

# Birdsong Nature Center

September - October 2017

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

### September

Wed.	Sept. 6	Center Re-opens
Thurs.	Sept. 7	Butterfly Garden Work Day
Sat.	Sept 16	Bugs, Bugs, Bugs!
Sat.	Sept. 23	Early Moring Nature Experience
Sun.	Sept. 24	Butterfly Gardening with Native Plants
Sat.	Sept. 30	Early Fall Birding at Birdsong Take a Child Outside at Birdsong

### October

Thurs.	Oct. 5	Butterfly Garden Work Day
Sat.	Oct. 14	Birding Class (Visiting) Fall Botany Walk
Sat.	Oct. 21	Volunteer Work Day with Hands on Thomas County

### November

Sat.	Nov. 11	Raptors of the Red Hills
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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,

Over the last couple of days I couldn't help but notice something a little different about the scenery of our landscapes in late afternoons. The lighting seems a little softer, the shadows a little more acute for the time of day. There have not been many sunny afternoons of late given the impressive daily thunderstorms and cloudy weather we've experienced. But once the sky cleared and the sun came out, it truly became apparent that a change of season is upon us; our days of summer are receding, our days of autumn are just now peeking over the horizon. Anticipation of such a change in climate and lighting is kind of exciting on its own. But with the autumn season also come the colorful displays and amazing visitors we always look forward to - the fall wildflowers and avian migrants - and we are very much looking forward to what is in store for Birdsong this year. How will the colorful perennials and annuals respond to the great abundance of rain this year? And to the good number of burns we were able to accomplish this past spring and summer? Particularly, how will the wildflowers in the gopher tortoise habitat restoration site respond to our considerable efforts of the past four years? Will the prolific rains this summer or this newly maturing restoration site make a difference in fall migrants we see? Much is to be learned out on the property this fall. And there will be much to simply enjoy taking in.

We had a wonderful summer at Birdsong. We enjoyed the good company of many charming visitors and members who came out to walk the trails and take in the activities at the Bird Window, Butterfly Garden, Martin gourds, and Listening Place. We had great fun with the educational programs, learning about birds and other wildlife and natural history. And we can't let pass this opportunity to say a very sincere "thank you!" to all the many dedicated, knowledgeable volunteers who make such good things as these possible for Birdsong - our Butterfly Gardeners, Bluebird Trail and Bird Window monitors, fire and property management crews, our new construction team, our program leaders - we are greatly indebted to these awesome people. They generously donate their valuable time, energy, enthusiasm and expertise, making possible so much of what Birdsong has to offer. If you would like to join this highly esteemed group, please let us know - we will have a fun job for you.

Thank you once again from all of us at Birdsong for a wonderful summer, and for your kind support all throughout the year. We hope that you will visit the Center often this fall, and we always look forward to hearing about the interesting things you encounter along the trails.

Sincerely,  
Joe Peresich  
Board President

**Put on your calendar!  
Old Timey Plant Sale  
Third Saturday in March  
March 18, 2018**

### **PURPLE CONEFLOWER**

Few garden perennials can match the beauty and reliability of Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*). This native plant dutifully returns year-after-year from its roots, but also re-seeds readily if not heavily mulched.

The tall stems support cheerful, bright-pinkish lavender, reflexed petals that surround a sturdy, orangish central disk--the perfect landing pad for butterflies, bees and other pollinators! Hummingbirds are attracted to their nectar in the summer and songbirds look for their seeds in the fall.

Purple coneflowers do well in light shade, especially in our intense south Georgia/North Florida summers. Protection from hot afternoon sun often enhances the color of flowers and foliage. They are beautiful cut flowers and have also been known to produce a subtle, pleasant fragrance.

Look for purple coneflowers in the perennials section at Birdsong's Old-Timey Plant Sale on March 17th, 2018. You will be delighted with the casual, yet charming beauty and sophistication that they add to your surroundings!



## FALL BOTANY WALK

With Guy Anglin  
Saturday, October 14  
10AM – noon

We are looking forward to this fall's wildflower bloom. It will be fascinating to see what kind of response we get after this summer's abundant rains. Please join us for a leisurely botany hike led by Guy Anglin. Guy is well qualified to help us learn about southeastern plant life and ecology, having had decades of experience working for many of the key agencies in Florida that protect our natural resources. For much of his career Guy was the Forest Botanist-Ecologist for the Florida National Forests, coordinating ecosystems management in three of our National Forests here in Florida, the Osceola, Apalachicola, and Ocala. His main interest is restoration ecology and he and his wife Jan Blue are working to restore longleaf pine and native groundcover to their land, which they have placed in conservation easement with Tall Timbers Research Station.

