



Friendly, fun, and Informative Bird Watching

November 2022 Issue 63

Annual Dues for 2023

Dues for 2023 are due and can be paid starting in August. Singles are \$20, and couples are \$35 for the year. You can send a check, payable to Southern Ocean Birding Group, to: SOBG, c/o Jeanine Apgar, 206 N. Frankfurt Ave, Egg Harbor City, NJ 08215. Online Paypal is available for renewals, new memberships, and donations on **our website**.

Holiday Party—December 7



Join us for our Annual Holiday Party, this year on December 7th, 6-8 p.m. at the Yorkanis home at 156 Matilda Drive, Manahawkin (West Beach Haven)

Carol Yorkanis is in charge of coordinating the food. An email

about the party was sent out on October 28 with details to all members. Hot food set up will begin at 5:30. Let's celebrate the end of 2022, looking forward to the new year.

Field Trips:

December 17—Tuckerton Christmas Bird Count



Friends in Southern Ocean Birding Group (group)

January 5 Meeting

As members of the SOBG Nominating Committee, we are pleased to announce the slate of officers for the coming year. Our founder and president, Susan Puder, will be stepping down at the end of the year. The nominating committee, comprised of Josh Gant, Jason Nargiz, Valerie Henken, and Joanne Hall, has been actively working to find qualified individuals willing to serve for a two-year term as club officers.

We have identified candidates for President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Also, nominations from the floor will be accepted at our in-person Business Meeting, scheduled for Thursday, January 5, 2023, at the Wells Mills County Park Nature Center, 905 Wells Mills Road, Waretown, NJ. Doors will open at 6:30 for social time, and our business meeting will begin at 7 pm.

President – Amy Ryan
Vice President – Josh Gant
Secretary – Valerie Henken
Treasurer – Robert Leifeste
President Ex-Officio – Susan Puder

Also, we are still accepting volunteers for the committees. The final decision on Committee Chairpersons will be up to the President. If you would like to get more involved in the operations of our club, let us know if you are willing to serve as Chair or supporting member of any of our committees, including the Programs, Field Trips, Membership, Webmaster, Scholarship, or Finance Audit.

We also have other service opportunities throughout the year, including Social Events, Refreshments, Special Events, Publicity, and Annual events like the Great Bay Clean up and Christmas Bird Count. If you are interested in any committees or service opportunities, please reply to this email with your interest and contact information.

We look forward to seeing you at our first meeting of 2023 and the many fun and informative events we will be planning for the coming year!

Tuckerton Christmas Bird Count December 17

By Morry Kapitan

On Saturday, December 17th the Tuckerton Circle will hold its Christmas Bird Count (CBC) for 2022. This is a notice for the event and a call for participants.

Every year the National Audubon Society conducts this count, and the local count of Tuckerton Circle is organized by the Southern Ocean Birding Group (SOBG). The CBC is the longest running citizen science project in North America - this will be the 123rd annual count. The purpose is to identify bird species that are present, and the data are subsequently used for conservation activities and other research.

This will be a fun event and both new and experienced birders can help. Participants will be organized into groups and look for birds from dawn to dusk.

I will be organizing the teams and assigning count sectors in advance of the count and emailing out the count materials. We may also have an online Zoom meeting in advance to discuss the sectors, the teams and answer any questions. More details will follow once I know who will be participating. If you can't attend for the whole day that is fine as some sectors are only birded for half of the day. Your choices are all day, morning, or afternoon.

We usually meet at the Dynasty Diner in Tuckerton for lunch. If you want to skip lunch that is fine. Also, we usually meet to discuss and finalize the count numbers at around 5pm. Sunset looks to be at about 4:33pm on the count day.

Please let me know if you can attend and for which portions of the day. Our CBC is open to everyone, not just SOBG club members.

Meet Amy Ryan—President Nominee



Amy worked as an acquisition professional for the Department of Defense for over 27 years. She retired in 2019 as the Deputy Program Manager for Networks and Infrastructure at the Marine Corps System Command in Quantico, VA.

She has a Bachelor of Engineering in mechanical engineering from Stevens Institute of Technology and a Master of Science in industrial engineering from Texas A&M University

Amy was a member of the volunteer 501(c)(3), HOPE Animal-Assisted Crisis Response (AACR), from 2002-2015, was a member of the Board of Directors from 2003-2012, serving as President from 2009-2012. She is the co-author of the Animal-Assisted Crisis Response National Standard, published in March 2010, and has applied AACR in many situations, including the aftermath of the 9-11 attacks, hurricanes Katrina and Sandy, and the Virginia Tech and Washington Navy Yard shootings.

Amy also established HOPE nationwide support for Operation Purple Camps for children with deployed parents and for the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors for family members who have lost a service member. Under her leadership, HOPE became the first AACR group that is a member of the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster, which required years of development and active participation of the organization in disaster recovery in 12 states. Amy was also an active volunteer with the national therapy dog organization Delta Society and served as a certified tester for the organization. She was a plank holder and active member of the Stafford Dog club while she lived in Virginia and was instrumental with their filing as a 501(c)(4) organization.

Amy grew up in Rahway, NJ and summered on LBI. She and her two dogs recently moved back to NJ and are living in Ship Bottom. Her father introduced her to photography and photo development at an early age, and she began her interest in birding while photographing her dogs participating in the high-speed sport of flyball. Her photographs have been juried in the Nature Visions competition of the mid-Atlantic.