



EVERGLADE KITE

NEWSLETTER OF THE
AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE EVERGLADES
Serving Palm Beach County, Florida
Volume 49, Number 2
November 2008

CALENDAR

Saturday, Nov. 1, 9 a.m.–Noon

Beginning Birding, Part 1 at Okeehetee Nature Center, West Palm Beach. Classroom lecture by Clive Pinnock. This lecture is in conjunction with the Wakodahatchee bird walk on November 8. Cost (includes both lecture and Nov. 8 bird walk): \$20

Tuesday, Nov. 4, 7:30 p.m. General meeting, FAU Pine Jog EEC. Speaker: John O'Malley.

Saturday, Nov. 8, 2008, 8 a.m.

Beginning Birding, Part 2. Clive Pinnock leads class participants in a bird walk at Wakodahatchee Wetlands, Boynton Beach. Cost (includes lecture at Okeehetee on Nov. 1): \$20

Saturday, Nov. 8. Tropical Audubon invites you to attend their field trip to Everglades National Park. Meet in the parking lot of the Coe Visitor Center at Everglades National park at 7:30am. There is an entrance fee to the park. Bring lunch. Call Linda (561-742-7791) if interested in car pooling. We will probably have to leave by 5:30 am. Leader: John Boyd, TAS.

Wednesday, Nov. 12, 8:30 a.m. John Prince Park, Lake Worth. Meet at campground office. Leader: Dorothy Brindle.

Saturday, Nov. 22, 8 a.m. Green Cay Wetlands, Boynton Beach. Entrance on Hagen Ranch Road, N of Lake Ida Road, S of Woolbright. Leader: Ben Kolstad

Air, Water, and Environmental Health in Palm Beach County

John O'Malley, Florida DEP

Tuesday, November 4, 2008, 7:30 p.m.

REMINDER: we meet at FAU Pine Jog Environmental Education Center, on Summit Blvd. just east of Jog Road

Our speaker for the November meeting is John O'Malley, P.G., R.S., Director of Palm Beach County's Division of Environmental Health and Engineering. Born and raised on Long Island, New York, Mr. O'Malley attended Adelphi University in Garden City, New York where he obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Education and Health and a Masters degree in Health Education. He also attended Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, where he received a Masters degree in Geology. He is a Registered Environmental Health Professional and a Licensed Professional Geologist in Florida.

He and his family moved to Florida in 1978, now residing in the Village of Wellington with his wife of 41 years, Barbara. They have three children and one grandson.

Mr. O'Malley has worked for the Palm Beach County Health Department for the past 25 years; he has been Director of the Division of Environmental Health & Engineering in October, 2006.

Before becoming Division Director, he supervised the zoonotic program (animal diseases that affect humans), Group Care, Mobile Home Parks, Food Program, Solid & Hazardous Waste Program and was the delegated representative for the Department of Environmental Protection's Solid Waste Program in Palm Beach County. He has assisted in the planning, coordination and implementation of numerous environmental health investigations and training exercises in the county. Mr. O'Malley enjoys the environmental health challenges and opportunities here in Palm Beach County and recognizes the importance of environmental health in our community.

Bird of the Month:

Brown Pelican

Come hear the interesting information that Virginia would like to share with you. Bring your pictures of Brown Pelicans to display for the evening. Continue to help choose a bird of the month by sending me emails at hlinda@aol.com or calling me at 561-742-7791. Any comments are greatly appreciated. Visit our website to see photos: Click on Birds, then Bird of the Month.

Editor's Note: VOTE!

Our November meeting falls on election day; don't forget to vote before you come to the ASE general meeting this November. Even though we live in Palm Beach County, there's always the possibility that your vote will in fact be counted! You can't vote often, but do vote early!

ASE does not endorse any candidate or party; please research the candidates and make your own decisions. Just vote!

The Everglade Kite

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

President

Linda Humphries 561-742-7791

1st Vice President

Cynthia Plockelman 585-1278

2nd Vice President

Paton White 818-7574

Secretary

Marcella Munson 367-7689

Treasurer

Janet Schreiber 689-2530

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

Publicity

OPEN

Sales

Stella Rossi 732-4786

Hospitality

Judy Hill 585-1344

Kite Editor

Ben Kolstad 367-7689

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.

