



**Bay County Audubon Society**  
**P.O. Box 1182**  
**Panama City, Florida 32402**

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# CONSERVATION CHRONICLE



**BAY COUNTY  
 AUDUBON SOCIETY**

Jan - Feb 2015  
**Vol . 39, Number 3**

## CURRENT OCCUPANT OR

This newsletter is published 5 times each year: Jan., Mar., May, Sept., and Nov. -SAVE THIS ISSUE UNTIL Feb, 2015  
 Our Motto is **"From Birding to the Total Environment"** Website Address: <http://www.baycountyaudubon.org>  
 Bay County Audubon Society's 51st year of continuous successful operation

**it out!!!** baycountyaudubon.org or follow us on Facebook.

### Chapter Contacts

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Conservation	Norm Capra	233-1313
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Film Series	Jeff Palgut	763-4415
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Newsletter Editor	Jim Miller	872-7080
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Parker Preserve	Al Clare	872-8260
Programs	Fred Borg	271-2674
Publicity	Al Clare	872-8260
Web/Facebook Master	Susan Lamb	265-0646

## WELCOME NEW BCAS MEMBERS October – November 2014

Danny Collins, Howard Maines, Deborah Gabris, Virginia Shallow, Karen Roland, Edna Ostrum, Janet Manley, Michele Kern, Reine Rush, Judy Baker, Carol Richardson, Shane and Lisa Adams, Gerrie C. Barr, Donna Moore, Richard Kingry, and Viven Hardy.

### WELCOME BACK TO BCAS

Robert P. Dallas, Jackie Sullivan, Eddie Spradley, Cecilanne Cantwell, and Josie Strange. **We look forward to seeing you at our BCAS meeting on Monday, Jan 12, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. at the Science & Discovery Center of Northwest Florida, 308 Airport Road.**

**Membership renewals:** BCAS, the local chapter affiliated with National Audubon Society, does not handle renewals—**only new memberships.** Please use the form sent by the National Audubon Society for renewal. Your membership expiration date can be found on your newsletter on the top line of your address. Example: Mr. John Smith 6/30/14. Those receiving electronic newsletters please contact Diane Houser, membership chair, for that date.

## CALENDER OF EVENTS

### PROGRAMS

All membership meetings will be held at the Science & Discovery Center of Northwest Florida, 308 Airport Road, Panama City

Monday, Jan 12th, 2015 at 7 p.m. Neil Lamb will present a program on "Birding in New South Wales, Australia".\*

\*Please see expanded information on last page.

Monday, Feb 9th, 2015 at 7 p.m. Richard Turner will present a program on Bird Photography.

### FIELD TRIPS

**Saturday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015 Bird Walk at PCB Conservation Park.** Meet in the parking lot of the Conservation Park at 7:30 AM.

**Fri & Sat, January 16 & 17, 2015 Overnight trip to Panacea area and St. Marks Nat. Wildlife Refuge.**

We will carpool down to Panacea on Friday, the 16<sup>th</sup>, birding along the coast, and spend the night at the Inn at Wildwood near Panacea. We will spend Saturday at the refuge. You will need to make your own reservations. 1-800- 878-1546. Rates are very reasonable. Mention that you are with the group from Bay County Audubon Society. This is one of our favorite trips since we always see over 100 species of birds and have a great time and enjoy some good local food. Plan to meet at the mall by Starbuck's under the theater sign at 7:00 on the 16<sup>th</sup>. If you are going, let Ron know to exchange phone numbers. 763-7485/ cell 381-5651.

**Sat, Feb. 14, 2015 Sneads/Lake Seminole/Jim Woodruff Dam area.**

This area is good for a wide variety of birds, including occasional rare ones like western kingbirds. Meet at the mall by Starbuck's at 7:00am with snacks, drinks, birding gear. We will probably eat lunch at a local restaurant. Call Ron for any questions, 763-7485.

## PRESIDENT'S CHAT

*By Mary Jo Capra*

Happy New Year to all!! We are off to a running start in January with activities. Our first bird walk at Conservation Park is January 3<sup>rd</sup>, followed by our first film in our Adventure Series at Arnold High School Auditorium on January 6<sup>th</sup>. These are only the first two of many activities available to you in January and February. We hope that all of you will be able to attend many of these activities.

We are all excited that the Water and Land Legacy Amendment passed with 75% of the voters voting "yes". However, we must continue our vigilance as the legislature goes into session. Please let your representative know how you want the funds from the amendment spent. Locally, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection is seeking public input for the upcoming 10 year unit management plan for St. Andrews State Park. Comments should be sent to Daniel Alsentzer, Park Planner at [daniel.alsentzer@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:daniel.alsentzer@dep.state.fl.us) the comment period ends January 25<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to our members who have already responded.

