



# EVERGLADE KITE

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE EVERGLADES

Serving Palm Beach County, Florida

Volume 49, Number 8

May/June 2009

## CALENDAR

**Sat., May 2, 8 a.m.** Spanish River Park. Meet 50 yards W of A1A on S side of Spanish River. Leader: Ray Buchholz

**Tue., May 5. General Meeting.** Doors open at 7 p.m., refreshments shortly after, and meeting at 7:30.

**Fri., May 8, 7-11 p.m.** Folke Peterson Wildlife Center Rescuefest "Save Our Center" For details CALL 793-BIRD. \$10 Live Bands, Comedians, Beer, Wine, Food Silent Auction

**Sat. May 9** 10:00 - 6:00 \$10 Folke Peterson Family Fun Day. Wildlife Encounters, Speakers, Cooking Demonstrations, Kids Entertainers, Beer, Wine, Food etc. For details, call 793-BIRD.

**Sat., May 9. Spring Migration Count.** Compiler: Cynthia Plockelman, 561-585-1278

**Tue., May 12, 7 p.m. Meet Doris Mager Fundraiser & Silent Auction.** \$25 per ticket. Light refreshments will be served, and there will be a cash wine bar.

**Sat. May 30, 12-3 p.m. TogetherGreen grant showcase event.** FAU/Pine Jog Environmental Education Center, West Palm Beach.

**Tue., Jun. 2. General Meeting.** Doors open at 7 p.m., refreshments shortly after, and meeting at 7:30

If you have moved and no longer wish to receive this newsletter please contact Linda by email (hlinda@aol.com) or phone (561-742-7791).

If you would rather receive this newsletter via email instead of regular mail contact Ben Kolstad, ben@kolstad.com.

Thanks for helping us reduce our environmental impact and our printing/postage costs.

## Picayune Strand

**Tuesday, May 5, 2009, 7:30 p.m.**

Our general meeting for May will feature a presentation about the Picayune Strand, one of the premier natural areas in Florida, by Lawrence Gerry, the director of the SFWMD's Everglades Restoration Planning department. Picayune Strand, site of the infamous Golden Gate Estates development, is in the heart of an ecosystem called the Big Cypress Basin. The majority of this hydric forest is under water during periods of considerable rainfall. The forest is comprised of cypress strands, wet prairie, and pine flatwoods in the lowlands and subtropical hardwood hammocks in the uplands. The northern section of the Belle Meade Tract contains many second growth South Florida slash pine, with some remnant trees being over 100 years old.

Restoration plans have been formulated and efforts have begun to block several of the 45 miles of canals and remove 227 miles of roads constructed by land developers in the 1960s. the return of the sheet flow of freshwater through the strand and into the Ten Thousand Islands and Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve is essential for the survival of the natural ecosystem of southwestern Florida.

Doors open at 7:00 p.m.; the meeting will start at 7:30 p.m.

## Meet Doris Mager Fundraiser & Silent Auction

**Tuesday, May 12, 7:00 p.m.**

Audubon Society of the Everglades (ASE) is providing a unique opportunity for you to spend an evening with "The Eagle Lady", famed Florida environmentalist and inspiring educator Doris Mager. Meet Doris and her birds at this special event and participate in an auction on Tuesday May 12, 7-9 pm. Doris has agreed to do this inspiring program in recognition of the twenty five years ASE has sponsored her 'Birds of Prey' program in various Palm Beach County schools. This event will help support ASE's environmental and green education in Palm Beach County. The event will be held at FAU/Pine Jog Environmental Education Center, 6301 Summit Blvd, (near Jog Road) in West Palm Beach. Free parking is in the rear. Entry tickets are \$25 in advance (reserved seating) or \$30 at the door. Light refreshments will be served in addition to a cash wine bar. For advance tickets, please mail check payable to Audubon Society of the Everglades, PO Box 16914, West Palm Beach, FL 33416-6914. Additional donations are welcomed. For further information or to donate an item for the auction, call chairperson Paton White at 561-818-7574 or ASE president Linda Humphries 561-742-7791.

## Sea Turtles and Our Fragile Marine Environment

**Tuesday, June 2, 2009, 7:30 p.m.**

Our general meeting for June will feature a presentation about sea turtles by the Loggerhead Marinelifelife Center. While there are environmental education activities at the Loggerhead MarineLife Center, their primary focus is on rescuing stranded sea turtles that are injured, caring for them, and releasing them back to the sea. The center has a hospital on site and is proud of their 80% release record. They have recently acquired an ambulance which will be able to quickly attend to the turtles' needs (many of their patients weigh up to 400 pounds!)

