

# Birdsong Nature Center

July-August. 2016

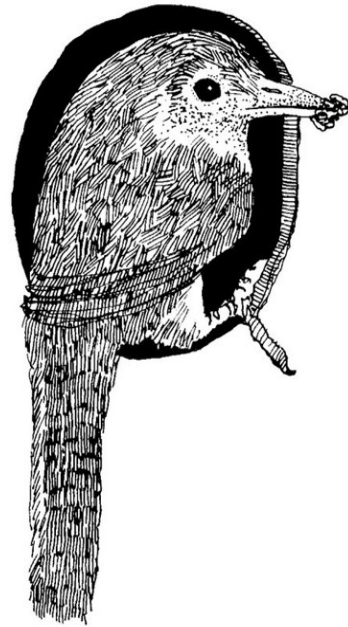
## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### July

|       |         |  |
|-------|---------|--|
| Sat.  | July 2  | Bluebird Trail Monitoring                              |
| Thur. | July 7  | Butterfly Garden Work Day                              |
| Wed.  | July 13 | Bluebird Trail Monitoring                              |
| Sat.  | July 16 | Summer Morning Trail Ride<br>Bluebird Trail Monitoring |
| Sat.  | July 23 | Summer Birding at Birdsong                             |
| Wed.  | July 27 | Bluebird Trail Monitoring                              |
| Sat.  | July 30 | Bluebird Trail Monitoring                              |

### August

|       |         |  |
|-------|---------|--|
| Thur. | Aug. 4  | Butterfly Garden Work Day  |
| Sat.  | Aug. 6  | Butterfly Field Trip to Elinor<br>Klapp-Phipps Park                                |
| Wed.  | Aug. 10 | Bluebird Trail Monitoring  |
| Sat.  | Aug. 13 | Take a Child Outside for a Natural<br>Scavenger Hunt!<br>Bluebird Trail Monitoring |



### AUGUST CLOSURE

Birdsong will be closed from Tuesday, August 16 to Tuesday, September 5, and reopen Wednesday, September 6.

#### 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



#### FREE GENERAL ADMISSION THROUGH MID AUGUST

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](mailto:birdsong@birdsongnaturecenter.org)

Dear Friends,

We want to extend a warm welcome to the new members of Birdsong! We welcome all the great folks who have joined this year, our 30<sup>th</sup>, and express a special thanks to those who have joined during our "Next 30 Years" membership campaign which began in May. Our goal is to add 50 new members in 2016 and we're happy to report a good start. We're also very happy for the great response from current members who've renewed this past year and during the membership campaign. Thank you very much, new and "old" members alike! We are delighted to have you as highly regarded members of Birdsong Nature Center!

Given the great response to the campaign we will be extending it through July and August, offering free admittance to the Center, trails, and Bird Window and \$5 off all membership levels.

Our members and volunteers are the very heart of Birdsong, and we could not be more appreciative or proud to have you with the organization. We very much hope that you will share Birdsong and the good experiences you enjoy here with your friends; bring them to visit the property - it's beautiful out here! Invite them to become members of this venerable organization. It is the generous communal spirit and intention on the part of all of Birdsong's supporters - our members, volunteers, and donors - that makes the nature center possible, here for all to enjoy. Birdsong Nature Center is a creation of which you are a vital part, and one of which we can all be very proud. Please come visit soon, and often - bring a friend to share this beautiful place with. And thank you again for being a highly valued member and supporter of Birdsong Nature Center.

Sincerely,  
Joe Peresich  
Board President

## **NATIVE ALTERNATIVES TO NON-NATIVE PLANTS IN YOUR YARD**

By now all of us know the importance of using native plants in our landscaping. We have been educated by excellent books such as Douglas Tallamy's *Bringing Nature Home* and by programs at Native Nurseries and Birdsong Nature Center: Birds depend on insects. Even seed eating birds must have insects to feed their babies. Without insects our beloved songbirds cannot survive. Insects live on plants, and can only be sustained by plants with which they share an evolutionary history. By filling our yards and neighborhoods with non-native plants we are creating vast barren wastelands and starving out wildlife.