Bay County Audubon was honored recently at the Florida Audubon Assembly. Our chapter received the "Best Chapter Display" award for 2014. Our display was chosen because it reflected our many fun activities. It was an honor to receive the award on our behalf. Thanks to Ron and Diane Houser for working on the display.

## BIRDING FOR BEGINNERS

*By Norm Capra*

Baltimore County Audubon is offering a six week course entitled Birding for Beginners in the Spring session of the Gulf Coast State College Encore Program. The course will begin on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. Classes are from 9:00-10:15. It is a team taught course that will cover topics such as: proper equipment, preparation for birding trips, birding etiquette, basics for finding and identifying birds, and techniques for attracting backyard birds. Basics of taxonomy, use of field guides, and available internet resources will also be presented. An on-campus bird walk and a field trip will supplement classroom instruction featuring the birds of Northwest Florida. Instructors include Norm Capra, Al Clare, Ron Houser, Richard Ingram, and Cindy Wolf. Online registration for the Encore Program opens on January 5<sup>th</sup>. For additional information contact Norm Capra ([nfcapra@email.com](mailto:nfcapra@email.com)).

### NEW MEMBERS FORM (Not for renewals)

Yes, please enroll me as a new member of the National Audubon Society and of the local chapter, Bay County Audubon Society (C5ZE200Z) → Be sure to put this number on your check). Please send Audubon magazine, Conservation Chronicle, and my membership card to the address below.

\$20 One-year introductory membership  \$15 Friend (*The Conservation Chronicle* only)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check → payable to the National Audubon Society and mail this application to the local chapter:  
 Bay County Audubon Society, P.O. Box 1182, Panama City, Florida 32402

**FILM SERIES 2015**  
By Jeff Palgut, Film Series Chair

Here's a look at what is lined up for early next year. Hope to see you there.

**Tue. Jan 6, 2015 "Glacier Park to the Canadian Rockies"**  
by John Holod

Come along on the adventure of a lifetime! The Rocky Mountains are the backbone of North America and include some of the most beautiful scenery in the world. We'll take the back roads as we follow the Rockies from Glacier Park, Montana to Jasper, Alberta in the spectacular Canadian Rockies, exploring the familiar and not so familiar natural wonders along the way. The film includes native wildlife such as Glacier big horn sheep, grizzly bears, mountain goats, black bears, deer, and birds. Some of the other parks featured include Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park, Banff National Park, Kootenay National Park, and Yoho National Park.

**Thur. Jan 22, 2015 "Post Cards From Italy"**  
By Steve McCurdy

Postcards from Italy is an insider's look at southern Italy -- From the island of Sicily to the mountain top towns of Irsina and Matera, from the island of Procida to the larger cities of Naples and Rome. Joseph Campbell has written, "one way or another we have to find what fosters our humanity in this contemporary life and dedicate ourselves to that". In this film you will see how some Italians are trying to do exactly that from an art teacher and artist in Palermo to the owner of a doll hospital in Naples to the mayor of Irsina and many more, each with a unique story to tell. Postcards from Italy are a fascinating combination of stories and images. It is a collection of vignettes and travel experiences that will unveil places you may know, introduce you to people you may have met, and document life in Italy in a way you have never before seen. And as importantly, preserve that life on film before it's gone.

**Thur. Feb 26, 2015 "Rediscovering Ancient America"**  
by Gray Warriner

Travel across the US and back in time to rediscover the Ancient America found in our own backyards! New discoveries are revealing amazing accomplishments and surprising connections. Around 1600 B.C., Louisiana's Poverty Point became the first planned city in ancient America and the bayous and backwaters were alive with the sounds of dynamic society. For the next 3,000 years mound building became an obsession with the native peoples of eastern North America. Around the time of Christ, Ohio's Hopewell culture moved thousands of tons of earth to build giant geometric earthworks in the forms of squares, circles, and octagons. Dwarfing England's Stonehenge, they were also calendars and observatories for some of the world's most skilled astronomers. Visit the Serpent Mound, the Marching Bears of Iowa's Effigy Mounds, and giant earthen birds in Wisconsin. Uncover the magnificent cities of the Mississippians of 1,000 years ago. Illinois' Cahokia was larger than London or Paris! Moundville, Alabama was the ancient Atlanta of the South! In Florida, towering temple mounds overlooked turquoise waters. Out West, spectacular scenery is the background for exploring cliff dwellings and Pueblo towns, such as Lost City in Nevada, Mesa Verde, Bandelier, Wupatki, and Canyon de Chelly. From the desert dwellers of the Mojave to Wyoming's Medicine Wheel and the defiant resourceful tribes of the Northern Plains. (cont.)

