

BIRDS!!

That's what Audubon's all about – here's a chance to build your birding skills—by getting out and looking around, and to be with other birders just for the fun of it—along with helping with one of the largest studies of birds and their habits ever taken.

It's the **Fall Migration Count**. It takes place Saturday, September 17th. Sharpen your skills, help others and learn from them. All levels of expertise invited—eyes and ears are all it takes—other team members can help identify. Call John Eggert at 736-6922 to get on a team.

AUDUBON ADVENTURES

A new year of Audubon has begun. And, with it, a new year of Audubon Adventures for 4th and 5th graders in West Volusia will soon begin.

Our Board voted to make every effort to sponsor 25 classes, as we did last year. The way it works is that Donna Reynolds, a teacher herself, contacts teachers in her own school and in other schools in West Volusia. Then, Treasurer Ed Sherman mails a check to National Audubon along with our total order. In the meantime, we try to collect the cost from members to reimburse the treasury.

This is where you come in. Audubon Adventures is an award - winning education program that teaches about the wonders of our natural world. If anyone should support this type of program, it should be members of Audubon and other environmental organizations. To become a very important part of this effort, please send your check to the Treasurer of WVAS, P.O. Box 1268, DeLand, FL 32721-1268, or take your check to the meeting. Two or more people may share the cost of becoming a sponsor. You'll be glad you got involved.

Barbara Samler

The

HUMMER



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UPCOMING EVENTS

MAKE IT, BAKE IT, GROW IT !!!!

Now is the time to plan your donations for the November meeting and auction. Start your plantings or crafts early. We need to make this our most successful auction ever. Don't forget we need guests also!!

Audubon Assembly 2005

Cocoa Beach
October 20-22

Field Trips, Sunset Cruise, Exhibits, Workshops
All- inclusive package \$99 by September 28 (\$125 after)
Rooms \$89.99 (up to 4 in a room)

Call Arnette for more information 386-734-5840

Sep 27th MEETING

The Woman's Club of DeLand
128 West Michigan Ave.

6:00 PM Pot Luck Dinner

Please bring a dish to share and your own tableware.

Come prepared to share your birding experiences at Show and Tell

Also, enjoy "A History of Audubon"

FIELD TRIPS Vivian Taylor 734-1390

Friday, Oct. 7th Marine Discovery Echo Tour Boat Trip

10 AM to noon. Seniors \$18, 10 and under \$10
Prices are for 10 or more people. We will be visiting a local restaurant for lunch. Carpooling Fee \$5. Leaving Ag center at 9 AM

Oct. 27th Tomoka State Park.

A park ranger will give us a ½ mile walking history tour. Those who don't want to walk can visit the museum. You may choose to pack a lunch or eat in the park restaurant. Leaving from the Food Lion parking lot at 8:45 AM. Car pooling Fee \$5

THINK ENVIRONMENTALLY !!

Conservation issues here in Volusia will always be with us! A recent success was the Volusia County Council's denial of the request from Masterpiece Homes to rezone an area at Hontoon Island so that instead of a few homes, as many as 143 would be built there. The land itself is flat and poorly drained, flooding was also a problem there last year. Even so, County staff placed much less emphasis on the environmental impact of this building spurt than they did on school needs and traffic patterns.

Six representatives of WVAS joined the Hontoon area residents at the Volusia County Council meeting. Our president spoke, emphasizing the environmental importance of the area. Volusia County Council members "got the message" and voted UNANIMOUSLY to deny the request.

As members of WVAS, we treasure our community with its open fields and woods. Many of us came here specifically because this is the lifestyle we value and enjoy. When enough voices make demands, our County Council sometimes listens. We need to make ourselves heard when these issues are brought before them. The County Council needs to know we care.

Eleanor Slyker

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President



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to a new season. I want to thank the board members for all their hard work planning the coming events & programs. It should prove to be a great year.

At the end of last year WVAS donated funds to Audubon of Florida Center for Birds of Prey, The Nature Conservancy, Florida Defenders of Wildlife and Operation Migration of the Whooping Cranes.

This year WVAS plans to finalize the construction of the observation boardwalk at Lake Woodruff National Wildlife Refuge. We received a \$5,000 award from the National Wildlife Refuge Support Group & the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation to help with the project. Since the cost of building materials has gone up, we will need more funds than we had planned on. Donations to help with the project will be greatly appreciated.

Goals for this year include:

1. Monitoring "Smart Growth" and making more of an impact on conservation issues.
2. More community outreach with presentations for the public.
3. Continuing support of the Young Birder's Club.
4. Increasing our membership.

See you at the potluck supper meeting.
Arnette Sherman

YOUNG BIRDER'S CLUB

Laura Cash is beginning the second year as leader of the club. She still needs binoculars, birding or nature books and magazines. Also, any other materials suitable for teaching will be greatly appreciated. You may bring these articles to the general meetings or call Laura at 386-626-2329.