

# Birdsong Nature Center

September - October 2015

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### August

Sat. Aug. 15      **Center closed August 15th through September 1st.**

### September

Wed.	Sept. 2	<b>Birdsong Reopens</b>
Thurs.	Sept. 3	Butterfly Garden Work Day
Sun.	Sept. 6	Bringing Nature Home
Sat.	Sept. 12	Take a Child Outside
Sun.	Sept. 13	Bugs! Bugs! Bugs!
Sat.	Sept. 19	Fall Morning Trail Ride

### October

Thurs.	Oct. 1	Butterfly Garden Work Day
Sat.	Oct. 3	Fall Morning Trail Ride
Sat.	Oct. 10	Fall Birding at Birdsong
Sun.	Oct. 11	Bringing Nature Home
Sat.	Oct. 24	Birdsong History and Tour: A Legacy Of Two Families



### BIRDSONG NATURE CENTER

**WEB SITE:** [www.birdsongnaturecenter.org](http://www.birdsongnaturecenter.org)  
**EMAIL:** [birdsong@birdsongnaturecenter.org](mailto: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](mailto:birdsong@birdsongnaturecenter.org)

Dear Friends,

As many of you already know, Birdsong Nature Center will be celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in April 2016. This is a notable accomplishment of which we can all feel very proud. We plan to observe this important milestone with a series of special events honoring Birdsong's founders, members, volunteers and donors. We'll let you know more about these events in the near future.

We recently mailed to members and supporters our "2015 House and Garden Improvements Campaign" letter that outlines our plans for making significant improvements at the Center this summer and fall. We want Birdsong looking its very best for its 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

As the centerpiece of those improvements, we will refurbish and beautify Birdsong's historic house and gardens. Special care is being taken with the restorative work on the house due to its historic nature. The house was entered into the National Register of Historic Places in 1995 and is one of our most valuable assets. It has a rich, complex history and it serves as our main facility for greeting guests, teaching classes, and holding meetings. Perhaps most notably, it offers our visitors the truly unique experience of the original Bird Window, designed by co-founder Betty Komarek. The building, last painted in 1994, will be repainted inside and out, and the back porch will be updated with new flooring and carpeting. We also plan to hire a gardening contractor for several months to renovate and restore the gardens around the house, repair the entrance driveway and parking area, and paint the office building. Work will have begun by the time this newsletter reaches your mailbox.

As mentioned in the appeal letter, these improvements will cost \$25,000. This is a large outlay for the Center, of course, but the work is necessary and very important. So we ask if you will help us with this significant project by making a donation to the Improvements Campaign. We have already received over \$6,000 or 24%, donated by Birdsong's board and staff. Will you help us reach our goal?

If you would like to help, please send your gift to the Birdsong office by September 15<sup>th</sup>. You may also donate online at our Website, [www.birdsongnaturecenter.org](http://www.birdsongnaturecenter.org). Birdsong is a 501c(3) non-profit organization, and donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

As an expression of our sincere appreciation for gifts made to the campaign, we will thank and honor donors in several special ways that we hope you will enjoy; please see the list of donor benefits in the appeal letter and on the Website.

We also want to let you know that the Board decided at its last meeting to forego the Fall Raffle that we have offered in the past. Since we are undertaking this Improvements Campaign and donor events in the fall, along with the upcoming Meeting of the Members and the Annual Appeal, we thought it best to take a break from the raffle this year. We plan to offer it again in the near future.

We extend our sincere thanks to all of you – our members, volunteers, donors and supporters – for helping make Birdsong the wonderful asset to our community that it has become. We hope you will visit the Center as often as you can this fall to enjoy the beautiful wildflower display and this special place you help make possible. We look forward to seeing you at the festive events being planned to celebrate Birdsong's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

With warm regards,  
Joe Peresich  
President, Board of Directors



## FERNS

Are you seeking shade in these last hot weeks of summer? Maybe you are noticing some bare spots in your yard where a patch of shade-loving ferns would thrive.

Ferns have not been the best sellers at our Birdsong plant sales. Maybe people are scared of ferns because they see so much of that dreadfully invasive Florida sword fern that is taking over waste places all over Tallahassee. But the ferns at the Birdsong sale are well behaved. Some will form a nice clump, but they will not run. Here are a few good ferns we'll have for sale in March of 2016.

