

# The Pelican

*Fostering a community where people and wildlife thrive*  
Volume 64-Number 9 Newsletter of Halifax River Audubon  
September, 2018



*There are two issues of the Pelican this month. This one, with some slight updates to the form, and a printed version that has different and important content that will be arriving by mail.*

## WELCOME BACK! WE HAD A VERY BUSY SUMMER!

Welcome to the start of Halifax River Audubon's (HRA) 2018-19 year! We have lots of news! In sharing the highlights with you here, I'd like you to know how devoted and hard-working our all-volunteer Board of Directors is. In addition to the regular HRA summer activities, they worked extra hours to ensure that HRA remains a force for conservation in Volusia County, as it has been since 1923. We refreshed our vision for the community and are working to ensure that everything we do will help us achieve it. We have a wonderful list of activities and potential activities that we believe offer something for everyone who is a part of HRA. We strongly encourage you to become involved with a Committee, whether it's for the entire year or for a special project. We need your involvement!

In case you missed it, we held elections at the May meeting. Our 2018-19 Board Members are: Melissa Lammers, President; David Hartgrove, Vice President; Jim O'Shaughnessy, Past President; Ellen Tate, Treasurer; Peggy Yokubonus, Recording Secretary; Joan Tague, Membership Secretary; Holly Zwart-Duryea, Historian; At-Large Members: Betty Butcher, Dan Gribbin, Pam Pennella and Steven Underwood.

During June and July, the Board worked on our Strategic Plan to define exactly who we are and what we will do in the coming year and beyond. We set a new VISION and MISSION for our Chapter, we established five core priorities for our work in the community, identified ways to achieve our goals for each priority, and how we will measure success over time. Hint: it all starts with your involvement.

Our Vision statement describes the world we want to create through our work and in collaboration with others in our community. We adopted National Audubon's VISION as our own. We couldn't imagine anything better than:

***We envision a community where people and wildlife thrive.***

Our new MISSION statement gives our reason to exist and what we do to accomplish our vision:

***Through education and advocacy, Halifax River Audubon fosters understanding and care of the environment that provides quality of life for people and wildlife.***

*Continued on the following page*

## Calendar & Events

**Monday, September 17th, Program Meeting-** We begin our new season with a program from Dr. Duane DeFreese, Executive Director of the IRL Council & Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program. His presentation will give us an update on restoration efforts in our nation's most biologically diverse estuary. We meet at Sica Hall, 1065 Daytona Ave, Holly Hill, FL 32117. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. We hope to see you there.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Field Trips

**Friday, September 14th, Canaveral National Seashore-** Join David Hartgrove for this trip to see both shorebirds and migrant warblers. Meet at 7:30 am behind Panera Bread, near Target on Dunlawton Ave. just east of I-95. Bring lunch. Questions, call David at 386-235-1249.

\* \* \*

## Field Trips With Others

**Volusia County Environmental Management-** This month's offerings include paddling adventures at DeLeon Springs and High Bridge Park; Eco-buggy tours of Deep Creek Preserve and Longleaf Pine Preserve and lots more. Click on this [link](#) and scroll down to the "Upcoming Events" section for all of the information.

\* \* \* \* \*

Here's a [link](#) to an eight minute You Tube video of an Allen's Hummingbird nest in Los Angeles. It progresses from hatching to fledging and is quite well done. Enjoy!

\* \* \* \* \*

## National Audubon Photography Contest Winners

Audubon's annual photography contest sees some amazing entries. Here's a [link](#) to the top one hundred photos from this year's event. Relax and enjoy the view.

\* \* \*

## From the Quotable Birder

"Imagine if birds were tickled by feathers. You'd see a flock of birds come by, laughing hysterically!"

