



santafeaudubon

<http://www.santafeaudubon.org>

Santa Fe Audubon Society
Melrose, FL



Santa Fe Audubon Society - Florida

SPEAKER SERIES PROGRAM

INSECT ID: WHEN THE BUG IS NOT THERE

**Tuesday,
OCTOBER 13**

speaker Lee Bloomcamp

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

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

Please join us for this unique program.

***The safety of our membership is of upmost importance,
we encourage everyone to wear a mask.***

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

FIELD TRIP ORDWAY SWISHER BIOLOGICAL STATION Saturday, OCTOBER 17 (WEATHER PERMITTING)

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED
20 person maximum

to reserve your spot contact Kai Sucsy at
Kai@PutnamLandConservancy.org
or 352-278-2455

Address will be provided as spots are reserved.

Meeting time will be 8:45am and the tour will begin at 9am sharp. Please arrive on time to not risk missing the tour.

Join us for a guided tour of the Ordway Swisher Biological Station (OSBS) located near Melrose, FL. The OSBS is a 9,400 preserve and research support facility owned and managed by the University of Florida. The preserve is burned regularly with prescribed fire and maintained to mimic the pristine natural habitats of Florida. OSBS staff agreed to give a guided tour of the preserve via an open-air tram ride. This tour will traverse some of the preserve, showcase the pristine sandhill habitat, and include multiple stops. Join us on Saturday, October 17th to learn more about the preserve and see what much of natural Florida would have looked like around the community of Melrose.

The tour will begin at the entrance of the preserve at 8:45 am and will take 2-3 hours. This tour will involve an open-air tram tour and multiple stops. Due to the steps on the open-air tram, this tour would not be considered ADA accessible.

Difficulty Level 2: Open-air tour with little walking on rough or uneven terrain. The tram is accessed via high steps.

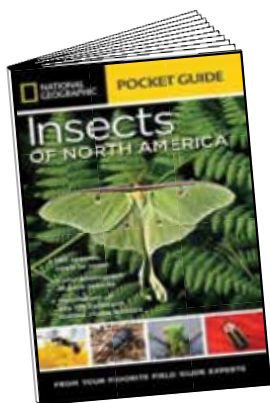
RESTROOMS AND WATER ARE NOT AVAILABLE ON THIS TOUR. PLEASE PLAN ACCORDINGLY.

Please reach out to reserve a spot. Additional information on the tour will be provided when reservation is made.

Reservations for each trip will be filled on a first-come first-served basis with waiting lists in case of participant cancellation. Please be sure to include the field trip name and date along with your name, phone number(s) and e-mail address, in case we need to notify you of any changes.

RECOMMENDED READING

from Jacqueline Williamson



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC POCKET GUIDE TO INSECTS OF NORTH AMERICA

Handy, authoritative, and easy-to-read, this field guide to the insects of North America is part of the growing National Geographic Pocket Guide series. This guide provides spot-on descriptive information, authoritative photography and illustrations, and key facts in a handy, easy-to-reference volume.

BIRD OF THE MONTH

BARRED OWL (*Strix varia*)

band code "BADO"

The Barred Owl's hooting call, "Who cooks for you? Who cooks for you-all?" is a classic sound of old forests and treed swamps. But this attractive owl, with soulful brown eyes and brown-and-white-striped plumage, can also pass completely unnoticed as it flies noiselessly through the dense canopy or snoozes on a tree limb. Originally a bird of the east, during the twentieth century it spread through the Pacific Northwest & southward into California.



COOL FACTS:

Barred Owls don't migrate, and they don't even move around very much. Of 158 birds that were banded and then found later, none had moved farther than 6 miles away.

For more information about Barred Owls visit:

https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Barred_Owl/

Fun Fact: Barred Owls have many collectively nouns including "bazaar", "glaring", "parliament", "stooping" and "wisdom" of owls.

GOOD NEWS

from Kai Sucsy

PROTECTED!! MEETINGHOUSE GROVES CONSERVATION EASEMENT

Putnam Land Conservancy is thrilled to announce that the 816-acre Meetinghouse Groves Conservation Easement in Putnam County has been protected through a joint acquisition with the Rural and Family Lands Protection Program and the Regional Conservation Partnership Program.



