

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

Our 53rd Year Vol. 53 No. 7 October 2017

*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.*

**October 9, 2017 ❖ 6:00 p.m.**

## Indian River Lagoon Otters

Biology, ecology and a new citizen science program

with Megan Stolen

North Indian River County Library

1001 Sebastian Blvd. (CR 512), Sebastian

Have you seen a River Otter? Learn how to contribute data to the Otter Spotter project! North American river otters are playful, inquisitive animals that live along the shore of the Indian River Lagoon (IRL). A healthy otter population is a signal that the lagoon is doing well and supporting animals that rely on healthy fish, invertebrate animals and seagrass. Otters' well being can signal if there are environmental changes that could hurt wildlife and humans' quality of life.

Otters may be affected by additional challenges as an animal that lives on land and water. By applying our expertise in marine mammal health and stranding response to river otters, we can broaden our IRL research and promote ocean health more effectively.

**October 16, 2017 ❖ 7:00 p.m.**

## The Sandhill Crane Story

with Mark Smith

Vero Beach Community Center

2266 14th Avenue, Vero Beach

Photographer Mark Smith followed a pair of nesting Sandhill Cranes for 3 months. In that short time span, he captured hours worth of incredible footage and walked among these majestic birds. The things he learned humbled him, saddened him and taught him more than he could ever have imagined. Take a small peek inside the incredible life of these awesome birds through the use of stills and video shot on location at the West Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility in Indian River County.



October 13 - 15, 2017

## Indian River Birding Festival & Nature Art Show

- Field Trips
- Birding Lectures
- Sunset Cruise
- Kayaking
- and more!

For more information, visit [www.PelicanIslandAudubon.org](http://www.PelicanIslandAudubon.org)

Sponsored by:

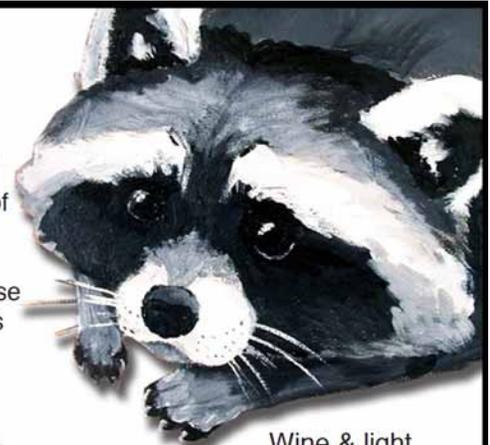
- Marine Bank
- Linus Cadillac Buick GMC
- Home Improvements of Vero Beach

## Mural Dedication & Mini-Gala at Audubon House

The first official public viewing of juried nature art show and the Grand Debut of artist Deanna DeRosia's 12' x 47' mural at Audubon House depicting 70 species of plants and animals found at the surrounding Oslo Riverfront Conservation Area.



Detail of wildlife from mural by Deanna DeRosia.



Wine & light refreshments in the gardens.



Friday, October 13, 2017 ♦ 6PM - 8PM  
Mini-Gala Tickets: \$50 donation per person  
Tickets available at [www.PelicanIslandAudubon.org](http://www.PelicanIslandAudubon.org)

Masthead photo: Indigo Bunting by Bob Montanaro.

# Our New Big Year



Last month's Hoot covered our Big Year last year. This year is starting out to be even greater. In addition to our third year Audubon Advocates, great speakers at our membership meetings at the North County Library in Sebastian and Vero Beach at the Community Center and River House and are even more exciting. We are planning on an even a bigger year this year with the following two events:

## 1. Indian River Birding Festival- Oct 13-15 in partnership with the Pelican Island Preservation Society.

We are holding our Indian River Birding Festival and Nature Art Show in partnership with Pelican Island Audubon Society Oct 13-15, which opens with a fund raising Gala at the Audubon House Friday Night being organized by Donna Halleran. It will be the first official viewing of the juried Nature Art Show and the Grand Debut of artist Deanna DeRosia's 12'x47' mural in the Audubon House breezeway depicting 70 species of plants and animals found at the surrounding Oslo Riverfront Conservation Area, supported in part with the \$1,000 NAS grant. Mediums for the art show include painting, sculpture, pottery, photography, pastel, mixed media, carving, and stained glass. Artists should submit their application by October 6, 2017 to PIPS at PO Box 781903, Sebastian, FL 32978. Entry Fee: \$15 per entry, maximum 2 entries. The selected artists will be at the Gala and their work will be available for sale with 30% of the commission will be shared PIAS and PIPs. For a full list of birding festival and art show events, visit [www.pelicanislandaudubon.org](http://www.pelicanislandaudubon.org)

## 2. As one of our efforts in Audubon's Plants for Birds program and to save our environment, PIAS is holding a conference on Jan 19-20, 2018, entitled "Transforming Landscapes for a Sustainable Future" to be held at the Emerson Center in Vero Beach.

The rate of development in the Indian River Lagoon region has reached pre-recession levels, and now is the time to discuss transforming landscapes so that our residentially and commercially developed lands are part of the solution to a healthy environment, not a detriment.

