

The Avocet

# Tampa Audubon Society September 2017 Newsletter

[www.tampaaudubon.org](http://www.tampaaudubon.org)

General Meeting Thursday, September 7 , 2017

Hillsborough County UF Extension Conference Center, 5339 CR 579, Seffner

6 PM Photo Club ~ 7:00 PM Potluck dinner ~ 7:30 PM Meeting and Program

Bringing a dish to pass is optional.

## General Meeting Sept 7

### Speaker: Dr Mark Hafen, USF Sea-level Rise in Florida

Dr. Hafen is a Senior Instructor in the Dept. of Geography, Environment and Planning at USF. His PhD is in Marine Science. He has taught courses in Wetland Environments, Env. & Planning Issues in Coastal Cities, Environmental Regulation, and Environmental Policy & the Built Environment.

He spoke to the meeting of conservation chairs of Audubon Societies for our Region last year. It was a very impressive presentation about the evidence and the risks. Sorry we don't have more information at this point, but I'll get it up on the website as soon as I can!

## UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

On most trips we have binoculars to loan, so don't hesitate to come! Unless otherwise indicated field trips do not require advance registration. Most are free. Everyone is welcome!



**Sept 9 — Lettuce Lake Bird Walk.** Meet at 9 am in the parking lot by the Visitor's Center at the park to walk the boardwalk with us. Our winter warblers are coming through, the water level has come back up, come see what else we can find. Done by noon.

Leader is Megan Campbell, for details contact [megan.campbell@tampaaudubon.org](mailto:megan.campbell@tampaaudubon.org)

Tampa Audubon Society, PO Box 320025, Tampa, FL 33679

## Sept 17—Saddle Creek and Circle B Bar Reserve.

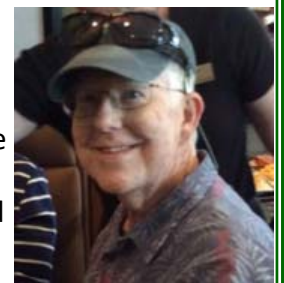
Limited to 10 people. Location: 3899 Morgan Combee Rd, Lakeland. Meet at the end of the dirt road leading to the "Nature Trails" at 8:00 AM. Saddle Creek Park, on the north side of Lakeland, is well-known in local birding circles as a good spot for migrating land birds in the fall. It is one of the better inland locations in Central Florida for migrating warblers. Join us as we see for ourselves what is moving through that day. We will be birding along the edge of hardwood swamps and ponds, and a portion of the trail goes through a "tunnel" of Brazilian pepper. It is likely to be hot and humid at that time of year, and there WILL be mosquitoes! Insect repellent is almost mandatory for this outing. Also be sure to bring water and snacks to get you through the morning, and to dress appropriately for the conditions. If there has been recent rainfall, be prepared for muddy sections in the trail.

When we are finished at Saddle Creek, anyone who wants can follow us to Circle-B-Bar Reserve for a picnic lunch. (Bring your own food/drinks.) After-lunch birding will be available there, as well. Please register for this outing by contacting trip leader Doug DeNeve [doug.deneve@tampaaudubon.org](mailto:doug.deneve@tampaaudubon.org) and providing your contact information, in case there is a need to change our plans at the last minute.



## SPECIAL EVENT! PICNIC IN THE PARK September 9, noon

**Mike Mullins** has been the guiding hands behind the scene as the Director of the ARC at Lettuce Lake Park for **over 20 years**. He's coordinated volunteers, designed displays, led educational



programs for school children, taught for OLLI and too much more to mention. Now he's finally retiring. Come, join us to say **THANK YOU to Mike** for so many years of dedicated service to Tampa Audubon and the residents of Hillsborough County.

After the morning Bird Walk we will have a pot-luck picnic at Pavilion 9, by the east end of the boardwalk. Tampa Audubon will provide burger, dogs and buns, plates and cups. Please bring a dish to share, and any memories of Mike and his years of work.

## FURTHER FORWARD



Oct 13, 14, 15

[www.fbnfestival.org](http://www.fbnfestival.org)

Florida Birding and Nature Festival! Field trips, Seminars, Keynote Speakers, Family Wagon Ride, Kid's Activities, Nature Expo (free)!

Registration from \$30 to \$65 for field trips, \$20 for up to 7 seminars, \$25 per keynote includes meal.

Tampa Audubon will have a table there with information on local birding, and be selling bags and shirts with the logo. **If you'd be able to help at the table for several hours on Friday or Saturday, please contact Pat Lewis**

[pat.lewis@tampaudubon.org](mailto:pat.lewis@tampaudubon.org) to let her know when you can help. Four hours of time gives you entry into the seminars that day.

If you would like to **volunteer for the Festival** for other tasks or days, **please contact Andee Richards, at [emailandeerichards@gmail.com](mailto:emailandeerichards@gmail.com)**. Give her your name, phone, and the days and times you'd be available to help. Not all the work will be on festival days, some will be in the week preceding the events.

