



Pelican Island Audubon Society

Peligrum

- founded in 1964 to serve Indian River County -

P.O. Box 1833, VERO BEACH, FL 32961 772-567-3520 www.PelicanIslandAudubon.org

Our 53rd Year Vol. 54 No. 5 May 2018

Our Mission: To preserve and protect the animals, plants, and natural communities, and the land and water on which they depend in Indian River County through education, advocacy, and public awareness.

May 14, 2018 ❖ 6:00 p.m.

Global Events That Touched Florida: From the Great Depression To The Cold War with Janie Gould

North Indian River County Library

1001 Sebastian Blvd. (CR 512), Sebastian

Explore Floridians' memories of U-boat attacks, German POWs, the Cold War, Cuban Missile Crisis, and more. Janie Gould uses excerpts from her Florida shows first heard on public radio station WQCS/88.9 FM, Fort Pierce. A fourth-generation Floridian living in Vero Beach, Janie Gould is a writer, editor, lecturer, and retired public radio journalist.

May 18, 2018 ❖ 9:00 a.m.

Florida Honeybees: Challenges & Solutions For Our Local Pollinators with Stuart Rowan

Audubon House

195 9th Street SE (Oslo Rd), Vero Beach

Stuart Rowan, President of the South Brevard Beekeepers, will be discussing our local bee populations and how you can become a beekeeper, right in your own backyard! Save the bees! An observation hive with real bees will be displayed.

May 21, 2018 ❖ 7:00 p.m.

Plants for Birds & Pollinators with Tim Harrison

plus a sale of native plants from Native Butterfly Flowers Nursery

Vero Beach Community Center

2266 14th Avenue, Vero Beach

Tim Harrison of Native Butterfly Flowers Nursery will discuss plants for birds & pollinators followed afterward by a sale of native plants.



Unbelievable

Unbelievable - Our Governments Are Ignoring Science! Our environment is in jeopardy at nearly all levels of government.

Unbelievably, Climate Change and/or Global Warming are words forbidden for use by folks at both the U.S. and Florida governmental levels. Many of our political leaders ignore science. For them, earth is still flat

and the sun still circles the earth!

Unbelievable that some say manatees destroy our seagrass! Get rid of them! Manatee chomping on or cropping of seagrasses actually makes the grass blades thrive, spread, and the new young blades are more nutritious. Cropping increases the seagrass beds, which in turn provide better habitats for juvenile fish and other organisms that are important for recreational and commercial fishing (see John Elliott Reynolds, 2017, Florida Manatees: Biology, Behavior, and Conservation, John Hopkins University Press).

Unbelievable - Human Poop or sewage sludge, now called "Biosolids" by governments, is spread over our food-producing lands (Agriculture)! According to a 2016 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") report, 53% of Florida's rivers, 82% of its lakes and reservoirs, and 32% of bays and estuaries are impaired by nitrogen and phosphorus. Of the 67 Florida counties, Indian River County ("IRC") has the third highest acreage of land application of biosolids per year, according to a 2013 Florida Department of Environmental Protection ("DEP") summary report. Yet, our own county safely disposes of our waste in the County landfill. So where do these biosolids come from? Over 8,200 tons (containing high concentrations of nitrogen, phosphorous and other contaminants) were permitted to be imported to Indian River County in 2016 and spread over four farms. **A biosolids regional summit is scheduled for June 8, 2018, 8:30 a.m. at the Indian River State College Chastain Campus, Wolf High-Technology Center, 2400 SE Salerno Road, Stuart,**

Unbelievable; continued on Page Two

Unbelievable; continued from Page One

FL 34997. Attend, learn, and speak out. Our beautiful Blue Cypress Lake is being harmed by this practice.

