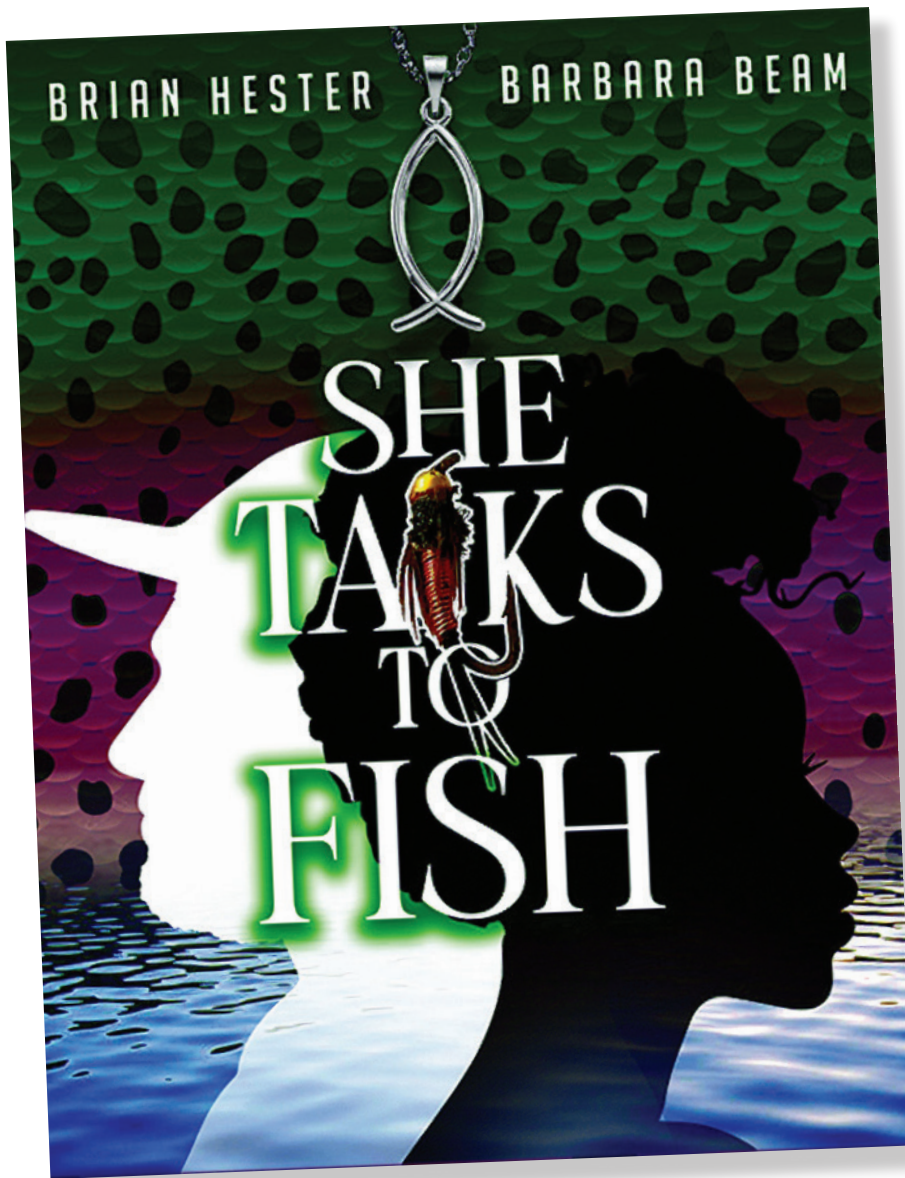




Peligran

November
2024

Live Painting, Book Signing, & Reception
with Brian Hester & Barbara Beam - Authors of *She Talks To Fish*
Friday, November 15, 2024



Audubon House

195 9th Street SE (Oslo Rd)
Vero Beach

6:00 - 7:00 pm

Live painting / author reception
with beer, wine, & finger foods

7:00 - 8:30pm

Book signing & readings

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Brian Hester, a native of Boone, NC, is an avid fly-fisherman. Brian has been a visual arts teacher for 29 years and is also a professional artist and sculptor.

Barbara Beam grew up in Charlotte, NC and is a graduate of Appalachian State University. She is an English teacher and has written books, scripts, and dozens of songs.

The book will be for sale at the event.

