

Birdsong Nature Center

Sept. - Oct. 2018

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Birdsong will be closed from Friday August 17 to Tuesday September 4 and reopen Wednesday September 5

September

Thur.	Sept. 6	Butterfly Garden Work Day
Sat.	Sept. 15	Early Fall Trail Ride
Sat.	Sept. 22	Bugs, Bugs, Bugs!
Sat.	Sept. 29	Take a Child Outside at Birdsong

October

Thurs.	Oct. 4	Butterfly Garden Work Day
Sat.	Oct. 6	Fall Botany Walk
Sat.	Oct. 13	Sammy Tedder Concert
Sat.	Oct. 20	Fall Work Day Day with <i>Hands on Thomas County</i>
Sat.	Oct. 27	Leon Sinks Birding Hike



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 are conducting a membership campaign at Birdsong to attract new members and to re-enroll past members we haven't heard from in a while. Memberships are one of the most important aspects of operating the Nature Center and we deeply treasure all of you who continue to renew your memberships at Birdsong – thank you! We are very proud to have with us so many of you who have been members since Birdsong's founding 32 years ago, and equally so all those of you who've become and remained members over the many years that have followed.

As part of the campaign we are offering a "*Hot Summer Membership Special*", now through September 30th, with \$5 off all membership levels. We hope you will take advantage of the savings to renew your membership or to become a new member of Birdsong Nature Center. If your membership renewal date has not yet arrived, you can still take advantage of the special by renewing now and your current membership will be extended another year. This is also a great time to make gift memberships to friends and family - for birthdays, holidays, or other special occasions.

If you are unsure of your membership renewal date, please take a quick look at the mailing label on your Birdsong newsletter – we include it there. New, renewal and gift memberships can be purchased online via Birdsong's Web-site, or you can download a membership form from the Web-site and mail back to Birdsong. Please see www.birdsongnaturecenter.org. Please consider renewing or extending your membership or becoming a new member today!

We also want to share with you two important dates to put on your calendar:

Saturday, October 13, 2018 - Our good friend Sammy Tedder has kindly offered to play a benefit concert at Birdsong! Sammy, along with cohort Mike Andrews, will be playing selections from their new CD, "Grooves, Drives and Ballads" along with other compositions. Sammy and Mike are two of the region's most talented and highly regarded musicians, and you won't want to miss this concert. (More information on page 3.)

Saturday, March 16, 2019 - Make your plans to attend Birdsong's 13th Annual "Old Timey Plant Sale"! The "Old Timey Plant Sale" has grown into one of the region's most anticipated and beloved events for gardeners and nature lovers in general. If you've not yet attended a Plant Sale, we hope you make this one your first. We know that you will enjoy this special day, the exceptional people you'll meet, and the beautiful, healthy plants you'll find.

As mentioned in the previous Newsletter, our excellent volunteer construction team has been busy making repairs on structures at Birdsong, particularly the venerable old Barn. We very happy to let you know that Birdsong has been accepted as a participant in the University of Georgia Archway Partnership program which makes UGA resources available to local Georgia communities. This exceptional program offers us the opportunity of collaborating with UGA professionals and other higher education resources in drawing up long-term plans and designs for current and possibly new structures at Birdsong, including the Barn and other buildings. We offer our sincere thanks to Birdsong Board member Margaret Tyson for bringing the Archway resource to our attention and facilitating Birdsong's acceptance into the program, and to Betsy McGriff and the Archway Community Executive Committee of Grady County for providing this wonderful opportunity to Birdsong!

Thank you to all our wonderful visitors and program attendees for making it such a memorable summer - we were so glad to have you with us at Birdsong. And heartfelt thanks to all our excellent program leaders, members, volunteers, donors, and staff for making such wonderful times possible - Birdsong would not be here today for all to enjoy without your exceptional and generous support.

