MONTHLY MEETING
Monday, October 8th


Social Hour: 6:30pm
Business Meeting: 7:00pm
Presentation: 7:30pm

First Congregational Church Fellowship Hall
2031 S. Euclid, Sarasota

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CLICK --> FOR LIST OF ALL MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAMS

WE ARE OPEN!

The Sarasota Audubon Society Nature Center

Open daily 9:00am-1:00pm
October 1st through May 31st

Click Through This Issue!

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Message from the SAS Board of Directors
**Pre-monthly Meeting Dinner**
All Members Welcome!
Gecko's Restaurant, 1900 Hillview Avenue at 5:00pm. Reservations are not necessary. Contact Karen Jensen for more information: 941-400-6890

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**2018-2019 ACTIVITY SCHEDULE**

**FIELD TRIPS AND ACTIVITIES**

No reservations necessary for field trips unless noted. Suggested donation: $2 members, $4 non-members.

**Saturday, Oct. 6: PINECRAFT PARK**
9:00am. Meet at Pinecraft Park, 1420 Gilbert Ave. Leaders: Edith Miller & Lynn Jakubowicz
lynn234@verizon.net

**Saturday, Oct. 13: VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION**
9:00am-10:30am -- Nature Center Docents
10:30am - 12:00pm -- CF Bird Naturalists
1:00pm-3:00pm -- Scheduling/Volgistics Training
Meet at the Nature Center
Contact: Marcy Packer packmw@aol.com

**October 11 - 14: FLORIDA BIRDING AND NATURE FESTIVAL**

Click here

**Sunday, Oct. 14: BIG SIT**
Join SAS members to count birds from a 17 foot circle. Contact: Stu Wilson stuwilson@comcast.net (512-897-8341)

**Tuesday, Oct. 16: ROBINSON PRESERVE**

WE ARE OPEN! Our 2018-19 season has begun! So, come on down and see what is new at the Nature Center

The SAS board of directors and many volunteers have been working hard for opening day and they have done a terrific job. Many thanks for all who generously volunteered their time and efforts.

As mentioned previously we have a very exciting and varied schedule of activities, trips, classes and workshops that we are sure you will enjoy. Click here to see our Activity Schedule for the 2018-19 season

Reminder..... starting this season, REGISTRATION FOR ALL trips, classes and other SAS Special Events (i.e. Holiday lunch etc.) must be completed ON-LINE at the SAS web site. Here are links to register:

REGISTER FOR CLASSES -------> CLICK
REGISTER FOR TRIPS -----------> CLICK
REGISTER FOR HOLIDAY LUNCH --> CLICK

You can also register online by signing up on-line in person at the Nature Center. For questions or help with on-line registration feel free to stop by or call (941-312-6533) the Nature Center during our normal hours of operation (October 1- May 31, 9:00am-1:00pm).

We look forward to seeing you at our first General Meeting on October 8th and other SAS activities.

Best Regards,
Sarasota Audubon Society Board of Directors
1st Vice President - Marcy Packer
2nd Vice President - Lynn Jakubowicz
Secretary - Mary Heinlen
Treasurer - Jeanne Dubi
Member at Large - Martha Straub
Member at Large - Sara King
Education Chair - Kathryn Young
Conservation Chair - Rob Wright
Web Master - Betty Neupert, Barb Males

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As most of us are aware SAS Board member Rob Wright's wife Jan is currently facing a very difficult medical recovery. Our thoughts are with them and their family at this time.

