



FLORIDA'S WILDERNESS TRAIL TO BE FEATURED

The Florida Trail, now consisting of over 600 miles of developed hiking trail, will be the program topic at ASE's September 6th meeting.

Members of Loxahatchee Chapter of the Florida Trail Association (F.T.A.) will show slides and tell about the development of the trail. Sylvia Dunnam, president of the local chapter, advises that some members will bring samples of hiking, packing and other equipment and are prepared to answer questions concerning these and the trail.

Bordered by rivers and lakes and surrounded by forests of palms, moss-draped live oaks, pines and cypress, the Florida Trail follows the banks of the Suwannee River for many miles. Sections of the trail thread their way through Osceola and Ocala National Forests. An hour's drive west of Miami, another section starts its northward journey through a semi-tropical ecosystem. F.T.A. volunteers began development of the trail over a decade ago. Now a joint effort by the F.T.A. and state and federal agencies maintains and extends it.

Do join us on Tuesday, September 6th, at 7:30 p.m. at the West Palm Beach Garden Club Center in Dreher Park.
(Charles Dennis)

FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 8:00 A.M. - Jupiter Marine Science Center, Steve Bass, leader. To reach the center, cross U.S. 1 Loxahatchee Bridge northbound, take first right (SR 707), then immediately right again into Lighthouse Park. Bring lunch if desired.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 8:00 A.M. - Lignum Vitae Key. October KITE will have details and registration form. Limit 21, \$7.50 each.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

As the KITE comes off the press, Martha Wade and I will be on our way to the National Audubon Society Convention in Estes Park, Colorado. On August 29 there will be field trips all day. On the advise of Cecil Kilmer, I have signed up for the "Tundra and Ptarmigan" trip which will take us more than 12,000 feet up the mountain to look for rosy-capped finches and ptarmigan. We'll actually be above the timber line and it should be a spectacular day.

The conference begins on Tuesday with the keynote address by Colorado Governor Richard D. Lamm, followed by a panel discussion on "How Audubon Members Can Help Protect the Global Environment." The last session is on September 2nd, with closing remarks

Thomas W. Keesee, Jr., Chairman of the Board, and Russell W. Peterson, President of the Society. In between are workshops and talks on a myriad of topics, from something as simple as "Attracting Birds to Your Backyard" to the complex problem of "U.S. Export of Pesticides and Other Toxic Substances Banned for Domestic Use" and "The Ecological Effects of Nuclear Proliferation." It will be difficult to choose which groups to attend, but you can be sure I'll be there when Louisiana Congressman John B. Breaux addresses the issue of "National Wildlife Refuges and Endangered Species."

This brings us to the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge and the impending impact of three weekends of deer hunting as outlined in the August 2nd issue of the Federal Register. Even though you have written before, please do so again. Comments this time are directed to Associate Director, Wildlife Resources, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, 18th & C Streets, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20240, and should be postmarked by September 1, 1983. In addition to objecting on the same grounds as previously stated in our comments made October 12, 1982 (see Nov. 1982 KITE), we will comment on the use of airboats and question the possibility of panther being there, in light of the recent killing of one of these animals in the Belle Glade area.

Please send copies of your comments to Secretary of the Interior James Watt, Dept. of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240; Governor Robert Graham, The Capitol, Tallahassee 32301; Defenders of Wildlife, Att: Steve Parsells, 1244 19th Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036; Florida Audubon Society, 1101 Audubon Way, Maitland 32751, and Mr. Robert Brantly, Executive Director, Fla. Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission, 620 S. Meridian St., Tallahassee 32301.

Friday, August 19, 1983 will go down in Florida history as a great day for all conservationists/environmentalists. The Kissimmee Coordinating Council decided to fill in the ditch and restore much of the Kissimmee River. If 'they' had only listened! We were ably represented by Cissy Durando, Ruth Trumpower, Peggy Teahan, Stella Rossi, Kathy Stambaugh and myself at the public hearing at PBJC on August 11th. Also appearing were representatives of Broward County and Tropical Audubon Chapters. Marjory Stoneman Douglas came up from Miami and politely accused the Army Corps of always "wanting to play with concrete." I am always in awe of this great lady and champion of the environment and the way she couches her remarks. She's just great!

Florida Audubon and ASE have sent rebuttals to the recent POST editorial, "Don't Alter Plan for Park." They may have already been printed by the time you receive this. If not, keep looking.

Cissy Durando and I both have copies of the Army Corps of Engineers Study of the C-18 Canal if anyone is interested in seeing it.

Articles are beginning to appear in the papers about the Jupiter Inlet and how it can be made safer for boaters and stop erosion on both shores. A model of the inlet has been built by 12 students and staff members of the University of Florida's College of Engineering.

The project is funded by Palm Beach County, Jupiter Inlet District, and the University at a total cost of \$120,000. By duplicating inlet conditions as exactly as possible, the model will test the inlet's reaction to any proposed corrective measures. This bears watching!

