

VAAS Programs - 2009-2010

WHEN: 4th Tuesday in Oct., Nov., Jan., Feb. Mar. and Apr.; 5th Tuesday in Sept.; 2nd Tuesday in Dec. and May. Social period begins at 6:30 PM; general meeting at 7:00 PM.

WHERE: Sept.-Dec. meetings at the Venice Audubon Center, 4002 S. Tamiami Trail (at Annex Rd. behind South County Admin. Bldg.), Jan.-Apr. meetings at the Venice Community Center, 326 S. Nokomis Ave. in Venice, May meeting at the Venice Audubon Center.

Sept. 29: Welcome Back A new Society year and a new beginning. Overview and goals, new ideas and projects, ways you can get involved, directors' reports of work done over the summer and more will be the focus of the meeting.

Oct. 27: Shark's Tooth Beaches Steve Wilson from The Southwest Florida Fossil Club will give a presentation on sharks teeth and other fossils that can be found on our beaches; how to identify them and where to find them.

Nov. 24: Endemic, Indigenous and Exotic Birds of Hawaii Barry Rosshem, VAAS member, will share his recent birding experience on the Islands of Oahu and Maui. His presentation features rare and difficult to access species.

Dec. 8: Holiday Party A festive evening at the Audubon Center with hors d'oeuvres and desserts. There will be a silent auction with a variety of exciting items to bid on and special entertainment.

Jan. 26: Red Tide and You Danielle Troiano from Solutions To Avoid Red Tide (START) will present an award winning film on Florida red tides and their effect on people, wildlife and the environment.

Feb. 23: The Night Sky 2009 is the International Year of Astronomy. Jeff Rodgers, Director of the Bishop Planetarium, will present a program on the stars and planets, and their effect on global species.

Mar. 23: Jeweled Wings Beverly Bowen, Sarasota County Butterfly Club, will give a presentation on butterflies; their identification, where to find them locally and give helpful hints to enhance the VAAS butterfly garden.

Apr. 27: Bird Colony Islands Restoration Project These islands are the most important habitat for wading birds and pelicans in Sarasota Bay. Curtis Smith, Project Manager, will update us on the protection and preservation of this valuable resource.

May 11: Farewell Get-Together Review of activities and goals of the VAAS year, and second annual end of season covered dish supper. Also, the first annual VAAS Photography Contest to be judged by Eileen Maris Cohen.

Who We Are

Founded: November 22, 1965

Membership: 1000 members in Venice, Nokomis, Osprey, North Port and Englewood

General Meetings: Nine evening meetings, Sept.-May with an attendance of 100 to 200

What We Do

Bird Walks: Car pool and bus trips (one day and overnight) throughout the state

Bird Identification Classes and Field Instruction

Bird Census: Pinelands

Christmas Bird Count: Tuesday, December 15, 2009

ColonyWatch: Census of wading bird rookeries

EagleWatch: Nest monitoring

Bird Sanctuaries: Venice Audubon Rookery

Bird Classes and Field Trips for school children

Wildlife Rehabilitation: Financial support

Environmental Advocacy

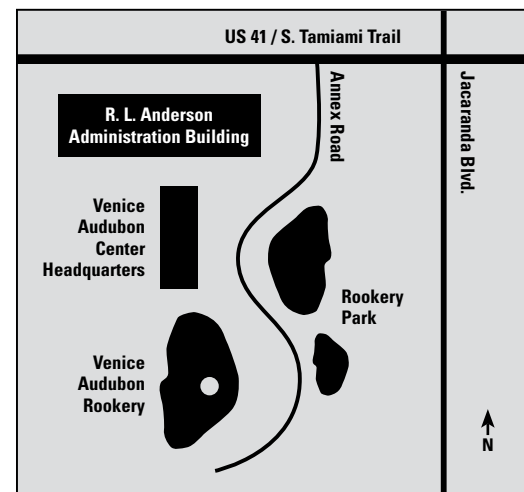
Environmental Support Fund

Community Speakers

Publish Bi-monthly Newsletter: *Wings & Things*

Free Evening Programs: Prominent birders, nature photographers and environmental activists

Venice Audubon Center: Education, displays



VAAS Board of Directors - 2009-2010

President - Missy L. Christie
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1st Vice President - Marty Shirley
941-496-4494, 941-468-0002 or mjshirley@comcast.net
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Ways and Means Chair

