

Birdsong Nature Center

May - June 2016

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May

Wednesday	May 4	Bluebird Trail Monitoring
Thursday	May 7	Butterfly Garden Workday
Saturday	May 7	Bluebird Trail Monitoring
Sunday	May 8	Mother's Day Nature Walk
Wednesday	May 18	Bluebird Trail Monitoring
Saturday	May 21	Ephemeral Wetlands Extravaganza Bluebird Trail Monitoring

June

Wednesday	June 1	Bluebird Trail Monitoring
Thursday	June 2	Butterfly Garden Work Day
Saturday	June 4	Bluebird Trail Monitoring
Saturday	June 11	Take a Child Outside and Get Wet and Muddy!
Wednesday	June 15	Bluebird Trail Monitoring
Saturday	June 18	Gopher Tortoise Workshop
Saturday	June 25	Bugs, Bugs, Bugs!
Wednesday	June 29	Bluebird Trail Monitoring



BIRDSONG NATURE CENTER

WEB SITE: www.birdsongnaturecenter.org

EMAIL: birdsong@birdsongnaturecenter.org

TWITTER: @BirdsongNatureC

FACEBOOK: Birdsong Nature Center

YOUTUBE: Birdsong Nature Center



**FREE GENERAL ADMISSION MONTH OF MAY
ALL MEMBERSHIPS \$5.00 OFF**

Program fees will apply

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

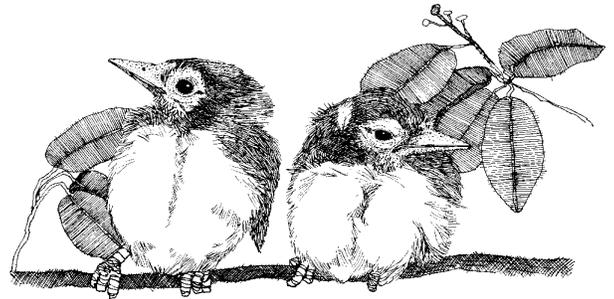
Dear Friends,

April is National Volunteer Month and we want to take this special opportunity to say a heartfelt “thank you!” to our many generous volunteers who do so much to make Birdsong the wonderful place that it is. Because of the exceptional work of these amazing people the Nature Center is able to offer all that it does for our members and visitors to enjoy.

The Butterfly Garden, Bird Window, Chickadee Gift Shop, and Old-Timey Plant Sale, programs and field trips, prescribed burns and land management projects, building maintenance and repair, greeting visitors to the property and at events - virtually every aspect of what Birdsong does and has to offer relies on the outstanding work of our many dedicated volunteers, all of whom make special things happen when they are here. The Nature Center truly could not offer all that it does without this wonderful group of talented individuals. Our volunteers are at the heart of all that Birdsong has to offer, and we simply could never thank them enough.

Birdsong turned 30 years old on April 23, 2016. One way we plan to honor this special occasion is by offering free admissions during the month of May. Please bring your friends to the property and enjoy the beautiful place created by Birdsong’s founders, Betty and Ed Komarek. And please know that it is the thoughtful work and commitment of many extraordinary people – our members, volunteers, donors and supporters – that has kept Birdsong thriving for these 30 years. The Nature Center would not be here today but for the support of so many generous individuals who have contributed to Birdsong in so many ways. We hope you will all take great pride in the outstanding resource that you have helped fashion, and the enrichment that it provides to our community. Thank you!

Sincerely,
Joe Peresich
Board President



**BIRDSONG NATURE CENTER’S 30TH ANNIVERSARY
and *Next 30 Years* Membership Drive**

Birdsong Nature Center has now been in operation for 30 years and we have you, our members, donors, and volunteers to thank for keeping Birdsong in shape and thriving all this time. We plan to celebrate this milestone with an event in the fall and also hold the Winter Solstice Celebration in December. You will be receiving updates and notices about these events in upcoming newsletters and emails. If you do not currently receive our emails, please send a note to our office manager, Mirhi, at Birdsong@birdsongnaturecenter.org and we will get you on the list.

Our Board of Directors wants to move forward with ideas for creating more financial sustainability for Birdsong for the next 30 years. One goal is to increase our membership base, so we have begun the *Next 30 Years* membership campaign. Our total membership roster currently hovers around 400 members. We want to set a goal of bringing in 50 new members in 2016. We hope you will participate in this effort by inviting your friends, family, work colleagues and other associates to become members.

