

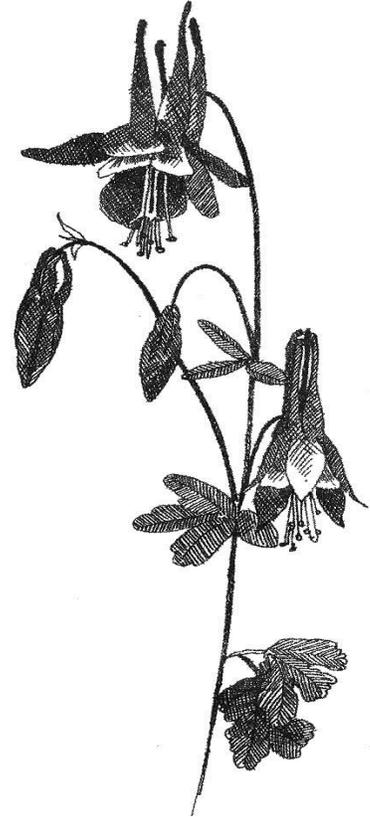
Birdsong Nature Center

May - June 2018

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

| | | |
|------------|--------|---------------------------|
| May | | |
| Wed. | May 2 | Bluebird Trail Monitoring |
| Thur. | May 3 | Butterfly Garden Workday |
| Sat. | May 5 | Bluebird Trail Monitoring |
| Sun. | May 13 | Mother's Day Nature Walk |
| Wed. | May 16 | Bluebird Trail Monitoring |
| Sat. | May 19 | Late Spring Birding Tour |
| | | Bluebird Trail Monitoring |
| Wed. | May 30 | Bluebird Trail Monitoring |

| | | |
|-------------|---------|---|
| June | | |
| Sat. | June 2 | Take a Child Outside and Get Wet and Muddy! |
| | | Bluebird Trail Monitoring |
| Thur. | June 7 | Butterfly Garden Workday |
| Wed. | June 13 | Bluebird Trail Monitoring |
| Sat. | June 16 | Gopher Tortoise Workshop |
| | | Bluebird Trail Monitoring |
| Sat. | June 23 | Early Summer Trail Ride |
| Wed. | June 27 | Bluebird Trail Monitoring |
| Sat. | June 30 | Bluebird Trail Monitoring |



BIRDSONG NATURE CENTER

WEB SITE: www.birdsongnaturecenter.org

EMAIL: birdsong@birdsongnaturecenter.org

TWITTER: @BirdsongNatureC

FACEBOOK: Birdsong Nature Center

YOUTUBE: Birdsong Nature Center



BIRD WINDOW AND TRAIL HOURS

| | |
|-----------|-------------|
| Wednesday | 9 AM - 5 PM |
| Friday | 9 AM - 5 PM |
| Saturday | 9 AM - 5 PM |
| Sunday | 1 PM - 5 PM |

Bird Window and Nature Trails

Welcome to Birdsong! Enjoy the beauty and serenity of the Bird Window and learn to identify resident and visiting birds up close. Walk the Nature Trails to observe wildlife in a variety of habitats and enjoy the sounds of nature at the Listening Place. Before you leave, you may want to visit the Chickadee Corner Gift Shop. We hope you enjoy your stay!

All visitors please sign in at the Registration Center. Trail maps are provided. Pets, trash and fires are not permitted.

Registration

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

Dear Friends,

We couldn't have been more pleased with the way everything went at the Old-Timey Plant Sale last month. It was a beautiful day to be out, the volunteers had the sale area set up in such an exceptionally scenic and well-organized manner, and our hopes ran high for a good turnout. In the end, your response to Birdsong's largest fundraising event of the year was off the charts. We couldn't be more thrilled at the outcome, or more appreciative of your fantastic support. Though we had more plants for purchase than ever, we also had the greatest number of people attend, and the fewest remaining plants at the conclusion, than at any of the previous 11 Old-Timey Plant Sales. We don't have an official count, but conservative estimates place the attendance at about 1000, and likely higher. We really can't say thank you enough to all of you who came to the sale and helped support the Nature Center in this important way. We hope that you found lots of healthy, beautiful plants to bring home to your gardens, along with lots of happy memories to carry with you of a truly fun day.

