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.

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.

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

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

A complete listing of future Programs, Field Trips and Activities is on page 4
RECOMMENDED READING
by Jacqueline Williamson

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.
**THE GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT**

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](https://www.birdcount.org)

**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”

**FIELD TRIPS and ACTIVITIES**

**APRIL 2023**

SATURDAY, APRIL 8

**GUANA TOLOMATO MATANZAS NATIONAL ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE**

SATURDAY, APRIL 22

**BOLEN BLUFF**

at Paynes Prairie for Spring migration

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.

**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/](https://wec.ifas.ufl.edu/extension/wildlife_info/happenings/)

**WANTED**

**NATURE PHOTOS**

for March 2023

Photography Show

Please select 10 of your best nature photos and a photo of yourself “Flash Drive” preferred & will be returned before March 1, 2023

or email lberkelman@windstream.net

**COMING (back) SOON......**

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

**Kestrel Corner**

by Bill Chitty

Sallie & Lewis Carlock

8199 Melrose Rd

Melrose, FL 32666

cell: 561-809-6525

house: 352-475-2628