Unbelievable - Florida's legislature passed, and Gov. Scott signed, HB 7043., a bill to make it easier for developers to get their permits for denser housing developments in and around wetlands and conservation lands. Gov. Rick Scott's DEP wants to take over issuing Federal wetland permits so that developers can build and fill in wetlands faster. Takes too long for a Federal permit, they claim! He signed a bill to speed up this process. Under the Clean Water Act of 1972, the U.S. Corps of Engineers ("USCOE") is responsible for issuing permits to limit the damage to certain wetlands. The EPA was given veto power if bad permits got issued. During Gov. Scott's tenure, DEP has fired/not replaced more than 600 employees, the state's water management districts' funds have been slashed, and funding vetoed yearly for the regional planning councils (Tampa Times, 2018). How are they going to protect our diminishing wetlands?

We should be very concerned about Florida taking over control of federal Section 404 wetland permitting. Some years ago, the same tactic was successfully employed to give DEP authority to regulate the federal Safe Drinking Water Act. Now we see the results of allowing higher limits for chemicals in water in the steady degradation of our waterways.

The Spoonbill Marsh is an example of DEP allowing our county to experiment with dispersing brine and chemicals into the Indian River Lagoon against the approval of the USCOE and the National Marine Fisheries Service without an independent scientific organization to monitor. Hopefully, with your public comments, DEP will require IRC in their permit renewal to have an independent scientific monitor.

Unbelievable that nationally our Federal Clean Car Standards are being rolled back, contrary to what 90 percent of Americans want. Clean Car Standards set under the previous administration reduce air pollution, water pollution and climate pollution. It saves people money by making more efficient cars and that in turn reduces our dependence on oil and makes auto industries more innovative.

Unbelievable that EPA now wants to get rid of landmark scientific research data from the decision-making process. We need data that document conclusively the links between pollution and public health.

Unbelievable that we've reversed course to allow hundreds of coal power plants across the country, which burn close to a billion tons of coal each year. The toxic byproduct—coal ash—ends up in our air and water supply and has been linked to cancer, heart disease, stroke and brain damage. We should strengthen, not weaken, the Clean Air Act.

Unbelievable that the Trump Administration wants to turn our Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (where our migrant seabirds breed) into an oilfield. Instead, we need to keep moving forward with stringent fuel efficiency standards and greater use of alternative energy.

And even more Unbelievable that Florida's FRACKING BAN bill (HB 237/SB 462) failed because the Speaker of the House, Richard Corcoran, refused to allow a vote in the Florida House of Representatives. Why take a risk ruining our water supply when we are the "Sunshine State" with lots of sun and wind power!

Unbelievable that both the Feds and State have not restored the Everglades, three decades after committing to do so. They need to meet their 50-50 cost-share commitments.

Unbelievable that Bethel Creek and our Indian River Lagoon are polluted by fertilizers, septic tanks, and now broken sewage pipes. Let's get Homeowner Associations to advocate removing 50% of all lawn grass, plant native plants, and get on the county and city sewer and/or hybrid systems immediately. A key to the effectiveness of the ordinance is education of the public and providing tools that are readily available to help landowners design native landscapes. Single-family landowners need to be aware of the benefits of native landscaping, the types of native plants that are appropriate to their particular area, and the landscape practices they should use. The Moorings, formerly with one of the highest levels of Nitrogen, leads the way with many residents now removing sod and planting natives. Every house needs to plant one native tree.

We may lose 314 bird species, nearly half in the next 50 years. We can set an example in our county by planting the plants needed by our birds and butterflies if we want to help them from going extinct. Call on county and city leaders to make a plan to require and help fund a countywide sewage plan for all new developments to connect to it and prevent polluting runoff.

Unbelievable that we are misusing RoundUp (glyphosate) like we did DDT. Our bees are disappearing. Genetically engineered, herbicide-tolerant levels in corn, soybeans, canola, and alfalfa crops have increased the volume of glyphosate-based herbicides 100-fold. The World Health Organization ("WHO") recently concluded glyphosate is found in our food and is "probably carcinogenic to humans" (J.P. Myers, et al., 2016 Environmental Health 15:19). We need to stop applying RoundUp and its related chemicals to our lawns, fields, canals, and waterways.

