May 8, 2017  ❖  6:00 p.m.
Hummingbird Habitat
with Lavon Silvernell
North Indian River County Library
1001 Sebastian Blvd. (CR 512), Sebastian
Lavon Silvernell shares what you will need to do to make your yard hummingbird friendly. Native plants and other habitat needs that attract hummingbirds are also beneficial for other birds and insects. Lavon is a long-time member of the Florida Native Plant Society, Audubon Society, and before retirement, served for 12 years as Naturalist at Trout Lake Nature Center in Eustis.

May 15, 2017  ❖  7:00 p.m.
Butterflies
with Ken Gonyo
Vero Beach Community Center
2266 14th Avenue, Vero Beach
Ken's presentation will include an outline of the taxonomic relationship of butterflies, their morphological characteristics, and interesting butterfly factoids, with a Monarch migration update. Ken will also discuss how to create suitable habitat through gardening for butterflies in your yard. The presentation features a slide show of 30 or so Central Florida Butterflies representative of the various representative families as well as the native plants that serve as host to the larvae.

Florida Friendly Landscaping Seminars & Workshops
with UF/IFAS Environmental Horticulture Agent Nickie Munroe
Free seminars and workshops offered at Audubon House, 195 9th St. SE (Oslo Rd) in Vero Beach, on Wednesdays from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2017</th>
<th>Class Schedule</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 8</td>
<td>Introduction: Right Plant, Right Place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 22</td>
<td>Water Efficiently</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 5</td>
<td>Fertilize Appropriately</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 26</td>
<td>Mulch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 3</td>
<td>Attract Wildlife</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 24</td>
<td>Manage Yard Pests Responsibly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 7</td>
<td>Recycle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 21</td>
<td>Prevent Stormwater Runoff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 5</td>
<td>Protect The Waterfront</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 12</td>
<td>Rain Gardens</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The conservation and protection of Florida's water resources starts at home. Homeowners' landscaping choices can affect the health of ground and surface waters and the natural environment. The Florida Yards & Neighborhoods Homeowner program educates homeowners about how to design, install, and maintain healthy landscapes that use a minimum of water, fertilizer, and pesticides. The result? Low-cost, low-maintenance, attractive landscapes that add value to your community and reduce the chance of polluting the water supply.

Nature Summer Camp for kids
Visit PelicanIslandAudubon.org to learn about our weekly summer camp program. Our goal is to connect each camper with nature, respect, and an appreciation of conservation while increasing independence and self-esteem.
eBird lists observations as incidental if that was not your original purpose. Our purpose was birding when we decided to walk the Nature Trail at Gamble Rogers State Park but I am always open to the possibility of seeing other wildlife. The air was hot and humid after a previous night of downpours, thunder and lightning. The narrow trail meandered through dense scrub consisting of scrub oaks, mature red cedars, stands of yaupon holly and palmetto. Foot high native Maypop vines edged the path and we found several Gulf Fritillary larvae feeding on the fresh new leaves. Two people approached from the opposite direction and informed us they had seen a turtle feeding around the corner. We continued our walk and finally discovered a small gopher tortoise with a shell about the size of a salad plate. One of the smallest I had ever seen. He looked at us for a moment, ignored us and continued to feed. Nibble, swallow, nibble and swallow. We continued to watch as he moved along the edge of the trail devouring the new tender young leaves of ground hugging plants. After several minutes I noticed that he seemed to favor the basal rosette leaves of lyre leaf sage and if the flowers were low enough he would stretch his neck a little to consume those also. Blades of grass, smilax leaves or other green plants less than three inches high were also eaten but not with as much gusto as the leaves of the sage. I was amazed at how quickly he ate and the amounts of plants he consumed. After several more minutes we slipped past him. He stopped, crossed the trail and continued feeding. We saw no birds that day but had a sighting to remember.

FYI - The Gopher Tortoise Council adopted April 10th as Gopher Tortoise Day. Gopher tortoises are found in all 67 counties in Florida. This year’s 38th Annual Meeting was held January 12-15, 2017. Check out their website www.gophertoroisecouncil.org

One of the reasons birders are so drawn to this sport, in addition to the skill required in finding, identifying and obtaining a good photograph of the bird, is that one never knows when a rare bird might chance to be just where you are! It is thrilling to participate in the hunt and to observe such beauty!

