
SUN CITY CENTER AUDUBON CLUB

November 2020

Ponderings from your prez

Mary Duncan

Flexibility – always an important asset; but critical when dealing with the Covid 19 virus.

Patience – always an important asset; but essential when dealing with the Covid 19 virus.

Flexibility and patience are also valuable when dealing with the plans for the Audubon Club. Last month, the members had to be patient when the film being shown over Zoom suddenly stopped. (I was blissfully unaware of this as the dvd was still playing on my computer. When Betty called, I realized the problem was that my internet had gone out – and there was nothing I could do about it). I felt so bad. But apparently Ray stepped in and led a discussion of warblers and the meeting ended positively. Again, patience and flexibility prevailed.

At long last, the Florida room was going to be open again for clubs (but with limited seating and no frills – no food, no drink, no swap table etc.). I was excited as I'm afraid my patience on this had been wearing thin. The straw vote at our last Zoom meeting was almost 50-50 with a few more wanting "in person" meetings. So, I checked it out and called a board meeting to discuss the logistics of an open meeting – counting the number of people coming in; monitoring mask wearing, etc. In the course of our discussion, we found that we weren't really comfortable with re-opening our meetings -- and the spikes of Covid 19 have just increased since then. So, while still struggling with patience, we are now called on to be flexible once again.

The good news is that our Program Director, Patsie Ginley, saw a great zoom presentation which included showing little rescued animals. (More about this elsewhere). We felt that this would really be appealing and have booked the young lady for our next meeting via zoom on November 7th.

Our November 7th meeting will be a Zoom meeting. An invitation with the password will be sent out closer to the date. We will meet at 9:30am. The meeting won't start until 10am so there is time to get on and time to speak with those who are on the call. (You can speak directly to the group or private message an individual). People make fun of older people's ability to be flexible and learn new technology, but we are showing them that they are wrong!

In other news:

Dennis Litton has stepped up and volunteered to be our new Membership Chair. He hasn't used excel before but, with patience and flexibility, it should be easy to master. We reluctantly say good-bye to Loni Baxter who did such a marvelous job.



No one has stepped up to chair our Conservation Committee. We really need someone. John Lampkin will continue to lead tours once a month and photo document what can be found there. Ray Webb walks the trail weekly to document the birds that can be seen. Joe Mustion will be missed as he has now resigned as chair – although he will help when needed. I do not mind dealing with the CA if there is something we need. So, you don't need to worry about that if you don't want to. Besides the trail, we are always open to new ideas for conservation and making Sun City Center a better place.



West Campus Nature Trail



News from our Master Birder

Ray

It's autumn, supposedly the time of falling leaves, cool weather, and so on. Not this year. Not here. As I write this, in late October, a temperature of 90 is forecast and a hurricane is churning in the Gulf. For the birds, however, all is proceeding on schedule.

Palm warblers have arrived and are dancing on our lawns, tails pumping as they do so. Gray catbirds are here, mostly in undergrowth like on the West Campus Nature Trail, where I now find them on every walk I take. Yesterday, on a walk at Lettuce Lake Park on Fletcher Ave. in Tampa, I saw my first blue-headed vireo and eastern phoebe of the season; both species will be with us all winter now. Blackbirds like common grackles and boat-tailed grackles and red-winged blackbirds, have formed flocks. Soon the brown-headed cowbirds will do likewise.

All of this is expected and on time. The birds don't seem to care if the weather is crazy now; they just go on doing their thing. Still to arrive are yellow-rumped warblers, ruby-crowned kinglets, and several species of ducks.



***Bird-watching soars amid
COVID-19 as Americans head
outdoors!***

<https://www.cbs17.com/news/technology/bird-watching-soars-amid-covid-19-as-americans-head-outdoors/>

Virtual Meeting to be Held on November 7, 2020, 9:30am

The club will resume monthly meetings with a virtual presentation via Zoom. On Saturday, Nov. 7, at 9:30 a.m., we will feature Destiny Houghton, director of Woodland Wonders Wildlife Rehab Center in Auburndale. Destiny will talk about and display some of the animals at the center, such as a baby opossum, a baby flying squirrel and a rabbit.

The club secretary is sending out the Zoom link to all members. Any non-members who are interested in attending this virtual meeting should contact Patsie Ginley at patsieginley@aol.com to obtain the link.

Woodland Wonders is a wildlife rehabilitation and education center serving Polk County. Their staff provides care and treatment for injured, ill, and orphaned wildlife. The organization focuses on rehabilitation of wild animals for their successful release back to their natural habitat. Animals that cannot be released are given a safe refuge.

Susan Shuttleworth



Officers & Committee Chairs 2020-2021

President	Mary Duncan
Vice-Presidents/ Programs	Patsie Ginley Ann Fenimore
Secretary	Betty Giles
Treasurer	Rod Rodrigues
At Large	Dennis Morris Linda Floyd
Refreshments	Pat Dean
Membership	Dennis Litton
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



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