We know you will benefit from a walk in the woods with Guy and enjoy learning about Birdsong's fall blooming wildflowers. **RESERVATIONS, PLEASE.** Call or email by Friday, October 13<sup>th</sup> at noon to reserve your space. Dress for the weather and for walking, possibly off-trail. Bring any questions you might have about fall botany and ecology – Guy can help you. We'll start at 10am and go as long as our guests are interested. You are welcome to bring lunch and have a picnic afterwards.

\$5 Members, \$9 non-members. Geared for adults.

## EARLY MORNING NATURE EXPERIENCE

Saturday, September 23  
7:30 – 9:30AM

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 recent nesting season, gopher tortoises, our ongoing land management and look for whatever birds, wildflowers and animal sign Birdsong may have to offer on a September 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.

\$6 Friends, \$10 nonmembers, children half-price. **RESERVATIONS, PLEASE.** Please call or email to reserve your space on the trailer by Friday, September 15 at noon.

## EARLY FALL BIRDING AT BIRDSONG

Saturday, September 30  
9AM to 12 or so

Join us for a leisurely morning of early fall birding with Marvin Collins. We will walk to the east side of the property this time and visit a variety of excellent birding habitats including pine woods, mixed hardwoods, and the Spring Pond and Frog Pond. We'll be watching and listening for fall migrants. Marvin will teach us the basics of birding by ear, and these wooded habitats will give us a great opportunity to learn what birds are calling and singing up in the canopy even when we can't always get a good look at them. The hike will wrap up with a visit to the Bird Window. Dress for the weather and be prepared for hiking two or three miles. Bring binoculars, field guides, water and a snack.

**RESERVATIONS, PLEASE.** Call or email to let us know you are coming by 4PM Friday, September 29th.

\$4 Friends, \$8 non-members.



## BUGS, BUGS, BUGS!

Saturday, September 16  
2 – 4PM

Let's go bug hunting! Did you know that there are over 13,000 insects and spiders in Florida? That figure doesn't even include all of the other groups that people call "bugs", but is still much larger than all of the mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish and plants put together! Our instructor, David Almquist, is the invertebrate zoologist at the Florida Natural Areas Inventory and has been working with Florida bugs for over 18 years. David, assisted by his young son Lukas and lovely wife Justine, will lead an exploratory nature hike that will provide insight into the abundance, diversity, habits and ecology of some of the bugs that occur at Birdsong and probably in your backyard. We will capture a variety of them, perhaps including dung beetles, and examine them close up.

This program is geared primarily towards children, but parents, naturalists and other adults are welcome and will find this to be an enlightening and enjoyable field experience. Wear long pants and closed-toed shoes for stepping off the trails, bring a net if you have one, and bring mosquito repellent, sunscreen, and water.

\$4 Friends, \$8 nonmembers, children half price. **RESERVATIONS, PLEASE.** Contact us by Friday, September 15th, at noon.

**BUTTERFLY GARDENING WITH NATIVE PLANTS**  
**Sunday, September 24 2 – 4PM**

There is nothing quite so lovely as looking out your window or wandering in your yard and seeing nature's beauty in the form of a floating butterfly. Watching the transformation from egg, to caterpillar stages/instars, to chrysalis, to butterfly is a wonderful opportunity to experience life in progress, and is very inspiring for young and old alike.

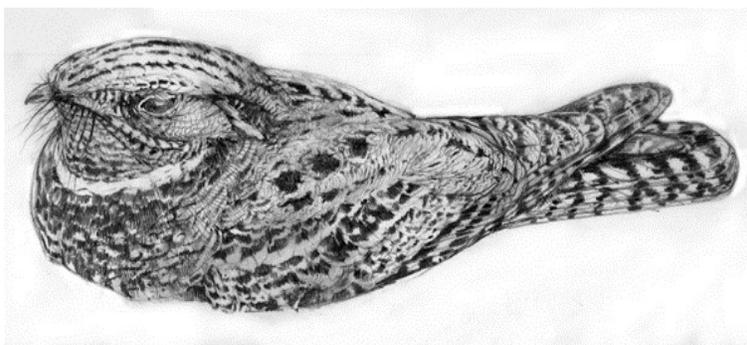
Most have heard of the recent sharp decline of European honey bees, that pollinate many of our food crops. But many don't know that most of our native pollinators, which keep our natural ecosystems going and also pollinate 30-40% of our food, cotton crops, etc., are also in serious trouble.

