



Peligrum

October
2022



Bobolink enjoying a feast © Henry W. Young, 11 - 4/25/22 - Sweetwater Wetlands Preserve State Park, Gainesville, FL
Sony A9, 200-600mm lens, 1.4x teleconverter, ISO 800, F9, 1/1600s

by Juanita Baker, Ph.D.

Bobolinks belong to the **Icteridae family (New World blackbirds)**, which includes species of grackles, meadowlarks, cowbirds, orioles, and Red-winged Blackbirds. Birds of the same family have similar characteristics. Icterids often have a melodious, bubbly song and sexual dimorphism - the genders exhibit different characteristics, with males usually being more brilliantly colored and often larger. Gaping ability (the skulls allow their bills to open a gap forcibly) is another Icterid characteristic. Bobolinks have conical bills, allowing them to readily crush grains, as illustrated in Dr. Henry Young's excellent action photo of this Bobolink relishing his food while grasping the grain stalk on which he is feeding. Yet the bird shows characteristic watchfulness, needing to be always alert to his surroundings.

Characteristic of icterids, male Bobolinks sing a long, bubbly song while sitting on a stalk or during their undulating flight across the fields. Bobolinks are one of the few species that completely molt twice in a year, males becoming drab browns and indistinguishable from females. In addition, their coloring and appearance changes as the tips of feathers wear off. Bobolinks have the longest migratory flight (~12,000 miles round-trip) of any New World passerine—perhaps the reason for the need for new feathers twice a year! National Audubon has a new tool - The Explorer: <https://explorer.audubon.org/> - showing the active visual map of the migration of many birds.

The Bobolink map shows migration starting in January with concentrations in three South American countries: northern Argentina, Paraguay, and Bolivia, where Bobolinks (known as the 'rice' bird) move in flocks and feed on ripe grains in grasslands. After molting in April, flocks leave by flying north, feeding in Venezuela fields to store up for their arduous flight across the Gulf of Mexico. They land in Florida to refuel for the next flight to breed in the Northern US states and from British Columbia to Nova Scotia, Canada.

Any bird species not seen in Florida during June and July is not likely breeding in Florida. Even though some birds (like herons) breed in other months here, they are also here in June and July. Exploring Regions for Indian River County on ebird.org shows in the illustrated checklist that Bobolinks have only been seen here between the second week of April through the last week in May (when they are flying north to their breeding grounds), peaking during the middle three weeks. They return in the fall migration from the last week in August through the first week in October on their way to South America escaping our winter...so you have another week to get out to fields *where they may be seen!*

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.

Officers & Directors

Officers

President **Richard H. Baker, Ph.D.**
 1st Vice-President **Bill Halliday**
 2nd Vice-President **Fred Poston, Ph.D.**
 Recording Secretary **Darlene Halliday**
 Corresponding Secretary **George Glenn**
 Treasurer **Steve Goff**

Elected Directors:

Albert Alley, M.D. '23
Graham Cox, Ph.D. '23
Susan Lovelace '25
Bill Loftus, Ph.D. '24
Ricky Ray '25
Bonnie Swanson '24

Appointed Board Members:

Nancy Irvin **Hadi Shalhoub, DO**
Steve Palmquist

Executive Director **Donna Halleran**

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.

Audubon House

195 9th Street SE (Oslo Rd.), Vero Beach
 M - F | 9AM - 1PM

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 1833, Vero Beach, FL 32961

Phone: 772-567-3520

E-Mail: piaudubon@yahoo.com

Website:

www.PelicanIslandAudubon.org

Mark your calendar and save these dates!

Volunteer & Member Holiday Appreciation Party

WHEN and WHERE: Monday, December 5, 2022 at **The Heritage Center**, 2140 14th Ave, Vero Beach, from 6 to 8 p.m.

WHAT: An open invitation to the community to celebrate and thank Drs. Richard & Juanita Baker for their leadership and promotion of environmental education for adults and students alike.

