

# Birdsong Nature Center

March - April 2018

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### March

Thur.	Mar. 1	Butterfly Garden Workday
Wed.	Mar. 7	Bluebird Trail Monitoring
Sat.	Mar. 10	Bluebird Trail Monitoring
Sat.	Mar. 17	12th ANNUAL OLD-TIMEY PLANT SALE
Wed.	Mar. 21	Bluebird Trail Monitoring
Sat.	Mar. 24	Ephemeral Wetland Walk Bluebird Trail Monitoring

### April

Wed.	Apr. 4	Bluebird Trail Monitoring
Thur.	Apr. 5	Butterfly Garden Workday
Sat.	Apr. 7	Springtime Trail Ride Bluebird Trail Monitoring
Sun.	Apr. 15	Springtime Nature Walk with Beth Grant
Wed.	Apr. 18	Bluebird Trail Monitoring
Sat.	Apr. 21	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,

Driving around the Tallahassee-Thomasville area, one can't help but notice unmistakable signs of the approaching change of season: Japanese magnolia, Yellow Jasmine vine, red maple, plum, and redbud trees are already in full flower. Little doubt there are cold days yet to come this year, but winter seems to be loosening its grip in the Red Hills region. Like the snow we experienced in early January, the first we've had in 28 years, one wonders what special surprise might be in store for us this spring. It would be interesting to learn if the prolonged periods of sub-freezing temperatures we've enjoyed or endured this winter have any effect on the emergence and flowering of our botanicals this spring.

Speaking of botanicals, a very special day for area gardeners is fast approaching - Birdsong's *Old Timey Plant Sale* is on Saturday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, from 9AM to 1PM. This year marks the 12<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of this iconic Birdsong event and we hope you will join us. Our lifelong friend, June Bailey White, and her dedicated Plant Sale Committee have spent the months since last year's sale preparing and this year's is shaping up to be our biggest and best one yet! Details appear below in this Newsletter, and we'll be posting more information on-line and in e-mails. Please join us for this fun-filled educational event at Birdsong and take home beautiful, healthy additions for your garden that are especially well-suited for our area. If you've not yet attended an Old-Timey Plant Sale, please come and see why this special day has grown into one of the most anticipated nature-lover's events of the year!

If you would like to become one of our corporate sponsors for the Plant Sale, we would greatly appreciate your support, and we would be happy to acknowledge your participation in announcements and advertisements for the Sale. If you would like to volunteer for the event, we would welcome your help and will have a great job for you. Please contact our Director, Kathleen Brady, at 229-377-4408 as soon as possible if you would like to become a sponsor or volunteer!

As always, we want to say a very sincere "thank you" to all the many awesome volunteers, members, and donors who contribute their invaluable time, talents, enthusiasm, and hard-earned dollars to Birdsong. We wouldn't be here but for your generous spirit and hard work. Thank you for helping make the Nature Center the vibrant resource and treasure that it is to our region and community. Please come visit soon – and know that we are always happy to hear about interesting things you encounter along the trails. We look forward to seeing you, and hope that you will join us at the Old-Timey Plant Sale on March 17<sup>th</sup>!

Sincerely,  
Joe Peresich,  
President, Board of Directors



## 12TH ANNUAL OLD-TIMEY PLANT SALE

Saturday March 17 will be the 12th Old-Timey Plant Sale for Birdsong Nature Center. Like all long-term projects the sale has changed a lot over the years. Many of the changes have come because of what we have learned from books like *Bringing Nature Home* by Douglas Tallamy and *Best Native Plants for Southern Gardens* by Gil Nelson about the ability of suburban gardeners to reestablish native habitats lost to urban sprawl. The sale now offers many many more native plants than in its first years. Trillium Gardens Native Plant Nursery is a major contributor, and where we used to have one little corner dedicated to butterfly gardening now we have a whole section of the sale area devoted to plants necessary for a variety of wildlife. We are lucky to have a team of enthusiastic workers selling these plants who can give you a little on-the-spot education about the fascinating interactions between plants, insects, and birds. Of course we have not given up on our old-timey non-native favorites. You will still find pink garden phlox, amaryllis, crinum lilies, and many more non-invasive exotic plants.

