

Avocet



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Tampa Audubon Society 2006 - 2007 Board Members

OFFICERS:

President- Ann Paul/Rob Heath
Immediate Past President- Stanley Kroh
1st Vice President- Karl Stevens
2nd Vice President- **vacant**
Treasurer- Stanley Kroh
Recording Secretary- **vacant**
Corresponding Secretary- Michael Turrisi

DIRECTORS:

Joe Bailey (2005-2007)
John Costin (2006-2008)
Christine Malzone (2006-2008)
Michele Northrup (2005-2007)
vacant
vacant

COMMITTEES & PROGRAMS:

ARC at the Park- Mike & Barbara Mullins
Audubon Adventures- Ann Paul
Conservation Committee Co-Chair- Tom Ries
Conservation Committee Co-Chair- Dave Sumpter
Field Trip Committee Co-Chair- JoAnne Hartzler
Field Trip Committee Co-Chair- Mary Keith
Avocet Editor- Sabina- Espinet-Todd
Publicity/PR- Michael Turrisi
E-Mail Directory- Karl Stevens
Membership Development- **vacant**
Fund Raising- **vacant**
Web Site- Sabina Espinet-Todd
Regional Conservation Committee Representative- Rob Heath
Christmas Bird Count- Dave Bowman
Special Events/Tabling Events- **vacant**
Endowment- **vacant**
Programs- Ann Paul

Board of Directors Openings

Tampa Audubon Society currently has vacant positions on our Board of Directors. Our Board typically meets once a month for 1-2 hours and discusses many issues that are vital to our Chapter. If you are interested in helping to chart the direction of our Chapter, please consider serving on our Board of Directors.

The Board is also looking for volunteers to help with various projects such as fund raising activities, hospitality, membership management, letter writing, representing the Chapter at community events, etc.

Whatever your unique skill or interest might be, *we need you!*

Please contact Ann Paul, President, at apaul@audubon.org for more information.

www.TampaAudubon.org

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Upcoming Events

Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival, January 12-15, 2007

Come Celebrate Our 11th Annual Festival!

MORRO BAY, CALIFORNIA – Come to where the birds are and join Morro Coast Audubon Society (MCAS) for our 11th Annual Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival. Located on California's scenic Central Coast, Morro Bay is an important stop on the Pacific Flyway and one of the country's pre-eminent birding spots. The area is recognized worldwide for its diversity of both resident and wintering birds, and at last year's festival, over 200 species of birds were identified!

The Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival is sponsored by MCAS and gives you the chance to join local and national birding experts on a variety of field trips and workshops. Field trip group sizes are limited to maximize spotting and identification opportunities. The Festival also offers workshops aimed at sharpening your birding skills, as well as evening programs with outstanding speakers.

For more information about the Festival, check out our new website at www.morrobaybirdfestival.org, or call (805) 772-4677. You can request that your name be added to the mailing list for our 2007 brochure, or register online. Both the brochure and online registration will be available in October 2006. The registration deadline is January 4, 2007 and early signups are encouraged as the most popular events fill up quickly.

Announcements

Tampa Audubon Society gratefully acknowledges a recent grant from TECO Energy Foundation for \$5,000.00. This generous gift will help fund our outreach efforts including our web site and the Avocet, our bi-monthly newsletter.

And TECO Energy Foundation's generosity doesn't stop with Tampa Audubon. The Foundation also recently awarded \$2,000.00 to St. Pete Audubon Society for their Beach Nesting Bird Project and is also a long-time Corporate Sponsor of Audubon of Florida.

We salute TECO Energy's commitment to the environment of the Tampa Bay area!

In Memoriam- Tampa Audubon is saddened to report that Ann Paul and Michael Turrisi, two of our Board Members, lost their mothers in November after prolonged illnesses. Please keep Mike and Ann in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult period.

Upcoming Programs - Winter and Spring 2007

Saturday, January 13, 9 a.m. at the Manatee Viewing Center, at the west end of Big Bend Road in Apollo Beach. Stanley Kroh, Manager of Compliance & Stewardship Programs, Tampa Electric Company, and Past President of Tampa Audubon Society, will present a program on *Manatees and Sand Sculptures*.

