

# Birdsong Nature Center

January - February 2018

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

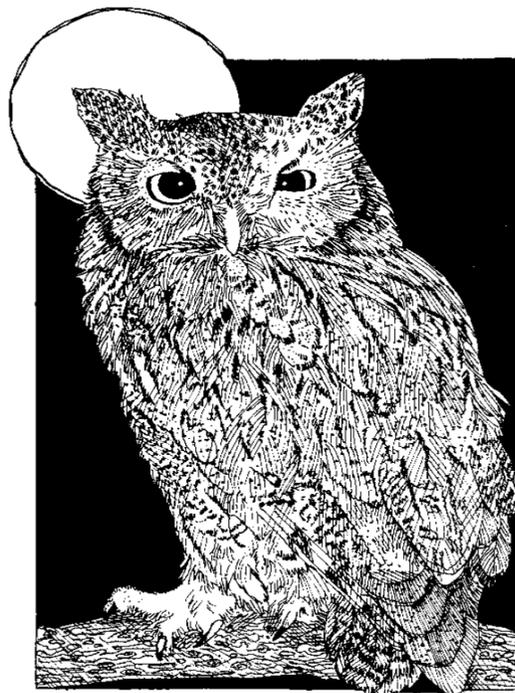
### January

<b>Wed.</b>	<b>Jan. 3'</b>	<b>Center Re-opens</b>
Thurs.	Jan. 4	Butterfly Garden Work Day
Sun.	Jan. 14	Winter Walk at Birdsong
Sat.	Jan. 20	Land Management Overview
Sat.	Jan. 27	Winter Trail Ride

### Febraury

*Call in early February about field trip to Wolf Creek Trout Lily Preserve.*

Thurs.	Feb. 1	Butterfly Garden Work Day
Sat.	Feb. 3	Winter Birding
Sat.	Feb 10	Take a Child Outside in the Winter
Thur.	Feb . 15	A Guided Tour of Wolf Creek
Fri.	Feb 16	Great Backyard Bird Count
Sun.	Feb. 18	Great Backyard Bird Count
Sat.	Feb. 24	Raptors of the Red Hills



### 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,

As 2017 draws to a close, I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of our staff and Board to thank all of you – our wonderful members, dedicated volunteers and program leaders, and generous donors – for your tremendous support of Birdsong Nature Center over this past year. It is because of your exceptional efforts and intentions that Birdsong is here for all of us to enjoy and benefit from today. Over the past two years you have no doubt heard us refer to our Next 30 Years initiatives to keep Birdsong thriving for the generations to follow. Thirty-one years on into our hopeful journey since Birdsong’s founding, we are fortunate and honored to have you with us, and thankful for your support as we continue to strive for the conservation and education ideals that are at the heart of Birdsong’s mission.

*“To foster awareness, understanding, and appreciation of nature and its interrelationships; to educate and inspire leaders, teachers, and the public about the natural world through direct discovery and hands-on learning; to promote a sense of personal responsibility for the environment; and, to manage Birdsong’s acreage as a living museum and outdoor classroom by encouraging diversity of plants, animals, and habitats through the use of ecologically appropriate land management practices.”*

The wisdom of these words and the goals they describe - formed over 30 years ago as Birdsong’s mission - still resonate today and are still as meaningful and important as at any time.

Without doubt, though, we can also include another exceptionally important component to this list: *have fun doing it!* And we are very fortunate to have a great team of very knowledgeable and dedicated volunteers and program leaders who do just that! These awesome folks lead programs and field trips both on the property and off, sharing their great knowledge and enthusiasm for nature in all forms. They lead programs designed for adults and children alike, the camaraderie, enjoyment, and enrichment always in great supply! Still other volunteers lend talented hands to keeping the Nature Center property in great physical shape – keeping the gardens beautiful, the land well managed, and structures in good repair.

We hope you will join us for many of the fun and educational programs offered in the coming year, take in the activity at the Bird Window, or simply come out to enjoy the serenity of the nature trails throughout the 565-acre property. We know that you will enjoy many great moments and experiences to carry home with you, and the pleasure of charming new friendships made along the way.