Another welcome change has been the fabulous team of workers and volunteers that has come to us. Our original group of five tired little old lady gardeners has grown into a powerful work force of tomato experts, seed starters, carpenters, retail sales people, and horticulturists with deep knowledge of the plant world. We are always looking for new volunteers to work at the sale or to donate plants from their gardens. Please let Birdsong know if you'd like to join us. We hope to see you at the sale March 17.

-June White, Plant Sale Chair



# BIRDSONG NATURE CENTER OLD-TIMEY PLANT SALE



**SATURDAY, MARCH 17, 2017  
9 AM - 1 PM**

Birdsong Nature Center's Old-Timey Plant Sale Committee is working hard to make this twelfth 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 16th. 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 9th.

*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 15th and to work 2-3 hour shifts between 8 AM and 2 PM on Saturday, March 18th. 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.

## **WHITE IBIS ROOKERY FIELD TRIP A Fundraiser for Birdsong Nature Center**

**Date and time to be announced**

Our dear friend Betty Jinright is offering us a marvelous opportunity to visit the White Ibis rookery on her family farm. We hope you will join us for a truly amazing wildlife watching opportunity.

We will announce the date and time of this event after we go and check on the status of things at the rookery, so if you are interested in joining us, please make sure we have your email address on file – you can contact Mirhi at [mirhi@birdsongnaturecenter.org](mailto:mirhi@birdsongnaturecenter.org). We will get back in touch with our members by email as soon as we have a date lined up. It will most likely be scheduled for about 3 hours before sunset. We will carpool to the farm from Granddaddy's restaurant in Thomasville and take a hayride to the viewing site. Wine and other refreshments will be provided.

The cost is \$25 per person and there is a group limit of 15 people. More information on the way! Call the office with any questions.

**EPHEMERAL WETLAND WALK**  
**Saturday, March 24**  
**2 - 5PM or so (might run long)**

Join ecologists Rebecca and Ryan Means of the Coastal Plains Institute for a Birdsong Ephemeral Wetland Walk! Rebecca and Ryan have over 20 years experience studying ephemeral wetlands in our area, and are carrying out a number of research projects locally as well as training interested volunteer citizen scientists.

After a brief introduction we will ride out on the trailer to several Birdsong wetlands to experience them first hand! We will learn amphibian larvae identification and sampling techniques as well as general natural history of wetland plants, reptiles, invertebrates and much more. This program is geared towards citizens of all ages, including young ones, but there will be walking and possibly wading involved, and because we get excited about what we are discovering, the program might run long. All equipment will be provided. Plan to get wet!

**RESERVATIONS, PLEASE.** There is a class limit of 15 people. Please contact us by noon on Friday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> to reserve your space. Dress for the weather and be prepared for walking; wear shoes you can get wet; bring water and a snack. You are welcome to come early and bring a picnic; you may want to bring dry clothes and shoes for the ride home.

\$6 members adults, \$10 non-members, children half-price.

**BLUEBIRD TRAIL MONITORING**  
***The 2018 Nesting Season is Beginning!***  
**March 7, 10, 21, 24**  
**April 4, 7, 18, 21**  
**9AM**

The Bluebird Monitoring season is beginning! 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.

I hope you saw the excellent article about Birdsong's Bluebird Trail in the February 16<sup>th</sup> Tallahassee Democrat TLHLife section, *A Flash of Blue*, by Donna Legare.

Very nice article, thank you, Donna!