We all can make a difference for our wildlife companions! There are many choices for nectar plants to feed adult butterflies and other pollinators, but recent research has shown that original natives are much preferred and more nutritive for butterflies and the other pollinating insects. Even cultivars of natives are not as effective.

For reproduction, most pollinators require native plants with which they co-evolved. Just as monarch caterpillars can only eat milkweeds, most insects also have specialized relationships with specific groups of native plants. So to have the most successful pollinator garden possible, we need to have many native plants.

Join Beth Wiggins Grant for this informative program and learn which plants are best to protect or plant (hint: many are trees you may already have!) and how to maximize your property to support our native wildlife, starting with the pollinators.

\$4 Members, \$8 non-members, children half-price. **RESERVATIONS, PLEASE.** Please call or email by Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> at noon to reserve your space. Dress for the weather and prepare for a short walk.



**TAKE A CHILD OUTSIDE WEEK**  
**September 24 – September 30, 2017**

**Take a Child Outside Week** is an international program designed to help overcome obstacles that keep children from discovering the natural world. By arming parents, teachers, and other caregivers with resources on outdoor activities, our goal is to help children across the country develop a better understanding and appreciation of the environment in which they live, and a burgeoning enthusiasm for its exploration. Going outside connects children to the natural world, helps kids focus in school and reduces chances of obesity. Please see this website: <http://takeachildoutside.org/> for more information.

**TAKE A CHILD OUTSIDE AT BIRDSONG**  
**Saturday, September 30**  
**9:30-11:30AM**

If you are a parent, grandparent, or friend of a child please join leader Sandra Sallee to celebrate *Take A Child Outside Week* and take a child on a natural adventure at Birdsong. We will walk the trails where we may find evidence of deer, coyote, or other wildlife; see butterflies face-to-face; search for doodlebugs; and watch birds go about their daily activities at the Bird Window. We will practice using all our senses as we explore what nature has to offer. Sandra will then assist the children in making a nature-related craft to take home, possibly using any natural materials they have collected. This program is geared for children and accompanying adults who want to learn how to better share the wonders of nature with their favorite children. Resource material on outdoor activities will be provided.

\$4 Friends, \$8 nonmembers, children half-price. **RESERVATIONS PLEASE:** we ask that you register by phone or email by Friday noon on September 29th so we know how many people to prepare for. All memberships and renewals are \$5 off today - you may want to join or re-up so you can come back and enjoy more of Birdsong with your favorite child during Take a Child Outside Week or the rest of the year!

**VOLUNTEERS:  
FALL WORK DAY AT BIRDSONG  
Saturday, October 21, 9 AM – noon  
With Hands On Thomas County**

Please join us for a busy volunteer event at Birdsong. This is a big day for Hands On Thomas County – every fall they send teams of hard-working volunteers to non-profits in need of help and we are one of those fortunate organizations on their list! Our construction team volunteers will be on site that day, helping to supervise. We can use many more hands to clean up the farm equipment shed, the Barn, the silos, and our storage shed, as well as weed and spruce up the House Garden and Bird Window and help with invasive plant removal. We'll no doubt have additional projects to add by then - something for everyone! You will get to meet a lot of nice people, including our new construction team that has been so busy this summer. So please come on out, bring your work gloves, loppers, shovels and enthusiasm and help give Birdsong a fall makeover! Thank you, Angela Kiminis, Executive Director of HOTC and Ali Harvey, Programs and Events Director, for including Birdsong in this wonderful community improvement day. Call or email for more information: (800-953-BIRD(2473) or [birdsong@birdsongnaturecenter.org](mailto:birdsong@birdsongnaturecenter.org).



