



# EVERGLADE KITE

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE EVERGLADES  
Serving Palm Beach County, Florida  
Volume 48, Number 8  
May 2008

## CALENDAR

### **SAT. May 3, 8:00 a.m.**

Spanish River Park. Meet at the SW corner of Spanish River Blvd. and A1A in Boca Raton. Leader: Ray Buchholz.

### **WED. May 7, 9:00 a.m.**

STA1E, SR80. The South Florida Water Management District is opening Stormwater Treatment Area 1 East for weekend (Friday through Sunday) access, dawn to dusk. To mark the occasion, they are having an opening ceremony. From West Palm Beach, travel west on Southern Blvd (SR80). Approximately 10 miles west of SR7, turn left into STA1E (the previous entrance was on Flying Cow Road; it might still be the same place). Look for SFWMD signs. For more information, please email [urban@sfwmd.gov](mailto:urban@sfwmd.gov).

### **SAT. May 10**

Spring Migration Count. Contact Cynthia Plockelman for details, 565-585.1278.

### **Watering Rules Eased**

The wetter than normal winter has prompted the SFWMD to relax watering restrictions in our area to 2 days a week, except for West Palm Beach, Lake Worth, and Lantana, which remain at 1 day/week.

### **Membership/Mailing Problems?**

Address correspondence regarding 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](mailto:CHADD@audubon.org)

## **Archeological Finds in Palm Beach County Ed Petuch, Florida Atlantic University**

Ed Petuch received his B.A. and M.S. degrees in Zoology from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (Center For Great Lakes Studies) and his Ph.D. in Oceanography from the University of Miami (Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science). He later did postdoctoral work in the Department of Paleobiology, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, working on the Miocene fossils of Maryland and the Pliocene fossils of the Everglades area. Over the years, his research has taken him to 46 countries around the world, including New Guinea, Australia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Japan, Brazil, Uruguay, Colombia, Venezuela, the west coast of Africa, from Mauritania to the Cameroons, and Central America and the West Indies. From this research, he has been able to discover and name over 1000 new species of shells, both living and fossil, and has written over 100 scientific papers and 10 books. His research now concentrates on the geology and paleontology of the Everglades and the Florida Keys. Ed has been a Professor of Geology in the Department of Geosciences at Florida Atlantic University for 21 years.

The creation of the Everglades, from the destruction caused by the Chesapeake Bay Asteroid impact, through the times of the giant deltas and the development of the second largest reef tract in the world, to ancient lake systems, is illustrated by the use of simulated space shuttle images. The geology of the Everglades is described and many of the rarest Everglades fossil shells and corals are shown, some for the first time.

Please join us at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday May 6, at Howard Park Community Center for this exciting and informative look at the prehistory of our area.

## **President's Comments**

*Linda Humphries*

Thank you for electing me President of the Audubon Society. I know that many of you may not know me or what my qualifications are to be President, so I wanted to introduce myself to you. I was on your board from 2002 thru 2005 as your publicity person. I have been doing the advertising for Everglades Day for the last 6 years and am on the planning committee. I joined Audubon in 1999 because of my love of birds. I had no real knowledge of conservation or the problems Florida faced until I joined in on your bird walks and began to see the beauty of Florida. I have helped with the Lake Worth Lagoon bird count and planted seedlings on one of the sanctuary islands. Through all of these events, I have come to realize how fragile Florida is and that we are all needed to help maintain Florida's beauty. This was reinforced once again as I attended the Audubon Academy in Vero Beach this April. I attended a session called "Is Anyone Listening?" It was suggested that the most effective way to get our point across is in person, to show up for public meetings and speak at the podium if possible. Factual based documentation (sometimes pictures) makes a very good impression. Many times the final decision is not made until the meeting. My goal and hope as President of your Audubon is to continue to help save Florida's valuable lands for all of our children and grandchildren to enjoy. You do make a difference. Please give me your ideas and suggestions—it takes teamwork to accomplish our goals. I'm listening!

