

# Birdsong Nature Center

July - August 2017

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### July

Sat.	July 1	Bluebird Trail Monitoring
Thur.	July 6	Butterfly Garden Work Day
Sat.	July 8	Midsummer Music: Birding By Ear
Wed.	July 12	Bluebird Trail Monitoring
Sat.	July 15	Early Evening Trail Ride Bluebird Trail Monitoring
Sat.	July 22	Take a Child Outside for a Natural Scavenger Hunt
Wed.	July 26	Bluebird Trail Monitoring
Sat.	July 29	Bluebird Trail Monitoring



### August

Thur.	Aug. 3	Butterfly Garden Work Day
Sat.	Aug. 5	Early Morning Nature Experience
Wed.	Aug. 9	Bluebird Trail Monitoring
Sat.	Aug 12	Bluebird Trail Monitoring
Wed.	Aug. 16	<b>Center Closed</b> <b>Re-opens September 5</b>

#### 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 were treated to yet another exceptional gopher tortoise program last month lead by our good friend Dr. Lora Smith of the Jones Ecological Research Center and the Gopher Tortoise Council. Lora has been leading gopher tortoise programs at Birdsong for several years and we always enjoy her highly informed presentations and interesting field trips. With the “burrow camera” that Lora brought we looked inside several tortoise burrows, finding one resident at home and a number of rain-water filled burrows seemingly unoccupied. The tortoises can deal with occasionally flooded burrows in their neighborhoods – they may just hang out in the burrow at the water surface near the entrance; some nearby burrows on slightly higher ground may not flood at all, while those that do will not take long to drain given the sandy soil where they are typically constructed. After all, gopher tortoises have lived in the southeast US for millions of years; they can deal with rain.

Gophers thrive in dry, sandy uplands, especially longleaf pine communities, sand hills, pine flatwoods and coastal dunes. Their burrows are known to be used by over 350 other wildlife species, earning gophers the designation of “keystone species”: as goes the gopher tortoise, so goes a community of wildlife that depends on its burrows. Unfortunately, lands favored by the tortoises are also those most desirable for human development – residential subdivisions, retail and commercial spaces, roadways and other infrastructure, agriculture, etc. It’s estimated that we’ve lost about 80% of the gopher tortoise population just in the past 100 years, due primarily to loss of habitat. Gopher tortoises are listed as a threatened species in Florida and Georgia - both the animal and its burrows are protected; they are protected by either state or federal law in each of the 6 south eastern coastal states where they occur –from South Carolina to Louisiana.

Conservation efforts are underway to improve the plight of gophers and the wildlife community they support. One encouraging and effective means is via the engagement of private land owners in voluntarily providing and sustaining suitable habitat for gopher tortoises. This involves setting aside land areas for this purpose and employing appropriate land management practices, such a prescribed burns. Four years ago, Birdsong undertook the effort of converting a 17 acre tract containing second growth shortleaf pine and bahia grass ground cover, to longleaf pine with native understory suitable for gopher tortoises. A grant from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service helped us recover part of the cost of this work. There were several big steps in this process including clear-cutting the shortleaf and applying appropriate herbicide to eliminate the bahia. Today, this 17 acre tract is planted with 10,000 longleaf pine seedlings that are healthy and sprouting new growth; the converted site was burned for the first time this spring and it looks beautiful. We look forward to it becoming a good home for gopher tortoises in the future, along with other wildlife supported by such habitat.

We’re very fortunate and grateful to have Lora lead gopher tortoise programs at Birdsong. And Lora is just one in the good company of many dedicated volunteers and program leaders; they donate their valuable time, expertise, and enthusiasm to the Nature Center, helping us with the preservation and education efforts that are at the heart of our purpose. Birdsong could not be more fortunate than to have the wonderful members, volunteers, generous donors, and dedicated staff that together all forms the core of the Nature Center, making its existence and its mission a reality. The Center is not just 565 acres of land; rather, it is that irreplaceable physical resource along with many dedicated, generous, like-minded people working to achieve a highly worthwhile common goal, and who thereby fashion what we know as Birdsong Nature Center. We are very fortunate to have the great support of so many outstanding and generous individuals, and we could never say “thank you” enough. We hope that you will visit Birdsong soon and often, enjoy the camaraderie of other visitors, members, and volunteers, and the exceptional nature-resource that you are helping to make possible. Please visit the newly developing gopher tortoise site while you’re here. We think you will find it quite interesting. And you can feel very proud for having helped to re-create valuable homeland for this important imperiled species.

