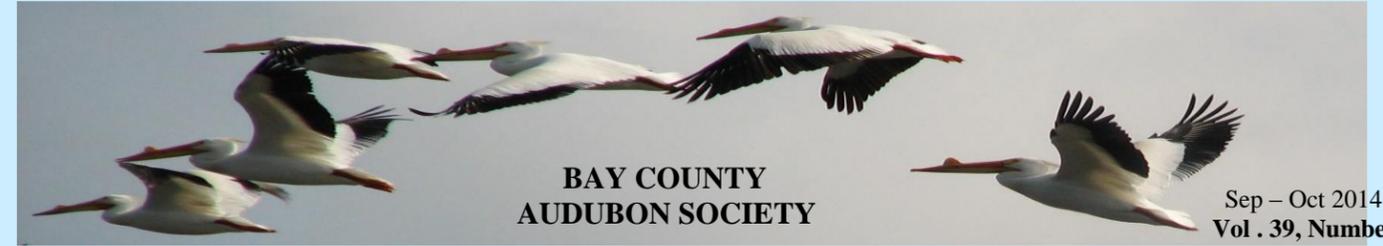




Bay County Audubon Society
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Panama City, Florida 32402

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CONSERVATION CHRONICLE



**BAY COUNTY
 AUDUBON SOCIETY**

Sep – Oct 2014
 Vol . 39, Number 1

CURRENT OCCUPANT OR

This newsletter is published 5 times each year: Jan., Mar., May, Sept., and Nov. -SAVE THIS ISSUE UNTIL Nov, 2014
 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

President	Mary Jo Capra	233-1313
Vice President	Fred Borg	271-2674
Treasurer	Neil Lamb	265-0646
Recording Sec	Robin Shader	522-2109
Corresponding Sec	Debbie Greiner	215-3580
Bald Eagle Stamp	Candis Harbison	381-7500
Bird Records	Richard Ingram	871-1736
CBC	Raya Pruner/Marvin Friel	233-5110
Conservation	Norm Capra	233-1313
Education	Susan Llorca	249-2862
Field Trips	Ron Houser	763-7485
Rare Bird Alert	Tony Menart	234-8042
Film Series	Jeff Palgut	763-4415
Historian	Beth Miller	872-7080
Hospitality & Merchandise	Wendy Hunsicker	258-3442
Inventory	John Donlon	
Laidlaw Preserve	Dawn Barone & Neil Lamb	258-7927/265-0646
Membership	Diane Houser	763-7485
Memorials	Ann Ingram	871-1736
Newsletter Editor	Jim Miller	872-7080
Outreach Speakers	Ron Houser & Neil Lamb	763-7485/265-0646
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 May 2014 – Aug 2014

Paul Winterman, Roy Newton, Judy Stevens, Helen Longo, Margaret Walker, Betty Foster-Hollon, James William Muller, Ruth Windholtz, Linda Bermes, W.G. Harrison, Julie W. Wingler, Rowlett Bryant, Nancy Webster, Max Fretwell, C.A. Sermarini, Seamus Alsford, Barb MacLaren, Robert Flora, Sandra Pierce, Clayton Grady, Jane M. Burt, Pamela Pichard, and Katrina Blevins

WELCOME BACK TO BCAS

Janet Gladis, Michelle Putnam, Sharon Rose, Mary New, Nancy Oconnor, Mark and Linda Hebb, Ann Ake, and Parry J. Knauss.

We look forward to seeing you at our **BCAS meeting on Monday, Sep 8, 2014, 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.

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 (C4ZE200Z) (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

CALENDER OF EVENTS

PROGRAMS

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

Monday, Sep 8, 2014 John McKenzie, an Environmental Specialist with the Florida Park Service, will present **“Habitat Improvement Through Prescribed Burning.”**

Monday, Oct 13, 2014 BCAS members Ron Houser and Candis Harbison will present **“Water Rights, Clean Water, and Amendment 1.”**

NEW MEETING LOCATION!!!!!!!

IMPORTANT NOTICE – Starting with our first membership meeting of the fall on Monday, Sep 8, 2014, **all** of our BCAS Membership Meetings will be held in our **new location, the Science & Discovery Center of Northwest Florida**, located at 308 Airport Road, Panama City.

FIELD TRIPS

Saturday, September 13. PCB Conservation Park Beginner Bird Walk. 7:30am. We will explore an area of the park we haven’t seen yet, led by Dale Colby. Bring your binoculars and something to drink. Loaner binoculars will be available.

Saturday, October 18. Port St. Joe Area
 We will make a variety of stops in the Port St. Joe area and hopefully see a variety of bird species. Meet at the mall under the theater sign by Starbuck’s at 6:45am for a 7:00 departure. We will stop by the old Bagel Maker on Tyndall Pkwy to pick up those who live in that area, at 7:15. Bring the usual birding gear and plenty of water and snacks. We will probably eat lunch at a local restaurant in Port St. Joe.

PRESIDENT’S CHAT

By Mary Jo Capra

This year promises to be a great year of programs and activities. I want to encourage all of our members to participate as much as possible this year. More participation will make for a more enjoyable experience for all our members.

Our big news is the move of our meeting place to the Science and Discovery Center of Northwest Florida. We are looking forward to a mutually beneficial relationship between Bay County Audubon Society and the Science and Discovery Center of Northwest Florida. A big thank your to our past co-presidents, Neil Lamb and Louisa Taylor for initiating the move.

Our vice-president, Fred Borg, has scheduled a variety of programs that promise to be of interest to all, from conservation management to birding adventures. Ron Houser, our field trip chair, has lined up a nice variety of field trips for the year including two overnight trips and a biking trip. If you have not been on a field trip before, our first field trip of the year to Conservation Park in Panama City Beach would be a great place to start.

