



EVERGLADE KITE

THE AUDUBON SOCIETY
OF THE EVERGLADES
(serving Palm Beach County, Florida)

Volume 43, No. 7

APRIL 2003

CALENDAR

- Tues. April 1,** "Audubon's Latin American Program – Alejandro Grajal. Note: This is our Annual Meeting. To be held at the Tropical Café, Palm Beach Zoo at Dreher Park. RSVP: Carol Shields – 964-1522
- Sat. April 5, 8:00 a.m.** John Prince Park, Lake Worth, Custard Apple Trail Nature Walk. Leader Bruce Offord
- Sat. April 12, 8:00 a.m.** Spanish River Park, Boca Raton. Leader Chuck Weber
- Tues. April 15, 8:00 a.m.** Hypoluxo Island, Meet at Marina on Ocean Ave, Lantana. Leader: Dorothy Brindle
- Sat. April 19, 8:00 a.m.** Hugh Taylor Birch State Park, Ft. Lauderdale. Leader: Ray Buchholz.
- Sat. April 26, 8:00 a.m.** Spanish River Park, Boca Raton. Leader: Ray Bluchholz
- Sat. May 3, 8:00 a.m.** Frenchman's Forest & J.D. MacArthur S.P. Leader: Marvin Greenburg
- Sat. May 10,** Spring Migration. Contact Cynthia Plockelman @ 561-585-1278

For Field Trip information contact -
Gloria Hunter 561-585-7714

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AMAZON CRUISE: Visit the Pacaya-Samiria Reserve in the Peruvian Amazon from May 10 to May 17. \$2,003 includes airfare, a/c cabins and all meals. Contact Claudine Laabs at (561) 655-9779 for more information.

TUESDAY, APRIL 1ST PROGRAM



April 1st. besides being a very foolish day is also the date of our Annual Meeting. This year we are pleased to be hosting this magnanimous event in the Tropic Café in the Palm Beach Zoo. Beginning at 7:15 ticket

holders will be provided an assortment of hors' d'oeuvres and drinks, wildlife encounters and an excellent guest speaker. A cash bar with beer & wine will also be available. Tickets (\$15 per person) must be purchased (contact Carol Shields) before the event as attendance is limited. There will be NO TICKETS sold at the door.

Dr. Alejandro Grajal, Director of Latin American for the National Audubon Society will be our guest speaker. His experiences in the environment in this heated and conflicted area of our hemisphere should provide us with an exceptional evening.

Those members who wish to attend the business portion of the meeting and not the social would not require a ticket and will be allowed entrance after 8:15. Dr. Grajal's program will follow committee reports, voting on the board members and budget.

I encourage all of you to attend this informative meeting. No foolin.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN **- Carol Shield**



Well, here we are, starting another year with fresh ideas and new undertakings. We have some new names on our nominations slate, but I want, now, to thank those who have served this chapter and are leaving the board. Their time during their tenure on their respective committee has helped to keep our chapter the best and largest in the state.

JoAnn Miner has been our editor for four years and has produced a great newsletter. Thanks JoAnn and good luck with your parents. During the

interim, Alan Parmalee took the reins and kept the newsletter issues coming without a glitch. Thanks to Alan, too.

Thanks, too, to John and Kay Gates for being our gracious hosts each month and feeding us with those goodies. Kay has since gotten involved serving as Chair Person of the local Sierra Group and her free time is understandably scarce.

Thank you to John Mitchell who has been a fabulous webmaster. He has kept the website current with events, short-notice cancellations, bird sightings, field trips, and more. The Internet has become an integral part of our lifestyles and an important connection between the chapter and members.

ORNITHOLOGICAL MEETING

Birds, Science and Fun come together in Clewiston: The Spring meeting of the Florida Ornithological Society (FOS) will be held from April 11-13, 2003 in conjunction with the Lake Okeechobee (Big O) Birding Festival in the Clewiston/Moore Haven area. Dr. Paul Gray of Audubon of Florida is organizing the scientific session and field trips for FOS and Dr. Stuart Strahl, president of Audubon of Florida, will be the keynote speaker for the Big O Birding Festival. This is an excellent opportunity for local bird enthusiasts to meet some of our state's best birders and ornithologists while supporting eco-tourism and birding activities in and around Lake Okeechobee. The Clewiston Inn will be the headquarters for the FOS meeting. For more information check the following websites: www.fosbirds.org and www.bigobirdingfestival.com. Please come out to support eco-tourism, birding and ornithology around Lake Okeechobee by participating in either or both events.

ROBINS GALORE

by Hank McCall



Our favorite Sunday afternoon walk is to amble north on the dike at Loxahatchee Wildlife Refuge. Starting time is about an hour before sunset. The elevation of the dike lets you see across the prairie to the horizon far away, and as the sun drops your shadows grow to over 100 feet long.

That is the background for January 19 when suddenly 200 robins dropped out of the sky into a stand of Brazilian pepper. The orange sunlight made their breasts as red as cardinals. Soon hundreds more flitted into the peppers. As we looked up into the sky literally thousands east and west of the path were flying north. They had a red glow in the light of the setting sun.

Tree swallows were zipping around so close that we could hear the air whispers of their wings.

We were spellbound at this display of life at its highest vitality with the background of a falling big red fireball surrounded by glowing clouds that made a symphony of

NATIVE PLANT WORKSHOPS AT PINE JOG

For fifty years a nature appreciation event has been happening in Dade County and the same event is now finding a venue at Pine Jog. A simple concept really > -> just a few folks with an interest in native plants getting together on a regular basis and helping each other identify the flora of Florida. The gathering is informal with people bringing plant samples to test or mystify or discover, and the participants share their knowledge, expertise, and experience to teach and to learn.

