

# Birdsong Nature Center

May - June 2017

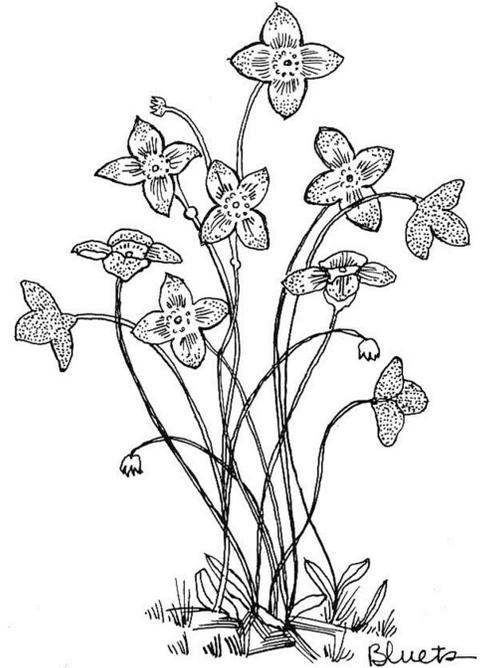
## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### May

Wed.	May 3	Bluebird Trail Monitoring
Thurs.	May 4	Butterfly Garden Work Day
Sat.	May 6	Bluebird Trail Monitoring
Sun.	May 14	Mother's Day Walk
Wed.	May 17	Bluebird Trail Monitoring
Sat.	May 20	Bear Creek Educational Forest Hike
		Bluebird Trail Monitoring
Wed.	May 31	Bluebird Trail Monitoring

### June

Thurs.	June 1	Butterfly Garden Work Day
Sat.	June 3	Bluebird Trail Monitoring
Sat.	June 10	Gopher Tortoise Workshop
Wed.	June 14	Bluebird Trail Monitoring
Sat.	June 17	Bugs, Bugs, Bugs!
		Bluebird Trail Monitoring
Sat.	June 24	Take a Child Outside and Get Wet and Muddy
Wed.	June 28	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,

We had a beautiful day for the Old-Timey Plant Sale on March 18<sup>th</sup>, and we're very appreciative of the great turnout of patrons for the event. We want to offer a sincere "thank you" to all our wonderful gardener-shoppers, sponsors and volunteers for supporting Birdsong in this important way, during our largest fundraising event of the year. As you may already know, all of the proceeds from the Plant Sale go directly to help cover the costs of operating the Nature Center, and the success of this event makes a great difference. We estimate there were around 900 shoppers, and the supply of plants for sale was nearly depleted by the end of the day. Thank you for attending the sale and supporting Birdsong so generously with your Plant Sale purchases! Thank you to our very special friends June Bailey White and her Old-Timey Plant Sale Committee – Eleanor Dietrich, Harriet Hawkins, Betty Jinright, Janeen Langley, and Kathleen "Galbaby" Scott - for all their dedicated work making the Plant Sale possible and so successful. Special thanks to all of our awesome Plant Sale volunteers for everything that they do – our very knowledgeable horticulturists and botanists who don the green "ASK ME" aprons and help shoppers with selections, our volunteers who help us with setting up days in advance and then remain afterwards to help put everything away, our volunteers who greet visitors, handle parking, plant counting, cashiering, and assisting customers transport purchases to their cars. All of this great work is done by dozens of faithful and hard working Birdsong volunteers - we could never accomplish this event without them, and we could never thank them enough for all they do!

Springtime in the Deep South and here in the Red Hills Region can be quite a spectacular season to experience - 2017's has certainly been one so far. Not only for the colorful and diverse bloom of trees and wildflowers, but also with some intense, interesting weather-related events. We had very little cold weather over the winter, and then ironically experienced frost and freezes the two nights preceding the Plant Sale. This made for some hectic activity as we worked to protect the plants already assembled. A number of intense thunderstorm-laden fronts have swept through bringing heavy downpours, hail, high winds and even tornadoes. While we're currently enjoying the typically dry, mild days of spring, it will be interesting to watch the transformations of landscapes and sky as we move into the early days of summer. We invite you to come out to Birdsong soon and experience the scenic transitions first hand, enjoy the warm sun, colorful wildflowers, and the many subtle shades of emerging green leaves. You might especially like to visit the 17-acre site being developed to support gopher tortoises – view the results of this spring's prescribed burn, and the 10,000 longleaf seedlings planted last year that are sprouting new growth. Please come visit soon and let us know of interesting sightings along the trails. We're always very happy to see you and hear from you. Thank you for being good friends of Birdsong Nature Center!