We will visit the Manatee Viewing Center in the middle of the winter's cold water period, when manatees gather at the warm water outfall of Tampa Electric's Big Bend Power Generating Plant. We'll see possibly hundreds of wild manatees, and also other wildlife of Tampa Bay, including tarpon, snook, sharks, and wading and shore-birds. Then, we'll reconvene at Apollo Beach Nature Park, and participate in a sand sculpture contest on the beach there! Bring your picnic lunch and a drink!

Saturday, February 17, 11 a.m. Audubon Resource Center at Lettuce Lake Park. Taldi Walter, Alaska Field Coordinator for National Audubon Society's Washington, D.C. Policy Office Grassroots Team will present a program titled *Wild Alaska!*

As the debate over the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge rages on, many other Alaska natural treasures, set aside decades ago for the benefit of the American people, are also threatened including the Tongass National Forest, Chugach National Forest, and National Petroleum Reserve - Alaska. Taldi Walter will present a program on these magnificent places, outlining why wild Alaska is so important to birds and other wildlife. She will also bring us up to date on activities of Audubon's National Policy office. Come and hear about wild Alaska, as Taldi is eager to work on issues we all care about!

Saturday, March 10, 11 a.m. at the Audubon Resource Center at Lettuce Lake Park (ARC at the Park). Mike Mullins, Director and Environmental Educator at ARC at the Park will present a program titled *Florida Karst - Why Jack and Jill went UP the hill to fetch water*.

The Florida peninsula is made of sand from old beaches sitting on a Swiss cheese-like limestone rock known as Karst. This geology is extremely porous and over time, many limerock cavities have collapsed. The resulting sinkholes dot our Hillsborough County landscape. Within a half mile of Lettuce Lake Park are shallow sinkholes that are less than two feet deep and some that are over 200 feet deep. Join us as we explore these geological features and learn how they create an oasis-like wetland in the middle of a dry upland.

NEW! TAMPA AUDUBON MERCHANDISE!



On sale now in our online store!
Men, women and children's apparel,
bumper stickers, mugs and more!

All profits go to support
Tampa Audubon's efforts.

Help promote our cause while
sporting some great gear!

Go to
<http://cafepress.com/tpaaudubon/>

Tampa Audubon Society Field Trips September 2006-August 2007

In Florida, every day is a great day to enjoy the sights and sounds of nature around us. As a child, we were told to stop, look, and listen. As an adult, we say stop and smell the roses. Both of these finally make sense when we have the chance to get out and enjoy more than 200 species of birds, numerous mammals, reptiles and native plants in Hillsborough County alone.

This year, we have made an effort to vary our field trips to include outings where you can see shorebirds on some trips while warblers on another. We've included a variety of locations and habitats so that each trip is unique. This year we've added a senior bird walk for those who would prefer a very easy terrain with several places to sit and relax while enjoying nature. In addition, a junior beginning bird walk is included to introduce school age children to the joys of birding.

For the adventurous person who enjoys the nightlife, we'll have an owl prowling while early risers can enjoy nature trips where we'll see various insects including butterflies in addition to spiders, plants, reptiles and birds. Don't miss the end of year frog trip with the opportunity to not only see and hear the frogs but learn to recognize their calls and maybe learn to sound like one.

Tampa Audubon field trips are open to the public and unless noted otherwise are free. If you have any ideas for trips that you would like to see added in the future, please e-mail Jo Anne Hartzler at fieldtrips@audubon.org or call (813)310-7676.

December 2, 2006 (Saturday) Oscar Scherer & Celery Fields. Meet leader Mary Keith (813-935-6115) at McDonald's just west of I-75 on Route 60 at Faulkenburg Road in Brandon at 7:30AM. There will be a stop in Ruskin to pick up south county people. Bring lunch, or leave for home at noon. This trip is for Scrub Jays, plus usually Hooded Mergansers, Hawks, Sparrows and possible migratory waterfowl depending on water levels. Walk on sandy trails, nothing difficult.

December 17, 2006 (Sunday) Alafia Christmas Bird Count. Contact Dave Bowman, CBC coordinator at (813)948-8516 for more information.

