

# EVERGLADE KITE

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

Volume 45, No. 2

November 2004

>>> CALENDAR <<<

**Saturday, November 6**

Sanctuary Island Coastal Clean up.

\*\*See President's Note (pg. 2)

**Tuesday, November 9, 4:00 p.m. -**

Wakodahatchee Wetlands Sunset Walk. Delray Beach. Meet at boardwalk, east side of Jog Road, 1.5 miles north of Atlantic Avenue. Leader Wilma Zane.

**Friday, November 12, 7:00 p.m. -**

Okeehetee Park Nature Center. Audubon Owl Prowl. \$3 per person, reservations required. 7715 Forest Hill Blvd, WPB. 561-233-1400

**Saturday, November 27, 8:00 a.m. -**

Wakodahatchee Wetlands, Delray Beach. Meet as above. Leader: Doug Beach.

**TUESDAY November 2nd, PROGRAM**

**LIVE BIRD SHOW**

by Keith Lovett

Keith Lovett is the Director of Living Collections at the Palm Beach Zoo in Dreher Park. Originally, he planned to give a program on waterfowl, but since the recent hurricanes, he asked if he could show off more of the resident birds. Of course, we all would like to see more birds! Some of the avian trainers will demonstrate the free-flight training, so get ready for an exciting evening.

Keith Lovett has a Bachelor of Science degree from Plymouth State College in New Hampshire. Keith's career started in 1993 as a zoo-keeper at York's Wild Kingdom in Maine. In 1998, Keith accepted an Assistant Curator at the Palm Beach Zoo and in 1999 he was promoted to General Curator where he was responsible for the animal collection and all associated programs. Under Keith's direction the animal collection grew from 400 animals representing 150 species to over 1,000 animals representing 250 species. In March of 2004, Keith was named the Palm Beach Zoo's Director of Living Collections. In addition to those responsibilities, Keith is involved in American Zoo and Aquarium (AZA) conservation programs.

Please VOTE, then join us for a LIVE BIRD SHOW at 7:30 PM at the Howard Park Community Center.

*Check Out What's Happening at  
The Pine Jog  
Environmental Education Center*

**Little Tyke Hikes** Thurs. Nov. 4, 9:30 to 11am  
Bring your pre-schooler (ages 2 - 4) and visit Pine Jog's pond. Naturalist instructors will help you and your child discover the wonders of nature. \$2 per person for PJEEC members, \$3 per person for non-members.

**Evening Hike** Sat., Nov. 20, 6:30 to 8:30pm  
A night in the woods begins with a marshmallow roast over an open campfire (weather permitting). Naturalist instructors lead activities on the forest trails. \$3 per person for PJEEC members, \$5 per person for non-members.

Pre-registration required.  
call Annie at 686-6600 for more information.

The center is located at  
6301 Summit Blvd.  
West Palm Beach, FL 33415

**~ Field Trips ~**

Gloria Hunter

The South Florida Water Management District is escorting bird trips in STA-1W from 8:30 to noon on the following Saturdays: November 20, December 18, January 29, February 5, February 19, March 12, March 19, April 9 and April 16.

Admission is by reservation only (no fee). STA-1W is just west of 20-mile Bend on S.R. 880. For reservations and instructions call Lois Chapman at the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, 561-734-8303.

This should be an ideal opportunity to observe wintering ducks and other waterfowl.

**~ President's comment ~**  
**Claudine Laabs**

The Audubon Assembly was held in St. Petersburg on October 7-9, which fortunately and unfortunately, was the same time as the Florida Birding Festival.

Linda Humphries and I were there to represent our chapter and learn what National Audubon has in store for us. It was a pleasure to meet the new executive director of Audubon of Florida, David Anderson, who assumed responsibilities at the Miami office in April. He said his emphasis will be CONSERVATION.

**Note:**

The Coastal Cleanup of our Sanctuary Island, off of Southern Blvd. in West Palm Beach, is rescheduled for November 6th. Please call Jim Robinson at (561)733-8337 for more details.

**Nancy H. Harrington**

Nancy Harrington, a long-time member of our chapter, died Friday, October 15, 2004. Nancy and her husband, Dick, who predeceased her, served on our board of directors and took care of the Sales Table for several years.

