

# Birdsong Nature Center

Mar. - Apr. 2019

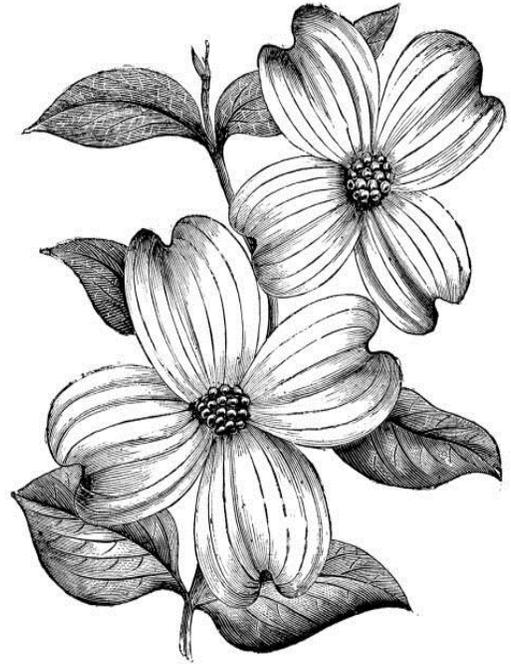
## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### March

Sat.	March 2	Raptors of the Red Hills
Wed.	March 6	Bluebird Trail Monitoring
Thur.	March 7	Butterfly Garden Work Day
Sat.	March 9	Spring Trail Ride Bluebird Trail Monitoring
Thur.	March 14	Plant Sale Setup Day
Sat.	March 16	OLD-TIMEY PLANT SALE
Wed.	March 20	Bluebird Trail Monitoring
Sat.	March 23	Bluebird Trail Monitoring

### April

Wed.	April 3	Bluebird Trail Monitoring
Thur.	April 4	Butterfly Garden Work Day
Sat.	April 6	Sammy Tedder Concert Bluebird Trail Monitoring
Sat.	April 13	Spring Birding Tour
Wed.	April 17	Bluebird Trail Monitoring
Sat.	April 20	Take a Child Outside for Earth Day! Bluebird Trail Monitoring
Sat.	April 27	Starry Night at Birdsong Annual Meeting of Members



### 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)

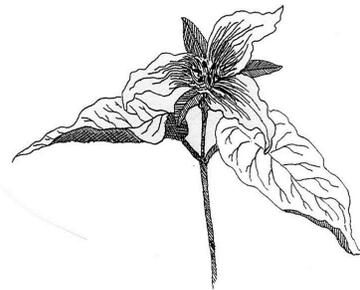
Dear Friends,

A very special day for area gardeners is fast approaching – Birdsong’s *Old Timey Plant Sale* is on Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, from 9AM to 1PM. This will be the 13<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Plant Sale and we hope that you will join us. Our good friend June Bailey White and her talented Plant Sale team have been very busy preparing over the past year for this year’s event. Last year’s Old Timey Plant Sale was the most well attended and successful we’ve yet enjoyed, and we are aiming to make this year’s even better. More information can be found in this Newsletter and we’ll be posting updates on Birdsong’s web-site, social media, and in e-mails. Please make plans to 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. Enjoy a very pleasant early-spring morning browsing the beautiful display of thousands of healthy botanicals and discover 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 sincerely appreciate your support, and we would gratefully 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 our awesome volunteers, members, and donors who contribute their invaluable time, talents, enthusiasm, and hard-earned dollars to Birdsong. We very truly wouldn’t be here without your generous spirit and hard work. Thank you for helping make the Nature Center the vibrant resource and treasure that it is to our 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 16th!

Sincerely,  
Joe Peresich  
Board President



**TRILLIUMS!**

**Put on your calendar!  
Old-Timey Plant Sale  
3rd Saturday in March  
March 16, 2019**

Do you know what a Trillium is? Must have three of something, right? Trillium is a three-leafed perennial wildflower with a beautiful, usually maroon (though sometimes with flushes of green to yellow), flower on top. Four species of Trillium are native to south Georgia and north Florida: *T. underwoodii*, the most common; *T. decipiens*; *T. maculatum*; and *T. lancifolium*.

