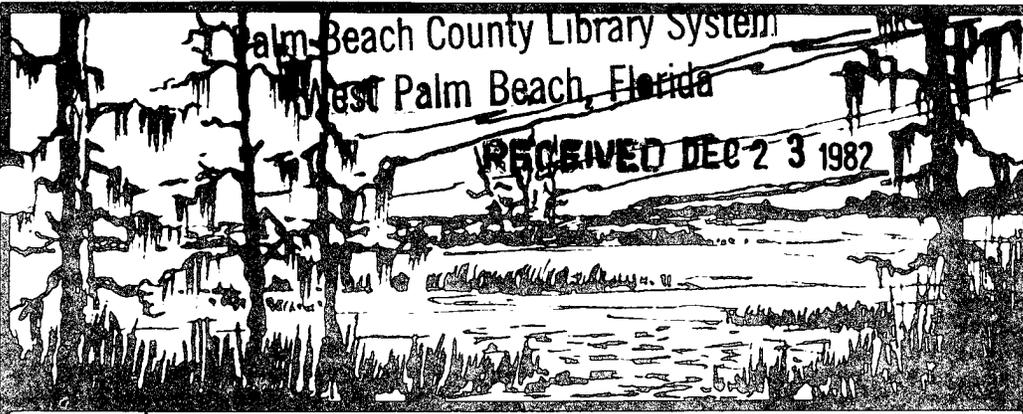


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EVERGLADE KITE

AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE EVERGLADES

VOLUME 23, No. 4

Ruth Trumpower, Editor

JANUARY 1983

NATURE CONSERVANCY FEATURED IN JANUARY

The Nature Conservancy and several of its Florida projects to preserve natural areas and the variety of life dependent upon them will be featured at the January 4th meeting of the Audubon Society of the Everglades.

Included in the program will be a film about the Apalachicola Bluffs and Ravines Preserve and a slide presentation on the new Crystal River Manatee Sanctuary project in Kings Bay.

Guests are always welcome at the Society's meetings, so bring a friend and join us on Tuesday, January 4, at 7:30 p.m. at the West Palm Beach Garden Club Center in Dreher Park.
(Charles Dennis)

FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, JANUARY 8, 7:30 a.m. -- Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, meet at Marsh Trail parking lot. Brian Hope will be our leader. This trip is in addition to those listed on ASE's printed program schedule.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 29, 7:30 a.m. -- Manatee Trip. Meet at the West

Palm Beach Garden Club parking lot. Car pooling necessary from there to wherever the manatees are located that day. John Street, leader.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 7:30 a.m. -- Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, meet at Marsh Trail parking lot. Marge Eaton, leader. This trip is in addition to those listed on ASE's printed program schedule.

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NATURE TRAIL GUIDED WALKS - start Saturday, January 8, at 9 a.m. Meet across from Campsite Office at east end of trail in south end of John Prince Park. Walks include a half hour of bird observation at Marsh Lake, then a tour through the native plant area and on the marsh boardwalk. Bruce Offord will be the leader for January 8, David Silverman for January 15, and Nancy and Dick Harrington for January 22. Leaders who participated in previous years and will help again - please call Ruth Trumpower, 585-3968, after January 8th.

SAVE! SAVE! SAVE!

The Sales Table will have a bonus to offer at the January 4th meeting - all Christmas Cards at half price (at cost) and some other items will also be reduced. (Nancy Harrington)

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

As 1982 draws to a close, it would be safe to say we have had an extremely busy December. The month began with the December 9th workshop scheduled by the County Commission regarding the Ocean Ridge Beach Renourishment project. Acting on a unanimous vote taken at the October monthly meeting to use any means to stop the project, we hired Dinesh Sharma, a private environmental consultant and expert on barrier islands and beaches, to come up with an alternative solution to the beach erosion occurring in the project area.

We also enlisted the financial support of the Coral Reef Society of the Palm Beaches, the other five Southeastern Audubon chapters - Royal Palm, Broward, Tropical, South Dade, and Keys, and Florida Audubon to help defray Mr. Sharma's fee and expenses, which came to \$1233.68 (he also donated four days' time). To date we have collected just over \$600 toward this total amount and appreciate the assistance of those who have already contributed. Anyone wishing to donate to this fund may do so by making the check payable to Audubon Society of the Everglades-Ocean Ridge. Remember, it's tax deductible.