We are inviting you to see what Pelican Island Audubon Society has done under the leadership and inspiration of the Baker family.

We are asking you to come and meet the PIAS Board, our new executive director, Donna Halleran, and our many volunteers who make PIAS and Audubon House function.

CELEBRATE: As we formally name the Audubon House education center classroom in recognition of the Baker's 25-plus years of leadership in community and student education and in their vigorous advocacy for conservation.

TICKETS: \$30 PER PERSON
 Includes catered appetizers.

Please join us December 5th at The Heritage Center and celebrate conservation leadership at its best.

January 21, 2023

4th Annual Transforming Landscapes for a Sustainable Future Conference

Saturday, 8AM - 4:30PM

Emerson Center

1590 27th Avenue, Vero Beach



March 6, 2023

Quality of Life Event

Monday, 6 - 8PM

Grand Harbor Club House

4985 Club Terrace

Vero Beach

Tickets on sale at

PelicanIslandAudubon.org

or at

Audubon House, 195 9th St. SE (Oslo Rd) Vero Beach

Monday - Friday from 9AM to 1PM



Is it possible to have sustainable, non-polluting, ecologically sound developments where people live in harmony with close neighbors, yet with privacy?



I have a vision that all homes will have at least one tree (and hopefully more) in their yards with only 10-20% in a turfgrass lawn. My vision includes not spending 64-88% of my drinking water on my lawn, instead using native trees and plants that survive in Florida's heat without my drinking water because of their deeper roots. Turfgrass roots are only 2 inches long, while native plant roots generally reach 12 inches deep. Turfgrass requires watering every few

trees, and especially planting trees as in close forests, will sequester carbon to help reduce global warming.

A visionary development might also address sewage as internally recycled to generate electricity. We should require solar panels installed on all roof surfaces to make Florida truly the Sunshine State. Rain water should be collected and stored in cisterns and rain barrels to use during drought or dry seasons, as with more development comes water shortages. The Sebastian annexation can set a vision for the future that does not pollute but is set up to be self-sufficient and sustainable.

days because of the rapid evaporation of water from the surface. I envision no more gas-powered lawnmowers and blowers producing CO2 and waking me up, but quiet electric engines that allow me to hear the beautiful songs of our birds, with lots of butterflies and bees flying around.

Why preserve trees? I am able to talk to my neighbor under the cool shade of a tree, where other neighbors likely will join us as trees help lower temperatures during hot weather. They beautify landscapes. There is less crime and folks are happier. They improve and maintain the quality of water, soil, and air by removing pollutants. Houses with trees sell more quickly and at higher prices, up to 12%.

If houses do not sprawl across the landscape, replacing Florida's unique habitats, but instead are built 2-3 stories high, developments will take up less space, thereby encouraging health and exercise by climbing stairs and walking in nature. Thus, we'll have more shared lands with community parks, walkable paths, glens, and shaded areas. We need to preserve or restore more natural spaces to enhance and protect Florida's beautiful lands, with planned water areas for wildlife. Preserving older

This vision is possible now that the Sebastian City Council decided to delay the vote on the Graves Bros. Annexation until December 14, 2022. This gives them time to pass new tree and landscape ordinances that require leaving some existing trees on properties and reducing turfgrass coverage to 10-20% of yards. This will greatly reduce the amount of nitrogen and herbicides entering our St. Sebastian River, canals, ditches, and Lagoon that suffocates and kill native seagrasses. That will be a great benefit to help save our manatees, dolphins, fishes, otters, birds, and other wonderful wildlife.



A Southern Oak Hairstreak butterfly foraging in the Audubon House landscaping at the Oslo Riverfront Conservation Area. Photo by Bob Montanaro.