Director - Bobbi Rodgers
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Director - Julie Morris
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Director - Bill Fairbank
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Field Trips and Membership Chair

Director - Carol Hayden
941-961-5596 or caroljeannesarasota@yahoo.com
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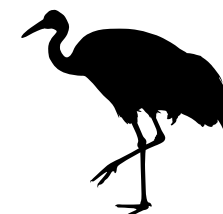
Venice Audubon Center (Headquarters)

and Rookery
4002 S. Tamiami Trail
(at Annex Road behind R. L. Anderson Administration Building)
Venice, FL

Phone: 941-496-8984

Website: veniceaudubon.org

Mailing address:
Venice Area Audubon Society
P. O. Box 1381
Venice, FL 34284-1381



2009-2010

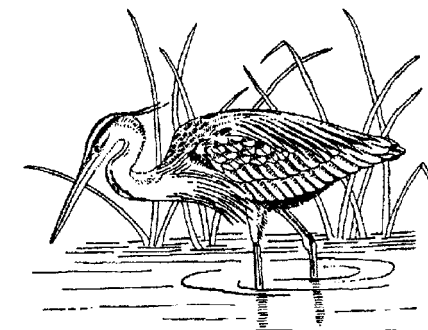
VENICE AREA AUDUBON SOCIETY (VAAS)

TRIP & PROGRAM GUIDE

OUR MISSION:

PROMOTING INTEREST IN WILDLIFE
AND FOSTERING THE CAUSE OF
CONSERVATION WITH EMPHASIS ON
BIRDS AND THEIR HABIT.

veniceaudubon.org



VAAS Field Trips - 2009-2010

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More information about VAAS field trips, such as cost and registration, see our newsletter, *Wings & Things*, attend a general meeting or contact the trip leader. Bus, boat, overnight, and limited participation trips require registration. There may be a fee for these trips. Some state and national parks we visit charge admission fees. For trips without fees, we suggest a donation to VAAS of \$3 for members and \$5 for non-members. Carpool riders must reimburse drivers for gasoline. Everyone must sign a waiver of liability. to go on each trip. Bringing binoculars, hat, sunscreen and water is suggested.

Oct. 17 (Sat.): Carlton Reserve We begin with a short walk in the park and end carpooling in the 24,000 acres of the reserve. We will look for red-headed woodpecker, American bittern, brown-headed nuthatch, purple gallinule, Eastern bluebirds, and warbler species. Meet in the Carlton parking area at 7:30 AM. This trip requires little walking and usually ends by 1:00 PM. Charlie Sample, 941-497-6463.

Oct. 24 (Sat.): Caspersen/Scrub Jays See the environmental importance of the area of Caspersen park along the intercoastal waterway for Florida Scrub-jays, gopher tortoise, bobcat, and coyote. Butterfly and native plant enthusiast are encouraged to attend. Meet at the South East parking lot (pavilion/playground) at Caspersen Beach at 8:00 AM. Wear sturdy walking shoes, long pants, hat. Walk approximately 1 1/2 hours. Ellen King, 941-488-6818.

Oct. 31 (Sat.): Bird the Pinelands We will visit the back country area of the County Pinelands Preserve and County landfill. Meet at the Audubon Center at 7:00 AM to join the half day carpool. Search for brown-headed nuthatch, crested caracara, harrier, red-headed woodpecker and warblers. Charlie Sample, 941-497-6463

Nov. 7 (Sat.): Felts Audubon Preserve Visit the Felts Audubon Preserve near Ellenton. The Preserve is a former farm which has been restored to natural habitat by the Manatee Audubon Society. We will also visit the Gamble Plantation state historical park for a picnic lunch. Carpool from the Audubon Center at 7:30 AM. Bill Fairbank. 941-412-1610.

Nov. 14 (Sat.): Venice Landfill & Venetian Golf And River Club The Venice landfill is one of the best birding areas close to Venice. We will drive through the landfill area stopping at various locations to see hawks, eagles, meadowlarks, blue birds, sandhill cranes, and other birds. We will also view birds in the Venetian Golf and River Club. Meet at 7:45 AM in the strip mall parking lot just west of the BP station at I-75 exit 195. Rett and Priscilla Oren 941-486-1424.

