



# EVERGLADE KITE

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE EVERGLADES

Serving Palm Beach County, Florida

Volume 51, Number 10

September 2011

## CALENDAR

**Fri. Sep 9, 5:30 p.m.**

**Wakodahatchee Wetlands,  
Delray Beach, 13026 Jog Rd.**  
Meet at top of boardwalk, Leader:  
Valleri Brauer

**Sat. Sep 10, 8:00 a.m. Frenchman's**

**Forest, Palm Beach Gardens.** W  
side of Prosperity Farms Rd. 1.5  
miles north of PGA Blvd. Leader:  
Chuck Weber

**Sat. Sep 17, Coastal Cleanup.** Call

Claudine Laabs 561-655-9779 to  
volunteer

**Sat. Sep 17, Fall Migration Count.**

Compiler: Cynthia Plockelman,  
561-585-1278

**Sun. Sep 18, 5:00 p.m. Green Cay**

**Wetlands, Boynton Beach, 12800  
Hagen Ranch Rd.** Meet outside  
Nature Center Main door. Leader:  
Valleri Brauer

**Fri. Sep 23, 5:00 p.m. Peaceful**

**Waters, BEGINNING BIRD  
WALK, Wellington, SE corner of  
Village Park, 11700 Pierson Road.**  
Meet at beginning of boardwalk,  
Leader: Paton White

**Sat. Sep 24, 8:00 a.m. Spanish**

**River Pk. Boca Raton.** Meet  
at split fence on south side of  
Spanish River Blvd, just W of  
A1A. Leader: Linda McCandless  
& Kathy Walters

**Sun Sep 25, 5:00 p.m. Green Cay**

**Wetlands.** Meet as above. Leader  
Valleri Brauer

**Sat. Oct 1, 7:30 a.m. Juno Dunes/**

**Carlin Park. 14200 US Hwy  
1, Juno Beach.** Meet in EAST  
parking lot at Loggerhead Marine  
Life Center. Leader: Clive Pinnock

## Program for Tuesday, September 6, 2011

### NATURE WALKS IN AND AROUND PALM BEACH COUNTY

Do you think if you have seen one night heron or one snowy egret you have seen them all? Well then, you have not seen Lance Warley's bird photography! Lance will present "Fuzzy to Finery" at ASE's September 6th meeting. Lance began his hobby of Nature Photography in 2006, inspired by a trip to Jackson Hole, Wyoming. It was obvious Wyoming was a bit too far away for regular forays into nature considering his job and family were in south Florida. So he concentrated on the wetlands near his home while traveling occasionally to photograph distant locations. Lance said, "The thing I like most about photography is that it makes me an active participant, rather than just a passive observer, in the beauty that surrounds us." He strives to create images that convey the feelings he experiences while witnessing awe-inspiring natural scenes. This requires constant adjustment for ever-changing environmental conditions, such as light and wind as well as any changes in his subjects.

Lance is married with two children and one grandchild. For his "day job," Lance has had two careers. He was a high school and college English teacher for ten years, and then switched occupations to work in the computer industry for the last 30 years.

At this time Lance is incoming Chairman of the Everglades Chapter of the Photographic Society of America, [www.evergladesphotosociety.org](http://www.evergladesphotosociety.org). He is editor of the Everglades Photographic Society, former Board Member of the Friends of Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge and former Executive Editor of BirdPhotographers.net.

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.

## CONTACT ASE TO CONTINUE YOUR COPY OF THE KITE

ASE has been trying to convert our *Kite* subscription list from paper delivery to electronic delivery (email) because of the monthly expense to print and mail 2,600 copies. If you are a CHAPTER MEMBER OF ASE you will receive your copy in the form (email or paper) you requested and do not need to contact us. If you are a national member and want to continue to get your *Kite* (email or paper) and have not already contacted us, you must contact Paton White (561-818-7574/patonsplace1@gmail.com) before Sept. 20th. You will always be able to read the *Kite* on our website, [www.auduboneverglades.org](http://www.auduboneverglades.org).

## **The Everglade Kite**

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

### **President**

Linda Humphries 561-742-7791

### **1st Vice President**

Cynthia Plockelman 585-1278

### **2nd Vice President**

Paton White 818-7574

### **Secretary**

Alan Parmalee 498-0996

### **Treasurer**

Janet Schreiber 689-2530

### **Field Trips**

Valleri Brauer 969-0908

### **Bird ID**

Clive Pinnock 233-1400 x4

### **Library**

Anne Hochter 601-8007

### **Conservation**

Rosa (Cissie) Durando 965-2420

### **Education**

Susan Snyder  
roysue@bellsouth.net

### **Community Relations**

Debbie Smith 967-4879

### **Publicity**

Sheila Hollihan-Elliott 845-304-6988

### **Sales**

Stella Rossi 732-4786

### **Hospitality**

Mary Lou Hall 553-0216

### **Kite, Webmaster**

367-7689

Ben Kolstad ben@kolstad.com

### **ASE on the Internet**

<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.

