their enticing songs. On the same day I saw the tanager nest one pair was particularly busy in the nearby longleaf pines and pine piles and there was a lot of coming and going. At one point, the female flew past from the woods behind me back out to the open area, and she was carrying something white. This was the big giveaway – she was toting a fecal sac away from a nest! I began observing more closely and every so often the parents would fly by with an insect to the trees along the fencerow west of the pond. They would stop and look around and then dash toward a particular tree. I changed position and was able to see them approach a dead branch in a huge wateroak that had a perfectly circular hole in it – they were feeding babies in a nest in a natural cavity. From the size of the hole, it may have been a former woodpecker home. Given the size of the fecal sac, the young were close to fledging; when I came back a few days later, they were gone and I feel sure they had fledged those babies.

Another wonderful surprise has been what appears to be a big family group of about seven or eight Pine Warblers. A pair of parents leads them all around the cut area visiting the various pine top piles, the live oaks, the snag and the longleafs. They are extremely busy, looking for caterpillars and insects, which they will find and eat or enthusiastically kill by smacking them repeatedly against a branch. I'm always amazed at how large a bug a small bird is capable of eating. They roam and poke and find dozens and dozens of bugs to eat. They also move to the ground and explore and feed there as well.

On one occasion I realized that the beautiful yellow male hopping around on the ground was not eating or training offspring, but was collecting bits of grass. He was being very particular, not just any old grass bit would do – he was being very selective. He was very busy working, intent on his mission. and came within three feet of where I was sitting. He collected a beakful of grass fragments, three inches or less in length and flew up to the nearby longleaf pine. He very stealthily made his way around the tree to his secret nest site where he worked on placing his collection, and then moved back down through the branches before exiting and going back to his family. Now, about a week later, the nest can be seen, and once in a while there will be movement there. The Pine Warblers are starting a second brood.

Another time, Chuck and I were checking on the site in an area that was still quite thick with shortleaf pines, and along came the troupe of Pine Warblers. At this point the parents were still feeding the young ones, even though they were full sized and capable of hunting on their own. A female and youngster were working their way around a shortleaf, finding and eating bugs when all of a sudden, thunk, the female and something she'd been wrangling dropped to the ground right in front of us. She got up on her feet face to face with her prey, looking at it from just a few inches away and was clearly doing some decision-making, am I going to do this or not, made up her mind and flew off to join her waiting offspring. I had to go see what she had nearly taken, and it was a huge beautifully patterned spider, rust-brown in color, the shape of a wolf spider. It had not been injured, but seemed to be gathering its wits. It was about three inches across, with enormous black mandibles. I was very impressed that a little Pine Warbler would even consider taking on a spider that size. Anything for the kids.

On another visit, I noticed what appeared to be a lovely swath of Spanish moss hanging from a low branch in the trees along the south edge of the cut. It was in an odd place and something told me to check it, so I used the binoculars and there was another wonderful surprise – it was a big fox squirrel somehow balancing on a very slender branch with its voluptuous silver hindquarters suspended and foxy tail swaying in the breeze! She stayed there for another fifteen minutes and then climbed down and loped away into the woods. If you have the time and sit still long enough out in the woods, nature will reveal amazing things to you.

In the hour or so that I have been here working on these notes, more birds have made appearances: a pair of Red-shouldered Hawks have sailed over, Anhingas are circling Big Bay Swamp, Great Blue Herons are croaking and barking, Tufted Titmice are singing loudly, a Ruby-throated Hummingbird just sped past, a fist year male Orchard Oriole stopped for a moment at the top of the snag, a pair of Carolina Chickadees are nearby hunting in a water oak, a Red-bellied Woodpecker is hammering, the Cuckoos are back, a Little Green Heron flew leisurely by, and Bluebird is singing his song.

I have fallen in love with this place. I have many more little stories to tell you, but no space left. We will move a bench here so that you can come out and enjoy it too. If you come with friends, I recommend bringing some lightweight portable camp chairs. Be sure to bring your binoculars. The east border is in shade until around noon, and it provides a wonderful vantage point from which to see the whole project area. I also recommend coming out sooner rather than later. The terms of the project grant require us to burn here as soon as the pine tops dry out, which will be about six weeks or so from the time you receive your newsletter. As time goes on the piles will likely have less insect food value, and once we burn they will be blackened, not as pretty, and nesting will be winding down. So come out soon and enjoy it with us while you can!

