

Birdsong Nature Center

March - April 2017

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March

Thurs.	March 2	Butterfly Garden Work Day
Sat.	March 4	Wild Azalea Workshop
Wed.	March 8	Bluebird Trail Monitoring
Sat.	March 11	Bringing Nature Home Bluebird Trail Monitoring
Fri.	March 17	Plant Sale Preview Party
Sat.	March 18	OLD-TIMEY PLANT SALE
Wed.	March 22	Bluebird Trail Monitoring
Sat.	March 25	Wildlife Survival! Bluebird Trail Monitoring

April

Sat.	April 1	Gopher Tortoise Program for Children
Wed.	April 5	Bluebird Trail Monitoring
Thur.	April 6	Butterfly Garden Work Day
Sat.	April 8	Ephemeral Wetland Walk Bluebird Trail Monitoring
Sat.	April 15	Music to Our Ears: A Chorus of Frogs
Wed.	April 19	Bluebird Trail Monitoring
Sat.	April 22	Take a Child Outside for Earth Day! 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



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,

A very important event is fast approaching – the **10th Annual Old-Timey Plant Sale** is on March 18th, from 9AM to 1PM at Birdsong! Please join us for this fun-filled and educational day, carry beautiful additions back home to your gardens, and help support Birdsong with its largest fundraising event of the year. Our charming volunteers in bright green “ASK ME” aprons will be ready to answer any gardening question you have. Our trusty carts and wagons will be ready to ferry about your choices from the thousands of excellent plant selections available. Sincerest thanks to our good friend June Bailey White and her amazing Plant Sale Committee - Eleanor Dietrich, Harriet Hawkins, Betty Jinright, Janeen Langley, and Kathleen “Galbaby” Scott - for their dedicated work all year long making this event happen. Please join us at Birdsong’s Old-Timey Plant Sale on March 18th! You really don’t want to miss this unique marquee event.

We had a wonderful group of friends attend the Winter Solstice Celebration on December 17th, and we were treated to outstanding performances by special groups of much loved musicians. Thank you, Velma Frye, for leading yet another magical Solstice Celebration and musical performance, and Sammy Tedder for accompanying Velma so beautifully, and Valarie Howington for masterfully providing rhythm to their special jazz number, and thank you, Bradley White and Didjavu, for an incredible didgeridoo, flute, and drum performance with good friends Kent Hutchinson, Willis Rabon, Ken Beattie and Marvin Collins. We really appreciate all of our wonderful attendees and talented performers for making the Winter Solstice Celebration such an unforgettable evening.

We are very pleased to let you know that Birdsong recently received a special honor from a most venerable organization. On January 11, Mrs. Martha Price, President of the Garden Club of Georgia, awarded Birdsong Nature Center their Seal of Honor. The Seal of Honor is given by the Garden Club of Georgia to one individual or organization each year that furthers the goals and objectives of the Club in the state. We are very proud and deeply honored to have received such a wonderful award from this prestigious group. Heartfelt thanks to Birdsong’s awesome Butterfly Garden and land management volunteers for all the fantastic work you do in making the Nature Center the scenic jewel that it is – this special award is truly owing to all of your dedicated work and care of Birdsong. Volunteers Sally and Dean Jue generously accompanied us to the award program and made a very well received “Butterfly Pollinators” presentation to the group. Thank you, Sally and Dean. And thank you to the Garden Club of Georgia!

We invite you to visit the Nature Center very soon, and as often as you can in the coming months. With true spring quickly approaching you’ll be treated to quite an amazing transformation in the landscape and in the varieties of birds and other wildlife encountered. Let us know of special experiences you have along the trails. We are always happy to have you visit, and appreciate very much your being such good Friends of Birdsong Nature Center.

Sincerely,
Joe Peresich, Board President



HOW TO SUCCESSFULLY GROW WILD AZALEAS IN THE DEEP SOUTH

**Saturday, March 4
10AM – Noon**

Dan Miller, expert grower of wild azaleas and owner of Trillium Gardens, will teach us how to select, plant and grow wild azaleas. Dan will show some slides of wild azalea propagation and talk about cultural requirements for specific plants and their propagation practices and then lead a question and answer session. Please bring any questions and be prepared to describe any problems or issues you may be having with growing native azaleas.

