

Peace River Audubon Society

White Bird

January 04, 2005

Volume 28, Issue 5

JANUARY 20--CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT REVIEW & SPEAKER

7:00 pm

The Christmas Bird Count Presentation will review the bird species and numbers seen in December (there is NO potluck for this event). Matt Bixler, Environmental Policy Specialist from the Conservancy of SW Florida will also speak.

Please join us at 7 pm for social time and the meeting afterward at: Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 2565 Tamiami Trail in Port Charlotte.

Peace River Audubon Society Annual Boat Trip 2004 Report

On the afternoon of December 7, forty (40) members of Peace River Audubon Society enjoyed a perfect afternoon cruising from Placida out to Boca Grande enjoying an incredible view of several thousand White pelicans en route. Along the way, they were educated and entertained by the knowledgeable and witty remarks from Capt. Marion, Skipper of the Grande Tours boat.

Peace River Audubon Vice President Paul Holmes explained the objectives of the NEP and thanked both them and Capt. Marion for such a pleasant and instructive trip. Many kind words of appreciation were heard by the members disembarking at the dock just as the sunset across the Bay, as it does so beautifully in Southwest Florida.

The boat trip followed a very pleasant potluck picnic shared under the shade trees on the water's edge. This is the second annual boat trip made possible by a generous micro-grant from the National Estuary Program.

Paul Holmes

January 22 Selby Gardens Field Trip

Our chapter is sponsoring a field trip to Selby Gardens in Sarasota on Saturday, January 22. The group will meet at the Peachland McDonald's at 9 a.m. before driving north to Marie Selby Botanical Gardens. We will tour the gardens at our leisure. Lunch may be purchased at Michael's in the Selby Garden Café or you may enjoy your picnic lunch on their patio. Cost of admission to the gardens is \$12.00 per person.

Regina Burke

Charlotte County Nature Festival—Saturday, January 29

Remember to attend and/or volunteer to help at the Nature Festival being held at the Charlotte Sports Center on Route 776 on January 29. Call Leader Maran Hilgendorf 239-995-1777 x 240 with questions or to volunteer. The Festival will be from 9 am to 3 pm.

February 1 – Field Trip to Circle B Bar Reserve

On Tuesday, February 1st, we will travel north to the Circle B Bar Reserve, which is located south of Lakeland on Highway 540, about 2 miles east of Highway 98. Formerly a cattle ranch, this property was acquired by Polk County and the Southwest Water Management District in December, 2000. It was opened to the public about two years ago. The Reserve covers almost 1,200 acres of marsh, cypress swamp, and a large oak hammock. Hundreds of wading birds, ducks, and peeps use the Banana Creek marsh during the winter months. There are miles of trails around the marsh and a shoreline with Lake Hancock.

We'll meet in back of McDonalds in the Peachland Mall at 7:15 a.m. Wear comfortable clothes and shoes suitable for hiking. We'll form two groups; one for hiking a shorter distance (1-2 miles) and the other for a longer distance (3-4 miles). Also bring a bag lunch. Tom Zinneman (941-505-8826) will be leading this trip.

Membership

New National Audubon Members:

Doug & April Allmond
Joseph W Dillon
Leo & Leona Keiser
Curt Landeen
Bill Parrish
Michael Rudloff
Nancy & Ed Turner
Mrs JoAnn Woofenden
Mrs Janet Frazee
Jack F Reith

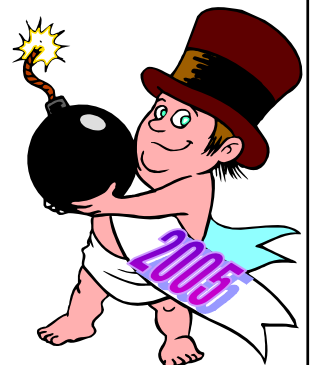
Arcadia Chiropractic Clinic
Martha B Hoover
Barbara Kozlovskis
Sheryll Ocrotty
Thomas C Roper
Theodore W Tirb
Andres Vasquez
C F Cline
Anita M Pogany

New Peace River Audubon Members:

John & Nancy Kline

Attention all: Please help spread the word on the "Evening with Audubon Banquet" (see page 3)

Happy New Year!



