

# White Bird

November 3, 2003

Volume 27, Issue 5

## MEMBERSHIP MEETING - NOVEMBER 20, 2003

At the November 20 membership meeting, Valerie Weikel from the Charlotte County Extension Services will present "Florida Yards and Neighborhoods."

Social time starts at 7 pm with the meeting at 7:30 at the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 2565 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte.

## PROGRESS REPORT ON THE PEACE RIVER TWELVE

Peace River Audubon Society (PRAS) has twelve current projects: The object of these projects is to increase awareness of the local environment and the wild life that we share our environment with. It is also to increase membership of PRAS and make being a member more fun.

Of course we hope you will join in the fun, but most of all we hope that you will join Peace River Audubon. (Membership application forms on the web site and in this newsletter.)

If you would like to either take part in one of these projects, or better still help make one of them come to life, please contact the appropriate person listed as the contact for each project.

Make sure you visit [www.PeaceRiverAudubon.org](http://www.PeaceRiverAudubon.org)

## PROJECT ONE: COME BIRDING WITH AN AUDUBON EXPERT...

Peace River Audubon is inviting the public, particularly parents and children, to come and try bird watching with one of our birding experts. So if you and your family would like to experience the thrill of bird watching in the local area, please contact either of the project coordinators, Joni Wilmot 941-624-2507 [skrubi@aol.com](mailto:skrubi@aol.com) or Niki Attilio 239-699-5419 [guppyphish\\_2000@yahoo.com](mailto:guppyphish_2000@yahoo.com) and they will arrange for you to join one of our special bird watching trips.

If you would like to volunteer as a leader for one or more of these trips, please contact *Paul Holmes* at (941) 833-3337. Many of our members have sufficient experience and are capable of leading these trips. Please help out and volunteer.

As I am sure some of those who wish to take advantage of this program will not have their own binoculars and may need to borrow some, we are requesting that members and friends donate their unused Binoculars and old Bird Books to PRAS. Please bring them to any PRAS meeting, or call to have them collected. Don't forget, as PRAS is a non-profit association, you can claim this as a charitable gift on your tax form.

## PROJECT TWO: BIRD IDENTIFICATION CLASSES...

This project requires a Digital Video projector. These

projectors cost \$1,200 and the PRAS Board feels that this money would be better used by one of the charitable causes we support. So unless we can borrow or otherwise acquire a Digital Video projector from some other source, this project will be on hold. The Nature quizzes will likewise also be on hold.

## PROJECT THREE: NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY SECTION...

A new group organized by PRAS has been started to enable those people in the local area interested in nature photography to meet informally and share their knowledge and experiences. They will take photo-safaris together to suitable sites. Quite a few members signed up for this project at the last PRAS meeting. I am sure many more will join as the Snow Birds return and as the group takes shape.

The first group trip, just to take pictures, will be to Bay Shore Park, Port Charlotte, on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November. Meet on Bayshore road, by the two wrecked piers/breakwaters. You can turn up any time between 8:00 and 10:00am.

It's not too late if you missed the meeting—you can still join this group by calling or e-mailing Bob Elliot who has agreed to act as provisional leader until the first meeting, when members can vote for a group leader. Bob's contact details are: (941) 637-6203 [relliot@peganet.com](mailto:relliot@peganet.com). If you are interested in nature photography, whether you are an expert or complete novice, digital or film, don't miss this first trip.

## PROJECT FOUR: MINI-BIRDATHON...

This activity is open only to PRAS members and their friends.

The object of the project is (1) to enable the less active of us to experience the thrill of a Birdathon; and, (2) to enable us to see how popular the idea would be of having a Mini-Birdathon "class" participating in our regular Annual Birdathon.

The regular Annual Birdathon is our most important fund-raising activity and we would like many more of our current members and many new members to be involved, adding an additional 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> prize for winners of a concurrently held mini-Birdathon, may be the answer. So please take part, it will be a fun and exciting experience. It takes place Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January and starts from Jones Loop rest area at the junction of I75 and Jones Loop road. Teams depart between 8 & 9 am and can only stay out for three hours. Just turn up, if you don't have a team, we will find you one. Bring your binoculars and a good bird book if you have one. Also bring a picnic lunch, as afterwards we will picnic together, while we work out who won. PS: You can join PRAS on site on that day, it's only \$10.

