



FLORIDA BIRDING  
& NATURE FESTIVAL

*Fall 2019*

Hosted by



# YOUR LOVE OF BIRDS AND NATURE SHOWS US ALL HOW TO SOAR.

THANKS FOR MAKING THE FLORIDA BIRDING & NATURE  
FESTIVAL ANOTHER GREAT SUCCESS.

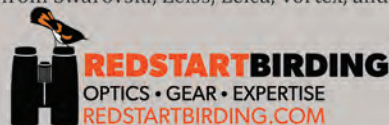
We're proud to be your partner.

Tampa Electric's Manatee Viewing Center welcomes you  
from Nov. 1 through April 15, 2020.



**Telephones have come a long way.  
So have birding optics.**

Visit our booth at the Florida Birding and Nature Festival to check out  
the latest gear from Swarovski, Zeiss, Leica, Vortex, and more.



"Welcome to Hillsborough County Community College Brandon Campus, located on an 82-acre site, primarily serving the central portion of Hillsborough County and the developing corporate-industrial corridor along Interstates 75 and 4. This contemporary campus was designed to meet the needs of the community far into the future".

Dr. Alessandro Anzalone, Interim Campus President welcomes you to our college and the Festival with a wish for a very productive and rewarding event.

# Welcome



**FLORIDA BIRDING  
& NATURE FESTIVAL**

We are delighted you have joined us! We are celebrating the wonders of the birds, wildlife, and natural lands that we enjoy in West Central Florida. We hope that you will see new birds, find new places to go, and learn new things about our area and its wildlife as you participate in this Festival.

## FIELD TRIPS

Our field trips showcase some of the best natural areas of our counties, protected as national wildlife refuges, public parks, or nature preserves, or private lands. There are trips to search for birds, butterflies, dragonflies, turtles and wildflowers. Most trips are on foot, but some are by boat, kayak/canoe, or driving.

## SEMINARS

All seminars and workshops are included with the day's Festival admission (and even more wide-ranging). Yes, talks are certainly about birds, but include much information on other wildlife, natural areas and habitats, international birding, and electronics. There is something interesting and entertaining for everyone.

## FLORIDA TURTLE SYMPOSIUM

Co-sponsored by the Florida Turtle Conservation Trust, the special all day Saturday symposium presents expert speakers sharing the newest science about the diversity, ecology, and conservation of this most endangered group of wildlife. And don't forget the turtle-focused field trips on Sunday!

## KEYNOTES

Thursday's kickoff starts with a reception of hors d'oeuvres, wine and beer, and then the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Historian, Dr. Mark Madison, will present. On Friday night the keynote is by the founder and president of the Owl Research Institute, Denver Holt. A full buffet dinner will be served. On Saturday, after the buffet, the author, artist, world traveler, and naturalist Kenn Kaufman, of the Kaufman Field Guides, will be speaking.

## NATURE EXPO

Our Nature Expo offers specially selected nature-related products and informational booths targeted for our unique audience. The Expo is of both local vendors and those who have migrated a great distance to show, invite, and educate you. Plan a trip, see wildlife, learn about nature, try binoculars, and enjoy art. And visit the food trucks for your lunch!



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# Keynote Events

Keynote Events will all be held in the Student Services Building on campus.

**THURSDAY** October 17, 2019 | Doors Open 5:00 pm

## The Festival's Kickoff

### Dr. Mark Madison, U.S. FWS National Historian

For the last 20 years as the Historian, Dr. Mark Madison maintains the half million historic items in the USFWS Museum/Archives (NCTC). Mark has also taught at the University of Melbourne (Australia) and Harvard University and spent three years doing tropical reforestation in the Philippines. Mark's favorite natural areas are on Florida refuges. Full event admission includes a reception with hors d'oeuvres and a beer and wine cash bar.



*Dr. Mark Madison*



*Denver Holt*



*Kenn Kaufman*



**FRIDAY** October 18, 2019 | Doors Open 5:00 pm

## Denver Holt, Owl Research Institute

Denver Holt is the founder and president of the Owl Research Institute (ORI), a nonprofit he started 30 years ago. Holt is a widely published author and has been featured in countless articles from National Geographic to the New York Times, as well as many television programs. He has educated and entertained people from all walks of life and enjoys guiding, meeting new people, and expanding his knowledge of wildlife and the natural world. Full event admission includes a buffet dinner.

**SATURDAY** October 19, 2019 | Doors Open 5:00 pm

## Kenn Kaufman, America's Birder

Kenn Kaufman is an author, artist, photographer, world traveler, and naturalist, dedicated to the cause of bird conservation. He is a Fellow of the American Ornithological Society and has received the American Birding Association's lifetime achievement award - twice. The most recent of his dozen books is "A Season on the Wind: Inside the World of Spring Migration." Kenn will be signing his books, so bring yours from home or buy them on the spot! Full event admission includes a buffet dinner.

# Seminars AT-A-GLANCE

## ROOM A

### MAMMALS

Moderator: *Roxanna Palmer*

- 9 am • Foxes in Florida
- 10 am • Bobcats
- 11 am • Coyotes in Florida

### SKILLS & SPECIAL BIRDS

Moderator: *Leah Zimmerman*

- 1 pm • Fall Warbler ID
- 2 pm • Building Birding Skills
- 3 pm • Herons & Egrets
- 4 pm • Burrowing Owls

### THE INSECT WORLD

Moderator: *Jeffrey Rubenstein*

- 9 am
- 10 am • Dragonflies
- 11 am • Butterflies

### SPECIALTIES

Moderator: *Jeremy Bullian*

- 1 pm • Pelagic Birds
- 2 pm • Hummingbird Landscaping
- 3 pm • Least Terns
- 4 pm • Swallow-tailed Kites

## ROOM B

### BIRD TRAVEL

Moderator: *Dave Hannay*

- Birds' Eyes Adaptations
- Birding in South Africa
- East Africa Birding
- World Penguin Nesting