Some of our fondest memories of the Harringtons was their hospitality. They resided on Lake Osborne Drive. When it was bird count time, they always expected those of us who counted in John Prince Park to stop by for lunch and cool off in the air conditioning. Those were the days when we would begin counting in the wee hours and quit at sunset. In fact there is never a time that we drive by their house that we don't think of them.

Our condolences to her family.

 **CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT** 

It is time for experienced birders in the area to start thinking of the upcoming Christmas Bird Count. Doug Beach will be the new Christmas Bird Count Compiler for the county and he will appreciate all the help he can find!

The date this time is Sunday, January 2, 2005. Those who have participated before are urged to contact their team leader before long.



If you are interested in joining us for the first time, call Doug at 738-9552 or Gloria at 585-7714.

 **CHAPTER T-SHIRTS**   
***The Perfect Holiday Gift!***

We have a new supply of T-shirts that we are selling as part of the chapter's fund raising efforts.

The shirt comes in dark green with our logo...the Everglade Kite and our chapter name in white. Sizes included medium, large, extra large and extra, extra large.

Cost at the meetings is \$15.00. If you wish to order by mail please do so by sending a check in the amount of \$15.00 plus \$2.50 for shipping and handling. Please make funds payable to:

Audubon Society of the Everglades,  
P. O. Box 16914,  
West Palm Beach, Florida 33416.



**FALL MIGRATION**

Gloria Hunter, Field Trips



The fall migration of birds was much affected by our recent hurricanes. (As were we all!) However, the weekend of October 15-17 produced an exceptional flight of many species urgently on their delayed way to wintering grounds. Spanish River Park produced unprecedented numbers of warblers, along with thrushes, tanagers, orioles, vireos. What a busy time observers had trying to record such activity. Brian Hope reported spotting 22 species of warblers!

Frenchman's Forest Natural Area, Palm Beach Gardens, provided a great assortment of migrants also, with the additional delight of a Western Spindalis (aka Stripe-headed Tanager) and a Thick-billed Vireo, rare vagrants for the Bahamas. If you have not visited this preserve go walking there some cool fall day! It has pleasant, woodsy, well-marked trails in 158 acres of several habitats. A good spot to observe wintering birds and native plants.

**Have you ever visited Grassy Waters Preserve?**

*Well now is a great time to visit and enjoy*

Go out and visit the Gallery in the Marsh Exhibit in the Charles W. Bingham Wilderness Pavilion (South Side) November - December 2004 and see the wonderful exhibit:

**"Marjorie Stoneman Douglas  
One Woman, The Everglades, & The Rest is History"**  
(On loan from The Loxahatchee River Historical Society)

The preserve has a wide variety of activities to enjoy and a wealth of educational information at their South Side Nature Pavilion. There are programs for all ages.

The Preserve is also home to several Snail Kites. So, if you want an enjoyable place to visit while adding the Snail Kite to your life list take a trip to Grassy Waters Preserve. They are located at:

8264 Northlake Blvd, West Palm Beach, FL  
Phone (561) 627- 8831

**"BE conservation professionals,  
not complainers."**

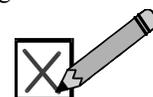
~ Eric Draper, FL Audubon Society ~

**REMINDERS:**

**November 2nd** is *Election Day*. Make your voice heard, and remember to **GO VOTE!**

**November 11th** is *Veterans day*. Remember and honor those who served so you could have the opportunity to **GO VOTE!**

**November 25th** is *Thanksgiving Day*. A wonderful time to give thanks for being able to **GO VOTE!**



**CONSERVATION REPORTS** by Rosa (Cissie) Durando



These days all begins and ends with the Mecca proposal for Scripps. The public hospitality extended by the state and county is amazing. It may be other people's money for Scripps, but after all, it is yours and mine! The latest on October 19th aside from more dismantling of our Comprehensive Plan was the Evaluation and Review required by the state. A special tax assessment was passed to fund drainage and all the other endless services. When a commissioner was asked why the reversal from previous opposition to special assessments, the answer was, "We didn't have enough money." Since the county will own and develop the 2000 acres for years, the acknowledged burden will also continue to fall on "the County" as in you and me.