To encourage our elected officials to fulfill a vision to preserve our unique Florida habitats, you and all the citizens of Indian River County should call and write to the Sebastian City Council <https://www.cityofsebastian.org/266/City-Council> expressing your concern with the Graves Bros. annexation. Ask that they upgrade their tree and landscape ordinances and work towards sustainable developments to ensure that we preserve and enhance living spaces for current and future residents. Also please attend a public hearing on the ordinance that will be held on Wednesday, October 12, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. and express your opinion.

New Education and Demonstration Native Plant Garden at UP

by Richard H. Baker, Ph.D.

The PIAS Education and Demonstration Native Plant Garden at the County Commission entrance is educating the public that native trees and plants can be used to create a garden setting that is both beautiful and contributes to saving our environment for our future generations. PIAS has been asked to help install another Education and Demonstration Native Plant Garden at the United Against Poverty center (<https://upirc.org/about-us/>) in Vero Beach. Our new partner, Up Against Poverty (UP), is a nonprofit that helps families-in-need to succeed through various enrichment services such as job hunting, resume building and interviewing, skill training, mentorship, and running a grocery (nearly the size of a Publix!) of community-donated items for those below the Federal Poverty level. Their purpose is to inspire and empower people living in poverty to lift themselves and their families to economic self-sufficiency. The UP center has hundreds of daily visitors and more than 10,000 annual visitors, to the 46,000 sq. ft building.



The center has classrooms for GED preparation, continued-educational programs, job preparation, and specialty workshops for skill training daily life skills workshops. They have offered their classrooms to PIAS to present classes and talks on home yard maintenance and tree planting. UP Executive Director Matt Tanner, who asked to partner with us, says he will provide the volunteers to build the gardens for training exposure to nurturing the environment and will maintain them under our supervision. We will also give away a free tree to all members of the UP for their yards. This is a great opportunity to tell our story and educate their members, partners, and visitors about us and how to protect their environment.

Enhance your own yards to more native and natural habitats. Come to our native nursery at the Audubon House. We have around 40 native tree and plant species available. We have free Live Oaks (1 & 3 gal), Pond Cypress (3 gal), Dahoon Holly and other native plants for sale. Let's remove our turfgrass and plant native plants and trees to save our waters, birds, fishes, manatees and our environment. If you'd like to help with this or any of our projects, please come volunteer!



The Results Are In!

Left: Lloyd Hollingsworth

Below: The volunteers at the Oslo Boat Ramp with some of the garbage they collected.



by Richard H. Baker, Ph.D.

Pelican Island Audubon (PIAS) participated in the 2022 International Coastal cleanup. Many thanks to Barbara Jahn, Lloyd Hollingsworth, Steve Goff, Christian Toelg, Constance Harinxma, Ricky Ray, Jackie Muller, Maryjo Robertson, Mary Wood and Steve Palmquist for picking up debris (litter) at the Oslo Boat Ramp and the dirt road leading to it. We even pick up a T.V. screen included in the 155 lbs. recovered. The amount picked up was much less than in the past because Lloyd Hollingsworth weekly picks up waste at the Oslo Boat Ramp and Oslo Road. Thanks so much to Lloyd who received a PIAS Special Recognition Award in 2020.

This year, more than 800 community members cleaned up 2,385 lbs. of debris. The Coastal Cleanup event is not new to PIAS. In fact, in 1986, the U.S. Department of the Interior gave an award to PIAS for doing the first U.S. coastal clean-up, which has now spread around the world.

4th Transforming Landscapes for a Sustainable Future Conference

Saturday, January 21, 2023

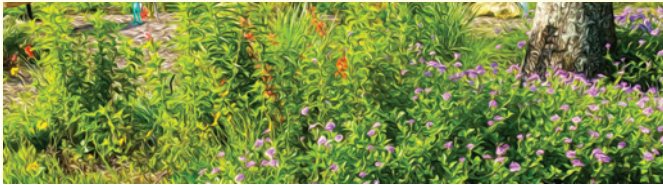
at the
Emerson Center
1590 27th Avenue, Vero Beach
from

