

White Bird



September 10, 2001

Volume 25, Issue 2

SEPTEMBER 20 MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Our first 2001-2002 General Membership Meeting will be on Thursday, September 20, beginning with social time at 7 and the meeting at 7:30 pm. Our program will be presented by Bill Byle, Charlotte County Natural Resource Planner, on "Re-Connecting with Nature." Learn what you can do to make this happen.

Meeting site is: Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 2565 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte.

AUDUBON EAGLEWATCH...

Audubon of Florida offers a unique volunteer opportunity through "Audubon EagleWatch," a monitoring program of nesting Bald Eagles. The need to monitor urban eagle nests throughout Florida is more critical than ever, due to the ongoing loss of habitat. Audubon EagleWatch volunteers perform an invaluable service in the effort to continue the recovery of these magnificent birds.



Workshops are scheduled as follows:
Lakeland - Saturday, September 22 - 10:30 am-1:30 pm
Clearwater - Saturday, October 6 - 10:00 am-12 pm
Sarasota - Saturday, October 20 - 9:30 am-12:30 pm
Orlando Metro Area - Saturday, November 3 - 8:30 am-10:00 am

If you are interested in participating in Audubon EagleWatch, or know of someone who may be interested, please RSVP to 407-644-0190 or email EagleWatch@audubon.org. for more information. If basic information like specific locations and contact numbers are helpful, please call Joy Linn 637-8160 or George Marks 255-3318.

PHOSPHATE MINING PERMIT HEARING UPDATE/ATTENDEES

The public hearing regarding Charlotte County's request to stop the issuance of the phosphate mining permit for the Manson-Jenkins Tract was held on August 7 at the Sarasota Commission Chambers in Sarasota. Seven members of Peace River Audubon (George Marks, Clarke Keller, Ellen Hawkinson, Evelyn Booker, Joanne Downs, Joy and Larry Linn) participated. The hearing was held by the judge who will be ruling on whether a permit should be issued to IMC Phosphates that allows phosphate mining on Horse Creek. The comment heard most often (by non-mining related individuals) was that the permit should NOT be granted until an area-wide Environmental Impact Study is done to assess the real cost of past and future phosphate mining. A ruling is expected to be made shortly.

The Peace River Audubon Society
PO Box 510760
Punta Gorda, FL 33951-0760

Non-profit organization
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Punta Gorda, FL 33951
Permit No. 100

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Moved? Or Address Corrections? - Let our Membership Chair Know!



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NATIONAL ESTUARIES DAY EVENTS

In celebration of **National Estuaries Day**, join the Friends of the Charlotte Harbor Aquatic Preserves (FCHAP) for two events. FCHAP is a nonprofit Citizen Support Organization that assists the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) in the management of Charlotte Harbor Aquatic and State Buffer Preserves. Friends members and volunteers are committed to protecting Charlotte Harbor and are working to develop stewardship for our estuaries and our public lands.

Birding on Little Pine Island in Celebration of National Estuaries Day

Pack up your binoculars and field guides and set out across the Little Pine Island high marsh with life-long birders Bob Reppenning (Program Coordinator, Charlotte Harbor Aquatic and State Buffer Preserves) and David Claflin (Little Pine Island Trail Guide). Field trip participants will look for fall migrants, wading birds, and shorebirds. Learn about the ecology of the high marsh and its importance to year-round resident and winter migrant bird populations. Wear comfortable old walking shoes or boots as some areas are wet and muddy. Bring a cold drink and insect repellent. The walk will take approximately 90 minutes to 2.5 hours. The high marsh, found at the interface between uplands and the mangrove shoreline of Matlacha Pass Aquatic Preserve, is a coastal ecosystem connecting land and sea. The vegetation associated with this salt marsh community is found growing above the mean high water line, hence the name "high marsh". Salt marshes are one of the most impacted habitats in the Charlotte Harbor estuary. Over 60% of the original marshes surrounding the harbor were lost to development or to habitat changes caused by hydrological alteration.

Location: Little Pine Island is located on Pine Island Road (SR 78) between Matlacha and Pine Island—the entrance is one mile west of the outskirts of Matlacha. A Mariner Properties Wetland Restoration sign is visible near the entrance. Park in the lot near the Mariner office trailer.

Date: September 29, 2001

Time: Saturday morning from 8:00 AM to approximately 10:00 AM.

Registration Procedure/Cost Involved: Registration is required—early registration is advised as space is limited. This field trip is free of charge.

Join FCHAP on their second annual canoe / kayak paddle event for the greater Charlotte Harbor community. Trails are

2001 Second Annual Estuary Day Paddle

meandering tidal creeks through the mangrove forests of Matlacha Pass Aquatic Preserve. The shallow waters of the estuary support mangroves, seagrass beds, mudflats, and oyster bars which provide habitat and foraging areas for fish, crabs, shrimp, wading birds, sea turtles, marine mammals, and other aquatic critters.

Location: Matlacha Community Park located at 4577 Pine Island Road NW (SR 78), in Matlacha between Cape Coral and Little Pine Island—Park entrance is next to the Mulletville restaurant on south side of Pine Island Road.

Date: September 30, 2001 (*Alternate date in the event of bad weather is October 14, 2001.*)

Time: The paddle starts between 8:00 AM and 9:00 AM on Sunday morning. All paddlers must return to the launch site by noon.

Registration Procedure/Cost Involved: Advance registration is required. The cost is \$10 for FCHAP members and \$15 for nonmembers, which includes maps, refreshments, and kayak instructions for novices. Children under 16 are free. Paddling options include easy, intermediate, and advanced routes.

HOST/SPONSOR FOR BOTH EVENTS: Charlotte Harbor Aquatic and State Buffer Preserves

Contact Information (for promotion): Carla Kappmeyer, Public Outreach Coordinator 941-575-5861
Charlotte Harbor Aquatic and State Buffer Preserves
12301 Burnt Store Road, Punta Gorda, FL 33955

Contact Information (for events): Charlotte Harbor Aquatic and State Buffer Preserves
Call 941-575-5861 for reservations and information.