



# The Crane

*Alachua Audubon Society*

Volume 47 Number 5 April-May 2006

## SPRING FIELD TRIPS

**Saturday, April 1, 7:00 AM**

**Ocala National Forest**

Meet trip leader Bob Simons in the parking lot of the University of Florida Bookstore II (SW 34<sup>th</sup> St. and SW 20<sup>th</sup> Ave) for this locally legendary field trip to the Ocala National Forest. Expect to learn as much about plants and mammals as you do about birds. Avian highlights in the ONF include Red-cockaded Woodpeckers, Bachman's Sparrow, and the Florida Scrub-Jay. Pack water, a snack, and dress for exposure. Trip difficulty: 3

**Sunday, April 2, 8:00 AM**

**Wildflowers with Dana Griffin**

Enjoy a morning of cross-disciplinary nature study with one of the area's favorite botanists. Meet Dr. Griffin in the parking lot of the University of Florida Bookstore II (SW 34<sup>th</sup> St. and SW 20<sup>th</sup> Ave) for an floral foray along the way to Cedar Key. Pack water, a snack, and dress for exposure. Lunch option in Cedar Key. Trip difficulty: 2

**Saturday, April 8, 8:00 AM**

**Longleaf Flatwoods Reserve**

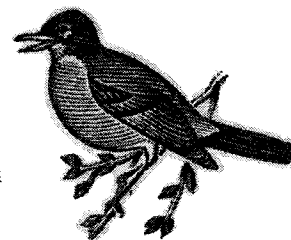
Join field trip leader Rex Rowan at Powers Park to caravan to Longleaf where you'll explore one of the county's best spots for pinewoods species such as Bachman's Sparrows and Brown-headed Nuthatches. Long-

leaf's variety of habitats should provide excellent opportunities to observe migrants. Trip difficulty: 2

**Saturday, April 15, 6:30 AM**

**Cedar Key**

Meet trip leader Rex Rowan in the parking lot of the Target store on Archer Road just east of I-75. Cedar Key is a quintessential Florida birding destination where birders can often view flocks of shorebirds over one shoulder and flocks of songbirds over the other. Participants may want to stay in Cedar Key for lunch. Trip difficulty: 2



**Saturday, April 22, 8:00 AM**

**Ft. Desoto County Park**

Visit one of Florida's best known perennial migrant traps during the peak of spring migration. Meet John Hintermister in the parking lot of Ft. Desoto County Park Visitor Center and enjoy the energy of a day among birders from all over the state. In recent years, Ft. Desoto trips have produced over 20 species of warbler. Trip difficulty: 2

(Continued on page 7)

**Trip Difficulty 1)** =Most of trip is within easy access to the vehicle and/or walking on level terrain one mile or less. **2)** =Trip may involve walking on uneven terrain over one to two (1-2) miles. **3)** =Trip may involve elevation change, uneven terrain, and or distances greater than 2 miles.



**Alachua Audubon Society Website**

**[www.flmnh.ufl.edu/aud](http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/aud)**

Add it to your favorites and visit us for all the latest updates and/or changes for field trips and programs, as well as information on good birding spots in the area.

# Around The County.. By Bubba Scales

Nothing else noteworthy was reported from Green Acres/Sugarfoot this winter. But in O'Leno State Park, just inside the western boundary of the county, a **Winter Wren** had been lingering since Pat Burns first observed it last November. Bruce Christensen might have been the last to see it on March 5.

On January 21, a very observant Jacqui Sulek found an adult male **Vermilion Flycatcher** along 441 in Paynes Prairie that must have been under our collective nose for a couple of months. The flycatcher has been observed easily and consis-

tently since then for any birder willing to break the law and park on the shoulder of highway 441. If anyone was crazy enough to try that on I-75 then I didn't hear about it. However, such foolishness might have gotten you a look at the county's 8<sup>th</sup>-ever **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher**, reported once on January 29 by Dee Thompson from somewhere around Alachua.

The **Common Teal** returned to Chapman's Pond this winter. Bryant Roberts rediscovered it on January 27. Ron Robinson's February 14 observation was its most recent. John Hintermister observed a **White-faced Ibis** in Tuscawilla Prairie on February 25. As many as three have been observed there since John's original sighting.

Matthew Muller had a **Western Tanager** visit his SW Gainesville yard on February 11. This was the winter's second report of Western Tanager. Sally Snyder took photographs of one in her NW Gainesville yard but related the observation much after the fact.