A gofundme page has been set up by friends to help with mounting medical bills:

https://www.gofundme.com/support-for-jan-and-rob
8:00am. Meet at the park, 1704 99th St NW, Bradenton. Leaders: Stu Wilson (512-897-8341) and John Ginaven

**Wednesday, Oct. 17: SIESTA KEY SHOREBIRDS**
8:00am. Meet at the Pavilion/north end of main SK parking lot. Leaders: Mary Heinlen (941-346-3335) & Lynn Jakubowicz

**Thursday, Oct. 18: OSCAR SCHERER PARK**
8:30am. Meet inside the park at Lake Osprey/ Nature Center (park opens at 8:00am - park fee). Alternating leaders Joyce Leary (508-737-8954) and Peter Brown (508-241-5541)

**October 19-20: FLORIDA AUDUBON ASSEMBLY**

**Monday, Oct. 22: 4TH MONDAY CELERY FIELDS WALK**
9:00am. Meet at the SAS Nature Center. Leader: Joyce Leary (508-737-8954)

**Thursday, Oct. 25: OSCAR SCHERER PARK**
8:30am. Meet inside the park at Lake Osprey/ Nature Center (park opens at 8:00am - park fee). Alternating leaders Joyce Leary (508-737-8954) and Peter Brown (508-241-5541).

**SAS CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS**

We are pleased to offer another season of educational and inspiring classes and workshops.

**ABOUT AUDUBON ASSEMBLY**

Sarasota Audubon and National Audubon are non-profit organizations under section 501-C-3 of the US tax code, and hence we can not endorse candidates for election, but we can endorse or oppose issues, local initiatives and amendments to the state constitution. Some other environmental organizations, such as Sierra Club and the League of Conservation Voters (LCV), have C-4 affiliates, which can and do endorse candidates, but the finances of the affiliates must be kept separate. Therefore, the recommendations in this article are my own, not those of SAS, though most of them reflect the recommendations of one or both of the C-4 organizations mentioned above and of other local environmentalists.

Only those candidates who, in my opinion, have or are likely to have some significant environmental responsibilities or influence, and initiatives or amendments that affect our natural environment are listed. No candidates for Judge, Charter Review Board or Hospital Board (including some friends of mine) are listed, since their decisions are unlikely to be important to the environment.
WORKSHOPS
These 2-hour workshops provide a wealth of information on a variety of topics. Meet at the Nature Center at 1:30pm. $5.00 Donation. No reservations required; Pay at the door.

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS & SCHEDULE

CLASSES
From Yoga to Photography and lots in between. Check out this season's interesting selection of classes.

Online (only) Registration required for all classes.
CLASS DESCRIPTIONS & SCHEDULE
CLASS REGISTRATION

Questions? Contact: Kathryn Young kathwren4@gmail.com

TRIPS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

HOLIDAY LUNCH
Friday, December 14, 2018 11:45am
Mission Valley Country Club; 1851 Mission Valley Blvd; Nokomis. SAS MEMBERS AND GUESTS ONLY.
RESERVATION REQUIRED.
RESERVATION - HOLIDAY LUNCH

ST MARK'S NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
January 18 - 20, 2019
Overnight birding trip to St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge. RESERVATION REQUIRED
REGISTER OVERNIGHT TRIP

EAGLE TROLLEY
February 2, 2019 or February 9, 2019
Visit active bald eagle nests with eagle expert Dale Nauman. Two trips available: February 2 or February 9, 2019.
RESERVATION REQUIRED.
REGISTER EAGLE TROLLEY - FEB. 2, 2019
REGISTER EAGLE TROLLEY - FEB. 9, 2019

CAREFREE LEARNER BOAT TOUR
March 26, 2019 or April 8, 2019
1:00-3:00pm. Boat tour to Roberts Bay Rookery. Two trips available: March 26 or April 8, 2019
RESERVATION REQUIRED
REGISTER BOAT TOUR - MARCH 26, 2019
REGISTER BOAT TOUR - APRIL 8, 2019

FOSSIL BONES EXHIBIT

Favored Candidates:

Governor: Andrew GILLUM. League of Conservation Voters (LCV) and Sierra endorsed. Emphasizes combating climate change and pollution, opposes offshore drilling, fracking and preemption of local governments by State. Opponent Congressman DeSantis has lifetime score of 2% on LCV environmental voting record.