## **The Everglade Kite**

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

### **President**

Linda Humphries 742-7791  
hlindaase@aol.com

### **1st Vice President**

Cynthia Plockelman 585-1278  
cplocke@mindspring.com

### **2nd Vice President**

Paton White 818-7574

### **Secretary**

Marcella Munson 367-7689

### **Field Trips**

Ben Kolstad 367-7689  
ben@kolstad.com

### **Bird ID, Library**

Gloria Hunter 585-7714

### **Conservation**

Rosa (Cissie) Durando 965-2420

### **Education**

Susan Snyder 627-7829  
roysuesnyder@aol.com

### **Membership**

Debbie Smith 967-4879

### **Sales**

Stella Rossi 732-4786

### **Hospitality**

Sheila Reiss 627-0510

### **Kite Editor**

Ben Kolstad

### **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.*

## **ASE to Donate \$20,000 to Refuge Visitor's Center Exhibit**

At our general meeting on May 6, ASE will present a \$20,000 check to the Friends Exhibit Fund to cover the costs of a bird-related exhibit at the new Visitor's Center at the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge. This money is coming out of our reserve accounts. Please come watch as we hand over the money!

## **Florida Scrub Jays—Jay Watch, Etc.**

The Coalition for Wilderness Islands (CWI) was originally formed and led by Jack Gardner and Grace Iverson, in pursuit of saving important swaths and remnants of important native ecosystems/habitats in Palm Beach County. With Dan Austin of FAU, Grace did the original survey of wetlands, scrub, pinelands and coastal zones that identified those parcels that became the target of the original bond issue to conserve environmentally sensitive sites. Membership of CWI was largely drawn from Audubon chapters (Royal Palm and Audubon Society of the Everglades), PB County Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society and Sierra Club.

For the last 3 years, CWI has been working through the scrub jay sites and records of Grace Iverson and Jack Gardner on public and private holdings around Palm Beach County. Grace was the recognized expert on the Florida Scrub Jay in our region. Leading our team is Anne Cox, with Fred Cihocki on statistical analysis. People who assisted Grace in field work: Stella Rossi, Cindy Black, Winnie Park, and Pat Calvert have been very important in documenting, mapping and analysis of sites. CWI is wrapping up contracts with PB Co. ERM and US Fish & Wildlife Service, one of which includes assessment of hurricane damage to scrub sites.

At the same time, concern about the existence and current ranges of the Florida Scrub Jay has led to greater public awareness. But, we are finding fewer individuals or families of this beautiful and very individual endemic species, including on public lands bought to preserve scrub. Numbers have plummeted, though efforts are made by PB Co. ERM to maintain the proper fire regimen and there have been visits by contractors from Archbold Biological Station to band birds. It should be noted that PB Co.'s public lands are not managed for any individual species, but maintenance of the necessary fire quotient is important for all scrub species, whether bird, plant, herp, etc.

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) has instituted the "JAY WATCH" program, to help locate and monitor the Florida Scrub Jay. Concern for our rare Florida Scrub Jay and other native species needing help or monitoring is also a principal strategy for Audubon of Florida. St. Lucie and Martin Co. now have volunteer programs and Jonathan Dickinson State Park did Jay Watch last year, and will repeat this June. It involves specific training by TNC and related field work. Volunteers have to commit to the full training and 3 consecutive days of field work between June 15 and July 15, on assigned scrub sites.

We were quite distressed to learn that Palm Beach and Martin Counties were left out of the latest 5 year review of the Florida Scrub Jay: no discussion and only minimal maps of past records. Turns out it was because no one submitted any data from our area! We had expected FWC and FWS to take the lead—and nothing happened.

So, if the Florida Scrub Jay is not to be written off for Palm Beach County, we have a LOT of work to do. CWI is again taking the lead and bringing JAY WATCH and trainer Cheryl Millett to Palm Beach County for training. The date is May 7, 2008, at the Loggerhead Marine Center in Juno. Letters/emails have gone out to public officials in Jupiter, Tequesta, Juno; staff at PB Co. ERM and Parks Dept., interested/experienced birders, etc. It was announced at the ASE annual meeting, April 1, 2008. Interested persons can contact Pat Calvert at [gscalvert@comcast.net](mailto:gscalvert@comcast.net), 561-746 3753. For the 2007 JAY WATCH REPORT, go to the main TNC website, [www.nature.org](http://www.nature.org).

