



THE BROWN PELICAN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SARASOTA AUDUBON SOCIETY

MAY 2022



Message from the BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dear Auduboners,

Well, you did it! During the Giving Challenge on April 26-27 you came through big time: 268 donors gave \$21,866, and [The Patterson Foundation](#) matched with \$20,519. This is the best we have done since participating in all Giving Challenges. A HUGE THANK YOU TO ALL WHO MADE THIS DRIVE A SUCCESS.

This issue of *The Brown Pelican* is the last for a few

months. We will issue another for September, but during the summer we will keep in touch with you via eblasts, so watch your inbox.

As you know, we close the Nature Center from June 1 until October 1. Thanks to all who stepped up to staff the nature center, the gardens, the boardwalks, and all of our walks, tours, and workshops. We could not do this without YOU, our dedicated cadre of volunteers.

As always, take care and be safe,

Jeanne Dubi and the Sarasota Audubon Board of Directors

MONTHLY MEETING INFORMATION

**General Meeting Monday May 9, 2022
7:00pm on ZOOM
Special Sneak Preview Screening!**

**FULL CIRCLE - The Great Gull Island Project
50 Years of Conservation
with Director/Producer Anne Via McCollough**



Tern Structures on Great Gull Island

Full Circle is a film from [Taking Flight Productions](#) that celebrates one woman's triumph in conservation: the Great Gull Island Project, Helen Hays' 50-year quest to save two species of threatened seabirds. During her long term study, she vastly increased the numbers of nesting Roseate and Common Terns on a small, uninhabited island in Long Island Sound.

The film reveals the nesting season of the terns up close - arrival, courtship, hatching, feeding, fledging - and highlights the myriad of volunteers fostered & inspired by Hays over the decades; her extensive collaboration with scientists in Argentina, Brazil and the Azores; and also her remarkable & heartwarming connection with a small fishing



village on the north coast of Brazil.

Hays' dedication has helped complete an important circle, not only in conservation efforts, but also in connecting people from all over the globe... people who were once strangers, are now friends & colleagues working together for a common cause.

This is a special screening of Full Circle and therefore we are not permitted to record for viewing. Only the introduction and Q&A afterward will be available on our YouTube channel.

*Pedro Lima who collaborated
with Helen in Brazil*

Register



BIRD OF THE MONTH

Sandhill Cranes by Kathryn Young



It's Sandhill Crane season!

Sandhill Cranes at this time of year can be seen in our wetlands sitting on nests, or at grassy roadsides and golf courses feeding young.

In the evening you may see Sandhill Cranes flying to their roost. Roosting communally with other Sandhill Cranes in shallow water gives them many ears to listen for predators.

Full Blog Here

The Jeanne Dubi Scholarship



Since 2017, our scholarship program has aided 11 college bound seniors in their goal of pursuing one of the environmental sciences in college. At the end of their first year, recipients must submit a report telling us how their first year of studies went and what they did to further their goals.

Funding the scholarship program comes from donations. If you would like to help fund future

environmentalists, you can donate at

<https://www.sarasotaudubon.org/donate/>

Meet Katharine Thomas (Cardinal Mooney HS grad), proud 2021 recipient of a Jeanne Dubi Sarasota Audubon Scholarship. She is an Environmental and Policy Major at Florida State University in Tallahassee. She says her first year at University has exceeded all of her expectations. You will want to read all about it.

Full Scholarship Report

Notes from the NATURE CENTER



"Spoonbill Beauty" by May Artist: Photographer Reenie Ram



Above: Karen Willey and Jeanne Dubi say goodbye at the recent Board of Directors meeting.

