



**Please Join Ogeechee Audubon Society,
 Tuesday, June 20 at 7:00 PM**



**“The Biology and Management of Imported Fire Ants”
 Speaker: Tim Davis, PhD**

Tim Davis began his career with Clemson University in 1990. He spent three years as a Research Assistant at Sandhill Research and Education Center. During this time, he was involved in the peach tree program and screened rootstocks for nematode resistance as well as conducting experiments with delaying bloom.

In 1996, Tim became a county extension agent and worked to educate horticulture consumers in the midlands of South Carolina. He was the Richland County Master Gardener Coordinator as well as the administrator of the Urban Horticulture Center at Riverbanks Zoo and Garden.

In 2001, Tim took up statewide duties conducting research and education as a fire ant specialist. This program includes screening new chemistries as well as working with biological controls for the Red Imported Fire Ant. Tim’s extension programs focused on integrating all of the available tools to obtain the best levels of fire ant control. Tim’s expertise in fire ant research and Extension programs have been recognized world-wide and have taken him to Argentina, Australia, and Taiwan.

Dr. Davis completed his PhD at the Clemson Department of Entomology in 2009. His research focused on the Ants of South Carolina.

Dr. Davis presently holds a position with the University of Georgia as the Chatham County Extension Coordinator and Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent.

**We meet at the First Presbyterian Church,
 520 E. Washington Ave, Savannah.
 The program is free and open to the public.**

Ogeechee Audubon 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.

2016-2017 Officers and Board Members

President	Leslie Weichsel	914-466-9689
Vice President	Mary Lambright	912-257-5703
Secretary (acting)	Mary Lambright	912-257-5703
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Membership	Debbie Bennett	912-897-1601
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Newsletter	Leslie Weichsel	914-466-9689
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Education	Vacant	
Board Members: Diana Churchill, Larry Lynch		

Field Trips

**BRING BINOCULARS, HAT, SUNSCREEN, BUG SPRAY, WATER AND
 SNACKS OR LUNCH FOR ALL FIELD TRIPS**

SAT, JUN 3: Fort Pulaski National Monument, meet by the Pulaski Bridge at 8:00 am to look for marsh wrens, painted buntings, shrikes, white pelicans and other shorebirds.

Leader: Mary Sweeney-Reeves msweeney@uga.edu, or 912-844-8988.

TUE, JUN 27: North End Tybee, meet at Jaycee Park at 6:00 pm, we will be looking for gulls, terns and other summer nesting birds.

Leader: Diana Churchill, dichurchbirds@gmail.com or 912-604-7539.

SAT, JUL 22: Savannah National Wildlife Refuge. We will be searching for fledgling gallinules, least bitterns, kites, indigo buntings, and possibly roseate spoonbills. Meet at Laurel Hill Wildlife Drive at 8:00 am.

Leader: Steve Fox at sfox01@hotmail.com.

All field trips are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted!

Transitions

Rudy Reyes, who has been on the OAS Board the past year will be leaving us. Even though this is a loss for OAS, Rudy will be moving to Denver to attend the University of Denver/Iliff School of Theology in pursuit of a PhD in Religion. Please join us as we wish Rudy and his family well. Rudy will be missed, he did a lot to improve our communications and website. Thank you for all you have done in a short time Rudy!

Also Beth Roth, who has worked tirelessly for OAS over many years has decided to accept an Emeritus position on the Board. Beth will still be with us offering her sage advice but she will be taking a more relaxed role in the organization. Beth assured we had wonderful programs over the years.



Ogeechee Audubon

Welcome to OAS Newest Board Member

A freelance wildlife and nature photographer and published travel writer, Mary Lou Dickson is also a retired software engineer. She acts as the web designer and administrator for the family photography business, Dickson Images. An amateur naturalist and accomplished scuba diver, Mary Lou and her husband Bruce once called Raleigh, North Carolina home. These days, home is wherever the RV is parked.

A member of the Carolinas' Nature Photographers Association (CNPA) since 2005, Mary Lou served the Triangle region, as both Webmaster and Coordinator.

For the last four years, Mary Lou has been volunteering at national wildlife refuges around the country. Fortunately, she has been lucky enough to be asked to help refuge biologists with bird surveys, and teach birding and photography workshops.

Mary Lou and Bruce are presently volunteering at the Savannah National Wildlife Refuge for three seasons and have recently been honored by Savannah Coastal Refuges being named the **Volunteers of the Year** for their dedicated work and the valuable contributions they have made.

Ogeechee Audubon Society is lucky to have Mary Lou join our Board with her many talents and skills!

Please join me in Welcoming Mary Lou!



Birding at Webb Wildlife Management Area, SC
with Steve Wagner.

Fridays at Forsyth Park by Mary Lambright, Vice President Ogeechee Audubon Society

I look forward to Diana Churchill's migration bird walks every spring. I enjoy both the walk in the park and seeing the birds. And, let's be honest, I would not recognize many of the migrants unless I was with a group of people who are more than happy to identify the sounds and sights of spring for me. This year, however, I was a much better participant in this venture. Mostly because there were very few migrants to be found but there were lots of year round residents, a few winter visitors who had not yet migrated, and a smattering of summer residents who had arrived to nest.

