



THE MARSLANDER
 NEWSLETTER OF THE OGEECHEE AUDUBON SOCIETY
 SAVANNAH, GEORGIA
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 WWW.OGEECHEEAUDUBON.ORG

Please Join Ogeechee Audubon Society,
 Tuesday, April 19th at 7:00 PM



Field Trips

BRING BINOCULARS, HAT, SUNSCREEN, BUG SPRAY, WATER AND SNACKS
OR LUNCH FOR ALL FIELD TRIPS

Josh Jones, Horticulture Manager from **GARDEN OF THE COASTAL PLAIN AT GA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY** will be presenting a program about native plants that attract Butterflies, Hummingbirds and other wildlife. Carolyn Altman, who previously presented a program for us, will also come with Josh.

Again we will have Scott Thompson from **THOMPSON GARDENS** who is knowledgeable about native and hard to get plants. Scott will bring plants to sell and will also take orders ahead of time.

(email: plantguy@bulloch.net or [912-839-2164](tel:912-839-2164))

We meet at the First Presbyterian Church, 520 E. Washington Ave, Savannah. The program is free and open to the public. For more information call Beth Roth [912-658-6136](tel:912-658-6136)

ANNUAL ELECTIONS COMING IN APRIL

Ogeechee Audubon will hold its annual election of officers (President, VP, Secretary and Treasurer) at our regularly scheduled bimonthly meeting on Tuesday, April 19 at 7 p.m. All members of Ogeechee Audubon may vote in the election and may nominate candidates. Please send the names of nominees in advance of the meeting to Dot Bambach at dotbam@bellsouth.net or via phone at [912-598-3764](tel:912-598-3764).

Ogeechee Audubon Mission

Ogeechee Audubon educates adults and children about birds, wildlife, and the environment. We provide opportunities to enjoy the world around us, and advocate for responsible public policy and legislation for the conservation of our natural resources.

2015-2016 Officers and Board Members

President	Dot Bambach	912-598-3764
Vice President	Leslie Weichsel	914-466-9689
Secretary	Mary Lambright	912-257-5703
Treasurer	Sandy Beasley	912-354-6475
Field Trips	Mary Sweeny-Reeves	912-844-8988
Programs	Beth Roth	912-598-1980
ARK Coordinator/Conservation	Dot Bambach	912-598-3764
Membership	Debbie Bennett	912-897-1601
Webmaster	Loran Bruce	912-667-3024
Newsletter	Leslie Weichsel	914-466-9689
Publicity	Larry Lynch, MD	912-656-1434
Education	Vacant	

Board Members: Regi Sonnen; James Fleullan; Diana Churchill

SAT, APR 2: Lake Mayer Community Park. We will be looking for ducks, sparrows, and migrating songbirds. We never know what we will see at this small lake in the middle of Savannah. Meet at the left side of the main parking lot at **8am**. Leader: Larry Carlile, L.carlile259@comcast.net or 912-224-1796.

Fridays, April 8, 15, 22 & 29th:

Migratory Bird Walks in Forsyth Park

Meet by the fountain at the north end of Forsyth Park at 7:45 am. We will wander the park in search of migratory warblers, vireos, tanagers, buntings, flycatchers and more. Leader: Diana Churchill 912-604-7539 or dichurchbirds@gmail.com.



Sun, APR 24: Webb Wildlife Management Area S.C. looking for spring migrants, red-cockaded woodpeckers, and Bachman's Sparrows and more. Meet to carpool at Laurel Hill Wildlife Drive entrance at 7 am or at entrance to Webb WMA at 8am. Leader: Steve Wagner sjwgnr@hotmail.com

Sat, MAY 14: Savannah Wildlife Refuge field trip for International Migratory Bird Day. Meet at Laurel Hill Wildlife Dr at 8 am Leader: Steve Wagner sjwgnr@hotmail.com

All field trips are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted!



Ogeechee Audubon

Oceana Declares Victory in Protecting the Atlantic from Off-shore Drilling and Kinder Morgan petroleum pipeline thwarted

On March 15, 2016 the Obama administration made a historic move to protect the East Coast from offshore drilling. In the **newly proposed five-year program** for oil and gas development on the Outer Continental Shelf, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management removed the Atlantic Ocean for leasing from 2017 to 2022.

