



THE BROWN PELICAN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SARASOTA AUDUBON SOCIETY

APRIL 2024



Sarasota Audubon guided tour to N. Lido Woods.

Election of Officers this Month

Dear Sarasota Auduboners,

For those attending our monthly meetings (now via Zoom), you will receive a Survey Monkey ballot right after the meeting on April 9, 2024. You will have 24 hours to cast your vote. The following are the offices that are open and the candidates who have put their names forward:

- President – open
- First VP – Kathryn Young

- 2nd VP – Lynn Jakubowicz
- Treasurer – Andy Schneider
- Secretary – Mary Heinlen

As you can see, no one has yet stepped forward for the President position. If you or someone you know is willing to serve for one year, please let Don and Karen Schneider know donsdds@gmail.com. Serving as president, you will be ably assisted by the board of directors.

For the other positions, if you think you can spare a year of service to help maintain Sarasota Audubon's high standard of excellence, don't hesitate to put your hat in the ring.

A note from Jeanne Dubi: It is time for me to step down and help future leaders keep SAS ticking along. Being president has been a great pleasure as SAS moved from its beginnings to the conservation and service-oriented powerhouse it is today – with birds always as its focus. I will continue to be on the board, with the Quad parcels as my special focus but as an all-round advisor too.

If you think you would like to be a leader of this energized and dynamic organization, take the plunge! You will have support and encouragement all the way.

Jeanne Dubi, President until May 31, 2024

**The Giving Challenge is Coming!
Save the Date: April 9 - 10, Noon - Noon**

Be the One to do more for Birds! Support Sarasota Audubon!



April 9 - 10, 2024

Presented by the
Community Foundation of Sarasota County

Here's why you should take part and give:

- **Double the Impact:** During this 24-hour event your donation will be matched, doubling its effect in protecting habitat for the birds!
- **Conservation:** Sarasota Audubon is the leading voice in the community for bird welfare. We support Audubon Florida Shorebird Monitoring, Purple Martin Nesting at the Nature Center, re-wilding the Quad Parcels at the Celery Fields and much, much more!
- **Community Spirit:** Join forces with fellow conservationists to show the strength of community action in safeguarding habitat for birds and other wildlife.

**Wait until April 9 to Donate
Your Donation will be Doubled!**

MONTHLY MEETING INFORMATION

April 8, 2024, 7:00 PM on Zoom

General Meeting
Monday,
April 8
7:00 p.m. on ZOOM



Damon Moore, Restoration Ecologist



Manatee River Ecology
Damon Moore, Founder
Oyster River Ecology

The Manatee River was once known as the Oyster River. Discover the history and future of this iconic water body with our favorite Restoration Ecologist, Damon Moore, Executive Director of Oyster River Ecology (ORE). Lots of birds inhabit the shallows -- think of it as re-wilding the river.

Oyster River Ecology is a project-focused environmental organization that was formed to increase the amount of on-the-ground and in-the-water projects being done in the Suncoast for the purpose of restoring habitats and improving ecological functions.

You don't want to miss this entertaining presentation.

[Register](#)

Time to Renew Local Membership



New!
Student
Membership
Only \$10



— S A R A S O T A —
A U D U B O N S O C I E T Y

Thank you to our local members who have made a
commitment to the birds and our community!

Notes from the Nature Center



Above: "Wildflowers" by artist Jean Nye

Notes from the Nature Center, March 2024

by Kim Sullivan, Building Manager

If you haven't visited the Nature Center yet this spring, you'll want to get over here soon before we shut down for the season on May 31. Lots happening this month including Earth Day on Saturday April 20 from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Extended Hours: The Nature Center is now open extended hours through April to accommodate a large number of visitors. In addition to being open from 9 a.m. to noon every day, we also stay open until 3 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. That means you can sleep late on weekends, and still come visit us.

Join us for Earth Day! Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 20, and come out to the Nature Center for tours, demonstrations and hands-on activities to take home. **Native plants on sale too!**

Save the Date: April 20 Earth Day
at the Sarasota Audubon Nature Center



Celebrate with us at the Celery Fields!

Earth Day

Saturday, April 20th | 9AM-3PM

Garden Tours & Bird Walks
Bird Naturalists at the Boardwalks
Purple Martin House Demonstration
Kid's Activities
Native Plant Sale



Members Meet & Greet: Our third and final Members Meet & Greet was standing room only last month when Dr. James Rotenberg spoke to Sarasota Audubon's members about his many years of work with Painted Buntings, the star of our feeders.



