



EVERGLADE KITE

AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE EVERGLADES

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Ruth Trumpower, Editor

MAY 1991

MAY PROGRAM TO FEATURE SOLAR ENERGY TECHNOLOGY

Solar energy technology will be the focus of David LeHart's talk at the May 7th meeting. LeHart, an instructor at the Florida Solar Energy Center in Cape Canaveral, will contrast old and new technologies.

Emphasis will be on solar water heating. He will discuss, too, the application of solar electric systems and bio-mass applications. And, as might be expected, he will urge energy conservation and efficiency.

Please join us Tuesday, May 7th, at 7:30 p.m. Be ready for a program that should be of special interest to residents of the Sunshine State. The West Palm Beach Garden Club Center on Dreher Trail North is the site! See you there. (Rhonda Wilson)

FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

TUESDAY, APRIL 30, Hypoluxo Island -
7:30 a.m. Park at marina southwest side Lantana Bridge.

SATURDAY, MAY 4, Palm Beach Lake Trail -
7:30 a.m. Meet at Poinciana Chapel parking lot.

TUESDAY, MAY 7, Dreher Park North -
7:30 a.m. Meet at W.P.B. Garden Club parking lot. (Woody Bracey)

EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

The March 22nd Marsh Walk at the A.R.M. Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge was well attended despite occasional showers. ASE members Katie Gersher, Victor Muller, Sonia Bolinger, Cecil Kilmer, Marvin Greenberg, Sylvia Moore, Gloria Hunter, Dorothy Brindle, and Hank McCall guided students, teachers and parents from Greenacres, Flagler Unity, Palm Beach Public, Barton, Lake Park, S.D. Spady, Plumosa, Palm Springs, Kirklane, Berkshire, and Highland Elementary Schools. Approximately 125 persons enjoyed the many species of birds sighted, even a roseate spoonbill!

Over 30 birdfeeders were judged by ASE members at the March 5th monthly meeting. Categories and winners were as follows: BEST LOOKING, Loretta Justiano of Indian Pines, 1st; Adrienne Christian, Palm Beach Public, 2nd; Calvin & Cornelius McGriff, 3rd.

MOST PRACTICAL: Heidi Anderson, Palm Beach Public, 1st; Irene Pinero, Kirklane, 2nd; Chris D. & Gene B., Kirklane, 3rd. MOST CREATIVE: Long Nguyen, Lake Park, 1st; Crystal Stephens, Greenacres, 2nd; Marilyn McCargar, Palm Beach Public, 3rd.

MOST WELL CONSTRUCTED: Lea Johnson, Lake Park, 1st; Mark Foulom, 2nd, and Nick Benulis, 3rd, both Greenacres.

The BEST OF SHOW honor was taken by Katie Rosebough and Nadia Bjorlin, of Palm Beach Public. Honorable Mentions were given to: from Kirklane- Michelle Jackson, Heidi Guthrie, Shannon Carl, Chrissy Craven, Jennifer Gift, Chuck Alex, Kari Burnett, and Chuck H.; from Lake Park - Kristan Muir, Jason Worthy, Lekita Chapman, Randy Jackson, Jason Sartori, Shannon D., Camphi Nguyen, Jennifer Woodward, and Yhanique Whitely; from Greenacres - Kyle and Kendall Arendell.

Science Fair winners in the ASE-sponsored environmental awards were: JUNIOR DIVISION - Paul Constant, Congress Middle, "Nutrients Effect on Codium Algae." 1st; Brian Mendelssohn, Howell Watkins Middle, "Beach Erosion: The Art of the Waves - Year Two," 2nd; Daniel Mathason, Howell Watkins Middle, "Is Ocean Water Purification on a Small Scale Possible?," 3rd. These three boys exhibited their projects at the April 2nd monthly meeting. Honorable Mention went to Calline Sanchez, Jefferson Davis Middle, "The Effects of Ferris Sulphate on Algae Blooms in Lakes."

SENIOR DIVISION - Michael Cummings of Santaluces High, "Methane Production of the Reduction of Organic Solid Wastes," 1st; Amy Venema, Wellington High, "Is Solar Detoxification Effective?," 2nd; Catherine Foss, Boca Raton High, "The Unintended Consequences of a Roof-Paint Mildewcide," 3rd. Honorable Mention went to Amy Geddis, Wellington High, "Can Vegetable Waste Be Recycled To Make Paper?"

(Pat Althouse)

CONSERVATION REPORT

The struggle to save the maine life and lake bottom of Lake Worth goes on. The latest at the Palm Beach Countywide Planning Council public hearing on April 16th - Town of Palm Beach and ASE vs City of Lake Worth and the developer.

Prospects to provide funding in the coming year for "Preservation 2000": the only vote against it in the Senate Tax & Finance Committee was Sen. Larry Plummer, Dade-Monroe (9-1). Call or write your representatives and Speaker of the House and urge them to support the House Bill funding this all important program (the 4-cent documental stamp increase would do it).