Steven Wright

## Conservation Notes

While HRA values all habitat that supports wildlife, especially birds, we recognize it's essential to preserve large conservation areas that support the level of biodiversity necessary to have a healthy, functioning ecosystem. In keeping with that recognition, we will focus three of our core priorities geographically, on nearby areas: Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge (MINWR), The Indian River Lagoon (IRL) and Lake Apopka. As part of our actions to support these priorities, our speaker for September 17th is Duane De Freese, Ph.D., Executive Director of the IRL Council & Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program. We will also have a big announcement about MINWR. Stay tuned!

Our remaining two priorities are education and advocacy. HRA believes that education is key to understanding, and that understanding is key to action. We therefore prioritize educating our community about the importance of healthy ecosystems and the joining with others to advocate for their conservation, whether as leaders or collaborators. As part of these efforts, we want to expand Audubon Adventures to more classrooms and from the classroom to the field; create or participate in more signature and allied events; and expand our Conservation Committee work to local government.

I believe we have a moving vision and mission, a relevant set of priorities and ambitious goals for each one. Our work is both meaningful and fun! We need you and your ideas to make sure that this will be a great year for Halifax River Audubon and to propel us to achieve even more in the years to come!

*Melissa Lammers*

\* \* \* \* \*

### Tracking Wildlife With New Technology

The word "motus" is Latin. It means movement. The MOTUS Wildlife Tracking System is a program developed by Bird Studies Canada in partnership with Acadia University and a grant from the Canada Foundation for Innovation. It's an international cooperative research network that uses a coordinated, automated radio telemetry array to track the movement and behavior of all kinds of flying organisms. Butterflies, dragonflies, bats, the endangered Kirtland's Warbler and Bald Eagles can all be tracked using tiny micro transmitters attached to the individual species. There are a number of cooperating automated radio telemetry stations that scan for signals from the devices around the clock. When results from many stations are combined, the array can track animals across a diversity of landscapes covering thousands of miles. One of the receiving stations is located on the top of the lifeguard station in Ponce Inlet.

Michael Brothers, Director Emeritus of the Marine Science Center, was instrumental in getting this station up and running. From late April to the end of May the following birds were detected by the station. Due to multiple "hits" by the tracking devices we know that some birds stayed in the area for several weeks; like a Gray-cheeked Thrush, an American Redstart, several different Red Knots, a Sora, a Pectoral Sandpiper, an "Ipswitch" Savannah Sparrow, a Clapper Rail, a Blackpoll Warbler and a Kirtland's Warbler.

Data from this system is already giving us new insights into the lives of birds, especially those that are on the cusp of extinction. Here's a [link](#) to a lengthy article in the "Proceedings of the Royal Society B" on the latest research into Red Knot migration that utilized data from the network. And here's a link to a MOTUS [video](#) that helps explain how the system operates. It's short and full of great photography.

*David Hartgrove*

Here in Volusia and Flagler Counties our beaches are open and the tourists are playing in the surf and getting a sun burn. In other parts of the state things couldn't be much different. In Southwest Florida, from Everglades City to Tampa Bay, red tide and algal blooms are wreaking havoc with local tourist economies. Walking onto the beach in the Fort Myers/Sanibel area visitors are suddenly aware of stinging eyes, trouble breathing and the overpowering aroma of millions of dead fish.

Apparently anxious that any negative statement might further impact the tourist economy, a Lee County Health Department press release stated that, "there is no evidence that acute exposure to the toxins have long-term health impacts." This ignores evidence from an Ohio study that people living in areas with prolonged exposure to significant algal blooms can develop a liver disease. A recently published study in a British medical journal that studied a 2016 algae bloom on Florida's east coast concluded that those exposed faced an increased threat of liver cancer. If state and local health agencies have reason to believe these studies are flawed and that their own rosy prognosis is correct they should publish their conclusions and be prepared to defend them in the court of scientific research.

Meanwhile, as heavy rains fall, the lake levels are again rising in Lake Okeechobee. This will mean more releases of nutrient laden water into the St Lucie and Calooshattee Rivers. They will carry these toxins to the Indian River Lagoon and San Carlos Bay to further feed the algae blooms. It's going to take a lot of money; for research, monitoring and implementation, to correct the problems.