Yet we want a certain "look" in our yards and gardens. Our eyes have been trained by traditional landscaping styles. We want to see a multi-trunked vase-shaped Crape Myrtle in the distance, green oval Boxwoods at the corners of the porch, a pair of pruned Ligustrums on each side of the front door, and a tidy row of Mondo Grass edging it all in. To be environmentally responsible do we now have to give up the landscaping design we find so pleasing and live in a jungle like Mowgli? No. For almost every non-native plant we are accustomed to seeing in traditional landscape plantings there is a native alternative. Some of the native plants have more appeal -- fragrance, a more graceful form, interesting seasonal changes -- and they are easier to establish and care for.

Here is a list of just some native alternatives to commonly used non-native plants:

Wax Myrtle is an excellent plant for many landscaping needs. Pruned and limbed up as a small tree it is as graceful as Ligustrum or Crape Myrtle. It can also be pruned hard to form a dense hedge, in any shape you want. Wax Myrtle is a good replacement for Privet, Red Tip, or Nandina. It does not have showy flowers, but it is evergreen and the foliage has a refreshing, clean scent.

Ocala Anise is also a good native evergreen hedge plant. It has big green leaves, fragrant when crushed. It can be pruned to be a dense hedge or let go to form a nice small tree. A good substitute for Red Tip.

Gallberry would also be a good evergreen hedge plant. Redbud, Buckeye, Sourwood, and Serviceberry are four beautiful small native trees with graceful form, spring flowers, and fall color. They would be an excellent choice to take the place of Crape Myrtle or Bradford Pear

Ashe Magnolia is a fascinating small native tree, with huge leaves and even bigger fragrant flowers in spring. Red Buckeye is another tree with appealing charm in all seasons -- spring bloom, green shade in summer, fall color, and graceful shape in winter. These trees would be great in the place of Japanese Magnolias.

Blue-eyed Grass is an interesting substitute for the invasive Mondo Grass as a border. It is covered with little blue flowers in the spring, and the grass-like foliage is attractive all year. You will be fighting the deep, tenacious roots of Mondo Grass when it spreads where you don't want it, but Blue-eyed Grass is easy to pull up.

Lyreleaf Sage will quickly spread by seeds to form a solid ground cover with lovely blue flowers in the spring. It is easy to pull up and move if it seeds out where you don't want it. It could be used instead of dreadfully invasive ivy or Asiatic Jasmine.

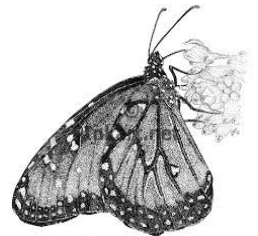
Carolina Jessamine, Cross Vine, and Coral Honeysuckle are good vines to use instead of Confederate Jasmine.

To learn about many more native substitutes visit Native Nurseries in Tallahassee or look up *Suggested Alternatives to Non-Native Invasive Plants*, put out by the Georgia Exotic Pest Control Council. Gil Nelson's book *Best Native Plants for Southern Gardens* is an excellent reference source. Birdsong will offer programs on this subject during the year, and of course we will be selling many of these plants at the 10th annual Old-Timey Plant Sale on March 18.

- June Bailey White



**BUTTERFLY FIELD TRIP TO ELINOR KLAPP-PHIPPS PARK**  
**With Dean and Sally Jue**  
**Saturday, August 6**  
**9AM – Noon**



The Golden Banded-Skipper is described in most butterfly field guides as “rare and elusive” in the eastern US, yet it is easy to see at Elinor Klapp-Phipps Park in Tallahassee. Named for the luminous golden bands across its forewings, the skipper is found in the shady portions of the park where its larval food plant, thicket bean, grows. It has two broods, the first in April and the second in July and August. Dean and Sally Jue have studied this fascinating skipper for over 5 years and have worked with the park managers to assure the butterfly’s population remains healthy.

Located on the north side of Tallahassee, Phipps Park is one of the best butterfly-watching sites in the Florida Panhandle, with some 85 species identified to date. Dean and Sally will take you to see the Golden Banded-Skipper in its habitat and share some of the interesting aspects of this butterfly’s behavior and ecology. There will also be many other butterflies to observe and learn about! Dean and Sally are accomplished biologists and excellent teachers - we will have an enriching and enjoyable field experience!

