

# Birdsong Nature Center

March - April 2016

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### March

Thurs.	Mar. 3	Butterfly Garden Workday
Sat.	Mar. 5	Wild Azalea Workshop
		Bluebird Trail Monitoring
Wed.	Mar. 9	Bluebird Trail Monitoring
Sat.	Mar. 12	Bluebird Trail Monitoring
Sun.	Mar. 13	Bringing Nature Home
Sat.	Mar. 19	OLD-TIMEY PLANT SALE!
Wed.	Mar. 23	Bluebird Trail Monitoring
Sat.	Mar. 26	Bluebird Trail Monitoring

### April

Sun.	Apr. 3	Coastal Birding with Marvin
Wed.	Apr. 6	Bluebird Trail Monitoring
Thurs.	Apr. 7	Butterfly Garden Workday
Sat.	Apr. 9	Sunset Trail Ride
		Bluebird Trail Monitoring
Sat.	April 16	Music to Our Ears: A Chorus of Frogs
Wed.	Apr. 20	Bluebird Trail Monitoring
Sat.	Apr. 23	Take A Child Outside For Earth Day!
		Bluebird Trail Monitoring



### BIRDSONG NATURE CENTER

WEB SITE: [www.birdsongnaturecenter.org](http://www.birdsongnaturecenter.org)

EMAIL: [birdsong@birdsongnaturecenter.org](mailto:birdsong@birdsongnaturecenter.org)

TWITTER: @BirdsongNatureC

FACEBOOK: Birdsong Nature Center

YOUTUBE: Birdsong Nature Center



### BIRD WINDOW AND TRAIL HOURS

Wednesday	9 AM - 5 PM
Friday	9 AM - 5 PM
Saturday	9 AM - 5 PM
Sunday	1 PM - 5 PM

### Bird Window and Nature Trails

Welcome to Birdsong! Enjoy the beauty and serenity of the Bird Window and learn to identify resident and visiting birds up close. Walk the Nature Trails to observe wildlife in a variety of habitats and enjoy the sounds of nature at the Listening Place. Before you leave, you may want to visit the Chickadee Corner Gift Shop. We hope you enjoy your stay!

*All visitors please sign in at the Registration Center. Trail maps are provided. Pets, trash and fires are not permitted.*

### Registration

Please register for all programs by calling or emailing: (229) 377-4408, 1 (800) 953-BIRD, Birdsong Office  
Fax line (229)-377-8723, or [birdsong@birdsongnaturecenter.org](mailto:birdsong@birdsongnaturecenter.org)

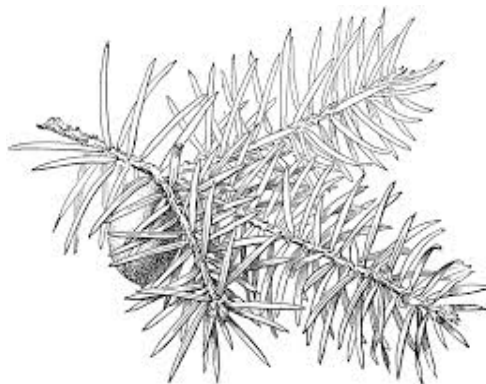
Dear Friends,

Thirty years ago this April, Birdsong Nature Center was founded and formally incorporated as a non-profit organization. We are here today thanks to the foresight and generosity of Birdsong's founders, Betty and Ed Komarek, and the wonderful work of many dedicated volunteers and supporters over these past 30 years.

We are planning to celebrate our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a festive event sometime soon and will let you know of the details. We look forward to seeing Birdsong's original core group of friends, including participants in Betty's Leadership Training workshops, volunteers from the early 1980's through the present, founding and past Board members and advisors. Many of these people are well respected for the contributions they have made in many areas throughout their careers, and continue to be good friends and supporters of Birdsong. We look forward to bringing together all of Birdsong's friends, old and new, to celebrate what Betty and Ed have given us, and to acknowledge the dedicated support of the hundreds of awesome people who continue to make the Nature Center possible. Thank you for all that you have done for Birdsong. We will let you know details soon, and we look forward to seeing you then!

