

THE MARSHLANDER

OGEECHEE AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

October, 2020, Volume L, Issue VIII

50th Anniversary Edition of the Marshlander



Ogeechee Audubon Society Officers and Board	
Administrative Responsibilities	
President	Leslie Weichsel
Vice President	Mary Lambright
Secretary	Marty Foxx
Treasurer	Pam Smith
Education Workgroup	
Education Outreach	Diana Churchill,
Sue DeRosa, Rose Talbert	
Field Trips	John Williamson
Programs	Lynn Wrenn
Communications Workgroup	
Social Media	Mary Lambright
Webmaster	Mary Lou Dickson
Newsletter	Leslie Weichsel
Publicity	Matt Tozar
Historian	
Sandy Beasley	
Conservation Workgroup	
Entire Board	

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.

Ogeechee Audubon Society Has the First In-Person Socially-Distanced Masked Meeting!



Ogeechee Audubon held its first public meeting since March when we went into lockdown. On September 19th OAS held the delayed Annual Meeting to elect officers, had a presentation on Kenyan birds and did a bird walk. A small group of OAS members gathered at the Savannah-Ogeechee Canal under the outdoor pavilion. The weather cooperated with cooler temperatures and a nice breeze. Everyone wore a mask and were appropriately social-distanced. The nominating committee presented the slate of officers for election: Leslie Weichsel, President; Mary Lambright, Vice President; Pam Smith, Treasurer; and Marty Foxx, Secretary. Being no opposition nor nominations from the floor, the slate of nominees was accepted unanimously for a two-year term ending April, 2022. What a strange year 2020 has been for us. This is our 50th Anniversary year, who would have thought it would turn out to be so unprecedented. This is sure one for the archives! We are hopeful we can slowly emerge from lockdown and conduct a few bird walks during these last months of this year.

-OAS Board of Directors

	Fresh Seed NO Fillers!	Bird Feeders Birdbaths Pole Systems And The Freshest Seed in Town!	8108 Abercorn Street Mon-Sat 10-6 Sunday 12-5 Next to Home Goods (912) 961-3455	
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Members of the Ogeechee Audubon Board worked on the Savannah-Ogeechee Canal's birdfeeders to get them back in working order so S-O Canal visitors could enjoy seeing the birds.
Photographs by Mary Lou Dickson

**This publication of *The Marshlander* is the eighth edition this year of the pandemic!
We will be presenting articles, stories and photographs to keep you connected with birds and with Ogeechee Audubon Society during the time.
I hope you enjoy it!
November 1, 2020 will be the last edition of *The Marshlander* for 2020**

Ogeechee Audubon Public Zoom Meeting

October 13th – Tuesday at 7:00pm

Place – Zoom Meeting

Topic: ***Accidental Birder in Kenya*** by Leslie Weichsel

This is a repeat of the presentation we did at the Savannah-Ogeechee Canal in September. We want to be able to offer this program to more folks. You can participate from the comfort and protection of your own home.

An email will be sent to each member via Mail Chimp on October 12th with the link for the Zoom Program.

I hope to “see” you there!

OAS next public meeting will be on December 8th via Zoom – more information to follow.



Field Trips – in a Pandemic World



Ogeechee Audubon is going to begin to very carefully do bird walks again – you must walk before you can run! There will be strict guidelines to keep us safe. We are all in this together as we adapt to the new “normal”. These walks are for OAS Members only.

October 10 – Saturday - Lake Mayer – 8:00am & 8:30am

We will slowly walk around the Lake as a group. There will be two separate groups starting at staggered times in order to provide appropriate social distancing. When you sign up please indicate the time you wish to start.

Two groups of 6 birders each:

- **Group 1 will meet at 8am in the parking lot** – Diana Churchill will be the leader with 6 birders
- **Group 2 will meet at 8:30am in the parking lot** – Larry Carlile will be the leader with 6 birders

You must sign up for the walk and indicate which group you wish to be in – ogeecheeaudubon.help@gmail.com

Please read the guidelines below this announcement. Everyone is expected to follow these requirements.

November 14 – Saturday – Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens – 8:00am (<https://coastalbg.uga.edu/>).

We will stroll through the park-like setting of the beautiful 51-acre gardens looking for recently arrived overwintering species, as well as year-round residents. As an added bonus, we will likely see some interesting butterflies, moths, and other pollinating insects, all drawn by the diversity of the extensive floral plantings. As the Gardens grow and develop, variations in habitats are attracting a wide assemblage of species. Designated an eBird Hotspot, 146 species have been reported on the grounds to date. Help us add to that list.

