

# Birdsong Nature Center

November - December, 2016

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### November

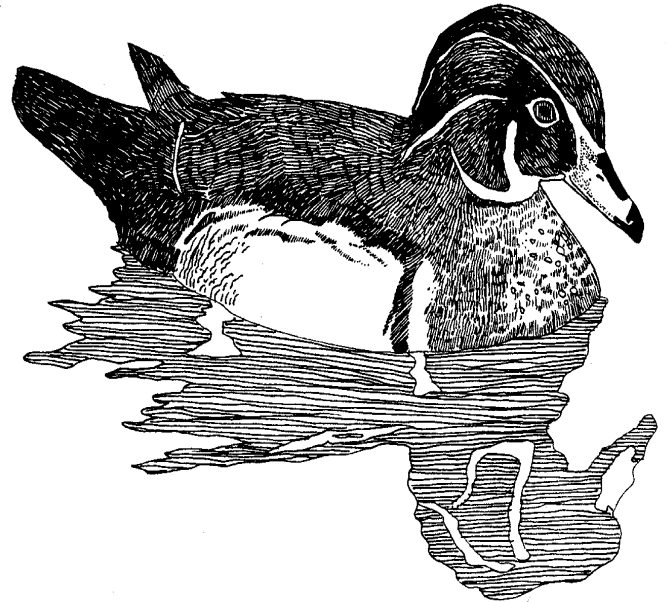
Thursday	Nov. 3	Butterfly Garden Work Days
Saturday	Nov. 5	Wild Neighbors of the Red Hills
Saturday	Nov. 12	Bear Creek Educational Forest Hike
Saturday	Nov. 19	Special Fall Plant Sale: Blueberries!
Saturday	Nov. 26	Thanksgiving Saturday Super Walk

### December

Thursday	Dec. 1	Butterfly Garden Work Days
Saturday	Dec. 3	Take a Child Outside For the Holidays!
Saturday	Dec. 10	Winter Sunset Trail Ride
Saturday	Dec. 17	Annual Meeting of the Members Winter Solstice Celebration
Friday	Dec. 23	<b>Birdsong will be closed from December 23 through January 3</b>

### January

Wednesday	Jan. 4	<b>Center reopens</b>
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#### 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

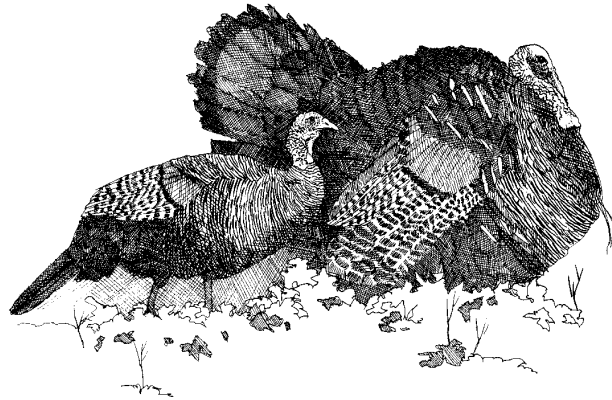
Please register for all programs by calling or emailing: (229) 377-4408, 1 (800) 953-BIRD, Birdsong Office  
Fax line (229)-377-8723, or [birdsong@birdsongnaturecenter.org](mailto:birdsong@birdsongnaturecenter.org)

Dear Friends,

We enjoyed the pleasure of hosting a festive event on October 9<sup>th</sup> to celebrate Birdsong's 30th Anniversary. We were deeply honored to have many of Birdsong's long-time friends attend, as well as many wonderful friends we've made in more recent years. We plan to celebrate our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary once again at this year's Winter Solstice event in December, and we hope you will attend. More information appears later in this Newsletter.

We were also very happy to observe another special occasion at the party – Kathleen Brady celebrated her 31<sup>st</sup> Anniversary as Birdsong's Executive Director! We are so pleased to have this opportunity to thank this wonderful lady for her invaluable service and dedication to the Nature Center. Kathleen began her career at Birdsong in October 1985 - several months before the Center was formally incorporated as a non-profit organization. She has faithfully and tirelessly guided Birdsong along from its very beginnings as a non-profit organization to the important "30<sup>th</sup>" milestone that we observe this year. We are very fortunate and appreciative to have benefited so incomparably from Kathleen's leadership over these years, and we could never thank her enough for all she has contributed. Thank you to all of our highly esteemed founding members and the many cherished friends we've made along the way, and thank you, Kathleen Brady, for guiding Birdsong in such an exemplary manner over all these many storied years!