We need a few volunteers to help on the day, contact the organizer Paul Holmes (941) 833-3337 [pgholmes@comcast.net](mailto:pgholmes@comcast.net)

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE PEACE RIVER TWELVE (contd)

**PROJECT FIVE: CHARLOTTE COUNTY NATURE**

**ALERTS...**Fellow nature lovers of Charlotte County, this project is already underway...PRAS is now hosting a Charlotte County Nature Alerts E-mail List on the Yahoo web site. If you join the list, this is what will happen:

You will receive e-mails informing you of interesting and unusual nature sightings in and around this area. These will be birds, plants and nature in general. You will also be notified of Peace River Audubon activities and events organized by similar organizations, so you won't miss all those exciting activities.

Nature trail reports for this area's trails and advice when best to visit them will be available and regularly updated.

You can also, by sending one e-mail, pass any information you come across to everyone else on the list.

If you change your mind, one e-mail will remove you from the list. Please try it and watch it grow in usefulness and importance.

To learn more about the Charlotte County Nature Alerts group, please visit: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/CharlotteCountyNatureAlerts@yahoo.com>

To join please send an e-mail to [PeaceRiverAudubon@Yahoo.com](mailto:PeaceRiverAudubon@Yahoo.com) Paul Holmes, Temporary List Moderator.

**PROJECT SIX: TELEPHONE TREE...**This project is to help those without e-mail to receive the Charlotte County Nature Alerts group messages by telephone and so be able to take part in all activities. We currently need a volunteer with e-mail who is willing to call one of our Telephone Tree volunteers when messages are received. Please contact Paul Holmes at (941) 833-3337.

Two of our members, Evelyn Costa and June Hulse have volunteered to pass these messages on to those on the Telephone Tree list. If you would like to receive Charlotte County Nature Alerts by phone, please call either Evelyn at (941) 766-0244 or June at (941) 625-7321 and ask them to put you on their call list.

**PROJECT SEVEN: AUDUBON ALPHABET...**This project will be added to the calendar later in the year, if the Mini-Birdathon is well attended. In that event, volunteers will be needed.

**PROJECT EIGHT: PICTURE IN PENNINGTON...**This project will be taken over by the PRAS Nature Photography section, who will, I am sure, organize this event as part of their activities.

**PROJECT NINE: AUDUBON ASSETS...**This project requires members who are experts in at least one aspect of Charlotte Harbor Area's natural history to volunteer to give help and advice on that subject to those in need of such advice, visiting Peace River Audubon's Web Site.

We are very fortunate (in that as luck would have it) the first volunteer Malcolm Simons, is clearly one of the most knowledgeable naturalists in PRAS. If you require information about nature in this area, please call Malcolm at (941) 629-2656 or visit our web site: [www.PeaceRiverAudubon.org](http://www.PeaceRiverAudubon.org) If you would like to volunteer to join Malcolm on the website as an Audubon Asset, please call Paul Holmes (941) 833-3337.

**PROJECT TEN: IMPROVING THE XMAS BIRD**

**COUNT SOCIAL...**I am assuming that one of us will be able to borrow a Digital Video projector just for this meeting. On this assumption, I have prepared a Power Point Presentation as illustrated at the last monthly meeting. However it has pictures, scanned from a Book of Florida Birds. I think it would be a challenge to members of the new PRAS nature photograph group to replace each picture with one taken by a PRAS member. If you have a picture of any bird on the Christmas Bird Count List, please either send it as a file to [pgholmes@comcast.net](mailto:pgholmes@comcast.net), or bring the actual photograph to the next meeting. I am convinced it will help Tony make the next CBC Social much more fun.

**PROJECT ELEVEN: DIAL A RIDE...**This project is to enable those who, for whatever reason, cannot drive to PRAS meetings or other activities, even though they wish to attend. Regina Burke has offered to be the contact for this project, which we have called, Dial a Ride. If you need a ride at any time to one of PRAS's functions, please call Regina at (941) 639-4627 and leave a message.

If you are willing to give members an occasional ride to a function you are attending, please let Regina know which area you live in and your phone number. Remember, one day it will be you that needs a ride, so help while you can.

**PROJECT TWELVE: GO WADING WITH CHEC...**It takes place November 25<sup>th</sup>, at 9:30am, in Ponce de Leon Park, Punta Gorda. Bring a picnic. See the October 2003 White Bird for details of this project.

