



# EVERGLADE KITE

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE EVERGLADES

Serving Palm Beach County, Florida

Volume 52, Number 10

September 2012

## CALENDAR

**Sat. Sep 1, 8:00 a.m. STA 1E.** Car Pool around Storm Water Treatment Area managed by South Florida Water Management District. Space limited. Call Linda to register: 561-742-7791

**Tues. Sep. 4, 7:30 p.m. General Meeting.** Meet at FAU Pine Jog Environmental Education Center.

**Sat. Sep 8, 8:00 a.m. Frenchman's Forest,** Palm Bch Gardens. W side of Prosperity Farms Rd. 1.5 miles north of PGA Blvd. Leader: Chuck Weber

**Sun. Sep 9, 7:30 a.m. Green Cay Wetlands,** Boynton Bch, 12800 Hagen Ranch Rd. Meet outside Nature Center Main door. Leader: Valleri Brauer

**Sat. Sept 15. Fall Migration Count.** Check Website/*Kite* for details

**Sat. Sept 22, 8:00 a.m. Coastal Cleanup.** Call Claudine Laabs (561) 655-9779 to volunteer

**Sat. Sept 22, 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

**Fri. Sept 28, 5:00 p.m. Wakodahatchee Wetlands,** Delray Bch, 13026 Jog Rd. Meet at top of boardwalk. Leader Valleri Brauer

**Sat. Sept 29, 8:00 a.m. Frenchman's Forest,** PB Gardens. Meet as above. Leader: Steve and Melanie Garcia.

## CALL FOR BIRD-of-the-MONTH PHOTOS

Please send October Bird-of-the-Month Sandwich Tern pictures (jpg format) to be posted on the AudubonEverglades.org web site by September 20 to SheilaElliot@yahoo.com. Identify the name for credit, and if there is anything specific to look for in your picture (like banded, in molt, etc) feel free to add a few words for the caption. Please check out and enjoy this month's picture gallery of the Brown Pelican at the end of the September 4 meeting announcement!

## Program for Tuesday, September 4, 2012

*The Exponentially Increasing Pollutant: Light*

Join us on Tuesday, September 4th as Eric Vandernoot, Astronomy and Physics Lab Coordinator at Florida Atlantic University, discusses the impacts of light pollution on the environment and human health. Mr. Vandernoot has a Master's Degree in Physics from Florida Atlantic University. His thesis work was published in *The Astrophysical Journal* (entitled "Iron-line Emission as a Probe of Bardeen-Petterson Accretion Disks").

He has run the University's Astronomical Observatory since 2005 and has introduced and teaches the Planetary Mechanics class. In 2007, FAU recognized his outreach efforts and improvements to the facility there by awarding him FAU's Presidential Leadership Award. For Halloween time, he coordinates the Physics Department main outreach effort via their annual "Pumpkin Drop & Carnival." The FAU Observatory provides observations to the students taking the University's astronomy classes, hosts field trips from local schools and provides night observations geared to the general public, including events of special astronomical interest.

In his role, he has become concerned about the pervasive impact of light pollution, has been working to educate the public about the problem and help bring about an attitude shift regarding this most fundamental, radiant energy that pervades all that we do.

The meeting will be in the usual place: FAU Pine Jog Environmental Education Center, located on Summit Blvd, near the intersection of Summit and Jog, in West Palm Beach.

## Public Comments Needed on Proposed New Alligator Hunts on ARM LOX. NWR

ARM Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge is proposing to add a recreational alligator hunt to its Sports Hunting Plan. The refuge is asking that the public send them written comments to the address below expressing your opinion and concerns. The refuge is also going to have a public meeting in early September concerning this draft plan. Rosa Durando is very opposed to this plan. The hunters will not be allowed to shoot the alligators with guns to quickly put them down. If you want to know more on this issue feel free to call Rosa at 561-965-2420.

You can get more info on the draft Sport Hunting Plan and associated draft Environmental Assessment by writing to the address below or visiting the website at <http://www.fws.gov/loxahatchee/>

To request a copy for review or to provide comments write to Rolf Olsen, ARMLNWR, 10216 Lee Road, Boynton Beach, FL 33473

There is also a proposed action alternative that allows for a public alligator hunt in addition to waterfowling within the existing hunt boundary (30,000 acres). The refuge would also like comments on this alternative.

## **The Everglade Kite**

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

### **President**

Cynthia Plockelman 561-585-1278

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OPEN

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### **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.*



## **President's Column**

Cynthia Plockelman

'Tis the Season for donations—started a bit earlier this year with the national elections competing for attention and every environmental and charitable society following the lead. Still, your Audubon chapter needs to share in the \$\$\$ being dispersed around the USA. And, donations by all chapters, to state functions are also expected—in the continuing loop of programs, activities and staff support.