Pine Jog is proud to announce that beginning on March 25, we will meet to study native plants at Native Plant Workshops. These free educational public events will be held at Pine Jog Environmental Education Center, 6301 Summit Blvd., West Palm Beach, at 7pm, every 4th Tuesday night through May, then resume in again in September. Anyone interested in learning more about native plants, how to identify them, how to use a plant key, how to grow them, where to buy them, where they live, and more, please join us. If you have expertise in these areas and would like to pass on your knowledge, please join us.

For more information, call Ann Weinrich at Pine Jog, 686-6600 or 582-2235.

Great American Clean-Up

Keep Palm Beach County Beautiful, Inc. is having the annual Clean up during the month of April.

Various locations around the county need volunteers to clean up and improve their local communities. Removal of trash and improvements such as tree plantings, painting over graffiti, and more, are planned. The dates are:

April 5th – North County
 April 12, -- South County
 April 26 Central County

For more information contact
 Keep Palm Beach County Beautiful at:
 561-686-6646
 Or the Solid Waste Authority at:
 1-866-792-4636.

BOARD/COMMITTEE CHAIRS NOMINATION SLATE FOR 2003 – 2005 TERM

Publicity*	Linda Humphries
Conservation*	Rosa Durando
Education*	Susan Snyder
Newsletter Editor*	Terry Peeples
Exhibits	Pat O'Brien
Field Trips*	Linda Most
Grants	Esther Zaretsky
Hospitality	OPEN
Library*	Gloria Hunter
Membership	OPEN
Programs	Claudine Laabs
Sales*	Stella Rossi
Sanctuaries	Jim Robinson
Webmaster	OPEN

* denotes board seat

Special thanks to Linda Most and Susan Snyder for working on the Nominating Committee.

The U.S. is Wasting Water

According to the World Water Council (www.worldwatercouncil.org) the United States ranked lowest among 147 countries for its inefficient water usage.

The Council's index rates the countries in five water-related areas – usage, access,

Volunteers Needed -

- **Membership Chair** (about 8 hours a month) Linda our current chairperson would like to work with chapter special events, but cannot do both. Access to a computer would be helpful.
- **Webmaster:** Keeping up the Audubon website with current news. Contact John Mitchell at 743-1368 for more information.
- **Hospitality:** This is something that can be done easily by a willing group of scouts, ladies group, or couple. A great opportunity to meet people at the meetings. The Hospitality host(s) purchase snacks of their choice for the general meeting (reimbursement by the chapter). They prepare and serve and straighten up afterwards.

Contact Diane Rivera at:
 (561) 433-4063

Dry Tortugas Adventure (May 8-11, 2003)

Tropical Audubon Society (TAS), Miami, has reserved Larry Manfredi's boat for a birding trip to the Dry Tortugas May 8-11, 2003. This will be a fantastic trip. Besides being a superb guide, Larry's boat offers more privacy than most and his trips are noted for their comfort and fine meals. The timing of this trip will catch the latter part of Spring migration yet offer a good chance of seeing later arrivals such as White-tailed Tropicbird. The trip will cost \$850 and is limited to eleven participants. Larry is sharing proceeds with TAS, so you can have fun and support conservation in Florida at the same time. Contact Larry at:
 (www.southfloridabirding.com
 or birderlm@bellsouth.net or



AUDUBON SOCIETY of the EVERGLADES PROPOSED BUDGET 2003-2004

ANTICIPATED INCOME:

National Dues Split	\$ 4,000.
Grants	7,000.
Fund Raising	10,000.
Conservation Fund Interest	2,264.
Investment Income	5,000.
Unrestricted Donations	1,000.
Field Trips	21,230.
Sales Income	400.
Display	500.
SUB TOTAL \$51,394.	
Retained Excess Revenue 2,456.	
Total Anticipated Income \$53,850.	

PROPOSED EXPENSES

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES:

Newsletter (KITE) Printing	\$ 6,500.
Newsletter Postage	3,850.
Telephone	350.
Storage	300.
Website	200.
Office Supplies & Postage	350.
Fees & Licenses	300.
Insurance	450.
Accounting	3,000.
SUB TOTAL \$15,300.	

PROGRAM EXPENSES:

Rent-Garden Club	\$ 1,320.
Speaker Expenses	500.
Hospitality	600.
Program Brochure	1,200.
New Bird List	1,000.
SUB TOTAL \$4,620.	

OTHER EXPENSES:

Field Trips	\$18,180.
Community Relations	200.
Conferences & Conventions	750.
Sanctuary Maintenance	1,500.
Sales Expense	300.
Display	500.
SUB TOTAL \$21,430.	

EDUCATION:

Envirothon	\$300.
Science Fair	100.
Other Programs	5,000.
S.O.A.R.	2,500.
Young Naturalist	300.
Everglades Day	2,000.
Int'l Migration Birding Day	100.
Naturescaping	500.
Library Books	1,000.
SUB TOTAL \$11,800.	

DONATIONS:

Audubon of FI-Birds of Prey	250.
Busch Wildlife Sanctuary	250.

Memberships in the National Audubon Society make great gifts!

In Florida, a special 3-way membership automatically makes you a member in the National Audubon Society, Audubon of Florida and Audubon Society of the Everglades. Your membership will include subscriptions to AUDUBON Magazine and the EVERGLADE KITE.

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

The Audubon Society of the Everglades General Meetings are held
the first Tuesday of every month, 7:30 p.m. at the West Palm Beach Garden Club Center,
Dreher Park Trail, West Palm Beach (opposite the Science Museum.)

Deadline for submissions for the May issue is April 16

Audubon Society of the Everglades

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561-798-6566
1-800-274-4201

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561-585-7714

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