8:00AM - 4:30PM
Tickets: \$25 per person
& includes a box lunch

Tickets on sale at
PelicanIslandAudubon.org



Sponsorship opportunities
available
For more information
email
piaudubon@yahoo.com
or call
772-567-3520



8:00AM	Registration: Tickets are \$25 & includes a box lunch & native plants for sale from native plant nurseries
9:00-9:50AM	Dr. Craig N. Huegel, Director, University of South Florida Botanical Garden, <i>The Nature of Plants, How Plants Work</i>
10:00-10:50AM	Dr. John Fitzpatrick, Professor & Emeritus Director, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY, <i>Local Ups & Downs in Bird Populations: Recent Revelations from Deep Analysis of 'eBird' Citizen-Science Data</i>
10:50-11:20AM	Break
11:20-12:10PM	Dr. Grant Gilmore, President & Chief Scientist, Estuarine, Coastal, and Ocean Science, Inc., <i>Your Lawn Grass versus Seagrass</i>
12:10-1:00PM	Lunch with box lunches included in the \$25 admission ticket for those attending in person
1:00-1:50PM	Sean Patton, Stocking Savvy Environmental Consulting, Sarasota, FL, <i>Pondside Living with Native Plants, Native Fish, for a Native Florida</i>
2:00-2:50PM	Dr. Larry Reeves, Assistant Professor, University of Florida, Florida Medical Entomology Laboratory, Vero Beach, <i>The biodiversity crisis and the importance of insects</i>
2:50-3:20PM	Break
3:20-4:10PM	Timothee Sallin, Co-CEO of IMG Enterprises, a diversified family-owned Florida agri-business, <i>How Do We Mainstream Sustainable Landscapes in Florida? Working with Master Planned Community Developers, Home Builders, Landscape Architects & Regulators to Shift From Conventional Landscapes to Sustainable Landscapes</i>
4:10-4:30PM	Dr. Richard Baker, Discussion & Summary

Come Visit Pelican Island Audubon's new Little Free Library!

Take a Book,
Leave a Book.
Love a Book,
Keep a Book.



In addition to our main library where titles and authors can be found on our website <https://pelicanislandaudubon.org/library/>, we have started a new Little Free Library at the entrance to our Audubon House. Anyone may take a book - neighbors, friends, and passerby. The books are always free and book donations are welcome at this Little Free Library.



Garden volunteers Ed McCool & Paul Halleran work on expanding the garden.

Visit

PelicanIslandAudubon.org
to view the list of volunteer positions. Fill out the form online and let us know what you are interested in.

**Working together we can
do great things for the
environment!**

**Volunteer opportunities
include:**

- Office help, Newsletter: fold, stuff envelopes
- Join the air potato pullers
- Audubon House Maintenance- classroom, bathrooms, breezeway
- Landscaping, Trees for Life Project, watering plants
- Field Trip Leader
- Fundraising
- Come join the Tree/Native Plants Team! Sun/Wed/Fri 9AM-11:00AM Help Green IRC!!!

**A big thanks to everyone
who makes it all work!**

Volunteer!

From Texas, to Alaska, to Florida

by Lauren Reeves

Environmental Educator

I am so excited and honored to start this position with Pelican Island Audubon Society. I have always had a passion for wildlife--I would have loved to participate in a program like the Advocates if there was such a thing where I grew up in San Antonio, Texas. I stuck with my childhood passion for the outdoors and pursued a degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences from Texas A&M University (Gig Em, Aggies!). During my years in college, I gained experience at several zoos in Texas, notably including a sanctuary for nuisance alligators in Beaumont. After graduating with my bachelor's degree, I took off to Anchorage, Alaska where I spent the summer working at a children's outdoors camp. My duties there included hiking with children in the wilderness areas around Anchorage, often encountering the magnificent megafauna that Alaska is known for. However, I had no desire to stick around for the winter and decided the nearly 5,000-mile drive would be more than worth it when I was offered this position. Florida's ecosystems and biodiversity are among the most beautiful and important in the world, and I'm excited to take part in their conservation through education. The first week of the program has been great. Our advocates this year are enthusiastic and open-minded. Children today are unfortunately inheriting a lot of environmental problems caused by previous generations. By instilling a love and admiration for nature rather than a fear of the issues that are facing it, this new generation can enjoy being outdoors just as much as previous generations—but hopefully in a more conscientious way. I hope to carry on the great legacy that has already been established in the 8 years this program has been running.