Meet at Gate A parking lot off of Miller Landing Road at 9:00 AM. For a map go to <http://www.talgov.com/Uploads/Public/Documents/parks/pdf/phipps.pdf> . Bring regular or close-focusing binoculars if you have them, your camera, plenty of water, and a lunch if you want to stay for the afternoon. Should you have any questions please contact Sally Jue at [dsjue@embarqmail.com](mailto:dsjue@embarqmail.com) or (850) 386-1393 for additional information.

\$4 members, \$8 non-members. Children half-price. Please email or call in and register so we know you are coming at [birdsong@birdsongnaturecenter.org](mailto:birdsong@birdsongnaturecenter.org) or 800-953-2473.

## SUMMER MORNING TRAILER RIDE

and WHIP project site visit

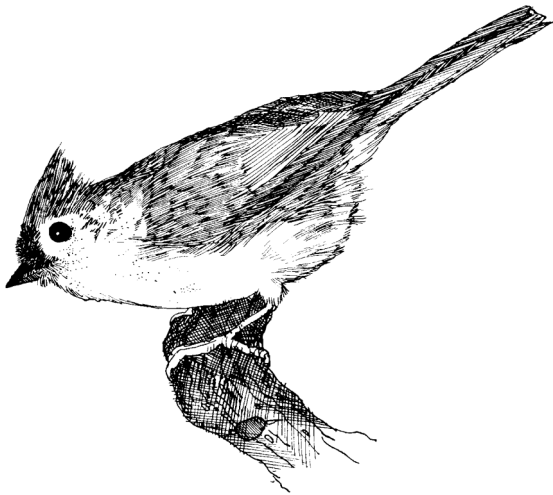
Saturday, July 16

9:00 – 11:00AM

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

**RESERVATIONS, PLEASE.** Please call by noon on Friday, July 15th 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 12 people on the trailer. Dress for the weather, bring binoculars and bug spray.

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



## BLUEBIRD TRAIL MONITORING

July 2, 13, 16, 27, 30

August 10, 11

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.

## TAKE A CHILD OUTSIDE FOR A NATURAL SCAVENGER HUNT!

Saturday, August 13

9:30-11:30AM

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

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

**RESERVATIONS, PLEASE,** so we know how many to prepare for.

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

## SUMMER BIRDING AT BIRDSONG

Saturday, July 23

8AM to 12 or so

An early summer morning at Birdsong is a great time to go birding. Year-round and summer residents are feeding chicks and training second broods of fledglings. Join expert birder Marvin Collins for a leisurely discovery hike through a variety of excellent bird habitat, including open oldfield, pine woods, swamp and mixed hardwoods. 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 this time of year. Dress for the weather and for a long hike in the woods, and be prepared for the heat. Bring binoculars, sun protection, water and a snack.

**RESERVATIONS, PLEASE.** Call or email to let us know you are coming by 4PM Friday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>.

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

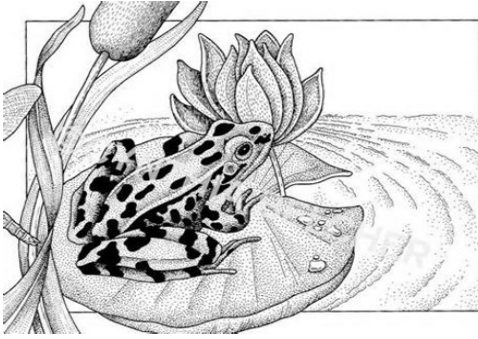
## BUTTERFLY GARDEN WORK DAYS

Thursdays, July 7 and August 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.

## FROG FUN and FACTS by Nancy Thomas



We have been having a great time listening to the frogs call as we tour Birdsong visiting various ponds and swamps on the hay wagon. There are 31 frogs known to breed in Georgia and 30 species of frogs that live and breed in Florida. Most species in North Florida overlap with those found at Birdsong. I am thrilled that there is so much interest in the frog programs!!! I hope you will join us for either a frog presentation/hay ride or outing at a local wetland.

We are currently in the frog's spring/summer breeding season. On our April 16th trip we heard the calls of Chorus Frogs (Southern and Ornate), Southern Leopard

Frogs, Bird-voiced Treefrogs, Southern Cricket Frogs, Barking and Green Treefrogs, Little Grass Frogs, Pig Frogs and Bullfrogs. The ephemeral wetland in the Gin House Field was very musical!! The chorus of the Green Treefrog we heard was deafening. I was able to catch one of the Green Treefrogs to the delight of group and me. Other frogs species may also be heard in the spring/summer breeding months. This depends a lot on the air temperature and the amount and frequency of rainfall.