Unbelievable that there are 67 Environmental Rules on the Way Out Under Trump (<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/10/05/climate/trump-environment-rules-reversed.html>) The list shows dozens of environmental policies that the Trump administration has targeted, often in an effort to ease burdens on the fossil fuel industry.

To end on a positive note and be Bee-lievable, many thanks to Bill Loftus and Bob Montanaro for organizing our field trips, and Donna Halleran, Jim Shea, Ken Gonyo, Barbara Riebe, Steve Goff, Diane Morgan, Nancy Soucy, Felicity Rask, Bill and Becky Loftus, Caroyln Cimino, George Thomas, Douglas Sutherland, David Simpson, Rody Johnson, Will Johnson, George Glenn, Jr., David Heuberger, Karen Schuster, and Tim Towles for leading field trips to show folks some wonderful places to still observe birds and wildlife.

Bird of the Month by Juanita Baker

White Ibis, with their long decurved bills, walking in groups on neighborhood lawns probing for grubs and insects, make them our familiar and amusing friends. Yet, White Ibis are unique in that they vary in their nesting/breeding times, and readily shift roosts and nesting sites. This allows them to follow their food (mostly small fishes and crustaceans) that inhabits shallow, freshwater wetlands. Thus, the bird is a symbol of Florida conservation in a state where development is rapidly devouring and polluting the wetlands. Fortunately, the birds find safe nesting sites on islands free from predators like raccoons, snakes, cats, and humans, and they often roost on brackish-water islands, as in the Lagoon.



*"Whoosh" © Bill Capie 03 Alafia Banks in Tampa Bay
Camera: Nikon D7100, ISO 5000, f 6.3, 1/4000 sec, Nikkor 300 mm, 1:4E PF ED
Eudocimus albus Order: Pelecaniformes Family: Threskiornithidae*

How unique they are! When birds flock in groups, they find protection because there are more eyes alert for danger. They also are more successful in foraging as others spot and stir up the insects or fish with their many feet. They come together in flocks to roost at night. Do they share stories of their day of the best food locations, or the perfect water level for wading and finding the little crustaceans? Before dawn, they all take off at once... whooo.....ooooshhhhh! What an amazing sound of hundreds of wings all together! What is their signal they instinctually respond to, to to say it is time to take off together? Although huge flocks on island colonies might attract predators, the massive flock provides safety in numbers, preventing predators from focusing on one bird. Bill Capie has captured this phenomenon near Alafia Banks in Tampa Bay. We, too, find it difficult to focus on one bird, but the white wings on black background result makes an amazing, artistic pattern.

Indian River Residents How do you get around town?



The Florida Department of Health and the Environmental Learning Center are trying to make it safer for residents to walk and bike in our community. We want your input. Please complete the online survey. You will receive a free ELC membership and the chance to win a free pontoon boat ride. Please visit the following link:

www.surveymonkey.com/r/IndianRiverWalks

Look To The Future by Linda Chancellor

I always have enjoyed the field trips offered by Pelican Island Audubon Society so I was excited to see they were offering a tour in partnership with the Indian River Land Trust to view the Oyster Bar Marsh property. The property, which is not yet open to the public, is located on the lagoon side of the barrier island just north of the St. Lucie County line and is jointly owned by IRLT and the county. David Heuberger, Director of Land Protection with the Indian River Land Trust, met our group of sixteen, and using a large drawing showed the 155 acre property and the almost 2 miles of shoreline that would be protected. Future plans include a walking/biking trail, boardwalks and an observation tower. We started our walk along the shell path, created many years ago by dredging when the mosquito impoundment dikes were built. David continued to share information on the acquisition of the

