



February 19 Program - South Florida, Everglades, Keys, and the Dry Tortugas

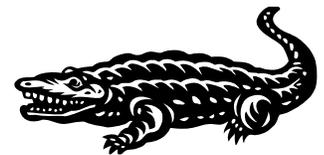


South Florida is the only true tropical region in all of mainland U.S. To help get you through the winter, long time AAS member Jon Dale will take you to this sunny and warm area. You'll visit some east coast preserves like Green Cay Wetlands and Wakodahatchee Wetlands north of Fort Lauderdale to see species such as Purple Gallinule, American Anhinga, and Sora, as well as Marsh Rabbit, American Alligator, and Iguana. Crossing the Florida peninsula, you'll see the endangered Florida Scrub Jay and Bachman's Sparrow in the pine flatwood area.

This presentation will focus on a visit to National Audubon's Corkscrew Swamp east of Fort Myers which contains seven separate and distinct habitats, including the largest remaining stand of ancient Bald Cypress left in North America. Expect to see flora like Pond Apples, Water Lettuce, and Alligator Flag; Wood Stork and Little Blue Heron also call Corkscrew home. Next, you'll journey into Everglades National Park to experience Eastern Cottonmouth, Swamp Toad, and the Florida Softshell Turtle, as well as Cormorant, Black Vulture, and Gray Kingbird. Journeying through the Keys, you will see Herons, Egrets, Collared Dove, and more.

The presentation will end with a visit to the Civil War era Fort Jefferson on the Dry Tortugas, approximately 70 miles west of Key West in the Gulf of Mexico. You'll tour the fort and learn of its fascinating history. Pelican, Brown Noddy, Sandwich and Sooty Tern, and Magnificent Frigatebird all make their home here on Fort Jefferson.

So come chase away the winter blues at our February program and join Jon in an exciting visit through sunny south Florida.



And as always, meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. with refreshments and social time followed by announcements, with the program starting at 7:30 p.m.

The programs are free and open to the public. See page 2 for directions.

ATTENTION: The deadline for AAS newsletter article submission has been moved up to the 10th of the month. Thanks.

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Nominating Committee Appointed

This year's Nominating Committee will include Paul Zeph, Lorrie Preston, and Holly Smith. The committee will be nominating candidates for officers and directors whose terms of office expire in May 2009. This year, we will be recruiting a Vice President, Treasurer, and three Directors.

Suggestions for nominations of officers or directors may be submitted to any member of the Committee by any member of the chapter. If you would like to serve our group by being part of our Board of Directors, nominate someone else, or have any questions about what would be involved, please feel free to contact a committee member. Contact info can be found on this page in the left hand column. A slate of nominees will appear in the April newsletter.

We are also always excited to have AAS members join our various committees. If there is committee you would enjoy participating in, please contact the current Committee Chair or Lorrie Preston for more information. Being involved in the chapter activities brings friendships and rewards that can not be measured.

Appalachian Audubon monthly (Sept-May) programs normally take place on the 3rd Thursday of each month in Christ Presbyterian Church, 421 Deerfield Road, in the Allendale neighborhood of Camp Hill, at 7:30 p.m. Exceptions are announced in this newsletter, as are field trips and other activities.

PROGRAMS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

Directions: Take New Cumberland exit off I-83; cross Carlisle Road. Turn left onto Allendale Way; take first left at Deerfield Road (from the south, take New Cumberland exit, turn left onto Carlisle Road, left onto Cedar Cliff Road, left on Allendale Way, then left onto Deerfield Road) to the church.

Upcoming AAS Field Trips



Winter Birding Trip – February 21

Past AAS President Ramsay Koury will lead us on a winter birding trip to chase away the winter blahs. Contact Ramsay at 761-1871 or RKoury123@aol.com for details.

Ned Smith Waterfowl Watch – March 15

Hosted by the Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art. This annual waterfowl watch along the Susquehanna River in Millersburg was an annual event for beloved artist and outdoorsman, Ned Smith. Birding experts will be on hand to help identify and count the waterfowl. The event is held from 8 AM to 1 PM. Please dress warmly and bring along your binoculars and spotting scopes. Contact Beth Sanders at the Ned Smith Center at 692-3699 or Judy Bowman at 761-3815 for further information.

Spring Wildflower Walk at Pine Hill Arboretum – April 4

Join Jane Earle for an early spring wildflower walk. Dutchman's Breeches and other uncommon spring flowers may be seen along this wooded ravine near the Conodoguinet Creek. Contact Jane at 728-4241 or at janeearle7@msn.com.



Wildflower Walk at Gifford Pinchot State Park – April 18

This spring outing will feature Marsh-marigolds, *Caltha palustris*, at beautiful Pinchot State Park. Contact leader and wildflower expert Dan Welte at 728-0421 or dcmawelte@paonline.com.

John J. Audubon – Part 2: Mill Grove Tour and Nature Walk – April 25

Led by Walt Pomeroy. AAS will spend the day at Mill Grove, the first home of John James Audubon in America. Run by the National Audubon Society and Montgomery County, the home is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Includes a museum, 70 acres of wildlife, a bird rehabilitation center and a barn filled with a juried wildlife art exhibit in honor of Audubon's birthday. There will be a nominal fee for admission, carpooling, and box lunch. Contact Judy Bowman at 761-3815 or Lorrie Preston at 732-5615 for more details.

Bus Ride to John James Audubon's Home, Anyone?