Least Grebes at Boca Raton Natural Area

A nesting pair of Least Grebes has been found in the north pond at Yamato Scrub natural area on Clint Moore road in Boca Raton. These birds appeared shortly after Tropical Storm Fay, and have already had two chicks, and appear to be working on another clutch. To get to Yamato Scrub, exit I-95 at Yamato; go west to Congress and turn right (North). Go about 1/2 mile; the site is on the left. You'll have to make a U-turn to get to the entrance.

There have been 6 reports of this bird in Florida previously; this is the first instance of breeding.

President's Perspective

Linda Humphries

As you already know, a lot of birds have migrated to Florida for the winter or have passed thru Florida headed to their final destination. There are so many new birds to see on our bird walks. I was in Michigan recently and noticed a lot of birds have left. It is amazing how many different birds my parents have in their yard even though there is only one feeder. I lived 55 years in Michigan watching and enjoying birds at my many backyard feeders and had never seen a red-bellied woodpecker in Michigan until this year. I have a pair of red-bellied woodpeckers outside my condo in Boynton Beach but I had no idea they were as far north as Michigan. I get so excited when I discover something new. I know that ASE has many experienced and knowledgeable birders that know all of my information, but I marvel at all the different species and how each bird is special and different, there is so much to learn!!

All birds play a very important part in our ecosystems and the reports of how many of them are now endangered is very sad. The latest report of the decline of Roseate Spoonbills in Florida Bay is very disturbing. Whenever I see a spoonbill I can't stop smiling and marveling at their beauty. All of us need to continue to be aware of the nature that is around us and how fragile and precious it is. You are an important part of keeping it that way. Thank you for the letters you have written to your representatives thru the years and the phone calls and emails you have made. Thank you for your donations and volunteer help. Some of you are no longer able to volunteer like you did years ago and wish you could do more, but you have helped so much in the past to bring us to the position that we are now in, thank you again, your efforts are not forgotten!! Thru your generous donations we are able to continue educating young and old to the wonders of nature. Any size donation, no matter how small, helps us to continue this goal. All of you are a very important part in helping to preserve and restore our beautiful Florida. Thanks also to all of you who helped September 19 with the migration count and the clean up day all thru Palm Beach County. I was amazed at how many children I saw helping their parents and grandparents pick up litter. For those of you who could not volunteer this year there is always next year. Just remember you do count—you do make a difference, even if it is only picking up a piece of paper thrown on the ground. Thank you!!!

Tomorrow.....

As the birds continue to arrive

Don't forget your binoculars

And the wonderment that they survived

Bird Photography Exhibit, Delray Beach

From November 14, 2008 through January 5, 2009, ASE member Michael Rosenbaum will be exhibiting thirty of his photographs (limited editions) in a "Birds of Florida" show at the Delray Beach Library (Atlantic Ave., 1 block west of Swinton). 10% of the sales from this exhibit will be donated to ASE.

Michael's avian images have garnered honors in the USA, Europe, and South America since he began competing in international photographic competitions in 2006. Michael placed 2nd in the 2007 Palm Beach Post Focus on Nature contest, and 1st in the 2008 contest. Many of his images were captured in Palm Beach County, though Lake Kissimmee, Merritt Island, St. Augustine, and the Everglades are also represented in his show. 10% of the sales from this exhibit will be donated to ASE.

On Wednesday, November 19, from 5:30pm to 7:00pm there will be an opening night with a 10-15 minute slideshow on bird photography in the ground floor auditorium.

National Grant Promotes a Natural, Local Solution to Florida Water Woes

ASE has been awarded a \$15,000 Together Green Innovation Grant from National Audubon Society. The funds will be used for a demonstration native plant landscape to be planted at FAU Pine Jog Environmental Education Center, next to the new facilities at Pine Jog. It will provide extensive educational outreach to help Palm Beach County residents learn to save precious water while restoring natural habitats. Water consumption and quality degradation are among the state's biggest problems.

Methods and value of restoring irrigation-dependent traditional landscapes with the healthier native variety will be showcased. A Pine Jog Visitor Center is now open on Saturdays. Education Center visitors are expected to see the transformation and will leave with new awareness of how and why to transform their own properties and use tools like rain-collecting cisterns to help ease Florida's constant thirst. How-to-materials for property owners and eventually even a county-approved curriculum to be shared among schools will help expand the outcomes from a tiny demonstration plot to a growing and easily replicated landscaping choice.

