

# White Bird

July 28, 2003

Volume 27, Issue 2



## SUMMER POT-LUCK PICNIC—AUGUST 16 (SAT)

Our annual summer pot-luck picnic on August 16 will begin with a guided “wading walk” led by Lynn Bates - YES, you will want to wear boots or very old shoes to wade in some water (see article inside)!! Our picnic in the outdoor screen room at the Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center’s Alligator Creek site (10941 Burnt Store Road in Punta Gorda) will begin at 12 (so hopefully the waders will have returned by then.) A brief Board meeting will be held immediately following the picnic to cover any immediate business matters.

>>>> Please bring a covered dish and/or a dessert to share.  
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

## DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR.....

	Saturday	Aug 16, 2003	Summer Pot-luck Picnic at CHEC
	Thursday	Sep 18, 2003	<b>Membership meeting</b>
	Saturday	Sep 20, 2003	<u>Laurel Landfill and Celery Fields</u> - Leader: Paul Holmes 833-3337
	Thursday	Oct 16, 2003	<b>Membership meeting</b>
	Saturday	Oct 18, 2003	<u>Sanibel Ding Darling NWR</u> - Leader: Bill Havill 625-8096
	Wednesday	Nov 5, 2003	<u>Bunche Beach and Estero Lagoon</u> - Leader: Dave Smith 697-0529
	Thursday	Nov 20, 2003	<b>Membership meeting</b>
	Saturday	Nov 22, 2003	<u>Fort DeSoto Park</u> - Leader: Dave Mathewson 629-6376
	Tuesday	Dec 9, 2003	<u>Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary</u> - Leader: Tom Zinneman 505-8826
	Saturday	Dec 13, 2003	<u>Christmas Bird Count</u> - Leader: George Marks 255-3318
	Thursday	Dec 18, 2003	<b>Christmas Bird Count Social</b>
	Thursday	Jan 15, 2004	<b>Membership meeting</b>
	Saturday	Jan 17, 2004	<u>Tiger Tail Beach</u> - Leader: Bill & Eleanor Marr 624-4182
	Saturday	Jan 31, 2004	Charlotte Harbor Nature Festival - Leader: Maran Hilgendorf 239-995-1777
	Wednesday	Feb 4, 2004	<u>Shamrock Park and Venice Rookery</u> - Leader: TBA
	Thursday	Feb 19, 2004	<b>Membership meeting</b>
	Saturday	Feb 21, 2004	<u>Eagle Lakes and Sugden Park</u> - Leader: TBA
	TBA	Mar or Apr	5K Cross-country Wildlife Walk and Run - Leader: TBA
	Monday	Mar 8, 2004	<u>Fort DeSoto Park</u> - Leader: TBA
	Thursday	Mar 18, 2004	<b>Annual Banquet/Silent Auction</b> - location TBA
	Saturday	Mar 20, 2004	Birdathon - Leader: Cathy Olson 613-6753
	Tuesday	April 6, 2004	<u>Babcock/Webb WMA</u> - Leader: TBA
	Thursday	Apr 15, 2004	<b>Membership meeting</b>
	Saturday	Apr 17, 2004	<u>Belle Glade and Brown’s Farm</u> - Leader: TBA
	Thursday	May 20, 2004	<b>Annual Membership Meeting</b>
	Saturday	May 22, 2004	<u>Lakeland (Lakes Hollingsworth, Morton, &amp; Hunter)</u> - Leader: Tom Zinneman 505-8826

**Membership Meetings** are held on the 3rd Thursday of each month from September to May, beginning with social time at 7 and the meeting at 7:30 pm. **Meeting site** is: Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 2565 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte.

**Field Trip Starts:** NORTHbound meet at McDonald’s on Peachland; SOUTHbound meet at Kmart parking lot, Burnt Store @ 41.

**AUGUST 16 WALK** - Lynn Bates will lead the Nature Walk along an unused and very beautiful trail in the Buffer Zone preceding the Annual Picnic on the 16th August. The trail may be wet, so bring a spare pair of socks and sneakers. The walkers will be picked up from CHEC near the screen room at 9:30 and driven to the walk's starting point. The walk is then about three miles back to CHEC, where we will arrive in time for the picnic. Lynn says plant lovers will specially enjoy this walk, the plants are great.

Paul Holmes a PRAS member said, "I did this walk last year when the trail was under water and it was a magical experience. Seeing Turtles swimming down the trail and an Otter hunting made it unforgettable!" So come with us and work up an appetite for lunch.

*Paul Holmes*

### **SENIOR SAVES SURGEON IN CAR ACCIDENT**

An excerpt from the North Bay "Weekend Nugget" newspaper: Norm Leppan was driving along in North Bay, Ontario (he's up north for the summer) on June 19 about 5 pm when he came upon a burning station wagon. Trapped inside was Dr. Ray Kiff, an eye physician and surgeon and Norm said, "I saw smoke and fire coming from a car in the ditch and just then a young lady stopped and we ran down the bank together...he was trapped and the driver's door was jammed. We couldn't get the seat belt off. The flames were melting the windshield. We didn't have much time."

