



# EVERGLADE KITE

For Reference

~~CENTRA~~ MAY 1 1996  
NOT to be taken from this room



THE AUDUBON  
SOCIETY  
OF THE  
EVERGLADES

Volume 36, No. 8

Carol Shields, Editor

May 1996

## CALENDAR

ASE ACTIVITIES  
Field Trip Information  
585-7714 / 689-1019

### MAY

- 4 **Saturday 8:00 a.m.**  
**Palm Beach Lake Trail Field Trip.**  
Meet at Poinciana Chapel parking lot,  
south of Flagler Museum on Coconut  
Row. Leaders - Al & Barb Liberman.
- 7 **Tuesday - 8:00 a.m.**  
**Dreher Park North Field Trip**  
Meet at West Palm Beach Garden Club  
**7:30 p.m.**  
**ASE General Meeting;** Guest speaker,  
Steve Bass talks on Sea Turtles.

*Other Activities*

### MAY

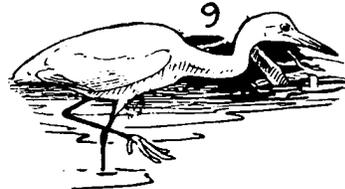
- 11 **Saturday**  
**International Migratory Bird Day;**  
see article inside the Kite

### JUNE

- 8-12 **NATIONAL AUDUBON 1996 CONVENTION**  
Workshops, Field Trips, Learning Labs;  
The American University  
4400 Massachusetts Avenue,  
Washington, D.C. 303-499-3622

*Thursdays*  
8:30 am - 10:30 am.  
Custard Apple Nature Trail Clean-up

## SEA TURTLE CONSERVATION WITH GUEST SPEAKER STEVE BASS



Steve Bass is always one of our most popular speakers. A professional biologist with a Master's Degree from Dayton, Ohio. Steve is the former director of Okechee Nature Center.

Currently, he is the Manager at the Gumbo Limbo Nature Center in Boca Raton. Steve's interest in sea turtle's developed in the 1960's with Archie Carr.

His program on Sea Turtle Conservation should enlighten us all.

Please join us on May 7 at 7:30 p.m., at the WPB Garden Club on Dreher Park Road, opposite the Science Museum.

- Claudine Laabs, Program



*FOUND At the March Meeting:*  
A gold eagle pin or tie tack. Call 968-0721 to claim



**FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK** 

The annual meeting and pot luck dinner held on April 2 was a great success. The turnout was good and the food was great! We were fortunate to have guests from both National Audubon Society (NAS) and Florida Audubon Society (FAS). A new slate of officers was elected and a new budget passed.

It was fitting to start a new cycle of leadership with a visit from Florida Audubon President, Clay Henderson. We appreciate all the effort he has made to meet the local chapters and hear local concerns.

Clay gave an interesting summary of the efforts being made by National Audubon to work closely with Florida Audubon and the local chapters. Audubon Society of the Everglades feels this can be a positive move. We look forward to receiving chapter development information and improved communications. As a local chapter in a county that is impacted environmentally, economically, and politically by the efforts to restore the Everglades, ASE hopes to be involved in giving environmental input and support to the Everglades restoration - a concept we have promoted for years before it became a popular national concern.

Newly appointed as Executive Director of the Everglades Ecosystem Restoration Campaign for National Audubon Society, Dr. Stuart Strahl was indeed a special guest. He spoke briefly about meetings being held with different stakeholders to develop a vision of the Everglades restoration. He has offered to meet with our board to hear suggestions and concerns. Further developments on this subject will appear in the KITE.

Many other special guests attended the annual meeting. We appreciated the interest and support the following people took in this local chapter event: Trudy Bernhard, Vice Chair of FAS Board, Ross Wilcox, FAS Board; Leah Schad, former FAS and former South Florida Water Management Board member; Phillip Pritchard, Nature Conservancy attorney involved in the PBC bond acquisition of environmentally sensitive land; Nancy Regalado, director of Policy and Lisa Bock, director of Development, both with Everglades Ecosystem Restoration Campaign, and Christopher McVoy, Environmental Defense Fund.

Special thanks go to Tomi Freese, Hospitality Chair, who made the decorations, organized the food and service, and cleaned up. Tomi makes it look easy! She had assistance from Ruth Trumpower, Barbara Wilson, and Stella Rossi, who baked that delicious chocolate cake!

As newly elected president of ASE I look forward to working with the board. To the many people who attend our meetings and field trips, and to those who follow our activities through reading the KITE, please call me anytime you have suggestions or want to volunteer.

Our mission is great and our help is limited. Please join in.

— Susan Snyder, President



**KEY LARGO OUTING**



What a splendid day was the bus trip to Key Largo Hammocks State Botanical Site. Led by Ray Buchho' and Howard Langridge, our party of 3, had action from dawn to dusk. Even the rest stop in Homestead yielded a common myna bird.

At power pole #77 Ranger Jim Duquesnel met us and outlined the park rules with warnings of the dangers of poisonwood. He was with us all morning as guide and speaking from a treasure trove of botanical knowledge.

On our walk along the jungle roads, Howard remained calm as we spotted white-eyed and solitary vireos and four species of wood warblers. But Howard almost jumped out of his britches as a great swallowtail butterfly fluttered close by and someone yelled, "Schaus!", an extremely rare butterfly of the Upper Keys. Heard birds, not seen, were a screech owl and a Carolina wren.

After a pleasant lunch we drove to Everglades National Park, but stopped by short of the entrance to bird a farm neighborhood. There we found purple martins working out of their condos, 3 northern orioles from Baltimore, and two scissor-tailed flycatchers shagging flies from a power line. What a joyful sight to see their aerial acrobatics using their long forked tails to maneuver. Later that day we saw shiny cowbirds in that area.

As we were driving to Anhinga Trail a swallow-tailed kite flew along the left side of the bus. It was a great sight to see his graceful flowing flight pattern keeping pace with the bus. Then just to give everyone an equal sight, he crossed over and flew along the right side.

In a mudhole close to the trail we found two roseate spoonbills feeding peacefully with seven other species of wading birds. On take off they flashed brilliant red rumps that contrasted with their pink wings.

At another station, an alert Marcia Roukema spotted two American bitterns standing motionless heads up, camouflaged among the reeds. They were only twenty feet away and stood still for minutes giving the photographers a chance to happily click away.

It was a marvelous outing, and we thank the club for giving us such a superb day.

— Hank McCall, Contributor



**SNAIL KITES BENEFITING**

The outlook for endangered snail kites out west is good thanks to two years of high water in the Everglades.

FGFWFC recently completed a survey of snail kite nests in Water Conservation Areas 2A and 2B and documented 322 nests.

Although the nest count was down from last year the continuing high water provides good habitat for snails in areas they haven't used in years.

Since 1993 there has been a steady increase in snail kite population. (also known as the Everglade Kite)

**CONSERVATION REPORT**

Another Earth Day will have come and gone by the time this gets read. Impossible to assess the good these annual rituals accomplish. Some words for more of you inclined to cynicism: it could have been worse!

Now - to help make it better, call your representative and especially Debby Anderson (P. Bch/Broward). Her little game playing and vote switch caused the only for the restoration of the Oklawaha river to be denied this year. It will still come to a full house vote. Tell her to switch.

Down the home stretch, other crucial items to support: P-2000 and its original intent, not beach-dredging, dune building, weed-spraying, Lake Apopka or any other diversion; very important if your representative and Senator cannot support GOOD WATER BILLS don't support any! Sustainable Florida can only be achieved through natural resource protection. In a word that translates to WATER! On this, contact Governor Chiles also, we must establish and support minimum flows and levels.

One "sale" and one "Donation" of environmentally sensitive land parcels are being held sort of hostage for the same owner/developer to get permits to develop adjacent parcels. The former involves the Loxahatchee Slough and the MacArthur Foundation. The latter involves part of the Fox property next to land the county bought and another donated parcel. The developer wishes to increase the density and have commercial use. In both cases, very strong leverage (bordering on blackmail).

We congratulate Pine Jog on their recent windfall. Our chapter has loyally supported their work and programs. My personal "Thank you" to staffer, Bill Hutchin's for verifying in print the decline of preserved lands due to artificial drawdowns of the water table. One of the more insidious practices of the South Florida Water Management District done to accommodate develop, etc. We must respect that all the land purchases in the state or county will not preserve a thing if we continue to mismanage WATER. Still done after the shocking decline documented in the Everglades National Park and Fakahatchee, state agencies acting under pressure of politicians, acting under pressure of comparatively few wheeler-dealers continue to give the store away. Our store! The bail out in a few years will certainly dwarf any touted economic gain for tomorrow.

April 28 will be another F.A.S. Board meeting. A note to Clay Henderson (or a call) would help to re-inforce my voice as your chapter representative, that we do not wish to see the high-speed rail built next to the Wildlife Refuge. As a matter of fact, not west of the turnpike, definitely. I would think all of you folks living in Wellington, Royal Palm Beach, Loxahatchee, etc., even Jupiter Farms would join in the protest

Our old friend, Jack Gardner died April 13. Those who worked with Jack, mostly on Scrub Jays or borrowing owls or chimps will miss him. He was a real booster of the Loxahatchee Refuge and was one of the founder of the Loxahatchee National History Association and Volunteer Corp., working over 1700 hours. He has received several important awards and recognitions: Florida Take Pride In America, Fish & Wildlife Service Directors Award, Friends of the Refuge Award, and the Resident Award for Volunteer Service (1000 Points of Light). He will be missed.

*Cissie Durando, Conservation Chair*

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**GUIDE WALKS ARE OVER, AND THE TRAIL WORK CONTINUES**

The last of the season's guided walks along the Custard apple Trail was held March 30th, and thanks are due our faithful volunteer leaders. Barbara Liberman did a grand job of organizing the guides and serving as one herself. Many thanks to her, Mary Johnson and Bruce Offord, also to Marge Eaton and others who filled in for those of us who were unable to help this year.

The leaders reported that many participants were interested in native plants for their own yard, which goes well for our continued need for water conservation.

Maintenance work in the nature trail area will continue through May or June, depending upon the heat, and we have an extremely satisfactory new tool called a "Weed Wrench." With very little personal exertion, you can pull out (roots and all) shoebutton ardesia taller than you are. It's great fun to operate it and successfully eradicate ardesia and Brazilian pepper. We'll be happy to let you play with it if you will join us any Thursday morning, 8:30 to 10:30 at the C trail entrance. Or if you prefer, there's always climbing fern to pull down, a snake plant to dig up, and oyster plant and wedelia to pull up. Even if you spare only an hour, please do so.

*— Ruth Trunpower, Nature Trail Chair*

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**INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY  
MAY 11**

The fourth annual celebration heralds the return of Neotropical migratory birds to their North American breeding grounds and promotes conservation actions through the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Program. Highlights of the Migratory Bird Day across the county include bird walks, restoration projects and migratory bird surveys.

To get involved locally, share your passion for birds by sharing experiences through schools or contact: International Migratory Bird Society (IMBS), USFWS, Office of Migratory Bird Management, 4401 N. Fairfax Dr. Room 634, Arlington, VA 22203; (703) 358-2318.

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**Issue of the Month**

**Contact your state representative  
(especially**

**Debby Sanderson  
P Bch/Broward**

**District 91 - 407/995-0036)**

**to vote for  
funding on the  
restoration of  
the Oklawaha River.**



Here is the latest listing of Board and non-board members as a result of our recent election .  
Please keep this for reference until the new brochure comes out in October.

**BOARD MEMBERS**

<b>PRESIDENT</b> Susan Snyder 968-0721	<b>CONSERVATION</b> Rosa (Cissie) Durando 965-2420	<b>GRANTS</b> Esther Zaretsky 689-6689	<b>PUBLICITY</b> Jack Freese 585-4358
<b>PRESIDENT ELECT</b> open	<b>EDUCATION</b> Pat Althouse 793-8299	<b>HOSPITALITY</b> Tomi Freese 585-4358	<b>SALES</b> Stella Rossi 732-4786
<b>VICE - PRESIDENT</b> Seymour Miller 686-0462	<b>EVERGLADE KIT</b> Carol Shields 964-1522	<b>MEMBERSHIP</b> Phyllis Cafarelli 832-1272	<b>AT-LARGE</b> Susan Korzenewski 842-2364
<b>SECRETARY</b> open	<b>EXHIBITS/SANCTUARIES</b> Jim Robinson 641-7175	<b>NATURE TRIAL</b> Ruth Trumpower 585-3968	<b>AT-LARGE</b> Jeannie Girard 965-1390
<b>TREASURER</b> Phil Wagner 642-6013	<b>FIELD TRIPS</b> Ray Buchholz 689-1019	<b>PROGRAMS</b> Claudine Laabs 655-0779	<b>AT-LARGE</b> Ruth Samuels 659-2266 (o)

**NON-BOARD CHAIRMAN**

**LIBRARY**  
Gloria Hunter  
585-7714

**NATURE TRAIL CO-CHAIR**  
Barbara Liberman  
965-2909

**HISTORIAN**  
Cathy Goodkin  
686-4284

Deadline for Articles in May Issue is April 15.

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**AUDUBON SOCIETY  
of the EVERGLADES**

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MOVING? Let our Membership Chairman know!!