By now you may have received our 2017 Annual Campaign packet. The campaign is our largest fundraising event of the year and one we rely on greatly for covering Birdsong’s operating costs. Please help us keep Birdsong thriving for the next generation by making a generous year end gift – we wouldn’t be here without your support! And please know that our hard working staff and dedicated volunteers will put each dollar of your gift to its maximum good use.

Thank you again to all of you, visitors, members, volunteers and supporters, for making possible this very special place called Birdsong Nature Center. Please visit soon! Warmest wishes for a very happy and healthy New Year.

Sincerely,  
Joe Peresich  
Board President

**WOLF CREEK TROUT LILY PRESERVE**  
***Visit Wolf Creek in February, when the Trout Lilies bloom...***

The Wolf Creek Trout Lily Preserve is a biologically diverse 140-acre hardwood forest about 5 miles west of Cairo in Grady County, Georgia. It is home to one of the largest (about 15 acres) and most dense populations (nearly every square inch) of the Trout Lily, *Erythronium umbilicatum*, known to exist anywhere. The beautiful Trout Lily is a threatened species in Florida and rarely found in south Georgia. Also present are several other rare plants: *Trillium maculatum*; *Uvularia floridana*; Bloodroot; Crane Fly, Green Fly and Southern Tway Blade orchids, among others.

Preserve volunteers will be offering field trips to see this amazing site in full bloom in February. The bloom dates vary widely depending on the weather. Here is a link to the Wolf Creek website, where you can learn about the upcoming season’s bloom, tours, and hours when the site may be open to the public. We urge you to go; this in one of the most impressive botanical displays of our area. You will love it! See [www.wolfcreektroutlilypreserve.com](http://www.wolfcreektroutlilypreserve.com) for contact information.

***Special; tour of Wolf Creek with Beth Grant: Thursday, February 15 at 3:00 PM***

## NATIVE PLANTS IN URBAN GARDENS

For the first 25 years after my house near Birdsong burned down, I threw out any thought of gardening. I built a house in the middle of town where builders had dumped construction trash for decades. I never gave a thought to the yard. Hurricane Kate knocked down some big trees, and I just left them there. Over the years the yard greened up quite nicely. Vibrant Christmasy bushes grew up beneath huge camphor trees that replaced the cherry and pine and oak taken by the hurricane. I didn't own a mowing machine because of the lovely carpet of poison ivy and monkey grass. I put an outside shower on the back deck, curtained from the nearby street by the gorgeous green light of Japanese climbing fern and wisteria vines.

Then came the first Old Timey Plant Sale. I bought a few trilliums, a wild azalea and some indestructible woodland flowers to nestle among the coral ardesia and English ivy. It began to make me happy when they bloomed and angry when they choked. Reading Douglas Tallamy, I called the tree service.

Down came camphor and 80 year-old ligustrum. Wrenched and wrangled high on the shoulders of strong men, out came vines and briars. Uprooted and piled up for the city to haul off, bamboo-vine roots the size of a jeep, privet and nandina bushes like a small forest.

My neighbors, suddenly exposed to the busy street, glared at me, but I was hooked by the fun of seeing nature getting back to normal, with a little help from her friends.

Now that the plant sale is 10 years old, so is this long experiment. Thanks to Hurricane Irma, enough sun shines on a little bed, Florida's official flower. Florida anise shields the house from the street, blue-eyed grass and maidenhair fern replace liriopie along paths, and woodland phlox makes a ground cover to keep the dirt from washing down the hill. Birds plant ageratum and wild petunia and ants carry seeds of rue anemone to line the banks of a dry creek bed that used to be a dump-site. In fall, Georgia aster spreads blue all over the red firebush; and every winter, trilliums thicken, almost keeping out invasive ivy. A gorgeous redbud tree shades the porch, neighbors smile at me again, and birds and butterflies are as good as Christmas ornaments.

Last spring when the wild azalea bloomed its best ever, so did some naturalized daffodils I planted years and years ago. Explaining to another Birdsong volunteer that I really am dedicated to native plants, despite those daffodils, I realize that it is possible to go too far. We may be forgiven for daffodils.

Note: All the native plants named in this article are from the Old-Timey Plant Sale or Tallahassee's Native Nurseries and will be for sale at the Birdsong Old-Timey Plant Sale, March 17, 2018.