December 30, 2006 (Saturday) Tampa area Christmas Bird Count. Contact CBC coordinator, Dave Bowman, at dsbowman@earthlink.net or (813)948-8516 to participate.

January 6, 2007, (Saturday) 8:00AM University Village Senior Bird Walk. No, the birds aren't seniors but those at University Village are just as active as the birds. Enjoy the ponds and trails around the campus of University Village in this easy walk where we'll discuss birding basics and study the birds often seen there.

Those who wish can also visit a trail on the property where we might expect some of the wood warblers. We will meet at the clubhouse but all non-residents must call in advance since community is gated. Contact field trip leader, Jo Anne Hartzler at (813)310-7676 or fieldtrips@audubon.org for more details or to be added to the list.

January 13, 2007 (Saturday). Manatee viewing center. This is a field trip and Audubon outing. Contact leader Stan Kroh at (813)831-3653 for details. Also, call (813)228-4289 for recording.

January 20, 2007 (Saturday) IMC. Details not yet confirmed with Mosaic Co. Leave from McDonald's just west of I-75 on Ft 60 at Faulkenburg Road in Brandon at 7:15. Usually a fantastic trip with lots of migratory birds from warblers to waterfowl. Mostly driving, very little walking. Contact field trip leader, Mary Keith at (813)935-6115.

Tampa Audubon Society Field Trips (continued)

January 27, 2007 (Saturday) Merritt Island. Leave from Denny's on E. Fowler Ave and Morris Bridge Rd at 7:30 AM. Bring lunch and water. Mostly driving, very little walking, great waterbirds. Contact field trip leader Mary Keith at (813)935-6115.

February 18, 2007 (Sunday) Fort Desoto Park. Contact field trip leader, Dave Bowman at (813)948-8516 for details.

February 24, 2007 (Saturday) 8:00AM Chinsegut Nature Center in Brooksville. Nesting Owls and hawks along with numerous songbirds, Eastern Bluebirds, Red-headed woodpeckers, Turkeys, and butterflies can easily be seen at this beautiful 408 acre wildlife preserve. Leaders are Hank Bowen (813)541-3920/(352)544-0422 and Jo AnneHartzler (813)310-7676 or fieldtrips@audubon.org.

March 11, 2007 (Sunday) 8:00AM Violet Curry Elapp site on Sinclair Hills Drive, Tampa. Half day trip to enjoy warblers, waterfowl, sparrows, songbirds and most Florida Woodpeckers. Directions: I-275 to Bearss Ave, East to Nebraska, North to Sinclair Hills Drive (approx 1 block), right (East) to Violet Curry located on the North side between 15th Street and Livingston Ave. Meet at entrance or contact trip leader, Jo Anne Hartzler, at (813)310-7676 or fieldtrips@audubon.org.

March 17,2007 (Saturday) Florida Specialties Bus Trip. St. Petersburg Audubon Society. All day bus trip around central Florida to discover some of Florida's unique birds. Meet at 5:45 AM at Sears located at 94th Avenue North & 9th Street, St. Petersburg. Pack a lunch & snacks. Leader Dave Goodwin. Contact Mauri Peterson for reservations. (727)398-4124. Fee \$60.

March 28, 2007 Sarasota Audubon Society is hosting a trip to the Alafia Bank from the Florida Aquarium. \$15/person, which is a donation to the Sanctuaries Program. E-mail fieldtrips@audubon.org, coordinator for Sarasota AS for more information and to make reservations.

March 31, 2007 (Saturday) 8:00 AM Lettuce Lake Park, Joint field trip with TAS and St. Petersburg Audubon. Enjoy the trails and boardwalk at Lettuce Lake Park where nesting Osprey are used to humans. (photo by Ken Arujo)Meet at the Audubon Resource Center at 8:00 AM for a half day birding adventure with our neighbors from St. Petersburg. Bring a bag lunch if you'd like to stay for lunch. Lettuce Lake Park is located on the North side of Fletcher Avenue just West of I-75. For more information, contact field trip leader, Jo Anne Hartzler at (813)310-7676 or fieldtrips@audubon.org.

April 14, 2007(Saturday) Gibbons Preserve. Details to follow.