Sincerely,

Joe Peresich

Board President

**Put on your calendar!**  
**Third Saturday in March**  
**March 18, 2018**



## **PLANT DONORS: GOT PLANTS?**

Birdsong Nature Center has a great friend and benefactor, Barry Smith in Attapulcus Georgia. Barry is a rosarian and a superb horticulturist, and once again he has offered to grow cuttings in his mist house for our Old-Timey Plant Sale. Our plants take away space from his roses, so we are very grateful for Barry's generosity as well as for his skill.

We are looking for plant donors. Do you have a reliable, interesting, unusual, or just plain good plant that can be grown from stem cuttings? Please call 229-377-4408 or email Birdsong so we can arrange to get these from you.

Here are some superb plants we have received as a result of this plea in past years. Now we sell these very popular plants every year, thanks to generous gardeners.

*Corsage Gardenia.* Betty Jinright discovered that one of her gardenia bushes bore flat-topped flowers that face up, suitable for corsages, and gave cuttings to Birdsong.

*Uncle Edgar Hydrangea.* This deep blue or purple hydrangea is a great favorite. It came to us from the garden of Claudia Mason and Jody Elliot. The original was a floral display at the funeral of the donor's Uncle Edgar.

*Blue Glory Vine* is easy to root from cuttings, so we expect to always have plenty of this plant at the sale. It is a loosely scrambling vine with big rich blue flowers all summer long. The cuttings came from a DeFuniak Springs garden.

*Lacecap Hydrangea.* This donor's flower bed got so infested with snake root that she had to get rid of everything and start all over. She thought to call Birdsong and offered cuttings from a lovely Lacecap hydrangea she had gotten as a birthday gift from a cousin years ago.

*Copper Canyon Daisy.* This is a fabulous perennial marigold -- drought tolerant, long bloom time, graceful form, and extremely fragrant foliage. We're grateful to Becky McNeill for this as well as for so many other plants from her garden.

Look for these plants at the 2018 sale, the third Saturday in March. Please call or email if you'd like to help by donating cuttings.

-June White  
Plant Sale Chair

**MIDSUMMER MUSIC: BIRDING BY EAR  
AT BIRDSONG  
Saturday, July 8  
8:30am – noon**

Nesting season at Birdsong is still in full swing for many species and lately I have been hearing many beautiful songs I do not recognize. I have asked our friend Marvin Collins to lead a midsummer birding walk and help us learn what birds are making this music out in the woods and fields. Marvin will start our program with a slide show and discussion on birding by ear, and provide suggestions about resources he finds most helpful, and then we will walk out to locate our singing birds in their natural habitat.

Be prepared for a long walk and hot weather; bring water and snacks, sun protection, insect repellent, and your binoculars, scopes, and favorite bird guides. Bring lunch and stay for a picnic. Geared for adults; mature children welcome.

RESERVATIONS, PLEASE. Class limit 15; please call or email by Friday, July 7 at noon to reserve your space.

\$5 Friends, \$8 non-members, children half-price.

**EARLY MORNING NATURE EXPERIENCE  
Saturday, August 5  
7:30 – 10:00 AM**

Birdsong is a lovely place to be in the early morning. Join Executive Director Kathleen Brady for a ride through Birdsong's fields and woods along with several stops for some easy-paced walks through even more variety of wildlife habitat. We will discuss the current nesting season, gopher tortoises, our ongoing land management and look for whatever birds, wildflowers and animal sign Birdsong may have to offer on a July morning. Bring sun protection, binoculars and wear waterproof shoes and long pants; we may go off trail. We will visit the Bird Window and Butterfly Garden upon our return.

RESERVATIONS, PLEASE. Call or email by Friday August 4th at noon to reserve your space.