Our sincere thanks to June White, who originated the idea of the Old-Timey Plant Sale and has served as its leader over its 12-year life span. Thank you too to all June's and Birdsong's key support people and all our amazing volunteers. Our heartfelt thanks for all your hard work and dedication which results in this remarkable, mission-based fundraising event for Birdsong. Not only does the Old-Timey Plant Sale provide vital financial support for the Nature Center, but also offers a great educational opportunity to the people of our community. Thanks to all who help set up and operate the Plant Sale event – parking and traffic directors, greeters, our "Ask Me" crew of expert gardeners who assist shoppers, tally and cashier team, runners who help carry purchases to shoppers' automobiles. So many moving parts and coordinated efforts go into carrying out this iconic event and all these amazing volunteers make it happen so smoothly. Our sincere thanks to all of you!

The summer months will soon be upon us, so please come out soon while the weather is still mild and walk the peaceful trails at the Center. The property is in great shape, nesting season is in full swing, and there is much to see and enjoy. Please come visit soon – and be sure to let us know about interesting things you encounter along the trails!

Sincerely,
Joe Peresich
President, Board of Directors



AN OLD-TIMEY PLANT SALE THANK YOU!

Birdsong's 12th annual Old-Timey Plant Sale was its most successful ever by any measure -- ease of set-up, smooth sale day operation, weather, and money made. The sale brought in almost \$29,000 for our beloved nature center, \$9,000 more than last year. Many thanks to the dozens of volunteers who worked for weeks in advance to get ready for this complicated event, and also thanks to everyone who came to buy plants and enjoy a day in the country. We really depend on our faithful gardeners who come to the sale to shop every year.

We had a huge crowd this year in the few hours of the sale's duration. Because of our lavish space the sale area never had a crowded feeling, but we do apologize for the few times when people had to stand in line at checkout. We will fix that next year with more cashiers.

If this crowd size continues we must be sure we have enough plants to sell. We are always looking for gardeners who are willing to donate well-behaved, reliable garden plants. My favorite moment from this 2018 sale was a phone call I received in February from someone who had bought a hummingbird plant at last year's sale. It had done so well for her that she had successfully rooted cuttings from the plant and donated several beautiful new hummingbird plants back to us. That is the best kind of success story! Please call or email Birdsong if you have plants you'd like to share.

- June Bailey White
Plant Sale Chair

This year's sale was our best sale yet and we have many wonderful volunteers to thank. On the day of the sale we were taken by surprise by the huge number of customers who flowed in all morning. One of our intrepid parkers, Fred Dietrich, did an analysis and arrived at what he thinks is a very conservative estimate of the number of attendees: 1250, when in the past few years we have estimated around 800!

In a short article like this it is almost impossible to properly thank the many people who volunteered this year. We could do a special edition of the newsletter just for that reason! This event is very complex to set up – we need to create an entire outdoor environment to accommodate all the beautiful plants, parking area, stations, checkout, etc., to make it as easy as possible for hundreds of people to attend. For those volunteers reading this, whatever your role, please know that your contribution really mattered - it truly was our best Plant Sale ever. Please let us know if I have somehow inadvertently left your name off – my apologies!

First and foremost, special thanks go to June Bailey White, Plant Sale Chair, for her leadership, year-round commitment and very hard work. Her vision for this sale has been realized and continues to grow. Sincere thanks to each

| | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Mike Duggar | Bob Bearss | Leeann Orr |
| Mike Miller | Janeen Langley | Hannah Orr |
| Kristine Dougherty | Brenda Coy | Dan Miller |
| Barbara White | Woody Search | Beth Grant |
| Ben White | Sally Search | Yvonne Stinson |
| Lisa Reeves | Bill Preston | Mirhi Childs |
| Pamala Anderson | Jim Antista | Donna Legare |
| Bill Anderson | Marsha Antista | Jeanette Sickel |
| Joe Peresich | Ellery Sedgwick | Carolyn Cohen |
| Michael Herndon | Elyse Barksdale | Sheryl Dasinger |
| Kay Hawkins Morris | Albert Harrison | Mike Brezin |
| Harriet Hawkins | Martha Black | Geary Langford |
| Betty Jinright | Betty Esco | Cathy Drew |
| Eleanor Dietrich | Kitty Spivey | Liz Sparks |
| Alan Parker | Willow Spivey | Owen Titus |
| Gunilla Trull | Phil Spivey | Mary Carroll McCall |
| Ken Misner | Becky McNeill | Kathleen Reid Scott |
| Jane White | Keith McNeill | Della Cromartie |
| Maria Murphy | Janeen Langley | Mary Janik |
| Berry Penhallegon | Emily Zeider | Vanessa Crisler |
| Clayton Penhallegon | Carole Hayes | Lynette Joye Hitt |
| Debbie Edgil | Sandra Sallee | Tyler Jones |
| Kerry Edgil | Julia Sawyer | The McCorkle Family |
| Jeannette Boyer | Don Dixon | Margaret Tyson |
| Rick Cantrell | Hazel Dixon | Laninda Sande |
| Gail Sloan | Russ Barrett | Scott Chastain |
| Fred Dietrich | Annelle Lauder | Christie Langstrom |
| Eleanor Dietrich | Carol Kelso | Pam Wright |
| Ute Schorn | Fran Rutkovsky | Sharman Frankliin |
| Stanton Beazley | Alan Strowd | Orchard Pond Organics |