Besides being a beautiful plant they have an interesting life cycle. They are a cool weather plant that prefers winter sun under mixed hardwood and evergreen forests with rich woody undisturbed soil. Nature has given them a built in antifreeze that withstands our worst winter temperatures. They emerge from an underground rhizome (a swollen root) in January, though sometimes earlier. Mature plants open their flowers in February and go dormant in April except for a few that set seed and persist until June when the stalk collapses and disperses its seed with the aid of ants and bugs. In a natural woods they are very conspicuous on the forest floor in winter due to the absence of now dormant competition.

But that’s not the whole story about Trilliums. I mentioned they are perennial. Do you have any idea what their life span is? Well, I have been observing a few individual plants that have sprouted for the last 36 years. Now that’s amazing! They propagate primarily from seed in the wild. From seed to first flowering takes 8 to 10 years! I suspect they will outlive a human easily! They deserve a lot of respect! And a lot more than they get! The few sites where they are abundant need to be conserved and protected.

We are fortunate to be able to offer a limited number of mature *Trillium underwoodii* and other companion wildflowers at the Birdsong Old-Timey Plant Sale on Saturday, March 16, 2019. Please come and try a Trillium and place it in a cool spot in your garden and support the Birdsong Nature Center.

- Dan Miller



**BIRDSONG NATURE CENTER  
 OLD-TIMEY PLANT SALE  
 SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 2019  
 9 AM - 1 PM**



Birdsong Nature Center's Old-Timey Plant Sale Committee is working hard to make this thirteenth 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: for purchase by Mom and Pop's: 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 15th. 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 8th.

Please call for more information (229)377-4408

*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, or email to [birdsang@birdsongnaturecenter.org](mailto:birdsang@birdsongnaturecenter.org).*

We need volunteers to help with setting up on Thursday March 14th and to work 2-3 hour shifts between 8 AM and 2 PM on Saturday, March 16th. Jobs may include: parking, greeting visitors, answering the phone, working at Birdsong's Gift Shop, serving food and drinks, helping transport customers' purchases to their cars and tearing down. Please call (800) 953-2473 or email [birdsong@birdsongnaturecenter.org](mailto:birdsong@birdsongnaturecenter.org).

**RAPTORS OF THE RED HILLS  
 Saturday, March 2  
 11AM – 12:30PM**

Live, native birds of prey — hawks and owls — will help St. Francis Wildlife Association's education director Sandy Beck share their personal stories, the amazing adaptations that enable them to hunt and survive, the important roles these raptors play in Florida and south Georgia ecosystems, and what we can all do to help them. Your heart will soar with each bird's unique power and beauty. This program is for adults and school-aged children.

After the raptor program, children and their adults can learn how to properly focus and use binoculars and then participate in an activity where they use the binoculars to identify nine common raptors by viewing their soaring silhouettes, field marks, and flying styles.

\$4 Friends, \$6 non-members, children half-price.



**OYSTER SHUCKERS NEEDED!**

Put your oyster shucking expertise to work and help Birdsong! The night prior to the Old-Timey Plant sale, we have need of 4 experienced oyster shuckers for a couple of hours. Volunteers will be provided refreshments. Get your oyster shucking knife out and plan to be at Birdsong on Friday March 15th at 5:30 pm. To volunteer please reply to this email: [birdsong@birdsongnaturecenter.org](mailto:birdsong@birdsongnaturecenter.org) if you are available and for further information and instructions. First four respondents get to volunteer!!!

**Be Sure To Put This On Your Calendar!**

**SAMMY TEDDER CONCERT  
A Music Benefit for Birdsong  
Saturday April 6, 2019 5:00 - 8:00 PM**

**Admission \$15 adults, \$5 ages 12-18, under 12 no charge**

Last fall, our friend Sammy Tedder graciously offered to do a concert to benefit Birdsong Nature Center and along came Hurricane Michael! We are pleased to announce that we have rescheduled the concert for April 6<sup>th</sup>. It will feature music from Sammy's new CD, *Grooves, Drives and Ballads*, as well as soundtracks from his excellent nature film series, *Local Waters*, and original jazz compositions and R&B numbers. Please see Sammy's website [www.sammytedder.com](http://www.sammytedder.com) to learn more about his music and his nature film series.

The gate opens at 5:00pm and Sammy and his bandmate Mike Andrews will play two sets from 5:30 to 7:30 in the outdoor "theatre" behind the Barn. Sammy's new CD and DVDs will be available for sale. You can watch a video of Sammy and friends at Birdsong playing "Moetzi," an original work of Sammy's, at [www.Youtube.com/user/BirdsongNatureCenter](http://www.Youtube.com/user/BirdsongNatureCenter).

