



# White Bird

February 7, 2002

Volume 25, Issue 7

## “OYSTERCATCHERS” FEBRUARY 21, 2002 - MEETING

Nancy Douglass is a Nongame Regional Biologist with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and will be sharing her knowledge and experiences about Oystercatchers...come and enjoy!

Please join us at 7:00 on January 17 for refreshments followed by our meeting and program!  
Location: Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 2565 Tamiami Trail in Port Charlotte.

### INFORMAL BIRDING CLUB

Peace River Audubon has organized an informal birding club to arrange for birding trips and to pass on bird information. Regularly scheduled half-day trips will be conducted on:  
the first Tuesday and the third Saturday of each month



The meeting place will be the Publix parking lot immediately behind McDonald's on Peachland Blvd. in Port Charlotte. Meeting time will be 7:30 A.M. and trip length will be approximately until noon, unless specified otherwise. The birding destination will be chosen by the volunteer trip leader(s) and may, or may not, be determined well in advance.

Anyone is welcome to join us and beginners may find this to be an excellent opportunity to spend time with more experienced birders to learn some “tricks of the trade.” The following volunteers have already signed up to lead trips on the dates shown. You may call them if you have any questions.

February 16 – Dave and Leann Mathewson, 629-6376

March 5 – Malcolm Simons, 629-2656

March 16 – Norm Leppan, 624-3916

A phone and email contact list has been set up to spread the “bird word.” If you would like to be included, please contact Randy McCormick at 863-993-3288 or at [debrandy@hotmail.com](mailto:debrandy@hotmail.com).

#### Here's a note received from another Audubon group:

**Dry Tortugas beckon...** Tropical Audubon Society is offering a trip to this tiny cluster of islands on 10-13 April 2002. After a champagne ice-breaker aboard the *Yankee Freedom*, we will depart Key West the evening of the 10<sup>th</sup> for the Tortugas. The morning of the 11<sup>th</sup> we will awaken at Garden Key, surrounded by thousands of raucous Sooty Terns and Brown Noddies. Well-named Magnificent Frigatebirds by the dozen will criss-cross the sky, as if providing air cover for our expedition. And with a little luck, the island will be swarming with warblers and other migrants grateful to find a spot of land to light upon.

Our trusty boat will allow us to visit other islands in the Tortugas. Loggerhead Key, the largest, is a good place to find migrant land birds. Hospital Key is home to a small breeding colony of Masked Boobies. Buoys and channel markers among the isles attract Brown Boobies. We will make the rounds in search of these strange birds, with a hopeful eye out for their rare cousins, Red-footed Boobies. Our return to Key West is via the Florida current. This trajectory provides good pelagic birding. We expect to find Roseate Tern, Audubon's Shearwater, and other oceanic species on this leg of the trip.

Our guides are all Tortugas veterans and are comfortable helping birders from the level of utter novice to jaded 700-clubbers. We are offering this trip for \$635 which includes meals and lodging on the boat. We expect the trip to fill quickly. For more info, visit [tropicalaudubon.org](http://tropicalaudubon.org), email [tortugas@tropicalaudubon.org](mailto:tortugas@tropicalaudubon.org) or call 305.666.5111.

David Wright, TAS Tortugas 2002 Coordinator

## SUNDAY MORNING BIRDING TRIP

Participants: George Marks, Bill Havill, Barbara Treadway, Betty Deness, Joe Rothermund and Norm Leppan

For an early Sunday morning outing, we went to the Charlotte County water treatment plant to bird watch. At first the fog was a hindrance, but gradually conditions improved.

First we saw yellow-rumped warblers, and palm and pine warblers off one of the sideroads. We managed to find quite a large pond and observed a bald eagle, a large raft of ruddy ducks, white pelicans, lesser scaups, a yellow throat, several terns and gulls.

We visited the shoreline and pier along Bayshore near the start of the southbound bridge to Punta Gorda. We were lucky to see several different shorebirds and altogether managed to spot 51 different species. The willet is very easy to identify when it is flying because it displays a lovely wing pattern and a distinctive call.

*Norm Leppan*

### **MARCH 16, 2002, FIELD TRIP.....**

We will make a trip to see the **Royal Lipizzan Stallions of Austria** perform at 10 AM on March 16. A silver collection is taken.

Then we will proceed to Solomon's Castle for our lunch break.

Plan to leave from behind McDonald's Restaurant at the Peachland Mall on Saturday, March 16, 2002 at 8 AM. Bring your binoculars, etc.

Norm Leppan 624-3916

### **REMINDER "YOUTH ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION FUND" NEEDS YOUR HELP!**

The Peace River Audubon Society announced in the December "White Bird" that a new fund was created to bring educational programs to the youth of Charlotte County. Recent School Board budget cuts had taken away the funding for long-running nature programs at Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center (CHEC) for Charlotte County's 4th graders.

