Audubon Assembly 2017

October 20-21 St. Augustine, Florida

Audubon FLORIDA

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Schedule of Events

Thursday		Location
3:00 – 8:00 p.m.	Registration	Conference Center Lobby
6:00 – 7:00 p.m.	Early-bird Reception	La Terrazza
Friday		
7:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Registration	Conference Center Lobby
8:00 – 11:30 a.m.	Field Trips	Meet in Conference Center Lobby
12:00 – 1:45 p.m.	Welcome Luncheon	St. Augustine C
1:45 – 2:00 p.m.	Break	
2:00 – 3:30 p.m.	Learning Sessions	
	Water Policy Bootcamp	Troon
	Landscaping for Water & Wildlife	Legends 2
	Changing Hearts & Minds: How to Effectively Influence Policymakers	Legends 1
3:30 – 3:45 p.m.	Break	
3:45 – 5:15 p.m.	Learning Sessions	
	Water Policy Bootcamp	Troon
	Landscaping for Water & Wildlife	Legends 2
	Changing Hearts & Minds: How to Effectively Influence Policymakers	Legends 1
5:15 – 6:00 p.m.	Break	
6:00 – 7:00 p.m.	Welcome Reception	La Terrazza
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Keynote Presentation and Awards Ceremony	St. Augustine C
Saturday		
7:00 – 11:30 a.m.	Registration	Conference Center Lobby
7:00 – 8:15 a.m.	Networking Breakfast	St. Augustine B
8:15 – 9:15 a.m.	Chapters' Celebration	St. Augustine B
9:15 – 9:30 a.m.	Break	
9:30 – 11 a.m.	Special Session: Making Hurricane Recovery a Win for Conservation and Water Resources	St. Augustine A
11:00 – 11:15 a.m.	Break	
11:15 – 12:30 p.m.	2018 Conservation Action Agenda Setting Session and Closing Remarks	St. Augustine A
1:00 p.m.	Florida Audubon Society Annual Meeting*	Wentworth

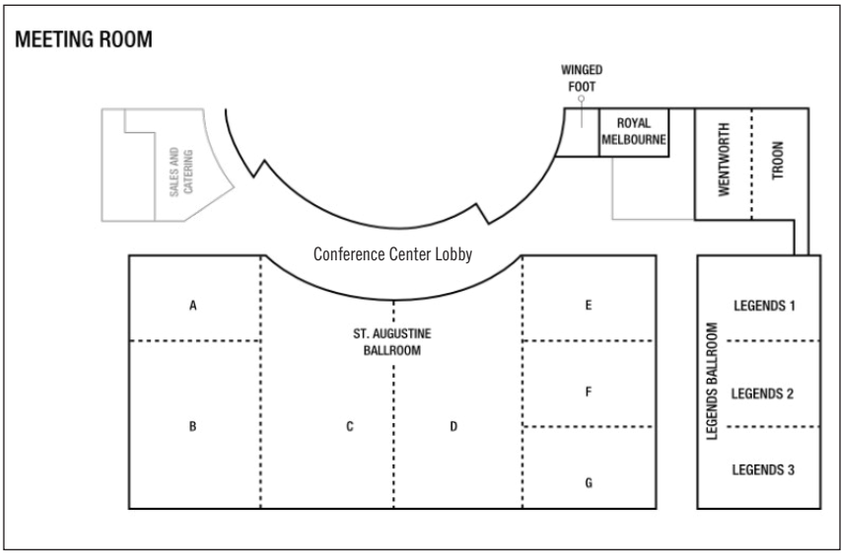
Cover Photo: Jennifer Adler

The schedule for Audubon's Conservation Leadership Initiative appears on page 7.

* Pursuant to the Articles of Incorporation and bylaws, notice is hereby given that the annual meeting of the Florida Audubon Society will be held at the Renaissance St. Augustine Resort in St. Augustine, Florida at 1 p.m. on Saturday, October 21, 2017.

Welcome Luncheon
Friday, 12 - 1:45 p.m.
St. Augustine C

Join old friends and make new ones from around the state as we convene at lunch to kick off this year's exciting Audubon Assembly. Audubon Florida Executive Director Eric Draper will welcome participants with a celebration of the past year's accomplishments and set the tone for what may be the most exciting Assembly yet! Lunch will close with remarks from special guest, Secretary of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and birdwatcher Noah Valenstein (invited).



