

# White Bird

May 2008 Volume 31, Issue 9

Sandy Artman, Editor

Dan Artman, Dispatcher



www.PeaceRiverAudubon.org

## 2007-08 OFFICERS & DIRECTORS:

President	Gregg Klowden '08	941-613-6753
Vice President	Stu Lewis '09	941-235-2590
Secretary	Mary Ann Hughes '08	941-637-7855
Treasurer	Walt Williams '09	941-235-3352
Additional Directors:	Phyllis Cady '08	941-575-4009
	Mike Krzyzkowski '08	863-244-2652
	Eleanor Marr '08	941-624-4182
	George Ruby '08	941-423-0174
	Sandy Artman '09	941-575-0651
	Cathy Olson '09	941-613-6753

### Next Meeting May 15 at 6:30 PM Annual Member's Meeting

Please be sure to attend our May 15th member's meeting. The program will begin with the election of the PRAS 2008-2009 Board of Directors. The slate of directors to be presented will include newly proposed directors Dave Lancaster, Don Youso, and Starr Zachritz and second term directors Gregg Klowden, Mike Krzyzkowski, Eleanor Marr, and George Ruby. The slate of Officers you will be presented with will include Gregg Klowden for President, Stu Lewis for Vicepresident, Walt Williams for Treasurer, and Sandy Artman for Secretary. Of course we will be taking additional nominations from the floor and encourage (and really NEED) you to volunteer for the PRAS Board.

Following elections, we will turn the floor over to YOU our member's for show and tell. We already have a few short dvd submissions that are sure to wow us all. We encourage you to bring along your digital photos or presentations on flash drive, cd, or dvd. If you would like to show slides that require a slide projector be sure to call Gregg (613-6753) and he will bring it along. You can also bring along prints to display on tables. Of course our Annual Member's Meeting is not limited to photo presentations. For example, if you have an environmental issue to discuss, want to tap dance your very own mini-version of Swan Lake, or play Free Bird on your accordion, that is also encouraged. The point is to have fun, fun, fun.



### President's Message By Gregg Klowden

Well the PRAS 2007-2008 season is coming to an end and I can't thank you enough for the honor and privilege of letting me represent you. The last few months have been a flurry of activity and I want to thank the PRAS Board of Directors for making this wonderful year possible. And a big thanks to our other volunteers for helping make our programs, walks, and events a great success. It really has been fun for me and hopefully for you too. Unfortunately Phyllis Cady and Mary Ann Hughes' terms have expired and they will be leaving the Board. I hope you will join me in thanking them for their years of service to PRAS and our community. Luckily for us they will not be going far and have volunteered to continue assisting PRAS in some of its endeavors. However, one of Phyllis' duties that has yet to be covered is the Hospitality Committee chair. We really need a volunteer(s) to request people to bring refreshments to each meeting, make sure our meeting store is open, and to make sure the name tags are up to date. Please contact me at 613-6753 or Phyllis at 575-4009 or we may have a lot of rumbling tummys next year and I'll have to refer to some of you as "hey you" since there won't be any tags to remind me of names. Seriously, we need the help so please give us a call.



### Birdathon 2008 Report by Cathy Olson

According to the weather report, April 5 was going to be a wet, miserable day. WRONG! Not only did the weather cooperate, but the 15 participants had lots of fun. Four teams scoured the county to find as many species as possible by 4 PM. Although we could start wherever we wanted, all teams met before dawn at Babcock Webb Cluster 1 to score Red-cockaded Woodpeckers. Our paths did not cross often after that as each team had its own itinerary. We met at Bayshore Linear Park at 5 PM to share Pizza and results. 117 species were seen by at least one team. Team Bird Men (Dave Lancaster, Don Youso, Tony Licata, Tom Zinneman) found the most species, 92. Each team found species no other had found. The biggest surprise of the day was that only one team found hawks – any hawks. Team Archaeopteryx (Cathy Olson, Gregg Klowden) brought in the most money. Over \$1400 was raised for the new PRAS Environmental Scholarship Fund. Photojournalist Kharli Rose, accompanying Olson and Klowden, wrote us up in a half page article with color pictures in the Charlotte Sun-Herald April 16 edition. Next year, why don't YOU participate?