Sincerely,  
Joe Peresich, Board President



### **AN OLD-TIMEY PLANT SALE THANK YOU**

This was the impressive tenth anniversary of Birdsong Nature Center's Old-Timey Plant Sale. The sale has gotten bigger and more successful every year. But with this progress has come increasing complexity and difficulty in setting up and preparing for the Friday and Saturday sale days. Every year Kathleen and I worry that enthusiasm among our crucial volunteer workers will dim and we won't have the necessary crew to put the whole thing together. We are so lucky that this has not happened!

My abiding image from this year's sale happened on Wednesday morning when I was at Birdsong toiling away to get ready for the Thursday set-up day. I looked up to see a small army of workers in the pecan grove. They had come a day early to set up the parking area, install the dozens of tall signs and put up tables and tents. On Thursday our structure was in place and it was a pleasant and manageable day's work to arrange and price the plants and plant signs.

Thanks to everyone who worked all during the year and the week of the sale. Carpenters, gardeners, publicists, handymen, writers, photographers, and cheerful heavy lifters.

- June Bailey White  
Plant Sale Chair

In a short article it is not possible to adequately thank the many people who volunteered their time toward a big event such as the Plant Sale. We could do a special edition of the newsletter just for that reason. This event is very complex to set up – we need to create an entire outdoor environment to accommodate all the beautiful plants, parking area, stations, checkout, etc., to make it as easy as possible for hundreds of people to attend. Please know that your contribution mattered - it was our best Plant Sale yet. Special thanks go to June Bailey White, Plant Sale Chair, for her leadership and year-round commitment; and the Old-Timey Plant Sale Committee: Betty Jinright, Eleanor Dietrich, Janeen Langley, Kathleen Reid Scott and Harriet Hawkins. Thanks to each and every volunteer and plant donor who worked not only setting up and at the sale, but throughout the year:

Mike Duggar	Jeanette Boyer	Kitty Spivey	Jeanette Sickel
Mike Miller	Lathrop Lybrook	Willow Spivey	Carolyn Cohen
Kristine Dougherty	Caroline Penhallegon	Wren Spivey	Sheryl Dasinger
Barbara White	Dwight Welch	Phil Spivey	Joe Newborn
Ben White	Fred Dietrich	Carole Hayes	Mike Brezin
Lisa Reeves	Mary Katherine Faircloth	Sandra Sallee	Thomas University
Pamala Anderson	Ute Schorn	Julia Sawyer	Soccer Players
Bill Anderson	Stanton Beazley	Don Dixon	Geary Langford
Margie McInnes	Bob Bearss	Hazel Dixon	Anna Trull
Joe Peresich	Janeen Langley	Russ Barrett	Suzanne Dixon
Michael Herndon	Brenda Coy	Becky McNeill	Abby Broaderick
Kay Hawkins Morris	Woody Search	Keith McNeill	Bonnie Jo Pace
Alan Parker	Sally Search	Jeannette Shiver	Lakortonette Gabriel
Louise Divine	Bill Preston	Carol Kelso	Jeanette Rivers
Gunilla Trull	Jim Antista	Fran Rutkovsky	Pat Robinson
Ken Misner	Marsha Antista	Alan Strowd	Jennie Wood
Jane White	Bonnie Spann	Dan Miller	Della Cromartie
Whitney Marshall	Charles Spann	Beth Grant	Christie Landstrom
Maria Murphy	Fran Puryear	Yvonne Stinson	
Suzanne Vereen	Susan	Chuck Eason	
Hannah Jaspert	Ellery Sedgwick	Vanessa Crisler	
Berry Penhallegon	Elyse Barksdale	Mirhi Childs	
Clayton Penhallegon	Albert Harrison	Mo Monsalvarge	
Debbie Edgil	Twitty Titus	Monty Monsalvarge	
Kerry Edgil	Martha Black	Donna Legare	
Hugh and Chase	Betty Esco	Carole Williams	