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



**BLUEBIRD TRAIL MONITORING  
July 1, 12, 15, 26, 29  
August 9, 12, 23, 26  
8:30AM**

The Bluebird Monitoring season is in full swing! Our Bluebirds are busy nesting and Carolina Chickadees and Brown-headed Nuthatches are working on second broods. Our Bluebird Trail team checks nest boxes **every other Wednesday and Saturday**. Join our veteran Bluebird volunteers, Bob Bearss, Myles Black, and David Jones 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, July 22  
9:30-11:30AM**

**EARLY EVENING TRAIL RIDE  
And possibly a Chuck Will's Widow's Walk...  
Saturday, July 15  
7:30 – 9:30 pm**

Celebrate summer at Birdsong with your favorite child or children. Leader Sandra Sallee Director 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**, by Friday, July 21st at noon, so we know how many to prepare for.

\$4 Friends, \$6 nonmembers, children half-price. Includes a handout and resource list for year-round outdoor activities with children.

Enjoy Birdsong at a cooler time of day, as the sun is going down over the woods and fields. We will ride the perimeter loop at Birdsong on the trailer and visit a variety of habitats as we look and listen for Birdsong's nocturnal inhabitants as they become active, especially our still-courting songbirds and frogs. We'll visit the Farm Pond, Listening Place, Big Bay Swamp, longleaf planting site, and Frog Pond. We cannot guarantee this, but on the way back, we'll get ourselves in position so that if any of our Chuck Will's Widows are still singing or flying about or talking among themselves, we'll enjoy that extraordinary experience!

Dress for the weather, bring binoculars and scopes, field guides, and bug repellent. Feel welcome to come early and have a picnic before we take off. Be prepared for some walking at several of our stops.

**RESERVATIONS, PLEASE**. Limit of 12 on the trailer. Please call to reserve your space by Friday, July 15<sup>th</sup> at noon. Geared for adults.

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

*Watch*

*Watch...for the movement of the wind, release your worries.*

*Watch...for the zooming of the hummingbirds, feel amazement.*

*Watch...for the feasting birds at the Bird Window, smile.*

*Watch...the masses of wildflowers, experience breathtaking beauty.*

*Watch...for the glowworm on the ground as you walk the trail, be astonished.*

*Watch...for the landing of the wood stork in the treetops, be thankful.*

*Watch...for the butterflies dancing from flower to flower, meditate.*

*Watch...for the fox squirrel scampering about, laugh.*

*Watch...for the bluebirds feeding their young, reflect on nature's grandness.*

*Watch...for the tractor pulling guests, treasure your friendships.*

*Come to Birdsong, inhale the pine, WATCH, listen, reflect and be restored,  
Pause and be glad.*

*Come...the tranquility and wonders of Birdsong beckon!*

*Marilyn Rhea, 2016*

**CONGRATULATIONS,  
OCHLOCKONEE RIVER WATER TRAIL!**

**By Margaret Tyson**

In the early beginnings of the Ochlockonee River Water Trail in the fall of 2015, Birdsong graciously hosted Georgia travelers who came to this area to paddle the Ochlockonee River and experience South Georgia's outdoor beauty. What better place than Birdsong to see South Georgia at its best? Birdsong's space and warm welcome was felt and certainly has helped the Ochlockonee River Water Trail (ORWT) develop.

ORWT continues working toward its goal of becoming an official Georgia River Network Water Trail. Recently we were awarded a \$1000 grant for the development of a kiosk at the Hadley Ferry Bridge landing. It will display a map of the trail and highlight the plant and animal life to be found on this 4-mile section of the river ending at Dickey Ferry landing. It will include information on other outdoor resources like Birdsong.

A few months back ORWT, along with Birdsong and Wolf Creek Trout Lily Preserve in Grady County, met with representatives of Georgia Tourism to discuss how to highlight all our sites as a destination in SW Georgia. We all recognize this exposure will benefit all our programs.

We are pleased to report that in May 2017, ORWT was awarded non-profit incorporation status in Georgia and can now accept donations and has set membership dues. Last but not least, we continue to support paddling outings on our river along with riverside clean-ups. The next one will be held in Thomasville at the US 19 landing on June 24th.

