

# Birdsong Nature Center

January - February 2016

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### January

Wed.	Jan. 5	Center Reopens
Thurs.	Jan. 7	Butterfly Garden Work Day
Sat.	Jan. 16	Off the Beaten Trail
Sat.	Jan. 23	Winter Morning Trail Ride
Sat.	Jan. 30	Music to Our Ears: A Chorus of Frogs

### February

*Call in early February about Field trips to Wolf Creek Trout Lily Preserve*

Thurs.	Feb. 4	Butterfly Garden Work Day
Sat.	Feb. 6	Take a Child Outside In The Wintertime!
Fri.	Feb. 12 to	Great Backyard Bird Count
Sun.	Feb. 14	Great Backyard Bird Count
Sat.	Feb. 20	Winter Birding at Birdsong

### Upcoming Event

Sat.	Mar. 5	Wild Azalea Workshop
Sun.	Mar. 13	Bringing Nature Home
Sat.	Mar. 19	Old-Timey Plant Sale



### 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 2015 draws to a close, I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of Birdsong's staff and Board to express our very sincere thanks to all of you – our awesome members, dedicated volunteers, and very generous donors – for your tremendous support of Birdsong Nature Center. Not only for this past year, wonderful though it was, but for the 30 amazing years that Birdsong has been here for all of us to treasure, here in our beautiful Red Hills region. It is only because of your great sense of community, generous support, and commitment to the conservation and education ideals at the heart of Birdsong's mission that the Nature Center is here for us today. We – not just our Board and staff, but all of us who understand and appreciate what Birdsong means to this community and the broader positive effects of its mission – cannot say “thank you” enough to all of you who support the Center so kindly.

We hope that you will come out to the Center often in 2016 to enjoy this special place that you help make possible. Please come out to walk the peaceful trails and enjoy each season as the year progresses. Come meet our charming program volunteers who teach about forests and fields, birds, butterfly gardening, frogs, bugs, reptiles, fire and things aquatic. Join us this spring when our hard working Old-Timey Plant Sale volunteers bring out gorgeous garden treasures by the thousands all wanting to be transported off to new homes and planted in new landscapes. And please come meet other members and volunteers at the festive events we'll hold in 2016 to celebrate Birdsong's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, and the beginning of Birdsong's next 30 years.

By now you may have already received our 2015 Annual Appeal Campaign packet and a very special letter from our good friend June Bailey White. The Annual Appeal is our largest fundraising event of the year and one we rely greatly upon for covering Birdsong's operating costs. We hope that you will give Birdsong serious consideration within philanthropic efforts that you plan, and please know that our hard working staff, and many dozens of dedicated volunteers, put each dime to its maximum good use. Thank you very much for your very generous support! (Please see our Web-site if you'd like to read June's other beautifully written letters with stories about Birdsong – we treasure those!)

And we can't tell you how delighted we were with your tremendous response to the House and Garden Improvements Campaign. The refurbished house and gardens are beautiful, and this wonderful work was all made possible by 90 very generous and greatly appreciated donors. Thank you very much to those fabulous supporters! Please come out soon and see the beautiful results.

Thank you again to all of you, our members, volunteers, and supporters, for making possible this very special place. It is you who truly are Birdsong Nature Center.

Warmest wishes for a very happy and healthy New Year.

Sincerely,

Joe Peresich,

President, Board of Directors



***Visit Wolf Creek in February, when the Trout Lilies bloom...***

The Wolf Creek Trout Lily Preserve is a biologically diverse 140-acre hardwood forest about 5 miles west of Cairo in Grady County, Georgia. It is home to one of the largest (about 15 acres) and most dense populations (nearly every square inch) of the Trout Lily, *Erythronium umbilicatum*, known to exist anywhere. The beautiful Trout Lily is a threatened species in Florida and rarely found in south Georgia. Also present are several other rare plants: *Trillium maculatum*; *Uvularia floridana*; Bloodroot; Crane Fly, Green Fly and Southern Tway Blade orchids, among others.

Preserve volunteers will be offering field trips to see this amazing site in full bloom in February. The bloom dates vary widely depending on the weather. Here is a link to the Wolf Creek website, where you can learn about the upcoming season's bloom, tours, and hours when the site may be open to the public. We urge you to go; this is one of the most impressive botanical displays of our area. You will love it! See [www.wolfcreektroutlilypreserve.com](http://www.wolfcreektroutlilypreserve.com) for contact information.