The venue is outdoors, so dress comfortably, and bring lawn chairs or a blanket. The Tally Mac Shack food truck will have meals and soft drinks for purchase, or you can bring a picnic and beverages of your choice.

Email us if you have any questions, and please let us know if you are planning to come - it will help us know how much food to order.

We are really looking forward to this special event. Join us to celebrate springtime at Birdsong! Thank you, Sammy and Mike!

**Red Hills Natural History Alliance's  
WINTER ORNITHOLOGY FIELD COURSE  
Co-sponsored by Birdsong Nature Center and  
Tall Timbers Research Station**

The first Red Hills Natural History Alliance field course was attended by 16 individuals from Tallahassee, Thomasville, Valdosta and Atlanta. The group got to search for Red-cockaded Woodpeckers to band at Tall Timbers, banded and released a variety of sparrows at Tall Timbers and the Wade Tract, went birding and visited the Bird Window at Birdsong, and birded at Woodyard Hammock. They also attended lectures on Herbert Stoddard and use of fire as it relates to bird populations and got to see part of the Stoddard bird collection.

This was an enthusiastic group of folks; they were a lot of fun to work with and we thank them for their interest and persistence on a cold and rainy winter weekend! Thank you to Todd Engstrom, Jim Cox, Rob Meyer, and Brian Weibler of Tall Timbers for their many roles in making this two-day field intensive a success. We look forward to our ongoing partnership with Tall Timbers and to collaborating on future courses offered by the Red Hills Natural History Alliance – the next one may be on grasses, perhaps this fall! We will keep you posted.



**SPRING TRAIL RIDE**  
**To a few places less travelled**  
**Saturday, March 9**  
**10:00AM - Noon**

Join Executive Director Kathleen Brady for a spring 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 bloodroot is blooming; the woods along the south line to check on *Erythrina*; and the Azalea Garden, just in case the wild azaleas are out early (we've already got some budding out in the garden near the office). Along the way we will discuss Birdsong's ecology, land management, fire program, 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 courting birds and signs of wildlife.

**RESERVATIONS, PLEASE.** Please call by noon on Friday, March 8th, 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.



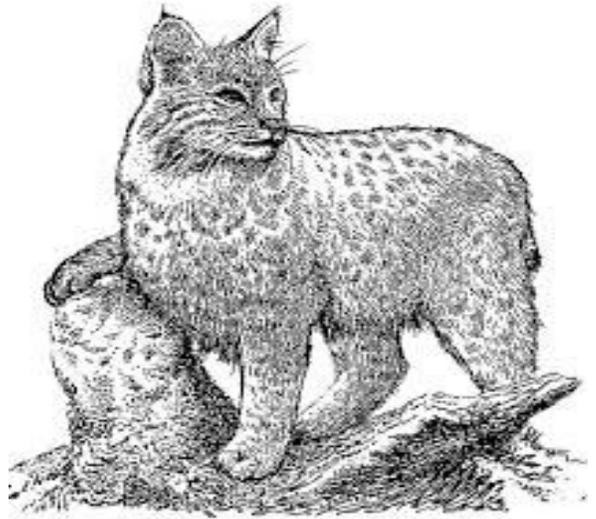
**SPRINGTIME BIRDING TOUR**  
**Saturday, April 13**  
**8:30 - 12:00AM**

Let's go for a combination trail ride tour and birding expedition at Birdsong! This is a wonderful time of year to see and hear birds in the throes of springtime courtship behavior and song! Join Expert birder Marvin Collins and Executive Director Kathleen Brady for a guided ride to a series of destinations where we will stop and hike off-trail to search for courting and nesting songbirds. We'll go to a variety of locations: the Farm Pond, the Live Oak Hammock, the Linton's Corner Trail along the drain, the area south of the planted longleaf site around Big Bay Pond, the woods west of the Frog Pond, and the east line firelane, and possibly others, depending how far we get! We'll wrap up with a visit to the Bird Window.

Dress for the weather, bring sun protection and prepare for a walk in the woods. Bring binoculars and field guides. There will be water available on the ride. Bring a picnic if you want to stay after the program.

