



# EVERGLADE KITE

## newsletter

AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE  
EVERGLADES

Volume 57, № 4 - January 2017

### JANUARY 2017 CALENDAR

07 Sat (7:30a-12p) STA-1E, Easy/Drive, **JR** (Linda Humphries)

08 Sun (8a-10a) Pine Glades, Moderate/Medium (Mark Cook)

11 Wed (7:30a-11:30a) Loxahatchee NWR, Moderate/Long, **\$** (Rick Schofield)

14 Sat (8a-10a) Wakodahatchee (Beginner), Easy/Short (Chris Golia)

15 Sun (7:30a-12p) STA-1E, Easy/Drive, **JR** (Linda Humphries)

21 Sat (8a-10:30a) Peaceful Waters, Moderate/Medium (Scott Zucker)

21 Sat (all day) STA-5/6, Easy/Drive, **\$**, **JR** (Rick Schofield)

22 Sun (8a-12p) STA-2, Easy/Drive, **JR** (Susan McKemy)

**24 Tue MacArthur Beach, Date Change to Fri 27 \*\***

27 Fri (8:30a-10:30a) **\*\* New Date**  
**\*\* MacArthur Beach SP, Easy/Medium, **\$** (Clive Pinnock)**

28 Sat (8a-11a) Grassy Waters (Behind the scenes), Moderate/Long (Walt Hakenjos / Paul Thomas)

29 Sun (8a-10a) Pondhawk, Easy/Medium (Sue Young)

**Always check the web site calendar for details, registration links and last minute changes. Field trips listed in italics are new and/or unique.**

**\*\$ There is an associated cost; see website calendar for details**

**\*JR advance registration required. Trips, unless otherwise specified, are "Just Show Up."**

### Monthly Membership Meeting & Lecture: *Getting to Know Pine Jog*

with Ray Coleman, Pine Jog Executive Director, and Lauren Butcher, Coordinator of Pine Jog's Green Schools Recognition Program

*Tuesday, Jan 3, 7pm*

Join us for an opportunity to learn more about the fascinating history and diverse programs of Florida Atlantic University's Pine Jog Environmental Education Center. Pine Jog's relationship with Florida Audubon goes back over 50 years, from its establishment in 1960 as one of the first centers of its kind in the country, to its evolution into a nationally recognized demonstration center in the field of Environmental Education.

Our speakers Ray Coleman and Lauren Butcher will look back at how Pine Jog came to be and ahead to a number of Pine Jog's most innovative and dynamic programs, including Pine Jog Fellows, H2O to Go, the OrKids Program, and the Green Schools Recognition Program, which serves over 76,000 students in Palm Beach and Martin Counties each year. We will learn how these programs are fostering greater environmental stewardship and sustainability at the local, national, and global level and how we can get involved.

Ray Coleman, the Executive Director at FAU Pine Jog Environmental Education Center, has over 28 years of nonprofit leadership experience. He holds a B.S. degree in Psychology from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, a Master's degree in Social Work and a post-master's certificate in Industrial Social Work from the University of Pittsburgh. Ray has written, implemented, and managed over 30 programs geared at engaging and educating youth. Prior to joining FAU in 2012, he served as the Executive Director of the Mohican Outdoor School and Environmental Learning Center in North Central Ohio. Since joining FAU, Ray has incorporated new initiatives such as the H2O to Go Residential Research Program, the Community Laboratory (Co-Lab), a fully operational micro-propagation laboratory for native wild orchids, the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Mentoring Program (STEM2), and the Apple Snail Adoption Program (ASAP). Additionally, he has forged strong ties with community partners such as the Everglades Foundation, for which Pine Jog created a conceptual Everglades literacy framework, assembled and piloted a series of lessons to foster Everglades literacy for students in grades K-12, and trained 1,200 teachers in 14 Florida counties to use the curriculum.

Lauren Butcher is the coordinator of FAU Pine Jog's Green Schools Recognition Program, which encourages schools to develop cultures of sustainability and environmental stewardship throughout Palm Beach and Martin Counties. She also coordinates the new Everglades Champion Schools Recognition Program developed by Pine Jog in partnership with the Everglades Foundation as a component of its broader Everglades Literacy initiatives. Lauren holds a Master's Degree in American Literature from Rutgers University, where she focused on 19th-century natural history writing, and she is currently working on a second Master's Degree in Nonprofit Management at FAU. She brings to Pine Jog over 15 years of experience in the educational and environmental non-profit fields, including 8 years as the Education Director of New Jersey's Raptor Trust, an avian rehabilitation center focused on birds of prey. A third-generation Floridian, Lauren is glad to be back in her natural habitat.

Also at the meeting, our expert Clive Pinnock will tell us more about the January Bird of the Month: American Oystercatcher.

Doors open at 6:30 pm for light refreshments in rooms 101 and 102 at FAU Pine Jog Environmental Education Center, 6301 Summit Blvd (near Jog Road) in West Palm Beach. Meeting is free and open to the public.

## **President's Letter ••• Paton White**

As the holiday season draws to a close, I want to wish each of you a Happy New Year!

2016 has truly been a year of fruitful activity and important work, and I am thrilled to share our December accomplishments with you.