Sincerely,

Joe Peresich

President, Board of Directors

**List of Birds Observed on the Early Summer Trail Ride June 23, 2018
By Dwayne and Lynn Brown**

Great Blue Heron	Pileated Woodpecker	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Wood Duck	Downy Woodpecker	Eastern Bluebird
Osprey	Eastern Wood Pewee	Brown Thrasher
Red-shouldered Hawk	Eastern Kingbird	Northern Parula
Northern Bobwhite	White-eyed Vireo	Pine Warbler
Mourning Dove	Blue Jay	Common Yellowthroat
Ground Dove	American Crow	Summer Tanager
Barred Owl	Carolina Chickadee	Eastern Towhee
Chimney Swift	Tufted Titmouse	Cardinal
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	White-breasted Nuthatch	Blue Grosbeak
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Carolina Wren	Indigo Bunting

Be Sure To Put This On Your Calendar!

**SAMMY TEDDER CONCERT
A Music Benefit for Birdsong
Saturday October 13, 2018**

Our friend Sammy Tedder has graciously offered to do a concert to benefit Birdsong Nature Center this October! It will feature music from his new CD, *Grooves, Drives and Ballads*. Sammy and his colleague Mike Andrews will play two sets for us in the outdoor “theater” behind the Barn in the late afternoon, early evening. Please see Sammy’s website to learn more about his music and his excellent nature film series, *Local Waters*. His new CD will be available for sale at the concert. You can watch a video of Sammy and friends at Birdsong playing “Moetzi,” an original work of Sammy’s, at www.Youtube.com/user/BirdsongNatureCenter.

We will notify you by email when we have all the details completed. Please contact our Office Manager, Mirhi Childs, to be sure you are on our email list. This event is not to be missed!



**TAKE A CHILD OUTSIDE WEEK
September 24 – September 30, 2018**

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 29
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 28 so we know how many people to prepare for.

**FALL BOTANY WALK
With Guy Anglin
Saturday, October 6
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 U.S. Forest Service, 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 5th 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.

**VOLUNTEERS: FALL WORK DAY WITH
HANDS ON THOMAS COUNTY!
Saturday, October 20, 9 AM – noon**

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 rake and spruce up the House Garden 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 wonderful construction team that has been so busy all year. 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.

**BUGS, BUGS, BUGS!
Saturday, September 22
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 19 years. David, assisted by his 13-year old 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 21, at noon.

**LEON SINKS BIRDING HIKE
Saturday, October 27
8:00 AM– Noonish**

Marvin Collins, Birdsong volunteer, will lead a birding hike to the extraordinary Leon Sinks Geological Area. This site is recognized internationally for its karst topography and beautiful wet and dry sinkholes. It is one of the most extensive underwater cave areas in the world and connects to Wakulla Springs. The hiking trails are moderate to somewhat difficult in places but lead through fascinating terrain, from gum swamp to upland hardwood hammocks and longleaf pine sandhills and from one beautiful sinkhole to another. These varied habitats make for excellent birding, plus it is migration and wildflower season. The site features some wonderful boardwalks and observation decks for great views of the many extraordinary sinks.

Meet Marvin at Leon Sinks Geological Area for this excellent birding experience at 8:00AM. From Tallahassee, travel four miles south on Route 319 from its intersection with SR61 in town. See www.floridahikes.com/leon-sinks for more information. There are restrooms at the parking area. Dress for the weather, bring binoculars, water, snacks and sun protection. Don't forget the bug spray!

\$4 Friends, \$8 nonmembers, children half-price.
RESERVATIONS, PLEASE. Call or email by noon on Friday, October 26th; 1(800)953-2473, or birdsong@birdsongnaturecenter.org. The site also charges an admissions fee.

**EARLY FALL TRAIL RIDE
To a few places less travelled
Saturday, September 15
10:00AM - Noon**

Join Executive Director Kathleen Brady for an early fall trail ride around Birdsong. We will make a number of stops and take some short walks to a few places we seldom visit. 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 be looking for early blooming fall wildflowers, visit our Gopher Tortoise Neighborhood, and look for migrant birds and signs of wildlife.

