

Volume 36, No. 1

Carol Shields, Editor

October 1995

## CALENDAR

FIELD TRIPS • WORKSHOPS • MEETINGS

### OCTOBER

- 3 Tuesday 7:30 a.m. - ASE Field Trip J.D. MacArthur Beach SP;** meet at Phil Foster parking lot, north side of Blue Heron Bridge to carpool  
**7:30 p.m. - ASE General Meeting "Work in Progress",** Bonnie Cranser, Executive Director, Governor's Commission for Sustainable South Florida.
- 7 Saturday 8:00 a.m. - ASE Field Trip Hugh Taylor Birch State Park,** Ft. Lauderdale; meet at entrance-north side of Sunrise Blvd, just west of A1A; Leader - Wally George.
- 14 Saturday 8:30 a.m. - ASE field Trip Barley Barbar Swamp;** meet at entrance FPL Co., SR 710 west of Indiantown; Leader - Sylvia Moore.
- 21 Saturday 7:30 a.m. - ASE Field Trip J.D. MacArthur Beach SP;** meet as above; Leader - Howard Langridge

*Field Trip Information*  
585-7714 / 689-1019

## LUNCHEON FOR CHUCK POTTER



The Audubon Society of the Everglades invites you to a going-away roast at the Kravis Center, Saturday, November 11, for Chuck Potter, our Vice-President and long time board member.

ASE is pleased to host this event and honor a citizen so dedicated to the environmental movement, proving himself time and time again over the years. Chuck and Marion are moving up to Northern Florida. They will be sorely missed.

The Roast tickets include lunch and gratuity. Contact Cissie Durando, 965-2420, for more information.

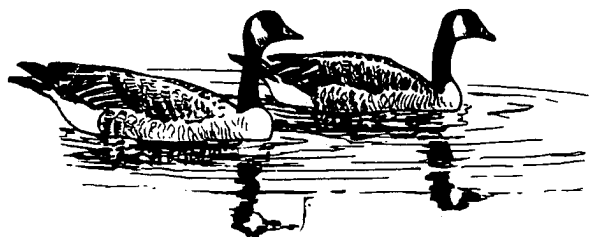


## SOUTH FLORIDA'S PROGRESS INTO THE FUTURE

Bonnie Cranser, Executive Director of the Governor's Commission for a Sustainable South Florida, will speak to us Tuesday, October 3, on the 'Work in Progress' she is directing. See what the future holds for South Florida as we approach the next millennium.

Join us at 7:30 p.m. in the Garden Club Center on Dreher Trail North, cross from the Science Museum

- Rhonda Wilson, Program Chair



## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

I received a call on September 8th from National Audubon requesting our chapter's help in protecting the Arctic Wildlife Refuge. I immediately experienced a sense of *deja vu*. A few years ago, our chapter wrote letters and postcards and made phone calls in order to prevent the drilling of oil in the refuge. We were elated that we were able to join in the good fight that protected this wilderness. Yet, here we go again! It seems as though we must renew our efforts. We, once again, must pick up our pens and write to our senators and representatives urging them not to allow drilling for oil. (See page 29 of the white pages telephone book for addresses)

A new study by the Clinton Administration states that there would be more damage to this fragile ecosystem than previously thought. This study calls the refuge "the outstanding example of remaining American wilderness." Secretary of the Interior, Bruce Babbitt, has recommended that the President veto any legislation allowing drilling in the 1.5 million acre coastal plain of the Arctic Refuge. Estimates of the crude reserves may only be half as large as previously thought.

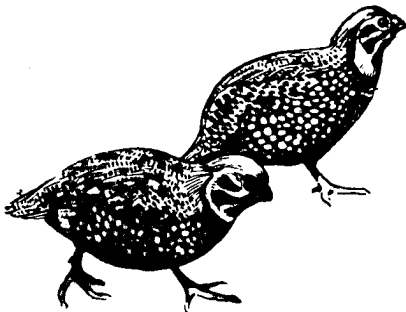
Some of the wildlife in the refuge include caribou, brown bears, fish such as the Arctic grayling, Arctic cisco, Dolly Varden, musk oxen, polar bears, snow geese, and gray wolves.