- Birdsong will be open to the public at no charge for the entire month of May, with free admission during regular hours of operation. Please bring a friend to Birdsong and sign them up for membership. (Scheduled programs will continue to have a fee, but members get a discount)

- There will be a \$5 off “special” on all memberships all month, onsite and online.

- You can also help us with this drive by purchasing memberships as gifts for birthdays, weddings, Mother’s Day (coming up!), Valentine’s Day, Christmas, and other special days.

Memberships can be purchased online on the membership page of our website at www.birdsongnaturecenter.org or you can call the office at (800)953-2473. We will be announcing this *Next 30 Years* member drive on our Facebook page, Twitter, and by email. Please help us bring in 50 new members! We will keep you posted by email on the status of the drive as we proceed through the year. Stay tuned for other announcements about celebrating our 30th Anniversary and putting Birdsong on a firm financial foundation for our next 30 years. Thank you!

AN OLD-TIMEY PLANT SALE THANK YOU

Thanks to all who defied the weather predictions of lightning, thunder, and rain and came out to Birdsong for the 9th annual Old-Timey Plant Sale. Though the forecast caused a few sleepless nights of worry for those who worked through the year preparing for the sale it ended up being the best year ever for the plants. Misty days and nights of rain had them all looking their best on sale day when the sun came out at last. This year certainly proved the dedication and commitment of fans of the plant sale. Thank you for your brave and stalwart support of Birdsong Nature Center.

- June Bailey White
Plant Sale Chair

In a short article it is not possible to adequately thank the many people who volunteered their time toward a big event such as the Plant Sale. We could do a special edition of the newsletter just for that reason. This event is very complex to set up – we need to create an entire outdoor environment to accommodate all the beautiful plants, parking area, stations, checkout, etc., to make it as easy as possible for hundreds of people to attend. Please know that your contribution mattered - it was a great Plant Sale. Special thanks go to June Bailey White, Plant Sale Chair, for her leadership and year-round commitment; and the Old-Timey Plant Sale Committee: Betty Jinright, Eleanor Dietrich, Janeen Langley, Kathleen Reid Scott and Harriet Hawkins. Thanks to each and every volunteer and plant donor who worked not only setting up and at the sale, but throughout the year:

Mike Duggar	Maria Murphy	Stanton Beazley	Sandra Sallee	Monty Monsalvatge
Mike Miller	Suzanne Vereen	Bob Bearss	Julia Sawyer	Donna Legare
Kristine Dougherty	Hannah Jaspert	Janeen Langley	Don Dixon	Emmy Hayes
Barbara White	Berry Penhallegon	Brenda Coy	Hazel Dixon	Nathaniel Bellamy
Ben White	Clayton Penhallegon	Carolyn Hax	Russ Barrett	Katie McCloud
Lisa Reeves	Lisa Penhallegon	Betty Esco	Becky McNeill	Jeanette Shiver
Pamela Anderson	Debbie Edgil	Woody Search	Keith McNeill	Aizhan Kozhonova
Bill Anderson	Kerry Edgil	Sally Search	Annelle Lauder	Chesye Kozhonova
Margie McInnes	Hugh and Chase	Bill Preston	Carol Kelso	Couch Would and
Mario Taylor	Jeanette Boyer	Bonnie Spann	Fran Rutkovsky	Thomas University
Joe Peresich	Rick Cantrell	Charles Spann	Betty Esco	Soccer Players
Michael Herndon	Gail Sloan	Betty Ashler	Leeann Orr	
Kay Hawkins Morris	Lathrop Lybrook	Fran Puryear	Hannah Orr	
Alan Parker	Elizabeth Riley	Susan	Dan Miller	
Louise Divine	Fred Dietrich	Ellery Sedgwick	Beth Grant	
Gunilla Trull	Ute Schorn	Elyse Barksdale	Chuck Eason	
Ken Misner	Joe Peresich	Albert Harrison	Vanessa Crisler	
Jane White	Russ Frydenborg	Twitty Titus	Mirhi Childs	
Whitney Marshall	Robin Frydenborg	Carole Hayes	Mo Monsalvatge	