Sincerely,  
Joe Peresich  
President, Board of Directors

**Put this on your Calendar!**  
**Old-Timey Plant Sale**  
**Third Saturday in March**  
**March 19, 2016**



Birdsong Nature Center's ninth Old-Timey Plant Sale will be held on Saturday March 19 from 9:00 -- 1:00. We will have thousands of the usual superb plants donated by local gardeners and native plants beneficial to wildlife. In addition, this year we will be offering something for the plant collector. We will have two torrey trees for sale. The torrey is one of the oldest species in the world, with a fascinating history and lore. Once endemic to Europe, North America, and Asia, the tree's natural range has been fragmented and isolated by glaciation and other environmental challenges until it is now found growing in only three counties along the Apalachicola River, a range of just a few miles. To learn more about this very interesting tree see the introduction below and then go to Birdsong's website for a great article about its history: [www.birdsongnaturecenter.org](http://www.birdsongnaturecenter.org).

We are offering each of these trees to the highest bidder in a silent online auction, with a minimum bid of \$150 per tree. An email will be sent out soon; we hope to have photographs of the trees to show you and we will have more information to assist you in bidding. The auction will continue online up to and through the sale. The trees will be on display at Birdsong for the Preview Party and at the Sale on Saturday the 19<sup>th</sup> and bids will be accepted in person and online up until 1PM on Saturday. You need not be present to win. All benefits go to Birdsong Nature Center. To stay informed, please be sure we have your email address on file by sending a note to Mirhi at [birdsong@birdsongnaturecenter.org](mailto:birdsong@birdsongnaturecenter.org).

### **TORREYA TREES**

While many of us in the Red Hills know of the torrey, and some have seen a specimen while strolling Maclay Gardens or even hiking the Apalachicola's bluffs at Torreya State Park, casual knowledge of its mere existence does an injustice to this fascinating tree – one of the oldest and rarest in the world. For a short article on the long history of the Florida torrey, and links to more information on the tree, visit [Birdsongnaturecenter.org](http://Birdsongnaturecenter.org). And if you would like a torrey for your own garden, you can participate in the online auction mentioned above. Birdsong will be auctioning two magnificent trees as part of its 2016 Old-Timey Plant Sale fundraiser.

- Ellery Sedgwick

Please see the excellent article on torrey trees written by volunteer Ellery Sedgwick on the Birdsong website; you'll be glad you did!



# BIRDSONG NATURE CENTER OLD-TIMEY PLANT SALE



**SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 2016  
9 AM - 1 PM**

Birdsong Nature Center's Old-Timey Plant Sale Committee is working hard to make this ninth annual sale the best ever. The sale will offer a varied and extensive collection of beloved old garden plants, heirloom tomatoes, and plants for butterflies and birds. There will be lots of native trees, shrubs, and perennials especially suited to our area, including many varieties of wild azaleas, and some rare and unusual native plants. Knowledgeable and friendly horticulturists will be volunteering at the sale to help you make a selection for your own garden. Come out and welcome Spring at the Birdsong Plant Sale!

**Native trees and shrubs  
Hundreds of native azaleas  
Wildflowers  
Old-fashioned plants  
Heirloom plants**

**Nature-related gifts, books, t-shirts, and more for sale.**

**Lunch: hot dogs, hamburgers, veggie burgers and more, or bring a picnic.**

The Old-Timey Plant Sale Preview Party is being held on Friday evening, March 18th. Patrons may purchase plants in advance of the sale; there will be wine, hors d'oeuvres and music. The cost is \$100 per person or \$150 for a couple. Payment and registration must be received in the Birdsong office by Friday, March 11th.

Please call for more information (800)953-2473.

*Would anyone be willing to lend us your garden cart, wagon, or other transport device to escort customers to their cars with their purchases? Please call: (229)377-4408 or (800)953-2473.*

We need volunteers to help with setting up on Thursday March 17th and to work 2-3 hour shifts between 8 AM and 2 PM on Saturday, March 19th. Jobs may include: parking, greeting visitors, answering the phone, working at Birdsong's Gift Shop, serving food and drinks and helping transport customers' purchases to their cars. Please call (800) 953-2473 or email [birdsong@birdsongnaturecenter.org](mailto:birdsong@birdsongnaturecenter.org) or [margie@birdsongnaturecenter.org](mailto:margie@birdsongnaturecenter.org) to sign up.

## **HOW TO SUCCESSFULLY GROW WILD AZALEAS IN THE DEEP SOUTH**

**Saturday, March 5  
10AM – Noon**

Dan Miller, expert grower of wild azaleas and owner of Trillium Gardens, will teach us how to select, plant and grow wild azaleas. Dan will show some slides of wild azalea propagation and talk about cultural requirements for specific plants and their propagation practices and then lead a question and answer session. Please bring any questions and be prepared to describe any problems or issues you may be having with growing native azaleas. Discussion points:

\*Species selection for our region \* Light, spacing, soil and moisture requirements \* Soil preparation, mulching and watering  
\*Fertilizing pruning and maintenance \* Pests and disease signs and corrective action

**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED.** Cost: \$20. One free native wildflower is included in the cost. Also included are coffee and croissants. Please call or email to reserve your space by Friday, March 4<sup>th</sup> at noon. (229)377-4408, [birdsong@birdsongnaturecenter.org](mailto:birdsong@birdsongnaturecenter.org). Class limit 16.