- KDB

BIRDSONG NATURE CENTER WISHES TO THANK:

Program Volunteers

Alex Kalfin, of the Florida Wildlife Commission, for *Meet the Gopher Tortoise!*

Nancy Thomas, for leading *A Chorus of Frogs Listening Walk* and the *Music to Our Ears: A Chorus of Frogs* program

Betty Ashler, for *Birdsong History: A Legacy of Two Families*

Sandra Sallee, for leading *Take a Child Outside and Get Wet and Muddy!*

Aline Rundle and Nancy Thomas, for help with the June 5th Boys and Girls Club program

Sandra Sallee, for help with the June 9th Thomasville Community Resource Center program

Beth Grant, for leading the Hands On Thomas County mini-Project Impact volunteer day for the Boys and Girls Club

Special Financial Gifts

Price-Campbell Foundation

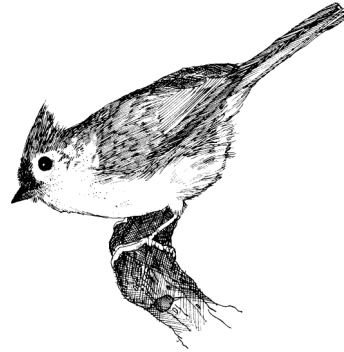
John S. Yow

Carolyn Hamilton

Rennick Enterprises

Don and Hazel Dixon

Pamela Coats



Memorial Gifts

In memory of Laura Jean Dunlap, on behalf of her daughter Lori Dunlap and her family, from her friends and co-workers on the national leadership team at Corporate Services Company

In memory of Elby Ray, from David Dobbs and friends of the Ray family

Special Thanks To:

Nancy Ann Thomas, our dedicated Friday Bird Window volunteer, for helping visitors and taking such good care of the birds and the Bird Window. We appreciate all Nancy does, including her wonderful frog presentation and walk. Look for her next program in this newsletter!

Bob Dunn, for continuing to share his great photos and for adding to his booklet of photos of Bird Window birds – they are lovely pictures and will help you learn your birds!

Alan Strowd, for volunteering at the Bird Window every other Saturday. We also offer special thanks for his accounting support.

Alan Parker, for providing site, garden, and land management support.

Mike Miller, for assisting with the shortleaf pine cutting and equipment repair.

Myles Black and Bob Bearss, for leading the new season's Bluebird Trail Monitoring. Thanks to volunteers Dr. David Jones, Pam Price, Karen Thomas, Ronda Tucker and Pam Parker.

The Candelario and Albritton families, our homeschool group from Valdosta, for their ongoing volunteering at Birdsong. This month they brought Patrick and a new family, the Sellners with them, continued work on the garden improvement project and made a big difference! Thank you to Beth Candelario, for her kindness to the Birdsong staff. It was great to see KC and Jay home from college.

Joe Peresich, for continued improvements to our Facebook page, and for ongoing website and Paypal management.

Tami Tomasello, for being our social media coordinator and managing our Twitter site so expertly.

Butterfly Garden volunteers Donna Legare, Bob Bearss, Beth Grant, Myles Black, Ann Morrow and Chris Alexander for keeping the Butterfly Garden beautiful!

Birdsong Nature Center Board of Directors 2014-2015

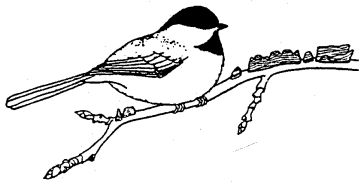
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Jim Antista	Dale Aldridge
Woody Search	Joe Newborn
Brenda Coy	Jack Weiss

BIRDSONG'S CORPORATE SPONSORS

Hopping, Green & Sams, PA
May Nursery
Monrovia Growers of Georgia
Native Nurseries
O'Toole's Herb Farm
Trillium Gardens
The Great Bicycle Shop
Thomasville Nursery
Corporation Service Company
Deerwood, LLC
Cairo Family Medical Center



Birdsong Nature Center

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Date _____

New Renewal

Credit Card Check Cash Paypal

Credit Card Account #

Exp. Date ____/____/____ Amount Authorized \$ _____ Authorization No. _____

Cardholder Signature _____

Name (Please print clearly) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: Primary (____) _____ Alt (____) _____ EMAIL _____

Place of Employment: _____ Job Title: _____

Training, experience, interests: _____

How did you learn about Birdsong? From a member of Birdsong, the news media, word of mouth, our newsletter, etc?