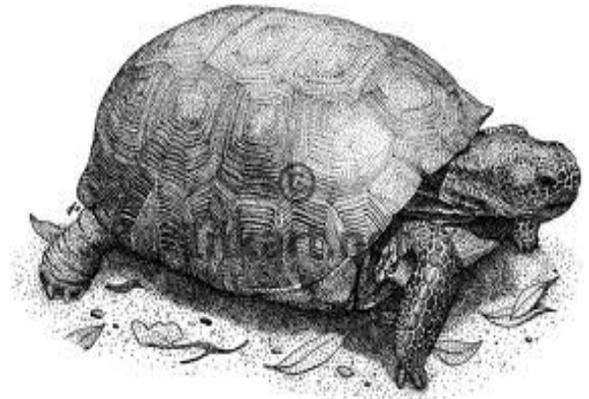
We offer our special thanks to: Mike Duggar, for updating all our signage and for leading the Parking Lot set-up day; Mike Miller, for his support with set-up and tree and plant expertise; our generous plant donor Stewart Chandler of Monrovia, for the beautiful plants; and of course Dan Miller, for his plants and special participation. Thank you, Galbaby Scott, for organizing and coordinating the wonderful Preview Party. We loved the Biscuit Boys: John Lovett, Andy Moorer and Bryan Murray – our Preview Party musicians. A very special thank you to Lagran Saunders and Ben Baldwin and team, for the beautifully presented hors d'oeuvres and desserts. They were extraordinary!

Many thanks to all our station leaders and their many volunteers: Don and Hazel Dixon, for the food service and donation of supplies; Winnie and Wolf Adolph for organizing and managing the gift shop; Stanton Beazley, for leading and managing the cashier table; Elizabeth Riley, for support at the cashier table and for managing the tallying and cashier station flow at peak; Carole Hayes and Sandra Sallee for greeting; Mike Duggar for organizing the parking lot and parking; Brenda Coy, for membership; and all the many talented Plant Station leaders and volunteers including Dan Miller, Ute Shorn, Mike Miller, Ellery Sedgwick, Janeen Langley, Beth Grant, Harriet Hawkins, Gail Sloane and Rick Cantrell,

Thank you, Gunilla Trull, for the wonderful publicity work in Tallahassee and Becky Bracey, for the same in Thomasville. Thanks to Barbara White, for her excellent article published in the Tallahassee Democrat. Thank you to Carole Hayes, for donating the coffee. Thank you, Ben White and Lisa Reeves, for loaning us the Sno-Cone machine, June's new experiment (her home-made Myer lemon syrup got rave reviews!) and for bringing the truck-load of carts and barrows. Thank you Owen Titus, for growing flats of heirloom tomatoes. A special thank you to the Grady County Sheriff's Department, for assisting us with traffic control on our single lane driveway.

We also want to extend a special thank you to our Corporate Plant Sale Sponsors, who generously supported this year's sale:

Carroll and Company, CPA
Hopping, Green & Sams, P.A.
Monrovia Growers of Georgia
Import Authority
Seminole Alterations
South Georgia Low Cost Spay & Neuter Clinic
Private Wealth Management and Consulting, Edward Knowles



GOPHER TORTOISE WORKSHOP
Saturday, June 16
10AM to Noon

The gopher tortoise plays a significant ecological role in longleaf pine and sandhill communities in the southeast. It is classified as a threatened species in the states of Georgia and Florida and is under consideration for threatened status federally, primarily because of widespread habitat loss. At Birdsong we are fortunate to have a number of active gopher tortoise burrows quite close to our trails so they can be easily observed.