We offer our special thanks to: Mike Duggar, for re-constructing and reorganizing all our signage; Mike Miller, for support beyond the call of duty; our generous plant donor Stewart Chandler of Monrovia, for the beautiful plants; and of course Dan Miller, for his plants and special participation. Thank you, Galbaby Scott, for organizing and coordinating the wonderful Preview Party. We loved the Biscuit Boys: John Lovett, Andy Moorer and Bryan Murray – our Preview Party musicians! Thank you, Birdsong Volunteer Coordinator Margie McInnes for her comprehensive effort and cheerful demeanor throughout. Many thanks to all our station leaders and their many volunteers listed below: Don and Hazel Dixon, for the food service and donation of supplies; Winnie and Wolf Adolph for organizing the gift shop; Stanton Beazley, for leading and managing the cashier table; Carole Hayes and Sandra Sallee for greeting; Mike Duggar for organizing the parking lot and parking; Brenda Coy, for membership; and all the many talented Plant Station leaders and volunteers. Thank you to Carole Hayes, for making the tea. A special thank you the Grady County Sheriff's Department, for assisting us with traffic control on our single lane driveway. An extra special thank you to Mike Miller, Alan Parker, Stanton Beazley, Joe Peresich and Mike Duggar for spontaneously wrangling the Purple Martin gourds into place at the very end of the day, when an unexpected solitary Martin showed up at the Martin Pole.

We also want to extend a special thank you to our corporate Plant Sale Sponsors, who generously supported this year's sale:

**Carroll and Company, CPA**  
**Mary and Rick Carroll**  
**Hopping, Green & Sams, P.A.**

**Import Authority**  
**Monrovia Growers of Georgia**  
**Seminole Alterations**

**South Georgia Low Cost Spay & Neuter Clinic**  
**Anonymous**

## MOTHER'S DAY NATURE WALK

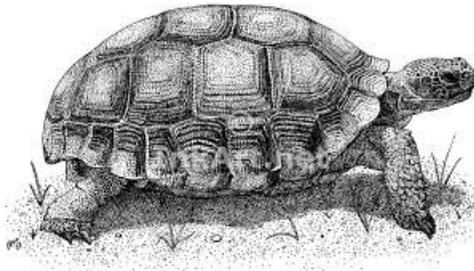
Sunday, May 14

2 - 4PM

Celebrate Mother's Day in beautiful natural surroundings on a leisurely discovery walk with Beth Grant. Beth can remember the first time she herself went for a Mother's Day walk here at Birdsong with her young son Brian 29 years ago! She writes "One of my first memories at Birdsong was in 1988 when my then 13 year old son did the Mother's Day walk with me. It was a wonderful present!"

It is a great time of year for nesting birds, wildflowers and the refreshing green of spring. Enjoy the trails and then visit the Butterfly Garden and Bird Window.

\$4 Friends, \$8 nonmembers, children half-price.



## GOPHER TORTOISE WORKSHOP

Saturday, June 10, 2017

10AM to Noon

The gopher tortoise plays a significant ecological role in longleaf pine and sandhill communities in the southeast. It is classified as a threatened species in the states of Georgia and Florida and is under consideration for threatened status federally, primarily because of widespread habitat loss. At Birdsong we are fortunate to have a number of active gopher tortoise burrows quite close to our trails, so they can be easily observed.

Lora Smith, Ph.D., is a Scientist at Jones Ecological Research Center in Newton, Georgia. She is researching the effects of mammalian predation on gopher tortoises, and conducts additional research on upland snake ecology and pond-breeding amphibians. She has provided excellent tortoise programs at Birdsong for several years as a representative of the Gopher Tortoise Council.

Lora will offer an informative power point presentation on the gopher tortoise's life history and ecology. Our group will then ride out in the field to locate a number of tortoise burrows. Lora will bring her special camera that can be inserted into the burrows so we can monitor any activity below ground, which is always fascinating!

\$6 Friends, \$10 non-members. **RESERVATIONS, PLEASE.** This program is geared for adults. Call (800) 953-BIRD (-2473) by noon on Friday, June 9th to reserve a space on the trailer and learn how you and your family can help protect gopher tortoise habitat near you.

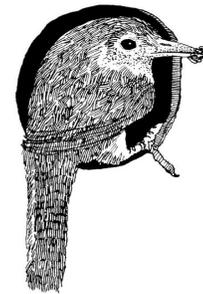
## BEAR CREEK EDUCATIONAL FOREST HIKE

Saturday, May 20 8AM – Noon

Join us for a nature hike at beautiful Bear Creek Educational Forest south of Quincy, Florida, led by expert birder Marvin Collins. We visited this site in November last year and decided it would be fun to return in springtime and see what nesting season is like here. This area's natural features include steephead ravines, upland pinewoods and wetlands adjacent to Bear Creek. This is an excellent place to look for migrating and nesting birds that love these different habitats and it is full of interesting native plants. If you have not been here before, please put this one on your calendar – you'll really enjoy it!