The County Commissioners, with the exception of Mr. Bailey, are to be commended for their endurance as they heard testimony and comments until 6 p.m. with only a lunch break, after which Mr. Bailey chose not to return. The meeting was recessed until December 29th. We are very hopeful that our participation will make a difference.

That same day, James Watt, Secretary of the Interior, spoke at the Forum Club of the Palm Beaches. To say he is a clever speaker would be an understatement! But it was interesting to see 'the enemy' face to face.

On December 15th, the Department of Natural Resources held a public hearing on the development plans for MacArthur Park. As you all know by now, the designation for the area has been changed to State Park. ONE SMALL VICTORY! Many speakers presented their views and a myriad of suggestions were made. Let's hope DNR and the planning firm of Wallace, Roberts & Todd heed them.

The following evening, the 16th, there was another hearing in Jupiter on the proposed boundaries of the manatee sanctuary in the Loxahatchee River. Due to the sheer exhaustion of your president and your conservation chairman, we asked John Street to make our views known.

The Board of Directors is grateful to Stella Rossi for taking up the slack for the Wildlife Film Series due to the severe illness which has incapacitated Larry Horning. Stella's address and phone number are: 625 Whispering Pines Rd., Boynton Beach 33435, 732-4786.

ASE was the recipient of AUDUBON'S BABY ELEPHANT FOLIO, valued at \$150. The donation was made to the Society by Martha Wade for the Ornithological Library. However, a copy is already in our collection, so we have given the book to the City of West Palm Beach Public Library, where it will be displayed in a suitable showcase. ASE was also the benefactor of a very generous contribution to the Wildlife Film Series by Alice De Lamar, for which we are very grateful.

At the December meeting, the Board of Directors voted to contribute \$100 toward the interpretive programs at the Francis Biedler Forest (also known as Four Hole Swamp) in South Carolina. Many of you may recall that we also financially supported the construction of a swamp boardwalk. The programs and projects at this outstanding sanctuary are operated by National Audubon.

WE STILL NEED HELP! No one has come forward to chair the Nature Trail Committee. AND the 1983 Birdathon will be here before we know it. NAS has set the weekend of April 23-24 as the date. We need a coordinator. If you are willing to help with either project, please call me at 848-9984 in the evening, or leave a message on ASE's answerphone tape, 844-4992. Also look for some publicity about us and the 1982 Birdathon in the next issue of AUDUBON ALERT. With a little effort, I think we can win again.

National attention will be focused during 1983 on the "Year of the Wetlands." The program is designed to call attention to our wetlands, an invaluable resource to our nation's economy.

To all our members, thank you for your support during 1982. May 1983 bring each of you health, happiness and prosperity. (Leah Schad)

CONSERVATION REPORT

We certainly can rely on the continuity of our problems. As close as they seem to being resolved, they are never completely finished. A South County Airport Workshop had another unsuccessful round on December 16th. And, although the Air Force Beach area has at least been dignified with state park status, we have yet to see, on paper, a desirable handling of tram, picnic area, concessions and rest rooms behind the dune. Written comment period to Nay Landrum, Dept. of Natural Resources, 3900 Commonwealth Blvd., Tallahassee 32303, lasts until January 15th. Assure him there is little we can do to improve on Mother Nature and the MacArthur Foundation's basic offering of the land.

The Ocean Ridge Beach Renourishment Workshop will continue at 9:30 a.m. December 29. At that time comments from the public, including the Ocean Ridge people, will be heard. Never sit back and bank on what you think a politician's attitude appeared to be at some previous time. COMMENT!

ASE IS SECOND IN
STAMP COLLECTION

The award for the chapter collecting the greatest quantity of commemorative stamps (by weight) was presented to the Manatee Audubon Society at Florida Audubon's annual convention in October. Our Society came in second. As one of the largest, and certainly one of the most active, chapters in Florida, there is no reason why we cannot be first next October.

Commemorative, foreign and large denomination used stamps are collected for sale to stamp dealers and the proceeds used to help support the Birds of Prey Center at FAS headquarters in Maitland. Last year the sale of these stamps produced over \$4,000 for the center, which is maintained for the dual purpose of providing raptor rehabilitation and educational experience.

To contribute your bit, cut or tear off the corner of the envelope bearing the stamp. Do not peel the stamp from the paper. This almost always damages the stamp by 'thinning' the stamp's paper. When you have accumulated a number of stamps, bring them to an ASE meeting or send to Gloria Hunter, 1716 13th Avenue North, Lake Worth 33460.

Ask your receptionist at your doctor's, lawyer's or dentist's office to save envelopes for you. The credit offices of stores or your utilities office would also be a good source. Perhaps relatives in other states could tap the mail coming into their utility companies, etc. If you cannot spare the time to cut the stamps from the envelopes, just bring the whole thing.

Commemorative stamps are usually larger than regular issue definitives. Regular issue stamps are usually the ones with a picture of a famous person or a flag over the Capitol, etc. These are not worth saving unless issued before 1940, nor are the Christmas issues. If you are not sure what to save, send them all and we will sort them out.

Consider talking the stamp collectors you know into contributing their duplicates - or even their whole collection if they have lost interest in it. These will be appraised for tax purposes if requested. Start saving stamps today - let's win next year. (Gloria Hunter)

FIRST WILDLIFE FILM
SOON READY TO ROLL

Have you bought your own ticket??? The Audubon Wildlife Film Series kicks off with Norm Wakeman and his great film, "PALM SPRINGS TO LAKE LOUISE," on Thursday, January 13. Our other January date is the 26th, when Ken Creed tells us about "WILD AND WONDERFUL ALASKA."

The Rosarian Academy, 807 North Flagler Drive, is just the perfect place for the film series. You won't need binoculars, as the vision in any part of the auditorium is excellent. Remember, ample parking is available in the school lot, on 8th Street, and across Flagler Drive at Channel 5.

Mail your checks to: Mrs. Stella Rossi, 625 Whispering Pines Road, Boynton Beach, FL. 33435. Tickets validated at door. (E. Reiter)

PINE JOG PROGRAMS

FLORIDA BIRD STUDIES: Wednesdays, 7:30-9:30 p.m. and Saturdays, 7:30-11:30 a.m. on January 12, 15, 19, 22, 26 and 29. For beginning and getting-good birders. Optional Everglades National Park Weekend February 5-6. Course fee - \$30. Call 686-6600.

EVERGLADES OVERVIEW BUS TRIP: Thursday, January 6, 7 a.m.-6 p.m. A full day of learning. Wear comfortable shoes, bring sack lunch and drink. Pre-registration required by January 3rd. Cost - \$25.

BIG CYPRESS SWAMP BACKPACKING TRIP: Weekend of January 29-30. Required pre-trip orientation night at Pine Jog Wednesday, January 19, 7-10 p.m. Fee is \$30, pre-registration required by January 14, call 686-6600.

SAWGRASS SECRETS CANOE TRIP: Saturday, February 5, 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Leisurely canoe the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge area of the Everglades. Guide, light lunch and binoculars provided. Pre-registration required, limit 6 canoes, fee \$7 per person. Fully equipped rental canoes available for \$6.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

Boynton Beach: Mrs. Stella Rossi
Delray Beach: Gary & Nancy Colton
Jupiter: Mr/Mrs. Leon Piercy, Rebecca Johnson
Lake Park: F. Katherine Stambaugh
Lake Worth: Mrs. Willis N. Burt, Miss Shari Keefer, Tom Ireland
Lantana: Lil Neeley
North Palm Beach: Philip & Edyth Lustbader
Palm Beach: Jason Hastings
Palm Beach Gardens: Joan Blyth-Lovell
Palm Springs: Ann M. Shapiro
Port Everglades: Allan D. Sosnow
Stuart: Colleen Monroe
Tequesta: Mrs. Charles Baldwin
West Palm Beach: Mrs. Mildred Van Norde, Mrs. Frances Levy, David Parnell, Nancy M. Paty, Diane C. Peaden, Elmer White Jr., West Palm Beach Garden Club