RESERVATIONS, PLEASE. Please call by noon on Friday September 14th 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, bring binoculars and bird and wildflower ID books.

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

BUTTERFLY GARDEN WORK DAYS
Thursdays, September 6 and October 4
9:00AM 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.

January 18-20, 2019
WINTER ORNITHOLOGY

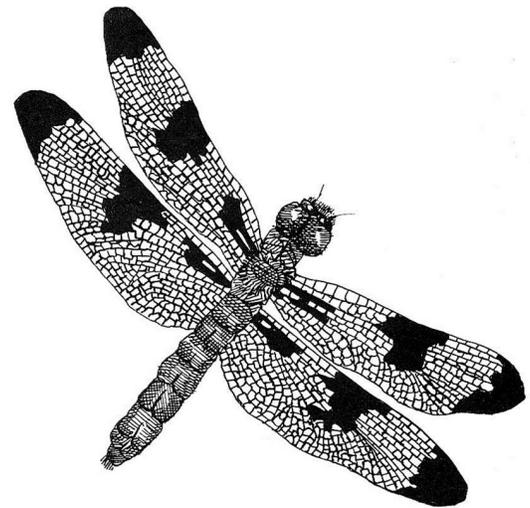
Co-sponsored by Birdsong Nature Center and Tall Timbers Research Station

We are pleased to be working with Tall Timbers Research Station on developing a series of in-depth Natural History courses relating to the wildlife and ecology of the Red Hills. Our first collaboration, *Winter Ornithology*, will be held on the weekend of January 18 – 20, 2018, and will include a number of in-the-field birding experiences. It is in the planning stages, so we will be providing more details in the next newsletter. We just wanted to let you know that this is in the works so you can put it on your calendar!

COVEY FILM FESTIVAL

Coming in October!

Please have a look at the Covey Film Festival website at <https://coveyfilmfestival> to see what amazing films and related programs they will be bring to Thomasville this fall. The funds raised by this worthwhile and entertaining festival go to the Thomasville Community Resource Center, which provides excellent after school and school break educational opportunities for over 500 children. Birdsong and TCRC are partners in providing field trips for these students, thanks to a grant from the Thomasville Antiques Show Foundation. Covey Film Festival is a great cause to support – we'll see you there!



List of Butterflies and Dragonflies
seen on the NABA Hairstreak Chapter/Birdsong Butterfly Walk at Birdsong
on July 7, 2018, by David Harder

Butterflies:

Pipevine Swallowtail
Black Swallowtail
E. Tiger Swallowtail
Spicebush Swallowtail
Palamedes Swallowtail
Southern Dogface
Cloudless Sulphur
Sleepy Orange
Barred Yellow
Gulf Fritillary
Pearl Crescent
American Lady

Common Buckeye
Tawny Emperor
S. Pearly-eye
Carolina Satyr
Silver-spotted Skipper
Long-tailed Skipper
Southern Cloudywing
Northern Cloudywing
Confused Cloudywing
Horace's Duskywing
Fiery Skipper
Whirlabout
Delaware Skipper

Zebulon Skipper
Tropical Checkered-Skipper

Dragonflies:

Swamp Darner
Slaty Skipper
Great Blue Skimmer
Golden-winged Skimmer
Banded Pennant
Halloween Pennant
E. Pondhawk
Little Blue Dragonlet
Blue Dasher
Carolina Saddlebags

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT NOTES

August 9, 2018

Weather And the rains keep coming... 10.6 inches since the last newsletter, mid-June. The last few days have been particularly wet – 3.95 inches in three days. The beavers are ecstatic; they had the Farm Pond at an all-time high water level today and Alan is worn out from disassembling their fine work. The impact on the vegetation is becoming spectacular – I mentioned last time that the place looks like a jungle. I think we can start referring to Birdsong as a southern rain forest. Every plant looks happy! Every plant and tree has grown inches since the last newsletter – it is amazing what months of summer rain can do! It is kind of overwhelming. The storms have been just wonderful...lots of thunder and lightning and pouring rain. Betty Komarek used to be able to tell how much rain we were getting by how many rivulets in a row were pouring off the metal porch roof. It was like a waterfall yesterday; she would have enjoyed it.

