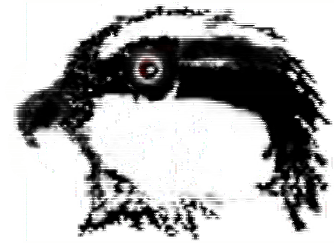


# FLYWAYS



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NEWSLETTER OF AUDUBON OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA, INC.

September 4, 2006

## President's Message

Wow, what a summer. The last couple of summers were spent dodging hurricanes and doing battle with insurance people. This summer the battles were on the legislative and political front. Seems appropriate for an election year. The big success of course, is the transfer of some 74,000 acres of the Babcock Ranch to the public. What an environment treasure that is. Those legislators and bureaucrats who made this possible deserve our thanks. On the federal front, thanks to the efforts of our Washington delegation, we finally got funding for some of the \$10 billion-plus Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) projects necessary to protect and restore Lake Okeechobee and the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie estuaries. Work has actually begun.

Audubon has been instrumental in both of these projects and is taking the lead in offering ideas to modify CERP, based on science rather than special interests, to provide greater protection to the estuary and coastal watersheds. A deal has finally been brokered to provide protection for our beaches while tapping the energy reserves of the Gulf. We all know what an improvement it was to switch the FP&L power plant in Ft. Myers from oil barged up the Caloosahatchee – an ecological disaster that was waiting to happen – to gas. New reserves of natural gas in the Gulf offer hope of an economically feasible replacement of some of the old coal- and oil-fired power plants now polluting our environment.

This is an election year. I urge all of you to become informed voters. Get the candidates on the record on important local and national environmental issues and examine the record of the incumbents. Then register and vote. You can make a difference. Growth and water management are huge issues. We need your support to make all new developments, not only the one on Babcock, as “green” as possible. (One of the people working on the Kitson project has told me the goal is an ecologically friendly “dark green,” a prototype for future developments. There will be many in Florida.) We need public support to allow the county commissioners to make the hard choices on what, if any, development and industry is appropriate in the sections east of I-75 near Corkscrew known as the DR/GR, Density Reduction/Groundwater Resource areas. We need support to force the Corps of Engineers and Water Management bureaucracy to be responsive to the needs of the people on the coasts as well as in the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA).

## Audubon Assembly 2006 October 19 to 21 • Cocoa Beach

Join Audubon of Florida at the Beach! Enjoy programs and birding outings, and learn about issues important to you. Visit [www.audubonofflorida.org](http://www.audubonofflorida.org) for registration information.

The Annual membership Meeting of the Florida Audubon Society will be held at the **Holiday Inn Cocoa Beach Oceanfront Resort** at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 21, 2006, in conjunction with the annual Assembly of Audubon of Florida being held there October 19 to 21, 2006. The meeting agenda will be to receive a financial report and hear any comments of the membership to the board of Directors. A Meeting of the Board will follow immediately upon the conclusion of the Membership Meeting.

### *president's message continued*

We need continued support for land acquisition programs for green space, the Conservation 20/20 program in Lee County and the state's Florida Forever Program. In an election year, cutting taxes and programs is always popular, but some programs are vital to protect our eco-system and deserve to be supported with our tax monies. We need elected representatives willing to stand up to special interests and vote for protection of the wildlife and habitat necessary for our quality of life. Tell the candidates what is important to you.

Audubon will continue to work to protect the ecosystems of SW Florida but we need your support to implement our conservation priorities: 1) funding of CERP and estuary recovery plans; 2) protection of our sea grasses and marine habitats, 3) unfettered access to public lands and waters; 4) addressing the energy crisis (conservation helps but is not enough); 5) support for “Smart Growth” (there will be growth) and 6) supporting the professional management of public lands and waters through regulations based on science. Full details of these positions and links to additional information are available on your website. [www.AudubonSWFL.org](http://www.AudubonSWFL.org). Get informed and make your voice heard.

See you at the polls, in the field, and on the water.  
Happy birding,  
Capt. Pete Quasius

## ASWF MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to protect plants, animals, and their habitats and to promote environmental education and a greater community involvement with the natural world

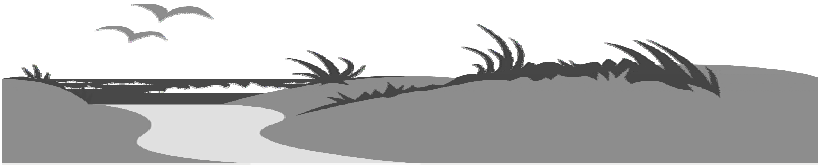
## HENDRY/GLADES AUDUBON FIELD TRIPS

Hendry-Glades Audubon will lead a public escorted birding tour/bird count at Stormwater Treatment Area 5 (STA-5) south of Clewiston in eastern Hendry County from **8:30 a.m. to noon** on the following dates:  
**2006:** Sept. 23, Oct. 14, Nov. 11, Nov. 25, Dec. 9, and Dec. 23  
**2007:** Jan. 13, Jan. 27, Feb. 3, Feb. 17, March 10, March 31 or Apr. 1, Apr. 14, Apr. 28, and May 12

All trips meet at STA5 or carpool from the LaBelle McDonald's at 7 a.m. or the Clewiston McDonald's at 7:45 a.m. We will be walking and driving on the STA5 levee.

