



EVERGLADE KITE

THE AUDUBON
SOCIETY
OF THE
EVERGLADES

Volume 36, No. 12

Carol Shields, Editor

September 1996

CALENDAR

ASE ACTIVITIES

Field Trip Information
585-7714 / 689-1019

SEPTEMBER

- 3 **Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.**
ASE General Meeting - "MANATEES"
J. Wilcox from FPL - see details opposite
- 17 **Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.**
Meet Your Political Candidates
See article below
- 18 **Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.**
ASE Board Meeting: Ruth Trumpower's
home 585-3968

SAVE THE MANATEE CLUB

In 1981, Florida Governor Bob Graham along with singer Jimmy Buffet, established this organization solely for the protection of the manatee and their habitat. For information on manatees and how you can help manatees through adoption contact -Save The Manatee, 500 N. Maitland Avenue Maitland, Florida 32751 or call 1-800-432-JOIN.



MEET YOUR POLITICAL CANDIDATES

Candidates for local, state, and national office are being invited to speak briefly, Tuesday, September 17, at 7:30 pm at the West Palm Beach Science Museum.

Join Audubon Society of the Everglades, Sierra Club and other interested organizations as we present this forum for voters and candidates.

MANATEE UPDATE IN FLORIDA

Our guest speaker at our next general meeting will be retired Chief Ecologist for Environmental Affairs at FPL, Dr. Ross Wilcox.

Dr. Wilcox has served our participated on U.S.Fish and Wildlife recovery teams of the West Indian manatee, sea turtles, and the American Crocodile. He was appointed in October 1995 to serve on the federal multi-species recovery team for South Florida. He serves on the board of Florida Audubon Society, Save the Manatee Club, and the Marinelife Center of Juno Beach. He also was appointed by Virginia Weatherell, Executive Dir. of the Dept. of Environmental Protection, to serve as chairperson for the Manatee Technical Advisory Committee.

Dr. Wilcox received a PhD. and M.S. in oceanography from the University of Rhode Island and a B.A. in biology from Kalamazoo College. He is an author or co-author of 62 published and printed professional writings. Dr. Wilcox has lived in South Florida for the past 24 years.

Please join us, September 3 at 7:30 pm, at the West Palm Beach Garden Club for our general meeting. Rereshments will be served.

— Claudine Laabs, Programs



For Reference
CENTRAL SEP 05 1996
Not to be taken from this room

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

After a trip to Maine, I've returned home feeling refreshed and energetic again. As amateur birders, my husband and I hiked the woods, searched the treetops and listened for calls in our hunt for birds. We kayaked streams looking for ducks and climbed the heights to look down on the vultures flying. Nesting puffins were the highlight of a pelagic trip off the coast of Maine.

On all of our birding excursions, Roger Tory Peterson's *A Field Guide to Birds* was as close as the binoculars! Since we're not birding 'pros', we rely on Peterson's clear behaviors and calls to identify the birds.

When Peterson died recently, many of us probably took time to reflect on how we had gotten 'hooked' on birding. We probably thought about how Peterson's book had become a familiar resource for us. Then we might have wondered at the power of one book to spread the joy of birding which, in turn, led to a greater understanding and appreciation of the importance of habitat and the environment.

Lets honor Peterson's great accomplishments and share our enthusiasm for the birds. Grab your binoculars and Peterson's field guide and join ASE in our special birding field trips September through May!

— Susan Snyder, President



THANK YOU !!

People have been very generous and donated money to sponsor Audubon Adventures Clubs in the local schools.

It's not too late to help other Palm Beach County students. If you believe in children and environmental education, your donation can help ASE set up another Audubon Adventures Club for students in local schools. A \$35.00 donation will purchase a yearly subscription for a classroom set of Audubon Adventures newspapers for one class. Send your donation in a check made to to Audubon Society of the Everglades. Mail it to —

Audubon Society of the Everglades
PO Box 16914 West Palm Beach, Florida 33416
Attention: Pat Althouse



EARTHFEST FOR EDUCATORS

Earthfest for Educators was held for K-12 Palm Beach County teachers on August 19 as part of a major math and science conference. Audubon Society of the Everglades sponsored a booth highlighting its environmental education programs. Teachers had the opportunity to sign up for Audubon Adventures Club. Thanks go to Janice Kirber and Pat Althouse for organizing this display.