**1. Loxahatchee Forum.** On December 5, 111 people attended the forum at Pine Jog. ASE was the host, and our ASE Vice President Scott Zucker, Celeste DePalma from Florida Audubon, and ASE board member Mary Young planned all the logistics for the evening. This huge undertaking was very successful. (See Scott's article below)

**2. Project Perch.** In December's Kite Susan Davis wrote about this project which constructs and sites artificial Florida Burrowing Owl burrows. On December 1, the first three underground burrows were placed at Boca Raton Community Middle School. On December 6, a Burrowing Owl began using one of the artificial burrows! More burrow installations are planned for mid-December at Crystal Lakes Elementary School. How can you help? Let Susan know when and where you see one of these little owls. Contact her at [susandavisdesign@gmail.com](mailto:susandavisdesign@gmail.com).

**3. Greening Meetings.** Vick Rogerson decorated the room for our annual holiday potluck supper and meeting. It was fabulous. Your board also backed her proposal of greening our meetings, so attendees drank from terrific clear glasses that are not plastic and are compostable. Even more amazing were our utensils, also not plastic and which will decompose! Our "tablecloths" were recycled, made-in-America gift wrap and our paper plates were eco-friendly saving water, trees and energy. ASE will continue to pursue sustainable practices.

**4. SFWMD.** ASE members have spoken at the South Florida Management District meetings urging preservation of the ARM Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge.

**5. Artists for Climate Change Postcards.** Many of you have signed the black and white postcards. They have been divided up and packets will be delivered to the appropriate lawmakers soon.

**6. Everglades Day, Feb 11.** There will be a general plea going out for volunteers soon. In addition, ASE will sponsor an exciting experience for children for which we will need a morning and afternoon shift of 12 people each. Vicki Rogerson is heading up this huge project. Please contact her, and join me as a volunteer. She would also love to have a couple of people who are interested at the planning stage which will occur after the holidays! She needs our help!

### ***Forum for the Preservation of the A.R.M. Loxahatchee NWR Federal and District Partnership***

*by Scott Zucker*

*Audubon Society of the Everglades and Audubon Florida hosted a standing room only community forum at the FAU Pine Jog Environmental Education Center on Monday, December 5. 111 local residents, representatives of environmental organizations, public officials, and key leaders met to discuss the future of the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge and the partnership between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), through which the Service currently manages the Refuge.*

*"The response from the community in support of saving the Loxahatchee Refuge was overwhelming," said Celeste De Palma, Audubon Florida's Everglades Policy Associate. "Local citizens sent a clear message: preserve the Refuge and keep the partnership. The Refuge provides a sanctuary for threatened and endangered species while also contributing hundreds of millions of dollars to the local economy. The community was disappointed that the South Florida Water Management District did not attend to listen to the concerned citizens they represent."*

*Speculating about the future of the refuge if the lease agreement is dissolved, Panelist Kathy Burchet, Regional Supervisor, USFWS, ominously warned that the management of the remaining 1,000 plus acres could be reduced to maintenance level, which would result in an end to education and community outreach programs.*

*Stories told by teachers and students who experienced the natural areas in visits led by Refuge staff were impressive. They made it clear that, in addition to being a safe haven for wildlife, the Refuge is a place where students learn about water quality and realize, as Kathy Clawson, Wellington High School science teacher, said, that nature is more than a water park or a theme park; it's what shapes how people see the world. Without its designation as a National Wildlife Refuge, students and teachers fear these important programs at Loxahatchee would likely cease.*

*Former Assistant Secretary of the Interior, Nathaniel Reed, and 10-year-old Megan Sorbo, a homeschooled who drove from Orlando with her mother to speak at the forum, eloquently pleaded for the survival of the refuge. Megan made a second trip down to W.P.B. on Thursday to repeat her message to the SFWMD Governing Board.*

*The South Florida Water Management District's criticism of the Refuge has been based on claims that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is not doing enough to combat invasive species. Attendees at the December 5th Forum agreed that invasive species should be controlled but that turning away federal support to do so is not the right answer. ASE and Audubon Florida will continue advocating for a collaborative approach to combating invasive exotic species and will work to maintain the USFWS/SFWMD partnership for the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge.*

## 2017 "Birds of the Month" by Clive Pinnock

The "Bird of the Month" programs for 2017 will present four Florida Ecosystems and selected bird species which depend on them. We will also be discussing the current conservation status of these birds.

In January, February and March, we will look at Coastal Beaches:

American Oystercatcher - January  
Brown Pelican - February  
Osprey - March

For April, May and June, we will look at Fresh Water Wetlands:

Limpkin - April  
Sandhill Crane - May  
Everglades Snail Kite - June

For July, August and September, we will look at Pine Woodlands:

Red-Cockaded Woodpecker - July  
Bachman's Sparrow - August  
Northern Bobwhite - September

The fourth and final ecosystem will be Grasslands and Fields for October, November and December:

Florida Grasshopper Sparrow - October  
Savannah Sparrow - November  
Eastern Meadowlark - December

## ASE NOTICES and OPPORTUNITIES:

### TIME TO RENEW YOUR ASE CHAPTER-ONLY MEMBERSHIP

All chapter-only memberships expire on 12/31/2016. If you have not yet renewed your membership, you can renew at the January meeting (cash or check), pay online with your credit card at <http://www.auduboneverglades.org/membership/>, or send a check to the PO box on the back of this Kite. Some advance registration trips give priority to chapter-only members, so if you want to sign up for a 2017 field trip, make sure your membership is paid. If you have questions about your membership, please contact Gail Tomei, [blackgrouper@comcast.net](mailto:blackgrouper@comcast.net) or (561) 969-7567.