One last thing I want to celebrate from this year is the establishment of the Peace River Audubon Society College Scholarship Fund. Thanks to a generous \$5,000 bequest by deceased member LaDonna Kennedy, the PRAS board has had the foresight to establish an endowed fund to support an advanced college undergraduate environmental studies major residing in Charlotte or Desoto Counties. Happily, our Birdathon fundraiser just added another \$1,400 to this fund making us just over 20% of the way to our \$30,000 goal from which the interest is planned to support yearly scholarships. If you would like to donate to this fund please contact our Treasurer Walt Williams at 235-3352. If you would like to take advantage of the tax benefits for planned giving options by leaving a legacy through a bequest in your Will or through a gift annuity in yours or someone else's memory please contact your attorney or financial advisor. Your gift will support our work while meeting your own personal needs for income, retirement planning, and tax savings.

Thanks again for a wonderful year, have a great summer and I look forward to seeing you in the Fall.

## May Field Trip—FishEating Creek by Mike Krzyzkowski

Please join the Peace River Audubon Society for a field trip to Fish Eating Creek Wildlife Management Area in Glades County on May 17<sup>th</sup>. Jim Bonk and I walked this area on April 28<sup>th</sup> starting at the recreation area in Palmdale off Route 27 and were impressed by the pristine nature of the preserve. We are in the dry season presently with very low water levels upstream or east of route 27. We also walked the preserve just west of route 27 where the water level was higher and the usual walking path was under water. Depending on the water level the week of the field trip we will decide which way to walk. The paths to the creek are not mowed and go through some interesting country so be sure to wear long pants. The creek upstream and to the east of 27 is about a ½ mile walk and to the west about the same distance.

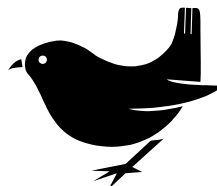
The creek upstream of the recreation area would make a wonderful canoe/kayak trip in the fall when the water level is higher and canoe rental with a livery service can be arranged through the recreation area for a \$20 fee. Perhaps we can arrange a trip there in the fall if there is sufficient interest.



Be sure to bring adequate water, sunblock, lunch and insect repellent as there are mosquitoes. We will meet at the Winn Dixie parking lot at the corner of Rte. 17 and Bermont Road in Punta Gorda at 6:45 am and leave via car pool at 7am. There is a \$2 fee per person at the camp office. For more information contact Mike Krzyzkowski at 863-244-2652 (cell) or 863-494-0196 (home).

## Corkscrew Swamp April Field Trip Report by Eleanor Marr

That Saturday was sunny and not too hot. Eighteen of us walked the boardwalks at Corkscrew, quite a few of them photographers. Extreme drought conditions and a slow spring migration made birding not up to usual expectations. In fact, only 30 species were seen. Corkscrew is always beautiful, however, and always worth the trip. We were greeted by a symphony of song from very loud Carolina Wrens, White-eyed Vireos, and Cardinals. Later, Great Crested Flycatchers, Red-shouldered Hawks, Tufted Titmice and Northern Parulas joined in. We got good looks at most of these. Even the elusive Carolina Wren almost always puts on a show at Corkscrew. Notably absent were the wading birds. Special treats included several Swallow-tailed Kite sightings, Black-throated Blue Warbler, and of course Painted Bunting. A female put on a show at the bird feeder, and a lucky few saw a male “in the wild”, far from that feeder. After lunch, many folks went back for more.



