



## MEETING LOCATION AND TIME LIMIT FOR MAY

Harold Avenue Recreation Center  
23400 Harold Avenue in Port Charlotte

**TIME CHANGE:** A 15-minute social time starting at 7 pm will be followed by a 7:15 meeting...must vacate building by 9 pm.

## MAY 19 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**First: We, the P.R.A.S. members, are the speakers.** You may have up to 15 minutes to 'Show and Tell' about anything that will interest our audience. You may bring a Disc with photos on and show them on our new projector, or bring slides and show them on our old projector. You may bring Pictures and lay them out on a table.

So get your 'Act' together—we provide the room, the rest is up to YOU!!

**Second:** The election of 2003-2004 directors and officers will be held at this meeting. The following is the slate of Directors and Officers that you will be asked to approve at the May membership meeting:

- |                              |                              |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>President</b>             | Paul Holmes '05              |
| <b>Vice President</b>        | Carol MacDougall '07         |
| <b>Secretary</b>             | Mary Ann Hughes '06          |
| <b>Treasurer</b>             | Walt Williams '07            |
| <br>                         |                              |
| <b>Additional Directors:</b> | Phyllis Doggett '06          |
|                              | John Leavy, Jr. '07          |
|                              | Betty Talburt '06 Membership |
|                              | Frank Walker '07 Editor      |
|                              | Jan Walker '07               |

Additional chairpersons will be selected by the new Board at their summer planning session.

**Third:** As part of our efforts to offer our members the activities they would like, we will be collecting your opinions of this past season's programs at the May Membership Meeting. BUT, PLEASE wait until the season is over! For those of you who cannot be at the meeting, the questionnaire has been posted on the web site where it may be 'Downloaded.' It is also included in this newsletter so that you may have a chance to gather your thoughts ahead of time. If you can't be at the meeting, please fill it in and mail it to PRAS, PO Box 510760, Punta Gorda, FL 33951-0760. It's the only way we will ever know what you really want.

Please note the location and time limit for this meeting (described above). Call Paul Holmes 833-0337 for further information.

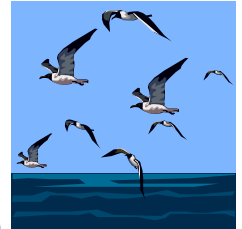


## May 21 – Field Trip to Myakka River State Park

On Saturday, May 21, we will travel north to the Myakka River State Park, which is located in the southern part of Sarasota County. It's been several years since our chapter has visited this fine Park. Myakka River, established in 1934, is one of the state's oldest parks. The Park features a 7-mile scenic drive that winds through shady oak-palm hammocks and along the shore of the Myakka River and Upper Myakka Lake. There is a Canopy Walkway & Tower for the more adventurous of the group. We will see a variety of wildlife including numerous alligators and almost certainly several Limpkins.

We'll meet in back of McDonalds in the Peachland Mall at 7:15 a.m. Be sure to bring a picnic lunch. Our leader will be Dave Mathewson (941-629-6376).

## Charlotte 100 Birdathon Funds



Donations received from the five (5) teams who participated in the Charlotte 100 Birdathon totaled \$842.70, minus expenses of \$48, for a total fund raiser of \$794.70 to be divided 75% to Youth Environmental Education Fund and 25% to PRAS.

## Mark Your Calendar!

Audubon Assembly 2005—October 21-22, 2004

At Holiday Inn Cocoa Beach Oceanfront Resort—**Special rate: \$89.99/night.** Parking and resort fees are free. Reserve rooms now at 800-206-2724. Special Audubon rate good through September 28 only.

Cocoa Beach is near fabulous birding hot spots including **Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge and Cape Canaveral.** This casual beachfront setting will be fun for the entire family.

**Don't miss it! Plan to attend Florida's largest gathering** of conservation-minded citizens. Join chapter leaders and members, Audubon staff, wildlife professionals, environmental advocates, scientists, students, agency and elected officials, and other Floridians to network and learn about the environment. Kick off the event at a beachside reception on Thursday evening, October 20.