US Senator: Bill NELSON (incumbent). LCV and Sierra endorsed. Has lifetime score of 95% on LCV environmental voting record. Opponent Gov. Scott has during campaign moved against red tide but during two gubernatorial terms cut environmental funds, appointed notable enemies of environment and was denounced by environmentalists.

US House of Representatives, District 16. David SHAPIRO, LCV and Sierra endorsed. Emphasizes reducing greenhouse gas emissions through clean, renewable energy, preserving environmental lands. Opponent incumbent Congressman Buchanan has lifetime score of 19% on LCV environmental voting record.

US House of Representatives, District 17. No recommendation at present, but probably environmentalists will support whoever runs against Republican nominee, former State Senator Greg Steube, known primarily for the many pro-gun bills he has introduced in the State legislature. April Freeman won the Democratic primary but died too late to have her name removed from the ballot. I understand that gives the Democratic party the right to nominate a replacement, whose name will not be on the ballot and who is not known at the time of this writing.

Florida Attorney General. Sean SHAW. Sierra Club endorsed. Both as a member of the Governor's cabinet and as the person who controls the engagement of the state in legal issues the AG can be important to the environment.

Florida Agricultural Commissioner. Nikki FRIED. Sierra Club endorsed. Also a member of the Governor's cabinet. Important as influencing land use, especially of state land and pollution control.

Florida State Senate, District 23, Joe Gruters vs. Faith Olivia Babis. No recommendation.

Florida House of Representatives., District 72 (incumbent) Margaret GOOD. Sierra Club endorsed. A particularly strong candidate. Lists protection of our environment and prevention of severe Red Tide and algae blooms as her first objectives. She served only a couple of weeks in the last legislature after winning an upset victory to replace a legislator who resigned. An attorney with good environmental ideas and drive.

Florida House of Representatives. District 73. Liz
Have you stopped by the Nature Center to see our fossil bones exhibit?

This year we have two display cases, featuring bones from prehistoric Celery Fields inhabitants. Most of these bones come from the period, between 10,000 and 100,000 years ago, when the Celery Fields area was covered with extensive grasslands, along with some wetlands and marshes. Fossils of turtles, fish, and alligators are abundant. However, mastodons, mammoths, three-toed horses, camels, bison, and deer grazed on the grasslands. Top predator of these herbivores was the Saber-toothed tiger. Fossils of these cats have been found in our area also, so we know the Celery Fields was an area of flourishing wildlife.

In the late 1990’s, when the county was converting the former agricultural fields to the present storm water management area, the Manasota Fossil Club received permission to sort through the mounds of dirt which had been excavated. One member, Elaine Dunkelberger, has graciously permitted us to exhibit some of her finds. The ponds on the north end of the Celery Fields are the deepest, so the majority of the large animal (mammoth and mastodon) bones were found there. Included in the collection are giant leg bones, teeth, tusk, pelvis, and brain cavity fossils. Many smaller bones and fragments document the presence of peccaries, horses, camels, and bison, which are also displayed for you in the cases.

And you thought the Celery Fields was just birds!

*Lynn Jakubowicz*

P.S.
Want more bones? Visit our Kids’ Touch Table, where they have their own exhibit of animal skeletons!

**COLEMAN.** Endorsed by Sierra Club.

**Florida House of Representatives. District 74. Tony MOWRY.** Endorsed by Sierra Club.

**Sarasota County Commission. District 2. Ruta JOUNIARI.** Endorsed by Sierra Club. Hard working and good ideas

**Sarasota County Commission. District 4. Wesley BOGGS.** Endorsed by Sierra Club. Dedicated and makes good impression.

**STATE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS:**
Of the 12 amendments to the Florida Constitution (numbered 1 through 13 excepting number 8, which was removed from the ballot by court order since it contained more than one subject), only Amendment 9 directly and primarily affects the environment. It prohibits offshore oil and gas drilling. (It also prohibits vaping in enclosed indoor workplaces, but most observers feel that strange addition was an apparently unsuccessful effort to have the courts kill the environmental benefit of the drilling prohibition by adding another subject.) We therefore join the Florida Wildlife Federation, Sierra Club and many civic organizations in recommending **VOTE YES ON AMENDMENT 9.**

While Sierra and some other groups recommend a "no" vote on some amendments that restrict funding that might be otherwise be used for environmental purposes or a "yes" vote for amendments with possible social benefit, I do not consider them sufficiently environmental for Sarasota Audubon to take a position.

