



# EVERGLADE KITE

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE EVERGLADES  
Serving Palm Beach County, Florida  
Volume 48, Number 2  
November 2007

## CALENDAR

### November 2-3, Cocoa Beach

Audubon Assembly 2007 special guest Carl Hiaasen.

### Saturday November 10, 8 a.m.

Beginning Birding: Wading Birds, Part 1. Meet at Wakodahatchee Wetlands, Jog Rd N of Lake Ida Road, Delray Beach. Instructor: Marcella Munson

### Saturday, November 24, 8 a.m.

Green Cay, Boynton Beach. Leader: Ben Kolstad

### Saturday December 29

Christmas Bird Count. Details in next month's *Kite*.

### Friday/Saturday, January 11-12

Overnight trip to Merritt Island. Joint excursion with Space Coast Audubon. Costs will include carpool and hotel. For more information, contact Ben Kolstad, 561-367-7689, or email [ben@kolstad.com](mailto:ben@kolstad.com). We need to have a rough idea of how many people will attend in order to secure a group rate at the hotel.

**We are in the process of redesigning our chapter's web site, [auduboneverglades.org](http://auduboneverglades.org), and we are looking for photos to use. If you have a photo depicting birds or nature in Palm Beach County that deserves greater exposure (and I've seen dozens at our annual members' photo show in August!), please send it to me at [ben@kolstad.com](mailto:ben@kolstad.com); you will receive full credit and a huge THANKYOU from all who visit the site! This is a great chance for our chapter to show off our members' talent!**

## Global Warming

*Fred Lehman*

Our speaker for the November meeting is Mr. Fred Lehman, past president of the Astronomical Society of the Palm Beaches. An electronics engineer and computer programmer, Fred was Director of R&D at CPT Corporation during the latter half of the 70s where a small team did pioneering work on what ultimately became the personal computer. During this time he designed, developed, and patented the first high resolution CRT display monitor. In conjunction with the development of the first commercially successful stand-alone computerized work station (the CPT-8000), he established the standard floppy disk encoding format that is still in use today.

During the late 80s and through the 90s, he dramatically expanded upon my original high resolution CRT monitor, targeting the rapidly growing medical display market. For the past half dozen years he has devoted most of his time to perfecting the adjustment and calibration procedures that enable doctors and technicians in modern medicine to utilize the large assortment of flat panel displays on the market today. Currently, he is actively involved in the design and development of new high resolution display devices as they pertain to medical imaging. Fred is also a long time member of the AAAS (American Association for the Advancement of Science).

Fred will be putting his graphic display and engineering skills to good use as he enlightens us about global warming. Please join us at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 2 at Howard Park community center. You don't want to miss it!

## President's Comments

*Marcella Munson*

The Migration Celebration Day on October 20 at Green Cay Nature Center was a real success, and it gave our chapter a chance to draw special attention to the impact that human activity is having on bird populations (thanks again to our volunteers at the exhibit tables, and to Ben Kolstad for a spectacular talk on how global warming poses a serious threat to many migratory bird species!). A timely article in the August issue of *Audubon* magazine by Greg Butcher, Audubon's Director of Conservation, points out that since 1967 the average population of those common birds in steepest decline (such as the Eastern Meadowlark) have fallen 70%, from 17.6 million to 5.35 million individuals. If these trends continue, will birds like the Eastern Meadowlark, Evening Grosbeak, Northern Pintail, Greater Scaup, Loggerhead Shrike and Field Sparrow be all but impossible to find in another generation? Fortunately, there are many things each of us can do to help make sure that today's still-common species remain common. Large-scale projects that we can participate in include making every effort to preserve habitat (farmlands, grasslands, and wetlands in particular), halt global warming, and support sustainable forests (remember, in all of these areas, our votes count! Be sure to let your elected officials know just how important these issues are to you!). On a smaller scale, important actions include removing invasive species, providing pesticide-free habitat, patrolling beaches (there are many organized beach watches to join), monitoring and maintaining healthy bird feeders (if you have any), and participating in bird counts. Let's work together to keep common birds common!

## **The Everglade Kite**

is the newsletter of the Audubon Society of the Everglades, published 11 times a year.

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*Audubon Society of the Everglades, incorporated in 1966, serves communities in Palm Beach County. Our purpose is to promote the conservation of wildlife and the natural environment and to advance human understanding of our place in the total ecological system.*

## **Conservation Notes**

### **Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge**

- The Helena Chemical company's proposal to warehouse chemicals on Lee Rd, right at the entrance to the refuge, may be about to resolve. An alternative site looks promising.
- Solid Waste Authority landfill on west side of Refuge: ASE opposes the site; we are looking for alternative sites to suggest.
- Exotics control: fight fire with fire. On October 12, the University of Florida and the South Florida Water Management District released 120 *Lixadmontia franki* flies from Honduras, in an attempt to control the Mexican Bromeliad weevil that has been decimating the bromeliads in south Florida since its accidental introduction at a plant nursery in Broward in 1989.
- Program reminder: planning for Everglades Day (February 9, 2008) is underway.

### **Everglades Agricultural Area**

- Discussions are continuing on the idea of a "flow way" south from Lake Okeechobee. This option has been dismissed time and again by those with interests south of the lake, but is gaining more and more traction.
- The lack of a comprehensive plan governing the EAA is still a major concern. Every time issues crop up, they must be considered both in isolation and for their cumulative impact on the area. Without a comprehensive plan, the "big picture" risks being lost. Some of the issues that have come up in the past couple of years: an inland port, landfills, mining permit, power plants, ethanol, real estate developments, and water supply shortages.