**RESERVATIONS, PLEASE.** Call or email by Friday, April 12th to reserve your space.

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

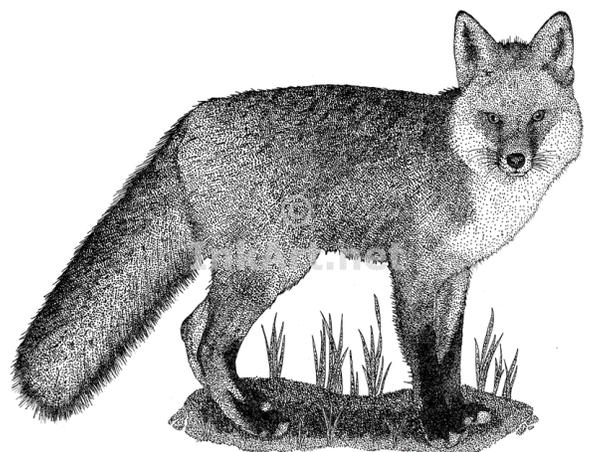


**TAKE A CHILD OUTSIDE**  
**FOR EARTH DAY!**  
**Saturday, April 20**  
**9:30 - 11:30AM**

Celebrate upcoming Earth Day (April 22) a few days early with your favorite child or children. Leader Sandra Sallee will take you on a natural adventure in the woods at Birdsong. To honor this special occasion, give an ongoing gift to your child: a better understanding of where they live; an appreciation of the Earth, our home; 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 explore nature 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 19th to reserve your space.

\$4 Friends, \$6 nonmembers, children half-price. Includes a handout and resource list for year-round activities with children.



**STARRY NIGHT AT BIRDSONG**  
**In Celebration of Earth Day**  
**Saturday, April 27, 2019**  
**\$8 adults, \$5 children**

*6:30 to 7:30 pm* Arrive early, bring your own hot or cold drinks, a picnic supper, lawn chairs or blanket, and settle in to enjoy the evening.

*7:20pm* Annual Meeting of the Members

*7:30pm* Listen to the music and angelic voices of Donna Klein and Susan Smith.

*8:15pm* Welcome and lighting of the bonfire, accompanied by Bradley White and friends, the Percussion Association, on their didgeridoos and other instruments.

Once the bonfire is going strong, we will “throw the bamboo”. Each person will be given a bamboo stick to throw in the fire where it will explode and create good intentions for our loved ones and our planet.

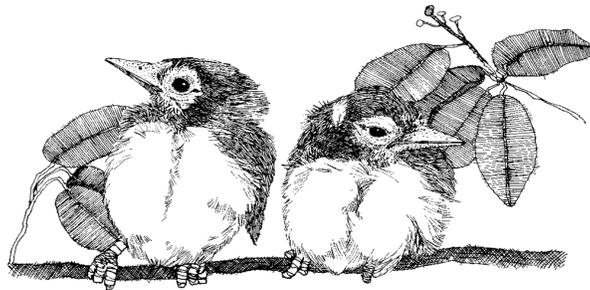
*Around 8:45* We will walk out to the Star Pasture for a guided observation of the night sky. Dress for the weather, bring a blanket to lie on to observe the stars, and bring binoculars or a scope for viewing and a flashlight.

*Rest of the evening:* Contemplate the Universe with your family and friends; enjoy the bonfire and more Earth Day music.

It is our hope that this evening will give you a moment to connect with nature, to be with your friends, to consider what really matters to you, and experience some peace and quiet under the night sky before heading back to your busy world.

*PLEASE NOTE:* This is an all-outdoor event. There is always a chance of rain, so please pay attention to the weather and call before you come if you have questions. You can also check our website and Facebook page.

Dress for the weather and remember to bring: your favorite drinks, a picnic supper (no food provided), blanket, lawn chairs, flashlight, and binoculars.



**ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS**  
**Saturday, April 27, 2019 7:20pm**

All members of Birdsong Nature Center are invited to attend an Annual Meeting of the Members at the start of the Starry Night Celebration of Earth Day. This brief meeting will include an introduction of Board members and the annual election. We invite you to stay for the evening and enjoy the Celebration.

The main item on the Annual Meeting agenda is the election of the Board of Directors for 2018-2019. We tried to have this meeting in December but the Winter Solstice Celebration got rained out. We like to set the Annual Meeting at events when we know a lot of members will be present so we can have a meaningful vote. Right now we have one new nominee on the slate, Margaret Tyson of Cairo, Georgia. Current members serving are President Joe Peresich, Treasurer Bill Preston, Woody Search, Jim Antista, Mike Brezin, and Ellery Sedgwick. We offer our sincere appreciation for their years of dedication and commitment to Birdsong.