Tickets are \$30 per person

Available at

www.PelicanIslandAudubon.org



She Talks To Fish is the coming-of-age story of a young Black Woman whose obsession with fly fishing in the mountains of North Carolina leads her to confront stereotypes, bigotry, weather, and even death with immeasurable perseverance.

This event is a fundraiser for Pelican Island Audubon Society's Audubon Advocate program, an after-school science and outdoor adventure program for under-served students at Title I schools in Indian River County.



RiverKidz is a nature club that meets twice a month for the WHOLE family to enjoy. Our meetups consist of guest speakers, field trips, educational activities, service activities, kayaking, and more! If you ever wanted to be involved in helping your environment or you just want to explore the outdoors more, this is the group to join. For more info, email piaudubonedu@gmail.com

- 11/9 - Booth at Manatee Fest - families can sign up for shifts to help run the booth
- 11/23 - Pine Needle Basket making
- 12/7 - Vero Beach Christmas Parade
- 12/14 - Manatee presentation & Mobile Touch Tank with Elyse from Manatee Center
- 12/28 - Kayaking at Round Island

Our mission: is to speak out, get involved, and raise awareness because we believe KidZ should have a voice in the future of the Indian River Lagoon. A nature club sponsored by Pelican Island Audubon Society and Clean Water Coalition.

FIELD TRIPS

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

- Nov 10 Osprey Acres Stormwater Park & Nature Preserve with Steve Goff
- Nov 14 Grand Harbor Native Plant Tour with Steve Palmquist
- Dec 8 Kayaking at Turkey Creek Sanctuary with Steve Goff
- Dec 11 Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge with Dick & Lorna Thibeault
- Jan 16 T.M. Goodwin Wildlife Managememnt Area & Broadmoor with Becky Loftus and Ann Esmas
- Jan 26 Orlando Wetlands Park with Bill & Becky Loftus
- Feb 6 Indrio Savannahs Preserve with Nick Polge
- Feb 12 Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge with Becky Loftus and Ann Esmas
- March 18 Sebastian Inlet State Park with Steve Palmquist

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.

Executive Director **Donna Halleran**
Environmental Educator **Jennifer Satterly**
Office Manager **Bob Montanaro**

Officers & Directors

Officers
Board Chair **Richard H. Baker, Ph.D.**
1st Vice-Chair **Bill Halliday**

2nd Vice-Chair **Steve Palmquist**
Recording Secretary **Darlene Halliday**
Corresponding Secretary **OPEN**
Treasurer **Steve Goff**
Elected Directors:
Albert Alley, M.D. '26
Graham Cox, Ph.D. '26
Susan Lovelace '25
Bill Loftus, Ph.D. '27
Ricky Ray '25
Bonnie Swanson '27
Appointed Board Members:
Judy Davis
Nancy Irvin
Nick Polge

Attention!!
Beginning Wednesday,
October 2nd, the Audubon
House Native Plant Nursery
will be open on
Monday-Wednesday-Saturday
9AM - 11AM
Audubon House
195 9th Street SE (Oslo Road), Vero Beach
The Nursery will no longer
be open on Sundays.

Happy Holidays!
60th Anniversary
Holiday Potluck
December 2, 2024 at 6:30PM
Audubon House
195 9th St. SE (Oslo Rd)
Vero Beach
Bring a dish for 6 - 8 people.
Drinks & cutlery will be supplied.
Special 60th anniversary gifts to first 100 families to attend.
RSVP at PelicanIslandAudubon.org
Potluck open to all members.

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

Why remove the phrase "Climate Change" from Florida law and Florida's school text books?

My Hoot



In May, Gov. DeSantis signed legislation that erases most references to the phrase "climate change" from Florida law and in Florida's school text books. Really? Climate Change is the major problem for all humanity's future. We must combat it immediately. Our more frequent major hurricanes like Ian in 2022 and now Helene and Milton with 41 tornados and at least 6 tornados in our county, were made more powerful by human-caused global warming, also called "Climate Change." It's not just

in Florida that suffers: the West has devastating wildfires as in California, more tornadoes in the South and Midwest, rain bombs in Vermont, and droughts that are drying the Amazon and east Africa. Hurricanes and tornados are not only killing us but also our decades-old trees that cool our earth by reducing CO₂, provide us oxygen to breathe, and feed us and the animals we love.