**COUNTY BOND REFERENDUM: Legacy Trail Extension. VOTE YES.** This is in effect a little wildlife corridor that, if extended, will extend habitat for birds and other small wildlife into the city.

**COUNTY CHARTER AMENDMENTS:**
Charter Review Board proposals to go to the next general election rather than to the next county-wide election. This is not very important, but it could delay the adoption of some environmental issue. **PROBABLY VOTE NO.**

Retain Siesta Beach Road as Public Right of Way. **VOTE YES**

Preserve County-owned parks, preserves, beach and water access and waterfront vistas. **VOTE YES**

Change County Commission Elections to Single-Member Districts. **VOTE YES.** This amendment is important. County Commissioners are now elected county-wide though they must live in their (one of five) district. They must therefore campaign expensively county-wide. Unless they are personally wealthy, they must depend on heavy contributions from developers with their PACs. This change could
On September 22nd as part of National Parks Day, 25 Girl Scouts, parents and mentors did a fabulous job of mulching the gardens at the Nature Center. This volunteer effort has made a huge dent in the work required to keep the gardens perfect. Jeanne Dubi and Andy Schneider supervised and Sara King was the photog who also provided lots of moral support.

A big THANK YOU from SAS to all!

"Hope is a Thing with feathers..."
(Emily Dickinson)

Feathers - one of nature's most exquisite and versatile designs. All birds, and only birds, have them.

I'm holding a peacock feather as I write - a foot long, nearly weightless, and soft as silk. Feathers are dead. Like hair, they're made of keratin, one of nature's toughest proteins, sheer, light, and strong. My feather is durable enough to protect a bird, in this case, the peacock, fleeing through dense tangles of grass and brush. Birds get a new set of feathers every year. If damaged, they can shed them to make way for new growth. Maybe that's where mine came from. Feathers are porous, made up of tiny microscopic air gaps. These huge volumes of air inside the feather are the secret to how precisely wing feathers keep birds in the air. Feathers act as a bird's GPS system and oddly, they grow branched, like a tree.

If I haven't convinced you to nominate feathers for the 2019 "7 Wonders of the World" list, get this.

My peacock feather's gorgeous greens, brilliant blues, and loamy earth hues are the ultimate eye candy. Feathers have the most vibrant colors in the natural world, and while they're important for sexual attraction and camouflage, their beauty led to the near extinction of many species of birds. For nearly three decades, starting in the 1870's, there was an enormous global craving for feathers to adorn women's hats. Snowy egrets were killed by the thousands for their brilliant white plumes, and the long delicate trailing nuptial plumes that grow off the backs of their heads during mating season, the aigrettes. Their mass killings left the earth looking snow covered. The grass roots campaign to end this savagery led to the formation of the National Audubon Society.
We use feathers to describe how light something is, e.g. "as light as a feather," but interestingly enough, the extreme lightness of a bird's feathers is more integral to sustained flight than its muscles.

The lightness and size of the golden eagle allows it to soar higher than any other bird. To the Native Americans it's a "spirit bird," because it soars higher and can see and hunt better than any other, bridging two realms, heaven and earth. "The golden eagle is our messenger to the Creator," notes Lee Plenty Wolf, a spiritual teacher in the Oglala Lakota tribe. Its feathers were, and still are, sacred, representing the highest values of trust, bravery, and honor.

I stroke my feather. It is exquisitely soft. Feathers are the softest thing nature produces. We cram duck and goose down feathers into pillows, duvets and mattresses, because they make the warmest and lightest types of clothes and bedding we use. Amazing how something nearly weightless is one of the most effective natural insulators known to us, and we've never been able to replicate them.