Contact Se. George Kirkpatrick to insist upon reenactment of the Environmental Education Act, and ask your legislators, too, to support reenactment. Also contact your legislators to support SB k028 abd start to limit boat speeds to save manatees and human life!!

And lastly (for now), tell them to support a clean Everglades bill that does not give concessions to the highly-subsidized sugar cane industry.

(Chuck Potter)

HIGHLANDS HAMMOCK FIELD TRIP

Those of us who showed up at Highlands Hammock had a wonderfil time on March 23rd and 24th. Some of us camped and a few others came just for the day and enjoyed the sights along with the great weather.

After arriving at the park, we learned that

the loop drive was closed to cars due to road repairs, so we walked around the approximately two miles, exploring the various side trails.

It was pleasant and relaxing to stroll leisurely beneath the shady canopy of this ancient hammock that has evolved for over one million years. Tall sabal palmettos, mixed hardwoods and hugh spreading oaks, one in particular measuring 36 feet around at its base, dominate this lovely island forest which is surrounded by other environments such as pine/palmetto flatwoods and cypress swamp. The varied habitat supports a wide variety of plants and animals: deer, bobcat and otter, to name a few. and, of course, LOTS of woodpeckers. We saw downys, flickers, red-bellied woodpeckers, yellow-bellied sapsuckers, and those magnificent pileateds. It is not uncommon to see at least four pileated woodpeckers at the same time, all pecking away to their hearts' content. Even red-cockaded woodpeckers have been sighted at Highlands Hammock from time to time.

Those of us who camped overnight enjoyed deer strolling through the campground at dawn, a barred owl that woke us up at 6 a.m. sharp, and searching for owls in the evening.

Trees along the creek near the camp entrance and in the picnic ground and orange grove were just full of small birds - pine warblers, white-eyed vireos, solitary vireos, blue-gray gnatcatchers, ruby-crowned kinglets, American goldfinches, tufted titmouse and more. A single red-eyed vireo in the trees along the roadway kept repeating its monotonous tune of "Here I am, See Me." Anyone who has never heard the song of parula warblers would know it well after a spring visit to Highlands Hammock. They were everywhere, singing, bright and buzzy.

Swallow-tailed kites had returned for the summer season and were lovely soaring above the trees. They were nesting somewhere in the hammock, but the Rangers had not yet determined the exact location. There was an area at the back of the campground where the kites perched for the night and could be seen early in the morning before they flew off for the day.

Along Fern Trail we found yellow-crowned herons nesting, but everyone's favorite trail seemed to be the swamp boardwalk. Here huge virgin cypress trees loom within their watery world, giving you the feeling of being back in some ancient time. Great-crested flycatchers also enjoyed the swamp and, as we neared the exit, a barred owl with large brown eyes had perched on a tree right over the trail and curiously eyed everyone who passed.

The sweet scent of orange blossoms filled the air as we roamed around the grove looking for birds. It is a well-maintained grove and deer love to graze there in the mornings and evenings. Deer also keep the lower limbs of the orange trees neatly pruned. Trees growing in this ancient grove are from original root-stock planted centuries ago by the Spaniards.

Biking along the loop road is a fun thing to do, and you can always rent a bike for \$3 an hour if you prefer not to lug your own. There is also an excellent two-hour tram tour for only \$3. It covered areas of the park you would not ordinarily have access to. Our guide was very thorough, emphasizing native plants and

stopping frequently to point out interesting plants, birds and animals, including some rather large alligators.

Late afternoon was a pleasant time to scout the back roads outside the park boundary for bluebirds and scrub jays. Although we did not locate them, we did turn up some brown thrashers, Carolina wrens, white-eyed vireos, loggerhead shrikes, meadowlarks, a few kestrels, and a hawk or two. Even the cross-state journey to the park and home again was full of surprises - bald eagles, crested caracara and a couple of snail kites.

If you have never been to Highlands Hammock, you must soon visit this fabulous park system, one of the oldest in the state. It was formed in 1929 by local citizens who wanted to preserve the beauty and value of this unique area.

(Katie Gersher)

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

I feel I can speak freely for some 60 to 65 gregarious environmentalists who attended our Potluck! We had a great time and are very grateful to the regular hospitality crew headed by Susan Snyder, and particularly to selfless, unassuming Stella Rossi for doubling from the Sales Table to head chef; a regular Cinderella in the kitchen!

We presented our Conservationist of the Year award to Herb Zebuth, who has tirelessly, honestly and most knowledgeably contributed comments as an expert on water quality problems in our county for years. We gave Certificates of appreciation to Mark Alford of Channel 5 and to Chuck Weber of Channel 12 for all the great specials on the environment this past year. Chuck has trekked many a mile with us in our campaign to bring to people a camera record of the environmentally sensitive land we wish to protect and purchase. Of special significance to our chapter was our Service Recognition to Seymour Miller, our long-time treasurer. His knowledge of financial matters and wise advice are only exceeded by his great loyalty and love of all things involving life on earth.