Please come prepared to walk, albeit leisurely. We will be out for about 3.5 hours hiking two separate trails. The walking will be of medium difficulty; the terrain is a little steep in some places. Please bring binoculars and dress appropriately: wear sturdy walking shoes and long pants. Bring water and a sandwich or snack. There are no restrooms out on the trails.

\$5 Friends, \$8 nonmembers, children half-price. **RESERVATIONS, PLEASE.** Call by Friday, May 19 at 4PM. Meet at 8AM at the Steinmart parking lot in front of Newk's in the Village Creek shopping plaza on Thomasville Road across from Wells Fargo and Books-a-Million, or meet us at Bear Creek at 8:30AM. Bring sun protection, water, insect repellent and cash for the park entrance fee. Please google [www.fl-dof/bearcreekeducationalforest](http://www.fl-dof/bearcreekeducationalforest) for directions and more information.



**THANK YOU!**

**TO OUR NEW VOLUNTEER CONSTRUCTION  
TEAM**

Birdsong's Board and staff offers sincere and profuse thanks to the following accomplished carpenters and construction experts who have arrived ready to help us with several projects: Buddy Holshouser, Glenn Berman, Steve Kunst, veteran volunteer Michael Duggar, and board liaison Mike Brezin. These generous individuals are volunteering their time to help repair a number of problems and issues with our buildings, both historic and modern. We are very grateful for their expertise and kindness. We'll report later on upcoming projects!

**BUGS, BUGS, BUGS!**  
**Saturday, June 17**  
**2 – 4PM**

Let's go bug hunting! Did you know that there are over 13,000 insects and spiders in Florida? That figure doesn't even include all of the other groups that people call "bugs", but is still much larger than all of the mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish and plants put together! Our instructor, David Almquist, is the invertebrate zoologist at the Florida Natural Areas Inventory and has been working with Florida bugs for over 18 years. David, assisted by his young son Lukas and lovely wife Justine, will lead an exploratory nature hike that will provide insight into the abundance, diversity, habits and ecology of some of the bugs that occur at Birdsong and probably in your backyard. We will capture a variety of them, perhaps including dung beetles, and examine them close up.

This program is geared primarily towards children, but parents, naturalists and other adults are welcome and will find this to be an enlightening and enjoyable field experience. Wear long pants and closed-toed shoes for stepping off the trails, bring a net if you have one, and bring mosquito repellent, sunscreen, and water.

\$4 Friends, \$8 nonmembers, children half price.  
**RESERVATIONS, PLEASE.** Contact us by Friday, June 16, at 4PM

**NATIVE ENVIRONMENT AWARD**  
**From the South Georgia Native Plant & Wildflower**  
**Symposium**

Birdsong Nature Center was honored to receive the Native Environment Award from the South Georgia Native Plant & Wildflower Symposium on March 22, 2107. We thank the Board and members of the Symposium for this prestigious acknowledgement!

**BUTTERFLY GARDEN WORK DAYS**  
**Thursdays, May 4 and June 1**  
**9:30AM to Noon**

Please join our Butterfly Garden volunteers on the first Thursday of the month to tend our beautiful Butterfly Garden! Bring gardening gloves, knee pads, clippers, and lunch if you wish to stay afterwards.

Our gardeners would very much appreciate the donation of bags of clean leaf mulch for the Garden. Please be sure that the mulch does not contain any stray invasive plants that might take hold. Hand raked or purchased leaf mulch is best! Thank you!

For more information call Donna Legare at (850)386-1148 or Birdsong at (229)377-4408.

**TAKE A CHILD OUTSIDE**  
**AND GET WET AND MUDDY!**  
**Saturday, June 24**  
**9:30AM - Noon**

Celebrate summer at Birdsong with your favorite child or children. Leader Sandra Sallee and Executive Director Kathleen Brady will take you to discover the underwater inhabitants of the Farm Pond and Upper Pond. We'll observe the many fascinating adaptations that plants and animals have for living in an aquatic environment.

Please bring a clean dishpan or bucket that has had no chemicals or soap in it, a dip net if you have one, boots, waders or old tennis shoes for wading in, a change of clothes for the ride home, and sun protection. Bring lunch if you want to stay and picnic afterward. Enjoy learning something new and have a special experience with your child in the great, wet outdoors.