Frogs are amphibians and a vital part of the food chain. The life cycle of the frogs begins with fertilized eggs that develop into tadpoles then to froglets then to adults. As tadpoles they feed primarily on plant material. As the tadpoles grow in size they may feed on insect larvae or even each other in the water. Adult frogs feed mainly on insects. Birds, turtles, aquatic insect larvae and snakes represent a few of their natural predators. It is good to note that all toads are frogs, but not all frogs are toads. Think of the fact that a American Goldfinch is a bird but all birds are not American Goldfinches. Frogs breed in various bodies of water. Some frogs, like the Ornate Chorus Frog prefer ephemeral wetlands. These wetlands are usually shallow and usually dry up then refill depending on rainfall. This is crucial for these frog species because they cannot compete with predation from fish and turtles. In contrast you will find the Bullfrog in deeper bodies of water that support fish. Questions have been asked in regards to explosions of frogs exiting or near water bodies. I have been researching this and data found so far points to the possibility that these froglets are either Southern Toads or Eastern Spadefoot Toads. However, for me to truly identify them I would like pictures or see them in person.

Frogs are grouped in regards to the various habitats in which they are found. There are terrestrial frogs that spend a lot of their time out of water. Toads fit this category well. They have short legs, stocky bodies and many have parotoid glands to discourage predation. These glands secrete a toxic substance. A second group are arboreal frogs (i.e., treefrogs) that spend much of their adult life above ground in trees, bushes, on buildings, etc. They have toe pads which enable them to "stick" like a suction cup on various surfaces. The third group are aquatic frogs which prefer to live in or near water. This group would include Pig, Bull and Bronze frogs. The anatomy of these frogs make them well-suited for this environment. These frogs are larger, have long legs and most have webbed feet.

Frogs are great environmental indicators. They have permeable skin and tend to absorb whatever they may come in contact with in the water. If you handle frogs or tadpoles it is important not to have any insecticide, sun lotion, hand creams, etc. on your hands. By studying frogs and their diversity, we can get a good look into the health of our environment, especially water quality. Using pesticides in our landscapes is very risky for wildlife, pets and people. We all have heard of Rachel Carlson and Silent Spring. Dr. Tyrone Hayes has published work that has been attached to Silent Night. His work focuses on Atrazine a chemical weed killer that has shown to turn our frog princes into princesses. Ask yourself, is that perfect lawn worth it?



Learning to identify the 31 species of frogs by ear is not difficult, but takes a lot of practice. There are great audio resources available. Most can be loaded on to electronic devices. I play the calls when I am driving. The resources generally give a good background of each frog which also helps to determine when and where you may expect to find or hear them. Create a water garden or maintain a natural wetland to give you a personal frog haven. The more habitat we can save or restore the better it will be for us and those that inhabit this incredible planet with us.

## WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT NOTES

June 14, 2016

**Weather** Summer is here, in all its voluptuous, humid glory. On a morning such as this, you can feel the moisture in the air as you breathe in. We are now looking at a week of intense heat and afternoon thundershowers predicted every day and we look forward to the rain as a short respite from the heat. There have been 9.97 inches of rainfall in May and June so far. In late May we had a full 10 days of 90-plus degree temperatures with no rain, and it gave us that uneasy creeping reminder that drought may be on the way. However on June 6<sup>th</sup>, Tropical Storm Colin brought 4.77 inches in one day, causing the Upper and Farm Pond to overflow.

The vegetation has responded exuberantly and is presenting all kinds of mowing and management challenges; it is getting hard for Chuck to keep up with mowing the trails as well as our other brush-cutting projects. Summer wildflowers are blooming abundantly, providing points of color along the trails, including orange Butterflyweed, lavender Butterfly Pea, and yellow Squareheads, to name a few. The hardwoods have leafed out and the woods are now gradually changing to a rich dark green, a more consistent backdrop than when the early spring leafing out featured every tree with its own shade of green.

