



FRIDAY FEBRUARY 6

Dinner and Keynote at Hilton Garden Inn from 6-9pm Featuring Greg Miller

Join us for an amazing evening with keynote speaker Greg Miller. Miller has over 130,000 miles, 700 species and 50 years of experience under his belt as a birder. In addition to his full birding schedule Miller worked as the official Bird Consultant for the 2011 film, "The Big Year," starring Jack Black, Steve Martin and Owen Wilson.

Affinity Dinner at a local restaurant from 6-?

Dine with our guides and mingle with fellow birders at great local restaurants. No registration fee, dinner cost on your own.

Rail Walk at Betty Steflik Preserve from 6-9pm

The Clapper Rail is a secretive, year-round resident of marshes along much of the Atlantic Coast. They are extremely difficult to see but can often be heard. Join us as we take on the challenge of finding this elusive creature at Betty Steflik Preserve.

Movie after dark – "Happy Feet" at MHS Theater from 7-9pm

Join us at Matanzas Auditorium for a free family film "Happy Feet." (G) "Into the world of the Emperor Penguins, who find their soul mates through song, a penguin is born who cannot sing. But he can tap dance something fierce!"

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 7

BIG TRIPS:

Trip to Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge (Lunch Provided) from 5am-3pm

Merritt Island NWR is known for its abundant birdlife with over 330 species and is a major destination for birders throughout the world. Hundreds of thousands of migratory birds use the refuge as a temporary rest stop or spend the entire winter season in refuge impoundments. Join Greg Miller for this day long adventure and see for yourself why Merritt Island NWR is famous in the birding community. Lunch Included

Trip to Lake Woodruff National Wildlife Refuge (Lunch Provided) from 6am-2pm

With more than 200 species of birds and beautiful Florida vistas, Lake Woodruff NWR is sure to be a memorable trip. Lake Woodruff's impoundments provide important resting and feeding areas for thousands of waterfowl, wading birds and shorebirds. Species you may encounter include: both yellowlegs, Limpkin, Fulvous Whistling-Duck, Short-billed Dowitcher and American Bittern as well as numerous songbirds. Enjoy a day long trip to one of the area's most productive birding locations. Lunch Included.

BIRD WALKS:

Bird walk at North Peninsula State Park from 6am-11am

North Peninsula State Park is ideal for observing Brown Pelican, Northern Gannet, terns, gulls numerous shorebirds, songbirds, waterbirds, wading birds and woodpeckers as well as the endangered Florida Scrub-Jay.

Bird walk at River to Sea Preserve from 6am-11am

This splendid, two-part preserve encompasses woods and waters from the Matanzas River to the Atlantic Ocean. On this trip you may see Wood Storks, Bald Eagles, woodpeckers and songbirds including Hermit Thrush and Ovenbird. The second part of this walk is on the beachfront and boardwalk. Observe Northern Gannet, Ruddy Turnstone, Red Knot, and Dunlin, plovers, gulls, terns and jaegers. You may even spot a North Atlantic Right Whale offshore.

Bird walk at Princess Place Preserve Marsh from 6:30am-11:30am

Once home to a Russian prince, this preserve on the Matanzas River offers freshwater creek, salt marsh and woodland habitats. Birders on this trip may see: Wild Turkey, Northern Bobwhite, a variety of songbirds, raptors, woodpeckers, flycatchers, wading birds, shorebirds and ducks as well as possible sightings of Wilson's snipe and American Woodcock. This trip will focus on marshland and hardwood forests.

KEY

Restrooms  Accessible  Easy Walk  Moderate Walk  Challenging Walk  Fee Course  Free Event 

For more information or to register please visit www.birdingfest.com

Bird walk at Bulow Creek State Park from 6:30am-11:30am    





Bulow Creek State Park is a birding hotspot. With one of the largest remaining stands of southern live oaks, numerous saltwater ponds and marshes, Bulow Creek offers birders opportunity to see a variety of species. Birders on this trip may see: American Avocet, Dunlin, both yellowlegs, Western Sandpiper and a variety of migratory ducks, wading birds, songbirds, hawks and owls.