From left to right: Executive Director Donna Halleran, Environmental Educator Lauren Reeves, Indian River Academy students, and Ms. Huber

The Pelican Island Audubon House Volunteer Gardeners

by Donna Halleran, Executive Director

PIAS had an appreciation luncheon Saturday, September 17th for the hardworking crew that keep the natural setting outside the Audubon House in pristine condition. There is a team that comes on Monday, Wednesdays, and Fridays who organize the brush and clippings, compost, pot new young saplings, plant cuttings and seedlings, as well as, sell the native plants and give customers and guests much needed valuable information on the care and placement of the plants.

Recently I saw some volunteer gardeners come early one Saturday morning to get the benefit of the cool air while transplanting and replanting larger bushes and plants around the Audubon House entrance. Many hands keep the Audubon House beautiful and inviting. The landscape is an example for those interested in going native.

There is a volunteer team that comes on Sunday morning that pots 100's of plants that they have been nurturing from seed. Including the mighty oak tree, mahogany, and a variety of others.

I need to mention, the guys who maintain the nursery, mow the last patches of grass, and do general yard clean up. Have I said enough? No, I am sure I missing other projects. Please forgive me. THANK YOU for all you do. We do appreciate and recognize your sacrifices.

We could NOT maintain this property without all the exceptional volunteers! When you meet them, introduce yourself and tell them you see their hard work. And if you are brave enough, bring a pair of work gloves! We have a place for you, too.



Volunteer appreciation luncheon.

The Importance of Just Walking

by Donna Halleran, Executive Director

Walking sounds like such a mundane topic, however; if we really delve into it, we recognize how important an action it is. The more we learn about walking, the more we see how essential it is for all us humans. And why would it not be? Imagine if we took dogs and panthers and transported them around everywhere in machines, and no longer allow them to run. Or we made a device where dolphins could merely float and be propelled around by a motor instead of swimming? None of us would be surprised if the dogs, panthers, and the dolphins all became weak, sickly, and rather pathetic versions of themselves.

Our communities and cities have evolved, as human habitat, to meet our needs and make us fully human, sidewalks were installed near our roadways to help with safe passage from one place to another.

Walking short or long distances each day is not recreation or a luxury; it is essential to who we are, as important for our thriving as any other public health initiative.

As we continue to study nature deficit disorder, and the need for all humans,



(NOT just our children) be exposed to outdoor time, we learn that 'just' walking in nature reduces the risk of depression. There is no doubt that one foot in front of the other leads to some serious mental and physical benefits. It will lift your spirit and enhance your sense of well-being and can give you a mental boost. Researchers reveal that walking outdoors makes a human feel calm and reduce levels of aggressiveness, hostility, and anger.

At Pelican Island Audubon House, we are fortunate to have many trails and open space to just wander and enjoy the flora and fauna. During my workday, I take a breather and 'just' walk around the area, with no purpose in mind, and can report feeling elated and happy after a just a ten-minute walk. On the PIAS website, there is a variety of scheduled Hikes and Sunday morning Nature Walks. Come on, let's get walking.

