

# 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 55th Year Vol. 55 No. 5 May 2019

*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.*

## Upcoming Events

For more information visit [PelicanIslandAudubon.org](http://PelicanIslandAudubon.org)  
or call 772-567-3520

5/13/19  
Meeting

**Indian River County Stormwater Pollution Prevention with Alexis Peralta, IRC Stormwater Educator & Fertilizer Enforcement Officer - 6PM - North County Library- 1001 Sebastian Blvd (CR512), Sebastian**

Learn about

**Florida's Unique Environments!  
Monthly Free Course Series!  
At Audubon House**

195 9<sup>th</sup> St. SE (Oslo Road), Vero Beach, FL 32962

**May 17, 2019 | 9 am - Noon**

**Blood Suckers: Florida's Mosquitoes**

followed by finding them at ORCA

with

Dr. Nathan Burkett-Cadena

University of Florida Medical Entomology Laboratory



5/20/19  
Meeting

**The health of the Indian River Lagoon with Marty Baum, Indian RiverKeeper - 7PM - Vero Beach Community Center - 2266 14th Avenue, Vero Beach**

## Summer Adventure Camp

Give your child a summer of outdoor adventure, exploration and education. Join us at Pelican Island Audubon for Summer Adventure Camp in June and July!

Activities include: kayaking, bird watching, wildlife & plant identification, hiking, science education, and more!

Mondays - Fridays from 8:30AM to 3PM

Camp cost is \$200 per week; siblings are \$185

Learn more and register at

[www.PelicanIslandAudubon.org](http://www.PelicanIslandAudubon.org)

## Homes for Trees for Life

Pelican Island Audubon's Trees for Life program gave away its first batch of free oak trees to interested Indian River County residents looking to bring shade to their yards along with providing habitat for local wildlife. Nickie Munroe from the University of Florida Extension Service provided a lesson on the proper way to plant young trees. See below on how to get your own tree.



## Plants for Birds



Get a **free oak tree** from Pelican Island Audubon Society for your yard. Oak trees support a wide variety of insects making them beneficial for birds, especially around nesting time when it comes time to feed the chicks. Oak trees also help to combat climate change while providing a cool shady spot in your yard.

Call 772-567-3520 or email

[piaudubon@yahoo.com](mailto:piaudubon@yahoo.com)

for your free oak tree today!

Wood Duck photo by Bob Montanaro.

# Climate Change affects our county! It's scary, but each of us can help stop Global Warming



The exact beginning of the Anthropocene Epoch within the Geological Time Scale, the standard scientific timeline of Earth's 4.5-billion-year history, is very controversial. Some suggest it began 12,000 years ago when humans killed off huge numbers of large mammals and birds (e.g., Elephant Bird), or with the start of agricultural and urban development 5,000 to 11,000 years ago, or from 1880 when fossil-fuel

burning started. Others suggest it began after 1950 when human populations nearly tripled and the U.S. population doubled by 2010, when radioactive elements dispersed across the planet from nuclear testing, with burgeoning plastic pollution (only 9% of 8.3 billion tons produced is recycled), and as carbon emissions have quadrupled. Recent concerns:

- The human population has increased by 18 % over the past 20 years.
- 9,000,000 pounds of plastic will pollute the ocean this year alone - we are ingesting it via our foods with unknown health consequences.
- Bird populations are in steep decline in North America.
- 314 bird species may go extinct within the next 50 years.
- Bees, butterflies, and other insects are dying at alarming rates.
- Less fish to catch in the Lagoon.

**Is Climate Change real?** NASA, NOAA and the Defense Department have confirmed that the “scientific evidence for warming of the climate system is unequivocal” (see <https://climate.nasa.gov/evidence/>). The evidence of rapid climate change includes: global temperature rise, warming oceans with sea-level rise, shrinking ice sheets and glacial retreat, decreased snow cover resulting in more wildfires and increasing drought, declining arctic sea ice, extreme weather events with intense rainfall events, and ocean acidification. Scientists differ in how much longer we have to mitigate these effects, but estimates range from 10 to 25 years before the changes are irreversible. Sadly it is our children and their children who will have to suffer the worst from climate change.