In order to participate you must sign up at ogeecheeaudubon.help@gmail.com – space is limited to a total of 12 birders divided into 2 groups of 6 each.

Meet inside the Canebrake Road entrance in the Andrews Visitor and Education Center parking lot at 8:00 am.

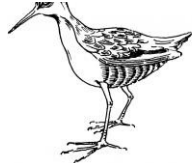
Leaders: Stan Gray, graysirisgarden@comcast.net or 912-659-5020; and Pam Smith, pavercel@comcast.net or 717-201-9756.

We will divide up into two teams of 6 people each in order to maintain social distancing and to keep groups small. The \$5.00 entrance fee is being covered by Ogeechee Audubon Society.

Please read the guidelines below this announcement. Everyone is expected to follow these requirements in order to participate in the Field Trips.

Guidelines to participate in Field Trips by Ogeechee Audubon:

- Birding groups are limited to 6 members each plus a leader.
- If you show up without a reservation you will not be allowed to join the group – we will not have more than a total of 7 in each group.
- You **MUST** wear a face mask and practice social distancing while on the field trip to protect yourself and others in the group.
- Do not share binoculars, scopes or other equipment.
- Car pooling with participants outside your household is strongly discouraged.
- By signing up for the field trip sponsored by Ogeechee Audubon Society, you acknowledge that these activities can be hazardous to you and your health. You agree voluntarily to participate.



Membership

Hi! I am Mary Lambright, Vice-president of OAS and the person who keeps track of membership. Fall is in the air and it is time to think about renewing your membership in Ogeechee Audubon for 2021. Did you know? Ogeechee Audubon Society membership is for one-year, starting January

Some of you have not yet renewed for 2020 and a couple of you have already renewed for 2021 (yay for you!). If you aren't sure what your current membership status is you can send an email to ogeecheeaudubon.help@gmail.com and I will be happy to let you know. At the end of this newsletter you will find a membership form so you can choose which membership level is best for you and then fill out the form and send it in with your dues. Our treasurer, Pam Smith, will take care of your money and I will make sure that you continue to receive our newsletter, *The Marshlander*, and other important info via MailChimp.

Disclaimer: Membership to Ogeechee Audubon Society does **NOT** include membership to National Audubon Society with its subscription to the magazine, *Audubon* but you are encouraged to join both organizations. For more information about National Audubon Society, visit audubon.org Thank You!

50 Years of Ogeechee Audubon

2020 marks the 50th anniversary of the Ogeechee Audubon Society! The members of the Board of Ogeechee Audubon are planning a special surprise for its members to mark fifty years of fulfilling our mission to educate adults and children about birds, wildlife, and the environment. As if 2020 hasn't proven to be special enough!

A Winter Tradition – Christmas Bird Count

Ogeechee Audubon will be participating in Audubon's 121st Christmas Bird Count for 2020-2021



Harris Neck Circle will be on Friday, December 18, 2020

Savannah Circle will be on Saturday, January 2, 2021

You can sign up on either our website: www.ogeecheeaudubon.org or email us at ogeecheeaudubon.help@gmail.com

As you would imagine there will be changes to our normal operating procedures and ground rules due to COVID-19. There will be no chili lunch at Harris Neck nor will we have a Countdown Dinner in Savannah.

More specific information will come out as the time draws closer.

Our priority is that everyone is safe.

When I got home, I drilled a hole in the center of the dip cup, using a 1/4" drill bit, moving the bit around to get the hole the right size. In the video, the demonstrator used a soldering iron which I did not have. Then outside of the dip holder, I drilled about 8 holes using a 1/8" bit. These holes allow the water to drain back into the planter. In future iterations, I would use a smaller bit and maybe fewer holes so the water wouldn't drain so quickly. Next, I put the removeable stem from the solar pump into the middle hole, making some adjustments so it fit tightly. Add the various spray devices, if desired. Measure the tubing so it will reach from the pump on the bottom of the planter up to the dip tray, allowing for a little extra. Run the wire from the pump over the side of the planter and to the solar panel. I followed the YouTube directions to mount the panel using a 6 ft. plastic tomato stake and large plastic yogurt container but feel free to experiment with whatever you have at home to get a more aesthetic mounting device. Position your bird bath in your yard, fill the planter with several gallons of water, and then wait for some sun to enjoy. After having this feature sitting in my flower bed, I may glue some screening under the holes (using bathroom caulk) to keep debris out of the bird bath.