Our Audubon Society of the Everglades is fortunate that ASE chapter leaders, in earlier years, did well on fund raising and set aside funds. These help us today in managing our programs and activities. There are limits on appropriate uses, for example, from the Conservation Fund, and it has a separate committee in charge. Using the principal is not allowed—managing to generate higher returns is the goal. We are fortunate that our Treasurer, Janet Schreiber, has a good banking background and we have made suitable changes to generate more funds safely.

Coming up is the Florida Audubon Assembly and the Audubon Academy, where the leaders of our future are trained. Sarasota is the site of the Assembly in October (everyone will get notification), and the “Chapters” committee of the AOF board is looking at sites in Apopka for the Academy. It is likely (now under discussion) that the two events will be held together. The ASE officer officially representing our chapter will also be reimbursed for attendance at state-level sessions and other activities at Assembly.

And so it goes, year after year! Please, remember this Fall to include Audubon Society of the Everglades in your donations list.

Thank you, from ALL of the ASE board.

Cynthia Plockelman, President

### **Field Trip Report: Duda Farms/Western PB County**

Chuck Weber

ASE's first field trip of the season to Duda Farms and the Western Palm Beach County ag area produced 17 shorebird species, and a wide variety of birds—with close looks at most. Shorebird highlights included a Willet, numerous Stilt and Pectoral Sandpipers, both Dowitchers (finally confirmed by calls) and good studies of the three common peeps. On the way back to the coast, a stop at the sod farms turned up several Upland Sandpipers (although at a significant distance). We encountered close to 20 White Pelicans. A Least Bittern and 250 Roseate Spoonbills were the best waders. 67 species total, a good group of birders, and a very enjoyable morning! A huge thanks to Burt Ashton and the folks at Duda Farms, for allowing special arrangement access to their agricultural operation. And once again, thank you to Linda Humphries for taking reservations and organizing the paperwork.

The list is available on the web site. Sightings are at Duda, unless otherwise noted.

[Editor's note: this was the first—and last—Duda trip of the year. For the first time in memory, the fields were drained in preparation for planting before the third weekend in August. Let's hope for a normal crop schedule next year!]

### **Celebration of the Life of John Ogden**

**When:** Saturday, November 10, 2012, 3pm

**Where:** Palm Lodge 17390 SW 296th Street, Homestead, FL 33030

Please **RSVP before October 1**, by emailing OgdenL@fiu.edu

## Conservation Update: Countess de Hoernle Park, Boca Raton

The city of Boca Raton and the Greater Boca Raton Beach and Parks District are converting the former IBM tract located north and south of Spanish River Boulevard in Boca Raton. A few years ago, Palm Beach County ERM began the restoration here, creating what is now known as Pondhawk Natural Area. Part of that project involved converting portions of the western half of Blue Lake from the perfectly round, steep-sided, and deep ecological zero that it had been ever since its excavation, to a naturally sloping wetland area that would provide habitat for wading birds, including the listed Wood Stork. They were unable to restore the western half, adjacent to the new Spanish River Library at that time.

Now, with the southern side of Spanish River being converted from ruderal disturbed area to groomed city park and ballfields, the city and parks district are tackling that other side of Blue Lake. They have asked the Army Corps for a permit to fill part of the lake.

There has been concern over filling wetlands in the past; I do not believe this project is any cause for concern. The permit application (available online; search for this file: 20120720-SAJ-1997-06535.pdf; if you can't find it, email me at ben at kolstad dot com and I'll email it to you) shows what is planned for the area: on the site of the fill, instead of a deep hole, useless to wading birds except at the very edge of the water, will be a gently sloping peninsula with a much longer shoreline emergent vegetation, which should improve the foraging habitat for wading birds immensely. The lake also connects, via an underpass, to a new lake on the south side of the road, part of the new park and ball field complex.

According to Robert Robbins of Palm Beach County ERM. "ERM has met extensively with District on this application but mostly regarding proposed drop in water levels. In the end, we are advised that permit will be issued. Filling in the lake in form of a peninsula could, potentially and if desired by the applicant, enhance woodstork forage area."

Many thanks to those of you who have voiced concern over needless fill permits; this permit is justified based on the plans available online; what we need to do now is monitor progress and make sure the city and the parks district make the contractor perform as they've promised.

