



# EVERGLADE KITE

AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE EVERGLADES

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Ruth Trumpower, Editor

SEPTEMBER 1985

## FAS PRESIDENT TO SPEAK ON WETLANDS

Dr. Bernard J. Yokel will be our guest and speaker at ASE's meeting on Tuesday, September 3rd. His topic will be "Wetlands" and will include a slide presentation.

A member of the Board of Directors of Florida Audubon Society since 1978, Dr. Yokel was elected its president in the fall of 1984. A graduate of Miami University at Oxford, Ohio, he received his Masters and Doctorate degrees in Marine Science and Estuary Ecology from the University of Miami at Coral Gables.

Much of his research on various aspects of mangrove and wetland ecology has been conducted in Everglades National Park and Southwest Florida. In addition, he was appointed by the National Science Foundation to the scientific team researching the effects of Agent Orange and the resulting mangrove defoliation in Vietnam.

Dr. Yokel served as Director of Research at The Conservancy, Inc. in Naples from 1975 to 1984 and as chairman of the Collier County Water

Management Advisory Board during that period. In 1977 he was appointed by Governor Askew to the Big Cypress Basin board and was reappointed to this board twice by Governor Graham.

The public is invited to attend and members are especially urged to join us for this meeting and program which will begin at 7:30 p.m. at the West Palm Beach Garden Club Center in Dreher Park. (Donna Deitz)

## FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

ASE's first field trip of the season will be to the Barley Barber Swamp on Saturday, September 28th at 8:00 A.M. Directions from W.P.B. - west on 710 through Indian-town to the second blinking light, left at the blinker and a guide will meet us at the gate.

Florida Power and Light Company set aside this 400-acre fresh water cypress swamp as a nature preserve and built a mile-long boardwalk (handicapped accessible). You won't need a swamp buggy for this one! (Sylvia Guadagnoli)

## EARLY BIRD SPECIALS

ASE will be running three bus trips during the 1985-86 year. Bus trip #1 will be a day trip to Miami on Saturday, November 16th. Bring a lunch. We will try to see some of the exotic species (13 parrots, 3 mynas, red-whiskered bulbul), visit some of the regular birding spots around Miami and bird Virginia Key

at low tide. Bus leaves 6:30 A.M., returns 6:30 P.M. (All trips leave and return to W.P.B. Garden Club parking area) Cost \$15.

Bus trip #2 is a weekend trip to Everglades National Park on February 22-23. We leave 7:00 A.M. Saturday and return 5:30 P.M. Sunday. Cost \$60 per person. This includes your motel room, double occupancy. Bring two lunches and a breakfast. Dinner Saturday night will be in the banquet room at 7:30 P.M., \$12 for full course meal, choice of meat or fish entree. Cash bar at 6:30 P.M. Or you may choose to dine on your own. A sunset boat trip from 5 to 6:30 P.M. will also be offered, \$6.50.

Bus trip #3 will be to the Metro Zoo in Miami on Thursday, March 20th. Bus leaves at 7:30 A.M., returns 5:30 P.M. Bring lunch. Cost of \$20 includes entrance to Zoo.

We need to know very early if we can fill the trips. If you will call Dorothy Brindle, 586-6797, now (between 4 and 9 P.M., Mon-Fri), your name will be put on the reservation list. We will ask for the money later. You will be given a number so you will know if you are on the bus or on the wait list. There are 43 seats available on each bus. There will be no smoking on the buses. (Sylvia Guadanoli)

#### FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

As you all know, the Society functions year round. We continue all committee meetings, board of directors and monthly membership meetings and newsletter publication. Committee chairmen have been at the helm during the summer making plans for the various programs in which we are involved. Board members really deserve and extra pat or two on the back. Let them know how much they are appreciated.

Of course, you can also let them know by offering some assistance. In a couple of weeks you will receive a "Special Edition" of the KITE called "Audubon Classified." Please read it and choose where you would like to help. Volunteering does not commit you to the task forever. Help on a short term basis is fine.

Program brochures will be ready soon. Please sign up if you can help with distribution to Chambers of Commerce, libraries, condo recreation rooms and other places appropriate for placement.

We have received a copy of correspondence to Senator Don Childers from Charles Lee (FAS), in which Charles indicates that Senator Childers had written to the Corps of Engineers (Jacksonville) in support of Occidental Chemical's application to mine in Hamilton County near the Suwannee River. Perhaps the senator was misinformed or misunderstood the environmental consequences. In any event, he needs to hear from us. We need to persuade him to withdraw support and consider the alternatives proposed by Florida's major environmental organizations, the Governor, and DER. Write him at 2101 S. Military Trail, Suite B, W.P.B. 33415.

The next "World of Audubon" program of WTBS is scheduled for Sept. 6, 7:35 p.m.; Sept. 10, 6:30 p.m.; Sept. 15m 1:05 p.m. and Sept. 20, 9:05 p.m., featuring the Bald Eagle. Mark your calendar.