### BIRDING & PHOTOGRAPHY

Moderator: *Fred Webb*

- A Big Florida Year
- From Click to Pic
- Bird Photography Ethics
- Shooting Feathered Friends

## ROOM C

### WHAT CAN I DO?

Moderator: *Fred Webb*

- Native Plants for Wildlife
- Gardening for Wildlife
- Stormwater Pond Sanctuaries
- Bluebird Project

### BIRDING TECH

Moderator: *Wendy Pagoda*

- eBird 101
- eBird on Your Cellphone
- Records & Checklists Committees
- Changes in Ranges

## Welcome to the 4th Florida Birding & Nature Festival!

We are delighted that you've chosen to come share our fantastic birding areas with us. Tampa Bay's surrounding counties have such a wealth of habitat, from saltwater marshes to pine flatwoods, and we are happy to show off the birds and wildlife they support. We've rounded up our best local experts, brought in others from across the state, and put together a line-up of field trips to help you find your wish-list birds. The seminars range from bobcats to birds to butterflies, eBird to Africa, and plenty more. And we hope you won't miss any of the great keynotes, they're all so good. If you have questions, please find someone at the Registration table or the Tampa Audubon table. And most of all, have a great time!

*Mary Keith, President, Tampa Audubon Society; Co-Chair, Florida Birding & Nature Festival*

# Turtle Symposium

## SATURDAY ONLY

### *"Exploring Florida's Rich Turtle Diversity"*

A special one-day symposium co-sponsored by the **Florida Turtle Conservation Trust** and the Florida Birding & Nature Festival. Learn about the diversity, ecology, and conservation of this most endangered group of wildlife.

## Morning

### **Why are Turtles the Most Threatened Species of Animals on Earth?**

**9:00 am**

This presentation, by Dr. J. Sean Doody of the University South Florida St. Petersburg, will introduce turtles as a group, their history, how they have dealt with past extinctions, and the challenges they are facing in the current mass extinction.

### **Identification of Florida Turtles**

**10:00 am**

Florida's wide variety of habitats support over 45% of the species known in the U.S. Significant habitat diversity and species richness make Florida a chelonian hotspot. George L. Heinrich, Heinrich Ecological Services, will introduce basic identification techniques.

### **Conservation Ecology of Gopher Tortoises from the Core to the Periphery**

**11:00 am**

While protected, many aspects of gopher tortoise biology and conservation status remain unknown. This presentation, by Dr. Jeff Goessling of Eckerd College, will synthesize current understanding of gopher tortoise status and discuss current research.



## Afternoon

### **Habitat Use and Island Movements in the Jewel of Sanibel (The Florida Box Turtle)**

**1:00 pm**

Chris Lechowicz of the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation will present on the Florida box turtle, found throughout the Florida peninsula and many of its islands, including the Florida Keys. This species inhabits mesic hammocks, wetlands, and the beach ridge zone.

### **The Suwannee Cooter: Lessons Learned from a Long-term Study in the Santa Fe River**

**2:00 pm**

This presentation will introduce fascinating discoveries about the behavior, ecology, and population dynamics of Florida's largest basking turtle – the Suwannee cooter. Find out what you can do to help Suwannee cooters from Dr. Jerry Johnston of Santa Fe College.

### **Ornate Diamondback Terrapins: Muddy Gems in Levy County**

**3:00 pm**

Learn about the ecology and conservation of ornate diamondback terrapins in Florida's Big Bend region. Explore research findings with Dr. Ben Atkinson of Flagler College's "Tortuga Crew" and collaborators from several local colleges and universities.

### **Florida's Living Dinosaurs: Monitoring Florida's Endangered Leatherback Sea Turtles**

**4:00 pm**

Florida Leatherbacks Inc. biologists study southeast Florida's population of nesting leatherback sea turtles and through nightly tagging efforts, have been able to define important population and biological parameters. Presentation by biologist Kelly Martin.

# Seminars

On campus at Hillsborough Community College, Brandon

## FRIDAY

### Foxes in Florida

*Kris Porter*

9:00 am | Room A

Kris Porter, Director of the Owl's Nest for Sanctuary for Wildlife, will discuss the many issues affecting fox populations in Florida today and the role rehabilitation of foxes plays in the state. She will talk about the biology of foxes in Florida, how they behave, and other facts about their habitats and lifestyles.

### Where the Bobcats Roam

*Tracy Muzyczka*

10:00 am | Room A

In the shadows of the natural world, some of the most interesting sights can often be seen. FFWCC Environmental Specialist Tracy Muzyczka will describe an elusive predator and one of the area's best kept secrets, Terra Ceia Preserve State Park. As it turns out, the two are just right for each other.

### Coyotes (*Canis latrans*) in Florida

*Angeline Scotten*

11:00 am | Room A

Angeline Scotten, Senior Wildlife Assistance Biologist for South Florida, will present a broad discussion about the recent range expansion of coyotes into Florida, their biology and behaviors, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's regulations on management issues, and how the public in Florida can act to live with the coyotes that occur in our state.

Stop by the Tampa Audubon booth to purchase a numbered print as a donation to a bird protection program.



### Identifying (and Even Enjoying) Fall Warblers

*Kenn Kaufman*

1:00 pm | Room A

Varied and colorful, warblers are springtime favorites for many birders. But they're less popular in fall, when many wear drab plumage, making them very hard to identify. In this program, Kenn Kaufman will break down the challenge of fall warbler ID, showing how a few basic points can make observing their identification less challenging and more enjoyable.

### "The Eyes Have It!" Adaptations of Birds' Eyes

*Dr. Jerome Jackson*

1:00 pm | Room B

Why do Bald Eagles scowl? Why do ducklings of most species have a similar pattern of spots? Why are birds eyes so large and what are consequences of the size on the behavior and vision of birds? In this presentation, Dr. Jerry Jackson, eminent ornithologist, will explore answers to these and many other questions about the vision of birds and eye-like plumage patterns.