Our number one conservation goals for this year is the support of the Florida’s Water and Land Legacy, which will establish a lasting source of funding for the purchase of environmentally sensitive land and waterway in Florida. By voting “yes” and encouraging others to vote “yes” on amendment number 1 on the November 4 ballot, we can accomplish this goal. We have many other conservation goals for the year including closely monitoring and actively participating in the RESTORE process in Bay County, and educating the membership and public on the effects of climate and habitat change on the environment.

**COMPLETE LIST OF ACTIVITIES
SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2014**

SEPTEMBER

- 8- BCAS Membership Meeting 7:00 PM
- 9- Restore Act Meeting 1:30 PM
- 13- Panama City Beach Conservation Park Bird Walk-Field Trip 7:30 AM
- 20- Lake Powell /Camp Helen Coastal Clean-up Day 8:00 AM
- 27- Camp Helen Species Survey 6:00AM
- St Joseph State Park Appreciation Day 1:00PM
- 29- BCAS Board Meeting 7:00PM

OCTOBER

- 4- Bay Day St Joe Buffer Preserve
- 11- Laidlaw Work Day
- 13- BCAS Membership Meeting 7:00 PM
- 14- Restore Act Meeting 1:30 PM
- 17- Audubon Assembly-Hutchinson Island
- 18- Audubon Assembly- Hutchinson Island
- St Joe area Field Trip
- 25- Camp Helen Species Survey 6:00AM
- 27- BCAS Board Meeting 7:00PM

**CONSERVATION NOTES
By Norm Capra**

A lot has been going on in the conservation arena this summer. The most exciting event, and most likely the subject of a separate article, was the great turnout for the Wildlife Corridors film. The showing was August 8th and over 300 attended the film and subsequent discussion. A debt of gratitude is owed to the Jelks Foundation for spearheading this effort. Passage of Amendment one is a top priority of the Conservation Committee and we will continue to seek out opportunities to advocate for passage right up to voting day. If you have any ideas about activities that can help, please share them with us.

The Restore Act Advisory committee is making good progress toward developing an application process for interested parties to apply for funds from the Trans Ocean settlement allocated to Bay County. Project proposals must address one or more of the following categories; economic development, environmental restoration, or public infrastructure. Bay County received \$6.2 million from the settlement.

On September 20th, the Lake Powell Community Alliance is hosting the Ocean Conservancy Cleanup Day. BCAS, Friends of Camp Helen and other groups will be participating. Come out with family and friends and lend a hand. The Cleanup will run from 8-12 with activities to follow. You don't have to commit for the full time, every "litter" bit counts. This is a great opportunity to teach kids and grandkids the importance of keeping the environment clean.

In its Summer Planning meeting, the BCAS board approved a number of conservation-oriented goals that will unfold as we go into the next year. Among the issues of concern are: wildflower management in county and city roadways and airboat damage to marsh and sea grasses. Of course we will continue our stewardship of Laidlaw and Parker Preserve. National Audubon is going to make an important announcement about its major conservation initiative for the coming year. Mark your calendar for September 9th for the press release.

**VOTE "YES" ON AMENDMENT ONE
By Ron Houser**

The November elections are drawing near. At that time, Florida voters will be presented with a choice of several constitutional amendments. From an environmental standpoint, the most important one is **Amendment 1, the Water and Land Legacy** amendment.

Local Audubon members and other concerned activists have been hard at work for almost 2 years helping get enough signed petitions to place it on the ballot, with success.

As you read this, we will have seen Elam Stolfus' film Florida Wildlife Corridor Expedition at the Martin Theater on August 8. A big part of this event was to publicize the need for passing this important amendment. If passed by at least 60% of voters, the funding to protect, acquire and maintain our environmentally sensitive areas will be restored back to the way it was until 5 years ago. At that time the legislature diverted 97.5% of the money going into the Water and Land Trust Fund, which funded programs like Florida Forever and Preservation 2000. This money will again come from a portion (33%) of documentary stamp revenue. There are no other sources of funds and no new taxes, despite what critics say. No bonds will be issued. New lands and waters bought with these funds will be open to the public for recreational activities, including hunting, fishing, hiking and other passive uses. Our most important resource, clean water, will be protected. This is especially important since the Florida Legislature failed to pass a springs protection bill this past session. There will finally be enough money to maintain the lands we already have and continue programs such as prescribed burning and exotic plant control. Please talk to as many people as you can between now and November to educate them about the amendment. Even though a recent poll found that 78% of people were in favor of it, there will be those who will spread misinformation to try to change people's minds.

**LIDLAW WORKDAY
By Dawn Barone**

Volunteers Needed at the Laidlaw Preserve. Our first work day of the season will be October 11 and we have a walkway building project over the main trail to the pond. There will also be plenty of other trail cleaning opportunities as well. If you are interested in being on the Laidlaw work day email list, please send a message to Dawn at dcbarone@gmail.com. Tentative work days this season: 10/11, 1/31, 3/7 & 5/9. Laidlaw is a special treasure that is in our care, come and enjoy!



Tony, Ron, Neil & Jim preparing to install a wood duck box during a previous workday, just one of many different projects accomplished on workdays.

**HOW TO RECEIVE YOUR
NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL**

Dear Members,

If you would like to go paperless and receive your Bay County Audubon Society Newsletter by email instead of a paper copy, just email us at bcas09@aol.com

Be sure to give us your name and the email address you would like for us to use to send your newsletter.

BCAS does not share our members email addresses with any other organization.