

Schedule of Events

Sunday, January 14, 2018


8 AM *Birding 101*

Join members of the *Alabama Ornithological Society/Tennessee Valley Audubon Society* for a beginner course in birding. Learn the basics of birding as you walk along the grounds around the Visitor Center.

9 AM *David Akoubian*

Bear Woods Photography Workshop
Auditorium

9 AM *The Comic Mis-Adventures of Lewis & Clark with storyteller Brian "Fox" Ellis portraying Meriwether Lewis.*



Join the Corps of Discovery in this humorous and informative blend of stories and song, journal excerpts and Native American folklore. Imagine an evening in Philadelphia with some of the greatest scientific minds in early American history where Meriwether Lewis reveals for the first time many of the discoveries of the Corps. Encountering grizzly bears and collecting soil samples, capturing prairie dogs and hunting for antelope, Lewis catalogued 122 new animal species and 178 new plants. In this original performance Lewis sings the praises of the geology, diverse flora and fauna, and the web of life that binds us to the land. The expedition was first and foremost a scientific expedition and this program brings the scientific process to life in what one

reviewer called *"The perfect blend of science and stand-up comedy!"* (Auditorium)

11 AM *Michael Graham Allen, Flutist*

Amazing Native American music in the Auditorium!

1:30 PM *Auburn University Southeastern Raptor Center Show at the Princess Theater*

In order to accommodate more people the popular raptor shows will be held at downtown Decatur's Princess Theater—more seating and more parking!. A shuttle will be available for transportation to and from Wheeler NWR.

1:30-3 PM *Children's Activities /Classroom*

1:30 PM *Prince Maxmillian & Karl Bodmer: Touring the Wilderness of North America.*

Storyteller and author Brian "Fox" Ellis steps into the shoes of Prince Maxmillian allowing the audience to step back in time. Blending history, science, art and cultural anthropology, the Prince gives us a unique view of America as he saw it in the early 1830s. Much of the text for this performance comes directly from Maxmillian's journals. The backdrop includes the landscapes, portraits, and scenes from everyday life as painted by Karl Bodmer. (Auditorium)

3 PM *Wheeler Video Premier*

Volunteer videographer George Lee's latest stunning video of our refuge birds and beautiful landscapes.



**PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITES
FOR ADDITIONAL DETAILS**

www.friendsofwheelerrefuge.com

www.fws.gov/wheeler

FESTIVAL *of the* CRANES

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, JANUARY 13-14, 2018



**WHEELER NATIONAL
WILDLIFE REFUGE**

DECATUR, AL

WORKSHOPS • FILMS • SPECIAL GUESTS

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

RAPTOR SHOWS

STORYTELLERS - MUSICIANS

BIRDING - STUDENT ART

Schedule of Events

Saturday, January 13, 2018

6:30 AM *Sunrise Breakfast at the Refuge.*

The early birders get the biscuits! Come out and enjoy a good breakfast with other hearty souls in the Visitor Center classroom before joining former Refuge Manager Dwight Cooley on an early morning birding walk. Watch the cranes and other waterfowl arriving in the fields to begin their day of feeding and loafing. The Wheeler Wildlife Refuge Association (WWRA) will be providing and serving the Jack's 6th Avenue sausage biscuit, breakfast pastry, coffee and orange juice. \$5.00 per person and all proceeds benefit future refuge programs.

All Day...

Visit the Observation Building to view thousands of Sandhill Cranes along with several Whooping Cranes, ducks, geese, raptors and perhaps a bald eagle from the comfort of the heated building. There are bleachers and spotting scopes available along with volunteers and staff standing by to answer all your questions.



8 AM *Birding 101*

Join members of the *Alabama Ornithological Society/Tennessee Valley Audubon Society* for a beginner course in birding. Learn the basics of birding as you walk around the grounds of the Visitor Center. Meet at the VC information desk.

9–10:30 AM *Children's Activities / Classroom*

Calling all kids (regardless of age) to join in the fun educational activities – create a crane mask, crane puppet and crane origami. Visit with the FWS Blue Goose and the ICF Whooping Crane mascots.



9 AM *David Akoubian,*

Bear Woods Photography Workshop / Auditorium

David has been a photographer since 1972 when his father presented him with his first camera, but his career in photography started in 1992. David learned his craft originally as a painter and from his father who shares his love of nature and photography. Early in his career he traveled with, learned from and taught beside some of the masters of nature photography including John Shaw, Art Wolfe, Galen Rowell, Bryan Peterson, Pat O'Hara and Rod Planck. David has been teaching photography since 1994 in the classroom and leading workshops around the USA.



10:30 AM *Adventures with John J. Audubon*

Storyteller Brian "Fox" Ellis portrays Audubon in a dynamic performance that engages listeners in scientific inquiry and natural history, art appreciation and ornithology. Come spend an hour in the studio of one of America's greatest naturalists and wildlife artists. Listen to tales of his adventures in the wilds of America!



11 AM & 1:30 PM *Auburn University Southeastern Raptor Center Show at the Princess Theater.* In order to accommodate more people the popular raptor shows will be held at downtown Decatur's Princess Theater—more seating and more parking!. A shuttle will be available for transportation to and from Wheeler NWR.

11-1 PM *Lunch / Classroom*

Domino's Pizza lunch with drink and dessert for \$5 per person. All proceeds benefit future refuge programs.

12 PM *Wheeler NWR Video Premier*

Be among the first to see volunteer photographer/videographer George Lee's stunning new video!

1:30-3 PM *Children's Activities/Classroom*

1 PM *Michael Graham Allen, Flutist*



Michael Graham Allen is the principal flutist, composer, and founder of the band *Coyote Oldman*. An early researcher and builder of ancient flutes of North America, Allen has been a professional flute maker since the mid '70s. Come to the auditorium to enjoy his extraordinary music.

3 PM *Nature Hike with John J. Audubon*

Join John James Audubon, as portrayed by Brian "Fox" Ellis, on a unique bird watching adventure as he regales listeners with his in-depth observations of the species we happen to see along the trail. Long before Stokes and Sibley, Audubon published several pages of field notes for all 435 species of birds he painted, in the *Ornithological Biography* that totals several thousand pages. (Atkeson Cypress Trail)