

Peace River Audubon Society

White Bird

December 2007 Volume 31, Issue 4
Sandy Artman, Editor
Dan Artman, Dispatcher



www.PeaceRiverAudubon.org

2007-08 OFFICERS & DIRECTORS:

		(941)
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Secretary	Mary Ann Hughes '08	637-7855
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Additional Directors:	Phyllis Cady '08	575-4009
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	Eleanor Marr '08	624-4182
	George Ruby '08	432-0174
	Sandy Artman '09	575-0651
	Cathy Olson '09	613-6753



Next Meeting: Thursday, December 13 at 5:30 PM
Speaker: Gil McAdams, PRAS

Our next meeting is **Thursday, December 13 at 5:30 pm at the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church** (2565 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte, just south of Midway Blvd). We will begin with a **PotLuck Dinner**. Please bring a potluck dish and help us conserve resources by bringing your own plate and utensils. Our speaker will be our very own Gil MacAdam. Previously Gil worked for Florida Parks. He was active in Broward County Audubon and Florida Audubon Society where he served as Chair of the Conservation Committee. He is currently a Habitat Steward with the National Wildlife Federation, promoting the concept of planting urban wildlife sanctuaries within residential areas. Three official NWF backyard habitats have been created at his places of residence in Florida. He will present a slideshow "**Planting a Refuge for Wildlife**" which will cover designing a backyard habitat as a sanctuary for attracting and observing birds and butterflies. He will show his old Ft Lauderdale yard where 91 species of birds were identified as well as his current De Soto county one-acre home site.

Next Walkabout: Tuesday, January 8 at 8AM
Cedar Point Environmental Center

The January walkabout will be held on the 2nd Tuesday of January, not the usual 1st Tuesday, which happens to be New Years Day. We will explore the trails at Cedar Point Environmental Center in Englewood. To get to Cedar Point, from Rt. 41 and 776 in Murdock, take route 776 15.2 miles to the intersection of 776 and CR 775 in Englewood. Turn left on County Rt. 775 (Placida Road) for one mile toward Placida. The park is on the right side of the road, opposite Lemon Bay High School. For further information, check out the CHEC web site at www.checflorida.org or call Eleanor Marr at 624-4182.



A Fun Day of Celebration

By Gregg Klowden, PRAS President

November 17 was the PRAS 30th Anniversary celebration in Ponce de Leon Park. About 50 of us gathered on this chilly morning for a day of exhilarating walks, engaging talks, and yummy

food. The PRAS board set up displays about our organization including a beautiful picture display by Mary Ann and a thought provoking display on conservation by Stu Lewis. Several people had a blast searching for sea critters on the wading trip led by Monica Dorken of CHEC and others enjoyed talks by JoAnna Kincaid of the Peace River Wildlife Center, Paul Holmes, and Gil MacAdam who had lots of beautiful plants to show us and also led a thoroughly enjoyable nature walk. If you missed Gil's talk, be sure to see his longer Landscaping for Wildlife talk at this months Potluck meeting. Thanks also to Dan Artman and Ray Cady for being the grill masters and to everyone who helped make this day happen. Also, thanks to Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program and Publix for their generous sponsorship.



PRAS Photo Group: Tuesday, January 8 at 8 AM
Cedar Point Environmental Center

The PRAS PHOTO GROUP will begin meeting in January, 2008. Three kinds of activities are planned as follows:
Photo shoot – 2nd Tuesday AM – local photo opportunities
Photo safari – same time and place as the PRAS 3rd Saturday Field Trip, though we will not necessarily stay with the group.
Meeting – 4th Tuesday PM – We will share photos, from our group trips as well as others you may wish to show. Discussion of techniques and equipment will provide a learning opportunity for everyone. Time and place to be announced later.

Our first activity will be a photo shoot on Tuesday January 8 at 8 AM at the Cedar Point Environmental Center in Englewood where we will join the Walkabout group.

20 years of the Christmas Bird Count

The Christmas Bird Count is rapidly approaching. Don't miss out on all the fun.

The Bird Count Needs YOU!!

Our 20th Christmas Bird Count is on December 15. Unfortunately several route leaders are unable to participate this year leaving several gaps. Birders of all skill levels are welcome. Novice birders will be paired with more advanced birders for the 108th National Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count. Contact Tony Licata (941) 505- 9775 or xmas@PeaceRiverAudubon.org.



Volunteers Needed

Our activities could not happen without the generous help of volunteers. Please consider serving on the PRAS board or helping with one of our many activities. We need help on our conservation, banquet & fundraising committees and with our....

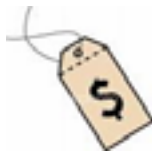
Website

Gregg Klowden has been the webmaster but with his other duties as President can not continue as webmaster. Without a webmaster this site has begun to slip into disrepair. Please volunteer your time to help upkeep and perhaps enhance our site. Gregg has the necessary software and can provide some basic training.