**SPRINGTIME NATURE WALK**  
**With Beth Grant**  
**Sunday, April 15, 2 - 4pm**

Enjoy the botanical glories of springtime on a leisurely walk around Birdsong with native plant enthusiast Beth Grant. Beth is very knowledgeable about our area's native plants and can explain the value of managing and protecting our natural flora to support native pollinators, birds, and other wildlife. Dress for the weather, bring binoculars and field guides, and bring any questions you might have about the importance of native plants in the landscape.

\$4 members, \$8 non-members, children half-price.



**BUTTERFLY GARDEN WORK DAYS**  
**Thursdays, March 1 and April 5**  
**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.you!

## GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT REPORT

For Birdsong Nature Center

Saturday, February 17, 2018, 8:00am– 12:30pm

Protocol: Traveling, 4.0 miles

Reported by Sharman and Gavin Franklin

Wood Duck 2  
Double-crested Cormorant 17  
Great Blue Heron 4  
Great Egret 1  
Turkey Vulture 4  
Red-tailed Hawk 2  
Mourning Dove 8  
Belted Kingfisher 1  
Red-bellied Woodpecker 6  
Hairy Woodpecker 2  
Northern Flicker (Yellow-shafted) 4  
Pileated Woodpecker 3  
Blue Jay 6  
American Crow 6  
Fish Crow 2  
Purple Martin 1  
Carolina Chickadee 3  
Tufted Titmouse 4  
Carolina Wren 3  
Ruby-crowned Kinglet 7  
Eastern Bluebird 10  
American Robin 2  
Gray Catbird 1  
Brown Thrasher 2  
Northern Mockingbird 3  
Black-and-white Warbler 2  
Pine Warbler 6  
Yellow-rumped Warbler 4  
Chipping Sparrow 1  
White-throated Sparrow 1  
Song Sparrow 11  
Eastern Towhee 3  
Northern Cardinal 20  
Red-winged Blackbird 6  
American Goldfinch 1

### SPRINGTIME TRAIL RIDE

To a few places less travelled

Saturday, April 7

10:00AM - Noon

Join Executive Director Kathleen Brady for a springtime trail ride around Birdsong. We will make a number of stops and take some short walks to a few places we seldom go: the Buckeye Slope, to see if any Indian pinks or milkweed are coming up; the woods along the south line to check on *Erythrina*; the Wild Azalea Garden; and the drain below the Farm Pond, just for fun. Along the way we will discuss Birdsong's ecology, land management and history, and visit places such as the Star Pasture, Farm Pond, the Listening Place, and others. We will point out gopher tortoise burrows, and look for nesting birds and signs of wildlife.

**RESERVATIONS, PLEASE.** Please call by noon on Friday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, to reserve a space. We will be taking the truck and trailer and there is room for 12 people. Be prepared to be outdoors for several hours; dress for the weather and bring binoculars.

\$6 Friends, \$10 nonmembers, children half-price.

## TAKE A CHILD OUTSIDE

FOR EARTH DAY!

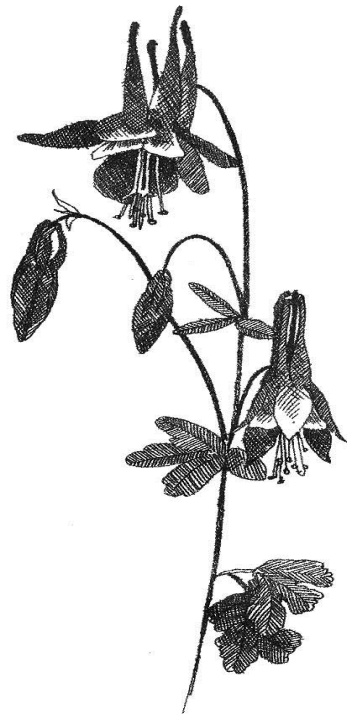
Saturday, April 21

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 20<sup>th</sup> to reserve your space.