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



**BULBS, TUBERS, RHIZOMES**

A big section of Birdsong Nature Center's annual Old-Timey Plant Sale is set up for the sale of plants that grow from bulbs, tubers, and rhizomes. We are happy to receive hundreds of these reliable, rewarding, and easy-to-grow plants from donors every year. They are easy for us to sell, and fun for gardeners to plant. We can almost guarantee success and delight from these plants.

An all-time favorite is the "snowflake" or *Leucojum*. The green daffodil-like leaves will start emerging from the big fat bulbs in mid winter, and in January and early February they will send up graceful stems of pendant white flowers, each with a spot of green. They will die completely back by late spring, leaving the garden available for summer flowers. (However, as with all bulbs, you must be careful not to unwittingly sink a shovel blade into them when digging after the tops have disappeared.) Snowflakes will grow in ordinary garden soil, but they also thrive in boggy areas.

Another very showy plant is the red hurricane lily, *Lycoris radiata*. Brilliant red spidery flowers appear seemingly out of nowhere in the early fall. The leaves come after the flowers have finished, and make a nice clump of green in the winter garden. An even more gorgeous variety is the golden hurricane lily, *Lycoris aurea*. Its yellow flowers are bigger than the red ones, on taller, thicker stems. It is not as common as the red hurricane lily, but we are lucky to have a few gardeners who donate this highly prized plant to our sale.

We sometimes lament that we cannot grow tulips in the Deep South, especially this time of year when the tulip catalogs land in our mailboxes with those gorgeous photographs. However, think how people up north must feel when they learn that we can plant amaryllis bulbs in our gardens and in just a few years have huge clump of these magnificent flowers. The plant sale has several donors of amaryllis. One got her start a few years ago from a couple of bulbs she bought at a yard sale in Andalusia, Alabama and now has plenty to share. These are a lovely peachy-orange color. Another donor has the common red and white striped ones. These do not appear at their best as so often seen, planted in a stark row in the glaring sun against a red brick house foundation, but they are lovely in our donor's garden where she has them planted in loose drifts under live oak trees. We might have one or two very unusual amaryllises from a donor whose friend in Vermont sent her his bulb after its Christmas indoor display was over. She planted the spent bulb in South Georgia, and in a few years it had multiplied and is now a nice clump. It is an odd bronze color with stripes of green.

And oh, the gingers! Birdsong is now receiving frequent phone calls from people cleaning up and organizing their gardens. "Can you sell ginger lilies?" they ask. Of course we can! Butterfly or white ginger is one of the most rewarding plants you can grow. There is nothing like the fragrance of this late summer bloomer. Once my sister and I were asked to put flowers on the altar in the Episcopal church and we took bunches of ginger lilies. A man stopped us in the vestibule. "You are putting those in the church?" he asked in amazement -- "White ginger belongs in the bedroom!" We also will have for sale many other types of ginger, some good for cooking. (See article on gingers by Kris Dougherty on the Birdsong Website.)

Rain lilies are not much to look at as individual little flowers. However, they spread quickly from seed and as the bulbs multiply, can make quite a show when they come into bloom all at once after a rain shower. We are lucky to have some heirloom pink rain lilies donated by a Birdsong friend whose family grew them for years at an old Mississippi homestead.

*Iris albicans* is a very reliable bloomer in our area, with big white flowers in early spring. A clump of these "cemetery white" iris grows in the Birdsong office dooryard. This commonly seen iris has an interesting history: It is probably the oldest iris in cultivation, thought to have been brought to Europe by Crusaders from the Middle East where it was planted in Moorish cemeteries to honor fallen warriors. Another little iris (probably *Iris hexagona*) we will have for sale came from an abandoned yard in DeFuniak Springs Florida. It has a delicate blue flower in early spring.

These are just a few of what we will have for sale on March 19. Look for the tall sign "Bulbs, Tubers, Rhizomes". There will be friendly, helpful, knowledgeable people working in that area to help you choose the right plant for your garden.

-June White, Plant Sale Chair

**OFF THE BEATEN TRAIL**  
**A Winter Woods Ramble**  
**Saturday, January 16**  
**9:30 to 11:30AM**

Explore the woods from a different perspective on a slow-paced discovery walk and learn something new about Birdsong. We will meander off the trail through the trees and see what we can see. This is a great time of year to be out in the cool air, absorbing all the woods have to offer. Led by Kathleen Brady. Bring binoculars; dress for the weather and for walking on uneven terrain and through brush.