Several conservation issues need your attention. Letters are needed to some of the Florida Cabinet - namely Comptroller Gerald Lewis, Education Commissioner Ralph Turlington, Commissioner of Agriculture Doyle Connor and Secretary of State George Firestone. They need to be scolded for voting in favor of a seawall for 500 Beach Road, Vero Beach. The wall will be constructed 68 feet seaward of the coastal construction setback line. For numerous reasons, the DNR staff recommended denial of this precedent-setting project and suggested alternate solutions, including anchoring the entire building, which was constructed WITHOUT pilings. Nevertheless, former Secretary of State Bruce Smathers (whose mother lives in the building) was able to convince the majority of the Cabinet to look favorably on the project. Governor Graham, Attorney General Jim Smith and Insurance Commissioner Bill Gunter should be commended for having the courage to vote for staff recommendation against the wall. A Miami Herald editorial on August 22 said it very well, "Unfortunately, the density level of some state officials is still higher than a tide at full moon."

Would you believe that the Cross Florida Barge Canal issue has been going on for 167 years? The idea was not conceived by the Corps but by President Jefferson! Fifty million of taxpayers dollars had been spent by 1979, with an estimate (in 1977) for \$256 million to complete the project. This has to be the prize winner in boondoggle history.

We have spent \$900,000 annually since 1971 for canal maintenance, as supported Senator Paula Hawkins, Representatives Charles Benne (Jacksonville) and William Chappell (Daytona Beach). Most people aren't aware that Claude Pepper (Miami) even supports the project. It was almost put to rest last year - we needed three more votes in Congress. Let's kill this monster now. It's been haunting us long enough.

We have asked Charles Lee (FAS) to represent us at the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council in September when the Fox property will once again be considered as a Development of Regional Impact (DRI) by that agency. We understand the DER has last jurisdiction, so we must work and lobby extra hard on this one.

ASE is now the proud owner of a new 16mm sound projector donated by Stanley Goldwater in memory of his wife, Shirley. We will now be able to have films occasionally without the hassle of renting, pickup/return or trying to scrounge one for free. We thank you, Stanley, for your generosity.

Do you know that Palm Beach County has 41 miles of coastline, but does not have one staff coastal engineer? It spends at least a million dollars a year on consultant fees! We could hire a dozen for that money, when actually one is all we need.

NAS has announced the availability of the 1985 Audubon Wildlife Report, the first in a series that will form an encyclopedia of the conservation movement. The first volume focuses on wildlife management roles of federal agencies, natural history of wildlife species and an appendix of key personnel in the federal agencies. Copies may be obtained by making check in the amount of \$16.50 per volume,

payable to National Audubon Society and mailed to 950 Third Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022 and marked "Audubon Wildlife Report." (Leah Schad)

#### STAMP COLLECTORS TAKE NOTE

Seymour Miller has donated two sets of two blocks of wildlife postage stamps issued in Israel. We will hold one drawing for each set. Tickets, at 3/\$1.00, may be purchased at the September meeting for one set. Another drawing will be held in November.

#### KITE STRINGS

Pine Jog Environmental Sciences Center of FAU is presenting a Natural History Photographic Safari to East Africa February 13-27, 1986. Arranged by Holbrook Travel, it will be escorted by Jack and Jane Gardner. Call Pine Jog, 686-6600, for a brochure.

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SANCTUARY COMMITTEE: Anyone wishing to serve on the Sanctuary Committee, please contact Mark Beatty at 478-0500.

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FAS AWARDS: FAS is seeking nominations for awards to be made at the Annual Meeting at Wekiva November 9th. Please refer to Page 13 of the Summer FLORIDA NATURALIST for categories and criteria.

#### NEW BIRD BOOK REVIEW

A new field guide to birds is now available at your local book sellers. Jim Morin, political cartoonist for the MIAMI HERALD and syndicated world wide by King Features, has been completely irreverent in his illustrations of our feathered friends. To quote from the back cover, "Real birds all, they have never quite so fit their names as in Jim Morin's alternative view of the aviary." At \$7.95 each, the guide makes an excellent "little gift" for most any occasion, except perhaps surgical convalescents. (Leah Schad)

#### ATTENTION: FOS ATTENDEES

Altamonte Springs Hotel & Racquet Club is the site of the upcoming Florida Ornithological Society meeting. The name of the hotel is now Ramada Inn - same address, just name changed.

#### WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

Jupiter: Bruce Bardin, Evelyn Bates & Family, Linda Chesney, Lucinda Foster, Judith R. Kinberger, Anna Minear, Carolyn Ryan, Winona Stearns, James Waldron, Dr. R.S. Young, Jr.

Lake Park: R. A. Banks, Jr., Robert W. Schiesher

ke Worth: Linda Barry, Miriam Cepp, Judith Hall, Elizabeth Harless, Melanie Harris, Blanche Hoinowski, Bennett Johnson, Teresa A. Muncie, Thomas M. Randolph, Alfred R. Suhr, P. Wilkinson, Michael Zaffke

Lantana: Mrs. P. K. Grove, Haye William

North Palm Beach: Margaret Buckingham, J. M.