## BLUEBIRD TRAIL MONITORING

*The 2019 Nesting Season is Beginning!*

March 6, 9, 20, 23

April 3, 6, 17, 20

9AM

The Bluebird Monitoring season is beginning. Bluebirds are singing out around the Barn and Gin House Field and the males are intensely blue! Our Bluebird Trail team checks nest boxes every other Wednesday and Saturday. Join our veteran Bluebird volunteer leaders 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 Eastern Bluebird! Call for more information: 229-377-4408.



## BUTTERFLY GARDEN WORK DAYS

Thursdays, March 7 and April 4

9:00AM to Noon

Birdsong's Butterfly Gardeners meet on the first Thursday of each month at 9am. Please join this active crew of volunteers to tend our beautiful Butterfly Garden this spring! 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.

## GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT REPORT

Birdsong Nature Center, Grady, Georgia, US

Feb 16, 2019 8:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Protocol: Traveling 4.0 mile(s)

36 species (+1 other taxa)

Submitted by Sharman Franklin

Mourning Dove 2

Wood Stork 1 Wood Stork circling and landing around two Great Blue Heron nests that were being built by 4 herons.

Anhinga 5

Great Blue Heron 5 Four Great Blue Herons were building two nests.

Great Egret 1

Turkey Vulture 6

Barred Owl 2

Belted Kingfisher 1

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 1

Red-bellied Woodpecker 4

Downy Woodpecker 1

Hairy Woodpecker 2

Pileated Woodpecker 3

American Kestrel 1

Eastern Phoebe 2

Blue Jay 5

American Crow 3

Fish Crow 2

Swallow sp. 4 Saw 4 swallows but were not able to identify the species. May have been two Purple Martins and two Tree Swallows.

Carolina Chickadee 2

Tufted Titmouse 2

White-breasted Nuthatch (Eastern) 1

Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1

Eastern Bluebird 6

Hermit Thrush 1

American Robin 7

Gray Catbird 2

Brown Thrasher 1

Northern Mockingbird 2

White-throated Sparrow 2

Swamp Sparrow 1

Eastern Towhee 6

Red-winged Blackbird 4

Orange-crowned Warbler 1

Pine Warbler 4

Yellow-rumped Warbler 1

Northern Cardinal 17

View this checklist online at <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S52791721>

## WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT NOTES

February 22, 2019

**Weather** Something's happening here. Signs of spring started five weeks earlier than normal. Our old pear tree by the Barn usually blooms the week before the Plant Sale, which is on the third Saturday of March every year – it bloomed out quickly and “snowed” all its petals the week of Valentine's Day. The redbud by the Butterfly Garden is in full purple bloom, and entire azalea shrubs down in the Azalea Garden are covered in completely open flowers. It's too early! This doesn't feel right at all.

It has been a rainy winter, too. We have recorded 3.98 inches of rainfall since January 1<sup>st</sup>. There have been a few intense storms, a lot of overnight rains, and many days where we get light showers for an hour or two. We have been trying to get some burning done, but this ongoing rainy pattern has caused delays. The ponds and swamp are full; this time last year the Frog Pond was down to a pool about fifteen feet across but now the water is only six feet from the trail.

One nice consequence of this weather is the effect it has had on the camellias at the Bird Window. They are blooming prolifically – the shrubs are each a mass of glorious color and shrubs that typically don't seem to have much to show are showing off! It is beautiful right now, full red and pink and white flowers spilling over a background of shining dark green leaves.

**Purple Martins** Another benefit to spring coming early was the arrival of Purple Martins on February 5<sup>th</sup>. Three scouts came calling and swooping around the gourds and more appeared over the next few days. As of yesterday, we are seeing more of them arriving and cruising the gourds more frequently during the day, so we are hoping for a full house this year with all twelve gourds occupied. The last two years have been very unusual as far as numbers and behavior and we only had three nesting pairs last year. There were some end-of-season disasters with nestlings dying due to excessively hot weather, very discouraging. We are hoping for a highly successful nesting season for them this time. These beautiful and entertaining migrants from Brasil bring us enormous pleasure throughout the spring and early summer. We are so happy to have them back!

**Land Management** We want to thank Lane Green, of Southern Regional Technical College, for sending us a new intern from the Land Management program – Teddy Spencer. Teddy started working with Alan in January and will be with us through early May. Teddy is very interested in learning all he can about applied forestry and land management techniques because he has family land that he wants to pass on to his children in good ecological condition. We are very happy to have his help. Thank you, Lane and Teddy.

