



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For information contact:

Dottie Head, Director of Membership & Communications, dottie@atlantaaudubon.org, or 678-973-2437 (office) or 404-388-8538 (cell)

OPEN HOUSE FEATURING CHRIS WOOD OF THE CORNELL LAB OF ORNITHOLOGY

(Atlanta, Ga.) March 21, 2017 – Join Atlanta Audubon Society at their office headquarters at Blue Heron Nature Preserve for the kick-off event of Atlanta Bird Fest 2017. The Spring Open House will be held Saturday, April 15, from 11:00 AM to 2:30 PM. The Open House will feature a list of activities for the whole family including a meet and greet with the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Chris Wood. Drop-ins are welcome at any time during this free event, but registration is requested. Register online at <http://www.atlantaaudubon.org/atlanta-bird-fest>.

Open House Schedule of Events:

11:00 AM to 1:30 PM – Join us for our **Student Art Show** as we admire artwork of Georgia's resident and migratory birds created by local school children grades 1 to 5.

12:00 PM and 1:00 PM – Visit **The Amphibian Foundation's** new home and conservation laboratory at Blue Heron Nature Preserve with **guided tours** through the amphibian room. Participants will be able to catch a glimpse at creatures such as poison dart frogs.

11:15 to 12:15 PM – Guided **Bird Walk** around the Blue Heron Nature Preserve. Bring your own binoculars or borrow a pair from us.

1:30 PM to 2:30 PM – **Meet and greet with Chris Wood**. Get the chance to speak with Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Assistant Director of Information Science who has worked on a number of projects such as eBird, Birds of North America, and Neotropical Birds.

Ongoing, 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM

- Atlanta Audubon will be hosting the **National Audubon's 2016 Photography Awards** travelling exhibit from March 23 through April 15. This exhibit features the winning 12 photographs selected from more than 7,000 entries.
- Enjoy meet and greets with some of the creatures from **The Amphibian Foundation** such as a Giant Toad and Red-Footed Tortoise. Staff will be on hand to discuss these animals.
- Discover what makes up the diet of owls and other raptors with a hands-on **Owl Pellet Dissection**. Learn about the eating habits of these animals as well as explore what types of indigestible material passes through their systems. We will be looking for feathers, bones, teeth, and other fun bits to help identify prey species.

- Meet live education Ambassador Animals such as owls, hawks, reptiles and more, from **AWARE Wildlife Center**. Learn more about how you can peacefully coexist with Georgia's native wildlife from the region's largest wildlife rehabilitation and public education center.
- Tour the trails of Blue Heron Nature Preserve while participating in our **Nature Scavenger Hunt**. The first 50 children to complete the scavenger hunt will receive a native bird sticker activity booklet.
- Perk up in between activities and help conserve Wood Thrust habitat with a complimentary cup of Atlanta Audubon's signature blend of **Café Campesino shade-grown coffee**.

The Open House is free to attend, but participants are asked to register at <http://www.atlantaaudubon.org/atlanta-bird-fest>.

Atlanta Bird Fest 2017 is presented by Atlanta Audubon Society thanks to our generous sponsors Cox Enterprises, Ed Castro Landscape, The UPS Foundation, Kazmarek Mowery Cloud Laster LLP, and Colonial Pipeline Company. For more information on sponsorship opportunities, please contact Michelle Hamner, Director of Development, at michelle@atlantaaudubon.org.

The mission of Atlanta Audubon Society is to protect Georgia's birds and their habitat through conservation, education, and advocacy.

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