Our Annual Meeting is scheduled April 4 at the Green Cay Nature Center to encourage our south county members to attend. This beautiful nature center is a wonderful setting for our buffet dinner with tables outside overlooking the recreated wetlands. Our meeting will begin at 7:30 inside. I am delighted to have been president for two years and I will be delighted to hand over the gavel to the new president. Our business meeting will be followed by a program on “Strategic Planning” by John Flanigan, President of Audubon of Florida. This fine Audubon chapter is an all-volunteer organization. It doesn’t happen without you!

President’s Comments
Claudine Laabs

Our Annual Meeting is scheduled April 4 at the Green Cay Nature Center (12800 Hagen Ranch Road in Boynton Beach—between Woolbright and Lake Ida Road—phone 561-966-7000) to encourage our south county members to attend. This beautiful nature center is a wonderful setting for our buffet dinner with tables outside overlooking the recreated wetlands. Our meeting will begin at 7:30 inside. I am delighted to have been president for two years and I will be delighted to hand over the gavel to the new president. Our business meeting will be followed by a program on “Strategic Planning” by John Flanigan, President of Audubon of Florida. This fine Audubon chapter is an all-volunteer organization. It doesn’t happen without you!

Annual Meeting Pot Luck Dinner

There has often been debate in the history of ASE: is it the speaker or the food which is more enticing.? Traditionally, members vie to bring the most delicious dish. Members with a last name beginning A–L bring a side dish; M–Z bring a dessert. Some people have trouble with the alphabet; we accept their dishes too! Knowing the alphabet is not a prerequisite for being a good cook! ASE will supply a high-protein main dish to try to balance the nutrition. If you have any questions, please call Sheila Reiss, 561-627-0510.

See What’s Inside
Budget Proposal . . . . . 2
Canada’s Boreal Forest . . 2
Slate of Officers 2006-8 . 3
Earth Day Events . . . . . 3
Bird Flu Resources . . . . . 3
Membership Form . . . . . 4
Boreal Forest Destruction
Cynthia Plockelman

Boreal forest destruction is causing huge losses to Canada’s strategic breeding bird habitat.

ForestEthics, out of San Francisco, CA, has engaged in a public awareness campaign about the wholesale destruction of Canada’s boreal forests for the benefit of cheap paper to catalog retailers. These pristine forests are the principal breeding habitat for many North American bird species, particularly warblers and sparrows. This was documented in the June 2003 issue of Bird Conservation. Estimates range from 1.5 to 3 billion landbirds in the boreal!

Boreal trees are not suitable for housing or furniture woods, but have been discovered by the pulp industry. This also raises questions about: energy-intensive paper production; pollution from processing and chemical disposal practices; solid waste impacts to municipal systems. Recycling of paper products is part of the answer to the problem, especially for catalog retailers. Some are on board, like “Seeds of Change” and Aveda Corp. (beauty product retailers) and others are increasing the recycled contents: Dell Computers and Norm Thompson Outfitters, among others.

But not Victoria’s Secret, which mails over 1 million catalogs a day, printed on paper from the boreal forests. ForestEthics knows this, as it has tracked the log haulers to the processing plants, and on to the catalog printers for Victoria’s Secret. Efforts to engage this corporation in discussions on changes have not gotten far at all. FE also knows that Victoria’s Secret does especially well, sales wise, in the Palm Beaches. There are at least 3 sites listed in the telephone book: in the Wellington Mall, at 1802 PB Lakes Blvd., and on PGA Blvd. in Palm Beach Gardens. [Editor’s note: there are also stores in Boca Raton and Boynton Beach.]

For the sake of birds and the critically important whole boreal ecosystem, give the local managers at Victoria’s Secret a phone call and ask that their catalogs use recycled papers. Or write the CEO of the parent company: Leslie H. Wexner, CEO, The Limited Inc, Three Limited Parkway, Columbus, OH 43230, and ask that Victoria’s “dirty” Secret about catalogs be changed. Just think—395 million catalogs a year, according to a recent article in Time magazine (12/12/05). Twenty-five percent of the paper for these catalogs comes directly from boreal forest trees. The consequences to the whole Canadian forest system are catastrophic. For more information, visit www.VictoriasDirtySecret.net.

Thanks for your help.

Cynthia Plockelman
2nd Vice President and Conservation Co-chair, ASE

April 11, 2006 is the planned date for a National Day of Action to make our voices heard. There will be demonstrations and a letter asking the management of Victoria’s Secret to stop destroying this pristine natural resource. For more details, contact Cynthia at 561-585-1278.
Spring Frolic Celebration, Palm Beach Zoo.
The Palm Beach Zoo celebrates Earth Day Saturday April 8th from 10 a.m.—4 p.m. with a cultural arts and crafts fair to educate children on the importance of our environment. Butterfly and ladybug releases!

NatureScaping, MacArthur Beach State Park
John D. MacArthur Beach State Park will hold its 17th Annual Earth Day Celebration on Saturday, April 15 from 10 a.m.—3p.m. For more information call the park’s Nature Center at (561) 624-6952.

Earth Day 2006
Okeeheelee Nature Center
Okeeheelee Nature Center in West Palm Beach celebrates Earth Day 2006 on Saturday, April 22, from 10 a.m.—4 p.m. with live animals, birds of prey, guided walks, crafts and more.

Facts About Bird Flu
With widespread interest in avian influenza or “bird flu,” the National Audubon Society website has set up an informative website with general facts about the disease, and links to further resources for those who may be concerned about avian influenza, as well as about how birds are involved. Also included are some general precautions for protecting both human and bird health: http://www.audubon.org/bird/avianflu/avianflu.htm. Help stem the tide of misinformation about this disease with the facts!
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 AUDUBON magazine and the EVERGLADE KITE.

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

GET PUBLISHED! The deadline for submissions for the May 2006 issue is April 10th

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