Purple Martins I had hoped to have good news to report in this newsletter about the last two nests of Martins but, unfortunately, I don't. Those five babies that were so close to fledging did not survive over the searing hot weekend of June 24 – 25. There was no rain or cloudy sky for relief of the heat that whole week and weekend and they didn't make it. This was of course upsetting – we had so hoped to see them fledge, healthy and strong. The four remaining adults stayed around just a few more days after this happened and then they were gone. We were glad to have had six successful nests this year and hope that next winter we will have a full house and a more normal nesting season.

Land Management We have been trying to keep up with our management through the heat and rain and humidity. Burning, as you recall, got put on hold. We had an eager, prepared crew ready to burn in June and July, but the humidity was prohibitive. We are continuing to watch the weather but there is no relief in sight for now. (What has happened to Weather Underground online? It doesn't function properly at all any more – what a let-down. It is almost as bad as Comcast eliminating Channel 17, our former ongoing local radar display and weather report. We depended a lot on these for our burning and program planning.) Alan is proceeding with a number of bush-hogging projects, opening up some brushy areas that we burned and knocking back a patch of black locust that wants to spread in the southwest corner of the Shortleaf Woods. He will take on some bigger projects once nesting season is over. Meanwhile, Alan is keeping the house and gardens looking nice and trying to keep up with the 12 miles of trails...they seem to grow back by the time he has finished a circuit.

We have hired outside help to mow brush off the sides of our dams. Larry Edelin and John Maddox have brought a bow-arm mower over and will start cutting as soon as things dry out sufficiently so that this big piece of equipment won't make ruts on our trails. If you come out before we close for

the summer break in mid-August you may see their work on the Upper Pond, Farm Pond and Big Bay Swamp dams. Betty and Ed Komarek had these dams built in the early 1940's: in the case of the Farm and Upper Pond, the dams were built in order to have a watering hole for cattle, and in the case of Big Bay Swamp they were built to create roosting habitat for Wild Turkeys. In those years turkeys were very abundant and the Komareks witnessed a lot of predation on young birds, so they dammed the Swamp to flood the drain and increase the area where water tupelo could grow so the turkey population would have more protected trees to roost in, surrounded by water. These earthen dams were built differently than today's dams – the sides are extremely steep - and brush grows tall and strong here, blocking our views and creating protected, nearly invisible beaver habitat. Our bush-hog pulled by the old John Deere can't reach this brush and the sides are nearly impossible to clear by hand, so we try to hire a service every three years or so and get them cut all the way back. This bow-arm mower is fascinating to watch. The operator can lift the mowing platform up in the air - it can be swiveled in any direction - reach it out over the side of the dam and bring it straight down on the brush, mulching as it goes, angling all the way to the side of the dam. It does a nice job. We are looking forward to the results, to being able to gaze out into Big Bay Swamp again, unimpeded by head-high elderberry! Hiring this service is not inexpensive and we always wish we owned that piece of equipment so we could keep the dams clean and clear as well as managing a number of other areas that are hard to mow.

Birdsong looks beautiful and green and we are happy to have the rain, but I am somewhat discouraged because we didn't get to all the warm-season burning we had planned. The brushy areas just look more overgrown than ever – it is a little overwhelming. Can't wait to get burning again, whenever that might be.