Keynote Presentation and Award Ceremony
Friday, 7:30 - 9 p.m.
St. Augustine C

Keynote Speaker: Jennifer Adler, Conservation Photographer and National Geographic Explorer

Join us for an evening celebration of Florida's conservation champions for 2017 as well as an inspiring keynote on Florida's liquid wealth, the Floridan Aquifer, by acclaimed conservation communicator Jennifer Adler.

Jennifer will take our audience on a photographic exploration of Florida's aquifer and springs, demonstrating their value and vulnerability, while helping us redouble our commitment to protecting this miracle hidden under our feet. Jennifer is a conservation photographer and National Geographic Explorer with a focus on freshwater conservation. A PhD student at the University of Florida, Jennifer has created an environmental education program called Walking on Water that immerses elementary school students in Florida's springs, cameras in hand. She is a TEDx speaker and has exhibited her photography throughout Florida and at the Royal Geographical Society in London.

Networking Breakfast and Chapters' Celebration
Saturday, 7 - 8:15 a.m. (Networking Breakfast)
Saturday, 8:15 - 9:15 a.m. (Chapters' Celebration)
St. Augustine B

Audubon Chapter members are certainly early-risers. That's why we will meet bright and early Saturday morning for a robust breakfast and networking hour to share ideas about issues facing chapters. We will then launch into our traditional Chapter awards celebration. Enjoy the appreciation of the heart and soul of the Audubon network and their successes in engaging with both traditional and new partners.

Photo: Jennifer Adler

#Water4FLsFuture

Learning Sessions

Water Policy Bootcamp
Friday, 2-3:30 p.m. and 3:45-5:15 p.m.
Troon

Birds and wildlife depend on Florida's waters, and they depend on Audubon advocates like you to ensure they are protected for generations to come. Join us in this learning session as we discuss how you can help protect and restore waters in your community. Our experienced panel will present an overview of Florida's most significant water-management policies, advice on how to advocate effectively for Florida's waters, and examples of successful projects and programs created as a result of stakeholder and government collaboration.

Moderator: Heidi McCree, Audubon Florida Board of Directors and former Governing Board Member, Southwest Florida Water Management District

Panelists: Chris Farrell, Northeast Florida Policy Associate, Audubon Florida; Carolyn Ansay, Shareholder and Attorney, Torcivia, Donlon, Goddeau & Ansay, P.A. and former General Counsel, South Florida Water Management District; and Staci Grecco, Senior Planner, Alachua County

Landscaping for Water & Wildlife
Friday, 2-3:30 p.m. and 3:45-5:15 p.m.
Legends 2

Using less water in all aspects of our lives represents the most immediate and cost-effective opportunity to conserve water resources. Audubon's Water for Florida's Future program focuses on taking simple steps inside the home, outside the home, and in your community to save water. Nearly half of Florida's water use goes toward watering yards, making native landscaping a key tool for water conservation. Join us to learn more the benefits of environmentally-friendly landscaping and other actions you can take to be a part of conserving Florida's water.

Moderator: Joyce King, Founder and Conservation Chair, Santa Fe Audubon

Panelists: Laura VonMutius, Education Manager, Audubon Center for Birds of Prey; Tod Winston, Program Manager, Plants for Birds, National Audubon Society; Dr. Craig Huegel, Ecologist, Educator, Author and Native Plant Expert

Changing Hearts & Minds: How to Effectively Influence Policymakers
Friday, 2-3:30 p.m. and 3:45-5:15 p.m.
Legends 1

Audubon is known as America's most effective conservation network. With 45 chapters across the state, the Audubon Chapter Network in Florida has the opportunity to effectively influence decision-makers at the local, state, and federal level to drive good conservation policies protecting crucial natural resources for wildlife and communities alike. The upcoming Florida legislative session and Hurricane Irma response efforts present an opportunity for increased coordination of our chapter network to improve conservation funding and safeguard Florida's wildlife and special places. Join Audubon Florida team members and invited experts to learn how to get things done and help expand Audubon's influence in 2018.