Your donations would sponsor various activities, such as Audubon Adventures and CHEC programs which include wading trips for 2nd graders, and guided nature walks through CHEC for 4th graders as well as pontoon-boat explorations in Charlotte Harbor for 4th graders. Please support this Fund. Environmental Education is KEY to developing a life-long interest and understanding of our delicate ecosystem!

Make your tax-deductible contributions to Peace River Audubon Society, designating "Youth Environmental Education Fund," and send to:

Peach River Audubon Society  
P.O. Box 510760  
Punta Gorda, FL 33951-0760

If you have any questions, please call Kirk DeVries at 625-1503 or email him at [kdevries@peoplepc.com](mailto:kdevries@peoplepc.com)

# The Second Annual

## Charlotte Harbor Nature Festival



The Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center (CHEC) and the Peace River Audubon Society will host the Second Annual Nature Festival to provide exceptional opportunities for environmental, educational, tourism, and community development interests in the greater Charlotte Harbor area. This event will be held on Saturday, March 2, 2002 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at CHEC's Alligator Creek site, 10941 Burnt Store Road in Punta Gorda.

The goal of the Charlotte Harbor Nature Festival is to contribute to the development of a regional environmental ethic and to build commitment to the conscientious stewardship of our natural landscape. This will be accomplished by:

- Providing a child-friendly festival where whole families can learn about Charlotte Harbor.
- Interpreting and celebrating the rich ecological heritage of the greater Charlotte Harbor area.
- Creating an event that will strengthen linkages between conservation stakeholders including government agencies, tourism and business interests, non-profit organizations, schools, and others interested in the conservation of healthy ecosystems.
- Highlighting the sustainable economic benefits available to the greater Charlotte Harbor area by leveraging its significant natural attributes for the benefit of its citizens.

The Festival will include a wide variety of interesting and fun activities for the whole family including: Live animals, birding trips, exhibits, displays, nature crafts and artwork, storytelling, guest speakers, children's activities galore, music, and of course...good food (Catering by Jerome, ice cream, kettle corn, cotton candy, and other snacks)!

Festival visitors can learn from exhibitors about things like wildlife rehabilitation, estuaries, native plants, bats, snakes, butterflies, birds, fish, manatees, fossils, and much, much more!

Presentations:	10:30 am	Manatees of Southwest Florida
	11:30 am	Birds of Prey
	12:30 pm	Snakes of Florida
	1:30 pm	World of Bats
	2:30 pm	Florida Butterflies

Don't miss this opportunity! Help us celebrate the splendor of Charlotte Harbor by becoming a part of this very special occasion. Please volunteer to assist for a couple hours on March 2—you can help to make this event a tremendous success and have fun doing it too! To volunteer, please call Joy Linn at 637-8160 by February 15—timing is of the essence!

And for other information, contact Cathy Olson by phone at (941) 743-1239 or by email to [cathy.olson@charlottefl.com](mailto:cathy.olson@charlottefl.com).

*We need you - Come and enjoy yourself!*

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

Non-profit organization  
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*White Bird*

Moved? Or Address Corrections? - Let our Membership Chair



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Secretary Kitty Rich  
941-764-8089  
Treasurer Bill Coombs

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS:**

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and Joanne Downs 625-3065  
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**2002 CALENDAR OF EVENTS:**

- 2/21 Meeting 7:30 (Refreshments at 7)—"Oystercatchers" with Nancy Douglass, Nongame Regional Biologist, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
- 3/2 Charlotte Harbor Nature Festival (see article page 3)
- 3/9 Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary Field Trip - earlyTruck Trip (one hour; \$15) leaving at 6:30 AM from behind McDonald's on Peachland in order to be there at 8 AM; followed by the park boardwalk... Leaders: Bill & Eleanor Marr 624-4182
- 3/28 Annual Banquet 6 PM—Celebrate Peace River Audubon's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary! Silent Auction and buffet at Victoria Estates—reservations required. More to follow.
- 4/6 Tippecanoe Scrub Field Trip - Leader: Cathy Olson 613-6753
- 4/18 Meeting 7:30 (Refreshments at 7)—"Warbler Migration" with Lee Snyder, St. Petersburg Audubon Society
- 5/16 Member's Night—Annual meeting, election of officers, and special presentations by our own talented members!

The following information must now appear on all solicitation requests: "The Peace River Audubon Society is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization. Our Federal tax ID number is 59-2190872. We do not engage a professional solicitor and 100% of the funds generated by this request will be used to support our Chapter programs. Our registration number with the FDA Division of Consumer Services is SC-040701. "

**AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone (optional) (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Please enroll me as a National Audubon Society and Peace River Audubon Society member. I will receive Audubon and The Florida Naturalist magazines as well as the Peace River White Bird newsletter.

One year - \$20 Two years - \$35

Send this completed application with your check to:

The National Audubon Society  
Membership Data Center  
P.O. Box 51003 E14  
Boulder, CO 80323-1003 7XCH

**OR . . .**

Please enroll me for a 1-year White Bird subscription.

Please mail this application with your \$10 check to:  
The Peace River Audubon Society, PO Box 510760,  
Punta Gorda, FL 33951-0760.