Beach-nesting Monitoring: Anyone interested in the

important work of monitoring and protecting beach nesting birds this summer can get more information by emailing Holley.Short@Audubon.org. And if monitoring rooftop-nesting birds from parking lots is more your speed, Kara Cook would love to hear from you. Email her at Kara.Cook@Audubon.org.



Gift Shop Update: Jabebo earrings are back! Our popular Jabebo earrings sell out nearly as quickly as we can re-stock them, so we're excited to announce that we just received a big new shipment. These colorful wildlife-themed earrings are made out of post-consumer cardboard and feature a wide variety of bird species – many of which can be seen at Celery Fields. And while you're at the Nature Center selecting your earrings, don't forget the perfect accessory for summer: Roseate Spoonbill and Crested Caracara ball caps. We've restocked both – but they won't last!

Right now, the weather is at its most beautiful, so plan a trip to Celery Fields today!

Kim Sullivan, Building Manager

Wingspan, The Game



It's time to play Wingspan: Whether you like birds or games or just having fun with terrific people, you should be coming to the Nature Center to play Wingspan. No experience is necessary. No birding knowledge is required. It's free, and we supply the games. We only ask that players be SAS members and at least 18 years old.

April Game Dates

- Wednesday, April 3
- Wednesday, April 17

All games start at 12:30 p.m. in the Sarasota Audubon Nature Center at the Celery Fields: 999 Center Road, Sarasota, FL 34240. If you'd like to join the fun, please [email Lynn](#) so we know how many tables to set up!

Celery Fields in the News!
Watch this ABC7 Segment from Fort Myers



Featuring Jeanne Dubi, Kathryn Young and young birder Zach Matthews, this 5-minute story entices newcomers to learn about birding at the Celery Fields. It also includes an intro to the Merlin App. Watch it now!

**ABC7 with Sarasota
Audubon**



The Garden Gate

Purple Martin Volunteers Needed!



WE NEED YOU: A portion of our volunteer team is migrating north!



**Purple Martin Nest Checks Ongoing
Thursdays and Sundays
10:00 a.m.**

This dynamic team is great to work with. You will learn about the life cycle and maintenance of

this essential nesting habitat on the birds' migration route north for the summer.

Part of our team will be leaving in May, so there is plenty of time to become familiar with Purple Martin protocols before you really dive in.

We will meet earlier in the day as the year progresses to avoid the heat. This is a great opportunity. Contact Terry today to learn more!

[Contact me! "Keep 'em Flying!"](#)

Terry Suchma

Data collection times are open to the public Thursdays and Sundays, weather permitting. Each session includes information for viewers on the Purple Martin life cycle and current trends.

THANK YOU to our Amazing Volunteers!



We celebrated our wonderful SAS Volunteers at an appreciation party held at our Nature Center on March 25th. Many of our bird naturalists, docents, garden helpers, bird nest and bird box monitors, board members, bird feeder helpers and others attended.

Three of our lucky volunteers won a door prize of an SAS T-shirt, SAS ball cap, or a photo print. We had a special visitor join us for a brief while, Mark Vance, videographer extraordinaire, who created many of the videos we see daily on our large wall monitor. Mark moved to Montana some years ago and was visiting the area.



To all who attended and those unable to join us, we THANK YOU for all you do for Sarasota Audubon – we couldn't manage without you!

How to Design your Own Native Garden

DATE CHANGE: Saturday, April 27, 9:00 a.m.

Register Below

Presented by our Garden Doctor, Eco-



Pamela Callender, Eco-Artist and Landscape Designer



Audubon provides seating; however, registration is overflowing, so it is advisable to pre-register for each class. Email Pam below.

RSVP to Attend

Artist Pamela Callender

Sponsored by Sarasota Audubon and Serenoa Chapter, Florida Native Plant Society

Class #4 "MythBusters in Native Landscape Design" will be on the 4th Saturday this month, April 27, at 9:00 a.m.

Native Plant Landscape Design The final Garden Day of the season might be the best one yet! In this popular series, Native Plant Landscape Designer and Eco Artist Pam Callender shows participants why native plant gardening is so vital to our local landscape and how everyone can incorporate natives into their yards.

