



www.santafeaudubon.org

and



Santa Fe Audubon Society - Florida

Santa Fe Audubon Society
Melrose, FL
FEBRUARY 2023
NEWSLETTER

COMING IN MARCH

SAVE THE DATE

TUESDAY, MARCH 14

6:45 PM at Trinity Episcopal Parish Hall
204 SR 26, downtown Melrose

**Santa Fe Audubon's Annual
ELECTION OF OFFICERS
•
PHOTOGRAPHY SHOW
•
LIFETIME
CONSERVATIONIST
AWARD**



Please join us to celebrate Joyce King, our Founder and first President, when we present her with our Lifetime Conservationist Award for her years of service and dedication to conservation.

You do not need to be a Santa Fe Audubon Society chapter member to attend our Speaker Series programs. All are welcome!

THE SAFETY OF OUR MEMBERSHIP IS OF UPMOST IMPORTANCE, AND WE ENCOURAGE EVERYONE TO PLEASE WEAR A MASK.

FIELD TRIP

**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED
FOR ALL FIELD TRIPS**

**TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT EMAIL
santafeaudubonfl@aol.com**

When you make your reservation, please include your email and phone numbers(s) and please specify if you will meet at Heritage Park or the Field Trip location.

Saturday, March 11



**AVES - ODES - LEPS
and
SPRING WILDFLOWERS**



at Morningside Nature Center

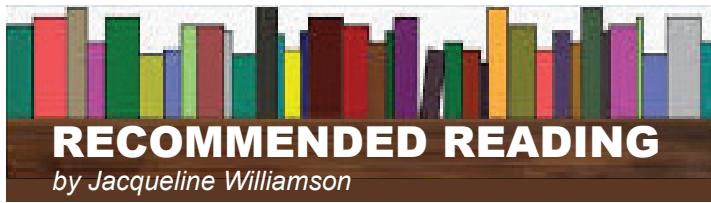
Join us for Birds, Bugs and Botany with Michael Drummond in one of Gainesville's premier nature parks, Morningside Nature Center. This is one of the last remaining examples of fire-dependent longleaf pine woodlands in the area. We will explore up to three miles of the more than six miles of trails that wind through sandhill, flatwoods, cypress domes, and areas where native vegetation is being restored. Morningside boasts a spectacular wildflower display and opportunity to see a diverse array of wildlife. Approx. 2 - 3 hours

DIFFICULTY LEVEL 2 - May involve uneven terrain; 1-3 miles

TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT

contact Sallie Carlock santafeaudubonfl@aol.com

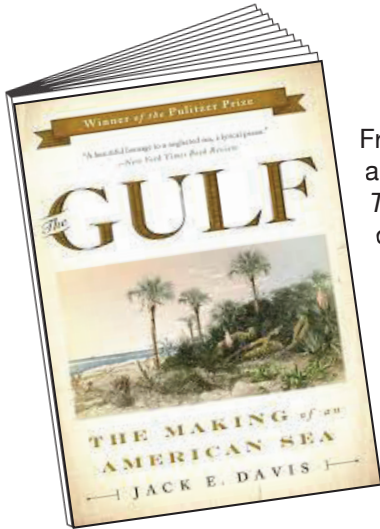
To caravan from Melrose meet on the west side of
Heritage Park at **7:45 AM**
or Morningside Nature Center Parking Lot at **8:15 AM**
3540 E University Ave, Gainesville, FL



THE GULF

The Making of an American Sea

by Jack E. Davis



From Pulitzer Prize winning author, Jack E. Davis, comes *The Gulf*, an immersive read on our unique “American Sea.” It offers both an excellent overview of its history and the pressing environmental issues facing the Gulf today.



GOOD NEWS

HPSII WITHDRAWS BRADFORD COUNTY MINING APPLICATION

Starke, FL, January 20, 2023 – At the Bradford County Commission meeting on January 19, County Manager Scott Kornegay read a letter from HPSII, the mining company that planned to mine phosphate in Bradford and Union counties. The letter said, “On behalf of HPS, this letter is to confirm that HPS wishes to withdraw the above-referenced Application without the County taking any formal action on it. HPS therefore respectfully requests that the Board of County Commissioners consider the Application withdrawn, effective immediately.”

Local environmental groups and residents have spent nearly seven years scrutinizing documents and presenting anomalies to the county commission. The room erupted in cheers of joy when the letter was read.

In 2016, HPSII sought to mine approximately 10,000 acres in Bradford and Union counties. The plan would straddle the New River, which feeds into the Santa Fe River. Union County enacted a moratorium on mining while updating their Land Development Regulations, which then disallowed mining in wetlands. HPS sued them for nearly \$300 million.