A Morning Visitor



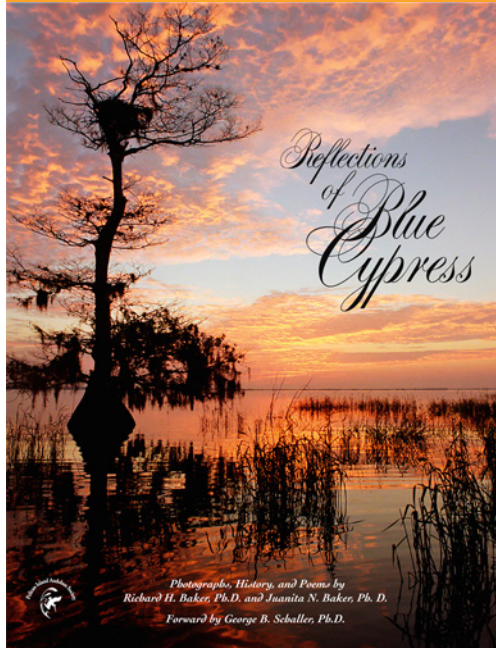
Eastern Kingbird by John James Audubon

by Linda Chancellor

It was 7:58 a.m. and I had started an Ebird checklist on my phone. Chickadees, tit mice, cardinals and red-bellied woodpeckers were taking turns at the feeder. But there was also action at the end of the pier. I spotted a bird with an unusual flight pattern. It darted out over the water, hovered, and then flew to a piling at the end of the pier. I stopped my checklist and continued to watch as the bird again darted out over the water and then back to the piling. I grabbed my binoculars and focused on where he was perched. I could see he had a dragonfly in his mouth! Where was my camera? Of course, I had left it in the house. I quickly retrieved it and when I returned the bird had perched on a piling closer to the shore. I took several photos before the bird flew to a nearby deerberry shrub. He dropped down into the grass and then flew back to the pier piling. Where before I had only seen his white belly, dark head and gray wings this time the bird had his back to me and I could clearly see that the end of the tail had a white edge. I used the Merlin app to try and identify the bird. After choosing size and colors of the bird Merlin suggested it could be a Tree Swallow. But tree swallows have a definite blue sheen to their backs and that did not match my photo. The second bird Merlin suggested was an Eastern Kingbird which did match the bird in my photo.

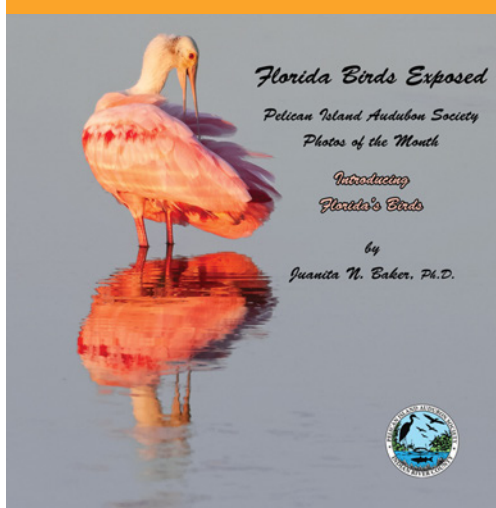
FYI - Eastern Kingbirds are flycatchers. Their method of foraging is referred to as aerial hawking. When they see a large insect, they dart quickly and snatch their prey in their mouths.

Add these books to your library!



2 great books about our local habitats and birds from Pelican Island Audubon

Reflections of Blue Cypress: Photographs, History, and Poems of the Headwater Lake of the St. Johns River by Richard H. Baker & Juanita N. Baker with a Forward by George Schaller. [124 pages] \$25



Florida Birds Exposed: Pelican Island Audubon Society Photos of the Month Introducing Florida's Birds by Juanita N. Baker \$32

Price includes tax.

Purchase online at PelicanIslandAudubon.org or at Audubon House, 195 9th St. SE (Oslo Rd), Vero Beach

**October 17, 2022 - 7:00 PM
General Meeting on Zoom**



**Burrowing
Owls of
Southwest
Florida
with
Brittany Piersma**

Brittany Piersma, a field biologist with Audubon Western Everglades, will give an overview of the Burrowing Owls of Southwest Florida at the Monday, October 17, 2022 meeting starting at 7:00PM on Zoom. Click the button below to register.