Without a plan for the EAA, and particularly in the absence of a Water Resources bill from Congress, Everglades Restoration, CERP, etc., risks remaining in limbo.

Please be on the watch for an upcoming meeting between the Board of County Commissioners and the governing board of the South Florida Water Management District. There will be public notice, and we want to make sure that a comprehensive plan for the EAA is publicly supported.

### **Lake Okeechobee**

- This summer's drought has not lifted as we head into the dry season. It has had enormous impacts on surrounding areas, bringing up concerns about the Snail Kite. Farm interests are pursuing the environmentally disastrous idea of backpumping for agricultural and community water supplies/water quality issues. The lower water levels have enabled some minor restoration efforts (removal of some contaminated lake bottom mud, assessment of the work needed to repair the Dike, etc).

### **Scrub Jays**

- Palm Beach and Martin Counties were not covered in the just-released 5-year review; we have asked about how to address the county's populations of the birds when we're not even on the map!
- The Boy Scouts have plans to overhaul and expand their camp at Jonathan Dickinson State Park. The plans include 4 shooting ranges, an amphitheater, parking lots, soccer/football fields; most of this development is in the middle of several mapped scrub jay territories.

### **Green Space Threatened in Boca Raton**

- In southern Palm Beach County, there is a proposal to convert a portion of Boca Teeca golf course to townhomes, with what appear to be inadequate environmental review efforts. The city council will hold a hearing on December 11 to consider the proposal. The major concerns are loss of open space, potential environmental contamination, and loss of natural resources. For more information, please visit [www.savebocagreenspace.org](http://www.savebocagreenspace.org).

**Thanks to our volunteers at Green Cay's Migration Day: Stan and Freda Rosenberg, Bob and Betty Wershoven and family. ASE's display table looked great!**

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**Doris Mager:** Volunteers are needed to accompany Doris Mager, "The Eagle Lady" when she visits classrooms in Palm Beach County on March 31-April 3, 2008. The job entails signing in at the office, conferring with the school contact person upon arrival and assisting with unloading of the birds if necessary. As Doris says, "We don't put diapers on the birds.", so there could also be clean up duties!

**Science Fair:** Volunteers are needed for judging the Science and Engineering Fair sponsored by the Palm Beach County School District. This is an opportunity to support students and the school district as they promote the sciences. You will be awed by the breadth of projects, the talents of the students and the commitment of the teachers. And the event is extremely well organized!

Audubon Society of the Everglades is promoting this event by seeking volunteers from our large membership. WE NEED YOU! Many of you have science and engineering backgrounds. You choose the categories you would like to judge. The Science Fair is December 5<sup>th</sup> at the South Florida Fairgrounds. You must arrive for training at 8:15. Judging is 9:30 -12:00 and 1:15 – 4:00. Lunch is served. It can be a long day, but one that will leave you very encouraged about the future of our country!

**Everglades Day:** Volunteers are needed to assist with Everglades Day, Saturday, Feb.9, 2008.

*To volunteer for any of these events, please contact Susan at 561-627-7829 or roysue@bellsouth.com.*

### Coastal Cleanup at Our Sanctuary Islands

*Claudine Laabs, Sanctuary Chair*

On Saturday morning, September 15, an enthusiastic group of volunteers met at the Southern Boulevard causeway to participate in the international effort coordinated by the Ocean Conservancy, DEP, Keep Palm Beach County Beautiful and ERM. Trudy Foster, Jill Harrald, Debbie Smith, Susan and Roy Snyder, Richard Sorrento and Roberta Wesley headed out to Fisherman's Island on the north side of the causeway and amassed a dozen bags of debris. Special thanks to Greg Reynolds of the Lagoon Keepers for providing the pontoon boat.

Remember, our annual Sunset/Moonrise cruise is scheduled for April 20, 2008.

THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!

## NEWS FROM PINE JOG

### Tours

Pine Jog Environmental Education Center is holding free tours at Everglades Youth Conservation Camp twice a month. If you are interested in School Aged Programs, Summer Camps, or Programs to Develop Future Leaders, please contact Kelli at 561-686-6600 or [kcarte13@fau.edu](mailto:kcarte13@fau.edu). The website is [www.pinejog.far.edu](http://www.pinejog.far.edu).

### New School

Have you driven by Pine Jog recently? Big changes are occurring at that site. The green elementary school being built by Palm Beach County School District is well under way. The school will have LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification as a green school—a first for Palm Beach County and the state! Curriculum will focus on using the schools' construction adaptations as well as the environmental opportunities at Pine Jog as a basis for learning.

"LEED promotes a whole-building approach to sustainability by recognizing performance in five key areas of human and environmental health: sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection and indoor environmental quality."(USGBC) For more information go to the U. S. Green Building Council's website at [www.usgbc.org](http://www.usgbc.org).

### South Florida Water Management District and Pine Jog Environmental Education Center

#### STA-1E Birding Tour dates

**Time: 8:00-noon**

The next four scheduled excursions to STA-1E are:

November 10

November 24

December 8

December 22

Tours are open to anyone, but participants must register before the desired date to reserve a space on the trip.

To register for the tour or more information, contact Helen Beers at Pine Jog Environmental Education Center (561) 686 6600.

**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.

**Articles Welcome! Deadline** for submissions for the **December 2007** issue is **November 15th**

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**Members: Advertise in the Kite. 3 lines for \$10. Contact [newsletter@auduboneverglades.org](mailto:newsletter@auduboneverglades.org)**

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