Incidental observation of a different kind
by Linda Chancellor

eBird lists observations as incidental if that was not your original purpose. Our purpose was birding when we decided to walk the Nature Trail at Gamble Rogers State Park but I am always open to the possibility of seeing other wildlife. The air was hot and humid after a previous night of downpours, thunder and lightning. The narrow trail meandered through dense scrub consisting of scrub oaks, mature red cedars, stands of yaupon holly and palmetto. Foot high native Maypop vines edged the path and we found several Gulf Fritillary larvae feeding on the fresh new leaves. Two people approached from the opposite direction and informed us they had seen a turtle feeding around the corner. We continued our walk and finally discovered a small gopher tortoise with a shell about the size of a salad plate. One of the smallest I had ever seen. He looked at us for a moment, ignored us and continued...
Use Your Zip Code to Attract Brilliant Birds and Butterflies to Your Yard, and Make Indian River County and our Lagoon Great Again!

Many of us use birdfeeders to attract birds to our home. Feeding may not really help the birds, but we enjoy watching them. A more natural and better way to help birds is to grow bird- and butterfly-friendly native plants. Audubon's Native Plant database makes ecologically friendly landscaping choices a snap (https://www.audubon.org/native-plants). Using Audubon’s Plants for Birds nationwide public database, anyone can access a list of native plants that benefit their favorite local bird species just by typing in their zip code. Once established, natives not only provide birds and wildlife with food and shelter, but they save our environment by requiring less fertilizer, no pesticides and much less watering than lawns require. Using native plants thus help keep our lagoon and environment healthy.

Gardens can be our outdoor sanctuaries for birds, insects and other wildlife (http://www.audubon.org/news/why-native-plants-are-better-birds-and-people). Do you know what 96 % of our land birds feed their chicks? - insects and spiders - but these do not thrive on non-native trees. Native plants, including trees, host many more caterpillars of butterflies and moths. Do a comparison in your own yard – around what plants do the butterflies and bees flutter and feed?

By adding native plants to one's yard, balcony, container garden, rooftop or public space, anyone, anywhere, can not only attract more birds but give them the best chance of survival in the face of urban development and climate change http://climate.audubon.org/.

“Birds and native plants are made for each other, thanks to millions of years of evolution,” says Dr. John Rowden, Audubon's director of community conservation. “As plants grow and bloom earlier because of warming temperatures, there is a growing mismatch between bloom times and the arrival of the birds that depend on them. Habitat provided by native plants can help climate-threatened birds adapt and survive http://climate.audubon.org/geographical-search.” By growing native plants, you can help protect birds while turning your home into a private wildlife paradise. If you plant it, the birds and butterflies will come.

At our Audubon House, we have model demonstration gardens that will show you how: in collaboration with Nickie Munroe (Indian River County Environmental Horticulture Agent), Robin Pelensky (Landscape Architect, Surlatere Landscape Architecture), wonderful master gardeners, and great volunteers, we are expanding our native landscaping designed by Robin Pelensky, and our Butterfly Gardens designed by our own ORCA Volunteer Coordinator, Ken Gonyo, to include a series of Rain Gardens (we call them Lagoon Gardens as they protect our Lagoon) in our dry retention area. We will be planting different gardens in the spring, summer, fall, and winter. If you would like to learn while helping, please contact our office (772-567-3520). Watch the gardens’ progress on our website (http://www.pelicanislandaudubon.org) and Facebook page (http://www.facebook.com/Pelican-Island-Audubon-Society-36559826359945).

The native plants will attract Birds (i.e. Cardinals, Grosbeaks, Crows, Thrushes, Waxwings, Sparrows, Hummingbirds, Finches, Nuthatches, Vireos, Woodpeckers, Wrens, Mockingbirds, and Warblers), and Butterflies (i.e. Monarchs, Zebra Longwings, Common Buckeyes, Giant Swallowtails, E. Black Swallowtails, and Sulphurs).


Where to Buy Native Plants Near You? This is not easy. We need to support our local nurseries. Unfortunately they do not yet see a big demand and therefore do not have many native plants. Every time we visit our local nurseries, let’s all ask for natives so they will see the demand for them. Maple Street Natives has the best selection of natives: 7619 Henry Ave., West Melbourne, FL 32904, (321) 729-6857, and a great website: https://squareup.com/market/maple-street-natives-inc. A closer possibility that provides natives frequently at the Saturday Morning Vero Beach Farmers Market Oceanside, adjacent to Humiston Park in Vero Beach is Native Butterfly Flowers, which can be reached at (321) 626-7386.