Discussion points:

- Species appropriate for our region; colors, bloom season, size.
- Placement of plants: light, spacing, soil and moisture requirements.
- Planting: soil preparation, mulching and watering needs. Fertilizing.
- Pruning and maintenance.
- Pests and disease signs and corrective action.

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED. Cost: \$20. One free native wildflower is included in the cost. Also included are coffee and coffeecake. Please call or email to reserve your space by Friday, March 3rd at noon. (229)377-4408, birdsong@birdsongnaturecenter.org.

FYI: The Plant Sale Committee is vastly increasing its selection of wild azaleas and other natives this year (the sale is on March 18th), so become a knowledgeable shopper by attending this valuable workshop!



BIRDSONG NATURE CENTER OLD-TIMEY PLANT SALE



**SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 2017
9 AM - 1 PM**

Birdsong Nature Center's Old-Timey Plant Sale Committee is working hard to make this tenth annual sale the best ever. The sale will offer a varied and extensive collection of beloved old garden plants, heirloom tomatoes, and plants for butterflies and birds. There will be lots of native trees, shrubs, and perennials especially suited to our area, including many varieties of wild azaleas, and some rare and unusual native plants. Knowledgeable and friendly horticulturists will be volunteering at the sale to help you make a selection for your own garden. Come out and welcome Spring at the Birdsong Plant Sale!

**Native trees and shrubs
Hundreds of native azaleas
Wildflowers
Old-fashioned plants
Heirloom plants**

Nature-related gifts, books, t-shirts, and more for sale.

Lunch: hot dogs, hamburgers, veggie burgers and more, or bring a picnic.

The Old-Timey *Plant Sale Preview Party* is being held on Friday evening, March 17th. Patrons may purchase plants in advance of the sale; there will be wine, hors d'oeuvres and music. The cost is \$100 per person or \$150 for a couple. Payment and registration must be received in the Birdsong office by Friday, March 10th.

Would anyone be willing to lend us your garden cart, wagon, or other transport device to escort customers to their cars with their purchases? Please call: (229)377-4408 or (800)953-2473.

We need volunteers to help with setting up on Thursday March 16th and to work 2-3 hour shifts between 8 AM and 2 PM on Saturday, March 18th. Jobs may include: parking, greeting visitors, answering the phone, working at Birdsong's Gift Shop, serving food and drinks and helping transport customers' purchases to their cars. Please call (800) 953-2473 or email birdsong@birdsongnaturecenter.org or margie@birdsongnaturecenter.org to sign up.

**MUSIC TO OUR EARS: A CHORUS
OF FROGS
Saturday, April 15
4 - 7 PM**

Join us for a presentation and field experience with Nancy Ann Thomas. In addition to Nancy's love of birds and dragonflies, she has also had a long-standing interest in frogs and their calls. Nancy has created an hour-long power point presentation to teach us all about our local frog species: their life cycles, ecology, and conservation.

Have you ever wondered what frogs were making those wonderful calls at night? After the presentation, Nancy will lead us out on a trailer ride to the Frog Pond, Big Bay Swamp, and the Farm Pond where we can learn to identify some of those alluring calls. You will come away equipped to identify those evocative sounds wherever you go! Dress for the weather, and wear shoes for walking around the edges of the ponds and swamp. Bring binoculars. Nancy has an excellent handout for you, and she has a frog guide for purchase.

RESERVATIONS, PLEASE. This program is geared for adults and mature children. Please call the office or email by 4pm Friday, April 14 to reserve a space. We have a class limit of 12.

\$6 Friends, \$10 non-members.

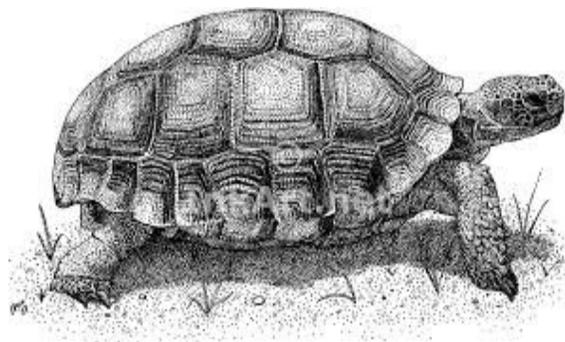
PROGRAMS FOR FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

WILDLIFE SURVIVAL!