Doors open at 7:00 p.m.; the meeting will start at 7:30 p.m.

## **The Everglade Kite**

*is the newsletter of the Audubon Society of the Everglades, published 10 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**

Claudine Laabs 655-9779

### **Bird ID, Library**

Gloria Hunter 585-7714

### **Conservation**

Rosa (Cissie) Durando 965-2420

### **Education**

Susan Snyder 627-7829  
roysue@bellsouth.net

### **Community Relations**

Debbie Smith 967-4879

### **Publicity**

Sheila Hollihan-Elliot 845-304-6988

### **Sales**

Stella Rossi 732-4786

### **Hospitality**

Judy Hill 585-1344

### **Kite Editor**

Ben Kolstad 367-7689  
ben@kolstad.com

### **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.*

### **Bird of the Month:**

The Bird of the Month for May is Red-Shouldered Hawk. For June, the BOM is Barred Owl. Bring pictures to the meetings; come and hear special information about these local raptors. Is there any special bird you have been wondering about? Call Linda or email [hlindaase@aol.com](mailto:hlindaase@aol.com) with your ideas.

## **President's Perspective**

*Linda Humphries*

I would like to thank all of you who attended our Annual Meeting. The food was delicious and we had a great time. Charles Lee, former President of AOF, was our speaker. He spoke on the history of Audubon of Florida. It was surprising to find that the problems we face today are the same ones people faced when Audubon was first started. He showed how a small number of people made a difference throughout the years in protecting our natural lands.

On March 27 Debbie Smith and I attended the Audubon Academy which was held in Haines City, Florida. This was a retreat that has been held for the past five years by Audubon of Florida. The weekend offered classes and lectures on birds and conservation. The main theme this year was on our dwindling bird population, everywhere, not just in Florida. There is a list of twenty common birds in decline on Audubon of Florida's web site. Did you realize the Loggerhead Shrike has declined 71% and the Little Blue Heron 54% since 1967? Audubon of Florida (AOF) proposed that one way we can help is to plant healthy yards with natural trees and shrubs to help not only the local birds, but also the birds that fly through during migration. (Check out the list of native trees and shrubs and what birds they attract on our web site, [www.auduboneverglades.org](http://www.auduboneverglades.org).)

AOF talked about the loss of our wetlands and how it impacts the birds. They asked us to spread the word that we all need to monitor what is happening around us and call our local, state, and national representatives on issues that will save and protect our local habitats and wetlands. Some people will argue that providing healthy yards is not enough to save our birds. I believe that everything we do from providing natural food and habitat, to calling our representatives on important issues, will help in some way. It worked in the past and it will work for our future. We need your help to save our birds and their natural habitat!

To find your local representative, visit our website, [www.auduboneverglades.org](http://www.auduboneverglades.org), and click on **Action | Contact Your Politician**.

### **GALA EVENT - BIRDS OF PREY PROGRAM & AUCTION MEET "EAGLE LADY" DORIS MAGER HOSTED BY AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE EVERGLADES**

**TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2009**

**7:00 – 9:00 PM**

Pine Jog Environmental Education Center  
6301 Summit Blvd. (near Jog Rd.)

West Palm Beach

TICKETS \$25 in advance (reserved seat) \$30 at door Cash or checks only.

Light refreshments and cash wine bar.

To pay in advance :

Mail checks payable to Audubon Society of the Everglades

P.O. BOX 16914 West Palm Beach, FL 33416-6914

For information or to donate auction items:

Call Chairperson Paton White 561-818-7574 or Linda Humphries 561-742-7791

## Preliminary Migration Report

People have been calling with reports of birds being seen in the area. Five Spot-Breasted Orioles (a resident species, but a nice concentration, presumably a family group) have been seen off of 6th Avenue on Sunset Street in Lake Worth. An Eastern Screech-Owl sits in a pine tree near the owl box at Green Cay. There have been two sightings of Bald Eagles, a young one with a monitor is being seen around Emerald Key Lane in Palm Beach Gardens, and a pair of eagles are being seen in Heritage Farms off of State Road 7 between Boynton Beach Blvd and Hypoluxo. They have made a nest in the area. Between April 7 and 10 Spanish River Park has had a Yellow Billed Cuckoo, Thick-billed Vireo, Summer Tanager, Red-headed Woodpecker, Swainson's Warbler, Eastern Kingbirds, Yellow-breasted Vireo and several "regular" warblers. Spanish River Park also has six Yellow-crowned Night Heron nests in the Australian Pines. We are working on an email system that can send this information to our chapter members as soon as we hear about it.