FYI: The Plant Sale Committee is vastly increasing its selection of wild azaleas and other natives this year (the sale is on March 19<sup>th</sup>), so become a knowledgeable shopper by attending this valuable workshop.

## **BRINGING NATURE HOME**

**Sunday, March 13, 2016**

**2 – 4PM**

You may have never thought of your yard as being a wildlife preserve. Dr. Doug Tallamy declares that is exactly the role your suburban landscape can fulfill if you want to help save biodiversity! Learn from Dr. Doug Tallamy how to Bring Nature Home.

Beth Grant has been granted permission from Dr. Tallamy. Professor and Chair, Entomology and Wildlife Ecology, University of Delaware, to present his slide show on his book *Bringing Nature Home: How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in Our Gardens*.

Everyone who loves the wonders of the natural world can contribute to the survival of our native birds, butterflies, and other treasures! The pressures on wildlife populations are greater than ever. For example, some bird and butterfly populations are declining at an alarming rate. We all can help to reverse this trend. There is an unbreakable link between native plant species and native wildlife. Non-native plants do not provide the needed resources. Exotic invasives out-compete the natives, reducing needed resources even in areas that have not been developed. By planting natives and eliminating invasives, everyone can provide a welcoming environment for the web of wildlife while also promoting human well-being. By acting on Dr. Tallamy's practical recommendations, everyone can make a difference. Plus there is no better way to involve children in nature than by bringing it to your garden!

No cost. Handouts will be provided. Copies of *Bringing Nature Home* and our own neighbor Dr. Gil Nelson's book *Best Native Plants for Southern Gardens* will be available for purchase with all proceeds going to Birdsong.

## **BLUEBIRD TRAIL MONITORING**

**March 5, 9, 12, 23, 26**

**April 6, 9, 20, 23**

**9AM**

The Bluebird Monitoring season is beginning! Our Bluebird Trail team checks nest boxes every other Wednesday and Saturday. Join these veteran Bluebird volunteers for a fascinating morning in the field and learn all about Bluebirds! The job of visiting the 43 boxes, counting eggs and fledglings, recording observations, and cleaning and repairing boxes is a very valuable service to the Bluebirds and to Birdsong. Bring a friend and help the Bluebird! Call for more information: (229)377-4408.

## **COASTAL BIRDING WITH MARVIN**

**Sunday, April 3**

**7 or 8am(see below) – Lunchtime**

Marvin Collins is going birding at Bald Point State Park and you are welcome to join him. This is a good time of year to visit the coast to observe sea birds, marsh birds and migrating songbirds. You will have the benefit of Marvin's birding expertise to help you identify these sometimes confusing species. If there is time, Marvin will take the group to Alligator Point (many birds utilize the power lines there) and then make a quick stop at Mash's Sands.

Meet at 7:00AM on Sunday at the Well's Fargo Bank parking lot at the intersection of South Monroe Street and Paul Russell Road, across the street from the Florida Fair Grounds entrance. You may carpool from there if there are other willing participants, or you can meet at the entrance to the Bald Point State Park (at the north/east end of Alligator Point where the Ochlockonee River enters the Gulf) at 8:00AM. Bring your binoculars, field guides, sunscreen, water, snacks, etc.

This birding expedition will last till around 11 or 12. Marvin plans to stop for lunch on the way back to Tallahassee at a seafood restaurant, possibly Posey's, an old favorite in Panacea.

RESERVATIONS, PLEASE. Call or email by 3PM Friday to let us know you are coming.

\$4.00 Friends, \$8.00 nonmembers, children half-price. Bring cash for lunch and for the park entrance fee.

## **SUNSET TRAIL RIDE**

**Saturday, April 9 6:30 - 8:30PM**

Bring your friends and let's go for a trail ride at Birdsong and watch the sun set over the Gin House Field. We'll get started in the late afternoon and take the long way round, visiting the Spring Pond, Gopher Tortoise Neighborhood, WHIP/longleaf pine planting site, Big Bay Swamp, Listening Place and end up at the Star Pasture to watch the sun go down. We'll look for any signs of springtime wildlife and listen for early evening owl activity and frog calls, if we can remember what Nancy Thomas has taught us. We'll do everything in our power not to have a flat tire this time.