The beloved southern maidenhair fern, *Adiantum capillus*, is most beautiful in its natural state, growing in outcroppings of rock along the banks of our spring-fed rivers. But it will grow equally well in a pot or in the ground in your yard. It will survive the winter outside if it's in a protected place.

Peacock fern (*Selaginella uncinata*) is not a true fern, but a club moss. This is one of the most gorgeous plants you'll ever see. Its feathery fronds are almost iridescent. It will turn brown in the winter and go dormant almost like resurrection fern, but it comes back to life in the spring. Our plant donor grows peacock fern in her shaded woodland garden, and one of her joys of spring is to brush aside the fallen leaves and see the glowing patch of peacock fern shining forth. It will spread, but it has very shallow roots and is easy to control.

Southern wood fern (*Dryopteris ludoviciana*) has a special place in the hearts of old Birdsong Nature Center people. When Birdsong founders Betty and Ed Komarek first came to South Georgia in the 1930's it was a time of church weddings, with the big white dress and gifts on display. But Betty and Ed wanted to be married in the woods, standing up to their knees in a patch of evergreen fern. Everyone who attended that wedding talked about it for ever after. It was a winter day and pouring rain. Though the bride and groom and all the wedding guests were drenched to the skin and shivering cold, the sight of the shiny green southern wood fern in the dark woods was so beautiful no one ever forgot it. Our plant donor got some of that very fern and has it growing to this day in her woodland garden in Thomasville.

Christmas fern, *Polystichum acrostichoides*, is another native evergreen fern. It will form a nice clump and it will be green at Christmas. If you have a rock or brick wall you might want a Cliffbreak fern. Birdsong's donor rescued one plant from a crumbling wall at Savannah's harbor years ago and now it grows in gaps in the stone wall at the side of her house.

Another fern that grows best beside a rock or brick wall is variegated fern, *Pteris albolineata*. The original of the plants we'll sell at Birdsong grew at the brick foundation of the house of old Dr. Carr in Thomasville in the 1940's.

These are just a few of the prized, rare, or unusual ferns we'll have. There will also be plenty of the more common landscape ferns at the sale -- holly fern, bead fern, leatherleaf fern, and netted chain fern.

To see photographs of some of these ferns go to Birdsong's website.

**Put On Your Calendar!**  
**Old-Timey Plant Sale**  
**Third Saturday in March**  
**March 19, 2016**

- June Bailey White  
Plant Sale Chair

## FALL BIRDING AT BIRDSONG

**Saturday, October 10**  
**8AM to 11 or so**

Join us for a leisurely morning of early autumn birding with Marvin Collins. We will visit a variety of excellent birding habitats including open oldfield, pine woods, swamp and mixed hardwoods. The hike will wrap up with a visit to the Bird Window. Dress for the weather and be prepared for hiking three or four miles. Bring binoculars, water and a snack.

**RESERVATIONS, PLEASE.** Call or email to let us know you are coming by 4PM Friday, October 9<sup>th</sup>.

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



## BUTTERFLY GARDEN WORK DAYS

**Thursdays, September 3 and October 1**  
**9:00 to 11:30 AM**

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

**BUGS, BUGS, BUGS!**  
**Sunday, September 13**  
**2 – 4PM**

Let's go bug hunting! Did you know that there are over 13,000 insects and spiders in Florida? That figure doesn't even include all of the other groups that people call "bugs", but is still much larger than all of the mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish and plants put together! Our instructor, David Almquist, is the invertebrate zoologist at the Florida Natural Areas Inventory and has been working with Florida bugs for almost 20 years. David, assisted by his 10-year old son Lukas, will lead an exploratory nature hike that will provide insight into the abundance, diversity, habits and ecology of some of the bugs that occur at Birdsong and probably in your backyard. We will capture a variety of them, hopefully including dung beetles, and examine them close up.

This program is geared primarily towards children, but parents, naturalists and other adults are welcome and will find this to be an enlightening and enjoyable field experience. Wear long pants and closed-toed shoes for stepping off the trails, bring a net if you have one, and bring mosquito repellent, sunscreen, and water.

