

# Pelican Island Audubon Society recognizes volunteers

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Special to Treasure Coast Newspapers  
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

The Pelican Island Audubon Society educates and helps the community become aware of environmental issues and advocates for preserving and protecting the environment for animals (including humans) and plants to thrive.

Volunteers are essential to this endeavor with the help they provide for such things as classes and workshops, birding field trips, landscaping and trees conferences, student programs and grant writing for funding.

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**Steve Palmquist (President's Award), Ricky Ray, and Terry Greene (Environmental Landscaping Award) volunteering at the Trees for Life project.**

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INDIAN RIVER COUNTY ■ YOUR NEWSWEEKLY ■ WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 2019 ■ 11Y

## Community News

### Volunteers

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At its annual meeting last month, Audubon recognized special outstanding contributions individuals have made to the chapter and the community.

These awards should serve as an inspiration to work together to improve our quality of life and make Indian River County a sustainable, environmentally, and friendly place to live.

**Phyllis Stockburger Award:** Ruth Moore longtime PIAS member who, at 98, is a generous financial supporter of the chapter.

**Board Member of the Year:** Dr. William Loftus for his editing skills of PIAS publications, organizing field trips and speakers at meetings, and facilitating the Osprey and Spoonbill citizen-science programs.

**Maggy Bowman/Conservationist of the Year:** Dr. Grant Gilmore, world-renowned fish expert for helping protect the fish nurseries at the Oslo Boat Ramp from a dredge-and-fill project. He's published over 70 papers on fish ecology and life histories of the spotted sea trout, snook, groupers, and sharks.

**Environmental Educator Award:** Kathy Nix, for providing environmental awareness to fifth-graders in the After School Program (the Audubon Advocates) and summer and spring break camps.

**Environmental Citizen:** Wayne Mills, who served as chair of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, got the EPA to enforce



**Kathy Nix (Environmental Educator Award) on the left with the Vero Beach Elementary School Audubon Advocates holding Live Oak trees from the 'Trees for Life' project. Standing on the back right is teacher Cari Berwick.**

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the Clean Water Act and provided a blueprint to reduce nutrients and sediments to restore the Chesapeake Bay. He has brought this mission to Florida by organizing the Brevard Clean Water Coalition and now the Clean Water Coalition of Indian River County with over 50 partnering organizations.

**Conservation Journalist:** Tyler Treadway, environmental journalist for TCPalm newspapers. He helps spread the word about the environmental problems in the Indian River Lagoon and Blue Cypress Lake.

**Environmental Landscaping:** Terry Greene who not only keeps the Audubon House native gardens and Oslo River-

front Conservation Area beautiful, is redoing his own yard in Collier Creek with native plants, as an example for his neighbors.

**President's Award:** Steve Palmquist. New on the board, he has taken leadership of our Trees for Life Project. We now have around 1,500 Live Oaks in pots and 4,500 acorns planted in trays for germination. One hundred free Live Oaks are available for planting now. Contact our office 772-567-3520.

**Eleanor & Bud Kleckner Award:** Carla Hahn for her generous donations. She agreed to the recognition to be an example to others, saying, "I am so happy to contribute because of all the great programs (PIAS is) doing."

**Environmental Youth Award:** Will Johnson who led the warbler field trips for adults, participated in the Christmas Bird Count, and had an art exhibition of his beautiful bird paintings.

**Outstanding Service by an Elected Official:** Bob Solari, chair of the Indian River County Commission who led the effort to stop further deposition of human sewage being deposited in Indian River County. He also successfully made a motion to stop a dredge-and-fill project the Oslo Road boat ramp.

**Special Recognition:** David Simpson, Meri Beck, Carolyn Cimino, Becky Loftus, Felicity Rask, John Ericson, Jim Shea, Douglas Sutherland, George Thomas for helping with the Intensive birding class, and to Alexis Peralta for teaching about storm water to our Audubon Advocates the last two years and leading field trips to Egret Marsh, Indian River County's storm water facility.