

## **Birds & Butterflies of Aiken**

### **2011 Nature Series Schedule**

*"The purpose of Birds & Butterflies seminars and field trips are to foster the love and appreciation of the natural things God has created for our enjoyment."*

**Tuesday, January 18**

#### **Identifying Backyard Birds**

Tips to help you identify more than 60 species of birds that you could encounter in our area. See the best field guides available. A good introduction for those who are new to the Aiken area or just want to improve their bird ID skills.

**Tuesday, February 8**

#### **How to Attract & Enjoy Eastern Bluebirds & Other Cavity Nesters**

Information on bluebird biology, what makes a good nest box, installation and placement of boxes for best results, feeding bluebirds and monitoring nests.

**Monday, February 21**

#### **Owl Prowl at Silver Bluff Audubon Center**

Learn about our native owls and hear (and possibly see) owls in the wild. Led by Paul Koehler, Director of the Silver Bluff Audubon Center. Meet at Silver Bluff Visitors Center at 6:30PM. Maps available at Birds & Butterflies. Limited to 25 participants. Rain date February 24.

**Tuesday, March 15**

#### **Hummingbirds - Nature's Jewels**

Learn interesting facts about this incredible bird. See slides of nests and young, and many species that occur across the U.S. Discussion of feeders, food, feeder maintenance and plants that attract hummingbirds.

**Tuesday, April 12**

#### **Armadillo's - History & Biology, Addressing Armadillo Damage**

Dr. Jack Mayer, Manager, Savannah River National Laboratory and Paul Johns, Owner, Carolina Wildlife Consultants will enlighten us about this interesting new arrival in our area.

**Sunday, April 17**

#### **Bluebird Trail Field Trip**

Learn tips for monitoring bluebird nest boxes as we check an actual bluebird trail in Aiken. We will see bluebird nests, eggs and nestlings. Begins at 1:30PM at a location to be designated. Limited to 25 participants.

**Tuesday, May 3**

#### **South Carolina Wildflowers**

Learn to identify more than 70 species of beautiful South Carolina wildflowers, where to find them and interesting facts about them.

**Tuesday, May 24**

#### **Critters of the Night**

Join us at Silver Bluff Audubon Center where Director, Paul Koehler will lead us as we listen for the calls of the Whip-or-will, Chuck-will's-widow, owls, frogs and other night dwellers. Meet at the Silver Bluff Visitors Center at 7:30PM. Limited to 25 participants This will be an exciting and interesting evening. Bring a flashlight. Rain date Thursday, May 26.

**Tuesday, June 7**

**Butterflies of South Carolina and Georgia and Butterfly Gardening**

Identification tips for more than 30 species of butterflies found in our area. Learn what plants the adults and caterpillars feed on and how to attract them to your garden. Butterfly plants from Nurseries Caroliniana will be available for purchase at the seminar.

**Tuesday, July 12**

**Raptors of South Carolina, Including Live Owls & Hawks**

Presented by biologists, Carol & Larry Eldridge, who have been wildlife rehabilitators for 30 years focusing on raptors for the past 18 years. They will be bringing live owls and hawks to the seminar (depending on availability of birds at that time). One of our most popular programs.

**Tuesday, August 9**

**Coyotes in the CSRA**

Dr. John Kilgo, Research Wildlife Biologist, USFS will discuss how long coyotes have been in this area, where they came from and their interactions with native wildlife, including white-tailed deer. This will be an interesting seminar.

**Tuesday, September 13**

**Snakes of the Southeast: How Do You Know Who is Who?**

Dr. Whit Gibbons, Professor Emeritus, Univ. of Georgia's SREL will present a lecture using live snakes of the region, both venomous and harmless, to discuss tips on identification, snake safety, and the ecology and behavior of regional species. You won't want to miss this presentation.

**Tuesday, October 11**

**Wild Bird Feeding Basics/Dealing with Squirrels and Other Critters**

Learn the basics of feeding wild birds, including types of food and feeders, feeder placement and maintenance, providing water for birds and landscaping to attract birds. What really works and what doesn't to keep squirrels from your feeders. The truth! Participant interaction encouraged.

**Saturday, October 15**

**Hitchcock Woods Field Trip**

Dr. Harry Shealy, past chairman of the Board of Directors of Hitchcock Woods Foundation and Professor of Biology at USCA, will lead a tour of Hitchcock Woods. Learn about the history of Hitchcock Woods and become familiar with this Aiken gem. Great for those new to the Aiken area and those who have lived here for a while. Meet at the Tea Cottage Gate off of Dibble Road at 9:00AM. Wear comfortable walking clothes. Relatively easy walking. Limited to 25 participants. Rain date Saturday, October 22.

**Tuesday, November 8**

**Images of India and Brazil**

See breathtaking images of birds, wildlife (including tigers and jaguars) and scenery through the lens of Aiken's Forrest Roberts. You will truly enjoy this presentation.

- Space is limited, so reservations are required by calling 649-7999.
- There is a \$5.00 non-refundable charge for each seminar or field trip when the reservation is made. Children 16 and under are free. Fifty percent (50%) of the fees will be donated to groups such as Silver Bluff Audubon Center, Hitchcock Woods Foundation, Central Savannah River Bluebird Society, Ruth Patrick Center, Carolina Wildlife Care and Aiken/Augusta Audubon Society.
- Seminars begin at 7:00PM at Birds & Butterflies, 117 Laurens St. NW in downtown Aiken unless otherwise noted. Most seminars last 45-60 minutes.
- If a particular seminar is full, additional sessions may be scheduled.
- Unless otherwise noted, seminars are presented by Ron Brenneman, Certified Wildlife Biologist and owner of Birds & Butterflies.
- Shop discounts & special door prizes and refreshments at each seminar at Birds & Butterflies.