



EVERGLADE KITE

THE AUDUBON
SOCIETY
OF THE
EVERGLADES

Volume 34, No. 1

Carol Shields, Editor

October 1993

CALENDAR

FIELD TRIPS • WORKSHOPS • MEETINGS
OCTOBER

2 Barley Barbar Swamp

8:00am. Meet at entrance to FPL Co. SR710, west of Indiantown; bring a picnic lunch and repellent for this 3/4 mile boardwalk through beautiful fresh water preserve. Migrant warblers will still be there. Last year we saw turkeys, bald eagles and Peregrine Falcon.

5 ASE GENERAL MEETING

7:30pm-- "Marine Mammal Strandings" David Williams, President of Moby Dick Society will speak on the subject of beached whales.

8 CONSERVATION MEETING

7:30pm Ruth Trumpower's home.

12 JD MacArthur State Park

7:30am. Meet at Phil Foster Park parking lot; north side of Blue Heron Bridge, carpool to State Park. Gloria Hunter to lead. 585-7714

15 ASE BOARD MEETING

7:30pm--Ruth Trumpower's home.

18 P2000 Workshop

7:30pm. Mounts Bldg. Grassroots workshop to focus on developing legislative champions, public awareness and promoting the programs success. Contact Debbie Calleson 904-222-0199

19 Preservation of Our Tropical

Rainforest", 7:00pm, Clayton Hutcheson Agr. Complex. G. Bourne, Biological Scientist, FAU.

30,31 Fall Florida Ornithological Soc. Mtg.

Archbold Biological Station. Field trips, scientific session. See Dr. Bracey for details. 659-2266

NOVEMBER

6,7 Florida Audubon Society Convention
Haines City, Florida

18 Legislative Delegation Meeting
10:00am School Board Building

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LEARN SOLUTION TO MYSTERY OF WHY WHALES STRAND

Why whales mass strand is a mystery as old as man's awareness of these animals. And scientific theories abound. But David Williams, a marine mammal specialist and President of the non-profit environmental research group known as The Moby Dick Society, says the most obvious answer to this enigma has been overlooked!

Originally from Tennessee, Williams now lives in Pompano Beach and is the captain of a private yacht. From 1973-82 he was President of Sea Sonics, Inc., an underwater acoustical research firm.

His theories should be thought provoking and interesting, so plan now to attend the October 5 meeting at West Palm Beach Garden Club Center on Dreher Trail North (across from the Science Museum). Is there a better way to spend a Tuesday night?

--Rhonda Wilson, Program Chair

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CONGRATULATIONS CISSIE!!!

The Florida Audubon Society will bestow one of its most prestigious awards--The Polly Redford Memorial Award--at their Annual Convention in November.

The award is given for personal dedication and moral courage for the cause of conservation. And this year's award will go to our own

Cissie Durando !

Cissie's dedicated and relentless efforts to take the 'hot seat' on conservation issue's at the local and state levels have earned her this distinctive honor.

For Reference

SEP 28 1993
Not to be taken from this room

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

As we climb the environmental ladder, we can see the limitations of our conservation efforts and where it will ultimately lead us. The following was summarized in a page from my daughter's high school freshman's ecology text book.--

FOUR LEVELS OF ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

First Level of Awareness

Pollution and environmental degradation

Environmental problems are seen as essentially pollution problems that threaten human health and welfare. Individual environmental problems are solved one by one by waiting until each problem reaches a crisis level. Then it is dealt with by using legal, technological, and economic methods to try to control or clean up pollution instead of preventing it. At this level it is assumed that growth-oriented, technological societies can continue indefinitely.

There are 4 major drawbacks to staying at this awareness level. First, it is a human-centered view, not a life-centered view. Second, individuals see their own impacts as too tiny to matter, not realizing that billions of individual impacts acting together threaten the life-support system for us and other species. Third, this approach seduces people into thinking that environmental and resource problems have quick technological solutions: "Have technology fix us up, send me the bill at the end of the month, but don't expect me to change my way of living." Fourth, it attempts to treat the symptoms of environmental abuse instead of trying to determine and deal with the causes leading to our environmental and resource problems.

Second Level of Awareness

Consumption Overpopulation

The causes of pollution, environmental degradation, and resource depletion are seen as a combination of people over-population in poor countries, with the most environmentally damaging populations living in industrialized societies with high rates of resource consumption and waste production. At this level, the answers seem obvious. Stabilize and then reduce population sizes in all countries. Reduced wasteful consumption of matter and energy resources, especially in affluent countries.

At this level, there is little emphasis

on transforming political and economic systems in ways that help sustain the earth, or in setting aside or restoring natural systems as wilderness areas, parks, and wildlife preserves. There is little awareness that most protected areas are too small to sustain their natural diversity of organisms and are being rapidly overwhelmed and biologically impoverished by unsustainable use of resources and the pollutants produced by technological, growth-oriented societies. This second level of awareness still views humans as above or outside nature, with an obligation to dominate and conquer it.

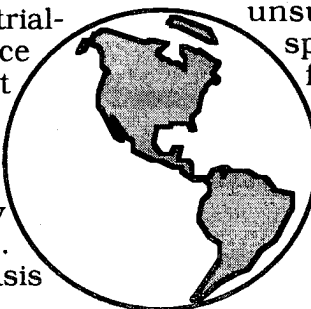
Third Level of Awareness

Spaceship Earth

The goal at this level is to use technology and existing economic and political systems to control population growth, pollution, and resource depletion to prevent environmental overload. Earth is viewed as a spaceship, a machine that can be controlled by using advanced technology. If Earth becomes too crowded, the solution is to build space stations for the excess population. If Earth becomes depleted of mineral resources, we will mine other planets. Genetic engineering will be used to control the evolution of life forms and develop organisms that produce more food, clean up oil spills and toxic waters, and satisfy more of our wants. Because of our ingenuity and power over the rest of nature, there will always be more.