Last month we asked for nominees in several award categories for Florida Audubon. We have extended the deadline for name submission to October 1st. If anyone has suggestions, please mail to me at 1628 Boardman, W.P.B. 33407.

The 1983-84 Schedule of Events and names of officers and board members will be mailed with the October KITE. We will need volunteers to help distribute the brochures to libraries, Chambers of Commerce, etc. All you need to do is make yourself known at the October general meeting and pick up enough for the places in which you will leave them.

Mark the dates Nov. 4-5-6 for the Florida Audubon Convention in Everglades National Park. Details will be in the FLORIDA NATURALIST.

The Florida Chapter of the Nature Conservancy will hold its annual meeting at the Jupiter Hilton on Nov. 18-19-20. More details on this conference as soon as available.

Ruth Trumpower will be in charge for the next few weeks and will chair the September general meeting. Please call her at 585-3968 if you need anything. She is most capable and willing to help. My thanks to her.

(Leah Schad)

WILDLIFE SAFARI IN KENYA

For fifteen days this past summer my wife and I 'hunted' the wildlife of Kenya, East Africa. Like the other members of our tour group, we were armed with only cameras and binoculars. Since 1978 Kenya has enforced strict laws prohibiting live hunting and poaching in its 34 national parks and game reserves.

We traveled in land rovers, with open roofs for safe photography, through several of these parks and reserves, one consisting of 700 square miles and another of 1700. We started with the park just outside the capital city of Nairobi, then to Samburu with a view of snow-capped Mt. Kenya (despite crossing the equator), and on to Amboseli (sighting snow-capped Mt. Kilimanjaro), Keekorok, Tsavo East and West.

We spotted lions, elephants, zebras, wildebeests, wart-hogs, gazelles, giraffes, hippopotamuses and rhinoceroses, along with baboons and black-faced monkeys, the latter two species frequently dallying in close proximity to our lodges. We were doubly privileged to witness the amazing annual migration of literally thousands upon thousands of zebras and wildebeests from Tanzania into Kenya.

Bird watching was not neglected, for our driver helped us to spot the malachite kingfisher, blacksmith plover, golden weaver, yellow-billed stork, green-backed heron, purple-headed starling, crested crane, secretary bird, marabou stork and many others, including the buzzard and the vulture.

Contrary to the many wildlife films we have

seen that feature bloody violence and killings, we observed, in our drives across savannas and into the bush areas, scenes of bucolic peacefulness, with animals of different species grazing docilely side by side. We did, however, find some lions eating the remains of a zebra, with vultures hovering nearby, and a cheetah stealthfully stalking a herd of gazelles.

We were impressed by the efforts of the Kenyan authorities to preserve their wildlife, which in the past had been threatened with extinction, and by their game wardens in the careful management of the reserves. Whenever a wild animal wanders off the reserve, it matters not, because in Kenya "the elephant have right of way."

A word of caution to anyone contemplating such a trip: Be prepared to be jostled and bounced about in the land rovers, the roads consist mostly of rutted clay. You should have good kidneys, a strong stomach and padded rumps. The lodges, though, are luxurious and the meals are gourmet British cooking. (Irving Oblas)

ASE RECEIVES "OUTSTANDING CHAPTER" BIRDATHON AWARD

Russ Peterson, President of National Audubon, has congratulated ASE on winning the "Outstanding Chapter" award for this region in the 1983 Birdathon. "By setting the pace for Birdathon results for your region," he said, "you have set an example of leadership for chapters of every size across the country."

The Society will receive a special trophy from National Audubon's Project Puffin - a decoy which is mounted on a walnut base.

ASE President Leah Schad is the recipient of a special slipcased edition of John James Audubon's "Baby Elephant Folio" for having raised the most money in this region. She has also earned Regional Best Birds and Regional Sponsor awards for her pledge total of \$6,068. (Dale Neuenschwander)

CONSERVATION REPORT

I find it difficult to concentrate on writing a review for this month while awaiting the start of an administrative hearing Aug. 22. A surface water permit to drain approximately 1400 acres adjoining the northeast dike of the Loxahatchee Refuge has been requested and refused several times since 1977. You may remember that a portion of this wetland was invaded by the Malrite Broadcasting Company's 1500 ft. tower a couple of years ago. At this point in time, the Corps is inactive on further permit consideration, the DER has granted a permit, and the SFWMD has denied one.

Florida Audubon, at our request, has joined the SFWMD as an intervenor in the long-awaited hearing requested by Mr. Strazzula, owner of the property concerned. If drainage is permitted, the water will be received by the Acme Drainage District and sent to the Loxahatchee Refuge. Of real concern is not only the immediate water quantity, but also its future quality.

One can be sure other land developers are

sitting in the wings waiting to act pending the outcome of this wetland draining request. Since Acme District is limited in scope, major back-pumping of the Palm Beach Canal, C-51, could rear its head with strong supporters.

