

EVERGLADE KITE

NEWSLETTER OF THE
AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE EVERGLADES

Serving Palm Beach County, Florida

Volume 50, Number 3

December 2009

CALENDAR

Tues. Dec. 1. Holiday Pot Luck
Dinner, Silent Auction, and General Meeting. Pine Jog. Doors open at 5:45; dinner at 6:30, meeting at 7:30

Fri., Dec. 4, 4:00 p.m.
Wakodahatchee. Leader: Valeri Brauer

Sat., Dec. 5, 8:00 a.m. Okeehchee.
Meet at Nature Center. Leader: Scott Scheinhaus

Sat., Dec. 5, 1:00 p.m. Join Tropical Audubon in Miami for South Florida Exotics Trip. Call Linda to carpool (561-742-7791). Leader: Paul Bithorn

Mon., Dec. 7, 1:00 p.m.
Conservation meeting. Lantana county library, 4020 Lantana Rd., Lake Worth. Call Linda for details (561-742-7791).

Wed., Dec. 9, 8:30 a.m. John Prince Park, WPB. Meet at campground office (enter off Congress and follow signs). Leader: Dorothy Brindle

Sat., Dec. 12, 8:00 a.m. Yamato Scrub. Leader: Ben Kolstad

Mon., Dec. 14, 7:30 a.m. Okeehchee. Meet at Nature Center. Leader: Ethel Kujanpaa

Wed., Dec. 30, 4:00 p.m. Wakodahatchee, Boynton Beach. Leader: Paton White

Sat., Jan. 2, 2009. Christmas Bird Count. Coordinator: Chuck Weber. 561-540-8374

Silent Auction

To help raise operating funds, ASE will hold a silent auction at our December Holiday Dinner. Please help us support our chapter.

General Meeting

Florida Department of Environmental Protection Update

Tuesday, December 1, 2009, 7:30 p.m.

Our general meeting for December will feature a presentation about the air and water quality in Palm Beach County by William "Chad" Kennedy, program administrator for the Watershed Management and Planning Program at the Department of Environmental Protection's South East District Office in West Palm Beach. The Program provides technical guidance and permits associated with regional restoration projects and provide support to headquarters on the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Project. He will provide an update on some recent DEP activities and proposed legislation.

December's meeting is also our annual Holiday Pot Luck Dinner. Doors open at 5:45 p.m. and the food will be served at 6:30 p.m. The annual meeting will start at 7:30 p.m. People with last names that begin between A-K will bring desserts; L-Z will bring meat, salad, or veggies. Please bring ready-to-serve food, as we have no kitchen. We will supply the drinks. We will also have a silent auction/chinese raffle to raise money for our Pathfinders Scholarship. I am looking forward to seeing you soon.

Afternoon Meeting at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center:

Lifestyles of Butterflies in the Garden

Tuesday, December 15, 2009, 2:00 p.m.

In our continuing series of afternoon meetings in Boca Raton, Alana Edwards, cofounder and president of the Atala Chapter of the North American Butterfly Association, will speak to us about butterflies. Her program, *Lifestyles of Butterflies in the Garden*, will delight children and adults alike. Learn about the butterfly lifecycle, interesting butterfly behaviors and how to attract these magnificent creatures to your yard.

Ms. Edwards became passionate about butterflies in the early 1990s. In 1995. She currently serves as president of Atala and coordinates 4 butterfly counts every year. She is also the clubs' webmaster and newsletter editor, and frequently gives lectures around south Florida on butterfly gardening and ecology.

Ms. Edwards graduated from Florida Atlantic University (FAU) with a Master's degree in Environmental Sciences in the summer of 2001. Her master's thesis was on the Effect of Prescribed Fire on Butterflies in Pine Flatwoods.

Since 1999, Ms. Edwards has worked as Education and Training Coordinator for Florida Atlantic University's Center for Environmental Studies. As Education and Training Coordinator, Ms. Edwards educates students, teachers and adults about the Greater Everglades Ecosystem Restoration. Ms. Edwards currently oversees the Robert J. Huckshorn Arboretum at FAU's Jupiter campus which has a very active butterfly garden.

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, Webmaster

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.

BIRDING WORKSHOP— SAVE THE DATE

When: February 27, 2009, 8:30 AM thru 1:00 PM

Where: Pine Jog Environmental Center

What: Pick and choose from 8 one-hour birding presentations. Speakers to include Clive Pinnock, Paddy Cunningham, and others

Cost: To be determined

Help!

Normally Audubon Society of the Everglades (ASE) would mail you a donation request letter at this time of year. This year you will not receive the letter, not because ASE needs your support less, but because we are trying to reduce costs and save every penny! Not-for-profit organizations across the country have been negatively impacted by the economy and we are no exception. Your board is therefore asking for your support through the *Kite* so that every dollar donated can go to support our local conservation and educational programs. As you may know, grant funding has been reduced for our biggest project, Everglades Day; mailing costs have increased; our conservation efforts are growing; and we need the financial resources to fund the Pathfinder Scholarship Award, in-school projects, community outreach and our membership services, including the *Kite*. Some of you have helped this year by joining this local chapter and making a small donation at the same time. Each donation is appreciated and used to further our common cause. Your tax-deductible contribution at this time will allow ASE to maintain and develop essential projects. Please help!