Our planet and oceans are at the highest recorded temperatures. Key West, surrounded by water and not in a desert, reached 115 degrees this summer! Our biosphere is in crisis resulting from burning fossil fuels, removing trees for development, converting our wetlands to agriculture, and industrial practices that release CO₂ and other greenhouse gases at highest levels.

These climate-changing gases heating the oceans and raising their acidity are also melting glaciers that raise sea level, flood coastal communities, and deprive many countries of drinking water. England is putting farmland back into a marsh that acts as a giant sponge that receives some of the water that floods communities farther inland https://www.nytimes.com/2024/10/22/world/europe/uk-steart-marshes-carbon-climate-change-flooding.html?campaign_id=9&emc=edit_nn_20241022&instance_id=137481&nl=the-morning®i_id=159368626&segment_id=181046&user_id=436382e2f047c116657a1178ce1e31a3.

The U.S. produces more CO₂ per person than any other country, so we should be leading the world in drastically cutting CO₂. We do not have much time to save Earth as we know it for our children and grandchildren. We must educate school kids about "Climate Change" and how to stop the damage we have done to our Earth! It's critical to educate future generations about the importance of reducing Climate Change if our world and creatures are to survive.

Let's start cooling our planet by reducing our CO₂ and methane emissions. We can do this by consuming less, traveling less, eating less meat and reducing the area of non-native lawns. Lawns receive 65-88% of our essential drinking water, along with fertilizers and herbicides that pollute our oceans and waterways. Ocean plankton, grasses and other wetland plants produce most of the oxygen we breathe. Our ingenuity and political will have lagged. US-made electric cars are still a rarity on the roads and are expensive. Solar panels have been mainly produced overseas, adding to energy costs in transport but could be made here. Most people do not have them in Florida, an ironic fact for the "Sunshine State"!

Most importantly in Florida, we should to set low-density development-limits per year. Planners should design more modest living areas, have more green parks everyone can enjoy, cluster development to reduce fossil-fuel use, preserve more lands in conservation, and plant more native trees and plants. Our current path is not sustainable! Scientists are trying to devise methods to remove the CO₂, but let's do our part. Require all homeowners and businesses to reduce CO₂, save energy, clean up this "CO₂ pollution" we have created.

We need to sequester more carbon by establishing and maintaining these essential parks with trees and native habitats. Yet Florida Department of Environmental Protection is trying to sneak golf courses, pickleball courts, and hotels into Florida's State Parks without public discussion, which reminds me of the song written and sung by Florida Folksinger Bob Rafkin: "*Somethin' Wrong is Goin' On, from the Earth to the Sky, and We Sit and Wonder Why!*" Instead of firing senior park planner and whistleblower James Gaddis, Gov. DeSantis should give him, a "Hero's Award" and promote him for exposing this furtive attempt to hide the major degradation of 26 of our Florida State Parks. We need more people like Gaddis to bravely inform us of such shenanigans as trying to sneak unsuitable commercial activities into our wilderness parks. Give the "James Gaddis Hero Award" to folks who inform the public of efforts to subvert our rare, preserved environmental lands for other purposes, especially when secretly planned to obtain financial benefit at the expense of our environment and our appreciation of nature. This State Park's issue will come up again next year.

Commercialization is a persistent threat to our local conservation areas, state and national parks. We must educate everyone about the value of Florida's natural habitats which are being lost to development every day. Just look around our county! Natural areas are essential to our enjoyment and well-being, and provide our water supply, flood control and recreation. We must be vigilant to stop our parks from being paved over, leading to tremendous loss of natural habitat. Park and conservation lands house rare and unique plants, birds, and other animal species, like our beautiful endemic FLORIDA SCRUB JAY, that exist in high and dry scrub habitat, which is prime development land. We need to protect our remaining aquatic and terrestrial environments to save Florida's native plants and animals. Like those species, humans also need green spaces, not just golf courses, pickleball courts, and hotels!

SAVE THE DATE!

6th Transforming Landscapes for a Sustainable Future Conference

Saturday, January 18, 2025 at the Emerson Center, 1590 27th Avenue, Vero Beach
8:00AM - 4:30AM

- Speakers
- Native Plant Sale
- Includes lunch

More information plus ticket sales coming soon to PelicanIslandAudubon.org

Audubon Advocates September - October Adventures

by Environmental Educator Jennifer Satterly



Our Audubon Advocates first month of classes are off to a great start. These 5th graders are eager to explore and learn all about nature!

