

South East Volusia Audubon Society

Dec 12, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Marsha Cox, Bill Cox, Jane Talbot, Liz Merideth, Robert Merideth, Dean Spears, Don Chalfant, Bob Chew, Gail Rogers, John Kendal, Susan Dayer

Agenda:

Reports:

Presidents:

Group picture

Visioning meeting January 6th

Forest Bathing Eve Payor

Treasurer

Communications

Purple Martin

Tabling

Plants for Birds

Membership

Outreach

Rare Bird alert

Shorebird Advocate

Conservation

Newsletter

Field trips

Presidents Report:

Marsha started by thanking Gail for hosting the meeting/party!

Susan Dayer was introduced as the new Plants 4 Birds (P4B) coordinator. Joyce, the former coordinator, will focus on the education mission of P4B, the new grant for the garden at Chisolm Elementary, and will continue to be on the board. Susan introduced herself as a former school science teacher from up north. Susan is not a bird lister, but she takes lots of bird pictures. She grew up with gardens at home, and is an expert weeder, so she will be great at this job!

Marsha also announced that a photographer would be taking the board's picture to accompany a newspaper article about the Audubon Small Chapter of the Year award.

January 6th will be a visioning meeting with Jacqui Sulek from Florida Audubon to look toward the future and set a plan for moving forward. It will be at the MDC and may be an all-day meeting. All board members are asked to attend if possible.

SEVAS will partner with Eve Payor from the Atlantic Center for the Arts in a Forest Bathing event. Forest bathing is a slow, meditative way to be in nature. Look for more information in an upcoming newsletter.

Action item: All board members are asked to attend the January 6th visioning meeting with Jaqui Sulek at the MDC.

Purple Martins:

Gourd raising for 2024 will be on January 3rd at 10 a.m. at the MDC.

Communications Committee:

Liz is doing the newsletter, social media, working to get mail chimp up and running, and will work with Jane to update the website. Liz and Jane are also updating the welcome letter for new members, which Jane will send. Templates will be in MailChimp. Once mail chimp is working, Liz will have a meeting to teach folks who will be using it. Liz asked for folks to update their pages, Susan for the P4B page and

Marsha for the Presidents Message. Liz also asked for sharp pictures relating to SEVAS. Don, Susan, and Bob will send photos.

Liz also reports that SEVAS now has an Instagram account. Liz will send out information on how to follow SEVAS for anyone who uses Instagram. Traci and Liz met last week. Traci will take over Meetup and Facebook once she returns from travelling.

The January newsletter deadline is December 19th. Issue will focus on Purple Martins, Richard will write the bird of the month article and the gourd raising event will be announced. John will do an article on birding from Lot 5.

Action items:

Richard will write bird of the month article on Purple Martins

John will write an article on birding from Lot 5

Tabling Events:

Gail reported that the second farmers market was a success and thanked all who helped. \$160 were received from the first market, and \$220 from the second. Lots of sign ups for the newsletter and some new paid members. Some folks bought bottles, and stayed and chatted fulfilling our message of getting the word out about the environment and our cause. Kudos to Dean for bringing the tent and doing setup. Marsha added that it is important to have a "real birder" at the events because there were questions that require birding knowledge. Thanks to Margo for attending the second event and answering questions. The next event is Saturday December 16th and will be an arts and crafts event for kids. Gail will have everything prepped for the kids to make flamingos and paint ornaments with examples.

Christmas Bird Count:

Event will be December 30th. Liz and Robert will have flip charts so we can tally as a group how many species, rare birds, unusual sightings, etc. Liz will come up with a contest to make the event more engaging and steer the after-birding event to be more bird-centric. There will be prizes!

Membership:

Dean reported three new members, five dues paying members since the last meeting. Work needs to be done on who reports new members to the database. Dean keeps a roster when he receives data from the president. Dean is looking to Bill for guidance. Don suggested a lifetime member option.

Liz will name and welcome new members in the newsletter.

Action item:

Bill will provide guidance on the new member communication process

Rare Bird Alert:

John reported that the rare bird alert text chain now has 18 people. He will circle back and ask the group in a survey what should be done differently.

Conservation:

Bob checked with Chad at the MDC regarding a possible least tern nesting area on the roof. Chad did not want to do something on the roof, but suggested possibly adding a roof over the exercise equipment and putting a nesting area there. The equipment will be moved before this can be done.

Bob also suggested after the holidays possibly taking folks for a short boat ride to Ski Island and to see more out of the way parts of the lagoon. Bob is open to taking folks out to see the flamingos, and added that Frank Brownell may be willing to take some folks also.

Bob also reported that Riverside Conservancy is interested in possibly installing a P4B garden on their property.

Field Trips:

Don reported field trips started on October 11 with Liz and Robert kicking off Tuesday Morning Birding. From then through December 12, there have been 11 events with 133 participants and 70 cumulative species. Don expects more people to join trips now that the snow birds are returning to the area.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00

Minutes submitted by Jane Talbot

Addendum:

Shore Bird Advocate Ed Carlson sent in this report: The Beach Cleanup at Canaveral Seashore went well in November with good SEVAS representation. Neil Folsom from CNS has requested that SEVAS take an ongoing role and consider becoming involved in other clean ups moving forward. Could SEVAS get local high school kids involved through their service groups?

There is a beach cleanup scheduled for January 20th. Low tide is at 10:30. Maybe work with "Keep NSB Clean" members? Volunteers needed. Contact Ed Carlson