
SUN CITY CENTER AUDUBON CLUB

March 2021

Ponderings from your prez

Mary

This has been a busy month for me as I've been serving on the nomination committee, the conservation committee and taking over as Field Trip Organizer.

Nominations:

Fortunately, most of the current Board has agreed to stay on. However, Ann Fennimore will be stepping down as Co-Vice President. We will really miss her smiling face and wonderful enthusiasm. Luckily, Linda Menier has offered to step in to that position. She will do a fantastic job I am sure.

I was reluctant to continue as President since I plan to do some traveling and camping this year. We could not find anyone interested in being Co-President; however, our secretary and zoom master, Betty Giles, has agreed to be my back-up in case I am not in town. So, I am glad to continue for one more year.

I would also like to appoint two "At-Large" members to the Board. There would be no responsibilities – just attend Board meetings and bring your new, fresh ideas. (And, of course, you might find out what a great group we are and want to take a position at some future date.) Please let me know if you are interested!

Conservation Committee:

Peter Aulotto is doing a fine job as Chair of this committee. Melanie Higgins will be the Grant Manager as the grant for removing invasives on the north side of the Nature Trail becomes available. Peter has also revived our plans from last year to do a special event for Earth Day (April 22nd) on the Nature Trail. Peter will be telling you more about it. The CA is helping with the event as well. So, save the date!

Field Trips:

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, I am willing to follow through with planning the trips which are already set through April. However, we need some volunteers – to organize the "non-season" field trips (May through September) and then the regular season trips. I have a list of all the trips we've done over the past few years. Don't let April's field trip be the last! Call or email me if you are interested in helping with this. Let's do a Zoom meeting or outdoor meeting to kick around ideas and make some plans. If we have a small committee, we can divide up the work and each person would only be responsible for two or three trips.

So, two At-Large Board Members and three or four field trip organizers are urgently needed.

Please call me at 813-260-3322

Future Field Trips:

March 19th – Sarasota Jungle Gardens. We will meet at the Community Hall parking lot at 9:15. There are gardens, flamingoes, and two or three shows to see. Please call me to register for the trip. Just leave a message on my home phone since I will be away camping in early March – 813-260-3322. We will pay at the door. (16.99 + tax). We should get there at 10am. There is a snack shack on the grounds for lunch if you choose.

April 21 – Fort de Soto. Save the date – more info later. This is prime time for migrating birds so we should see a lot. Plan to bring a sack lunch. (I'll bring cupcakes for everyone since it's my birthday).

Birds, beach, friends, cupcakes – what's not to like.

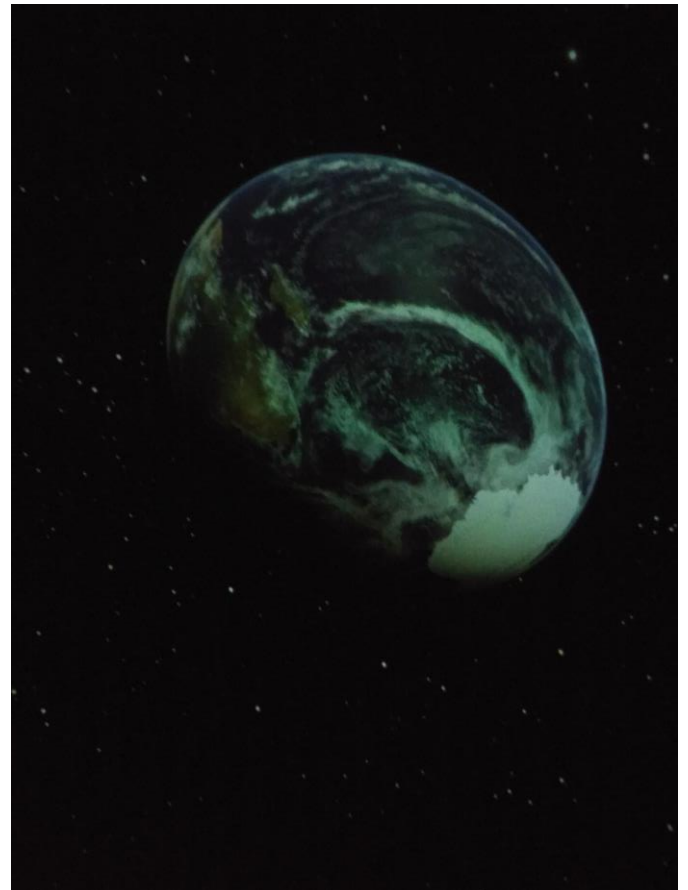
Bishop Museum, Bradenton

The field trip to the Bishop Museum this month was enjoyed by all. The planetarium show on Mars was very timely given the recent news. Unfortunately (for us) the rescued manatees had been set free the week before, so we did not get to see them. However, to follow the progress of the rescued manatees, you can go to www.ManateeRescue.org That is a very cool site.