Lora Smith, Ph.D., is a Scientist at Jones Ecological Research Center in Newton, Georgia. She is researching the effects of mammalian predation on gopher tortoises, and conducts additional research on upland snake ecology and pond-breeding amphibians. She has provided excellent tortoise programs at Birdsong for several years as a representative of the Gopher Tortoise Council.

Lora will offer an informative power point presentation on the gopher tortoise's life history and ecology. Our group will then ride out in the field to locate a number of tortoise burrows. Lora will bring her special camera that can be inserted into the burrows so we can monitor any activity below ground, which is always fascinating!

\$6 Friends, \$10 non-members. **RESERVATIONS, PLEASE.** This program is geared for adults. Call (800) 953-BIRD (-2473) by noon on Friday, June 15 to reserve a space on the trailer and learn how you and your family can help protect gopher tortoise habitat near you.

EARLY SUMMER TRAIL RIDE
To a few places less travelled
Saturday, June 23
10:00AM - Noon

Join Executive Director Kathleen Brady for a late spring trail ride around Birdsong. We will make a number of stops and take some short walks to a few places we seldom go: the Buckeye Slope, to see the Indian pinks and milkweed ; the woods along the south line to check on *Erythrina*; and the Bog Garden, just for fun. Along the way we will discuss Birdsong's ecology, land management and history, and visit places such as the Star Pasture, Farm Pond, the Listening Place, and others. We will point out gopher tortoise burrows, and look for courting birds and signs of wildlife.

RESERVATIONS, PLEASE. Please call by noon on Friday, June 22 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.

MOTHER'S DAY NATURE WALK

Sunday, May 13
2 - 4PM

Celebrate Mother's Day in beautiful natural surroundings on a leisurely discovery walk with Beth Grant. Beth can remember the first time she herself went for a Mother's Day walk here at Birdsong with her young son Brian 30 years ago! She writes "One of my first memories at Birdsong was in 1988 when my then 13 year old son did the Mother's Day walk with me. It was a wonderful present!"

It is a great time of year for nesting birds, wildflowers and the refreshing green of spring. Enjoy the trails and then visit the Butterfly Garden and Bird Window.

\$4 Friends, \$8 nonmembers, children half-price.

TAKE A CHILD OUTSIDE AND GET WET AND MUDDY!

Saturday, June 2
9:30AM - Noon

Celebrate summer at Birdsong with your favorite child or children. Leader Sandra Saltee and Executive Director Kathleen Brady will take you to discover the underwater inhabitants of the Farm Pond and Upper Pond. We'll observe the many fascinating adaptations that plants and animals have for living in an aquatic environment.

Please bring a clean dishpan or bucket that has had no chemicals or soap in it, a dip net if you have one, boots, waders or old tennis shoes for wading in, a change of clothes for the ride home, and sun protection. Bring lunch if you want to stay and picnic afterward. Enjoy learning something new and have a special experience with your child in the great, wet outdoors!

RESERVATIONS, PLEASE, so we know how many to prepare for. Please sign up by noon, Friday, June 1

THANK YOU! TO OUR VOLUNTEER CONSTRUCTION TEAM

Birdsong's Board and staff offer our sincere and profuse thanks to the following accomplished carpenters and construction experts who have helped us over the past year with many significant projects: Buddy Holshouser, Glenn Berman, Steve Kunst, veteran volunteer Michael Duggar, and board liaison Mike Brezin. These generous individuals continue to volunteer their time to help repair a number of problems and issues with our buildings, both historic and modern. You must come and admire the "formerly known as wavy" shed, the beautiful work they are doing on repairing the Barn, and the wonderful re-screening of the Listening Place, among many of their projects. We are very grateful for their expertise and kindness.

BUTTERFLY GARDEN WORK DAYS

Thursdays, May 3 and June 7
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

LATE SPRING BIRDING TOUR

Saturday, May 19
8:30 - 11:30AM

Let's go for a combination trail ride tour and birding expedition at Birdsong! Join Expert birder Marvin Collins and Executive Director Kathleen Brady for a guided ride to a series of destinations where we will stop and hike off-trail to search for courting and nesting songbirds. We'll go to a variety of locations: the Farm Pond, the Live Oak Hammock, the Linton's Corner Trail along the drain, the area south of the planted longleaf site around Big Bay Pond, the woods west of the Frog Pond, and the east line firelane, and possibly others, depending how far we get! We'll wrap up with a visit to the Bird Window.