If you are interested in the Ochlockonee River Water Trail and want more information, check out our website: [www.ORWT.org](http://www.ORWT.org), or our Facebook page: Ochlockonee River Water Trail or call (229) 378-7610.



**BUTTERFLY GARDEN WORK DAYS**

**Thursdays, July 6 and August 3**

**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.

**THANK YOU!**

**TO OUR NEW VOLUNTEER CONSTRUCTION  
TEAM**

Birdsong's Board and staff offers sincere and profuse thanks to the following accomplished carpenters and construction experts who have completed three significant projects here at Birdsong this summer: Buddy Holshouser, Glenn Berman, Steve Kunst, veteran volunteer Michael Duggar, and board liaison Mike Brezin. These generous individuals have volunteered their considerable engineering and carpentry skills to completely renovating the bathroom in Chuck's cabin, building and installing an awning over the office door, rebuilding the bridge at the Big Bay Swamp spillway, and re-painting the kitchen door and porch restroom. Our next project will be the spillway bridge at the Farm Pond, and we hope to then start work on the shed roof at the barn and Equipment Shed. We are very grateful for these gentlemen's expertise and kindness. We have thoroughly enjoyed their company too!

**THANK YOU, WFSU-TV!**

Birdsong Nature Center was featured in a segment on WFSU-TV's excellent program "Local Routes" on June 1<sup>st</sup>. We want to thank Zachary Hunter, for creating this program and for his wonderful site and wildlife photography and great interviews. Thank you to our volunteers who were interviewed and shared their information and experiences of Birdsong: Bill Preston, Bob Dunn and Myles Black. We also want to thank Executive Producer Suzanne Smith and the entire WFSU-TV production team who created this attractive segment that gives viewers an opportunity to learn about Birdsong. You may watch the program yourself by going to this link: <https://www.wfsu.org/local-routes/segments/exploring-birdsong-nature-center-r05pzm/>

. We were very pleased; let us know what you think!

## WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT NOTES

June 16, 2017

**Weather** We are in the middle of a rainy spell. For the last 10 days or so, it feels like August did years ago, with regular afternoon showers, intense heat and oppressive humidity. It is preferable to the drought we were enduring there for too many weeks in a row. We've measured 11.90 inches of rain since May 1, and there is more on the way. Our burned areas are turning a brilliant green, beautiful against the rusty scorched brush. We are happy for the rain, but it has literally put a damper on our burning.

**Purple Martins** As reported last time, we are having a very odd martin season. We left off with one pair of martins clearly nesting and sitting on eggs, and another couple of birds possibly interested, but one of them was a subadult male, and apparently no nesting took place. Meanwhile, we got to enjoy having at least these few martins around – even though there was not a full house for the first time, we enjoyed their cheerful singing and noise. We can hear them from the offices and to some extent tell what they are up to from there! I've really not had the time to monitor the martin season this year and have missed the usual milestones, but by May 24<sup>th</sup> we knew we had four babies in the one gourd. They would all sit crammed in the doorway - leaning out in great anticipation of the next parental fly-by with a dragonfly for the one leaning out the farthest! They have been delightful to watch and it is so heartening that we've had rain and overcast, so they did not have to suffer intense heat and drought like some martin babies have over the years. These young ones have been in beautiful condition from the moment they made their first appearance.

Another unusual aspect of this season has been: lots of martin visitors. Some days we see three martins flying around, other days it is 5 or 7 or a week ago 25, or 14. The two-week period before the young ones fledged, when they were being actively fed, we had all these visitors, singing and flying around off and on all day... You just never could tell how many were going to stop by.

Our babies fledged one or two days at a time from June 4<sup>th</sup> through the 9<sup>th</sup>. They got big and strong, all leaning out at once. Then the fledging started and there was a lot of activity and coaxing and urging and everyone got involved – lots and lots of visiting birds on the crossbars... a big coming out party! So we enjoyed that very much. The evening of the 8<sup>th</sup> I went by to check and there was one lonely little martin, scanning the skies for his folks, waiting for his final in-gourd feeding. By morning he was gone – joining in the fun of the morning flyover with 14 other birds, friends and family by now. We had more rain predicted the following day and every day since, and that first day was very quiet. I was afraid maybe they all left for the season, like they did last year – once that final baby was out, they were gone. But we have a reprieve and are getting to enjoy their cheerful racket every day – up to 7 birds

come by now, and they stop and talk and fly and come and go. We do not know for how long, so we are paying attention and checking on them and enjoying their company for as long as we can.