\$4 Friends, \$8 nonmembers, children half price. **RESERVATIONS, PLEASE.** Contact us by Saturday, September 12 at noon.

**FALL MORNING TRAIL RIDE**  
**Saturdays, September 19 and October 3**  
**9:00 – 11:30AM**

Join Executive Director Kathleen Brady for a fall morning trail ride. We will make a number of 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, WHIP grant project site and others. We will point out gopher tortoise burrows, look for fall migrants, any other signs of wildlife, and fall wildflowers in bloom.

**RESERVATIONS, PLEASE.** Please contact us by noon on Fridays, September 18 or October 2 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

**BUTTERFLIES AT BIRDSONG**  
**Butterflies recorded by Dean and Sally Jue,**  
**Saturday July 18, 2015**

Pipevine Swallowtail - common in garden  
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail - 1 dark morph female  
Black Swallowtail - 1 adult male, caterpillars on fennel  
in garden  
Giant Swallowtail - 2  
Palamedes Swallowtail - 1  
Cloudless Sulphur - common  
Little Yellow - 2  
Gulf Fritillary - common in garden  
Pearl Crescent - 1  
Common Buckeye - common in field,  
caterpillars on false foxglove  
Carolina Satyr - 2  
Long-tailed Skipper - common in garden  
Hoary Edge - 3  
Northern Cloudywing - 2  
Horace's Duskywing - 2  
Clouded Skipper - 1  
Swarthy Skipper - 1



**BRINGING NATURE HOME**  
**Sundays, September 6 and October 11**  
**2:00 – 4:00PM**

In his book, *Bringing Nature Home*, Dr. Douglas Tallamy explains how everyone who loves the wonders of the natural world can contribute to the survival of our native birds, butterflies, and other treasures by providing the native plants needed to support them. Beth Grant has obtained permission from Dr. Tallamy to present his slide show on his findings. By acting on Dr. Tallamy's practical recommendations, you can make a difference for bio-diversity while bringing endlessly fascinating wildlife to your home. Handouts will be provided. Copies of *Bringing Nature Home* and Dr. Gil Nelson's *Best Native Plants for Southern Gardens* will be available for purchase.

No charge for this program.

## BIRDSONG HISTORY and TOUR: A Legacy of Two Families...The Dickeys and the Komareks

Saturday, October 24

9:30AM – 2:00PM

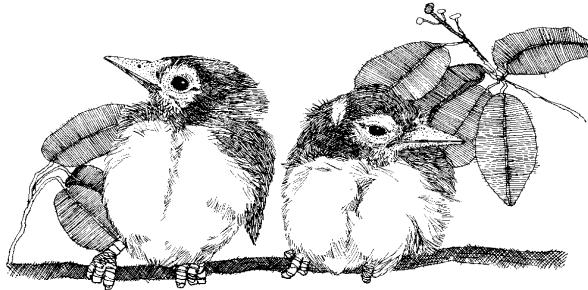
Birdsong Nature Center has had a long and rich history, featuring many interesting people and a legacy of excellent land use and care. Over the last three years, Betty Ashler, with assistance from Galbaby Scott, has examined and sorted the archival collections of documents and photos saved by Betty and Ed Komarek, Birdsong's founders. Betty discovered many fascinating personal letters and other family writings going back to the Dickey family era, put together a detailed family tree, and made connections with many living Dickey relatives as well as doing research at numerous historical societies and facilities in the state of Georgia. She has created an excellent power point presentation about Birdsong's history from the Dickey Plantation era through the Komarek era. Selected Dickey letters and poems will be on display. After the presentation we will show you some of the historic features of the house. The Dickeys made numerous changes to the building through four generations of their family's presence at Birdsong.

After the tour we will take a short lunch break, and then head out to view Birdsong's Dickey-era terraces. We will then leave the property to visit an old private cemetery and the landmark Bethpage Church located within the former Duncanville District.

If you are interested in local history, or just interested in Birdsong, you will find this to be an intriguing and enlightening program. We thank Betty for her extensive work on this in-depth project.

**RESERVATIONS, PLEASE.** Class space is limited to fifteen people. This program is geared for adults and mature children. Please call or email by Friday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> at noon. Bring a picnic lunch and dress for being outside in the afternoon.