### Florida's Native Wildlife Needs Native Plants

*Joel Jackson*

1:00 pm | Room C

Joel Jackson will describe how Florida's wildlife and native plants have developed a critical interdependence over thousands of years. He will discuss what homeowners can do to design their landscapes to attract and support Florida's wildlife, which faces increasing pressure due to Florida's rapid development and loss of natural habitats. Handouts with additional information will be available.

### Building Birding Skills: Focus on Florida

*Adam Kent*

2:00 pm | Room A

Whether you're a beginning birder or just seeking to hone your skills, you'll enjoy this seminar! During this presentation, Adam Kent will explore different strategies for improving your birding ID skills and more. What works best depends on the person, so he'll discuss a variety of techniques. Learn how to apply the expression "failure is fertilizer" to refine your birding skills. Adam will focus on six clues to learn fun ways to practice and improve your birding!



# October 18, 2019

## A Quick, Birdy Trip Across South Africa

*Dr. Mary Keith*

2:00 pm | Room B

Come along on a short trip to the fascinating country of South Africa. We will certainly not see all the birds, or animals of this very large country, but Dr. Mary Keith will show the highlights of her recent visit to two different parts, the far southeast and Kruger National Park in the northeast.

## Backyard Birding - Right Under Your Nose!

*Sandy Reed*

2:00 pm | Room C

Tips and techniques of attracting birds to your yard using native plants, feeders, water and nest boxes from expert bird gardener Sandy Reed. So many birds call Florida home or pass through during migration... learn how to invite them to your habitat!

## Herons & Egrets

*Mark Rachal*

3:00 pm | Room A

Audubon Florida's Mark Rachal will share pictures and life history stories of some of our most beautiful and beloved birds, our native herons and egrets, with a focus on their biology, behaviors, current population numbers, the habitat management activities to protect them. Included will be a review of the historical impacts of the feather trade for the ladies' hats fashion that decimated egret populations worldwide and led to the initiation of the bird conservation movement.

## East Africa - "Birding Among the Beasts"

*Lindsay and Tom Bell*

3:00 pm | Room B

Rattling Cisticola, Green-backed Cameroptera, Chin-spot Batis, Black-lored Babbler, and Greater Blue-eared Glossy-Starling were just a few of the over 350 species of birds Tom and Lindsay Bell saw on their safari to East Africa this year. Also present was the supporting cast of elephants, hippos, lions, hyenas, cheetahs, wildebeests, Mountain Gorillas and more.

## Stormwater Ponds: Wasteland or Sanctuary?

*Russ Hoffman*

3:00 pm | Room C

Russ Hoffman, professional lake manager, outlines how you can change your neighborhood ponds from a sterile, empty and barren wasteland to a bountiful refuge for birds, frogs, butterflies and dragonflies. Learn how you can make your community's pond or lake a sanctuary for wildlife, and an interesting and beautiful viewscape for your neighbors and yourself.

## Burrowing Owls

*Jean Hall*

4:00 pm | Room A

Jean Hall will give a history of the Burrowing Owls on Marco Island, from a handful in 1999 - to 500 in 2019. Despite rapid build out for housing and other development and habitat fragmentation, these charismatic owls survive and breed. Through her photography, Jean will share owl biology and natural history, as well as the efforts of Audubon of the Western Everglades' Owl Watch Project. This Project partnered with University of Florida IFAS on research.

## Penguin Nesting Around the World

*Doug DeNeve*

4:00 pm | Room B

Penguins nest in colonies in a number of different southern hemisphere locations. In this program, Doug DeNeve will explore how penguins overcome challenges and raise their young in colonies at three separate locations, on three different continents. Doug will relate how climate change is affecting breeding behavior in penguins.

## Bluebird Project of Sun City Center Audubon

*Melanie Higgins*

4:00 pm | Room C

Learn from Melanie Higgins how a community of dedicated senior citizen scientists are helping to increase the Eastern Bluebird population, one nest at a time. This award-winning project began four years ago, and its success has sparked an increased interest in volunteerism, bird conservation, and citizen science.



# Seminars

On campus at Hillsborough Community College, Brandon

## SATURDAY

### Dragonflies of West Central Florida

*Paul Trunk*

**10:00 am | Room A**

Dragonflies are commonly seen but may be the least understood of any of our flying creatures. Paul Trunk will share facts about the biology and natural history of the dragonflies found in west central Florida, and highlight some of the more common species seen in our area.

### Butterflies

*Marc Minno*

**11:00 am | Room A**

Marc Minno, an expert on endangered butterflies and their habitats, has literally written the books on Florida's Butterflies. He will share fascinating facts about these beautiful insects, including which ones we can see here, what they do and how we can interpret their behaviors, where they live, what their caterpillars eat, how they are doing in Florida, and how we can invite them to share our world.

### Voyagers of the Open Sea - The Pelagic Birds of Florida

*Michael Brothers*

**1:00 pm | Room A**

These birds of the open ocean come from distant shores of the Arctic, remote islands of the Caribbean and South America, the coast of Europe, northwest Africa, and even islands off Antarctica. Great travelers, they pass by our shores largely unseen. The difficulties of offshore access, which limit the numbers of observers, are compounded by the challenges of identification. Our knowledge is often limited to brief glimpses of a shearwater or storm-petrel by coastal observers. This program will introduce us to these seldom seen birds with clues to rapid identification.

### A Big Year: Chasing Life

*Sig Olsen*

**1:00 pm | Room B**

Sig Olsen will talk about what he learned while chasing birds. How do you do it? Why do you do it? Travel across Florida with Sig, exploring the challenges and fun of bird-watching by the numbers!

### eBird 101

*Eric Plage*

**1:00 pm | Room C**

Eric Plage will introduce us to the basics of eBird. He will describe what it is, how it's being used for bird conservation, and how you can use it to enhance your passion for birding! This technique can advance your appreciation for your own birding accomplishments while aiding understanding of birdlife in America.