The world's best-quality down is eiderdown, which comes from a wild sea duck, the common eider, whose feathers help it survive the harshness of the winter wind-whipped northern seas in the Arctic mudflats. Due to the eiderdown's rarity, superb quality, and labor-intensive gathering, an eiderdown comforter can range anywhere from $3000 to $20,000.

I lay my feather down and reflect on the spirit bird, soaring high, bringing messages to the Creator, its feathers inspiring greatness to a past generation.

And feathers continue to inspire: "Hope is a thing with feathers that perches in the soul. It sings the song without the words, and never stops at all." (Emily Dickinson)

Feathers - birds, and only birds, have them.

The book to read: The Wonder of Birds by Jim Robbins

Janet Hasselbring

Janet Hasselbring is a retired educator, musician and a Sarasota Audubon Society member. She resides in Spring Lake, MI with her husband and Welsh terrier, Maggie May. They winter in FL, where she is inspired to write her children’s book series, Tales from Pelican Cove, featuring the wild/shorebirds of FL and beyond. She has also written a series about her family farm, Country Dairy.
At the Sarasota Audubon Society every position and task is done by one of our dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers. Do you have a special talent and some extra time? We are always looking to increase our volunteer team.

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CAN VOLUNTEERING FIGHT DEMENTIA?
A new study adds to growing evidence that time spent helping others also helps your brain. Check out this AARP article --> CLICK

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INTERESTED IN JOINING OUR VOLUNTEER TEAM?
Please contact our Volunteer Coordinator: Marcy Packer packmw@aol.com

NEWS FROM THE GIFT SHOP

New Artist - Brennan Gorrie
We have a New Artist displaying and selling her artwork at the SAS Nature Center during the months of October and November. We invite you to come in and take a look.

NOTES FROM THE BIRD RECORDER

September Rarities 2018
- Blackburnian Warbler: Pinecraft Park, Manasota Scrub
- Tropical Kingbird: 1st St, Sarasota
- Cerulean Warbler: Pinecraft Park, Red Bug Slough Park
- Western Kingbird: Bay St. & Old Venice Rd., Venice
- Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Pinecraft Park, Red Bug Slough Park
- Chestnut-sided Warbler: Red Bug Slough Park
- Whimbrel: Siesta Beach, Access 7
- Baird’s Sandpiper: Siesta Beach, Acc 7
- Buff-breasted Sandpiper: Siesta Beach, Acc 8
- Blue-winged Warbler: Pinecraft Park
- Baltimore Oriole: Leffis Key
- Golden-winged Warbler: Pinecraft Park, Manasota Scrub
- Tennessee Warbler: Pinecraft Park
- Magnolia Warbler: Pinecraft Park
- Orchard Oriole: Pinecraft Park
- White-rumped Sandpiper: Siesta Beach, Acc 7
- Nashville Warbler: Pinecraft Park
- Elegant Tern: Siesta Beach, Access 9

Claire Herzog

Call for SAS Members for our February 2019 Photography
SAS member, Brennan Gorrie is a watercolor artist whose impressionistic style of transparent watercolors capture the play of sunlight against timeless settings and natural foliage. Her seascapes, landscapes, native birds and the wildlife of Florida reflect the colors and life around her.

We have a number of Brennan's original watercolors and giclée prints displayed on our walls, as well as an assortment of her 8"x10" matted prints available in the gift shop. Brennan is a member of Light Chasers Plein Air Painters of the Suncoast.

Brennan is a member of Light Chasers Plein Air Painters of the Suncoast.

Beaded Bracelets by Susan Wolfe

SAS member and NC Docent Susan Wolfe's beautiful bracelets are all lovingly handcrafted in ladies' and girls' sizes in a variety of beads and designs...

Additional New Items

** New tee shirts **

** SAS Purple Gallinule Car Magnets **

...and lots lots more!