As the election approaches most of the candidates blather on about cutting taxes and regulations while paying lip service to the environmental problems we face. You can't have both. By fostering a climate of run away growth our leaders are killing the goose long after the golden eggs have been taken. It's going to take a lot of tax money and stiff regulations to deal with the mess we've made.

\* \* \*

You're about to see what may look like a destruction of salt marsh and shoreline near Gamble Rogers State Park. It isn't. The Environmental Council of Volusia/Flagler Counties heard a brief presentation on the project by Paul Haydt, who until last year was the area's manager for the St Johns River Water Management District. Weather permitting, the project will commence sometime in September and take as much as a year to complete. A large, wide tracked backhoe with a 60' boom will be utilized to scrape down the remnants of old mosquito control dykes in a 125 acre section of the Tomoka Marsh Aquatic Preserve. Digging shallow canals in the salt marsh was thought back in the late 40's and 50's to be the best way to control salt marsh mosquitoes. Research has shown that these ditches were an ineffective way to control the pesky blood suckers and the destruction of the natural marsh damaged the fragile balance necessary to a healthy ecosystem. Those of us who've been in the area for a while might remember this same restoration technique done some years back in Tomoka State Park. Just after the work was complete the area looked like a moon scape. Now there's a thriving mangrove and salt marsh area there that's again acting as the nursery for all kinds of aquatic wildlife. Just like so many other issues facing the state, we're spending time and money correcting things that were done by our well meaning but misinformed predecessors. Life goes on...

*David Hartgrove*

**NEWS FROM CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL  
CONSERVATION COMMITTEE (RCC)**

Charles Lee, the Director of Advocacy for Audubon Florida, reminds us all about the proposed changes to the Lake County Comprehensive Plan. Of particular concern is a change in the definition of "Open Space" from undeveloped or minimally developed, such as trails and boardwalks..."; to the uses as "...sports fields, playground equipment, and golf courses..." and "...plazas and urban squares..." to count for up to 20% of required Open Space in any development plan (throughout unincorporated Lake County, and within the Wekiva Protection Area and Wekiva Study Area).

This change would have a negative impact on the Wekiva River Protection Area in particular and could impact all rural and semi-rural Lake County residents as new developments are built. Any change to the carefully thought out and much debated Comprehensive Plan should be carefully considered and monitored by all residents who wish to protect the life style we are so fortunate to enjoy in Lake County.

Charles has requested that interested citizens attend the Planning & Zoning Workshop on Wednesday, September 5, at 315 West Main Street, Tavares, FL. The meeting will be held in the Board of Commissioners' Chambers on the second floor at 9:00 am. The final version of CP-18-01 and other materials will be posted to the Board's [website](#) about 5 days prior to the meeting.

The next meeting of the Central Florida RCC is scheduled for September 16 at 10 a.m. at Center for Birds of Prey in Maitland. At this meeting we will approve one or two regional conservation goals which will be ratified by the general membership at Audubon Assembly in October and become part of Audubon Florida's work plan for 2019. These goals coordinate the work of all Audubon chapters in the Central Florida Regional Conservation committee and align with State and National priorities. Should you know of a project of regional scope and concern that you want to nominate for discussion at our meeting, either contact your chapter president or conservation chairperson.

*Paula Wehr,*

*C FL Chapters Representative, Audubon Florida Board of Directors*

\* \* \* \* \*

**Welcome to Our New and Returning Members**

We extend a warm welcome to our new and returning members: Phyllis Campbell, Jesus Castro, Wallace Gowett, Elizabeth Hilderbrandt, James & Mary McGrew, Janis Robinson and Patricia Walsh. We hope to see you at our next meeting or on one of our excellent field trips.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Sunday Morning Viewing**

"CBS Sunday Morning" is a news magazine show that many of us catch whenever possible. Hosted by Jane Pauley it has all kinds of interesting segments. Recently one episode closed with a visit to Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge. Here's a [link](#) to this three and half minute video. You'll have to watch a short commercial first but it's worth it for the great shots of an immature Little Blue Heron, a dancing Reddish Egret and much more.

*Editor*

*Skinny Pete Photography*



This lovely little guy is one of Florida's favorite beetles. It's in the Chrysomelidae family and was imported to eat air potato, one of our worst invasive species. *Text and photo by Dr. Peter May*

\* \* \* \* \*

**THE PELICAN**

is published monthly by Halifax River Audubon, a chapter of the National Audubon Society and a member of Audubon Florida serving eastern Volusia County.

PO Box 166  
Daytona Beach FL 32115-0166

Email: [editor@halifaxriveras.org](mailto:editor@halifaxriveras.org)

Web: <http://www.halifaxriveras.org>

**Halifax River Audubon**

[forbirds@halifaxriveras.org](mailto:forbirds@halifaxriveras.org)

Meets monthly September through May

President: Melissa Lammers

Vice President: David Hartgrove

Past President: Jim O'Shaughnessy

Treasurer: Ellen Tate

Recording Sec.: Peggy Yokubonus

Membership Sec.: Joan Tague

Corresponding Sec: Vacant

Historian: Holly Zwart-Duryea

At-Large: Ellen Tate, Holly Zwart-Duryea, Joan Tague, Dan Gribbin, Steve Underwood

**Committee Members**

Conservation: David Hartgrove

Education: Holly Zwart-Duryea

Field Trips: Peggy Yokubonus

David Hartgrove

Newsletter Editor: David Hartgrove

Welcome: Vacant

Webmaster: Joan Tague

\* \* \* \* \*

**We wish to thank our sponsors, whose contributions play a vital part of allowing us to continue our work:**  
3 Florida Power & Light, Colonial Colony and the Spruce Creek Garden and Nature Club.

# HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE 2018-2019

Date	Time	Meet At	Trip	Level	Lunch	Leader	Tel #
Fri., Sept. 14	7:30 AM	TAR	Canaveral Nat'l Seashore	3	Y	David Hartgrove	386-235-1249
Fri., Oct. 12	8:00 AM	Park	Washington Oaks	3	Y	Peggy Yokubonus	386-316-4085
Sat. Oct. 27	7:00 AM	KRY	Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive	1	Y	David Hartgrove	386-235-1249
Thurs., Nov. 8	7:00 AM	TAR	TM Goodwin Marsh	1	Y	David Hartgrove	386-235-1249
Wed., Nov. 28	7:30 AM	TAR	Orlando Wetlands	3	Y	Peggy Yokubonus	386-316-4085
Fri., Dec. 7	7:30 AM	TAR	Merritt Island NWR	1	Y	David Hartgrove	386-235-1249
Sat., Dec. 8	7:30 AM	TAR	Merritt Island NWR	1	Y	David Hartgrove	386-235-1249
Tues., Jan 8- Fri., Jan. 11			St. Marks NWR	3	Y	Betty Butcher	863-224-4922
Fri. Jan. 18	7:30 AM	TAR	Hatbill Park/Riverbreeze Park	3	Y	David Hartgrove	386-235-1249
Fri. Feb 1	7:00 AM	KRY	Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive	1	Y	Peggy Yokubonus	386-316-4085
Fri. Feb.15	7:30 AM	TAR	Orlando Wetlands	3	Y	Betty Butcher	863-224-4922
Wed., Mar.6	7:30 AM	TAR	Shiloh Marsh	3	Y	Joan Tague	386-871-6049
Wed. Mar.13	3-6 PM	KRY	Blue Heron Boat Trip	1	N	Celine Sullivan	386-5234182
Sat., Mar. 23	7:30 AM	CHK	Ocala National Forest	1	Y	John Roessler	386-212-6957
Wed.-Fri. Apr. 17,18,19			Fort DeSoto Park	3	Y	David Hartgrove	386-235-1249
Tues. April 4	8:00 AM	TB	Tiger Bay	2	Y	Ray Scory	386-290-0075
Thurs.,May1 6	3:00 PM	Bridge	Dunlawton Bridge	2	N	Ray Scory	386-290-0075