Please be specific: _____

I would like to join the Friends of Birdsong in the following category:

- Individual Friend \$30 Bird Window and Nature Trails free during open hours.
Two free one-time guest passes.
Member discount on scheduled programs.
10% discount on items at the Chickadee Corner Gift Shop.
Bimonthly newsletter. Reciprocal general admission at
participating nature centers nationwide (call for list).
- Family/Friends \$45 All of the above benefits for each member of the immediate
household. Four free one-time guest passes.
- Friends of the Cardinal \$60 Five free one-time guest passes in addition to above.
- Friends of the Chickadee \$100 Six free one-time guest passes in addition to above.
- Business/Corporate Friend \$100-\$1,000 One free one-time guest pass for each \$10 of membership
(ie., 25 passes for \$250) and recognition in newsletter.
Call for more information.
- Friends of the Hummingbird \$250 Hummingbird feeder in addition to above.
- Friends of the Bluebird \$500 Bluebird nesting box in addition to above.
- Birdsong Naturalist \$1,000 Personal tour of Birdsong with Executive Director and/or Board Chair
for up to 6 people. Call for more information.

I do not wish to receive any (above) benefits with my membership and would like the whole amount tax deductible.

I would like to support Birdsong by volunteering to help as follows:

- | | | |
|---|---|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bird Window Instructor | <input type="checkbox"/> Program Development | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Financial/legal guidance | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Relations | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fund raising | <input type="checkbox"/> Serve on Board of Directors | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greeter | (please submit resume) | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gift Shop Assistant | <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching (birds, nature walks, | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land Management | stars, etc.) | _____ |

Memberships are renewable one year after the sign-up date. Members can upgrade to a higher category membership by sending the balance within the year. Memberships are deductible in part, depending on the value of goods and services received. Please call for information. Receipts stating the value provided and the deductible amount will be sent to those joining at the \$100 or higher level.

NEW FRIENDS OF BIRDSONG

Tallahassee

Ginny Hardcastle

Thomasville

Fran Puryear

Scott Ball

Linda Harkey

Richbourg McWilliams

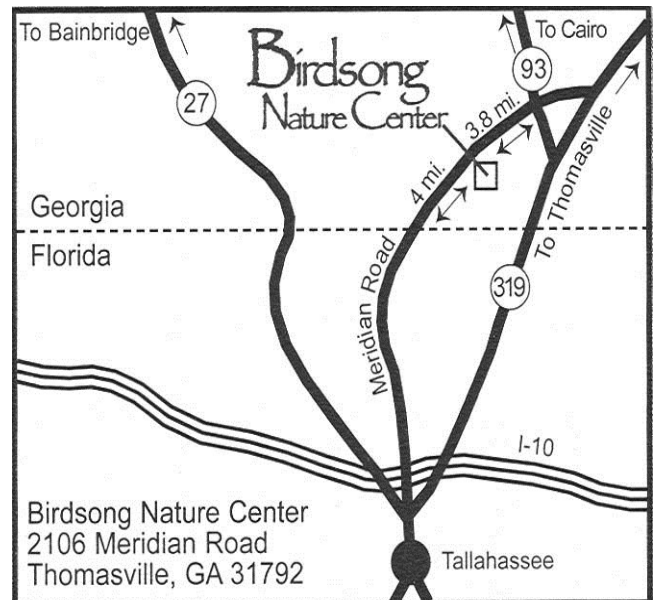
Other Areas:

Ronda Tucker

Emily Hughey

Moultrie, GA

Brookline, MA



DIRECTIONS:

From Tallahassee: Meridian Road north, 4 miles past FL/ GA border (marked by a blue sign that reads Grady Co.), on right side of road. OR 319 north, turn left onto Rt. 93, then turn left onto Meridian Road, 3.8 miles on left side of road.

From Thomasville: 319 south, turn right at Shell gas station onto Meridian Road, approximately 5 miles from Shell or 3.8 miles from stop sign at Rt. 93, on left side of road.

Watch for small sign that reads "Birdsong".

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
TALLAHASSEE, FL
Permit No. 660

Birdsong Nature Center
2106 Meridian Road
Thomasville, GA 31792
Address Service Requested