**RESERVATIONS, PLEASE,** so we know how many to prepare for. Please sign up by noon, Friday, June 23rd.

\$4 Friends, \$8 nonmembers, children half-price. Includes a handout and resource list for year-round outdoor activities with children.

**BLUEBIRD TRAIL MONITORING**  
**May 3, 6, 17, 20 and 31**  
**June 3, 14, 17 and 28**  
**9AM**

The Bluebird Monitoring season is in full swing! Our Bluebirds are busy nesting and Carolina Chickadees and Brown-headed Nuthatches are working on second broods. Our Bluebird Trail team checks nest boxes **every other Wednesday and Saturday.** Join our veteran Bluebird volunteers, Bob Bearss and Myles Black, 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.

**THANK YOU, EAGLE SCOUT JACK HENNESSEY**

Birdsong Nature Center wishes to thank Jack Hennessey and Troop 114 for the construction of three new picnic tables and for refurbishing two original tables, now available for use in the picnic area. The tables are very good-looking, are getting lots of compliments and comments on their construction and we are extremely pleased with these new additions to the property.

We particularly want to thank Jack for his leadership in taking on and implementing this valuable Eagle Scout project. The picnic tables are a focus of activity in our educational programming and a much-appreciated asset for our visitors. It is really wonderful to have such nice-looking new tables in our greeting area.

With sincere appreciation and best wishes to Jack in all his future endeavors.

## WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT NOTES

April 27, 2017

**Weather** It has been a very unusual spring, following an unusual winter. I have never felt this level of confusion about what is going on in nature until this last four months. We are finally settling in to what is identifiable as late spring, and summer can be felt all around the edges. The spring blooming shrubs and trees are finally in sync, most have finished flowering, and now their leaves are fully out and looking lush and full. It is a beautiful time. We've had lots of ups and downs in terms of temperature, rain or lack thereof, and oddly timed blooming. Even as late as last Monday, a front came through with some much-needed rain (we got .58 inches) and it got cold. It felt like a winter day. Now, four days later, it is warm and windy and getting hot in the afternoon. We are trying to relax and just enjoy whatever comes before the real heat of summer arrives.

**Purple Martins** We are in uncharted territory. As you may recall, we had no martins as of late February and were waiting somewhat anxiously. Last year they arrived on February 28<sup>th</sup>, the latest arrival ever recorded. This year, we still had a long way to go: we were waiting for a glimpse of a martin before putting up the gourds because part way through last season a bluebird pair acquired a fierce attachment to one of the gourds and became extremely aggressive, wanting to move in. It was hard for the martins to hold their own and keep the bluebirds at bay while simultaneously trying to fledge their young. So we were watching and waiting every day, poised to swing into action and get the gourds up as soon as the martins arrived. February, then early March went by and we were starting to think they might not come at all. I was regretting the decision to wait to put up the gourds – perhaps they had arrived on a weekend and we missed them. It was getting discouraging.

On March 18<sup>th</sup> we held the Old-Timey Plant Sale, our big annual fundraiser. After days in a row of setting up, the long day of the event came. On that day we were intensely busy, we had more customers than ever before, and it was the best sale ever! Our extraordinary volunteers never cease to amaze me, and by 4 o'clock the entire site was cleaned up and everything put away. At the end of it all, there were seven of us still standing, doing some final bits and pieces, wrapping things up in front of the Barn: Michael Duggar, Mike Miller, Stanton Beazley, Joe Peresich, Alan Parker, Carole Williams and myself. We had all put a lot of miles on that day, and many of us had been at it all week. We were done. Totally exhausted, a little punchy but pleased, we turned to walk back to our cars to finally go home, and right at that moment in swooped a solitary martin. He perched on the crossbars of the pole chatting and scolding on our approach... We all looked at each other, dropped what was in our hands and Mike ran back to get the tractor,

Alan got the gourds, Michael got the tools to rotate the pole, and everyone pitched in to get the gourds up. (We don't have a suitable ladder; we needed the tractor to climb on to get up high enough to attach the gourds.) It took about 30 minutes, and the job was done. I couldn't get over the collective instantaneous, uncomplaining effort involved – I know I was so tired I could barely walk, but everyone responded as if that was the most important thing they'd done all day, and before you knew it the gourds were up for the martins.