With native plants, our Lagoon and Indian River County can be Great Again.
Two Native Host Plants Attract Six Butterfly Species by Ken Gonyo

In our native butterfly/pollinator gardens we plant both nectar plants and host plants for adult butterflies and their larvae respectively. Nectar plants are easy as most flowering plants attract an array of pollinators. Host plants are much more specific as to the number of species a particular plant can attract.

It is desirable to find multi-purpose host plants which may attract more than one species of butterfly whose larvae can feed upon the leaves. Two such plants are Frog Fruit (Phyla nodiflora) and Corkystem Passionvine (Passiflora suberosa). Each serves as a larval host plant for three Central Florida species of butterflies thus attracting six species to only two plants.

Frog Fruit is a diminutive ground cover plant that tolerates full sun in moist soils. Although the plant thrives in moist conditions once established it can withstand periods of drought while it waits for the next rain. This plant does well in planters as well and can be combined with other plants to drape over the edges of the container. Frog fruit can mingle with other plants in a lawn and can withstand being trod upon. For a native lawn it can be mixed with White Clover and Sunshine Mimosa and it will also blend well with other lawn grasses.

The butterfly species that use this plant as larval host are the White Peacock (Anartia jatrophae), the Common Buckeye (Junonia coenia), and the Phaon Crescent (Phyciodes phaon).

Corkystem Passionvine as the name suggests is a climbing vine that tolerates various levels of moisture and sun exposure. It thrives nicely in our hammocks and often starts out in the shade of the understory then climbs to reach some sun. As a hammock plant, it demands a soil rich in organic matter. It bears very tiny flowers and small passion fruit.

The lobed leaves of this passiflora can take on variable shapes from a simple oval lance shape to a multi lobed shape. Plants side by side can be taken for two distinct species. Conjecture is that this attribute is a deception play to thwart butterflies from recognizing it as their host plant.

This plant can be used as a leafy ground cover or it can be a climbing vine on a bush, tree, or trellis. If planted in containers it needs nutritional supplementation after the vines are stripped of leaves by foraging butterfly larvae.

The butterfly species that use Corkystem as host are our Florida state butterfly, the Zebra Longwing (Heliconius charitonius), the Julia (Dryas iulia), and the Gulf Fritillary (Agraulis vanilla). The latter species is particularly aggressive in devouring the leaves.

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Birds migrate—and members can too! Please consider “migrating” up to one of our Sustainable Memberships—Scrub-jay ($100) or Osprey ($200).

Anyone who contributes $100 or $200 per year to the Annual Fund is automatically recognized as a Pelican Island Audubon Society Sustaining or Double Sustaining Member. Think about a $25 or $50 per quarter donation, which works out to only $2 to $4 a week to support our mission. This is a tax-deductible contribution to a 501(c)(3) organization and includes your membership renewal to Pelican Island Audubon!

- $100 Florida Scrub-Jay Level
- $200 Osprey Level

Other Annual Membership Options:
- $20 Individual
- $30 Family
- Is this a membership renewal? Yes No
- Join National Audubon Society for an additional $20 a year.
- I want to make an additional tax deductible donation of $ ________________

Total $_____________________

NAME:__________________________________________

ADDRESS:______________________________________

E-Mail______________________________________________

Please send your name and address along with a check payable to the “Pelican Island Audubon Society” to:

Pelican Island Audubon Society
P.O. Box 1833, Vero Beach, FL 32961

or join online using your credit card at:
http://www.pelicanislandaudubon.org/membership.html

Questions: call 772-567-3520 or e-mail piaudubon@yahoo.com

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Pelican Island Audubon Society Officers & Directors

Elected Directors:
Graham Cox, Ph.D. ‘20
Bill Halliday ‘20
Nancy Irvin ‘19
Bill Loftus, Ph.D. ‘18
Toni Robinson ‘19
Bonnie Swanson ‘18 —

Appointed Board Members:
Susan Lovelace
Tina Marchese
Maria Maul

Treasurer Steve Goff

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Pelican Island Audubon Society, Inc. is registered with the Florida Dept. of Agriculture & Consumer Services. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Div. of Consumer Services by calling toll-free within Florida 1-800-435-7352. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the State.

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