\$10 Friends, \$14 nonmembers, children half-price. Drinks and dessert included in the cost.



## TAKE A CHILD OUTSIDE WEEK

September 24 – September 30, 2015

**Take a Child Outside Week** is an international program designed to help overcome obstacles that keep children from discovering the natural world. By arming parents, teachers, and other caregivers with resources on outdoor activities, our goal is to help children across the country develop a better understanding and appreciation of the environment in which they live, and a burgeoning enthusiasm for its exploration. Going outside connects children to the natural world, helps kids focus in school and reduces chances of obesity. Please see this website: <http://takeachildoutside.org/> for more information.

## TAKE A CHILD OUTSIDE AT BIRDSONG

Saturday, September 12

9:30-11:30AM

If you are a parent, grandparent, or friend of a child please join leader Sandra Sallee in anticipation of *Take A Child Outside Week* and take a child on a natural adventure at Birdsong. We will walk the trails where we may find evidence of deer, coyote, or other wildlife; see butterflies face-to-face; search for doodlebugs; and watch birds go about their daily activities at the Bird Window. We will practice using all our senses as we explore what nature has to offer. Sandra will then assist the children in making a nature-related craft to take home, possibly using any natural materials they have collected. This program is geared for children and accompanying adults who want to learn how to better share the wonders of nature with their favorite children. Resource material on outdoor activities will be provided.

\$3 Friends, \$5 nonmembers, children half-price. **RESERVATIONS PLEASE:** we ask that you register by phone or email by Friday noon on September 11 so we know how many people to prepare for. All memberships and renewals are \$5 off today - you may want to join or re-up so you can come back and enjoy more of Birdsong with your favorite child during Take a Child Outside Week or the rest of the year!

## **WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT NOTES**

### **July 30, 2015**

**Weather** July has been an intense month! The heat and humidity have been almost overwhelming in the afternoons. You know when you walk out the door at 6am and it is already 75 degrees and the moisture in the air clings to your skin and fogs up your reading glasses that we are in for another hot day. We went through a scorching dry spell for several weeks, to the point that the vegetation was looking wilted by mid-afternoon. This finally broke with several big storms, one on July 22, the evening of our last board meeting. It had been swelteringly hot all day. Close to 7:30, at the end of our meeting, the sky grew black, the lightning and thunder and wind began, and we lost electricity in the house. It started raining so hard that the water was pouring off the back porch roof in a sheet and began inundating the gravel path. We all sat out on the porch and enjoyed the storm; it was a wild one. I haven't seen a lightning show like that in years. We got 1.85 inches of rainfall in about an hour.

Unfortunately, the huge loblolly pine tree at the Big Bay Dam spillway was struck during this storm and now has lightning scars spiraling down its trunk. We are sorry to see this happen; this was one of those trees you rely on being there, an old friend in the landscape. It lost its mate a few years ago – they were twin landmarks at the dam. Betty remembered turkeys roosting at night in those two trees back before the blackhead disease that hurt the turkey population in the 1950's. In more recent years it has been used by Great Blue Herons. The likelihood of this beautiful old tree surviving is very low, so we will enjoy its presence while we can.

**Purple Martins** The Martins fledged the last brood of four babies on June 11 and were gone the next day. This confirms a new pattern for our Martins that has been going on now for a third year. Historically, the parents would fledge all the young and spend some weeks training them to fly and hunt, and then the entire colony would leave together on the fourth of July. Last year they left two full weeks early, the day after fledging the last brood, and this year they left three weeks early, the day after final fledging. It was very sudden and we really felt their absence – the Martins are very busy and vocal and can be seen and heard from a distance all around the house and barn, so when they depart all that wonderful noise ceases. Clearly the Martins who nest here have begun to feel the need to fledge the babies and then immediately leave. We would like to understand this better. We really miss them. It is a pleasure to have the charming racket of a Martin colony as the background music of one's day.

**Land Management** It has been too humid to burn. With the vegetation this green and high moisture in the air and fuel, a fire won't carry. We are waiting on decent conditions to burn the WHIP grant project site, and are getting

concerned about timing – we need to apply herbicide to the site in the early fall, post-burn. We keep watching for some low humidity days.