**Lettuce Lake Beginning Birder Walks**  
Oct 14, Nov 11, Dec 9

**Oct 7 West Shore Sanctuary Clean Up— HELP NEEDED!** This beautiful little mangrove inlet on the bay is co-managed by Tampa Audubon, Sierra Club and Port Authority. Every year we have a clean-up morning to remove accumulated trash. Meet at the west end of San Jose St, off West Shore south of

Kennedy. When you get to the T bear left, and park near the dumpster. Plan to work from 9 to 11 am. Please bring gloves, wear boots or shoes that can get wet and dirty. A hammer, crow bar, etc. could be helpful since the local kids seem to like creating shacks in there... We'll have trash bags, a dumpster and other needs. Water and snack will be provided. Any questions or to sign up, contact Bev at [bevgriffiths@verizon.net](mailto:bevgriffiths@verizon.net) or 813-210-4850 (mobile).

**Oct 8** Itchepackesassa & Lower Green Swamp trip

## COMMITTEE UPDATES

### BIRD PROTECTION COMMITTEE

The Bird Protection Committee is working to install carcass chutes at fishing piers, boat ramps and docks in the region, to prevent bony fish carcasses from being fed to Brown Pelicans and other seabirds. The chutes deposit the carcasses below the surface of the water, out of reach of the birds. Pelicans often end up with carcasses stuck in their throats and die slow painful deaths. The chutes also prevent birds from learning to come to people for food, which puts them in danger of becoming entangled in fishing line. According to Florida Fish and Wildlife, fishing line is the leading cause of death for Brown Pelicans. As you can see, we have much work to do in Hillsborough County. This is the boat ramp at Gandy. Birds waiting to be fed! Not even trash cans! Wood Storks are state and federally listed as threatened! Your donations to this project are welcomed. Please note Hooked Bird fund on your check. And if you know of a boat ramp or other location where birds are being fed, please notify Sandy. [Sandy.reed@tampaudubon.org](mailto:Sandy.reed@tampaudubon.org)



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### CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

**BIRD SURVEYS**— Plans are proceeding for doing bird surveys on both the Shultz Preserve and Rock Ponds areas in SW Hillsborough County. These are great preserve areas that have been restored from previous farm use. SWFWMD is interested in monitoring the changes in bird use across the areas as the restoration progresses. We're expecting to do 4 surveys a year in each location. If you're interested

in helping with these, please contact Doug.

Doug DeNeve, Conservation Committee  
[Doug.deneve@tampaudubon.org](mailto:Doug.deneve@tampaudubon.org)

### EVENTS COMMITTEE

We are still looking for someone to coordinate several events a year when TAS is invited to have an info table. These could include the Clean Air Day, Earth Day or others, usually not more than 4-5 a year. If you'd be willing to help with that, please contact Mary Keith [mary.keith@tampaudubon.org](mailto:mary.keith@tampaudubon.org).



### LETTUCE LAKE PARK VOLUNTEERS

Roger Sheets, the new Director of ARC activities at Lettuce Lake, is looking for volunteers at the ARC. Mostly the duties are to be available in the Visitor Center to answer questions, direct visitors, keep track of numbers, and occasionally lead a walk along the boardwalk. You'll probably only be asked to be there once every 2 to 3 months. You will need to be certified as a County volunteer, and Roger will provide orientation and training. If interested, please contact Roger at [roger.sheets@tampaudubon.org](mailto:roger.sheets@tampaudubon.org).

### NEXT YEAR'S TRIPS AND PROGRAMS

#### PUERTO RICO MARCH 23-29, 2018!

**Only 7 spaces left!** Circle the island, find **all 17 endemics** and more, with good food, a great guide (Tom Johnson, of WINGS) and easy walking! Cost for the 7 days, including the first dinner in San Juan and until delivery to the airport on Day 7, is **\$2,475** per person double occupancy. Single supplement is \$450. Airfare, alcohol and personal items are not included.

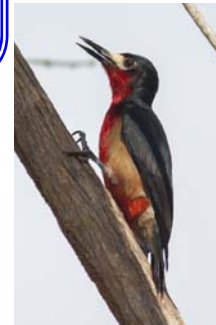
Find the complete itinerary and registration details on the website. Here's a quick summary:



Day 1 starts in San Juan with a meeting and dinner.

Day 2 leaves early from San Juan, we breakfast Rio Abajo Forest, then walk to the endangered PR Parrot.

Days 2, 3 and 4 we stay at La Parguera and drive out in different directions to the mountains, the coast and wetlands, checking all the habitats for their birds, including a night walk for PR nightjars.



Puerto Rican Woodpecker, Tom Johnson

Day 5 we drive to El Yunque, stopping at various birdy spots along the way. We spend the next 2 nights there, with a trip to the coast and Humacao Nature Reserve, walks in the cloud forest, and a search for Antillean Crested Hummingbirds.

Day 7 we breakfast in El Yunque, then return to San Juan for the flight home.



Puerto Rican Tody, Tom Johnson

**FLORIDA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY** is holding its Fall meeting on November 10 – 12, 2017, at the Matheson History Museum, 513 E University Ave, Gainesville, FL 32601. Talks, seminars, field trips.



### Remember Membership Renewals

If you renew your Audubon membership through TAS we get the funds sooner. When you receive your notice to renew from National Audubon, just download the application form from our website, or even just cut out the address label from the Audubon magazine, and send it to us with your check. We then forward your renewal to National, but we've recorded it here first. Thank you!!

Smile!

It doesn't have to be Christmas to use Amazon Smile and choose TAS. Here's a link to help: [How to donate to a charity on Amazon](https://smile.amazon.com). If you want Amazon to donate to Tampa Audubon Society Inc, you need to start each shopping session at the URL <https://smile.amazon.com>. They then donate 0.5% of the value of your purchases to TAS.