



February 28, 2003—Volume 26, Issue 8

**HOLMES AND KEMMERER - March 20, 2003 - Start Time: 7 PM**

The Peace River Audubon Society will have a unique program this month. Please be at the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church **by 7:00 P.M** on March 20. There will be two guest speakers: Paul Holmes and Mike Kemmerer.

**Paul Holmes** is an active PRAS Chapter member and Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center (CHEC) volunteer. He will present a slide show, using Power Point technology, of activities of the Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center. The presentation will be fun and highlight some of CHEC's outstanding efforts in science based environmental education. We should also look for photos of PRAS members, scattered throughout the slide show.

**Mike Kemmerer**, Wildlife Biologist with Florida Fish and Wildlife, will follow with a talk about the land management techniques and practices utilized in the Fred Babcock/Cecil Webb Wildlife Management Area. The Wildlife Management Area is an often overlooked natural area in our county. It encompasses over 70,000 acres of well-managed native habitat and is open to the public with specific restrictions. Kemmerer will discuss use of techniques such as roller chopping, prescriptive fire and food plots for the management plan. Of note about the effectiveness of the land management in this area, is that throughout the drought of the last few years, when fire danger was very high, the wildlife management area did not have burn problems.

**SILENT AUCTION** . . . We're looking for items for the Silent Auction at our Chapter's Annual Banquet on April 24, 2003. If you have a great item or know of a possible contact for a donation, please contact **Kathi Rader-Gibson** at 474-3065(daytime) or 475-0329(nights). You may also email her at [kradergibson@yahoo.com](mailto:kradergibson@yahoo.com). Our guest speaker for the Annual Banquet will be Clyde Butcher. Due to inviting such a great speaker, we are expecting a larger than normal crowd for the Banquet. With that in mind, we is looking to add even more items to the tables for this year's Silent Auction. All of the proceeds from the Silent Auction will be used for a cause dear to our hearts: To purchase environmentally important habitat for our feathered neighbor's, the Florida Scrub Jay.

**UPCOMING "WEBB" FIELD TRIP FOR 3/22/03**

Would a nice early morning walk in the woods, listening to the birds wake up, catching a glimpse of animals foraging for their breakfast and watching the sun rising slowly above the horizon in a myriad of colors interest you?????

Then please join us on our PRAS Field Trip to the Babcock/Webb Wildlife Management Area in Punta Gorda on 3/22/03. The sights and sounds of Nature should be plentiful at the 65,000 acre preserve as we travel the back roads, stopping at various observation points.

We will meet in the old K-Mart Parking Lot on Burnt Store Road at 7:30 AM and carpool to "The Webb". As 6-8 cars are the maximum for this outing, please plan on grouping together. Bring binoculars, water and lunch. For more information, contact Trip Leaders -- Lynn Bates (639-7277) or Tom Zinneman (505-8826)

## **WHAT YOUR BOARD'S BEEN DOING:**

- Charlotte County EAR process is continuing
- Cedar Point Earth Day celebrations are on April 26—PRAS may have a booth.
- Birdathon preparations were discussed—see letter on page 3
- PRAS 5K Run preparations were reviewed
- PRAS prizes for the Art Sensation have been obtained and will be presented to the winners of the poetry and art contests on Feb 8
- A planned giving seminar will be presented by CHEC and PRAS members will be encouraged to attend
- Discussion and concern of the feeding of scrub jays as mentioned in a local newspaper article
- Annual Banquet plans are underway
- DEP sent a letter thanking PRAS for their support of an acquisition project.
- Joyce King sent a write up from Audubon on a campaign to reform Florida Water Laws
- Babcock acquisition is moving along; FPL is proposing transmission lines through Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary—the public (PRAS members in particular) need to be involved
- Change in March meeting start time to incorporate a presentation by Paul Holmes noted in this White Bird
- New volunteers are needed for the Nature Festival in 2004.

**MARCH PROFILE: Larry Linn**, PRAS Treasurer and Board member, retired from IBM in 1992 in Tampa, Florida, after 26 years of messing around with large computers. Since retiring, he has spent most of his time playing Tennis and volunteering, with extended periods of traveling and sailing thrown in. He and wife Joy (White Bird Editor) originally joined Audubon in Tampa. In 1997, they moved to Punta Gorda. In addition to PRAS, he and Joy do volunteer water-quality testing for DEP, and he also participates in the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program Technical Advisory Committee and its Water Quality subcommittee. He has spent most of his life outdoors in warm climates, growing up in California and Hawaii, and has been in Southwest Florida for the last 18 years.

## **UPDATE ON CONSERVING AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES THROUGH EDUCATION**

Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (PARC) National Conference and Education/Outreach Working Group Organizational Meeting - April 6-8, 2003; Sheraton Hotel (Gainesville, Florida) featuring 16 nationally known biologists and environmental educators speaking on a broad range of topics and highlighting over a dozen successful herpetological conservation education programs. Recently added poster session will feature presentations on successful herpetological conservation education programs (list to be added to PARC website before the end of January).

