



OCT. 16 PROGRAM
Mark Renz's presents
"Florida Time Forgot"

See page 8.

The mission of Audubon of Southwest Florida is to protect plants, animals, and their habitats and to promote environmental education and a greater community involvement with the natural world.

Audubon of Southwest Florida, Inc. is an affiliated chapter of the **National Audubon Society** and **Audubon of Florida.**

www.AudubonSWFL.org

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Cynthia Barnett to Speak at 11th Annual SWFCEE-ASWF ENVIRONMENTAL BREAKFAST

Cynthia Barnett, author of *Mirage: Florida and the Vanishing Water of the Eastern U.S.*, will speak at this year's Eco Breakfast, Oct. 23rd, organized by ASWF and the Southwest Florida Council for Environment Education (SWFCEE). This has evolved into the area's premier annual environmental networking event.

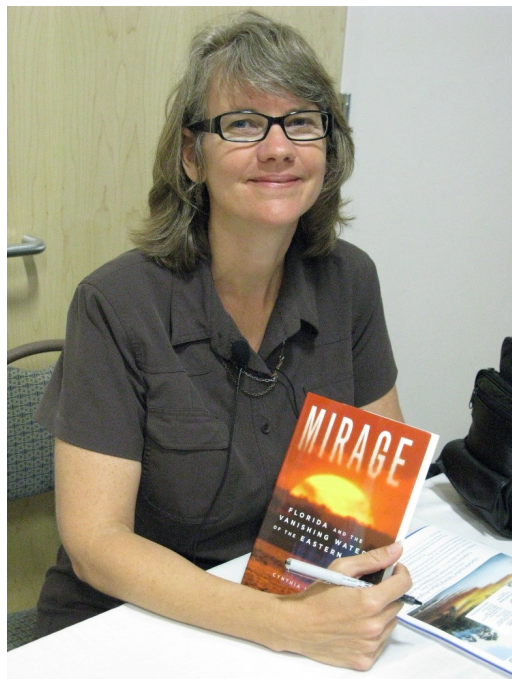


Photo of Cynthia Barnett by Dan Tudor

See page 2 for details.

Audubon of SW Florida's 2007 Conservationist of the Year

Vince McGrath accepted ASWF's 2007 Conservationist of the Year Award at May's Mangrove Gathering at Lee County's Eco Living Center at Rutenberg Park. A renowned birder in southwest Florida, he is active in the Calusa Bird Club, Lee County Bird Patrol's premier birder, and has organized and led birding trips for these and many other groups and organizations. As a naturalist at Captiva's South Seas Plantation and as a tireless volunteer, Vince has contributed greatly to environmental awareness and education. Vince has served our Audubon chapter for many years, most recently as President. We all thank him for his dedication and expertise!

Vince McGrath is presented the award by Dan Van Norman, friend and fellow ASWF chapter member



"Thank You" Ginny Cooper

Ginny is stepping down (temporarily, we hope) from the ASWF Board of Directors. We appreciate her community service and excellent work. We'll miss her! Have you seen the Audubon SWFL billboard at marker 140 on I-75? Ginny's work!

We wish her company, Divine Events, success and a safe return of her son from the war zone.!

Eco Breakfast, cont'

When: Thursday, Oct. 23, 7:00 – 9:00 a.m.

Where: Riverside Community Center,
3061 East Riverside Drive, east of downtown Fort Myers off SR 80/Palm Beach Blvd..

Reservations Required: RSVP by October 13, 2007 to Environmentalbreakfast@embarqmail.com.

A buffet breakfast will be served. Bring your own cup, or buy a ASWF mug for only \$5!

NEW LOGO FOR ASWF

*Our new chapter logo on the frontpage, based on artwork by Sadie Quasius, is designed by **Monica Garcia Saenz**. She is a published author, an experienced translator, a creative graphic designer and a talented marketing consultant. She is a dedicated and motivated business professional who is passionate about helping others and gives 100% of herself to every project she commits to. She has done so with her donation of time and talent to creating the Audubon of Southwest Florida logo by incorporating our original artwork, our organization's branded name and our current tagline, "**Protecting Nature...For People Too.**" For more information on Monica's services, log on to www.mgsdesignz.com, email Monica at mgsdesignz@gmail.com, or call her 239-673-7052.*

New ASWF Membership Card.

If you are a current member, your membership card would be attached here. Need a card?

Contact Members@AudubonSWFL.org

Join or renew your ASWF membership on our website. It's secure and easy!

