THE MARSHLANDER OGEECHEE AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

December, 2020, Volume L, Issue X

50th Anniversary Edition of the Marshlander



Special Holiday Edition

Ogeechee Audubon Society Officers and

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

<u>Communications Workgroup</u>

Social Media Mary Lambright
Webmaster Mary Lou Dickson
Newsletter Leslie Weichsel
Publicity Matt Tozar

<u>Historian</u> Sandy Beasley

Conservation Workgroup

Entire Board



Please join Ogeechee Audubon on Tuesday, December 8th at 7 pm for a fun-filled time of fellowship, virtual birding, and friendly competition. This year we will be celebrating our Annual Holiday Party virtually! So please cozy up to your computer, grab a cup of eggnog or wassail and join us as we gather together to celebrate our love of birds.

We will open with a slideshow of Ogeechee Audubon "Members in Action"! After the slideshow we will take about 15 minutes in small "break out" groups to engage in Bird-themed conversations and sharing, Diana will then guide us through a quick review of winter birds in preparation for the Christmas Bird Counts, and finally we will test our skills with a fast-paced bird ID quiz. Be on the lookout in your email for your Zoom invitation and Kahoot info on Monday. Looking forward to "seeing" you on Tuesday! Happy Holidays!

-OAS Board of Directors





In honor of Ogeechee Audubon's Fifty-Year Anniversary, the Board is giving each of you a special token of remembrance. You may pick up your small gift at Wild Birds Unlimited beginning on December 11th until year end. If you are unable to pick it up at that time, we will mail it to you after the first of the year.

Thank You!

Field Trips - in a Pandemic World



Ogeechee Audubon is conducting field trips again.

There will be strict guidelines to keep us safe. We are all in this together as we adapt to the new "normal". These field trips and surveys are for OAS Members only.

<u>Please read the following guidelines. Everyone is expected to agree to follow these requirements in order to participate in the Field Trips.</u>

Guidelines to participate in Field Trips by Ogeechee Audubon:

- Birding groups are limited to 6 members each plus a leader.
- <u>If you show up without a reservation you will not be allowed to join the group</u> we will not have more than a total of 7 in each group.
- You MUST wear a face mask at all times 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.

<u>January 16, 2021 – Lake Mayer</u> – We will walk around the Lake. 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

Program length about 2 hours or more. Terrain: Easy surface with asphalt around the lake. May be some walking on grassy areas.

<u>February 20, 2021 – Sterling Creek Park</u> – We will meet at the park at 8am to bird this area. There will be two groups of six birders for a total of 12 plus the leaders. Pam Smith will lead one group and John Williamson and Matt Tozer will colead the other.

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.

Program length about 2 hours or more. Terrain: Cleared hiking trails.

Savannah Christian Preparatory School Surveys

Ogeechee Audubon will be continuing our surveys of the school property on Sundays, January 10th, February 7th and March 7th at 8:30 am.

Meet at the front of the school gate at 8:30 am sharp if you wish to participate. Participants are limited to six individuals.

<u>In order to participate you must sign up at ogeecheeaudubon.help@gmail.com</u>. You must also follow the guidelines for field trips as outlined above.

Rusty Black Bird Survey Opportunity



Each Sunday beginning November 1st through January 31st meet at the Savannah Christian Preparatory School – 1599 Chatham Parkway.

- Meet at the gate at 3 pm.
- Please adhere to the Guidelines above. Bring a Scope for your own use.
- Typically, the survey team is there until 5 pm.
- No need to sign up since there is plenty of room to social distance.

photo by Pam Smith

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

Those of you who have signed up will be receiving further instructions.

Save-the-date

Next Ogeechee Audubon Public Meeting is on February 16, 2021 at 7 pm via Zoom. More information to follow.

Next Newsletter will be published on January 1, 2021.

Do not forget to renew your dues - 2021 will be a better birding year!