Photographs of this yard will be on Birdsong's website.

- Barbara Mason White



### 2018 LAND MANAGEMENT OVERVIEW FOR VOLUNTEERS Saturday, January 20th 10AM – 1PM

Join us for a trail ride and conversation about Birdsong's land management plans for 2018. All volunteers are welcome. Whether you are a seasoned veteran or a newcomer who has been thinking about volunteering, this overview is designed to give you an understanding of our long-range land management vision, and show you specific projects and ongoing efforts we'll actively engage in this year. This session is important for anyone who wants to help us burn this year, as well as anyone interested in invasive species removal, trail maintenance, and native plant and wildlife habitat enhancement. We'll spend the morning in the field and return to the house for lunch together. You will get to meet some wonderful people and come away with an understanding of how valuable your role is in Birdsong's management.

No charge. **RESERVATIONS, PLEASE.** Call by Friday, January 19th to reserve your place on the trailer, or for more information. Bring a sandwich; drinks and dessert provided. Dress for the weather.

## WINTER WALK AT BIRDSONG

With Beth Grant

Sunday, January 14, 2 – 4pm

Join Beth Grant for an enjoyable winter walk through Birdsong's woods and fields. Beth is very knowledgeable about our native plants and can explain the value of managing and protecting our natural fauna for the benefit of wildlife. It is also a beautiful time of year with its subtle color palette. Dress for the weather, bring binoculars and field guides, and bring any questions you might have about the importance of native plants in the landscape.

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



## 21<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT Friday through Sunday at Birdsong February 16 - 18

The 2018 Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC), one of Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology's Citizen Science projects, will be held February 17-19, 2016. Please have a look at the GBBC event description on their web page at [www.birdsource.org](http://www.birdsource.org) for detailed instructions to create a free GBBC account for entering your observations. You are invited to count birds at bird feeders, in your yard, local parks or other outdoor locations, and then report your findings online at [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org) or at eBird.

To do your survey, come out and observe birds anywhere at Birdsong, including the Bird Window, for a minimum of 15 minutes and up to as long as you want, on any or all days of the bird count, and as many times as you want. (Birdsong is open 9 – 5, Friday and Saturday and 1 – 5 on Sunday, closed on Monday.) You can turn in your own results online at [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org) or pick up a tally sheet at the registration desk, go bird watching, fill the sheet out and leave it here at Birdsong and we will submit your results.

## BUTTERFLY GARDEN WORK DAYS

Thursdays, January 4 and February 1

9:30AM to Noon

Please join our Butterfly Garden volunteers on the first Thursday of the month to tend our beautiful Butterfly Garden! Bring gardening gloves, knee pads, clippers, and lunch if you wish to stay afterwards.

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.

## WINTER MORNING TRAIL RIDE

Saturday, January 27th

10:00AM - Noon

Join Executive Director Kathleen Brady for a winter morning trail ride. We will make a number of stops to discuss Birdsong's ecology, land management and history, including places such as the Star Pasture, Farm Pond, the Listening Place, and others. We will point out gopher tortoise burrows, and look for winter birds and signs of wildlife.

**RESERVATIONS, PLEASE.** Please call by noon on Friday, January 26th to reserve a space. We will be taking the truck and trailer and there is room for 12 people. Be prepared to be outdoors for several hours; dress for the weather and bring binoculars.

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

## TAKE A CHILD OUTSIDE

IN THE WINTERTIME!

Saturday, February 10

9:30AM - Noon

Bring your favorite child to Birdsong and let them lead you on a natural adventure in the winter woods with Sandra Sallee. Give an ongoing gift to your child: an appreciation of nature, a better understanding of the where they live, and use of all their senses. We will walk the trails to search for evidence of animal homes, sign, and winter behavior. Enjoy the fresh air, some exercise, and time with your child in the great outdoors. We will collect natural materials along the way and create a craft upon returning to the Barn.

\$4 Friends, \$6 nonmembers, children half-price.

RESERVATIONS PLEASE by Friday February 9th, so we know how many to prepare for. Includes a handout and resource list for year-round outdoor activities with children

## WINTER BIRDING AT BIRDSONG

Saturday, February 3rd

8 to 11AM

Wintertime at Birdsong is a great time to go birding. Join expert birder Marvin Collins for a long, leisurely discovery hike through a variety of excellent bird habitats. If birds are here, Marvin will find them, especially those elusive sparrows and warblers! The hike will wrap up with a visit to the Bird Window, which is typically a very busy place in the winter months. Dress for the weather and for a long walk in the woods. Bring binoculars and field guides.

\$5 Friends, \$9 nonmembers, children half-price.

## RAPTORS OF THE RED HILLS

Saturday, February 24

11AM – 12:30PM

Live, native birds of prey — hawks and owls — will help St. Francis Wildlife Association's education director Sandy Beck share their personal stories, the amazing adaptations that enable them to hunt and survive, the important roles these raptors play in Florida's ecosystems, and what we can all do to help them. For adults and school-aged children.

\$6.00 Friends, \$10.00 non-members, children half-price. **RESERVATIONS, PLEASE.** Call (229) 377-4408 or email by Friday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> at noon to reserve your space.

## BRINGING NATURE HOME

Sunday, February 4, 2 – 4PM

In his book, *Bringing Nature Home*, Dr. Douglas Tallamy explains how everyone who loves the wonders of the natural world can contribute to the survival of our native birds, butterflies, and other treasures by providing the native plants needed to support them. Beth Grant has obtained permission from Dr. Tallamy to present his slide show on his findings. By acting on Dr. Tallamy's practical recommendations, you can make a difference for bio-diversity while bringing endlessly fascinating wildlife to your home. Handouts will be provided. Copies of *Bringing Nature Home* and Dr. Gil Nelson's *Best Native Plants for Southern Gardens* will be available for purchase.

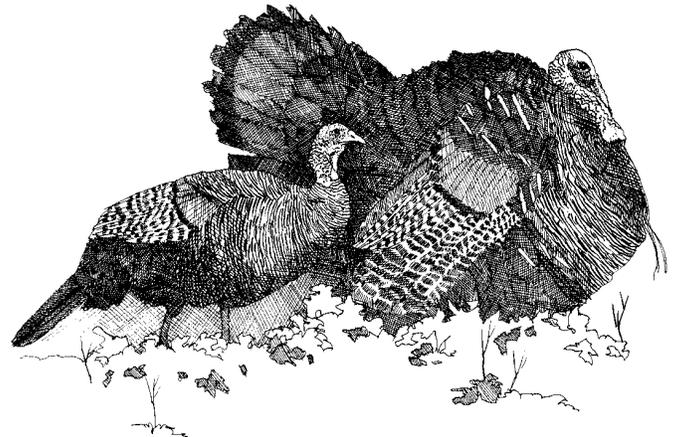
No charge, but **RESERVATIONS, PLEASE.** Class size limited to 18 people. Please call or email to reserve your space by Saturday at 5PM on February 3rd.

Thank you, Hands-On Thomas County!

October 21, 2017

## THANK YOU, HANDS ON THOMAS COUNTY!

On October 21<sup>st</sup> Birdsong was a fortunate partner in Hands On Thomas County's annual Project Impact volunteer work day. HOTC sent us the best ever work team – a capable and enthusiastic group from Thomasville CrossFit! Led by volunteer team leader Frank Cienniwa, they charged in and wiped out a huge amount of unwanted invasive bamboo, cleared out the "wavy shed", hauled logs from here to there, and cleaned out one of our metal silos, all in just a few hours! This was all done in the greatest spirit of giving and camaraderie and we are truly grateful and impressed. We can't thank this team enough for their effort and for making it so much fun! Thanks too to Angela Kiminis and her staff at HOTC; she always looks after us and we feel very fortunate to be included in these top-notch volunteer projects. They really do make a difference to us non-profits in the community. If you are considering joining a gym, definitely go to Thomasville CrossFit – you will get in great shape and meet some wonderful people doing it!



## WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT NOTES

December 13, 2017

I am sorry, but I am unable to write the Wildlife Notes for this newsletter. Our dear friend Chuck Eason, Birdsong's resident land management assistant for 8 years, is very ill. He has been in the hospital for three weeks and is now under hospice care, so we are losing him. It has been very stressful. I can't focus enough to write and my heart is elsewhere. There will be notes next time. Please send a loving thought or prayer for Chuck.