We have made a good start on our prescribed burning this year. It has been a challenge for Alan to get the fire

lanes harrowed because of all the fallen trees due to Hurricane Michael. We have been very fortunate to have excellent help from many cheerful and energetic volunteers who have come out with chain saws and strong backs to help him and Teddy clear tangles of trees off the lanes. The rain too has caused some delays getting the fire lanes run - we have some slightly hilly terrain with low places and drains along the perimeter where it is easy to get the tractor stuck, so we have to be careful and wait for a good dry moment to take that heavy equipment in to harrow.

The weather has provided us with some good days for burning and our excellent crew has burned the House Pasture behind the Barn, the Squirrel Woods and woods behind Chuck's house and a section down near the Azalea Garden. Some days are easier than others, depending on humidity and wind direction, but our crew is good at this and our burns have gone well. Getting the season started is usually the hardest part – we have to burn against mowed bahia grass roads on the interior of Birdsong, high risk. We only harrow our perimeter lanes and some spurs in order to avoid erosion, so these burns take a lot of care in low humidity and gusty weather. Once we start getting a few burns done it gives us some black lines to count on, areas with no fuel and therefore no risk, which makes the next burn easier. We are very pleased with how these have gone so far and are looking forward to more good weather and to getting the rest of Birdsong burned this year.

Sincere thanks go to the members of our crew who have helped so far this year: Sandra Sallee, Bill Carroll, Russ Barrett, Carolyn Cohen, Scott Ball, Teddy Spencer and Alan Parker. There is a lot more to do, please call if you want to join us. She went back a few days later and found a skin! We may be able to make a confirmed identification with that evidence.

**Sightings** Out on the property, visitors have been seeing Wild Turkeys, usually in groups of four to six, but yesterday I got to see a huge gobbler all by himself near the gopher tortoise neighborhood. Being out working on the land, Alan gets to see a lot of interesting things and has reported a number of turkeys, and has also been seeing plenty of deer bounding through the woods.

Last week Alan and Teddy were running fire lanes and had to stop and move the tractor around a large diamondback rattlesnake that was stretched out comfortably across the lane. They went to get a closer look, Teddy counted eight rattles, and the snake leisurely moved away under the fence to the neighboring property and slid into a hole in the bottom of a tree stump. We are very excited about this because it has been years since we've seen a rattler at Birdsong. This is good news, but it reminds us to be careful out in the woods. We just don't think about rattlers anymore when we're out working. Jo Garibaldi came across a large snake coiled near the trail not far from Chuck's house a few weeks ago – she sent me a photo and I think it was a coachwhip, the the eastern tan one. She went back a few days later and found a skin! We may be able to make a confirmed identification with that

evidence.

On the day we reopened after the holidays I went out for a short walk before leaving work. It was drizzling and cold. I was walking toward the Gin House Field on the clay road south of the Equipment Shed and right when I got to the intersection near the bench – there was a big bobcat, out in the open. He was looking away from me, and as he turned, another bobcat leapt through the tall gamma grass into the woods. All I could see was the curved back and that short tail. The first bobcat looked right at me – he was magnificent – and started walking towards me. I moved to raise my binoculars and he stopped and bounded away. What a beauty! I couldn't understand why he would have moved toward me, maybe the in the hooded raingear I didn't look like a human – I don't know.

A few weeks later, Steve Isted was out walking near the Frog Pond and came across four bobcats together, three adults and one smaller cat. He was able to get a photo of one of them before they moved off the trail. Mirhi did some research and learned that bobcats will gather in a group of two adult males and a female, and we assume this female had a young one with her. What a sighting!

Please have a look at Sharman Franklin's Great Backyard Bird List that she and a team of eight visitors observed last week. It is a nice list that they got in a 4-hour period in a variety of habitats at Birdsong and submitted to the Cornell bird count. Thank you, Sharman and Gavin!

**The Bird Window** The Window is a lively place right now – spring is in the air and our songbirds are gearing up for courtship and nesting. The place is alive with Cardinals, Chickadees, Titmice, Red-bellied Woodpeckers and Jays. We have really seen a change over the last few years that concerns me greatly – the numbers of winter birds are not as high as they used to be. We used to have clouds of Yellow-rumped Warblers, Chipping Sparrows, American Goldfinch and Pine Siskins at the Window all winter long, and now we see them here, but a lot fewer. We have some nice migrants and other birds coming through that enjoy eating at the Bird Window, like Orange-crowned Warblers, Gray Catbirds, White-throated Sparrows, Black-and-white Warbler, Pine Warbler, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Hermit Thrush, Robins, Downy Woodpecker, Black-throated Blue Warbler, White-crowned Sparrow, White-eyed and Yellow-throated Warbler, Red-winged Blackbirds and Robins.

