

South East Volusia Audubon Society

November 8, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Bill Cox, Marsha Cox, Jane Talbot, Don Chalfant, Joyce Riddel, Dean Spears, Mary Schreiber, Bob Chew, Richard Fasse, Bob Creedon

Agenda:

- Plants for Birds update from Joyce
- Conservation update and plans from Bob
- Meeting plans for Thursday, Marsha
- Financial report-Jenifer
- Tabling events at Farmer's Market Marsha 11/19 & 12/3
- Developing job descriptions from committee chairs
- Christmas Bird Count, Marsha and Jenifer
- Field trip report, Don
- Jason Fischer meeting (meet before with PuMa group?)
- Visiting dignitary: Melissa Lammers Chair of RCC, Fl. Audubon Bd member, HRA member

Planned visiting dignitary Melissa Lammers had to cancel her plans to attend the meeting due to the impending storm and evacuation orders.

Plants 4 Birds Update:

Joyce said cleanup was done in the gardens after hurricane Ian and things are in good shape. Myrtle Park was flooded, there was debris, and plants got too much water. Tree is stressed, but will survive. It just needs to dry out. Myrtle needs more mulch and plants. Katy Trip looked at both Myrtle and Babe James gardens and advised on plants to order. Plants have been ordered for late November delivery. At that time, a planting event will be planned to replace plants that didn't make it and to add plants to enhance the garden. Signs should arrive this week. Installation will be next week and will be posted on Meet-Up.

SEVAS has received the \$2,500 Plants 4 Birds grant again this year.

Plans for this year are to ramp up the education aspect of the gardens. Joyce is looking for volunteers to work with kids and provide education. Joyce will meet with Lindley's Nursery to work on a garden similar to the one at Babe James to be located at Chisolm Elementary. We will be working with the 4th grade science and advanced placement teachers. Garden will be two separate plots with a path in the middle, one side will be a pollinator garden and the other a shelter and food garden. Kids will do hands on science work. The curriculum happens towards the end of the school year, hope is that the garden will be in place by that time.

MDC garden looks great, special thanks to Dean. Signs survived Ian. More plant ID signs and a water feature are coming soon.

Joyce has recruited a neighbor near the Myrtle Park Garden to act as local ambassador. He will notify us if things need to be cleaned up by the city or weeded. He will receive a SEVAS t-shirt.

Marsha pointed out that establishing bird friendly neighborhoods is part of the National Audubon and Florida Audubon conservation initiatives. This is not just our chapter, but is happening all over the country.

Special thanks to John Pearce for writing the initial grant, then Joyce and Ed for taking over, and now Joyce and her team for weeding and maintaining the gardens.

Action items:

Joyce will look for volunteers to work on the education aspect of P4B

Conservation update and plans:

Bob announced a planned meeting on November 17th at 2 p.m. at the Marine Discovery Center (MDC) for anyone wanting more information or to join the conservation committee. Florida Audubon has a video on YouTube on conservation detailing the five areas of focus: coastal conservation, water, climate, working lands and bird friendly communities. The Conservation Committee will have a meeting every few weeks to discuss strategies and plan speaking before committees. Bob said this has been effective for lagoon issues, and should work as expanded for SEVAS' focus.

Meeting plans for Thursday:

Marsha announced that the meeting scheduled for Thursday November 10th is canceled due to the impending storm and will be rescheduled.

Financial report:

Jenifer was unable to attend, but Bill updated that he had a recent meeting with Jenifer on the finances. Four new members have signed up and paid using the Square credit card system.

Jenifer provided the following current balances:

General fund	\$3,078.81
Memorials	\$1,660.38
P4B	\$1,290.58
FLEDGE grant	\$1,000.00
Total funds	\$7,029.77

Tabling events at Farmer's Market:

Marsha and Bill will have a table at two upcoming farmers markets, November 19th and December 3rd. Bill's sister has donated more artwork, which sells well. If anyone has any crafts to sell, get in touch with Bill or Marsha. Marsha said the most important part of this effort is getting the message out that birds are in trouble and there are things we can do. Marsha and Bill are looking for volunteers to help or anything else to sell. They have to be at the market at 6:30 a.m. to setup. This market is near the fort in New Smyrna Beach.

Joyce suggested we can sell SEVAS memberships for folks to give as gifts. Buyers can receive a card explaining the gift to give the recipient.

Birds & Brews:

Kim Ramos led the first B&B of the season at Smyrna Dunes Park followed by the Halfwall. 31 people attended and 26 species were seen. The event was very successful. Next B&B will be on November 17th at 4:30 at Reed Canal Park (corner of Reed Canal Road and Nova Road) followed by social time at the Doghouse. Kim will again be leading.

Developing job descriptions from committee chairs:

Bill and Marsha are requesting that all committee chairs write a draft job description explaining what the committee chair does. Joyce will put together a form to make this easier.

Action items:

Joyce will do a form for committee chair job descriptions

All committee chairs will put together a draft job description

Field trip report:

Don reported on plans for field trips for this year. He would like to build on the success of field trips from last year. There will again be a trip every Tuesday morning, and the first Tuesday of every month will be Birds and Brunch (birding from 8 to 10 followed by brunch and social at a nearby restaurant).

Don will also add at least one overnight trip, possibly combining with Halifax to visit the panhandle in January. He may also schedule a trip to south Florida for the first week in April.

There will also be at least one Birds & Brews per month. Last year there were 25 events, Don hopes to have over 30 this year.

Jason Fischer meeting:

The speaker program for December will feature Jason Fischer who works on the science project at Disney focusing on Purple Martins (PuMa). Marsha is hoping Richard can meet with Jason, perhaps for dinner, before the meeting to ask questions. Meeting will be on December 8th both in person at the MDC and on Zoom.

Christmas Bird Count:

The Christmas Bird Count will be on December 30th this year. Jenifer will be the compiler. 10 leaders are needed. So far Don, Joyce and Richard have agreed to be leaders. Volunteers are also needed to be participants and scribes, and don't have to be great birders.

Other business:

The Marine Science Center has invited us as a group of up to 30 people to do an in-person tour. We will see the education area and the rehab area. This will be on Monday November 21st.

Mary received many compliments on the newsletter this month, and wanted to thank all who contributed.

Bill pointed out that SEVAS was the runner up for Best Small Chapter in the state!

Minutes:

Meeting minutes submitted by Jane Talbot

Meeting adjourned 4:35