The Pelican Island Audubon Society realizes the enormous undertaking required to change course. However, the health of the Indian River Lagoon makes it clear that time is not on our side. We must ALL act now or potentially lose what has made our region so attractive to people and businesses.

Thus, Pelican Island Audubon Society is proud to present the **Transforming Landscapes for a Sustainable Future Conference**, scheduled for January 19 and 20, 2018, at The Emerson Center, 1590 27th Ave, Vero Beach, FL 32960. The conference starts Friday evening, January 19, 2018, and runs through 5 p.m. on Saturday, January 20, 2018. There will be a reception Friday night along with

a box lunch Saturday afternoon.

The goal of the conference is to provide knowledgeable insight into the pressing need to reverse course on how communities, developments and homes in counties along the Indian River Lagoon develop their outdoor landscapes. While Lake Okeechobee discharges and septic system pollutants have been the main focus for improving the water in our region, transforming landscapes can play just as much of a vital role in protecting water quality, preserving water quantity, and providing habitats for plants and animals.

The conference will feature keynote speaker Dr. Douglas Tallamy, author of *Bringing Nature Home and How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants*. Speakers will also include Steve Turnipseed, author of *Transformation of a Turfgrass Lawn into a Native Plant Landscape*, and Dr. Zak Gezon, Conservation Program Manager for Disney. Other speakers will touch on various topics pertinent to transforming landscapes for a sustainable future in our region. See the schedule of speakers on the next page and on our website [pelicanislandaudubon.org](http://pelicanislandaudubon.org).

Our target audience for this conference is broad; it includes local governments, homeowner's associations, developers, landscape architects, consulting engineers, concerned residents, and members like you.

If you believe that we must act now regarding this important topic, please consider being a sponsor for the conference. Sponsorship opportunities are provided below. This conference will not be inexpensive, but it will be worthwhile if we all come together to work on solutions for transforming landscapes for a sustainable future. If you are unable to sponsor, we hope that you will plan on attending or have individuals from your organization attend this important event. Admission tickets will go on sale in October at \$25 per person and \$35 after January 5, 2018.

### List of Sponsorship opportunities\*:

- Conference Sponsor \$2,000.00
- Emerson Center Site Sponsor \$1,500.00
- Key Note Speaker: Dr. Douglas Tallamy Sponsor \$1,500.00
- Advertising Sponsor \$1,000.00
- Programs/printing Sponsor \$1,000.00
- Friday evening reception Sponsor \$1,000.00
- Saturday Lunch Sponsor \$1,000.00
- Speakers Sponsor \$500 (Dr. Edie Widder Sponsor, Steve Turnipseed, Tod Winston, Dr. Juanita N. Baker, Zak Gezon, Robin Pelensky, Nickie Munroe & Jacob Ensor)
- Osprey Sponsor \$250.00\*\*

\*The listed values do not necessarily correspond to the exact cost for the sponsorship, and speakers are subject to change. Sponsorships at \$1,000.00 or more will receive six (6) complimentary tickets to the conference, \$500.00 will receive four (4) complimentary tickets, \$250 will receive two (2) complimentary tickets. \*\*Osprey Sponsorships are open to as many individuals and businesses that would like to contribute at that level.

If you are interested in sponsoring, please call 772-567-3520 or email at [piaudubon@yahoo.com](mailto:piaudubon@yahoo.com)

Working together for our environment.

## Transforming Landscapes for a Sustainable Future Conference Schedule, Jan. 19-20, 2017

Emerson Center, 1590 27th Ave, Vero Beach, FL

### Friday, January 19, 2018

5:30 pm Registration \$25 per person, \$35 after January 5, 2018

6:00-8:30 pm Dr. Douglas Tallamy, *Bringing Nature Home and How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants*, Department of Entomology

and Wildlife Ecology, University of Delaware, Newark, DE followed by a reception with wine and beer.

### Saturday, January 20, 2018

8:00- 9:00 am Registration

9:00-9:45 am Dr. Edie Widder- *Health of the Indian River Lagoon*, CEO & Senior

Scientist, Ocean Research & Conservation Association, Ft. Pierce, FL

9:45 - 10:30 am Steve Turnipseed, *Transformation of a Turfgrass Lawn into a Native Plant Landscape*, President of the Villages Chapter of the Native Plant Society, The Villages, FL

10:30-10:45 am Break

10:45 -11:30 am Tod Winston, *Plant It and They Will Come*, Program Manager, Plants for Birds, National Audubon Society

11:30:12:00 pm Dr. Juanita N. Baker, *Why should we attract the birds? What habitats do they need in our yards?*, Pelican Island Audubon Society, Professor Emeritus, Florida Institute of Technology

12:00-12:45 pm Box Lunch

12:45- 1:30 pm Dr. Zak Gezon PhD, *Pollinators in a changing climate*, Conservation Program Manager, Walt Disney Company

1:30 -2:15 pm Robin Pelensky, *Lagoon Gardens to save the Lagoon*, Landscape Architect, Surlatterre Landscape Architecture

2:15-3:00 pm Nickie Munroe, *What is*

*Florida Friendly Landscaping?*, Indian River County Environmental Horticulture Agent

3:00-3:15 pm Break

3:15 – 4:30 Jacob E. Ensor, *Changing HOA Rules to comply with State Statutes*, Ross Earle Bonan & Ensor, P.A.