An Audubon SWFL membership — includes Flyways, our chapter newsletter, the award-winning *Audubon Magazine*, *Florida Naturalist* and discount admissions at many conservation and eco-sites.

ASWF MEMBERSHIP PERKS

- 50% off admission at Audubon's Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary
- 50% off new memberships at Calusa Nature Center and Planetarium
- 2 for 1 walk-in Fossil Explorations with Mark Renz
- 15% off Babcock Wilderness Adventures, May through November
- 10% off rooms at the Clewiston Inn
- 10% off printing jobs at the Print Shop, North Fort Myers
- 10% off Bill Cox's wildlife photos.
- Informative speaker programs at the Eco Living Center at Rutenberg Park.
- Knowing you support an active scholarship and advocacy program in Southwest Florida.

Just show your membership card.

2008—2009 Outings & Field Trips – Lots More to Come

Six Mile Cypress Slough Guided Full-Moon Walk

Saturday, September 13 7:15 to 9 p.m.

Experience the Slough in a new "light" in this sensory guided walk around the boardwalk trail. Please do not bring flashlights or cameras with flashes. Binoculars for birdwatching prior to sunset are appropriate. However, bug spray might be necessary, depending on conditions that evening. Space is limited, so please confirm by September 1 by calling John Cassani at 239-633-7274.

Hawkwatch at the Sanibel Lighthouse Park

Sunday, October 12, 8 to 10 a.m.

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. Join Vince McGrath to search the skies for migrating raptors. Bring your binoculars. Space is limited, so sign up ahead of time. Call Vince McGrath at 677-0082 for more information and reservations.

Birding at Harns Marsh

Sunday, February 15, 2009, 8 to 10 a.m.

Harns Marsh in Lehigh Acres is a 378 acre man-made detention area at the headwaters of the Orange River. This site provides a good opportunity to see snail kites, limpkins, sandhill cranes, rails, ducks and different species of sparrows. We will meet at the Wal-Mart parking lot on the corner of Six Mile Cypress Parkway and Colonial Boulevard at 7 a.m. Bring your binoculars and water. For more information and reservations call Vince McGrath at 677-0082.

**For Most Outings: Space is limited and reservations are required.
Suggested donation is \$5 for Audubon members and \$10 for nonmembers.
Contact John Cassani at 239-633-7274.**

ASWF MEETING & PROGRAM LOCATION

PROGRAMS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.. EVENING PROGRAMS BEGIN AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE ECO LIVING CENTER IN RUTENBERG PARK (FORMER LIBRARY), 6490 SOUTH POINTE DRIVE (BETWEEN CYPRESS LAKES DRIVE AND COLLEGE PARKWAY). 3rd Thursday of the month.. Check the "Activities" calendar on the website..

Now available at meetings and events: ASWF coffee mugs and shopping bags. The bags are green and imprinted with "Audubon of Florida" and the chapter logo. They're a deal: \$3 each or two for \$5. Help to reduce the use of Styrofoam and plastic in style.

Planning Ahead

- **Audubon Assembly Oct. 24-25, 2008– Plantation Inn Resort in Crystal River. The Hernando and Citrus Audubon chapters and Ahhochee Hill Sanctuary are planning early bird activities beginning Oct. 22.**
- **Audubon Academy, March 27-29, 2009 at the FFA Facility in Haines City**

Vice-President's Message: A Day To Remember

By Carol Newcomb Jones

June 24th was the most memorable day yet serving as VP of ASWF...heck, it was the most memorable day I've had in a long, long time! The day before, news had spread that a grand announcement was going to be made about the Everglades at a Stormwater Treatment Area in West Palm Beach. Quickly sizing up my "carbon footprint" to drive there, it made perfect sense that I should go because I was also heading the same day to the second annual **Serve to Preserve Summit on Global Climate Change** in Miami.

My husband and I arrived at the announcement site just as the Governor's entourage came dashing in, and we ended up being part of his escort team as they helped the governor--on crutches--into the



Florida Gov. Crist at the signing of the plan to buy U.S. Sugar Corp.'s 187,000 acres. Photo by Carol Newcomb

staging area! Gov. Crist announced a plan to negotiate the purchase of 187,000 acres of land from the United States Sugar Corporation that will link Lake Okeechobee to the Everglades and enhance restoration efforts. Finally, good news!

