



EVERGLADE KITE

NEWSLETTER OF THE
AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE EVERGLADES

Serving Palm Beach County, Florida

Volume 50, Number 4

January 2010

Happy New Year! The Board of Audubon Society of the Everglades would like to wish you and your family a happy and prosperous new year.

CALENDAR

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

Wed., Jan. 6, 7:30 a.m. Join ARM Loxahatchee NWR's weekly walk. Meet at Marsh Trail. \$5 entry fee to refuge. Leader: Pat Canning

Sat., Jan. 9. Birding trip to STA 5, details TBD

Jan. 14-19. Everglades Birding Festival. For more information call Call Paddy Cunningham at 954-926-5458 or email at birdpaddy@yahoo.com

Sat.-Sun., Jan. 23-24. Viera Wetlands/Titusville/Merritt Island NWR. Call Valeri Brauer, 561-385-9787 to register.

Sat., Jan. 30, 8:00 a.m. Riverbend Park, Jupiter, and Busch Wildlife. Meet at Riverbend parking lot, Indiantown road west of I95 and the Turnpike. Leader: Ed Kawecki

Sat., Jan. 30, 2:00 p.m. Pelican Island/Sunset Cruise. For more information call Claudine Laabs (561) 655-9779

Wed., Feb. 3, 7:30 a.m. Okeeheelee Park, West Palm Beach. Meet at Nature Center. Leader: Ethel Kujanpaa

Sat., Feb. 6, 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. EVERGLADES DAY. Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge. Volunteers needed; call Sue at 561-627-7829

General Meeting

"Florida's Fabulous Birds"

Tuesday, January 5, 2009, 7:30 p.m.

Our general meeting for January will feature a presentation about the fabulous birds of Florida by local bird guide Larry Manfredi. Mr. Manfredi was born in Miami in 1960. He has been a professional birding guide since 1992 and knows the locations of the South Florida specialties as well as the rest of Florida. He has birded most of the "birding hotspots of North America" and traveled to most of the Caribbean Islands. He is very familiar with all North American birds, not just Florida specialties. He became interested in birds when he was 6 years old, when his mother gave him a book on birds; he started his life list at the age of 8. Larry currently lives in Homestead and has lived in Florida for more than 30 years.

Afternoon Meeting at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center:

Tuesday, January 19, 2009, 2:00 p.m.

In our continuing series of afternoon meetings in Boca Raton, Ann Weinrich will be speaking on bird behavior. Ms. Weinrich started birding with her grandmother when she was 2 years old—a robin! She still has her grandmother's field notes from their first trip to Everglades National Park in the 1950's.

Ms. Weinrich, a former board member of ASE (field trips) grew up in West Palm Beach, graduated from Palm Beach High School, attended PBCC, and graduated with a degree in Elem Ed from FAU. She taught at Pine Jog EE Center for 30 years and is now retired. She has been writing a bird column for the *Palm Beach Post* for the past 4 years. With her husband, Phil, she has led local, national, and international birding and natural history adventures for over 25 years. They still plan their trips by asking "What birds can we see there?"

Gala Fundraiser Reception: "The Birds Of Paradise"

Friday Jan 29, 6:30 to 9 pm.

Gala Fundraiser Art Reception at Urs Art Studio Gallery, 802 N Federal Hwy, Boynton Beach. This will be a special show for Audubon Society of the Everglades in which Suzette Urs will curate her first all-bird group exhibition. Bring friends and family and make this a fun evening for ASE members and the public! Suggested donation at door of \$5. Raffle to be drawn at 8 PM. Door prizes every 30 min. After the reception, the exhibition will be open to the public through Feb 27, 12 to 5 pm Tuesday-Saturday and by appointment 561-734-6926.

The Everglade Kite

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

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: \$25 for the series (4 talks), or \$9 per talk

President's Column

Linda Humphries

When I first moved to West Palm Beach I was lucky enough to take boat rides up and down the Intracoastal Waterway (ICW). I enjoyed traveling from Boynton Beach up to Peanut Island. At no time did I realize that the main water body we traveled through was not man-made but had once been an actual lake. 130 years of change beginning with the creation of inlets has changed historical Lake Worth from freshwater to the saltwater lagoon system that we know today. The Lake Worth Lagoon is about 20 miles long, has an average width of $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, and an average depth of 6 ft. It's important to note that the ICW is a dredged navigation channel that parallels the east coast from Maine to the southern tip of Florida. In Palm Beach County, the ICW runs through the middle of Lake Worth Lagoon.

