



THE MARSHLANDER

NEWSLETTER OF THE OGEECHEE AUDUBON SOCIETY
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA
VOL XLIX, ISSUE 2, MARCH, 2019
WWW.OGEECHEEAUDUBON.ORG

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.

Please Join Ogeechee Audubon Society

Tuesday, April 16th at 7:00 PM

Georgia's Shorebirds: Connecting the Hemisphere through Conservation

Speaker: Abby Sterling

Abby will discuss how the Georgia Coast provides critical habitat to many species of shorebirds that are experiencing significant population declines. Learn more as Abby highlights incredible stories and the conservation efforts underway to protect them.

Abby works as a shorebird biologist with Manomet's Georgia Bight Shorebird Conservation Initiative. Manomet is a non-profit based in Massachusetts that uses science and partnerships to address conservation challenges throughout the hemisphere.

Abby Sterling earned her doctorate from the University of Georgia, where she studied how habitat and landscape features influence beach nesting shorebirds and chick survival.

We meet at the First Presbyterian Church,
520 E. Washington Ave, Savannah.

Ogeechee Audubon Society Officers and Board

Administrative Responsibilities

| | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| President | Leslie Weichsel |
| Vice President | Mary Lambright |
| Secretary | Marty Foxx |
| Treasurer | Pam Smith |

Membership Workgroup

| | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Member Enrollment | Debbie Bennett |
|-------------------|----------------|

Education Workgroup

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| Education Outreach | Diana Churchill, Sue DeRosa |
| Field Trips | Mary Sweeney-Reeves |
| Programs | Lynn Wrenn |

Communications Workgroup

| | |
|--------------|------------------|
| Social Media | Mary Lambright |
| Webmaster | Mary Lou Dickson |
| Newsletter | Leslie Weichsel |
| Publicity | Sandy Beasley |

Conservation Workgroup

| | |
|--------------|--|
| Entire Board | |
|--------------|--|

Field Trips

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

*SAT, MAR 2: SEE NEXT PAGE *



SAT, MAR 16: Okefenokee NWR,
8:30 am to 12 noon. (East side near

Folkston) Red-cockaded Woodpeckers, Bachman's Sparrows, Eagles. Meet at **7:30 a.m.** at Winn Dixie at I-95 Exit 29, or at **8:30 a.m.** at east entrance to Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge off Rte. 121. Be aware that Okefenokee is a little over a 2 hour drive from Savannah. This is a special field trip for Ogeechee Audubon Society Members since we will be joining our friends from Coastal Georgia Audubon Society of St. Simons Island. For questions and additional information, contact Bob Sattelmeyer of Coastal Georgia Audubon at engrds@gsu.edu or 404-217-7082.

Trip Rigor: Wildlife Drive by car, moderate walking to observation tower.

SAT, MAR 30: Altamaha WMA, (8 am to 12 noon) is along one of the most beautiful rivers in the United States. We may see early migrants, shorebirds, and wading birds. Allow 1 to 1.5 hours to drive to the site. Altamaha WMA is located just south of Darien on Hwy 17, on left side meet in parking lot near large shed. Direction coordinates, 31.3507694, -81.4467409. Leader: James Fleullan, jrfleullan@gmail.com. **Trip Rigor:** Moderate lots of walking along dikes.

Fridays Spring Migratory Bird Walks with Diana Churchill in Forsyth Park

FRIDAYS, APR 5, 12, 19, 26, May 3: Migratory Bird Walk in Forsyth Park, 7:45 am to 9:15 am. We will wander the park in search of migratory warblers, vireos, tanagers, buntings, flycatchers and more. Meet by the fountain at the north end of Forsyth Park at 7:45 am. Leader: Diana Churchill, for more information contact her at 912-604-

7539 or dichurchbirds@gmail.com. **Trip Rigor:** Easy with some walking on flat terrain.

SAT, APR 13: **Sterling Creek Park, 8 am to 11 am.** Elbow Swamp Road, Richmond Hill GA. We will explore a new park which encompasses 187 acres of forests, wetlands, ponds, and grassland habitats. We will be looking for late migrants, warblers, wading birds and more. Meet at 8:00 am at park entrance gate and park near public bathrooms. Leader: Steve Fox, sfox01@hotmail.com. **Trip Rigor:** Easy with walking on trails.