### EVERGLADES DAY Feb 11, 2017

SAVE THE DATE and please contact Vicki Rogerson ([vicrogerson@gmail.com](mailto:vicrogerson@gmail.com)) to help with ASE's special Children's Experience or check this link [www.auduboneverglades.org/ase-trips-calendar-draft/everglades-day-2](http://www.auduboneverglades.org/ase-trips-calendar-draft/everglades-day-2) for other volunteer opportunities!

**PHOTOGRAPHERS !**  
Brown Pelicans for February, please!

## American Oystercatcher (*Haematopus palliatus*) SSC(State Species of Special Concern)

January's bird of the month is an oddly charismatic bird: it has a bright reddish-orange bill shaped like a chisel sticking out of a black face with bright yellow eyes (Pete Dunne describes it as looking "goat-eyed crazy"). The head sits atop a more "typical" shorebird body of dark brown (often looks black) above and white below. The thick legs are a very subtle pink. All told, quite an eye-catcher!

Such an eye-catching bird is almost sure to have an ear-catching call, and that's the case with AMOY. In addition to the typical shorebird squeaks and peeps, it has a loud and shrill descending whistle call that gathers speed and intensity until trailing off at the end. Very much worth a listen. A description of the many different vocalizations can be found on the home page of the American Oystercatcher Working Group, <http://amoywg.org/americanoystercatcher/sounds/>.

If you've been following the news from the Lake Worth Lagoon over the past several years, you know that Palm Beach County has its own, very small, breeding population of Oystercatchers. According to Ricardo Zambrano of the FWC, it's the southernmost nesting pair in the United States.

The birds have returned to this area from which they had long been absent thanks to an ERM restoration project: Bryant Park/Snook Islands. According to David Carson, who designed and oversaw construction of the project,

As soon as we began depositing fill in the water during the summer of 2003, Oystercatchers began stopping by to see what was up. It was in 2005, at the end of construction that our contractor first noticed Oystercatcher nesting behavior. A pair had nested on top of the riprap wavebreak next to one of our mangrove islands. This pair has nested every year since, using three different nest locations. From 2005 to 2009 they nested on the riprap; from 2010 to 2014 they nested on a shell mound that accreted on the riprap; in 2015 they relocated their nest to the newly created Grassy Flats restoration project across the ICW from Snook Islands (<http://discover.pbcgov.org/erm/Publications/GrassyFlatsRestoration.pdf>). This pair has successfully fledged 13 chicks since 2005.

For more on the story of this successful restoration, see the complete article on our website, [www.auduboneverglades.org/snook-islands-restoration-project-2016-update](http://www.auduboneverglades.org/snook-islands-restoration-project-2016-update). Many thanks to David Carson of Palm Beach County ERM for providing this rich history of a wonderfully successful project!



Photograph by Eric A. Ray, on the Snook Islands Natural Area trip with the North Grade Elementary Birders' Club (see December 2016 KITE)

Article by Ben Kolstad

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*Audubon Society of the Everglades general meetings are held the first Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. (refreshment at 6:30) 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.*

## JOIN AUDUBON

There are two ways to join **Audubon Society of the Everglades**.

**Chapter-Only Membership:** An annual membership that starts on January 1 and runs through the calendar year. **New members who join after Oct 1, 2016 and anyone who renews after that date are paid up until Dec.31, 2017.** All your membership dues are put to use supporting local projects and educational programs. You receive 10 issues of the Kite newsletter and priority for some special trips and events.

**National Audubon Society Membership:** It also includes membership in Florida Audubon and Audubon Society of the Everglades. You receive 6 issues of the Audubon magazine. Cost is \$20.00 a year. Please enclose a check for \$20.00, include our chapter code C9ZE000Z and mail it to: National Audubon Society, 225 Varick St., 7th floor, New York, NY 10014 Attn: Chance Muehleck.

**As a NAS member you will need to request that the Kite newsletter be emailed or mailed to you by contacting Gail Tomei. Call her at 561-969-7567 or email to [blackgrouper@comcast.net](mailto:blackgrouper@comcast.net).**

## ASE APPLICATION

**Yes, I want to become a chapter-only member of ASE.**

Join us online at [auduboneverglades.org/membership](http://auduboneverglades.org/membership) and pay with a credit card.

**Or,** complete this form and mail your check to: Audubon Society of the Everglades, PO Box 16914, West Palm Beach, Florida 33416-6914

Please check one:

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

Please accept my additional contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to help the environment, and see the cost of printing and postage used for conservation and education instead; please send my Kite newsletter via email.

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