



## DATE & MEETING 2005-06 CHANGES

The meetings will be held on the **THIRD WEDNESDAY** of the month from 6:30 – 9:00 p.m. The Palm Room at the **Charlotte County Cultural Center** located at 2280 Aaron Street, Port Charlotte FL will be the 2005-06 meeting place.

## From the President

As I am sure you all know in 1908, Columbus MacLeod who died in Charlotte County was one of the original two Florida wardens employed by Audubon to police the plume trade. Both were killed.

For some years now Peace River Audubon have been working to place a historical marker in a local park.

The Marker is now installed and I just got word today the dedication will be at 2:00 pm January 20th in Ponce de Leon park, Punta Gorda Florida.

We have invited the members of the town council and Charlotte County commissioners.

As a member of Peace River Audubon Society, we would be delighted if you could join us for the ceremony.

## Audubon Adventures

Thanks to a grant from Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program, the Peace River Audubon Society has been able to provide Audubon Adventure Kits for six schools in the area. The kits will be given to the 4<sup>th</sup> grade teachers to be used as extension activities following their two days of estuary studies at CHEC. Subjects to be covered include "Birds of Prey," "Native Plants," "Turtles and Tortoises," and "Share our Earth."

This year Peace River, Sallie Jones, East, Meadow Park, Kingsway, and Neil Armstrong Elementary schools will be given the kits.

## January 2006 Events

**Tuesday**, January 3<sup>rd</sup> – Walk-about  
8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.  
\*Charlotte Flatwoods Park  
Naturalist – Charlotte County Parks  
P. Doggett

**Saturday**, January 14<sup>th</sup> – Family Saturday  
9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  
CHEC - Basic Birding Class  
Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center  
Burnt Store Rd. Punta Gorda  
J. Walker

**Wednesday**, January 18<sup>th</sup> – Meeting  
6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.  
Cultural Center, Palm Room  
Christmas Bird Count Presentation  
Members 'Summer Sightings'

**Friday**, January 20<sup>th</sup>—Dedication of Columbus MacLeod Memorial  
2:00 p.m.  
Ponce de Leon park, Punta Gorda

**Saturday**, January 21<sup>st</sup> – Field Trip  
Sanibel/Bunche Beach  
Meet in the parking lot of Sweetbay on US 41 south of Burnt Store Rd. at 7:30 a.m. - bring a lunch

**Tuesday**, January 24<sup>th</sup>—Photography  
Nature Photography Group trip to Corkscrew Swamp  
Meet in the parking lot of Sweetbay on US 41 south of Burnt Store Rd. at 7:00 a.m. Bring Audubon ID for savings on entry fee.

## Coming Events

**Saturday**, February 4th—Charlotte Harbor Nature Festival  
10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.  
Charlotte Sports Park and Tippecanoe  
Environmental Park  
2300 El Jobean Rd. (S.R. 776)  
Free Admission

**Tuesday**, February 7<sup>th</sup> – Walk-about  
8:00 a.m.—11:a.m.  
\*Amberjack Park  
Naturalist – Charlotte County Parks  
Located in Englewood. Meet at Park Entrance.

**Wednesday**, February 15<sup>th</sup> – Meeting  
6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.  
Cultural Center, Palm Room  
Dave Mattheson – Birds/Art/Eco-tourism

**Buggy Ride at Corkscrew** Saturday, February 18  
Cost \$20.00, Limit 19 people. Reservations are required  
and there are a few spaces remaining. Check the web site  
at [peacriveraudubon.org](http://peacriveraudubon.org) for more information.

## Mark Your Calendar

### **PRAS Banquet and Silent Auction**

The annual Peace River Audubon Banquet and Silent Auction will be held on Thursday, March 9th at the Charlotte County Cultural Center. Watch for more details in the February "White Bird."

## Birding Hot Spots

### **Amberjack Environmental Park**

**Description:** This 183 acre environmental gem was purchased by Charlotte County in 1994, with money from the state of Florida (Florida Forever Funding). An additional 34 acres was acquired in 2002 as Florida Scrub-Jay mitigation. The addition linked the County-owned preserve land with the Charlotte Harbor Buffer Preserve State Park. This 217-acre environmental park is managed by the Charlotte County Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department.

**Vegetation Communities:** Scrub, scrubby flatwoods, pine flatwoods, slough systems, and lake.

**Location:** Englewood peninsula east of SR 775. Park access is off of Gasparilla Pines Blvd.

**Amenities:** As of 7/4/05 the park is not yet finished, but when complete, it will have a trail system with informational kiosks, bird blinds at the lake, rest rooms, parking, playground, etc.

### **Birds that you may encounter include:**

Florida scrub-jay, bald eagle, cardinal, blue jay, red shouldered hawk, roseate spoonbill, eastern towhee, wood stork, osprey, white-eyed vireo, little blue heron, turkey vulture, great egret, black vulture, snowy egret, white pelican, American robin, pine warbler, green-winged teal, palm warbler, blue-winged teal, yellow-rumped warbler, tree swallow.



## Audubon Education Programs

### **Girl Scouts**

PRAS has been asked to help the Girl Scouts of Charlotte County with their birding program. We have set up 5 Saturday morning sessions at various birding spots throughout the county. We need volunteers to help the girls with binocular usage, use and organization of field guides, and bird identification skills. If you have an hour to share with the Girl Scouts on March 25th or May 13th, we still need volunteers for those dates. I have materials that will help you organize your presentation if you need them.

### **Family Introduction to Birding**

PRAS and CHEC will be combining efforts on Saturday, January 14, at 9:00 a.m. for a Family Day at the center. The emphasis for the day will be on Birding as a life long activity for the family to enjoy together. We will begin with an introduction and overview of birding in the screen room, then divide into small groups to discuss things like binocular use and the organization of field guides before going out on the trails for some hands on experiences.

If you would like to participate and haven't signed up, in this activity as an instructor, guide, or student, Email Jan Walker at [walkerj@peacriveraudubon.org](mailto:walkerj@peacriveraudubon.org) or call at 941-639-3879.



### **White Bird Online**

For some time now your Board of Directors have been discussing the possible improvements to our white bird newsletter.

Unfortunately, printing and mailing costs prevent us from creating the kind of newsletter we would like to send out. However, creating a newsletter electronically would not only save us a lot of money, it would also enable us to introduce color and hyperlinks to interesting web sites.

Our decision, depends on you, our membership. Do you have a computer or access to a computer? Do you have an e-mail address. If the answer to these questions is yes, then we could produce a much better newsletter, with color photographs and direct links to interesting sources of information. Each month, when the newsletter is finished, you would receive an e-mail including a link which would take you directly to the latest addition of the newsletter on your computer where you could either just read it, print it out on your own printer, or save it.

If enough of our members agree to receive the much improved newsletter in this new way it would save the society considerable amounts of money.

To be part of this exciting experiment just send an e-mail which says, "Yes Please" with your name to:

[whitebird@peacriveraudubon.org](mailto:whitebird@peacriveraudubon.org)

We promise your e-mail address will not be shared without your express permission.



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

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



January 2006  
*White Bird*



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

**2005-06 OFFICERS & DIRECTORS:**

(941)

President	Paul Holmes '05	833-3337
Vice President	Carol MacDougall '07	629-9120
Secretary	Mary Ann Hughes '06	637-7855
Treasurer	Walt Williams '07	235-3352
Additional Directors:	Phyllis Doggett '06	575-4009
	Betty Talburt '06	766-0354
	Frank Walker '07	639-3879
	Jan Walker '07	639-3879

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 / RENEWAL**

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

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

To join National Audubon: Visit their web site: [www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org)