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



## WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT NOTES

### February 20, 2018

**Weather** We are living in a world of extremes. We have gone from sub-freezing temperatures for days in a row in mid-January to highs in the mid-80's all this week. What happened to Winter? These fluctuations are disconcerting to us and clearly confusing to our plant and wildlife populations. We've got redbuds and red maples in full bloom, and the old Pear Tree by the Barn is in its fullest white lace glory right now. Typically, it blooms several days before the Plant Sale in mid-March, so this is three weeks early.

We have had a fair amount of rain, 2.77 in January and 4.07 in February, with 2.90 of that last week. The beavers are responding energetically with lots of activity in and around the Farm Pond. Alan has broken open their recent construction to release pressure on the old 1940's earthen Farm Pond dam and the resulting overflow through the spillway sounds like a waterfall when you approach, a relaxing, soothing sound.

**Wood Ducks** In mid-January, just a few weeks after the winter solstice, I stayed after work and went for a walk at dusk. I wanted to see if the Wood Ducks would be making their typical winter evening trip from the Ochlockonee River floodplain where they spend the day, to Big Bay Swamp where they historically have come to roost for the night. The sun had just set, it was around 6pm, and I walked west through the Gin House enjoying the golden shoulder-high broomsedge on either side of the trail. It was very cold, I was well bundled up, and the crystal clear sky turned that post-sunset winter orange and faded to deep blue and gray. I took the north trail back to the Gin House entrance bench (we call it Carolyn's Mama's Bench, it is named after our friend Carolyn Hamilton's mother Lena Mae Fowler) to sit and wait for near-dark. Before I got there, I heard it: that special soft, rapid sound of Wood Duck wings beating, and there they were: the first ducks of the night, not very high above me, heading over the Holly Woods straight for the center of Big Bay Swamp. Several pairs flew over by the time I got to the bench and then I settled down and waited. Over the next 9 minutes, in they came, pairs of ducks and varied groups of up to 14, flying in low over the trees, sometimes calling, mostly silent but for their wingbeats and the occasional call.

I made an effort to count them so I could tell you how many there were, and got to 168. This is all happening as the light fades; they are very fast and can be hard to count when they are in groups, so that is a rough count. Their small dark shapes are silhouetted against a darkening sky and they rocket across the landscape; it is a wonderful sight. Once they arrive deep in the Swamp you can hear them – they are noisy and joyful and it sounds like “We made it!”. There is a lot of conversation and splashing around and they proceed to roost on the surface of the water, not up in the trees. The flight is over as soon as it gets too dark to see.

My understanding is that Wood Ducks, like many other species such as beavers, developed some of their distinctive

dusk or nighttime behaviors specifically to avoid being hunted during hours when they can be seen. They are very attuned to the light level; if it is a cloudy day, they do not arrive in the same numbers nor at the typical time. I wonder how many generations of Wood Ducks have been using Big Bay Swamp as their nighttime refuge. Do they only come here, or do they visit other wooded swamps nearby?

I checked on them recently, and only 38 birds flew in. They were all paired off. It is now staying light much longer, nesting will be happening soon and this changes the deep winter travel pattern. Next year we will schedule a program in early January so we can share this wonderful sight with you.

**Land Management** Burn season is upon us and Alan has been busy getting our equipment in shape and harrowing the fire lanes. He now has our entire perimeter firelane nicely cut as well as several “spur” lanes to help make burning certain areas easier and faster.

We have also have several other projects going. Alan has completely mowed out the brush at the Bog Garden where our pitcher plants are. We will burn that area a little later on in the season. He has also mowed and the tall dead brush created by our last intense burn in the woods south of the House Pasture. That burn was amazingly effective – it was hot and hard to do and we had equipment problems right at the end, but what a beautiful job! Our volunteers can be very proud of that one. Alan will continue to bush-hog some of the other heavy brush areas we burned last year and we'll see if they need a burn or not this season. As always, we need to burn the Gin House Field, so that is high on the list to hit early.