**Land Management** As reported last time, we were very pleased to get the Gin House burned right before the Plant Sale. We had to get through and recover from that event before planning more burning, and had a number of other ongoing Birdsong activities to work on before we could get back to it. Then we did not have ideal weather for quite some time, with drought to cope with. The Forestry Commission was not granting permits for a while because so many state forestry personnel were tending to the huge wildfires east of the Okefenokee Swamp, so we waited. We finally got some good rain, which improved local risk factors and we were able to get a permit.

On May 16<sup>th</sup> we had a good weather prediction and a good plan in place, and as soon as we got out there and lit that match to burn the House Pasture the wind switched around and we were off to the races. This happens more often than we like of course, but our crew is extraordinary and we rolled with it and just got it done. We did four small sections that day, one at a time for safety's sake, and it was a good hot effective burn. You can see the results from the Pecan Grove and martin pole. Burning this time of year is exhausting, but we really need to knock back that brush and we are monitoring the results. It did do a great job on the "trash pile". This is where we take all the brush and greenery we prune or remove from the gardens, trails, etc. and it just hasn't burned the last few years... This year it went up like an enormous torch and burned clean to the ground. Chuck got a big kick out of that. It had gotten huge and unsightly and he has wanted it cleaned up for several seasons. He got his wish!

Next, on May 19<sup>th</sup>, we had some very hard, risky burning to do in a three-year rough area down by the drain, east of the Wild Azalea Garden project. We were fortunate to have a low-humidity day, but it was extremely hot, which makes it really hard on our crew. We were also working in very close quarters, along a trail where the brush was tall on both sides, which makes it hard to get out of the smoke if you are on the backfiring side. It was a tough burn, but we had a great crew and we got it done. After several checks we called it a day and had our debriefing. I did a final check, I just can't go home without one, and encountered a couple of problem trees – needed to come back early the next morning and call Alan in to help with putting a big old white oak out. It had caught from behind where we could not see it, and was on the edge of an unburned line. We got it put out and fortunately, rain was predicted for the following day, so things were safe.

We are all happy to have rain, but our burning is on hold until it dries out again. We have a ready and willing crew standing by and are watching the weather. More to come this summer if we get the right conditions. I really can't thank our intrepid crew enough. The folks who

worked the last two burns were courageous and generous and we could not do this work for Birdsong without them: Alan Parker, Mike Miller, Sandra Sallee, Carolyn Cohen, Stanton Beazley, Karen Berkley, and Joe Peresich. Thank you.

***Chuck Will's Widow*** Many years ago it was quite common to hear the Chuck Will's Widow singing at dusk and into the dark of night at Birdsong. I can remember shining a flashlight into the trees and finding the brilliant reflective light of this nightjar's eyes. Hearing that haunting and insistent call, and many of them, used to be part of a late-spring and summer night. Not so in the last several decades. We have really missed that unmistakable call. (We also used to regularly hear the call and find the shining eyes of flying squirrels, something rare now too, but that is another story.)

It was astonishing to start hearing a solitary Chuck Will's Widow singing late this spring. Our board holds monthly meetings from 5:30 to 7:30pm and back in April as we were closing up a Widow started calling right there by the house! It was a delightful surprise and still dark at that time. Every board meeting since, this bird has been singing even though it remains light so late now. Last month I drove out to the Gin House to see the stars and wind down before going home, and on my way back past the office I heard the bird and saw him land on the drive...I pulled over to shine the car lights on him, hoping to really see him well, but he flew up into the magnolia and I lost him. Still, what a treat!