Sincerely,  
Joe Peresich, Board President



**SPECIAL FALL PLANT SALE: BLUEBERRIES!**  
**Saturday, November 19**  
**9am - 5pm**

**Put On Your Calendar**  
**Old-Timey Plant Sale**  
**Third Saturday in March**  
**March 18, 2017**

*Vaccinium ashei*, Rabbiteye Blueberry -- If you only have room for one kind of edible fruit-bearing plant in your yard, this should be it. Blueberries are native to our area and easy to care for. They prefer our naturally well-drained, acid soil (pH 4.0 -- 5.5). Just a few bushes will produce quarts of delicious fruit in early summer. No chemical sprays or fertilizers are necessary. In addition the plants are showy in all seasons. They have glowing red leaves in fall, an attractive winter silhouette, and white bell-shaped flowers in spring. They can be used as ornamental specimen plants or planted close together (4 feet) to form a hedge. (At least two plants are necessary for pollination.)

Several years ago May Nursery donated dozens of small Rabbiteye Blueberry plants in 4-inch pots to Birdsong. A valued plant sale volunteer repotted the plants, repotted them again as they grew, and kept them watered. They are now well-grown, fruit-producing plants. We sold a few of them at the March 2016 Old-Timey Plant Sale, but spring is not the ideal planting time for blueberries because of the stress of miserable heat and drought in the months ahead when they are putting down roots. Late fall through early winter is perfect with several months of cool temperatures and regular rains to come. For this reason we have decided to offer these blueberry plants at a special fall sale. They will be at Birdsong for you to see and purchase near the pump house on the way to the Barn. This is a "First come first served" "While they last" sale of about 15 to 20 Rabbiteye Blueberry bushes. We will have printed planting and cultivation instructions and bags of the perfect soil amendment also available for purchase to mix in the planting hole to get them off to a great start. All proceeds go to Birdsong Nature Center.

- June White, Chair  
Old-Timey Plant Sale

## **WILD NEIGHBORS OF THE RED HILLS**

**Saturday, November 5,  
10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.**

Live, native hawks and owls, a turtle and a snake — St. Francis Wildlife Association's wildlife ambassadors — will help education director Sandy Beck explain the unique adaptations that enable each to hunt and survive, the important roles they play in our Red Hills ecosystem, and what we can all do to help them. Your heart will be touched by their personal stories and inspired by their unique power and beauty. This 1 1/2 hour program includes hands-on teaching tools such as feathers, talons, skins and shells and interactive questioning and is suitable for families with school-aged children.

**RESERVATIONS PLEASE:** we ask that you register by phone or email by Friday noon on November 4 . Dress for the weather. Bring a picnic if you would like to stay for lunch and explore Birdsong

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

\*Please note that this program is ideally suited for families with school age children. The beautiful wild creatures Sandy is bringing with her need the surroundings to be fairly quiet and calm, so we will need to be still and attentive for an extended period of time.

## **TAKE A CHILD OUTSIDE**

**For The Holidays!  
Saturday, December 3  
9:30-Noon**

Bring your favorite child to Birdsong and enjoy a morning in the woods with Sandra Sallee. Give your young person an alternative approach to holiday giving this year and let them collect their own natural materials to make a gift. Each child can take a collecting bag and Sandra will lead us out on a natural treasure hunt to discover what nature has to offer! This is harvest time, with nuts, berries and leaves in profusion. Back at the Barn turn your child's imagination loose to create whatever gift he or she wants, or let them make a small candleholder or surprise gift item with the materials you have collected.

\$5 Friends, \$8 nonmembers, children half-price. Make **RESERVATIONS, PLEASE** by noon on Friday, December 2nd, so we know what materials to provide. Call (229)377-4408 or (800)953-2473 or email [birdsong@birdsongnaturecenter.org](mailto:birdsong@birdsongnaturecenter.org).