We will probably avoid the WHIP site right where the young longleaf are this year – it is getting into early growth time and we don't want to scorch those growing tips. Those little trees are just beautiful and we've had fantastic survival on that entire project. Many of them have already emerged out of the grass stage and are shooting up after being planted less than two years ago! We want to burn about 80% of the property this season, so if you are interested in helping us burn, or can help by raking around trees to protect them in advance of burning, please give us a call. We need plenty of volunteer help for this effort. We will start very soon and will continue on into April and May.

**Purple Martins** After last year's strange martin season, we really don't have a clue what to expect this year. You may recall, our martins didn't actually move in until March 31<sup>st</sup>, barely time to have one brood, and only one pair of birds nested, producing three fledglings who left the nest successfully. This year we left the gourds up over the winter and knew we needed to replace any that were cracked and clean out the one gourd that was used. We saw three martins fly over on January 30 and another two males stopped by in the Pecan Grove on February 2. On February 9th Alan and I went out and we took down all the gourds for inspection and replacement and got them all back up by noon that day – by

on things, but no takers. They didn't stay.

Alan has come up with a marvelous technique for hanging and taking down the gourds. He uses Betty's old 8-foot long pole saw and inserts the saw in the wire hook and can then move the gourd around and lift it way up high relatively easily with the long handle, all while standing on the ground. This is very different from the old days when we used to schedule a pole-raising date in the newsletter and call for a crew of strong people to come and hoist the big heavy awkward pole out of its socket in the ground, lower it carefully so it wouldn't land hard on the crossbars, remove/replace the gourds and then struggle mightily to get the darn thing upright again. The pole never came down softly enough to suit me, and it always reminded me of a Chinese fire drill, with people shouting and rushing around to prevent the thing from crashing to the ground. It made me a nervous wreck and I would get half mad every time. For someone standing 50 feet away it must have been a hoot. Chuck and I developed a better, easier system, with one strong person on the ground rotating the pole with another smaller person up high on a 12-foot ladder or up on the tractor replacing each gourd, which wasn't easy for those of us with issues with heights. So Alan has come up with a brilliant alternative – the best system yet!

The gourds are now expertly oriented with the entrance holes facing John Loomis's Eagle Scout bench at the pump house, so Martins, come on, we are ready for action! This bench is a great place to sit and observe nesting and feeding behavior on hot summer mornings; it is shady there and far enough away that the martins are not disturbed by us. Thank you, Alan!

Last Friday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, I heard that characteristic call and there were two males out on the pole, one actually sitting in a gourd and talking all about it. Still, they didn't stay. So we are on Martin Watch, ever hopeful, looking forward to some of our favorite birds returning from their long summer in Brasil. We wishing them well on their epic annual journey north and are certainly hoping for a full house this year, in fact we are yearning for a "normal" season for our martin friends.

Last minute note: 2/20/18 This morning there was a pair, a male in a gourd and a female on the crossbars, both calling and talking. Maybe they will stay!

**The Bird Window** Speaking of that which is not "normal", as we are doing all too often in the last year or so, we are seeing many fewer birds at the Bird Window this winter, especially those that are typically some of our most abundant winter visitors. We have seen hardly any Yellow-rumped Warblers, although they are seen frequently out on the place. Only one Pine Siskin has been noticed, a few Pine Warblers, and only four American Goldfinches since January 5<sup>th</sup>. This is just plain weird and a little disturbing. Usually, we get flocks of Goldfinches, Siskins, and Yellow-rumps. We have plenty of our local winter birds, Cardinals, Chickadees, Titmice, Carolina Wrens, Jays, Red-bellied Woodpeckers and so on. The good news is, we have plenty of Gray Catbirds at the Window and in the yellow jasmine

shrub near the office and Butterfly Garden. Towhees, too.