\$4 Friends, \$8 non-members, children half-price.



**WINTER MORNING TRAIL RIDE**  
**Saturday, January 23**  
**10:00AM - Noon**

Join Executive Director Kathleen Brady for a leisurely winter morning trail ride. We will make a number of stops to discuss Birdsong's ecology, land management and history, including places such as the Star Pasture, Farm Pond, the Listening Place, and others. We will point out gopher tortoise burrows, and look for winter birds and signs of wildlife.

**RESERVATIONS, PLEASE.** Please call by noon on Friday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> to reserve a space. We will be taking the truck and trailer and there is room for 12 people. Be prepared to be outdoors for several hours;

**BUTTERFLY GARDEN WORK DAYS**  
**Thursdays, January 7 and February 4**  
**9:30AM to Noon**

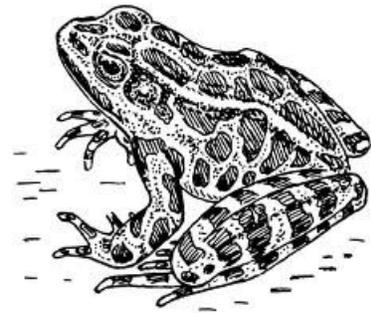
Please join our Butterfly Garden volunteers on the first Thursday of the month to tend our beautiful Butterfly Garden! Bring gardening gloves, knee pads, clippers, and lunch if you wish to stay afterwards. For more information call Donna Legare at (850)386-1148 or Birdsong at (229)377-4408.

**MUSIC TO OUR EARS:**  
**A CHORUS OF FROGS**  
**A Winter Evening Frog Ride**  
**Saturday, January 30**  
**4 - 7 PM**

Have you ever wondered what frogs were making those wonderful calls at night? Join frog and nature enthusiast Nancy Thomas for an introduction to the frogs of our area. Nancy will give a brief description of the frogs we may hear that are actively calling this time of year. We will then head out on a trailer ride to the Frog Pond, Big Bay Pond, Big Bay Swamp and the Farm Pond, where we can learn to identify some of those alluring calls. You will come away equipped to identify those evocative sounds wherever you go! Dress for the weather, and wear shoes for walking around the edges of the ponds and swamp. Bring binoculars. Nancy has an excellent handout for you and 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, January 29th to reserve a space. We have a class limit of 12.

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



**TAKE A CHILD OUTSIDE**  
**IN THE WINTERTIME!**  
**Saturday, February 6**  
**9:30-11:30AM**

Bring your favorite child to Birdsong and let them lead you on a natural adventure in the winter woods with Sandra Sallee. Give an ongoing gift to your child: an appreciation of nature, a better understanding of the where they live, and use of all their senses. We will walk the trails to search for evidence of animal homes, sign, and winter behavior. Enjoy the fresh air, some exercise, and time with your child in the great outdoors. We will collect natural materials along the way and create a craft upon returning to the Barn.

\$3 Friends, \$5 nonmembers, children half-price. **RESERVATIONS PLEASE** by Friday February 5th, so we know how many to prepare for. Includes a handout and resource list for year-round outdoor activities with children.

**19<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL  
GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT  
Friday through Sunday at Birdsong  
February 12 - 14**

**Self-guided or join a group led by Nancy Thomas**

The Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC), one of Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology's Citizen Science projects, will be held February 12-15, 2016. Please have a look at the GBBC event description on their web page at [www.birdsource.org](http://www.birdsource.org) for detailed instructions to create a free GBBC account for entering your observations. You are invited to count birds at bird feeders, in your yard, local parks or other outdoor locations, and then report your findings online at [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org) or at eBird.

Guided GBBCs will be offered on Friday, February 12th and Saturday, February 13th from 8:30am to noon, led by Nancy Thomas. If you are interested, please call Birdsong to sign up and plan to meet Nancy in the parking lot at 8:15am.