**We can no longer deny that Climate Change** is responsible for the increasing frequency of forest fires, horrific hurricanes, and drought. Florida has felt some of the most devastating impacts in the form of communities devastated by red tide, cyanobacterial toxin, super storms, and rising sea levels that threaten to flood our cities. Humans can reverse this process if we act aggressively.

**Plant a tree to capture CO<sub>2</sub>.** Yes, if each of us plants one tree, we could reduce global warming by 1-2 degrees.

Pelican Island Audubon wants everyone to plant a tree that will help stop Climate Change. **We are offering free trees for planting.** Green America suggest 10 other solutions to reverse climate change (<https://www.greenamerica.org/climate-change-100-reasons-hope/top-10-solutions-reverse-climate-change>):

1. Manage Refrigerants
2. Build Wind Turbines
3. Reduce Food Waste
4. Adopt a Plant-Rich Diet
5. Restore Tropical Forests
6. Educate Girls
7. Plan Families
8. Build Solar Farms
9. Silvo-pasture to integrate trees, forage plants and livestock
10. Install Rooftop Solar Panels and Over Parking Lots

**We need stronger local and state ordinances and regulations.** If we are to survive and plan for tomorrow, we need to change our activities fast. What can we do here in Indian River County and the Treasure Coast to save our Lagoon, Blue Cypress Lake, St. Sebastian River, and water bodies from dying?

- Fund Florida Forever at \$400,000,000 per year as we voted.
- Limit grass lawns to 10-20% of public and private lands.
- Plant native plants on 80% of government and public properties.
- Reduce glyphosate.
- Ban all fertilizers on river and lakeshores, the barrier island and along the Lagoon.
- Use marine pump-out facilities and stop flushing boat toilets in the Lagoon and along our Ocean shores.
- Build a plant to generate electricity from our human waste.
- Purchase and allow only electric buses and cars, (and Hybrids until 2030) to be sold in the County.
- Install motion-detection lights in streetlights, and indoor buildings to save electricity.
- Save electricity in government buildings by encouraging temperature set (winter-68°F; summer-78°F) no warmer or cooler unless using solar panels on your roofs.
- Install solar panels to generate own electricity on all government buildings.
- Set 1% county tax on all nonrenewable fuels to generate funds to handle climate-change impacts, hurricane damage, rising waters, and beach erosion.

