



EVERGLADE KITE

NEWSLETTER OF THE
AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE EVERGLADES
Serving Palm Beach County, Florida
Volume 48, Number 7
April 2008

CALENDAR

TUES. Apr. 1, 6:30 p.m.

Potluck Dinner, followed by Annual Meeting and Election of officers, Howard Park. Paul Gray of Audubon of Florida will present on Lake Okeechobee.

April 4-6

Audubon Academy 2008, Vero Beach, Florida. Audubon Chapters: Champions for a Better Florida

SAT. Apr. 12, 8 a.m.

Spanish River Park, Boca Raton. Workshop: More Tips for Better Birding, Paddy Cunningham. The workshop will include a long hike to observe spring birds that will apply and reinforce the skills discussed. For more information, visit www.birdadventure.com.

Sunset/Moonrise Cruise in the Lake Worth Lagoon—April 20

Please join us for our annual cruise on the Lake Worth Lagoon, Sunday, April 20. We will meet at the Banyan Street Dock in West Palm Beach at 6:45 PM. You may bring a picnic dinner. The price is \$25. per person. For reservations, call Claudine Laabs at (561) 655-9779.

P.S. I will be in Panama from March 29 to April 7 and I will return your call when I return.

Annual Meeting and Election of Officers, April 1, 2008 Pot Luck Dinner begins at 6:30, meeting and program at 7:30 p.m. Howard Park Community Center, West Palm Beach

Speaker: Paul Gray

At our Annual Meeting on April 1, we will have a pot luck dinner (ASE will supply the meat, members A-S supply the side dish, T-Z supply the desserts). We will hold our election of board officers (the nomination slate is inside this issue and on our web site).

We will also have one of our favorite speakers: Dr. Paul Gray, of Audubon of Florida, who will be giving us an update on Lake Okeechobee. The timing for this program couldn't be better, with the strange "wet drought" we've been experiencing here in South Florida.

Dr. Gray grew up in Kansas City, Missouri and received a B.S. from the U. of Missouri, an M.S. in Wildlife Management from Texas Tech University and his Ph.D. in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation from U. of Florida with a dissertation on Florida's Mottled Ducks.

Please join us at 6:30 p.m. for dinner, 7:30 for the meeting and program, at Howard Park Community Center, West Palm Beach.

Conservation Notes

Senate Bill 2406, sponsored by Mike Bennett of Bradenton has been introduced into this legislative session in Tallahassee that would overturn local control of mining issues in favor of governance from—you guessed it—Tallahassee. Developers need aggregate to build roads, and are tired of people complaining that digging rock pits in the middle of a giant restoration project is not the brightest idea. So his bill proposes to ignore local restrictions on mining unless they were in place prior to March 2007. Please write your local legislator and urge them to kill this bill. For updates, please check out our new conservation page at auduboneverglades.org. It contains the most recent news about conservation events in Palm Beach County; it gets better as you send emails about events to our webmaster: ben@kolstad.com. Please check it out, and be sure to send any stories we've missed!

Eric Anders Munson Kolstad



Breaking News: As this issue of the *Kite* goes to press, we wanted to welcome the newest member of the Audubon Society of the Everglades: Eric Anders Munson Kolstad, son of our outgoing president, Marcella Munson, and our newsletter editor, webmaster, and field trip coordinator, Ben Kolstad. Welcome to Florida, Eric!

Stats: born March 11, 2008.

Weight: 8 lbs, 12 oz (*Editor's Note: oof!*), Length: 21 in.

Field Marks: Brown hair, hazel eyes, soft voice. Immatures of this species tend to have chubby cheeks (see photo at left).

The Everglade Kite

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

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ASE on the Internet

<http://www.auduboneverglades.org>

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.

Scripps Lecture Series

Susan Cerulean, author, naturalist, activist, will speak at 7:00 pm, April 30, at FAU's campus in Jupiter. The lecture is free and open to the public. For more information call 561-799-8462, or send email to scripps@fau.edu. ASE's website has a blog entry about it, with links to the publicity handout. Visit our blog at www.auduboneverglades.org.

SKY GLOW

ASE exhibited at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center's Turtle Day held recently. Sky glow and its impact on the natural world was the theme for the day. Sky glow is the light emitted at night that turns the sky yellowish and limits the array of stars that can be seen. If you have flown into Palm Beach County at night, you have seen it for yourself! Too much nighttime light causes major kills when birds fly into towers and tall buildings. Moths become fixated by bright lights and die because they are disoriented. Turtle hatchlings crawl toward the road and condos unless coastal lights are blacked out. Nocturnal animals can be affected by the longer periods of light. The longer periods of light also have a negative impact on some plants.

Using photos taken from NASA satellites, visitors to ASE's booth got a graphic look at the sky glow in N. and S. America. The urban areas of the U. S. are bright yellow especially most everything east of the Mississippi River. From space, major urban such as Los Angeles, Mexico City and Calgary etc. are bright too. Most of South America looks very dark by contrast.

In Nevada, Arizona, and parts of California communities have ordinances which limit light emission and require the use of appropriate lighting techniques. The night sky is much more visible in these areas. Consider working with your local officials to begin decreasing Palm Beach County's severe light pollution problem! Consider evaluating the lighting around your home too.