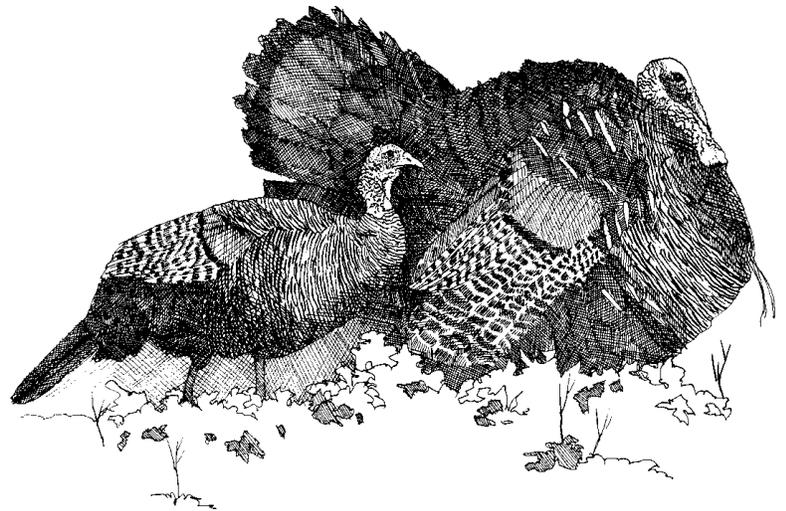
If you prefer doing your own survey, come out and observe birds anywhere at Birdsong, including the Bird Window, for a minimum of 15 minutes and up to as long as you want, on any or all days of the bird count, and as many times as you want. (Birdsong is open 9 – 5, Friday and Saturday and 1 – 5 on Sunday, closed on Monday.) You can turn in your own results online at [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org) or pick up a tally sheet at the registration desk, go bird watching, fill the sheet out and leave it here at Birdsong and we will submit your results.

This is a chance for you to participate in what is now a worldwide citizen science bird count and you can help us by listing observations from Birdsong!

**WINTER BIRDING AT BIRDSONG  
Saturday, February 20  
8 – 11AM**

Wintertime at Birdsong is a great time to go birding. Join expert birder Marvin Collins for a long, leisurely discovery hike through a variety of excellent bird habitats. If birds are here, Marvin will find them, especially those elusive sparrows and warblers! The hike will wrap up with a visit to the Bird Window, which is typically a very busy place in the winter months. Dress for the weather and for a long walk in the woods. Bring binoculars and field guides.

\$4 Friends, \$8 nonmembers, children half-price.



**UPCOMING EVENTS IN MARCH**

Here are a few programs you may want to put on your new calendar so you can learn about growing beautiful native plants and how you can contribute to a healthy ecology in your community by choosing wildlife-friendly plant species for your garden. Attend these programs and learn all about natives in advance of doing your shopping at the Old-Timey Plant Sale on March 19<sup>th</sup>!

Saturday, March 5 ***Wild Azalea Workshop***, led by Dan Miller of Trillium Gardens. Learn all about our beautiful wild azaleas from an expert botanist and grower and learn how to propagate them in your own garden.

Sunday, March 13 Attend ***Bringing Nature Home***, with Beth Grant, and learn how you can improve the ecological and wildlife values of your garden, neighborhood and community by planting native plants.

Saturday, March 19 ***The Old-Timey Plant Sale*** Choose from a huge selection of carefully chosen native plants: bulbs, ferns, shrubs, trees and more – all known to grow well in our area, many with a unique history and story to tell. Enhance your garden and support Birdsong's biggest annual fundraiser on March 19<sup>th</sup>.

## WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT NOTES

December 4, 2015

**Weather** This morning we are enjoying a very desirable light rain. We are happy to have it – we have been going through another dry cycle. After the extremely dry months of September and October it was a relief to finally get a big rain, 3.96 inches over several days in early November with a total for the month of 7.53 inches. The landscape had become parched, and this rain event did not fill the ponds completely, but everything got a good soaking and looked a lot better. The beavers had been on hiatus, but four inches of rain got them excited and back to work. They immediately blocked the Upper Pond drain and started piling cut branches in a lodge entrance in the Farm Pond dam. We are keeping an eye on them.

We were very pleased to have had a wonderful wildflower showing this year and the plants got through their extended flowering cycle in September and October without the blooms getting rained away. The colorful fall flowering had wound down by the time we got our storm. Since then, there have only been a few brief rain events; it has gotten dry again and it is starting to show, so we welcome today's prediction of a rainy day.