Along with decreased water use, the habitat restoration will help combat the cause of dramatically declining bird and butterfly populations in the area. Witnessing the benefits to them will likely help the Center's visitors to make choices that benefit humans and wildlife alike.

"This has the potential to make a real difference in water consumption and the protection of habitat that makes Florida so special," said the ASE's Susan Snyder. "People will see how the change is made and the wonderful results it produces; they'll see that they can make a real difference for the environment and be inspired to do just that." Other supporting partners involved in this project include Palm Beach County Native Plant Society, Atala Chapter of North American Butterfly Association, Palm Beach County Environmental Resources Management, South Florida Water Management District and U of F Institute for Agricultural Studies (IFAS).

The local grant is part of the first \$1.4 million awarded by the TogetherGreen. Announced in the spring, TogetherGreen is a national Audubon program funded by Toyota that aims to provide inspiration, leadership, and opportunities that inspire people everywhere to take action at home, in their communities and beyond to improve the health of our environment. Grantees were selected from scores of applicants across America. Funds were awarded to Audubon organizations that demonstrated exceptional innovation in working with other groups on projects that will produce tangible benefits for environmental quality.

"This project has amazing potential to allow people help save water and natural habitats and we're thrilled that TogetherGreen has a hand in getting it started," added TogetherGreen project manager, Judy Braus.

Volunteer Pages

Science Fair judges are needed on Dec.10 for the Palm Beach County Science and Engineering Fair. Projects by middle and high school students are impressive. You will work hard, but will be inspired and pleased with the good work PBC teachers are doing. Please consider donating this ONE day to serve the cause of education in Palm Beach County! For more information, email roysue@bellsouth.net or call 561-627-7829.

THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS

We'd like to take this opportunity to recognize the hard work and dedication of our ASE volunteers who helped us out at events around the county last month. If you'd like to find out more about volunteer opportunities, please contact Susan Snyder at roysue@bellsouth.net, or call 561-627-7829. Thanks this month to the following people for their help:

Migration Day, Green Cay:

Ben Kolstad
Deborah Smith
Janet Schreiber

Lantana Greenfest:

Betty and Bob Wershoven
Jeremy Wershoven
Annalise Wershoven

Mounds Halloween Fest:

Paton White
Susan Snyder

Young Naturalist Program

The Young Naturalist Program got off to a slow start this month. There was a bird walk at Wakodahatchee at 8:00 a.m. for children. Clive Pinnock was the leader. We didn't have as many children as we hoped, but we did see many great birds including a red-shouldered hawk, black-bellied whistling ducks, and the usual resident birds. The children enjoyed seeing a bird and finding its picture on a Florida Birds guide sheet. It helped reinforce the bird's name the next time it was seen.

Tom Poulson joined the group and brought a tadpole and muck from the bottom of Wakodahatchee. He showed how the tadpole is a different color on top and bottom to hide it from its enemies. He also explained about the muck that makes up Wakodahatchee.

The next program will be at Okeeheelee Nature Center, November 15, 2008 1:00 p.m. This will be a program on raptors, with Okeeheelee's resident birds. Come join the fun. Call Linda Humphries to register. 561-742-7791 \$3 per person charge.

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

Nonprofit Org
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit 46
West Palm Beach, Florida

Dated Material -- DO NOT DELAY

The *Everglade Kite* is a monthly publication of the Audubon Society of the Everglades, P.O. Box 16914, West Palm Beach, Florida, 33416-6914. Also available on the web: www.auduboneverglades.org.

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 online community at www.auduboneverglades.org. Send us your thoughts!

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, send your check, payable to ASE (\$15/\$10) or NAS (\$20) as appropriate, along 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

I would like to donate an additional

\$20 \$50 \$100 \$_____

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

e-mail _____

I would like to volunteer for:

- Education
 Conservation
 Everglades Day
 Fundraising
 Other: _____

E00 7XCH

Audubon Society of the Everglades general meetings are held the first Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at FAU Pine Jog Environmental Education Center, located on Summit Blvd, near the intersection of Summit and Jog, in West Palm Beach. The public is welcome to attend.