Some of the most interesting sightings at the Window include Black-and-white, Yellow-throated, Palm, and an Orange-crowned Warbler who loves suet and comes fairly frequently; quite a few Hermit Thrushes; White-throated Sparrow; White-eyed Vireo; Ruby-crowned Kinglet; male and female Downy Woodpeckers; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker; Phoebe; Least Flycatcher; and flocks of American Robins and Cedar Waxwings. A Blue Darter shot through last week – it was going so fast that our Bird Window volunteer Phil Gornecki couldn't get a definitive ID on it, but could see it was either a Cooper's or Sharp-shinned Hawk.

Right by the office there is a tall leggy yaupon shrub that has been claimed by a Mockingbird. It is in full fruit and he is having a hard time keeping others off his berries, especially the Catbirds, flocks of the Cedar Waxwings when they make an appearance, and one mischievous Robin who seems to be stealing berries for fun. It was lovely a few days ago to see a huge Pileated Woodpecker enjoying those berries. The Mockingbird didn't go after him, not sure why; he is usually not intimidated by anyone or anything when it comes to guarding those berries.

We have had one sighting of a western Hummingbird – a rarity for us. We keep the feeders out all winter, but have not seen anything using them in years until a visitor on January added "Rufous Hummingbird" to the daily sightings list. Our friends close by in Cairo see Rufouses at their feeders, so we wonder if these western hummingbirds visit populated towns where feeders are abundant and they can reliably find food in the winter, versus coming out in the country to Birdsong where there is only one solitary feeder way out in the woods. Also very unusual, we have had two Ruby-throated Hummingbird sightings, in mid-January, and Wolf Adolph was able to get a photo of one.

**Chuck Eason** Our friend and colleague Chuck Eason died on December 14<sup>th</sup>. I would like to write something for him, but can't handle that just yet, maybe in the next newsletter. We honored Chuck's memory at the Winter Solstice Celebration on December 16<sup>th</sup> and are eternally grateful to Velma Frye for singing her version of Red River Valley for him. We lit the bonfire in his memory and it was a magnificent fire this year; I'm sure he could see it from wherever he may be. He would have loved the entire evening, including the incredible didgeridoo music and the throwing of the bamboo. We threw the first one out for him. Upon arriving with our group in the Star Pasture a meteor shot across the sky; we like to think that was Chuck saying all is well.

We will have another gathering for Chuck, not sure when. If you knew him and want to attend, just leave us an email, and we'll be sure to let you know when it will be.

We miss our friend. There will never be another Chuck Eason; he made his mark at Birdsong and we see his impact and feel his presence every day.

- KDB

**BIRDSONG NATURE CENTER WISHES TO THANK:**

***Our Very Special Program Leaders***

Beth Grant, for providing her inspiring version of *Bringing Nature Home*, in spite of game-changing technical difficulties; and for leading her *Winter Nature Walk*

Margaret Tyson, for stepping in on behalf of Beth, to lead a tour of Wolf Creek Trout Lily Preserve and show our group this year’s phenomenal trout lily bloom.

Birdsong’s WILD Women: Jane Storm, Teresa Adkins, Sandra Sallee, Laurie Jones, Sharman Franklin, Carolyn Cohen and Beth Grant for providing creative learning experiences for the attendees of Tall Timbers’ Fire Festival.

Marvin Collins, for leading a very enjoyable Winter Birding walk

Sandra Sallee, with Carolyn Cohen, for leading another great *Take A Child Outside in the Wintertime!*

Sharman Franklin and her grandson, Gavin, for doing this year’s Great Backyard Bird Count hike at Birdsong. They listed 35 species, including 17 Double-crested Cormorants and 11 Song Sparrows, on a 4-mile walk through varied habitat and at the Bird Window.

***Special Financial Gifts***

A sincere and heartfelt Thank You to all who gave so generously to the 2017 Annual Appeal – your gifts are deeply appreciated.

Williams Combs

Thank you to a newly married couple who requested that donations be made to Birdsong in lieu of wedding gifts.

