



EVERGLADE KITE

THE AUDUBON SOCIETY
OF THE EVERGLADES
(serving Palm Beach County, Florida)

Volume 43, No. 9

June 2003

CALENDAR

Tues. June 3rd – GENERAL MEETING
“Offshore Update: from Seaweed to Sharks”
Presented By Brian Lapointe, Ph.D.,
7:30 PM at the West Palm Beach Garden Club

AUDUBON FIELDTRIPS DURING THE
HOT SUMMER SEASON ARE SUSPENDED
AND WILL RESUME IN SEPTEMBER.

For Field Trip information contact :
Gloria Hunter 561-585-7714

Don't Forget

The month of June officially starts the **Hurricane Season**, so make sure to get your emergency supplies up to date and trim those tree branches before a storm approaches. Don't forget to have an extra supply of any prescription medications you may take on a regular basis. Also, have shelters chosen for you, your family, and a shelter for your pets should an evacuation be necessary.

Visit the National Weather Service website
for more information:

<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>

TUESDAY, June 3rd PROGRAM

Claudine Laabs, Program Chair
This Month's Presentation is:

**Off-Shore Update
by Brain LaPointe, Ph.D.**

"Coral reefs are in a state of crisis," says Dr. Brain LaPointe of Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute. He has studied coral reefs around the world including the Great Barrier Reef, the Coral Sea, North Sulawesi, Palau, the Caribbean, Bermuda, the Bahamas and the Florida Keys. His videos will highlight ecological consequences of nutrient pollution and document our current algae problem off the shores of Palm Beach County.

LaPointe received his doctorate from the University of South Florida. He has done research at Woods Hole, Massachusetts and is a fellow of the Explorer's Club.

Please join us at the West Palm Beach Garden Club on June 3rd at 7:30 P.M. for this most informative program.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

- Carol Shield

There are all sorts of organizations out there that fit all sorts of people -- Folks who love dogs, beaches, horses, quilting, trees, plants, historical monuments -- you name it and there is probably an organization out there for it. Call them organizations, groups, or clubs, they are there for the people.

Many organizations look just for membership support. Others encourage involvement. Let me give some examples within the realm of the environmental organizations. The Arbor Day Foundation encourages membership support and gets their members involved through empowerment by planting trees. The Nature Conservancy and Conservation International look for membership support that, in turn, gives them funds to purchase environmentally sensitive lands to protect them from development.

Then there are those organizations that encourage involvement. These are groups that hold meetings, events and workshops for their members and general public. This is where Audubon fits in, as does The Sierra Club, Loxahatchee Natural History Association, and the Native Plant Society.

What makes groups like Audubon so unique is, it gives an opportunity for someone to express himself or herself. It gives people an outlet to give back to the community or nature itself. Groups like The Audubon Society of the Everglades become a local meeting place for people with the same interests, giving folks an opportunity to socialize and make new friends.

What can be said here is that in being a member of this chapter, you already have shown your interest and concern in the local environment, along with 2200 other ASE members in Palm Beach County, and we thank you for that. I hope you are satisfied with what your chapter is doing locally both for conservation and environmental education. We'd always like to hear from our members. The chapter is here for the people. Thanks for your support!



Thank You Volunteers!

May Meeting Hospitality provided by:
Sheila & Marvin Calderon

IMBD May 20th:

Carol
Tammy & Bill
Sharon
Creighton
Marion
Pat
Susan

Naturescaping in April:

Susan
Kathy
Stella
Pat
Carol

IMBD at the Palm Beach Zoo

By Tammy R. Peeples

The Palm Beach Zoo hosted an International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD) Festival on May 10th. ASE was there with a booth to participate in the day's event. The weather was beautiful. The kids came out in flocks, and best of all, everyone had fun.

Children of all ages had the opportunity to learn about how birds are banded, weighed, and measured by becoming little migrating birds themselves. Upon entering the zoo they were banded and registered, and also given the name of a bird to become for the day. They migrated throughout the zoo from station to station getting weight, measured, and learning about birds. In total there were 15 different activity stations for them to visit, learn and have fun.

ASE had a wonderful turn-out of members volunteering for the days events. Our booth was in charge of measuring all the little "kiddie-bird's" wings as they migrated by. The children also got to experiment on how strong an egg actually is.

If you have never seen a "kiddie-bird" then make plans to volunteer next year at the Palm Beach Zoo's IMBD event! You will have loads of fun as you help in an event that brings our community together in the efforts to educate our youth about their living environment. Remember, taking time to care and share is what ASE is all about.