KITE STRINGS

MANATEE AWARENESS WORKSHOP - FP&L's Riviera Beach power plant, Saturday, January 22, 9 a.m.-12 noon. Registration limited. Write Debbie Fritz, Manatee Awareness Workshops, P. O. Box 955, Hobe Sound 33455.
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WILDLIFE INTERPRETIVE CENTER, Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, opened December 18. Visitor information available from 9 to 4 daily (except Christmas and New Year's).
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INSTITUTE OF DESERT ECOLOGY - April 29-May 1. For information contact Mrs. June Hirsh, Director, Institute of Desert Ecology, 30-A.N. Tucson Blvd., Tucson, AZ. 85716. Sponsored by Tucson Audubon Society.
* * * * *

Governor Graham and his Cabinet are waffling about taking up the U.S. Department of the Interior's offer to declare the northwest fork of the Loxahatchee River a Wild & Scenic River. As an example of the problems of saving the river, our own Senator Johnston has requested an additional 56 ft. permit from the Corps to add to an already existing 60 ft. dock in the northwest fork. How many more? Do put pressure on the governor to request Wild & Scenic status for the proposed part of the river. Won't be long before it will resemble a giant comb with teeth instead of a river system with shoreline. And this could have been settled in December.

We will follow with interest a drawdown now in effect in Conservation Area 1 (Loxahatchee Refuge). The water level will be held down until May in an attempt to aerate and allow the marshland to clean itself to benefit the vegetation. Indirectly it will be a windfall to upland game animals, otherwise known as deer. I am trying to keep the faith that this will not be the stage setting for a fall hunt. The Dept. of the Interior's decision about the intended hunt was not in the December Federal Register as we were told it would be (and it's not official unless it is published). They are re-examining the use of airboats as one of the more objectional issues raised. Could it be there will be no need for airboats because of the drawdown?

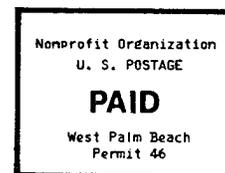
The courage of those in the sugar industry is truly boundless. They latest is an application to Commissioner of Agriculture Doyle Conner for a permit to use lindane to battle a grub infestation that has plagued them for 10 years. In all that time they have never seen fit to finance an adequate research effort to biologically control their problem. Lindane use was halted by EPA because it is a persistent chlorinated hydrocarbon known to be "highly toxic to fish, honeybees and wildlife." We must fit in there someplace! Conner has endorsed its use as an emergency measure for possibly up to three years to put 400,000 lbs. into the soil. Most likely it will end up in water recharge and conservation areas, canals and estuaries. SFWMD and DER have absolutely no control of the permitting process involving the use of pesticides. It must be announced in the Federal Register, but public hearings will not be necessary. There has been consultation with the Fish & Wildlife Service, but I don't think either Ms. Gorsuch or Mr. Watt have earned our confidence as protectors. The necessary 60-day time frame EPA needed to approve the project just happened to make it too late this winter to apply the chemical at the right time. I have been assured that next year sugar will start the ball rolling early. Protests against the use of lindane should pour in to the governor, EPA, Dept. of Agriculture and Fish & Wildlife Service.

Some of you may be aware that the governor is seriously contemplating leasing a state park in Miami (Chekika) to the Eckerd Foundation as a primitive campsite area for problem boys. We approve the idea but not the place, and hope you will so advise the governor. Aside from the fact that Dade County residents need to keep all the parkland they can get, this is an ominous precedent to establish. I keep thinking there are beautiful large areas in Florida that could be obtained to make great wilderness areas for survival experiences for these youths.

My New Year's prediction is that Ann Gorsuch will not languish in the slammer for contempt.

NEXT CONSERVATION MEETING: Wednesday, January 12, 7:30 p.m., at the home of Ruth Trumpower, 165 Auburn Drive, Lake Worth. Call 585-3968 if directions needed. (Cissy Durando)

EVERGLADE KITE
P. O. BOX 6762
WEST PALM BEACH, FL. 33405



PALM BEACH CO. LIBRARY SYSTEM
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W. PALM BEACH, FL. 33406