We laud the Governor for sheet flow restoration support to the south of us, and the Coordinating Council on Restoration of Kissimmee River Valley to the north of us - but it looks like we're all on our own with channalization projects into Conservation Area 1.

Our help is also requested to write: Director (LE), Fish & Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 28006, Washington, D.C. 20005. On lower left of your envelope put: Reg. 21-03, and the same at top of your letter. Ask that the following current regulation be upheld: the general public is not permitted to be in possession of 'accidentally killed' migratory birds, nor are taxidermists allowed to prepare them. If this rule is abandoned, it could lead to situations that would be impossible to investigate and police adequately. Comment period ends September 12th.

While Congressman Dan Mica is in his home office (732-4000), we are urged by Marjorie Carr to call him and ask him to sign on to de-authorize the Cross Florida Barge Canal. The issue comes before Congress in September, and Mica will be here until the 12th.

On August 15th I was fascinated for 3 hours listening to the ambitions of the Home Builders & Contractors Association. Using such euphemisms as 'shelter' and 'affordable housing,' its members proposed changes in such wide-ranging rules as those involving increasing zoning densities, formulating a Water-Sewer Authority with powers that would transcend local governments, use of gray water, one-stop permitting, and controlling growth management issues at the local level (needless to say, they had nothing to say about local government fiascos on Hutchinson Island and in the Keys). The morning's remarks pointed out just a little of what we might consider will happen if the Council of 100 draws up our zoning codes.

Next Conservation Committee Meeting: Wednesday, September 14th, 7:30 p.m., at home of Ruth Trumpower. (Cissy Durando)

STAMP CONTEST NEARS END

Members who have been saving commemorative and foreign stamps should turn in their collections within the month. Florida Audubon's contest, with prize awarded to the chapter amassing the greatest number of stamps, will end on October 1st.

Stamps may be turned in at the monthly meeting, or sent to me (1716 13th Ave. North, Lake Worth 33460), or handed to any Board member. Please do not peel the stamps from envelopes, but cut them out and leave at least 1/4 inch around the edges. Save all foreign stamps as well as U.S. commemoratives. If not sure of difference between regular and commemorative issues, save all and we'll sort.

Collected stamps are sold to a dealer for resale to stamp collectors. FAS uses the proceeds to defray costs of caring for injured

birds at its Madalyn Baldwin Center for Birds of Prey. The contest is held each year, so keep on saving.

The response this summer has been excellent. Among the largest contributors are a Chamber of Commerce, one of the county's large banks, and a national newspaper. Have you asked your business contacts to save commemorative stamps (or the whole envelope) for you??? And check your friends, too.

Do "save 'em and send 'em in." Mayhap we'll win the contest (we were second last year); definitely we'll help the birds. Any questions? Call me at 585-7714. (Gloria Hunter)

SENATE CLEAN WATER VOTE
DUE, WRITE LETTERS NOW

In response to a recent Lou Harris public opinion poll, American voiced overwhelming support for efforts to clean up the nation's waters. But senators don't pay as much attention to polls as they do to mail from the voters back home.

In October our senators will decide whether to weaken the Clean Water Act, keep it the same or strengthen it. If you want the quality of our water improved in the 80's, write Senator Lawton Chiles, 437 Russell Senate Office Bldg., and Senator Paula Hawkins, 1327 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg. (both Washington, D.C. 20510).

Some chilling facts - More than 400 million pounds of toxic industrial chemicals end up in our public sewers and waterways each year. We have already lost half of the marshes, bogs,

winding creeks, sloughs and estuaries originally existing, and each year we and the wildlife dependent on these wetlands lose more. Each year storm waters wash billions of tons of soil, animal waste, bacteria, oil, acid, lead, pesticides and other toxic chemicals from farms, cities, mines and construction sites into our waterways.

Urge your senators to vote for a strengthened Clean Water Act by supporting Senator Chafee's bill (S.431) to reduce toxic industrial pollution, for amendments to strengthen Section 404's procedures for conserving wetlands, and for the Stafford-Chafee-Durenberger proposal to control storm water nonpoint pollution.

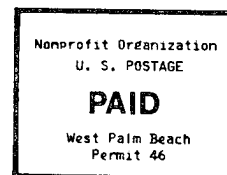
LET'S GO NATIVES -
URBAN TREE SYMPOSIUM

A marvelous range of topics and speakers will be featured at the day-long symposium on Saturday, October 29, in the Allied Health Auditorium at Palm Beach Junior College.

Sponsored by the West Palm Beach Garden Club, Florida Division of Forestry, and the District Garden Club, it is open to the public, but pre-registration is required. A charge of \$6.50 per person covers the cost of refreshments and lunch.

We will have registration forms (including the program schedule) available for pickup at our September 6th meeting. If you can't get to the meeting and are interested in attending the symposium, call Mrs. Hagood at 585-3558

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



PALM BEACH CO. LIBRARY SYSTEM
3650 SUMMIT BLVD.
W. PALM BEACH, FL. 33406