Bird Fest 2009
at
Airlie Gardens
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Free admission

Mornings full of surprises in the garden – migration has begun! Will it be a Baltimore oriole, a loggerhead shrike, a Magnolia warbler, a merlin – fall is in the air, and so is Bird Fest 2009.

Believe it or not, this is our third Bird Fest! Each year we learn more and it gets better.

Our focus for 2009 is creating bird-friendly habitat in our back yards. Learn from exhibits, hands-on activities, and guided bird and nature walks how birds and insects are interrelated and what you can do to create a place for the birds.

We’re happy that Cape Fear Woodcarvers will again be part of the celebration and demonstrate their skills at bringing wood to life in the form of birds, animals, fish, and other replicas of nature. For more details, visit www.kendact.tripod.com

You’ll enjoy some of the new things we’re bringing to the fest. Start the day with shade-grown coffee and donuts. Forgo the donuts and join us for “Yoga for the Birds” with Elizabeth Gibbs. Then move on to “Garden for the Birds” with Dr. John Taggart.

There’ll be lots of information on native plants, and experts such as Charlotte Glen, Meg Shelton, and Lara Berkely will be happy to answer your questions.

Bring the kids! We have hands-on activities. Visit www.capefearaudubon.org for more information.

An Exciting New Program . . .
CFAS is getting ready to launch a bird-friendly habitat award program. The Conservation Committee under Charley Winterbauer’s steadfast guidance, with much input from Dr. John Taggart and Dr. Jamie Rotenberg of UNCW, has put together a program that will encourage local residents to create bird-friendly habitat and reward those who already have such habitat.

The goal is to encourage use of native plants and environmentally friendly practices in backyards

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thereby providing a haven for birds, butterflies, and wildlife. For more information and to see how to apply for an award, come to Bird Fest on Saturday, September 26, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at Airlie Gardens. The committee will have a display of proposed materials. The program will likely launch in late fall after training of backyard assessors. If you have an interest, you too could apply for a short training workshop!

Migrating Baltimore Orioles enjoy native American Beautyberry (Callicarpa americana) on a stopover in a local backyard . . .

Don’t Forget to Vote . . .
Our new board and slate of officers will be voted in at the Annual Meeting at Airlie Gardens at 2 p.m. on September 26. Show your support for these hard-working volunteers and vote. It will only take a few minutes. Then they can get started on their ambitious work plan for the year.

Proposed board and officers:
Officers
President: Cary Paynter

Vice President: Andy Fairbanks
Treasurer: Dick Daniels
Secretary: Stacy Smaltz
Ex officio: Juanita Roushdy

Continuing board members
Mark Jones
Jim Nesbitt
Cary Paynter
Stacy Smaltz
Andy Wood

New board members
Kemp Burdette
Nancy Buckingham
Chuck Carmack
Matt Collogan
Charley Winterbauer

Committee chairs
Conservation: Charley Winterbauer
Education: Matt Collogan
Field Trip: Stacy Smaltz
Important Bird Areas: Andy Fairbanks
Newsletter: Juanita Roushdy
Program: Nancy Buckingham
Publicity: David Paynter
Web: open
Christmas Bird Count Compiler: Melinda Jones

Our committees are doing great work and can always use additional members. We don’t want to burn anyone out, so help is always welcome. A shared load is much lighter with many hands and minds!!

Who’s New . . .
We extend a hearty welcome to our new members:
Karen Post, Wilmington
Les and Pat Connor, Wilmington

And as always a big thank you to our renewing members, who keep us going!
Upcoming Activities
All activities and events are listed in more detail on our website www.capefearaudubon.org

Tuesday, September 22, 9 – 11 a.m. Monthly bird walk at Brunswick Town Historic Site, with Stacy Smaltz. Meet at Visitor’s Center. Contact Stacy at stacythewhistler@ec.rr.com or 910-622-5548

Saturday, September 26, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. CFAS’s third annual Bird Fest. Join us for bird walks and special activities at Airlie Gardens. Volunteers needed to help out for an hour or so. Contact Cary at dmpaynter@earthlink.net

Tuesday, October 20, 9 a.m. – 11 a.m., Monthly bird walk at Brunswick Town Historic Site, with John Ennis. Learn how to identify confusing warblers as they pass through. Meet at the Visitor’s Center. Contact John Ennis at 910-371-9729 or johnxennis@bellsouth.net

Saturday, October 24, 7 a.m. – 6 p.m. A special KAYAK outing on the Black River Preserve and Three Sisters Swamp with Stacy Smaltz and the Adventure Company. Contact Stacy at 910-622-5548 or stacythewhistler@ec.rr.com. An outfitter fee applies.

Ibis Fest 2010
CFAS and the City of Southport have agreed to go forward with Ibis Fest 2010. Next year, the festival will be shorter, two days, Friday and Saturday, May 14-15, 2010 so mark your calendars. It will include the popular river and kayak trips, field trips, and some workshops.

If you’d like to be on the committee, contact Cary Paynter at dmpaynter@earthlink.net. Sally Buchanan, last year’s Ibis Fest organizer has stepped down to help with her spouse’s campaign for Southport alderman.

We’re excited about the new direction and format of Ibis Fest. Come on board and be part of the fun!

What Are We Doing?
Work, work, work, and now the birds are here it’s play, play, play!!

The Conservation Committee has almost finished its work on the bird-friendly award program (see page 1, above).

The Program Committee is working on an excellent lineup of speakers including Kristen Rose from Cape Fear Arch and John Gerwin from the NC Museum of Natural History

The Education Committee is currently working on funding for its butterfly and dragonfly programs.

The Field Trip Committee is birding, having completed its schedule of trips for the fall!!!
Parting shots

Roseate spoonbill at Huntington Beach State Park, by Chuck Carmack.

A small piece of land shared by FIVE different species: Wood Stork, Roseate Spoonbill, Great Blue Heron, and Snowy Egret - “Share the Beach” – the lessons nature can teach us, by Chuck Carmack.

Postscript - Juanita Roushdy

It’s the middle of September and we are fortunate enough to witness one of the grandest wonders of the world – the migration south of millions of birds. If we’re lucky some of them will find their way into our back yards. We’ll smile and burst with joy that they chose our yard.

For nine years, that is what I’ve been doing here on Bald Head Island. Of course, the painted buntings steal my heart each year as they return, but so did the Green Heron as it perched one morning on the feeder! The male Scarlet Tanager, blown in by a fierce storm, sitting bedraggled, drenched, and exhausted, trying to preen itself in the shaft of sunlight that broke through the clouds. He stayed for two days.

These are fleeting memories that stay with us forever. For me, my time on Bald Head Island and in the Cape Fear Region has been full of those moments, not only with birds but with people.

Now, with the changing winds it is time for me to move on. The middle of October will find me nestled into my new home in Bremen, Maine. Yes, that’s right I’m flying north, not south!! My compass is working, and I look forward to making many new memories.

I’d like to thank all of you for the support that you have given to Cape Fear Audubon Society during my tenure. The chapter tried once before to get off the ground but didn’t quite make it, but this time, through all of you, it did. We’re airborne!

The chapter is poised to do great things. The new board is excellent and so is the new leadership. Remember always that cooperative spirit of working together for the good of everyone, much like large flocks as they migrate and take turns at the front where the wind is the most punishing!

Thank you for the memories and the friendship.

Juanita

Comments and suggestions on The Skimmer are welcome. Send to editor, Juanita Roushdy at juanitar@bellsouth.net. The Skimmer is also posted on www.capefearaudubon.org.