

EVERGLADE KITE



For Reference
CENTRAL FEB 27 1997
Not to be taken from this room

THE AUDUBON
SOCIETY
OF THE
EVERGLADES

Volume 37, No. 6

Carol Shields, Editor

March 1997

CALENDAR

ASE Activities in **BOLD** Print

MARCH

- 4 Tuesday, 8:00 a.m.**
Loxahatchee NWR. Meet at Marsh Tr.
7:30 p.m.
ASE General Meeting - Paul Tritaik,
manager of Pelican Island details →
- 8 Saturday, 6:00 a.m.**
Everglades National Park Bus Trip
Day bus trip to Flamingo. Leaders will
be H. Langridge and H. Wiedemann
9:00 a.m.
Guided walk at Custard Apple Trail,
John Prince Park. Meet opposite
Campground Office.
- 15 Saturday 9:00 a.m.**
Guided walk at Custard Apple Trail
see above
- 22 Saturday, 8:00 a.m.**
Belle Glade Campground. Meet at
campground entrance or, meet at NW
corner of 4 Points at 7:00 a.m. to
carpool. Bring Lunch. leader-Chuck
Weber
9:00 a.m.
Guided walk at Custard Apple Trail
see above
- 29 Saturday, 9:00 a.m.**
Guided walk at Custard Apple Trail
see above

ASE Web Site
flinet.com/~audubon

ASE Field Trip Information
585-7714 / 689-1019

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

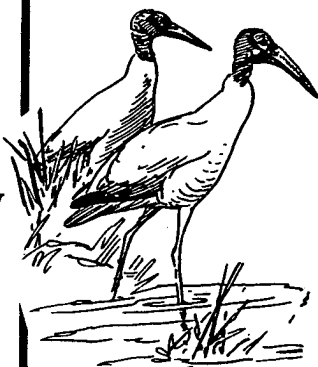
General Meeting...

Paul Tritaik on PELICAN ISLAND

When Paul Tritaik was hired in 1993, he became the first full-time manager in 25 years of the nation's first National Wildlife Refuge, Pelican Island. So declared by Teddy Roosevelt in 1903. He is also the manager of Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge for sea turtles in the Sebastian area.

Paul received a Bachelors Degree of Science in Wildlife Management from the University of Maryland in 1982 and immediately joined the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. His program will give us an up-to-date of the two Refuges that he manages as we approach the 100th Anniversary of the National Wildlife Refuge System. Of special interest is the The 94rd Anniversary of Pelican Island will be held in Sebastian on March 9. Come join us at the West Palm Beach Garden Club Tuesday, 7:30 p.m, March 4. Refreshments and good company are always served.

-Claudine Laabs
Program Chair



NAS One of Nations' Largest Charities...

The *Chronicle of Philanthropy's* annual tally of the nations 400 largest charities placed the National Audubon Society at fourth place with \$ 23.5 million in 1995. That is a 40% increase over 1994 funds.

First place was the Nature Conservancy with \$210 million, second is the World Wildlife Fund with \$43.1 million and third placed Ducks Unlimited with \$25.9 million.

From the President . . . by Susan Snyder

March marks the beginning of the 1997 Florida Legislative session. As always, many environmental issues will hold center stage. The hottest topic will be funding the Everglades Clean-up.

Audubon Society of the Everglades has a 4-part plan to maximize our effectiveness during this session—

1) PHONE/FAX TREE

Once the session gets going things fly so fast, phone and fax are the only timely way to communicate. ASE needs more contacts for its phone/fax tree. If you are willing to pass along important information to three or four others, call Ruth Trumpower at 585-3968.

2) LOBBYIST IN TALLAHASSEE

Do you like to articulate your enthusiasm for environmental issues? Would you like to be in Tallahassee on March 8-11? ASE would like to sponsor someone willing to represent us as a lobbyist during this time. Florida Audubon will train you on the

legislative agenda and prepare you to lobby the legislature on priority issues. Call Susan (627-7829) or Cissy (965-2440) for information.

3) LEGISLATOR'S PHONE/FAX

Clip and save the listing opposite for phone/fax info. More politicians phone numbers may be obtained from government section of the blue pages in the Bell South phone books. Look under—Florida ...State of....Legislative

4) CISSY'S INFORMATIONAL COLUMN

Cissie Durando, our brilliant and indomitable Conservation Chair, will highlight bills of concern in April and May KITE. Call her for questions or comments.

I'm sending thanks in advance to our ASE members for staying active with letter writing and phone calls at this time of the year!