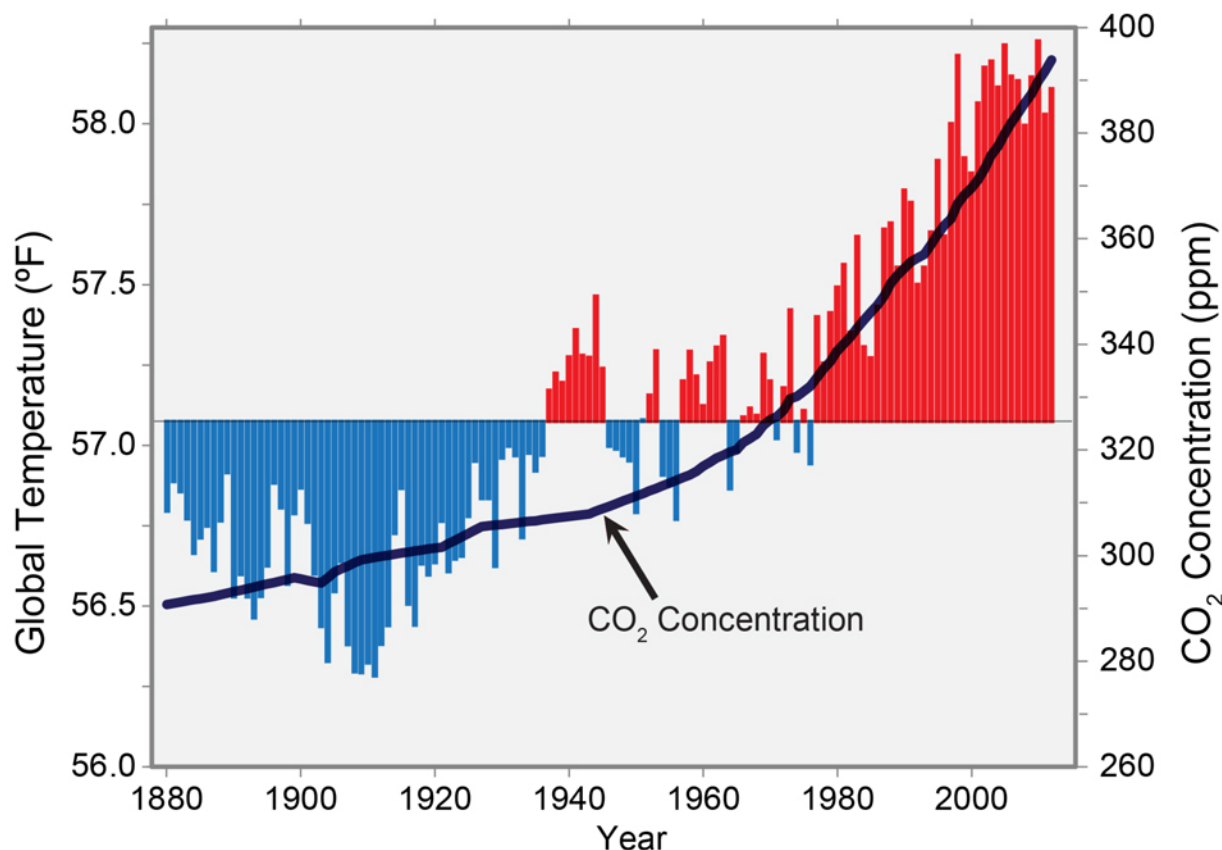


- Ban lead (very damaging to child IQs) in all fishing gear, weights, and bullets, gas.
- Tax \$.10 cents on all leaded gas sold to fund education of our children.
- Stop selling motors that use leaded gas only.
- Ban straws and single use containers and packaging in stores and restaurants. Bring your own.

- No free plastic bags, sell for \$.25.
- Scoop up pet, dog, and cat poop everywhere.
- Enforce the regulations we have.

**Let's get serious.** Save our wonderful planet! We have only one place in the universe on which to live; let's not turn it into Venus or Mars through our actions! **Start by planting a tree.** Call our office 772-567-3520.

## Global Temperature and Carbon Dioxide



Graph: Dr. Kenneth Kunkel, North Carolina Institute for Climate Studies

### Confused Ducks? by Linda Chancellor

Rain, rain and more rain. I thought it would never stop. It had been a cold, wet week last June while we were in Virginia. The rain was still coming down when I saw a duck swimming in our cove. I tried to take a picture and I identified it as a merganser. But it should not be here this time of year! I entered it under my eBird observations. The next day I received an email from Nick, a volunteer eBird reviewer, informing me of my misidentification. He identified it as a Bufflehead - which he said was unusual for this location in June. The bufflehead was still in our cove the next day. The rains continued and another duck showed up. This duck had a black breast, gray back and white sides with a baby blue bill. I again took pictures and this time checked my book



John James Audubon - Bufflehead Duck

- a Greater Scaup. Can't be! So I emailed Nick and asked him before entering my sighting. He checked with his colleagues and they agreed it was a Greater Scaup. Another great sighting since it was not suppose to be here in June. Both of the ducks remained in our cove through two more days of rain. When the sun finally came out the scaup walked up on the beach and laid there for two days without moving. I thought it was not going to make it - maybe it was totally exhausted. I checked on day three and both ducks were gone.

