

MAR-APRIL 2019

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Conservation Through Education

The Newsletter of the Clearwater Audubon Society Vol. 87 No. 1

# Wing Beat

## *Spend World Wildlife Day with us.*

Clearwater Audubon Society's Wild Raptor Sanctuary, inside of Moccasin Lake Nature Park, will be celebrating the Miracle of Migration on World Wildlife Day (March 3). Please join us! From 1PM- 3PM we will be sharing special time with our avian ambassadors, a 1.5 year old Peregrine Falcon, and an adult Swallow-tailed Kite.

There will also be a corresponding presentation discussing migratory flyways, climate impacts, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Audubon's 5 Conservation Strategies and Audubon's Plants for Birds. Holley Short will be discussing Shorebird Migration at 1PM, and the Girl Scouts will be there to talk about the dangers of rodenticide on non-target species and to our water supply.

Moccasin Lake Nature Park is open from 10AM-5PM for enjoyment of the other sanctuary residents, native plant gardens, butterfly garden, turtle pond, bird blind, and trails.



**WORLD  
WILDLIFE DAY  
3 MARCH**

## **STEWARD TRAINING >>> *Holley Short, FL Audubon***

### *Come join us for an in-person training session for the 2019 nesting season!*

3 Rooker Island, managed by Honeymoon Island park staff, has hosted nesting shorebird and seabird species over many years, including Black Skimmers, Least Terns, American Oystercatchers, Caspian Terns, and thousands of Laughing Gull. The island is small, and the nesting birds take up most of it! A small area is closed to the public in order to allow the nesting species and their chicks to remain undisturbed. The island also hosts multiple nonbreeding species, including Piping Plovers and Red Knots during spring and fall migrations. Bird stewards are stationed near this closed area to provide outreach and keep watch.

Dan Larremore of Honeymoon Island State Park will lead the presentation with an overview of the island and its history. Holley Short of Audubon Florida will follow-up with stewardship guidelines and the "how-to's" of outreach. Volunteers will also be able to meet the new Audubon Florida stewardship coordinator. The following topics include, but are not limited to ...

- proactively educating & engaging the public
- potential disturbances to nesting
- important contacts
- monitoring & data collection

Because we will be stewarding on State Park property, all volunteers must complete new volunteer paperwork. Please visit <http://clearwateraudubonsociety.org/conservation.html> and scroll down to "How to Become a Bird Steward". Follow the instructions listed.

For those interested in attending, the parking fee will be waived.

This bird stewardship training will be specific to the needs at 3 Rooker Island. You can also find other trainings under the Events tab on the [Tampa Bay Area Bird Stewards](#) page. The training will be led by Dan Larremore of HISP on April 12<sup>th</sup> at 2PM in the Honeymoon Island State Park Nature Center.

If you have any questions, please feel free to post to this page or contact Holley Short (Project Manager) at [hshort@audubon.org](mailto:hshort@audubon.org). We hope to see you there!

# CLEARWATER AUDUBON SOCIETY BOARD

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## Clearwater Audubon Society

<http://clearwateraudubonsociety.org/>

Supporting our community since 1959 Our Motto: Conservation through Education

For more information call us at 727-442-9140

We represent Audubon Society members in Northern Pinellas County and provide services to all who are interested: free local field trips with expert birders; inexpensive extended field trips within the US and to other locales, free monthly programs, volunteer & networking opportunities within the local conservation community; scholarships to local summer camps and speakers for a variety of classrooms and groups.

## Past Issue of Wing Beat

*click issue to view*

JAN-FEB 2019  
in this issue >>>

Why I'm a Birder  
FSA News Partner Spotlight  
Watching Penguins & Climate News  
Upcoming Field Trips - Plan Ahead!  
President's Message  
Christmas Bird Count  
Birding Festivals Galore!



Conservation Through Education The Newsletter of the Clearwater Audubon Society Vol. 86 No. 1

# Wing Beat

## CHECKLIST RESOLUTION

New Year = New Birding Goals. Take Inspiration from others:

**Why I'm a Birder**  
Take flight with Audubon

**Mya-Rose Craig (Birdgirl)**

This early birder wants to be the next David Attenborough, but not before she sees 5,400 birds.



**J. Drew Lanham**

For ornithologist Drew Lanham, it started with the (in)ability to fly.



Read their stories (you can click their name or photo) and more here: <https://www.audubon.org/na/why-im-birder>

## Membership

[Membership Application](#)

## Monthly Meetings

October – May

The first Monday of each month at [Moccasin Lake Nature Park](#):

Meet and Greet @ 6:30PM

Public Program @ 7:00PM

(Unless otherwise noted)

## [Pinellas County Birding Checklist](#)

JOIN US FOR OUR NEXT MEETING  
First Monday of the Month unless otherwise noted.



