



THE BROWN PELICAN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SARASOTA AUDUBON SOCIETY

November 2024

Donor Link Now Working!

Not

Note: The Sarasota Audubon donor site had an issue with a Plug-in not connecting correctly on Sept. 29 and we did not get a notification that the site had been shut down in a cautionary move.

Note that no money was lost, transactions were simply stopped. No information was compromised. This was done in an abundance of caution.

If you attempted to donate between Sept. 29 and Nov. 3, please retry now! The site is finally up and running.

[Donate](#)

Donate for Ongoing Restoration

Sarasota Audubon is a nonprofit dedicated to protecting nature and connecting with others using the combination of science, education, and the restoration of our local wildlife habitats.

We have many priorities including:

- **Beach Nesting Bird Program**

- **Environmental Education**
- **Re-Wilding the Quad Parcels at the Celery Fields**
- **Stopping Development next to the Celery Fields Habitat**

And many more. Click below to donate to any of these programs.

Donate to Sarasota Audubon



Above: The Sarasota Audubon Gardens after Hurricane Milton blew through.

Hello, Sarasota Auduboners,

We have been so happy to see so many returning faces. While we haven't been without issues due to the hurricanes this season, we have been able to keep all of the main attractions of the Sarasota Audubon open.

The Nature Center building came through Hurricanes Helene and Milton just fine. The native gardens, however, took some hits. We are working with volunteers to get the gardens back to their former

glory. Between the three storms this year, we have lost between 10 to 15 trees, so we will have a tree company remove several from the property. Our dream has always been to have a beautiful tree-canopied garden for the birds. If you also enjoy our garden and share the dream for this space, I encourage you to donate, even a small amount, to help us clear out and replant.

The weather and the birding have been spectacular!! This week while sitting at the feeders I personally have seen bronzed cowbirds, painted buntings and had a crested caracara fly overhead -- as well as all the wonderful feeder birds. If you haven't stopped by in a while, come on out. We'd love to see you! We have plenty of exciting events this month, both online and in person. Happy birding!

Sara Reisinger
Sarasota Audubon President
On Behalf of the Board of Directors

[Donate to the Gardens](#)

**Smith Farms Rezone Nov. 21!
5:00 p.m. in Venice**



Above: Smith Farm, Raymond Road, the day after TS Debby

DR Horton has requested a postponement of the presentation to the Planning Commission. The new date is set for Thursday, Nov. 21, in Venice.

**Smith Properties Hearing (RZ 23-30)
PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING**

NOV. 21, 2024, 5:00 p.m.

**RL Anderson Administration Center
4000 S. Tamiami Trail, Venice**

To learn more, the County Staff Report will be available on the County website Friday, Nov. 15, prior to the Planning Commission Public Hearing, link to webpage [here](#).

Note: Not available until Nov. 15.

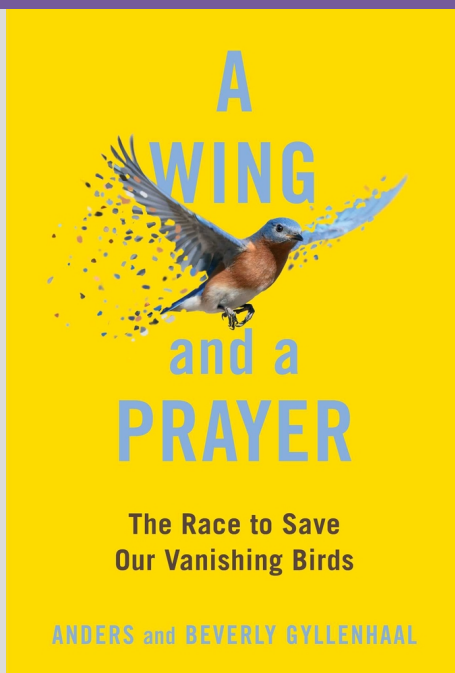
The builder has a plan to build 170 homes next to the diverse wildlife habitat of our Celery Fields.

The site in question is a floodplain -- photo above taken the day after Tropical Storm Debby.

If you frequent the Raymond Road Boardwalk, please plan to speak: talk about how disruptive this would be to the birding and your experience.

MONTHLY MEETING INFORMATION

Monday, Nov. 11 7:00 p.m. Zoom



**A Wing and a
Prayer with Anders
Gyllenhaal**

Anders Gyllenhaal will talk about his extensively researched book *A Wing and a Prayer: The Race to Save Our Vanishing Birds*.

Veteran journalists Anders and Beverly Gyllenhaal traveled more than 25,000 miles across the Americas, chronicling ways to save our beloved birds from the



Beverly and Anders Gyllenhaal,
Journalists, Authors

brink of extinction.

***A Wing and a Prayer* offers hope and an urgent call to action: Birds are dying at an unprecedented pace. But there are encouraging breakthroughs across the hemisphere and still time to change course, if we act quickly.**

[Register](#)

Members Meet & Greet with Mote Nov. 20 at 2:00 PM



Jason Robertshaw,
Education Program Manager,
Mote Marine

Come out and meet Jason Robertshaw, Environmental Education Program Manager at Mote Marine Laboratory.

Jason will delve into Mote's Conservation, Restoration & Monitoring efforts, showcasing how they safeguard iconic marine species.

Just as we conserve and restore natural resources for birds, Mote Marine is committed to providing data that supports the conservation of vital marine species for future generations.

Note: Meet & Greet is for members only.

[Click Here to Become a Member](#)

Notes from the Nature Center



Above: The Gift Shop is fully stocked for Holiday shopping!

Only 30 more days until the official end of hurricane season in Sarasota, and it can't come soon enough! Many area residents are still cleaning up the aftermath of Hurricanes Debby (the rainy one), Helene (the muddy one), and Milton (the windy one).