Grants: The Cherokee Fund, The Robert C. Munroe Foundation, The Jasper and Marthalene Davis Foundation, The George E. Crouch Foundation, The William H. Flowers, Jr Foundation

***Memorial Gifts In Honor of Chuck Eason (Charles L. Eason, Jr.):***

Lee Averitt, Phil and Betty Ashler, Lane and Susan Green, Kathleen Brady, John and Betty Crowe, June White, Carole Hayes, Michael Herndon, Randy and Marilynn Rhea and Peg Thomas

***Special Thanks To:***

Our wonderful volunteer construction team, for initiating work on re-screening the Listening Place and for their inventive solutions to repairing the historic Barn doors and hinges. Their work is beautiful, and we thank them all: Glen Berman, Buddy Holshouser, Mike Duggar, Steve Kunst and Mike Brezin.

Winnie and Wolf Adolph, for doing such a superb job at researching gift items, stocking the Gift Shop with new and interesting merchandise and for keeping the shop in such great shape! Thank you too for making the suet cake balls that Henry the Red-bellied Woodpecker and all the other birds love so much!

Gunilla Trull, for the many bags of clean mulch for the Butterfly Garden

Bob Dunn and Wolf Adolph, for ongoing ID and photographic documentation of birds at the Bird Window.

Phil Gornicki, Bird Window volunteer, for helping visitors on Wednesdays and for his support on days we have a group visiting Birdsong.

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

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

Birdsong’s Board of Directors, Joe Peresich, Bill Preston, Margie McInnes, Woody Search, Brenda Coy, Jim Antista, Ellery Sedgwick, and Mike Brezin for their commitment and hard work.

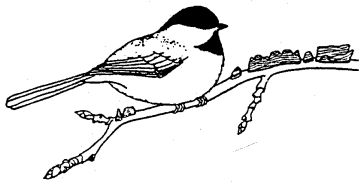
Tami Tomasello, for being our social media coordinator and managing our Twitter site so expertly.

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

<b>Birdsong Nature Center Board of Directors 2016-2017</b>	
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<b>Secretary</b>	Margie McInnes
<b>Treasurer</b>	Bill Preston
<b>Directors</b>	
Jim Antista	Brenda Coy
Woody Search	Michael Brezin
Ellery Sedgwick	

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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, stars, etc.) | _____                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land Management          |  | _____                                |

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**

Marti Springer  
Mehrdad Salem  
Stephanie Chandler  
Patty Lollis  
Anne Wilde

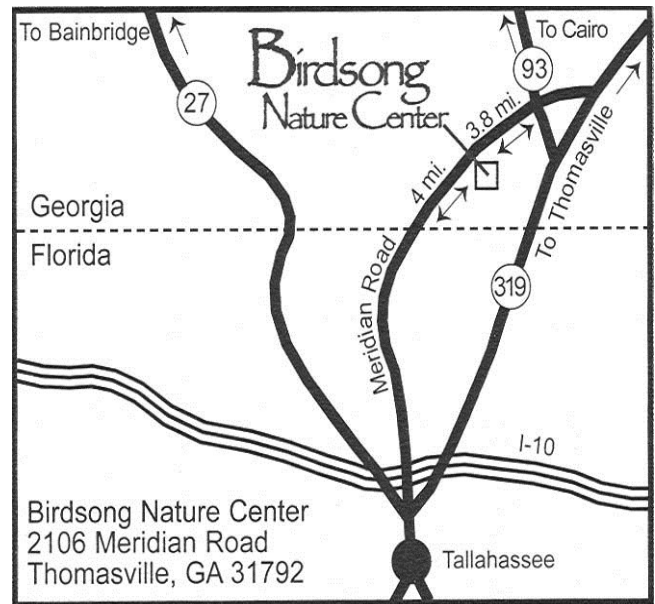
### **Thomasville**

Irene and John Gleason

### **Other**

Glendon Harris, Jr.  
Marsha Hebbler  
Rebecca Lanier Allen  
Andy Attar

Tifton, GA  
Havana, FL  
Metcalf, GA  
Boston, 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 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