The proposed 210 miles of petroleum pipes across Georgia will not happen since Fulton County judge ruled the Texas company cannot use eminent domain to take property from landowners. Superior Court Judge Kimberly Ademas upheld this decision

Good News! Thank You for your support on this effort.

Ogeechee Audubon took a stand to oppose both these efforts that would have had a major impact on our coastal environment.

Beautiful Morning Birding on Onslow An Ogeechee Field Trip Report

The trees were just starting to foliate when Dot's email popped up on my screen inviting participation in a bird walk at the Onslow Island spoil site – a fabulous open vista comprised of two impoundments that attract several species of shorebird. A striking snowy egret was there to greet us upon arrival as were song and savannah sparrows and of course, our ubiquitous butter rumps.

Twenty-three avid birders, under the knowledgeable guidance of James Fleullan, enjoyed testing their ability to distinguish birdcalls despite the churning of the pulp mill directly across the river. Overhead hundreds of swallows, with here and there a flash of gnatcatcher blue among them, did their level best to clean the air of insects so we could enjoy our morning venture in relative peace. The scant water in the impoundments reflected a perfect Georgia blue sky and anyone possessing a decent camera captured some nice shots of avocets, shovelers, green-winged teal – an American widgeon! – and scaups posing on its placid surface.

Along the shoreline hundreds of sandpipers skittered seemingly at our feet. Thanks to those who brought scopes, we were given a ringside seat on the activities of long-billed dowitchers, an attractive black-necked stilt couple, and a glossy ibis foraging in the distance. The morning quickly warmed up and by ten the early chill had given way to lazy warmth.

If you make the trip to Onslow on your own keep in mind it is open only on Wednesdays. Look for the first turn off after crossing the Houlihan Bridge from Port Wentworth and park outside the gate.

By Deirdre Kindthistle

Hutchinson Island to See Birds! Another Ogeechee Field Trip Report

As I got in my car on Saturday, February 27th, I was pretty sure I had lost my sanity. It was 6:00 in the morning, pitch dark, 36 degrees, and I was going to drive one and a half hours to Hutchinson Island to see birds! But, Diana Churchill, and others, made my trip SO worthwhile!!

I can now spot a Northern Harrier gliding low over a field with V-shaped wings, a Snipe with that long bill, short legs, and compact body, and a Loggerhead Shrike sporting a black mask and hooked bill. And, I saw an Orange Crowned Warbler, that I will probably never be able to identify. But, I saw it!!

Then, I was off for more birding with Sandy Beasley. As a retired educator, she is a wonderful birding instructor for a novice like me! And, then, I just had to stop by Harris Neck Wildlife Refuge on my way home. So, twelve hours after leaving home, I returned. No, not insane. Just insanely happy! Thanks Ogeechee Audubon!!

By Frances McLean

St. Simons, Ga.



Orange-crowned warbler

Ogeechee Audubon Chapter Membership Form – 2016

New membership _____ Renewal _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (h) _____ (c) _____

e-mail* _____

* Our newsletter is delivered by e-mail

Member of National Audubon Society? Yes ___ No ___

Would you like to be notified by e-mail about upcoming meetings and events? Yes ___ No ___

Please mail this form with your check to:

**Ogeechee Audubon, att Membership, PO Box 13424,
Savannah, GA 31416**

Contributions are tax deductible.

Ogeechee Audubon-\$20.00/household _____

Includes the *Marshlander*

Senior (over 62) or Student - \$15/household _____

Includes the *Marshlander*

Joint Ogeechee & National - \$40/household _____

(new members only) Includes *Audubon and Marshlander*

Special Contribution _____

Total: _____

Ogeechee Audubon membership is based on the calendar year – January to December.

Send your *National membership* renewal directly to National when you receive notice.

*Please help us save the trees. If you receive the Newsletter by printed mail and can receive it electronically via e-mail let Debbie Bennett (mburdsal@comcast.net) know so we no longer print it, mail it and use paper unnecessarily. Audubon cares about the environment and also about you. Therefore if you have no other way to receive the Newsletter except printed mail we will be happy to send you a printed copy.