To Register: Send an e-mail to Margaret England, at [sta5birding@earthlink.net](mailto:sta5birding@earthlink.net) with your name and contact information, including an emergency cell number and the number in your party. You may also leave a message at 863-674-0695 or 863-517-0202. Tours are subject to cancellation in case of inclement weather.

For an extensive list of "things to do in SW Florida, go to [www.audubonswfl.org/Calendar.htm](http://www.audubonswfl.org/Calendar.htm).



Audubon of SW Florida, through the Charles Foster Conservation Fund, is pleased to offer tuition scholarships for teachers and volunteer docents of environmental centers in Lee, Collier, Hendry and Glades counties for modules of the University of Florida's Master Naturalist Program , [www.masternaturalist.ifas.ufl.edu/](http://www.masternaturalist.ifas.ufl.edu/). The special project required of participant in the modules shall contribute to the mission of Audubon in a broad sense through education, restoration, or conservation that focuses on wildlife and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and Earth's biological diversity (e.g. bird house projects, shorebird conservation projects, endangered species projects) Submit applications by email to the chair of the Education Committee of Audubon SW Florida , Teri Heath, at [edu@audubonswfl.org](mailto:edu@audubonswfl.org) at least 60 days prior to the start of the class. Indicate which module you wish to attend and where, a brief resume, and your proposed Audubon project. For questions about the program or application contact Florida Master Naturalist and Audubon of Henry/Glades board member Margaret England [sta5birding@earthlink.net](mailto:sta5birding@earthlink.net)

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President..... Pete Quasius  
 Vice-President.....Vince McGrath  
 Secretary.....Christina Baker  
 Treasurer.....Kathie Zurich  
 Membership.....Maria Compagnone  
 Conservation.....Sharon Kuchinskas  
 Education .....Teri Heath (Chair)  
 .....Carl Veaux  
 FieldTrip..... DanVanNorman (Chair)  
 .....Laura Wewerka  
 .....Connie Langmann  
 .....Desiree Williams  
 Programs.....Vacant  
 Newsletter Editor.....Vince McGrath  
 Publishing /Distribution  
 .....Maria Compagnone  
 Hospitality..... June Huss  
 Message Center.....Christina Baker  
 Adopt-A-Beach.....Laura Wewerka  
 Birdathon.....Gerri Reaves  
 .....Dan Van Norman  
 Electronic Communication (web) -  
 .....Deb Hanson  
 Member Emeritus.....Frank Pirog

*A Gift That Keeps on Giving*  
Audubon of Southwest Florida

### CONSERVATION / EDUCATION FUND

For more on planned giving, call  
Kathy Zurich (239) 939-0640.

#### Recommended Books:

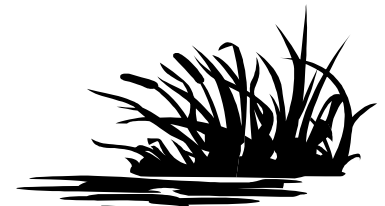
Brian Fagan in The Long Summer: How Climate Changed Civilization (Basic Books: New York, 2004)

Upcoming dates and events to watch for

Adopt-A-Beach schedule  
 Christmas Bird Count schedule  
 Birdathon 2007 Saturday, March 24, 2007



Audubon of Southwest Florida  
**MESSAGE CENTER**  
**(239) 339-8046**



# Membership Form- Audubon of SW Florida

Membership is open to any person interested in the educational, scientific, literary, historical and charitable pursuits of Audubon of SW Florida Chapter membership, E33, includes membership in the National Audubon Society and Audubon of Florida.

You will receive Audubon and Florida Naturalist magazines and get discounts at Audubon facilities with presentation of your membership card. Contributions to Audubon, a 501(c) (3) not-for-profit organization, are tax deductible to the extent allowed by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service. Value of Audubon magazines - \$15. A current Audubon promotion, 79N9, results in all new membership payments being returned to the chapter. Please consider joining for more than one year, saving all of us time and money! Please complete this form and send it with a check to:  
Audubon of Southwest Florida, Inc.  
Post Office Box 61041  
Fort Myers, Florida 33906-1041

Indicate if this is a gift membership and include a card or note which we will forward to the recipient with their first copy of the chapter newsletter - FLYWAYS.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax/cell: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

State & Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Website? Please consider establishing a link to <http://www.audubonswfl.org>

Affiliation (if any): Educational facility if student.