We offer our special thanks to: Mike Duggar, for re-constructing and reorganizing all our signage; Mike Miller, for support beyond the call of duty; our generous plant donors Stewart Chandler of Monrovia, Richard May of May Nursery; and Dan Miller, for his plants and special participation. Thank you, Galbaby Scott, for organizing and coordinating the wonderful Preview Party. We loved the Biscuit Boys: John Lovett, Andy Moorer and Bryan Murray – our Preview Party musicians! Thank you, Birdsong Volunteer Coordinator Margie McInnes for her comprehensive effort and cheerful demeanor throughout. Many thanks to all our station leaders and their many volunteers listed above Don and Hazel Dixon, for the food service and donation of supplies; Winnie and Wolf Adolph and Margie, for organizing the gift shop; Carole Hayes, Sandra Sallee and Julia Sawyer, for greeting; Mike Duggar for organizing the parking lot and parking; Betty Ashler and Brenda Coy, for membership; and all the Plant Station leaders and volunteers. Thank you to Carole Hayes, for making the tea. A special thank you the Grady County Sheriff's Department, for assisting us with traffic control on our single lane driveway.

We also want to extend a special thank you to our corporate Plant Sale Sponsors, who generously supported this year's sale:

Barrett, Fasig & Brooks
Carroll and Company, CPA
Mary and Rick Carroll
Hopping, Green & Sams, P.A.
Import Authority
Monrovia Growers of Georgia
Thomasville National Bank

Private Wealth Management & Consulting, LLC
(Edward Knowles)
May Nursery
South Georgia Low Coast Spay & Neuter Clinic
(Miss Kitty Feline Sanctuary)
Seminole Alterations
Anonymous

NEW CITIZEN SCIENCE PROGRAM AT BIRDSONG

We are initiating a new citizen science program at Birdsong in partnership with expert herpetologists and naturalists Rebecca and Ryan Means of the Coastal Plains Institute. Our plan is to meet quarterly to monitor the fascinating amphibian species of Birdsong's ephemeral wetlands. There has been no formal investigation of Birdsong's amphibians for over 50 years and we are extremely interested in knowing the current status of these important members of the ecosystem. To supplement our quarterly trainings with Ryan and Rebecca, we plan to get together on a monthly basis for ongoing data gathering.

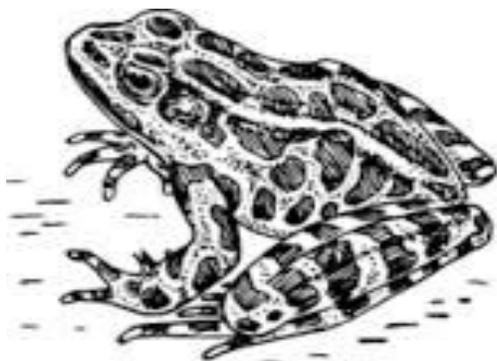
EPHEMERAL WETLANDS EXTRAVAGANZA!

Saturday, May 21

9AM to 1PM

Join us with ecologists Rebecca and Ryan Means of Coastal Plains Institute for the inaugural Birdsong Ephemeral Wetland Extravaganza! We have several ephemeral wetlands on Birdsong, such as the Spring Pond, Frog Pond and Big Bay Pond, and we are starting a citizen science program to monitor the amphibians that may be using these wetlands to breed. Rebecca and Ryan will guide you to and through several of our ephemeral wetlands and teach you amphibian larvae identification and sampling techniques. Come out and learn about our local amphibians (and more!), whether you would like to be part of our new citizen science program or just want to enjoy the morning at Birdsong. This program is geared towards citizens of all ages, including young ones, although there will be walking involved. All equipment will be provided. Plan to get wet!

\$20 members, \$25 non-members, children half-price. **RESERVATIONS, PLEASE.** There is a class limit of 20 people. Please contact us by Friday, May 20 at noon to reserve your space. Be prepared for walking several miles; wear shoes you can get wet; bring sun protection, water, and your lunch. A snack, dessert and drinks are included in the cost.