I came back to work after the weekend certain that I'd see a number of birds busy choosing gourds, but no, there was not a martin in sight. That was disheartening. Things stayed that way for another two weeks, until March 31<sup>st</sup> when two pair showed up and began the typical gourd investigations... What a relief! We finally had martins!

I have been trying to figure out what is going on with them ever since. I've not had a lot of time to sit at the Pump House bench in the mornings to observe, but the best I can tell is we have one very active pair and by now the female appears to be sitting on eggs. In the morning, the male sits on the highest perch in the nearby pecan tree. Mid-morning, she emerges and they go flying, circling the House Pasture, off over the Gin House Field making their distinctive cheerful calls. The confusing part is that there is at least one other martin here that goes flying with them, and now she is sitting in one of the gourds and chortling and calling as if getting attached to that gourd. I occasionally see what I think is a fourth martin flying, but so far I've not seen more than three right on or near the gourds. So I can't say for sure at the moment that we have two pair nesting. We'll keep trying to understand what is going on and keep you posted.

Whatever happens now, this is a total departure from any prior martin season in the last 31 years and beyond. Betty told me that they'd had a full house every year since the original pole was set up near the back porch in the early 40's, except for one year when they were attacked by owls. It is an enormous relief to have the martins here, and it is lovely to hear them call, but it is also unsettling to only have one pair here when there are usually 10 pair, 20 exuberant birds, a whole colony. We usually get to enjoy their cheerful noise all morning at the Plant Sale, with them sounding indignant about the lines of people and tallying going on right under the pole. It is not completely silent these days but it is strange and disconcerting to only have a few of these beautiful birds with us, so late in the season.

One more observation: the Bluebirds are showing absolutely no interest in the gourds this year, even with 9 of the 10 not inhabited by martins. Last year they were making pests of themselves. This year they are coming by to enjoy a bath when we run the hose out in the trail, but they are not investigating the gourds. We are very grateful, as the martin pole is free from stress and drama, but Why? They must be content with their current housing.

**Land Management** We got four good burns in before the Plant Sale: the longleaf pine planting site and Buckeye Slope, Linton's Corner, the Lewis Field and east Farm Pond Drain, and the Gin House Field.

We didn't get to burn the Gin House last year; we had a lot of rain right when we wanted to burn, and then some equipment and personnel issues. To keep the management on track, Chuck worked hard through the heat of the summer mowing large swaths of briars and winged sumac. This mowing and some good rain resulted in the beautiful expanse of broomsedge we enjoyed the rest of the year.

Burning the Gin House can present a challenge because most of its northern perimeter abuts the Holly Woods, a beautiful habitat, unique on Birdsong, where no burning has occurred for over 100 years. It is full of holly trees and old pines and the forest floor is laden with fuel. When we plan a Gin House burn we ideally like to have a northwest wind helping carry the fire away from this potentially volatile edge. The other concern we have when burning the Gin House is the Listening Place, the screened pavilion down at the swamp. In our planning, we have to build in protection of that structure, as well as filling the burn prescription we want for that area. This year we finally got the northwest wind we were waiting for, assembled yet another fantastic burn crew, and started at the southwest edge along the swamp, burning against the wind and heading back towards the Listening Place. It was very windy and dry, so we had to make a careful start and get a good black line going, then the rest of the burn was fairly straightforward and we headed it into the Bay, all the way west to the dam. That gave us the wide black line we needed on the south of the Gin House, and protected the Listening Place. We then lit a backfire along the road heading east, then curved north along the west edge of the field, which enabled the fire to head, then continued west along the Holly Woods line and down to the Farm Pond. We had an ideal protected line and the burn took off across the field. We ran another line south and east to the Listening Place and the entire field was circled with fire. It was a thing of beauty. It was getting late in the day, and our team gathered up near the boxes where the Brown-headed Nuthatches are nesting. We stopped and just enjoyed watching that big fire moving in from all directions slowly toward the center of the field.

The Gin House burn is always one of the most gratifying burns we do, precisely because once you have the field circled and you know your line is secure, you can stop and watch it. From the northeast corner you can see the entire expanse of the field on fire. It really is breathtakingly beautiful. You know you have accomplished your goal.

I can't thank our intrepid burn crew enough – we have a hardworking, fearless, highly committed group: Mike Miller, Sandra Sallee, Bill Carroll, Stanton Beazley, Russ Barrett, Scott Ball, Kandy Hill, John Pugh, Carolyn Cohen, Mike Duggar, Carole Williams, Joe Peresich, and Bob Bearss. They have made some very challenging tasks not only possible, but deeply rewarding and fun. Thank you!