So far these Advocates have learned a plethora of vocabulary words ranging from advocate to herpetologist to carnivore. They've begun connecting with the outdoors by observing native plants like the beautyberry, Spanish moss, wild coffee, and strangler figs and by sneaking up on the land crabs to get a better view.

The students have taken on the art of nature journaling in class and they are working on getting prizes for actively using their journals outside of class. Our nature journaling class with Susan Lovelace taught us how to notice things more closely by using our five senses, how to wonder more about what we are observing, and to think about what these experiences remind us of. She also taught us that our nature journals need to contain words, sketches, and numbers in each entry. The kids have really been enjoying expressing their observations using all of these techniques.

Cameras were introduced to all four of our classes and every single Audubon Advocate fully enjoyed getting behind the lens. Before going out with their cameras, the kids were taught that you should take multiple pictures of the same thing approached from different angles. It was amazing to see them with their cameras pointed in so many directions. Some of them pointed

their cameras up, some of them laid with them on the ground, some of them turned them upside down under the leaves, and some of them played with lighting and shadows. Overall it was great to see the natural world through their eyes and the excitement they had when they saw the photos they



were getting. Photography is a great skill that can be taken into the future and it enhances their connections with nature.

Only half of our classes got to experience our reptile class because Hurricane Helene canceled after-school classes for a couple of days. Thankfully we are all safe from the storm and we can reschedule the reptile classes for another week. For the kids that did get to experience the reptile class, they were super excited to be able to handle things like turtle shells, alligator bones and teeth, preserved animals and best of all, Noodle, the

albino corn snake. Every student touched Noodle and almost all of them chose to hold him. It was great to see the kids that weren't too sure about holding him but after watching for a few minutes, they were eager to hold him.

So far, one of our classes has had a chance to go kayaking at Round Island. It was great to have the Advocates families join us for the fun! They saw a ton of jumping fish which they learned was mullet. It was spider season out there! There were so many Golden Silk Orb Weavers (banana spiders) in the red mangroves that we couldn't even keep count. Some of them

were the size of our faces! The kids thought they were really cool spiders and when the sun was shining, they could see how golden their webs were which is where they get their name. The paddle was about an hour and a half and everyone managed it wonderfully and we were all so grateful the weather was beautiful.



Along with our after-school Audubon Advocates classes, we are running River Kidz on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month. This past month we introduced Teen River Kidz which is for teens ages 13-18 years and is a drop off program. River Kidz for the whole family runs from 10am to 12pm and our Teen River Kidz is from 1pm to 3pm. During our last meetup the River Kidz group did a hike on some of the trails and the kids worked hard picking up trash along the way. Our Teen River Kidz went out on the same trails that afternoon but with a different agenda. We gave them cameras and let them explore their creativity. They had a great time getting a chance to connect with nature through the camera lens. If you are on Facebook, follow us at IRC River Kidz or if you would like to be put on a mailing list, email our Environmental Educator, Jennifer Satterly at piaudubonedu@gmail.com.



A Literacy Event

by Donna Halleran, M.S.
Executive Director

Pelican Island Audubon Society and Literacy Services of Indian River County have partnered to provide environmental literacy to adult students, their families, and volunteers, beginning with introducing the many events and opportunities to learn and explore the Pelican Island Audubon Society – Audubon House.

Donna Halleran introduced them to environmental words, beginning with Audubon and the person – John James Audubon. Many of the adult students were not familiar with him or his works. We discussed native plant and animal names, followed by a walk and talk on the trails to the Southern Live Oak saplings.

Many of the guests asked questions about the magnificent Beautyberry shrub, a native gem. They learned that the leaves of the Beautyberry plant could be used as an insect repellent by breaking them and rubbing them on the skin. This was a hit, as mosquitos were plentiful after the rains. We observed a butterfly emerging from its chrysalis, followed by pizza, snacks, and great conversation. The group is interested in coming back to go kayaking and learn more about the Indian River lagoon. If you want to learn about new cultures, volunteering at the Pelican Island Audubon Society or the Literacy Services of Indian River County is an opportunity to explore.