We recently hired special help to mow tall brush from the sides of Big Bay Dam and the Farm Pond Dam. The Komareks built these dams in the early 1940's to different specifications than are required today. The sides are very steep and difficult to maintain by hand, so every few years we hire an operator who brings a bow-arm mower on a big tractor and cuts them for us. The work is intriguing to watch; Ernie, the equipment operator, is a master. The mower is on a flexible arm and is swung out over the water and up against the side of the dam. It mulches the brush in place. Please come out for a walk and see the results – you can walk across Big Bay Swamp dam and see deep into the swamp. It feels very spacious. Ernie did a beautiful job.

**Honeybees** For the last several years we have been concerned about seeing so few honeybees – bees that used to be very abundant out here in the woods and fields of southwest Georgia. About two months ago we noticed that a lot of honeybees were crowding on to the hummingbird feeder at the Bird Window, which seemed very odd. About a week later, working in the south bedroom, Betty's former reading room, I realized I was hearing insects hitting the window and when I looked out, saw honeybees flying in and out near the wall. I went outside to see what they were doing, and found that these bees had moved in to a space within the house wall behind a brick chimney. There were a lot of them. They were flying in and out all day in good numbers, not a desirable situation so close to human activity. We did not want to resort to calling an exterminator, so volunteer Alan Strowd, who keeps bees himself, called a specialist to come and remove the hive. He had to take it out from inside the house by removing boards from the wall. It was a messy operation, but the house is now bee-free, and that hive and its queen got to go live on a bee-keeper's property in Florida and pollinate happily ever after.

**The Big Bay Field Work Site** On July 11<sup>th</sup> we offered a trail ride around Birdsong, with a stop at the work site to see how much bird and other wildlife activity there was. It was a very hot morning, and we had an enjoyable tour, but there were only one or two birds at the site this time. We had been impressed with the high level of activity in that area when the cutting was done, so it was a little disappointing not to see anything and we were concerned that maybe the site was no longer attractive or beneficial to birds, as the pine top piles are now dry. We have been very busy recently and I have not had a chance to get out and look at the site for the last two weeks, until today. What a pleasant surprise! The cut site is a very busy place!

Upon arriving I sat on the bench on the south side of the trail and immediately saw a Blue Grosbeak fly to a pine top and perch next to a pair of Bluebirds, soon joined by a Kingbird and a Carolina Wren. Towhees were calling from

the woods along the drain behind me. A Red-tailed Hawk came through calling, flying in over the woods on the south line, and was answered by another hawk way over in the Bay. Two Mourning Doves flew in showing their lovely pointed white-edged tails and landed in the old shortleaf snag. Then began the chase: she flew to the top of the tree and settled. He followed her there, she flew to another part of the tree, he followed her there and perched too close, she flew off to the neighboring longleaf pine and he thought about it for a while. Then he flew over, perched too close and off she went, with him close behind. They really put on a show!

Right in front of the bench three Bluebirds flew in and landed in the southernmost longleaf. A female flew down just above the grass and hovered for a good 6 or 8 seconds before dropping out of sight and then coming up with a bug. She killed it and then killed it some more, banging it against a branch, and delivered it to one of the waiting bluebirds. With the binoculars I could see that it was a youngster: full-sized, but with speckles on its back. These three birds moved along from their tree to two more pine tops and the woods and disappeared, the mother teaching her offspring to hunt. A male Bluebird sang his flute-like song nearby.

Two small birds appeared, flying in from the trees on the east and hovering briefly over the grass, then dropping out of sight, and reemerging either with a bug in bill or moving to another spot to hover and disappear. They were Pine Warblers, an adult female with her subtle gold-green plumage, and a juvenile. They stayed in sight, working their way around the field. At one point, they gradually moved closer to where I was sitting, and were joined by two others who descended from the branches above me. Right overhead another small bird appeared. It was very confusing – in the shade of the tree I could not see any color, but it resembled a nuthatch, with that tail-less look, but the head and behavior was that of a warbler. Once it finally dropped down to the grass I could see that it was a Pine Warbler that had lost its tail. It is probably one of the lucky ones – a bird that was attacked by a snake or other predator but got away. I saw this once at the Bird Window, when a Titmouse came in to the Betty Feeder unaware of a nearby white oak snake lying along a branch, invisible to all of us until it suddenly lunged out to grab the bird and got a mouthful of tail feathers. That Titmouse got away with half a tail.