Moderator: Diana Ferguson, Attorney, Rutledge Ecenia

Panelists: Representative Cyndi Stevenson, District 17, Florida House of Representatives; Jennifer Wilson, Associate, Adams and Reese; and Celeste De Palma, Everglades Policy Associate, Audubon Florida

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Making Hurricane Recovery a Win for Conservation and Water Resources

Saturday, 9:30 - 11 a.m.

Hurricane Irma taught us a lot about the resiliency of Florida's environment in extreme weather conditions. Irma also demonstrated how natural systems buffer wind and storm surges, reduce flooding, and capture excess water-all providing measurable benefits to Floridians. As storm recovery measures advance, it is critical that federal, state, and local decision-makers understand that investing in habitat conservation, protecting and restoring wetlands, and restoring coastal habitats will improve resiliency and reduce future storm damage. How can discussions about storm recovery be framed in terms of strengthening Florida's natural line of defense? What can Audubon and our allies do to ensure that storm recovery efforts provide a net conservation benefit?

Moderator: Kristine Young, Sustainability Director, Darden Restaurants and Audubon Florida Board of Directors

Panelists: Ann Shortelle, Executive Director, St Johns River Water Management District; Howie Gonzalez, Chief, Ecosystem Branch, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Jacksonville District; Dr. Richard Hilsenbeck, former Conservation Director, The Nature Conservancy; Dykes Everett, Dykes Everett & Co. and Audubon Florida Board of Directors

Photo: Jennifer Adler

Photo: Jennifer Adler

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Field Trips

St. Augustine is known as a place where human and natural history intertwine. Historic forts and missions provide the backdrop for the Audubon Assembly's Friday morning birding field trips. Get your bird checklists and binoculars ready!

All field trips will take place on Friday morning, Oct 20, 2017. Special thanks to St. Johns County Audubon and Duval Audubon for providing local expertise, maps, and guides to some of Northeast Florida's most special places.

Trips are rated according to ease and length of walking, and some walking may be on the beach. All trips meet in the Conference Center Lobby 15 minutes before their departure time. Trip leaders will coordinate the carpools and provide directions.

Trip #1 - Matanzas Inlet

8:00 - 11:00 (35-minute drive each way)
Meet in Conference Center Lobby no later than 7:45
Rated: Moderate (walking in sand for approx. 1 mile)

Fort Matanzas National Monument and Matanzas Inlet are 14 miles south of St. Augustine in south St. Johns County. The inlet is a channel between barrier islands connecting the Atlantic Ocean and the south end of the Matanzas River. With shifting sands and changing tides, the inlet is a very dynamic place. Beach-nesting birds will have departed for their southern winter homes, but other visitors will have arrived. Parking just west of A1A gives access to a mile or so walk along the shore. Bonaparte's Gulls dancing in the surf, Pelicans circling in formation, Skimmers rising and banking, and many more species are possibilities on this lovely beach walk. Scopes recommended.

Leaders: Peggy Cook and Karen Tobi

Trip #2 - The St Johns County Masters Tract Regional Stormwater Treatment Facility

8:00-11:00 (35-minute drive each way)
Meet in Conference Center Lobby no later than 7:45
Rated: Easy

To reduce high nutrient levels (specifically Nitrogen (N) and Phosphorus (P)) in the Lower St Johns River Basin and Deep Creek, the county has designed and built a system of wetlands to drain and filter stormwater runoff from agricultural and residential areas. Situated near Deep Creek Conservation Area, St Johns County staff manage water levels in the wetland cells to mimic the natural wet and dry seasons. Sandhill Cranes, numerous waders, migrating warblers, and raptors are all on the list at this very special location. This field trip fits perfectly within the theme of this year's Assembly. Space will be limited so make sure you sign up right away if you are interested. Scopes recommended.

Leaders: Chris Hooker and Jean Rolke

Trip #3 - Durbin-Julington

8:30 - 11:00 (25-minute drive each way)
Meet in Conference Center Lobby no later than 8:15
Rated: Easy

The Julington-Durbin Preserve is a 2,031-acre nature preserve managed by the City of Jacksonville in Duval County. The peninsula lies at the confluence of the Julington and Durbin Creeks and consists of sandhill, swamp, and marsh. The variety offers habitat to a variety of birds including raptors, wading birds, and migrant songbirds.