Poison in the Indian River Lagoon:

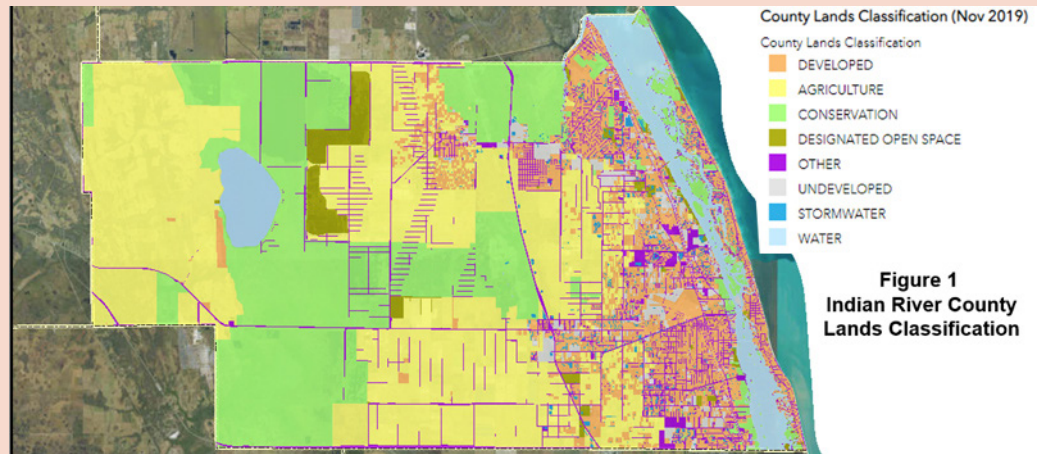
Immediate treatment is needed or the patient will die

by Michael Walther, M.S., P.E.



This is the second of six articles that started in the June 2024 Peligram.

We are literally surrounded by water, as reflected in Figure 1:



- Indian River County (IRC) is defined by our water resources - from the Atlantic to the Lagoon to Blue Cypress Lake, and the extensive wetlands throughout the County
- Agricultural lands lie mainly to our west, but much land drains to the Lagoon
- Development is concentrated in the east surrounding and directly impacting the Lagoon.

Before the significant development of IRC, the Atlantic Coastal Ridge along the railroad tracks deterred water flow into the Lagoon. West of the coastal ridge, the land was commonly underwater during the wet season. County development was made possible by the creation of the existing canal system that drained the land, enabled year-round farming, and eventually allowed for the subdivisions, roadways, shopping centers, and urban development that now dominate east of I-95. This canal system - coupled with the pumping and use of groundwater for irrigation and consumption - has altered the hydrology of IRC. A 1988 USGS study cites that discharge from the surficial aquifer occurs as seepage - transporting pollutants applied to the land - into lakes, canals, and the Lagoon. In addition, the USGS study cites that water levels in the Vero Beach well-field area declined about 15 to 19 feet between April 1971 and May 1984; the lowering of groundwater level can and has led to saltwater intrusion into wells in the eastern portion of the County.

Historically, the State of Florida's approach to pollution of water resources might be best characterized by the view that: "The solution to pollution is dilution." When Florida had far fewer people poisoning our environment, this historical approach worked reasonably well, but it is no longer viable for Florida waters. With the effects of population growth and agriculture on our water resources, natural systems can no longer accommodate our poisons and still be safe for swimming and fishing - key contributors to the quality of life for many Floridians and visitors.



ARC of the Treasure Coast visited the Pelican Island Audubon Society. Five associates were treated to a special time. Wyatt introduced Noodle, the albino corn snake, to them and gently handed it to each willing guest. One gentleman knew all about the native snakes of Florida and recited all the venomous ones. Brenda, our native plant's caregiver and volunteer, introduced the guests to native plants and then gave each a wooden butterfly to take home. It is a pleasure to have new guests come to see the Audubon House and make plans to come back for a program and hike.