**Fall Color** Up until two weeks ago we had very little fall leaf color. The temperatures have been exceedingly warm and for an extended time. Our hardwood trees started turning a little brown and began dropping leaves early because it was so dry. With the several nights of cold weather before Thanksgiving, and frost in some locations, the landscape is starting to look more like fall. We love to see individual trees this time of year, each species with its own range of color: hickories are deep gold, cherries a luminous peach/orange, black gums turn ruby red, oaks are all shades of rust to brown, and sweet gums can range from yellow to an intense maroon. One place we can count on seeing a distinctive color is the sourwood slough due south of the Barn. The lance-shaped leaves are gorgeous right now, the color of ripe watermelon, glowing in the dark surrounding woods. Although subtle this year, we enjoy the diverse personalities of our hardwoods that come through in the fall.

It has been a really good year for grasses – they have been stunning this season all across the property. The Gin House Field is especially nice, with a great showing of several species of broomsedge now exhibiting fully developed fluffy seed heads, ready to be carried away by the breeze as soon as they are dry. There is a lot of broomsedge this year in all our open fields; it did well thanks to the abundant rains early in the year, and now we get to enjoy expanses of these tall peach-colored grasses with their illuminated glowing seed heads. I recommend a walk through the Gin House on a sunny day – you will get to watch these grasses move with the wind as it ripples across the field – step off the trail and be surrounded. The Lopsided Indian Grass was also impressive this year, with its bronze awn-tipped seeds and curved, pendant seed heads.

Every fall I wish I knew more about grasses. They are abundant, complex and beautiful and very important in the food web and ecological scheme of things. It is too bad they are so hard to identify for those of us not trained as botanists.

**The Big Bay Field Work Site** The WHIP site (Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program) received its herbicide treatment in late October. We were told not to expect the area to look as though much had happened, that it takes a while for the effects to be visible. The first thing to show a response was the winged sumac – its leaves all turned dark orange - and then the flowers on the *Pittyopsis* dried out. At this point the field just looks like mid-winter. I was fearful of it looking devastated, but it doesn't. It looks dry. The operators will come back tomorrow and complete some touching up around the edges. They use a big tractor rig for the spraying and have to be careful to avoid the perimeter drip line where we have hardwoods and pines. They will return with a four-wheeler with a smaller sprayer so they can get close to the edges and trees. We will have 90 days to let the soil-active Chopper dissipate and then we can start the longleaf planting. Meanwhile, after a few weeks to let the latest treatment work, we'll burn.

**Land Management** We are getting our equipment in shape to get our perimeter fire lane harrowed for burning. Our intent this year is to get 80% of the property burned, with specific goals in certain areas. As usual, we'll burn relatively small sections at a time over a period of several months. We always need good volunteer assistance. If you or anyone you know is interested in participating, please give us a call. We are particularly in need of individuals with sufficient physical stamina to be able to work hard and walk a long way over a period of hours; and with good common sense and the ability to listen, take orders, and be part of a team. We'd love to hear from folks with professional burning experience or tractor operation experience but it is not a requirement. Please call Kathleen at (229)377-4408 or email [Kathleen@birdsongnaturecenter.org](mailto:Kathleen@birdsongnaturecenter.org) for an interview.

**The House and Garden Project** If you are on our email list, you have been receiving emails on the progress of the house project. (If you are not on the list and would like to be, please contact Mirhi at [birdsong@birdsongnaturecenter.org](mailto:birdsong@birdsongnaturecenter.org) and she will add you to the list.) The house has been painted and restored and we have done a lot of pruning and cleaning in the gardens. It is all looking very nice and we are pleased. We are now awaiting the return of the painters to complete some final touches on the house and get the office building prepped and painted. We hope to see the driveway graders here within the week. Our gardeners have completed their work for the fall and we are hoping to have all other major components of the project finished by January first. We will keep you posted.

In the last email update, we explained that the brick patio at the front of the house had been pressure washed to remove the slick-when-wet algae and moss. This resulted in the old

corroded brick surfaces washing away, making the patio pitted and hazardous for walking. Our wonderful home school team from Valdosta, the Candelario and Albritton families, came for their monthly workday in late October and solved our immediate problem. They distributed a truckload of clean sand across the bricks, filling in all the holes, and then raked up the longleaf pine straw in the front yard and spread it across the entire surface. It is now safe for walking upon and is also quite attractive. The Board meanwhile is looking into a more permanent solution to the problem – it may require removal of the entire patio and a decision about what to put in its place. We will keep you posted.

***On a recent trip out...*** Last Tuesday, two days before Thanksgiving, we had worked hard in the office all day to get appeal mailing completed. After we were done, I took a walk out on the place to see what was going on, not having been out for a week. It was so nice to get out in the fresh air and move. It was cloudy and there were already Robins in the Pecan Grove. About a hundred of them come in late in the afternoon. They spread out on the ground and hunt through the grass, talking away, just about equidistant from each other. They aren't too concerned about people; they just get up and move off a ways and go back to their conversation and poking around.