Dress for the weather, bring sun protection and prepare for a walk in the woods. Bring binoculars and field guides. There will be water available on the ride. Bring a picnic if you want to stay after the program.

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

BLUEBIRD TRAIL MONITORING

May 2, 5, 16, 19, 30
June 2, 13, 16, 27 30
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 fledging broods. Our Bluebird Trail team checks nest boxes **every other Wednesday and Saturday**. Join our veteran Bluebird volunteers, Bob Bearss and Myles Black, for a fascinating morning in the field and learn all about Bluebirds! The job of visiting the 43 boxes, counting eggs and fledglings, recording observations, and cleaning and repairing boxes is a very valuable service to the Bluebirds and to Birdsong. Bring a friend and help the Bluebird! Call for more information: (229)377-4408.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT NOTES

April 13, 2018

Weather It has been an amazing couple of months. We've really enjoyed some beautiful weather, especially these sunny mornings with temperatures in the 40's and 50's. We did have a long warm spell, with hot dry afternoons in the '80's and it made us all a little uneasy, fearing an early summer. Fortunately it got cool again and we have enjoyed a long reprieve and all the beautiful days it has brought. There has been quite a bit of rain with some good storms, resulting in over 5.0 inches of rain since February. The Upper Pond, Farm Pond and Big Bay Swamp are full, and the ephemeral Spring Pond, Frog Pond and Big Bay Pond have plenty of water now – they were almost dry in late January.

Ephemeral Wetlands Experience We want to thank Rebecca and Ryan Means of the Coastal Plains Institute for leading our recent visit to the three above-mentioned wetlands on Birdsong. They are helping us understand how our amphibian population is using these ephemeral ponds. Here are some comments from Rebecca about our findings:

“We visited all three of our monitored wetlands, including Side Sink, a secret gem we discovered. At Spring Pond (my personal fave), we found many ornate chorus frog tadpoles as well as southern leopard frog tadpoles and fairy shrimp. Most exciting of all, though, is finding tiger salamander larvae! This Ambystomatid salamander is in the same family as, among others, the rare flatwoods salamanders and the more common mole salamander. Tiger salamanders are a widespread species that are frequently encountered in the majority of their extensive range. However, tigers are less common in the Southeast. They are listed as endangered in Virginia, threatened in North Carolina, and in Florida have disappeared from many historic locations. Bullfrog tadpoles were abundant in Frog Pond and we also detected southern leopard frog and ornate chorus frog tadpoles as well. Water levels at Frog Pond were really low! Adjacent to Frog Pond is a small sinkhole that had a small amount of water, hence the name Side Sink. Ornate chorus frog tadpoles were found here. Lastly, we visited Big Bay Pond but it was dry. We did find spring peepers hopping around though.”

It was a wonderful experience and great to be out at the ponds on a beautiful spring day. We loved seeing those tiger salamander larvae with their feathery external gills.

Springtime in the Woods I think I say this every year, and I apologize for the redundancy, but it always affects me: getting to be here, getting to experience the landscape as it shifts from winter dormancy to the onrush of green, reminding us that is life surging everywhere we look. Once summer sets in, it is easy to forget how much is actually going on – the color green becomes constant, the temperature is hot, the air gets humid. These precious weeks of spring seem to fly by, so much is happening hour by hour

- trees leaf out and get greener by the end of a single day. I have the good fortune to drive to work on Meridian Road, one of our local scenic drives, a canopy road lined with trees, and I have actually noticed the difference from morning to evening. At this brief moment every tree can be seen individually, each with its own evolving shade of green. A wonderful place to observe this is from the Star Pasture in the middle of the Gin House Field. Here you can see 360 degrees of woods around you, each tree at its own stage of leafing out, clothed in its own texture and its own color of green.

Wild Azaleas What a spring for Wild Azaleas! We have been enjoying them for weeks, and the beautiful ones in the Butterfly Garden are only now past peak. Many others around the house garden started blooming really early and have completely leafed out. Our main wild species here is *Rhododendron canescens*, with the pink blossoms. That is the species that occurs naturally around Big Bay Swamp and along the drains in the woods.

