



EVERGLADE KITE

NEWSLETTER OF THE
AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE EVERGLADES
Serving Palm Beach County, Florida
Volume 48, Number 11
September 2008

CALENDAR

**Tuesday, September 2, 7:30 p.m.,
Howard Park, West Palm Beach.**

General Meeting: Red-cockaded Woodpeckers in south Florida.

Sat, Sep 6. Florida Bay Boat Ride

We have arranged a special field trip to see mass migrations of shore birds at low tide in Florida Bay on Saturday afternoon on September 6. Fee \$130 per person (make checks payable to ASE). Limited participation. Call Claudine for reservations (561)655-9779.

Sat, Sep 13, 2008, 8 a.m.-12 noon.

Workshop: Birding by Behavior and Habitat. Spanish River Park, Boca Raton. Meet at south side of Spanish River Blvd. just west of A1A. For more details, see article inside.

Sat, Sep 20, 2008. Fall Migration Count.

Compiler: Cynthia Plockelman, 585-1278

Sat, Sep 20, 2008, 9 a.m. Sanctuary Islands Coastal Cleanup. For more info, see article inside this issue.

Sat, Sep 27, 2008, 8 a.m. Spanish River Park, Boca Raton. Meet as above. Leader: Ray Buchholz.

Sat, Oct 4, 2008, 8 a.m. Frenchman's Forest, Palm Beach Gardens. West side of Prosperity Farms Rd. 1.5 miles north of PGA Blvd. Leader: Marvin Greenberg.

Tues, Oct 7, 2008, 7:30 p.m. General Meeting: Introduction to FAU Pine Jog Environmental Education Center. Pat Welch, Pine Jog.

Sat, Oct 11, 2008, 8 a.m. Spanish River Park, Boca Raton. Meet as above. Leader: TBD.

Sat Oct 18, 2008, 8 a.m. Wakodahatchee Wetlands, Boynton Beach. Bird walk for kids 7 and older. Leader: Clive Pinnock.

October 23-25, 2008

Audubon Assembly, Homosassa, FL
Accommodations at the Plantation Inn.
Details: www.audubonofflorida.org

Red-cockaded Woodpeckers in South Florida

Michael Baranski, FWC

Tuesday, September 2, 2008, 7:30 p.m.

This month will be our last general meeting at Howard Park, and it will be a very special one indeed. **(Beginning in October, our meetings will be held at FAU Pine Jog Environmental Education Center on Summit Blvd. in West Palm Beach.)**

The program for our September meeting will be presented by Michael Baranski, Biologist, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. He will be speaking about the Red-cockaded Woodpeckers in south Florida, particularly our local population at J.W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area.

Mr. Baranski has an M.S. in Wildlife Biology (Ornithology), and has been conducting avian research for the past 10 years throughout the United States, focusing on threatened and endangered species including Ivory-billed Woodpecker, Golden-cheeked Warbler, Black-capped Vireo, Northern Goshawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, and more.

He is originally from the Chicagoland area and has been a resident of Florida for two years now, employed by FWC for one year. He started the RCW intensive monitoring project at Big Cypress NP but just recently moved to Corbett WMA. Mr. Baranski is also an amateur wildlife photographer.

PS: Apologies to those of you who showed up for our last meeting on Monday, August 4, due to the wrong date announced in last month's Kite. Our meetings are always on the first Tuesday of the month (and beginning in October, they will be at Pine Jog), so if the day and date announced don't match up, please call me (561-367-7689) or anyone else on our board to confirm the date. If we ever meet on a Monday, we will make a Big Deal about it. And yes, I now have a calendar on every wall in the office.

Call for Photos

Audubon Society of the Everglades is in the process of developing a powerpoint program that can be taken to lectures representing our chapter. We are asking if anyone is willing to donate a picture/pictures of local birds to be included in the program. These pictures will not be used for any other purpose or printed without your permission. If you would like to participate, please email the pictures to my email address, hlindaase@aol.com. A committee will review and select the pictures needed. The unused pictures will be deleted immediately from my computer. Thank you for your help.

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.

First Duda Trip, Briefly

Despite the high waters in the EAA, the trip on August 16 to the flooded fields of Duda was a pleasant surprise: the fields were full of birds: 3 phalaropes, 8 avocets, 2 white pelicans, a couple of willets, hundreds of Roseate Spoonbills, and the usual array of shorebirds: Least Sandpipers, semi/westerns (can you separate them with confidence?), dowitchers, Stilt Sandpipers, black-bellied and semipalmated plovers, 4 species of terns, Least Bittern(!), and numerous Barn Owls. Spotted Sandpiper was also present. A good time was had by all!