Events to Watch For . . .

Nature Photography Contest

Orange Audubon Society is holding their 9th Annual Chertok Photo Contest open to ALL photographers. Deadline is May 19. The theme is Native Nature of Florida. 2x2 35mm slides are acceptable.

For more information, or to receive an application, contact Loretta Satterthwaite of the Orange County Audubon Society at 407/886-2925.

Nature Walk Events

Custard Apple Trail walks are led by ASE volunteers and will continue every Saturday morning at 9 a.m. through March. Meet opposite the Campground office, south end of John Prince Park.

Out weekly trail maintenance sessions on Thursdays 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. will continue through May. We really need some help—any interested gardeners out there??

April 12 is our Spring Cleanup on the trail. We work hard to get rid of the exotics creeping into the trail grounds. Tools are available or bring your own. This is especially a good volunteer service or work project for

groups like the Scouts. Call Ruth Trumpower at 585-3968 or Barbara Liberman at 965-2909 for details.

Project Eagle '97

Volunteers are needed for the clean-up of public lands and waters scheduled for Saturday, April 26.

The event, known as Project Eagle is in its 4th year. The acronym stand for "Enhancing A Great Living Environment". In 1996 2,844 volunteers collected 178 tons of trash including tires and discarded appliances.

For information on participating contact the nearest FGFWFC office at 561-640-6187.

Palm Beach County

Envirothon - March 7

Volunteers are needed for an environmental knowledge competition for high school students to be held at the Okechee Park Nature Center. No experience is necessary. Volunteers will receive a commemorative T-shirt. Orientation is March 5 at Nature Center. Contact Sasha Linsin at 233-1720 for more information. Put on by the PB Soil & Water Conservation District.

Congressmen Contacts ...

(clip and save)

FLORIDA SENATE

District 36

Tom Rossin 561-837-5400
fax: 561-837-5716

District 27

'Doc' Myers 561-283-3133
fax 561-221-4059

District 28

Ron Klein 561-482-8560
fax 954-969-3487

FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

District 78

Rick Minton 561-595-1380
fax 561-279-1633

District 82

Tom Warner 561-223-5010
fax 561-221-4906

District 83

Sharon Merchant . 561-625-5101
fax 561-625-5103

District 84

Addie Greene . . . 561-837-5252
fax 561-837-5254

District 85

Lois Frankel 561-681-2597
fax 561-434-3953

District 86

Ed Healey 561-434-3950
fax 561-434-3953

District 87

Bill Andrews . . . 561-279-1616
fax 561-279-1618

District 88

Suzanne Jacobs . . 561-274-4690
fax 561-433-3668

District 89

Barry Silver 561-483-6900

Conservation . . . by Cissie Durando

Surprise! Surprise! Common knowledge the South Florida Water Management District will experience a shortfall in the money to restore the Everglades!

On February 7 great conclusions were reached simultaneously at two meetings. One very closed meeting with the Secretary of Interior, Bruce Babbitt and a few select environmentalists; and another very closed meeting with Babbitt and a very few select citizens and many authority-wielders such as Col. Rice, Burkett Neely, Virginia Wetherell, Richard Pettigrew (of Sustainable South Florida fame) to name a few.

Some pronouncements: there is a problem of sprawl and urban development into historic Everglades boundaries. The \$200 million in the Farm Bill is endangered if agencies don't shape up and fix priorities. Like I never said this before: *we need "water preserve areas" in Palm Beach County!*

Meeting #2: STA #1-E - BIG PROBLEM! Supposedly a Corps project, but Water Management District is spending our \$\$ on it. What were all these "wise men" thinking as they ground out one permit after another without a thought of reality?

I know my protests go back to yesterday and 15 years before that! And today, we still have a Capella permitted along the Refuge, draw down plans promulgated in the Acreage, and tomorrow Lennar Homes and (sick, sick, sick) Andros Isles adjacent to the West Palm Beach Water Catchment Area.

There will be another meeting of Sustainable South Florida in February and a final meeting in March. The public is pitifully silent. The raised voices are mostly skewed or unin-

formed and have another agenda.

I might add, Nat Reed is not a happy camper either. He ends his tenure with a still failing Lake Okeechobee.

We do not know what bills will see the light of day yet, but we do need to support some conceptual policies.