MOTHER'S DAY NATURE WALK

Sunday, May 8

2 - 4PM

Celebrate Mother's Day in beautiful natural surroundings on a leisurely discovery walk with Beth Grant. Beth can remember the first time she herself went for a Mother's Day walk here at Birdsong with her young son Brian 28 years ago! She writes "One of my first memories at Birdsong was in 1988 when my then 13 year old son did the Mother's Day walk with me. It was a wonderful present!"

It is a great time of year for nesting birds, wildflowers and the refreshing green of spring. Enjoy the trails and then visit the Butterfly Garden and Bird Window.

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

TAKE A CHILD OUTSIDE AND GET WET AND MUDDY!

Saturday, June 11

9:30AM - Noon

Celebrate summer at Birdsong with your favorite child or children. Leader Sandra Sallee and Executive Director Kathleen Brady will take you to discover the underwater inhabitants of the Farm Pond and Upper Pond. We'll observe the many fascinating adaptations that plants and animals have for living in an aquatic environment.

Please bring a clean dishpan or bucket that has had no chemicals or soap in it, a dip net if you have one, boots, waders or old tennis shoes for wading in, a change of clothes for the ride home, and sun protection. Bring lunch if you want to stay and picnic afterward. Enjoy learning something new and have a special experience with your child in the great, wet outdoors.

RESERVATIONS, PLEASE, so we know how many to prepare for. Please sign up by noon, Friday, June 10th.

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

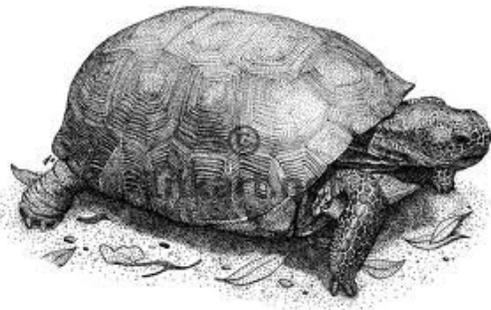
GOPHER TORTOISE WORKSHOP

**Saturday June 18th
10AM to Noon**

The gopher tortoise plays a significant ecological role in longleaf pine and sandhill communities in the southeast. It is classified as a threatened species in the states of Georgia and Florida and is under consideration for threatened status federally, primarily because of widespread habitat loss. At Birdsong we are fortunate to have a number of active gopher tortoise burrows quite close to our trails, so they can be easily observed. We plan to continue to survey and map the locations of all burrows on Birdsong this year so we can take any additional needed care in our land management to protect and encourage this important ancient species.

Lora Smith, Ph.D., is an Associate Scientist at Jones Ecological Research Center. She is researching the effects of mammalian predation on gopher tortoises, and conducts additional research on upland snake ecology and pond-breeding amphibians. Lora will offer an informative power point presentation on the gopher tortoise's life history and ecology. Our group will then ride out in the field to locate a number of tortoise burrows. Lora has a special camera that can be inserted into the burrows so we can monitor any activity below ground, which should be fascinating.

\$5 Friends, \$8 non-members, children half-price.
RESERVATIONS, PLEASE. Call (800)953-BIRD (2473) by noon on Friday, June 17th to reserve a space and learn how you can help protect gopher tortoise habitat near you.



BLUEBIRD TRAIL MONITORING

**May 4, 7, 18, 21
June 1, 4, 15, 18, 29
8:30AM**

The Bluebird Monitoring season is in full swing! 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 and repairing boxes is a very valuable service to the Bluebirds and to Birdsong. Bring a friend and help the Bluebird! Call for more information: (229)377-4408.

BUGS, BUGS, BUGS!

**Saturday, June 25
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 over 18 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 Friday, June 24th, at noon.

BUTTERFLY GARDEN WORK DAYS

**Thursdays, May 5 and June 2
9:30AM to Noon**

Birdsong Butterfly Garden in Need of Donations

We have a dedicated group of Butterfly Garden volunteers that works the **First Thursday** of each month, 9 - 11:30am. We weed, we plant, we prune and we finally have a member of our volunteer crew who has the knowledge and skills to maintain the drip irrigation system. **George McEntire has reinvigorated the drip system and has donated one solar powered programmable irrigation valve, but he needs 2 more for a total of \$150.**

We are also in need of butterfly plants, both nectar and larval food plants. O'Toole's Herb Farm donated fennel and parsley plants for Black Swallowtails over the winter that are looking great right now. Native Nurseries donated red pentas, Chapel Hill lantanas, zinnias and Flowertone organic fertilizer in April and pine straw over the winter. We always need mulch - pine straw bales or bags of leaves and pine straw, but only if it is clean and free of weeds and invasive plants.