**Purple Martins** Our Martins just got the last two babies of the season fledged over the weekend. We started out with 10 pairs of adults, one for each gourd, but this nesting season has progressed somewhat differently than others, and I'm not completely clear on whether or not all ten hatched young. I did not get the opportunity this year to spend much time at the pump house in the early mornings to observe ongoing Martin activity, and feel deeply deprived. Staying connected with the Martins is very grounding. It has only been in the last three or four weeks that I've spent a few minutes here and there observing. It appears that a number of pairs fledged young quite early, or did not fledge them at all. Once I started checking, there were only four gourds containing visible fledglings being fed by parents, and they were at very different levels of development. We know that a gourd of three fledged about two weeks ago, and another was close last week, but those birds were really suffering from the heat and were leaning way out seeking relief; it had not rained in days. Coming back from last weekend away, we noticed them gone and of course assumed that they had successfully fledged. Unfortunately, two days later, we discovered those three babies dead under the martin pole in the grass. They must have bailed out but did not have enough strength to fly. Once they are down on the ground, even if they are in good shape otherwise, they just can't get up out of the tangle of grass if their wings aren't strong. So that was a hard blow. It left us with two more gourds with two babies each.

Last Friday, Alan came to my office to tell me there was a Martin down, and we went and collected him out of the deep grass in the lot. This bird was hot and panting, and I brought him into the office and got him perched on a twig and within a few minutes, he settled down and began to look less distressed. We planned to return him to his gourd later in the day and just give him a little break from the heat. Martin parents will welcome their young back home and other parents will help feed and care for babies not their own. This youngster was in excellent condition, quite heavy, well-feathered, and very close to fledging. Volunteer Nancy Thomas, who works for St. Francis Wildlife, suggested we put him back sooner rather than later, so she and Alan returned him to his gourd and he settled in, happy to be home. Saturday morning before the *Take a Child Outside and Get Wet and Muddy!* program, the Martins were very vocal and worked up, so I went to look and there he was, back down near the ground, perched on a grass stem, looking great, parents in a protective frenzy, with a curious Bobwhite Quail looking on nearby. Sandra Sallee helped me get the ladder out and put him back on the pole, this time on the crossbars. Doing this I got a good look at the neighboring gourd, the last one with two babies leaning out – we were up close and personal, about two feet away from each other. Baby Martins are cute beyond description, with their wide mouths and shoe-button eyes. Later that day, bringing our trailer of folks back from the Farm Pond, our escapee was gone and we assume he had safely fledged. Now there were only two adults remaining in the area, and two babies leaning out every chance they got. I watched them closely late that day, and could tell that they were getting ready to go. This morning, back to work after the weekend, there were no babies anywhere – they fledged with no problems as far as we can tell. So at the moment we have four males and six other birds (it is hard to tell the females and young apart) attending the gourds, flying in the vicinity and perching on the crossbars, with no evidence that any pair is working on a second brood this year.

About a month ago, an aggressive Bluebird pair got fixated on one of the gourds that still had an active Martin nest in it. They made a play to take it over, in spite of the highly protective Martin parents on the defense. The Bluebird pair was finally run off by the normally placid Martins, after having pushed things too far for an entire week. This morning, the Bluebirds are back, actively building in that same now-martin-free gourd. There is Spanish moss trailing from the entrance, not something any self-respecting Martin would tolerate, and the Bluebirds are busy, bringing in beakfuls of grasses and other nesting material. It seems pointless to try to dissuade them, since it looks like this Martin season is over. We will be watching closely over the next few days to see what will happen. Last year when the last baby fledged, all the Martins left the next day – I mean left for good, none came back, they were gone.

I always feel sad to see them go – they are an uplifting presence here. We can hear them busy at work down at the pole from our offices and the house, and get a lot of comfort and enjoyment from them during the four or five months they spend with us. They get to go back to Brazil, to their home, but for us it will be a long time until we get to hear their cheerful, melodic noise again. I feel left behind. My family traveled when I was growing up and we lived in Brazil for a time. I loved it there. Martins were called “andorinhas” there, little swallows. That will be a story for another day.