This view of the earth as a spaceship is a sophisticated expression of the idea that technology and human ingenuity can control nature and create artificial environments and life forms to avoid environmental overload. However, this approach can also *cause* environmental overload and resource depletion in the long run, because it is based on the false ideas that we understand how nature works, and that there are no limits to the earth's resources and our ability to overcome any problem with technological innovations.

This view calls for sustainable economic development and sustainable societies for humans. Careful analysis reveals that some of the proposals now being made under the guise of sustainability are in the long run--unsustainable. The human-centered spaceship world-view is inadequate for dealing with an overpopulated, environmentally stressed, and globally interconnected world based on living by depleting and degrading Earth's natural capitals.



Fourth Level of Awareness *Sustainable Earth*

The first three levels of awareness are human-centered views in which we shape the world to meet our needs. They do not recognize that the solution to our problems lie in developing and Earth-centered or life-centered world-view.

At this level, we recognize that we cannot have sustainable or *any* form of economic development or sustainable human societies unless we help sustain the entire earth by working with Earth's natural processes. Respecting and honoring human life is based in respecting the Earth that sustains us and other species. We must do this not only because it helps ensure our survival, but because it is wrong to do otherwise.

--Dr. Woody Bracey, President

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CONSERVATION REPORT

A few days ago I received a call from the League of Conservation Voters from Washington D.C. They wanted an assessment of Harry Johnston's environmental record as perceived by locals. I gave a glowing report, as he well deserves. Recently, he was one of the a group of representatives that signed on to a good letter by Rep. S. Bruce Vento, chair subcommittee, National Parks, Forests and Public Lands; and Geo. Brown, chair Committee on Science, Space and Technology to President Clinton. It outlined the need for a sound, sustainable ancient forest protection solution. Johnston merits a local call and thank you! 732-4000. Continue to write to the President, V.P., and Babbitt.

There is never a breather on the agenda of problems locally. All in need of comment. The infamous Sawgrass (University) Expressway has been resurrected, is under study, debate and soon to be: bloodshed! This would extend the epitome of bad planning and road enabling wetland destruction to extend from Broward County, cut through environmentally sensitive land, the Agricultural Reserve area, trace around the Loxahatchee Refuge and continue north. We would never recover from this impact and, like Broward, be compelled to grant zoning densities on a similar basis to pay for it. Broward goes up to 15-20 units/ acre. Our Comprehensive Land Use Plan assigns 1 unit/acre uncommitted land.

We have been trying to discourage the proposed new high school on wetlands (part of the Fox property west of the WPB Water Catchment Area). It has been under continuous legal challenges under 3 governors. Presently, the Nature Conservancy, under direction of the Environmentally Sensitive Land Acquisition Selections Committee of the county, is trying to purchase the Fox property with county bond money. If the developer can generate some start up money, as in 1) pedaling a part to the county while retaining a water discharge permit to develop parts, or

2) pedaling a part to the School Board for a high school, he will not be a willing seller. After many meetings, on and off the record, with the School Board and the Village of Royal Palm Beach, we will be reaching a climax in the battle this week. Keep in mind, this is not only wetlands destruction, it would generate some formidable costs in mandated mitigation and some very extraordinary, EXPENSIVE engineering.

Major meetings are happening almost daily now at the WMD. The Settlement Agreement talks concerning the Everglades Agricultural Area are still in hot debate. Some growers refuse to sign on; some environmentalists, ditto! It will have a big impact on our county, especially as it relates to future water supply. It appears there will be a fierce competition for priority allocations between the environment, agriculture, and urban demands. My sympathies are all with the environment, but I believe a quick fix will only work until the next real drought, and then the million plus people here will hold sway.

Please reserve Saturday, October 9, for a most interesting seminar: Agriculture and the Environment in Palm Beach Co. beginning at 8:30am. with registration, coffee and adjournment at 4pm. There will be interesting panels, breaks, and lunch.

3 staunch ASE members attended the 1st Legislative Delegation in the country on September 2. We divided our assignments covering the Everglades Settlement, mercury contamination, and the use of P-2000 funds. 3 minutes doesn't leave much room for extensive coverage. The next meeting will be Thursday November 18 at 10am at the School Board bldg. This is lobbying made easy, *on our doorstep*, so to speak!

--Cissie Durando, Conservation Chair

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EMBLEM CONTEST

The contest for the art design of the ASE emblem will be held from now until December 1.

The picture must include the following-

- the Everglade Snail Kite
- Audubon Society of the Everglades
- maximum of 3 colors

The winner will be chosen at the December Board Meeting. Notification will be in the January Kite and General Meeting.

The winning design will be used initially for a bumper sticker. Future usage will include stationary and T-shirt.

Good Luck!

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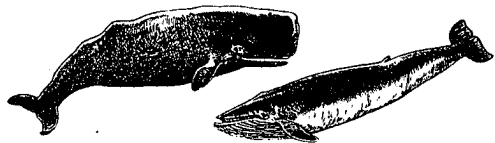
NEW MASTHEAD

With the start of the Everglade Kites' 34th year, I thought the newsletter was deserved of a new design to help reflect the bold efforts put forth by its contributors and members of the Audubon Society of the Everglades.

I hope you enjoy the new look. Your comments are always welcome.

--Carol Shields, Editor

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