Leaders: Carol Bailey-White and Jody Willis

Trip #4 - Fort Mose

8:30 - 11:00 (25-minute drive each way)
Meet in Conference Center Lobby no later than 8:15
Rated: Easy and Wheelchair Accessible

Fort Mose Historic State Park is a U.S. National Historic Landmark, located two miles north of St. Augustine on the edge of a salt marsh and the western side of the waterway separating the mainland from the coastal barrier islands. It was the first legally sanctioned community of freed slaves in what is now the United States and boasts a wide range of bird species. Fort Mose's open spaces and two wheelchair accessible boardwalks provide ideal viewing opportunities for coastal shorebirds and resident and migrating birds of prey. Scopes recommended.

Leaders: Sue Killeen, Diana Ewing, and Cindy Rogero

Exploring on your own.

Attendees are encouraged to explore the Northeast Florida area before and after the Assembly. We will have recommendations at registration on places to stroll nearby. Where there are green spaces, you are bound to find birds.

Photo: Jennifer Adler

2017 Conservation Leadership Initiative

The Conservation Leadership Initiative class of 2016 at the annual Audubon Assembly in October 2016. Photo: R. Munguia

Audubon's Conservation Leadership Initiative (CLI) provides an exciting opportunity for college students to strengthen leadership skills, gain an understanding of future opportunities in conservation careers, and discover avenues to engage more with Audubon through chapters, internships, and volunteer opportunities. Conservation Leadership Initiative is a unique, one-of-a-kind opportunity for Audubon leaders and college students to network, share, and learn from each other. This intergenerational experience unites Audubon's leaders with some of the best and brightest college students interested in conservation

Audubon Florida is proud to welcome the Class of 2017 to this year's Audubon Assembly!

Thursday		Location
5:30 – 7:30 p.m.	Welcome Social Students only	Trout Creek Community Center (off-site)
Friday		
7:30 – 11:30 a.m.	Welcome Session and Field Trips Students and Co-mentors	St. Augustine E
11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Break	
12:00 – 1:45 p.m.	Audubon Assembly Welcome Luncheon	St. Augustine C
1:45 – 3:30 p.m.	Leadership Session Students only	St. Augustine E
3:45 – 5:15 p.m.	Audubon Assembly Learning Sessions	
	Water Policy Bootcamp	Troon
	Landscaping for Water & Wildlife	Legends 2
	Changing Hearts & Minds: How to Effectively Influence Policymakers	Legends 1
5:30 – 6:00 p.m.	Wrap-Up Meeting Students and Co-mentors	St. Augustine E

Thank you to this year's presenting sponsor for Audubon's Conservation Leadership Initiative

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2017 Audubon Florida Awards

Champion of the Everglades
Senator Rob Bradley

Florida's Special Places Award
Richard Hilsenbeck

Guy Bradley Award
Team OCEAN, Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve

Distinguished Philanthropist
Dorothy and John Blair (awarded posthumously)

Volunteer of the Year
Ann Harwood-Nuss

Deep Appreciation for Board Service
Katie Sproul

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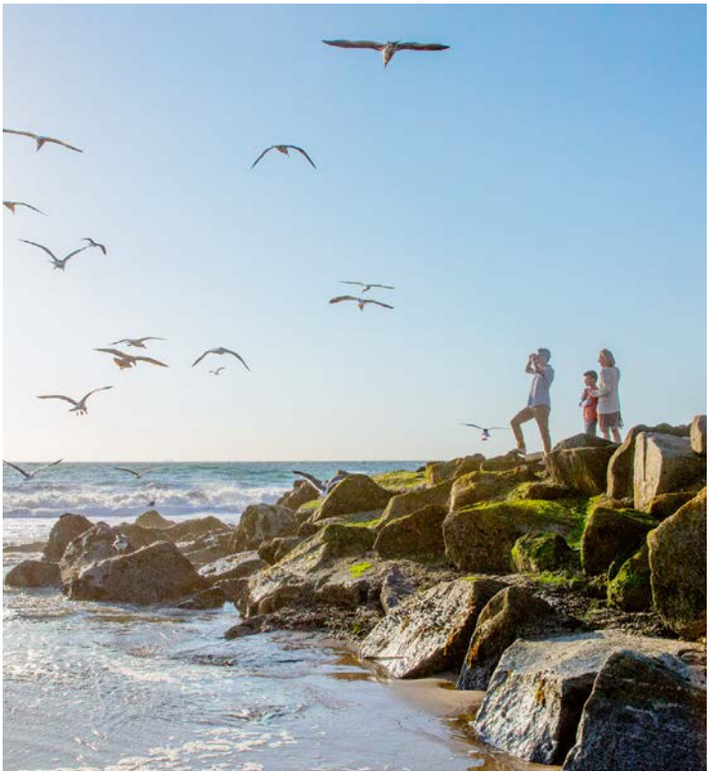