We are currently looking into arrangements for renting a bus to take interested AAS members to Mill Grove, John James Audubon's first house in America, for our April 25th field trip. The trip is approximately 90 miles each way. We need to know if we have enough interest by our members in riding the bus to make the bus rental worthwhile. **If you have any interest in traveling by bus to Mill Grove, please contact Judy Bowman at jbowman@messiahvillage.org or 761-3815 or Lorrie Preston at mitandpak@aol.com or 732-5615 ASAP.** This will not obligate you to participate, but will allow us to make a decision about renting the bus and give you information on cost and details of the trip as they become available. Additional details are listed under the *Upcoming Field Trips* section above.





Olewine Nature Center
2nd Annual Used Nature Book Sale
February 1, 2009 - February 28, 2009



Browse through field guides, books, videos and DVDs on nature and the outdoors, and children's books. Proceeds from the sale help support programming at Wildwood. The sale will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday, in the lower level of the Olewine Nature Center.

Looking for something else to do? Check out a terrific line-up of nature programs this winter at Wildwood Lake Sanctuary at www.wildwoodlake.org/events

Also on the website is a **new Webcam**, courtesy of Friends of Wildwood, where the various birds and critters of the sanctuary can be viewed. Go to www.wildwoodlake.org and click on the Webcam icon to see who's visiting the feeders today!

12th Annual Great Backyard Bird Count – February 13-16, 2009
“Count for Fun, Count for the Future”

It's time for the Great Backyard Bird Count once again, and time for citizen scientists like you to make a difference by reporting the birds you see in your backyard and beyond over a four day period in February. Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Audubon use the data that is submitted to create a snapshot of bird populations in the United States and Canada. This count becomes more popular every year, and it is hoped that 2009 will become another record-breaker.

Taking part in the GBBC is easy. It is open to bird watchers of all ages and skill levels. Participation is free and no registration is required. During the four day event, participants count birds for at least 15 minutes, keeping track of the highest number of individuals of each bird species they see together at one time. Of course, you can watch for longer than 15 minutes – and you can count each day over the long weekend. Participants report what they see online at www.birdcount.org and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's computers convert their sightings to maps, lists, and charts that anyone can explore by continent, region, state, or locality. Within minutes of filling in their checklists, participants can see their sightings register on the maps. The website can also provide customized local checklists for birders to use.

For more information, please visit www.birdcount.org or citizenscience@audubon.org.



Volunteer Opportunity



If you like to play with words, are computer-savvy, and have a few spare hours a week, Audubon PA has a great opportunity for you to get involved with the *Pennsylvania Birding and Wildlife Guide* online project! Audubon PA is partnering with the Audubon Society of Western PA and Lehigh Gap Nature Center to incorporate birding sites from all PA counties into the already-established *pabirdingtrails.org* website. Volunteers are needed to rearrange the existing site description text for the Susquehanna River Birding & Wildlife Trail sites to conform with the format for the new guide. If you would like to learn more, please contact Holly Smith at hsmith@audubon.org or phone 717-514-4607.



New Electronic Links on AAS Homepage

Sign up for the latest Climate Change and Audubon at Home gardening for wildlife news by going to the AAS homepage at www.appalachianaudubon.org and click on the electronic buttons. If you visited the site after reading last

month's newsletter, but didn't find the Climate Change button, we apologize. There was a delay in getting it posted to the site. Be "in the know" and sign up now!



Inclement Weather Announcements

Weather-related postponements or cancellations of AAS activities will be reported at wgal.com, and on TV Channels WHP21 and CW15, as well as Radio Station WHP580 AM. We will also place the information on the homepage of our website, www.appalachianaudubon.org, as soon as we are able. If we have your e-mail address, we will alert you soon after a weather-related decision has been made. If we do not already have your e-mail address, you can send it, along with your name, to Lorrie Preston at mitandpak@aol.com. If in doubt about weather-related changes, please call any officer of the club.



Protect Neo-Tropical Bird Habitat – Drink Shade Grown Coffee

Audubon organic shade-grown coffee in 12 oz. packages will continue to be available for sale at our monthly program meetings. All are 100% shade-grown and 100% organic, and come in whole bean or ground.

Breakfast Blend - Smooth yet rich, flavorful coffee. Available in regular or decaf.

French Roast - Roasted for an intense caramelized, bittersweet taste.

Rainforest Blend - Perfectly rounded blend with a medium bodied, complex flavor.

12 oz. bags of all blends are \$10. 2 lb value size bags are available by special order for \$20. Please contact Lorrie Preston at mitandpak@aol.com or 732-5615 to place special orders. For more details on the coffee and other products, visit www.auduboncoffeeclub.com.



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IN THIS ISSUE

February Meeting—South Florida.....p.1	Olewine Book Sale.....p.4
Board of Directors; Chapter Contacts.....p.2	Backyard Bird Count.....p.4
Nominating Committee.....p.2	Volunteer Opportunity.....p.5
Field Trips.....p.3	Website Links.....p.5
John James Audubon Home Trip.....p.3	Inclement Weather.....p.5
	Shade Grown Coffee.....p.5

Join Appalachian Audubon Society AND National Audubon Society

AT THE SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY RATE OF \$20 (\$15 FOR SENIORS AND STUDENTS)

This application is for **NEW** members joining Appalachian and National Audubon for the **FIRST** time (for members renewing, *renewal information will come to you directly from National Audubon*). This introductory offer includes membership in both National and Appalachian Audubon societies, the beautiful *Audubon* magazine, and our own *Kingfisher Courier* newsletter. Please send the form below, with **check** payable to **National Audubon Society**, to: Appalachian Audubon, PO Box 15123, Harrisburg, PA 17105-5123.

New Member's Name: _____ Today's Date: _____

Address: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Phone: _____ Senior Membership? (age 62 and up) _____ Student? _____

Is any of this contact information new? If so, place an X here: _____ **U07 7XCH**