Bring your binoculars and dress for the weather. Geared for adults and mature children; we may be stopping to hold still and listen for extended periods of time. If it is dark enough when we wrap up, we'll look for the emerging stars of the springtime constellations.

\$6 Friends, \$10 nonmembers, children half-price. **RESERVATIONS, PLEASE.** Call us or email by Friday, April 8 to reserve a space on the trailer; there is room for 12 people.

**MUSIC TO OUR EARS:  
A CHORUS OF FROGS  
Saturday, April 16  
6 - 8:30 PM**

Join us for a presentation and field experience with Nancy Ann Thomas. In addition to Nancy's love of birds and dragonflies, she has also had a long-standing interest in frogs and their calls. Nancy has created an hour-long power point presentation to teach us all about our local frog species: their life cycles, ecology, and conservation. Have you ever wondered what frogs were making those wonderful calls at night? After the presentation, we will take a trailer ride to several ponds and Big Bay Swamp where we can learn to identify some of those alluring calls. You will come away equipped to identify those evocative sounds wherever you go! Dress for the weather, and wear shoes for hiking short distances. Bring binoculars. Nancy has some excellent handouts for you, and a great frog field guide for purchase.

**RESERVATIONS, PLEASE.** This program is geared for adults and mature children. We may need to remain still and quiet for an extended period of time. Please call the office or email by 4pm Friday, April 15 to reserve a space. We have a class limit of 12.

\$4 Friends, \$8 non-members.

**TAKE A CHILD OUTSIDE  
FOR EARTH DAY!  
Saturday, April 23  
9:30 – 11:30AM**

Celebrate upcoming Earth Day (April 22) at Birdsong with your favorite child or children. Leader Sandra Sallee will take you on a natural adventure in the woods. Give an ongoing gift to your child: an appreciation of nature, a better understanding of where they live, and the use of all their senses. Walk the trails and search for evidence of animal homes, signs of their presence, and springtime behavior. Enjoy the fresh air, some exercise, and a special experience with your child in the great outdoors. After the walk Sandra will help your child make a natural craft.

**RESERVATIONS, PLEASE.** Call or email by Friday, April 22nd to reserve your space.

\$3 Friends, \$5 nonmembers, children half-price. Includes a handout and resource list for year-round activities with children.



**GARDENING IN THE BIRDSONG BUTTERFLY GARDEN  
February 4, 2016 by Donna Legare**

I am glad I ignored the weather radar this morning, deciding to head out for our usual First Thursday butterfly garden work morning. We finished our work by the time the rain set in. Four volunteers and Birdsong employee Alan Parker enjoyed working together in the pleasantly cool weather. Bob Bearss and Myles Black planted 11 big, beautiful fennel and parsley plants donated by B O'Toole. These are larval food plants for black swallowtails.

Meanwhile Beth Grant and I cut back Pentas, firebush and other perennials that had been hit by past freezes. We had mulched the less cold hardy Pentas heavily with pine straw back in December to protect roots. Bob and Miles also dug out a huge American beautyberry that was growing too closely to a red buckeye. We decided to select for the buckeye, a good hummingbird plant. There are always choices like this that have to be made in a garden. Change is constant.

We were fortunate to have Alan work with us today. He is a master with a weed whacker. He carefully trimmed down rattlesnake weed, dewberry and other weeds between native grasses and other garden plants without damaging our newly repaired drip irrigation system. Alan also edges the wide grass paths in the garden during the growing season and we sure appreciate his good work.

Years ago we had a drip irrigation system installed but it had been in a state of disrepair because the person who knew how to operate and maintain it had moved away. Enter George McEntire, a relatively new volunteer from Havana, previously from California. George has reinvigorated the system, which will be most useful during times of drought. Most of the established plants do not need regular watering, though all new plants need to be watered thoroughly for a period of time.

**Want to help with the garden?** Please join us the **First Thursday** of each month, 9 - 11:30am. Come every month or just when you can. We can always use donations specified for the butterfly garden so we can purchase nectar plants and larval food plants. We need donations of mulch and specific plants such as Pentas or native wildflowers that are attractive to pollinators, including butterflies.

Contact Donna Legare at 850 386-1148 or [dlegare@comcast.net](mailto:dlegare@comcast.net) if you have questions.

## WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT NOTES

February 10, 2016

**Weather** It is a bright, sunny, mid-winter day at Birdsong. We are in the middle of an extended arctic air intrusion and it has been freezing every night. The last two days have been cold and extremely windy as this front moves through, with gusts up to 30 mph. Once things settle down, perhaps by tomorrow, we'll go have a look at the trails and see if we have any fallen trees. The wind is wonderful to listen to, especially in the pines, and it is beautiful to see it blow across acres of blonde broomsedge in the Gin House Field.

It has been a strange winter so far, weather-wise. The bizarrely warm weather in December lasted into January, with lots of confusion ensuing. We have had several good cold spells, with freezes, but our plant life is all off schedule. Betty's white azaleas that we normally don't see in bloom until March have been blooming sporadically for weeks. There was a goldenrod still blooming near the Gin House until mid-January. On a pleasant warm day in late January June White and I saw a tiny Zebra Longwing butterfly float by near the office, searching for something, anything in bloom. Thank goodness there were a few flowers on the Carolina Jasmine shrub and that's where this butterfly spent the rest of the morning. We don't know what its fate was, but there certainly weren't a lot of flowers in bloom for feeding on. A volunteer's neighbor in Cairo has reported finding four bluebird eggs in a box – we don't see this kind of bluebird activity at Birdsong until April.

We had plenty of rain during the January storm that turned into Winter Storm Jonas and made life difficult for people in the northeastern states. We got 1.3 inches in two days and it really got the beavers going. A few days into February another big rain came and brought 1.92 inches. This sent the beavers into a round of feverish activity. Beavers work hard, but they conserve their energy; after a major rain event they wait until the flow slows to a manageable level and then get active, blocking every stream of water within their territory. Alan has been breaking up their dams every day to keep the water flowing around the Farm Pond and over the spillway. They have industriously plugged up a former burrow on the Farm Pond bank about half way across the south dam. Another family of beavers is overseeing the flow out of Big Bay Swamp and is maintaining the water level there. These amazing animals appear to love their work, and are very accomplished builders. Alan has his hands full trying to break up the tangle of strategically placed tree limbs, wads of lily pads and carefully patted mud found at each dam site.

**The Big Bay Field Work Site and Land Management Plans** The October herbicide treatment of the WHIP site (Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program) appears to have done a good job of killing the bahia grass. We will find out if this is true when the growing season starts. Right

now, the site matches the rest of Birdsong in winter, with its dry grasses and winter coloring. It has remained a good birding site. The next steps at this site are to burn it and then plant.

We have had land management delays due to equipment problems. Our 1964 3010 John Deere diesel tractor is our hero, beloved by every operator who uses it, especially Chuck. It has had to have a complete electrical overhaul, no small expense. The tractor just came back from Ag Pro yesterday. Our priority this week is getting the perimeter fire lanes harrowed, and then we will burn. As soon as that is done, our tree planters will come and plant 10,000 containerized longleaf pines. Later in the spring, we will plant warm-season grasses and get our rescued *Liatris* corms back in the ground. We need volunteer help for that effort, so let us know if you would like to contribute to restoring native grasses and wildflowers to this field.

**On a recent trip out...** On Saturday, January 20, frog enthusiast and all-around wonderful volunteer Nancy Thomas led an excellent field experience at Birdsong. Nancy enjoys sharing her expertise and love of frogs and helping others learn local frog calls. She provided our group of 20 with a helpful introduction including photos, resources, and audio clips of Georgia and Florida frog calls and then we took our attendees out on the trailer to visit each pond to listen to frogs. It was an outstanding program; Nancy did a great job and we had a very jovial group. It was an especially nice evening - the air was cool, the woods were beautiful in their subtle winter colors, and each pond we visited had its own array of species singing, although the ubiquitous Spring Peepers made their presence known everywhere we went. Traveling through the woods between the Spring Pond and Frog Pond we got to see an amazing sight: the sun was going down on the western horizon and the trees were black silhouettes against the vermilion light, but from our vantage point it looked like the woods were on fire! The light was intensely bright, flame-like through the trees, just like a perfect night burn. Not something we see often any more.

The most impressive frog chorus was heard at Big Bay Pond, just east of the cut site. The sun had set, it was getting dark, and the frogs gave it their all. Nancy helped us distinguish between Spring Peepers, Southern Leopard Frogs, and Ornate Chorus Frogs, not easy to do when what sounds like hundreds of amorous male frogs are competing loudly for the attention of females. The intensity and sheer volume of the chorus, particularly the Leopard Frogs, was truly impressive. We continued our trip across Big Bay Swamp dam, hearing lots of Spring Peepers, and then stopped to make a side trip on foot to the Farm Pond.

