



EVERGLADE KITE

NEWSLETTER OF THE
AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE EVERGLADES

Serving Palm Beach County, Florida

Volume 53, Number 9

July/August 2013

CALENDAR

Sat., July 6, 8 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.

Sat., Aug 3, time TBD. STA 1E. Details as above.

Sun., Aug 4, time TBD. Flooded fields of Duda. Space limited. Call Linda to register: 561-742-7791.

Sat., Aug 10, time TBD. Flooded fields of Duda. Space limited. Call Linda to register: 561-742-7791.

August brings our annual trips to Duda Farms. **Timing is tentative, and you need to bring a notarized release form from Duda, so call before you make plans to come.** Come with a full tank of gas; bring binoculars and spotting scopes, fluids, snacks, sunscreen, and hats. There will be very little walking but expect intense heat and glare. We will see myriad migrating shorebirds and spectacular gatherings of our local wading birds. Please note that we are responsible for everyone arriving and departing as a group. The farms are private and not open to the public and we have special permission from the Duda Farms management to bird on their property for these two annual field trips. For questions, please call Linda at 561-742-7791. Please DO NOT Call Duda!

Bird-of-the-Month Photos

Please send July, August, and September Bird-of-the-Month pictures, DOWNY, PILEATED, & RED-COCKADED WOODPECKER (jpg format) to be posted on the ASE web site 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. Meanwhile please enjoy our growing on-line gallery of member pictures on the web site (click Bird of the Month on left side scroll-down topic list).

ANNOUNCING

You can now use your credit card or bank account on ASE web for membership and donations via PAYPAL. Visit our website to learn more:

www.auduboneverglades.org/donate

www.auduboneverglades.org/about-2/membership/

Demystify the Honeybee

*Al Salopek, Vice President, Palm Beach County Beekeepers Association;
Program Director, Bee Understanding
Tuesday, July 2, 7:30 p.m.*

Al is vice-president of the Palm Beach Beekeepers Association and program director of a 501c-3 non-profit called Bee Understanding. Their mission is

“To educate, raise awareness and demystify the honeybee for children while helping them to form a connection to nature. The sustainability of the world we live in will be determined by what we do now with the young people growing up. If children can understand the importance of the honeybee and how bees work together, this understanding can potentially deepen their connection and relationship with their community and the world around them.”

Teaching the young, educating the adults, and increasing community awareness will be the path to educating young and old about the crucial role honeybees play in pollinating our vegetable and fruit crops so our harvests are rich.

You will find an article on Al and his non-profit in the June 2011 issue of Wellington magazine. Click on the link below and then click on the magazine forward arrow 13 times to get to the article.

<http://issuu.com/floridamagazinepublishers/docs/wellingtonthemagazinejune2011?%20mode=embed&showFlipBtn=true&pageNumber=26>

Members' Photos and Ice Cream Social

Tuesday, August 6, 7:30 p.m.

August brings around our much-anticipated Ice Cream Social and Members' Photo Night, where we can all get to know one another better, and we can enjoy the amazing talents of our members through their nature photos. We will have a digital projector, but be sure your photos are in an easily accessible format (thumb drive or other USB connection is best). Some of the best bird images I've ever seen have been at these August meetings; be sure to come join us at the Pine Jog Environmental Education Center, 6301 W. Summit Blvd., in West Palm Beach. Doors open at 7:00. Free and open to the public! Pine Jog Environmental Education Center, 6301 W. Summit Blvd., in West Palm Beach.

AudubonEverglades.org

Did you know that when you bring up the ASE web site, beneath the picture, you will see the latest ASE news – shortly before our monthly meeting this will be a picture of the speaker, topic summary, bio, and time/place of the meeting. To the RIGHT of the latest ASE news, you will see upcoming birding trips – in summer there are few, but as winter approaches, there are numerous free ASE bird walks listed you can enjoy. ANY CANCELLATIONS OR CHANGES FROM THE KITE OR YEARLY BROCHURE WILL BE HIGHLIGHTED HERE, so do check <http://www.auduboneverglades.org/> before heading out.

IS THERE A SPEAKER YOU'D LIKE FOR 2013-2014?

The ASE board is currently developing the speakers list for our 2013–2014 monthly meetings. If there is a person or topic you'd like to suggest, please call Sue Snyder at 561-627-7829 before July 10.

The Everglade Kite

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

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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.

Consider ASE In Your Giving Plans

Please consider a donation to Audubon Society of the Everglades as part of your charitable contributions this year. Your company might have a matching gift program; whether it does or not, please remember ASE in your charitable contribution plans. Thank you!

President's Column

Cynthia Plockelman

PALM BEACH COUNTY—BUSY AS EVER!!! Are you looking for something “satisfying” to fill up some “spare” time? Do you want to help your community/county/state/USA in some way that is “worthwhile” of your attention? You might even be able to take your “volunteer” time off IRS payments, if records are kept, or you were elected to office. The opportunities are certainly available, from taking on an elected office in Audubon chapters, to grunt work at basic levels of community jobs.

May I suggest to you, that Audubon, at every level, provides a variety of opportunities! Or, you might help initiate a new program or interest group, whether “indoors” or “out-of-doors.” Especially, covering meetings, attending state and local events such as state or county commissions/committees, or following the very important meetings held around Florida by the water management districts. There is something for everyone, whether technical expertise is needed, or overseeing activities in our parks and public areas or planting native plants for support of the birds, bees, etc, to the “counts,” which record the success of your efforts to maintain decent “habitat”. Critical word, “habitat”—a necessary component of keeping birds, bees, rabbits, turtles, fish, etc., live, healthy and “in view” for the MANY visitors to Florida. Recall that environmental tourism is a principal support of Florida’s economy.

