



# EVERGLADE KITE

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

Volume 44, No. 9

June 2004

## CALENDAR

~~ REGISTER NOW!! ~~

For this year's Audubon Assembly  
You won't want to miss it!

October 7-10, 2004  
Hilton St. Petersburg

Plan to attend this year's Audubon Assembly in St. Petersburg. Happening in conjunction with the Florida Birding Festival, enjoy the workshops offered by both of these events in addition to a great selection of field trips! Assembly highlights include Dr. Stephen Kress, Dr. Peter Stangel, Dr. Jerome Jackson, Kenn Kaufman and more! Join chapter members and leaders for a highly participatory workshop session to define the conservation priorities for Audubon of Florida for 2005 and to specify the action plans for chapters and Audubon of Florida to address the current priorities.

Get together with old friends and make new ones. Exchange ideas on Chapter governance, conservation projects, education programs, fundraising, and other Chapter activities. Look for Assembly registration information in the Spring edition of The Florida Naturalist.

You can register now on-line at  
[www.audubonofflorida.org](http://www.audubonofflorida.org)

## TUESDAY June 1st , PROGRAM

Claudine Laabs, President



~~ Camping with Kids ~~  
by Willie Howard

How do you interest your children in the great outdoors? Where do you take them to have fun and be safe? What equipment should you use? To tell you all about camping with kids our guest speaker is Willie Howard, a Florida native born in Lakeland.

Willie received a bachelors in business administration from the University of Texas and a masters in journalism from Columbia University.

Willie began working at the Palm Beach Post as the business writer in 1987. He became the environmental writer covering Everglades issues and has been the outdoor writer since 1996.

Willie and his wife, Jean, have two sons 6 and 9. Please join us June 1 at 7:30 p.m. at the Howard Park Community Center.

Carol Shields will conduct the June 1 meeting while I lead our intrepid travelers to their big adventure in the Amazon.



## President's Notes

by Claudine Laabs

On April 15 I was honored to join a spoonbill banding team in Tampa Bay. At 7:30 a.m. we met Ann and Rich Paul (Audubon's Florida Coastal Island Sanctuary managers) at the Williams Park boat ramp and divided into two groups.

Jerry Lorenz, director of the Audubon Science Center in the Keys, brought the banding equipment. Our arrival scared the parent spoonbills off the nest so it was important to work quickly. The baby spoonbills were removed from the nest and taken to Jerry for banding – a red band was placed on the left leg – and the bird was returned to the nest. After two hours 22 babies had been banded. Even though I was anguished by the distress of the parent birds, holding a baby pink bird in my hands was an amazing experience. It made me want to do more to help our wildlife and their habitats. We can all do more to make the world a better place.



*"Until he extends the circle of his compassion to all living things, man will not himself find peace."*

*~ Albert Schweitzer ~*

## HUMAN NATURE

By Tammy R. Peebles

Have you ever wondered about our lives as we become surrounded more and more by concrete buildings? Is it natural for us to want to live in a concrete forest with the absence of outdoor nature around us? I often contemplate how much we, as humans, are actually connected to the earth and nature itself. The more buildings go up, the less we are connected with our natural surroundings.

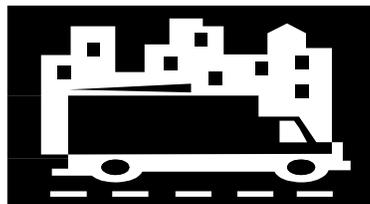
Have you noticed the evolution of stronger illnesses and diseases we seem to be seeing as compared to our younger days? I wonder if this is because we are living in a more enclosed environment and do not get to be nurtured by mother nature's fresh air. The more we are congested with the growth of construction and the pollution of vehicles, trash, industry growth and so forth, the more we seem to becoming dependent on new technologies to help make us "healthier." Is it possible that these new strains of viruses we are seeing now-a-days are fed by the pollutants in our environment which were not around years ago and because we do not have as many natural filters (like trees) as we used to have to clean the environment as quickly as in the past? Sure I know that these things become resistant to medications but what else helps them become so powerful?

What about our emotional state? It seems that more and more people are suffering from depression and "the blues." I have noticed over the past 25 years that people have started to bring the outside world into their enclosed world. Houseplants and pictured of the great outdoors are placed in our homes, offices, and buildings. We have been reaching out with our innate human nature to try and reconnect in any way possible in our daily routines. Perhaps we do this in an effort to return to our connection with what we once had before the over-construction started to take place?

The question is—how many of us realize that we are doing this to try and reconnect and how long before this subconscious level moves to our conscious level and we begin to take notice of what is going on in our environment that will effect us later in life and those to come after us? How many of us are willing to leave behind a world of congestion, pollution and suffering, and how many of us are willing to get up and make an effort to do something about it?

These are just my contemplations.  
I ask you to contemplate for yourself:

What's in your Human Nature?



## Conservation Corner

Are you interested in following the issues regarding the Scripps Development? If so, here is the latest information on upcoming dates:

### DRI submittal - Done.

The consultant, Kilday and Associates have completed their DRI application and have sent it to Palm Beach County Zoning and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council. It is now in the public record. If you would like to review the application you may call

Zoning at 233-5300 or TCRPC at 772 221-4060.

### Zoning submittal -

June 2, 2004. — At this time you may review/get copies of the county's zoning application for Scripps

### TCRPC, public hearing -

July 16, 2004

PBC Zoning Commission, public hearing -  
August 6, 2004 (may run to August 12<sup>th</sup>).

Board of County Commissioners, public hearing -  
September 2, 2004

Please note that these dates are subject to change.

Public testimony may be given at any or all of the public hearings. Written comments may be sent to the county, regional planning council, or state at any time.

## ☞ Tons of Birds ☞

By Hank McCall

The second and third weeks of March find 500,000 sandhill cranes gathering to fuel up and socialize on a 50 mile stretch of the North Platte River near Grand Island, Nebraska. They put on the most awesome sight of my life as clouds of them come in for a landing. This annual convention has occurred for eons. Rock fossils contain crane skeletons 3,000,000 years old!

From sunset until dark thousands and thousands of these cranes pour into selected stretches of the river to spend the night standing in water so cold the bobcats and coyotes won't wade into.

You can call Crane Meadows Nature Center at 1-888-382-1820 for current details about this spectacular event. The center is located at 9325 South Alda Road, Wood River, Nebraska 68883.

## This Year's ASE Board Members and Comity Chairpersons

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### Library & Bird Identification

Gloria Hunter 561 - 585 - 7714

(No calls after 5:00 pm please)

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### Programs

Open — if you would like to fill this position please Call Claudine.

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### Sanctuaries

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### Technology / Webmaster

Rodney Peeples

Webmaster@auduboneverglades.org

### Hospitality

Sheila Reiss 561-627-0510

### ASE Website:

www.Auduboneverglades.org

## Memberships in the National Audubon Society make great gifts!

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**Audubon Society of the Everglades**  
PO Box 16914  
West Palm Beach, FL, 33416-6914

**E00 7XCH**

The Audubon Society of the Everglades General Meetings are held the first Tuesday of every month, 7:30 p.m. at Howard Park Recreation Center in West Palm Beach. The phone number for the Recreation center is: 561-835-7055. The public is welcome to attend.

**Deadline** for submissions for the **July 2004** issue is **June 10th**.

### Audubon Society of the Everglades

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