EXTINCTION ISN'T A MYTH

The Stellar's sea cow was hunted to extinction in 1768, less than 30 years after it's discovery in the Bering Strait. All remaining "mermaid" species a listed as "endangered" or "vulnerable" by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, an independent group representing over 100 countries involved in the conservation of wild living resources. Saving endangered species is a global effort, and we must work together to preserve species and prevent them from passing into the realm of fable and out of existence.

Stellar sea cows were unique because they were the only sirenian to inhabit cold water; they fed exclusively on marine algae and their size was extraordinary - up to 35 feet in length and several tons in weight.

The loss of just one species adversely affects others, just as the alteration of one ecosystem can jeopardize many other ecosystems. As a result of destruction and damage in isolated areas, we ultimately damage the entire planet.



MANATEES AND THE MERMAID MYTH

Sailors throughout history often thought they were seeing mermaids when they were really seeing manatees or their relatives. "Sirenia", which names the order to which manatees and dugongs belong, comes from the word "Siren". In ancient mytholog this was term used for sea nymphs who lured sailor and their ships to treacherous rocks and shipwrecked with their mesmerizing songs. With a little imagination, manatees can have an uncanny resemblance to human form that could only increase after long month at sea. The manatee probably helped perpetuate the myth of the existence of these "half-human" creatures.



Issue of the Month

Contact your representatives to keep

the plans of a buffer on the south end of Loxahatchee Wildlife Refuge.

The buffer will alleviate flooding, store water and protect the Refuge.

DO NOT not allow developers permits to double the density with development on 200+ acres adjacent to the Refuge.

BIRD FESTIVALS AROUND THE COUNTRY

With migration in full gear, here and around the country here are some choice locations for the avid traveler —

SEPTEMBER

Weekends Festival of Hawks - Ontario

Month long celebration of the spectacular fall raptors at the migration point of Holiday Beach Conservation Area. Up to 110,000 spotted over the month-long celebration. Contact Mike Turton, Essex Region Conservation Authority 516-766-5209 for information

12-15 - Seventh Annual Hummer/Bird Celebration

Rockport Texas; Hundreds of migrating Ruby-throated, black-chinned, Buff-bellied and Rufous Hummingbirds. Expect to see plenty of Sandhill cranes and other migrants, too. Activities include workshops, seminars and tours. Padre Island National Seashore is nearby, too. Contact the Rockport/Fulton Area Chamber of Commerce at 800-242-0071.

13-15 - Oregon Shorebird Festival

Sponsored by the Cape Arago Audubon Society, set on Coos Bay. Highlights include workshops, pelagic and shorebird field trips. Spotting include the Black-footed albatross, Sabine's gull, South Polar skua, marine mammals and even the rare Laysan albatross! March trips offer a chance to see Surfbird, Marbled Godwit, Wandering Tattler, Red Know, Pacific Golden Plover, and Snowy Plover species. Contact Barbara Griffin at North Bend, Oregon - 503-756-5688.

27-29 - 50th Annual Cape May Autumn Weekend

New Jersey Audubon Society hosts field trips along Delaware Bay, workshops and evening programs are also offered. 200 species of migrating birds can be seen here, including spectacular raptor migration of up to 18 species.

Contact Cape May Bird Observatory, Cape May Point, New Jersey, at 609-884-2736.

28 - Kern Valley Vulture Festival Weldon, California;

The largest known vulture migration north of Mexico where over 27,000 Turkey vultures may migrate through the valley during this time. Also spotted are Swainson's hawk, osprey, Cooper's hawk, Golden eagles, Prairie Falcon and other raptors. Activities include field trips to prime view sites, and interpretives on migration and vultures. Contact Reed Tollefson, Kern River Preserve, PO Box 1662, Weldon, CA 93283, or call 619-378-2531.