4:30-5:00 pm Summary and what can we do to improve the lagoon and our plants and animals?

## Cornell Lab of Ornithology - home of eBird and more by Linda Chancellor

Last June, while traveling through New York, we included a stopover at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Rain was predicted for the afternoon so we decided to walk one of several trails before exploring the Visitor Center. We had spotted several birds when suddenly we heard a different avian voice - "teacher, teacher, teacher." Closer and closer and then there he was, an Ovenbird, a new bird for me and a photo too!

The end of the trail brought us to the beautiful Visitor Center. The lobby has one wall that is entirely glass where you can view the pond and the bird feeding stations. We watched one of several videos and tried out RAVEN - an interactive sound exhibit that lets you see and hear audio recordings of animals. Two large murals, Jane Kim's Wall of Birds showing the history and biodiversity of

birds on one side and on the other side James Prosek's Wall of Silhouettes, rise from the ground floor up to the second level where the Macaulay Library is located. The library has over 175,000 audio and 60,000 video recordings of living creatures -not just birds. But if you want to know more then I would advise taking the Lab tour. The guide took us behind the lobby doors to the offices where the artists, scientists, conservationists and computer engineers work. She showed us old handwritten field notebooks, antique sound equipment, preserved animal and bird specimens, and a few of the many pieces of bird art that are stored there. And for all you Harry Potter fans the guide told us the voice of the Hippogriff was created here using voice recordings of Limpkins.

FYI - If you plan to visit the lab allow yourself at least two days. They offer an early bird walk and a lab tour most days but check their website. If you love art google Cornell's Wall of Silhouettes and Wall of Birds to watch the murals being painted.

## Bird of the Month by Juanita Baker

American Robin

*Turdus migratorius*

Order: PASSERIFORMES Family: TURDIDAE

Humans impact on Robins and their return impact

Flocks of American Robins show up in Florida November-February chattering loudly together in the tops of trees to roost or feed on fruit-laden, low branches. They love those bright red berries on Brazilian Peppers which we find all too common, and unfortunately spread across the countryside after they've eaten and released not fully digested seeds. One study found 50% of the fruit removed from a bush was dispersed: 20% dropped, 40% regurgitated or defecated before leaving the bush. Thus, robins help the Brazilian Pepper to be an invasive plant covering all disturbed areas easily, crowding out every plant and eventually taking over acres if allowed. Robins, but not as often as up North, also forage on the ground in Florida cocking their heads, looking and listening for worms and other insects, then, pluck them adeptly.

Robins are one of the top three most abundant birds in America, breeding in every continental state (only northern-most Florida), including Alaska. They thrive because of their varied diet, not all migrating, guided to where they find food but not tied to rigid migratory routes like some species. To protect themselves from predators, they migrate in flocks in the daytime so are not killed by night-flying into lighted buildings, towers and wind turbines which many songbirds do. Robins have adapted to humans so well in our yards as well as forests. Thus, the American Robin may be the most recognizable, common bird species in America; certainly, a favorite songbird, cheered by its loud, familiar, chirping call.

Emerging from their "Robin-egg blue" eggs, in 3 months the juvenile grows multitudinous black speckled feathered breasts. Yet loses those spots in molt in Fall. There really are differences between males and females. Males' head darken blacker including throat stripes. Their breast becomes more deep red-orange than females that have a larger white area under tail. In contrast, with the deep orange breast on this male, observe his delicate white feather-tipped spots, indicative of fresh new feathers, prepared for his 500-1200 km migration return to his breeding grounds.



*Just Passing Through for Breakfast: American Robin © Yvonne Tso Taken in February, Neighborhood Park, Vero Beach. Canon PowerShot SX700 HS, set on autoLens*

## Pelican Nest Grand Opening!

Saturday, October 28, 2017 - 10:00AM - 1:00PM

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

Support Pelican Island Audubon.

Shop our new nature store at Audubon House for all your holiday gift items.

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

Don't miss the Mural  
 Dedication & Mini-  
 Gala on October 13!  
 Get your tickets today!



## 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](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)

#### 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 '19</b>
<b>Donna Halleran</b>	<b>Bill Loftus, Ph.D. '18</b>
2nd Vice-President	<b>Toni Robinson '19</b>
<b>David Cox, Ph.D.</b>	<b>Bonnie Swanson '18 —</b>
Recording Secretary	Appointed Board Members: <b>Susan</b>
<b>Darlene Halliday</b>	<b>Lovelace</b>
Corresponding Secretary <b>George</b>	<b>Tina Marchese</b>
<b>Glenn</b>	
Treasurer <b>Steve Goff</b>	

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