### Landscaping for Hummingbirds

*Steve Backes*

**2:00 pm | Room A**

Steve Backes, renowned for his success in providing habitat for hummingbirds as measured by their occurrence in his yard, will cover strategies for attracting hummingbirds to a suburban yard using plants and feeders. It will include understanding the hummingbird's territorial needs and behaviors. And, Steve will discuss how to create multiple territories that will increase the number of hummingbird residents and visitors.



# October 19, 2019

## **"Bugs in Your Bloomers"**

*John Lampkin*

**2:00 pm | Room B**

Insects and flowering plants have been co-evolving for 135 million years and as a result, both groups have flourished, becoming our most abundant flora and fauna. The relationships are more varied, complex and sophisticated than first meets the eye. So, what is that bug and what is it doing in that flower? Armed with macro lens and thinking cap, John Lampkin has been investigating that question and will share some surprising insights he has documented in this beautiful photographic presentation.

## **eBird Mobile**

*Charlie Fisher*

**2:00 pm | Room C**

Pen out of ink again? Paper wet and soggy? Just tired of keeping your lists on wads of paper only to input them into eBird later anyway? Keep and submit your checklists right on your phone, in real time! This talk will explain and show onscreen the eBird mobile application for new users. A general understanding of eBird is helpful but not necessary. We will be covering Android, but iPhone is rather similar and should easily relate. We will cover how to set up your eBird account; how to download and set up your eBird mobile application from Google Play; how to start, review, and submit a new checklist; how to edit items in your current checklist such as time and distance (track); how to review or edit checklists you have already submitted; how to adjust your app settings; how to check your current stats in My eBird; and more! It's fun and will help you hone your birding skills, while amping up your enjoyment of every day in the field.

## **Florida's Least Terns**

*Jeff Liechty*

**3:00 pm | Room A**

Jeff Liechty will discuss the biology, life history, and conservation of Least Terns. Florida's Least Terns face unique challenges breeding in a human-dominated landscape, and many terns rely on gravel rooftops as a surrogate nesting habitat. Jeff will provide an overview of local conservation efforts and data from a 10-year banding project.

## **It's Not All About My Photo - The Ethics of Bird Photography**

*Jean Hall*

**3:00 pm | Room B**

Nature photographer Jean Hall feels lucky to volunteer alongside several bird biologists across the country. Because of this association, she has been afforded unusual access to their study subjects. Through her images, she will discuss the ethical ways to approach birds and to respect their sensitive environs by familiarization with behavior.

## **Splits, Lumps, and Dodgy Sight Reports: An Inside Look at Records and Checklist Committees**

*Andy Kratter*

**3:00 pm | Room C**

Some of the thorniest issues in birding involve decisions made by state and national ornithological records committees and checklist committees. Ornithologist and Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee Secretary Andy Kratter will open every can of worms in a tell-all inside look at the functioning of these infamous Committees. He will leave plenty of time for the audience to pelt him with the tough and detailed questions about how decisions are made by the nation's leading bird experts.

## **The Communal Kite**

*Gina Kent*

**4:00 pm | Room A**

Unlike many raptors, Swallow-tailed Kites are social throughout their annual cycle, in all aspects of their behavior. By nesting and roosting in neighborhoods, forming large pre-migratory communal roosts, and foraging in large aggregations, they assist each other in locating ephemeral food sources, detecting predators, and synchronizing departures for their long, dangerous migratory flights. Learn just how important this distinctive sociality is to Swallow-tailed Kites, and how vital the undisturbed persistence of pre-migratory roost is to the survival of these amazing raptors.

## **Shooting My Favorite Feathered Friends**

*Jim Gray*

**4:00 pm | Room B**

A skilled and creative photographer of Florida's rarest and iconic birds and raconteur, Jim Gray will present a selection of his wildlife photographs catering to the birder, the behaviorist, and the photographer. He likes to tell a story with each of his photos, and this gives him a chance to develop a narrative by putting a few stories together. Be prepared to be entertained and maybe even learn a thing or two.

## **What's Up with the Birds? Comparing Two Breeding Bird Atlas Projects in Florida**

*Dave Goodwin*

**4:00 pm | Room C**

Breeding bird atlases present unique study opportunities of how changing landscapes affect our bird populations in relation to the fundamental job of creating the next generation. Florida Ornithologist Society leader Dave Goodwin examines populations in Florida over thirty years in Florida. We will focus on birds of special interest such as Crested Caracaras, Wood Storks, and Burrowing Owls.

