

White Bird



July 27, 2001

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2000-2001 CONTRIBUTORS TO "AUDUBON ADVENTURES"

Batsel, McKinley,
Ittersagen, Gunderson
& Bertsson, P.A.

M/M Roger Blackmore

Charles E. Caniff

M/M Bill Coombs

M/M Ken DeVries

M/M Kirk DeVries

Joseph W. Dillon

Dr. Bruce H. Dinsmore

Dr. & Mrs. Robert Egge

Mrs. Elizabeth Fleener

Beverly H. Gore

Jessie W. Groff

Mrs. Elizabeth Kramer

Lancaster & Eure, P.A.

M/M Tony Licata

M/M Larry Linn

Carol A. Loricco

Francis G. McGovern

New Monic Books

Marianne B. Owen

Palm Yamaha

Peace River Acupuncture
dba Chan's Chinese
Acupuncture

Mrs. Jean A. Phipps

Port Charlotte Garden
Club, Inc.

Mrs. Helen Quinlan Howell

Kathi Rader-Gibson

Mrs. Virginia G. Tiftt

Mrs. Evelyn S. Turner

SUMMER POT-LUCK PICNIC—AUGUST 11

Our annual summer pot-luck picnic will be on Saturday, August 11, at noon. We will use the outdoor screen room at the Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center's Alligator Creek site, 10941 Burnt Store Road in Punta Gorda. A brief Board

meeting will be conducted to cover any immediate business matters.

Please bring either a covered dish and/or a dessert. Also, please bring your own plates and utensils. Drinks, ice and cups will be provided.

Members' families and friends are encouraged to

join us. This will be a casual afternoon of socializing and everyone is welcome.

See you there!



General Meetings.....

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.

Additional dates for your calendar are:

- Thursday, October 18 (Harvest Supper and Membership Meeting)
- Thursday, November 15 (Membership Meeting)
- Saturday, December 15 (Christmas Bird Count; no meeting in December)

BUS TRIP TO HEARING ON PHOSPHATE MINING PERMIT

For those who are interested, the public hearing regarding Charlotte County's request to stop the issuance of the phosphate mining permit for the Manson-Jenkins Tract will be held beginning at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, August 7, at the Sarasota Commission Chambers on Ringling Boulevard in Sarasota. We will be car pooling from the Publix parking lot behind the McDonald's at the Peachland Mall. We plan to leave at 5:00 pm. If you wish to join us, please be there before 5 pm.

COLUMBUS MACLEOD MEMORIAL

At our silent auction in May, we raised \$490 towards the Columbus MacLeod Memorial honoring the Audubon Warden assigned to watch the rookeries in Northern Charlotte Harbor. Evidence of his murder in 1908, although the body was never recovered, sparked the nation's conscience and intensified the campaign against wearing plumage as fashion. It also ended the opposition to the prosecution of plume hunters. Peace River Audubon wishes to establish this memorial marker to educate the public on a piece of Charlotte Harbor's rich history and the importance of protecting its wildlife and habitat. The estimated cost of the memorial which consists of the state-standard brushed aluminum marker, post and concrete base is \$1,400. Your donation to this Memorial will accelerate its completion. Please send a check to the Peace River Audubon Society designated for the Columbus MacLeod Memorial.

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

Non-profit organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Punta Gorda, FL 33951
Permit No. 100

White Bird

Moved? Or Address Corrections? - Let our Membership Chair



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OFFICERS:

President	Randy McCormick
	863-993-3288
Vice President	George Marks
	941-255-3318
Secretary	Kitty Rich
	941-764-8089
Treasurer	Bill Coombs

COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Membership	Betty Coombs	639-4961
Conservation	Clarke Keller	505-2300
Education	Kirk DeVries	625-1503
Programs/Field Trips	Cyndi Marks	255-3318
Hospitality	Evelyn Booker and Joanne Downs	743-0228 625-3065
White Bird Editor	Joy Linn	637-8160
Publicity	Karen Bennett	505-0937
Archivist	Evelyn Booker	743-0228
Audubon Pennington	Roger Blackmore	625-7317
CHEC Representative	Bill Coombs	639-4961

DIRECTORS:

Karen Bennett	941-505-0937
Evelyn Booker	941-743-0228
Betty Coombs	941-639-4961
Bill Coombs	941-639-4961
Kirk DeVries	941-625-1503
Dennis Hungerford	941-627-5405
Peggy Kampert	941-235-3160
Clarke Keller	941-505-2300
Joy Linn	941-637-8160
Larry Linn	941-637-8160
George Marks	941-255-3318
Randy McCormick	863-993-3288
Cathy Olson	941-613-6753
Kitty Rich	941-764-8089

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Hello to Southwest Florida from Northwestern Montana! Deborah and I are having a great summer working as on-site coordinators for the Elderhostel Program at Glacier National Park. This is an amazing place and we are getting to see some incredible wildlife. So far it includes moose, mountain goats, bighorn sheep, and last week one of our groups (I was not with them) got to see a grizzly bear. I recently enjoyed a bird walk with the local Audubon Chapter and added a bunch of new birds to my life list including varied thrush, MacGilvray's warbler, warbling vireo, Townsend's solitaire, red-napped woodpecker and several others.

We are living in a lodge at Big Mountain Ski Area and have a splendid view of the entire Flathead valley below us. From the top of the mountain you can see the snow-capped peaks of Glacier Park running clear into Canada. In addition to the magnificent surroundings, we are meeting some wonderful folks from all

walks of life and from all over the country. Their desire to learn and willingness to explore make them delightful companions.

Even in an area that boasts the largest contiguous tract of wilderness in the lower 48 states, there are intense environmental pressures that cannot be ignored. In spite of the fact that over 90% of the old growth forests have already been logged, there is still intense pressure from the timber industry to continue road-building operations and to harvest what is left. All along the Rocky Mountain front, there is a dramatic increase in permit applications for oil and gas exploration due to the recent rise in energy prices. Ranchers still oppose wolf and grizzly bear reintroduction programs and off-road vehicle user groups pour vast sums of money into campaigns to expand the areas available to them. Suburban sprawl is consuming huge amounts of land throughout the west and wildlife is being squeezed onto smaller and smaller remnants of their

former range.

The sad truth is that advocates for wildlife and environmental integrity must be ever vigilant in our efforts to protect and preserve healthy natural systems. These challenges will never go away as long as our species has the will and the power to satisfy our wants at the expense of other species' needs. If we are to have healthy populations of wildlife, we must accept the need for discipline, sacrifice and compromise.

Seeking balance means being willing to give, not just take. It is time for us to replace our selfishness with compassion. I, for one, intend to accept my responsibilities with the awe and respect they deserve; and I welcome you to join me. All our non-human neighbors will be grateful, I'm sure.

Here's hoping your summer is filled with peace, health and harmony.

Randy McCormick