Apart from 100 mph winds, this season at the Nature Center started off well. We've welcomed visitors from around the world, birders are starting to see the unique species that Sarasota Audubon is known for, and our volunteers are filling up the schedules at the Nature Center and out on the boardwalks.

Gift Shop Goodies: The Gift Shop is a hit with our new t-shirt colors and designs. People are especially happy to see that we've brought back the sandhill crane shirt that features three different stylized images of sandhills. We have replenished our supply of earrings, cards, caps, toys, books, and so much more.

Gift a Membership to Sarasota Audubon: If you'd like to give a gift to a friend or family member but don't know the right size or color, how about giving a gift membership to Sarasota Audubon? For only \$35, you're giving your loved one access to an entire year's worth of speakers at our online member meetings, in-person Meet & Greet events (with snacks), Wingspan games, and important email updates about the Celery Fields. It's the best deal in town! [Purchase online here](#) or stop in the Nature Center from 9 a.m. to noon any day from now until the end of May.

After a short down-time due to Hurricane Milton, we have thrown open the doors of the Nature Center and are back to birding, gardening and providing Sarasota County with a world-class resource for outdoor recreation and education. See you outdoors!

Kim Sullivan, Building Manager



The Garden Gate: Help Us Recover



Above left to right: Bill Sullivan (with wheelbarrow), Joan Duvall and Courtney Milton (seated), Olivia and Sara Reisinger (standing with big smiles).

We have organized multiple volunteer garden days in recent months to clean up the grounds. Many thanks to everyone who turned out. It's a big job because we lost multiple mature trees and other plants -- particularly during Hurricane Milton. Despite the loss of the plants, we were pleased that our Nature Center building came through the storms unscathed.

Upcoming Garden Cleanup Dates - 8:00 - 11:00 a.m.

- Saturday, Nov. 2nd
- Saturday, Nov. 16th

No need to sign up for Garden Cleanup Days - we hope to see you there!



Volunteer Spotlight: All Call!



Volunteers Needed!

As always, we're looking for volunteers to help us in our important work on behalf of the birds. We have opportunities for:

- Garden Cleanup Nov. 2 -- Tidy Gardens & Feeders 8-11 a.m.
- Garden Cleanup Nov. 16 -- Tidy Gardens & Feeders 8-11 a.m.
- Docents in the Nature Center
- Gardeners in our Native Plant Gardens
- Naturalists on our Boardwalks and in the Gardens
- Feeder Team for the Gardens Gazebo Feeders

Volunteers receive a volunteer t-shirt along with the satisfaction of being an integral part of our Celery Fields team.

Shifts are already online for current volunteers to schedule themselves. All shifts for docents, naturalists, gardeners and bird feeder fillers are available

No need to sign up in advance for Garden Cleanups

--> If you're a brand new volunteer, please start by filling out the application on the [Volunteer Portal](#) page of our website. If you have questions, email our Volunteer Coordinator at the button below.

[Volunteer Portal](#)

[Contact the Volunteer Coordinator](#)

Calling All Wingspan Players!



Are we still playing Wingspan at the Nature Center, you might be asking? Yes, of course we are! This bird-themed board game is the hottest ticket in town, and it's free to play. We'll be meeting at the Nature Center at 12:30 on Nov. 6 and 21 this month. We have plenty of copies of the game for everyone to participate, and we only ask that all players be Sarasota Audubon members age 18 and up.

Current Schedule for November:

- Wednesday, Nov. 6
- Thursday, Nov. 21
- Additional evening dates TBD

[Email Lynn](#) for evening dates.

All games start at 12:30 in the Sarasota Audubon Nature Center at the Celery Fields: 999 Center Road, Sarasota, FL 34240.

If you'd like to join the fun, please [email Lynn](#) with date you will attend so we know how many tables to set up!

Audubon Assembly - Daytona Beach

Audubon Assembly:
Celebrating 125 Years of
Audubon in Florida



Nov. 7–9, 2024 Hilton Daytona Beach Oceanfront

Florida's premier conservation gathering, where grassroots leaders from around the state join Audubon's professional staff and partners to grow their networks and increase knowledge and skills to protect Florida's precious natural resources. Field trips, keynote speakers and learning sessions.

Conservation: Unnatural Disasters from the University of California



Unnatural Disasters: The Ongoing, Compound and Cascading Impacts of Climate Change

By Sarah-Mae Nelson, University of California Naturalist

In the last two months, several unnatural disasters have occurred around the world that would not have happened without the influence of human-driven climate change. Since this is probably the first time you are reading the phrase “**unnatural disasters**”, I want to give you more information and some perspective on why we need to

start using this phrase more to describe the extreme events that are attributable to climate disruption.

Put simply, unnatural disasters are the deaths and damages that result from human acts of omission (that is, something humans could have done but did not do) and commission (that is, something humans did that contributed to the disaster situation). Not every disaster is an unnatural disaster, but growing numbers of extreme weather events are.

Due to the incomprehensible enormity of extreme storm events and impacts like those of Hurricane Helene, some communicators have called these events “biblical” or “an act of God”. As a scientist and a person-of-faith, I need to tell you that this is categorically untrue. These events have been explosively magnified in size, frequency, and intensity by human activities, in particular, the burning of fossil fuels like coal, oil, and methane gas for energy and transportation. Attributing these events to a “divine” cause misplaces the responsibility for them. Yes, it is hard to fathom. Yes, it is uncomfortable to understand and admit. But unnatural disasters occur because of choices we, humans, have made.

[Read Entire Article Here](#)

[Donate to Sarasota Audubon](#)

**The Last Word Is Graphic:
Spooky Bird Stories
by Rosemary Mosco**

Spooky Bird Stories



birdandmoon.com



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Activity Schedule



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