SUN, APR 28: **Webb Wildlife Management Area S.C., 8 am – 12 noon.** We will be looking for spring migrants, red-cockaded woodpeckers, Bachman's Sparrows and more. Meet to carpool at Savannah National Wildlife Refuge Laurel Hill Wildlife Drive entrance at 7 am or meet at entrance to Webb WMA at 8 am. Leader: Steve Wagner, sjwgnr@hotmail.com. **Trip Rigor:** Moderate with walking on uneven ground.

SAT, MAY 11: **Fort Stewart, 8:30am to 12 noon.** Meet Wildlife Biologist Larry Carlile at the Love's Truck Stop in Richmond Hill (SW corner of I-95 Exit 90). We will leave the truck stop at 8:30 am and travel to a Fort Stewart Red-Cockaded Woodpecker cluster to observe RCWO adults and chicks inside the nest cavity. We may need to walk up to 0.25 miles to access the RCWO cavity tree cluster. We'll also visit bottomland hardwood habitat associated with the Canoochee River. If you have an SUV type vehicle or truck with good clearance. please bring it as it will be needed. We will carpool at Love's Truck Stop for those who do not have a vehicle with good clearance. Also, sturdy shoes (no open toes, boots/hiking boots preferred) and long pants are recommended. It will probably be buggy, so bug spray, long sleeves, and hats are a good idea. Leader Larry Carlile, for more information contact him at l.carlile259@comcast.net.

Our friends from [Coastal Georgia Audubon Society](#) will be [joining us for this special field trip](#).

Trip rigor: Moderate with some walking over uneven ground.

SUN, MAY 19: **Fort Pulaski National Monument, 9 am – 12 noon.** Meet by the Fort Pulaski Bridge at 9 am to look for marsh wrens, painted buntings, shrikes, white pelicans, whimbrels, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds. Leader: Diana Churchill, for more information contact her at 912-604-7539 or dichurchbirds@gmail.com. **Trip rigor:** Easy walking on flat terrain.

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

Please be sure to check OAS website or our Facebook page prior to each field trip to be sure there are no changes to the scheduled field trip.

March 2nd - Special Field Trip

PLEASE JOIN US – LOOKS LIKE LOTS OF FUN!

SAT, MAR 2: **Harris Neck National Wildlife Refuge – Woody Pond - a Big Sit - 8:00 am to 11:00 am.**

Come join members of Ogeechee Audubon attempting our first "Big Sit." We'll set up spotting scopes at Woody Pond and hang out to see what we can see or hear. We will be looking for wintering waterfowl, waders, rails, raptors and sparrows. This is a family friendly event as well as a great event if you have trouble doing a lot of walking. Meet at Harris Neck National Wildlife Refuge Woody Pond parking lot. **Trip Vigor:** Easy, handicap accessible. Leader: Mary Lou Dickson, marylou@dicksonimages.com.

SAT, MAR 2: Lunch at **Altman's Restaurant, Townsend 11:30 am to 1 pm**, Following the "Big Sit." Great for anyone who wants to connect the Big Sit outing with **"Identifying Georgia Birds through Calls and Songs – a presentation by Georgann Schmalz"** at the Ashantilly Center in Darien. Join Mary Lou Dickson at Altman's Restaurant, 15271 US Highway 17, Townsend, GA 31331-3868, 912-832-2171. Here's a link to the online menu. <https://www.zmenu.com/altmans-restaurant-eulonia-online-menu/> Leader: Mary Lou Dickson, marylou@dicksonimages.com.

SAT, MAR 2: **Identifying Georgia Birds through Calls and Songs – a presentation by Georgann Schmalz 2:00pm to 5:00pm** This program will be at the Ashantilly Center, 1712 Bond Rd., Darien, GA. A reception will follow the presentation. \$20 donation - for non-members of the Center. This program is for anyone who is interested in learning to identify birds by songs and call notes. Georgann Schmalz is President and Ornithologist for Birding Adventures.

Please note that Ogeechee Audubon is teaming up with Coastal Georgia Audubon to do joint field trips!

