

Whistler

February - March 2013



UPCOMING EVENTS

February 5, 2013	Board Meeting — Arbor Acres Clubhouse, 7 p.m.
February 9, 2013	Second Saturday Bird Walk — Salem Lake, 9 a.m. (Leader: Nathan Gatto)
February 15-18, 2013	Great Backyard Bird Count – see http://www.birdcount.org
February 16, 2013	Jordan Lake Day Trip – Meet at Thruway at 7:30 a.m. or Union Cross Shopping Center at 8 (Leaders: Craig and Jane McCleary)
February 17, 2013	Bethania Work Day – 9 a.m. to Noon (Leader: Shelley Rutkin)
February 18, 2013	Monday Bird Walk – Archie Elledge, 9 a.m. (Leader: Hop Hopkins)
February 20, 2013	Birds and Beer — Foothills Brewery, 6:00 p.m.
February 23, 2013	Audubon North Carolina Chapter Day – Haw River State Park, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
February 26, 2013	Chapter Meeting — Bethabara Park Visitors Center, 7 p.m., “Audubon NC Coastal Sanctuaries,” Walker Golder
March 5, 2013	Board Meeting — Arbor Acres Clubhouse, 7 p.m.
March 9, 2013	Second Saturday Bird Walk — Bethabara Park, 9 a.m. (Leader: Doug Demarest)
March 20, 2013	Birds and Beer — Foothills Brewery, 6 p.m.
March 16-23, 2013	Forsyth Creek Week – Three Bird Walks on March 17, 9 a.m.
March 22, 2013	Chapter Meeting — Bethabara Park Visitors Center, 7 p.m., “Amphibian

Take Part in Great Backyard Bird Count

The annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) takes place February 15-18. Count birds in your yard or local parks and submit your data on line. It's fun, it's free and you help scientists study bird movements. Make it a family activity or, if you like, satisfy your competitive streak by trying to find as many species as you can. Go to www.birdcount.org to learn more about GBBC and to submit your data. The website also has a photo gallery and fun activities for young bird enthusiasts.

Celebrate Our Creeks and Streams

Forsyth Creek Week, March 16-23, provides opportunities for residents to discover and explore local streams and lakes through educational programs and recreational activities and to do their part to protect waterways through volunteer projects. Take part in bird walks, canoe/kayak demonstrations, fishing derbies, creek crawls and workshops.

On March 17, Audubon representatives will lead bird walks at Tanglewood, Muddy Creek and Civitan Park beginning at 9 a.m. Creek Week is sponsored by the City of Winston-Salem Stormwater Division, the Forsyth County Extension Service and the city and county parks departments. Forsyth Audubon is a co-sponsor. For detail, go to www.cityofws.org and enter "creek week" in the search box.

Programs Highlight Water Birds, Frogs

At our February meeting, Walker Golder, Deputy Director of Audubon NC, leads a tour of coastal water bird sanctuaries near Cape Fear and at the Audubon Pine Island Sanctuary in Corolla. Forsyth Audubon has supported for these sanctuaries through Birdathon.

In March, our attention turns to frogs, toads and salamanders. Many of our amphibian populations are in serious decline, Jeff Hall from the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission reports on amphibian monitoring activities.

Forsyth Audubon Thinks Globally

The Wood Thrush is **our** bird. It breeds here with 20 territories a year at Bethabara Park alone, and it sings so beautifully that Barbara Kingsolver calls them "heartbreakers, with their minor-keyed harmonies as resonant as poetry."

Inspired by National Audubon's new flyway approach and focus on protecting birds everywhere they go and by the Wood Thrush's accelerating decline, Forsyth Audubon's will give \$1,500 a year for five years to support research and conservation of the Wood Thrush in Belize, an important wintering area. The money will come from Birdathon proceeds. Note: We will continue to support Audubon NC coastal sanctuaries, too.

Our partnership with Belize Audubon is just beginning. We plan to travel there for field work - a winter trip to surpass all previous species counts! Donations will pay for geolocators to help map connectivity between wintering and breeding grounds, binoculars for young birders in Belize, training - whatever is needed to make conservation happen. Team Wood Thrush welcomes members interested in developing a long-range plan for this endeavor. Contact Kim Brand at kim.b.brand@gmail.com to learn more.

Read more at:

<http://web4.audubon.org/bird/IAP/>

<http://www.belizeaudubon.org/>

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