Details including Assembly registration information, programs, exhibits and field trips will appear in the summer Naturalist, and available online at [www.audubonofflorida.org](http://www.audubonofflorida.org) in July.

## WHAT YOUR BOARD'S BEEN DOING...

- \* A \$1,500 check from monies accumulated from various fund raisers will be given to CHEC at the May meeting for the education of youth.
- \* Paul Holmes arranged for a Babcock Preservation group table at the Wildlife and Animal Expo at Fisherman's Village on June 4 from 10 to 3...volunteers are needed to man it.
- \* Cathy Olson has been in communication with a man who has a daughter; they are moving to the area and he wants to start a kid's birding class...further communication and assistance will be needed.
- \* Paul Holmes reported that Board members of the Calusa Region will be meeting in September for a BBQ to coordinate field trips, meetings, etc.
- \* Update on Babcock Preservation: The Babcock family rejected both offers recently made to them.
- \* Volunteer(s) are needed to greet guests at membership meetings.
- \* ELAAC will review the maps to provide a complete wildlife corridor per Paul.
- \* Larry Linn reported the newly installed memorial Betty Pennington sign was mutilated by heavy equipment in the park involved in the removal of debris of the canals in the area. The County will be replacing the sign.

## MEMBERSHIP

### New Peace River Audubon Members:

Rod & Bev Bovbee  
Ray Cogley  
Katherine Rich

## REMAINING 2005 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### 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 at Burnt Store Road and Rt. 41 Shopping Plaza Parking Lot behind the Wachovia Bank.*

## 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 7:15 pm (unless noted otherwise).*

*Meeting site is: Harold Avenue Recreation Center, 23400 Harold Avenue in Port Charlotte*

**May 19, 2005—Annual Membership Meeting:** Paul Holmes

# Thanks...

Three of the current Board members' terms have expired and we wish to thank each of them:

To **President Cathy Olson** for her leadership, patience, perseverance and great sense of humor. She was instrumental in so many new things that PRAS accomplished—there is no way to list them for fear of missing some of the most important ones. Of course, she will always be known as the lady who loves to have garage sales!!

# Farewell!

# Adios

To **Treasurer Larry Linn** for teaching most of the Board how to invest and keep those financial records straight!

To **Editor Joy Linn** for the White Bird newsletter and press releases to inform not only PRAS members, but the public as well.

## CHEC'S WATERSHED RESOURCE CENTER NOW OPEN

The Watershed Resource Center is CHEC's newest facility and is now open to the public. CHEC has had a long-standing mission to undertake environmental research in the Charlotte Harbor area. CHEC's ability to conduct research and provide the resultant information to the public has recently been enhanced through a partnership agreement with a private, local citizen.

The Watershed Resource Center (WRC) serves as a public clearinghouse for technical reports, maps, and other environmental information pertaining to the Peace and Myakka river watersheds and Charlotte Harbor. CHEC's primary goal is to make the information available to resource managers, students, citizens, and other interested stakeholders via on-site workstations and a technical website.

# Annual Survey of Activities 2004/5 Season

Enter a number from 1-10 in respective boxes...10 is very good - 1 is just worth keeping.