Plenty of opportunities, for each and every member/family/student to get involved in....PLEASE, DON’T HESITATE TO ASK IF YOU CAN HELP!!!! Some of our long time/senior citizens are waiting for the chance to take it easy a bit, or even “retire”!!! (not the favorite word of some individuals—but there it is.) And training the next generation for come forward, on the behalf of Florida—is part of all Audubon members chores—to have a healthy and functioning society.

SPEAK UP PLEASE, AND WE WILL LISTEN AND WELCOME YOU!

Seen Around Town

Claudine Laabs

On Wednesday morning, I saw a Brown Booby sitting on the curb in front of the Palm Beach Country Club on N. Ocean Blvd. It was raining and the bird was bedraggled looking but appeared to be uninjured. I called David Hitzig and he said one was brought in the previous week. I called all my friends in the neighborhood and no one was around, so I went back on my own with several towels. When I returned, the bird was gone and there was no sign of any trauma, so I think the bird was making a rest stop! (Cynthia Plockelman may have seen one earlier in the week, so the weather may have blown this species away from its home range in the Caribbean.)



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

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)

Jupiter High School Wins ASE's \$500 Judges' Choice Award

At the May Green Schools Recognition luncheon, Audubon Society of the Everglades presented a \$500 Judges' Choice award to Jupiter High School for their ongoing and long-standing commitment to habitat improvement and restoration.

Jupiter HS is deeply committed to improving the habitat both on and off campus. Notable items include a campus wetlands project, involving the transformation of the water retention pond at the front of the school into an outdoor classroom and wetlands habitat. A therapeutic "healing garden" was designed containing flowers, vegetables, and herbs planted and maintained by special-needs students. Native plants and landscaping were planted in the courtyard and athletic complex. A migratory bird garden will be installed next school year. Off campus the 10th grade EnviroService Program has sent teams of students to parklands, natural areas, Blowing Rocks Preserve, and other natural settings to do cleanups, exotic plant removal, trail work, and plantings for the last 19 years. These efforts produce 200+ student-hours of effort each time, netting a total of almost 14,000 volunteer hours to date. Jupiter High School had the honor of being chosen first place winner at the inaugural Greens Schools Recognition Program in 2009! Congratulations, Phil Weinrich and the Jupiter HS environmental academy!

The Green Schools Recognition Program, open to all public and private schools in Palm Beach and Martin County, encourages cultures of sustainability within school communities. This program recognizes schools for taking a holistic approach to going green that incorporates school ground enhancement, resource conservation, curriculum connections, and community involvement with a school wide commitment and focus on sustainability.

Bird of the Month for July: Downy Woodpecker

Continuing our woodpecker series, July's bird of the month is the smallest and, arguably, cutest, of our local hammerheads. *Picoides pubescens* is a relatively common

bird in the urban environment; they make their living probing dead wood for insects and spiders. They have a cheery little chirp call. If you get a decent look at the head, you can differentiate Downy from its larger lookalike, Hairy, by the bill length: Downy's bill is about half as long as its head, and looks even shorter; Hairy's is more than half as long as its head, and looks even longer. The scientific name means "downy and woodpecker-like" (the genus *Picoides* is the old world woodpeckers, and the new world birds are sufficiently "like" those from the old world, to reflect it in the genus name, I suppose.



Downy (l) and Hairy (r) woodpeckers.
Kirsten Munson

Palm Beach Post 2013 Pathfinder Awards

Susan Snyder

Sanjay Poonaisingh, a student in the Gale Academy of Environmental Science and Technology at Forest Hill Community High School, was awarded ASE's Ruth and Seymour Miller Memorial Scholarship at the May awards held at the Kravis Center. This scholarship is given to an outstanding student involved in environmental studies. His teacher, Shawn McCall, wrote "Sanjay has shown motivation and leadership through competitions, clubs and activities. He designed a method to test spider web strength winning a 2012 Science Fair award. He worked at SFWMD Analytical Services lab gaining experience in testing and analysis protocol."

Sanjay did field studies at the ARM Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge and community work at Pine Jog Environmental Education Center. He will work at the South Florida Science Museum this summer and attend Florida Gulf Coast University this fall. He and his father attended the June ASE meeting where Sanjay spoke to members thanking them for the generous support.

Jack McLaughlin, Rosa Durando and Susan Snyder reviewed all thirty five Palm Beach and Martin county science nominees. Jack presented the award. As long time ASE members, Ruth and Seymour Miller were visionaries, and realizing environmental conservation is an ongoing responsibility, initiated ASE's scholarship program.

Video of the Pathfinders awards can be found at www.palmbeachschools.org

Click on Pathfinder Awards Part 1. The award segment is from 14:43 to 16:50.

Bird of the Month for August : Pileated Woodpecker

It's hard to mistake August's woodpecker, the Pileated, whether you're "only" hearing it, or you have it in sight. The boldly patterned face, large size, and bright flash of white in the wings all shout "here I am!" It has a large red crest and a loud laugh-type call (the inspiration for Woody Woodpecker?), making it easy to ID by eye or ear. These are big birds, almost the size of a crow. The taxonomic name is *Dryocopus pileatus*, which means, loosely translated, "capped tree-cleaver." Sometimes those scientific names make sense! It has a swooping, bounding flight, in case you ever wonder whether you're seeing its extinct cousin, the Ivory-billed, which flew in dead-straight lines back in the day.



Pileated woodpecker. Kirsten Munson

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Dated Material -- DO NOT DELAY

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

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.

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 by the 10th 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. 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.