Saturday, March 25
11:00AM to 12:30PM

Beautiful owls, hawks, a turtle and a snake - the St. Francis Wildlife Association's wildlife ambassadors - will help education director Sandy Beck explain the unique adaptations that make it possible for each to survive - to find food, avoid predators and raise young - in its particular habitat. This 1 1/2 hour interactive program includes hands-on teaching tools such as skulls, shells, skins, feathers and talons and is perfect for families with school-aged children who can sit quietly so the wild critters will feel comfortable. Bring a picnic if you would like to stay for lunch and explore Birdsong.

\$6 members, \$10 non-members, children half-price. **RESERVATIONS, PLEASE.** Contact the office by 4pm Friday, March 24th to reserve your space. This program is geared for children. Dress for the weather.



TAKE A CHILD OUTSIDE FOR EARTH DAY!

Saturday, April 22
9:30 - 11:30AM

Celebrate upcoming Earth Day (April 22) at Birdsong with your favorite child or children. Leader Sandra Sallee will take you on a natural adventure in the woods. Give an ongoing gift to your child: an appreciation of nature, a better understanding of where they live, and the use of all their senses. Walk the trails and search for evidence of animal homes, signs of their presence, and springtime behavior. Enjoy the fresh air, some exercise, and a special experience with your child in the great outdoors. After the walk Sandra will help your child make a natural craft.

RESERVATIONS, PLEASE. Call or email by Friday, April 21st to reserve your space.

\$4 Friends, \$8 nonmembers, children half-price. Includes a handout and resource list for year-round activities with children.

GOPHER TORTOISE PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN

Saturday, April 1, 2017
10AM to Noon

Bring your favorite child or children to Birdsong and learn all about gopher tortoises with scientist Lora Smith, of Jones Ecological Research Center, representing the Gopher Tortoise Council. Lora will give a brief introduction to the life cycle and ecology of these special tortoises and introduce you to a live gopher tortoise named Sheldon so your children can meet one up close! We'll then ride out to the Gopher Tortoise Neighborhood to observe tortoise burrows and see if we can monitor any underground activity with a special video camera. Bring lunch if you would like to stay and picnic.

\$6 Friends, \$10 non-members. **RESERVATIONS, PLEASE,** children half-price. This program is geared for families and children. Contact us by noon on Friday, March 31st to reserve a space on the trailer and learn how you and your family can help protect gopher tortoise habitat near you.

Gopher Tortoise Program for Adults
A Saturday in June - date to be determined

EPHEMERAL WETLAND WALK

Saturday, April 8
1 - 4 PM or so (might run long)

Join ecologists Rebecca and Ryan Means of the Coastal Plains Institute for a Birdsong Ephemeral Wetland Walk! Rebecca and Ryan will begin the program with a slideshow AND share some of their pictures and knowledge. We will then head out to the wetlands and experience them first hand! We will learn amphibian larvae identification and sampling techniques as well as general natural history of wetland plants, reptiles, invertebrates and much more. This program is geared towards citizens of all ages, including young ones, but there will be walking and possibly wading involved. Because we get excited about what we are discovering, the program might run long. All equipment will be provided. Plan to get wet!

RESERVATIONS, PLEASE. There is a class limit of 20 people. Please contact us by noon on Friday, April 7th to reserve your space. Be prepared for walking; wear shoes and clothes you can get wet; bring water and a snack. You may want to bring dry clothes and shoes for the ride home.

\$6 members adults, \$10 non-members, children half-price.

THE GARDEN CLUB OF GEORGIA
Birdsong Nature Center receives the 2017 Seal of Honor

Birdsong Nature Center was honored to be the recipient of the Garden Club of Georgia's annual award, the Seal of Honor for 2017, for furthering the Club's objectives of beautification, conservation and education. Board members of the Club gathered in Thomasville in early January for a quarterly State Board meeting and on the morning of January 11th a group of participants came to Birdsong to visit the Center and see the Bird Window and Butterfly Garden. We had a lovely time with this delightful group of people who were from all over the state. That evening President Joe Peresich and Executive Director Kathleen Brady attended the State Board Dinner and awards ceremony at the Garden Center in Thomasville and the beautiful award was presented to Joe by the Garden Club of Georgia President, Mrs. Martha Price. Birdsong volunteers Dean and Sally Jue provided the evening's program, an excellent power point about southern pollinators and the benefits of ecological gardening, which was very well received. We want to thank the Garden Club of Georgia and its President, Mrs. Price, for honoring Birdsong in this profound way, and for their kindness and hospitality. We also thank Mrs. Price for her leadership and vision for the Georgia Club and its significant role within the state and nationally. (We also appreciated her thoughtful take on the management of squirrels.) We also want to thank Mrs. Marge Willis, of Thomasville, for so kindly nominating Birdsong to be the recipient of this prestigious award. It is a great honor.