# Trip to Eastern Washington

>>> *Madeleine Bohrer*

Did someone ask “Would you like to travel to Eastern Washington State an hour south of the Canadian border in January”? Did eleven people say “Yes!”? Of course!



Our Floridian blood can handle it with enough layers of clothing and it was well worth it!

There is something about Washington that makes us want to return there again and again. For several of us, this was not our first trip to the state. It doesn't take long to leave the airport and city lights and bustle behind to find yourself in a quiet, peaceful world where the past seems to remain in the present. Old barns festooned with logging paraphernalia... Antique farm equipment laid to rest in a carport... Old, one-street mining towns like Chesaw where the general store and saloon are the center focus for residents and wood stoves burn behind decorative hearth grates... Miles of golden stalks of grain waiting in the snow for spring renewal... Huge, monolithic basalt rocks looming on the plateaus...

This is the backdrop for the most beautiful, unique birdlife. Imagine California Quails pecking in the ice and snow with a lone Chukar nearby. How about a Golden Eagle perched high in a treetop? Every roadside electric pole seemed to have Rough-legged Hawks keeping watch from above. The deep blue and black of the Stellar's Jays were stunning against the pines. Horned Larks by the dozens fed in the fields.

(cont.)      Photos by Madeleine Bohrer & Dale Goebel



Red Crossbill (fem)



Northern Saw Whet Owl



Stellar's Jay



Tundra Swans



Sharp-tailed Grouse



Northern Pigmy Owl

Another special sight was a flock of thousands of Snow Geese flying in multiple V's far above us—just to hear their muted honks in the morning mist was mystical. Many fields were covered with Trumpeter and Tundra Swans quietly preening in the chilled air.

We passed one bare tree with a half dozen Sharp-tailed Grouse! You could not get enough of looking at the pattern on their wings and face. They have beautiful, feathered legs too. As were many of the birds on this trip, this was such a lucky find.

Purple and House Finches, Red Crossbills, Pigmy Nuthatches, Magpies, Varied Thrush, Pacific Wren---all colored the winter landscape. Seeing them was a dream come true. At the end of one day we found a Northern Pigmy Owl perched on a post. Suddenly, it swooped down to some rocks below and came back up with a vole. As it sat upon its catch, you could see the feathers on the back of its head that look like eyes! Then, when it turned its head, two alert, golden real eyes stared back at the staring people.

Another day's end brought us to a quiet park where two Great Horned Owls were calling each other from different trees. It took forever to spot them! Then, suddenly the female burst from her tree to perch on a small, exposed branch nearby and the male quickly followed to meet and mate. Birdlife in action is so precious to witness.

(cont.)

Not far from these trees we found two slumbering Northern Saw-whet Owls who occasionally lifted an eyelid to be sure all was well... They are slightly larger than the Pigmy Owl and we couldn't believe our good fortune to see them.

Our group included superb birders, excellent photographers, and old and new friends. Shep Thorp, a Seattle veterinarian was our flawless, dedicated guide. Thank you to Dale Goebel for finding him and organizing the trip. There is no doubt that if we were asked again to go, we would answer a resounding "Yes!" Maybe you will too.



## *President's Message*

We are so pleased to have had a successful opening celebration at Moccasin Lake Nature Park. It is heartwarming to see so many people enjoying this very special place. My favorite recent story is about a woman who was visiting from Ohio with her 9 week old baby. They were tired of the cold weather and doing all of their walking at Costco, so they headed to Florida. What a wonderful mother she was! She showed the baby every bird in the park! I was amused when they stopped to observe our bald eagle, Penelope. I asked her how much the baby weighed. She replied, 12 pounds. The baby was clearly smaller than the eagle but outweighs her by several pounds!

Now that we are un-shuttered we are looking to build up our organization's 100% volunteer staff. We need a Program Coordinator, an Education Director, a Volunteer Coordinator and a Social Media Coordinator to join our Board of Directors. We are also seeking shorebird stewards, community scientists, office assistants, handymen, docents, and raptor care takers. Those interested, please email us at [cas@clearwateraudubonsociety.org](mailto:cas@clearwateraudubonsociety.org) for additional information.

Please keep an eye on our facebook page! We are providing new special events quarterly now that we have such a rocking venue! Make sure to look for our National Audubon Day Celebration and "Pigeons and Falcons, Oh My!" on Memorial Day. Our Memorial Day program will honor our veterans as we present the role of birds in war and biomimicry. The program is good for all ages. We hope to see you there.

