

South East Volusia Audubon Society

October 18, 2022 Meeting Minutes

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

Bill updated the group on the new Zoom account, he had issues with the upgrade to Pro but issues are now fixed.

Updates:

Bill asked for updates from each of the participants on summer birding, conservation, etc.

- Bob Chew is in Rhode Island, he spent time golfing, gardening and fishing this summer. He did see many birds on his offshore tuna fishing trips. He volunteered at the Norman Bird Sanctuary in Newport pulling out knotweed and helping to pull vegetation away from old stone walls, which will be rebuilt.
- Jane birded Duxbury beach in Massachusetts at the end of least tern nesting season, seeing many juveniles begging and parents feeding.
- Joyce didn't do birding over the summer, but did see a yellow throated warbler outside her son's window.
- Mary went to Alaska where she saw tufted puffins in Glacier Bay, and Nova Scotia where she saw many sanderlings. Mary noted changes in what birds were present vs what was expected.
- Bob Creedon introduced himself to the group. He is retired from Lockheed Martin where he worked in finance then IT. He works part time at the MDC as a kayak guide and boat tour narrator, and wants to learn more about birding. Bob is on the board of the Master Naturalist program, and they rented golf carts and went birding on Hidden Lakes Golf Course.
- Richard returned to Florida a few weeks ago, and has a painted bunting at his feeder.
- Dean saw yellow crowned night heron and black crowned night heron within a short timeframe allowing for good comparison. He also saw a bobcat at the lagoon.
- Marsha birded with Bridget Butler "Bird Diva" in Vermont. She has a mindful approach to birding, emphasizing being present in the moment rather than listing. <https://www.birddiva.com/>
- Rachel is in Gainesville. Hurricane Ian brought down trees in her area and made for interesting birding. She saw 6 red bellied woodpeckers on one palm tree after the storm.
- Bill fed chickadees at his feeder all summer, and travelled to Nova Scotia and Maine. Most of his birdies were on the golf course.

Presidents Update:

Marsha provided the president's update.

- Don Chalfont has many events planned. Once the dates are firmed up, Marsha will send out the information.
- First event will be Birds & Brews 5pm Thursday October 20th at Smyrna Dunes Park lead by Kim Ramos, followed by Toni and Joe's beachside for social time.
- 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 a Monday in November, date TBD.
- Future meetings will be hybrid, zoom and in person. This will accommodate folks who want in person meetings as well as those who are out of town or still not comfortable with in person events.
- November meeting will be at the MDC celebrating the new water source, a bird bath made by Dean.

- December meeting will be Jason Fischer from the Disney PUMA project and will take place at the MDC in person and on zoom.
- Marsha is hoping for more tabling events this coming year, both to get the word out about our mission and to raise funds.

Finance:

Jenifer was not able to attend, but sent in a report as of a few weeks ago:

- General fund \$3,132
- Memorials \$1,660
- P4B \$1,564
- FLEDJE Fund \$1,000

A few adjustments have been made since this update as some money has been spent.

We can now take payments using credit cards for dues and donations. Annual dues will be \$20 for individual membership and \$25 for family unit.

Plants 4 Birds:

Joyce provided a P4B update. She and Marsha submitted an application for the 2023 P4B grant, but based on feedback from Florida Audubon she is expecting that grants will go to chapters who have not received them before and not to us. There is a new grant we can apply for, Joyce will work on that application.

New gardens are in place at Myrtle Park and Babe James Community Center. Signage is in process. MDC signs survived IAN, so Joyce is confident in the new signs as well.

Goals for this year are to put in a new garden at Chisolm Elementary (will need to find a grant for this or another way to fund) and work on the education part of the garden. Bird and nature curriculum are at the end of the year, so there is time to plan. Joyce would like us to go onsite and give talks, and possibly get kids from Babe James involved in something similar with their garden. She suggested we put up our owl nest onsite at Babe James. She also wants to replicate the top of Dean's birdbath at the two other gardens. Dean is willing to teach anyone who would like to work on making the two new birdbaths. Bob Creedon has a group who needs volunteer hours that may be able to help.

PUMA (Purple Martin):

Richard updated the group on the PUMA project. The gourds are currently in storage, and Richard will consult with the experts on when to raise them – possibly February. Richard has the CD with PUMA dawn and evening songs and has transferred it to MP3 so it is now very easy to play. He is looking for exterior speakers and a small amp. Richard is looking forward to the presentation from the Disney speaker!

Richard has also picked up fence wood from trash to use the wood to make nest boxes for sale at our events.

Communications Committee:

Richard has posted the upcoming B&B event on Meetup and Facebook and will continue to post upcoming events as dates become finalized.

Jane gave a review of the updated website. The landing page has been simplified, and shows navigation buttons on the front page where they are easy to see. There are new pages for P4B (thanks Joyce for content) and PUMA (thanks Richard for content). Some updates are still in process.

Field trips:

Don didn't make the meeting, but he has sent a list of upcoming field trips and will be in Florida soon.

Newsletter:

Mary is starting to work on the November newsletter. She questioned if she should use content provided by people who are not very active in the group. Bill suggested that when we don't use a submitted article, we communicate with the writer. Mary does send any edits back to the writer before publication. Anyone who has content for the November newsletter should send it to Mary at newsletter.sevas@gmail.com. Mary will ask member John Kendall if she can use his email update from birds seen during Ian in the newsletter.

Restructure:

Bill would like to kick off the re-org of the structure discussed in the strategy meeting last spring. Bill will contact some folks to see if they can take leadership roles for specific sections. The goal is to decentralize work to designated leaders who would create their own committees of folks either on the board or not, then meet with Marsha and Bill periodically to set goals, brain storm ideas and keep informed. Goal is to increase our program while decentralizing and sharing leadership responsibilities.

Minutes:

Meeting minutes submitted by Jane Talbot

Meeting adjourned 4:55