A Rural Lands Protection Easement combines preservation of natural lands and working lands ensuring that the agricultural operations may continue as they are for future generations, providing a lasting family legacy for our Florida farmers. The Meetinghouse Groves Conservation Easement protects a 100-acre citrus grove, timberlands, magnolia tree cut foliage production, and about 415 acres of significant natural areas.

The property, portions of which have been in the Padgett family for four generations, consists of over 830 acres, including a historic residence, dating back to the 1870s. Although owners, the Putnam County family sees its role as stewards of the natural value of the land and its woodlands, wetlands, lakes, ponds, open spaces, farmlands, endangered species and all other wildlife. "We are proud Floridians and want to see this part of Old Florida preserved, without development, in perpetuity," stated Jim Padgett, spokesperson for the family. Padgett gave special thanks to Willy the Losen with the Putnam Land Conservancy and Kim Hall with the North Florida Land Trust for guiding and supporting the preservation of this and other valued Florida lands.

This conservation easement provides water protection for 430 acres of wetlands, as well as several lakes including Lake Margaret and Silver Lake. It also provides connectivity to the Welaka Woods Conservation Easement held by the North Florida Land Trust within the Ocala-to-Osceola portion of the Florida Wildlife Corridor.

Putnam Land Conservancy thanks the landowners, Florida Department of Agricultural and Consumer Services, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the North Florida Land Trust for their assistance in ensuring this land is protected in perpetuity. PLC is honored to showcase how federal, state, and local partnerships can make a meaningful impact for the future of our natural lands.

VOTE **NO** ON **AMENDMENT 3** **THIS NOVEMBER**

Amendment 3 Threatens Florida's Communities, Water, and Wildlife

Drastically lowering property taxes will have a catastrophic impact on Florida's quality of life, water quality, and available wildlife habitat. The Amendment 3 proposal will significantly reduce the budgets of both cities and counties while limiting where they can spend the money they do have. Such strains will make it difficult for them to serve communities – and nearly impossible to protect things like parks, stormwater infrastructure, and more. Wildlife habitat in parks is critical for birds, panthers, and more – and many of these parks are managed and restored at the local level.

Development proposals require county and city staff to review projects – planners, engineers, environmental specialists, and more. Cuts to municipal budgets will lead to cuts in these departments – reviewing rapidly expanding proposals will become impossible. Moreover, water management district budgets will shrink, further shrinking their ability to safeguard water supplies and water quality. Algal blooms could become an every year occurrence, while restoration will become an impossibility.

Florida is facing ever greater threats to our economy, quality of life, future resilience, and environment. Now is not the time to hamstring our ability to meet these challenges.



Audubon Florida

Florida's rural communities are at risk of being gobbled up by sprawl. Amendment 3 will hit the budgets of rural cities and counties even harder, because of their smaller budgets and higher proportion of homesteaded properties. At the time when they'll need growth management staff the most, these local governments will be forced to consider eliminating the function entirely.

Important Background:

Amendment 3 on November's ballot would significantly reduce property taxes for many Florida homeowners, but will result in dramatic cuts to local services — everything from growth management to community parks and flood control.

The resulting annual cut to city and county revenues is estimated to be \$5 billion in the first year, and \$12 billion by Year 5. Water management districts will lose revenue as the tax base shrinks. Local governments are the last line of defense against sprawl, provide parks for people and wildlife, and restoration projects to address flooding and sea level rise. With budget shortfalls of this magnitude, they will have no choice but to radically reduce essential services funded by property tax revenue.

Looking Forward:

While no one relishes paying taxes, local governments have to have funding to provide the services that our communities depend upon. If this amendment passes, Floridians will be left with one-size-fits all decisions being made for them from Tallahassee and little ability at the local level to shape their own communities and quality of life.



