



The Marshlander

Ogeechee Audubon

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NEW MEETING LOCATION FOR JUNE: 520 E WASHINGTON AVE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

JUNE PROGRAM - PLANT AS IF LIFE DEPENDS ON IT

Please join Ogeechee Audubon, Tuesday
7:00 pm, June 16 for our program "Plant As
If Life Depends On It".

With the tremendous loss of native habitats, due to urban development and the subsequent planting of extensive lawns and exotic ornamental plants that rely heavily on pesticides and mechanical equipment, is there a way to mitigate the negative impact on the environment and our health? Come participate in a presentation on gardening for biodiversity through conservation landscaping. Techniques which will help heal our landscapes will be discussed. A wide diversity of native plants and wildlife is absolutely essential, not only to our health, but to our survival.

The meeting will be held at the First Presbyterian Church, 520 E. Washington Ave, Savannah. PLEASE NOTE THIS IS A CHANGE OF LOCATION FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS.

The program is free and open to the public. For more information call Beth @ 912-658-6136

AUDUBON PHOTO AWARDS CONTEST

Bird-loving photographers from across America will soon submit entries for the newly-announced *Audubon Magazine* Photography Awards: Birds in Focus.

The awards are presented in association with Nature's Best Photography Magazine and sponsored by Nikon. Entries will be accepted online, May 15- July 15 in Professional, Amateur, and Youth categories. Award recipients, selected by a panel of distinguished judges, will be announced in December and will have their work displayed by Audubon and Nature's Best Photography, both in print and online. Prizes include:

- Journey to Peru's Tambopata National Reserve (Inkaterra Amazonica Lodge)
- An ultimate birding safari to Australia's "Top End," the Northern Territory
- 14-day Tropical Rivers and Rainforest cruise through South America (Travel Dynamics International)
- Opportunity to travel to Honduras with *Audubon* wildlife photographer Roy Toft as your photographer/guide (Roy Toft Photo Safaris and Pico Bonito Lodge)
- A Nikon D80 digital SLR camera, 18-55mm NIKKOR VR lens, and a set of Nikon EDG 8x32 binoculars

Submissions: Accepted May 15 - July 15, 2009. Up to 10 images per entrant. For details, visit www.AudubonMagazinePhotoAwards.com (note, the microsite will be up and running shortly)

Field Trips May-June 2009

Sunday May 24th - Harris Neck National Wildlife Refuge. We will be looking for nesting summer residents. The trip highlight will be the wading bird rookery at Woody Pond. Meet at the 204 & I-95 rideshare parking lot at 7:15 am or at the refuge entrance at 8:00am. Leader: Dot Bambach 912.598.2673.

Saturday June 20th - Tybee Island North Beach. We will take an afternoon stroll on the beach and see what shorebirds and gulls are hanging around! Meet at the Polk St. entrance at 5:30 pm. Please note that there are now parking meters at that location so be sure to bring plenty of change. Leader: Diana Churchill 912.786.5703.

Bring water, snacks, binoculars, insect repellent and sunscreen.

Ogeechee Audubon's Mission

Ogeechee Audubon educates adults and children about birds, wildlife, and the environment. We provide opportunities to enjoy the world around us, and advocate for responsible public policy and legislation for the conservation of our natural resources.

2009-2010 OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

President.....	Diana Churchill	786-5703
Vice President.....	Dot Bambach	598-3764
Field Trips.....	Tim Miller	429-2700
ARK Coordinator & Conservation.....	Dot Bambach	598-3764
Secretary.....	Jim Glass	786-9688
Treasurer.....	Sharon Spector	598-7117
Membership.....	Sandra Morgan	704-6861
Webmaster.....	Jayne Reichert	756-3471
Programs.....	Beth Roth	598-1980
Oatland Liaison.....	Max McKelvey	898-3980
Newsletter.....	Jayne Reichert	756-3471
Publicity.....	Pat Wolters	598-9825

Board Members: Sandy Beasley, Vic Carpenter, Larry Lynch, MD, Jake Rust, Frank Kersey Jr.

2009-2010 OFFICERS ELECTED

A slate of officers for the 2009-2010 year was presented at the April meeting. Those elected were:

Diana Churchill President
 Dot Bambach Vice President
 Jim Glass Secretary
 Sharon Spector Treasurer

A big "Thank you" goes to Vic Carpenter and Sandy Beasley for their service as President and Secretary for the 2008-2009 term.