As you may know, Chuck Eason lives at Birdsong and reported hearing a Widow singing right in front of his house last month. A few days ago I was visiting after work and stepped outside at dusk to enjoy the evening and go for a short walk. As I went up the trail toward the Pecan Grove, there was some activity along the north fencerow, some movement, a bird that I could not see, and then the conversation started. There were two birds making these odd deep sounds, back and forth, about 30 feet apart, in the thick wooded area to my right. I could not see them well but they were not small. It sounded like a back and forth conversation, some very endearing croaking with a lot of intonation, along with fluttering around, getting together and then going back to their original positions. I went up to the Grove and came back down the dirt road, wondering who they could be, and when I got to about 80 feet from where I had heard them, this rather large, brownish bird flew down into the sand in the road with its wide wings extended loosely, flapping a little, and making that odd repetitive noise. I had never seen this bird before. That first instant made me think "crow" because of the size, but then the color, broad head, wide wings and tail and short legs, said "no, it has to be a Chuck Will's Widow." The bird flew on down the trail a ways and continued sort of messing around on the ground...I had to go back to my car and get my binoculars and start over.

By now it was getting darker, but there was still enough

light to see by. As I passed by this time, the birds were still moving about in the woods, very agile, lighting on the ground and then back up in the branches. There was one slender snag in this spot and one of the birds landed on the very top and I could see it in silhouette and got a good look with the binoculars. It was a wonderful view of a Chuck Will's Widow. I could see the profile, with the large wide head, bristles around the mouth with the front part of the hooked beak protruding, short legs and a longish wide tail. There was more conversation and more flying about and I kept going, then this same bird flew down into the trail well ahead of me and began working itself into the sand, with wings and tail spread out, still making those sounds. I could see the beautiful rich brown pattern on the feathers. Then the bird gathered in its wings and tail and began this little march up the trail appearing to press its tail into the sand, moving from side to side on the way, stumping along very intently, croaking all the way. He just kept going on around the curve and I went back to report all this to Chuck. (I know, the names...) Before I got back, the actual singing started. One was right in front of the house, one was back in the woods on the property to our north, and one was down in the recently burned Squirrel Woods. So, we've got Chuck Will's Widows! Are we going to call them Chuck's Chuck Will's Widows? Surely we can come up with an easier name... Nightjars, maybe.

I am absolutely intrigued of course and looked them up. There is very little information about their behavior because of their nocturnal nature and wonderful camouflage. The best explanation I can come up with for what I witnessed is that it all may have been an attempt to lure a passerby away from a nesting site. However, the males typically don't sing when the female is sitting on eggs in their nest on the ground. So, we have some fascinating behavior to wonder and learn about!

***Other Nesting Birds*** One of the (many) pleasures of my job is checking on the Purple Martins and learning what they are up to. It is an enjoyable moment, getting to sit at the Pump House bench and watch some of our favorite friends from Brazil as they go about their interesting lives while here. I highly recommend that you come and sit here too sometime. Mornings are best, because you remain in the shade until about noon. Here are some of the other birds I've gotten to listen to or watch go about their busy days from this fortunate vantage point: Orchard Oriole, Bobwhite Quail, Summer Tanager, Great Crested Flycatcher, Blue Grosbeak, Red-headed Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Northern Parula, Pine Warbler, Palm Warbler, Eastern Wood Peewee, Carolina Wren, Kingbird, Cardinal, Chimney Swift, Brown Thrasher, Towhee, Great Egret, Great Blue Heron, Anhinga, Mockingbird, Ground Dove, Mourning Dove, Wood Duck, Mississippi Kite, Bald Eagle and lots and lots of Eastern Bluebirds. Hope you'll join me sometime!

- KDB

**BIRDSONG NATURE CENTER WISHES TO THANK:**

***Our Very Special Program Leaders***

Beth Grant, for her annual Mothers' Day Nature Walk

Marvin Collins, for leading the field trip to Bear Creek Educational Forest

Lora Smith, for the Gopher Tortoise workshop and for bringing Sheldon, the gopher tortoise, along!

Sandra Sallee, for leading *Take A Child Outside and Get Wet and Muddy!*

Special thanks to our WILD Women: Beth Grant, Sandra Sallee, Sharman Franklin, Jeannette Sickel, Jane Storm, Teresa Adkins, Carole Williams, Laurie Jones and Carolyn Cohen. Students from Hands On Thomas County have benefited recently from their leadership, creativity and commitment!

***Special Financial Gifts***

John and Dede Yow

John Lovett

Briarcliff Garden Club

Kathleen Reid Scott and Scott Family Foundation

***Memorial Gifts***

In Memory of Bill and Lyn Desautel:

Victor and Sara Steyerma, Carolyn Cannon, Kathleen Brady, Charla Boggs, Kathleen Judd, Edward Keller and Carolyn Cannon

Carolyn Hamilton, for a bench for her beloved parents

***Special Thanks To***

Hands On Thomas County, for bringing 34 energetic Project Impact students to work with our WILD Women and remove invasive plants at Birdsong! Thank you, Executive Director Angela Kiminas and Allie!

Myles Black, Bob Bearss, and Dr. David Jones, for their Bluebird Trail Monitoring leadership. They are doing their annual summer-long project, visiting all 43 nesting boxes and keeping records on nesting success of the Eastern Bluebird, Brown-headed Nuthatch and Carolina Chickadee populations that love these boxes.

Carolyn Cohen, for her great field guide finds on algae and forestry to add to our collection!

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 volunteer. This time we worked again in the Wild Azalea Garden in the woods, clearing brush and hardwoods from around our native azaleas.

Joe Peresich, for ongoing management of our Facebook page and website.

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.

Butterfly Garden volunteers Donna Legare, Bob Bearss, Beth Grant, Ann Morrow, 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  
2016-2017**

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

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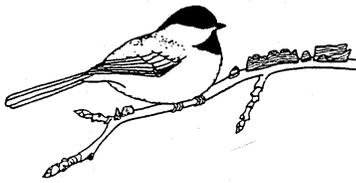
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O'Toole's Herb Farm  
Trillium Gardens

Barrett, Fasig & Brooks  
Carroll and Company, CPA

Import Authority  
South GA Low Cost Spay & Neuter Clinic  
Seminole Alterations  
Corporation Service Company



# 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*

David Markell  
Lynn Masimore  
Kathy Carmichael  
Karen Benjamin  
Reenie Rogers  
Annette Krause  
LeeAnn Herman  
Sara Westberg  
Susan Drake  
Patricia Herrington  
Renee White  
Michael and Lynn Bannister

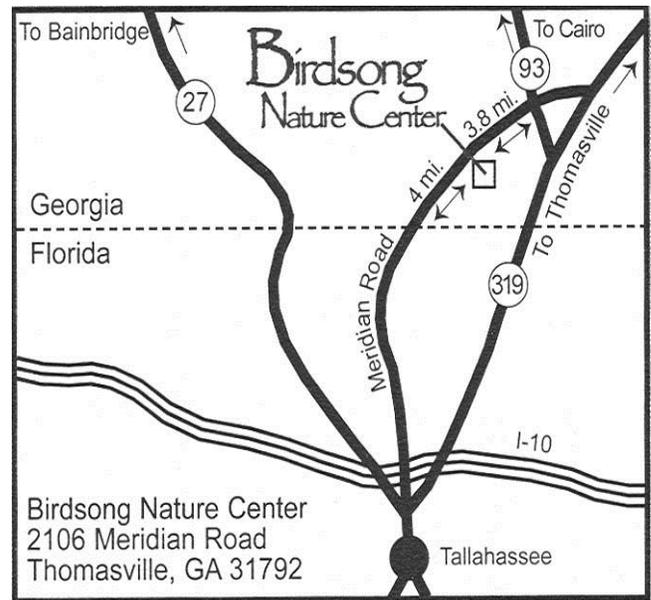
### *Thomasville*

Duane and Lynn Brown  
Ben and Elizabeth Appelo  
Katy Thompson and Family  
Nancy Newborn  
Tony Campbell  
David and Megan Trautman

### *Other*

Eleanor and Tom Chalmers  
Martha English  
Gail Clark  
Vanda Jones  
Debra Zondu  
Carolyn and Teresa Embry  
Bernice Melton  
Judd Brooke  
Valerie Bush  
Katie Adam  
Selena Kiser

Lafayette, CO  
Pavo, GA  
Ochlocknee, GA  
Pavo, GA  
Cairo, GA  
Havana, FL  
Quincy, FL  
Perkinston, MS  
Bainbridge, GA  
Bainbridge, GA  
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*