Phil Laipis found a male Dickcissel among a flock of House Sparrows at Hague Dairy on the 19<sup>th</sup> which is a reminder that winter birding is only almost over in spite of the arrival of a **Great-crested Flycatcher** near Alachua on March 10 and the eruption of song in recent weeks. And speaking of winter birding, Lawnchair Loonacy is upon us. I observed two **Common Loons** on the wing heading north early on March 18 and Rex Rowan reported two more on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to all who submitted reports through March 20.

### **Alachua Audubon Officers and Chairpersons of Standing Committees**

**President..... Howard Adams 352 373-4270**  
**Vice president .....Rex Rowan 352 371-9296**  
**Secretary..... Linda Krause 352 466-0619**  
**Treasurer .....Barbara Mollison 386 972-5008**  
**Membership .....Paul Moler 352 495-9419**  
**Field Trips..... Bubba Scales 352 381-1997**  
**Programs ..... AAS Staff**  
**Advertisements..... Bruce Christensen 392-4700**  
**.....ext. 4062**  
**Education ..... Emily Schwartz 352 372-0754**

**Birding Classes .....Kathy Haines 352 372-8942**  
**Festivals ..... AAS Staff**  
**Conservation ...Michael Meisenburg 352 495-1791**  
**Crane Editor ..... Howard Adams 352 373-4270**  
**Submissions: howardppsp@aol.com**  
**Historian..... Martha King352 372-4149**  
**Crane Circulation .... Margaret Green 352 378-3314**

**Assisting with Crane circulation: Alice Tyler, Pat Burns, Nancy Oakes**

***The Alachua Audubon Society's mission is to foster appreciation and knowledge of birds and other native wildlife, to protect and restore wildlife populations and their habitats, and to promote sustainable use of natural resources.***

## Community Calendar

**April 2 Chocolate Night at Sweet Dreams Ice Cream**

**April 7-8 Spring Plant Sale (see article in Crane)**

**April 16-22 Biodiversity Blitz or "Creek Week"**  
[www.gainesvillecreeks.org/sponsors.htm](http://www.gainesvillecreeks.org/sponsors.htm)

**April 19 "Challenges Facing Wildlife Conservation and Human-Animal Conflict Mitigation in Asia" (see article in Crane)**

**April 21 "Spunky Monkey" and "The King Cobra and I" (see article in Crane)**

### **Alachua Audubon Society Spring Bird Watching Mini-Course**

Classes scheduled for April 8, 15, 22, and 29.

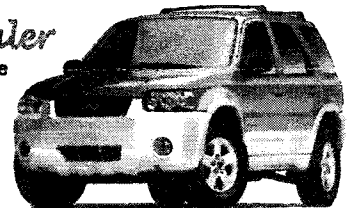
Cost \$25.00

Alachua Audubon Society is again sponsoring a Bird Watching Mini-Course. Come join us to learn about Spring migrants and other resident species found in our region. Each two hour field trip will take you to local Natural History sites. Whether you are new to birding or have some experience, you will increase your skill in identifying birds, their habitat and behavior. You will be led by our local Audubon experts. Participants should be 18 years of age or older. For more information and to register please call...Kathy Haines (352) 372-8942



**GAINESVILLE**  
  
**Your Green Dealer**

3333 N Main Street Gainesville  
 (352) 376-5371  
 (877) 751-3673 TOLL FREE  
[www.gainesvilleford.com](http://www.gainesvilleford.com)



**2006 Ford Escape Hybrid**  
 36 CITY MPG/ 31 HIGHWAY MPG



**ADVENTURE OUTPOST**  
**CANOE & KAYAK TOURS, SALES, RENTALS**

Over 40 North Florida Waterways  
 Save this coupon for 20% off any tour  
 See our website for calendar &  
 trip descriptions  
[www.adventureoutpost.net](http://www.adventureoutpost.net)

Reservations required  
 Call for details - (386) 454-0611  
 Expires 5/31/06



*The Crane* is published six times during the year. Content of *The Crane* is the sole responsibility of the editor and fulfills stated objectives and goals of Alachua Audubon Society. Annual subscription to *The Crane* is included in AAS dues. Non-Audubon members may subscribe to *The Crane* for \$ 8 annually. All checks for subscriptions or changes of address should be mailed to Paul Moler, Membership Chairman: see back page for address. Submissions to *The Crane* are welcomed. Please limit each article to no more than two pages per issue. *The Crane* is printed on recycled paper.

