



EVERGLADE KITE

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

Volume 44, No. 10

July 2004

CALENDAR

Important Notice :

The Lake Okeechobee ranger has agreed to lead another field trip to Fisheating Creek to see the gathering of the swallow-tailed kites. It will be on a Saturday morning (July or August) with very short notice. Participation is very limited.

Please call Claudine Laabs for reservations -- 561-655-9779.

When is the last time you visited MacArthur Beach state park?

If you have children who want to enjoy bird watching take a trip this summer to John D. MacArthur Beach State Park. On July 10th, starting at 11am the entire family can have FUN as Ranger Barry leads an educational walk identifying the many birds that make their home at the park. The program is free with regular park admission. Reservations are required so make sure to call the park's nature center at (561) 624-6952 to RSVP.

Ranger Barry will also be leading a regular birding walk on July 24th at 8am. Reservations are required.

TUESDAY July 6th, PROGRAM

Claudine Laabs, President

WILDLIFE in the EAA

By Elise Pearlstine, Ph.D.



Mammals, reptiles, amphibians, fish, and especially birds find homes in western Palm Beach county's agricultural area. Since 2002, Dr. Pearlstine and her team have investigated the rice fields, sugarcane fields, canals, and flooded/fallow fields to see what lives there. The abundance of food and lack of human interference provides excellent habitat for most of south Florida's wildlife species.

Elise Pearlstine was born in Utah. She studied migratory raptors for her Ph.D. from the University of Nevada in Las Vegas.

This program is a wonderful preview for Gloria Hunter's field trip to the Duda Farms later this summer.

Please join us at 7:30 p.m., July 6th,
at the Howard Park Community Center.

✻ Rest in Peace ✻



**The environmental community
lost two of its staunch supporters in recent months.**

DR. GRACE BLANCHARD IVERSON

A long-time educator and scientist, died unexpectedly on April 16, 2004. She is credited with developing the Wilderness Island Program that then resulted in Palm Beach County's Environmentally Sensitive Lands Program. It was Iverson who was also responsible for the plant inventory of the area that resulted in the MacArthur tract becoming the John D. MacArthur Beach State Park.

The Florida Scrub Jay was Iverson's passion. And, along with her former colleague, Jack Gardner, they devoted years studying the habitat as well as the habits of this endangered species.

The Audubon Foundation for the Environment, a tax-exempt 501©3 organization, has agreed to accept donations in Iverson's honor in order to publish the results of this long scientific investigation. Checks should be made payable to Audubon Foundation for the Environment, marked "Iverson-Gardner Scrub Jay Fund," and mailed c/o Alan Parmalee, 4765 Northwest 6th Court, Delray Beach, Florida 33445.

Iverson will be recognized at the Board of County Commissioners on July 13, at 9:30am. If you would like to attend please call Cissie Durando at 561-965-2420 for details.

SEYMOUR ELIAS MILLER

A long-time member of Audubon Society of the Everglades, and treasurer of the chapter for many years, died on June 4, 2004. He was always proud of the way he took care of the chapter's books and often spoke of the compliments that the accountant paid him at the end of each fiscal year.

He was involved as well with conservation issues locally and statewide. He and his late wife, Ruth, attended numerous state and national conventions of the organizations. Miller was responsible for starting the Pathfinder Award in memory of his wife, Ruth, that we have been giving to a deserving student each year.

Graveside services were held June 7, 2004 at Lake Worth Memory Gardens. The family requested that Audubon Society of the Everglades or Mounts Botanical Gardens be designated to receive contributions in his memory.



**Thank You
To Leah Schad for writing this memorial page.**

Conservation Corner

by Cissie Durando

It took 5 or 6 months but I do believe there is not a county resident who is not now familiar with the great Scripps bruhaha. Some of us have appeared (at too many to count) so-called public hearings to protest. I think we were discounted at first as cranks but of late there definitely has been a crack in the blind support and spin from Tallahassee to local politicians. I could say it proposes taking swamp busting, corporate welfare, incomplete vague financial calculations to new levels — ALL, without a public referendum!

We voted on bonds for beaches, sensitive land, agricultural land, and shortly will for schools. Now, from top to bottom, we are entrusting the building and fund raising, and even science to some very questionable people!

Please write letters to the newspapers, call your county commissioner, and legislator:

TELL THEM, that this will invade and eventually destroy the biggest bio-system we have going for us next to the Everglades National Park.

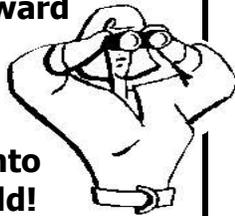


Miracles at Wakodahatchee

By Hank McCall

Walk east on the boardwalk to station #6. Take four steps further, face north, and look down. There, within eight feet, is a hold in the marsh grass that all but conceals a purple gallinule. Under her are four chicks and one egg. They are tiny black balls of down with bills decorated by a white tip. They are quite adventurous as they scurry about exploring their new big world.

Walk on to station #16 and look east with your binoculars. There are two black necked stilt babies, little gray fluff balls on long, long legs which fold backward when they sit. Standing, their height jumps up four times. Good luck, kids, as you grow into a big and dangerous world!



WEST NILE VIRUS INFORMATION

Summer time is Mosquito season and with Mosquito season comes West Nile Virus season. To report the finding of a dead bird, especially crows, contact the Health Department at: (561)355-3022.



You can also visit the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission website to report the finding of a bird.

<http://wld.fwc.state.fl.us/bird/>

OPEN CHAIR POSITIONS:

Are you interested in getting involved with your Audubon chapter and meeting some great people along with perks? We are looking for someone to handle programs for our monthly meetings. For information on what this involves call Claudine at 655-9779. Now that Claudine is our chapter President, she has a full plate and needs to turn over Programs to someone.

Also, we are looking for someone organized, and who has a computer, to handle Membership. Linda Most will be going back to school in Tallahassee at the end of summer and there is 9 months left in the 2-year term of this board position. If you want to find out what this involves, call Linda at 626-8844, or e-mail her at lmost@excite.com.

“We can share the earth and take care of it together, rather than trying to possess it, destroying the beauty of life in the process.”

The Dalai Lama

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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 **August 2004** issue is **July 10th**.

Audubon Society of the Everglades

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