



EVERGLADE KITE

NEWSLETTER OF THE
AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE EVERGLADES
Serving Palm Beach County, Florida
Volume 47, Number 5
February 2007

CALENDAR

TUES. Feb. 6, 7:30 p.m.

Howard Park, West Pam Beach.
Monthly program.

SAT. Feb. 10, Everglades Day.

Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee
National Wildlife Refuge. See
inside for details.

TUES. Feb. 13, 8:00 a.m.

Okeehetee Nature Center, 7715
Forest Hill Blvd., West Palm
Beach. North side of Forest Hill,
1 mile west of Jog Road (east of
turnpike). Meet at Nature Center.
Leader: Ethel Kujanpaa.

Fri-Mon. Feb. 16-19

Great Backyard Bird Count.
Count all the birds you see.
For more information, visit
www.birdsource.org/gbbc.

SAT. Feb. 17, 8:00 a.m.

Belle Glade Campground. Meet at
7:00 a.m. at Kmart on NW corner
of Southern Blvd (SR80) and 441/
SR7; park next to Garden Center.
Bring lunch. Leader: Chuck
Weber.

SAT. Feb. 24, 8:00 a.m.

STA-1. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at
Kmart, as above. Coordinator: Ben
Kolstad

SAT. March 10, 8:00 a.m.

Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary,
Naples. Carpool trip. Details in
next month's *Kite*.

TUES. March 13, 9:00 a.m.

Grassy Waters Preserve, 8264
Northlake Blvd., West Palm
Beach. Meet at parking lot, south
side of Northlake Blvd, 1 mile
west of Beeline Hwy. Leader:
Barbara Liberman

Fri-Sun. March 23-25

St. Petersburg. Audubon
Academy. Details in next month's
Kite.

Program for Tuesday, February 6th Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee Refuge Update

Just in time for Everglades Day (February 10th), we are pleased to have Mr. Mark Musaus, Manager of the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee Wildlife Refuge as our featured speaker for the February 6th meeting. Mark, born in Caracas, Venezuela and raised in Park Ridge, New Jersey, has managed the refuge since 1998. The ARM Loxahatchee Refuge is just one of 520 refuges in United States, comprising about 221 square miles surrounded by a 57 mile canal and levee. It is in continued conflict with the multitude of developments and the Everglades Agricultural Area. Mark will present to our membership a current report on the health of the refuge, how the exotics are affecting the refuge, the quality of the water, plus new improvements being introduced at the refuge.

Please join us at Howard Park Community Center at 7:30 p.m. on February 6th for this informative program.

Christmas Bird Count Results

The 40 people taking part in this year's West Palm Beach Christmas Bird Count got a few breaks and put in some long hours. A few breaks: several species seen on count day have only been seen once or twice or not at all since; one area that yielded two species seen only there, and only by one team, has since been drastically altered by development. (Our birding teams may have gotten a break, but the birds didn't.)

But our birders' dedication paid off. The 11 teams of counters (down from 12 last year) recorded 140 species, an increase of 3 over last year. 140 is a more than admirable number, given the level of development in our Count Circle—and the fact that it was a pretty windy day.

The highlight was the Eared Grebe at Green Cay Wetlands, a rare bird for Florida. For more than a month, birders had come from all over South Florida to see the Grebe. And it was still around on count day!

There were other good finds too. 10 species of ducks was the most we've had in several years. 13 shorebird species is also good considering our habitat.

We had some disappointments, too. Although seen during count week, Northern Flicker was missed on count day—the first time since the 1950's on our Count. We also failed to find Northern Rough-winged Swallow, which had been seen every year since the early 60's.

Familiar winter visitors such as American Robin, Cedar Waxwing, and American Goldfinch were once again very scarce this year. I guess we can blame the warm weather everywhere.

We'll see if we can top 140 species next year. It will likely be tough.

The Everglade Kite

is the newsletter of the Audubon Society of the Everglades, published 12 times a year.

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Conservation Report

Cissie Durando

I disagreed with Audubon of Florida's benign blessing of the FPL proposed new gas-fired power plant across the road from the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge. No matter how much better gas emissions are compared to coal or oil, these emissions will be upwind. Emissions of SO₂ leading up to a rain of dilute sulfuric acid, leading to increased methylation of mercury (the soluble form), leading to increased mercury in wildlife, including the waters of the refuge and points south. [Ed. note: the US EPA and USGS have found that parts of the Everglades are particularly prone to contamination by methylmercury, the most toxic environmental form of mercury.]