**IMPORTANT: Call leader or check website, [www.halifaxrivers.org](http://www.halifaxrivers.org), before trip to confirm details.**

**MEETING PLACES**

- Bridge - Port Orange Causeway Park under Dunlawton Bridge
- CHK- Ormond Town Square - Granada & Williamson Blvds Behind Chick-fil-A
- TB - Tiger Bay State Forest headquarters - US 92
- KRY - Int'l Square - East of I-95 on Int'l Speedway Blvd behind Krystal
- TAR- Target East of I-95 on Dunlawton Ave behind Panera
- Washington Oaks State Park - 6400 N Oceanshore Blvd, Palm Coast, park fee or pass required
- Buschman Pak - 4575 Spruce Creek Rd., Port Orange

**TRIP RATING**

- 1 - easy or little walking
- 2 - Walking 1 mile - flat terrain
- 3 - Walking 1+ mile and/or uneven terrain

**Remember equipment:** Hat, sunscreen, bug spray, sturdy walking shoes, drinking water and snacks as needed  
 Boat Trip - requires a reservations made thru Celine Sullivan 386-523-4182. The Blue Heron trip is \$30 per person, cash only. Absolute deadline for reservation is Wed., 3/6/19. Limit 36 persons. Meeting place is St. Johns Marina, 2999 West State Rd. 44, Deland, FL 32720 by 2:00 with \$30.00 cash in hand per person. The boat does not wait for latecomers!  
 Reservations are required for the St. Marks and Fort DeSoto Trips. Contact Trip Leaders Betty Butcher and David Hartgrove for information.

# HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

Presents

## Beginner Bird Watching Class



Cardinal



Crow



Dabbling Duck



Dove



Finch

**2018**

Learn how to identify birds, how to find birds, how to develop birding skills, how to improve your binocular use and many other birding facts. Join our class for fun, information and fellowship.

**Donation: \$25.00** check, payable to **Halifax River Audubon**, noting "Bird Class" in the comment section. Mail to:

Halifax River Audubon  
PO Box 166  
Daytona Beach, FL 32115

**Place: Port Orange Public Library Auditorium**, 1005 City Center Circle, Port Orange.

**Classroom instruction** will be held on **Tuesday October 23, November 13 and December 6 at 9:00 to 12:00 p.m.** Classes begin promptly at 9:30 AM.

**Thursday, October 25** – 8:00 AM - Dunlawton Bridge, Port Orange – meet at West side of Halifax River under bridge at parking lot next to the pavilion and boat ramp.

**Thursday, November 15** – 8:00 AM -Tomoka State Park, 2099 N. Beach St., Ormond Beach - meet at entrance to park. \$5.00 entrance fee per car.

**Tuesday, December 4** –7:00 AM - Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, Titusville, FL. - meet at the West end of Target parking lot, Dunlawton Ave., Port Orange just East of I-95. \$10.00 per car entrance fee or "Golden Age Pass".

\* All outdoor workshops are subject to change depending upon extreme weather conditions or unforeseen emergencies.

Bring your **binoculars** to all classes, especially the first class, as well as to all outdoor workshops.

Contact **David Hartgrove 386-788-2630** or [birdman9@earthlink.net](mailto:birdman9@earthlink.net).

Class size is limited to 28, so sign up early. You do not have to be a member of Halifax River Audubon to attend.

✂Cut here and mail with your check-----

### BEGINNER BIRD WATCHING CLASS - 2018

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_