**Foxes** In the last newsletter I mentioned that we had been enjoying seeing a gray fox come to the Bird Window to eat suet. I remember noticing that this fox had to climb up the cypress knee and hold on with her front legs while digging in with her back toes to reach and eat the suet. After the first of the year I saw the fox come and eat, but this time it just reached up on its back legs and ate comfortably! We had two foxes! Visitors started reporting seeing two foxes in the Bird Window area. One was much larger and assumed to be the male because when finished with eating he would go over and mark the nearby limestone rock on his way out, like any male canid. When

I saw them together, typically the male would come in first to eat, and then a little while later, the female.

This has become a daily event. Many people have gotten to see them. We think they are a mated pair and that they have a den nearby. They are healthy and colorful and absolutely beautiful. They are wary, but not terribly skittish. There can be quite a few people in the Window watching them and they don't seem afraid to come in and get that suet. We have debated naming them, just to make it easier to talk about. The best we've come up with is Zorro for the male (male fox in Spanish) and Raposa for the female (female fox in Spanish and Portuguese).

Bob Dunne has been taking bird photographs at the Bird Window for a while now – you have probably seen his array of beautiful bird portraits displayed in Mirhi's office and framed photos on the back porch, including some stunning ones of a bobcat he saw out in the Gin House Field. Bob started taking photos of the foxes and has given us a series of phenomenal images. I'm not sure I've ever seen more beautiful faces. You must stop in the office the next time you are here – it is worth the trip. As is visiting the Window and having the extraordinary chance to see one or both of these beautiful creatures.

Wolfgang and Winnie Adolph come out weekly to work in the gift shop and help with bird ID at the Window and a week or so ago, Wolf took an amazing series of photos of the foxes together; she was sitting demurely looking right at the Window and the male came along and started nuzzling her neck and face, tail high in the air! Wolf got photos!

A few days ago, right around 5pm I was walking out of my office and heard the most alarming screaming I have ever heard. It was loud and low and sounded like something really bad was happening behind the house at the Bird Window. I raced over to find out what was going on and see if help was needed; it sounded like an animal was being attacked and fighting for its life – I rushed into the Window to see what was going on and saw nothing, the screaming had stopped. I went out to the feeding area, looked for blood or fur, but found nothing, no evidence. Every crow in the vicinity had arrived and was yelling from the tops of the trees above the Window. That screaming really was an alarming, primal sound. I talked with Pamala Anderson who has foxes near her place and apparently foxes do this. They scream. It can be related to mating. Which all fits what has been going on at the Bird Window at Birdsong this spring. We are hoping for kits!

Please come out and enjoy this peculiar early spring – nature is full of surprises right now, we just don't know what to expect any more. I miss the reliability of the ebb and flow of the seasons as we knew them, and the birds and animals they brought, the rhythm of it all. Things are changing fast. It is undeniable. We have to believe that nature will endure and we can rest assured that there is always something beautiful to see at Birdsong.

- KDB

**BIRDSONG NATURE CENTER WISHES TO THANK:**

***Our Very Special Program Leaders:***

Beth Grant, for leading *Bringing Nature Home*

Marvin Collins, for the *Leon Sinks Birding Hike*

Sandra Sallee, for leading the crafts activity for the recent birthday party for 3-year-old twins!

Sharman and Gavin Franklin, for expertly leading the Great Backyard Bird Count at Birdsong – they reported 36 species – see list on page 7.

***Special Financial Gifts:***

*Thank you to all who gave so generously to the 2018 Annual Appeal. Your gifts go toward Birdsong's operating fund that supports the ongoing education and conservation efforts described in this newsletter year-round. Thank you!*

***Memorial Donation***

William and Cindy Parrish, in memory of Larry Herring and Don Hill

Emily Burke, in memory of mother Joyce Salmon and brother, Scott Salmon

***Special Thanks To:***

To those wonderful folks who brought chainsaws and tools and came out again to help clean up hurricane damage: Donna and Jody from Native Nurseries, Beth Grant, Jan Blue, Mary Janik, Sandra Sallee, and Teddy Spencer. Thank you, Jody, for the chain saw work. Thanks to Alan Parker, for supervising the clean-up and for all his ongoing work.