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In every community, there are leaders who set the course for positive change through their vision and guidance. Their work not only supports local needs, but inspires others to do the same.

Audubon Assembly, we proudly recognize your service to the community.

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Together we'll go far

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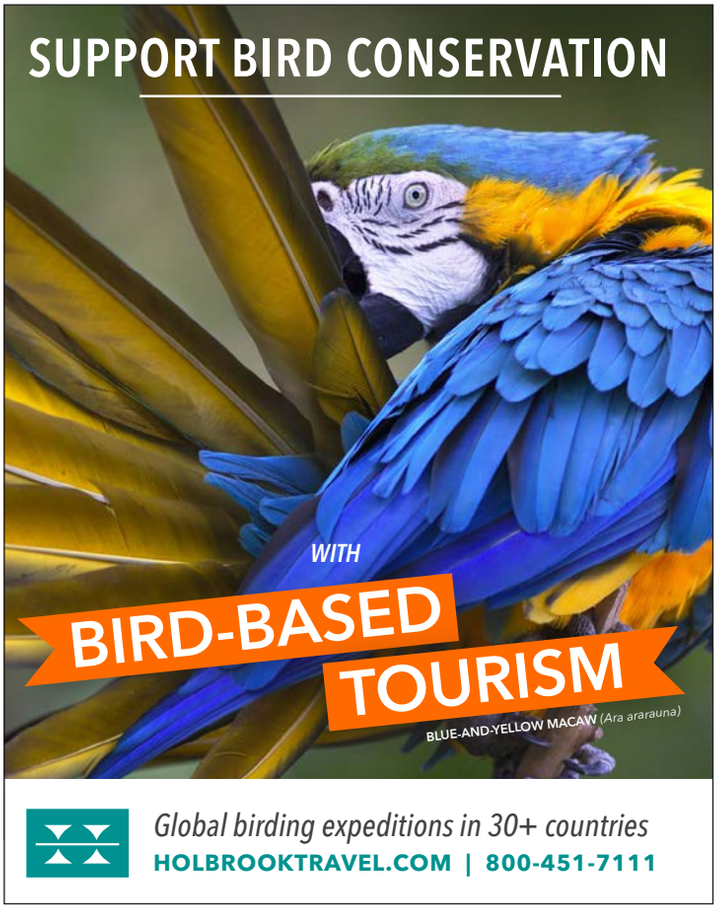