## **BEAR CREEK EDUCATIONAL FOREST HIKE**

**Saturday, November 13  
8AM – Noon**

Join expert birder Marvin Collins on a nature hike at beautiful Bear Creek Educational Forest south of Quincy, Florida. This area's natural features include steephead ravines, upland pinewoods and wetlands adjacent to Bear Creek. This is an excellent place to look for migrating and wintering birds and it is full of interesting native plants. If you have not been here before, please join us – you'll really enjoy it!

Please come prepared to walk. We will be out for about 3 hours hiking two separate trails. The walking will be of moderate difficulty; the terrain is steep in some places. Please bring binoculars and dress appropriately: wear sturdy walking shoes and long pants. Bring water and a sandwich or snack. There are no restrooms out on the trails.

\$5 Friends, \$8 nonmembers, children half-price. **RESERVATIONS, PLEASE.** Call by Friday, November 11 at 4PM. Meet at 8AM at the Steinmart/Applebee's parking lot in front of Newk's in the Cross Creek shopping plaza on Thomasville Road across from Wells Fargo and Books-a-Million, or meet us at Bear Creek at 8:30AM. Please google [www.fl-dof/bearcreekeducationalforest](http://www.fl-dof/bearcreekeducationalforest) for directions and more information.



## **THANKSGIVING SATURDAY SUPER WALK**

**Saturday, November 26  
9:00AM – Noon**

Join Birdsong volunteer Beth Grant and retrace the route our late friend mathematician Don Hill developed for a marvelous nature walk he used to lead annually. His description still applies:

“Too much turkey? Got cabin fever? Want your visitors to experience the Red Hills of North Florida/South Georgia? We will leisurely explore several miles of Birdsong's less-traveled trails. Spring Pond, Frog Pond, Big Bay Pond, Big Bay Swamp, Upper Pond and Farm Pond will be waypoints as we experience Birdsong's rich and varied habitats with all they have to offer. Our path will be the loop that maximizes the enclosed area.” Beth Grant has led this walk now for a number of years and has made it her own. You will enjoy her observations and interesting additions to the route!

\$5 Friends, \$8 nonmembers, children half-price.

**ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS**  
**Saturday, December 17 5:00pm**

All members of Birdsong Nature Center are invited to attend an Annual Meeting of the Members at the start of this year's Winter Solstice Celebration. This brief meeting will include an introduction of Board members and the annual election. We invite you to stay and enjoy the Solstice Celebration, our final event in our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year.

The main item on the Annual Meeting agenda is the election of the Board of Directors for 2016-2017. The Nominating Committee is pleased to present this year's slate: new nominees Ellery Sedgwick and Mike Brezin, both of Tallahassee. Other current members serving are President Joe Peresich, Treasurer Bill Preston, Secretary Margie McInnes, Brenda Coy, Woody Search, Jim Antista, and Joe Newborn. We offer our sincere appreciation for their years of dedication and commitment to Birdsong.

We invite you to meet your Board of Directors and fellow Birdsong members, vote at the corporate meeting, and stay for the Winter Solstice Celebration. We'll look forward to seeing you there!

To wrap up Birdsong's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year, we will gather once again for the Winter Solstice Celebration! We have not held this event for a few years, but it is remembered fondly and was one of cofounder Betty Komarek's favorite gatherings. Traditionally we used to prepare a meal and hot drinks, which were included in the cost. To simplify this event and make it easier on our volunteers at this busy time of year, we will forego including a meal and drinks, and invite you to bring your own refreshments and a picnic supper. The rest of the event will remain the same. The cost has been cut in half. Here is our schedule of events.

**WINTER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION**  
**Saturday, December 17, 2016**  
**\$8 adults, \$5 children**

*4 to 5pm* Arrive early, bring your own hot or cold drinks, a picnic supper, lawn chairs or blanket, and settle in to enjoy the evening.

*5pm* Welcome and Annual Meeting of the Members.

*5:15pm* Listen to the music and angelic voice of Velma Frye.

