



EVERGLADE KITE

NEWSLETTER OF THE
AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE EVERGLADES

Serving Palm Beach County, Florida

Volume 51, Number 9

Jul/Aug 2011

CALENDAR

Sat. Aug. 6, 7 a.m. West County shorebird trip. Contact Linda to register, 561-742-7791 or hlindaase@aol.com. Space limited. Local members "only" have the privilege of pre-registering up to one week before the trip—after that date, registration is open to the public.

Sat. Aug. 13, 7 a.m. West County shorebird trip. Contact Linda to register, 561-742-7791 or hlindaase@aol.com. Space limited. Local members "only" have the privilege of pre-registering up to one week before the trip—after that date, registration is open to the public.

Sat. Aug. 20, 6 a.m. West County shorebird PHOTOGRAPHY trip. Contact Linda to register, 561-742-7791 or hlindaase@aol.com. Space limited. Local members "only" have the privilege of pre-registering up to one week before the trip—after that date, registration is open to the public.

CORRECTION AND APOLOGY

In the last KITE issue Christopher McVoy, June speaker, was named as sole author of the new book *Landscapes and Hydrology of the Predrainage Everglades*. That was wrong. The book was written by several current or retired South Florida Water Management employees. The correct authors are Christopher McVoy, Winifred Park Said, Javantha Obeysekera, J. Van Arman and T. Dreschel with foreword by Aaron Higer. The book was published May 2011 by University Press of Florida. My sincere apologies for this serious error. (Susan Snyder)

Program for Tuesday, July 5, 2011

Birds of India: Okhla Bird Sanctuary, Delhi.

Birds of India: Okhla Bird Sanctuary, Delhi will be presented at the July meeting by Ben Kolstad, Ph.D., Florida Master Naturalist.

I grew up in Southern California, earning a BA from UC Santa Barbara and MA and PhD from UCLA. Having gone to school on the beach for years, I figured it would not be much of a shock when Marcella and I moved to south Florida about 10 years ago. Boy, was I wrong! Everything, but everything, is different. The air is different (wetter). The sky is different (lower). The land is different (flatter). About the only thing that was the same was the night-time sky, and even that felt strange.

Having not paid much attention to my surroundings in California, I was surprised by how much I had to learn about my new home. So I joined the Audubon Society and went on field trips. Having whetted my appetite through birding, I was eager to learn more about this flat, wet land, so I went through the UF/IFAS Master Naturalist program, and am now a certified Florida Master Naturalist.

I left academia shortly after moving to Florida, settling in the publishing services industry. Much of publishing is now outsourced, giving me the opportunity to travel to my company's facility in Noida, India a dozen times. After a few trips, I started to learn the birds of New Delhi. What surprised me the most about the birds in India is not how many of them are different, but how many of them are similar, even the same. So I will approach the subject of my talk through the lens of what you already know about them, and what you might want to learn.

I'm not much of a bird photographer, but a few of the shots in the presentation are my very own!

The program will take place at the Pine Jog Environmental Education Center, 6301 W. Summit Blvd., in West Palm Beach. Doors open at 7:00; the meeting starts at 7:30.

Program for Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Member Photos and Ice Cream Social

As anyone who's visited our website recently knows, ASE is blessed with a number of extremely talented photographers. If you haven't been to one of their exhibits around town, you need to come to our August meeting to see their work up close and in person. If some of the best bird photography in the state isn't sweet enough for you, we're also throwing our annual ice cream social. So come join us! Peruse your photos to pick out a few of the best to share. Last year several people presented; let's have many more sharing this year. We know you photographers are out there! A digital projector is available, but be sure your photos are in an easily accessible format such as a thumb drive. Large prints and paintings are also welcome. Doors open at 7:00 to make your OWN SUNDAE and enjoy cookies, beverages and camaraderie.

The Everglade Kite

is the newsletter of the Audubon Society of the Everglades, published 10 times a year.

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<http://www.auduboneverglades.org>

Audubon Society of the Everglades, incorporated in 1966, serves communities in Palm Beach County. Our purpose is to promote the conservation of wildlife and the natural environment and to advance human understanding of our place in the total ecological system.