Then back to the car to head to the Rod & Reel Club on Miami's ritzy Hibiscus Island to participate in "**Policies for Achieving Energy Security, Job Creation and the Rapid Deployment of Renewable Energy,**" co-sponsored by The Florida Wildlife Federation, the Environmental Defense Fund, and the Florida Solar Energy Industries Association. Then onto the Governor's

Climate Change Summit at the Intercontinental Miami. Later that evening, the Florida Marlins hosted the Tampa Bay Rays at Dolphin Stadium in **Florida's first-ever carbon neutral professional baseball game.**

The next morning, the Summit began with Gov. Crist signing House Bill 7135 at the opening breakfast, which puts Florida at the front of the national effort to reduce dependence on foreign oil and move toward domestic energy production. Many of the groundbreaking steps announced at last year's Summit by Executive Orders are now part of Florida law. Joining the Governor for the signing were bill sponsors, Senator Burt Saunders, Representative Stan Mayfield, and other members of the Florida legislature.

This year's Summit focused not only on the need to pursue alternative fuels for environmental reasons, but also for the economic benefits brought about by the infusion of green technologies. Prince Charles of the United Kingdom joined us via web conferencing as the luncheon speaker on day one. He spoke about how climate change is affecting the rainforests of the world.

On day two, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger left the wildfires in California to join Gov. Crist for a second year in a keynote luncheon speech and to receive the first-ever **Serve to Preserve Leadership Award** for his boldness on global climate change. At the closing ceremony, Gov. Crist seemed very pleased to sign a new public-private partnership, making Florida among the first states to join the **Alliance for Sustainable Air Transportation** that places a premium on energy conservation and air travel safety.

It takes some doing keeping up with our Governor but I'm glad I had the opportunity. I was heartened to hear first-hand what he has in store. As long as he keeps leading the good green charge, I'm there!

"Florida's businesses continue to demonstrate that there is gold in green, and climate-friendly energy sources are bringing new prospects for our state. Encouraging companies to do business the green way as well as building a strong market in renewable energy technologies in the Sunshine State will strengthen our energy and economic future and protect our natural environment for generations to come."

— Florida's Gov. Crist, **Serve to Preserve Summit on Global Climate Change**, June 2008

Meet Kelly Williamson, Naturalist & New ASWF Board Member

I am so thankful to have won the Audubon of Southwest Florida's Florida Master Naturalist Program (FMNP) scholarship. After taking the coastal module of the FMNP courses, I found that it really has provided extensive resources and hands-on experience that I can apply my work as an Education Naturalist at the Calusa Nature Center and Planetarium (CNCP). My hope is to use that experience in my work on ASWF's Education Committee. My FMNP training directly and positively affects the programs we offer at the CNCP) Pine flatwoods make up most of the center's 105-acre property. However, one of our three walking trails meanders above a freshwater pond. We regularly give guided walks through these areas. The Center is in the process of building a large touch tank to enhance education about coastal systems. We hold programs on-site, including home school, pre-school, day camps, adult workshops, and guided walks for people of all ages. CNCP staff members regularly take presentations on outreach programs for the community whose audiences include but are not limited to children (preschool – high school), local communities, churches, 4-H clubs, government offices, and summer camps. **CNCP is pleased to offer members of the Audubon of Southwest Florida a 50% discount on membership fees at CNCP.**



"I'm not sure which decision came first—choosing a career path where I get to play outside and get paid for it, or wanting to make a difference to this world through environmental education. I'm almost positive it was the latter."

Scholarships Offered by Audubon of Southwest Florida

Florida Gulf Coast University Tuition Scholarship
 Edison College Tuition, Books, and Fees Scholarship
 Cornell Home Study Birding Course Scholarship Program
 Florida Master Naturalist Program Tuition Scholarship Program
 American Ground Water Trust Institute for Teachers™

Just For Kids

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Summer Camps
 Ocala Outdoor Adventure Camp
 The Everglades Youth Conservation Camp

Go to www.audubonswfl.org/Scholarships.htm for more information.

Out & About With ASWF



Photos by Pete Quasius

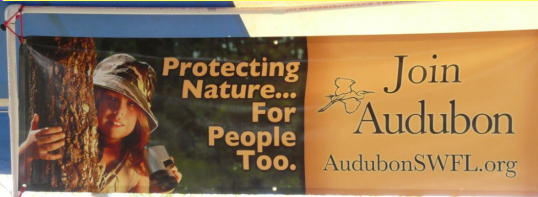
Earth Day at Koreshan 2008



ASWF's Program Chair - Dan Tudor



Bill Cox and Dan VanNorman



Dan Van Norman at Cape Coral's Burrowing Owl Festival (photo by Pete Quasius)