2005 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Tue/Jan 18/7:00—Photography: Sarasota Jungle Gardens (N)

- Leader Mary Ann Hughes 941-637-7855

Sat/Jan 22/9:00—Selby Gardens (N)

- Leader Regina Burke 941-639-4627

Sat/Jan 29—Charlotte County Nature Festival

(Charlotte Sports Center, Route 776)

- Leader Maran Hilgendorf 239-995-1777 x240

Tue/Feb 1/7:15—Field Trip Circle B Bar Reserve

- Leader Tom Zinneman 941-505-8826

Tue/Feb 15/7:00—Photography: Venice Rookery (N)

- Leader Mary Ann Hughes 941-637-7855

Sat/Feb 19/7:00—Shark Valley (S)

- Tom Zinneman 941-505-8826

Mon/Mar 7/7:15—Bunche Beach & Estero Lagoon (S)

- Leader Lynn Bates 941-639-7277

Sun, Mar 13—Charlotte Harbor 100 (Various)

- Leader Paul Holmes 941-833-3337

Tue, Mar 15/7:00—Photography: Corkscrew Swamp (S)

- Leader Mary Ann Hughes 941-637-7855

Mon, Apr 4/7:15—Fort DeSoto (N)

-Leader Eleanor Marr 941-624-4182

Tue, Apr 19/7:00—Photography: Seaboard in the Web (S)

- Leader Mary Ann Hughes 941-637-7855

Sat, Apr 23/7:00—Kissimmee Prairie Preserve (N)

- Tom Zinneman 941-505-8826

Tue, May 17/7:00—Photography: Sanibel/Ding Darling (S)

- Leader Mary Ann Hughes

Sat, May 21/7:15—Myakka State Park (N)

- Leader Dave Mathewson 941-629-6376

NOTE: Trips leave PROMPTLY as follows: *Trips marked (N) are NORTHbound and meet at McDonald's in Peachland Mall. Trips marked (S) are SOUTHbound and meet in the old Kmart parking lot on Burnt Store Road @ 41.*

2005 MEETINGS

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 (unless noted otherwise).

Meeting site is: Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 2565 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte

Jan 20, 2005—Christmas Bird Count Presentation & Speaker

Matt Bixler, Environmental Policy Specialist Conservancy of SW FL on "Babcock Ranch Purchase"; and

Tony Licata reporting Bird Count

Feb 8, 2005 at 5:30 pm—Special Event: "An Evening with Audubon"

(Annual Banquet/Silent Auction/Talk):

Florida Environmental Speaker: Jim Beever, Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission.

Location and Caterer: The Port Charlotte Cultural Center, 2280 Aaron St; contact Tom Zinneman

Feb 17, 2005—Shells: Joyce Matthys, Sanibel Shell Museum

Mar 17, 2005—Saving Cranes and Chassowitka population:

Pat & Jack Casselberry, Whooping Crane Project, Crystal River

Apr 21, 2005—Kissimmee Birding: Paul Miller, Prairie Preserve

May 19, 2005—Annual Membership Meeting: Paul Holmes

Things that go bump in the night!

Jeff Bouton wrote: "Last night my wife woke me up near 1:30 AM and said, "...there's something in the Florida room..." So I woke up and went to the sliding glass door and realized she was indeed correct.

I grabbed Austin's critter catchin' net and with two deft swings had in my hand a pair of Eastern Screech Owls. I apologize for the quality of the images my wife the photographer refused to open the sliding glass door for fear that these monsters might attack apparently, let alone hold the birds so I could rattle away with my 35mm. Austin would have held them but Mom wouldn't let me wake him up, (she wisely knew he'd then be up all night after that)!

At any rate, note the larger size of the female on the right, and that she is a gray morph while the male on the left is the red color morph. A neat comparison even if it is poor resolution, taken on an inexpensive 2mb camera, through a glass window. (I knew there was a reason I hadn't replaced that piece of soffit blown out by Charley yet!"

Jeff and Dyane, thanks for sharing your picture with us!



