

CENTRAL AUG 11 1983



EVERGLADE KITE

AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE EVERGLADES

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Ruth Trumpower, Editor

AUGUST 1983

FILM TO FEATURE POWERS OF PLANTS

"The Green Machine," a prize-winning film about the remarkable powers plants are known to possess, will be shown at the August 2nd meeting of the Audubon Society of the Everglades.

Produced by BBC/WGBH and obtained through Time-Life Video, this color film investigates photosynthesis, the accuracy of flowering, the use of hormones for regulation of growth and response to gravity and light. As to plants' possible awareness of human affection and injurious thoughts, a leading exponent of plant ESP is shown conducting such an experiment in his laboratory.

We hope to see you on Tuesday, August 2nd, at 7:30 p.m. at the West Palm Beach Garden Club Center in Dreher Park. (Charles Dennis)

ASE BIRDATHONERS BEAT 1982 RECORD

Although ASE did not win any national birdathon prizes this year, our hard-working birdathoners certainly exceeded the 1982 contribution of \$4005.00.

A special thanks to Mary Louise Watterson, Ann Y. Ayers, Greg Walsh,

Gloria Hunter, Ruth Trumpower and Leah Schad for their marvelous efforts in birding and securing pledges for this year's birdathon.

Together these six people, plus two gifts, brought in pledges totaling \$6568.55, which was sent to NAS as ASE's contribution. This amount is an increase of over \$2000 from last year and is reflective of the amazing efforts of ASE President Leah Schad, who collected \$6068.70 of the total.

Thanks go also to Mary Louise Poisson and Hank McCall for their gifts that helped swell our total, one third of which will return to us for use in promoting Audubon causes.

Take a bow, folks . . . ASE is lucky to have you!
(Dale Neuenschwander)

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

On Wednesday, August 3rd, the Governor and Cabinet will decide whether to accept the revised plan for John D. MacArthur Beach State Park. Several revisions have been made to the original plan, including a reduction in the number of bath houses, elimination of the tram from the initial phase of development, setting aside much of the north end vegetated area as "State Special

Feature Sites" and the deletion of concessions. Also plans for Munyon Island have been deferred to Phase II.

Florida Audubon's suggestion to close ALA to through traffic, except as an emergency or C/D evacuation route, has met with much opposition. However, we are hopeful that alternate sites for parking will continue to be explored until something more satisfactory (to the environmental community) is found than the present plans propose. We will continue to have input for Phase II of the development and to oppose any concession or people mover. Most of the deletions in Phase I may or may not be considered in Phase II, depending on need.

Many thanks to Ruth Trumpower for taking care of Florida Audubon's Manatee Exhibit which we borrowed for the "Save Our Rivers" month program at Jonathan Dickinson State Park in June. Incidentally, the cookout sponsored jointly by SFWMD and the park's Interpretive Association was a great success, as were the exhibits. Plans are already underway for next year's celebration.

FLORIDA LEAGUE AGAINST PROGRESS (FLAP) has printed the bumper stickers which we mentioned in June's KITE. There are two versions:

LEAVING FLORIDA? TAKE A FRIEND! or

FLORIDA, SINKHOLE STATE - the Home of Heat Strokes, Sandspurs, Fire Ants, Skin Cancer, Doddering Drivers, Hurricanes

Ken Morrison says the cost is \$2 for one sticker, \$3 for two, \$6 for five and \$10 for ten. Please include an address label with your order and check. Mail to Florida League Against Progress, RFD Box 88A, Babson Park, FL. 33827.

A new pamphlet is available from NAS entitled "Siting Hazardous Waste Management Facilities." The booklet is published by NAS, The Conservation Foundation, and Chemical Manufacturers Association. Individual copies are \$3 each, ten or more, \$2 each. To order, send your check, payable to National Audubon Society, 115 Indian Mound Trail, Tavernier, FL. 33070.

The Palm Beach County Chapter of the Florida League of Conservation Voters had a very successful organizational meeting on July 16th. An excellent cross-section representation attended the gathering at which Dale Neuenschwander (ASE) was elected chairman, Chris Schofield (Sierra), vice chairman, and Tim O'Connor, fund raising. Recruitment and training will be handled by Tom Sullivan and Ruth Trumpower (ASE) will be secretary/treasurer. Congratulations to you all. As a member of the Florida League's Executive Committee, I attended its July 23rd meeting held in Orlando.