UF IFAS Extension
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



FALL Horticultural Expo

EDIBLE BY NATURE

PLANT FOR PEOPLE, POLLINATORS & OUR PLANET

Fall Plant Market
Bugs, Birds & More
UF/IFAS Fang Fest
KIDS ZONE
Demonstrations
Food Trucks
Live Music
Free Entry & Parking

October 17, 2026

9 AM - 4 PM

**Alachua County Ag &
Equestrian Center
Newberry, FL**



Featuring Brie Arthur
Author of
Foodscape Revolution



www.ggcfl.org/fallexpo

No Pets Allowed, Service Animals Permitted
An Equal Opportunity Institution

SAVE THE DATE

Flatwoods Fire & Nature Festival Saturday, January 23rd, 2027 - 10 am to 4 pm



Tabling questionnaires will be sent to those on our current list of participants, late October 2026.

The goal of this festival is to educate attendees on the role of fire in our pyrogenic ecosystems and introduce guests to many of the outstanding environmental organizations in this area.

Sponsored by: University of Florida, Florida Forest Service, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Alachua Conservation Trust, and Partners

Austin Cary Forest -
Roland T. Stern Learning Center
10625 NE Waldo Rd Gainesville, FL 32609

Ally Drake
Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission
863-273-0629
Alexandra.Drake@MyFWC.com

Joe Vaughn
Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission
Joseph.Vaughn@MyFWC.com



ABOUT FIELD TRIPS

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED FOR ALL FIELD TRIPS

***Please see contact info on page 1
to make your reservation.***

When you make your reservation, please be sure to include your name, phone number and email and the number of participants.



- **BRING:** Water, binoculars, hat, sunscreen, rain gear and face covering.
- **WEAR STURDY WALKING SHOES.**
- **SFAS has sanitized binoculars to loan.**

We all must remember to maintain safe personal distancing. We suggest you bring your face mask just in case it is needed. It is easy to forget during the excitement of bird watching.

Stay hydrated, be safe and have FUN!

FIELD TRIP DIFFICULTY CHART

- 0** - Impaired mobility has been considered for this trip. The SFAS Contact has details.
- 1** - Trip within easy access to the vehicle and/or level terrain; 1 mile or less.
- 2** - May involve uneven terrain; 1-2 miles.
- 3** - May involve elevation change, uneven terrain, and/or be greater than 2 miles.



BIRDING ETHICS (including photography)

Practical guidelines that aim to mitigate the stress birds and their habitats face when humans intrude.

- Leave pets home
- Bring binoculars
- Mute cell phones
- Gently close vehicle doors
- Talk softly/whisper
- Keep bird call playback and pishing to a minimum.
- Walk quietly in woods (pick up feet)
- Avoid using a flash when taking photographs
- Keep your distance
- DO NOT flush or disturb birds (especially during spring nesting season)
- Stay on established trails
- Be alert for bird sounds/movements
- Coughing/sneezing? STAY HOME or away from group, or if possible, in vehicle
- Respect other birders
- Wear earth tone color clothing, when possible

SPEAKER SERIES PROGRAMS 2026 - 2027

November 10 *NATIVE PLANTS* - speaker Susan Carr

December 8 *STURGEON* -

January 12 *WILDLIFE CORRIDOR* - speaker Reed Noss

February 9 *WOODPECKERS OF NORTH AMERICA* - speaker Deb Kainauskas

March 9 *SFAS Conservationist of the Year, Election of Directors & Photo Show*

April 13 *WILDLIFE RESCUE* - speaker Shawn McMahon

May 11 *SPRINGS* - speaker Jim Gross

FIELD TRIPS 2026 - 2027

Reservations will be required so we may notify you on the event of a date change or cancellation due to weather, etc.

Saturday, October 17, 2026 *ORDWAY-SWISHER* Melrose

Saturday, November 14, 2026 *SWEETWATER WETLANDS PARK* Gainesville

Saturday, January 9, 2027 *ORANGE LAKE OVERLOOK* Micanopy

Saturday, February 20, 2027 *PLC - OCKLAWAHA TRACT*

Saturday, March 20, 2027 *CEDAR KEY BOAT TRIP* ***DETAILS IN EARLY 2027***

Saturday, April 24, 2027 *MARJORIE KINNAN RAWLINGS HOUSE TOUR AND HIKE* - Cross Creek

Saturday, May 22, 2027 *PRAIRIE CREEK PRESERVE* Gainesville