At ASWF's Annual meeting, **Ricky Pires of Wings of Hope and the Panther Posse accepts the chapter's \$1,000 donation** from VP Tony Miller (right). Donations to support the Panther Posse can be sent to ASWF's Charles Foster Conservation Fund or directly to the "Wings of Hope" Program. (l to r) State Senator Burt Saunders; David Green, ASWF Conservation Committee chairman; and Florida Panther (aka Lauren Sabani). Visit www.fgcu.edu/cas/wingsofhope for more information, or email rpres@fgcu.edu. (photo by Gerri Reeves)

Audubon 2008 Legislative Session Final Report

By Christine Andrews,

Chapter Representative Board Member, Audubon of Florida

Many thanks to our members for strong grassroots lobbying support through phone calls, meetings, letters and emails. Grassroots efforts in many ways made the difference.

Brief summary of results includes:

- Florida Forever — extended for 10 years. Special thanks to Sen. Burt Saunders.
- Clean Oceans Act — forces gambling vessels to treat rather than dump onboard sewage.
- Leah Schad Memorial Ocean Outfall Program — bans new ocean outfalls (partially treated sewage) and requires existing outfalls to first use advanced treatment and ultimately reuse water. This legislation was named after the late Leah Schad, longtime Audubon leader and board member.
- Everglades Bonds and Fl Keys Wastewater — extended the authority to use the sale of up to \$100 million per year in bonds for 10 years for Everglades restoration and adds funds for Keys wastewater program.
- Energy — requires electric power utilities to work with their customers to reduce demand through conservation. Also endorses a cap-and-trade program for green house gases and creates incentives for renewable energy.

Unfortunately, the Spring Protection bill did not pass; but fortunately, through the hard work of Audubon policy and grassroots chapter members, several bills that preempted local environmental, fertilizer, mining, and development laws also did not pass. Again, many thanks for your efforts.

Take action, join the Audubon of Florida Advocacy Center via the link on the Advocacy page of our website. www.AudubonSWFL.org.

For a listing of **ASWF's Board of Directors**, visit **Audubonswfl.org**

There you can contact board members, and get info on events, activities, advocacy issues, birding hotspots, and more. Or call ASWF at **239-339-8046**.

Audubon of Southwest Florida does not share or sell snail mail addresses or emails.

If you want to eliminate unsolicited email from the National Audubon Society, email Maria at members@AudubonSWFL and she will arrange to have your name removed from NAS mailing lists and prevent your name or address from being shared with other organizations.

Address correspondence concerning **Audubon magazine subscriptions and/or National Audubon Society membership** to PO Box 52504, Boulder, Co. 80322. Or call 800-274-4201.

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OCT. 16 PROGRAM:

**Mark Renz's new slide show ,
"Florida Time Forgot"**

Mark promises new photos, and possibly a few shots from his recent trip to the Peruvian desert to dig up 10 million year-old sharks, whales, dolphins and seals.

Visit www.floridatimeforgot.com for a preview, and don't miss this fascinating program!

The presentation will begin at 7 p.m. (See page 5 for location.)

FYI: Membership expiration date on the mailing label.

"Yes" on 4, the Conservation Land Amendment" On Nov. 4

Audubon of Southwest Florida has joined Audubon of Florida, the National Wildlife Federation, and The Nature Conservancy in endorsing Constitutional Amendment 4, the Conservation Land Amendment.

Private landowners protect and manage some of Florida's best wildlife habitat. Some have placed large parcels of land in permanent protected status with conservation easements. Others use their land primarily for the benefit of wildlife, water resources and outdoor recreation.

As Florida grows, valuable habitat is being converted to other uses. In many cases local property taxes lead people, who would otherwise manage their land for wildlife and water protection, to convert it to other uses.

To encourage private stewardship of wildlife habitat and water resources, Florida's leading conservation groups urged the Taxation and Budget Reform Commission to place an amendment on the November 2008 ballot to reduce the property tax burden on privately owned conservation land.

Amendment 4, if approved by 60% of the voters, will do two things:

- Give property tax exemptions for land placed in permanent protection.
- Direct the Legislature to pass a law to allow land managed for conservation to be taxed according to use.

Amendment 4 will benefit the Florida Panther, the Florida Black Bear, many bird species and special places such as the greater Everglades ecosystem, and will help protect our water supplies.

Amendment 4 holds great promise to supplement public land acquisition programs such as Florida Forever by providing incentives to private landowners to conserve their land and manage land for conservation purposes.