It was completely dark by this time, and the stars were out. We walked out onto Farm Pond Dam, about a third of the way across, looking and listening north. There was quite a bit of calling going on in the Upper Pond, at a distance across the Farm Pond, but where we stood was

actually very quiet. All of a sudden, there was an enormous splash – it sounded like someone had chucked a huge boulder into the water not far to our left. Flashlights automatically trained on the sound, showing ripples spreading out. It was a beaver! We were standing very close to their latest construction site and he or she was either alarmed by our presence, alerting other beavers, or intent on running us off, likely all three. This was pretty exciting stuff – it's not every day we get to witness beaver action, especially not that close and that emphatic. We settled down, pleased at having the experience, and listened for more frogs. The view gazing north was extraordinary in itself: as dark as it was, we could see the black treeline and its reflection in the water. Up in the sky was a stunning array of stars – and, a complete surprise, their reflection in the water of the Farm Pond looked like someone had scattered a handful of diamonds across the surface – it was absolutely enchanting. Then, splash! It happened again! Over the 20 or so minutes we were there listening, we heard it a total of 5 times. That beaver really wanted us gone. I have never heard anything like it before.

(That splash is not just some smack of the tail on the water. I looked at some footage on YouTube to see what was really happening, and the beaver slams that broad tail hard on the water and flings its considerable self into a dive at the same time. This combination shoots water everywhere and makes an enormous noise. Adult beavers can weigh 35 pounds or more. There is real depth to that sound. You can tell that that beaver really means it.)

The entire experience at the Farm Pond was magical. We walked back to the trailer and loaded up for the final leg of the journey back, and found we had a flat tire. Part of the group rode back in the truck, and the rest of our intrepid folks hiked back in the dark. I have to give our group a lot of credit – they were really good sports about the whole thing. They handled it very graciously – I, however couldn't believe it, because this was the second time in two night programs that we had a flat tire on the trailer on the last part of our trip. I have great respect for our participants! Special thanks to Nancy and her husband Mike for such a wonderful evening. It was memorable.

**What is going on with our birds?** In November and December each year we see a noticeable drop-off in visitation at the Bird Window by our local birds. They have raised their young and don't need much from us because there is a wonderful array of wild food out in the woods and fields. We tell people, just wait until mid-January when all the winter residents arrive and we see migrants and lots of birds at the Window.

This year something is different. There are fewer birds at the Bird Window. The more typical and usually abundant winter residents, such as Yellow-rumped Warblers, American Goldfinches, and Chipping Sparrows and Pine Siskins that often arrive in great numbers are just not coming in, except maybe one or two at a time. We see them out on the property, hanging out in mixed flocks. They are particularly fond of the west end of the Gin House Field. Out there, they associate also with Bluebirds and

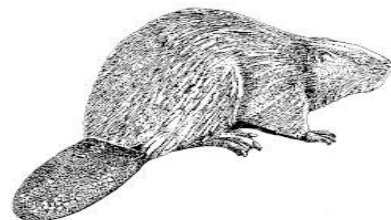
Flickers and our four Meadowlarks. The birds that are coming to the Window since the first of the year to feed and bathe include the regulars: Tufted Titmouse, Cardinals, Carolina Wren, Jays, Red-bellied Woodpeckers, and an occasional Carolina Chickadee. There have also been regular sightings of Ground Doves, Mourning Doves, White-throated Sparrow, Pine Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Towhee, Gray Catbird, Ruby Crowned Kinglet, and single sightings of a Pine Siskin, a White-throated Sparrow, and a few sightings of a Hermit Thrush. In December Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Junco, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Eastern Phoebe and a White-eyed Vireo were seen. A Zebra Longwing was seen on January 22, probably the same one June and I saw. So there is day-long activity at the Window and the birds are enjoying themselves, but we are just missing our usual numbers of Chippers, Siskins, Goldfinches, and Yellow-rumps.

**Purple Martins** Two weeks ago we were planning to put up new gourds for the Purple Martins, because historically they used to arrive in late January. We felt we had plenty of time because in the last 4 or 5 years they have been coming later and later. Last year they arrived so late we had become fearful they might not show up at all - *February 28<sup>th</sup>* – two weeks later than the year before. So on Tuesday, January 26<sup>th</sup> it was a big surprise to be walking over to Mirhi's office and hear a little sound, something that vaguely struck a chord, that I suddenly realized was a Purple Martin! I ran down to the martin pole and there was a beautiful dark blue male, sitting on a crossbar and singing that lovely chortling song. Another martin was sitting inside a gourd looking out. Alan and I started scurrying around that first day trying to find good quality gourds, under the watchful eye of those martins, who moved up to the top of the pecan tree to observe the proceedings. Alan and I got the new set of ten up with the entrances facing the pump house bench so we can easily see what is going on in each gourd. Now we are ready and waiting!

