



May 5, 2022

## Three days brimming with food, fun, music & meaning mark

### Tropical Audubon 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

**EARTH DAY WEEKEND – APRIL 22-24**

South Florida's "Voice of Conservation" marked 75 years of environmental advocacy and education with an Earth Day weekend celebration at its historic Doc Thomas House headquarters. As the official local chapter of National Audubon, Tropical Audubon Society (TAS) has been leading area bird walks, defending wildlife, protecting natural resources, Biscayne Bay and the Everglades since its 1947 founding, and is among the oldest environmental non-profit organizations in the county.

Miamians flocked to the society's 2.2-acre near-native Steinberg Nature Center campus in record numbers to toast the three-quarter-century milestone, selling out the enchanting April 22 "Bubbly & Bites Birthday Bash," packing the picnic grove for the acoustic April 23 "Birdstock" concert playbill, and filling every available bench and chair on April 24 to honor South Florida conservation heroes at "Members Migration."

Weekend walks sponsored by Leica Store Miami (a Saturday morning outing at Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park and a Sunday afternoon stroll through the society's native hardwood hammock and pine rockland demonstration forests) drew more than 100 birders!

Among Sunday's other "Member Migration" highlights, folk artist Grant Livingston performed a memorable musical tribute to The River of Grass, Everglades Foundation board member and author **James Kushlan** led a book talk showcasing 75 years of Everglades history, and Zoo Miami Ambassador Ron Magill was among the presenters who lauded this year's richly deserving awardees.



### Bubby & Bites Birthday Bash

Presented by Republic National Distributing Co.

On Friday April 22, 75 guests gathered on the Keystone patio under the Audubon oaks for an alfresco evening of bubbly and bites. This 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary bash also highlighted the Doc Thomas House's 90<sup>th</sup> milestone. Patrons enjoyed a little night music by University of Miami Frost musicians, and special Earth Day toasts by Dade Heritage Trust's Christine Rupp and The Villagers' Susan Medina. (Both nonprofit groups take an active interest in Doc Thomas House, and believe historic preservation goes hand-in-hand with habitat conservation.) Community partner *Whisk Gourmet* created the delectable menu of seasonal hors d'oeuvres paired with exquisite wines courtesy of the Republic National Distributing Company (Domaine Carneros Brut, Imagery Sauvignon Blanc, Imagery Pinot Noir and Sequoia Grove Cabernet), with wine stems and tableware by A Joy Wallace Catering.

Net BBBB proceeds will support historic preservation and habitat conservation efforts, both on our home campus and further afield.

### Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park Bird Walk

Presented by Leica Store Miami

Miriam Avello (bilingual), Luis Gonzalez and Brian Rapoza led birders through [Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park](#) on Key Biscayne, April 23 in search of migrating cuckoos, hawks, falcons, vireos, thrushes, tanagers, buntings and warblers, including the stunning Cape May Warbler. Walk sponsor LEICA STORE MIAMI loaned Leica binoculars and scopes to enthusiastic birders.

### Birdstock

Presented by Phoebes Birding

A playbill of top-flight acoustic acts headlined the much-ballyhooed **Birdstock** on April 23, featuring Acoustic Therapy (whose music — originals and classics from the Folk Rock Song Book — is made by members Phil Allen, Burt Bruton and Tony Sinatra, with Bruce Turkel sitting in), Andy Waks, solo songbird DeBlois Milledge and Lyin' Fish duo John Holcombe & Eric Wagner. More than 250 guests gathered to hear these generous-spirited singer-songwriters jam for the Birds. Hermanos Lurton Verdejo and Domaine Bousquet Malbec Reserve flowed at the RNDC Bird Bar. Net proceeds will help fund completion of the Tropical Audubon chickee.



## Members Migration

Presented by **LEICA STORE MIAMI**

Tropical Audubon Society members and friends celebrated local conservation heroes, enjoyed an engaging *Everglades National Park* book talk, took a bird walk, savored *Sports Grill* sliders, Codorníu Cava and “Doc Tonic” Bird Bar libations, and a concert by Everglades storyteller and Folk artist Grant Livingston on April 24.

James A. Kushlan and Kirsten Hines presented a photographic journey through the history of the Everglades as depicted in their new book, *Everglades National Park*. The two distinguished South Florida history and nature authors were introduced by Alan Scott, Everglades National Park’s Chief for Interpretation, Education and Outreach. Like Tropical Audubon Society’s genesis, Everglades National Park was dedicated in 1947. Kushlan, a world-renowned ornithologist and former Everglades biologist, recounted the park’s sweeping, 75-year history in his talk, including the role Audubon played in the park’s establishment. Purchase a book here: <https://kirstenhines.com/product/everglades-national-park/>.

The Awards Ceremony hosted by TAS President José Francisco Barros recognized outstanding environmental role models in their respective fields of endeavor. These deserving citizen volunteers and public servants have dedicated themselves to protecting and preserving area wildlife, critical habitat and/or our region’s natural resources. Award recipients and their presenters:

- **Lloyd Brown**, Polly Redford Citizen Conservation Award
  - Presented by Zoo Miami Ambassador Ron Magill
- **Luis Gonzalez**, TAS Board Appreciation Award
  - Presented by TAS Executive Board Member Brian Rapoza
- **Craig Grossenbacher**, Dan Beard Government Conservation Award
  - Presented by former Miami-Dade County Assistant Attorney Randy Duvall

**LEICA STORE MIAMI** generously loaned binoculars for a bird walk on the Steinberg Nature Center Campus led by TAS Board Member Brian Rapoza, and staged a Binocular Raffle Drawing.

**TROPICAL AUDUBON SOCIETY MISSION:** “Conserve and restore natural South Florida ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife and their habitats.”



**The Birds THANK**  
our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Sponsors & Partners



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**For media inquiries, contact:** [communications@tropicalaudubon.org](mailto:communications@tropicalaudubon.org)

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