

State ornithologist, author to speak at birding session

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State ornithologist and author Clifford Shackelford will make a return visit to the Michelson Museum of Art at 5 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 13 for a gallery through a partnership with a slate of Caddo Lake interests and friends.

“We are pleased to once again bring Cliff Shackelford to the Michelson to talk birds,” said Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge Manager Mark Williams. “He is an excellent speaker and extremely knowledgeable about the more than 200 bird species known to occur, not only at the refuge but at Caddo Lake State Park and the Caddo Lake Wildlife Management Area.”

Williams added that birding is an \$82 billion industry in the United States and that the Caddo Lake area “is blessed with all the tools necessary to promote environmental tourism development throughout East Texas,” according to a release.

“We encourage people interested in learning more about bird watching come listen to Cliff speak, see the ‘Birds in Art’ show and visit the refuge,” Williams said.

Shackelford is a seventh generation Texan, has been bird watching since he was a child and is the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department non-game ornithologist.

He is the author of the book “Hummingbirds of Texas” (revised in 2009) and will be speaking on the topic of “changes in bird life in Texas during the last 150 years.”

Shackelford is also the author of more than 60 pieces published on birds and birding and will be available to autograph copies of his book and to talk, after the event.

Also selling and signing copies of a local book will be Dr. Carl R. Turner, whose photography and poetry are moving and evokes Caddo Lake’s graceful beauty, wildlife and ability to be enjoyed by all ages.

Tom Walker will be displaying his collection of Caddo Lake bird photographs in a slide show that also shares the birds calls and will have a CD available.

Admission to the event is free to hear Shackelford as well as to enjoy the “Birds in Art” exhibit, displayed in its only migration into the southwest at the Michelson Museum of Art, 216 N. Bolivar St.

The museum is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, with free admission.

Named partners for bringing Shackleford to speak include the Friends of the CLNWR, Caddo Lake Institute and Caddo Lake State Park.

The refuge and its Ramsar Wetland Center is open from sun up to sunset seven days a week with more information available online at www.caddofriends.org.