Special interests: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Dues (please circle)	One Year	Two years	Lifetime
Donations			
Students & Seniors (60 or older)	\$15	\$30	\$1000
Individuals	\$20	\$30	\$1000
Family (one magazine)	\$20	\$30	\$1500 (dual)
Organization (supporting member)	\$100		

Education Fund donation -scholarships \_\_\_\_\_

Conservation Fund donation - advocacy \_\_\_\_\_

Land Acquisitions Fund donation \_\_\_\_\_

Check our web site for details of governance, things to do, and birding information.

Some recent websites we have offered.

[www.crewtrust.org](http://www.crewtrust.org)                      [www.AmericanRivers.org](http://www.AmericanRivers.org)  
[www.birdsource.org/gbbc](http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc)            [www.CHNEP.org](http://www.CHNEP.org)  
[ccfriendsofwildlife.org](http://ccfriendsofwildlife.org)            [www.floridabirdingtrail.com](http://www.floridabirdingtrail.com)  
[caloosabirdclub.org](http://caloosabirdclub.org)            [http://wld.fwc.state.fl.us/wof/Default.htm](http://http://wld.fwc.state.fl.us/wof/Default.htm)  
[www.masternaturalist.ifas.ufl.edu/](http://www.masternaturalist.ifas.ufl.edu/)

## National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Community-Based Restoration Program

### Marine Debris Prevention and Removal Grants Deadline is October 30, 2006

Funds individual grass-roots marine debris prevention and removal projects that benefit coastal habitat like wetlands and coral reefs, as well as fisheries, marine mammals, sea turtles and waterways. Projects funded through the MDP have strong on-the-ground habitat components involving the removal of marine debris and derelict fishing gear that will provide educational and social benefits for people and their communities in addition to long-term ecological habitat improvements for NOAA trust resources. Proposals selected for funding through this solicitation will be implemented through a cooperative agreement. [http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/habitat/restoration/funding\\_opportunities/funding\\_ser.html](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/habitat/restoration/funding_opportunities/funding_ser.html)



Audubon of SW Florida Board meetings are held on third Thursday each month, August through May, at 7:00 PM. at the Lee County Parks and Recreation office at Rutenberg Community Park on South Pointe Blvd. near Cypress Lake Drive, in Ft. Myers. Audubon of SW Florida meetings are open to public and all Audubon members are invited to participate.

Join Audubon of Southwest Florida Today!

Be sure to indicate the chapter code E33 for the Audubon of Southwest Florida Chapter.

Contact info:

Audubon of Southwest Florida, Inc.

Post Office Box 61041

Fort Myers, Florida 33906-1041

Audubon of Southwest Florida [info@audubonswfl.org](mailto:info@audubonswfl.org)

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Help raise funds for ASWF simply by using Yahoo's Goodsearch when you're surfing the internet. Go to [goodsearch.com](http://goodsearch.com) and type in "Audubon of Southwest Florida" as your designated cause. ASWF will earn one cent for each search - not a lot, but it adds up.

**Please consider making a bequest to Audubon of SW Florida. Ask your layer to use the following language in your will:**

*I bequeath to Audubon of Southwest Florida, Inc, a not-for-profit organization located in Ft. Myers, Florida, \_\_\_\_\_% of my residuary estate for its programs in the state of Florida.*

Reminder Box

Our Chapter code is E33

Please call ahead for field trip to secure a space for you. All fees for our field trips and programs go to help us meet our operational expenses

**<http://www.audubonswfl.org/index.htm>**

# AUDUBON OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

Post Office Box 61041  
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## Program/Field Trip

### Hawkwatch at the Sanibel Lighthouse Park

**Sunday, September 24, 2006, 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM**

The Sanibel Lighthouse Park is known as the location to see hawks and other migrant birds that are heading south during this time of year. This will be a good opportunity to join Vince McGrath to search the skies for migrating raptors. Bring your binoculars. Cost is **\$5.00** per person. Space is limited, so sign up ahead of time. Call Dan VanNorman at 377-7381 for more information and reservations.

### Dinner Island

**Sunday, October 22, 2006, 7:30 AM**

Located just south of Devil's Garden along CR 833 in Hendry County, Dinner Island is a state wildlife management area that includes thirty-four square miles of pastures, prairies, sloughs, marshes, cypress domes, pine flatwoods and oak hammocks. We will follow the road through these communities and hike some of the trails. There is a good chance that we will see Marsh Hawks, Caracaras, Kestrels, Sandhill Cranes, Eastern Meadowlarks and White-tail Deer. We will carpool from the Calusa Nature Center.

**Meet at the Nature Center at 7:30 am and departure will be at 8:00 am.**

Bring your binoculars, water, and a picnic lunch. Cost is **\$5.00** per person.

Space is limited, so sign up ahead of time. For more information and reservations call Dan VanNorman at 337-7381.