And, any museum that greets you with a giant mammoth is okay with me.



Our Merry Little Group



Earth in the Planetarium

News from our Master Birder

Ray Webb

We continue to progress toward spring. Later sunsets, warmer days, and more spring arrivals. That beautiful little warbler with a bluish back and yellow throat, the northern parula warbler, is arriving as I write this. Soon the West Campus Nature trail will be ringing with its rising threeeee-up call. There have also been a number of early sightings of one of my favorite birds, the swallow-tailed kite. Usually expected in the early days of March, some are ahead of schedule. Also just beginning to show up are a few red-eyed vireos and barn swallows.

It appears I was a bit premature in my statement in my last column, that the ospreys would be able to lay claim to their nest at the corner of LaJolla Ave and Pebble Beach Blvd. N. WRONG!! On the 8th of February, Mrs. Great Horned Owl "horned in" on that nest, and now sits proud and tall in its center. We will probably get to watch her raise one or two owlets. Recall that last year, the nest blew down with her in it, and she moved nearby to raise her single owlet.

Bluebirds Nesting in the Atrium



While enjoying your delicious breakfast or afternoon tea at CC's Grill in the Atrium, be sure to check out the Blue Bird in the Atrium Garden. You can barely see her little head popping out of the bottom hole.

March Zoom Meeting

Saturday, March 6, 2021

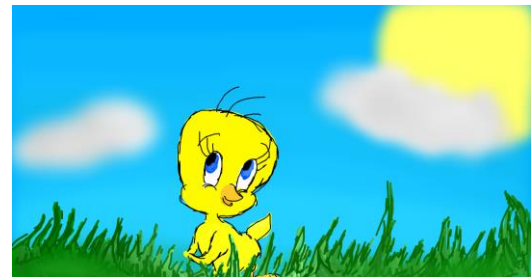
Wading Birds

Long-legged wading birds, including spoonbills, herons, egrets, ibis and cranes, will be spotlighted at the March 6 meeting of Sun City Center Audubon Club. An educational video, "Watching Waders," will be shown via Zoom. The video by documentary film makers Michael Male and Judy Fieth covers the behavior and natural habitat of 20 species of waders across North America, including courtship, nesting and feeding. It also showcases the work of scientists and researchers who are working to protect these birds and the wetlands they inhabit.

The meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m. with socializing and business topics, and the video presentation will start at 10:00 a.m. The Zoom link will be sent to Audubon Club members prior to the meeting.

Non-members can contact Patsie Ginley for the link at patsieginley@aol.com.

The full schedule of monthly meetings is available on the club website at <http://www.sccaudubonclub.com/meeting>



"Every bird, every tree, every flower reminds me what a blessing and privilege it is just to be alive." – Marty Rubin

March Celebrations



We are all looking for something to celebrate during these difficult times. Here are some thoughts for your celebrations. According to the holiday calendar from the Internet, there are some special things to celebrate on March 9th:

- Barbie Day
- Get Over It Day
- National Crabmeat Day
- National Meatball Day

If you do not like to celebrate any of those days, here are a few more happy events to celebrate on March 19th:

- Act Happy Day
- Let's Laugh Day
- National Chocolate Carmel Day
- National Poultry Day

And my favorite, which is a week celebration: Chocolate Chip Cookie Week - the second week of March!

Now for more serious celebrations in March:

- St Patrick's Day March 17th
- First Day of Passover March 27th
- Palm Sunday March 28th

Let us not forget our feathered friends and furry animals:

- National Pig Day March 1st
- Wildlife Day March 3rd
- Learn about Butterflies Day March 14th
- Save a Spider Day March 14th
- Buzzard Day March 15th
- World Frog Day March 20th
- World Sparrow Day March 20th



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	Peter Aluotto
Historians	Ed & Clara Clancy
Newsletter	Denise Rosen
Publicity	Susan Shuttleworth
Field Trips	TBD
Master Birder	Ray Webb
Three Day Trip	Kathy Eckhart



www.sccaudubonclub.com



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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