Thank you all for your generous contributions.

Sincerely,

Barbara Walker



# SHARING BEST PRACTICES

Meichelle Long, Webmaster & Newsletter Editor

## *Working with others for significant, long-lasting change.*



### **#sustainability**

Increasingly, businesses are integrating environmental sustainability into their business strategies. Yet, sustainability is a complex topic and many firms need to form environmental partnerships to access additional resources—in the form of investments, technologies, expertise, public image, and/or political influence—to develop competitive advantage. Each type of partnership benefits from different types of resources and partner choices.

### **#respect**

When considering a partner, one must look first at their own interests or the interests and mission of their own company or organization. Does the partner's mission align in kind or have symbiosis? For example, the Native Plant Society and Audubon have are mutually beneficial, and have similar interest and members. They may share the same community of members, geographical region and influence. These are great working partnerships because they have mutual respect for the other's benefit and scope.

### **#responsibility**

Consider if you joined with Defenders of Wildlife and Sierra Club to ensure that public health and environmental issues are addressed. Each partner will expect to be included in any negotiations involved or projects managed going forward. This has great strength, but with great responsibility. These partnerships include leveraged support in the way of people-power as well as political clout, to continue to push for

sustainable management, to protect interests, provide habitat, and promote healthy economic development of local communities.

## #results

We, as humans, observe and imitate. We borrow ideas and try to improve where others may have fallen short. We sometimes just do the same thing with our own flavor or style added. When it comes down to it, it's about the impact. Have our actions made a difference? As individuals our impact is measured in moments, as many our impact is measured in momentum.

Moving forward, we should seek partnerships that strengthen us a community, challenge us to be more effective, and help ensure that we continually develop the future generation of guardians who have the passion and skills to lead environmental partnerships and projects of the future.

# LOOKING FORWARD

The City of Clearwater Makes Provisions for Environmental Education

## *The New Moccasin Lake Nature Park*

If you were not able to attend the Re-Grand Opening of MLNP on February 2nd, you may not know about the changes the City of Clearwater has afforded the park.

The \$935,000 project – \$200,000 of which came from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Land and Water Conservation – provided a stunning revitalization of buildings, native plants and mews for the Wild Raptor Sanctuary.

According to Lamb, the Interpretive Center (shown below)– aka nature center – is at the hub of the park's redesign. Natalie Lamb, volunteer specialist with Clearwater Parks and Recreation, spoke about the opening favorably. "We wanted an element of surprise in every area," Lamb said. "We have a new butterfly garden, a new pavilion, and an outside patio where people can sit and have lunch, and we've even added rocking chairs. I can envision people sitting with their books or with their grandkids", Natalie Lamb remarked to reporters.



As you may be aware, Barbara Walker and her team of volunteers educate the public about the importance of wildlife and habitat conservation with the help of our non-releasable birds at MLNP. She was at the park throughout the construction processes and on hand for the ribbon cutting.

“We had a great day!” begins Barb. “Sometimes we were all alone in the park. I will never forget how it felt to have this deep of a connection with a place! The native plants were stunning, and such a diverse group of guests. We had Audubon Florida's Holley Short connecting with our awesome Girl Scouts. Thanks to Jen Boswell, Jilian Boswell, Amelia Walton and Maddie Walton from Palm Harbor Troop 1019. Way to go on the rodenticide campaign! We even had a ‘plants for birds’ exhibit! Our Youth Ambassadors set a tremendous example and it was great to once again follow in Joan Brigham's footsteps. We had such a nice representation from our board; John Hood, Paul Trunk, Stephanie Anderson, Barbara and Erich Glanz, and Stephanie Hall. We were able to see our friends from Highland Lakes and wait until I tell you what they are offering! I could go on and on. We had a great day. It was EPIC!”



L->R: Chris Fischetti, Sean Schrader, Hannah Byrne, Mike Duggan, Lou Peterson, Barb Walker, Stephanie Anderson, Alana Hitchingham, Chris Hitchingham, Penny Bopp, Debbie Low.



Lani Walker & Chris Fischetti



Stephanie Anderson

Discover the many educational programs that the Wild Raptor Sanctuary offers by stopping by Moccasin Lake Nature Park. You can also [Like](#) us on Facebook to view events.