If you would like to help out please contact Gregg Klowden (941-613-6753 or president@PeaceRiverAudubon.org)

PRAS Garage Sale to benefit CHEC

PRAS will be hosting a garage sale in January to benefit the Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center. Please look around your house for items you no longer want and donate them for our sale. Items may be dropped off at Cathy & Gregg's house (1522 Dewitt St, Port Charlotte) or call us (613-6753) and we can pick up your items. Thanks to those who have already donated items!

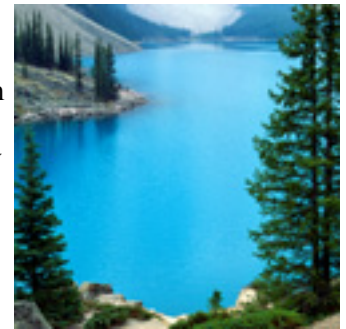


Volunteer of the Month Ginny Diehm

Congratulations to Ginny Diehm who is our volunteer of the month. When Ginny moved into the area last year she contacted Audubon and asked how she could be of help to our local group. Since then, she has been a member of the hospitality committee. Ginny has often donated items for our monthly meetings. She helps set up the refreshment table and greets members when they arrive. The best thing about Ginny is that she is one of those people who always agree to help out when asked. It is members like Ginny who make organizations like ours able to function as an important part of the community.

Conserve and Save Part II by Stu Lewis, PRAS Vice President

Charlotte County is facing real water supply problems in order to keep up with on-going development and the current drought. We need to speak out about slowing down the rate of growth. Growth should only be allowed if new sources of water are available to supply the projected development. The news is full of reports of southeast areas that are running out of water during the current drought. The obvious answer is for everyone to use less water. We need to tell our representatives that we need a meaningful water conservation program that factors in the projected growth rate.



The following are some things you can do to conserve water:

Stop Wasting Water

- *Install a low-flow shower head and save 1 to 3 gallons of water per minute.
- *Install faucet aerators to reduce water flow.
- *Do shorter showers and shower instead of a bath. Set a goal of a 4 minute shower.
- *Run full loads in your clothes and dish washer. For added energy savings use cold water for your clothes and air-dry your dishes.
- *Sometimes forget to flush -save 4 gallons of water "per memory lapse".
- *Toilet flappers that adjust flush volume with a moveable float can be found in hardware stores, etc. and fit most toilets. Another way to reduce the amount of flush water is to put a half gallon plastic bottle filled with water in your tanks. You'd save a half gallon per flush or about 2000 gallons per year!
- *For kitchen chores that demand using a steady stream of water, go with a trickle! - not a torrent. Restrict your flow to the width of a drinking straw and save up to a gallon of water per minute.
- *Turn water off while doing things that don't require a steady stream, such as brushing your teeth, shaving, etc.
- *Treat your car to a car wash. By using a commercial car wash, save up to 100 gallons of water per wash. Some reclaim their water.
- *Do your outdoor watering in the early morning or later evening to minimize evaporation.



**Myakka River Kayak/ Canoe Trip
January 12, 2008
RESERVATIONS REQUIRED**

PRAS is sponsoring a kayak trip down the Myakka River on Saturday, January 12, 2008. Kayak rental is \$25. If you use your own kayak it is \$5. This is an easy 2 hour paddle and a good one for beginners as it will be entirely in the park through some nice water bird country. We will put in at the upper lake, paddle down the Myakka and take out where we met in the a.m. PRAS members have first dibs on the kayaks, but if you have friends who wish to come and there are open slots, they are most welcome. It should be a fun trip - I've done several trips with Jon and he does a nice job. For more details and to register please contact Mike Krzyzkowski at (941) 812- 0764 or by email at mkrzyzk@embarqmail.

Phosphate Mining by Gregg Klowden, President

Your board has continued to promote a sensible outcome to the phosphate mining issue. We have continued to stand by the position held by past PRAS boards for 30 years that protecting our rivers and wildlife from this damaging practice is critical to protecting our quality of life, wildlife, tourism and sport fishing industries, and water supply. We have recently written a letter and signed onto two joint organization letters urging the Charlotte county commissioners to continue their work and not kowtow to Mosaic fertilizer's urging of a quick and unjust settlement. Despite the steadfast resolve by Commissioner Cummings, the Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners voted to sign the agreement with Mosaic. Fortunately, the Sarasota Commissioners have more forethought and did not sign and hopefully Lee County will also not sign. This would mean that we could still work to resolve this issue in the best way possible. Stay tuned for more on this evolving issue.

.Babcock Ranch Public Meetings

Gregg Klowden, Stu Lewis, and several other PRAS members attended the public meeting to comment on the management plan for the recently created Babcock Ranch Preserve. Thanks to all who attended. The crowd was relatively small and the participation of PRAS members may have been important. For more details on the management plan visit www.babcockcmp.org.

A hearty welcome to the following new members.