# BOOK SIGNING

Alachua Audubon Society and Wild Birds Unlimited (WBU) will host a reception and book signing for Bill Pranty on Saturday, April 8 from 1-4 pm in Wild Birds Unlimited at 4215 NW 16<sup>th</sup> Blvd. in Gainesville. Bill Pranty is the author of "A Birder's Guide to Florida", the second edition of which was released in November 2005. Pranty has written prolifically on the birdlife of Florida and North America. He is currently the chair of the American Birding Association's Checklist Committee and of the Florida Ornithological Society's Field Observations Committee.

Bring your Pranty book to the signing or pick up a new one while you're in the store and meet the author. The book signing is a fund-raising event for Alachua Audubon Society. A portion of the proceeds generated during the event will be donated to Alachua Audubon Society.

In addition to Pranty's book, WBU will soon be carrying the second edition of "A Bird Watcher's Guide to Alachua County" by Rex Rowan and Mike Manetz.

If the county Guide is still not available on April 8th, those who are interested in purchasing the guide when it comes available may reserve a copy by calling WBU at (352) 381-1997 or emailing [gainesvillewbu@hotmail.com](mailto:gainesvillewbu@hotmail.com) or come by the store.



## Wild Birds Unlimited

Your Backyard Birdfeeding Specialist

Birdseed • Feeders • Nesting Boxes • Nature Gifts • Optics

4215 NW 16<sup>th</sup> Blvd Gainesville  
352-381-1997

[www.wbu.com/gainesville](http://www.wbu.com/gainesville)  
[gainesvillewbu@hotmail.com](mailto:gainesvillewbu@hotmail.com)

Mon-Sat 10-6 Sun 12-5



## Harmony Gardens

Nursery and  
Garden Center  
@ Greenery  
Square

5416 NW 8th Ave.  
Gainesville, FL

(352) 378-3808

Providing for living exterior environments  
Specializing in Native Plants  
Hummingbird and Butterfly Garden Specialists

# Birding with Captain Doug

*By Bruce Christensen*

You know, it's good to feel the world around you! The bird sightings, the wind and sun and salt spray on our faces, the chatter of the peeps, gulf smells around us, and the gentle sway and rush of the boat: if we had the crab bisque from Frog's Landing there with us on the boat, it would have been sensory overload. On March 4<sup>th</sup>, Becky Enneis, Bob Carroll, Pat Burns, Mary Landsman, Linda Hensley, and I enjoyed an afternoon of birding in the backwaters of Cedar Key with Captain Doug Maple (Tidewater Tours, see ad this page). As we were getting ready to board his 24 foot, flat-bottom boat, John Hintermeister sauntered up with a birding class he was leading and said, "Doug's the one to take you out. He knows all the spots!" With that endorsement, we were off. Capt. Doug is an avid birder himself, and that made all the difference. We started out by exploring around a couple of the keys just offshore from Cedar Key, including the refuge at Sea Horse Key. We saw Horned Grebes, cormorants, and two Common Loons (one of which let us float slowly past, giving us the best look at a loon I've ever had). One sandbar was crowded with American White Pelicans and Brown Pelicans. We were able to get wonderful looks at these two related species side by side and marvel at the impressive size difference, not appreciated by any of us until we saw them juxtaposed. We had two solid looks at Peregrine Falcons: one as a fly-by right over the boat and one perched on a tree as we floated offshore. A surprise fly-



by happened as a chunky, black bird with white wing tips flew over the top of us, allowing us to watch it as it disappeared into the blue. After a few minutes comparing notes and field guides, we were able to agree that we'd been treated to a Black Scoter. In the backwater areas, Capt. Doug maneuvered his boat with ease into spots a kayaker would have been proud to navigate. Whereas most tour guides won't know a peep from a pecker, our captain was giving us tips like, "Pay attention to this next shell bar; you're likely to see whimbrels there," or, "The tree roots over around the next bend are a favorite hang out for spotted sandpiper." And he was almost al-

## **Captain Doug's TIDE WATER TOURS** from Cedar Key

For the ultimate birding experience by boat to remote coastal marshes or near shore islands. Charter only. Call or check our website  
352-543-9523 [www.tidewater-tours.com](http://www.tidewater-tours.com)

ways right on target. We saw 46 different species from the boat, many in impressive numbers. All six of us had birded Cedar Key frequently in the past, but none of us ever from this perspective. Pat noted that she'd been on other boat tours and has always found it challenging to bird, since the captain doesn't care to stop for anything less charismatic than a dolphin or Bald Eagle (both of which we did see, and did stop, and it was really cool!). But to have a captain who knew where to find yellowlegs and oystercatchers and plovers and sparrows was a real treat. What a pleasure to spend time with a man who loves his job and his niche in the world! The birds were diverse and plentiful, the weather was gorgeous, the ride was smooth (Capt. Doug says no one has ever gotten sick on his tours, much to the delight and triumph of Bob who had not been on a boat since an unfortunate hurl in the 60s); I have no doubt that the 6 of us will return, especially since Capt. Doug only gave the birding experience a "C-" for the day...I want to know what an "A" day is!