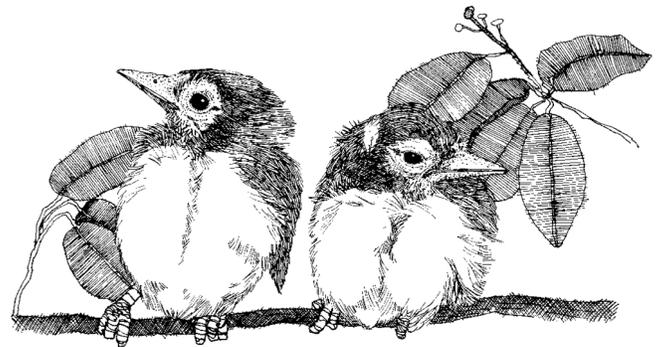
**Other Nesting Birds** The Bird Window has become a very active place, with many parents clearly arriving to collect suet and seed to carry off to young ones elsewhere. We typically have 7 or 8 Cardinals present, plenty of Titmice, and apparently two pair of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds feeding. The Northern Parulas come in to the pool and shower, we still have a White-throated Sparrow making an appearance, and the Grey Catbirds are still here. A male and female Bobwhite Quail are coming in together to eat corn, and the Red-bellied Woodpeckers wait for Mirhi every morning until she brings out the suet. We occasionally are visited by a Pine Warbler, also fond of the suet.

Out on the place, our Bluebird Trail has produced multiple Chickadee and Brown-headed Nuthatch broods, and Bluebirds are in full swing, nesting in many of the 43 boxes on the Trail. If you have time to sit at one of the benches near the Pump House, you might get to see or hear any of the following in the House Pasture: Kingbird, Orchard Oriole, Blue Grosbeak, and Great-crested Flycatcher. When we run the water on the trail near the martins, it attracts Palm Warblers, Pine Warblers and Bluebirds, all in taking a bath.

Great Blue Herons and Anhingas are nesting in Big Bay Swamp, a Wood Duck mama was spotted in the Farm Pond followed by a line of tiny little wood duck babies disappearing into the reeds. A Carolina Wren has built her nest on Chuck's porch and her brood of five is now feathered and bright-eyed – it won't long. Things are lively and wonderful at Birdsong. Please come out, watch our burned areas greening up, and enjoy it as the seasons change.

A first-of-the-year Summer Tanager appeared on April 19<sup>th</sup>; a flash of deep red sped past me when I was on martin watch that morning. Later he was out high in the pines near the parking lot, calling all afternoon, making that unmistakable chittering sound. I've seen and heard him every day since, and yesterday there was a female doing some tentative bathing at the pool at the Bird Window. Now they can be heard in the woods all across the property. We are at that pivot point; late spring is becoming summer. The trees are losing their soft individual shades of green and are transforming into the darker and more uniform intense green of summer. That Summer Tanager gave us our indicator moment this year – summer is nearly here.

-KDB



**BIRDSONG NATURE CENTER WISHES TO THANK:**

***Our Very Special Program Leaders***

Dan Miller, for the *Wild Azalea Workshop*

Beth Grant, for *Bringing Nature Home*

Rebecca Means of the Coastal Plains Institute, for the *Ephemeral Wetlands Walk*

Nancy Thomas, for leading *Music to our Ears: A Chorus of Frogs*

Sandra Sallee, for leading *Take A Child Outside for Earth Day!*

**Special thanks to our WILD Women:** Beth Grant, Sandra Sallee, Sharman Franklin, Jeannette Sickel, Jane Storm, Teresa Adkins, Carole Williams, Laurie Jones and Carolyn Cohen. Students from home school groups, the Thomasville Community Resource Center, Southside Elementary School in Cairo and Grassroots School in Tallahassee have benefited recently from their leadership, creativity and commitment!

***Special Financial Gifts***

South Georgia Native Plant and Wild Flower Symposium

Carl Tomlinson

George E. Crouch Foundation

Jo Ann Orr

Carolyn Hamilton

***Memorial Gifts***

Mr. and Mrs. Buchinani, in memory of Delores, June White's beloved beagle.

Ken and Wendy Wright, in memory of Bobbie Bell.

***Special Thanks To:***

June White, for her tireless dedication to the Birdsong Old-Timey Plant Sale and for her ongoing and amazing leadership. We thank her for organizing and implementing the Art-in-the-Park plant sale booth.