This month, the presentation will be held on the fourth Saturday of the month instead of the second, so mark your calendars for Saturday, April 27, from from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Sarasota Audubon Nature Center building at 999 Center Road in Celery Fields on Palmer Blvd.

Classes are free and open to the public. Please register by email to Pamela. Click registration button below.

Landscape Design Class #4 Syllabus

Join Us in 2025 on a Birding Trip to Peru!

travel to

PERU

Sarasota Audubon Society trip
with Holbrook Travel to PERU
May 8th - 20th, 2025



**Limited space available!
Full itinerary coming soon!**

Destinations on this active 13 day birding excursion, led by local guides, include Lima, Tambopata, Yucay, Machu Picchu, and the Ballestas Islands.

Highlights

- Spot some of the 400-plus species found in Machu Picchu & surrounding areas.
- Explore the Amazonian lowlands by boat and on foot to look for colorful macaws, tanagers, and the enigmatic Hoatzin.
- Discover the mist-fed ecosystem of Lomas de Lachay, home to an oasis of dwarf forest in the Peruvian desert.
- Visit Pantanos de Villa, a Ramsar Wetland of International Importance that provides critical habitat for waterfowl and migratory shorebirds.
- Travel by boat to witness the seabirds of Ballestas Islands, including the Humboldt Penguin, Peruvian Booby, Inca Tern, and the near-threatened Peruvian Diving-Petrel.

Interested? Email Trip Leader, Kylie Wilson, to add your name to the update list!
khwilson1994@gmail.com

[Email Kylie](#)

April Artist Jerry Barrack



**APRIL PHOTO
PRINT SALE**

.....

**\$35 - LARGE PRINTS
\$25 - MEDIUM PRINTS**

.....



**Prints Generously
Donated by
Jerry Barrack**



941-312-6533

**Water Hyacinth & Hydrilla:
Changing Florida Forever**



Water hyacinth
Eichhornia crassipes
Photo by Tom Wolff
Idaho State Dept. of Agriculture



Left: Water hyacinth Right: Hydrilla on a Florida lake

Changing Florida Forever: The Story of Two Invasive Aquatic Plants

Article by Dr. Jason Ferrell

Director of the UF/IFAS Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants

There are several aquatic plants that have had a tremendous impact on our precious waterways. I'd like to share two examples, water hyacinth and hydrilla. Neither of these plants is new, and both will continue to plague our state for years to come.

Water hyacinth and hydrilla are highly problematic fixtures within Florida's aquatic ecosystems. Fortunately, our tools and ability to manage these plants have improved dramatically as well.

The current herbicide toolbox is full of materials that have undergone many years of EPA evaluation and approval. *They can reliably remove problematic plants while not harming fish or other valuable aquatic creatures.* While over \$15 million is spent in Florida alone each year, this investment allows resource managers to partner insects, machines, and chemicals, managing these plants at reasonable levels and keeping our aquatic resources operating as they should.

Editor's Note: These plants are invading the Celery Fields stormwater ponds. Sarasota County maintains them using the cutting edge technology discussed here.

This article appeared in the recent *Palmetto* magazine of the Florida Native Plant Society. To read more fascinating articles [join them here](#).

[Read Full Article Here](#)

BIRD BLOG: Wandering Albatross
by Joe Polidoro in *Scientific American*



Above: Wandering Albatross, via Getty Images

How Does the World's Largest Seabird Know Where to Fly?

We still know very little about how seabirds navigate across large areas. But we now have strong evidence that the Wandering Albatross—the world's largest bird—uses very low-frequency sound waves to navigate toward ideal wind conditions on its long oceanic foraging trips.

Sarasota-based science writer Joseph Polidoro spoke to the lead scientists about their discovery for *Scientific American's* "Science, Quickly" podcast series. From their initial inspiration on a boat trip across the Southern Indian Ocean to how they designed their ingenious multi-year study, this brief episode is a fascinating look at an remarkable sensory capability of these birds—and how science gets done.

Click button below to listen to the episode or read the transcript.

[Full Article - Wandering Albatross](#)

The Last Word Is Graphic:
Red-tailed Blues
Bird and Moon, by Rosemary Mosco





SARASOTA
AUDUBON SOCIETY

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