**IN MEMORY OF LYN AND BILL DESAUTEL**

We are missing our dear friends Lyn and Bill Desautel. Bill and Lyn passed away earlier this summer within weeks of each other. We were fortunate to know them for a very long time – they had been members and supporters in the early years of Birdsong and then Lyn worked as our Office Manager in the mid-1990's. Lyn and Betty Komarek and I did a lot of burning together, the three of us. Later they both volunteered: Lyn led Early Morning Birding walks and Bill helped keep our vehicles running. Lyn loved the pear tree near the Barn and took a series of photos of it in each season of the year – you may have seen it in Mirhi's office. Lyn and Bill both had a wonderful sense of humor and were funny and fun to be around. They both cared very deeply for Birdsong. Lyn and Bill's friends and family are funding the purchase of a memorial bench and plaque in their honor to be placed at Birdsong. We send our sympathy to their family and friends.

**THANK YOU, BUTTERFLY GARDENERS!**

We want to thank our dedicated and talented Butterfly Gardeners who volunteer monthly to make the Butterfly Garden such a special feature at Birdsong. I hope you will make a point of visiting the Garden soon – the rainy summer has resulted in a colorful and lush haven of beautiful flowering nectar plants and healthy host plants for caterpillars. The Zebra Longwings in particular are enjoying the garden, as are our visitors who have been giving our volunteers lots of compliments. Thank you, Butterfly Gardeners!

**BUTTERFLY GARDEN WORK DAYS  
Thursdays, September 7 and October 5  
9:00AM to 11:30**

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. Please note change of time.



**THANK YOU, GEORGE E. CROUCH  
FOUNDATION**

Birdsong Nature Center wants to acknowledge and thank the George E. Crouch Foundation for the recent gift of a Ford F150 truck. Birdsong's current truck is a 1991 Mazda that has seen better days and is not road worthy. This gift will enable us to travel anywhere and accomplish important Birdsong tasks, including taking groups out in the trailer for programs. We will be putting our logo and organization information on the sides to help improve our visibility when out in the community. This is one of the nicest things any donor has done for us and we are very humbled and grateful for this gift. The truck itself is beautiful, midnight blue, and has all the up-to-date features. Thank you very much, to the Trustees of the Crouch Foundation!

## WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT NOTES

August 6, 2017

**Weather** I am sitting in my office/cave enjoying a wonderful storm. Our Early Morning Nature Experience has been rained out – it will be interesting to see how much rain this event will bring. We had several intrepid guests arrive, ready to go exploring, but this is a lot of rain, even for these dedicated naturalists. The tree frogs are happy about it; they are singing all over the garden as it thunders and pours.

This is only one of many storms we've had lately. We are in a very rainy period, with high and oppressive humidity daily and almost daily showers. The property is incredibly lush and thriving – worrisome for us who worked so hard at burning hot this year. Yesterday afternoon one of the old pecan trees in the parking lot broke and fell, no doubt weighed down from being soaked for days in a row. It was the one closest to the registration booth. Fortunately, no one was parked there – that spot is the most utilized space in the lot. It was one of the remaining historic pecan grove trees...they are quite old and rarely produce a pecan any more, but we love them and hate to see them go.

**Purple Martins** It was a very unusual martin season, as we reported last time, and we were very happy that our only martin offspring, four babies from one gourd, fledged successfully. They and their parents and friends stayed on until June 25<sup>th</sup>. We'd see the family of four, along with other visiting birds, up to 12 of them doing flyovers in the mornings, then taking off for the rest of the day. Major rains came and there were no martins at all for 5 days, then on July 1<sup>st</sup> we saw two martins up in the nearby pecan and one inside a gourd. After that day it rained again and we have not seen them since. As odd and disconcerting as it was to only have one family of birds this year, we are very pleased that all four babies fledged and were in excellent condition when they emerged. Martin parents are hardworking and very dedicated. We hope that this family and all martins have a good season in Brasil, and look forward to the next time we see them here are Birdsong.

**The Pear Tree** Off and on over the years we have talked about the old pear tree next to the Barn. We are unsure of its age, but it is one of those Birdsong features that we get to enjoy in a number of ways every year. It blooms at Plant Sale time, usually right before, and produces pears prolifically (fun to say) which attract all sorts of interesting wildlife such as deer and raccoons, crows, and three species of woodpeckers. We have not seen a partridge in this tree yet. Really, this question has been asked.