--Cynthia

## Rosa Durando Honored by Governor, Legislature

It's official! In the time-honored tradition of the government telling us what we already know, our own Rosa (Cissie) Durando has been honored by Governor Crist and the state legislature for her years of service to the environmental community. Here is the statement Rep. Alcee Hastings entered into the legislative record on April 4:

[Congressional Record: April 4, 2008 (Extensions)]

[Page E514]

From the Congressional Record Online via GPO Access  
[wais.access.gpo.gov]

[DOCID:cr04ap08-40]

CONGRATULATING ENVIRONMENTALIST ROSA  
"CISSIE" DURANDO FOR BEING NAMED  
A STATE OF FLORIDA POINT OF LIGHT

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

of Florida

in the house of representatives

Thursday, April 3, 2008

*Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Rosa "Cissie" Durando, a legendary environmentalist in Palm Beach County, Florida.*

*I have known "Cissie" Durando since coming to Congress in 1993. As an officer in the Audubon Society and on her own, Rosa has been actively dedicated to the preservation of our environment for nearly 50 years. Her knowledge of all things ecological, her honesty, diligence and determination combine to make her an invaluable resource to everyone concerned about protecting our water, air and land and the flora and fauna with which we cohabit our planet.*

*Over the course of her life, Rosa has accrued awards too numerous to mention. Now, her work has been recognized again by Florida Governor Charlie Crist, who has named her a "Point of Light" during Environmental Awareness Month.*

*I am pleased to join Governor Crist, Rosa's family, friends and huge numbers of admirers in celebrating her much deserved award, and I look forward to her continued contributions to the education of our citizens and the health of our planet.*

### North American Migration Count, May 10

We are even shorter on birders than usual; there likely will be some adjustments of routes/territories this spring. If we get lucky, as last year, we may get another "fallout." The weather has been strange enough for that to happen! If you are an experienced birder, please call 561.585.1278 and participate in this year's "snapshot" of migration. Thanks!

--Cynthia Plockelman

## Birding Class at Spanish River a Success

8 eager students met Paddy Cunningham at Spanish River Park in Boca Raton for More Tips for Better Birding. Although hopes were high for a fallout, the class contented themselves with excellent sightings of Yellow-crowned Night-Heron nesting behavior, the appearance of a Black-whiskered Vireo (a South Florida specialty and a life bird for several class members), and a few warblers.

Next year Paddy will offer more classes and excursions around our area; for more information, visit [www.birdadventure.com](http://www.birdadventure.com). We will post her Audubon classes on our list of field trips, to make sure we don't miss them!

## Duck Stamps Preserve Land

Linda Humphries

Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps, which we prefer to call Bird Conservation Stamps (Duck Stamps) are one of the best ways of creating and restoring habitat: 98 cents of every dollar goes straight to conservation funding, making it the most cost-effective form of bird conservation.

- In 2007, approximately 1.6 million duck stamps were sold! At \$15.00 each that means over \$23 million that goes straight into protecting habitat for birds.

- Bird Conservation Stamps do more than protect waterfowl. Many species of birds benefit from the increase in habitat protection.

The 2008-2009 Federal Duck Stamp will go on sale in late June 2008. Federal Duck Stamp sales raise about \$25 million each year to fund wetland habitat acquisition for the National Wildlife Refuge System.

To date, Duck Stamp funds have helped acquire habitat at hundreds of refuges, in nearly every state in our nation. There are 548 national wildlife refuges spread across all 50 states and U.S. territories. A current Duck Stamp can be used for free admission to any national wildlife refuge open to the public. Refuges offer unparalleled recreational opportunities, including hunting, fishing, bird watching and photography.



Kirsten Munson

Audubon Society of the Everglades  
PO Box 16914  
West Palm Beach, FL  
33416-6914

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**Check out our redesigned website, [www.auduboneverglades.org](http://www.auduboneverglades.org)**

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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.