I re-learned the *whEEP* call of the Great Crested Flycatcher – as I do every spring. Maybe next year I'll remember it without help. The highlight for me was watching a young Red-tailed Hawk eating a squirrel just off the main walkway seemingly oblivious to the passersby. I also enjoyed seeing the little birds – ovenbirds, common yellowthroat, black-and-white warbler. They are so much easier to find with many eyes searching for them and pointing them out. The last Friday visit held a surprise for all of us. We spotted a nesting Red-shouldered Hawk and watched it feeding its fluffy little nestling. I didn't mind the lack of spring migrants this year. I also realized that I don't really care what birds we see. I show up each Friday for the fun of birding in a group and enjoying a walk in the park. See you next spring!



Photo by Mary Lou Dickson

Ogeechee Audubon Wishes Dot Bambach A Fond Farewell



Dot Bambach and Matt Ryan, we will miss you!

A Tribute to Dot Bambach

Ogeechee Audubon is sad to bid farewell to Dot Bambach and Matt Ryan. After nearly 18 years in Savannah, Dot and Matt have moved to Chagrin Falls, Ohio (think Cleveland) to be close to their daughter and grandson.

Dot and Matt moved to their house at the Landings on Skidaway Island in July 1999. I don't exactly remember when I met them - probably at Wild Birds Unlimited or on an Audubon field trip. What Dot remembers that I have forgotten is that then USFWS Refuge Ranger Pat Metz was looking for volunteers to help conduct shorebird surveys on Blackbeard Island. I was too busy with work and suggested that Pat call Dot and Matt. They accepted the call, signed on as USFWS volunteers, and began going over to Blackbeard to count shorebirds.

In 2003, Dot joined the organizing committee for the first Colonial Coast Birding and Nature Festival. For the next seven years, she worked on that committee, doing registration, fund raising, and general administration for the Festival that took place for seven years each fall on Jekyll Island.

Also in 2003, Dot joined the Board of Ogeechee Audubon. She continued on the board until her departure for Cleveland last month. Dot served Ogeechee Audubon as either President or Vice President for ten of those fourteen years! Wow!!

What I find amazing about Dot is that she loves birds and bird watching, has extraordinary administrative skills, and

also incredible time management skills to accomplish so many things with her time.

In addition to serving on the Ogeechee Audubon board, she was part of the organizing committee and a founding board member of the Friends of the Savannah National Wildlife Refuges. When Steve Calver decided to start a Savannah Area Christmas Bird Count, Dot and Diana Churchill took on the task of organizing the volunteers. As Diana got busier with work, Dot soon took on the main responsibility for volunteers for both the Harris Neck and the Savannah Area counts.

She monitored a bluebird trail on Skidaway for a couple of years and also trained other monitors. For years, she made the trek to Harris Neck NWR once or twice a week during the spring and summer to monitor the wood stork nesting activity. Even with two artificial hips, Dot made the steep climb up the ladder of the tower to observe and record the stork activity.

As a variety of conservation issues came to the forefront, Dot was there – attending meetings, writing letters, and helping make our voices heard. These issues included harbor deepening, wind energy, oil pipelines, seismic testing and more.

She also led field trips, helped with bird surveys, took part in a book group on Skidaway, cooked delicious meals, and traveled to a variety of locations to watch birds and visit family.

Behind every great woman is a great man. Matt graciously served as support staff, driver, tote and fetcher, bird feeder filler, bluebird trail monitor, and companion on their many adventures. Matt always had a story, a smile and a ready hug. It will probably take six of us to fill the hole left by their departure.

Thank you Dot and Matt for all you contributed during your Savannah sojourn.

...by Diana Churchill



Woodcarving by Jim Durow of a Clapper Rail awarded to Dot Bambach at our tribute dinner.

Ogeechee Audubon Chapter Membership Form – 2017

New membership _____ Renewal _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (h) _____ (c) _____

e-mail* _____

*** Our newsletter is delivered by e-mail**

Would you like to be notified by e-mail about upcoming meetings and events? Yes ___ No ___

Please mail this form with your check to:

**Ogeechee Audubon, att Membership, PO Box 13424,
Savannah, GA 31416**

Contributions are tax deductible.

Ogeechee Audubon-\$20.00/household _____

Includes the *Marshlander*

Senior (over 62) or Student - \$15/household _____

Includes the *Marshlander*

Special Contribution _____

Total: _____

Ogeechee Audubon membership is based on the calendar year – January to December.

Send your *National membership dues* directly to National.

***Please help us save the trees. If you receive the Newsletter by printed mail and can receive it electronically via e-mail let Debbie Bennett (mburdsal@comcast.net) know so we no longer print it, mail it and use paper unnecessarily. Audubon cares about the environment and also about you. Therefore if you have no other way to receive the Newsletter except printed mail we will be happy to send you a printed copy.**