## Volunteer of the Month Starr Zachritz

Congratulations to Starr Zachritz who is our volunteer of the month. After recently discovering and joining PRAS, Starr jumped right in by volunteering to make the centerpieces for our Evening With Audubon Banquet and fundraiser. Her beautiful and thoughtful centerpieces lit up the room and were admired by all. In addition, Starr donated some of her exquisite handmade jewelry for our Silent Auction. Despite being a brand new PRAS member, Starr has now volunteered to be on the PRAS Board of Directors. Please help me in celebrating our new bright Starr (ok a bad pun that I'm sure she's heard a million times) and honor her and our other dedicated volunteers' service to our community over the past 31 years by also volunteering for the PRAS Board or in any other way (contact Gregg at 613-6753 or [President1@PeaceRiverAudubon.org](mailto:President1@PeaceRiverAudubon.org)).



## Photography Group Report by Bill Marr

The photography group had its final meeting of 2008. The last photo shoot was held at Port Charlotte Beach complex after which they went to the Wachovia Bank parking lot on 41 near Olean to photograph the Great-horned Owl chicks. Several from the group participated in the Corkscrew Swamp field trip outing as well. The group will next meet in January 2009. Plans for next season include producing a slide show to present at a PRAS meeting. Look for information in future White Birds.



## April Walkabout Report by Dave Lancaster

A friendly group of about 20 people including 3 from the Charlotte County Natural Resources Group and Joe the Scrub Jay expert showed up for the Tippecanoe II-Scrub Jay Mitigation walkabout on Tuesday, 1st April.



It was a nice morning and we first encountered a couple of mixed flocks of warblers. Then the scrub jays soon greeted us in their friendly matter. The red-headed woodpeckers were busy as usual, flying back and forth. The other woodpeckers we encountered were downy, pileated, red bellied and a flicker. Birds also seen were eastern towhee, brown thrasher, catbird and the great crested flycatcher. Several people also saw the northern bob-whites rush by. We had a total of 25 species. By 10AM the sun was warm and it was time to leave and let the birds rest.

Everybody enjoyed the walk and the new trail and information signs that the Natural Resources Group has installed in the Scrub Jay Preserve.

## Conservation Report - by Gregg Klowden

Florida Forever - Happily this conservation land buying program will be funded in 2009 at last year's \$300 million level. But, millions of Florida Communities Trust's (FCT) funds for community parks and greenways acquisition will be moved to the new Working Waterfronts Program that hopes to reduce over-development by protecting working and historic commercial waterfront properties. Also, the great news is Florida Forever was renewed until 2020. But, at \$300 million yearly, funding is well below the \$900 million sought to keep up with Florida's rapid growth.

Everglades Restoration - Happily, 2009 Everglades restoration funding has been approved. But, at \$50 million, this is 1/4 of recent years. Also, the federal government has only contributed about \$360 million of the \$2.4 billion it was supposed to match.

Fertilizer Bill - Happily, the portion of this state bill that prevented local governments from passing stronger fertilizer ordinances than the state was deleted. But, local governments adopting their own stronger fertilizer bills must now prove why they need their own.

Mining Bill - Two state bills that would have preempted local government choice about rock mining within their borders were defeated. One would have prevented local governments from enforcing laws that prevented excavation of limerock on lands where mining was permissible on March 1, 2007. The second would have allowed permitting agencies to expedite the environmental permitting process for rock mines. Currently, Charlotte County has about 90 active or pending mine permits.

Conservation Charlotte - Some of the Charlotte Commissioners' (BCC) misguided decisions resulted in wasting your Conservation Charlotte land acquisition funds. First, the BCC wasted funds to pay for Buck Creek, a property already owned by the county prior to the Conservation Charlotte program. Second, the BCC voted to purchase Ryal's Ranch, which was all but set to be a mitigation bank for scrub-jays operated by private business. Buck Creek was already preserved and Ryal's Ranch nearly preserved without spending a dime of Conservation Charlotte funds. These two debacles mean that few funds remain for additional purchases and that the best opportunity to purchase land to complete a critical wildlife corridor between the Babcock-Webb and Shell Creek has been lost.