Below: Pileated Woodpecker by May Featured Artist: Photographer Reenie Ram

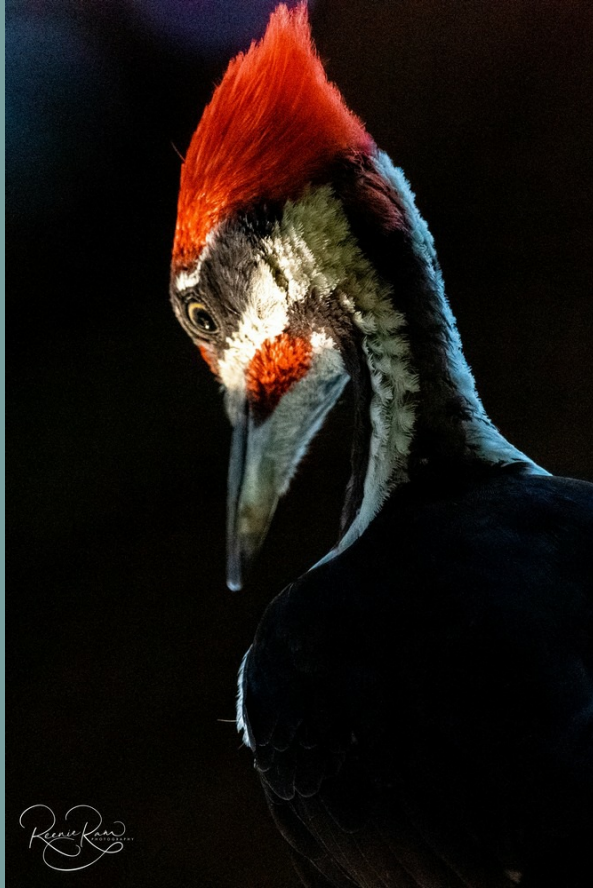
OPEN DAILY 9am - NOON

The Nature Center will be open through the end of the month. Come on in and get your nature fix before the summer heat sets in.

We also say goodbye to yours truly, Nature Center Manager Karen Willey. I am leaving for Asheville, North Carolina as this is being published. We will be advertising for a replacement at the end of the summer. Stay tuned for more information at a later date.

**May Featured Artist
Photographer
Reenie Ram**

Reenie grew up in Massapequa, Long Island, NY. She worked as a police officer for NYPD until becoming disabled from the 9/11



terrorist attacks in 2001. Following her disability and other resulting medical conditions, Reenie took her love for wildlife and nature and turned to photography as an outlet. Now living in Florida, Reenie says her lens is the view into the soul of each animal, showing her that they feel the same emotions we do. Following them on their journeys brings her wellness and inner peace.

Purple Martin Nest Check

As of Sunday, April 23: Eggs 282,
Hatched 143, Fledged 18.

Karen Willey
SAS Nature Center Manager

*Nature is always open!
Come on out and enjoy
the gardens.*

*Karen we are sorry to see you go.
Please visit whenever you can.
Thankfully, Karen will be helping
us from afar with techy stuff.
Hooray for Zoom!*

Monthly Beach Bird Walks
No Registration Required



"Ms. Sanibel" the Snowy Plover on North Siesta Key

 Audubon | FLORIDA

Join Us on North Siesta Key for a Beach Bird Walk!

Monthly walks are led on Saturdays by Kylie Wilson, shorebird coordinator with Audubon Florida. Participants will see and learn how to identify some of the protected bird species on our beach.

- April 9, 9 a.m.
- May 7, 9 a.m.
- June 11, 8:30 a.m.
- July 9, 8:30 a.m.

All ages welcome! No registration required.
For more information: kylie.wilson@audubon.org.



Black Skimmers on Lido Key

 Audubon | FLORIDA

Join Us on Lido Key for a Beach Bird Walk!

Monthly walks are led on Saturdays by Kylie Wilson, shorebird coordinator with Audubon Florida. Participants will see and learn how to identify some of the protected bird species on our beach.

- April 16, 9 a.m.
- May 21, 9 a.m.
- June 18, 8:30 a.m.
- July 16, 8:30 a.m.

All ages welcome! No registration required.

For more information: kylie.wilson@audubon.org.

CONSERVATION

New 'Bat App' for Citizen Scientists



© Merlin D. Tuttle

Brazilian Free-tailed Bat, likely the most common bat species in Florida

Recently, the Florida Bat Working Group (FLBWG) Monitoring Committee created the new 'Bat App' as a tool for citizen scientist surveyors and others to help monitor bats in Florida. If you have a bat roost near your home (in a bat house, tree, culvert, building, etc.), you can help by conducting an emergence count and submitting the roost description on the FLBWG Bat App. Maternity season is an especially useful time to monitor bat roosts.

[Full Blog Here](#)

CLIMATE CORNER ☐
Green Living Toolkit



The Green Living Toolkit
is your essential guide
to sustainable living
on Florida's Suncoast.

It's everything you need to love life and live green, all in one place.

Check Out the Green Living Toolkit!

Over the past year, [sustainability experts](#) from the Science and Environment Council, with support from Charles & Margery Barancik Foundation, have curated a toolkit of resources to help residents get laser focused on the fifteen most effective and achievable solutions for sustainable living on the Suncoast. The [Green Living Toolkit](#) is the first-of-its-kind essential guide to sustainable energy, food, waste recovery, water protection and nature assembled all in one place. And it is designed especially to funnel residents in Sarasota and Manatee counties to your programs.

The Toolkit includes the best step-by-step guides, tools, calculators, incentives, and videos to help you get started. For the first time ever, the Toolkit's [community-wide calendar](#) consolidates environmental events from more than 100 local organizations such as sustainability classes, tours, festivals, and farmer's markets, as well as opportunities to volunteer or speak up for a cause.