April 22, 2007 Weedon Island Board Walk. Leader Mary Keith. Phone (813)935-6115. Leave from Borders Books on Dale Mabry and Cypress at 8:00AM. Easy boardwalk through mangroves. Warblers & shorebirds.

April 23-28, 2007 American Birding Association Convention, Lafayette Louisiana. Enjoy the heart of French Louisiana Cajun style. Migration will be in full swing. Call 800-850-2473 x 230 for details or visit www.americanbirding.org/mtgs.

Tampa Audubon Society Field Trips (continued)

May 12, 2007(Saturday) Lettuce Lake Park Audubon Resource Center Cat's Indoors Poster Contest for Children. School aged children who have made a poster for the "Cats Indoors Is Not Just for the Birds" contest will meet at the ARC to see posters on display and for the announcements of the winners. Attendees will be eligible for door prizes. We will have a short walk along the boardwalk to see some of the living creatures that the campaign is helping to protect. For more information and to enter the contest, contact Jo Anne Hartzler at (813)310-7676 or fieldtrips@audubon.org.

May 19, 2007 Orlando Wetlands 7:30AM Meet at Denny's on East Fowler Avenue and Morris Bridge Rd.. Bring snacks and water. It's a circuit around wetland ponds, flat easy walking, but long, no shade. Purple gallinules, Least Bittern, nesting Black-necked Stilts plus all of the local waterbirds. Contact field trip leader, Mary Keith at (813) 935-6115.

June 9, 2007(Saturday) 8:00 AM Lake Park Nature Walk. If you just love the outdoors and want to know more about nature, this walk is for you. We'll investigate several trails giving everyone the opportunity to see things like we've never seen before. See amphibians, insects, spiders, birds, and plants and learn to identify some of the native and non-native vegetation. Bring binoculars. Lake Park is located on North Dale Mabry highway in Tampa just South of Van Dyke Road on the West side of Dale Mabry. For more information, contact field trip leader, Jo Anne Hartzler at (813) 310-7676 or e-mail usarealty@msn.com.

June 16, 2007(Saturday) Myakka State Park. Details to follow.

July 7, 2007(Saturday) Hillsborough River State Park. Details to follow.

July 14, 2007(Saturday) Lake Park Children and Beginner Bird Walk. This easy outdoor walk is geared to beginning birders, Parents and their school-aged Children. Bring binoculars and learn to recognize Florida's resident birds by their songs, antics, and appearance. We'll also learn to recognize native and exotic plants along the way and what they mean to us.

August 5, 2007 (Sunday) J. B Starkey Park Butterfly Walk. One of the great things about a Florida summer is the butterfly. See our state butterfly, the Zebra heliconian, the well known Monarch and its mimics along with skippers and dragonflies. For details, contact Jo Anne Hartzler at (813)310-7676.

August 31, 2007(Friday) 7:30 PM. Frog Listening Network at Flatwoods Park. See frogs and toads first hand and learn their chorus of songs and sounds. Put on by the Tampa Audubon Society and the Hillsborough Rivershed Alliance, this outing will give you an appreciation for our lumpy bumpy toads and shiny singing frogs along with an understanding of their significance to our well being. This outing fills up quickly so call to be put on the attendee list and for more details. Contact Jo Anne Hartzler (813) 310-7676.

Tampa Audubon is Proud to Welcome Our Newest Members:

Michele Northrup
Joseph Gamble
Marian Reinhardt
Susan Eriksen
Senator Victor Crist
Willow LaMonte
Jerry Troya

TAMPA AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

YES!

I want to join the Tampa & National Audubon Societies at the special introductory rate of \$25 and save over 35% off regular dues!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP Code: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Please make your checks payable to: **Tampa Audubon Society**

Mail to:

Tampa Audubon Society

P.O. Box 320025

Tampa, FL 33679

I would like to include an additional contribution of \$ _____ to the Tampa Audubon Society.

Your membership supports vital conservation issues. As a member you will receive the bi-monthly Audubon Magazine, the quarterly Florida Naturalist Magazine and the bi-monthly Avocet Newsletter.

National Audubon occasionally makes its membership list available to carefully selected organizations. To have your name omitted from this list, check here.