

AUDUBON ACADEMY 2009

WORKSHOPS AND SPEAKERS

KEYNOTE ADDRESS: INSPIRING THE POWER OF GRASSROOTS CONSERVATION POLICY

Eric Draper, AOF Policy Director, Tallahassee Office

AUDUBON AT HOME

Rob Fergus, Sr. Scientist, NAS Sr. Scientist, Audubon At Home will lead a discussion about how chapters can inspire their communities to reduce their carbon impact and achieve water conservation through landscaping choices while creating, preserving, and restoring habitat for birds and wildlife.

BUNTINGS, LARKS AND WOODPECKERS: OPPORTUNITIES FOR AUDUBON CHAPTERS IN BIRD CONSERVATION

John Ogden, Director of Bird Conservation, Audubon of Florida

SOLAR POWER TO THE PEOPLE

Sarah Ridley, Audubon of Florida, and **Pete Johnson**, Climate Action Chair, Duval Audubon, Leaders

An interactive and informative group activity designed to bring the concept of using solar energy to reality for the average person. We will address concerns such as feasibility, insurance, liability, cost, payback time, net-metering, tax breaks, government incentives, and likely future opportunities.

CONSERVATION ON A LARGER SCALE

Charles Lee, Director of Advocacy, Audubon of Florida will lead a discussion geared to help chapters respond to proposed large-scale developments (DRI's), as well as getting ahead of the game by becoming involved in the comprehensive planning process in their city or county. Chapter leaders will share their successful experiences with the process.

E-BIRD

Chuck Geanangel, Lake Region Audubon, will lead this workshop designed to enhance and enrich your birding experience with eBird, a real-time, online checklist program from National Audubon and Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. You will enroll online at the FFA Center's technology lab, work through your first checklist and print out the report. Then you will explore the many options available to you, the user.

STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR AUDUBON CHAPTERS

Public lands acquired through Florida Forever, CARL funds, water management lands, the huge state park system, and Important Bird Areas identified by Audubon all need citizen support. Most are not adequately managed. Audubon chapters can provide expertise, education, a supportive constituency, and a partnership that land managers need for staffing and management. Every chapter has nearby public lands in need of management assistance. Workshop leader **Julie Wraithmell**, Audubon of FL Wildlife Policy Coordinator, through her experience as coordinator of the Great FL Birding Trail and Fish & Wildlife Commission educator, has extensive knowledge of FL public lands.

CHANGING CULTURAL VIEWS OF NATIVE LANDSCAPING

David Cox, Ph.D., and Pelican Island Audubon activist, has direct experience with local codes

and culture that discriminate against native plant landscaping. His experience in Indian River County has given him some insights into how to turn such a situation around to use "green laws" to promote native and water wise landscaping in new development.

PLANT A CARBON SINK

Planting trees is an easy and effective way to offset your carbon footprint while providing bird habitat. **Nancy and Bill Bissett**, Florida native plant growers and restoration specialists, will tell us more about the advantages of planting natives, and inspire us to make better landscaping choices. They will provide native plants for sale on Saturday afternoon and Sunday mornings.

GRANT-WRITING KNOW-HOW

Michele Frankel, Audubon of Florida grant specialist (and ornithologist), will lend her expertise in finding, evaluating, and writing grants to fund your chapter's conservation and education projects. Learn how you can translate a conservation concern into a project that could qualify for available grants.

ESTABLISHING WILDFLOWER ROADS

Chapters can encourage their counties to adopt mowing and maintenance practices that allow wildflowers to proliferate, reduce mowing costs, and protect roadside habitats. This workshop will help chapters know how to work with their counties, what results they might expect, and what resources are available to institute new plantings.

Terry Zinn, wildflower farmer, works with the State of FL to provide roadside habitats. Terry will provide all participants with wildflower seed packets. **Louisa Taylor**, of Bay County Audubon, accomplished a reduced wildflower mowing project with a coalition of Audubon, women's and garden clubs. Louisa will provide handouts describing the plan and activities undertaken.

DOES YOUR CHAPTER NEED A MAKEOVER?

Stuart Langton, Ph.D, Sr. Fellow of the Florida Conflict Resolution Consortium at Florida State University, will lead this workshop to rejuvenate and inspire our chapters to become more effective voices for conservation in our communities. As chapter volunteers, finding personal satisfaction and fulfillment in our work is essential. How can your chapter become a more dynamic, effective voice in your community while providing rewarding experiences and personal satisfaction for our volunteer leaders? Dr. Langton's expertise lies in organizational and community development, citizen participation, and non-profit leadership and management. Find some answers and ideas from Dr. Langton to move your chapter forward.