- KDB

**BIRDSONG NATURE CENTER WISHES TO THANK:**

***Our Very Special Program Leaders***

Beth Grant, for leading the annual *Thanksgiving Saturday Super Walk*  
Sunny Phillips, for leading her birding class for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

Birdsong’s WILD Women: Jane Storm, Sharman Franklin and grandson Gavin, Teresa Adkins and nephew Branch, Sandra Sallee, and Alan Parker for providing an excellent program for Cub Scout Den #41 of Tallahassee. They gave 43 children and parents, mostly dads, a great outdoor learning experience and showed how a beaver is built!

***Special Financial Gifts***

Jelks Family Foundation \* Williams Family Foundation of Georgia  
Jasper and Marthalene Davis Foundation \* William Howard Flowers, Jr, Foundation

***Memorial Gifts***

Alice Honea, in memory of her husband Gerald K. Honea

***Special Thanks To:***

Our wonderful volunteer construction team, for initiating work on re-screening the Listening Place and for repairing the middle office door, and for building the new, attractive skirting for the house. Beautiful work, and we thank you: Glen Berman, Buddy Holshouser, Mike Duggar, and Mike Brezin.

Winnie and Wolf Adolph, for getting the Birdsong gift shop ready for Christmas and helping take care of the Bird Window so beautifully. Winnie has ordered new gift shop items and they include some beautiful bird ornaments – these would make fabulous presents!

Bob Dunn and Wolf Adolph, for ongoing ID and photographic documentation of our bird visitors at the Bird Window

Phil Gornicki, Bird Window volunteer, for helping visitors on Wednesdays and for his support on days we have a group visiting Birdsong.

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

Alan Parker, for doing an exceptional bushhogging job on the Bog Garden and live Oak Hammock – very nice.

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

Birdsong’s Board of Directors, Joe Peresich, Bill Preston, Margie McInnes, Woody Search, Brenda Coy, Jim Antista, Ellery Sedgwick, Joe Newborn and Mike Brezin 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, Ann Smith and Emily Zeider. Thanks to all for the keeping the Butterfly Garden beautiful!



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

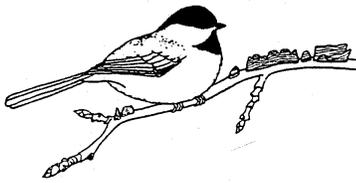
**President** Joe Peresich  
**Secretary** Margie McInnes  
**Treasurer** Bill Preston

**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, | _____                                |
| <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**

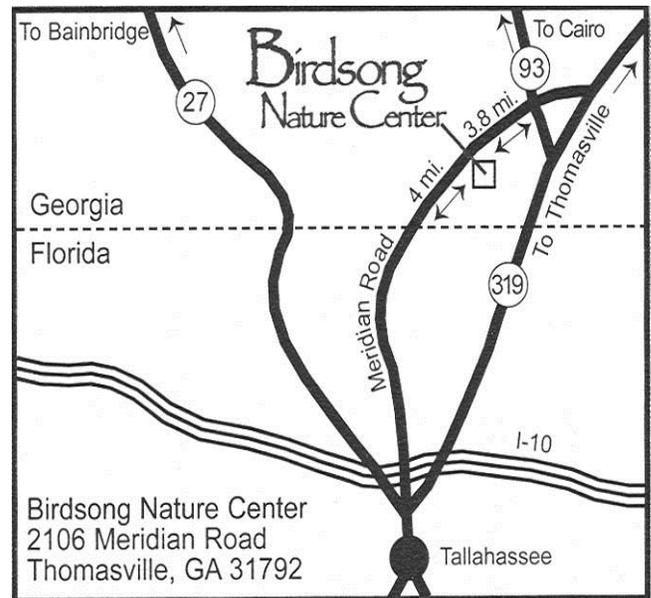
Sharon Nichols  
Karen Lewis  
Sherry Toothman  
Timothy Few  
Shi-Ling Hsu  
Bill and Susa Crosswell

### **Thomasville**

Austin Williams  
Susan Jobson  
Kevin and Paula Alford

### **Other**

JoEllen Griffin



### 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