

EVERGLADE KITE

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

Volume 45, No. 8

May 2005

>>> CALENDAR <<<

SAT. May 7, 8:00 a.m. Spanish River Park, Boca Raton. Meet at south side of Spanish River Blvd. just west of A1A. Leader: Brian Hope.

TUES. May 10, 8:00 a.m. Boynton Inlet and Mangrove Park. A1A south of Manalapan. Meet at south side of inlet. Leader: Dorothy Brindle.

SAT. May 14, Spring Migration Count.
Compiler: Cynthia Plockelman, 561-585-1278.

There are no field trips planned for the summer months.



October 29-November 2, 2005 – Panama Birding Trip. Details in KITE. For information contact Carol Shields, 561-964-1522.



Don't Forget

The month of June officially starts the Hurricane Season.

Be prepared!

Visit the
National Weather Service
website for more information:

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



TUESDAY , PROGRAM

ENDANGERED AND THREATENED BIRD SPECIES
by Peter G. Merritt, Ph.D.

Peter Merritt's program takes us on a tour around Florida to look at the various species that are endangered and threatened, both nationally and state-wide. He developed an interest in birds while attending graduate school at Western Michigan University. His master's thesis examined the range relationship of Black-capped and Carolina Chickadees in Northern Indiana.

In 1978, he moved to Florida where he studied the singing behavior of the Northern Mockingbird for his Ph.D. from the University of Miami in 1985. Since then, he has held the position of Regional Ecologist at the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council. Dr. Merritt has served as editor of the Florida Field Naturalist, a scientific journal of ornithology and natural history published quarterly by the Florida Ornithological Society. He also served recently as the FOS president.

Dr. Merritt's videos give us an intimate look at birds and their habitat. He promised to bring some videos for sale!



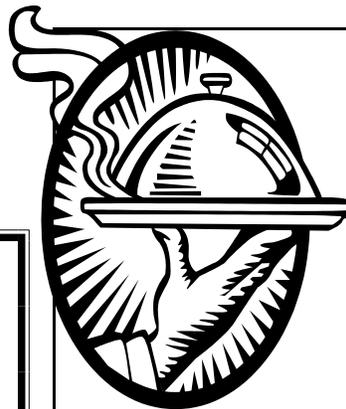
Please join us on May 3rd
at 7:30 PM at the
Howard Park Community Center.



▶ ▶ Note: There will be a change in the June program. ◀ ◀



Many thanks to the Hospitality Committee and members who made the picnic buffet for our Annual Meeting at MacArthur Beach so wonderful. Our guest speaker David Anderson, Executive Director of Audubon of Florida, was full of compliments. The bird walk was not producing too many birds, so when the ranger mentioned the spinner sharks in the ocean, we made a bee-line to the beach. Within a few minutes, we were treated sharks leaping and flipping in the surf. (Spinner sharks have black tips and black-tipped sharks spin.) The sharks have moved on and more migratory birds have moved in, so I hope you will make time to get out and enjoy the spring spectacle.



ANNUAL MEETING

Hospitality Chair, Sheila Reiss, gathered supplies and delegated duties for the covered dinner at John D. MacArthur State Park. Everything was delicious, as usual!

Thank you Sheila, Kay and John Gates, Sheila Calderon, Dick, Roy, Susan, Stella, and all the other volunteers.

● ● Executive Committee Vacancy ● ●

Cynthia Plockelman is being nominated for the position of Second Vice President of ASE to serve out the term in the recently vacated office. Alan Parmalee, John Gates and Susan Snyder served as the nominating committee. The election will be held at the next ASE general meeting. Cynthia is actively involved in conservation issues and co chairs the committee with Rosa Durando.



THANKS TO YOU —ASE MEMBERS!!

Over 850 Palm Beach County students were in awe when Doris Mager's great horned owl flew over their heads during a presentation at their school. Most children never have the opportunity to observe birds of prey at such close range. Learning about the burrowing owl, American kestrel, and crested caracara was an exciting event. Teachers handled the birds and some students fed them mealworms. Schools visited included Forest Hill High School's Environmental Academy, as well as Jupiter High School's program. The lucky elementary schools receiving the program were Pleasant City, Greenacres, Grove Park, Westward, and Jupiter Farms.

Underwriting Doris' programs is part of ASE's education program. Forest Hill HS students wrote "...you are very good at what you do.....normally presenters are dull and just lecture", "in the two hours you were here I learned about four birds.....in the future I will look out for the burrowing owl, considering they are on the threatened list", "The obvious love and passion that you hold for these birds was projected to the academy and made the experience more enjoyable."

Members, your contributions may help inspire some student to get involved with birds and the environment.

Thank You.

Audubon Leadership Workshop at Hog Island Camp

August 14-20, 2005

Maine Audubon invites you to its inaugural "Audubon Leadership Workshop" at the Hog Island Audubon Camp from August 14-20, 2005. Endorsed by National Audubon's Ad Hoc Chapter Committee and Office of Chapter Services, this session is designed especially for active Chapter leaders, to build and deepen your expertise and ability to enhance Audubon's effectiveness at all levels. Led by top-level State and National Audubon program staff and thoroughly experienced Chapter staff and volunteers, participants will enjoy a combination of daily workshops, special presentations, and lively discussions, as well as the traditional Maine field trips, serenity and fine food that are hallmarks of the Hog Island Camp. Daily sessions will include an in-depth focus on key Audubon conservation programs including IBAs, Audubon at Home, Centers and Education and citizen science, as well as State-Chapter partnership opportunities, fund-raising, leadership development and training. Among the featured workshop presenters are

Craig Breon, Former Executive Director, Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

Kevin Carley, Executive Director, Maine Audubon

John Cecil, Director, Audubon Important Bird Areas Program

Les Corey, Chief Field Operations Officer

Rob Fergus, Director, Audubon at Home Program

Joyce King, President, St. Petersburg Audubon Society and Coordinator, Florida's Audubon Academy

Steve Kress, Director, Seabird Restoration Project

Brooke Langston, Director of Field Support, Centers and Education

Bill McQuilkin, Southeast Regional Director, National Audubon Society Board of Directors

A special National scholarship of \$200 per person is available to the first fifteen registrants with a matching scholarship from her/his local Chapter. Additionally, Maine Audubon is providing a \$250 tuition reduction to all workshop registrants.

Dates: August 14-20, 2005

Session fee without National/Chapter scholarship aid: \$700

Session fee with National Scholarship and Matching Chapter Scholarship: \$300

To register: Call toll free to Maine Audubon's registrar, Linda Ledoux, at 888-325-5261, ext 215.

Do You Participate in The Wings Over Florida Program?

Wings Over Florida is a FREE awards program open to resident AND non-resident Florida birdwatchers. Its purpose is to encourage YOU to take your skills to the next level by identifying as many birds as you can within the state.

As your skills increase and you identify more and more birds, you can apply for higher and higher levels of achievement. Full color certificates are awarded at five levels starting at a life list of 50 Florida species (Beginner) and ending at 350 species (Elite Florida Birder). Simply fill out a Wings Over Florida checklist and application sheet and send it to the Commission for review.

For more information visit their website at:
<http://wildflorida.org/wof/whatiswings.htm>

MY BEST

When at night
As I lay to rest
I ask myself
Have I done my best

If I have
I smile inside
And if I've not
I give a sigh

For when I know
A job well done
I can rest my soul
With the setting sun

By Tammy R. Peebles

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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West Palm Beach, FL, 33416-6914

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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 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 June 2005 issue is **May 10th.**

Audubon Society of the Everglades

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