This was a great year for both the wild and planted azaleas in the area now called the Wild Azalea Garden. It is located down slope from the Barn, past the Listening Place turn-off on the right side of the trail. In 2011 after burning a very thick area near the Big Bay drain we discovered that there were lots and lots of azaleas there and decided to refrain from burning for several years to let them grow. Chuck got very interested in this project and mowed a lovely maze back in there so we could wander among these blooming shrubs and also go in periodically and clear out some of the competing brush. There is a lot of sweet gum, oak and sour wood in that area.

Dan Miller is an experienced propagator of native plants and very knowledgeable about wild azaleas. Dan procures a wide variety of them for the Birdsong Plant Sale. In 2012 Dan became very enthusiastic about planting patches of orange and yellow azaleas, *R. austrinum*, along the trail near this wild azalea “thicket”. Dan has kept these planted patches fertilized and clear of brush over the past several years and his work has really paid off: this year was the best yet – these beautiful shrubs are lush and thriving, bloomed prolifically, and were covered with swallowtails.

Every species of azalea has its own distinctive fragrance, some are sweet, some are spicy, all are heavenly. I just wish they could bottle those fragrances; that would be a treat for everyone. With their extraordinary colors and fragrances, no wonder wild azaleas are so good at attracting pollinators. These shrubs always have spicebush or tiger swallowtails feeding, as well as bees and wasps of all varieties.

The Azalea Garden was a wonderland this year. The bloom came on gradually and started to peak the end of March, first week in April. We were going to do a special impromptu program for our members and notify everyone by email, but that week we had a hard rain and the next day most of the flowers were gone. Next year, we'll schedule some tours.

The Buckeye Slope We keep fire out of the west side of the Wildlife Woods to encourage the spread of upland hammock species such as bloodroot, various milkweeds, Indian Pinks, two species of milkvine and of course, red buckeyes. Last year in early February, however, we put a cool-ish late afternoon burn through it to lighten the duff and return some good ash to the soil. We are pleased to report that this has resulted in a big increase in bloodroot plants – we have never seen so many, and many have matured into big plants with shapely lobed leaves and big pods. We are now looking forward to next year's bloom! Meanwhile, the fire did knock back some buckeyes, but now they have spread all over the place and many have bloomed. The Indian Pinks are just now coming on and one of the *Matalea* vines is up. We will keep you posted!

Land Management We have gotten two burns completed, the Shortleaf Woods and west side of the Listening Place, and are planning another for later this week. If you are interested in joining our burn team, please call Mirhi and give her your best contact information. There is a lot to do. We hope to get to about 80% of the property this late spring/early summer. We will continue with several more brush-cutting projects – Alan is very good at this, and we are pleased with the Bog Garden, Live Oak Hammock and woods near the Azalea Garden that he completed earlier this year.

Purple Martins Good news, but unusual: we now have ten Purple Martins here at the Birdsong gourds, but we still can't quite tell what is going on...this is not a normal nesting season. Since last newsletter, starting with three birds, more have arrived, a few here and a few there, until now.

As of today, April 16th, there were ten birds at the gourds making lots of cheerful noise early in the morning. A few hours later I went out to see what I could learn and this is what seems to be happening: at least one truly bonded pair is starting to build in one of the upper gourds. The others may be paired off, more or less, but everybody is checking out five of the ten gourds. A male or a female will be inside a gourd, apparently scoping it out for suitability, then will be joined by its mate; they both fiddle around inside then one comes flying out and may go straight into a neighboring gourd and then be joined by its mate. Then they all go flying, circling high around the House Pasture, the Pecan Grove and the House, then one by one come rocketing down with wings folded back and shoot straight into a gourd. Occasionally it will already be occupied and then the arrivee puts on the brakes and gets startled and flies off, or will stop there and look inside, even with another bird present. So it appears that we may have up to five pairs of Martins extremely interested in the gourds, but as yet no direct evidence that they are building, except for this observation:

There was one telling moment when the male of the bonded pair came flying in with a large piece of pine bark, was greeted at the entrance by the female, and they

proceeded to wedge the bark through the door, and then discuss where they wanted it – he did show up at the door with it in his bill at one point, then they must have agreed on its placement because he soon came flying out without it. She emerged shortly thereafter and joined him on the wing. So we will need to be watching that gourd and figure this out.

This is just odd behavior after decades of a reliable pattern. So many things in our natural world are no longer predictable, like they once were only a couple of years ago. Usually by now twenty birds would have arrived by mid-February and gotten themselves all sorted out and paired off and would have started building and even possibly be sitting on eggs by now. The Martins were known for their antics at the Plant Sale; we always had a full complement at the pole commenting loudly all morning about the shoppers below going through the tallying line.

The Bluebird Trail The Bluebirds are off to a great start this year. Our team has been monitoring for several weeks now and has already recorded a full nest of six Brown-headed Nuthatches in full feather, and last Saturday, in the rain, they found several new nests with up to four eggs in them. You are welcome to join this dedicated team, led by Myles Black and Bob Bearss – you will enjoy their company, get to witness the magic of Bluebird nesting, enjoy being outside and off-trail at Birdsong, and fall in love with Eastern Bluebirds, Brown-headed Nuthatches and Carolina Chickadees – there is nothing quite as adorable as those tiny hatchlings once they acquire some feathers and start growing a beak!

The Bird Window Once again, as mentioned in the last newsletter, the most noticeable thing going on at the Bird Window this late spring was the absence of the usual droves of American Goldfinches, Yellow-rumped Warblers, Pine Siskins, and Chipping Sparrows. Their presence in high numbers has historically been a key feature of our late winter/springtime observations, but this year there were only a few. This year we have enjoyed seeing a number of Catbirds and we still hold out hope that they may nest here for the first time. We also have had flocks of Cedar Waxwings, White-throated Sparrows, Northern Parula, Palm Warbler, White-breasted Nuthatch, eastern Phoebe, Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, Black-and-white Warbler, Hermit Thrush, Summer Tanager, Ground Dove, Solitary Vireo and White-eyed Vireo. One of the most notable visitors was a Common Yellowthroat, rarely seen at the Window, but often found near the Farm Pond.

Please come out and visit soon. You can still experience the final unveiling of spring as our trees leaf out, springtime flowers bloom and songbirds enliven the mornings with their color and song. We are enjoying this cool air as long as we can!

- KDB

BIRDSONG NATURE CENTER WISHES TO THANK:

Our Very Special Program Leaders

Birdsong’s WILD Women: Jane Storm, Teresa Adkins, Sandra Sallee, Laurie Jones, Sharman Franklin, Carolyn Cohen, Jeanette Sickel, Beth Grant with Alan Parker, Gavin Franklin and Yvonne Stinson for leading an excellent field trip at Birdsong for the children of Thomasville Community Resource Center’s Spring Break Week. We thank the trustees of the Thomasville Antiques Show Foundation for providing funding for this special educational event.

Sandy Beck, Education Director for St. Francis Wildlife, for her *Raptors of the Red Hills* program and for sharing her beautiful owls and hawk with our captivated group.

Rebecca and Ryan Means, of the Coastal Plains Institute, for the enjoyable and enlightening Ephemeral Wetlands Walk, or Ride, visiting three ponds on Birdsong and finding tiger salamander larvae at the Spring Pond! It was fun!

Christine Ambrose, for her participation and excellent presentation on ecological values of the Red Hills in a meeting/field trip at Birdsong provided to Leadership Thomasville participants, a Chamber of Commerce-sponsored program.

Special Financial Gifts

A sincere and heartfelt Thank You to those who have recently continued to give so generously to the 2017 Annual Appeal – your gifts are deeply appreciated.

Gift in Honor of Ellery Sedgwick : Mrs. Jean Jones

Gift from the Scott Family Fund and Kathleen Reid Scott, “In Loving Memory of Charles Leighton “Chuck” Eason, Jr.”

Special gifts in support of the Plant Sale, from Carl Tomlinson and John Lovett.

Special Thanks To:

Our wonderful volunteer construction team, for re-screening the Listening Place and for their inventive solutions to repairing the historic Barn doors and hinges. They are now at work repairing termite damage to uprights in the Barn and replacing siding, and fixing the office screen door. Their work is beautiful, and we thank them all: Glen Berman, Buddy Holshouser, Mike Duggar, Steve Kunst and Mike Brezin.

Winnie and Wolf Adolph, for their ongoing work at managing the Birdsong Gift Shop and having it stocked with interesting, whimsical, and beautiful items that we all enjoy. Their booth was a big hit at the Plant Sale!