### **Donations In Memoriam**

In Memory of John Mitchell: Roy and Susan Snyder; Garrick and Diane Gustafson; Ernest and Teresa Jabour; Elliott Harold

In Memory of Mitchell Mizrahi: Marvin and Sheila Calderon

If your employer or other organizations have a matching gift program, please consider adding ASE to your giving plans.

### **President's Column**

Linda Humphries

This was going to be a column on birds and what I saw and learned on vacation, but I realized I needed to try and reach out to you, our members, and ask for your help. But before I begin, some sad news to pass along: Robert "Bob" Meissler passed away on July 5, 2011. Bob and his wife, Bobbie, were very active members of our chapter, attending our meetings, field trips, and supporting the chapter. He will be greatly missed.

On a positive note concerning Rock Mining in the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA), the appellate court ruled that as per the Agricultural Production Future Land Use, mining may be permitted only to support public roadway projects or agricultural activities or water management projects associated with ecosystem restoration. The court stated that the county commissioners' vote to allow a rock mining company to expand in the EAA was against Palm Beach County's comprehensive plan (growth and development). Please continue to notify the county commissioners that we do not need any more rock mining in the EAA.

I am not against all wind turbines, but I am definitely against wind turbines in the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA). The EAA is a major migratory pathway for endangered birds, bats, and migratory birds along with the tens of thousands of birds that live there. County commissioners have approved changing development rules to accommodate 500-foot towers for wind turbines. In July the US Fish and Wildlife service sent a letter to the proposed wind turbine company asking for more analysis of threats to the wildlife from wind farms. The federal regulators stated collisions with turbine blades are often fatal and usually results in the animal being eliminated from the breeding population. It is our (yours and my) responsibility to nurture and protect our wildlife. These blades pose hazards for birds flying between Lake Okeechobee and the Everglades where there are waterfowl marshes, stormwater treatment areas, and Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge. I recently attended two of our birding trips to Duda Farms where it is possible to see hundreds of birds in any of the flood fields depending on the water level. Some of our members asked me if I remember when there were great numbers of birds in these farm areas. What has happened to them? There are many recent reports on the decrease of bird populations and the causes. I feel putting wind turbines in the EAA would be another cause contributing to loss of birds and other wildlife. This is a potential death sentence to the endangered Eagles, Wood Storks, and Everglade Snail Kites not to mention the migratory birds that pass through our area, especially at night. The final vote on the alternative energy development guidelines is scheduled for August 29, but this is just the beginning, the commissioners will have many more issues to vote on with the Wind Turbines in the EAA. What is your position on this? Where is your support? Yes we have to change with the times and move forward but does it have to be at the expense of our clean water and wildlife? Please help me—please help yourself and our future generations. Contact your state and national legislators, and especially contact your county commissioners to let them know where you stand on this and other critical issues. The commissioners are the ones making changes to your local neighborhood, Palm Beach County. Go to BCC-AllCommissioners@pbcgov.org to send an email to all the county commissioners or check our website for a list of county commissioners and their phone numbers, [www.auduboneverglades.org](http://www.auduboneverglades.org). Don't wait—do it today before it is too late!

### **SCHOLARSHIP WINNER THANKS CHAPTER**

ASE members had a special surprise at the July meeting when Lawrence 'Zack' Bright and his mother, Colleen, attended our meeting. Zack spoke to our group. He expressed great appreciation to the members for being chosen to receive ASE's \$3000 Ruth and Seymour Miller Scholarship given at the Palm Beach Post Pathfinder Awards. He spoke to the group about his science fair winner, a wave energy system and the MIT InvenTeam national award he won to pursue this research with a team of his peers at Suncoast High School. Zack had just returned from MIT where he presented his project. He was very enthused about meeting and interacting with so many professors who are on the cutting edge of research!

## Threat to John D. Macarthur State Park

First it was a chain of 5 branded golf courses in state parks, with Jonathan Dickinson SP (JDSP) specifically targeted in the proposed legislation. That was a LONG haul, and tough battle, with big newspapers across the state supporting the public outcry against it. Florida actually has a glut of golf courses, many in financial distress and closing. Local legislators, lobbyists and golfer were involved.