Special Events			Speakers		
The Christmas Pot Luck Party + Speaker	Keep <input type="text"/>	Don't Keep <input type="text"/>	Florida's Sea Turtles	Good <input type="text"/>	Didn't like it <input type="text"/>
Christmas Bird Count	Keep <input type="text"/>	Don't Keep <input type="text"/>	Charlotte County Parks	Good <input type="text"/>	Didn't like it <input type="text"/>
Christmas Bird Count Presentation	Keep <input type="text"/>	Don't Keep <input type="text"/>	Saving Babcock Ranch Presentation	Good <input type="text"/>	Didn't like it <input type="text"/>
Members' Evening-You are the Speaker	Keep <input type="text"/>	Don't Keep <input type="text"/>	Sanibel Shell Museum	Good <input type="text"/>	Didn't like it <input type="text"/>
Annual Wading Trip & Picnic	Keep <input type="text"/>	Don't Keep <input type="text"/>	Saving Cranes, The Casselberry Project	Good <input type="text"/>	Didn't like it <input type="text"/>
Annual Boat Trip-if we get a grant	Keep <input type="text"/>	Don't Keep <input type="text"/>	Kissimmee Prairie Preserve	Good <input type="text"/>	Didn't like it <input type="text"/>
Annual Boat Trip with no grant	Keep <input type="text"/>	Don't Keep <input type="text"/>	My Idea for a Speaker		
Charlotte Harbor Nature Festival	Keep <input type="text"/>	Don't Keep <input type="text"/>	Field Trips		
The Charlotte Harbor 100/Birdathon	Keep <input type="text"/>	Don't Keep <input type="text"/>	Laurel Landfill	Again <input type="text"/>	Not Again <input type="text"/>
An Evening With Audubon/Dinner	Keep <input type="text"/>	Don't Keep <input type="text"/>	Alderman Ford Park	Again <input type="text"/>	Not Again <input type="text"/>
Food - Selection	<input type="text"/>		Sanibel & Ding Darling	Again <input type="text"/>	Not Again <input type="text"/>
Food - Quality	<input type="text"/>		Local Hotspots	Again <input type="text"/>	Not Again <input type="text"/>
Venue - Suitable	Keep <input type="text"/>	Don't Keep <input type="text"/>	Selby Gardens	Again <input type="text"/>	Not Again <input type="text"/>
Silent Auction	Keep <input type="text"/>	Don't Keep <input type="text"/>	Circle B Bar Ranch	Again <input type="text"/>	Not Again <input type="text"/>
Photograph Competition	Keep <input type="text"/>		Shark Valley	Again <input type="text"/>	Not Again <input type="text"/>
New Ideas			Bunche Beach & Estero Lagoon	Again <input type="text"/>	Not Again <input type="text"/>
Welcome Back Ranch Barbecue, Nov.	Good <input type="text"/>	Don't Do It <input type="text"/>	Fort DeSoto & Migration	Again <input type="text"/>	Not Again <input type="text"/>
Meet our Members Coffee & Cakes	Good <input type="text"/>	Don't Do It <input type="text"/>	Kissimmee Prairie Preserve	Again <input type="text"/>	Not Again <input type="text"/>
Wildlife Show Fishermans Village	Good <input type="text"/>	Don't Do It <input type="text"/>	Myakka State Park	Again <input type="text"/>	Not Again <input type="text"/>
My New idea			My Idea for a Field trip		
			Use the name 'Audubon of Peace River'.	Good <input type="text"/>	Don't Do it <input type="text"/>
Golf Shirts for members to wear.	Good <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	Send Delegates to Audubon Assembly	Good <input type="text"/>	Don't Do it <input type="text"/>
Tee Shirts to sell, to raise money.	Good <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	Send Delegates to Audubon Academy	Good <input type="text"/>	Don't Do it <input type="text"/>
My Other Ideas			My Other Ideas		

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

Non-profit Organization  
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View the White Bird on:  
[www.peaceriveraudubon.org](http://www.peaceriveraudubon.org)



May 2005  
 White Bird



Printed on Recycled Paper  
 C & R Graphics (folding donated)

**2004-05 OFFICERS & DIRECTORS:**

(941)

<b>President</b>	Cathy Olson '05	613-6753
<b>Vice President</b>	Paul Holmes '05	833-3337
<b>Secretary</b>	Mary Ann Hughes '06	637-7855
<b>Treasurer</b>	Larry Linn '05	637-8160
<b>Additional Directors:</b>	Phyllis Doggett '06	575-4009
	Joy Linn '05 (editor)	637-8160
	Carol MacDougall	629-9120
	Betty Talburt '06	766-0354
	Tom Zinneman '06	505-8826

**PLEASE:**

Check the "Exp" date on your address label!

"0405" means your PRAS and/or National membership expires in Apr '05 (both organizations stop mailings after 2-3 months). To save the cost of sending reminder post cards, 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](http://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