SOCIAL MEDIA UPDATE

Our email list is up and running, and going strong; thanks to all of you who signed up! You are now receiving up-to-the-minute news and updates about the environmental concerns of Palm Beach County. We will also be able to send you notices of last-minute changes in programs, bird walks, conservation issues, new birding areas, and other general information.

We are now on facebook and have a yahoo group up and running, which you can check for new information, photos, etc. You can post bird sightings, carpool requests, conservation topics, etc.

President's Column

Linda Humphries

People's opinion, we all have one. I have been accused many times of having a Pollyanna type personality. I tend to see only good in all that goes on around me. I joke about the line from *Gone With the Wind* when Scarlett O'Hara says "After all...tomorrow is another day." But I have to tell you I am speechless on some people's opinion. I was talking with someone who lives near me and he was complaining about the mangroves and how they should all be cut down and all the good they do is attract mosquitoes and no-see-ums. I took a deep breath and explained how mangrove trees protect the soil, coast, and inland areas from bad storms, and that they are estuaries for many fish and vertebrates. My neighbor didn't get it! He still believed his idea was better. I slowly realized the blind eye that many people have toward nature and how they feel if they are living here they have a right to change it however it best suits their needs. I tend to hang out with people that believe as I do, so when I get such an opposite opinion I am amazed. Almost as bad is the person who just doesn't care. It is too much effort to say yes cut down the mangroves or no let's protect the mangroves and the birds, the fish and the invertebrates. This encounter helped me to understand why we have such a battle to protect our oceans and wetlands, and why we have to continue to fight to protect our land from rock mining and future water contamination. Wait and see how loudly people scream when we have no more drinkable water for ourselves or future generations. Yes we all have our opinions, but maybe you can help make our side heard more by talking to your friends and neighbors about these issues and asking them to vote and call their representatives to preserve our sacred lands and ocean. Thanks to all of you who responded to their county commissioners on NO rock mining and the possible closing of the nature centers. Yes, tomorrow is another day, but we need to protect what we have so we can enjoy many more tomorrows.

ASE Honors Marsh Pointe Elementary

ASE was pleased to honor Marsh Pointe Elementary School, a Green School of Promise, with a \$500 Judge's Choice Award at the May Green Schools Recognition Program. The presentation read, "Marsh Pointe's active Earth Protectors Club is in charge of the "turn it off" energy conservation project. Their gardens are flourishing, including their butterfly garden watered by rain water collected in the rain barrel purchased with Green Seed money. They are also excelling at community involvement by working with their PTA and community partners on an Eco Palooza festival. Designing and installing a comprehensive campus nature trail is underway."

Top winners were: Jupiter Middle School of Technology, first place \$2000, St. Andrew's, second place \$1000, Roosevelt Middle and Bak Middle School of the Arts, tied for third place—\$750 each.

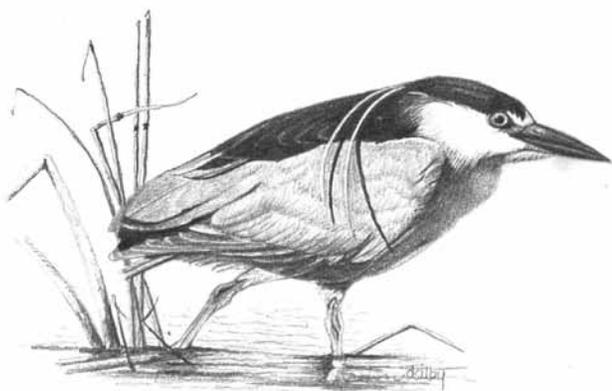
WEBSITE www.ourgreenschools.com

Lawrence Bright Wins ASE Scholarship

Congratulations to Lawrence 'Zack' Bright the 2011 winner of ASE's \$3000 Ruth and Seymour Miller Scholarship awarded at the Palm Beach Post Pathfinder Scholarship Awards. Zack earned dual diplomas in Suncoast High School's Mathematics, Science, and Engineering Program and the International Baccalaureate Program, both highly rigorous programs. He is in the top 0.02% of the county ranking, 28th of 12,314 students! As all the Pathfinder Nominees, Lawrence is very active in many school activities and volunteer jobs. Science teacher Ron Howard says, "He is inquisitive, intuitive, and his enthusiasm shows that he loves to learn. And he gets along well with peers and adults. I wish I had a hundred like him."