Submitted by Paul Holmes

**UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS:**

**November 22<sup>nd</sup> – Field Trip to Fort DeSoto Park**

On Saturday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>, we will travel to Fort DeSoto, one of the premier birding spots in the state. We should arrive at the Park, shortly after the low tide point, so our chances of seeing a variety of shorebirds, including Curlews, Godwits, and Whimbrels, should be excellent. Dave Mathewson (941-629-6376) will lead this exciting trip. We'll meet in back of McDonald's in the Peachland Mall at 7:30 am. Please bring a bag lunch.

**December 9<sup>th</sup> – Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary Truck Trip**

On Tuesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, we will travel south to Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary for what should be an exciting day. Our field trip will be divided into two parts, a truck ride through the northern part of the swamp in the morning and a walk around the boardwalk in the afternoon. The truck ride is limited to a maximum of 20 persons (a minimum of 10 is needed). The cost is \$20 per person. Reservations are required, so please contact the trip leader, Tom Zinneman

### UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS (contd)

(941) 505-8826, to reserve a seat. The truck ride will be from 9:00 to about noon. After returning to the parking lot, we will eat lunch. Then, we will walk around the boardwalk. The entrance fee for the boardwalk is \$5 for Audubon members and \$8 for others. If you can't make the truck ride in the morning, come for the afternoon walk, which will start about 12:45. We'll meet in the parking lot of the old K-Mart located on the northwest corner of US41 and Burnt Store Road junction at 7:30 am. Don't forget to bring a bag lunch.

### Report on Field Trip to Sanibel Island - Tom Zinneman

Fifteen members and guests of the Peace River Audubon Society traveled to Sanibel Island for a morning of birding. The group, under the leadership of Bill Havill, started at the Ding Darling NWR. Numerous wading birds, such as Egrets (Great, Reddish, Snowy), Herons (Great Blue, Little Blue, Tricolored), Pied-billed Grebes, White Ibis, Spoonbills, and Wood Storks were observed. Unfortunately, very few shorebirds were observed due to the high tide. We also had excellent views of several raptors, including a Bald Eagle, several Ospreys, and Red-shouldered Hawks.

The group then went to the east part of the island around the lighthouse, hoping to catch a glimpse of some Warblers. A Black and White and some Palm Warblers were observed in the area. A Sharp-shinned Hawk was also observed flying overhead. We finished a good birding morning with a bag lunch along the causeway. Forty-five different species of birds were observed.

### Charlotte County Nature Alerts E-mail List

At the September membership meeting, 77% of you were strongly in favor of starting a 'Local Nature Alerts' list. We have done as you requested and called it Charlotte County Nature Alerts.

It is, as the name would imply, an e-mail list, which will allow our members to send messages to everyone else on the list by simply sending an e-mail to:

[CharlotteCountyNatureAlerts@yahoo.com](mailto:CharlotteCountyNatureAlerts@yahoo.com)

Or go to: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/CharlotteCountyNatureAlerts> and select Join!

We are looking for a volunteer to moderate this e-mail list. It is not difficult, why don't you give it a try, we will help get you started.

### WHAT YOUR BOARD HAS BEEN DOING:

- Charlotte Harbor Nature Festival monies were transferred to the Peace River Center for Writers who will manage 2004 event monies.
- A new banner for the PRAS website is being sought.
- Acrobat Writer program will be purchased so that the White Bird can be put more readily on the website for easy access by members and anyone visiting the site.
- Wading trip with Monica Dorken is scheduled for Nov 25.

### WHAT YOUR BOARD HAS BEEN DOING (contd)

- *Mini Bird-a-Thon is Jan 7 (see Project Four, page 1).*
- *Further review of the twelve (12) projects that resulted from the September Membership Meeting.*
- *There is no official PRAS spokesman, however, if you are speaking on your own ideas, specify that to the reporter, etc.*
- *PRAS is represented on the Calusa Regional Conservation Committee; no longer on the SWF Regional Committee.*
- *Scheduling and info on field trips has been prepared by Tom Zinneman to this point; Chuck Froman will be assisting with the Mini Bird-a-Thon*
- *John Aspirolea reported that ELAAC is considering polling for the general public prior to putting land acquisition bond up for vote. A PAC is being formed; headed by Bob Starr. Paul Holmes may become the alternate representative.*
- *George Marks reported that Audubon of Florida cannot finance the McLeod memorial plaque at this time. Parks and Rec Advisory Committee liked the idea of it being in Bayshore Park.*