*6:00pm* Lighting of the bonfire, accompanied by Bradley White and Didja Vu on their didgeridoos.

Once the bonfire is going strong, we will "throw the bamboo". Each person will be given a bamboo stick to throw in the fire where it will explode and create good intentions for the coming year.

*Around 6:30* We will walk out to the Star Pasture for a guided observation of the night sky on the actual day of the Winter Solstice. Dress for the weather, bring a blanket to lie on to observe the stars, and bring your binoculars or scope for viewing and a flashlight.

*Rest of the evening:* Contemplate the Universe with your family and friends, warm up around the bonfire, and enjoy more didgeridoo music.

It is our hope that this evening will give you a moment to connect with nature, to be with your friends, to consider what really matters to you at this time of year, and experience some peace and quiet under the night sky before heading back to a busy holiday season.

**PLEASE NOTE:** This is an all-outdoor event. At this time of year there is always a chance of rain, so please pay attention to the weather and call before you come if you have questions. You can also check our website and Facebook page. If it rains several days in advance it can soak the ground where we'll be sitting, and the bonfire, which won't have time to dry out before the event.

Dress for the weather and remember to bring: your favorite drinks, a picnic supper (no food will be available), blanket, lawn chairs, flashlight, and binoculars.

***BECOME A NATURAL LEADER UPDATE***  
**A Training Program for Volunteer Children's Program Leaders**

As described in the last newsletter, we received a grant this year from the Thomasville Antiques Show Foundation to help us expand educational opportunities and nature experiences for children. This funding is enabling us to:

- double our scheduled nature program offerings for children, to 12 per year.
- provide a series of field trips in partnership with the Thomasville Community Resource Center to give their students hands-on nature experiences at Birdsong
- provide a "Become a Natural Leader" training course to increase expertise and teaching skills for Birdsong volunteer program leaders and the staff of TCRC.

We started off by providing a Project WILD workshop on September 24<sup>th</sup> to ten participants, 8 volunteers here to be trained to lead children's programs at Birdsong, one Birdsong staff member, and a teacher from the Thomasville Community Resource Center. Four other TCRC staff were unable to attend, but will be joining us for the rest of the training sessions and another Project WILD in the spring. It was an excellent workshop, and our participants learned a variety of enjoyable hands-on activities that teach ecological principles. The young instructors from Georgia's Department of Natural Resources at Charlie Elliott Education Center, Chris and Sara, were engaging and capable teachers and really made it fun! All participants received two excellent manuals, Project WILD and Aquatic WILD, packed with wonderful teaching activities.

Our participants got an opportunity to use their new skills on October 6 when we had our first field trip from TCRC come to Birdsong. Sandra Sallee, Laurie Jones, Carole Williams, and Jeanette Sickel, with support from Donna Legare, Beth Grant and the Butterfly Garden volunteers, led this group out on the trails, where the children collected natural treasures to take home, to the Bird Window, the Butterfly Garden, and then wrapped up by climbing the big magnolia tree in the front yard. It was hard to tell who was having a better time – the children or the volunteers!

On November 5<sup>th</sup> we are pleased that Sandy Beck, educator extraordinaire with St. Francis Wildlife, will be coming to Birdsong to offer an in-depth up-close opportunity for children school-age and above to see some magnificent native raptors and reptiles. (Please see the program description on page 3.)

These new initiatives are made possible by the generous gift from TASF and we extend our sincere thanks to the Foundation's Board of Trustees for providing the funding to enable Birdsong to better serve the children our community.

If you want to get involved, call or email Executive Director Kathleen Brady at (800)953-2473 or [Kathleen@birdsongnaturecenter.org](mailto:Kathleen@birdsongnaturecenter.org).

**YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS**

Please make sure we have your email address. We are planning to switch to an electronic newsletter early in 2017. Send a note to Mirhi at: [birdsong@birdsongnaturecenter.org](mailto:birdsong@birdsongnaturecenter.org) so you won't miss any upcoming messages.

**BUTTERFLY GARDEN WORK DAYS**  
**Thursdays, November 3 and December 1**  
**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.