I am waiting to see if AoF join in the opposition to the Glades county coal-fired plant that has also been proposed. These plants are surely meant to guarantee power for hundreds of thousands of more units of development, not here as yet, that will be looking for uninterrupted power.

The other projected shortage: potable water in established cities anticipating problems from Orlando to Tampa to Broward and Dade counties. That future problem is being examined by the three districts involved: South Florida, SouthWest Florida, and St John's. Part of the agenda will be the "interdistrict" transfer of groundwater. This is to potentially meet the "projected demands of a 2013 population." This will immediately benefit Lee and Polk counties and hundreds of thousands of not-yet-here units. There is to be an "equitable distribution of water"—whatever that means!

There is a behind-the-scenes acknowledgment that STA-1 E and W are over- (or under-) supplied with dirty water, depending on whether we are in one of our drought modes, or in our gully-gusher seasons. It may not function as well as hoped for. Nevertheless, Wellington Basin B, the culprit in refuge contamination, continues to get hundreds of acres of free passes on permits to have artificial control elevations of 13 feet, many tons per day of manure deposited, and wetland destruction on site.

We need to revert to an earlier time when a bona fide environmental person was appointed by a governor to the South Florida Water Management District.

It is too depressing to get into the latest Louisiana predicament: slowly collapsing and sliding into the Gulf. Mismanagement. Loss of wetlands. Could this be the fate of Florida? One must also throw in extensive rock mining and its support structure to the land.

Rising sea levels only add to the hand wringing.

What You Can Do

In our county:

Call your commissioner, or chair Addie Greene, and urge them not to siphon off Palm Beach County's potable water to allow even more overdevelopment in Broward County. The focus of concurrency should not be exclusively devoted to overcrowded roads!

District #1: Karen T. Marcus 355-2201/877-930-2201

District #2: Jeff Koons 355-2202/877-930-2202

District #3: Warren H. Newell 355-2203/877-930-2203

District #4: Mary McCarty 355-2204/877-930-2204

District #5: Burt Aaronson 355-2205/877-930-2205

District #6: Jess Santamaria 355-6300/877-930-2206

District #7: Addie L. Greene 355-2207/ 877-930-2207

Rare Blue Treefrog Discovered at Audubon of Florida's Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary

Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary Director Ed Carlson is proud to announce the discovery of a bright blue treefrog. Volunteer naturalists noticed the frog along the Sanctuary's boardwalk trail and alerted natural resources manager Mike Knight, a Ph.D. candidate in vertebrate ecology who specializes in reptiles & amphibians. Knight identified the frog as a Green Treefrog (*Hyla cinerea*), a common denizen of Corkscrew Swamp.

The normal green coloration of frogs is actually the result of overlapping yellow and blue pigments. Very rarely, a genetic anomaly results in an absence of one or more color pigments. In this case, the absence of all yellow pigmentation has resulted in a totally blue frog instead of a green one.

Dr. Jerry Jackson, Professor of Environmental Studies at

Florida Gulf Coast University confirms that the blue frog is a truly extraordinary find. According to Jackson, the color blue is very rare in nature but does sometimes occur in frogs, snakes, and other animals.

Currently, the blue treefrog is being cared for by Knight, who has extensive experience raising treefrogs as part of his doctoral dissertation research. Following acclimatization to terrarium life, the extraordinary little frog will be displayed to the general public for a period at Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary. Staff and volunteer educators will accompany the frog, answering questions and enlightening the public on the importance of wildlife conservation.

For more information on Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary, please call (239)-348-9151 or www.corkscrew.audubon.org.

Everglades Day 2007

It's time to get back to nature! *Explore the Everglades* is the theme for 2007. The goal will be to get people out on the trails by offering many kinds of special walks. Of course there will be plenty of animal presentations, exhibitors, food and music. And it's completely free!

Featured special speakers are sisters **Janet Reno**, former U. S. Attorney General, and **Maggy Hurchalla**, environmentalist and former Martin County Commissioner. They will share some of their childhood memories of the Everglades, "Lost in the Everglades" at noon in the pavilion. **Nick Aumen** will present updates on Everglades Restoration at 11am.

Volunteers are still needed. Call Susan at 627-7829 or email roysue@bellsouth.net.