Birds, Bird Window

This summer we have offered a number of programs where we take our visitors out riding around Birdsong on the trailer, towed by our new blue truck. This has been a nice way for us to get to a lot of different sites, for birding or other observation, without overheating our guests. Even though it has been hot and humid, these rides have been very pleasant, thanks to the shade and breezes but mostly because we have the nicest people attend our programs and they make it fun and rewarding. Please see a list of birds observed on the Early Summer Trail Ride on June 23rd on page 2, compiled by Dwayne and Lynn Brown, Birdsong members and neighbors who are very good birders. We saw a similar list of species on the Mid-summer Birding Trail Ride, but also got to hear and see a Bachman's Sparrow in the Shortleaf Woods.

Our Bluebird monitors will wrap up their monitoring activities in the middle of August, and have reported a productive season for Bluebirds, Chickadees, Brown-headed Nuthatches, and one Carolina Wren family! We haven't had them nest in a box for quite some time. This hard-working

crew will get back together after the first of the year to prepare for next year's nesting season and you are welcome to join them in this very satisfying endeavor. There will be an announcement in the newsletter when they get started again.

We are deep into our mid-summer bird activity at the Bird Window. Right now there are Cardinals galore, including lots of parents, babies with their bright eyes and dark brown beaks, and a number of adults suffering from feather mites on their heads. These mites cause a loss of feathers on these mature birds and it makes them look a little like a tiny red condor, with bare skin on the face and head and a ruff around the neck. This doesn't seem to slow the birds down at all, but we are concerned for their dignity.

Other birds visiting the Window include Eastern Towhees, males, females and young; Brown Thrashers of all ages; Northern Parulas; Blue Jays; lots of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds; Titmice; Chickadees; American Crows being very domineering over the suet; a pair of Red-bellied Woodpeckers who have a special connection to Mirhi who puts the food out in the morning – the male waits for her and drums like mad on the flashing on the house when he gets impatient...! Both adults are eating and then packing their bills and flying off which typically indicates they are feeding young in a nearby nest.

Other sightings include Indigo Bunting, female Blue Grosbeak, Pine Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, House Finch, Yellow-throated Vireo, White-breasted Nuthatch, Summer Tanager, and Northern Bobwhite. We also heard a Wood Thrush singing in the front yard on June 27.

Out in the field, walking or on a trail ride, we've been enjoying the summer blues. These are our Eastern Bluebirds, Indigo Buntings, Blue Grosbeaks, and Blue-gray Gnatcatchers. The Grosbeaks love the west end of the Gin House Field and have been singing and putting on a show whenever we ride by. The Indigo Buntings have been busy nesting and still singing over in our longleaf pine planting area, a.k.a. the Big Bay Field, with their gorgeous iridescent turquoise gleaming in the sunlight. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers have been sighted near most of the ponds and on Big Bay Dam. The Bluebirds are everywhere, still singing their charming song, some fledging their last brood of the year. It has been a great summer for the blues.

The Frog Pond is worth a visit this summer. The water level is high and the pond is surrounded on the north and east banks with a wide band of bright green ragweed and a much wider band of meadow beauty. This is a delicate pink wildflower that grows abundantly near water in full sun. On a recent visit, this expanse of pink flowers was really showy, covered with lots of pollinators including a wide variety of bees. The pond is home to an array of frogs and their tadpoles, and the most vocal in the daytime has been a solitary bullfrog, making his presence known.

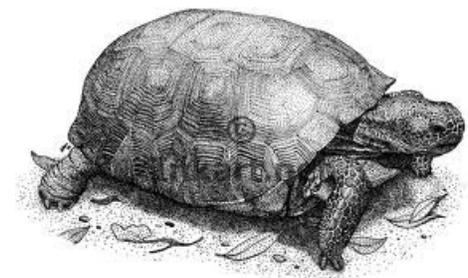
Speaking of summer blues, a Great Blue Heron often flushes from this pond upon our arrival, as has lately a Little Blue Heron. Last week, I stopped there for a moment on my way to check our newest gopher tortoise burrow – I'll tell you