**WINTER SUNSET TRAIL RIDE**

**Saturday, December 10**  
**4:00 – 6:00PM**

Bundle up, bring your friends, and let's go for a trail ride at Birdsong and watch the sun set over the Gin House Field. We'll get started in the late afternoon and take the long way round, visiting the Spring Pond, Gopher Tortoise Neighborhood, WHIP/longleaf pine planting site, Big Bay Swamp, and end up at the Gin House to watch the sun go down. We'll look for any signs of winter wildlife and listen for early evening owl activity. Bring your binoculars and dress for the weather. Geared for adults and mature children; we may be stopping to hold still and listen for extended periods of time. If it is dark enough when we wrap up, we'll look for the emerging stars of the winter constellations.

\$6 Friends, \$10 nonmembers, children half-price. RESERVATIONS, PLEASE. Call us or email by Friday, December 9th to reserve a space on the trailer.

## WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT NOTES

October 12, 2016

**Weather** A lot has happened in the two months since the last newsletter. For seemingly endless weeks, we endured extremely hot and humid weather, interspersed with several rain events, followed by Hurricane Hermine, which unloaded nearly 11 inches of rain over a two-day period. The weather stayed very humid for several weeks afterwards and then gradually we began to see and feel a shift. Over the past three weeks our long-awaited Indian Summer has arrived, with cool mornings, sunny days, and low humidity. What a relief! It is a time of year we wait for and then enjoy as much as we can, as it lasts only a couple of months.

Hurricane Hermine arrived on September 1 and brought intense high winds and lots of rain. We lost several big old hardwoods, some pines, and a number of older dogwoods. These are losses we feel deeply; our trees are our history, living connections to our past, many far older than any of us walking Birdsong today. One of our oldest, largest and dearest landmarks, a huge red oak, lost about a half of its top, but at least it is still standing. There was a fair bit of trail cleanup needed and a lot of chainsaw work to make several of the trails passable; Alan had his work cut out for him. Thank you Alan, and Mike Miller, for helping out.

Birdsong was on the northern edge of the hurricane and we were very fortunate not to have sustained any damage to the historic buildings, Barn or other outbuildings. Our only damage was to one of the glass doors at the Listening Place and it was not a difficult thing to repair.

Now we are experiencing the October dry spell. It has not rained for weeks. We had hoped for a little rain from the fringes of Hurricane Matthew, but it missed us completely. Thanks to cooler temperatures, our plant life is not looking as parched as it might, and the wildflowers appear to not notice – they are in their full, rampant glory and look healthy and lush and expectant.

**Wildflowers** It is quite a year for goldenrod! This is our most abundant wildflower in bloom at the moment – it is putting on an amazing display all across the property. We have our own little stand right by the office – it is over head-high, fragrant, and loaded with bumblebees and other pollinators. The brilliant gold is gorgeous against the green backdrop of the building. We also have a cluster of appropriately named hurricane lilies in full bloom nearby. Their deep pink color is eye-catching next to the goldenrod. Yesterday there were a half-dozen cloudless sulfur butterflies dancing around these lilies – what a color combination! There are extensive goldenrod stands in full bloom right now everywhere you go at Birdsong – whatever we happen to think about our weather over the past six months or more, it must have been exactly what goldenrod needs.

Not only is goldenrod happy with these conditions, so is a wide array of other fall-blooming species. I can highly recommend a walk around the perimeter trail. It will lead

you through some beautiful open areas where all kinds of wildflowers are making a showing. There are colorful mixed patches of pink *Agalinis*, or false foxglove, purple *Ageratum* and *Liatris*, and Blue Curl, along with swaths of pale yellow *Pittypopsis*, and bright-gold narrow-leaved sunflower. There are also many nice patches of yellow partridge pea, good news for our quail and other wildlife that love this legume's seeds. Although gold is dominant this year, the open fields and woods are breathtaking with their sparkling expanses of mixed colors – it is like an impressionist painting right now, exuberant and vibrating with life and energy.

One place that is showing a slightly different palette is the cut site, or longleaf pine planting site, or WHIP site. We need a new name for this area. Maybe we'll go back to "Big Bay Field", as that is what it looks like now. The heart of the field is dominated by an expanse of delicate pale green dog fennel, but up near Larry and JoAnn Orr's bench, there are wide bands of purple *Liatris* on both sides of the main trail, with hundreds of tall purple wands in full bloom waving in the breeze welcoming droves of bees and wasps and butterflies. *Liatris* is one of our most distinctive and beautiful fall wildflowers; to have such an expanse in one place feels opulent! You must come see it!

**Grasses** One of the most wonderful fall phenomena we get to enjoy every year is the appearance of the fall-blooming grasses. They send up their tall, showy flowering seedheads; purple, silver and bronze; catching the sunlight and immeasurably enhancing our enjoyment of the autumn landscape. Many of these grasses are mysterious to us, hard to identify; many are without common names and little is commonly known about them. Nevertheless, when fall comes around, they make an impressive display throughout the woods and fields. Every fall I tell myself, we've got to learn more about these amazing plants...they are wonderful!

Grasses obviously play a huge role in the ecology of our area: they are abundant, diverse, and clearly contribute significantly to a complex food web. They are important to the practice of prescribed burning, providing an abundant fuel source at the end of their growing season.

We are very happy to see a big expansion of broomsedge in the last couple of years at Birdsong. It appears to be responding to the increased levels of rainfall we've gotten the past few years. This is an *Andropogon*, or bluestem, species, a beautiful native, and the more it spreads, the happier it makes us – this means it is edging out our ubiquitous, tenacious, non-native bahia grass that is basically impossible to eradicate without herbicide. Chuck implemented a big mowing project this summer in the Gin House Field to help knock back winged sumac and briars, and it appears to have had a very positive effect on broomsedge – there is a beautiful stand of it now – you can walk the trail down the middle of the field and be immersed in a sea of tall shimmering silvery grasses swaying in the breeze. I don't know of many places inland where you can see this far, while walking through a wide expanse of moving grasses with a big blue sky above, and have this

***The Ponds and Swamp*** The nearly 11 inches of rain from Hurricane Hermine filled up all our ponds and the swamp to overflowing. Even now, after 6 weeks have gone by with dry weather, the water levels are still high.

We were really pleased to have such a great turnout for our first Ephemeral Wetlands Walk with Rebecca and Ryan Means of the Coastal Plains Institute. Rebecca gave a marvelous presentation on the ecology and inhabitants of these wetlands, and then we rode out in the trailer to dipnet the Frog Pond and Big Bay Pond. Both are ponds that will go completely dry periodically and rely on rain to fill up. They therefore do not have established fish populations that prey on amphibian larvae, so these ponds become excellent breeding grounds for all kinds of species.

It was great fun – I hope you will join us next time! We collected a variety of frog species in various stages of development, from tadpoles to near-adults, and aquatic insects in larval and adult stages. I enjoyed seeing all our people wading out there with nets, up to their knees in the ponds, fascinated by what we were finding! It was intriguing to see how different one wetland was from another; we caught completely different species each place.

One of our most exciting finds was a Pine Woods Frog tadpole in Big Bay Pond. While most of the tadpoles we found were dark green and brown, this one's semi-transparent "fins" were brilliant – bright red and orange, the color of flames. It was beautiful. We also caught Barking Tree Frog and Leopard Frog tadpoles here. The Frog Pond was most notable for its many Bullfrog tadpoles, which fits, because the Frog Pond comes alive with Bullfrog calls in the summer. We also found some interesting aquatic insects, from water scorpions to beetle larvae and dragonfly nymphs. We had a fantastic time with Ryan and Rebecca and their daughter, Skyla, and invite you to come out and learn and play with us the next time they lead a program!

Another aquatic area worth visiting is the Farm Pond/Upper Pond. Right now the Utricularia is in full bloom out in the center of the pond and it is beautiful. Its pink/lavender flowers emerge above the surface of the water; there is a wonderful expanse of color across the pond. Right now we have a flock of visiting Blue-winged Teal roosting there. I counted 45 of them and that was a conservative count. They stopped here last year at this time and we are really pleased to have them back. When you walk down to the Farm Pond to see them, go very quietly and stealthily, and they may stay in place. The other day, Chuck went down to the Farm Pond Dam in the mule, not knowing they were there, and they flushed and circled, but came right back down across the pond. He came and got me and we went back, and they stayed put, blending in nicely with the lily pads. One rose up with her back to us and flapped her wings, and gave us the perfect view of that band of sky blue – there is no doubt who they are. So, this is a treat, and I hope you get to see them!

***The Pear Tree*** The pear tree has surprised us all – it is still loaded with pears! As you may remember from the last newsletter, its branches were weighed down with fruit two

months ago and the crows and woodpeckers were thoroughly enjoying the bounty. The pears are now fully ripe and beginning to fall, so there is an abundance of pears on the ground. Our deer have been enjoying them, usually only nibbling half a pear, and have been eating all the leaves off the lower branches, as well as the easy-to-reach fruit – the branches are bare to the browse line. On several occasions a raccoon family has been seen high up in the branches, no doubt filling up. Red-bellied and Pileated Woodpeckers are there daily, and if you use your binoculars and scan the upper branches you can see that many of the pears have multiple holes in them. The pear tree is a popular place! You are welcome to come and pick some pears – these are the old-fashioned sand pears, crisp and gritty. Now ripe, they have gotten sweeter, and have a wonderful flavor. It was a great treat for the children of our recent Thomasville Community Resource Center field trip to be able to pick a pear off a tree and eat it!

***The Bird Window*** It is time for migrants! It is always a treat this time of year to be visiting the Window and seeing our regulars going about their day, when there – all of a sudden – is a new bird, an unexpected bird, a migrant! Most recently we've enjoyed having our Gray Catbirds back. They love the pool and mister, and visit off and on all day long making their cat-like calls. Other migrants we've seen since September 7th include: Pine Warblers, a gorgeous male American Redstart and an immature or female, Red-eyed Vireo, Scarlet Tanager fall male, and Tennessee Warblers.

It was a great nesting season for our resident birds, in particular Cardinals, Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Blue Jays, Carolina Chickadees and Titmice. We have had lots and lots of youngsters learning to feed at the Window. Other residents who are busy at the Window now include the Carolina Wren, Towhees, Blue Jays, and Mourning Doves. We have also enjoyed the presence of a pair of Ground Doves, Pileated Woodpeckers, Mockingbirds, a young Brown Thrasher, White-breasted Nuthatch, White-eyed Vireos, and Bobwhite Quail. We have seen the last of our Northern Parulas and Summer Tanagers, and are now down to a few remaining Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, loading up and getting ready to make their long trip south.

Things are changing and we are getting to watch it all happen. The equinox has come and gone, the sun rises later and sets earlier, the woods are starting to show that subtle change in coloration, berries are turning red and purple, migrants are arriving. We are seeing different stars at night. It is so nice to be outside, to enjoy the cool air on your skin and the fragrances of goldenrod and deep woods. We have acres and acres of purple and gold wildflowers to enjoy. It is finally autumn, and we are soaking it up. Nature is putting on an exuberant fall display and it is here, for you, at Birdsong.

**BIRDSONG NATURE CENTER WISHES TO THANK:**

***Our Very Special Program Volunteers***

Sandra Sallee, for leading another *Take A Child Outside* program  
Sandra Sallee, Laurie Jones, Jeanette Sickel, and Carole Williams, for working with the Thomasville Community Resource Center children here for a field trip. Everyone had a great time! Thank you Donna Legare, Beth Grant and all Butterfly Gardener volunteers for giving these children an enjoyable experience in the Butterfly Garden.  
Rebecca and Ryan Means, of the Coastal Plains Institute, for the first *Ephemeral Wetland Walk!*  
Beth Grant, Jody Walthall and Alan Parker, for leading walks and trail rides at the October 9th Birthday Party.  
Mike Miller, for making possible and leading the *Coastal Birding Trip* to Phipps Preserve at Alligator Point.  
Beth Grant, for leading the fall *Wildflower Walk*.

***Special Financial Gifts***

Joe Peresich  
Terry Ward and Judith Barret  
Sharon Maxwell Ferguson  
Rebecca Cline  
Wendy Loquasto  
Randy and Marilynn Rhea

***Memorial Donations***

Martha Reed, in memory of Russ and Dorothy Barrett’s beloved pet.  
William and Cyndi Parrish, in memory of Don Hill and Larry Herring.  
Barbara White, in memory of Judy Herrington and Russ Winright.

***Special Thanks To:***

Carolyn Cohen, for the gift of wonderful older nature and natural science books – classics we will enjoy!  
Don and Hazel Dixon, for donating another collection of hand-made bird houses and feeders for our gift shop.  
Winnie and Wolfgang Adolph, for ongoing improvements in the Birdsong gift shop and for researching and ordering new inventory.  
Alan Strowd, special thanks for his accounting expertise and support on the Finance Committee, and for volunteering at the Bird Window.  
The Candelario and Albritton families, our home school group from Valdosta, who come out every month to work hard and play hard in the heat and keep our garden and land in good shape. They went above and beyond the call of duty last week and raked the entire lot around the Barn so we could create a hay pile for children to play in at the October 9th 30th Anniversary Celebration.  
Alan Parker, for providing site, garden, and land management support and beaver dam de-construction and for also going above and beyond to get the house and gardens and Barn site in shape for the party, as well as working with Mike Carter to rake up the rest of the hay from the front of the Barn to create the best hay pile ever, and for driving the trailer rides at the event.  
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, for their commitment and hard work.  
Tami Tomasello, for being our social media coordinator and managing our Twitter site so expertly.  
Myles Black and Bob Bearss, for completing this year’s Bluebird Trail Monitoring, taking good care of the boxes and keeping excellent records indicating great nesting success for our cavity nesting birds at Birdsong.  
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!

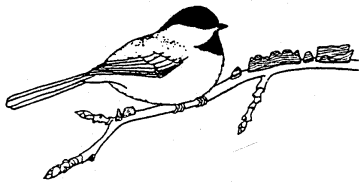
**Birdsong Nature Center  
Board of Directors  
2015-2016**

<b>President</b>	Joe Peresich
<b>Secretary</b>	Margie McInnes
<b>Treasurer</b>	Bill Preston
<b>Directors</b>	
Jim Antista	Brenda Coy
Woody Search	Joe Newborn
Ellery Sedgwick	Mike Brezin

**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**

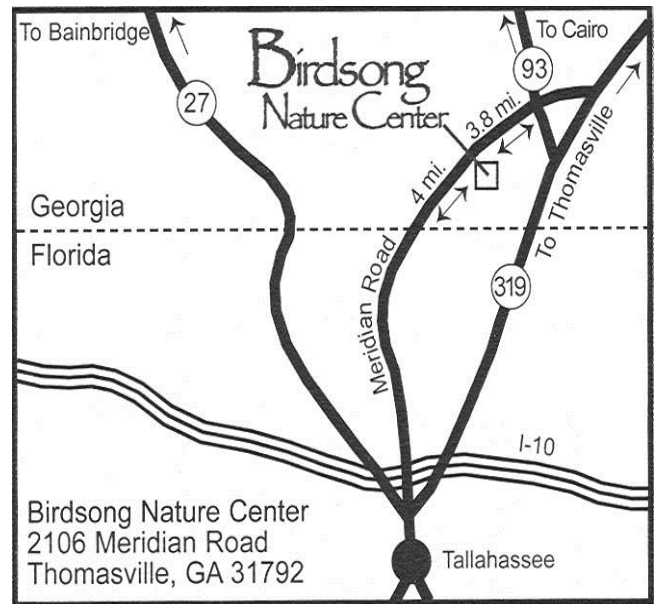
Cynthia Foster  
Jonathan Lammer  
Debra Westerman  
Alice Bejnar  
David Cheasman  
Sarala Hermes  
Sherri Knight  
Joshua Earl  
Natalie Mitchell  
Carole Williams  
Brian Induye

### **Thomasville**

Susan O'Neal

### **Other Areas:**

Daniel Young	Oak Hill, FL
Becky Dale	Gainesville, FL
Carol Klacik	Olympia, WA
Ruby Chason	Summerfield, FL
Michelle Stevens	Havana, FL
Ester Warrendorf	Monticello, FL



### **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*