**ARC of the Treasure Coast
Advocates for the Rights of the Challenged**



On The Fence

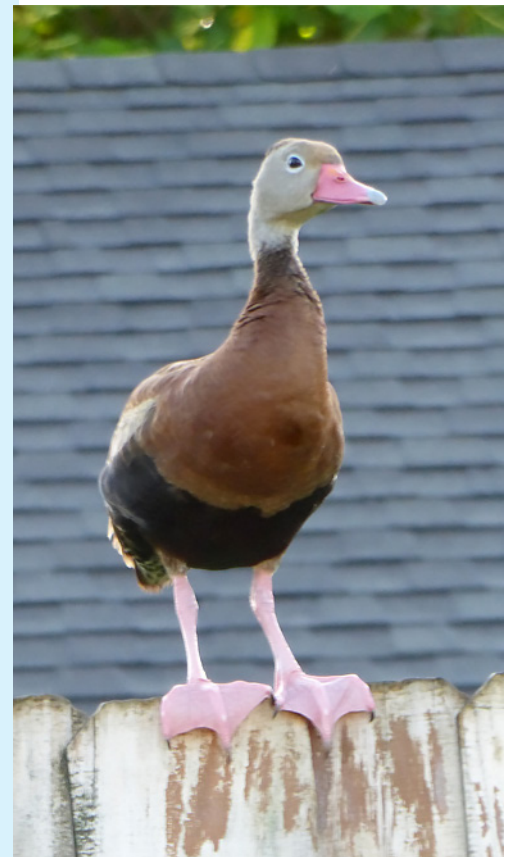
by
Linda Chancellor

I often heard their calls before I saw them. Then I would look up to see Black-bellied Whistling-ducks as they flew in “V” formation over my backyard. The sound of their calls has been compared to a dog’s squeaky toy and that is a very good description.

But this past summer and fall I had the opportunity to observe them close-up. Several mornings, between 8 and 8:30 a.m., I would see eight Black-bellied ducks perched on a neighbor’s wood fence. I knew the neighbor had a bird feeder in his backyard, but I wondered what attracted the first duck to sit on the fence. Was it a specific seed that he found tasty? And when the other did ducks notice this and so joined the first duck on the fence. Although the house is located on the main road the ducks were never fazed by passing cars. I parked my car on the other side of the street and took photos. From this advantage

point I could see their entire bodies instead of just their black bellies when seen in flight. They were the size of a small goose and had gray feathers on their faces and long necks. A dark stripe of feathers ran down their back to the beautiful chestnut feathers of their body. A white stripe marked their wing. Their bills were red, and their feet were pink. But I was curious as to how did they hold onto the picket fence with their webbed feet. So, the next morning I returned and took photos of their feet as they stood on the fence. I was amazed at the flexibility of their web feet and how it could bend over in order to cling to the fence.

FYI- There are two types of whistling ducks in Florida. The Black-bellied and the Fulvous whistling-duck. The Fulvous species has a dark bill and dark legs. Both species nest in trees like wood ducks.



Fall is here and I have begun counting the migrating birds in my back yard! *by Donna Halleran, M.S.*

I have been a **FeederWatch** member for over ten years. I am always excited when the new season begins on November 1st. I expectantly look forward to when the Painted Buntings arrive! I have been following their trend in my back yard for 7 years. The Painted Buntings have been trending their arrival earlier every year. Project FeederWatch turns your love of feeding birds into scientific discoveries. FeederWatch is a November-April survey of birds that visit backyards, and other locales in North America. You don’t even need a feeder! Although, I buy white millet in 50 pounds bags and fill three different feeders, continually. My favorite feeder is among the branches of a Marlberry Bush that is over 15 feet tall and 12 feet wide. The Painted Buntings are given a safe haven to feed while others watch on, as they take turns. I love to sit on my back porch and listen to them and watch as they take turns. I currently have about seven pairs that visit several times a day!

All you need is an area from which you like to watch birds. Plus, the schedule is completely flexible: you can count every week or once all winter, for as much or as little time as you like.

What is FeederWatch?

FeederWatch is an opportunity for you to share what birds and mammals you see from November-April to a multi-decade, continent-wide dataset. Most people count birds from home, but you can also participate from school, work, or any place you observe birds regularly. By joining FeederWatch, your observations contribute to a nearly 40 year-long program tracking bird populations.

Did you know:

The average number of species seen in a typical yard is only a dozen species? Sometimes people are concerned that they won’t be able to identify all the birds around their home, but we assure you that you can learn the dozen most common species that regularly visit your yard. They are here to help!

- They will send you bird identification materials—you can learn the birds as you go.
- You don’t need a feeder—just a place that you like to observe birds.
- The schedule is totally flexible—count once a week or once all winter.

Importantly, FeederWatch data tell us where birds are as well as where they are

not. This crucial information enables scientists to piece together the most accurate population maps.