We would love to have you join our group every month or just whenever you can. If you would like to donate to the Butterfly gGarden, please send a check to Birdsong Nature Center with 'Butterfly Garden' in the memo line. Contact Donna Legare (850) 386-1148 or dlegare@comcast.net if you have any questions.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT NOTES

April 14, 2016

Weather After a confusing winter and several false starts, we can finally say that Spring is here. We've had extremes of temperatures and rainfall, hot weather and some notable deluges. In March we got 11.48 inches, and so far in April another 3.8 inches. The ponds and swamp are overflowing and the beavers are active. After the last big rain there is still standing water on some of the trails and in the ephemeral pool in the middle of the Gin House.

The greening up started in March, when the early blooming trees - redbuds, maples and dogwoods - budded out and bloomed beautifully. We have two harbingers at Birdsong: a redbud tree in the visitor parking area beside the Butterfly Garden which bloomed extensively and became a photographic focal point, and the old pear tree beside the Barn. This tree has some age on it and we are ecstatic every year when it blooms, concerned that we may not have it to enjoy for much longer. This year it bloomed right before the Plant Sale during a warm snap. The white blossoms were there and gone in a matter of days – we barely had time to take pictures. Soon after, our wide array of southern hardwood species began greening up rapidly. We love the variety of color this time of year – every tree has its own shade of pale green to display and you can really get a sense of the individual character of each tree. In those locations on Birdsong where there are vistas, you can enjoy a panorama of different textures and colors as the trees put forth their new leaves for the season.

The Big Bay Field Work Site We burned the cut site on February 19th to get it ready for planting longleaf seedlings by March 1st. It was the first burn of the season, and we had a consistent weather prediction for a southeast wind, ideal for taking full advantage of the site configuration. We decided to burn a large area encompassing the cut site, allowing us to burn away from established firebreaks on three sides, directing the fire towards the bay.

It was one of our all-time best burns. We had a wonderful crew: Mike Miller, Sandra Sallee, Alan Parker, Stanton Beazley, Jeanette Sickel, and Chuck Eason. We were very fortunate to have Ken Carr on site – he is an excellent photographer and documented the whole process. Alan had done a beautiful job raking the trail/firelane in advance, which made the entire day go easier. I can't recall a burn when the wind remained perfectly consistent and carried the fire in exactly the direction needed. Everything went according to plan, which really made it fun and stress-free – not your typical burn! We were able to burn from the firelane around the perimeter in time to stop and watch the entire cut site with all its log piles go up in flames. It was a beautiful sight, and extremely gratifying. We finished early and the crew wanted to keep going, so we also burned the Shortleaf Woods. It was an ideal day, thanks to a hard-working and good-natured crew and having the wind on our side.

Two weeks after the burn, the site was ready for planting

longleaf. On planting day, Chris Howard and his crew of two men brought out 10,000 seedlings and got started around 11am. These two workers are Minnesotans who work this area seasonally. They are experienced planters and had a very interesting system. They unpacked the seedlings into open canvas backpack containers, and carried a long-handled hoe-like tool with them. They planted the seedlings at 12-foot intervals, 9 feet apart, 605 seedlings per acre, as dictated by the terms of the WHIP agreement. It was fascinating to watch; they took several strides, swinging the hoe overhand into the earth ahead of them, reached back with the other hand to get a seedling out of the backpack, bent over and placed the seedling, straightened up and stepped on the earth to pack it around the seedling, and then strode forward the exact number of steps to plant the next seedling 12 feet away. The other man was doing the same thing 9 feet to the side. It was truly amazing how fast they worked and how accurately they placed the seedlings. Their rhythm and economy of motion was very graceful and wonderful to watch. It took these two workers the rest of the day and only half of the next to plant 10,000 seedlings.

We had a good rain just days afterward and, as mentioned, have had plenty of rain since, just what was needed for these beautiful little seedlings to get a head start on a long life here at Birdsong. We can guarantee that these will be some of the most admired, carefully observed, and much-commented-upon longleaf pines ever to be planted. They will be a focus of our attention and that of those who come after us for decades to come. We wish them well!