Bradford County did not enact a moratorium and HPS submitted an application and Master Mining Plan (MMP).

In July of 2022, HPS and Union County stipulated that HPS would withdraw the Harris Act claim without prejudice.

In January 2020, the hydrologist obtained by Bradford County’s consultant gave a less than favorable review of the MMP. But then no action took place for three years. Local homeowner, Carol Mosley, appeared on a regular basis at commission meetings to present her findings obtained by records requests. After an upheaval of management, the new county manager was tasked with finding out about the unreasonable delay in getting the application to a Hearing.

The crowd waited patiently for the county manager’s report at the end of the meeting. He read from HPS’ letter that “HPS respectfully requests that the Board of County Commissioners consider the Application withdrawn, effective immediately.”

The room erupted in cheers and even the commissioners seemed relieved to have the long debacle put to rest.

<https://floridaphoenix.com/2023/01/26/this-time-in-florida-the-davids-beat-goliath-in-an-environmental-battle/?e-Type=EmailBlastContent&eld=ff1c7123-6091-4c6a-b0bd-f777505ad2d1>

Rally for Land Conservation in North Florida

Saturday, February 18, 2023

2-6 pm

Hosted by Putnam Land Conservancy



What: A public event focusing on the need for land conservation in north Florida. Conservation organizations working in north Florida and surrounding region will have informational tables highlighting their land conservation work in the region. This is a critical time for land conservation in Florida. It's a now or never scenario for protecting wildlife habitat and Florida's green infrastructure that is vital for the quality of life of all Floridans.

Where: First Magnitude Brewing, 1220 SE Veitch St., Gainesville, FL. FMB will provide \$1-off-drinks wrist bands to groups as a premium for donations made at the event.

When: Saturday, February 18, 2023, 2-6pm

Raising Awareness: During intermission, noted conservation biologist Dr. Reed Noss will give a talk about the importance of connected landscapes for biodiversity conservation. Groups are encouraged to contribute images for the background rolling slide presentation.

Entertainment: Live music provided by Gumbo Limbo Cajun & Country Band, with Mardi Gras decorations and beads (Mardi Gras is Tuesday, February 20)

Food: Two food trucks will be on site. Vegetarian options available.

For more information: (386)336-5400, plc@PutnamLandConservancy.org

Admission: Free and open to the public.

SPEAKER SERIES PROGRAMS

APRIL 11, 2023

TUESDAY, APRIL 11

Speaker

DR. ABBY POWELL

**"Masters of Migration:
Amazing Shorebird Journeys"**

MAY 9, 2023

TUESDAY, MAY 9

Speaker

CYNTHIA BARNETT

**"The Sound of the Sea:
Seashells and the Fate of the Oceans"**

WANTED

NATURE PHOTOS

for March 2023

Photography Show

Please select 10 of your best nature photos
and a photo of yourself

and give to Laura Berkelman

**"Flash Drive" preferred & will be returned
before March 1, 2023**

or email lberkelman@windstream.net

FIELD TRIPS and ACTIVITIES

The Great Backyard
Bird Count



**THE GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT
(GBBC)**

February 17 through 20, 2023

To find out all about the 2023 Great Backyard Bird Count and how to participate click on this link: <https://www.birdcount.org>

APRIL 2023

SATURDAY, APRIL 8

**GUANA TOLOMATO MATANZAS
NATIONAL ESTUARINE
RESEARCH RESERVE**

SATURDAY, APRIL 22

BOLEN BLUFF

at Paynes Prairie for Spring migration

MAY 2023

SATURDAY, MAY 6

SWEETWATER WETLANDS PARK
for Bobolinks & more

SATURDAY, MAY 27

ANASTASIA STATE PARK
for Shore Birds

The safety and well-being of our participants is our top priority; therefore, our in-person Speaker Series may be postponed or canceled on short notice due to health related concerns. Field Trips may be postponed or canceled on short notice due to weather concerns. Postponement or cancellation notifications will be sent out via email and posted on our website and Facebook page.

COMING (back) SOON.....



**FLORIDA WILDLIFE EXTENSION
Wildlife Happenings**

Click on the link below to check out the
"Wildlife Happenings" in our area.

https://wec.ifas.ufl.edu/extension/wildlife_info/happenings/

**Kestrel
Corner**

by Bill Chitty

All the boxes have been cleaned and are ready for
Kestrels looking to nest, which should begin next month.