I had a good meeting with Barry Silver, a freshman representative from the county, and I talk a lot with Suzanne Jacobs. We need to communicate with others: *don't* pull up on the matching funds required by the Feds to restore the Everglades; *stop* the useless flow of money for a high speed rail; *do not waste funds* on roads through uninhabited or wetland areas, and that includes through Ocala National Forest; once and for all, *sink* the Rodman dam on the Ocklawaha River.

March 20-22 at the University of Florida, there will be a Public Interest Environmental Conference sponsored by the Environmental Law Service, UF College of Law, Center for Government Responsibility, Land Use Law Sec. of the Florida Bar, EPA and others.

If you are dreaming of a "Help the Sea Turtle Survive" license plate, NOW is the time to act. No money required—just support! Contact anyway you wish: your Senator and Representative. Also Senator Toni Jennings, President Senate (at Senate Office Bldg.) and Rep. Dan Webster (Speaker of the House at the capitol)

Environmental Education is also taking center stage. I attended a 3-day conference this month. Basically, the questions posed were ideally, where should we be in 20 years? What do we want to accomplish? How will we fund programs? Looking for volunteer participants.

all who participated and thank heavens for the help of volunteers from two high school Interact Clubs, a Home School Educators Group, and students from Palm Beach Atlantic College.

There are still a lot of undesirables along the road close to the newly-planted native trees and shrubs. Hopefully, we can finish up that area with one more clean-up session on Saturday, April 12. Call me, Ruth at 585-3968, or Barbara Liberman, 965-2909 for details.

Field Trips . . .

by Ray Buchholz

As of February 11, only 11 more seats remained for the bus trip to Everglades National Park on March 8. If you are interested in participating, it is essential that you contact Hal Wiedemann at 844-4903 ASAP to reserve your spot.

Anticipated stops at the park include the Main Visitor Center, Royal Palm, Gumbo Limbo and Anhinga Trails, Mahogany Hammock, West Lake, Mrazek Pond, Flamingo and Eco Pond.

I am sure it is not necessary for me to elaborate on the merits of this park. Suffice it to say that, this is one of the premiere birding and photo location in North American and I am sure that a memorable time will be had by all.

Also, in March there will be a field trip to Loxahatchee NWR and the Belle Glade Campground. At this time of year, the Belle Glade trip often rewards us with good views of buntings, grosbeaks, and orioles plus the occasional Western kingbird or scissortailed flycatcher. Not to mention a great number of the species.

Please see the calendar section on the front page for details regarding these trips.

Endangered Species Act . . .

With the opening of the new Legislative session comes the controversy surrounding the Endangered Species Act.

Late in last Congress, Sen. Kempthorne came to agreement with key Republican and Democrats on provisions for rising recover, and habitat conservation planning, but, disagreements remained on key issues like—how to balance species protection with private property rights, how to delegate powers to states, and how to ensure that listings are based on good science.

Last year, Senator Young's (R-Alaska) ESA Bill, opposed by environmentalists, cleared the committee but never reached the House floor.

Senator Saxton (R.N.J.) is considered one of the greener Republicans on the Hill. This session, show him your support and watch out for Youngs' guns!

Volunteers Work Hard, Enjoy Exotics Clean-up

by Ruth Trumpower

ASE sponsored a highly successful Exotics Removal session in the Custard Apple Trial area in John Prince Park on January 21st.

Twenty-eight volunteers worked very hard that Saturday morning and left piles and piles of snakeplant, Brazilian pepper, climbing fern and other exotic growth. Many thanks to



AUDUBON SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____

Make Checks payable to:
National Audubon Society

and mail to:
Membership Chairman
Audubon Society of the Everglades
 341 Walton Boulevard
 West Palm Beach, FL 33405

MEMBERSHIP:

- ☐ Regular - \$20.00
☐ Senior Citizen (62+) - \$15.00
☐

Wings over Florida . . .

"Wings Over Florida is a certificate award program for bird watchers. There are 4 different achievement levels for those who report their state lists to the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission's Bureau of Nongame Wildlife. This program is free for Florida residents.

The 4 levels include—

- 1-Chickadee Level 50-149 birds recorded ;
- 2-Frigatebird Level - 150-249 birds recorded;
- 3-Bunting Level - 250-349 birds recorded and
- 4-Caracara Level 350 or more birds recorded on your

Florida Checklist.

For a copy of the application or further information contact

Alexander Kropp,
 "Wings Over Florida" Certificate Program
 Birding and Project Manager. FG&FWFC
 Bureau of Nongame Wildlife
 620 S Meridian Street
 Tallahassee, FL 32399-1600

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 April Issue is March 10.

Audubon Society of the Everglades

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