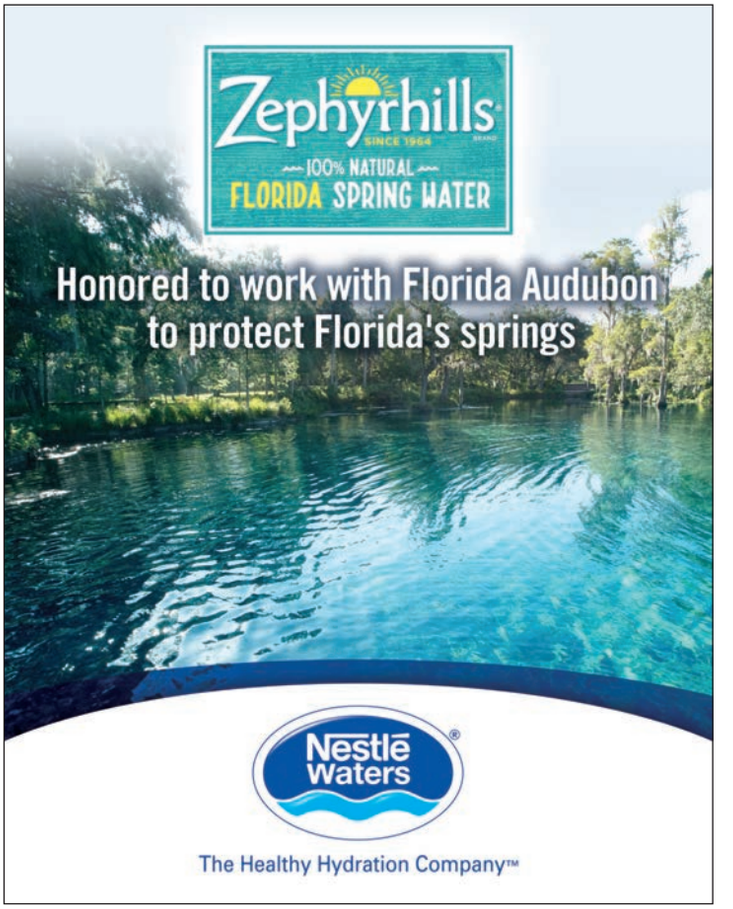

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To learn more, please visit
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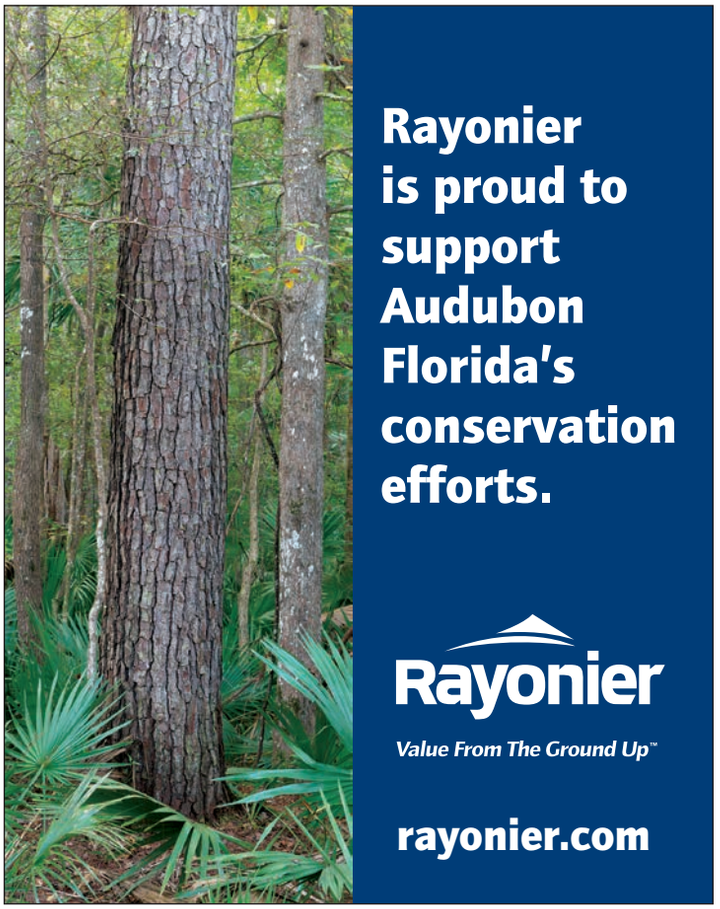
Olive Garden · LONGHORN STEAKHOUSE · Bahama Breeze · Seasons 52 · THE CAPITAL GRILLE · Eddie V's · Yard House



CORKSCREW SWAMP SANCTUARY & BLAIR CENTER Audubon

Nature Inspired Audubon Gifts in the Conference Center Lobby

Treat yourself to rarely-found Audubon memorabilia and start your holiday shopping today at the Assembly! Audubon's Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary brought its signature Nature Store to this year's Assembly. Discover unique artisan gifts, including apparel, art, photography, home decor, jewelry, handbags, stationery, and more! Your loved ones are sure to adore these uncommon, skillfully crafted products. Stop by today!

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