TogetherGreen - TogetherGreen is a new conservation initiative of National Audubon, supported by \$20 million from Toyota. The goals of the program are to nurture conservation leaders, achieve conservation results, and engage millions of Americans in conservation action. Grants will go to Audubon organizations for conservation programs as well training and assistance to conservation leaders. More info will be available at <http://www.togethergreen.org>.

## Upcoming Events

May 15 : Members night: PRAS members present slides  
May 17: *Field Trip*: Fish-Eating Creek  
Mike Krzyzkowski 863-244-2652 (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

## Shell Creek Preserve Dedication by Gregg Klowden



Eight of us came out on April 14th to take in Charlotte County's newest birding opportunity, Shell Creek Preserve. This preserve, located off Washington Loop about 2 miles upriver from Hathaway Park, was the first purchase using Conservation Charlotte tax dollars. This one was a great choice. We were excited to be invited by the Charlotte County Natural Resources Division to take part in the dedication of this park. Prior to the dedication ceremony, we saw 35 species with highlights including nesting pilliated woodpeckers, a swallow tailed kite, purple gallinule, and a limpkin waving at us from atop a short tree. Right now without climbing a fence, access is only by paddling from Hathaway Park. A walk-through gate is planned for the near future. This "surprise" walk was announced to those who were signed up for either our Nature Alert or PRAS Updates email lists. If you would like to be made aware of future "surprise" trips, be sure to visit our webpage and sign up.

## Fund Raising Committee



PRAS is seeking people to serve on its fundraising committee. Whether you are an experienced fundraiser or not, please consider helping PRAS achieve its conservation and education goals. Please contact Gregg Klowden at 613-6753.



## Welcome to New Members

# WELCOME

Mr. Steven Bistline  
Ms. Beverly Webster  
Ms. Joanie Kemsley  
Mr. Robert F. Hendricks  
Ms. Doris Dallain  
Ms. Mary Hoyte  
Ms. Starr Zachritz  
Ms. Colette Moore  
Ms. Miriam L. Davies  
Mr. Louis Roberts

Gordon & Cheryl Fogg  
Mr. & Mrs. Fred Ryner  
Gerald & Carol Nolan  
Ms. Charlotte Wharton  
Ms. Sharon Light  
Ms. Pamela Butt  
Ms. Martha Woods  
Mr. Gary Krajnik  
Mr. Gerald Larson  
Denny & Susan Galvin  
Terri Moore

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



May 2008  
*White Bird*

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: [membership1@peacriveraudubon.org](mailto:membership1@peacriveraudubon.org)



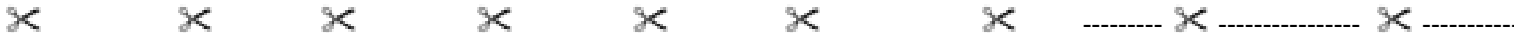
Printed on Recycled Paper  
C & R Graphics (folding donated)

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 : [whitebird1@peacriveraudubon.org](mailto:whitebird1@peacriveraudubon.org)

Bird of the Month: Blackpoll Warbler (*Dendroica striata*)  
by Cathy Olson, PRAS Board member

The blackpoll warbler is a fairly common spring migrant in Florida. This active warbler has one of the highest pitched songs of all birds. During the breeding season, the male has a distinctive black cap and moustache and a white check patch and throat, similar in appearance to a chickadee. Both sexes are brownish black with streaks and two strong wing bars. During the fall, their plumage is a less contrasting greenish brown, and they are easily confused with pine warblers, except for their bright yellow-orange legs and feet. To get to their northern breeding grounds in northern North America, the blackpoll warbler bulks up, nearly doubling it's mass before leaving South America for their migration. The migration can be as long as 1,864 miles and can be accomplished in an 88 hour nonstop flight over open water!



## 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: \_\_\_\_\_

- \$20 Local Audubon Membership Only  
Includes the "White Bird" newsletter with local news articles, local meetings, field trips, bird walks, & special events.  
All proceeds stay within local chapter
- \$20 Local and National Audubon (new members only, renewals \$35)  
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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_