**A Wonderful Birding Experience Awaits...**  
Reserve some time...

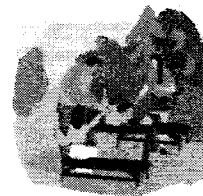


Marsh front, gulf views and shore birds!  
Go to [cedarkeygetaway.com](http://cedarkeygetaway.com)  
OR call Tracey @ 352-375-1219

## AAS Annual Picnic And Election

This year's annual election and picnic will be held at '*The Little House on the Prairie*' — Howard Adams' residence on **Wednesday April 19, 2006, at 6 p.m.**

**Directions:** From downtown Gainesville travel east on University Avenue (SR 24). Turn right southeast onto Hawthorne Road (SR 20) and proceed past the Alachua County Sheriff's Office until you reach SE 35th Street. Turn right (south) at the Lil' Champ and follow the road 1.5 miles until it dead ends at Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park. Go through the gate and follow the lime rock road for 0.5 mile. The house will be on the right—4104 SE 35th Street.



The following individuals have been selected for positions as officers or directors of the board for the next year. Voting will take place at the end of the year meeting and pot luck which will be held Wednesday evening, April 19. Please attend and cast your vote.

### **2006-2007 Slate of Officers and Directors of the Board**

The slate for officers includes **Michael Meisenburg** for President, **Bruce Christensen** for Vice President, **TBA** for Treasurer and **Susan Sommerville** for Secretary.

Our members of the Board of Directors hold a three year term with five slots open each year for nominees. These slots will be held through 2009 and the following members are available for consideration: **Craig Parenteau, Peter Ames, Emily Schwartz, and Phil Laipis**. There is still one slot open for nomination.

We also have the following members nominated to fill three slots that are open in the 2007 rotation: **Cecelia Lockwood, Rex Rowan and Marilee Joos**.

Directors of the Board who will remain active for the 2007 rotation are **Marcy Jones and Alice Tyler** and for the 2008 rotation **Bob Carroll, Kathy Haines, Bob Simons, Leslie Straub and Helen Warren**.

Bring your **favorite covered dish creation** to share with others. Alachua Audubon Society will provide refreshments, plates, and eating utensils, but most of the time will be spent relaxing, looking for and talking about birds, and feasting on a wide range of Epicurean delights! Everyone is welcome, members and non-members alike. Do not forget to bring your binoculars and insect repellent.

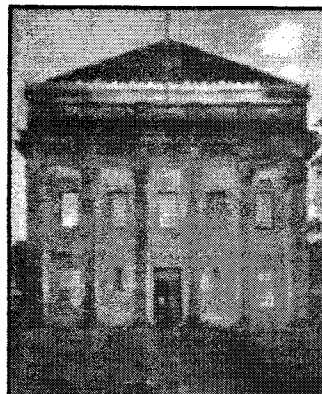


## Dental Arts

**Eric J. Amundson DDS**  
Restorative & Cosmetic Dentistry

- ◆ Comprehensive Dental Care
- ◆ Cleanings in a Spa-like Setting
- ◆ The Art of Cosmetic Dentistry
- ◆ Affordable Teeth Whitening
- ◆ Restorative Dentistry Including Implants
- ◆ Preventative Dentistry for Your Family

4040 W. Newberry Rd. Suite 1200 • Gainesville, Florida • 32607  
352-376-3400 [www.dentalarts.us](http://www.dentalarts.us)



The Hippodrome State Theatre  
presents

## THE SLEEPER

East Coast Premiere  
April 14 - May 7

Winner of the Kaufman and Hart Award for  
Best New Comedy

If you think the housewives of Wisteria Lane are  
desperate, just wait until you meet Gretchen!

Professional Theatre • Art-House Cinema  
Full Service Bar • Visual Art Gallery  
25 SE 2nd Place, Gainesville  
(352) 375-HIPP [www.thehip.org](http://www.thehip.org)

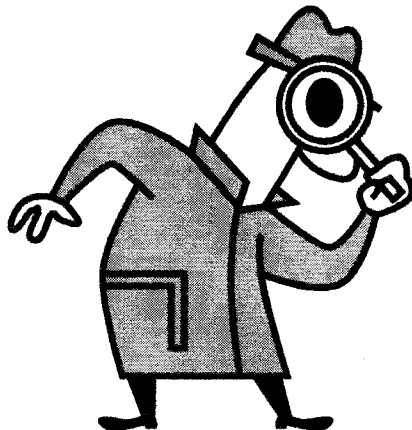




# VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

Are you looking for a way to be more involved with your local Alachua Audubon chapter? If you have ideas and energy to follow up with action we want to talk with you.