The International Dark Sky Association is at the forefront of this issue. Check out these websites for further information:

www.darksky.org.
www.audubon.org
[www.environment-agency.gov.uk//](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/)
www.urbanwildlands.org
www.nasa.gov
www.astronomy.org
www.noaa.gov
<http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/>
www.sciencenews.org
www.astrosociety.org
www.starastronomy.org

TURTLE DAY VOLUNTEERS—THANK YOU!

Bob and Betty Wershoven
Annalise and Jeremy Wershoven
Susan Snyder

Field Trip Report: Okechee Park

The trip was a success! We had 5 birders including myself. We started at the front feeders and were greeted by the 2 sandhill cranes. We got to see the cranes do a dancing ritual after they ate. They then started walking towards what could be their nest. We kept on running into them during the walk. We then got cripplings looks at the painted buntings at the back feeders. Also, we got excellent views of a Ruby-throated hummingbird at the sugar water feeders. That was a pleasant surprise. We then went to one of the lakes where we got picturesque views of the wood ducks, glistening in the sunlight. We then headed towards the outdoor classroom area, where we saw tree swallows. We were finished by 10:30, with a total of 21 species, after which we went to the nature center to look around at the exhibits.

Scott Scheinhaus

**AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE EVERGLADES
2008-2009 PROPOSED BUDGET**

INCOME – 2008-2009

National Dues Incentive	\$4,000.	
Grants and Donations	15,000.	
Fund Raising	8,000.	
Investment Income	<u>8,000.</u>	
<u>Total Anticipated Income</u>		\$35,000.

EXPENSES – 2008-2009

Administration		
Office Supplies/Postage	\$ 350.	
Telephone	375.	
Storage	350.	
Website	125.	
Fees & Licenses	350.	
Insurance	1,500.	
Accounting	3,000.	
Fund Raising Expense	1,500.	\$7,550.
Programs		
Newsletter(Printing)	\$ 6,500.	
Newsletter(Postage)	3,900.	
Conservation Award	150.	
Field Trip Brochure	1,100.	
Hospitality	500.	
Speaker Expense	500.	
Bush Wildlife Sanctuary	250.	12,800.
Education		
Lectures, School Programs, etc.	\$ 6,000.	
Everglades Day	2,500.	
Library Purchases	250.	
Rent	700.	
Science Fair	100.	
Envirothon	300.	
Naturescaping	500.	
IMB Birding Day	100.	
Big O Birding Day	100.	
Conferences/Conventions	1,500.	
Pathfinders	<u>2,500.</u>	<u>14,650.</u>
<u>Total Expenses</u>		\$35,000.

Membership/Mailing Problems?

Address correspondence concerning Audubon magazine subscriptions and/or National Audubon Society Membership, to PO Box 52504, Boulder, Co. 80322. Or call 800-274-4201; or email CHADD@audubon.org

**Everglades Day 2008
Walking Wild in the Everglades**

Perfect weather greeted the visitors at Everglades Day at the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge. Ron Magill of the Miami Metro Zoo brought several animals to illustrate his talk "Exotic Everglades Invaders." Over 20 nature walks were held. Presentations ranged from the *Florida Master Naturalist Program* by Steve Bass, to *Stalking the Everglades Crayfishes* by Dr. Peggy Van Arman to *Fish Tagging/Recapture* by Samantha Lantz. Walks geared to children focused on reptiles, butterflies, natural history and a mystery hunt. Once again the tours of Strazulla Marsh and LILA were very popular. Attendance was about 3,800! Serena Rinker of the refuge did an outstanding job again of organizing all of the details with the staff to ensure a successful festival. The day ended in a flurry when a rainstorm came in preceding the cold front! Nevertheless, visitors and exhibitors were very enthusiastic about the festival's activities, organization and presentations!

VOLUNTEERS: THANK YOU!

A special thank you goes to:

Sierra Club-Loxahatchee Group for donating to the festival; Staff at Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge; Leah Schad for securing the PBC Sheriff's office for Road Security; Carol Shields for flying down from Atlanta to offer great assistance.

Everglades Day Volunteers

Deborah Smith	Paton White
Cynthia Plockelman	Claudine Laabs
Susan Snyder	John Johnson
Carol Shields	Kay Skoog
Stan Rosenberg	Charles and Martha
Freda Rosenberg	Musgrove
Cathy Dahl	Marvin and Sheila
Linda Humphries	Calderon
Stella Rossi and grand-daughter, Sofia	Rick Byrnes
	Roy Snyder

ASE Election of Officers 2008-2010

Election of directors for the term 2008-2010 will take place at our annual meeting, Tuesday April 1 at Howard Park, West Palm Beach.

Special thanks to Ben Kolstad and Dana Smith for serving on the nominating committee.

Nomination Slate

President: Linda Humphries

1st VP: Cynthia Plockelman

2nd VP: Paton White

Secretary: Marcella Munson

Treasurer: *Open for floor nominations*

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AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE EVERGLADES IS A 501(C)3 ORGANIZATION. A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE (800-435-7352) WITHIN THE STATE OF FLORIDA. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.

Check out our redesigned website, www.auduboneverglades.org

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 subscription includes *Audubon* magazine and the *Everglade Kite*. **FOR ALL MEMBERSHIPS, PLEASE MAKE THE CHECK OUT TO NATIONAL AUDUBON, NOT ASE!**

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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.