BLUEBIRD TRAIL MONITORING

March 8, 11, 22, 25

April 5, 8, 19, 22

9AM

The Bluebird Monitoring season is beginning! Our Bluebird Trail team checks nest boxes every other Wednesday and Saturday. Join our veteran Bluebird volunteers, Bob Bearss and Myles Black, 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.

BUTTERFLY GARDEN WORK DAYS

Thursdays, March 2 and April 6

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.

Our gardeners would very much appreciate the donation of bags of clean leaf mulch for the Garden. Please be sure that the mulch does not contain any stray invasive plants that might take hold. Hand raked or purchased leaf mulch is best! Thank you!

For more information call Donna Legare at (850)386-1148 or Birdsong at (229)377-4408.

BRINGING NATURE HOME

Saturday, March 11, 2017

10AM - 12PM

You may have never thought of your yard being a wildlife preserve. Dr. Doug Tallamy declares that is exactly the role your suburban landscape can fulfill if you want to help save biodiversity! Learn from Dr. Doug Tallamy how to *Bring Nature Home*.

Beth Grant has been granted permission from Dr. Tallamy, Professor and Chair, Entomology and Wildlife Ecology, University of Delaware, to present his slide show on his book *Bringing Nature Home: How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in Our Gardens*.

Everyone who loves the wonders of the natural world can contribute to the survival of our native birds, butterflies, and other treasures! The pressures on wildlife populations are greater than ever. For example, some bird and butterfly populations are declining at an alarming rate. We all can help to reverse this trend. There is an unbreakable link between native plant species and native wildlife. Non-native plants do not provide the needed resources. Exotic invasives out-compete the natives, reducing needed resources even in areas that have not been developed. By planting natives and eliminating invasives, everyone can provide a welcoming environment for the web of wildlife while also promoting human well-being. By acting on Dr. Tallamy's practical recommendations, everyone can make a difference. Plus there is no better way to involve children in nature than by bringing it to your garden!

No cost. Handouts will be provided. Copies of *Bringing Nature Home* and our own neighbor Dr. Gil Nelson's book *Best Native Plants for Southern Gardens* will be available for purchase with all proceeds going to Birdsong.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT NOTES

February 20, 2017

Weather We didn't get a real winter this year and I feel deprived. We have enjoyed absolutely beautiful days, with lovely temperatures and it has been delightful to be outside, but things are just off. In the garden by the house, Betty's white cultivated azaleas are nearly finished blooming and are blooming right alongside the white and red camellias, which are usually blooming all by themselves at this time. A wild azalea near the office is past peak, the redbuds near the Butterfly Garden and over the office are too. Just in the last few days we are seeing the beautiful vining Carolina jessamine bursting forth, and usually it is the first flowering plant we see near the end of the winter. It is all very confusing – it is beautiful but it just doesn't feel right. Now we are facing a week where the temperatures are predicted to be in the 80's. The last week of February. What is happening here?

Land Management For a variety of reasons, we did not get all the burning done that we wanted to last year, so we are getting an early start this season and are committed to getting 80% of the place burned this season. Chuck and Alan got a very nice clean perimeter fire lane cut for us by mid-January and we were ready to go. We had a great turnout for the January 14th Land Management Overview and are happy to welcome a number of new burn crew members to our management team, as well as folks who have been coming out to rake around valuable trees prior to burning, others who are interested in non-native plant removal, and people interested in other land/site issues.