Those two martins were present for three days and then they moved on. We haven't seen any other martins in the vicinity, but a pair of Bluebirds loves to sit on the crossbars surveying the House Pasture.

The weather has been strange and the season feels odd, so we are taking it one day at a time and finding as much to enjoy at Birdsong as possible. There is plenty. The fields and woods have a beautiful mid-winter subtlety. There are clouds of tiny birds to identify, you can see clear across Big Bay Swamp to the cut site, and the air is clear and fresh and perfect. You can observe the work of our talented beavers and enjoy the spaciousness of the Gin House Field in winter. Bundle up and come see us!

-KDB



**BIRDSONG NATURE CENTER WISHES TO THANK:**

***Program Volunteers***

Nancy Thomas, for the excellent program on frogs: *Music to our Ears: A Chorus of Frogs* and for leading the Great Backyard Bird Count at Birdsong.

Sandra Sallee, for *Taking a Child Outside in the Wintertime!*

***Special Financial Gifts***

Sincere thanks to all who gave so generously to the Annual Appeal. Your gifts are deeply appreciated.

Vanessa Crisler

Stanton Beazley

Cherokee Foundation Charitable Fund in honor of Colin Phipps

Jasper and Marthalene Davis Foundation

LuAnn and Wilbur Stiles

Corporation Services Company

***Memorial Gifts***

Suzanne Speed, for a gift in memory of her friend, Tom Wood, an avid naturalist.

Tommy Dodd, Debbie D. Squires and Pat Hastings, for a gift in memory of Martha Cook Lewis

***Special Thanks To:***

Josiah Austinson and friends, for their leadership in organizing the 4-H students of Decatur, Grady, Mitchell, Colquitt, Seminole, Calhoun, and Baker counties to make a winter's supply of suet balls for the Birdsong Bird Window. They also procured and donated all supplies. The birds thank you!

Alan Strowd, for volunteering at the Bird Window every other Saturday. We also offer special thanks for his accounting expertise and support on the Finance Committee.

Mike Miller, for helping to repair the harrow and for raking around favored trees in preparation for burning.

Nancy Ann Thomas, for volunteering at the Bird Window and taking good care of the birds.

Don and Hazel Dixon, for building and donating the charming oriole feeders and peanut butter feeders for the gift shop.

Alan Parker, for providing site, garden, and land management support.

Bob Dunne, for the bird photos for the office.

Joe Peresich, for ongoing improvements to our Facebook page, and for continued website and Paypal management.

Birdsong's Board of Directors: Joe Peresich, Bill Preston, Margie McInnes, Brenda Coy, Woody Search, Jim Antista, Joe Newborn, Jack Weiss, and Dale Aldridge. Thank you for your thoughtful work, generosity, and efforts made on Birdsong's behalf. We are fortunate to have your leadership.

Tami Tomasello, for being our social media coordinator and managing our Twitter site so expertly.

Myles Black and Bob Bearss, for getting the Bluebird Monitoring season off to a great start.

Butterfly Garden volunteers Donna Legare, Bob Bearss, Beth Grant, Myles Black, Jan Blue, Yvonne Stinson, Connie Lechnar and George McEntire. Thanks to all for the keeping the Butterfly Garden beautiful!

**Birdsong Nature Center  
Board of Directors  
2014-2015**

<b>President</b>	Joe Peresich
<b>Secretary</b>	Margie McInnes
<b>Treasurer</b>	Bill Preston

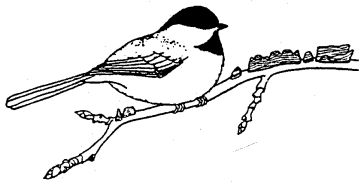
**Directors**

Jim Antista	Dale Aldridge
Woody Search	Joe Newborn
Brenda Coy	Jack Weiss

**BIRDSONG'S CORPORATE SPONSORS**

Hopping, Green & Sams, PA  
May Nursery  
Monrovia Growers of Georgia  
Native Nurseries  
O'Toole's Herb Farm  
Trillium Gardens  
The Great Bicycle Shop  
Thomasville Nursery  
Corporation Service Company  
Deerwood, LLC  
Cairo Family Medical Center





# Birdsong Nature Center

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Date \_\_\_\_\_

New     Renewal

Credit Card     Check     Cash     Paypal

Credit Card Account #   

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Amount Authorized \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Authorization No. \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name (Please print clearly) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Primary (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Alt (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Employment: \_\_\_\_\_ Job Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Training, experience, interests: \_\_\_\_\_

How did you learn about Birdsong? From a member of Birdsong, the news media, word of mouth, our newsletter, etc?