Leppan, retired from the Ontario Northland Railway for many years, said he ran back to his car and got the yellow jackknife he always carries. The doctor was "bleeding and couldn't talk when I slit the seatbelt and we pulled him out" said Leppan.

The two rescuers feared the car could explode at any time, so they quickly laid the doctor on a sleeping bag that was on the front seat and with another person, pulled the bag up the embankment to the roadway.

Norm said, "He was a big man, well over 200 pounds, and I don't know where I found the strength to pull him out. I'm only about 160 pounds...but the adrenaline was pumping and I didn't think about anything other than saving his life."

The doctor was taken to Sudbury General Hospital where Leppan visited him a few days later. The doctor had a broken left leg, right ankle, broken ribs and right hand. All were in casts.

Norm said the doctor said, "...the ride we gave him on that sleeping bag was the best ride of his life."

By coincidence, Norm and the doctor were heading to the same event, being among 12 Federation of Ontario Naturalists who were meeting to clean up portages and evasive weeds at Quarry Bay Nature Reserve on the rocky shores of the North Channel of Lake Huron.

### **6th Annual Florida Birding & Nature Festival** **October 9-12, 2003**

This Festival will be held at Eckerd College in St Petersburg. It will highlight the 100th Anniversary of the National Wildlife Refuge System and the remarkable story of the recovery of Whooping Cranes. The purpose is to educate and motivate participants to support and engage in conservation actions to protect habitats and species everywhere in Florida. George Archibold, founder of the International Crane Foundation will be a keynote speaker. Arthur Morris, world renowned bird photographer will take us on a pictorial journey through beautiful National Wildlife Refuges.

For more information, contact Joyce King at 1-866-231-0586 or email at [sjking@mindspring.com](mailto:sjking@mindspring.com).

### **FISH HATCHERY MANAGER CASE STILL GOING ON!**

For your information, the Vicki Lynn Davidson case is still ongoing. If you were here last fall, you may have read that as the manager of Davidson's Fish Hatchery, she purchased 25,000 shotgun shells and told her employees to shoot at anything that posed a threat to her fish. She is charged with killing over 4,000 birds and an alligator—specific charges are being the principal to the killing of an alligator, the killing of endangered species, tampering with a witness, three counts of unlawful taking of migratory birds, and one count of tampering with evidence.

Wildlife officials found the remains of numerous species, including various herons, wood storks, black-neck stilts, cattle egrets, and meadowlarks. Her first appearance was Nov 15, and it has been postponed every time it has come before the court. Her next court appearance is Aug 1 at 9 am in Arcadia. I do not want this case to disappear from sight, so that she ends up with a slap on the wrist. I plan to be at each court appearance. If anyone else would like to go to show the prosecutor that people care about this matter, call me at 764-1460. Loretta Blair

## **YOUR HELP WANTED FOR PRAS WEB SITE...**

We are hoping to add to the PRAS web site, but we need your input. We have received quite a few good suggestions (more photos, local birding areas, links, unusual bird sightings, etc.) but would love to hear from our members. We are also hoping to start a web site committee. If you would like to help out on the committee or have ideas, please contact Cathy Olson (cathyolson@comcast.net).

### **Calusa Nature Center and Planetarium's Butterfly Aviary and Native Plant Nursery NOW OPEN!**

On Saturday, July 26th, the Calusa Nature Center held the Dedication and Grand Opening of its one-of-a-kind Butterfly Aviary and Native Plant Nursery. Hundreds of people have already experienced the world of butterflies in the Aviary. Join us for a daily 1:30pm presentation on butterflies in the Aviary.

The 1,000 sq. ft. screened aviary is home for 30 different species of Florida butterflies and has been designed with a brick walkway that ushers visitors from the Museum through the butterfly aviary to the Audubon bird aviary. It is the largest butterfly display between Tampa and Fort Lauderdale. Caterpillars and pupae are also on display in the Natural History Living Museum.

"The walk-through has tiers of native plants on both sides that nourish hundreds of butterflies with nectar and food for their caterpillars," said Michael Simonik, executive director of the center. "We're calling it the Butterfly Aviary and Native Plant Nursery because all the plants are for sale to help people create butterfly habitats in their own backyards." Both butterfly larvae and butterfly nectar plants are available. Prices range from less than \$5 for blooming nectar plants to \$23 for trees.

A visit to the Butterfly Aviary is included in regular Nature Center admission. Everyone is invited to "adopt" the butterflies by purchasing a brick that will be engraved and set back in the walkway. Bricks are available in two sizes, one for \$50 with three lines of text and the other for \$100 with six lines of text. They can be purchased by downloading the form from the Nature Center's website, CalusaNature.com or at the Museum's front desk. Volunteers are needed in the Aviary to help care for the butterflies and caterpillars and help care for and sell the plants. Call 275-3435 to enroll as a volunteer.

