



EVERGLADE KITE

NEWSLETTER OF THE
AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE EVERGLADES

Serving Palm Beach County, Florida

Volume 50, Number 9

July/August 2010

CALENDAR

August brings our annual visit to the flooded fields of Duda Farms in Belle Glade to look for the shorebirds and wading birds that concentrate on these fields. To reduce the number of visitors at any one time, Duda Farms is kindly allowing two trips again this year. The dates will be Saturday, August 14, and Saturday, August 28. The fewer the number of cars involved in these trips, the more enjoyable they are for everyone, so please plan to carpool and to limit your participation to one trip only!

We meet at the Kmart store at the northwest corner of the intersection of Southern Blvd. (State Road 80) and 441/State Road 7. Park next to the garden center. Carpooling is required and we leave Kmart at 7:00 a.m. Return to the coast will be around noon.

Come with a full tank of gas; bring binoculars and spotting scopes, fluids, snacks, sunscreen, and hats. There will be very little walking but expect intense heat and glare. We will see myriad migrating shorebirds and spectacular gatherings of our local wading birds. Please note that we are responsible for everyone arriving and departing as a group. The farms are private and not open to the public and we have special permission from the Duda Farms management to bird on their property for these two annual field trips. For questions, please call Linda at 561-742-7791. Please DO NOT Call Duda!

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.

Tuesday, July 6, 2010, 7:30 p.m.

Presentation: "Lake Worth Lagoon"

Our July meeting will feature an update on the Lake Worth Lagoon by Ginny Powell, Supervisor of the Palm Beach County Department of Environmental Resources Management's (ERM) Public Outreach Section. The mission of the Palm Beach County Department of Environmental Resources Management (ERM) is to establish, maintain, and implement programs for the protection, preservation, and enhancement of the land and water resources of Palm Beach County. Ms. Powell develops numerous publications, web pages, and delivers presentations to effectively communicate ERM's mission and work to the citizens of Palm Beach County. She also serves as Chair of the Lake Worth Lagoon Initiative's Public Outreach Working Group

Tuesday, August 3, 2010, 7:30 p.m.

Ice Cream Social and Member Photos!

August brings around our much-anticipated Ice Cream Social and Members' Photo Night, where we can all get to know one another better, and we can enjoy the amazing talents of our members through their nature photos. We will have a digital projector, but be sure your photos are in an easily accessible format (thumb drive or other USB connection is best). Some of the best bird images I've ever seen have been at these August meetings; be sure to come join us at the Pine Jog Environmental Education Center, 6301 W. Summit Blvd., in West Palm Beach. Doors open at 7:00.

ASE AWARDS MILLER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

ASE congratulates Karl 'Max' Wallace of Jensen Beach High School, recipient of the \$2500 Ruth and Seymour Miller Memorial Scholarship awarded by ASE at the 2010 Palm Beach Post Pathfinder Scholarship Awards for Palm Beach and Martin county seniors. Without a doubt he is the strongest applicant we have ever recognized!

Max has excelled in the Florida Science and Engineering Fair competitions winning 2nd at state as an eighth grader for a green energy windmill project and 4th last year for a project utilizing bifacial solar panels to evaluate how much power can be utilized from light reflected from ground sources such as concrete, sand, gravel, etc. This year Max again placed 4th with a project evaluating different water cooling methods for reducing the negative effects of high temperatures in photovoltaic cells. Higher power output can be attained by decreasing cell temperature. Max was chosen by Martin County to present this project at the International Science Fair held in California in May. "I saw students and projects from all over the world. Florida students received the most awards at this competition!" said Max.

The Martin County Environmental Studies Center (MCESC) has been fortunate to have Max serve seven years as a volunteer then a summer counselor. Max achieved his Eagle Scout Award by building a 10x20' pergola at the MCESC Butterfly Garden. Science has been a primary interest in his life as he focused on animals, environmental science, and then energy. Other interests include music, literature and kayaking. Currently he plans to major in biology as he enters the University of Florida in August. ASE applauds his successes and hard work. We wish him all the best!

The Everglade Kite

is the newsletter of the Audubon Society of the Everglades, published 10 times a year.

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<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.