CONSERVATION REPORT

Follow up to last month's message of the Governor's Commission on the sustainable South Florida:

There was a workshop at the monthly board meeting of the South Florida Water Management District on August 14. It was appropriate to receive public comment on the final draft of the conceptual Plan for the restudy (of the Corps' plumbing system). It would have been nice had there been more response from our chapter. Sierra and N.A.S. had some thing to say, but there were ever so many more of those representing commenting interests, not only agriculture, but utility people from several counties staking out their urban claims for drainage/water supply. Sort of like an irresistable force meeting an immovable object!

On Friday, August 16, the Regional Planning Council got a workshop based on a slick book entitled "Eastward Ho!", same subject stating our salvation ultimately rests in redirecting growth to the east salvaging neglected areas in the central corridor of the counties. By August 27,28 the final draft will be completed and supposedly will carry much weight in Washington (w/Sen. Graham and Mack, the COE and EPA) on decisions on proceeding with restoring the Everglades and general water management.

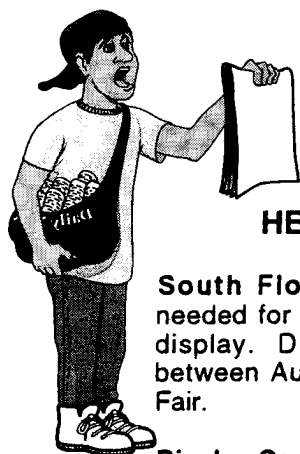
Please Do comment to our Senator that S640 must truly provide for the "conservation and development of water related resources". For those that can only flounder in that tired argument that people and economics requires exploitation and consumption of natural resources point out survivability and sustainability for the whole web of life is a must if there is to be a future. We must finance and support a South Florida Ecosystem Restoration. Now is the time to comment. The lobbying by paid agents is staggering. Constituents (you!!) could be ever so much more influential if only they (you!!) would call or write!!

Our, yours and mine, county commissioners voted to ignore all this wisdom and recently allowed the doubling of density for a new development on 200+ acres adjacent to the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge on the south end. That's were EPA, COE SFWMD, and the entire Everglades Coalition said we need a buffer to alleviate flooding. The developer needs permits. Comment would be good. Let's not let this gross affront to good sense, at our expense, take place. The COE needs to hear objections. Next month, they will come up to the SFWMD. This development will bring yet another expensive road from Coral Springs in Broward County, between U.S. 441/S.R. 7 and the Refuge, through Palm Beach County.

Those of you who are taxed in W.P. Beach will begin to feel the full impact of continuously expanding west, as you are in debt now to run utility lines out to Ibis, Ironhorse, Riverwalk, Lennar, Oakton, Montclair Lakes an whatever, while there is not contingency funds to repair old utility lines for the developing downtown. *All style and no substance.*

Call or write the Governor and support anything he might do to stop drilling and exploration of oil on our west coast. The Sierra Legal Defense Fund may challenge this permit. We should support them.

— Cissie Durando, Conservation Chair



HELP WANTED ADS

South Florida Fair Contact Person
needed for Audubon's South Florida Fair display. Duties include being a liaison between Audubon and the South Florida Fair.

Display Coordinator
for ASE's South Florida Fair display. No art talent needed.

For either job please contact Susan Snyder at 968-0721 or 627-7829

NETWORK NEWS

Here are some environmental addresses - FYI:

National Audubon Society

<http://www.audubon.org/audubon/>.

Tons of information, forums, chats, news, etc.

EcoWeb

<http://ecosys.drdr.virginia.edu/EcoWeb.html>

The most valuable tool here is EcoWeb's Links (WWW Virtual Library Environment Subject Page) divided alphabetically and by subject.

Envirolink Network

<http://www.envirolink.org>

The Web's most complete environmental service including newsletters, magazines, journals, 'Green' marketplace; excellent search tools to aid the inquirer.



"The Earth laughs with flowers."

— Ralph Waldo Emerson



Deadline for Articles in October Issue is September 15.

AUDUBON SOCIETY of the EVERGLADES

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MOVING? Let our Membership Chairman know!!