We scheduled the first burn on February 3rd with the goal of putting a light fire through our 17-acre area of recently planted longleaf pine. This was a prescription required by the terms of our WHIP grant. We burned several days after a nice rain, so the soil moisture was high, the humidity was in the 40-50% range, and it was not a windy day. These conditions help keep a burn "cooler" or less intense. Alan and his brother Morgan had raked the interior fire lanes, which helped make for an easier and speedier burn. We had a great crew – our veterans were teamed up with new folks and as always, it was an excellent learning experience for all of us. Please have a look at our Facebook page – Joe Peresich was present and documented the burn and has done a very nice job captioning the photos of this burn. Our healthy little longleaf pines have been doing very well and we are happy to report that now, several weeks later, they are beginning to show this year's white terminal buds. We accomplished our goal for this burn. We also put a burn through the area known as the Buckeye Slope, where spring blooming upland hammock plants such as bloodroot, violets, red buckeye, fringetree, and various milkweeds and Indian Pink flourish. We have excluded fire from this slope for about 6 or more years now, and wanted to get a light fire in

well before blooming to reduce leaf litter and provide some fertilizer to the site.

The high point of the burn was the crew itself – what a fantastic group! Thank you to our veterans: Mike Miller, Sandra Sallee, Alan Parker, Bill Carroll and Stanton Beazley; welcome new team members Scott Ball, Carolyn Cohen, and Carole Williams. We are looking forward to the rest of the season and can always use help and want to teach more people about the benefits of fire. If you would like to join us, call Kathleen.

P.S. Since the above section was written, we have done another burn at Linton's Corner on February 10th. Again, we had a superb crew, including the Candelario and Albritton home school families, who experienced their first burn. As can happen, we ran into a number of challenges that our excellent crew handled in stride. We'll describe these for you another day. Every burn is unique and this was no exception!

Chuck's Hawk "Kathleen, we have a problem". It was early January, I was at home sick with an awful cold/flu and had answered a phone call from Alan, our site assistant. He was at the Listening Place taping off the ramp that day to prevent visitors entering because of a problem we'd had with the doors not functioning properly. I could tell from Alan's voice that he meant it – something troubling had happened. And it had: a big hawk was trapped inside the Listening Place and was obviously in distress. It was sitting on the bamboo rail on the east side of the room and appeared exhausted: its wings were drooping and it was wild-eyed and panting. According to the evidence, the bird had been in there for several days.

I told Alan to calmly open the doors as wide as he could and then go inside and walk slowly around and try to position himself behind the bird and urge it to fly out the doors. I also asked him to get some photos on his phone and observe the bird's form and coloration so we could identify it. He called me back in a few minutes and had not been comfortable going in and getting that close to an unpredictable and fierce-looking raptor, but was able to describe it. It had an obvious dark band of feathers across the abdomen, but the tail was banded, not brick red, so we had a juvenile Red-tailed Hawk to escort out of the Listening Place. I almost got up and drove out to Birdsong, because I wanted to see the bird and help, but I realized that that was unnecessary, our staff could handle this. So I told Alan to go get Mirhi, and find Chuck, and get all three of them to enter the pavilion together and move slowly and get behind the bird and urge him calmly out the door. I called Mirhi, I called Chuck and everyone mobilized and headed out. I waited as patiently as I could, but after 10 minutes had to call Mirhi to find out what was happening. They had all just arrived at the Listening Place and were getting ready to enter. Then she said "Oh. Chuck's going in" and she hung up. I was left in suspense for another 10 minutes and finally couldn't stand it any

longer and called back. Chuck had walked up to the door, surveyed the situation and just kept walking on into the Listening Place talking softly to the hawk; he went over and picked the bird up with both hands around its middle and walked out. The bird did not struggle, just turned its head to look at Chuck. Outside, he placed the bird on the ground, stepped back and then everyone waited. The hawk didn't move. He sat on the ground, propped up on his tail. Chuck, Mirhi, and Alan waited quietly with him for about 15 minutes hoping the bird would get up and fly. They did not want to leave him there on the ground, vulnerable to a passing predator. So again, Chuck picked the hawk up, talking to him quietly, lifted him up and tossed him lightly into the air. The hawk spread its wings and soared down into the trees near the edge of the swamp. Our group lost sight of him. As best they could tell, the hawk landed up in the branches, off the ground and out of sight.