This spring we were alarmed to see that the pear tree barely bloomed. There were only a few flowers over the entire tree. This is highly unusual because by mid-March the pear tree is typically covered in white blossoms, and so loaded with bees and wasps that you can hear them as you approach. Then we get a pear petal snowfall that can range as far as the house if it is windy. Later in the year, now, there should be so

many pears that the branches are weighed down and the deer feasting on fallen pears, leaving partly eaten ones on the ground for the wasps, a display of this tree's abundance and fruitfulness. Checking on it yesterday, I could not find even one lonely pear. We don't know if this means that the pear tree is coming to the end of its productive life, or if it is suffering, as so much of our natural world appears to be, from whatever strange weather/climate changes that are going on. Whatever the cause, we certainly hope this is a one-time phenomenon and that our old friend will be back next year with another beautiful cloud of white blossoms.

**Land Management** After our last good burn through the woods south of the House Pasture and east to the Squirrel Woods, we had planned to keep going and burn the east line. However, right after that last burn we started seeing a regular weather pattern of daily high humidity and frequent rain. Ever since, conditions have not been favorable for any kind of burning so we have that on hold for now and hope to pursue some burning in September. Meanwhile, the rain has resulted in an explosion of green growth all across the property. The place is incredibly lush and beautiful, but from a land management standpoint in some places it almost looks as if we didn't burn at all. Even here near the Barn in the House Pasture, where we hit it hard, the grasses and greenery have responded joyfully to the rain and that formerly rust-colored landscape is now almost completely green. The good news is, the hot fires did knock back quite a bit of heavy brush in the deep woods south of the House Pasture and over through the Squirrel Woods, so we are pleased. Our burning also clearly had a positive impact on the north edge of Big Bay Swamp, the Buckeye Slope, and down into the drain across from the Wild Azalea area.

**Chuck Will's Widows** As described in the last newsletter, we were delighted to learn that we were hosting up to five Chuck Will's Widows here at Birdsong and across the north line on our neighbor's property. These fascinating birds, with their unforgettable calls and twilight behavior, had us intrigued! After the last sighting in mid-June I was fortunate to observe them another couple of times. On my last search, I went walking at dusk along the sandy road on our north line, and got to hear them singing their intense songs back and forth, high in the trees. It was getting dark and I was looking west, so the trees and the birds were silhouetted. A pair of Widows had been busy talking, doing their odd croaking, when they came flying out of the trees and came right past me on my left, still croaking. They flew back around on the right and up into the trees again, then one flew straight at me and circled me very closely – it was within 6 or 8 feet. I was startled by how fast it flew and how close it got; it was almost a blur flying by, but I could see that marvelous profile and hear its wings moving. That was extraordinary! They apparently saw all they needed to see and began moving back along the edge of the woods to the west from where they first came, still making those marvelous deep croaking sounds. I felt very privileged to have been examined so closely and to

and to have had that moment with a Chuck Will's Widow.

That last sighting took place around the third week in June and I didn't get back to check on them for several weeks. During that time frame we had a lot of wet weather and heavy storms. We set an evening trail ride and tour of Birdsong on July 15<sup>th</sup> in hopes of sharing a Widow experience with guests, but on that evening, there were no Widows to be heard or seen. I was quite disappointed, wanting so much for others to get to enjoy those beautiful and intriguing birds. I wondered if maybe, like the Purple Martins, they had taken off just prior to the intense weather systems moving through. They do migrate to Central America, usually near the end of August or early September, so maybe the impending rain was enough to get them started on their way early.

I really miss those intense calls and their fascinating behavior. Apparently Widows become extremely attached to a nest site and will actually nest within feet or yards of a prior nesting area, so it is my fervent hope that next year in April we will again be hearing the calls of Chuck Will's Widows in the woods at Birdsong. We are ready now to do some serious observing and recording of their surprising and interesting behavior and will certainly keep you posted.