***The Big Bay Field Work Site*** We have now completed the final work required by the terms of the WHIP grant at the cut site: the planting of warm-season grasses. We had a lot of interesting and diverse vegetation emerge at the site after the seedlings were planted. Springtime and lots of rain brought even more wonderful variety of herbs and forbs that had been dormant in the shade of the shortleaf pine woods, but we had to make room for planted grass seed to grow. About a month ago, our contractor for this part of the project came out and harrowed in between the rows of pine seedlings exposing bare soil – we were trying to avoid using any more herbicide than necessary – but he ran into problems because of the many pine stumps remaining from the original cut. So he had to return and spray some herbicide while simultaneously spreading grass seed. If you go out now you can see where the herbicide was distributed. We planted Big and Little Bluestem, Indian Grass, and ragweed, as required. This is the beginning of the effort to restore native groundcover to the area where our newest longleaf woods will eventually emerge.

***A Recent Visit to the Site...*** Birdsong has recently been the very fortunate recipient of a lovely contribution – a shapely bench donated by JoAnn Orr in memory of her husband, Larry. We decided to place the bench at the cut site, in the best wildlife-watching spot overlooking the entire project area. It has a lovely expansive view: you can see the entire south treeline along Big Bay Swamp and all boundaries of the cut site are visible from there. It is in the shade for most of the day, and we really hope you will enjoy a stop there on your next walk.

Prior to installing Larry’s bench a few weeks ago, I needed to run out and check on the longleaf/grass-planting effort, and because I was in a bit of a hurry I drove my car. I pulled in and parked right where the bench now stands, facing northwest, toward the big snag. Sitting there for just a moment, I saw movement to my right, and here came a beautiful fox squirrel, one of the most interesting I have ever seen. Of course, every fox squirrel is interesting and each has a unique coat. This one was jet black on her face and head, across the shoulders and arms, like she was wearing a black bolero. Her nose was pure white, not just a tiny dot on her nose, but the entire front of her face. Her back and flanks were silver and black, salt and pepper, and an outstanding feature was the color of the rest of her body: it

was sandy, almost peachy, on her chest, forearms, belly and knees. Her tail was huge and had a black stripe down the middle with black and silver fluff on each side. She was stunning. This relatively small fox squirrel was unconcerned about the car. She came loping around from the north, right in front of the car and around the side, not four feet from me on the driver’s side. I had the window open and was afraid she’d spook and run once she saw me, but she did not. She began fooling around, poking around in the grass right beside me. I started fumbling around for my phone, hoping to get a photo, while trying not to move much, and was unsuccessful. She gradually made her way behind the car to the closest water oak, only 20 feet away and climbed five feet up one side and just hung there, plastered against the bark in full view, a real live tree-hugger. I got the binoculars out, but she was directly behind me and I was trying to get turned around in the front seat to watch her; it wasn’t the most graceful effort on my part. At least she was absolutely unconcerned about my presence and she decided to have a little rest. She got herself situated on a short side branch, with her backside against the tree trunk, tail flowing down, and let her back legs hang over each side of the branch, her body supported comfortably. She placed one arm in front of her along the branch and rested her chin on it. I was wedged behind the steering wheel, unable to get a photo, barely able to see her from my uncomfortable twisted seat. I gave up and unwound, watching her in the side and rear-view mirrors. She stayed in that place for about 10 or 12 minutes, and then climbed down and moved slowly along towards the woods on the south line. What a treat. She was magnificent. You never know what you will see at the cut site. And now we have a beautiful comfortable bench to sit on when we go out to enjoy a quiet moment in the woods – thank you, JoAnn and Larry.

So it is full-on Summertime at Birdsong. Most of our songbirds have gotten their first broods out, and are now on to the next. Less suet is being consumed and toted away from the Bird Window. Mirhi’s Red-bellied Woodpecker pair, who have waited daily for her to arrive to put the suet out in the morning, have raised two big healthy gray-headed babies who are now able to come to the Window on their own and feed themselves. There is still a lot of joyful singing and courting going on, notably by our Northern Parulas, White-eyed Vireos, and Great Crested Flycatchers. We invite you to enjoy the summer with us - there is a lot going on everywhere you look: the ponds and swamp are lively; the woods are shady and full of music; the Butterfly Garden is colorful, beautiful, and alive; the Bird Window remains a cool, quiet haven for us all. Enjoy Larry’s bench, and please let us know what nature reveals to you on your next visit.

-KDB

**BIRDSONG NATURE CENTER WISHES TO THANK:**

***Program Volunteers***

Beth Grant, for leading the *Mother's Day Walk*

Lora Smith, for the *Gopher Tortoise Workshop*.