We hope you are enjoying the summer, but if you are a bit bored with it all, we need lots of help. Particularly the Wildlife Films Committee, Stella Rossi, chairman (752-4786) and the Conservation Committee, Cissy Durando, chairman (965-2420) (Leah Schad)

AUDUBON FILM SERIES PROGRAMS CONFIRMED

We have received confirmation as to dates titles and speakers for 1984's film series presentations. Each ASE member will receive a letter in the fall with full details about what promises to be an interesting season. The programs will be as follows:

January 19 - Yosemite and the High Sierras, by Bob Roney
February 2 - Summer in Kiwi Land, by Grant Foster
February 16 - From Reefs to Rockies, by Charles T. Hotchkiss
March 1 - Hidden Worlds, by Richard C. Kern (Stella Rossi)

CONSERVATION REPORT

Another chapter in the continuing saga of Ocean Ridge has unfolded. From the County Commission's resolution of 1982 to support a beefed-up sand transfer station off the north jetty, there has been a progression of new resolutions and amended permit applications. They have run the gamut of "improvements," using jet pumps, a weir paralleling the north jetty, a breakwater perpendicular to the south jetty, a synthetic vertical type of breakwater, the creation of a viable dune, to removing construction east of the Coastal Construction Setback Line. Sand sources have gone from the north of the north jetty to inlet shoals in Lake Worth, to a modified beach dredging project. We have seen all of the above proposed alone and in interminable combinations. The reasons given are based on the juggling of numbers of yardage (of sand), footage (of beach), and costs.

The wheel continues to spin, greased by some very concerned people who either live east of any logical construction setback line or get paid millions for engineering expert beach dredging projects.

The ugly dredged sand at Pompano Beach, the surrounding milky areas of water, the stated fact that Ocean Ridge sand is even finer and less stable than Pompano's, and the fact that this county does not have a daily (as at Pompano) or any environmental monitoring system set up, are further reasons for anyone concerned with shore habitat ecology to oppose dredging.

The county has hired an environmental consulting firm, Continental Shelf of Jupiter. Hopefully, at just one more workshop on August 18th, the Commission will stop vacillating, make the right decision, and move forward.

We've heard no more from Metro Dade on rezoning a portion of the East Everglades. At the July 15th SFWMD meeting, the Board stood firm in backing the request that the area be declared an Area of Critical State Concern (ACSC). Metro planners had recommended again that, encouraging the citizens to create a separate road and drainage special taxing district. This would, of course, increase the value of the land - and here we go again!

Amazingly, FP&L was still making hookups

to residents who were without permits and in violation of building codes. The SFWMD Board proposed using the funding for the Howard Drive Bridge in that area as leverage on Dade to hold low density. It is not too late to write the Board of County Commissioners, 73 West Flagler, Miami 33130 requesting no change in East Everglades zoning - and to the Governor requesting an ACSC designation to insure this.

The Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council met locally on July 15th to consider a Development of Regional Impact (DRI) for a new development on the west side of Jog Road from 10th Avenue North to Jog Lane (north of Forest Hill Blvd.). This will more than double the size of Greenacres City by ultimately adding 4,760 units, which could translate to 12,000 to 15,000 people. The area is now all upland pine, wetland and disturbed wetland. I believe the impact on the community was, at best, addressed in only a very cursory manner. Even the brief news coverage only discussed the traffic impacts and the fact that the county (you and I) would be bearing the costs of a major part of the necessary road work.

Very little was said about the drainage impact. The developer, Mobile Land Development Corp., has a surface water permit which permits a much lower water level than the existing permits for Pine Jog and its wetland park, for Okechee County Park, and for the proposed Palm Beach Pines State Park. Dr. Ray Iverson expressed concern for Pine Jog, which could lose its teaching pond and wetlands due to adjacent drainage. It is in the scope now of the Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR) to challenge this proposal, because a state park is involved and a DRI transfers the responsibility from SFWMD to DNR. The Dept. of Environmental Resources expressed concern at the hearing because of possible impact on state land and wellfields (System 2).

