

Whistler

January - February 2014



UPCOMING EVENTS

January 4, 2014	Forsyth County Christmas Bird Count – Compiler: Ron Morris
January 7, 2014	Board Meeting — Arbor Acres Clubhouse, 7 p.m.
January 11, 2014	Saturday Bird Walk — Tanglewood Park, 9 a.m. (Leader: Ron Morris)
January 15, 2014	Birds and Beer — Johanne’s Restaurant, 6:00 p.m.
January 25, 2014	Historic Bethabara Park Cleanup – 9 a.m. at wetland (Leader Pam Wooten)
January 27, 2014	Monday Bird Walk – Belew’s Lake, 9 a.m. (Leader: TBA).
January 28, 2014	Chapter Meeting — Bethabara Park Visitors Center, 7 p.m., Brian Bockhahn, N.C. State Parks, “Wildlife Habitat in Your Own Backyard”.
February 4, 2014	Board Meeting — Arbor Acres Clubhouse, 7 p.m.
February 8, 2014	Saturday Bird Walk — Salem Lake, 9 a.m. (Leader: Nathan Gatto)
February 14 – 17, 2014	Great Backyard Bird Count
February 15, 2014	Audubon North Carolina Chapter Day – Haw River State Park
February 19, 2014	Birds and Beer — Johanne’s Restaurant, 6 p.m.
February 24, 2014	Monday Bird Walk – Archie Elledge, 9 a.m. (Leader: Phil Dickinson)
February 25, 2014	Chapter Meeting — Bethabara Park Visitors Center, 7 p.m., George Armistead, ABA, “pOrnithology: the Birds and the Birds and the Bees.”

Brown-headed Nuthatch Boxes

Convert a bluebird box to a nuthatch box by emailing your snail-mail address to nuthatch@audubon.org. You'll receive a metal excluder plate that will let in nuthatches but not bluebirds. Or just pop over to Wright's Backyard Birding Center and buy a box with a 1" or 1 1/8" hole – just right for the nuthatch.

Forsyth Audubon will erect 65 nuthatch nest boxes over the next 2 months. Contact Lee Williams if you would like to help install and/or monitor boxes. Would you like her to speak about "squeaky toys" to your garden club, civic organization or class? Lee is a recent biology graduate of Appalachian State and is leading the nest-box effort – lewilliams@yahoo.com.

The nest boxes are funded by a grant from Toyota TogetherGreen to Audubon North Carolina. Sign up now for nuthatch news through Audubon North Carolina: <http://audubonaction.org/NCNuthatches>

Creating Bird-friendly Communities

When Shakeda Lowery heard about the bird-friendly yard option for her new home built by Habitat for Humanity, she jumped at the chance. The usual Habitat yard includes one tree and a few shrubs. Not Shakeda's. Thanks to funding from National Audubon Society's Toyota TogetherGreen program, Shakeda's kids will get to pick blueberries in their own yard – leaving some for the birds, of course!. An oak tree will provide a bounty of caterpillars for baby birds and shade the house to reduce electric bills in summer. Wild indigo flowers will delight neighbors and feed hummingbirds.

It is time to put these and many more plants in the ground! Please come out and help:

Planting workday with Summit School students
2050 N. Cherry Street
Monday, Jan. 6, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Planting workday
2050 N. Cherry Street
Sunday, Jan. 12, 1 to 5 p.m.

Kudzu removal with Salem Academy students
1791 Richard Allen Lane
Wednesday, Jan. 15, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For more ways to help, check our website or send email to kim.b.brand@gmail.com.

Backyard Wildlife Habitat

On January 28, our chapter meeting features "Wildlife Habitat in Your Own Backyard." Brian Bockhahn, N.C. Parks District Interpretation and Education Specialist, bring us his wildly popular program on how to create wildlife habitat in your yard. Socializing begins at 7 p.m. and the program at 7:30 at the Historic Bethabara Visitor's Center, 2147 Bethabara Rd.

The Birds and the Bees

George Armistead of the American Birding Association talks to us on February 25 about reproductive strategies of birds in "pOrnithology: the Birds and the Birds and Bees." Join us at Bethabara at 7 p.m.

Great Backyard Bird Count

The 2014 Great Backyard Bird Count takes place on February 14 – 17. Count birds in your yard, neighborhood, local park or wherever. Submit your observations on line at <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc>. At the website, you also can check results from around the world. Teachers and parents take note: GBBC is a great way to introduce youngsters to the wonders of our natural environment.

Our Mission: To conserve and restore natural ecosystems — focusing on birds, other wildlife and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and North Carolina's biological diversity.

Visit us on the web at www.forsythaudubon.org or on Facebook.
Forsyth Audubon, P.O. Box 15111, Winston-Salem, NC 27113