Natalie Reach	Mr. James E. Jacobs
Mr. Phil Elliot	Ms. Beverly Jaycox
Mr. Bill French	Mr. Charles L. Meyers
Ms. Kay Chinn	Ms. Bernice W. Walker
Mr. Dorian Casemore	Ms. Carla Hagen
Ms. Catherine Withee	Mr. Richard Bloom
Mr. George G. Maiville	Ms. Samantha Heine
Mr. William Armitage	Ms. Gail M. Hammond

Speaker Schedule

December 13: POTLUCK with Gil MacAdam - Gardening For Wildlife
January 17 : Tony Licata - Christmas Bird Count results
February 21: Pascha Donaldson - Burrowing Owls
March 20: Annual Banquet, silent auction and photo contest
April 17: Missy Christie - Sea Turtles & Shorebirds
May 15 : Members night: PRAS members present slides

Field Trips and Walkabouts

December 15: *Field Trip*: Christmas Bird Count
Contact Tony Licata 941-505-4775
January 8: *Walkabout*: Cedar Point Environmental Park
Eleanor Marr 941-624-4182
January 19: *Field Trip*: Laurel Road Landfill & Carlton Reserve
Stu & Louise Lewis 941-235-2590 (North carpool)
February 5: *Walkabout*: Lemon Bay Park
Stu & Louise Lewis 941-235-2590
February 16: *Field Trip*: Station # 5 Stormwater Treatment Area
Eleanor Marr 941-624-4182 (East carpool location)
March 4: *Walkabout*: Hathaway Park
Eleanor Marr 941-624-4182
March 15: *Field Trip*: Babcock Ranch Preserve
Paul Holmes 941-833-3337 (East carpool location)
April 1: *Walkabout*: Audubon-Pennington Park
Dave Lancaster 941-625-0979
April 13: *Shorebird identification* at Bunche Beach
Kevin Edwards (South carpool location)
April 19: *Field Trip*: Corkscrew Swamp
Eleanor Marr 941-624-4182 (South carpool location)
May 6: *Walkabout*: Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center
Phyllis Cady 941-575-4009
May 17: *Field Trip*: Fish-Eating Creek
Mike Krzyzkowski 941-812-0764 (East carpool location)

***For Walkabouts: meet at the park entrance at 8 AM ***

*For Field Trips meet at designated place (*see below)
at 7 AM unless otherwise noted

Carpool locations:

North: Peachland Mall:24133 Peachland Blvd., Pt Charlotte
East: Winn Dixie lot: 27680 Bermont Road, Punta Gorda
South: Sweet Bay lot: 10175 Tamiami Trail, Punta Gorda

November Walkabout Report by Don Yuoso

On a beautiful, sunny fall morning there were 13 participants for the November walkabout at Kiwanis Park. Although there were not a large number of birds, we saw and heard a total of 23 species, including Palm and Yellow Warblers, and one Eastern Phoebe. The group also saw a number of Turkey Vultures drifting by, not in the typical kettle pattern of vultures, and there was speculation and discussion about whether those Vultures may have been migrating back to Florida. Perhaps the best sighting of the day was a cooperative pair of Pileated Woodpeckers that provided wonderful extended views of these beautiful birds. This was the best photo op of the day.

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

Non-profit Organization
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Check the "Exp" date on your address label!
"1208" means your PRAS and/or National membership expires December 2008. To save the cost of sending reminders, **please** use the application below to renew your membership. If you have questions please call Phyllis Cady at 575-4009 or send an email to: membership@peacriveraudubon.org



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

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.

Electronic White Bird: If you would like to receive the White Bird via e-mail, please send a request to : whitebird@peacriveraudubon.org

Bird of the Month: Wild Turkey (Meleagris gallopavo)
by Cathy Olson, PRAS Board member

The wild turkey predominantly occurs in the east and central portions of North and Central America. Populations plummeted in the 19th and early 20th century, because of over hunting and habitat loss, but reintroductions allowed local populations to rebound making the wild turkey is a conservation success story. Here in Florida, turkeys are usually found in cypress swamps, oak hammocks and pastures where they feed on acorns, nuts, seeds, fruits, fern fronds, insects and small lizards. Like other birds, they group up in large flocks during the winter. Hens will often group together with their broods, forming groups of 30 or more. The domestic turkey and muscovy duck are the only domestic birds to originate from wild birds in the Americas.



Peace River Audubon Society Membership Application / Renewal

Join us for some fun and birding. Help protect the air we breathe, the water we drink, & the wildlife we love...help us protect Florida.

New Membership
 Renewal

Chapter Code: **E14-7XCH**

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

- \$10 Local Audubon Membership Only
Includes the "White Bird" newsletter with local news articles, local meetings, field trips, bird walks, & special events.
- \$20 Local and National Audubon
Includes all of the above plus National Audubon magazine.
- Additional Gift for PRAS
Please help PRAS continue our educational and conservation programs with a tax deductible contribution.

MAIL CHECK WITH THIS FORM TO:
PRAS, PO box 510760, Punta Gorda, FL 33951-0760

Total Enclosed \$ _____