Birds of the Month:

July: White-winged Dove

Zenaida asiatica, the lovely White-winged Dove was introduced into Dade county in the 1950s and again in the 1970s, and have prospered. Come learn more about this neighborhood resident at our July meeting.

August: Turkey Vulture

The familiar dihedral-shaped flight silhouette of this permanent resident of our state isn't the only thing worth knowing about *Cathartes aura*, our Turkey Vulture. Find out more at our August meeting!

President's Column

Linda Humphries

Since I have been gone for the last month, the first thing my nine-year-old grandson wanted to share with me was the news about the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. We go snorkeling together and he wanted to share that there had been an oil spill and that we can no longer go to the beach because of the oil that is washing up on the sand. I told him that I had heard about the oil spill and how sad it was, but that the oil had not reached our shore yet and that we can still use the beach. Today I took both my grandchildren to Boynton's Beach. They were amazed at how warm the water was. My eight-year-old granddaughter was snorkeling and came up to tell me that snorkeling was like a mystery. She could only see part of the floor of the ocean because of the limited vision from her goggles and she never knew what would appear in her line of vision. My grandson spent two hours finding schools of fish and trying to catch them. It is so sad to realize the water and beaches are changing and will never be the same.

I know that all of you are very concerned over the damage being done by the oil spill. It is sickening to see the pictures of wildlife covered in oil. I have been contacted by many people asking what they can do to help. One of the easy things to do is to contact your representatives, both Federal and State, and let them know how you feel about oil drilling. All of us voice our concerns to each other but we don't take the time to contact the officials that can create a change in policy. Last issue the *Kite* gave you information on how to contact your federal representatives. You can find information on how to contact your state representatives in the government pages of your phone book, or at our website.

One of the major concerns with the oil spill is the protection of nesting birds on the beaches. The fear is that untrained people will go out and try to be helpful, but may end up disturbing the birds and damaging their nests. Audubon of Florida's web site, www.audubonofflorida.org, has a lot of information about the oil spill and ways you can help.

Palm Beach County has initiated a Planning Task Force to respond to the possibility of oil spill impacts on our beaches. For information on what is happening with the oil spill and to register to assist with oil spill-related projects go to

<http://www.co.palm-beach.fl.us/publicsafety/emergencymanagement/deepwaterhorizon/>

My President's column is written two weeks before you receive the *Kite* and at this time there are no oil spill volunteer projects established. This may change—any action would be advertised on the main County website listed above. I have listed some phone numbers below for people who do not use a computer. You can also check our web site www.auduboneverglades.org for information.

You can contact Palm Beach Emergency Management at:

Palm Beach County Division of Emergency Management

561-712-6400

Florida Oil Spill Information Line

1-888-337-3569

Report tarballs or other evidence of oil on our coastline to:

Palm Beach County EOC

561-712-6400

State Warning Point

1-800-320-0519

You can reach Governor Charlie Crist at 850-488-7146 or charlie.crist@myflorida.com

Conservation Meeting, Lantana County Library

Monday, Aug 2, 2010, 1:00 PM (no meeting in July)

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.

Birding in Key Largo

Susie Orsenigo & Clive Pinnock

On a recent May trip down to Key Largo we discovered 2 life birds. The trip down is about 2 hours, close enough that you could do a day trip down to visit.

Dagny Johnson Key Largo Hammock Botanical State Park is located on Card Sound Road at the northern end of Key Largo. It is listed on the Great Florida Birding Trail. The largest West Indian tropical hardwood hammock in the U.S. is home to 84 protected species of plants and animals including wild cotton and the American crocodile. We found rare tree snails as we walked along. With over 6 miles of trails, it is a beautiful place full of gumbo limbo and mahogany trees. April and October are prime times to look for White-crowned Pigeon, Mangrove Cuckoo, and Black-whiskered Vireo. This would also be a great place to catch warblers in migration. You can find more information on the park at www.floridastateparks.org/keylargohammock.

Gray kingbirds were found nesting in a sea grape tree on a tidal creek. Kingbirds are found in open areas with scattered trees and bushes, perching on wires or treetops to watch for flying insects (Sibley, 2000)

The Black-whiskered Vireo, one of the large vireos, is similar to the Yellow-green, but larger billed and browner overall than Red-eyed. Dark "whisker" diagnostic can be difficult to see. The Caribbean subspecies, vagrant to Florida, is 15% longer billed than the FL population and overall browner. (Sibley, 2000)

Both birds are common in summer in the mangrove swamps of FL Keys and along the coasts.