### PAPER COPY OF THE KITE

ASE has converted our *Kite* subscription list from paper delivery to electronic delivery (email) because of the monthly expense. If you are a CHAPTER MEMBER OF ASE you are receiving your copy in the form (email or paper) as 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 Gail Tomei (561-969-7567/blackgrouper@comcast.net). You will always be able to read the *Kite* on our website, [www.auduboneverglades.org](http://www.auduboneverglades.org)

### ARE YOU A NEW MEMBER OF NATIONAL AUDUBON?

We are delighted to have you as a member of the Audubon Society of the Everglades as well. We hope you will join us at our meetings and trips. If you wish to continue to get the *Kite*, please contact Gail Tomei and let her know if you prefer to receive your *Kite* by mail or by email. Gail Tomei (561-969-7567/blackgrouper@comcast.net)

## Black-Bellied Whistling Duck sighted WAY up North

I saw, in mid July, a single Black-bellied Whistling Duck, on the dock at our marina, about 10 min. by boat from our island on the St. Lawrence River near Clayton, NY. I told Bill, he went over and took photos. We have seen/heard flocks of course in south FL, but if you look at ANY field guide they are not even listed as rarely seen in Upstate NY near the Canadian border, just east of Lake Ontario!! They are FL, SC coast, TX and into Mexico. Strikingly wonderful looking bird. An older couple near the marina are "nurturing it" as it stays mainly along the shore near their house...it hangs out with the resident Mallards and numerous Canada Geese!

The couple did not know what the bird was until Bill visited them and told them. The word is out and people are traveling hours to come see it!! Such fun. Three men were walking to their car with telescope, camera, etc. in the marina today, I was loading the boat to return to the island, I sensed why they were leaving (hadn't seen the duck), I yelled to them, got their cell # and said I'd call as I left the marina by boat if I saw the duck...I did! Anyway, it's exciting and we're having fun being part of all this. He/she is so handsome and love the pink legs and feet.

—Judy and Bill Munro

## Invasive Whitefly Species Found In Palm Beach County

Cynthia Plockelman

The *Palm Beach Post* has published a front-page article on the Whitefly problem confronting both homeowners and the commercial landscape industry. Fact # 1: there are TWO whitefly species attacking home and commercial plantings. The original, "figus" whitefly, mainly attacked the ubiquitous figus hedges all over PB Co. and south Florida—a very expensive proposition for those who define the standards for figus and treat the problem.

Now, having moved north from Dade County, a non-native species, "spiraling whitefly" (*Aleurodicus dugesii* Cockerell) has made its appearance in PB County, and attacks our native species of trees, such as Gumbo Limbo and seagrape. Once you see it, you will know it—also attacks palms, avocado, banana, live oaks, bird of paradise and "Florida black olive"—a much debated, & overused landscaping item. This will be another very expensive chore for home owners and commercial landscapers.

I found it this week, on Gumbo Limbo, right by the sidewalk and a brief tour of the yard indicated other items may also be infected. There are a lot of bird species using my yard, which is 90% native trees and plants. None have taken advantage of the insect food supply on the G.L. or called my attention to it. A trip to Uncle Bim's on Belvedere Rd, for advice, and I came home with "Criterion TM"—to be spread at base of affected plants/trees and "watered in."

Looks like we have a BIG problem in front of us...don't wait till you have lost plants/trees that are a part of the avian food supply. Find a professional and get help. [Editor's note: see [www.freshfromflorida.com/pil/pest-alerts/aleurodicus-dugesii.html](http://www.freshfromflorida.com/pil/pest-alerts/aleurodicus-dugesii.html) for more info.]

## Bird of the Month: Brown Pelican

September's bird is a familiar sight to beachgoers here, a large, graceful soarer that is ever so ungainly on land: the Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*). A large bird, it is nevertheless the smallest of the seven species worldwide; its cousin the American White Pelican is substantially larger. We see squadrons of these birds "ridge soaring" up and down our Atlantic beaches; most of them are juveniles, with white bellies and brown heads. Adults have a brown belly, gray back and wings and white head and neck in the nonbreeding season, while they are grayer overall but with a striking contrast between the white head and the rich brown neck they wear during the breeding season. (The Pacific subspecies acquires a bright red throat patch as well when its hormones run high.)

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

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

The phonenumberforthechapterhasbeendisconnected. Please visit our website, [auduboneverglades.org](http://auduboneverglades.org), for information. If you need assistance, you will find board member phone numbers on the website, in the *Kite*, and in our Calendar of Events Brochure.

The *Everglade Kite* is published 10 times a year by Audubon Society of the Everglades, P.O. Box 16914, West Palm Beach, Florida, 33416-6914. Also available on the web: [www.auduboneverglades.org](http://www.auduboneverglades.org).

AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE EVERGLADES IS A 501(C)3 ORGANIZATION. A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE (800-435-7352) WITHIN THE STATE OF FLORIDA. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.

**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.