Right before leaving the site, I saw a female Indigo Bunting hunting with a juvenile through one of the pine piles, and they were joined by a female Summer Tanager. I couldn't help but wonder if it was the same female whose nest got robbed two months ago. I hope she went on to have a successful second brood. In a neighboring pile, commotion broke out when a family of three full-grown young Kingbirds appeared, chasing after a parent who was searching for insects and clearly feeling harassed.

This site continues to be fascinating. It is amazing to me how much is happening out here. The field itself is obviously a good food source, and the piles are being used

constantly as perching sites and hiding sites. There is still a lot of courting and singing and flirting going on. I hope some of you have had an opportunity to come out and spend time on the bench enjoying the scene.

**Raccoons** The Bird Window has been a very busy place too this summer, and we are now seeing a phenomenal number of Cardinals. There are multiple Cardinal families coming in, with parents feeding and training young all day. A few interesting visitors include a male and female Indigo Bunting who both really enjoy the pool and mister; pairs of Bobwhite Quail that love the suet crumbs and corn; Mirhi's Red-bellied Woodpecker parents, that wait for her to walk over to the house in the morning to feed up, calling to her, and then lead her around the corner of the house when she emerges with the seed and suet; our pack rat that is so tame he will sit there near the corn feeder and look expectant in the mornings; an occasional Summer Tanager in for a bath; and plenty of Titmice and lots of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds.

In the past two weeks our most entertaining visitors have been a family of raccoons, a mother with three half-grown babies. This mother knows exactly what she is doing and will amble in with family in tow, with that unique raccoon gait, and go straight to the stump and climb up and commence shoveling. She is an eating machine. She and her babies just love black oil sunflower seed – that is their preferred food, but they will also eat every last grain of corn in the feeder and then she will work herself underneath it to get the crumbs that have fallen through.

Raccoons are of course the epitome of cute, and watching the antics of this troupe is a hoot. This young mother loves to get in the pool to cool off. She stretches out, with her chin at water-level and drinks while soaking, very relaxed, with her big striped tail held high in the air so it doesn't get wet. The other day she climbed up the snag by the Window to get to the Betty Feeder, and was hanging upside down by her back feet and pulling the feeder to her with one hand and gathering seeds to eat with the other. Another time she had herself wedged in the crook of the snag with her feet dangling on both sides holding on to the feeder and eating and one of the babies thought that looked interesting and climbed up the snag and worked its way under its mother, lifting her up and finally both pairs of raccoon hands were in the feeder. They are endlessly entertaining, but we hope she moves them out to the woods to raise them. A troupe of near-adult raccoons can take over a feeding station.

We will be keeping our members posted on developments by email over the month of August while we are closed for the House and Garden project. We'll let you know how the work is progressing and of course include any interesting nature notes. Please be sure to get on our email list if you currently do not receive our emails. See you in September.

-KDB

## BIRDSONG NATURE CENTER WISHES TO THANK:

### **Program Volunteers**

Marvin Collins, for leading the *Summer Birding* walk

Dean and Sally Jue, for leading the *Butterflies at Birdsong* program and for providing us with the list of species that were seen that day.

Sandra Sallee, for leading *Take a Child Outside for a Natural Scavenger Hunt!*

Beth Grant, for her assistance with the Boys and Girls Club program for 60 children

Beth Grant and Sandra Sallee, for co-leading the Growing Center 1 program

Sandra Sallee, for leading the Growing Center 2 program

Nancy Thomas, for leading *A Chorus of Frogs Listening Walk*

Nancy Hook, of Hands On Thomasville, for leading the HOTC mini-Project Impact volunteer day for the Boys and Girls Club

### **Special Financial Gifts**

Ed Gartner

Rennick Enterprises

The Jelks Family Foundation

IBM Corporation, gift to match contribution from Mark and Susan Baldino

### **Memorial Gifts**

JoAnn Orr, for a special donation in memory of her husband, Larry D. Orr.

### **Special Thanks To:**

Special thanks to Beth Grant, for standing in as Sunday Greeter on behalf of Lynette Joye Hitt, who is recovering from knee surgery.