about that in a minute – and startled up a white-form Little Blue. This species will sometimes appear in white garb, partially molted with some blue feathers, and can also be identified by its pale greenish legs and bill. This white bird flew up from the water's edge, followed immediately by a normally colored Little Blue and they proceeded to circle the Frog Pond. I'm not certain what was happening here, but I think that the white bird was intruding on the blue bird's pond and the Little Blue was making a slow, but persistent effort to run the white bird off. There was some croaking involved, and a few aerial manoeuvres here and there, but the overall chase was almost in slow motion – their wings moved beautifully and oh so slowly, flapping very rhythmically, with the white bird only about 5 feet in front of the Little Blue the entire time. Now and again, the white bird would try to land on a button bush or sweet gum at the edge, but the Little Blue would get too close and off they'd go, around the pond again...I started counting the laps and they waltzed around the pond a total of seven times before the white bird finally decided I'm not going to get to stop here, am I and kept flying, up and over the treeline. Little Blue followed and I thought that was it, but about 5 minutes later, he or she returned and perched way up high in a pine tree overlooking the entire pond. This made me think there was ownership involved. Next time you are out, check and see if there is a Little Blue Heron at the Frog Pond. He or she persisted.

A New Gopher Burrow A few weeks ago Alan came back from mowing trails to tell us that we have a newly dug gopher burrow over in the Mill Field. We went to look and he is right – a good sized tortoise has built a new home and created a big apron of bright red clay indicating a deep burrow that took a lot of work to dig. We know it is a big tortoise from the size of the opening, because these ancient reptiles make their burrow big enough to turn around in at any point. We are really pleased to know that a new burrow has been added to the current Gopher Tortoise Neighborhood of eight known burrows right nearby. We'll look forward to Lora Smith's next workshop with her burrow-cam, so we can get to know our new neighbor!

We'll be closing for a few weeks from August 17th to September 5, re-opening on Wednesday, September 6th. We are looking forward to a busy fall and as much as we try to enjoy and accept each hot summer day for all the wonder and beauty it brings, we are ready for some cooler weather...hope to see you then!

- KDB



BIRDSONG NATURE CENTER WISHES TO THANK:

Our Very Special Program Leaders

Dave McElveen, and David Harder for leading a butterfly discovery walk for the North American Butterfly Association’s local Hairstreak Chapter.

Marvin Collins, for leading our *Mid-Summer Birding Tour* trailer ride.

Sandra Sallee, for leading the *Take a Child Outside for a Natural Scavenger Hunt!* program with support from Carolyn Cohen.

Special Financial Gifts

Thank you to the many people who made a donation to Birdsong in memory of our dear friend and volunteer L.M. “Roy” Strickland, Jr. We send our sincere condolences to his children Sherry, Matt, Mike, and Mark; and other family members and friends.

Timothy and Allison Lipsey

Rebekah Strickland and Melanie Renfroe

Special Thanks To:

Our volunteer construction team, for continuing their professional repairs to the historic Barn. Their work is beautiful, and we thank them all: Glen Berman, Buddy Holshouser, Mike Duggar and Mike Brezin.

Bluebird Trail monitors Myles Black, Bob Bearss and Dr. David Jones, for their careful monitoring and data collection on the Bluebird Trail as the season winds down.

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.

Bob Dunn and Wolf Adolph, for ID and photographic documentation of birds at the Bird Window; Bob Dunn for donating the beautiful coasters with his bird portraits on them for the gift shop.

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.

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**

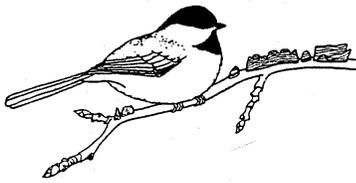
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Birdsong Nature Center

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Date _____

New Renewal

Credit Card Check Cash Paypal

Credit Card Account #

Exp. Date ____/____/____ Amount Authorized \$ _____ Authorization No. _____

Cardholder Signature _____

Name (Please print clearly) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: Primary (____) _____ Alt (____) _____ EMAIL _____

Place of Employment: _____ Job Title: _____

Training, experience, interests: _____

How did you learn about Birdsong? From a member of Birdsong, the news media, word of mouth, our newsletter, etc?