**Tracks** One great benefit of all this rain is the presence of animal tracks on our trails. Next time you come out, if it has been raining and not too many other folks have been out walking, check the road between the Barn and the Gin House Field. It is a red clay and sand road and one of the best places to see what kind of animals are busy at Birdsong when we are not around. I checked it a couple of days ago, and found nice distinct prints of several animals: armadillo, coyote, a very small deer in a big hurry (perhaps because of the coyote?), some small songbird-type tracks, a beetle of some kind, and also a good mole burrow. Most of our trails are mowed grass roads, so this one and the one on the north line from the house to Chuck's house are sandy and great for tracks after a rain. I forgot to mention earlier, when I was observing the Chuck Will's Widows, on a morning after seeing them doing what looked like dust-bathing, I found several patches where there were feather- and foot-prints, where some sort of exuberant activity had occurred. Typically the creatures that leave tracks are ones that are wary of people, our larger mammals, and they don't often let us see them in person, so finding their tracks is a nice way to learn who is here going about their lives at Birdsong.

**The Gin House Field** The Gin House is in its most green phase of the year. Right now the broomsedge is coming on, bahia grass is of course thriving, and there are lots of wonderful herbaceous plants and other grasses developing. We are hoping for a beautiful fall bloom of *Agalinis*, or false foxglove. Meanwhile, white *Eupatorium* is making quite a showing and the winged sumac is starting to bloom. Chuck did a huge mowing project last year and knocked back the briars and sumac, but they have loved the rains and are making a comeback. We are having to come to terms with

the idea that we'll need to use herbicide at some point to deal with these spreading, domineering species.

The Eastern Bluebirds are still nesting and had a good season with some on their third brood, the Kingbirds continue to chase other birds all around the field, and the second-year Orchard Oriole males sang and showed off their beautiful copper and black plumage all summer. The Blue Grosbeaks are still making their presence known. Yesterday a gorgeous male was singing his heart out from a tall cherry stem with a female in close attendance, and just down the trail a juvenile appeared quite close by, it's plumage a bit mottled and with its obvious deep beak. What was interesting about all three of these Grosbeaks was that they all had their "crests" up – their head feathers were elevated. Usually they look very smooth. So things are still busy in the Gin House Field.

**The Bird Window** The Window is an active place this time of year, with lots of resident young making appearances with their parents, especially Cardinals and Towhees. The Ruby-throated Humming birds are engaged in the usual skirmishes, with one male trying to run everyone else off all day. The Red-bellied Woodpecker male waits for Mirhi to bring out the suet every morning, joined by a juvenile along for breakfast. A mother raccoon has started bringing in her three babies every afternoon and it is like a little circus when they are here. They can clean out the sunflower seed and corn dish faster than anyone. Yesterday, Mirhi got to see two of the three playing in the water. They were rolling around in the pool, wrestling, flinging themselves here and there, and generally having a great time. Never a dull moment at the Bird Window!

**Surprise!** The other day when I parked our new truck under the shed behind the Barn I got a big surprise. I hadn't noticed the bonfire for a long time, but something caught my eye – beautiful purple flowers on tall wands were waving in the breeze above the bonfire. They almost looked like tall purple flames emerging from the brush! A couple of unsold plants were placed there after the plant sale in March and obviously have loved our summer weather. I got concerned about a possible invasive escapee, but Mirhi looked it up and it is called Hyacinth Bean, an heirloom ornamental vine with purple stems, dark leaves, and lovely purple flowers. It is cultivated throughout the tropics for food. It is an interesting plant, but I'm not sure we want it growing behind the Barn. It certainly was a surprise - did not see that coming!

We are preparing for our annual August break and will be closed from August 16<sup>th</sup> until September 6<sup>th</sup>. By the next newsletter a lot will have changed and we'll be making our transition to fall, with cooler weather and less humidity. It has been an unusual season, and an unusual year so far, so we expect nothing less this fall! See you in September.

- KDB

**BIRDSONG NATURE CENTER WISHES TO THANK:**

***Our Very Special Program Leaders***

Marvin Collins, for leading *Midsummer Music: Birding by Ear* here at Birdsong

Sandra Sallee, for leading *Take A Child Outside for a Natural Scavenger Hunt!*

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 the Thomaville Community Resource Center’s summer program have benefited recently from their leadership, creativity and commitment!