Below I have the links for the "How To..." videos. In addition, I have the links to the items that I purchased. Play around with what you have around the house and be creative. The birds don't care about the looks but will enjoy the water. Watching YouTube video was worth it just to see all the hummers we don't have here in Georgia and other birds this person had at her house.

Good Luck!

- YouTube Videos: [How to build solar powered bird bath](#)
- [Mounting Solar Panel](#)
- Chip and Dip Tray: [Target](#) \$3 (Gray, Pink, or Dark Blue)
- Planter: Home Depot [Southern Patio Cabana](#) 13.5"W x 18"H Resin \$29.99
- Tubing: 5/16" x 10 ft. \$4.33 [Home Depot](#)
- Solar Pump: [Amazon](#) \$14.99

FYI

SECOND PHASE OF SAVANNAH NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE IMPOUNDMENT RENOVATION PROJECT BEGAN ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2020

The second of two projects announced in September 2019 is set to begin next week, and will require the closure of all trails north and south of SC Hwy 170, including the Laurel Hill Wildlife Drive, beginning Wednesday, September 9, 2020 until further notice. Closed areas will be off-limits to all visitors (no foot, bicycle, or vehicle traffic). With repairs to the diversion canal outflow structure near completion, the second and more extensive part of the overall repair and renovation of the refuge's 3,000-acre freshwater impoundment system can now begin. Specific improvements include elevating all dikes/levees surrounding the impoundments, deepening the perimeter and interior ditches within the impoundments, and replacing water control structures. All of these measures are necessary to restore the impoundments to a healthier, more resilient state needed to continue to provide vital habitat for waterfowl and other birds, as well as all the other species that benefit from the impoundments. The elevated dikes and deeper ditches also will benefit the public by providing better wildlife viewing opportunities. Visitors should expect closures for a period of not less than one year, and possibly two. We will provide updates as new information becomes available and keep you informed of the progress throughout the duration of project. Keep in mind there are many other areas on the refuge to enjoy such as Kingfisher Pond and adjacent trails, the Solomon Tract, and the Visitor Center trails. In addition, Pinckney Island and Harris Neck National Wildlife Refuges will be open for normal visitation. We ask that visitors be patient and remember that what we are doing is for the benefit of the wildlife and habitat we are mandated to protect. We consider you our partners in this important mission and greatly appreciate your continued patience and support.

Georgia Birding and Wildlife Trails



Welcome to Georgia Birding and Wildlife Trails, a program of Georgia DNR's Wildlife Resources Division. These trails offer a network of sites that showcase our state's fascinating natural and cultural resources. They also provide opportunities to see wildlife across a variety of landscapes while promoting outdoor recreation and wildlife conservation.

Promoting outdoor recreation and wildlife conservation is part of our [mission at the Wildlife Resources Division](#). But it is important, too, for everyone in our state. Georgia's amazing diversity of animals, plants and habitats enhance the health of our environment and contribute to the production of much of our food and many of the products we use. This diversity also enriches our quality of life, our economic wellbeing, and even our cultural identity. More than 2 million people participate in wildlife viewing in Georgia annually, contributing nearly \$2 billion to our economy.

The Birding and Wildlife Trails program involves a number of partners, including state and federal agencies, local governments, non-profits and private citizens. These partners are essential to making each site a great place to visit.

It is our hope that you enjoy exploring the trails. As you do, we think you will discover why we are Wild about Georgia!

Rusty Garrison
Director, Wildlife Resources Division

Visit the newly launched website at: <https://georgiabirdingtrails.com/>



Contact:

Facebook: [Ogeechee Audubon](#)

Email: Ogeecheeaudubon.help@gmail.com

Website: www.ogeecheeaudubon.org



Ogeechee Audubon Chapter Membership Form – 2021

New membership _____ Renewal _____

Membership – please check level of membership

_____ Individual Adult older than 18 years - \$20

_____ Household/Family - \$20

_____ Senior – individual (62 and older) - \$15

_____ Student – individual (13 years old to 18 years old) - \$15

_____ Fledgling Birder – individual (12 years old and younger) - \$5

Additional contribution: \$ _____

Name: _____

If household or family, additional names: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: (home) _____ (mobile) _____ Email: _____

Ogeechee Audubon membership is for a calendar year – January to December. OAS Chapter renewals are accepted until March 31st.

All meeting information, events and important conservation issues will be communicated by email.

Ogeechee Audubon Newsletter – The *Marshlander* is sent by email to individual or household/family.

Please mail this form with your check to:

Ogeechee Audubon, Attn Membership

PO Box 13424,

Savannah, GA 31416

Contributions are tax deductible.