

Tampa Audubon Society August 2016 Newsletter

www.tampaaudubon.org

Thursday, September 1, 2016

Hillsborough County Extension, Conference Center, 5339 CR 579, Seffner
Photo Club 6 PM

7:00 Potluck dinner ~ Bring dish to pass (optional)
7:30 Meeting and Program

Rachel Arndt, Communications Coordinator for Tampa Bay Watch

Tampa Bay Watch Habitat Restoration & Environmental Education Programs

Tampa Bay Watch performs habitat restoration and protection activities throughout the year, relying heavily on the efforts of community volunteers to help the bay recover from its historic environmental problems. Individuals of all ages from community groups, scout troops, schools and others participate in salt marsh plantings, storm drain markings, oyster bar creation, coastal cleanups, and wildlife protection each year, demonstrating environmental stewardship in its purest form. In addition to the volunteer habitat restoration projects, Tampa Bay Watch has a large-scale environmental education program entitled "Estuary EDventures" in which students in grades Kindergarten through 12 throughout Tampa Bay visit the Tampa Bay Watch Marine Center for hands-on educational experiences. The efforts of Tampa Bay Watch to restore and protect the bay's habitat through stewardship and community awareness provide effective long term improvements to the bay, and empower our community with the knowledge to counteract our environmental problems.

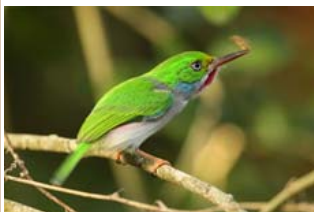
NOTE: PHOTOS FROM THE GALLERY EXHIBIT WILL FOR SALE AT THE MEETING. COME PREPARED!!



Upcoming Events

Volunteers Needed for Birding Festival

Florida Birding and Nature Festival needs volunteers for many things, many times, any days between Oct 13 and Oct 16. If you can help for 4 hours you get free admission to the seminars and programs on that day. Please send Mary Keith your name, cell phone and the days or times you can help (keithma1@juno.com). **Registration is open** for the festival, social events and field trips. Check out the full schedule of trips, seminars and activities at <http://www.floridabirdingandnaturefestival.org/>. There are 24 trips to 4 counties, and seminar topics from ants to panthers, native plants to dragonflies. Special program for children on Saturday.



Let's Go Birding in Cuba!

Registration is now open for our trip to Cuba, **January 14-20(21), 2017**. Remember, **Tampa Audubon members get a \$100 discount if you register before Oct. 10**. Land costs for the 7 day trip are \$3,350.00 per person for double rooms. Single supplement is \$450.00. There is a maximum of 14 spaces on this trip, for some fantastic birding! See the website for full details and registration form. Or email me (keithma1@juno.com) if you have questions. I have been to Cuba with this company, I speak Spanish, and I will be on the trip with you!



Save the Dates!

Field Trips this Month

Saturday, Sept 10 Lettuce Lake Park Bird Walk especially for beginning birders, open to everyone! Meet at 8 am in the parking area by the visitor's center. We'll walk the area until about 11 am. Bring water, insect repellent. We have binoculars to loan if you don't have any. Park entrance fee is \$2, trip is free. Leader Mary Keith for more info: keithma1@juno.com

Saturday, Sept 17 Clean Up at Audubon Sanctuary, San Jose off West Shore. Start time 8:30 am. Bring boots or shoes that can get wet, work gloves, snacks, water. Contact Mary or Bev Griffiths for more info: keithma1@juno.com or bevgriffiths@verizon.net

Saturday, Sept 17 - A.L. Anderson Park and John Chesnut Senior Park: Meet at John Chesnut Park, 2200 East Lake Road, Palm Harbor, FL 34685 at 8:30am. Meet near the boat ramp. For a map, click on the link, <http://www.pinellascounty.org/park/maps/color/amenities/Chesnut.pdf>. Contact leader Susan for more info: susanfears@verizon.net.

Thursday, Oct 6, Meeting, Program, Michael Brothers, on Black Backed Gulls

Saturday, Oct 8, Lettuce Lake Park walk for beginning birders, 9 am.

Society Activities

Several of your officers and members attended one or more hearings in our area for new **Critical Wildlife Areas**. These are locations used by our coastal birds for nesting or roosting. Audubon of Florida has proposed to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission that these areas be granted additional protection from boaters, fishers, swimmers, photographers and other harassment, intentional or otherwise. The Alafia Banks Bird Islands here in Tampa Bay, the Robert's Bay rookery in Sarasota Bay, the Dot Dash Dit Islands in Bradenton on the Braden River were the 3 in our area. We spoke and wrote letters of support for extending the protection areas.

Tampa Audubon was invited and sent a representative to the Advisory Committee for the new long-range management plan for **Little Manatee State Park**. We were asked to consider the growing population, the wildlife and ecology of the park, and the potential uses of the park areas. Needless to say, we support maintaining the park for the benefit of the wildlife, birds and more, while making the areas accessible to people who can learn to enjoy and value it all.

TAS President Mary Keith has been on **ABC Action News Morning Blend** program twice recently to talk about the photo exhibit at HCC Ybor Gallery, which was a great success, and to share member photos of our backyard birds. Another visit to the program will be on Sept 6, with Andy Fairbanks of HC Conservation and Environmental Lands department to promote the Birding and Nature Festival.

THANK YOU - Wild Birds Unlimited, Dale Mabry
For publicizing our trips, signing up new members,
and helping keep the birds happy and well-fed!