Nov. 21 (Sat.): Shamrock Park Experience Shamrock Park, bordering the intercoastal water way. See osprey, wading birds, kingfisher, eagles, scrub jays, and great horned owls, as well as dolphins and manatees. Meet at the Shamrock Park Nature Center parking area at 7:30 AM. Involves two miles of walking. Charlie Sample, 941-497-6463.

Dec. 2 (Wed.): Placida Boat Trip and Lunch Cruise Placida Harbor and Gasparilla Sound on a 40 foot catamaran to view wintering white pelicans, shorebirds, and dolphins. Bring a warm jacket. Meet at Audubon Center at 8:00 AM. Boat leaves Placida at 9:30 AM. Lunch in Placida at the Fishery Restaurant included. Limit 39 people. Register at Oct. and Nov. meetings. Ginny Koss, 941-493-8812.

Dec. 10 (Thurs.): Myakka River State Park Half day trip to the area's premiere state park. We will stop at the canopy tower, bird walk, and several other birding hot spots. Optional picnic lunch near the concession area. Meet at 7:30 AM at the Audubon Center. Margaret Dunson, 941-473-2534.

Dec. 15 (Tues.): Christmas Bird Count Sign-up to be a bird count participant at the Nov. meeting. Count Leader: Rett Oren, 941-486-1424.

Jan. 2 (Sat.): Celery Fields Meet at the Celery Fields gazebo at 7:30 AM. This area is a premiere Sarasota birding hot spot. Large numbers of wintering birds and various species of ducks, rails, herons, hawks, and passerines are possible. We will stop at Ackerman Lake as well and should end by 10:30 AM. Barry Rossheim, 941-485-1328.

Jan. 10 (Sun.): Emerson Point Park See upland and shore birds while walking through varied habitats along the Manatee river. We will visit an Indian mound, mangrove area, observation tower, and shore area to observe birds before stopping for a picnic lunch. About two miles walking involved. Carpool from the Venice Audubon Center at 7:30 AM. Norma Lee Rhines, 941-918-0187; Missy Christie, 941-456-0699.

Jan. 15 (Fri.): Robinson Preserve Wagons ho! We will ride through Robinson Preserve on a Conestoga Wagon with a guide to see wading birds and shorebirds. We will take a short walk to the observation tower and stop for a picnic lunch at DeSoto National Memorial. Meet at Audubon Center at 7:00 AM. Limit 20 people. Sign up at Oct. and Nov. meetings. Bill Fairbank, 941-412-1610.

Jan. 24 (Sun.): Sleeping Turtles (North) Walk through this Sarasota County nature preserve following the scenic Myakka River. Our route takes us through floodplain swamps, pine flatwoods, upland mixed forests where gopher tortoises, swallow-tailed kites, alligators and song birds reside. Two miles of walking. Meet at the preserve parking lot at 3462 Border Road (north side) at 7:30 AM. Bob Vance, 4941-83-9165

Jan.. 29-30 (Fri.-Sat.): Storm Water Treatment Area-5 (STA-5) Come with us to Florida best hot spot for ducks and waterfowl. The remote marshes at STA-5 attract waterfowl, nesting wading birds, and other migratory species. Car pool from Audubon Center at 4:00 PM on Fri., Jan. 29 and stay overnight (at your own expense) in Clewiston. In the morning, we join an escorted car caravan conducted by the Hendry-Glades Audubon Society. Sign up at Oct. and Nov. meetings. Number of participants limited. Registration required. Marty Shirley, 941-496-4494; Missy Christie, 941-456-0699.

Feb. 3 (Wed.): Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge We will drive along Wildlife Drive at the Ding darling National Wildlife Refuge looking for shorebirds such as red knots, dunlin, and sandpipers and more. We will stop at the Ding Darling Center to view the exhibits and have a picnic lunch before going on to the Bailey Tract for a short walk. A \$6 toll per car to get onto Sanibel Island and a \$5 charge per car to drive along Wildlife Drive. Meet at the Audubon Center to carpool at 7:30 AM. Ken Reamy, 493-1042.

Feb. 13-21: Hot Spots of Costa Rica (Barry Rossheim's trip) This is a trip for serious birders. We will be visiting the best birding hot spots of Costa Rica including Rancho Naturalista, Savegre, Carara, and Hacienda SoliMar, the lowland rainforest, cloud forest, dry forest, and see both Caribbean and Pacific species. Total cost of trip, including hotels, meals, ground transportation, two expert guides and airfare is \$2,560 per person. Limit 10 people. Barry Rossheim, 941-485-1328.