I love entering the Gin House from the clay road in the woods: there is such a sense of spaciousness as you walk out into the open; you can see the entire infinite sky and out beyond the tree line. You can breathe. That day there were three Meadowlarks in the field, picking up and moving in a big circle every time I got close. Two Northern Flickers were calling and one was perched on a winged sumac seed head, occasionally leaning forward and eating the sumac berries. One of them has a lot of extra white on its back, so we will be looking for him; the marking is very distinctive. At the far end of the field there was a cloud of tiny Chipping Sparrows. When I got close they suddenly rose out of the broomsedge and flew up into the old cherry at the west end by the trail. For a split second it was very confusing – it looked like the reverse of leaves falling out of a tree. Further on I crossed Big Bay Dam and at the south end flushed about 30 Wood Ducks. They rose up making a huge wood duck racket – I got to hear a lot of wonderful noise and wingbeating.

At the cut site I sat on our strategically placed bench. From this vantage point, there is another big open sky view to enjoy above the cypress tree line. A Kingfisher was calling and flew straight overhead, very low and easy to see, calling the whole time. Two Great Blue Herons came over flying parallel, with that long slow wingbeat, croaking a great blue message. Bluebirds were moving between one of the cut pine tree piles and the big snag, tootling. There was a lot of small bird activity at a distance in the live oak trees, many birds, and this busy flock gradually made its way east toward the bench. The late afternoon light made it very hard to distinguish color, and these tiny birds were busy and never held still, combing through the branches, appearing to be gleaning little bugs. When they were finally close enough that I could see their shapes and markings better, I could tell it was a mixed flock of Pine Warblers, a few Chipping Sparrows, some Chickadees,

and Yellow-rumped Warblers. They worked their way through the oaks and shortleaf and kept moving east. While this was occurring, several birds broke away from the group and dropped down into the grasses near the trail. There was a stand of a beautiful tall slender grass there – I don't know its name. A Pine Warbler flew up out of the grass and perched high up on a stem. Even though it was a small bird, its weight was too much for that stem and the bird gradually disappeared from sight as the stem bent low. Next thing I knew, this appeared to become a game, and one after another, these little birds hopped up high on a stem, held on, and got carried back down into the bahia and disappeared. It looked like fun to me! They kept it up for quite a while. The evening sky began to get a little darker and I decided to head back. Overhead, a couple of Brown-headed Nuthatches with their short-tailed silhouettes honked their little horns, and the Bluebirds made another round through the trees. On my way back through the Gin House, more Robins flew north, reminding me of the amazing Robin phenomenon we had last year, with thousands of Robins roosting nightly in and near the Holly Woods. They are not at those numbers now, but it really is a pleasure to see them flying in a flock, all spread out giving each other their space, commenting as they go.

It was a very nice way to end the day and look forward to the Thanksgiving holiday. It gave me a chance to think about how thankful I am that Birdsong is here for us and how much joy its wildlife and birdlife gives us every day. I am very thankful too for all of the people who love and support this place. Birds of a feather, kindred spirits; we are grateful for you.

***The Bird Window*** As is very typical for this time of year, there has been minimal activity at the Bird Window because of the abundance of wild food available. There are excellent crops of grass seeds, legumes, berries of all kinds, and nuts... the birds don't need us at the moment. We see a few year-round regulars: Tufted Titmice, Carolina Wrens, Jays, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Cardinals, the occasional Chickadee or Mourning Dove. The most notable bird visitors have include a reclusive Hermit Thrush, a gray Catbird, the Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, Ground Doves, Cedar Waxwings, Robins, Eastern Phoebe, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Orange-crowned Warbler, Palm Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, and White-breasted Nuthatch. Perhaps the most interesting was a 30-second visit to the mister by an Ovenbird on October 29<sup>th</sup>.

There may not be a lot of activity at the Bird Window, but Birdsong' wildlife is busy out in the woods and fields. The weather is lovely, the air is fresh and clear, the seasons are changing and winter is on its way. Now is the time to see beautiful expanses of waving grasses and vegetation in their subtle winter colors. There are birds galore. So bundle up, bring a friend and enjoy a walk, kick up some leaves, visit the gopher tortoises, look for coyote and bobcat tracks, and see the impressive scrapes made by our virile and ardent white-tailed bucks. The Great Horned Owl might serenade you in the Pecan Grove late in the day. Birdsong in winter awaits!