Wolf, for his great expertise in fixing the computer situation in Kathleen’s office. Much appreciated!

The Candelario Family, for the very helpful donation of paper supplies, trash bags and other staples (including cookies for the staff!).

Bob Dunn and Wolf Adolph, for ongoing ID and photographic documentation of birds 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, such as the recent Cherokee Garden Club of Moultrie.

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

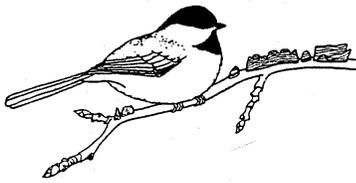
Joe Peresich, for ongoing management of our Facebook page and website.

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, and Emily Zeider. Thanks to all for the keeping the Butterfly Garden beautiful!

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Birdsong Nature Center | |
| Board of Directors | |
| 2017-2018 | |
| President | Joe Peresich |
| Treasurer | Bill Preston |
| Directors | |
| Jim Antista | Margaret Tyson |
| Woody Search | Michael Brezin |
| Ellery Sedgwick | |

| | |
|--|--|
| BIRDSONG’S CORPORATE SPONSORS | |
| Hopping, Green & Sams, PA | |
| Monrovia Growers of Georgia | |
| Native Nurseries | |
| Trillium Gardens | |
| 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 Hood
Todd Wahlquist
Csr dine Colletti
Dorothy Whitlow
Susan Barnes
Ben & Cathi Wilkinson
Howard Pardue

Emily and Alan Lemmon
Lisa Colletti
Lee & Gail Warner
June Daffin
Mary Jo Roberts
Wendy Kent
DeeAnn Rich
Kelly Craft
Jack & Jere Harkness

Thomasville

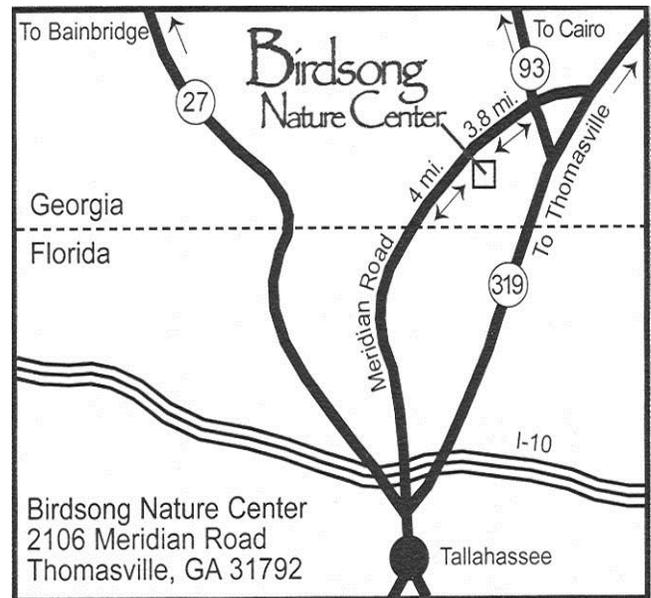
Allen Sawyer
Marjorie Massey
Susan Perry
Rascha Diwan
Winton McClendon

Renee & Felipe Palma
Meredith & Charles Manning
Diane Furman
Kenneth Thompson
Peter & Lynn Potter

Other

Mike and Michelle Thornton
Vickie Lillo
Jay Pfeiffer
Taylor Jones
Raynae Jones
Mary Champagne
Beverly Nichols
Jon Ulm

Cairo, GA
Quincy, FL
Quincy, FL
Calvary, GA
Stockbridge, GA
Hartsfield, GA
Leesburg, GA
Cairo, GA



DIRECTIONS:

From Tallahassee: Meridian Road north, 4 miles past FL/ GA border (marked by a blue sign that reads Grady Co.), on right side of road. OR 319 north, turn left onto Rt. 93, then turn left onto Meridian Road, 3.8 miles on left side of road.

From Thomasville: 319 south, turn right at Marathon gas station onto Meridian Road, approximately 5 miles from Marathon or 3.8 miles from stop sign at Rt. 93, on left side of road.

Watch for small sign that reads "Birdsong".

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
TALLAHASSEE, FL
Permit No. 660

*Birdsong Nature Center
2106 Meridian Road
Thomasville, GA 31792
Address Service Requested*