The past few years have seen a lot of improvements with the help of Palm Beach County through its Department of Environmental Resources Management (ERM). ERM removed exotic plants from the Audubon Sanctuary Islands which allowed existing mangroves to thrive. ERM removed the exotics from Peanut Island, planted mangroves, and created many recreational areas such as a snorkeling reef system. ERM also created new habitat such as the Snook Islands and Ocean Ridge Natural Areas, which have added important resources (mangroves, seagrass and oyster) to the Lagoon and helped improve water quality. Nesting oystercatchers have been seen in the last couple of bird counts and at least 6 reddish egrets are moving around the Lagoon. With the creation and restoration of new and old natural areas the birds are returning. In the future ERM is going to build a boardwalk around the southern portion of the Snook Islands so we can see the many birds that are there. Birding surveys were done in 2004 and 2005 with the help of our Audubon chapter. In September 2005 there were 82 individual species counted and a total of 4,475 birds seen in Lake Worth Lagoon. Some of the special birds seen through the different months of the bird counts were Piping Plover, Glaucous Gull, Bridled Tern, and Roseate Spoonbills. I hope you find time in this New Year, 2010, to get out and explore our Lake Worth Lagoon.

Would you like to see Ring-necked Ducks? Go to Jog Road and turn east on Lake Ida Road until you find Sims Road, turn right and you will see a pond on the right side of the road. Scan the waters and you will most likely see them. I saw 7 of them today.

Bird of the Month: Killdeer

The bird of the month for January is our most widespread plover, *Charadrius vociferus*, also known as the Killdeer. Technically a shorebird, this plover can be found in any open space or agricultural area, no shore necessary. You've also probably heard them crying their signature "killdeer" call overhead from time to time. Please bring any pictures you would like to share with the group.

Conservation Meeting Lantana County Library

Monday, Jan 4, 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.

Volunteers Needed for Everglades Day Festival, Saturday, February 6, 2010.

To help the festival run smoothly, various volunteers are needed. Jobs needed to be filled are venue host, tour sign up table, exhibit tents, nature walks, canoeing, survey and evaluation assistant, t-shirt sales, children's activities etc. Shifts are 4 hours. Volunteers MUST attend an orientation in Boynton Beach at the West Branch of Palm Beach County Library on west side of Jog Rd., between Gateway and Boynton Beach, Blvd.

Monday, Jan. 25, 5:30-7:00 pm or Saturday, Jan. 30, 1:00 – 3:00pm

To sign up Chuck Ryan at 735-6010 or Charles_Ryan@fws.gov.

Questions contact Susan 627-7829 or roysue@bellsouth.net

Arts In The Everglades

Clyde Butcher, noted Everglades photographer and Kenn Kauffman, ornithologist, naturalist and author, and Grant Livingston, Florida folk musician, are featured artists at Everglades Day on February 6 at the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge. Come explore the arts and meet the artists in the beautiful refuge setting. The usual nature walks, exhibitors and animal presenters will also be on hand.

For further information or fliers and posters, contact Susan at 627-7829 or roysue@bellsouth.net.

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.

Conservation Article

Cissie Durando

Sometimes small victories have (hopefully) big repercussions. With Richard Grosso's legal expertise and support from 1000 Friends and us, we won what hopefully turns into a significant victory. At the state level we stopped our Board of County Commissioners from expanding the urban service area and dense development south of Lantana Road, west of 441, and on Northlake Road near protected wetlands.

At the risk of being repetitive, if 100 of our 2000 plus local members had originally protested, we wouldn't have had to go through this!

Native backyard landscaping is good but not sufficient to save animal species or adequate water supplies!!! Have you raised your objections to an Inland Port expansion and rock mining in the EAA? Have you expressed support for a floway from Lake Okeechobee to the refuge?

The monthly meeting of Regional Planning Council (Palm Beach County, Martin County, St. Lucie County, and Okeechobee County) was moved from the third Friday to December 11, 2009. Energy was the big topic, including input from FPL. Again, I urged the no offshore oil topic and added NO WIND TURBINES! SOLAR-SOLAR-SOLAR, speak up! I also spoke against Sunrail cutting Florida in half. Similar argument that cancelled the Florida Barge Canal years ago!

Native Plant Sale and Talk at Jan 5 Meeting

Which native plants give food and habitat for which birds? Our own ASE Vice President Cynthia Plockelman will bring in seedlings and give a brief talk at the Jan 5 monthly meeting at Pine Jog. She will explain each plant—how big it grows, watering requirements (if any), fruit or seeds, and which birds depend on which of the plant species. After the talk, the seedlings are for sale, proceeds going to support ASE programs. It's a great opportunity to learn first-hand about our bird-friendly native plants and to bring ecology-improving specimens for your own back yard.

Audubon Society of the Everglades
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West Palm Beach, FL
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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.