Feb. 13 (Sat.): Harns Marsh We will have an expert guide and drive the dikes to the best birding spots in the back country. We may see snail kites, limpkin, ducks, wading birds, and shore birds. We will stop for a picnic lunch. Sign up at the Jan. and Feb. meetings. Meet at 7:30 AM at the Audubon Center. Bill Fairbank, 941-412-1610.

Feb. 24 (Wed.): Shell Creek Wander through the longleaf pine flatwoods looking for barred owl, swallow-tailed kite, limpkin, cooper's hawk, American redstart, and other species. We will observe the changing habitat and plants. This walking tour is sure to be a delight! Carpool from the Audubon Center at 7:00 AM. Missy Christie, 941-456-0699, Al Squires and Denny Girard of Florida Native Plant Society-Mangrove Chapter.

Mar. 6 (Sat.): Airboats and Alligators & Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary Experience Lake Trafford—one of the most beautiful unspoiled areas in SW Florida from an airboat! Afterwards, we'll hike the boardwalk at Corkscrew. Sign up at Dec. and Jan. meetings. 20 people limit. Leaves Audubon Center at 6:30 AM. Carolyn Edmunds and Charles Sample, 941-497-6463.

Mar. 14 (Sun.): Six Mile Slough Meander along the boardwalk through Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve with us. We will observe wading birds, woodpeckers, and occasionally migrating warblers. Night herons nest in the area. We will stop for a picnic lunch. About 2 miles walking is involved. Carpool from the Audubon Center at 7:00 AM. Julie Morris, 941-234-7201 and Dave Sumpter.

Mar. 18 (Thurs.): Cedar Point Eagles & Wading Trip After an introductory program on aquatic environments, we will walk to Lemon Bay and pass an eagles nest where babies may be seen, then wade into the shallow water of Lemon Bay among the mangroves to search for the plants and animals. Wear old tennis shoes or wading shoes—no bare feet or flip flops! All children must be accompanied by an adult. Bring towel and dry clothes. Meet at 9:00 AM at the Cedar Point Environmental Park at 2300 Placida Road in Englewood. 12-30 people limit. Register at Jan. and Feb. meetings. Bobbi Rodgers, 941-475-0769.

Mar. 27 (Sat.): Highlands Hammock Park One day bus trip. See what Florida looked like before development. Virgin forest, seven plant communities, and many bird species. Tram tour to remote areas of the park. Limit 38 people. Register at Nov., Dec., and Jan. meetings. Meet bus at Audubon Center at 6:30 AM. Cindy Julius, 941-497-5984; Robert Duncan, 941-496-8191.

Apr. 1 (Thurs.): Fort DeSoto All day carpool trip to one of the best birding spots on the west coast for spring migrants such as orioles and tanagers. Picnic lunch at Fort DeSoto. Meet at Audubon Center at 7:00 AM. Carol Veits, 612-799-0868.

Apr. 7 (Wed.): Cape Coral's Burrowing Owls Meet at 7:30 AM at Audubon Center to carpool to Cape Coral. We will see Burrowing Owls and their chicks and also visit Rotary Park to observe shore birds. Easy walking. Lunch on the water at Cape Coral's Yacht Club on the Caloosahatchee River. Can bring your own picnic lunch or purchase lunch at Club. Norma Lee Rhines, 941-918-0187.

Apr. 13 (Tues.): Palm Island All day trip to Palm Island to view shorebirds. Meet at Audubon Center at 7:00 AM to carpool or in the parking lot at Leverock's Restaurant on Placida Rd. at 7:45 AM. Trip leaves from Leverock's at 8:00 AM SHARP. Limit 20 people. This is a walking tour on the beach. Sign up at March meeting. Missy Christie, 941-456-0699, and Al Squires, Naturalist of Palm Island Resort.

Apr. 17 (Sat.): Celery Fields Meet at the Celery Fields gazebo at 7:30 AM. This area is a premiere Sarasota birding hot spot. Large numbers of wintering birds and various species of ducks, rails, herons, hawks, and passerines are possible. We will stop at Ackerman Lake as well and should end by 10:30 AM. Barry Rossheim, 941-485-1328.