President's Perspective

Linda Humphries

I am back from Michigan and have noticed the high humidity and the rain storms. Since our drought conditions I have learned to appreciate the rain and am very thankful when it rains. There seems to be lots of sunshine even with the rain storms and for me there is nothing more beautiful than a palm tree framed against the sunny sky. As I was driving yesterday, I was surprised to realize how much I really do love Florida, no matter what the season!!

Clive Pinnock, manager of Okeeheelee, and I have been developing a Young Naturalists program for our Audubon Chapter. It will be for children between the ages of 7 to 15 and will consist of bird walks, raptor, reptile and turtle programs, Mangrove Ecology for kids (including seining) and much more. The Young Naturalist program will be once a month from October thru April. If the children attend 5 out of 7 events, they will receive a framed Young Naturalist Certificate from our Audubon chapter. Watch the *Kite* and check our web site for more information. The hope is to help children develop a love for Florida's nature and the desire to protect and save it for future generations to enjoy.

On a final note, it is amazing how small our world really is. As news of the sugar deal and the sale of the Everglades land became common knowledge there were articles in the newspaper in Flint, Michigan where my parents live. Flint was home to General Motors and Charles Stewart Mott. It turns out that Mr. Mott was a large investor in the US Sugar Corporation and Flint will benefit from this land sale because the Mott Foundation and two more of his charities will be receiving some of the money. I was really amazed to think of what a far reaching impact this land sale will have. I had only contemplated the effect this would have on Florida. It will be very interesting to see how this Everglades land sale and usage will develop.

Thank you to everyone who attended our ice cream social and photo night. I would like to give a special thank you to everyone who presented their pictures. They were beautiful pictures enjoyed by all.

Tomorrow...

As the birds fly by

Remember your binoculars

And look up at the sky

COASTAL CLEANUP - SANCTUARY ISLANDS SEPTEMBER 20

Please join us on Saturday, September 20 at 9 a.m. at the Southern Boulevard Causeway. This annual event is part of an international effort organized by the Ocean Conservancy. Trash is picked up, identified and cataloged by our enthusiastic volunteers. Refreshments are provided. To sign up, call Claudine at (561) 655-9779.

Membership: Two Choices

Linda Humphries

Our chapter has developed a Chapter Only membership, consistent with the policy adopted by the National Audubon Society in 2001. With this new membership option your membership dollars will go to supporting local projects: Everglades Day, educational programs, field trips, scholarships, and conservation activities. With the Audubon Society of the Everglades membership you will also receive 11 issues of the *Everglade Kite* newsletter. The reason for developing this membership is that when you join National Audubon, after the first year, our local chapter does not receive any of the money you pay to continue your Audubon membership. With the tightening of the economy, we hope this move will help to give us more revenue to support our valuable programs. I am proud to tell you that in the Gift Givers' Guide, a report published by the Florida Dept of Agriculture & Consumers Services, only 13% of our total revenue went to Administrative costs and the other 87% was given back to the community.

We will also continue the \$20 National Audubon Society Membership: New members to the Audubon Society are encouraged to join the national program and enjoy the total Audubon experience. You will receive 6 issues of *Audubon* magazine, a membership in Audubon of Florida including their magazine, and 11 issues of our chapter's *Everglade Kite* newsletter.

Whichever membership option you choose, you can find the form and instructions in the new brochure or on the back of this issue of the *Kite*. Thank you very much for your continued membership and support. It is greatly appreciated.

Special Class: Birding by Behavior and Habitat Taught by Paddy Cunningham

In order to increase your chances of locating and quickly identifying target birds you must begin to utilize your knowledge of bird behavior and habitat. This workshop will discuss how observing flight patterns and feeding strategies can increase your chances of identifying birds. Various Florida habitats will be covered as to what target birds can be found in each habitat. The workshop will include numerous handouts and a hike to apply these skills and others in the field.