***Special Financial Gifts***

Wendy Loquasto

Florence and Fredrick Eastham, for the love of birds

Carl Tomlinson

***Memorial Gifts***

Patricia Johnson Coulter, in memory of her mother, Rosemarie Brantley

Mr and Mrs EC Oliver, in memory of Reid Comita

Rosemary Coleman and Polly H Hopkins, in memory of Reid Comita

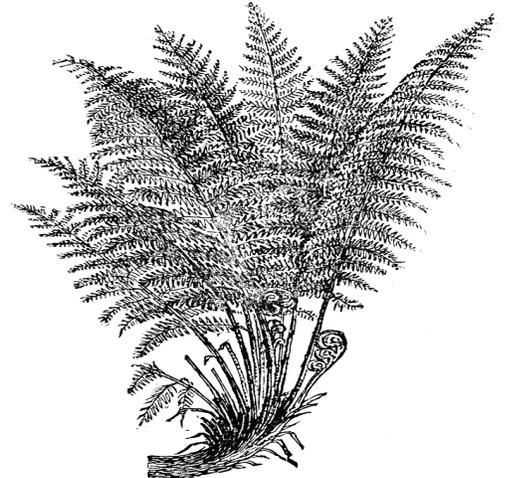
Sara and John Keller, in memory of Lyn and Bill Desautel

Sara Steyerma, in memory of Lyn Desautel

Louise Bouchard, in memory of Lyn and Bill Desautel

Janis Bogue and William Kelle, in honor Bill and Lyn Desautel

Bruce Ritchie, in memory of Marcos Barrera



***Special Thanks To:***

Phil Gornicki, our new Bird Window volunteer, for helping visitors on Wednesdays and for his support on days we have a group visiting Birdsong. We also thank him for donating several beautiful photographs of Birdsong. We are very thankful to have the pleasure of his company and expertise!

Steve and Jo Ostrov, for the gift of an authentic aboriginal didgeridoo from Australia. It is beautiful.

Myles Black, Bob Bearss, and Dr. David Jones, for their Bluebird Trail Monitoring leadership. They are close to wrapping up 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.

Winnie and Wolf Adolph, for managing the Birdsong gift shop so beautifully and helping take care of the Bird Window.

Carolyn Cohen, for the framed embroidered image of an old barn – it is very reminiscent of Birdsong’s beloved Barn.

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

Mike Miller, for mowing the trails.

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, George McEntire, Phyllis Hiers and Ann Smith. Thanks to all for the keeping the Butterfly Garden beautiful!

**Birdsong Nature Center  
Board of Directors  
2016-2017**

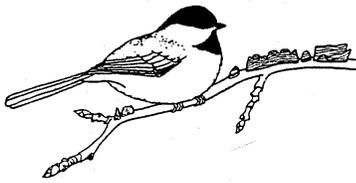
**President** Joe Peresich  
**Secretary** Margie McInnes  
**Treasurer** Bill Preston

**Directors**

Jim Antista Brenda Coy  
Woody Search Joe Newborn  
Ellery Sedgwick Michael Brezin

**BIRDSONG’S CORPORATE SPONSORS**

Hopping, Green & Sams, PA  
Monrovia Growers of Georgia  
Native Nurseries  
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, 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

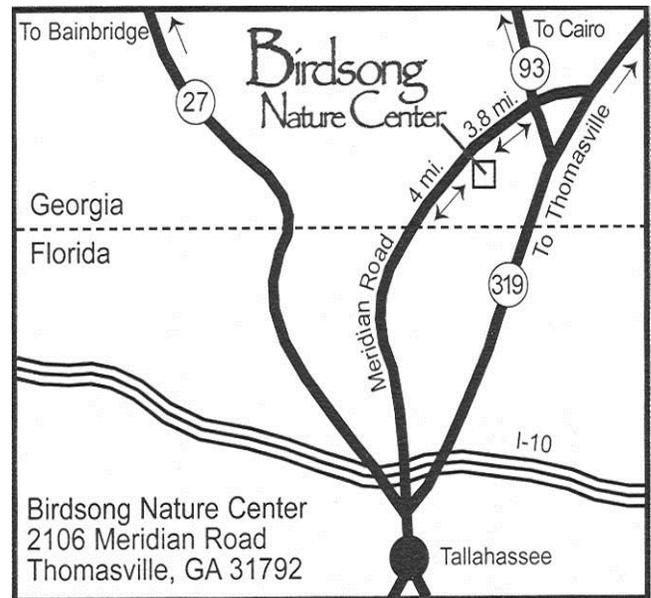
### *Tallahassee*

Gorit Poiré  
Daniel Nowell

### *Other*

Cathy Stevens  
Joe Pettigrew

Bainbridge, GA  
Kiln, MS



### 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*