Please be specific: _____

I would like to join the Friends of Birdsong in the following category:

- Individual Friend \$30 Bird Window and Nature Trails free during open hours.
Two free one-time guest passes.
Member discount on scheduled programs.
10% discount on items at the Chickadee Corner Gift Shop.
Bimonthly newsletter. Reciprocal general admission at participating nature centers nationwide (call for list).
- Family/Friends \$45 All of the above benefits for each member of the immediate household. Four free one-time guest passes.
- Friends of the Cardinal \$60 Five free one-time guest passes in addition to above.
- Friends of the Chickadee \$100 Six free one-time guest passes in addition to above.
- Business/Corporate Friend \$100-\$1,000 One free one-time guest pass for each \$10 of membership (ie., 25 passes for \$250) and recognition in newsletter. Call for more information.
- Friends of the Hummingbird \$250 Hummingbird feeder in addition to above.
- Friends of the Bluebird \$500 Bluebird nesting box in addition to above.
- Birdsong Naturalist \$1,000 Personal tour of Birdsong with Executive Director and/or Board Chair for up to 6 people. Call for more information.

I do not wish to receive any (above) benefits with my membership and would like the whole amount tax deductible.

I would like to support Birdsong by volunteering to help as follows:

- | | | |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bird Window Instructor | <input type="checkbox"/> Program Development | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Financial/legal guidance | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Relations | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fund raising | <input type="checkbox"/> Serve on Board of Directors | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greeter | (please submit resume) | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gift Shop Assistant | <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching (birds, nature walks, stars, etc.) | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land Management | | _____ |

Memberships are renewable one year after the sign-up date. Members can upgrade to a higher category membership by sending the balance within the year. Memberships are deductible in part, depending on the value of goods and services received. Please call for information. Receipts stating the value provided and the deductible amount will be sent to those joining at the \$100 or higher level.

NEW FRIENDS OF BIRDSONG

Tallahassee

Pat Simmons
Katherine Gossman
Stacia Groll

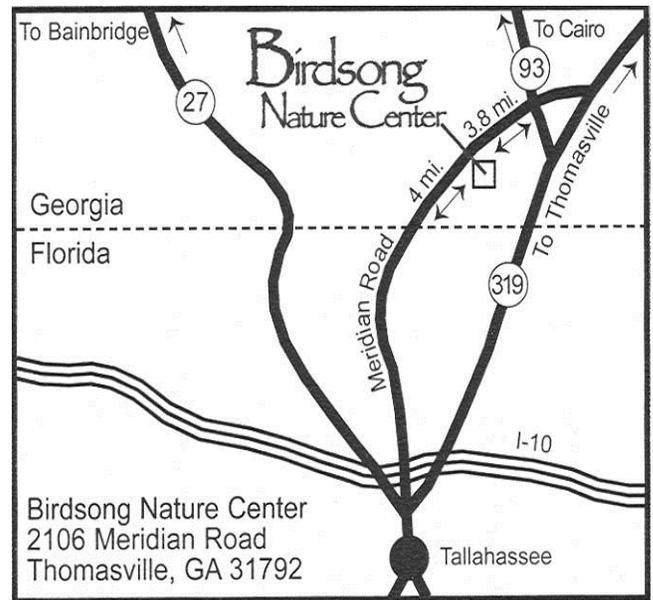
Thomasville

Casey and Kelly
Warnock

Other

Deborah Blakey
Sara Steyerman
James Flynn, Jr.

Tifton, GA
Freeport, FL
Cumming, 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