Innovative Trail Guides

Central Florida snowbird Roger Fulton has just published three new area trail guides:

- * 25 Short Hikes & Interesting Walks in Central Florida
- * 25 Interesting Bike Trails in Central Florida
- * 25 More Short Hikes & Interesting Walks in Central FL

Roger and Michael Carpenter, self-described middle-aged guys who like to hike and bike—but not all that far—created the guides for people like themselves who enjoy nature, but are put off by the lengthy and difficult trails featured in most existing guides. You can purchase a guide at many bookstores and outdoor outfitters, by calling 877-429-3651 toll free or online at www.Commonmanbooks.com.

PEACE RIVER
AUDUBON
INVITES YOU TO...

WHAT: **“AN EVENING WITH AUDUBON”**

FOR: 28TH ANNUAL BANQUET AND SILENT AUCTION

WHERE: Port Charlotte Cultural Center
2280 Aaron Street, Port Charlotte

DATE: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2005

TIME: Cash bar starts at 6 pm; dinner at 7 pm, catered by
Port Charlotte Cultural Center. Speaker begins at 8.

FEATURING

Speaker: Jim Beever, Florida Fish and
Wildlife Conservation Commission on the
Wildlife of Southwest Florida.

Auction: Silently bid on the many wonderful
items, including Babcock tour tickets,
books, art, native plants, and many more items.



Contest: Photographic contest for those “perfect wildlife shots”—
Entry fees: \$5 for one or \$10 for three.

TO GO: Make reservations by February 1 by sending \$19 per person—
Please provide guest names (for name tags) to:
PRAS, PO Box 510760, Punta Gorda, FL 33951-0760

Food Selection: Please select an entrée for each attendee...
Choices are: Prime rib or stuffed grouper

TICKETS ARE NOT AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR

Money raised in the auction will go to PRAS and its Youth Environmental Education Fund. PRAS—a nonprofit 501©3, 59-2190872.

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

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

To view the White Bird in color, go to:
www.peaceriveraudubon.org



January 2005
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Printed on Recycled Paper
 Min-it Print Shoppe (folding donated)

2004-05 OFFICERS & DIRECTORS:

(941)

President	Cathy Olson '05	613-6753
Vice President	Paul Holmes '05	833-3337
Secretary	Mary Ann Hughes '06	637-7855
Treasurer	Larry Linn '05	637-8160
Additional Directors:	Regina Burke '06	639-4627
	Phyllis Doggett '06	575-4009
	Joy Linn '05 (editor)	637-8160
	Betty Talburt '06	766-0354
	Tom Zinneman '06	505-8826

PLEASE:

Check the "Exp" date on your address label!
 If an "Exp" is "0105," it means your PRAS and/or National membership expires in Jan '05 (both PRAS and National Audubon stop mailings after 2-3 months). The "Exp" line saves the cost of sending post cards, so if your expiration date has or will expire, **please** use the application below to renew your membership.

MEMBERSHIP

Please direct all membership changes, etc. to Chairman Betty Talburt at 766-0354.

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.

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION — (Choose A or B below)

(A) ___ I/we want to join or renew membership in the local PEACE RIVER AUDUBON for \$10!

Join us to protect the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the wildlife we love...help us protect our Florida. Members receive 10 issues of the "White Bird" newsletter with local news articles, local meetings, field trips and bird walks.

Visit our web site: www.peaceriveraudubon.org

Name: _____
 Organization: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: ___ Zip: _____
 Phone: () _____ E-mail: _____

MAIL \$10 CHECK WITH THIS FORM DIRECTLY to:
 PRAS, PO Box 510760, Punta Gorda, FL 33951-0760.

(B) ___ I/we want to join or renew National Audubon for:

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

Please make checks payable to National Audubon Society

___ My check is enclosed or ___ Please bill me

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

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

Note: National Audubon members receive 6 bi-monthly "Audubon" magazines/year and some discounts at Audubon Centers across the US A, **PLUS, you automatically** receive the same 10 "White Bird" issues as PRAS members do in Option A.

Check here if you do not wish to receive "Audubon" Magazine