The massive amounts of data collected across the continent help scientists understand

- long-term trends in bird distribution and abundance
- the timing and extent of winter irruptions of winter finches and other species
- expansions or contractions in the winter ranges of feeder birds
- the kinds of foods and environmental factors that attract birds
- how disease is spread among birds that visit feeders

Consider joining FeederWatch, it is the best eighteen dollars you can spend, and slows you down to enjoy your yard. www.FeederWatch.org.



Painted Bunting by Bob Montanaro, M.A.

Adopt an Advocate! Please help support our 14-week outdoor science, after-school Audubon Advocates program, which focuses each year on 5th graders from four underserved elementary schools.

Goal: Improve science vocabulary, mental health, and opportunities for under-represented minorities and girls to be comfortable outdoors and become Environmental Advocates for Indian River County.

Focus: Introduce students to outdoor, hands-on Lagoon science, help them understand the interconnectedness of life and the value of all native species, and help them be good stewards of the environment.

The environmental educator takes students outdoors into nature to kayak, photograph, sketch, meet a variety of scientists in the field, familiarize themselves with scientific methods, collect specimens, document their

experiences, and educate others at school and their parents, family, and friends. While learning "leave no trace & earth manners."

Results: Educated, healthier, empowered students; new aspirations and possibilities for underrepresented students; and, over time, a healthier Lagoon.

It will be transformative for the students, their parents, our community, and our environment—and for you as a sponsor!

Please Adopt an Advocate: Do Something Extraordinary! \$500 Supports One 5th Grader per term, or consider giving what you can.

Help fund one or more students to attend our 14-week after-school program at Audubon House. Thank you!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

My check is enclosed. Make check payable to Pelican Island Audubon Society, or donate online at PelicanIslandAudubon.org

1 Student \$500 any amount

(Please check) if you would like an update on your sponsored student.



Pelican Island Audubon Society is looking for volunteers to help in the following areas:

- Native Gardens – Help watering plants and/or selling plants
- Bird Walks – Lead walks
- Kayak Tours – Lead tours
- Outreach – Help with events such as Festivals, Christmas Party, Landscape Conference, help with movie nights, greeting people at monthly meetings
- Teaching a course of interest

If you have any questions or the time to help with any of the above, please contact Lorna Thibeault at piasvolunteer@gmail.com or (203) 687-7156.

Stop by and browse the native plant nursery - over 20,600 native plants & trees distributed so far!

Free Native Trees Available in 1 gallon pots - Live Oak, Bald Cypress, Mahogany

A selection of native plants are available at low prices.

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

More at **PelicanIslandAudubon.org**



Pelican Island Audubon Society Membership Form

Enclosed is my:

NAME _____ \$ _____ \$30 for annual membership

ADDRESS _____ \$ _____ \$35 for family membership

CITY, STATE ZIP _____ \$ _____ \$100 Scrub-Jay sustaining membership

E-MAIL _____ \$ _____ \$200 Osprey sustaining membership

_____ \$ _____ contribution

_____ \$ _____ TOTAL

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

LEARN TO ENHANCE YOUR YARD WITH NATIVE PLANTS 6TH TRANSFORMING LANDSCAPES FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

JANUARY 18, 2025
AT THE EMERSON CENTER

1590 27TH AVENUE
VERO BEACH, FL 32960

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE



SPONSORS

Become a conference sponsor and get your name or business listed here!