WHEN: February 10, 2007 8AM - 4 PM

WHAT: All day 8th Annual Everglades Day featuring exhibits, presentations, nature walks, canoeing, children's activities, live music, and food.

THEME: *Explore the Everglades* **COST:** Free

WHERE: Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge

10216 Lee Road, Boynton Beach off State Road #7/U.S. 441 (2 miles South of Boynton Beach Blvd. or 3 miles north of Atlantic Avenue, Delray Beach).

PARKING: Free off-site parking at Monte's Packing House 1/2 mile south of the refuge. Shuttle bus service and trolley service will be available.

HIGHLIGHTS (subject to change)

9am Bird Walk w/Ben Kolstad	Photo Walk w/ John Lopinot
10am Raptors w/Clive Pinnock	Photo Walk w/Claudine Laabs
11am Busch Wildlife Sanctuary	Everglades Restoration/Nick Aumen
12pm Snakes w/Don Campbell	Roadside Revue Music
1pm Alligators & Crocodiles	Storytelling w/ Javier del Sol
2pm Palm Beach Zoo	Cattle in Florida w/Judge Bailey
3pm Treasure Coast Wildlife	Brazilian PhilFest Music

Explorations throughout the day

Fishing demos	Bird Walks
LILA Tours	Plant Walks
Strazzulla Marsh tours	Children's Walk
Canoeing	Photo Walks
Nature Walks	Butterfly Walks
Reptile Walks	Hiking

THANK YOU!!

We greatly appreciate the response to our Annual Appeal letter. We are still getting responses but we did not want any more time to pass without saying how grateful we are for your contributions to continue our chapter's work. As of this writing we have received a total of \$7,385. The printing and mailing expense came to \$882.13. Our net amount comes to \$6,502.87.

Those who have contributed to date (January 10, 2007) include:

Joan Abess	Andrew Gordon	Cynthia Plockelman
Jane Ackerman	Nina Griswold	Joseph Prusa
Art by LaFogg	Winston Guest	Victoria Putnam
Barbara Balint	Walter Hackenjoes	Sheila Reiss
Terry and Soni Baltimore	Lawrence and Sharon Hess	J. Perry Ruddick
Linda Bishop	Judith Hill	Samuel Saunders
Terrance Brown	Dorothy Hudson	Leah Schad
Marvin and Sheila Calderon	Mary Hulitar	Thomas Sheehan
John Canning	Gloria Hunter	Lesly Smith
Lawrence Chanzit	Mary Irving	Joanne Snyder
Nancy Goodwin Cobb	Lois Klein	Susan Snyder
Ruth Cogswell	Susan Korzenewski	Edna Stephens
Barbara Coners	Creighton & Natalie Lederer	Nancy Stroud
Dean Surveying & Mapping	Patricia Leef	Linda Sturdy
Frank and Joy Death	William Mannino	Grace Tate
Louise Devine	Cathleen Cox McFarlane	Paula Tefft
Margaret Donelley	Chris McVoy	Trudi Foster Interiors
Rosa Durando	William Motsch, Jr.	Alan Wagner
Carl Edwards	Esther M. Nitto	Mark Wasyluk
Mary Nye Egly	Judith Norton	Margaret Westervelt
Marsha Fishbane	Alan Parmalee	Paton White
Sherrie Frieling	Richard and Mary Pase	Ted and Trudy Winsberg
Marjorie Gelber	Hilda Percy	Alice Young
David Gillings	Kimberly Pierce	Judith Zaslow

Palm Beach Gallery Event to Feature Bird Sculptures

The Society of the Four Arts will unveil its second exhibition of the 2006-2007 season on February 17, 2007. The exhibit, entitled "The Brilliance of Birds: The Sculpture of Grainger McKoy" will feature highly detailed sculptures of several species of birds. The exhibition features 41 sculptures representing individual birds (often in their natural habitat), flocks of birds in flight, and individual feathers in monolithic detail. To help illustrate the artistic process, numerous sketches and works in progress are included. In recent years McKoy has developed a line of table-top items and fine jewelry in precious metals. A selection of his most recent pieces will also be on display.

The exhibition will run from February 17 until April 14, 2007 at The Society of the Four Arts in Palm Beach. For additional information, contact the gallery at (561) 655-7226.

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.

Reminder: Deadline for submissions for the **March 2007** issue is **February 10th**

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