Currently, there are a few select openings on the board for those energetic and responsible individuals that can volunteer a little of their time to our organization. If you think you would like to join the team, please call Helen Warren for more information at (352) 214-7755. Please give this some thought and call before our April 19th Election and Pot luck event.



## SPRING FIELD TRIPS

(Continued from page 1)

**Sunday, April 23, 8:00 AM**

**San Felasco Hammock: Progress Park**

Meet trip leader Becky Enneis at the Tag Agency on NW 34<sup>th</sup> Street just south of US-441 (across from the old ABC Liquors) and caravan to the trailhead. Don't forget the \$2.00/vehicle access fee. Among the forest, creeks, fields, and open water, San Felasco provides a diversity of habitats for migrating songbirds. Trip difficulty: 2

**Saturday, April 29, 8:00 AM**

**San Felasco Hammock: Millhopper Road**

Meet trip leader Steve Hofstetter at San Felasco trailhead on Millhopper Road just east of I-75. Don't forget the \$2.00/vehicle access fee. San Felasco's meandering streams, sinkholes, ridges, and slopes set the stage for a very diverse bird habitat. During migration, many species of passerine bird can be found foraging for fuel throughout the hammock. Enjoy one of Gainesville's migratory bird hotspots during the peak of spring migration. Trip difficulty: 2

**Sunday, April 30, 8:00 AM**

**Lake Alice**

Join field trip leader Bubba Scales in the parking lot just west of the Bat House on Museum Road on the UF campus. Make close observations of nesting wading birds from the lake margin, watch Purple Martins forage for flying insects just above the surface of the lake, and stroll through the swampy lowlands looking for passerine migrants. Trip difficulty: 1

➤ **Next Crane  
Deadline...  
May 17, 2006**



**Sweet Dreams  
HOMEMADE  
ICE CREAM**  
coffee and desserts

We Dream,  
You Dream,  
Everybody  
Dreams of  
Ice Cream

Mike & Lisa Manfredi  
3437 W University Ave., Gainesville, FL 32607  
352-378-0532

*The Crane* Alachua Audubon Society



**Providing outdoor and travel  
needs since 1972**

COLUMBIA - WILDERNESS SYSTEMS - HOBIE  
KEEN - VASQUE - PATAGONIA  
THE NORTH FACE - YAKIMA - THULE  
ROYAL ROBBINS - KELTY - CAMELBAK  
AND MORE!

Gainesville: 2321 N.W. 13TH STREET  
GAINESVILLE, FL 32609  
352/372-0521  
800/433-4502

Ocala: 466 EAST SILVER SPRINGS ROAD  
OCALA, FL 34470  
352/861-8027  
800/433-4502

[www.brasingtons.com](http://www.brasingtons.com)

## Your coffee could help save habitat for migratory birds!

What does coffee have to do with birds? Plenty! In Central and South America and the Caribbean, tropical forests mix with forest-like traditional coffee plantations. These coffee plantations provide refuge for birds that have lost their habitat to the vast destruction of tropical forests. Coffee, a shade-loving shrub, flourishes under a canopy of diverse tree species. Many native and migratory birds find refuge in the shade coffee plantations. The tree canopy protects the soil from erosion and provides natural mulch for coffee plants, reducing the need for chemical fertilizers and herbicides. Prior to the last 20 years, nearly all commercial coffee production was managed under the canopy of shade trees. More recently, debt-strapped nations seeking to boost exports, and coffee conglomerates seeking to maximize profits while minimizing costs, have taken deliberate steps to "modernize" growing practices away from shade coffee to slash and burn methods, growing coffee in open fields and utilizing more chemicals to deter pests and fertilize soil.

A marked decline in migratory bird populations has been linked to loss of tropical habitat. While pristine forest is certainly better than coffee plantations for birds, because of our unquenchable thirst for coffee, plantations must exist and we must try to make them as ecologically friendly as possible. Shade grown, organic coffee is by far more supportive of wildlife than the sun grown alternative. Shade grown coffee is also healthier for local people as it may be grown organically and not contaminate local water sources.

But "shade grown" may be misleading, since some plantations plant a monoculture of shade trees, rather than allowing a more natural diversity of tree cover. So, how do you know if your cup of java is bird-friendly? Certifying organizations exist such as Bird-Friendly label of the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center, Eco-OK, or the Rainforest Alliance certification may be trusted. If a coffee is listed as "fair trade certified" this ensures that the local farmer is being more adequately compensated and tends to support organic, healthy farming practices. We encourage you to "drink responsibly." Bird-friendly coffee in Alachua County is available at Sweetwater Organic Coffee Company and distributed by them to many local retailers (see ad this page). For more information on shade grown coffee, see the following sites and references:

<http://nationalzoo.si.edu/ConservationAndScience/MigratoryBirds/Coffee/>

<http://www.rainforest-alliance.org/>



Philpott SM, Dietsch T. Coffee and conservation: a global context and value of farmer involvement. *Conservation Biology* 2003 17(6):1844-1846.

**SWEETWATER**  
ORGANIC COFFEE COMPANY

THE WORLD'S FINEST  
SHADE GROWN  
ORGANIC & FAIR TRADE SPECIALTY COFFEE  
WE ROAST TO ORDER DAILY FOR THE  
ULTIMATE FLAVOR & FRESHNESS.

AVAILABLE AT:  
WARD'S SUPERMARKET, MOCHA NOW,  
WILD BIRD'S UNLIMITED, DORN'S,  
SWEET DREAMS ICE CREAM, SATCHEL'S PIZZA  
UPPERCRUST BAKERY, BLUE HIGHWAY PIZZA  
WILD IRIS BOOKS, EARTHPETS

www.sweetwaterorganiccoffee.com

**ARTISAN ROASTED & FAIRLY TRADED**




**Hours: 8—8 Mon.—Sat.  
9—7 Sunday**

**5% off your order  
with this coupon**

**515 N.W. 23rd Ave.  
Gainesville, FL 32609-  
8527**

**FAX (352) 372-1199  
(352) 372-1741**

**MICANOPY ANIMAL HOSPITAL**



**Medical, Surgical and Dental Services**  
**Molly Pearson, DVM**

**Lori Wendland, DVM    Joan McKinney, DVM**  
**306 NE Highway 441, Micanopy, FL 32667**  
**www.micanopyanimalhospital.com    (352)**



# NEW ENERGY BILL PASSES CONGRESS

A new bill benefiting homeowners and builders who utilize solar energy passed congress and was signed into law by President Bush in August 2005. Tax credits are available for new homes finished or placed into service after January 1, 2006. Three separate solar technologies qualify: domestic hot water heating, solar electric and space heating and cooling. The homeowner has tax credits of 30% capped at \$2,000.00 for both solar electric and domestic hot water systems. Builders qualify for the space heating and cooling credit and must offer this option to all prospective homebuyers. A small

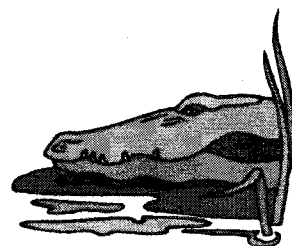


\$150.00 tax credit is available to homeowners for instantaneous gas water heaters, which cost from \$1,500.00 to \$2,080.00 and will reduce water-heating bills 15 to 25% versus conventional gas water heaters. Solar pool heaters get no credits. The state of

Florida has permanently exempted solar energy systems from sales tax. With rising gasoline and home energy costs, homeowners know that resale value will be greatly influenced by the yearly utility bill. New home construction offers the best opportunity for energy saving features that result in reduced utility bills, creating a positive net monthly income to the homebuyer. See the insert from last month's *Crane* or contact Energy Conservation Systems, Inc (see ad this page) for more information.

## Asian Studies Program and UF Zoology Department present

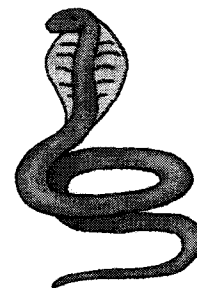
- **April 19:** Presentation by Romulus Whitaker & Janaki Lenin from the Madras Crocodile Bank Trust and Agumbe Rainforest Research Station in India:  
**"Challenges Facing Wildlife Conservation and Human-Animal Conflict Mitigation in Asia"** 8 PM Reitz Union (UF Campus) 282 Lecture Hall; sponsored by UF Asian Studies Program and Dept. of Zoology.



- **April 21:** "Spunky Monkey" (National Geographic film on nuisance monkeys harassing pilgrims and a town, then getting translocated into hostile jungle; a great film for kids.)

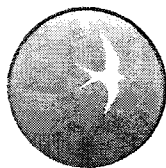


- **"The King Cobra and I"** (Newly released BBC film focusing on king cobra conservation and establishment of a rainforest research station in the Western Ghats.) 7:30 PM, Reitz Union (UF Campus) 282 Lecture Hall; sponsored by UF Asian Studies Program and Dept. of Zoology.



**Energy  
Conservation  
Services of North Florida Inc.**

Solar Contracting Since 1977



Solar Pool & Hot Water Systems  
Solar Electric System Design  
Solar Electric Contracting

**Tom Lane**

Gainesville (352) 377-8866  
Ocala 622-1445 • Fax (352) 338-0056  
[www.ecs-solar.com](http://www.ecs-solar.com)

6120 S.W. 13th Street • Gainesville, Florida 32608 • U.S.A.  
State Solar Contracting License #CVC 056643

**BLUE  
HIGHWAY**  
a pizzeria

**Eat Well, Live Well...**

Check us out. A short ride down Highway 441, just south of the yellow flashing light, in Micanopy. For some of the finest food you'll find anywhere.

\*A great way to supplement a Payne's Prairie birding trip: the best pizza in Alachua

- Hand-crafted brick-oven pizza & calzones
- Gorgeous salads
- Gourmet sandwiches
- Home-made desserts
- A fine selection of beers, wines & sodas

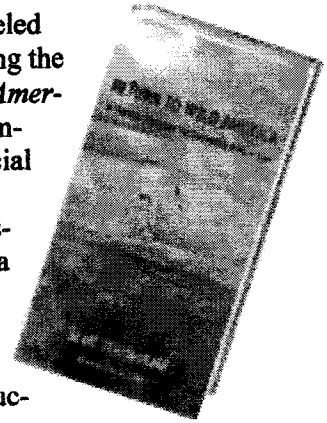
**Open Tue-Sat 11:30-9:00,  
Sun 12-8:00 / (352) 466-0062**

# Book Review: *Return to Wild America* *A Yearlong Search for the Continent's Natural Soul*

By Scott Weidensaul

Reviewed by Bruce Christensen

In 1953, Roger Tory Peterson and his British naturalist friend, James Fisher, traveled around North America, visiting sites hand-picked by Peterson, observing nature, noting the wonders and the challenges. Out of this trip came the classic of nature-writing *Wild America*. Now, just over 50 years later, Weidensaul followed the same path in order to compare the North America of today with what Peterson and Fisher experienced. Of special interest to us are 3 of 15 chapters devoted to Florida. Discussing this book with an anonymous friend (it was Mike Meisenberg) said he was loath to read yet another pessimistic portrayal of our sorry state, even if it is reality. The sad truth is that to write a book on our environment without any alarms or laments would not only be unrealistic, but a disservice. That acknowledged, as his subtitle suggests, Weidensaul's search did have an optimistic goal, and though the author does explore our modern conservation failures and challenges in some depth, he gives credit to triumphs and success stories, as well.



What makes this book different from all but a few classic nature-related books is that Weidensaul is not just a well-versed naturalist; he is a talented writer (his last book, *Living on the Wind*, was a Pulitzer finalist). Most naturalists have a story to tell, some soapbox or crusade to trumpet; very few have the art of the word. Being from the Pacific Northwest, I got a little dreamy, for example, as Weidensaul trekked through the Olympic Peninsula's old growth, temperate rainforest as "the weight of age and mass presses down on you, slowing your footsteps as you crane back your head, muffling speech to a whisper." He is equally as descriptive in tragedy as wonder, comparing the clear cutting of our forests to "a layabout kid burning through his inheritance money." His barrage into the encroachment of gateway communities around our national parks was such a literary rollercoaster that I read it twice to myself, and then again out loud to my wife, MeLissa.

Alongside his eloquence in bemoaning some of the ugliness, there was little by way of suggestion on how we can change it. But this I can forgive him. Weidensaul was writing a commentary, not a proposal.

For better and worse, this is a window into our "natural soul." It is a warning of current dangers that need to be tackled (however depressing that may be), including "an administration and a Congress that seem far more interested in rewarding their cronies than in safeguarding the country's natural heritage." But it is also a great window into our continent's unique natural beauty. This book is a descriptive essay of the state of conservation today, and should be read today. Pick it up at Goerings (see ad this page) or Wild Birds Unlimited.



**REX H. JOHNSON**

Owner

800-228-8058 • 352-338-5213

Fax: 561-258-7796

amstar@bellsouth.net

americanstarwater.com

**AMERICAN STAR WATER TREATMENT**

Your favorite Independent Water Treatment Specialists

**GAINESVILLE • OCALA • STARKE**

We Service, Sell & Rent All National Brands

Try Our Total Satisfaction Guarantee

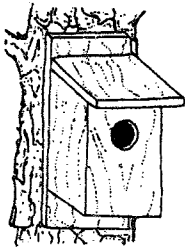
Licensed - Bonded - Insured

**Interested in Ideas?**  
**Looking for good information?**  
**Finding the Internet disappointing?**  
**Visit our Magazine Stand**

'Global in scope, local in color.'

**Goerings Book Store**

3433 West University Westgate 378-0363  
 Open Mon-Sat 10:00 to 9:30 Sun 10:00-5:00

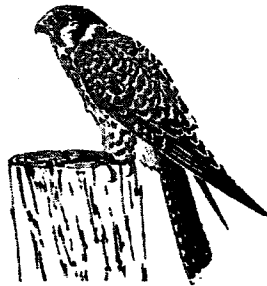


## You Can Help!

The American Kestrel, also known as the Sparrow Hawk, is our smallest North American falcon. The brightly colored bird of prey has a black face mask, long pointed wings, and is about the size of a morning dove. Kestrels live in open country where they hunt from exposed perches, such as telephone wires or by hovering over open fields. Kestrels usually catch their food on the ground. Their diet consists mainly of lizards, grasshoppers and other insects, and some mice. Kestrels nest in cavities; they depend upon woodpecker holes in snags (old dead standing trees).

The problem is modern land practices have severely reduced the number of large standing snags. Fewer snags mean fewer woodpecker holes, and thus fewer nesting sites for kestrels. Kestrel populations in Florida have declined dramatically in recent decades, due to the scarcity of nest sites, and our state now lists the kestrel as a threaten species.

**They need your help** to work toward the solution. Fortunately, kestrels readily accept manmade 'birdhouses' for nests. What are needed are local landowners, particularly those in open rural areas, to participate



in a nest box program supported by Alachua Audubon Society by allowing the chapter to erect one or more nest boxes on your property. We will offer to place nest boxes while supplies last. This is a simple but worthwhile project that can make a difference. If you or your family would like to adopt a kestrel box, please contact Bob Simons at (352) 372-7646.



## 7th Annual Spring Native Plant Sale

The Spring Native Plant sale will be held Saturday, April 8th, at Morningside Nature Center, located at 3540 East University Ave., Gainesville, Florida. Sale times are 8:30 AM — 1:00 PM on Saturday, April 8th. Payne's Prairie Chapter of the Native Plant Society and Friends of Nature Parks have an opportunity to shop early at the Members Only Sale, Friday afternoon, April 7th. Sales times Friday are 4:30 — 6:30 PM. (New Members may join on Friday).

**SOLD**




**HELEN WARREN**  
REALTOR

**ERA Trend Realty**  
4141 NW 37th Place, Suite A  
Gainesville, FL 32606

(352) 377-6666 Office  
(352) 378-2470 Fax  
(352) 214-7755 Cell  
E-Mail: hwarren@era-trend.com  
Website: www.era-trend.com



  **MLS**

## RENAISSANCE PRINTING

serving your printing needs since 1972



- DocuTech Digital Copies • Express Fax • Digital Color Copies
- Custom Finishing • Desktop Publishing • Offset Printing
- Fast Professional Service • Free Pick-up & Delivery

4130 N.W. 16th Blvd.  
Gainesville, FL 32605  
(352) 372-2233 • FAX 372-3435

**Alachua Audubon Society**  
**P. O. Box 140464**  
**Gainesville, Florida 32614-0464**

**Non-profit Organization**  
**U.S. Postage Paid**  
**Gainesville Florida 32601**  
**Permit No. 18**

---

*The Crane*  
**Apr./May 2006**

---

## **Join Audubon**

**To join Audubon on 3 levels (National, Florida, and Alachua), fill in this application and mail to:  
Paul Moler, 7818 Highway 346, Archer, Florida 32618**

**Please enclose your check payable to:**

**National Audubon Society**

**If you have any questions, contact Paul  
at 495-9419 or [pmoler@worldnet.att.net](mailto:pmoler@worldnet.att.net)**

**Chapter E-18**

**New  
Members  
Only!**

**Not  
for  
Renewals**

**New Membership Application**

**Please Print**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Telephone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_ **Apt.** \_\_\_\_\_

**City** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please check level of membership:**

\_\_\_ **Basic \$35.00** \_\_\_ **Senior \$15.00** \_\_\_ **Student \$15.00** \_\_\_  
\_\_\_ **Introductory Membership \$20.00**  
\_\_\_ **Two Years \$30.00**