Then, an assault on state offices involved in land management, wildlife conservation, water quality/supply—all in the name of “creating jobs” and development, reducing state involvement/\$\$\$\$ for conservation/wildlife programs and water/land protection. That is still going on.

Now, it is a proposal to jam campgrounds into certain state parks, to be privately organized/managed/run—due to “lack” of campgrounds (ostensibly)! 53 parks in Florida’s much-awarded state park system offer camping. So, what have they targeted: places like Honeymoon Island SP in Dunedin and John D. MacArthur State Park (JDMac) on the ocean, here in PB County. JDSP (see 1st paragraph), already has a campground, heavily used seasonally.

Why JDMac?? Located on a northern estuary/arm of the Lake Worth Lagoon, at Burnt Bridge, with access to the ocean. It is a critical location on the restored LW Lagoon (Palm Beach Co. ERM project) close by Munyon. Also is a favorite spot for fishermen, waders, kayaks and canoes, nature lovers, birders, and those just seeking respite.

Interesting, as JDMac is also “conservation” lands—as listed on the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) website at Fl. Dept. of Environmental Protection. Friends of MacArthur Park will tell you, in their publications, that John D. MacArthur GAVE these valuable natural areas to the state of Florida in the 1970’s, to be

“protected, enjoyed and studied”. Critically important, these are the last decent tracts of the coastal tropical forest in South Florida, here at JDMac. All development has, so far, been carefully carved out/placed to avoid massive intrusion effect—and that includes the main nature center, staff offices, workshops, staff housing, the big bridge, entry and the few scattered access points with stairs and facilities on the ocean!!! These are FNAI requirements for leaving the land in “conservation” status.

To put a campground in JDMac, they would have to level the whole of the conservation forest on the north end, with its nature trails, (past the carefully positioned parking areas). There can be no disturbance or intrusion in the mangrove fringes, under state law. If you look at a topographic map or visit the area, gone would be the critical target for migrating birds (water and food supply), which our chapter has discussed at length.

We CANNOT LET THIS HAPPEN. The public revolted at the public hearing in Dunedin, more than 1,000 turned out to speak in protection of Honeymoon Island. Audubon of Florida is expecting that our chapter should lead the way on any hearing scheduled for John D. MacArthur State Park—in PROTEST !!! Also it was helpful to learn that local “for-profit campground” owners in the region did NOT appreciate the competition proposed by a privately run campground on Honeymoon Island. Especially in tough economic times—the excuse that the “public” is demanding more camp spaces, was NOT verified by usage of those places available.

If a hearing is scheduled, prepare to turn out in numbers, call your friends, and RIGHT NOW, letters to the editor of POST, in opposition to ANY camp ground proposal in JDMac are a GOOD IDEA. We will need ALL the help we can get.

Cynthia Plockelman

### VOLUNTEERS: VITAL AND VALUABLE

At the August ice cream social volunteers were recognized and thanked for all that they contribute to ASE’s activities. Vice president Paton White greeted the members and gave a special name tag to all who had volunteered for the chapter this past year. Dr. Rick Raid and Clive Pinnock program speakers, and the board and committee chairs received a special thanks. President Linda Humphries gave a ‘rara avis’ award to Chuck Weber who organizes the Christmas Bird Count and leads many trips. ASE has volunteers leading bird walks, helping with set up and take down at meetings, bringing refreshments, conservation and writing or calling government officials. A special cake and helpful members made our ice cream social SO sweet!

### Bird of the Month

#### Wilson's Snipe

This little gamebird’s taxonomic name (*Gallinago delicata*) means “the delicate little goat-like hen.” Wilson’s Snipe used to be considered conspecific with the Eurasian species, Common Snipe (*G. gallinago*), but differs from that species in having a narrower white edge to the wings and eight pairs of tail feathers instead of seven. Like all snipes, the tip of its long bill is flexible, so that when it’s driven deep into the muck it can still open up to eat its meal.

Come to our September meeting to hear Clive Pinnock tells us more about this common shorebird of wet grassy spots.

**Audubon Society of the Everglades**  
PO Box 16914  
West Palm Beach, FL  
33416-6914

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**Dated Material -- DO NOT DELAY**

**ATTENTION: This could be your last  
issue of the *Kite*! See inside for details.**

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**Articles NEEDED! Send to [ben@kolstad.com](mailto: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 will receive 6 issues of *Audubon Magazine*, and membership in Audubon of Florida, but unless you give us your email, you will not receive the *Kite*. For details, visit [www.audubon.org](http://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.