# Around the Festival

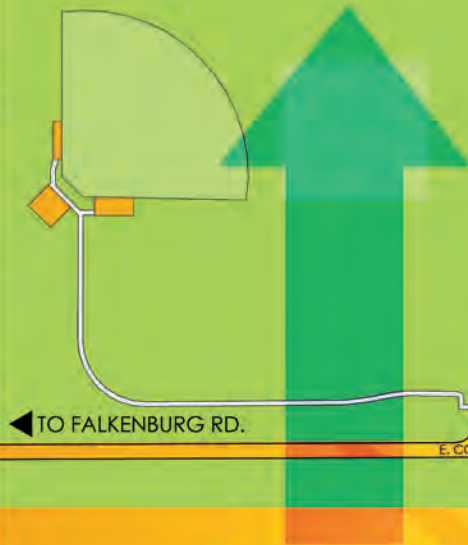
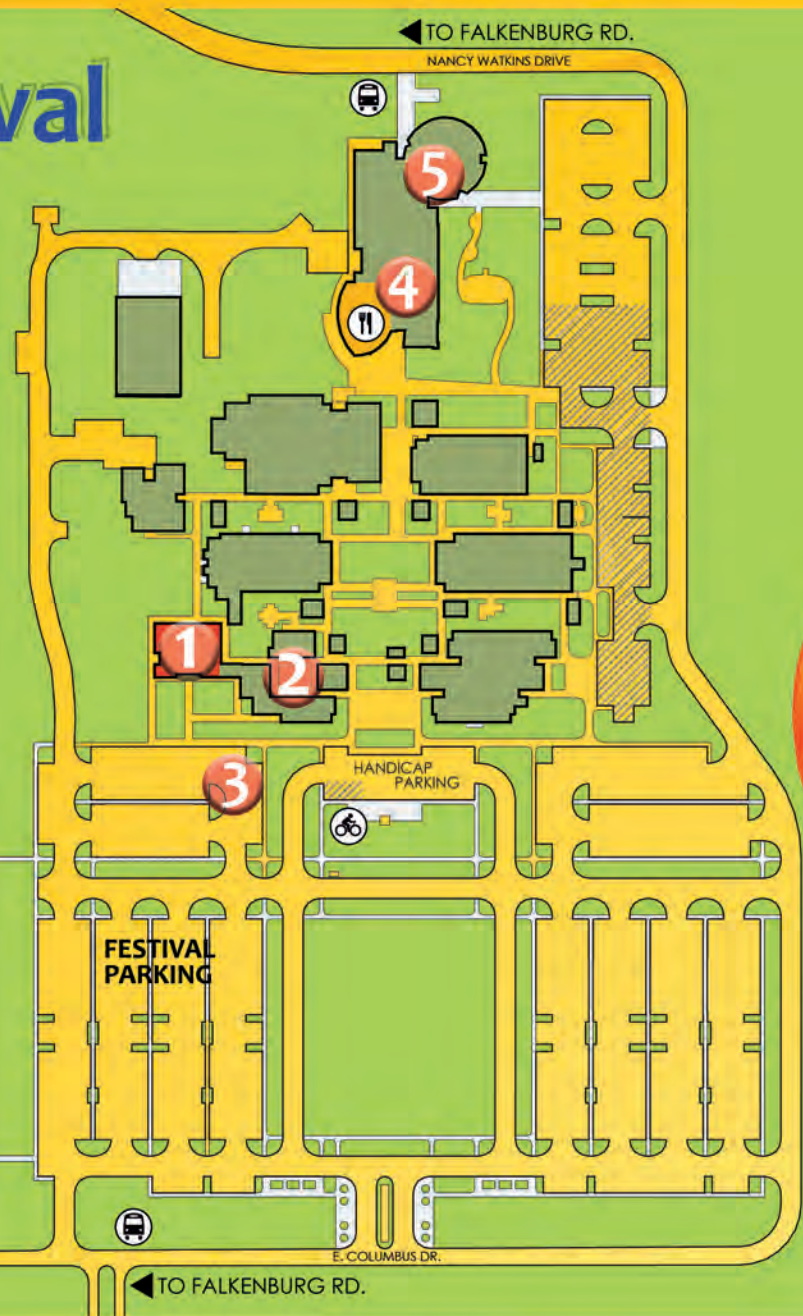
- 1 Registration & EXPO Hall
- 2 Seminar Rooms A, B, C
- 3 Food Trucks
- 4 Keynote Events
- 5 Turtle Symposium



## HCC

Brandon Campus

10451 Nancy Watkins Dr,  
Tampa



## Getting Here

- From the I-75 southbound, take exit 260 for FL-574/Martin Luther King Jr Boulevard. Use the 3rd lane from the right to turn right onto MLK. In 0.4 miles, use the left-most lane at the signal to turn left onto N Falkenburg Road. In 0.8 miles, turn left onto Nancy Watkins Drive to reach the campus.
- From the I-75 northbound, take exit 257 for FL-60 W. Turn left onto FL-60 W/E Adamo Drive. In 0.5 miles, turn right onto S Falkenburg Road. In 1/8 miles, turn right onto Nancy Watkins Drive to reach the campus.

## Thursday

Opening Keynote Event

## Friday

15 Seminars  
Nature Expo  
Lunch Food Trucks  
9 Field Trips  
Dinner Keynote Event

## Saturday

14 Seminars  
Florida Turtle Symposium  
Nature Expo  
Lunch Food Trucks  
6 Field Trips  
Dinner Keynote Event

## Sunday

7 Field Trips

Seminars 9am-5pm  
Symposium 9am-5pm  
Field Trips 7am-5pm  
Food Trucks 11am-2pm  
Vendor Expo 9am-4pm  
Keynote Events 5pm



# FLORIDA BIRDING & NATURE FESTIVAL



Food trucks available from 11:00am to 2:00pm Fri & Sat  
Buffet meal served with every Keynote event

*The Festival is pleased to include a Silent Auction in the activities offered to our attendees on both Friday and Saturday. Auction items will be on display in the Festival lobby. All funds generated by the Silent Auction will benefit the Festival's operations.*



# NATURE EXPO



Florida  
Nature  
Tours



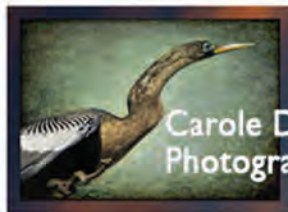
# Vendors & Exhibitors



SARASOTA  
AUDUBON SOCIETY



Beautiful Ponds



Carole Devillers  
Photography



EAGLE AUDUBON SOCIETY



HEARTWOOD PRESERVE



Southwest Florida  
Water Management District

# Field Trips

## FRIDAY

### **Bullfrog Creek Preserve – Car Pool**

**7:30 – 11:30 am (carpool leaves 7:00 am)**

**Fri-BC | \$20**

Bullfrog Creek is 1,620 acres in southern Hillsborough County. It is composed of two separate sections, both of which are managed as mitigation areas. The western half is a Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Gopher Tortoise Mitigation Park whereas the eastern half is managed by Hillsborough County as an Upland Habitat mitigation bank. This trip will drive through the eastern section, where meadowlarks, kestrels and more are often sighted, then we'll walk through part of the western area. It is a flat walk along forest road, across the creek and out to the pine flatwoods area, about two miles total distance. Along the forest road is a lovely area of mixed hardwood, with warblers, vireos and other passerines, barred owls, and wood ducks possible in the creek. The flatwoods hold woodpeckers, great horned owls, eastern bluebirds and more.