Rabbit A few days after the pine seedlings were planted, Chuck and I rode out in the mule to have a look at the work. We took a detour up to the woods along the south line to look back over the entire project area, and turned the mule around under a couple of live oaks. It was late in the afternoon, the air was cold and fresh, and the warm sunshine felt really good. When Chuck made the turn, a big rabbit shot out in front of us and bolted for the trees, cotton tail bouncing away. It was a close call – that rabbit waited until the last possible second to flee and Chuck had to slam on the brakes. Right in front of the vehicle was a depression in the leaves – the rabbit had constructed a wonderful little bed and had been sleeping in the sunshine. It was a rabbit-sized oval – you could see where he or she had worked the thick layer of leaves out to the sides, down to bare earth and grass, creating a snug nest. I'm sure that rabbit was invisible to any creature coming by – it had a beautiful brown mottled coat that would have matched the leafy forest floor perfectly. I was sorry we'd interrupted his nap. That bed looked very inviting!

A Recent Visit to the Site...It has been weeks since visiting the site and seeing the rabbit, and notes for the newsletter were needed yesterday, so a trip around Birdsong was in order, including a visit to the cut site (we need a new name for it).

I walked out across the field to check on our little seedlings and was very pleased to see that every one I looked

was healthy and pushing out new needles, growing, thanks to all the rain. The other pleasant surprise was how many different plants have come up, many of them in bloom. A few that I recognize are Bluehearts, various yellow *Oxalis* species, dogfennel, and a number of tiny little asters and a variety of legumes. There are also several different grasses emerging, including broomsedge, and also some patches of bahia that were not killed by the herbicide treatment. There were also several stinkhorn mushrooms, two in the “egg” stage, looking like small parchment eggs at the surface of the soil, with slight cracks revealing the salmon-colored mushroom within; and two in the mature stage above ground, looking like some kind of alien orange sponge. Fortunately with all the rain, the distinctive odor that these mushrooms are named for was missing, apparently rinsed away. They have a strategy for attracting flies to a patch of spores on the surface of the mushroom – it smells like rotting meat or worse and can be detected at quite a distance. You might want to google these; they really are unusual and worth looking up.

After admiring all this diversity, I went over to the bench we placed at the southeast edge of the field where you can sit and observe the entire cut site. It was nice to be back; I haven’t had the time to get out since long before the Plant Sale. Right away things got interesting: to my left was a mostly-silver fox squirrel loping up toward the tree line, climbing up over a log pile, and then scaling a red oak tree. I think this is the same fox squirrel that we’ve seen here before. It is a magnificent creature with a huge tail, and my day is always made very special by the rare chance to see it, even briefly. Fox squirrels are very good at disappearing.

The now-burned piles of pine logs are not much diminished in size and they continue to provide perching sites and cover for birds and wildlife. A flock of Pine Warblers made its way across the field, foraging along the ground a while, and then all lifting off and flying to a log pile, carrying on a bit and then moving off to the next open patch. The big snag in the middle of the site continues to be a great place for birds to perch and congregate and advertise their locations. A deeply colored male Bluebird was courting intently from the lower branches, easy to see and hear and followed by an interested female. A pair of Pileated Woodpeckers came sailing in, hollering, landed in this tree and began investigating some of the dead branches. Suddenly a tiny little bird appeared and started wildly scolding one of the woodpeckers – this little bird flew at him or her repeatedly, coming really close and fussing constantly. This went on for more than a minute and the woodpecker just sat there and took it, then decided enough is enough and left, heading for the oaks by the creek, followed by its partner. That tiny bird was a Brown-headed Nuthatch, and must have a nest very close by – next time you are there, see if you can find a nuthatch-sized hole in the snag. No doubt that bird had a nest and offspring to protect and was unafraid to take on an intruder forty times its size.

The House and Garden Project The week before the Plant Sale the final phase of the House and Garden Project began. Operators came with big equipment and graded the surface of

the driveway, repairing erosion and putting down a layer of “crush & run”, a mixture of gravel and sediment that fills holes and stays in place even with vehicular traffic. Then a layer of gravel was put over the top. We are now waiting on one more workday when the operators will bring another load of gravel to fill in remaining gaps and straighten up the edges. There are a few more details to attend to at the house, and then the entire project will be completed. We will give you a final report when everything has been finished.