Previously Zack won first in the Science Fair Engineering category for the electric generator built from scratch which uses water waves to generate electricity. It is hoped it will provide simple, cheap electricity that can easily be deployed in third world nations or after natural disasters. He took this project, put together a team of 12 and applied for the Lemelson-MIT Inventeam grant to develop this generator further. The team was one of 15 selected nationally. Description of the Wave Energy System and results of the study formed a crucial part of his scholarship application. In June he was traveling to MIT to present and defend the project.

When he returns home, he plans to relax a lot before entering MIT in the fall. "It's been a rigorous four years and will be followed by 4 more intense years. I haven't had much free time and I want to appreciate South Florida more before I leave for Boston!" ASE wishes him the best and hopes he will be able to attend our August meeting.



Black-crowned Night Heron. Daniel S. Kilby

Volunteers to be Honored at August Meeting

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!

At the August meeting, ASE will be recognizing all who have volunteered for the chapter. If you have volunteered in any way, please join us. You don't need to RSVP—just come! The Chapter cannot be strong without volunteers to lead walks, help with hospitality, comment to public officials, support the scholarship program and help at Everglades Day, etc. We appreciate your commitment and thank you ever so much.

In Memory Of

This is a new section ASE will be adding to our newsletter and our website. When my father, **Lewis Sutfin**, died my sister and I requested that all donations be sent to our Audubon chapter. We received \$780. With this money we were able to purchase a speaker PA system for our meetings and a new Presentation Board for public presentations & exhibits. We received donations from Michigan, South Dakota, and local donations.

In Memory of **John Mitchell**

Donations from:

Peter Frezza

Salinda & Nathan Bacheles

Nancy & William Mead

Alan Parmalee

In Memory of **Jean Thomas**

Donations from Chadda & John Shelly

Bird of the Month for July

Black-crowned Night-Heron

Nycticorax nycticorax is July's bird of the month. This chunky heron, found almost worldwide, is a familiar resident on our more overgrown canals. Come to our July meeting to learn more about this handsome bird from our bird expert, Clive Pinnock.

Bird of the Month for August

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron

Nycticorax violacea is August's bird of the month. This night-heron, a bit more slender-looking than its cousin the Black-crowned, is restricted to the New World and seems to prefer more brackish water as well. Come to our August meeting to learn more about this handsome bird from our bird expert, Clive Pinnock.

Audubon Society of the Everglades
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33416-6914

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Articles NEEDED! Send to ben@kolstad.com by the 15th of the month.

Join Audubon Society of the Everglades

There are now two ways to join ASE: Chapter-only membership, and membership through the National Audubon Society.

Chapter-Only Membership

When you become a member of the Audubon Society of the Everglades by using the form at right, all of your membership fees are put to use supporting **local** projects: Everglades Day; Education Programs such as model schools and field trips; Scholarships; and Conservation activities. Audubon Society of the Everglades members also receive 10 issues of the *Everglade Kite* newsletter. Send your check, payable to ASE, along with this form to

Membership, Audubon Society of the Everglades
P.O. Box 16914
West Palm Beach, FL 33416-6914

National Audubon Society Membership

If you join ASE through the National Audubon Society, you also receive 6 issues of *Audubon Magazine*, and membership in Audubon of Florida. For details, visit www.audubon.org. To join the National Society, send your information and check to

National Audubon Society Membership Center
PO Box 422450
Palm Coast, FL 32142-2250

Be sure to include the code **C9ZE000Z** with your application so NAS will know how to process your payment.

Audubon Society of the Everglades (ASE)

YES! I want to become a **chapter-only member** of ASE. Enclosed is my check made payable to Audubon Society of the Everglades for:

Regular \$20 Senior (62+)/Student \$15
 Household \$25 Patron \$50

I would like to save ASE postage and printing costs; please send my *Kite* via email

I would like to donate an additional

\$20 \$50 \$100 \$_____

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

e-mail _____

I would like to volunteer for:

- Education
 Conservation
 Everglades Day
 Fundraising
 Other: _____

Audubon Society of the Everglades general meetings are held the first Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. (refreshments at 7) at FAU Pine Jog Environmental Education Center, located on Summit Blvd, near the intersection of Summit and Jog, in West Palm Beach. The public is welcome to attend.