-KDB

**BIRDSONG NATURE CENTER WISHES TO THANK:**

***Program Volunteers***

Betty Ashler, for the *History of Birdsong: A Legacy of Two Families* program and field trip  
Beth Grant, for the *Thanksgiving Saturday Super Walk*  
Sandra Sallee, for *Taking a Child Outside for the Holidays!*

***House and Garden Improvement Gifts***

Tom and Peggy Loyless  
Clarice King

***Special Financial Gifts***

Randy and Marilyn Rhea  
Anthony Morgan

***Special Thanks To:***

The Candelario and Albritton families, our dear friends and home school group, from Valdosta. They helped smooth out the front brick patio problem by spreading out a layer of sand over the pitted bricks and covering it with pine straw. It looks very nice and now we don't have to worry about it being a walking hazard.

Julie Shutters and Margaret Tyson, for coordinating the day-long Hidden Gems Paddle in November, that culminated in a wonderful outdoor dinner at the Barn at Birdsong (catered by Michael Shutters, Julie's husband, chef of Em's Catering) and a camping experience. The paddle was a special event that brought together a number of partners: Golden Triangle RD&C, the Ochlockonee River Water Trail, Georgia River Network, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Keep Grady County Beautiful and Birdsong Nature Center! We look forward to many more cooperative ventures with these wonderful friends!

Amanda Carter, neighbor and friend, who graciously opened the nearby historic Bethpage Church and gave us its background for our History of Birdsong program participants.

It is nice to have Nancy Ann Thomas back, our dedicated Friday Bird Window volunteer who had a busy late summer/fall taking care of wildlife birds and babies for St. Francis Wildlife.

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.

Bob Bearss, for building us a new batch of Betty Feeders for the gift shop.

Jeanette Sickel, for the corn and wildlife magazines.

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

Birdsong's Board of Directors: Joe Peresich, Bill Preston, Margie McInnes, Brenda Coy, Woody Search, Jim Antista, Joe Newborn, Jack Weiss, and Dale Aldridge. Thank you for your thoughtful work, generosity, and efforts made on Birdsong's behalf. We are fortunate to have your leadership.

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, Yvonne Stinson, Connie Lechnar and George McEntire. Thanks to all for the keeping the Butterfly Garden beautiful!

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

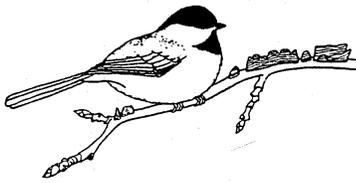
<b>President</b>	Joe Peresich
<b>Secretary</b>	Margie McInnes
<b>Treasurer</b>	Bill Preston

**Directors**

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, 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**

Pamela Jarrett

## **Thomasville**

Susan Vann

## **Other Areas:**

Beverly Burns

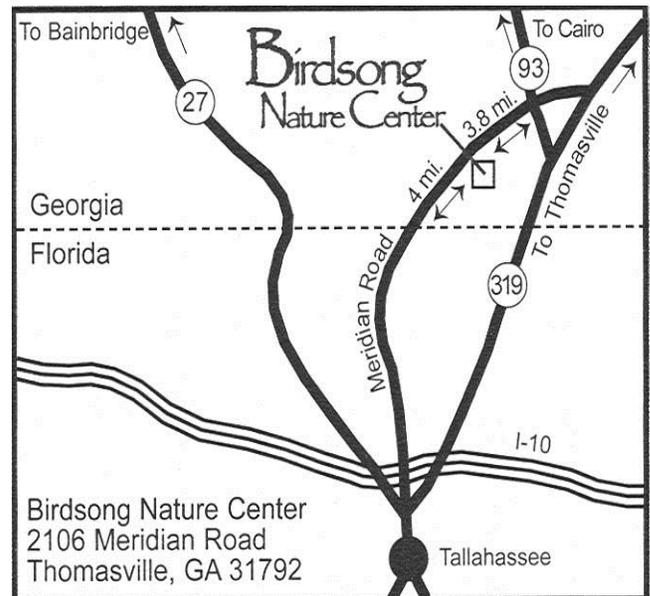
Al and Judy Goldsmith

Dell Gray

Greenville, FL

Fernandina Beach, FL

Moultrie, GA



### 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