The Florida Burrowing Owl is classified as State Threatened by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

Burrowing Owls inhabit open prairies in Florida that have very little understory (floor) vegetation. These areas include golf courses, airports, pastures, agriculture fields, and vacant lots. The drainage of wetlands, although detrimental to many organisms, increases the areas of habitat for the Burrowing Owl. The range of the Burrowing Owl is throughout the peninsular of Florida in patches and localized areas.

Audubon of the Western Everglades on Marco Island has partnered with the Rangeland Wildlife Lab at the University of Florida (UF-IFAS) to learn more about the Burrowing Owls of Marco Island. Burrowing Owls are being banded as part of a UF study across Southwest Florida.

Our presenter Brittany Piersma has a BS in Environmental Science and worked as a zoo keeper at the Naples Zoo for 4 years. She has a wide range of experience with Southwest Florida's wildlife from volunteering with FWC, Rookery Bay, Panther Refuge, and Audubon.

Field Trips & Morning Nature Walks

Space is limited. Registration is required.
For more information & to register visit
PelicanIslandAudubon.org

- Oct 8 - Blue Cypress Conservation Area - Guide: Susan Drew
- Oct 9 - Oslo Riverfront Conservation Area - Guide: Morgan Rockwell
- Oct 15 - Bee Gum Pointe Preserve - Guide: Jim Shea
- Oct 16 - Oslo Riverfront Conservation Area - Guide: Morgan Rockwell
- Oct 21 - St. Sebastian River Preserve State Park - Guide: Lani York
- Oct 30 - Sebastian Inlet State Park - Guide: Lani York
- Nov 6 - Florida Medical Entomology Lab - Guide: Morgan Rockwell
- Nov 11 - Indrio Savannas - Guide: Donna Halleran
- Nov 13 - Florida Medical Entomology Lab - Guide: Morgan Rockwell
- Nov 26 - Riverside Park & Memorial Island - Guide: Leah Blythe

**Trips subject to change. Check the online schedule at
PelicanIslandAudubon.org**

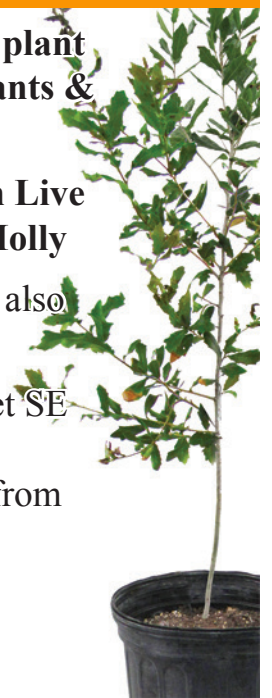
**Stop by and browse the native plant
nursery - over 12,400 native plants &
trees distributed so far!**

**Free Trees Available: Southern Live
Oak, Mahogany, & Dahoon Holly**

A selection of native plants are also
available for \$5 a pot.

Audubon House - 195 9th Street SE
(Oslo Rd), Vero Beach, on
Wednesday - Friday - Sunday from
9AM to 11AM

More at
PelicanIslandAudubon.org



Go Green!

Members may sign up to have the Peligram emailed to them. Saves postage and paper. Email piaudubon@yahoo.com with your name & email address with "Peligram" in the subject line.



Pelican Island Audubon Society Membership Form

_____	Enclosed is my:
NAME	\$_____ \$25 for annual membership
_____	\$_____ \$30 for family membership
ADDRESS	\$_____ \$100 Scrub-Jay sustaining membership
_____	\$_____ \$200 Osprey sustaining membership
CITY, STATE ZIP	\$_____ contribution
_____	\$_____ TOTAL
E-MAIL	Please mail this completed form with a check made out to: Pelican Island Audubon Society P.O. Box 1833 Vero Beach, FL 32961

Or join online using a credit card at www.PelicanIslandAudubon.org