A major gift by Charles Edgar Foster in tribute to his late wife, Margaret, known as the "First Plant Lady of the nature center," helped fund the project. Foster, a third generation area native, is known locally as the "Caloosahatchee River Rat" because of his eco-teaching and knowledge of the river. The Museum and Trails are open Monday through Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and on Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Join Volunteer Docent Norm DeWolfe every Tuesday and Friday at 9:30am for a guided walk of the Cypress Swamp Boardwalk.

Butterfly Aviary and Native Plant Nursery, an Audubon Aviary which houses permanently injured birds of prey (hawks, owls, vultures, bald eagles, an more!), nature trails, a picnic area, a gift shop with an excellent assortment of nature books and a Planetarium which features astronomy programs and laser light shows.

The Center is located at 3450 Ortiz Avenue at the intersection of Colonial Blvd. and Six Mile Cypress in Fort Myers, one minute from I-75 at Exit 136. More info at [www.CalusaNature.com](http://www.CalusaNature.com) or by calling 275-3435.

### **Come See Audubon-Pennington Park!**

*You've heard about Pennington Park at meetings and may have wondered about it.....*

Audubon Pennington Park is a Nature Park in Port Charlotte maintained by our Chapter and Charlotte County. It is a 7.9 acre, multi-habitat park surrounded on three sides by fresh-water canals, and offers walking trails throughout. Some of the habitats include:

- a cypress swamp,
- huge oaks, often with fern understory,
- pine uplands, and
- hardwood forests.

The park is located on Alton Road a mile or two from Kings Highway, between Midway and Peachland. We meet on Wednesday mornings from 8-10 to enjoy and work in the park, mostly involving making sure the trails are clear. We would love to have you join us, but if that doesn't fit into your schedule and you have an hour or so to spare sometime, come visit.

Call Larry Linn (637-8160) or Roger Blackmore (625-7317) for more information.



### **YOU MAY HAVE NOTICED YOUR MAILING LABEL HAS AN EXPIRATION DATE!?**

The first line of your mailing label is the current info I have on your membership. I received the National Audubon printout just yesterday showing what they think your expiration date really is...so next month I hope to have all "Exp:" correct!  
*Joy Linn*

Mailing label: Exp: (Sample: 0304 = March, 2004)  
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*Summer 2003  
 White Bird*

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**THE KEYS TO PRAS SUCCESS ... WELCOME TO NEW JUNE & JULY MEMBERS:**

T Stanton Armour	Ken & Nancy Horn	Elaine Olsen	<b>+ Transfers into PRAS:</b>
Troy Dueboay	Jeffrey Howerton	Cynthia Pitts	Paul Bromberg
Marty Fairley	Jill Joseph	Marian Schneider	Julie Braves
John Harris	Wilma Katz	Helen Scott	H Mendenhall
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Mary Holder	Richard Miller	Mary Winburn	
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**2003-04 OFFICERS:**

<b>President</b>	Cathy Olson '05	613-6753
<b>Vice President</b>	Kathi Rader-Gibson '04	474-3065
<b>Secretary</b>	Peggy Kampert '05	235-3160
<b>Treasurer</b>	Larry Linn '05	637-8160
<b>Additional Directors:</b>	John Aspiolea '04	575-7788
	Chuck Froman '04	743-5204
	Joan Froman '04	743-5204
	Paul Holmes '05	833-3337
	Dennis Hungerford '05	627-5405
	Joy Linn '05	637-8160
	Cyndi Marks '04	255-3318

**COMMITTEES:**

Annual Banquet - Peggy Kampert  
 Archivist - Dennis Hungerford  
 Audubon Pennington Park - Roger Blackmore & Larry Linn  
 Birdathon - Cathy Olson  
 Christmas Bird Count - George Marks & Tony Licata  
 Conservation - Larry Linn & Paul Holmes  
 Education - Cathy Olson  
 Field Trips - Tom Zinneman & Chuck Froman  
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**Join Today!**

Every membership supports Audubon's vital efforts to protect birds, wildlife and natural habitats. As a member, you'll receive the following:

- \* A 1-year subscription (10 issues) of the White Bird;
- \* Membership in National Audubon Society with 6 bi-monthly issues of "Audubon" magazine/year;
- \* Admission to Audubon Centers across USA; w/a 10% discount on products at select Audubon Stores

***YES! I want to join Peace River Audubon...***

- \_\_\_\_\_ \$10 - 1-year White Bird-mail directly to PRAS, PO 510760, Punta Gorda, FL 33951-0760.
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$15 - 1-year Student/Senior Rate (62+)
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$20 - 1-year Introductory National Audubon Rate
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$30 - 2-year Special National Audubon Rate
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$1,000 - Individual Life Membership      \_\_\_\_\_ \$1,500 - Dual Life Membership

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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I do not wish to receive "Audubon" Magazine

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