Dave Almquist, for *Bugs, Bugs, Bugs!*

Sandra Sallee, for leading *Take a Child Outside and Get Wet and Muddy!*, and assistance with the special Birthday Party.

Carole Hayes, for leading the Southern Pines program

For help with the Magnolia School program: thank you, Beth Grant, Yvonne Stinson, and Carole Hayes

For help with Hands-On Thomas County's Project Impact: Sandra Sallee, Beth Grant and Yvonne Stinson

***Special Financial Gifts***

Joe Peresich

John Yow

Jelks Family Foundation

Marta and Jerry Turner

Thomasville Antique Show Foundation

Price-Campbell Foundation

***Memorial Gifts***

Linda and Albert Buchignani, in memory of Bets and Gap Hayes

***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! We truly appreciate the donation of a flat-screen monitor for Kathleen's computer, and thank you too for the black swallowtail caterpillars and fennel! Thank you!

Nancy Ann Thomas, for looking after the Bird Window and taking good care of the birds, and for helping with the Southern Pines program.

Don and Hazel Dixon, for replacing the bamboo trough at the Bird Window, for making such beautiful plaques and installing them, and for building us such nice new birdhouses for the gift shop.

Hands-On Thomas County, for bringing the marvelous Project Impact students to help us remove invasive plants and clean up the Birdsong gardens.

Alan Strowd, special thanks for his accounting expertise and support on the Finance Committee.

Burn crew Alan Parker and Bob Bearss, for help with the northeast corner burn.

Alan Parker, for providing site, garden, and land management support and beaver dam de-construction.

Joe Peresich, for his special donations to Birdsong, 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 ongoing summer Bluebird Monitoring and helping new volunteers.

**Birdsong Nature Center**

**Board of Directors**

**2015-2016**

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

**Directors**

|              |             |
|--------------|-------------|
| Jim Antista  | Brenda Coy  |
| Woody Search | Joe Newborn |

**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

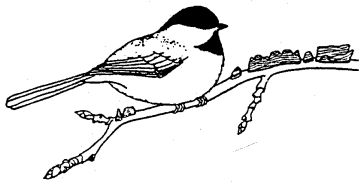
Thomasville National Bank

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

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

# NEW FRIENDS OF BIRDSONG

**Tallahassee**

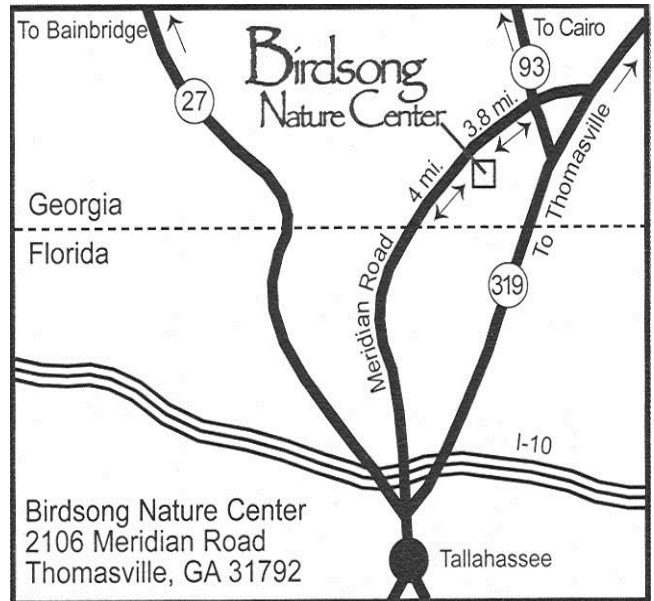
- Milt Lefkoff
- Eric Abrahamsen and Brenna Ross
- Steve and Tyressa Judge
- Bonnie and Dan Davis
- Karen Schneggenburger
- Cindy Hecht and David Hawkins
- Jenn Vu
- Sally Burnside

**Thomasville**

- Shirley Nevels
- Jan Johnson
- Linda Drew Johnson
- Gale Gainey

**Other Areas:**

- Ann Hunter                      Crawfordville, FL
- Judy Strickland              Cairo, GA
- Shann Nichols                Havana, FL
- Diane & Allen Phelps        Cairo, 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 Marathon gas station onto Meridian Road, approximately 5 miles from Marathon 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