NATIVE PLANT GARDEN EXPANDS

Thanks to Indian Trails Native Nursery and Audubon of Florida ten good size native trees were installed in the hammock area at Pine Jog Environmental Education Center. Last year ASE was awarded a \$15,000 TogetherGreen grant to install a demonstration native plant landscape at Pine Jog. The butterfly, coastal and home garden were completed. This hammock area was funded thanks to an Audubon of Florida grant. ASE appreciates AOF's support and interest in this project. Thank you Indian Trails for the in-kind donation of some of the trees, allowing us to stretch our funds. Last May the area between the Pine Jog buildings was barren with no sign of any wildlife. Stop at Pine Jog (Mon-Sat).to see how planting native can provide food and habitat for the birds and butterflies!

Oil Spill-related Volunteer Opportunities

Palm Beach County has initiated a Planning Task Force to respond to the possibility of oil spill impacts. See <http://www.co.palm-beach.fl.us/publicsafety/emergencymanagement/deepwaterhorizon/>

Please note: there is now an on-line form for volunteers to register to assist with oil spill-related projects. When opening page go to:

Deep Water Horizon Directory--then Volunteer Opportunities--under Volunteer Opportunities--you have 4 Bullets--Volunteer Florida(Beach Clean-up by counties) or Florida Keys or Oiled Wildlife Rehab or National Wildlife and the Click here to Volunteer Button

GREEN SCHOOLS RECOGNITION AWARDS

The second annual Green Schools Recognition Awards were announced in May. Pine Jog Elementary School, the grand winner, received a \$2000 award. ASE sponsored two Judge's Choice awards. Schools receiving this honor were Parke Vista High School and Alexander W. Dreyfoos School of the Arts. ASE has been involved in the development, implementation, judging and funding of this program which grew out of a grant given by PBC Community Foundation to FAU/Pine Jog Environmental Education Center.

"The Green Schools Recognition Program encourages cultures of sustainability within school communities. This program recognizes schools for taking a holistic approach to going green that incorporates school ground enhancement, resource conservation, curriculum connections, and community involvement with a school wide commitment and focus on sustainability." www.ourgreenschools.com

"Alexander W. Dreyfoos stated in their application that the Green Schools Initiative provided both a reason and an inspiration to encourage active environmental concern on their campus and the surrounding area. Working toward Green School recognition has been a student-driven and teacher supported effort with the Dreyfoos Environmental Club leading the charge.

Park Vista's green initiatives have been led by their Green Team which was created by two student leaders. The Green Team has worked effectively with other school clubs to initiate many of their green projects, such as the senior class council and the Student Government. For example, the student co-presidents of the Green Team successfully advocated to the senior class council the importance of creating an outdoor learning area as the seniors' gift to Park Vista. The Green Team also held the first annual Park Vista Green Week to raise school-wide environmental consciousness." Text written by Susan Toth, FAU/Pine Jog and taken from www.ourgreenschools.com. Check out the site.

THANK YOU ASE JUDGES - SUSIE ORSENIGO AND SUSAN SNYDER

Tips for Success

Paddy Cunningham

Don't let the summer heat or the fact that all the migrants have left get you down. There are some special birds to find right now. Summer evenings are filled with the sound of the Common Nighthawk, darting and gliding looking for insects. If you want to see the rare Antillean Nighthawk go down to Marathon Airport in the Keys and be sure to listen for its call to separate it from the Common Nighthawk. Check the wires in shopping centers usually near the coast for our summer Gray Kingbird. Check out the thicker bill and slight gray mask that separates it from the Eastern or Great-crested Kingbirds. Barn Swallows with their peach breast against an indigo blue are a wonder to see as they search for insects in great flocks. Don't forget to try for the Least Bittern; summer is the best time for them because they are very active AND visible when feeding young at the nest. See it isn't all doldrums. Just bring plenty of water. Contact me at birdpaddy@yahoo. if you have any burning bird questions. Off to the Canyonlands and a Condor!

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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.

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 10 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.