Then there is a big elephant in the parlor (the 4000 acres of adjacent property riding piggy back on the Mecca site) that is ignored. Ignored that is except for repeated mentions of shared roads and questionable drainage plans which will undercut development of "our" Mecca site, utilities, etc. This elephant doesn't belong to the county but is subject to a municipality which is definitely going its own way. The elephant's name is Vavrus. There is a distinct possibility that the elephant could add the county property to its herd...as in annexation.

The first of several challenges to actions taken by those ruling on Scripps is the Administrative Hearing regarding the Environmental Resource Permit issued by the South Florida Water Management District. The Hearing begins at 9 o'clock in the morning at the Palm Beach County Courthouse on November 1, 2004.

\* \* \* \* \*

Another discouraging move looming on the horizon is an agreement engineered by GL Homes with the Palm Beach County Environmental Resources Management and the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) as willing enabling lambs to further corrupt the intent of the Bonds we passed to save the Agriculture Reserve. To get a bonus of 1 unit/acre as opposed to 1 unit/5 acres, the developer would leave 60% or 80% open space for water resources or continued agriculture production. The deal is GL Homes is giving \$19 million to the SFWMD in order to build at 1 unit/acre, with no open space. The SFWMD would use the money to buy a flowage easement, not fee title, over approximately 330 acres of the property that was used in the filming years ago of the "Gentle Ben" TV series. Ergo no preserved agriculture or open space in this part of the Agriculture Reserve which is about 30 - 40 miles to the south of the Gentle Ben site and the Loxahatchee Slough. The County Commissioners have not weighed in on this yet, but it comes to the SFWMD at the Governing Board meeting on November 9, 2004.

I attended an October 6th meeting of the Environmental Coalition Conservation Committee. The endorsed in principle, Agriculture in the Everglades Agriculture Area (EAA), Mecca is not the proper site for Scripps, and a moratorium for land use changes in the EAA with the purchase of land as it goes out of production. I have much empathy for these declarations but not much hope.

\* \* \* \* \*

Aside from Florida Crystals, there is a request under consideration to mine 4000 acres of sugar land just west of the Fanjul property.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation will begin their round of local hearing on Tuesday, November 9 at the Palm Springs Village Hall, 226 Cypress Lane, Palm Springs; Tuesday, November 23, 2004 at the Old School Square Auditorium, 51 North Swinton Avenue, Delray Beach; Tuesday, December 7, 2004, Town of Jupiter Community Center, 210 Military Trail, Jupiter; Tuesday, December 21, 2004, Belle Glade City Hall, 110 S.W. Avenue E, Belle Glade and Monday, January 31, 2005 at The Flagler Museum, 1 Whitehall Way, Palm Beach. All meetings begin at 2:00 p.m. with the exception of the January 31, 2005 meeting which begins at 1:30 p.m. NOTE: The meeting on December 7th will be the Local Bill Hearing session. Anyone wishing to address the Delegation at any of the hearing should call the delegation office at 561-355-2406 to be placed on the agenda.

\* \* \* \* \*

Calling all members that live in or near the Acreage or Loxahatchee Groves or in Wellington or Royal Palm Beach. We urge you to attend "Callery-Judge Grove invites you to participate in it Master Plan." The sessions are November 5-11, 2004 with a Kickoff Presentation, Friday, November 5th from 6:30 p.m to 8:00 p.m. at the Grove.

Hands-on Design Session, Saturday, November 6th from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Callery-Judge Grove; Community Open House, Tuesday, November 9th from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at 4431 Embarcadero Drive, West Palm Beach and Work in Progress" Presentation on Thursday, November 11th from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Callery Judge Grove.

Food will be served at each event. Please RSVP to Sharon Doucette at 561-793-1676 ext. 203 or email: sdoucette@cjgrove.com if you are able to attend.

\* \* \* \* \*

National Audubon Society has officially declared an almost 30% decline of bird populations in its "State of the Birds" report from 1966 to 2003.

And last but not least, We hope you will vote YES on the county initiated amendment making it more difficult for cities to annex western county land.

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

In Florida, a special 3-way membership automatically makes you a member in the National Audubon Society, Audubon of Florida and Audubon Society of the Everglades. Your membership will include subscriptions to

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Membership Chair  
**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 December 2004 issue is **November 10th.**

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Non-profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
West Palm Beach, Florida  
Permit 46

**The Everglade Kite  
is published 12 times a year**

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PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER