



Volume 37, No. 3

Carol Shields, Editor

December 1996

## CALENDAR

ASE Activities in **BOLD** Print

### NOVEMBER

- 30 Saturday, 8:00 a.m.**  
**ASE Field Trip - Belle Glade Campground.**  
**Meet at campground entrance or at NW**  
**corner of Four Points at 7:00 a.m. to**  
**carpool; bring lunch. Chuck Weber leads.**

### DECEMBER

- 3 Tuesday, 6 pm.**  
**ASE Holiday Casserole Dinner and**  
**Holiday Auction. Details opposite**
- 3 Tuesday, 8:00 a.m.**  
**Loxahatchee NWR; meet at Marsh Trail**
- 7 Saturday, 10:00 a.m.**  
**Kissimmee River & Lake Okeechobee**  
**Swampland Bus Trip - FULL**
- 14 Saturday, 7:30 a.m.**  
**Loxahatchee NWR; meet at Marsh Trail**  
**Leader - Howard Langridge**

### JANUARY

- 16-19 Thursday - Sunday**  
**The Everglades Coalition 12th Annual**  
**Conference - Deerfield Beach Hilton. For**  
**information call 1-800-624-3606.**

ASE Field Trip Information  
 585-7714 / 689-1019

Trail Maintenance - Volunteer Anytime  
 585-3968 or 965-2909 for details

## General Meeting

### HOLIDAY DINNER & AUCTION & Mini Program by Hank McCall

Our December 3rd general meeting should be delicious and delightful.

It begins with the help of our members with a taste sensation of casseroles. ASE will supply salads, rolls, drinks and dessert. Anyone interested in bringing in a holiday casserole can still contact Tomi Freese for information.

Then, we have our Second Annual Holiday Auction. We have had a wonderful response from local businesses. At press time some of the items we will be auctioning off include:

Orchid Basket  
 Lois Pope Theatre Tickets  
 Star of Palm Beach Tickets  
 Basket of Mango Chutney  
 Landscape Consultation

There is much more coming in and we hope you can join us (with a friend) for some fun holiday shopping. If you have any questions on the auction,, contact Carol Shields at 964-1522. Please leave a phone number where I can reach you.

The Christmas Bird Count will be the topic at our Mini program presented by Hank McCall. Hank has been a regular contributor to our newsletter with interesting storeis of his jounries around the world.

Come join us December 2nd at 6 pm for our dinner



For Reference

CENTRAL DEC 13 1996  
 Not to be taken from this room

## From the President . . . by Susan Snyder



### DON'T MISS THIS!

Bring your friends, your money, and a casserole to our 2nd Annual ASE holiday Auction. Come after dinner if you can't eat with us. The promises to be great fun and easy shopping. Carol Shields has received many interesting donations. **BE THERE!**

### THE AUDUBON ORGANIZATION

National and Florida Audubon Society are working to coordinate services, planning and resource in a new 'seamless' society which will work to protect the environment and provide habitat for birds and other wildlife. The FAS Annual Meeting I attended recently brought delegates up to date on these efforts. Emphasis was placed on birds and their habitat, using good science for decision-making, and strengthening the grassroots of the society - the local chapters!

Local chapters continue to be autonomous. Yet these local chapters have many things in common. To build on these commonalities regional Audubon councils meet a few times a

year. Recently, Cissie Durando and I traveled to Miami to attend the meeting of the Audubon Council of Southeast Florida.

This council is comprised of chapters in Palm Beach, Broward, Dade and Monroe counties. We have many similarities - large geographic regions, increasing populations, shrinking habitat and a growing need for water. Differences include - the size of membership, organizational structure and environmental priorities.

The Southeast Council decided to develop criteria to be used to judge the importance of regional conservation issues; strengthen our impact politically by reaching consensus and focusing on three high priority conservation issues; and establish goals to improve local chapter strength.

If you have input, call me. I will keep you posted on our progress.

### HOLIDAY GREETINGS

I wish everyone of our ASE volunteers and members a wonderful holiday season. Best wishes for the new year. May you get a lot of life birds in 1997.

## F. Y. I. . .

**Environmental News Network (ENN)** — News and information service. <http://www.envirolink.org>

### Essential Information —

Environmentalss tool to fight corporate polluters. Maintained by Essential Information (founded by Ralph Nadar in 1982) Website is also a link to Geographical Information Systems (GIS).

<http://www.essential.org/monitor/monitor.html>

**Green Market** — On-line marketplace for ecologically- sensitive products and educational information on sustainable living.

<http://www.greenmarket.com>

### Greenpeace International —

The latest information on Greenpeace's many campaigns around the world; chat line, too:

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

### League of Conservation Voters—

Offering complete environmental scorecards on Congress' performance, percentag ratings to each elected representative. Recent environmental votes also highlighted.

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

## Events to Watch For . . .

### Holiday Auction

The Holiday Auction is coming together for December 3. This is the last opportunity for members to donate to the auction if you so desire.

We hope you will join us for dinner and a most entertaining evening, gift shopping for the Holidays.

For further information or to donate new or interesting items, please contact Carol Shields at 964-1522.

### Casserole Buffet

ASE's December Holiday dinner will feature a Casserole Buffet. Bring a casserole (meat or vegetable) ASE will provide salad, bread, desert and beverages.

Dinner will begin promptly at 6 p.m. \$3.00 donation if you do not bring a casserole.

If you have questions or suggestions, please feel free to call Hospitality chair, Tomi Freese at 585-4358.

### Ocean Impact Open House

A Holiday Open House is being hosted by Ocean Impact Foundation at the wildlife hospital on Friday December 20 from 11 am to 6 pm, Saturday, December 21-11 am to 4 pm and Sunday, December 22 - 11 am to 4 pm. Guided tours of the hospital, refreshments and a holiday Gift Shop are all included in this Open House.

Ocean Impact is a non-profit foundation that is "...a healing hand for injured marine and inland wildlife".

Their address is 7100 Belvedere road in West Palm Beach located 1/4 mile west of the turnpike overpass on the grounds of the Palm Beach County Animal Control. For more information call 471-3403

### Christmas Bird Count

The Christmas Bird Count will take place again this year. If you have ever considered joining the count or are curious for information, Hank McCall is giving a mini-program at our Holiday General Meeting, on December 2. Come and join us. For more information on the Bird Count,

call Field Trip information - 585-7714 / 689-1019.

### South Florida Fair

The South Florida Fair is once again just around the corner. Have you made a new years resolution to volunteer; - to get more involved? Well here is a good start. We will need our booth manned during the fair. You get two free tickets into the fair. It's a wonderful opportunity for you and the Mr. (or Mrs.) to take in the fair or perhaps an older child that you want to spend some quality time with. Check with Susan Snyder for open times. 627-7829.

### Okeehelée Classes

Okeehelée Nature Center is offering their spring classes. Courses for adults in birding, butterfly gardening, kayaking, backpacking, astronomy and more are offered. For children they offer Nature programs for 3-5 year olds and 5-7 year olds. Must preregister and courses have a fee. Contact Joyce Thomasson at the Nature Center. Her phone number is 233-1400.

## Conservation Report . . . by Cissie Durando

As usual, another busy month, and is anyone really holding their breath for a report? Interesting political results have been analyzed ad nauseum, so we'll leave that dog alone.

Our challenge to the South Florida Water Management District to issue a permit to develop part of the former "cell 6", or east coast buffer, adjacent to the Loxahatchee Refuge, was disallowed on a technicality by a hearing officer on a challenge in Tallahassee by the developer involved. We haven't rolled over yet; we are exploring other alternative.

There was a Florida Audubon Board Meeting November 2 & 3. A few things were sprung on the Board that were unexpected and with little time to "mull" over after presentation. I usually wish I could chat with our membership before I vote and get some other points of view. As much as I long for more thoughtful participation, it seems the NAS/FAS officers aim for more streamlined endorsements through the vote.

For instance: Officers commended taking Marine Fishery Commission from the Department of Environmental Protection and giving it to the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. The actual accomplishments of the G&FWFC have been so scarce and wimpy. I would not give them another assignment.

Also, how far down in the order of priorities would that shove their Non-Game Species Program if they had to

compete not only with the dry land "sportsman", but now the wet ones?

Another item that struck a chill in my heart: advocating one-stop "streamlined" permitting at the state level. Palm Beach County's best chance may be through local review and elevation of permitting authority to the county Environmental Resource Management Department.

Next: what do we want from our state legislators in the next session for a Wetlands Mitigation Policy? There will be an open Legislative Delegation meeting at the School Board beginning at 9 a.m. December 5th. There will also be meetings in North and South county on other dates. The public is not only welcome, but invited to speak your mind. Let's do it! The last controversial items at the Fla. Board meeting were a new non-status for Peter Pritchard, and a needed new financial plan hatched.

By far the most significant thing accomplished was putting together the 2-day workshop with the local Extension Department, exploring Sustainable Agriculture in South Florida. Especially as it related to Palm Beach County. I believe the last count totalled 157 signups with about 120 attended. Two long days of great presentations from crop people to pesticides & research; where are we? what can we expect? etc. Leah Schad valiantly attempted to keep things rolling on schedule. The presentations and questions they inspired caused her to fail. The audience was still there on

the second day as we ran 1 1/2 hours late! Does that spell S-U-C-C-E-S-S or what!

I represented our chapter at the opening ceremony on November 8 of the Wakodahatchee Wetlands. That should be high priority on any naturalist's list to visit. It is 50 acres of re-built wetlands and boardwalk with a wonderful assortment of bird and wetland plantings. Located on Jog Road between Atlantic Avenue and Boynton Beach Blvd, east side. A wonderful undertaking by the County Utilities Department with lots of moral support by locals.

Seems like our commissioners sit up late figuring how if they "giveth" how they can "taketh". I hope you all contacted a commissioner and reinforced the need for regulatory protection of native habitat if over 4 acres, regardless of the fact that the property is zoned residential. That meeting is November 26. If this newsletter comes in time, give a quick call and tell a secretary how you feel.

If this jumpy news report has you befuddled do call if explanations are needed.

And - do we truly wish to see over \$300 million of state money and over \$6 billion in Federal bonding go towards a 1-1/2 hour trip to Orlando? The Hi-Speed Rail is marching right along! This could fund the Everglades Restoration without endless lawsuits, but is environmentally destructive in its own right.

## Issues To Act On . . .

### Last Stand for Green Macaw

Costa Rica's Green Macaw (*Ara ambigua*) is nearly extinct. Only 25 to 35 breeding macaw pairs remain in the country. The Rainforest Alliance and the World Conservation Union (IUCN) have joined forces to form a Coalition with Costa Rica's grassroots organizations.

Almendro trees are vital to the birds for nesting and for food, but, like many trees it is being over-harvested.

A decree was issued by Costa Rica's Minister of Environment and Energy requiring landowners to be compensated for the almendro trees they conserve.

Most Green Macaws are in the northeast section of Costa Rica where

nearly 30% of the forest cover has been reduced between 1986 and 1992. Poachers are another threat to the survival of the Green Macaw.

To help save the green macaw write a short letter to the Environment and Energy Minister - **Rene Castro** - expressing your desire for strong protective measures to prevent destruction of macaw habitat and to further protect them from the illegal pet trade.

Send in care of:  
**Rainforest Alliance  
Conservation Media Center  
Apartado 138-2150  
Moravia, San Jose, Costa Rica**

e-mail: [infotrop@sol.racsa.co.cr](mailto:infotrop@sol.racsa.co.cr)

## Happy Holidays



*Snowshoe Rabbit*

**AUDUBON SOCIETY of the EVERGLADES**  
**REGISTRATION for IMC Phosphate Mine Reclamation Bartow - JANUARY 25**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Make Checks payable to:  
**Audubon Society of the Everglades**

\$35.00 cost covers the  
 Bus Fee

and mail to:  
**Harold Wiedemann**  
**901 Lake Shore Drive #101**  
**Lake Park, FL 33403-2847**  
**(407) 844-4903**

## ***Midwestern Land Swap to Protect Habitat***

Under a proposed land swap, which still is pending approval by Congress, Weyerhaeuser will give the U.S. Forest Service nearly 200,000 acres of mountainous pine and hardwood forest that is not economical for the company to log. In exchange, the government would give

Weyerhaeuser 47,000 acres of prime replanted pine plantation that is now part of the Ouachita National Forest located on the Oklahoma/Arkansas border.

The donated tract from Weyerhaeuser includes 10 miles of critical habitat for the leopard darter and 6,000 acres adjacent to the Glover River, the last free-flowing river in Oklahoma. The Federal protection would also expand the habitat of a population of endangered red-cockaded woodpeckers.

**The Audubon Society of the Everglades** General Meetings are held  
 the **first Tuesday** of every month, **7:30 pm.**, at the **West Palm Beach Garden Club Center** -  
 Dreher Park Trail, West Palm Beach. (opposite the Science Museum) The public is welcome.

Deadline for Articles in January Issue is December 15.

**Audubon Society of the Everglades**  
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