
SUN CITY CENTER AUDUBON CLUB

December 2020

Ponderings from your prez

Mary Duncan

Many of my writings have been about the health (emotional and physical) of being out in nature. I was fortunate enough to go visit my cousins in Arizona and then spend a few days in Sedona and I know how much good it did me to be outside every day. It is so beautiful and awe-inspiring. I tried to climb to the top of each of the four vortexes. (Places of magnetic energy) I'm sorry to say that I couldn't make it to the top of any of them. But when I had to stop, I found a rock to sit on and drink in the beauty. It was magical. Being alone in that magical place was fine.



I vowed to walk more when I returned.

After seeing the article on Hillsborough "Hiking Spree" in the November 24th issue of The Observer News, I thought we should all do it. You can find out more information and sign up on the 2021 Hiking Spree page at www.HCFL.Gov.net. In all there are 25 hiking trails on the list (some easy, some harder, some dog friendly, etc.) The goal is to do at least eight of them before March 11. (And if you do you can earn a patch, a medallion for a walking stick or a dog bandana 🐕).

We could plan to go on the same day but not be clumped together as we might/would be if someone were leading and spotted a bird. There are neighborhood parks, conservation parks, nature preserves, and two state parks on the list.

This isn't an official Audubon activity but I'm hoping it will get us outside as "a solo trip into the tranquility of nature" or to "get outside, see parks and trails and spend time with friends": (Outside and socially distanced of course.) So, I am tentatively planning on going somewhere every Wednesday. So, on Dec. 16th, I am going to walk at Edward Medard Conservation park; on Dec. 24th, a short walk at Ruskin/Baudette Neighborhood Park; and on Dec. 30th, to Apollo Beach Nature Preserve. I will leave here at about 11 and bring a sack lunch to enjoy there. I hope some of you will come along - or make your own plans to get out in Nature. You never know what you will see.

Please check out some of my sightings in this newsletter.





Trail Blazing

By John Lampkin

Everyone knows that honeybees make honey from nectar, most know that they collect pollen to feed their babies, but relatively few know that bees also collect plant sap! Back in the hive, the bees mix the collected resins with saliva and beeswax to make propolis which among other things, is used to seal gaps in the hive. It is a kind of super glue and caulk all in one! Beekeepers report that it is often difficult to separate hive components that have been “glued” together by the bees.

Man has nurtured and exploited honeybee creations for millennia. Today, propolis is touted and available online to treat everything from diabetes to sore throats to hair loss. Take that with a grain of salt, so to speak, scientific research supports only some of the claims.



© John Lampkin

In addition to nectar and pollen, honeybees collect plant sap to manufacture propolis.

Bulltongue Arrowhead grows along the canal banks in the SCC Nature Trails and is a great resource for our iconic busy bees. *Sagittaria latifolia* flowers in cycles throughout the year and the stunning white blooms provide nectar and pollen. Like all members of the water plantain family, it produces copious amounts of sap, and this white goo can be seen at every floral stage, even when the plant looks withered and brown. So, if you are wondering why bees are visiting dead looking plants, there’s a resin for that!

The Nature Trails is an ongoing project of the SCC Audubon Club in cooperation with the SCC CA. The trailhead is located opposite North Lake on Del Webb West between Vincennes and Seton Hall. Join us for interpretive walks and bad puns on the first Tuesday of the month at 9 am. Busy we be.



At no other time during the year is the spirit of giving and sharing more alive in people’s hearts. Keep this spirit of Christmas in your heart all year long

[Sam Longhorn](#)



December Zoom Meeting Focus on Habitats Saturday, 12/5/20

Our December meeting will again be a virtual presentation via Zoom. On Saturday, Dec. 5, Master Birder Ray Webb will talk about different Florida habitats, including pine flatwoods, swamps, wetlands and scrub.

Although we are all familiar with local “suburban” birds that are comfortable around human habitation - Eastern Bluebirds, House Sparrows, Northern Mockingbirds, Rock Pigeons and the like – there are many more habitats that are characterized by different plants, trees, environments and birds. Ray will discuss these habitats and their associated flora and fauna.

Ray currently serves as Field Trip Chair and Master Birder for the club. He grew up in northern New Jersey, and his passion for birds eventually led him to the Highlands Audubon Society in northern New Jersey in 1975. He moved to Florida in 1990 and to Sun City Center in 2004, while developing skills in bird identification, leading field trips and presenting programs for Audubon along the way.

Socializing begins at 9:30am. Mary will begin the meeting at 10:00am followed by Ray’s presentation. Details on signing into the ZOOM meeting will be emailed to you this week.



6 Holidays This Season Besides Christmas

Hanukkah - “This holiday commemorates the rededication of the holy Temple in Jerusalem following the Jewish victory over the Syrian-Greeks in 165 B.C.E.” People celebrate Hanukkah by lighting their menorahs, spinning dreidels and eating delicious foods!

