

Greetings Sun City Birders,
Drumroll please—

On April 1, the Sun City Bird Club will host SpringFest, our traditional end of winter celebration.

First an explanation. Why are we having our traditional "MayFest" on April 1 and renaming it SpringFest? Well, it's because of the planned activities the week of May 2nd through May 9th to commemorate Sun City's 20th anniversary. Our projected day for a 2015 Mayfest was May 6. The Pinckney Hall Ballroom and the Pavilion, where we customarily hold our presentation and lunch social, were likely to be reserved for anniversary events so because of those considerations, our Mayfest was moved up a month.

The complete SpringFest schedule is set forth below. All of the early morning field trips, plus the 10:30 am "Marshland Ecosystem" presentation in Pinckney Hall, and the lunch in the Pavilion are open to all Sun City residents and guests. Please invite your neighbors and friends and remember that you are welcome to participate in as many or as few activities as you wish.



We start the day with three field trips returning to Sun City by 10 am or shortly thereafter. Plan to arrive a few minutes early to complete waiver forms and assign cars for pooling to the site as needed. Details such as meeting places and destinations are as follows:

The **Pinckney Island Field trip will leave Lake Somerset at 7:30am, April 1.**

On arrival in the Pinckney Island National Wildlife Reserve parking area, the group will assemble and walk approximately 3/4 mile toward Ibis Pond. Along the way we usually hear, and sight various song birds that almost always includes at this time of year colorful Painted Buntings. We will walk around Ibis Pond where we should be able to see various marsh residents including Common Gallinule, Coots, Wood Ducks and Pied-billed Grebes. It's Spring so we should also see some nesting Egrets, Tri-colored and Little Blue Herons, Ibis, Cattle Egrets, Black-crowned Night Herons, Anhingas and the like. In past years we've seen various Blackbirds, Woodpeckers, Grackles, Hawks, Eagles and on one occasion a Least Bittern. Pinckney seldom fails to provide something of interest in the Spring. We will have a scope and for those who like to photograph larger birds you may want to bring your cameras. Time permitting we may walk to Star Pond but do **plan to be in the parking area by 9:30am for the trip back to Sun City** so you can participate in the rest of the SpringFest activities. Contact John Burrack at john.burrack@me.com, 705-3576 (home) or 843 441-8191 (mobile).



Field Trip to **Savannah National Wildlife Refuge**

This trip to one of our club's favorite birding spots is an easy outing, with minimal walking. We will **leave the Pinckney Hall parking lot at 7 am sharp** (the spots farthest to the back of the lot in front of Pinckney.) In order to communicate our sightings, and so we're not strung out with a long line of vehicles, we need to take as few cars as possible. Please be prepared to carpool by being a driver or rider. We will leave in enough time to be back for the speaker at 10:30. Bring whatever you think you'll need: binoculars, bird guide of course, water, insect repellent, etc. Please contact Paul Padula at ppadula@sc.rr.com if you'd like to join this group.



Jim and Doreen Cubie will lead a field trip to **Fish Haul Creek Park on Hilton Head Island**. They'll **meet at Lake Somerset at 7am** and return to Sun City by 10am. There is a short trail at Fish Haul Creek that winds through the park's beautiful maritime forest (no more than a half mile long) where participants will look for early migrants and resident songbirds. At the end of the trail, there are mud flats and beach with scope views of shorebirds, terns, and gulls. Bring water, sunscreen, a hat, and wear good walking shoes. (Texas or other sturdy beach shoes would work here, no flip flops.) If you have questions, please email Jim and Doreen at doreencubie@gmail.com.

Following the field trips:



Beginning at 10:30 am in Pinckney Hall, Bluffton's Amber Kuehn will give a presentation on **"The Unique Lowcountry Marshland Ecosystem"**. There are 400,000 acres of marshland in South Carolina, yet many residents have no idea how to interpret the role of marsh grass in our ecosystem. Join us for an explanation to questions that you have never even thought of, assumed that you knew the answers to, or just never occurred to you to ask. Why are we called the Lowcountry and how does it affect our estuary? What is the South Atlantic Bight? What does semidiurnal tide mean to us? Amber leads an interactive presentation that is supported by childhood

experiences in the Lowcountry and a master's degree in marine biology. She currently manages the Hilton Head Island Sea Turtle Protection Project and is owner/operator of Spartina Marine Education Charters.

Then comes lunch and social time--starting about 11:45 am in the Pavilion

You may bring your own lunch to the Pavilion like our **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** friend. If fiddler crab isn't your thing, order a box lunch through the Bird Club. Box lunches will include a sandwich or wrap of your choice, chips, cookies, and a bottle of iced tea or lemonade. An order form is below. The form contains all of the lunch choices and instructions for ordering.



SPRINGFEST 2015 BOX LUNCH RESERVATION

Box lunches consist of a half sub or full wrap sandwich, a bag of chips, 2 cookies, and a pint of tea or lemonade. The cost will be \$9 for a bird club member; \$11 for a non-member. Your lunch will be ready for you at the Pavilion at 11:45. Please circle your sandwich and drink choices on the form below. Payment is by check to "Sun City Bird Club". Payment for couples can be made on one check, however, please use a separate form for each box lunch. **Please drop off your check and form(s) by March 24 to the lower mailbox at 38 Old Country Roses. Questions? Call Barbara at 705-4690.**



BREAD CHOICES		MEAT CHOICES	CHEESE CHOICES	ADD ON VEGGIES	DRINK CHOICES
Half Sub	Full Wrap	Beef	Provolone	Spinach	Sweet Tea
white	white	Ham	American	Onion	Unsweet Tea
wheat	spinach	Turkey	Swiss	Green Pepper	Lemonade
		Italian	None	Lettuce	Water
		Vegetarian		Tomato	

Name for reservation by bird club member _____ Phone: _____
 Name for reservation by non bird club member _____ Phone: _____

The final events for SpringFest 2015 are 2 charter boat educational excursions on the May River onboard Amber Kuehn's flat-bottomed skiff "Spartina". These excursions follow lunch at 1 and 3 pm. However, I am unable to reserve seats for the general club membership until March 14. There will be further information on the boat charters sent to you on the 14th.



Thanks to you all,
 Dave Davis
 SCHH Bird Club VP & Program Chair
 843 707-7909 or 517 290-3853