**FILM SERIES 2015**  
(Cont.)

uncover our hidden history while Rediscovering Ancient America. All films begin at 7PM at our present location, the J. R. Arnold High School auditorium, 550 Alf Coleman Road, Panama City Beach. As you may know this is our only fund raising activity for our local chapter. We rely on this income to fund all our birding and conservation efforts. Sponsorship donations provide a major portion of the income for us to present these films. I encourage Bay County Audubon members to support us by attending the film presentations. They are interesting and very entertaining. Hope to see you there. If you are unable to attend, I urge you to purchase at least one season ticket this year as a way of helping your local chapter. Just fill out the information below, enclose your check, and mail it to:

Bay County Audubon Society, P.O. Box 1182, Panama City, FL 32402. We will send you tickets by return mail.

No. of season tickets \_\_\_ x \$25.00 per ticket= \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**FILM SERIES SPONSORS 2015**

Bay County Audubon extends our deepest gratitude to our wonderful sponsors for the 2015 film series.

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**AMENDMENT 1 PASSES!**  
By Ron Houser

By the time you read this you are aware of the Nov. 4 election results. Amendment 1 was the only one of 3 proposed constitutional amendments that got at least 60% of the votes to pass and we did it with 75%. Adequate funding for conservation purposes seems assured for the next 20 years. Of course this is a big victory for our state, our citizens and future generations that all love our natural lands, wildlife and clean water. Volunteers who contributed their time, resources and money for this campaign can rightly feel proud of what they have done. Thanks go to our entire local Legacy Volunteer group who helped. These were members of various groups in our area, including BCAS, Bay Co. Conservancy, Fla. Trail Assn., Sweetbay chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society and other groups who conducted their own efforts. Gathering the necessary petition signatures was the first victory, then educating Floridians about the amendment and getting them to vote for it was the next big accomplishment. But before we can sit back and relax we still have work to do. The big question now is: Exactly how do we go about putting this mandate into motion? Setting up the daunting process of buying, managing and restoring lands and waterways and all the other provisions will not be easy but it will be necessary to work with our legislators and other officials to get their help. Details about how to do this are being drawn up but undoubtedly we will need your help in the months to come.

**MEMBER INPUT NEEDED, PLEASE!!!**  
By Wendy Hunsicker, Merchandise Chair

This message is to all our members who may be interested in making suggestions regarding our BCAS merchandise. There is remaining inventory of beautiful patches (\$5 each) to be worn on shirts, jackets, hats, visors - you name it. There are note cards and envelopes with the BCAS logo (packet of 10 each for \$5). Also, inscribed pens (\$4). Only one last medium, gray T-Shirt is still available for \$10, so buy it now.

Here is the Question: Would you like to have items to promote our great chapter and proudly show you are an active member and caring birder? Maybe some fall weather hoodies would be of interest? If so, please contact me with any ideas of merchandise you would like to have available and together we can make it happen!

Please let me hear from you - all comments are welcome and we look forward to seeing you at the January 13th member meeting.

Contact: Wendy - phone 258-3442 or e-mail wendy@handleit.com

**JAN. MEMBERSHIP MTG. PROGRAM**  
By Neil Lamb

**Birding in New South Wales, Australia.** Neil Lamb, a lifetime Audubon member and birding enthusiast, takes us on a driving tour of eastern Australia. From Sydney north to Coffs Harbor and then through the Hunter Valley vineyards and across the Great Dividing Range to the Blue Mountains, you will see some wonderful countryside, colorful birds, and the bed & breakfast retreats where Neil and Susan enjoyed the local life. Neil will show some videos of the kangaroos that greeted him in the early dawn walks on the huge Oakhampton Homestead, a working sheep and cattle property. Then a slide show of endemic Aussie birds and scenery will leave you ready to make your own trip "down under".



Masked Lapwing



Pied Currawong

**GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT**

The annual worldwide Great Backyard Bird Count will be from Feb 13 -16, 2015. If you would like to participate, see details at [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org).

**BCAS BACKYARD BIRD LIST**

Each year members of the BCAS are encouraged to participate in the annual BCAS Backyard Bird List. The rules are simple, from Jan 1<sup>st</sup> thru Dec 31<sup>st</sup>, just keep a list of bird species you see or hear in (or from) your backyard. You may also choose another location like a local park. Send your results to Jim Miller at [jmiller0954@comcast.net](mailto:jmiller0954@comcast.net)