Hosted by Southeast PARC and held in association with The Herpetology Conference; supported by the Gopher Tortoise Council and Touchstone Energy

The conference program and registration material (including lodging information) are available on the PARC website ([www.parcplace.org](http://www.parcplace.org)). Those planning to attend the conference are encouraged to register at their earliest convenience. This will assist the conference organizers with planning. Contact the hotel no later than 9 March to guarantee a discounted room rate. Updated information will continue to be posted on a regular basis on both the PARC listserv and website.

Plans for the PARC Education/Outreach Working Group organizational meeting scheduled for the third day of the conference are coming along. All regions, excluding NW PARC, have now designated representatives to participate in this important meeting. To date, we have been unable to secure anyone interested in representing herpetological education concerns in the northwest region. Please contact Erin Clark at [clark@srel.edu](mailto:clark@srel.edu) if you have suggestions for potential representatives.

The PARC education conference will be held in association with The Herpetology Conference which begins one day earlier. For more information on The Herpetology Conference, please visit [www.flmnh.ufl.edu/natsci/herpetology/afhc.htm](http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/natsci/herpetology/afhc.htm) <<http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/natsci/herpetology/afhc.htm>>. That website has recently been updated and includes confirmed speakers to date. Registration for both conferences can be done on the same form. A discounted rate is available for those wanting to attend both conferences.

**PLEASE SEND ANY ADDRESS CORRECTIONS, CHANGES, ETC. TO:**

*Betty Coombs, Membership Chairperson - 639-4961 or email at: [wecoombs@comcast.net](mailto:wecoombs@comcast.net)*



## Peace River Audubon Society Second Annual Birdathon April 5, 2003

On April 5, 2003 volunteers from the Peace River Audubon Society will be surveying the countryside and coastal areas looking for as many different species of wild birds as possible. Prior to the big day, they will be looking for sponsors who will pledge a specified amount for each bird species seen or heard that day. The pledge is that amount multiplied by the number of bird species seen by the Chapter. Pledges can be any amount the donor chooses. Our Chapter goal will be to identify 125 different species of birds on that day. Last year we identified 124. You can join the fun by pledging a contribution or you can join us in the search for birds and sponsor yourself. If you would like to participate either by making a pledge or by joining us that day, please call 941-255-3318 or contact one of our Chapter members. After the big day, a volunteer will contact you and let you know how many birds were identified that day. If you wish, you may pledge a set amount that does not depend on the number of bird identified.

The proceeds will be used to support the Peace River Audubon Society Youth Environmental Education Fund. The fund was established to support youth environmental education programs within Charlotte County. These programs include (but are not limited to) the 4th Grade Environmental Education Field Trip Program which is conducted by the Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center (CHEC) in cooperation with the Charlotte County Public School System, interpretive wading trips for second-grade classes, educating them about the marine flora and fauna of the Charlotte Harbor Estuary System (also provided by CHEC) and Audubon Adventures magazines for third and/or fourth grade classes.

Here is your opportunity to enjoy the excitement of participating in a Birdathon and at the same time make an investment in the future by supporting youth environmental education. Understanding through education is the key to developing a love and life-long appreciation of our valuable natural resources. We can help our young people gain that appreciation.

If you prefer to make a pledge by mail, please fill out the following form and mail it to:  
Peace River Audubon, PO Box 510760, Punta Gorda, FL 33951-0760.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Amt. per species \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ or fixed amount \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

If you would like to receive a membership form to join Audubon, please check here. \_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** 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 go to the Youth Environmental Education Fund. Our registration number with the FDA Division of Consumer Services is SC-040701.

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

MARCH  
White Bird



Printed on Recycled Paper  
Min-it Print Shoppe (folding donated)

### 2003 Audubon Calendar

- 3/20 Membership meeting (7 pm social/7:30 meeting)  
"Land Mgmt Techniques & Practices" - Mike Kemmerer, Wildlife  
Biologist, Florida Fish and Wildlife Land Management
- 3/22 Field Trip - Babcock Webb Wildlife Management Area,  
Leader Bates and Zinneman
- 4/5 Birdathon - George Marks, Chairman
- 4/19 Field Trip - Stump Pass State Park, Leader TBA
- 4/24 Banquet/Silent Auction, Victoria Estates - Clyde Butcher,  
Artist, Photographer (Kathi Radar-Gibson)
- Meeting site: Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 2565 Tamiami Trail, Pt Charlotte.

PRAS website: [www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org)  
Then, link to our Chapter website

### **Peace River Audubon Society:**

**President:** Cathy Olson..... 613-6753  
**Vice President:** Kathi Rader-Gibson..... 474-3065  
**Secretary:** Peggy Kampert..... 235-3160  
**Treasurer:** Larry Linn..... 637-8160

**Other Directors:** John Aspiolea, Betty Coombs,  
Chuck Froman, Joan Froman, Dennis  
Hungerford,

Joy Linn, Cyndi Marks, George Marks  
**Editor:** Joy Linn 637-8160 [linn59@comcast.net](mailto:linn59@comcast.net)

When you are finished with this Newsletter, please give it to a friend, leave it in a doctor's office or on a table where you work. It could help us grow our Chapter.

### 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 plus 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:  
Peace River Audubon Society, PO Box 510760,  
Punta Gorda, FL 33951-0760.

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