Don and Hazel Dixon, for our new Birdsong Weather Rope which our visitors love, and for the many beautiful items they build by hand for the Birdsong gift shop. (You must see and hold one of the palm crosses Don has carved.)

Winnie and Wolfgang Adolph, for continued improvements in the Birdsong gift shop and for researching and ordering new inventory. The shop looks wonderful and is open for business!

Alan Strowd, special thanks for his accounting expertise and support on the Finance Committee, and for volunteering at the Bird Window.

The Candelario and Albritton families, our home school group from Valdosta, who come out every month to work hard and play hard and keep our garden and land in good shape. This time we worked in the Wild Azalea garden in the woods, clearing brush and hardwoods from around our native azaleas.

Alan Parker, for providing site, garden, and land management support and on-going beaver dam de-construction. Many thanks for taking such good care of Birdsong.

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

Birdsong's Board of Directors, for their commitment and hard work.

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

Butterfly Garden volunteers Donna Legare, Bob Bearss, Beth Grant, Ann Morrow, 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  
2016-2017**

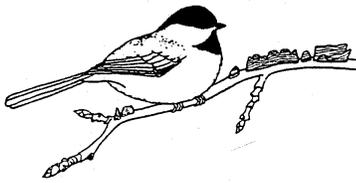
<b>President</b>	Joe Peresich
<b>Secretary</b>	Margie McInnes
<b>Treasurer</b>	Bill Preston

**Directors**

Jim Antista	Brenda Coy
Woody Search	Joe Newborn
Ellery Sedgwick	Michael Brezin

**BIRDSONG'S CORPORATE SPONSORS**

Hopping, Green & Sams, PA  
May Nursery  
Monrovia Growers of Georgia  
Native Nurseries  
O'Toole's Herb Farm  
Trillium Gardens  
Deerwood, LLC  
Barrett, Fasig & Brooks  
Carroll and Company, CPA  
Import Authority  
Thomasville National Bank  
Private Wealth Management & Consulting, LLC  
South GA Low Cost Spay & Neuter Clinic  
Seminole Alterations  
Corporation Service Company



# 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.

**Tallahassee**

David Markell  
Lynn Masimore  
Kathy Carmichael  
Karen Benjamin  
Reenie Rogers  
Annette Krause  
LeeAnn Herman  
Sara Westberg  
Susan Drake  
Patricia Herrington  
Renee White  
Michael and Lynn Bannister

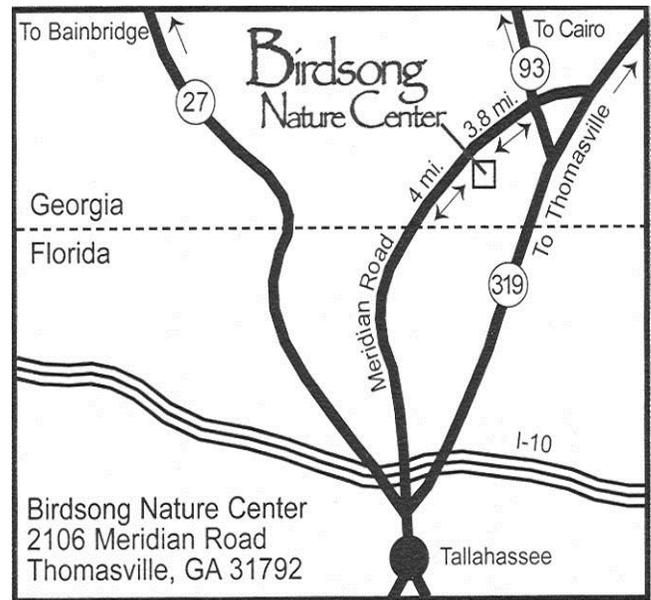
**Thomasville**

Duane and Lynn Brown  
Ben and Elizabeth Appelo  
Katy Thompson and Family  
Nancy Newborn  
Tony Campbell  
David and Megan Trautman

**Other**

Eleanor and Tom Chalmers  
Martha English  
Gail Clark  
Vanda Jones  
Debra Zondu  
Carolyn and Teresa Embry  
Bernice Melton  
Judd Brooke

Lafayette, CO  
Pavo, GA  
Ochlocknee, GA  
Pavo, GA  
Cairo, GA  
Havana, FL  
Quincy, FL  
Perkinston, MS



**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 Marathon gas station onto Meridian Road, approximately 5 miles from Marathon 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