Please be specific: \_\_\_\_\_

### I would like to join the Friends of Birdsong in the following category:

- Individual Friend                      \$30      Bird Window and Nature Trails free during open hours.  
Two free one-time guest passes.  
Member discount on scheduled programs.  
10% discount on items at the Chickadee Corner Gift Shop.  
Bimonthly newsletter. Reciprocal general admission at participating nature centers nationwide (call for list).
- Family/Friends                              \$45      All of the above benefits for each member of the immediate household. Four free one-time guest passes.
- Friends of the Cardinal                      \$60      Five free one-time guest passes in addition to above.
- Friends of the Chickadee                      \$100     Six free one-time guest passes in addition to above.
- Business/Corporate Friend    \$100-\$1,000    One free one-time guest pass for each \$10 of membership (ie., 25 passes for \$250) and recognition in newsletter. Call for more information.
- Friends of the Hummingbird              \$250     Hummingbird feeder in addition to above.
- Friends of the Bluebird                      \$500     Bluebird nesting box in addition to above.
- Birdsong Naturalist                          \$1,000    Personal tour of Birdsong with Executive Director and/or Board Chair for up to 6 people. Call for more information.

I do not wish to receive any (above) benefits with my membership and would like the whole amount tax deductible.

### I would like to support Birdsong by volunteering to help as follows:

- |   |   |                                      |
|---|---|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bird Window Instructor   | <input type="checkbox"/> Program Development            | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Financial/legal guidance | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Relations               | _____                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fund raising             | <input type="checkbox"/> Serve on Board of Directors    | _____                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greeter                  | (please submit resume)                                  | _____                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gift Shop Assistant      | <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching (birds, nature walks, | _____                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land Management          | stars, etc.)  | _____                                |

Memberships are renewable one year after the sign-up date. Members can upgrade to a higher category membership by sending the balance within the year. Memberships are deductible in part, depending on the value of goods and services received. Please call for information. Receipts stating the value provided and the deductible amount will be sent to those joining at the \$100 or higher level.

## NEW FRIENDS OF BIRDSONG

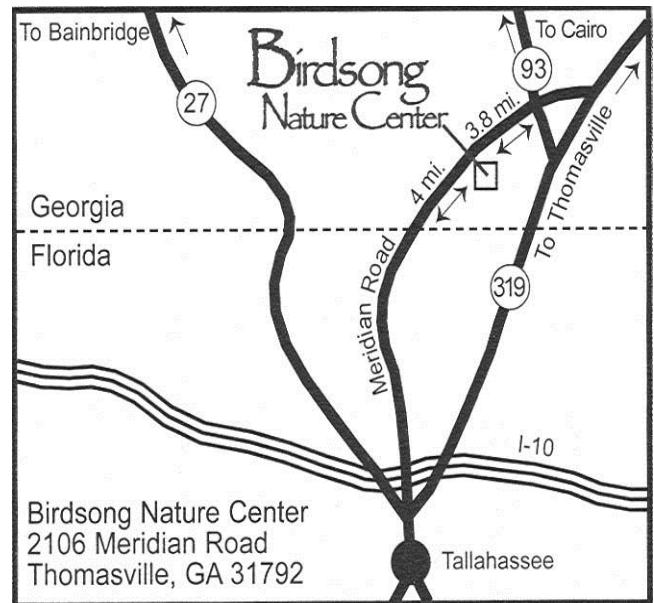
### *Tallahassee*

Elizabeth Vanderpool  
Faye Milner  
Christine Johnson  
Allison Finn  
Angel Eason  
Chase and Becky McNeill

### *Other Areas:*

Ken Brooker

Thomasville, GA



### DIRECTIONS:

From Tallahassee: Meridian Road north, 4 miles past FL/ GA border (marked by a blue sign that reads Grady Co.), on right side of road. OR 319 north, turn left onto Rt. 93, then turn left onto Meridian Road, 3.8 miles on left side of road.

From Thomasville: 319 south, turn right at Shell gas station onto Meridian Road, approximately 5 miles from Shell or 3.8 miles from stop sign at Rt. 93, on left side of road.

Watch for small sign that reads "Birdsong".

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
TALLAHASSEE, FL  
Permit No. 660

Birdsong Nature Center  
2106 Meridian Road  
Thomasville, GA 31792  
Address Service Requested