Bird walk at Washington Oaks State Park from 7am-12pm    

This park stretches from the Atlantic Ocean to the Matanzas River and includes manicured gardens, scenic coastline and beautiful trails. Birders on this trip may see: Shorebirds, loons, grebes and sea ducks, Northern Gannets, songbirds, Spotted Sandpipers, gulls, terns, ducks, and hummingbirds.

Bird walk at Graham Swamp from 7am-12pm   

This 3,084 acre park and trail system offer access to several different habitats and a rich variety of species. Birders on this trip may see: wading birds, various ducks, songbirds and may catch glimpses of deer, otter and foxes.

Bird walk at Lehigh Trail from 7:30am-12:30pm    

A rails to trails park that offers excellent accessible birding for all skills and abilities. Birders on this trip may see a variety of song birds including a selection of warblers.

Bird walk at Princess Place Eagle Nest from 7:30-12:30pm   

Once home to a Russian prince, this preserve on the Matanzas River offers freshwater creek, salt marsh and woodland habitats. Birders on this trip may see: Wild Turkey, Northern Bobwhite, a variety of songbirds, raptors, woodpeckers' flycatchers, wading birds, shorebirds and ducks as well as possible sightings of Wilson's snipe and American Woodcock. This trip will focus on the area around the nesting Bald Eagles.

ALL DAY BEGINNER BIRD WALK at St. Joe Walkway (hourly from 8am-4pm)    

Delightful birding in an urban oasis awaits you on miles of mostly shaded, paved loop trails, shell paths and interconnecting bike trails. This 1 hour hike offers a chance to see: House Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Tree Swallow, American Goldfinch, American Robin, Scarlet Tanager, Yellow-throated, Yellow-rumped and Black-and-white Warblers, Barred Owl, Bald Eagle, Cooper's hawk, Wood Stork, Downy, Red Bellied, Hairy, Pileated and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Osprey, ducks and wading birds.

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

Kayaking Trip at Long Creek from 9-11am  

Want to spend your morning on the water instead of on land. Join us for a pleasurable paddle down Long Creek. Price includes kayak and equipment rental.

Kite build & fly at Malacompra Community Center from 9-11am   

Being near the ocean prompts many of us to "Go Fly a Kite." Have fun building and decorating your own kite and then go fly it. For Kids and Parents 4+.

Beginner Stand-up Paddle boarding at Gamble Rodgers State Park from 9:30-11:30am  

Wonder what all the fuss is about. Think it's too hard. Join this class and learn the basics of Stand-up Paddle boarding. In no time you'll be cruising around. This class includes all equipment rental and instruction.

Stand-up Paddle boarding at Gamble Rodgers State Park from 9:30-11:30am  

Want to explore the back waters of Gable Rodgers State Park? Join this Stand-up Paddleboard class and cruise through the untouched waters of this State Park.

CLASSES:

Birding By Ear at Linear Park Classroom from 11am-1pm    

Chirp chirp. What's that bird? Learning to identify birds by their call can help make you a better birder and grow your life list. This class will share tips for hearing the subtlety of common and less common birds.

CHIRP featuring 'Wildlife Tree' at Linear Park Outdoor Classroom from 11am-12pm   

Learn about the environment, see wildlife, plant trees, help combat invasive species, and other fun activities. This class is suitable for children 4-12.

Native Plants and Attracting Hummingbirds at Naturescapes from 12pm-2pm   

Attracting hummingbirds to your garden doesn't have to be hard. Learn tips and techniques to attract these beautiful little birds to your own backyard.

Intro to Bird Photography at Palm Coast Community Center and Linear Park Walkway from 12-2pm    

Bird photography is a challenging and enjoyable activity. Learn the basics in this two hour course and be ready to capture beautiful images on your next bird adventure.




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Raptors and Birds of Prey at Princess Place Eagles Nest from 1-3pm   

Learn more about these beautiful birds. Study a bald eagle nest, learn about hawks, owls and other birds of prey in this two hour field class.

Respecting Wildlife featuring 'Wildlife Tree' (Kids 4-9) at the Community Center from 1-2pm   

Respecting all wildlife is key to ensuring plenty of birds and other species are around for future generations. Join us for a class on respecting all wildlife.

Kids & Parents Make a Feeder (4+) at Linear Park from 2-4pm   

This fun and interactive class teaches your little birder to build a bird feeder from ordinary household products. All items included to make one feeder.

Advanced Bird Photography at Palm Coast Community Center and Linear Park Walkway from 2-4pm    

Bird photography is a challenging and enjoyable activity. Learn advanced techniques to capture captivating and beautiful images in this two hour course. Take your photography to the next level and capture stunning images on your next bird adventure.

Wild about Birds Class & Show (Kids 4+) at Linear Park Outdoor Classroom from 3-4pm   

Wild about birds? Bring your little one and learn about birds in a fun and exciting environment.

EVENING ENTERTAINMENT:

Dinner and Keynote at Hilton Garden Inn from 6-9pm Featuring Clay Henderson   

Join us for an entertaining and enjoyable evening with keynote speaker Clay Henderson. Henderson has traveled the world birding and has been deeply involved with environmental policy in Florida. He is past president of Florida Audubon Society and co-authored the "Save Our Everglades" constitutional amendments ratified in 1996.

Affinity Dinner at local restaurants from 6-?   

Dine with our guides and mingle with fellow birders at great local restaurants. No registration fee, dinner cost on your own.

Owl Prowl at Linear Park from 6-9pm    

Take a walk on the wild side after dark. Look and listen for Owls along the trail and experience the thrill of a close encounter. On this trip you may see (or hear) Great Horned, Barred, Barn owls and of course other native wild life such as deer and fox. Chemical lights provided.

Movie after dark – "The Big Year" at MHS Theater from 7-9pm with Greg Miller   

Join Greg Miller for a special evening at Pirate Theater for a showing of "The Big Year." (PG) "Two bird enthusiasts try to defeat the cocky, cutthroat world record holder in a year-long bird-spotting competition." This movie is free to attend but advance ticket reservations are highly recommended.

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 8

BIG TRIPS:

Trip to Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park (Lunch Provided) from 5am-3pm  

Famed author and naturalist William Bartram explored the vast Paynes Prairie in 1774 and dubbed it the "great Alachua Savanna." Today this spectacular park encompasses nearly all of the 16,000-acre basin marsh and wet prairie, plus hardwood hammocks, flatwoods, swamps, lakes and streams. With over 270 species identified in this park, birders on this trip may see: woodpeckers, songbirds, wild turkeys, bald eagles, hawks, waterfowl, sandhill & whooping cranes, limpkin, purple gallinule, a variety of rails and many others. Lunch Included.

Trip to Lyonia Preserve (Lunch Provided) from 5am-3pm  

For birders, two syllables sum up this site: "scrub-jays." Lyonia Preserve supports numerous families of Florida Scrub-Jays. In addition to jays, birders on this trip may see: White-eyed Vireos, Eastern Towhees, Common Nighthawks, Whip-poor-wills Blue Grosbeaks Red-headed Woodpeckers wading birds and ducks.

BIRD WALKS:

Bird walk at Princess Place Preserve Combined from 7-11am    

Once home to a Russian prince, this preserve on the Matanzas River offers freshwater creek, salt marsh and woodland habitats. Birders on this trip may see: Wild Turkey, Northern Bobwhite, a variety of songbirds, raptors, woodpecker's flycatchers, wading birds, shorebirds and ducks as well as possible sightings of Wilson's snipe and American Woodcock. This trip will cover a variety of locations throughout the park.

Bird walk at Haw Creek Preserve from 7-11am  

Birders will appreciate this property's unique, elevated boardwalk for up-close viewing of the canopy in this bottomland hardwood forest. Birders on this trip may see: a variety of woodpeckers, Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, warblers, wading birds including Limpkins, Anhinga, Great Blue Herons and a variety of sparrows and raptors.

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Bird walk at Guana Tolomato Matanzas NERR from 7:30-1:30pm    

Exploring the vast GTM Reserve is an all-day event. Birders on this trip may see: Peregrine Falcons, Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers, Magnificent Frigatebirds, Gull-billed Terns, Piping Plovers, Gray Kingbirds, shorebirds, Clapper Rails, ducks, loons, grebes, Bobolinks, warblers, buntings, grosbeaks and other songbirds, plovers and American Oystercatchers.

Bird walk at Palm Coast Spray Fields from 7:30-11:30am  

Get a behind the scenes peak at the City of Palm Coast rapid infiltration basin (RIB) for utility wastewater disposal. The basin system imitates an ephemeral wetland system which is a huge attractant for wading and marsh species. Be one of the unique few to visit this hidden birding treasure.

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

Kayak Trip at Princess Place Preserve from 9-11am  

Want to spend your morning on the water instead of on land. Join us for a pleasurable paddle from historic Princess Place Preserve. Price includes kayak and equipment rental.

Stand-up Paddle board at Gamble Rogers State Park from 9:30-11:30am  

Want to explore the back waters of Gable Rodgers State Park? Join this Stand-up Paddleboard class and cruise through the untouched waters of this State Park.

Old Florida Tour at Fort Matanzas National Monument from 10am-12pm    

The Palm Coast area is home to more than great birding. Palm Coast is only 30 minutes south of the oldest city in the United States – St. Augustine. Many of the early Spanish architecture still exists today. The Fort Matanzas National Monument stood guard over the south entrance of St. Augustine for decades. Visit this historic landmark, get in some birding and some great Florida history.

Florida Agricultural Museum from 10am-12pm  

Old Florida at its best. This museum and park highlights life in “old Florida” and what life was really like before “The Mouse” and Spaceflight changed the landscape. Explore and take a guided tour of the property.

ALL DAY BEGINNER BIRD WALK at Waterfront Park (hourly from 8am-4pm)    

Visit this one of a kind treasure and enjoy some great birding too. This 1 hour hike offers a chance to see: House Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Tree Swallow, American Goldfinch, American Robin, Scarlet Tanager, Yellow-throated, Yellow-rumped and Black-and-white Warblers, Bald Eagle, Red Shouldered Hawk, Wood Stork, Downy, Red Bellied, Hairy, Pileated and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Osprey and wading birds.

CLASSES:

Family Birding: An Introduction & Birdhouse build at Linear Park Outdoor Classroom from 1-3pm    

Brother, sister, son/daughter stare at you whenever you're captivated by a bird? Get them to be birders too in this introductory class that's fun for the whole family. Learn to identify backyard and feeder species, share your enthusiasm with your family and friends.

Do You e-Bird? Birding Apps at Linear Park from 1-3pm    

Smartphones and tablets are changing the way we get work done. They're also changing the way we bird. Using sites such as e-Bird promotes the idea of Citizen Scientists and helps expand the knowledge of birds and bird activities. E-bird and other “apps” can be an invaluable tool to both experienced and beginner birders alike; and let's face it a smart phone is (usually) much smaller than a field guide.

Backyard Birding at Palm Coast Community Center from 1-3pm    

Travel often to bird? Did you know some of the best birding is right outside your front door? Learn how to identify species in your own yard and in your neighborhood and look at a no-travel aspect of birding.

Rookeries and Alligators - Strange bedfellows at Palm Coast Community Center from 2-3pm   

Ever wonder why alligators and nesting birds make such good friends? Join us for this FREE one hour class and explore the strange agreement that these animals make with one another.

KEYNOTE:

Brunch and Keynote at Princess Place Preserve Island House from 12-3pm Featuring Joe Dziak   

Joe Dziak has spent many years actively studying and passing on his knowledge of Bald Eagles to others. He's often found during nesting season at the end of a trail with a few field scopes teaching anyone who's interested about the Bald Eagles that nest on Princess Place property. Join him for an informative and interactive discussion about these beautiful raptors. Enjoy lunch at the “Island House” and take in the breathtaking view of the marshes surrounding Princess Place.

All trips subject to change

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