Make your checks payable to Audubon Society of the Everglades and mail to P.O. Box 16914, West Palm Beach, FL 33416-6914.

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President's Column

Linda Humphries

Our chapter is a success thanks to you and the many volunteers we have had through the years. We could not do it without your contributions and local membership. We hope you approve of our cost-saving way of appealing to you thru the newsletter. Thank you for your continued financial support.

We are offering a new program to schools, churches, after school programs, and youth groups. We will come out and do a program on birds or schedule a local bird walk. It is important to help our children connect more with nature; they are our future. We are finding that some children are afraid of nature and the things they do not know. If you know of anyone who could use our exciting new program, please have them call me.

I appreciated all of your personal comments and ideas and for your support of our programs and bird walks. Please continue contacting me. I wish all of you a happy Holiday season and look forward to seeing you at our Holiday Pot Luck.

Bird of the Month: Northern Mockingbird

The bird of the month for December is Florida's state bird, *Mimus polyglottus*, the **Northern Mockingbird**. Clive Pinnock will discuss this fascinating bird at the December meeting. Does anyone have a picture they would like to share of our state bird? Please bring it to the meeting and our holiday festivities!

**Conservation Meeting
Lantana County Library
Monday, Dec 7, 2009, 1:00 PM**

Audubon Society of the Everglades has started a monthly conservation meeting to discuss upcoming events and important public meetings being held within our local area. This is a one-hour informal discussion about upcoming issues so that we can be better informed.

The meeting is held at the county library in Lantana, 4020 Lantana Rd, Lake Worth. Come join the discussion! Call Linda at 561-742-7791 for more information.

Scholarship Update

Have you ever wondered where some of your donation ends up? Lauren Toth updates us on her accomplishments since winning the ASE Pathfinder scholarship in 2002.

At the 2002 Pathfinder's Award I received the Audubon Society of the Everglades Ruth and Seymour Miller Scholarship for environmental students. I attended college at the University of Miami where I majored in Marine Science, Biology, and Motion Pictures. I graduated UM in 2006 and am currently working on my Ph. D in marine biology at Florida Institute of Technology. Here I study paleoecology of coral reefs and I am investigating the role of oceanographic and climate changes on the growth of coral reefs in Eastern Pacific Panama.

For those of you who don't know, each year ASE sponsors an award for an area high school senior with a demonstrated interest and concern for the environment. Currently the award is worth \$2,500. Thanks to all of you who have so generously supported this and other endeavors; without you none of this would be possible.

Getting Out There

For those of you interested in getting out there, a few editorial notes about last month's article: The Loxahatchee River north of the Indiantown Road bridge actually is in Jonathan Dickinson State Park, not Riverbend Park. The waterfalls mentioned in the article are dams, and the "dock and ramp" is a structure installed to provide river users a safe passage route around the dam. Please use caution when negotiating these areas; the portage exists for a reason!

Moved Recently?

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.

Land Use Changes in the EAA

Cissie Durando

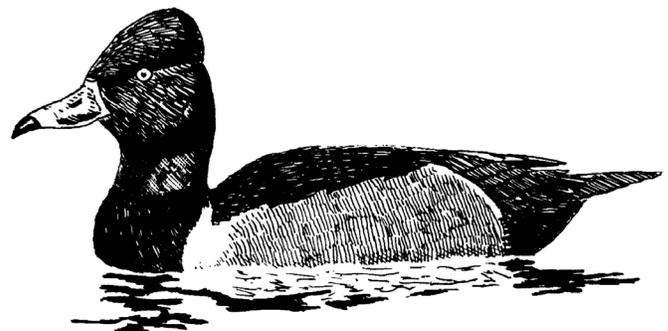
Our commissioners (those in office and not behind bars) voted to change land use and zoning from Agricultural Production to permit industrial land uses as an accommodation to the Port of Palm Beach and rock mining.

There should have been a mighty public protest. Despite the fact the state and the regional water management district urged caution and veiled threats as to the consequences of these two proposed land uses, our (scientifically) unqualified Board of Commissioners voted to accommodate these two land uses. Both would require extensive road and/or rail construction at enormous costs (much would have to be removed before construction), tremendous capacity to move flood waters after rain events, inadequate or no due diligence, not only existing pollutants such as mercury in the soil, but road wash of petroleum products, and utilities (including drinking water accommodation).

Both proposed accommodations would function only through enormous increase in heavy duty polluting trucking.

Mining has additional uncontrollable impacts such as blasting and removal of the porous aquifer barrier: shell rock! This would further open up ground water to surface water pollution. Again: we are not only talking deadly chemicals since outlawed already in the soils, but mercury! From Palm Beach county south, EPA has repeatedly said we are a "sink" for mercury contamination.

The sad fact, these uses probably will only significantly benefit some corporate investors (and a few political funds) and not the general well-being of Palm Beach County citizens.



Ring-necked Duck by Steven D'Amato

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Articles NEEDED! Send to 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. 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: _____

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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.