This trip is a mandatory carpool trip. All registrants must meet at the HCC campus Festival site at 7:00 am. All vehicles must enter and leave the property together as it is not open to the public otherwise. Be sure to bring insect repellent, water, snacks, and a hat, and to wear walking shoes.

### **Fort De Soto County Park, Extreme Birding**

**7:30 am – 1:00 pm**

**Fri-FD | \$20**

Fort De Soto County Park is a premier birding destination in Florida. More than 250 species of birds have been recorded in the park over the years. Fall migration brings neo-tropical migratory species to the park as well as occasional wanderers from the Caribbean and the western United States. The island's shorebird diversity is one of the best on the Florida west coast. This trip is intended for advanced birders, and will be offered on both Friday and Saturday. Bring your water, hat, sunscreen, and snacks if desired.

### **Outback Key Preserve – Boat Trip**

**8:00 – 11:15 am**

**Fri-OK | \$50**

Outback Key and Lower Terra Ceia Bay with Tampa Bay Watch. Departure from Tampa Bay Watch Headquarters will take you offshore to learn basic identification tips for the birds we see when we visit Florida's spectacular beaches. You see them all the time - running in the surf, perched on pilings and soaring over the water. If you think they are nondescript grayish variations on the same theme, you are only partially correct. Have fun learning identification and natural history of the common but often difficult-to-identify birds found on Florida's beaches. What's the difference between a tern and a gull, or a sandpiper and a plover? Where does the Willet fit in? Explore their variations and sort through some of the subtleties of their shapes and behaviors in this look at our fascinating birds of the beach. Wear shoes that can get wet.

### **Shell Key Preserve, Pinellas County – Boat Trip**

**8:00 – 11:15 am**

**Fri-SK | \$50**

It's a short boat ride to Shell Key, an undeveloped barrier island in South Pinellas County with important migrant, wintering, and breeding shorebird habitats. See herons and egrets, including the rare Reddish Egrets, Roseate Spoonbills, Piping, Semipalmated, Snowy, Black-bellied, and Wilson's plovers, American Oystercatchers, Whimbrels, Long-billed Curlews, Marbled Godwits, Red Knots, Black Skimmers, Willets, and terns. You'll see flocks of birds foraging on the expansive mudflats and along the Gulf beachside. White sand dunes and saltmarsh offer habitat variety. Wear comfortable shoes for saltwater and beach walking. Shell Key is a barrier island, sometimes hot, always sandy and wild (no facilities). Wear shoes that can get wet.





# Field Trips

## FRIDAY

### Se7en Wetlands, Polk County – Van Tour

9:00 – 11:00 am

Fri-7W | \$30

Se7en Wetlands combines multiple habitats - where old phosphate islands now act as productive rookeries. It is home to many listed species like American alligators, Wood Storks, Little Blue Herons, Tricolored Herons, Roseate Spoonbills, gopher tortoise and more. Tour the property in an air-conditioned van with wetland manager Julie Vogel and Audubon leader Doug DeNeve. You can also bring your packed lunch to enjoy at one of the outdoor, first-come first-served, picnic pavilions.

### Alafia Bank Sanctuary – Boat Trip

9:00 – 11:30 am

Fri-AB | \$50

Join us aboard the Florida Aquarium's Bay Spirit II for a 2 1/2 hour trip down Hillsborough Bay to an Audubon sanctuary island considered to be one of the most important nesting colonies in Florida. Each year up to 10,000 pairs of birds of 16 different species nest on this island, including a third of the state's roseate spoonbills and a very large white ibis and brown pelican colony. Although October is not nesting season we will see a variety of birds, including brown pelicans, wading birds, shorebirds and ducks. On the trip out to the islands we might glimpse Atlantic bottlenose dolphins.



### Mosaic Wellfield: Scrub-Jay Translocation Update

9:00 am – Noon

Fri-MW | \$30

You will be visiting Mosaic's Wellfield property, an approximate 1,000 acre area consisting primarily of native Florida scrub and scrubby flatwoods habitat to see Florida scrub-jay. Mosaic began translocations in 2003. Although translocations are now complete they continue to monitor the scrub-jay population and manage the habitat for scrub-jays. This area is normally closed to public access, so very few people have seen it! There will be transportation around the wellfield by van to view scrub-jays as well as other raptors, passerines, and grassland birds.

### Fred and Idah Schultz Preserve, Bugs and Butterflies

1:00 – 4:00 pm

Sat-SP | \$20

Created in the 1970s as one of the last dredge and fill projects in Florida, the Schultz Preserve was restored to mangrove forest, coastal and freshwater marsh, coastal dunes and uplands. The diverse habitats make it THE place for a wide variety of butterflies and other pollinators, including the northernmost colony of Julia Butterflies. Plenty of birds possible too! Enjoy the nice walk through varied habitats, but please note that the walking paths will be rough, and possibly not suitable for some. There is some shade but most is sunny, and there are no facilities.

### Hillsborough River by Canoe

2:00 – 5:00 pm

Fri-HR | \$50

Enjoy an afternoon canoe trip along the Hillsborough River through a diverse ecosystem. The river is of great ecological importance to the Tampa Bay area, and is excellent for wildlife watchers. Paddle from Sargeant Park to Morris Bridge Park for great birding and spotting an abundance of wildlife including turtles and alligators! And yes, you may bring your own canoe or kayak if you prefer (no discount offered). Please be there 30 minutes early to be ready to push off at 2:00 pm. Participants will be required to wear PFDs.