SAVE-THE-DATE

Saturday, April 27

Coastal Georgia Botanical Garden's **"Birds, Bees, and Blooms – The Beauty of Spring"**

This event will include bird-related activities.

Keep your eye out for more information!

Message from Membership



Hello all OAS Members!
I cannot believe we are approaching our March 31 goal for receiving your membership dues for 2019. Just as a reminder - If you have not paid dues by March 31, 2019, we will delete your name from the membership

rolls and you thus you will not receive the email newsletter and other announcements.

But--at any time in 2019 you decide to re-submit your membership we will gladly accept it and get you back on the roles and receiving the newsletter etc. Less than a month and counting!!!

So, use the Membership Form at the end of this newsletter to get your 2019 membership dues sent in. Remember all the good things your membership supports.

If you have any question as to whether you have paid this year, just get with me (mburdsal@comcast.net or 912-667-7256. If you email me it would help to put OAS in the subject line so I don't accidentally delete your email!!!)

Thanks! Debbie Bennett, Membership Chair

Please Welcome our Newest Ogeechee Audubon Members!!!



Katherine Cooksey



Erine-Faye McNaught

PLEASE NOTE – THE NEXT EDITION OF THE MARSHLANDER WILL BE ON JUNE 1ST. ANY OTHER NEEDED COMMUNICATIONS REGARDING OGEECHEE AUDUBON SOCIETY ACTVIITIES WILL COME VIA EMAIL, OUR WEBSITE AND ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE UNTIL THAT TIME.



TAKE A LOOK

Check out our website and like us on Facebook

www.ogeecheeaudubon.org



Special Announcement

Please join me in congratulating Ogeechee Audubon member Isaiah Scott! Isaiah was recently awarded the 2019 Georgia Ornithological Society's Young Birders Scholarship to attend a week long camp at Audubon's Hog Island in Maine. The week will consist of a 6-day, 5-night



program on Hog Island. The program "allows enthusiastic young birders to work with some of the country's best-known birders and ornithologists on field identification, bird ecology and conservation. Occurring concurrently



with the adult

Field

Ornithology

and Hands-on

Bird Science

sessions, and

sharing many

of the same instructors, this program includes the unique opportunity to see Audubon's seabird restoration work in action, and is the only Hog Island program that lands participants on Eastern Egg Rock during the puffin breeding season." *Ogeechee Audubon Society partnered with Georgia Ornithological Society to support this scholarship which provides full tuition and travel expenses.* We are anxious to hear about Isaiah's experiences upon his return.

Field Notes

2018 Year-end Update on Bird Surveys at Superior Landfill

A total of 156 bird species have been observed at least once on the Superior Landfill property since the inception of the project in March 2013. A total of 54 full-fledged surveys have been conducted since 2013. The 156 number of bird species represents an increase of nine (9) species since the presentation Stan Gray gave to Ogeechee Audubon in February 2018, and includes the following new additions: Hairy Woodpecker, Purple Martin, Bonaparte's Gull, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, American Pipit, Yellow-breasted Chat, Cape May Warbler, Broad-winged Hawk, and Brown Pelican. Interestingly enough, of the 229 species that there is some reasonable chance of potentially observing on property, 74 have eluded us so far. Many are easily explained by time of day, brief migration windows, etc.

Somewhat surprising is that no Orchard Orioles have been spotted.

The partnership between Ogeechee Audubon and Superior Landfill has existed since 2013 to conduct these surveys. Approximately eight surveys a year are carried out. The data collected gives important insight about the environmental impacts of the Landfill and helps guide the management of the property.

Thank you to Stan Gray for this information and his tireless work on gathering and analyzing this data, and coordinating the surveys.

***Please note if you Unsubscribe from the Ogeechee Audubon email list you will not receive our notices nor the Newsletter.**

Ogeechee Audubon Chapter Membership Form – 2019

New membership _____ Renewal _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (h) _____ (c) _____

e-mail* _____

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

As a member, you will be notified by e-mail about upcoming meetings, events and important conservation issues.

Please mail this form with your check to:
**Ogeechee Audubon, Attn 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 Audubon membership dues* directly to National.

OAS Chapter renewals are accepted until March 31st.

***Please help us save the trees. If you receive the Newsletter by printed mail and can receive it electronically via e-mail let Debbie**