When: Saturday, September 13, 2008. 8 a.m.-12 Noon

Where: Spanish River Park, Boca Raton

Hurricane Season in Full Swing

As this issue of the *Kite* goes to press, Tropical Storm Fay is bearing down on Cuba and the Florida Peninsula. Hopefully by the time you read these words, Fay will be nothing but a distant memory, with perhaps a few nice downpours helping restore the lake to optimal levels. Although Fay's impact will be over by the time you read this, please make sure that you are prepared for the next storm: stock up on your emergency supplies (batteries, flashlights, prescriptions, ready-to-eat meals, water, ice. The last few years have taught us some valuable lessons; let's not forget them!

Conservation Roundup

ASE endorses Amendment 4 on November Ballot

Audubon Society of the Everglades and Audubon of Florida endorse Proposed Amendment #4, which is on the ballot for the November election. The details of the amendment specify that the Florida constitution be changed to: (1) give property tax exemption for land placed in permanent protection; and (2) direct the Legislature to pass a law to allow [privately-held] land managed for conservation to be taxed according to use. Although much of the wording of the ballot issue needs further clarification, and there are questions about who will oversee whether or not land is actually being maintained in conservation, our board endorsed the issue unanimously.

Potential Land Use Change Urged by Developers

The Palm Beach County Commission has been asked by a group of developers to drastically change land use plan approved in 1991 (after state edict that all counties have one) by omitting the phrase stating that outlandish development applications "shall be prohibited." In sum, this group was seeking to be able to trigger an automatic land use review without being hampered by county commissioners. An attorney representing Richard Grosso spoke in protest, as did Joanne Davis, representing 1000 friends, and our own Rosa Durando. This proposal generated lots of controversy, and in the end, was not voted on by county commissioners, who instead voted on wording which states that if a development project is turned down on with the language "shall not," the developer can then petition to have commissioners hear it.

Beach Restoration Unfunded; Should Be Dropped

At the Commission's budget hearings, our own Rosa Durando pointed out they didn't discuss the \$3.4 million currently slated for beach restoration; eliminating this line item could help be a part of the budget crisis solution. At these same budget hearings, the county voted on a token reduction of what the county pays lobbyists; Rosa would like to see the program dropped altogether.

Miccosukees Challenge Stoppage of Reservoir Work

Rosa got a call from Earth Justice (a group we worked together with on a legal challenge years ago): they are challenging the recent successful Miccosukee challenge. Durando assured David Guest that ASE is behind flow way too.

Jets in Lantana?

There was also discussion of putting a jet landing strip in Lantana. A section of John Prince Park might be in danger because of this (the area around campground, the last natural slough in this area).

STA1 West Open For Recreation

Cynthia Plockelman spoke at the public opening of STA 1 West facility: in opening up STA 1 West, we see example of recreation industry as whole demanding access to every piece of land that is publicly owned, for everything, whether it is actually appropriate for that land or not. This will be a big issue with the Everglades and its waterways.

There are plans for an "ecovillage" down at the tip of Everglades Nat'l Park.

Loxahatchee News

The Refuge's GRAND opening will be in November; all exhibits should be in place at that point. It will be a 2-day gala event.

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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 newly redesigned online community at www.auduboneverglades.org

Join Audubon Society of the Everglades

There are now two ways to join ASE: Chapter-only membership, and membership through the National Audubon Society.

Chapter-Only Membership

When you become a member of the Audubon Society of the Everglades by using the form at right, all of your membership fees are put to use supporting *local* projects: Everglades Day; Education Programs such as model schools and field trips; Scholarships; and Conservation activities. Audubon Society of the Everglades members also receive 11 issues of the *Everglade Kite* newsletter.

National Audubon Society Membership

When you join ASE through the National Audubon Society, you also receive 6 issues of *Audubon Magazine*, and membership in Audubon of Florida. For details, visit www.audubon.org. To join the National Society, send your information as above, but make your check out to **National Audubon Society**. NOTE: The annual fee is \$20 for regular NAS membership. In either case, make your check payable to Audubon Society of the Everglades and send with this form to

Membership, Audubon Society of the Everglades

P.O. Box 16914

West Palm Beach, FL 33416-6914

Audubon Society of the Everglades (ASE)

YES! I want to become a **chapter-only member** of ASE. Enclosed is my check made payable to Audubon Society of the Everglades for:

- Regular \$15 Senior (62+)/Student \$10
 I would like to save ASE postage and printing costs; please send my *Kite* via email

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

e-mail _____

I would like to volunteer for:

- Education
 Conservation
 Everglades Day
 Fundraising
 Other: _____

Through September 2008, 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. **Beginning in October, meetings will be held at FAU Pine Jog Environmental Education Center. The public is welcome to attend.**