Some other special facts about the Arctic Refuge is that it's the largest and most northerly reserve containing over 8 million acres of designated wilderness. There's the Brooks Range, glaciers, alpine lakes, warm springs, arctic and sub-arctic habitats, 180 bird species, 36 species of land mammals, nine marine mammals, 36 fish species and 300 archaeological sites. It contains *no roads, developments or trails*.

Why should we as Floridians care about far way Alaska? Maybe, if people had cared more about the Everglades a while ago, this ecosystem might still be in a natural state. We must care about the majestic Arctic wilderness! To quote Rachel Carson:

*"Wild creatures, like men, must have a place to live. As civilization creates cities, builds highways, and drains marshes, it takes away, little by little, the land that is suitable for wildlife. And as their space for living dwindles, the wildlife population themselves decline. Refuges resist this trend by saving some areas from encroachment, and by preserving it in them, or restoring where necessary, the conditions that wild things need in order to live."*

— Jeannie Girard, President



## HISTORY OF THE CUSTARD APPLE TRAIL Part 2

Finally, the sand dredging plant was out of business, thanks to the efforts of William Channel, ASE Vice President and other previously mentioned individuals. Unfortunately, the degradation of the marsh continued as the exotic Australian pines prevented the establishment of newly planted native trees. Many young bald cypress died. A report from a State lab proved that the Australian pines did inhibit the growth of other species. There was much to be done.

In 1974, a Master Plan was proposed to the Parks Director, John Dance. The most important results of the plan were the removal of the Australian pines and using the cleared space (approximately three acres) for a native planting area. This included over 400 young trees which were protected with much from the ground-up branches of the felled pines. Astoundingly, because of the dedication and care of the trails' volunteers, the survival rate for the new trees was 100%. Funding and support for this project came from ASE memorial donations, a matching grant from America the Beautiful and the Parks Department.

In the next few years path delineation, new signs, water outlets, bird feeders and other improvements were done with the assistance of the Palm Beach - Broward Soil and Water Conservation District. They also procured free trees from the State Department of Forestry and assisted with the planting and maintenance of them. By using their personnel and expertise they organized the volunteers into an auxiliary of the district called the Friends of the Custard Apple Trail Auxiliary. By the mid '80's the Palm Beach - Broward Soil and Water Conservation District was absorbed by the South Florida Water Management District, thus ending their involvement.

When humans try to control nature, they are the loser. By the beginning of the '90's, much of the vegetation had changed. As trees matured, other species were shaded or crowded out. A couple of severely cold winters caused other losses. Some exotics became so invasive that they took over previously native areas. The boardwalk, the focal point for all visitors, became unsafe and was fenced off. The edge of the marsh itself had changed from a fresh water habitat where one could find plant and animal life to one of willow and weed intrusion.

(to be continued)

— Barbara Liberman, Nature Trail, Co-Chair



## CONSERVATION REPORT



The State and National Audubon Societies have teamed up and are inviting the grassroots folks and local chapters to actively join them in support of a policy to end a price support system for sugar cane production.

I would have wished they joined some of us locals in battling against a Palm Beach County state supported loan of \$200 million to build 2 waste-to-energy electric plants, fueled by bagasse (the leftovers from cane production) and supplemented by coal, down wind of the struggling Lake Okeechobee. These plants will not operate the traditional 6 months, but all year long! The sell? Jobs. The economy.

I would have wished they joined in objecting the recent dedication of many thousands of dollars from Palm Beach County taxpayers under the guise of job creation for the same corporation to build a local refinery.

I would have wished to hear more criticism of the Freedom & Farm Act and Resource Enhancement Act which will, if they pass, perhaps be more deadly than cleaning up the Farm Bill by ending price supports.

The first will guarantee payments of other crops to the top 2% of corporate farming and the second re-defines the need for agriculture to protect wetlands. According to the COE, FWS, and EPA, it would allow further destruction of Florida wetlands by as much as 65%.

The good things to be gained briefly by hasty, over simplified, reform measures can boomerang and further stymie what the purported good the reform is attempting to accomplish.

As an environmentalist, my goal is to preserve and restore a sufficient land mass to maintain a sustainable Florida and as quick as possible.