The Toolkit is packed with tips from beginner to pro. We invite you to subscribe to our monthly newsletter for ideas and activities to help you level up. The Green Living Toolkit is your essential guide to sustainable living on Florida's Suncoast.

It's everything you need to love life and live green, all in one place.

**Subscribe to Green Living Toolkit
Newsletter**

Summer Volunteer Opportunities!

Become a Beach Bird Steward!



Become a Bird Steward!

Help Protect Local Wildlife!

Beach-nesting birds need your help to remain safe on our busy beaches! Although our biologists take care to rope off areas where nesting may occur, unknowing beachgoers still may accidentally disturb them.

By volunteering to become a Bird Steward, you can help to minimize these disturbances and educate others.

As a Bird Steward, you will:

- Visit your beach nesting site on weekends during the nesting season, from March through August, when you're able
- Help to minimize disturbances to nests, chicks and adult birds
- Conduct public outreach and education about beach-nesting birds

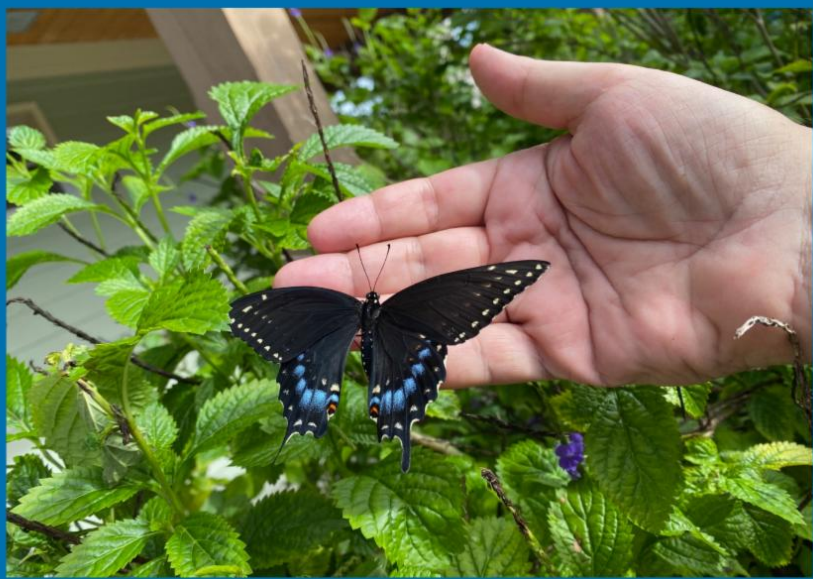
All training is provided, no need for prior bird experience! Bird Stewards are also given educational materials and talking points to be able to point out eggs, chicks and adults to beachgoers.

For more information to volunteer:

Kylie Wilson
Audubon Florida
Kylie.Wilson@Audubon.org
941-266-5407

**Volunteer To Be A Beach Bird
Steward**

**Butterfly Monitors Needed
at the Nature Center**



We need help at the Nature Center this summer to keep our butterfly cages clean and green. Duties include

- **Water plants to feed caterpillars**
- **Observe chrysalis formation**
- **Release newly hatched butterflies**
- **Collect data on butterfly releases**

If we can get 3-5 volunteers, this will be a once a week check-in

Volunteer to be a Butterfly Monitor

Save Our Seabirds

**Looking for a Summer
volunteer opportunity?**

Save Our Seabirds, located on City



Island, is a not for profit organization that rescues not just seabirds, but essentially all injured birds brought to them.

As with other organizations, they were forced to close during the pandemic and lost a big base of volunteers which they need to operate.

The positions needed are: There will be a rescue volunteer
rescue volunteer training session on May 14

- docent 10am - 11:30am
- greeter
- gardens maintenance

To Volunteer **RSVP to Jessica Caryll** specify your availability.

Wingspan Play-shop



Join Us for a Bi-monthly Wingspan Play Date!

Taking the "game" world by siege, birders and non-birders alike love Wingspan. Learn about birds and their habitats, food, nesting, etc. while playing a competitive game.

Sarasota Audubon Society is happy to offer "Wingspan Play-dates" to our members. The workshops will be held at the Nature Center. Allow several hours for gaming.

Upcoming dates: Saturday May 14, 1:00 pm
Wednesday May 18, 12:15 pm

We can follow up with more workshops during the summer, depending on demand.

RSVP to [Lynn Jakubowicz](#) and specify your availability.

Yes! You may come more than once. Let's Play!

The Last Word is Graphic: Springtime Advice from a Robin



birdandmoon.com





SARASOTA
AUDUBON SOCIETY

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Contact the Editor