Our fantastic burn crew, for burning three sections: Sandra Sallee, Bill Carroll, Carolyn Cohen, Russ Barrett, Scott Ball, and of course, Alan Parker and Teddy Spencer. Thank you to the Butterfly Gardeners for a day-after touch-up in the Squirrel Woods!

Thank you to Dan Miller and Wilson Baker for clearing a section in the Azalea Garden with Alan and Teddy, and for Dan's ongoing work keeping the planted wild azaleas cleared and fertilized. They are thriving!

Winnie and Wolf Adolph, for their ongoing work at managing the gift shop. Winnie has been shopping in preparation for the Plant Sale and is stocking the shop with interesting, whimsical, and beautiful items for us all to enjoy on the day of the sale and beyond!

Our volunteer construction team, for continuing their professional repairs to the historic Barn. Their work is beautiful, and we thank them all: Glen Berman, Buddy Holshouser, Mike Duggar, Steve Kunst and Mike Brezin. Thank you Ellery Sedgwick for the beautiful lumber. Thank you for the repairs to the doorway of the Listening Place and for re-roofing the shed in advance of the Plant Sale. Thank you, Mike Duggar, for building June's "Little House"!

Sandy and Darrell Mudra, for donating the beautiful framed Audubon prints they got long ago at Birdsong!

The Candelario Clan, for donating paper goods and supplies – much appreciated!

Bob Dunn and Wolf Adolph, for ID and photographic documentation of birds at the Bird Window; Bob Dunn for donating the beautiful coasters with his varied portraits on them for the gift shop. Thank you to both for their extraordinary portraits of our foxes! Thanks, Bob, for the framed pictures and cards – they are amazing.

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 Nature Center  
Board of Directors  
2017-2018**

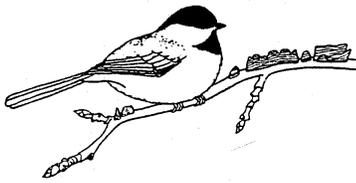
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# Birdsong Nature Center

## 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**

Stephen Bess  
 Gillian Hobbs  
 Josephine Garabaldi  
 Bonnie Braendlin  
 Heather Hill  
 Paul Zmolek  
 Brooke Mariscal  
 Matt Smith

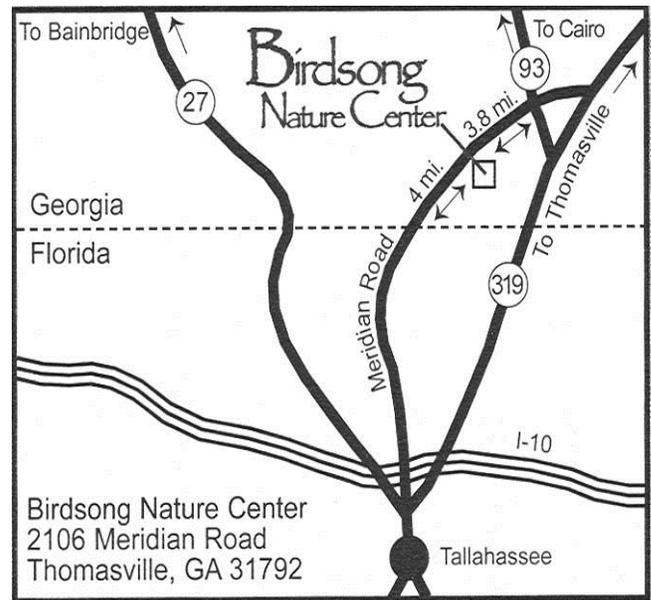
### **Thomasville**

Stanley Golden  
 Eugene Brock  
 Mercer Watts  
 Elizabeth Harrell

### **Other**

Allen and Shelley Nicholls  
 Britt Martinez  
 Catherine Jewell  
 Cindy Wolfe  
 Robert Emond  
 Deana Baker  
 Julia Stewart  
 Rose Marie Myer

Boston, GA  
 Nantucket, MA  
 Quincy, FL  
 Atlanta, GA  
 Hahira, GA  
 Goshen, IN  
 Decatur, GA  
 Ochlocknee, 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".

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 U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
 TALLAHASSEE, FL  
 Permit No. 660

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