We were all very relieved that the hawk was set free, even though we had no assurance that he would be alright, as exhausted as he was, so the episode ended on a high note but with some reservations. We do not know how the hawk got into the Listening Place, but have to assume that he flew into the screen at high speed, tearing through it, perhaps in pursuit of prey. The doors were wedged closed, and there was a two-foot tear in the screen right above the bench where the hawk had been sitting. The poor bird must have been in there, trapped, for several days. We don't check on the place daily and the hawk was extremely weak so we probably got there just in time. We all felt cautiously optimistic about his survival.

About a week after the incident, Chuck and I were out in the mule, checking on fire lanes and driving back along the Lewis Field road at the west end of the Gin House Field. There was some commotion in the nearby cherry trees and suddenly Flickers and Bluebirds were scattering everywhere. In sailed a juvenile Red-tailed Hawk across the field and landed high in the cherry. It sat there for a while looking in our direction, and we stopped and got a good look at it. I have no doubt that that bird was Chuck's Hawk. We communed for a long moment, and then the hawk took to the air and soared off after his birds. Chuck and I were elated to see that hawk alive and well and beautiful, being its perfect raptor self.

Bird Window and Other Birds Whatever is going on with our weather and climate has clearly impacted our winter bird population at the Bird Window. Typically we see lots of American Goldfinches, Chipping Sparrows, and Yellow-rumped Warblers at this time, but this year the numbers have been sparse. We have enjoyed our winter birds, but we just kept waiting for more to show up and it never happened. Since the first of the year, other than our regular residents, we have recorded sightings of American Robin, Hermit Thrush, Pileated Woodpecker, White-eyed Vireo, House Finch, Grey Catbird, American Goldfinch, Pine Warbler, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, White-breasted Nuthatch, Towhee, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Chipping Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow,

American Crow, Red-winged Blackbird, Pine Siskin, and Mockingbird.

One of the most unusual things we are pleased to report is the presence of two Orange-crowned Warblers who arrived here on January 25 and have been seen almost daily and again this past Sunday on Nancy Thomas's Great Backyard Bird Count. They really love the suet and have been seen almost consistently every morning, zipping in and enjoying the suet cake and its fallen crumbs. These warblers are known for their lack of distinctive markings – their coloring is muted and subtle. They are quite entertaining, clearly highly motivated to get to the suet, and have a predictable pattern of behavior: they slip in from the azalea shrub and crepe myrtle, straight to the suet, work away, pick up fallen crumbs underneath, and dash off. Then back they come. This can go on all morning. They are beautiful in their subtlety. I would love one day to see one expose its orange crown.

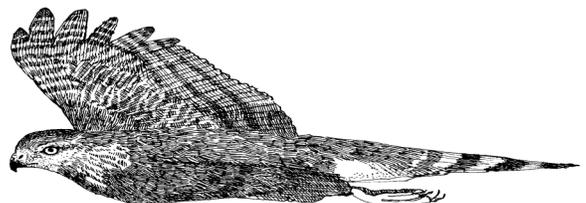
We are ready and waiting for the Purple Martins. (We did hear and see one lone Martin on February 10th while we were burning Linton's Corner.) We are still holding off on hanging up the gourds this year until the Martins actually show up at the pole. Last year at this time, a pair of Eastern Bluebirds had made up their minds that the upper right gourd belonged to them. We don't want them to get attached to any gourds until there are Martins present to defend them or it will be Bluebird Wars for weeks.

Extraordinary Sighting

On Saturday, February 11, expert birders Ross and Suzie Henderson and Jim and Ellen Shelton were walking along the north trail past Chuck's house and heard and then tracked down a pair of Red-cockaded Woodpeckers. This is huge. We have not had a Red-cockaded sighting on the property for over 30 years. This pair was busy, calling and feeding, and our guests believe they must be nesting close by. We are going to start looking for them on a regular basis and you can help us the next time you are out – let us know if you see them. Thank you, Russ and Suzie and Jim and Ellen!

It is a beautiful time of year, in spite of this strange weather. The maples near our drains and waterways are already red and pink – always stunning against a bright blue sky on a winter day. When the forest hardwood trees start to bud out, we know that spring is here and we are right at that moment. The trees are on the verge of bursting forth in every imaginable shade of green – something to revel in. Be watching, because it can happen fast. Come watch it with us at Birdsong.

-KDB



BIRDSONG NATURE CENTER WISHES TO THANK:

Our Very Special Program Leaders

Joe Peresich, for the December Eldercare program; thank you Mark Baldino and the Eldercare participants and staff for a great afternoon.