Very special thanks to Mike Miller, for mowing the Birdsong trails and replacing the window air conditioner.

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 presentations and walks.

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!

Karen Thomas, for volunteering at the Bird Window on Wednesdays and helping with programs.

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.

Myles Black and Bob Bearss, for leading the Bluebird Trail Monitoring. Thanks to volunteers Dr. David Jones, Eric Bearss, and Amber Nicole Phillips for working the trail.

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

Betty Ashler, for her volunteer work on Birdsong's archives and for developing her PowerPoint presentation on *Birdsong History: the Legacy of Two Families*

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, Jan Blue, and Chris Alexander for keeping the Butterfly Garden beautiful!

### **Birdsong Nature Center Board of Directors 2014-2015**

**President**

Joe Peresich

**Secretary**

Margie McInnes

**Treasurer**

Bill Preston

### **Directors**

Jim Antista

Dale Aldridge

Woody Search

Joe Newborn

Brenda Coy

Jack Weiss

### **BIRDSONG'S CORPORATE SPONSORS**

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May Nursery

Monrovia Growers of Georgia

Native Nurseries

O'Toole's Herb Farm

Trillium Gardens

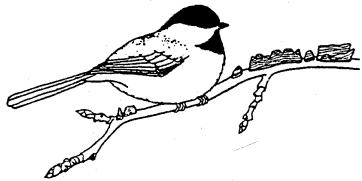
The Great Bicycle Shop

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:

<input type="checkbox"/> 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).
<input type="checkbox"/> Family/Friends	\$45	All of the above benefits for each member of the immediate household. Four free one-time guest passes.
<input type="checkbox"/> Friends of the Cardinal	\$60	Five free one-time guest passes in addition to above.
<input type="checkbox"/> Friends of the Chickadee	\$100	Six free one-time guest passes in addition to above.
<input type="checkbox"/> 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.
<input type="checkbox"/> Friends of the Hummingbird	\$250	Hummingbird feeder in addition to above.
<input type="checkbox"/> Friends of the Bluebird	\$500	Bluebird nesting box in addition to above.
<input type="checkbox"/> Birdsong Naturalist	\$1,000	Personal tour of Birdsong with Executive Director and/or Board Chair for up to 6 people. Call for more information.
<input type="checkbox"/>		

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, stars, etc.)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Land Management		_____

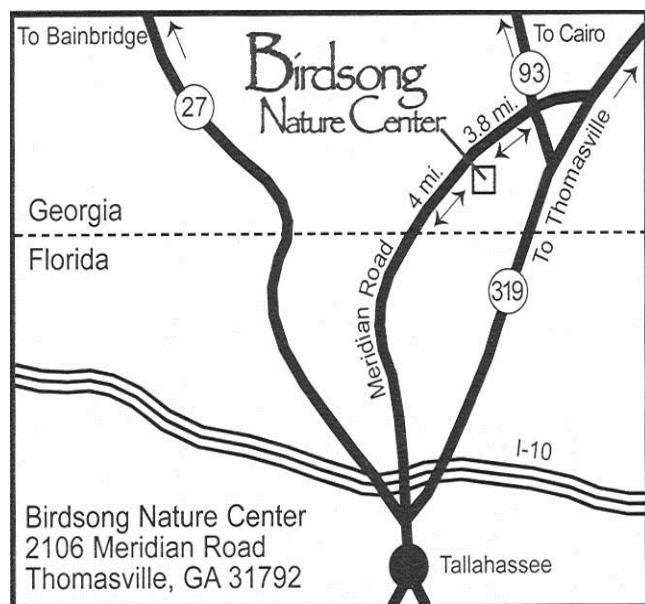
Memberships are renewable one year after the sign-up date. Members can upgrade to a higher category membership by sending the balance within the year. Memberships are deductible in part, depending on the value of goods and services received. Please call for information. Receipts stating the value provided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

## **NEW FRIENDS OF BIRDSONG**

## *Tallahassee* Mary Janik

***Thomasville***  
Sherry and Billy Batten  
Becky Troyer  
Mary Sippel

***Other Areas:***  
Barb Sibili



## 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".

### **Address Service Requested**

Birdsong Nature Center  
2106 Meridian Road  
Thomasville, GA 31792

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