Kwanzaa – This is a seven-day holiday that celebrates African culture. It begins on December 26th and ends on January 1st. On the sixth day of Kwanzaa, there’s a Kwanzaa Karamu, which is a big feast. Gifts of Kuumba (creativity) are given to loved ones.

Winter Solstice - For Pagans, December means the holiday of Yule is coming! It falls on December 21st, which marks the winter solstice; which is the shortest day and longest night of the year. The winter solstice celebrates the rebirth of the sun, because days get longer from then on out.

Las Posadas - From December 16th through December 24th, Las Posadas is celebrated by some Hispanic families in the United States. It's a nine-day celebration before Christmas, beginning with a procession with candles, songs and sometimes even people playing the parts of Mary and Joseph who lead the parade.

Diwali - While this holiday falls a little bit before the rest, Diwali, or the Festival of Lights, is a five-day long Hindu holiday celebrating life and the victory of good over evil. The date of Diwali is determined based on the Hindu lunisolar calendar.

Chinese New Year – This is celebrated for 15 days, beginning on the first day of the lunar new year. The 15th day of the new year is the Lantern Festival, which is celebrated at night with a parade. The Chinese New Year marks the end of winter and the beginning of Spring and is a time to be spent with family and loved ones, eating and enjoying time together.

2021 Membership Form



SUN CITY CENTER AUDUBON CLUB
www.sccaudubonclub.com

2021 Membership Registration

Annual Dues: \$10 for CA and Kings Point Gold CA Access Card holders

Print this form, fill it in, and bring it with you to the next in-person meeting. One form per person or mail it to Dennis Morris, 373 Club Manor Dr., Sun City Center, FL 33573. Make checks payable to SCC Audubon Club.

1

Check # _____ Cash _____ Date _____
(In-Person only)

Name (Please print legibly) _____

_____ New Member _____ Renewal

2

To become a member, you must sign below.

Liability and photo release

I voluntarily choose to participate in field trips sponsored by the Sun City Center Audubon Club. I recognize the field trips may expose me to harm or injury resulting from travel to and from the field trip site, and due to forces of nature and natural wildlife, including, but not limited to birds, animals, plants, and other wildlife. I expressly assume the risk of any harm that may occur directly or indirectly from travel to and from the field trip site, or from the forces of nature or wildlife that I may be exposed to. I release the Sun City Center Audubon from any and all liability arising from or in connection with the field trips.

I grant to the Sun City Center Audubon Club, its representatives and members the right to take photographs of me and my property in connection with field trips or other activities of the Sun City Center Audubon Club. I authorize the use of same in print and/or electronically.

Member Signature _____

Date _____

3

Enter only NEW or CHANGED information in this box.

E-Mail _____

Address (SCC) _____

Telephone # _____ CA/KP # _____

Birthday Month _____ Day _____

Please let us know if you are interested in volunteering on the following committees:

____ Membership
____ Conservation
____ Publicity
____ Refreshments
____ Greeters

____ 3-Day Trip
____ December Meeting
____ Field Trips
____ Serve on Board

“You never know what you might see if you go outdoors!”



Officers & Committee Chairs

2020-2021

President	Mary Duncan
Vice-Presidents/ Programs	Patsie Ginley Ann Fenimore
Secretary	Betty Giles
Treasurer	Rod Rodrigues
At Large	Linda Floyd
Refreshments	Pat Dean
Membership	Dennis Morris
Name Tags	Jo Ann Wilkinson
Conservation	OPEN
Historians	Ed & Clara Clancy
Newsletter	Denise Rosen
Publicity	Susan Shuttleworth
Field Trips/ Master Birder	Ray Webb
Three Day Trip	Kathy Eckhart



www.sccaudubonclub.com

HOLIDAY STORIES

Buy Your Own Gift

Last Christmas, grandpa was feeling his age and found that shopping for Christmas gifts had become too difficult. So, he decided to send checks to everyone instead.

In each card he wrote, "Buy your own present!" and mailed them early.

He enjoyed the usual flurry of family festivities, and it was only after the holiday that he noticed that he had received very few cards in return. Puzzled over this, he went into his study, intending to write a couple of his relatives and ask what had happened. It was then, as he cleared off his cluttered desk that he got his answer. Under a stack of papers, he was horrified to find the gift checks which he had forgotten to enclose with the cards.



Christmas Spirit

It was just before Christmas and the magistrate was in a happy mood. He asked the prisoner who was in the dock, 'What are you charged with?'

The prisoner replied, 'Doing my Christmas shopping too early.'

'That's no crime', said the magistrate. 'Just how early were you doing this shopping?'

'Before the shop opened', answered the prisoner.