E-PUBLICATIONS OF NOTE

Patricia Metz, Supervisor Refuge Ranger with Fish and Wildlife Service, and member of OAS, shared an e-publication with the editor called "Georgia Wild", published by Georgia DNR. The publication covers a range of subjects which focuses on nongame and natural habitat information. The address is:

<http://www.georgiawildlife.com/enewsletters.aspx>

Another web site to use is <http://www.wingsoverga.com>

Galveston Ornithological Society offers an e-mail list that distributes photos and commentary on birds recently seen on the Texas coast and elsewhere. Privacy of your e-mail address is ensured and photos are low resolution to speed transmission time. To try the list, send an e-mail to galornsoc@earthlink.net.



An Eye on Conservation

The US Fish and Wildlife Service has issued its Endangered Species Bulletin, 2008 Highlights. The third annual Highlights edition contains selections from our three 2008 on-line editions. First, you'll find articles on "The Year of the Frog," an effort by zoos, government agencies, and conservation organizations to focus attention on vulnerable amphibians. Next, we present stories on the important work of Indian tribal governments in conserving imperiled species. We close with examples of endangered species research conducted by the U.S. Geological Survey. See:

<http://www.fws.gov/angered/bulletin.html>



Ask "Wild Birds Unlimited"

Q. Is it okay to open my birdhouse and look inside?

A. In fact, looking inside your birdhouse is an integral part of being a responsible bird landlord. This is one reason it is important to use birdhouses that can easily be opened for monitoring and cleaning. With regular monitoring, you can not only satisfy your curiosity as to the progress of your birds, but you can keep an eye out for problems, such as fire ant infestation, broken eggs, or dead babies.

Generally, it is best to monitor your box in the morning or early afternoon, rather than at night. While your scent will not disturb the birds (most have little sense of smell,) it may attract predators such as raccoons and snakes. Approach the box and tap lightly or speak gently to give the incubating bird a chance to leave the nest. Then open the box and look inside. Since the nest sides tend to be high, you may need a mirror to actually view what is happening in the nest.

Songbirds usually spend 3-7 days building the nest, and four to six days laying one egg a day. They don't actually begin incubating until the clutch is complete. After 11 to 14 days, the young chickadees, nuthatches, wrens, titmice and bluebirds will begin hatching.

You want to stop opening the box once the young birds are about 12 days old, so you don't startle them into leaving the box before they are able to fly and fend for themselves.

Once the young birds fledge (leave the nest), they will not return. Brush thoroughly or rinse the box with mild soapy water. If you're lucky, your next set of tenants will be waiting to move in!

Diana Churchill, Wild Birds Unlimited

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

Please use the form below to renew your membership with Ogeechee Audubon for 2009. Membership is one year, from Jan-Dec. The Form below can be used for a new member or for renewal. The form on the web site can be printed. Send your form and funds to the address shown on the form.

FRIENDS GROUP MEETING MARCH 31 2009

Dot Bambach, one of our OAS members and newly elected vice president, was elected to serve as a member of the Board of Directors for the newly formed Friends of the Savannah Coastal Wildlife Refuges. The web site is: <http://www.coastalrefuges.org>

Ogeechee Audubon 2009 Chapter Membership Form		FO2	7XCH
Name _____	Ogeechee Audubon – \$20 per household <i>(Receive "Marshlander")</i>	_____	_____
Address _____	Senior (over 62)/Student – \$15 per household <i>(Receive "Marshlander")</i>	_____	_____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____	Joint Ogeechee & National – \$40 per household <i>(New members only, Receive "Audubon" & "Marshlander")</i>	_____	_____
Phone (h) _____ (w or m) _____	Special Contribution	_____	_____
e-mail _____	TOTAL:	_____	_____
Would you like to be notified by e-mail about upcoming meetings and events? Y _____ N _____	Current National Audubon members should return this form to be Chapter members. Send your National Audubon renewal directly to National when you receive their notice.		
Please mail this form with your check to: Ogeechee Audubon, attn. Membership P. O. Box 13424, Savannah, GA 31416	Chapter Membership runs for the Calendar Year. <i>Contributions are tax deductible.</i>		