Please visit us for all things birding and

Show

If you are a member of Sarasota Audubon who is a photographer and are interested in participating in our February 2019 Photography Show at the Nature Center, we invite you to print out, complete, and send us the "Show Application/Prospectus Form". CLICK --> Show Application/Prospectus Form

Our theme is: "Celebrating the Celery Fields".

The deadline to participate is December 1, 2018. All photographs should be originals and they must be framed, gallery wrapped, or aluminum printed and able to be hung on hooks. Information regarding our framing and hanging specifications is on PAGE 2 of the application/prospectus (see link above).

For questions or additional information, please contact us at: SAS.Art.Committee@gmail.com

Sue Herring, Chair - SAS Art Committee

Call for SAS Members to Display and Sell Their Artwork or Photography at the Nature Center

If you are a member of Sarasota Audubon who is an artist or photographer and might be interested in displaying and selling your artwork at the Nature Center, we invite you to print out, complete, and send the "Artist Request to Display and Sell" form. CLICK --> Artist Request to Display and Sell

All artworks should be originals and they must be framed, gallery wrapped, or otherwise able to be hung on hooks. An information sheet regarding our framing and hanging specifications is also attached.

We are looking to showcase one or two members'...
Birding Hot Spots in Sarasota and Manatee Counties

Can be purchased for just $6.00 at the Nature Center, monthly meetings and field trips or $8.50 by mail. Send a check to: SAS, PO Box 52132, Sarasota, FL 34232-0337. Hot Spots is also available at Environeers, Book Store 1, Selby Gardens, Historic Spanish Point, Oscar Scherer State Park and Myakka River State Park.

Help support our Sarasota Audubon Society when you shop at Amazon:
CLICK FOR DETAILS

BECOME A SPOONBILL CLUB MEMBER

If you have named Sarasota Audubon in your will or beneficiary in any way, you are eligible to become a member of our legacy group, The Spoonbill Club
CLICK TO FIND OUT MORE

YOUR ANNUAL SAS MEMBERSHIP!

Or mail a check - $30.00 per member / family
Payable to: Sarasota Audubon Society
Address: SAS, 999 Center Road, Sarasota, FL 34240

Don’t Know if You Renewed?
Check with Lynn Jakubowicz, our Membership Chairperson, email: membership@sarasotaaudubon.org

SARASOTA AUDUBON NATURE CENTER COMMEMORATIVE BRICKS

Help build a path to the future
Purchase a commemorative brick!

Engrave a loved one’s name, or a short quote on a brick to commemorate a lasting tribute, or mark a special occasion. Ask us about other naming opportunities. Truly a gift that gives back.

CLICK TO ORDER - BRICK ORDER FORM

Sarasota Audubon Society
999 Center Road, Sarasota, FL 34240

NAME BADGES

Pin Badge - $5.25, Magnet Badge - $7.25
Add $4.50 for shipping. Send name and address to:

Help support our Sarasota Audubon Society when you shop at Amazon:
CLICK FOR DETAILS

Sarasota Audubon Society
999 Center Road, Sarasota, FL 34240

SAS has phased out our PO Box address. Please update your address books:
Sarasota Audubon Society
999 Center Road, Sarasota, FL 34240

For questions or additional information, please contact us at: SAS.Art.Committee@gmail.com

Sue Herring, Chair - SAS Art Committee
Subscribe to SRQ Bird Alerts!
Need the latest birding info for our area?
To subscribe: Click here to send an email.
Thanks to Peter Rice for providing this service.

Sarasota County Butterfly Club

Sarasota County Butterfly Club Programs are open to the public and are held most 4th Thursdays of each month Sept-May.
Visit www.sarasotabutterfly.com to learn more!

CLICK: Sarasota Audubon Web Site

Marcy Packer, editor
editor@sarasotaaudubon.org

Submissions, comments and questions always welcome
Send to: editor@sarasotaaudubon.org