Beth Grant, for *Bringing Nature Home*.

Nancy Thomas, for leading *Music to our Ears: A Chorus of Frogs* and the Great Backyard Bird Count at Birdsong.

Sandra Sallee, for leading *Take A Child Outside in the Wintertime!*

Mike Miller, for leading the birding hike at the Lake Jackson Mounds State Park.

WILD Women: Teresa Adkins, Jane Storm, Sandra Sallee, Carolyn Cohen, Laurie Jones, Jeanette Sickel and Sharman Franklin for leading the children's activities at the Red Hills Fire Festival.

Special Financial Gifts

Margaret Bivins, in honor of Nancy Bivins

Harriet Hawkins

Rambler Rose Garden Club

Memorial Gifts

Geraldine Murphy, in memory of Helen Grissett

Special Thanks To:

A sincere and heartfelt Thank You to all those individuals who have contributed so generously to the Annual Appeal – your gifts are deeply appreciated.

June White, for organizing the ongoing Blueberry Sale by the office.

Publix Supermarket, Bradfordville Center, for donating the suet needed for our suet balls that the birds love.

Don and Hazel Dixon, for the wonderful hand-made bird houses and the great Birdsong Bat Hotels!

Mary Janik, for donating her very creative hand-crocheted water bottle carriers – these are cool!

Winnie and Wolfgang Adolph, for ongoing improvements in the Birdsong gift shop and for researching and ordering new inventory. Winnie has new items on the way for the Plant Sale! The shop looks better than ever and is open for business!

Bob Dunne, for the beautiful bobcat photos and other bird photos displayed on the back porch.

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 and keep our garden and land in good shape. This time they assisted with the prescribed burn at Linton's Corner – it is always a pleasure to work with these wonderful folks.

Alan Parker, for providing site, garden, and land management support and on-going beaver dam de-construction. Many thanks for all his preparatory work for our recent prescribed burns, and to his brother Morgan.

Thank you, Chuck Eason, for getting our fire lanes ready for this season's burning.

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.

Birdsong Nature Center Board of Directors 2016-2017

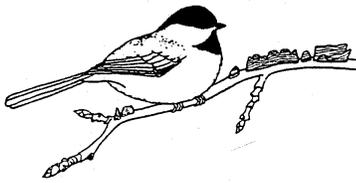
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Birdsong Nature Center

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

Brian Wiebler
Susan Cerulean
Jeff Chanton
Ellery and Robin Sedgwick
Guy Burnette
David McNutt
Lark and Edward Blum
Mary Heimbach

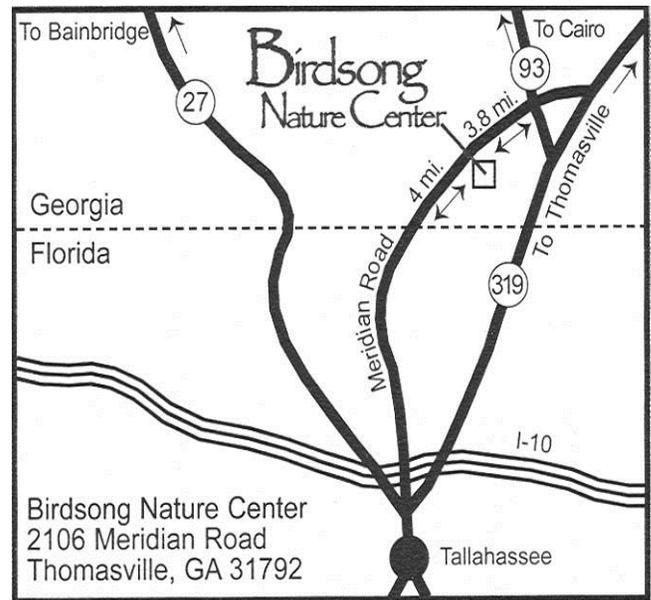
Thomasville

Jessica Foltz
Duane and Lynn Brown

Other

Tierra Curry
Michele Brake
Kathryn Gibson
Fran and Harold Evans
Holly Prall

Portland, OR
Albany, GA
Crawfordsville, FL
Ochlocknee, GA
Valdosta, 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*