Express your concern about possible granting of a surface water permit which would impact these existing parks and wellfields to: Dr. Elton Gissendanner, Dept. of Natural Resources, 3900 Commonwealth Avenue, Tallahassee 32303.

We are again on a holding pattern for the rules of the Loxahatchee Refuge proposed hunt for the fall of '83. Florida Audubon Society had a scheduled hearing set after Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission published the rules in the Florida Administrative Weekly. FAS President Peter Mott was convinced it was the right move to withdraw his request for a hearing when the G & FWFC withdrew its rules due to governmental pressure. Now we must see what the Feds will do. Don't get complacent. If you have not written the Governor and G & FWFC Chairman William Bostick, Jr., 620 S. Meridian St., Tallahassee 32301, please do so. It would help if you sent a copy to Secretary of the Interior James Watt, Dept. of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240. Peter Mott had an audience with him just before the scheduled hearing and Watt claims he would re-examine the issue.

The Coordinating Council on the Restoration of the Kissimmee River Valley & Taylor Creek/Nubbin Slough Basin will conduct four public meetings in August. On the 11th, at 7:30 p.m., one will be held locally in the main auditorium at PBJC. There will be an Army Corps

presentation of the options. I shall receive the Corps study around August 3rd. If you can attend, please contact me (956-2420).

We are requested to write Senator Paula Hawkins and Representative Dan Mica and ask them to sign on to deauthorize the Cross Florida Barge Canal. The canal, besides introducing pollution and land destruction, will further endanger the manatee found in those waters. Also, by destroying much of the Oklawaha River Valley forest, it would impact wildlife there forever. Eagles and ospreys would lose potential nesting habitats as trees die and fall into the required reservoirs. These are two new points you could use in your letters.

NEXT CONSERVATION MEETING - August 10th at 7:30 p.m., home of Ruth Trumpower, 165 Auburn Drive, Lake Worth. I'll have the Corps study on the Kissimmee at this meeting.
(Cissy Durando)

FLORIDA AUDUBON SEEKS ANNUAL AWARDS NOMINEES

Candidates are again being sought by the Management & Operations Committee of FAS for the following conservation awards: Allan D. Cruickshank Memorial Award, Polly Redford Memorial Award, Conservationist of the Year - Private, Conservationist of the Year - Governmental, Certificate of Recognition, Outstanding Chapter Award.

If you have any suggestions, please contact Leah Schad, 848-9984, for more information about award requirements. Mail nominations before September 1st to Leah at 1628 Boardman Avenue, West Palm Beach 33407.

The awards will be presented at the FAS Annual Convention scheduled for the first weekend in November at Everglades National Park.

ROMANCE IN THE AIR

Colorado has fabulous canyons, and canyons have water, and that is where the birds are.

We went to the Black Canyon of the Gunnison River to see a black swift. The river rumbles along some 1500 feet below the rim, and it has cut such steep walls that much of the canyon is in shadow.

Overhead hundreds of violet-green swallows dashed about and there were occasional white-throated swifts, but not any black swifts.

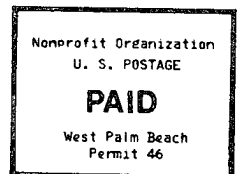
Looking back away from the rim we saw two swifts fly up vertically 100 feet, going around and around in ever smaller circles and, just as they stalled out, they locked wings and tumbled towards the rocks in a spin.

A few feet above the ground they checked the spin, broke apart and swirled upward. It was so much fun that they locked up again and fell toward a ledge 200 feet below. We watched them through our glasses and, just before hitting ground, they broke and flew skyward.

These maneuvers carried them over the deep canyon. Out of sheer ecstacy the swifts began their upward spiralling dance again. At stall they locked their wings and began their fall. Only this time it was a long one. They were over the dark canyon. They fell fast for over 1000 feet when we lost them in the shadows, never to see them again.

I will always wonder if it was a lovers' suicide pact or did one bird keep an eye on the altimeter and break before the splat... (Hank McCall)

EVERGLADE KITE
P. O. BOX 6762
WEST PALM BEACH, FL. 33405
(305) 844-4992



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