I usually try to include a photograph with my sightings on my eBird submissions especially if it is a bird I have not seen before. Over the years I have had only four submissions where I have been notified of my misidentification. I am grateful for their checks on incoming observations.

## Bird of the Month by Juanita Baker

The White-crowned Pigeon's resident Florida population increases in numbers as migrants arrive in July and August from the Bahamas and Caribbean to nest in the Keys on south Florida's mangrove Islands. In sunlight, the nape of this large pigeon shows a beautiful iridescent sheen. During breeding they fly up to 30 miles between two habitats: one for nesting on safe mangrove islands, and the other to forage on fruits and berries in forests. In Everglades National Park, they feed on Pigeon-plum, Gumbo-limbo and Poisonwood fruits that grow on understory trees in the hammocks and slash-pine forests of Long Pine Key. Often in forested treetops, their presence is revealed by loud cooing and wing beats when they take off. These pigeons are known for being fast flyers, making them a popular hunting target. Although hunting this species is banned in the U.S., they are threatened by hunting in the Bahamas and Caribbean, and everywhere by habitat loss and collisions with cars, towers, and windows. Thus, they are classified as Near Threatened. (ICUN Red list). John J. Audubon painted them and wrote about them when he visited the Keys in 1831.



**Unique to Florida Keys and very South Florida.**

White-crowned Pigeon © Hart Rufe 03 Everglades National Park  
Nikon D-810, Sigma 150-600 mm Sport lens, ISO 200, 600 mm, 1/2500, f/8

## Volunteers are needed to help monitor Florida Scrub-Jays in Indian River County

Take the Jay Watch training program at Savannas Preserve State Park in St. Lucie County on Saturday, June 8, 2019 from 8AM to Noon. Learn the life history of Scrub-Jays and gain actual field experience monitoring Scrub-Jays. Register for the event with Audubon Florida's Jacqui Sulek at [jsulek@audubon.org](mailto:jsulek@audubon.org)

## We need you!

Pelican Island Audubon Society depends on its volunteers. Of our 700 members we look to you to provide skills, labor, support, enthusiasm, dollars in contributions. We are now putting out the net to you again to find folks who retired from professions with skills that you would be willing to revive and share -- accountants, lawyers, fundraisers, public relations, academics, medicine, human relations and more. We know you are out there and just bursting with energy to jump into the PIAS volunteer pool.

So here is what we need: we have a strategic plan to move our chapter to new levels of work and accomplishment, but like all visions we need a funding plan, a plan to identify our supporters and potential long term contributors, people who like what we are doing with the after-school students, with our 'trees for life' project, our lagoon restoration partners, our field trips and lecture programs, our bird monitoring and our land conservancy projects. So if you have experience in any of the above listed skills and are willing to share your expertise with us, please step up, call 772-567-3520 or e-mail [piaudubon@yahoo.com](mailto:piaudubon@yahoo.com) and let's talk!

### Pelican Island Audubon Society Officers & Directors

<b>Officers</b>	Elected Directors:
President	<b>Graham Cox, Ph.D. '20</b>
<b>Richard H. Baker, Ph.D.</b>	<b>Bill Halliday '20</b>
1st Vice-President	<b>Nancy Irvin '22</b>
<b>Donna Halleran</b>	<b>Bill Loftus, Ph.D. '21</b>
2nd Vice-President	<b>Toni Robinson '22</b>
<b>David Cox, Ph.D.</b>	<b>Bonnie Swanson '21</b>
Recording Secretary	Appointed Board Members:
<b>Darlene Halliday</b>	<b>Susan Lovelace</b>
Corresponding Secretary	<b>Tina Marchese</b>
<b>George Glenn</b>	<b>Steve Palmquist</b>
Treasurer <b>Steve Goff</b>	<b>Ricky Ray</b>

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.

For more information and to join, visit  
**[www.PelicanIslandAudubon.org](http://www.PelicanIslandAudubon.org)**  
or mail in the application



### 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](mailto:piaudubon@yahoo.com)