\$2,500

•Dr. Albert & Virginia Alley

\$1,500

\$1,000

•Kay Gibson

•Goff & Associates

•George & Ann Hamner

•Windsor Properties

\$500

\$250

•Advanced Vascular Systems

•Clean Water Coalition of IRC

•Conradina Chapter - FNPS

•Environmental Learning Center

•Friends of St. Sebastian River

•Garden Club of Indian River County

•Ralph Johansen

•Ellen Lynch

•Pelican Island Conservation Society

8:00AM	Online Registration-PelicanIslandAudubon.org-Tickets \$25 & includes box lunch. \$35 after Jan 12. Native plants on sale from Native Plant Nurseries
9:00-9:50	Dr. Craig N. Huegel , Curator, University of South Florida Botanical Garden, owner and operator of Hawthorn Hill Native Wildflowers, and teaches biology at St. Petersburg College. <i>Native Trees for Birds</i>
10:00-10:50	Troy Springer , Founder & President, Springer Environmental Services, <i>Taking Green Landscaping to the Next Level</i>
10:50-11:10	Break Native plants on sale from Native Plant Nurseries
11:10-12:00PM	Emily Bell , Communications Coordinator, Florida Wildflower Foundation. <i>Bring on the Butterflies</i>
12:00-1:00	Lunch with Box Lunches included in the \$25 admission ticket for those attending in person.
1:00-1:50	Tia Silvasy , University of Florida Residential Horticulture Extension Agent, Hillsborough County, <i>No Mow Lawns in Florida</i>
2:00-2:50	Dr. Lyn Gettys , Associate Professor of Agronomy (Aquatic and Wetland Plant Science) University of Florida/IFAS Fort Lauderdale Research and Education Center in Davie, FL. <i>Healthy Ponds Using Native Plants for a Sustainable Future</i>
2:50-3:20	Break Native plants on sale from Native Plant Nurseries
3:20-4:10	Eric Draper , Retired Florida Park Service Director & Former Audubon Florida Society Executive Director. <i>State Parks and Wildlife Corridors: Strategies for a Sustainable Future</i>
4:10-4:30	Dr. Richard Baker - Discussion and Summary

LEARN MORE ABOUT PELICAN ISLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

WWW.PELICANISLANDAUDUBON.ORG

PHONE: 772-567-3520

EMAIL: PIAUDUBON@YAHOO.COM

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Dr. Craig N. Huegel, Curator, University of South Florida Botanical Garden, owner and operator of Hawthorn Hill Native Wildflowers, and teaches biology at St. Petersburg College. Former faculty member, Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, University of Florida where he cofounded the Cooperative Urban Wildlife Extension Program. Author of *Native Florida Plants for Shady Landscapes*, *Native Wildflower and Other Ground Covers for Florida Landscapes*, and *Naïve Plant landscaping for Florida Wildlife*. Uses central Florida landscapes as laboratories to evaluate native plants and grows a wide variety of species (mostly wildflowers) that are not commonly propagated elsewhere.



Troy Springer, Founder & President, Springer Environmental Services, Landscape Professional. 27 years of experience in landscaping and maintenance. He closed Springer Lawn Care and opened Springer Environmental Services to design, build, and maintain high end wildflower meadow projects ranging from urban landscapes to restoring natural areas for private landowners from small installations under \$5,000 to projects over \$100,000 using 98% all natives plant materials. Active in the Florida Native Plant Society for over fifteen years, including the Suncoast Chapter and state board and received a Green Palmetto Award for service.



Emily Bell joined the Florida Wildflower Foundation in 2022 as its communications coordinator. Prior to that, she spent four years coordinating invasive species programs within UF IFAS Extension and for the Florida Invasive Species Partnership. She began her conservation career as an intern for The Nature Conservancy and went on to work for the Florida Department and Environmental Protection and Hawaii Invasive Species Council. She has over a decade of experience with environmental outreach, planning and network building. Emily was born and raised in the wilds of Florida.



Tia Silvasy is a Residential Horticulture Extension Agent in Hillsborough County. She leads the Master Gardener Volunteer program and provides educational programming to help homeowners work towards more sustainable landscapes. She got her agricultural roots from growing up on her grandparents' farm in Pennsylvania. She's been working in the horticulture field for over 30 years. Tia received her undergraduate degree from the University of Central Florida and her master's degree from the University of Hawaii.



Dr. Lyn Gettys' research is focused on the biology and ecology of native and introduced aquatic and wetland plants, developing restoration strategies for native aquatic plants, and evaluation of control methods for managing invasive species. She coordinates the UF/IFAS Aquatic Weed Control Short Course and is an author on more than 300 publications, including 75 refereed papers and 33 articles in *Aquatics* magazine, and was lead editor *Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Foundation's* Best Management Practices Manual. Was the 2022 President and currently President-elect of the Florida Aquatic Plant Management Society and the 2022 President of the Florida Weed Science Society and Board Member of Directors and the Science Advisory Panel for the Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Foundation.



Eric Draper advises agencies, non-profits, and businesses on environmental finance and policy. He serves on the boards of the Florida Bicycle Association and Conservation Florida. As former Florida Park Service Director, Florida State Parks increased acreage, revenue, and environmental education programs and were awarded an unprecedented fourth gold medal as America's best state parks. Over a 40-year conservation career as Executive Director of Audubon Florida, Senior Vice President National Audubon Society, and working for The Nature Conservancy, he has been a leading advocate for land preservation, water resource protection, and Everglades restoration.