COGRATULATIONS

goes out to

Ethel Goldreich

Who received a
Certificate of Appreciation
From ASE on May 6th 2003

For her efforts and dedication to develop an island bird sanctuary at Kings Point in Delray Beach, FL. Her and her husband, Andrew, also founded the Kings Point Botanical Club.

The Audubon Society Thanks you
Ethel Goldreich!

What's in an Egg?

By Hank McCall

While looking for warblers during their migration, we found half of a tiny egg shell. It was so beautiful, white, perfect, and round.

It started when two tiny cells united, multiplied and expanded, always containing plans to build nests, musical notes to sing their song, the urge to create the next generation, and a sextant and sky-charts to navigate enormous distances across trackless oceans.

Our swallow tail kites set a south east course to Brazil and maintain it 2500 miles to the Amazon Valley. The pacific golden plover leaves Alaska on a south west course to Hawaii 2000 miles away. The tiny black poll warbler makes it to Peru. Do they use stars, sunlines, or landmarks to make flight course changes to compensate for the drift of wind?

Wakodahatchee had two successful nestings of great blue herons, one with two and the other with three young birds. We watched them grow from fleshly blobs with mouths and vents to vigorous demanding adults. What a miracle to see right here in our own territory!

DONATIONS WANTED

ASE will be looking for donated items to sell at the upcoming "Giant Garage Sale" at the South Florida Fairgrounds on August 23rd. The chapter is planning on a boot this year for one of the largest non-profit fund raising events in the county.

So go through your closets and set aside any items you are willing to donate for this event. More details in the

Conservation Corner –

- Cissie Durando

Let's kick off with the one bright spot of the month: our ASE Pathfinder Award to Kathleen Kelso. This young woman is a graduate of Atlantic High School. She submitted a resume' of four years worth of observation and analysis of newly hatched sea turtles and their frantic scramble for the sea. An unbelievable work for so young a person. This was not a rehash of any previously done controlled observation.

All enviros are wringing their hands over the failings of the state government wielding the power. This filters down to control of DEP and the S. FL Water Management District. Politics (including monies and power) have stripped us of our recourse to be protected. If the public doesn't respond with appropriate outrage, then agency and bureaucratic rules will continue to change and strip us of our legal ability to challenge.

P. Bch. County had held on to some protective measures for functioning FL native habitat. They were in resolutions and ordinances for our county. Additions to the "Right to Farm Act," totally unnecessary, have stripped us of the ability to have a say-so in out county! We are talking about any agriculture anywhere not just EAA or Agriculture reserve.

Another gem neglected by enviro comment:

Weakening the requirement to clean up contaminated sites, and ground & surface water. Only a need to achieve an "Acceptable" level of risk to human health is required. That's on a par with accepting phosphorous levels to an extent that is "Practicable" (in place of numerical standard). Without a consideration of conflict of interest (past, present and future) SFWMD will "Outsource" (*euphemism for privatize*) the head of their legal department upon the resignation of their legal head.

The big battle of whether Peacock Pond (an 80 acre retention marsh in Wellington) gets a permit for development was omitted from a permit of over 900 acres that surround it lost Thursday at SFWMD. It will come back for an isolated permit. As a stand alone, it's hope for preservation is considerably weakened. Depending on some legal consultation, I may ask our ASE folks to challenge this. After calling three state

WE'RE MOVING – After a long and mutually beneficial stay at the West Palm Beach Garden Club the board of directors of the Audubon Society of the Everglades has found a new location to hold our membership meetings. The primary reason for this move is financial. We are saving approximately \$80 a month and the facilities, parking, and location should be more convenient. This move will not, however, take effect until our [August meeting](#).



This Year's ASE Board Members and Comity Chairpersons

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Carol Shields 561- 964 - 1522

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Diane Rivera 561 - 433 - 4063

Second Vice President

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Rick Byrnes 561 - 798 - 6566

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Leah Schad 561 - 848 - 9984

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Hospitality

OPEN - - Would you like to volunteer

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The Audubon Society of the Everglades General Meetings are held
the first Tuesday of every month, 7:30 p.m. at the West Palm Beach Garden Club Center,
Dreher Park Trail, West Palm Beach (opposite the Science Museum.)

Deadline for submissions for the July issue is June 10th

Audubon Society of the Everglades

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