The legislative session will probably go on one more week, so please contact Representative Ray Liberti and ask him to support the funding for Preservation 2000, as well as a wildlife protection bill that covers all endangered, threatened, or of special concern animals.

There is pressure for more annexations of our sensitive land sites. Write or call the Department of Community Affairs, 2740 Centerview Drive, Tallahassee 32399-2100, to Mr. William Sadowski, 904/488-8466. We need many letters and calls. Stress the importance of upholding the original intent of Comprehensive Planning. On April 19th, we found that the original Goal and Policies to protect 25% of native habitat in the Regional Plan is still in jeopardy. After a lengthy debate at the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council, the item was tabled for another month. But we learned the DCA has compromised consistency and the staff of TCRPC by striking a deal to allow Palm Beach County "off the hook" on their weak environmental Goal and Policies. All those thousands of acres of mixed pine flatwoods, home to many listed plants and animals, that were recently annexed

from the county, have virtually no protection.

There is still the possibility that the DCA could make a similar deal with Royal Palm Beach Village on the Flag property. Also we are not clear as to what Juno Beach has in mind for Juno Hills, yet another sensitive site on the Iverson/Austin Inventory. It would be a cruel blow, indeed, after so many people worked so hard for our Bond issue, to discover the bureaucracy is compromising our efforts.

Mark your calendar: on June 8th, Tropical Audubon Society is sponsoring a good workshop at FIU on wetlands and mitigation.

Orange County Audubon Society is challenging nature photographers to enter a contest - there will be prizes. I will have more information on both events at the May meeting.

(Cissie Durando)

SANCTUARY CLEAN-UP DAY

Thanks to those who helped clean up Fisherman Island several weeks ago: John and Janet Shire, Warren and Jean Resen, Sue Clark and son, Danny, Susi Wilde, and my partner, Len Bryant.

The day was overcast and cool at 9 a.m. as we ferried our volunteers to the island from the Southern Blvd. Causeway. We trudged around most of the morning gathering up unnatural items. There were the usual things such as glass, plastic and styrofoam, and the not so usual such as a half-filled bottle of vodka that someone had stashed away more than thrown away. I'll bet they were surprised when they returned for it.

We took a break around 11:30 a.m. for hot dogs and refreshment and got to know one another. Returning our helpers to the mainland about 12:30 p.m., we hitched our overloaded 12-ft. boat to our 16-ft. boat for the trip back to Lake Worth, arriving at Bryant Park about 6 p.m.

Yes, you read those times right. You see, by the time we were ready to make the return trip, the tide was dead low and we were high and dry. Five hours later the water was up high enough for us to float - what a sight we were. The weather progressed to stormy, but we made our way precariously to the boat ramp and unloaded our cargo of trash - enough to fill up one whole dumpster, plus.

The general condition of the island as to flora and fauna is as follows: Quite noticeable to me were the mangroves in every stage of development over most of the island except on the east side, where Australian pines thrive. Wildlife seemed very scarce. Not many birds other than the vultures circling overhead. We wondered if the jet planes thundering directly overhead had some bearing on this.

All in all, it was a great day, and we have pictures to prove it. Keep listening for the next scheduled clean-up. (Carole Fields)

PINE JOG OPEN TO PUBLIC

"Discover the Real Florida" as the Pine Jog Environmental Education Center opens to the public for the first time in its 30-year history.

RETURNING NORTH/LEAVING FOR THE SUMMER...let us know so you can keep up with our activities. Our newsletter does not get forwarded. Complete the form and either bring it with you to the May 7 meeting or mail it our Membership Chair: 341 Walton Boulevard, West Palm Beach, FL 33405

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to: as of _____
ADDRESS _____ APT _____
CITY _____ ZIP _____
P.S. Returning south on or about: _____
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Pine Jog will be open for public visitation from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. The address is 6301 Summit Blvd., W.P.B. 33415. Contact persons for more information are Susie Weibert or Pat Welch, 407/686-6600.

POTLUCK SUPPER PRAISED

Kudos to Susan Snyder, Chairperson of the Hospitality Committee, and her able assistants, Stella Rossi and John Porter, for stimulating the

gustatory pleasures of a record attendance for the Annual Meeting.

What a surprise to see the long table laden with such a variety of foods contributed by members, all different and delicious.

Following a most informative and interesting lecture by Stephen Nesbitt on whooping cranes, dessert was served. Included in the variety of cakes and fruit were two cakes designated for Seymour Miller - and yes, he is "One In A Million."

(Madalyn and Sam Pollock)

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