## Website Updates

There is new and exciting information being added to our website. There are many new links to birding information. There is a link to birdscapes that has lots of interesting stories on birds, and "Audubon at Home" which has a category "Birds to Help". On this page you are able to print out info on birds in the urban, suburban, or rural areas. This section explains what the birds eat, how they nest, and what kind of shelter they need. It then explains how you can help them. There is also a website called [www.ebird.org](http://www.ebird.org). People from all over the country post to this web site on daily observations they see. You are able to create a list of the local birds seen in your area. It has the date, name of the person seeing the bird, and the location. This documented information could be useful if you ever need to prove why this land should remain in its natural state. This website has an easy method for entering your birding life list. You are able to summarize and manage your observations. Take time to check out the changes being made to our website at [www.auduboneverglades.org](http://www.auduboneverglades.org). I am sure you will find many new and different areas to explore.

## 2009-2010 Changes in our Chapter

Claudine Laabs is going to be our new field trip director. We will be meeting soon to plan the field trips for next year. If you have any ideas or suggestions on field trips that you would like to do please send an email at [hlindaase@aol.com](mailto:hlindaase@aol.com) or call me at 561-742-7791.

Debbie Smith is our new Community Relations director. She will be doing outreach projects in the community.

In order to balance our budget we had to combine May and June issues of the kite. You will be receiving 10 issues a year. Unfortunately the cost of postage continues to rise and the post office continues to make extra rules that increase the production of your newsletter. If you no longer want a copy of the Kite or would prefer to receive it as an email, make sure to contact Ben at [kolstadb@bellsouth.net](mailto:kolstadb@bellsouth.net).

## Mark Your Calendars for May 30! Come to Pine Jog! Join the Fun!

ASE'S TogetherGreen grant is well underway to develop a demonstration landscape project at FAU/Pine Jog Environmental Education Center along with educational outreach to help Palm Beach County residents learn to save precious water while restoring natural habitats and using rainwater harvesting. Water consumption and quality degradation are among the state's biggest problems. This \$15,000 grant showcases methods of restoring traditional landscapes with healthier native varieties which are adapted to wet/dry periods. Habitat restoration and increased use of natives can combat declining bird and butterfly populations. Water harvesting techniques can also save money.

Partners in this project include FAU/Pine Jog, Florida Native Plant Society, N. American Butterfly Association-Atala Chapter, PBC ERM, South Florida Water Management District, Land Design South, IFAS and various native nurseries. Students at Pine Jog Elementary School are also involved. ASE's local grant is part of the first \$1.4 million awarded by Toyota to National Audubon Society to provide leadership, inspiration and opportunities for people to take action to make a difference for environmental quality. Funds were awarded to Audubon organizations that demonstrated exceptional innovation in working with other groups on projects producing environmental benefits.

## Green Schools 2009 Recognition Program

ASE has taken part in developing and judging the Greening Our Schools (GOS) program. The initial year was a success! Twenty one schools applied. Each school completed an extensive application with review of their school grounds, curriculum integration, sustainability, community involvement etc. Documentation was included that gave evidence of activities undertaken to spread the 'green' message! Incentives included \$6000 in prizes. ASE donated a \$500 Judges' Choice Award to Don Estridge High Tech Middle School in Boca Raton. GOS was initiated by PB/Martin County Community Foundation which provided FAU/Pine Jog Environmental Education Center with funding to develop and administer it. The schools below received cash prizes, but all 21 received recognition at a luncheon. CONGRATULATIONS to the top winner, JUPITER HIGH SCHOOL, and ASE's own Phil Weinrich, who has inspired many students over the years to get involved with the natural world!

### Green Schools of Excellence

Jupiter High School  
Pine Jog Elementary School  
Morikami Park  
Elementary School

### ASE Volunteer Judges

Frank Adler  
Carol Bass  
Mike Bass  
Debra Hazelwood  
Susie Orsenigo  
Mary Shaw  
Susan Snyder  
Susan Trimbo

### Green Schools of Quality

Jupiter Middle School  
St. Andrews School  
Don Estridge High Tech  
Middle School

Audubon Society of the Everglades  
PO Box 16914  
West Palm Beach, FL  
33416-6914  
Address Service Requested  
Dated Material -- DO NOT DELAY

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

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](http://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.

**Articles NEEDED! Send to [ben@kolstad.com](mailto:ben@kolstad.com) by the 10th of the month.**

### 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](http://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: \_\_\_\_\_

C9ZE000Z

Audubon Society of the Everglades general meetings are held the first Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. (refreshments at 7) 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.