# BUILDING COMMUNITY

New Committees with Clearwater Audubon offer opportunity for members to share their talents

## *What you do matters.*

Many of us shop around for the best price on groceries, the best school for our kids and even for the softest bed for our new puppy. You are a little more discriminating when it comes to the types of organizations you want to be involved with and we appreciate that. Organizations are seeking particular skillsets from the individuals that volunteer with them, and you have talents that lend yourself to making an impact. We should get together. We know that your time is valuable and want that time to be well spent.

**Clearwater Audubon is looking for volunteers.** There are many areas where your talents can be useful. Browse the list below and feel free to contact a point-person for more information or ask at one of our monthly meetings how to become involved. Volunteers are needed seasonally for some areas and have year-round availability for other areas. Help when you can where you can. We will provide the training and the support to help you to help Clearwater Audubon. What you do matters- it matters to us.



NEED	SKILL	TIME	CONTACT
Nature Center	organized, social, office	Wed-Fri 8-12	Barb Walker
Event planning	creative, organized, social, planner	with committee	Barb Walker
Birds of Prey	Assist others with maintaining mews and supplies for birds' needs	Wed-Fri 8-12	Barb Walker
Shorebird Stewards	birding, boating, social, walking on beach	varies	John Hood
Education Committee	organized, like kids, crafts, creative, handy	with committee	Barb Walker or Barbara Glanz
CAS table rep.	social, like kids, give brochures	@Ft. D: 3/17, 3/31 &/or 4/7 Noon- 3 pm @ Honeymoon: 4/13-14 11- 5 pm @MLNP 4/27 10 -4 pm	Barb Walker or Nancy Dunne

## FEATURED FIELD TRIP >>> Purple Martins Brunch

May 4th Purple Martins Nesting Condos - Brunch  
Beautiful rolling hills of Brooksville with E. Bluebirds, E. Kingbirds, Red-headed Woodpeckers, E. Meadowlarks, and the main event - nesting Purple Martins.  
Meet at the Walgreens at the corner of US19 and Curlew Rd. on the SW corner at 7:00AM.  
Leader - Dale Goebel (727) 510-1462.



*Consider yourself officially invited!*

*Save the Date*

**Potluck in the Park**  
*March 9th, 11am - 2pm*  
*Shelter 10*

*This is a Clearwater Audubon Society Event at John Chesnut Park*

Bring any size dish with list of ingredients. We will provide the beverages.  
Do you have a re-useable table setting? Great! Bring it.  
Please attend even if you cannot bring a dish.



**Sat. April 13th & 14th,  
2019 - 11 a.m. to 5:00 p.m**

\*Fees: An \$8.00 donation per vehicle at the gate, includes free parking. - Up to 8 people per vehicle.

\*Pet Friendly: Pets permitted on 6' hand-held leash.

\*Live music both days

\*Kids crafts & activities with new seine netting!

\*Live Animals and Birds of Prey presentations, nature education and history displays

\*Great food & beverages, including beer & wine

\*Representatives from local parks & facilities

\*Located in the shady picnic area next to the beach & the wooded hiking trails

## **Moccasin Lake Earth Day Festival slated for April 27<sup>th</sup>, 10 AM- 4PM.**

The free festival is sponsored by the city of Clearwater. Celebrate this very special day about learning how to better protect the environment. This family-friendly event features workshops, presentations, music, vendors, food and fun. Discover what plants are best to have to attract native wildlife in your yard, meet our birds of prey and take a walk along the scenic trail to Moccasin Lake.



# Organizations We Support



[Audubon of Florida](#)



[St. Petersburg Audubon Society](#)



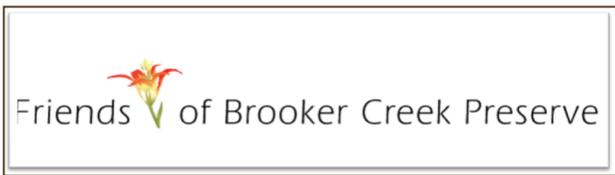
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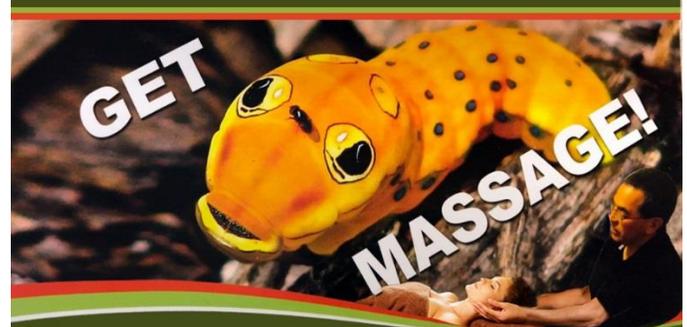
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