I would wish you to support the SFWMD budget with NO MORE CUTS! Please contact at least the 2 senators: Rossin and Wexler. And the Palm Beach County Board appointee, Richard Machek, at the SFWMD PO Box 24080, WPB 33416, as soon as possible.

The history of agriculture - for good or evil - since the dust bowl days of the '30's has been to ameliorate the "Grapes of Wrath" syndrome. Heavy duty for rice and cotton. How about the dairy bloc? Then add wool and mohair, wheat and corn. Did I say peanuts? Add cheap (over) grazing of your land and mines and then there are the antiquated mineral leases - even to other countries!

Will NAFTA (which NAS supported) eventually accomplish good things? Who knows! But last week the news was full of the Tampa computer firm that stirred up a Mexican village to stone and fire a mayor and take hostages. The Florida firm had hopes of developing one of our delightful, upscale, golf course urban sprawl enclaves in a Mexican environmental preserve. What an export!

The plumbing system that is destroying South Florida was not developed for sugar. It came about through business pressure on well-placed political congress people to 'reclaim' land to generate its use for other than birdlife and wetlands. Today, sugar is the greatest beneficiary. True, but if not sugar, what else? If land becomes too devalued for agriculture the Fanjul Corporation will buy it all and talk about power and monopoly, we haven't seen anything yet!

We should use our energies to supporting a re-tooling of the Everglades system. We need flow-ways and clean-up marshes. Let's do it now. As long as there is sugar production, they will pay a share. Vegetable production is a bust. We can live without candy bars and regular cola! Further urban development would be worse.

- Cissie Durando, Conservation Chair



## Issues of the Month

### ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

House Resources Committee Chairman Young (R-AK) and Pombo (R-CA) presented in their ESA reauthorization bill September 7, after much delay. HR2275 significantly weakens protection for threatened and endangered species by making their recovery discretionary to the Secretary of Interior or Commerce. Critical habitat for species cannot be designated without the consent of a property owner or without payment of compensation. Destroying a listed species habitat on private land will not longer be illegal.

Please write or call your Representative to ask them to oppose HR2275.

## HOLIDAY AUCTION

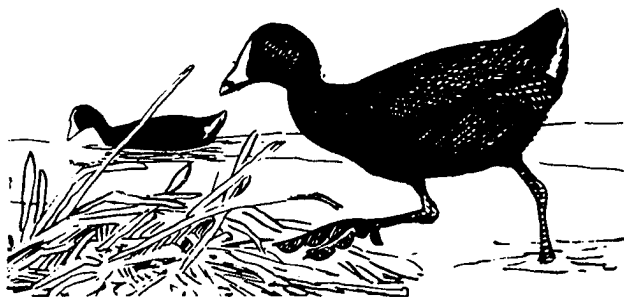
ASE is working on a holiday fundraiser for our December general meeting dinner to coincide with the holidays.

A member auction, where members contribute to the auction in the way of services, crafts, whatever you may excel at or enjoy as a hobby.

With enough participants we will hold the auction during dinner prior to our general meeting. What a great chance to gift shop for the holidays, too! Pick out something different and help support your society at the same time. It has the makings of a fun event.

Contact Carol Shields at 964-1522, for more information or to sign up for an auction item.

- Carol Shields, Editor



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The South Florida Fairgrounds has provided conservation groups a building for our permanent exhibits. It is the responsibility of each group to schedule maintenance work. Included in this is lawn mowing, general clean-up, etc. Our chapter has chosen one weekend in March for this activity. Outings may also be scheduled during other times of the year. Anyone interested in helping with this project please contact me, Susan, at 842-2364, and have your name and phone number put on my list to call when needed. Thanks!

- Susan Korzenewski, Exhibits Chair



## ARE YOU GOOD WITH NUMBERS?

Seymour Miller, our loyal and long time Treasurer of the Audubon Society of the Everglades, is seeking his successor. The officer position is a two year term beginning April 1996.

If you have a skill in accounting and desire to volunteer on the ASE board, please contact Seymour at 686-0462.



Deadline for Articles in November Issue is October 20.

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## AUDUBON SOCIETY of the EVERGLADES

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MOVING? Let our Membership Chairman know!!