# Field Trips

## SATURDAY

### Fort De Soto County Park

7:30 am – 1:00 pm  
Sat-FD | \$20

Fort De Soto County Park is a premier birding destination in Florida. More than 250 species of birds have been recorded in the park over the years. Fall migration brings neo-tropical migratory species to the park as well as occasional wanderers from the Caribbean and the western United States. The island's shorebird diversity is one of the best on the Florida west coast. This trip is intended for advanced birders, and is being offered on both Friday and Saturday. Expert birders Dave Goodwin and Jim Eager lead this trip.

### Cross Bar Ranch, Spring Hill

8:00 am – Noon  
Sat-CB | \$20

Cross Bar Ranch is managed as a wellfield by Pinellas County Utilities. With wetlands, oak hammocks, pine flatwoods and open pastures, it is prime birding but not normally open to the public. Accompanied by the site managers, we will carpool out to check the wetlands for waders, and the pastures for burrowing owls. Florida Scrub Jays, Barred Owls, Burrowing Owls, and even coyotes are possible sightings. Plan to consolidate into as few vehicles as possible at the ranch, preferably vehicles with AWD that can handle rough roads. Bring snacks and beverages, as there is nothing available at the site.

### Birding and Banding in Hammock Park, Dunedin

8:00 am – Noon  
Sat-BB | \$20

The practice of banding birds goes back hundreds of years but got its start in North America with John James Audubon in 1803. Come learn about bird banding, observe how ornithologists use it to learn more about and conserve migratory birds and enjoy the fall migratory birds while birding this 100-acre park. The group will first bird the park on the way to the banding station (about 1/2 mile). Then, you will get a chance to see some of the local migrants up close while researchers measure, weigh and band them. Participants will get a chance to help release any birds that have been caught. Then the group may split into two groups to bird the rest of the park.

### Perico Preserve of Manatee County

8:30 – 11:00 am  
Sat-PP | \$20

The 176-acre Perico Preserve property is located in western Manatee County. With support from project partners including the Southwest Florida Water Management District, Sarasota Bay Estuary Program, and Tampa Bay Estuary Program, 56 acres of the site that was formerly abandoned farmland with many exotic plants such as Brazilian pepper and Australian pine was restored. The site underwent major ecological enhancements including the restoration and creation of wetland and upland habitats, as well as the re-establishment of beneficial native plants. Beneficial habitat for wading bird populations was one of the restoration goals of this project. Migrating warblers, ducks, resident waders and more are all probable sights. A colony of gopher tortoises too! Restoration leader Damon Moore describes his work at this special coastal site.



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# Field Trips

## SATURDAY

### Honeymoon Island State Park, Pinellas County

8:30 - 11:30 am

Sat-HI | \$20

Honeymoon Island State Park is a dynamic barrier island. Its beaches and the causeway approach to the park are known hotspots for shorebirds, from the little peeps to Reddish Egrets doing their 'drunken sailor's dance. Merlins patrol the edges looking for unwary dinner items. On the island the Osprey Trail, through a rare virgin slash pine forest, lives up to its name, with dozens of ospreys, plus the resident Great Horned Owl family and migrant passerines. Mangroves, lagoons and tidal flats provide diverse habitat. You will meet the leaders before the causeway and have a look at who's dining on the beach before heading into the park and walking several places along the edge and the woods of Osprey Trail as well as checking the grasslands for sparrows. Park Biologist Dan Larremore and Audubon leader John Hood lead this bird-rich trip.

### Terra Ceia Aquatic Preserve - Paddling Trip

9:00 am - Noon

Sat-TC | \$50

Tampa Bay has few relatively natural, unobstructed tidal creeks left, and Frog Creek is one of the least developed and most species-rich. In a leisurely-paced paddling trip of a little over 2 miles, participants will experience a dramatic change in biota over a gradient from freshwater, with overhanging oaks, leather ferns, etc. to saltwater, with mangroves and oysters. This is an excellent foraging area for a variety of coastal bird species. The manager of the aquatic preserve, Randy Runnels, is one of our trip leaders.

Participants will need to paddle for a little over 2 miles, but it is at a leisurely pace. It will be a combination of canoes and kayaks, and you are welcome to bring your own if you prefer (but no discount is offered). Sunscreen, bug spray, and bottled water will be supplied. A few binoculars will be available.



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**Everyone Welcome!**

# Field Trips

## SUNDAY

### Weedon Island – Canoe Trip

7:30 – 10:30 am  
Sun-WI | \$50

Weedon Island Preserve is an expansive 3,190-acre natural area located on Tampa Bay. This coastal system, comprised of aquatic and upland ecosystems, is home to numerous species of native plants and animals, an educational facility and a rich cultural history. Weedon Island Preserve is also a well-known birding and fishing site. The trip starts early to take advantage of the high tide and get you into the amazing mangrove tunnels. Besides the usual wading birds, the less easily seen night herons are good bets, and migrating warblers, vireos and more use the mangroves as well. The canoe trail winds through mangrove tunnels, across open ponds and out to open water with views across the bay. Use of PFD is required.

### Terra Ceia Preserve State Park, Uplands

8:00 – 10:00 am  
Sun-TC | \$20

Terra Ceia Preserve State Park is one of the largest restoration projects ever initiated along Tampa Bay. It is a living example of the biological diversity that estuaries can support and a birder/naturalist's paradise. Over 100 species of birds and other abundant wildlife from turtles and gators to bobcats and deer; the list keeps growing as this restoration site matures. It is also an example of many of the challenges that land managers face in restoring communities that have been so drastically altered by historic land use practices. Learn what makes the preserve so special in a guided walk by the park's Environmental Specialist, whose primary responsibility is its resource management.