property and point out some of the interesting plants along the way. He showed us some of the largest specimens of red and black mangrove that I have ever seen! At the beginning of the walk we saw a lot of invasive Brazilian Pepper but then there was none. David said the county had worked to remove invasive plants from the main part of the property. IRLT is working with Florida Fish and Wildlife on an experiment to open the culverts, for a period of several days, to let juvenile fish that have been feeding in the impoundments to have a way of leaving when they become larger. This has been successful. I glanced over at one of the culvert openings on the impoundment side saw several mullet, lots of juvenile fish and a blue crab in the tannin colored water. Looking on the shoreline side through the mangroves I could glimpse Round Island. I really can't wait for this property to be open to the public. It will be a wonderful place to visit and view nature.

Pelican Island Audubon Society

Summer Adventure Camp 2018

Give your child a summer of outdoor adventure, exploration, and education.

Activities include: kayaking, wildlife & plant identification, outdoor adventures, hiking, science education, and more! Your child does NOT need to know how to swim.

Junior Audubon Guide Training for Teens (13-17 yrs old)*	June 4th - 8th
Session 1 (Ages 10 to 17)	June 11th - 15th
Session 2 (Ages 10 to 17)	June 18th - 22nd
Session 3 (Ages 10 to 17)	June 25th - 29th
Session 4 (Ages 10 to 17)	July 16th - 20th
Session 5 (Ages 10 to 17)	July 23rd - 27th

- **Programs run from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m**
- **Before & aftercare are available for an additional fee**
- **Camp is held at Audubon House, 195 9th St. SE (Oslo Rd)**

Camp cost is \$200 per week; sibling and/or additional weeks are \$185. Space is not guaranteed until full payment is made and confirmation is received. Limited scholarships are available. Please contact the Audubon office at 772-567-3520. Space is limited to twelve children per session.

* Junior Audubon Guide Training is \$225 and limited to twelve teens.

To register your child(ren), go to
www.PelicanIslandAudubon.org

Payment can be made online using a credit card. Contact the Audubon office at 772-567-3520 for alternative payment options (check or cash).

Join or renew your membership in Pelican Island Audubon Society

Membership benefits include:

- Monthly Peligram newsletter
- Monthly meetings on the environment and wildlife
- Birding field trips led by expert guides
- Opportunities to volunteer to help the environment
- . . . and much more!

For more information and to join, visit

www.PelicanIslandAudubon.org

or mail in the application ⇨⇨⇨⇨⇨⇨⇨⇨⇨

Pelican Island Audubon Society Officers & Directors

Officers	Elected Directors:
President	Graham Cox, Ph.D. '20
Richard H. Baker, Ph.D.	Bill Halliday '20
1st Vice-President	Nancy Irvin '19
Donna Halleran	Bill Loftus, Ph.D. '18
2nd Vice-President	Toni Robinson '19
David Cox, Ph.D.	Bonnie Swanson '18 —
Recording Secretary	Appointed Board Members:
Darlene Halliday	Susan Lovelace
Corresponding Secretary	Tina Marchese
George Glenn	
Treasurer Steve Goff	

Pelican Island Audubon Society, Inc. is registered with the Florida Dept. of Agriculture & Consumer Services. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Div. of Consumer Services by calling toll-free within Florida 1-800-435-7352. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the State.

Pelican Island Audubon Membership

\$100 Florida Scrub-Jay Level \$200 Osprey Level

\$25 Individual \$30 Family

Is this a membership renewal? Yes No

Join National Audubon Society for an additional \$20 a year.

I want to make an additional tax deductible donation of \$ _____

Total \$ _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

E-Mail _____

Please send your name and address along with a check payable to the "Pelican Island Audubon Society" to:

**Pelican Island Audubon Society
P.O. Box 1833, Vero Beach, FL 32961**

or join online using your credit card at:

<http://www.pelicanislandaudubon.org/membership.html>

Questions: call 772-567-3520 or e-mail piaudubon@yahoo.com