### PRAS Calendar of Events



(Meetings start at 7pm for social time/7:30 meeting at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church)



(FT = Field Trips meet at 7:30 am; "N" meet at McDonald's in Peachland Mall;

"S" meet in old Kmart parking lot at Burnt Store Road & 41)

- Nov 12 Between 8 & 10 am, Photography @ Bay Shore Park (p. 1)  
20 General Meeting – Valerie Weikel  
"Florida Yards and Neighborhoods"  
22 FT to Fort DeSoto (Dave Mathewson 941-629-6376) (N)  
25 9:30 Wading @ Ponce de Leon w/Monica Dorken (p. 2)
- Dec 9 FT to Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary  
(Tom Zinneman 941-505-8826) (S)  
14 Christmas Bird Count (George Marks 941-255-3318)  
**(NOTE DATE CHANGE TO SUNDAY, NOV 14)**  
18 Christmas Bird Count Social
- Jan 7 Between 8 & 9 am, Mini Bird-A-Thon starting at Jones Loop rest area (p. 1)  
15 General Meeting - Jeff Bouton  
"Learning Florida Bird Sounds"  
17 FT to Tigertail Beach (Bill/Eleanor Marr 941-624-4182) (S)  
31 Charlotte Harbor Nature Festival
- Feb 4 FT to Shamrock Park & Venice Rookery  
(Bill Havill 941-625-8096) (N)  
19 General Meeting - Todd Campbell  
"Nile Monitor Lizards in SW Florida"  
21 FT to Eagle Lakes/Sugden Park (Marrs 941-624-4182) (S)
- Mar 8 FT to Fort DeSoto Park (Lynn Bates 941-639-7277) (N)  
16 "An Evening with Audubon" (aka Annual Banquet/Silent Auction/Talk: "Florida Scrub-Jays" by Jim Beever)  
at Maple Leaf Estates; catering by Cap'n and the Cowboy  
20 Birdathon (Cathy Olson 941-613-6753)
- Apr 6 FT: Babcock/Webb WMA (Dillys Randall 941-627-4090)(S)  
15 General Meeting - Kathi Rader-Gibson  
"For the Love of Butterflies"  
17 FT to Emerson Point Park (Tom Zinneman 941-505-8826)
- May 20 Annual Member Meeting—"Stump Pass Birds" Jeff Bouton  
22 FT to Lakeland (Tom Zinneman 941-505-8826) (N)

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

www.peacriveraudubon.org

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**2003/2004 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE (Choose A or B below)**

**(A) \_\_\_ YES, I want to join or renew my membership in PEACE RIVER AUDUBON now for \$10!**

If you are concerned with what is happening to South West Florida's Environment, please become a member of Peace River Audubon Society and help us protect our area. As individuals we can do very little, together we can do much more. Join us to protect the air we breath, the water we drink, and the wildlife we love. In short, help us protect the Florida lifestyle. Members will receive:

- 10 issues of the "White Bird" newsletter with:
- Local news articles;
- Local meetings, field trips and bird walks.



Visit our web site: [www.peacriveraudubon.org](http://www.peacriveraudubon.org)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
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**MAIL \$10 CHECK WITH THIS FORM DIRECTLY to:**

PRAS, P O Box 510760, Punta Gorda, FL 33951-0760.

**OR, (B): \_\_\_ Yes, I want to join National Audubon \*...**

- \_\_\_ \$15 - 1-year Student/Senior Rate (62+) \_\_\_ \$1,000 Individual Life
- \_\_\_ \$20 - 1-year Introductory National Audubon Rate \_\_\_ \$1,500 Dual Life
- \_\_\_ \$30 - 2-year Special National Audubon Rate

\_\_\_ My check is enclosed. \_\_\_ Please bill me.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_ **E14-7XCH**

**Please make checks payable to National Audubon Society and mail to:**

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

\* A National Audubon member receives 6 bi-monthly issues of "Audubon" magazine/year, and some discounts at Audubon Centers across the USA. As a National Audubon member, you are automatically a member of Peace River Audubon Society and receive those benefits.

**2003-04 OFFICERS:**

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	Dennis Hungerford '05	627-5405
	Joy Linn '05 (editor)	637-8160

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.