### Celery Fields, Sarasota County

8:00 – 11:00 am  
Sun-CF | \$20

This 400-acre storm water retention area in eastern Sarasota County is one of the Gulf Coast's best birding hot spots. The site has been restored to a meandering stream with wetlands and grasslands nestled among the curves. A hill with walking and equestrian trails overlooks the area, and two boardwalks allow access to the stream and marsh. With 220 species recorded at the site, the swamp and open water environment is a haven for limpkins, bitterns, rails and herons. Sarasota Audubon provides volunteer Bird Naturalists at each of the two boardwalks to help visitors identify birds and plants. The nature center with native plant gardens is also available for visitors to enjoy.

### Egmont Key National Wildlife Refuge – Boat Trip

8:30 am – Noon  
Sun-EK | \$50

Join the Friends of the Tampa Bay National Wildlife Refuge for a special boat cruise to and walk on Egmont Key National Wildlife Refuge/State Park at the mouth of Tampa Bay. Established in 1974 to protect migratory birds, the island is also the site of historic Fort Dade. Three hundred soldiers served at the fort from 1898-1923 and the restored guardhouse is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The lighthouse, built in 1858, is still used for navigation. A key migratory bird fall-out site in fall migration, the island hosts a large seabird and pelican colony during the spring nesting season. We expect to see warblers, other songbirds, raptors, gulls, terns, and other seabirds.

### Circle B Bar Reserve, Polk County

8:30 am – 1:00 pm  
Sun-CB | \$20

Circle B Bar Reserve was once a lakeside marsh that was drained for cattle pasture. Now jointly owned and managed by Polk County and the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD), the restored marshes are home to limpkins, purple and common gallinules, bitterns and an amazing variety of wintering, migrating and resident birds from bald eagles to sparrows. We'll have easy flat walking on gravel paths, but very little shade, so wear your hat.



# Field Trips SUNDAY

## Boyd Hill Nature Preserve - Gopher Tortoise Hike

9:00 am – Noon  
Sun-BH | \$20

Boyd Hill Nature Preserve (St. Petersburg) is home to the largest remaining population of gopher tortoises in the southern Pinellas Peninsula. Learn about the natural history and conservation of gopher tortoises, as well as ongoing research and habitat management efforts at the preserve. We will also view the only known population of Nuttall's rayless goldenrod (in flower) in peninsular Florida. Walking is on flat paths, but can be rough and weedy going into the scrub to see tortoise burrows. A diversity of wetland and upland habitats support at least 218 bird species and make the preserve a popular site with birders.

## Florida Conservation and Technology Center

9:00 am – Noon  
Sun-CC | \$20

The Florida Aquarium will host a field trip to the Florida Conservation and Technology Center in Apollo Beach, normally closed to the public. The trip will include a tour of the new turtle care building led by turtle biologist Katie Hartwig and a tour of the coral greenhouses led by coral biologist Keri O'Neil. You can also see the progress of the FWC Sportfish Enhancement and Research (SERF) facility which will be under construction at this time, as well as the Tampa Electric Clean Energy Demonstration Center which should be completed by October. Participants will be able to bird around the tidal ponds and edge of Newnan's Branch after the indoor tours.

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# Field Trips AT-A-GLANCE

Fri-BC	7:30	Bullfrog Creek
Fri-FD	7:30	Fort De Soto
Fri-OK	8:00	Outback Key
Fri-SK	8:00	Shell Key
Fri-7W	9:00	Seven Wetlands
Fri-AB	9:00	Alafia Bank
Fri-MW	9:00	Mosaic Wellfield
Fri-SP	1:00	Schultz Preserve
Fri-HR	2:00	Hillsborough River
Sat-FD	7:30	Fort De Soto
Sat-CB	8:00	Cross Bar Ranch
Sat-BB	8:00	Bird Banding
Sat-PP	8:30	Perico Preserve
Sat-HI	8:30	Honeymoon Islands
Sat-TC	9:00	Terra Ceia Aquatic
Sun-WI	7:30	Weedon Island
Sun-TC	8:00	Terra Ceia Uplands
Sun-CF	8:00	Celery Fields
Sun-EK	8:30	Egmont Key
Sun-CB	8:30	Circle B Bar Reserve
Sun-BH	9:00	Boyd Hill Nature Preserve
Sun-CC	9:00	Conservation Center



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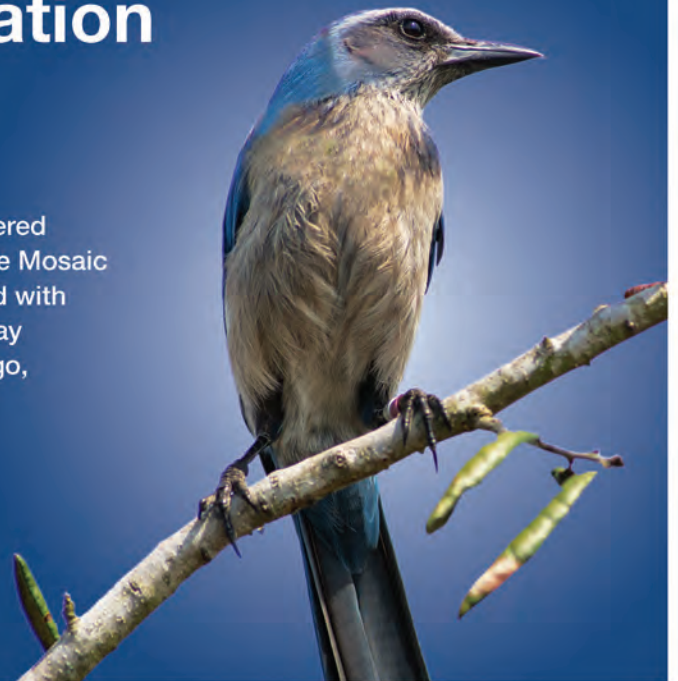
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Our efforts to protect native wildlife species have helped the endangered Florida Scrub Jay population not only survive, but grow. As part of the Mosaic mining process, we designated 850 acres of habitat, and then worked with local environmental experts to relocate Scrub Jays. Now the Scrub Jay population, which had only a five percent survival chance 15 years ago, is once again growing and thriving.



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