The Bird Window and Gardens

The Bird Window has been a busy place in the last two months, with resident birds being joined by migrants passing through and summer residents moving in. Some notable late winter/early spring arrivals were Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, Ground Doves, White-eyed Vireos, White-throated Sparrows, a Blue-grey Gnatcatcher, and several Warblers: Northern Parula, Pine, Yellow-throated, and Black-and-White. We did not see very many Chipping Sparrows or American Goldfinches this year. Recent sightings include pairs of Savannah Sparrows and Summer Tanagers. Gray Catbirds are still here. Cardinals have been omnipresent lately, with up to 13 counted at one time, all those bright red birds enlivening the scene. Nesting is in full swing, so males are in brilliant courtship plumage and the singing goes on all day.

Things are lively out around the house and garden as well. One of our favorite birds is the Cedar Waxwing, and they have been visiting in droves. Their favorite location is the red mulberry trees around the outdoor restroom by the parking area. These trees are great berry producers and the Waxwings fly in and out all day enjoying these berries, ripe or not. They spend part of the time up in the branches, hanging on for dear life upside down gathering fruit; then when no people are nearby, they move to the ground to pick up all the fallen treasure. They are occasionally joined by the male Towhee who has been singing from the jasmine shrub. The Waxwings will eat and eat and eat and then all fly up into a nearby live oak tree to rest. Sitting up there in the sunshine they almost look like fruit themselves, plump and golden. It is a great photo opportunity – they are in full view from several angles and this goes on all day. They really are one of our most attractive birds, with their smooth, subtle coloring and charming masks.

The season is evolving very quickly. Every day more trees leaf out and turn a deeper green than the day before. I find myself feeling enormously deprived when I have to be inside working, especially in the mornings, when the air is so clear and fresh, the birds are courting and calling, a new migrant appears every day, the wild azalea outside my office is blooming and fragrant – I want to be out there too! Things are changing fast – we need to enjoy this moment while we can. Summer will be here before we know it, so come out soon and experience springtime at Birdsong; there is a lot happening!

- KDB

BIRDSONG NATURE CENTER WISHES TO THANK:

Program Volunteers

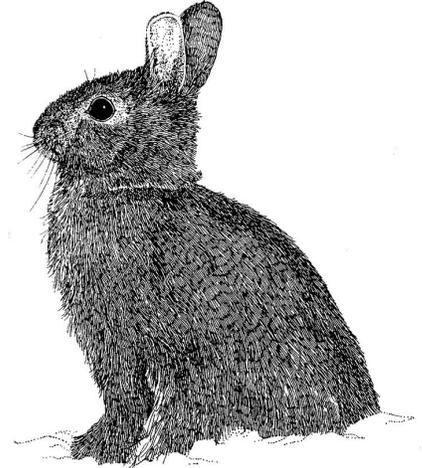
Dan Miller, of Trillium Gardens, for the Wild Azalea workshop in advance of the Old-Timey Plant Sale.
Beth Grant, for leading *Bringing Nature Home*.
Nancy Thomas, for the excellent program and field experience on frogs: *Music to our Ears: A Chorus of Frogs*.
Sandra Sallee, for assistance with the Thomasville Community Resource Center volunteer visit and leading the Thomasville Christian School program.

Special Financial Gifts

Muffie Maroney * John Lovett * Scott Family Fund * Briarcliff Garden Club

Memorial Gifts

Nia Wellendorf in memory of Ross Landon
Barbara Wozniak, in memory of Landon Ross
Malcom and Mary Morris, in memory of Landon Ross
Martha Franklin, for Landon Ross
Laurie Jones, in memory of her mother
Linda and Albert Buchignani, in memory of Harper Lee



Special Thanks To:

Winnie and Wolfgang Adolph, for cleaning, re-organizing, and improving the Birdsong gift shop – it has been spruced up and looks wonderful! Thank you!
The Thomasville Community Resource Center student group, for coming out and helping us weed the pathways and teach us about tiny plants!
Alan Strowd, for volunteering at the Bird Window every other Saturday. We also offer special thanks for his accounting expertise and support on the Finance Committee.
Burn crew Mike Miller, Sandra Sallee, Alan Parker, Stanton Beazley, Chuck Eason and Jeanette Sickel.
Special thanks to Ken Carr, for his excellent photography and for documenting the cut site burn.
Mike Miller, for assistance with equipment repair.
Nancy Ann Thomas, for volunteering at the Bird Window and taking good care of the birds.
Alan Parker, for providing site, garden, and land management support and beaver dam de-construction.
Bob Dunne, for the bird photos for the office.
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, and Joe Newborn. 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.
Myles Black and Bob Bearss, for getting the Bluebird Monitoring season off to a great start and helping new volunteers.
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**

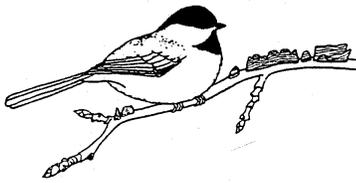
President	Joe Peresich
Secretary	Margie McInnes
Treasurer	Bill Preston

Directors

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

BIRDSONG’S CORPORATE SPONSORS

Hopping, Green & Sams, PA
May Nursery
Monrovia Growers of Georgia
Native Nurseries
O’Toole’s Herb Farm
Trillium Gardens
Deerwood, LLC
Barrett, Fasig & Brooks
Carroll and Company CPAs
Import Authority
Thomasville National Bank
Private Wealth Management & Consulting, LLC
South GA Low Cost Spay & Neuter Clinic
Seminole Alterations



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

Holly Thomas
 James and Laurie Suzuki
 Ksena Zipperer
 Michael and Robin O'Donnell
 Chase and Carrie McNeill
 Richard Benton
 Kathryn Travis
 Phillip Parsons
 Carole Cooper
 Patience Gaia
 Shane and Nia Wellendorf
 Paula Cooper
 Joe and Cara North
 Debra Dodds
 Patricia Smoothwalk
 Virginia Vail

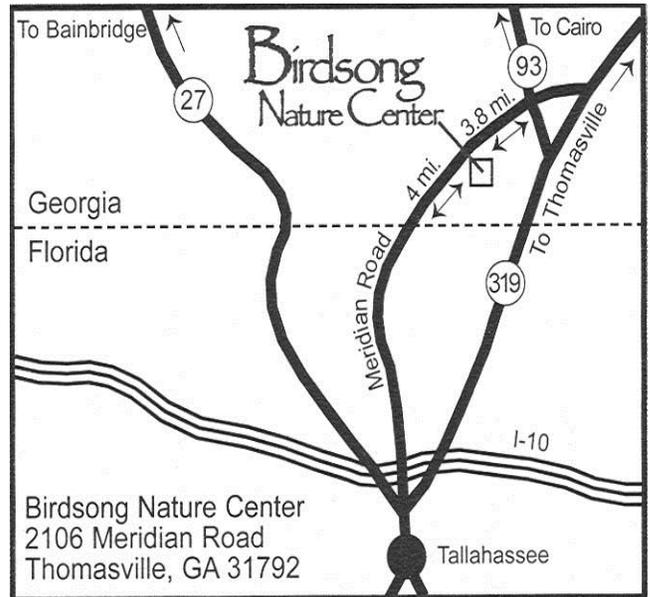
Mark Martinkovic
 Ginny Jows
 Rene Daly Holland
 Mary Anne Koos
 Marti Miller
 Bobbi Koelle
 Oberly Brown
 Burt Davy
 Cheryl Dodd
 Cathy Adkison
 Cathy & Mike Alfanso
 Lois Johnson
 Kathy McDaris
 Kimberly Kelling
 Todd Engstrom
 Emily Burke

Thomasville

Eugenia Harris
 The Paxton Inn
 Carol Kelson
 Judith Crocker
 David Edward
 Kandra Miller
 Frank McColm
 Marianne Horchler

Other Areas:

Charles Johnson	Valdosta,
Walt Wage	Monticello
Barbara Gill	Monticello
Susan Anderson	Whigham
Kristi Hamilton	Quincy
Joan White	Moultrie
Martha Hawthorne	Cairo
Sandy Mudra	Cairo
Tim White	Cairo
James Arthur York	Boston, GA
Nancy Ross	Havana, FL
Greg & Beth DeBor	Dover, 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