



Santa Fe Audubon Society

Melrose, FL

SEPTEMBER 2023
NEWSLETTER

<http://www.santafeaudubon.org>

and



Santa Fe Audubon Society - Florida

SFAS NEWS

THE BIG SIT!®

October 7th and 8th

How many birds can you identify in one day while staying within a 17 foot diameter circle?

That's the challenge of the Big Sit! It's free and open to everyone around the world.

Help scientists evaluate bird movements and populations by entering your count results on eBird.

For more information and to register your circle go to: <https://www.thebigsit.org>

GAINESVILLE / ALACHUA COUNTY

CLIMATE CHANGE SUMMIT

SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

DETAILS ON PAGE 2

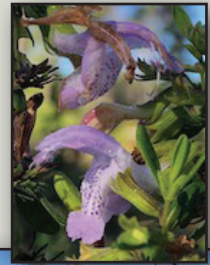
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

ETONIAH ROSEMARY SURVEY

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2023

Every year in October, a census is taken of every known specimen of this endangered species that occurs naturally nowhere else on earth. Volunteers needed, no prior experience or expertise is required. Wear clothes suitable for the weather and hiking in the woods. Meet at **8:30 AM** the Etoniah Creek State Forest Office.

If you would like to volunteer please contact Bill Chitty via email at bill.chitty@gmail.com



Do you "Vote-by-Mail?"

Here is important information you need to know.

Due to recent law changes, Vote-by-Mail requests now **EXPIRE** after each general Election. If you want to Vote-by-Mail in the 2024 elections, you **MUST** submit a new request either **ONLINE, BY PHONE, or IN PERSON.**

Also, Has Your Signature Changed?

Your signature on file will be compared with your signature on your mail ballot envelope. Signature updates must be submitted on a Florida Voter Registration Application. Applications are available at: Supervisor of Elections Office, Tax Collectors Offices, Public Libraries and Public Assistance Offices.

TO REGISTER FOR THIS FREE EVENT:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/gainesvillealachua-county-climate-change-summit-tickets-671464978827#:~:text=Gainesville%2FAlachua%20County%20Climate%20Change.at%209%3A30%20AM%20%7C%20Eventbrite>

GAINESVILLE/ALACHUA COUNTY CLIMATE CHANGE SUMMIT



Keynote Speaker:

JACQUELINE PATTERSON

Founder/Director of the
Chisholm Legacy Foundation
for Climate Justice.

- Projections of how and when climate changes will affect Alachua County.
- Panels of local experts on Water, Health, Energy and Food.
- Featuring results of the Alachua County Vulnerability Study (commissioned by the Citizen Climate Advisory Committee).

United Church of Gainesville

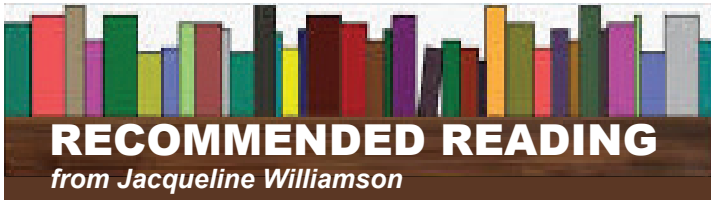
1624 NW 5th Ave.
Gainesville, FL. 32603

9:30a -
4:00p

SATURDAY
SEP. 30TH
2023

Sponsored
by:

The Alachua County NAACP
Environmental & Climate Justice Committee



RECOMMENDED READING

from Jacqueline Williamson

WE ARE THE ARK

by Mary Reynolds



“Reynolds gives us a much-needed reason for hope. The gardener, the conservationist, the city planner, and the nature lover will all be inspired for this wonderful book shows how thousands of even small wildlife friendly gardens can provide habitat for embattled wildlife around the world.” — Jane Goodall, Phd, DBE, Founder of the Jane Goodall Institute & UN Messenger of Peace

GOOD NEWS

by Jacqueline Williamson

FLORIDA BALD EAGLES REBOUND!



Florida’s Bald Eagles have proven very resilient in the aftermath of last year’s destruction by Hurricane Ian. According to Eagle Watch, volunteers across the state determined Ian destroyed 148 Bald Eagle nests last September. Typically eagles just rebuild, but due to the storm, few available trees remained. However, 70% of the eagles rebuilt their nests and 100 chicks fledged.

BIRD OF THE MONTH

BELTED KINGFISHER (*Megaceryle alcyon*)

band code “BEKI”

With its top-heavy physique, energetic flight, and piercing rattle, the Belted Kingfisher seems to have an air of self-importance as it patrols up and down rivers and shorelines. It nests in burrows along earthen banks and feeds almost entirely on aquatic prey, diving to catch fish and crayfish with its heavy, straight bill. These ragged-crested birds are a powdery blue-gray; males have one blue band across the white breast, while females have a blue and a chestnut band.



Belted Kingfisher - male



Belted Kingfisher - female

COOL FACTS:

The Belted Kingfisher is one of the few bird species in which the female is more brightly colored than the male. Among the nearly 100 species of kingfishers, the sexes often look alike. In some species the male is more colorful, in others it is the female.

Pleistocene fossils of Belted Kingfishers (to 600,000 years old) have been unearthed in Florida, Virginia, Tennessee, and Texas. The oldest known fossil in the kingfisher genus is 2 million years old, found in Alachua County, Florida.

For more information about Belted Kingfisher visit: https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Belted_Kingfisher/overview

Fun Fact:

A group of Belted Kingfishers are collectively known as a “crown” and a “rattle” of kingfishers.

Details about our October events will be on page 1 of the October Kite and will be emailed, posted on our website (www.santafeaudubon.org) and Facebook page (Santa Fe Audubon Society - Florida) the first week of October.

SPEAKER SERIES PROGRAMS

Tuesday - October 10, 2023

BATS

speaker Donna Bear

Tuesday - November 14, 2023

CARDINALS

speaker Katie Sieving

Tuesday - December 12, 2023

WHITE-TAILED DEER

speaker Becky Peters

Tuesday - January 9, 2024

YELLOW-EYED PENGUINS

speaker Bill Cooper

Tuesday - February 6, 2024

NEW GRU WETLANDS

speaker Debbie Segal

Tuesday - March 12, 2024

- **CONSERVATIONIST AWARD**
- **PHOTO SHOW**
- **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Tuesday - April 9, 2024

THE GULF

speaker Jack E. Davis

Tuesday - May 14, 2024

BEES

speaker Rachel Mallinger

FIELD TRIPS and ACTIVITIES

Reservations will be required & all field trips are subject to date change or cancellation due to weather, etc.

SATURDAY - OCTOBER 21, 2023

Morningside Nature Center for Fall Wildflowers
Gainesville, FL

NOVEMBER ??, 2023

to be announced

SATURDAY - JANUARY 20, 2024

Masters Tract
Hastings, FL

SATURDAY - JANUARY 27, 2024

Yesterday's Festival at
Mike Roess Gold Head Branch State Park
Keystone Heights, FL

SATURDAY- FEBRUARY 24, 2024

(maximum 12 participants)
Private Wetland Preserve near Rice Creek
Palatka, FL

MARCH ??, 2024

to be announced

APRIL ??, 2024 (date and details in February)

Gulf Boat Trip (Tidewater Tours)
Cedar Key, FL

SATURDAY - MAY 4, 2024

Sweetwater Wetlands Park for Bobolinks
Gainesville, FL