Harkey, Joseph Taylor

Palm Beach: Mrs. Roscoe T. Anthony, Dr. Joseph A. Weisman

Palm Beach Gardens: Allen & Zola Hartmen, Pauline A. Roberts

Riviera Beach: Anthony Burks, Kenneth L. Skelton, Helen Strassburger

Tequesta: Sharon Beal, Margaret Corcoran, Eleanor Dunn

West Palm Beach: Steve Allman, H. F. Anderson, Emanuel Bloom, Teresa Christie, Gertrude K. Dusham, Jonathon N. Frost, Haffner & Associates, Matt Hodson, James L. Jenne, D.D. Mergenthaler, MD, Mark Obmascik, M. Parrish, Lisa Reiukauf, Kevin & Julia Sheehee, Deona Webster

Out-of-state: Dave Fallow, Madison, Wisc.

#### CONSERVATION REPORT

Our perennial beach discussions reached an all-time high this month. The Corps of Engineers spent several hours presenting a "General Design Memorandum," a 3-inch thick document, hoping to convince the county to adopt its conceptual plan. The plan would have the county be local sponsors to renourishing (offshore dredging) the beaches from Jupiter through Boca Raton, 11.3 miles. The estimated initial cost would be \$22,113,000, plus an annual cost of \$3,403,000. Benefits would include prevention of damage, estimated at \$1,780,000, and recreation, estimated at \$5,586,000. If 2 + 2=4, this, in my estimation, doesn't add up. Non-federal (that's us) contribution would be 51.5 percent, or \$11,380,000.

I do not believe, as the Corps stated, that we will lose our beaches. Some are actually being built up, some maintain themselves over the long haul, and others should be allowed to seek their angle of repose and be lived with as nature attempts to heal. Given the man-made scars of inlets, bulkheads, walls, groins, etc, there will eventually be a degree of stabilization. Adequately maintained sand transfer stations at the inlets could do an important job towards a situation we could live with. Let's be realistic. Parking and access are more limiting factors to public recreation than depth of beach. How can our Cabinet still live in the dark ages and grant seawalls in the face of this cost and the effect on the sand.

The Governor's office is grateful for support in pursuing the DNR policy of unarmored beaches as a way to stop the destruction of other beaches. The DNR will be presenting a 10-year program study the end of September.

Because of opposition, a request for a re-vetment north of MacArthur State Park was withdrawn. Now we will hold our breath to see if there will be an appeal.

On August 8th, Commissioner Ken Spillias met informally with about a dozen concerned people. We exchanged ideas and questioned Mr. Spillias "when" in the process of a plan or zoning change should we voice our concern. He assured us the earlier the better and, failing to reach him, his aide, Robin, would relay messages verbatim. We all looked favorably on the idea of a county-employed expert in the field of

environmental issues that would give unbiased opinions and consult freely with the volunteer members of the environmental community. We will meet again in October.

One of the problems handled at the August SFWMD Board meeting was the lack of established rules for silvaculture (tree farming) as applied to cypress harvesting. It is glaringly obvious that our watershed areas are fast disappearing. The double money making temptation is not only in realising property for development, whether residential or agricultural, but also in the sale of valuable "board feet and chips." Understandably, there was great fear amongst concerned long-range lumbermen as to how they would be regulated. Clear cutting, percent of trees on a tract allowed to be harvested, methods of harvesting, replanting, etc., all are issues. Once again it is obvious that a collection of small landholders who are unregulated are capable of inflicting more damage than large well-regulated companies. The fact is that not too much definitive information is known about cypress silvaculture. This will be studied further and come up again.

I think one of the longest Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council meetings of record took place August 16th. One of the three important items, the Fox DRI, was postponed until September. The hearing on the snail kite on the Solid Waste Authority property turned out well. We focused on the harm the Jog Road alignment in the current site plan could do. That could and should be changed. There will be a further meeting on this.

The other item of importance to Palm Beach County was the Yamato Scrub (Koven Industrial Center). The Council commendably refused to

endorse the Koven study of the scrub area and its animal rehabilitation plan. The City of Boca Raton accepted the study even though there was no plant rehabilitation plan, plus other inadequacies. The Koven people will have to go back to the drawing board and satisfy Dan Cary, biologist for the Council. (Cissy Durando)

#### ANNUAL REPORT - PROGRAMS

We have had a very exciting and interesting schedule of programs for the 1984-85 season. This list includes: Bob and Lee Fladd's trip to Alaska; singer and composer Jill Jarboe; Richard Moyroud on native plants; Dr. Carol Gartner, author of "Biography of Rachel Carson"; an award-winning film, "Garden of Eden," produced by The Nature Conservancy, along with Richard Weinstein, president of the Conservancy's Florida chapter, as speaker.

Also a slide/lecture on the Francis Beidler Forest Sanctuary by manager-biologist Norman Brunswick; Phil Weinrich with an illustrated talk on endangered species; Captain Ken Alvarez on the Fakahatchee Strand, and John Lopinot, chief photographer with the PALM BEACH POST, with wonderful slides on the Everglades.

My personal thanks to ASE President Leah Schad for all her wonderful ideas and help.  
(Sylvia Dunnam, 1984-85 Program Chairman)

## **AUDUBON SOCIETY of the EVERGLADES**

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