

# Wings & Things

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2009 THE NEWSLETTER OF THE VENICE AREA AUDUBON SOCIETY



Happy New Year

## President's Message Missy Christie

Wow, 2009 – As another year approaches, it is always a great time to sit back and reflect on past accomplishments and ponder the future for potential involvement in our exciting and rewarding program.

As most of you are aware, VAAS offers valuable local programs and is part of a much bigger network of programs. An example is the Conservation Committee. Members of the VAAS Conservation Committee are part of a larger Committee known as the Gulf Coast Regional Conservation Committee. Our group, which includes Ellen King, Ken Reamy, and Kathy Upton, represents our Chapter on the Regional Committee. The Regional Committee meets an average of 4 times per year in various locations throughout the Gulf Coast. The Regional Committee is composed of people from Audubon chapters in Venice, Sarasota, Manatee, Tampa, St. Pete, Hernando, Clearwater, West Pasco, and Citrus County. The Regional group focuses on critical issues relative to birds and the environment. Ideas, programs, and projects generated from this group are passed along to the Audubon of Florida's Board of Directors. Ideas generated on the local and state level are then presented to the National Audubon.

Each year in October, the Audubon Assembly takes place. Along with many great workshops, this is the venue when members from local chapters work with Audubon of Florida's Board of Directors and adopt priorities and campaigns for the upcoming year. These policies and campaigns serve as a focus point for the staff of Audubon, chapter members, Conservation Committees, Boards of Directors and so many more people all the way up to the national level.

During the 2008 Assembly one of the campaigns adopted by the Audubon of Florida is a Coastal Bird Habitat Campaign. What does that mean? Briefly, a large group of people will be developing strategies to promote productive coastal habitats for our shorebirds and seabirds. The objectives are many and include improving management of coastal conservation lands, diminishing recreational disturbances on shorebirds and seabirds, and ensuring protective measures for nesting shorebirds on our beaches. The goal is to develop sound protective measures for our shorebirds and seabirds. Another campaign involves sea grass conservation. Along with the two campaigns are three statewide policy priorities which include climate change, conservation for at-risk and

declining birds, and habitat conservation. For a complete list of the objectives give me a call and I will be happy to provide them, and also tell you about opportunities for you to be involved.

In last Wings and Things, our Editor, Abbie Banks wrote about her Volunteer Shorebird Steward experiences. This type of activity promotes the protection of our nesting shorebirds, reduces the impacts contributing to the decline of shorebirds, and contributes to the statewide campaign. (Hint: A volunteer opportunity for 2009.)

Other opportunities to volunteer and support Audubon efforts include joining one of the committees, volunteering at the rookery, becoming a trip leader, the Christmas bird count, fund raising, and spending time at the Center welcoming guests and tourists. The list can go on and on. The main point is there are many activities occurring on a local, state, and national level. With all good intentions comes the need for people like you to make these visions a success. Please keep VAAS in your thoughts as you are looking at the things you would like to do in 2009. Many opportunities are available and I hope you choose to join us on one or some of these opportunities. Happy Thoughts for 2009!

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## Meetings

6:30 Social Period - 7:00 PM Meeting  
Venice Community Center, 326 Nokomis Ave.

Tuesday, January 27

Jerome Jackson, nationally recognized ornithologist, will present an interesting program on one of the most prominent ornithologists of his time, George Miksch Sutton: Artist, Scientist and Teacher. Do not miss this unique program.

Tuesday, February 24

Julia Burch, Public Outreach Coordinator, Sarasota Bay Estuaries, will present a program on Sarasota Bay Estuaries. In addition Julia will give important advice regarding how to care for our yards to better preserve the bay.

Do not miss  
this important  
program. We  
must preserve  
our estuaries.



## VAAS Panama Trip

Venice Audubon, under the leadership of Carolyn Edmunds and Charlie Sample, is planning an El Valle, Panama trip, September 25-Oct. 4, 2009. This 10 day/9 night trip is to the mountains of El Valle, a sequel to the two previous VAAS Canopy Tower birding adventures. We would be the guests of Raul Arias de Para at the modern Canopy Lodge. Reservations have been made to accommodate 20 interested birders.

There will be 8 double and 4 single rooms for our group. The activities include 2 birding trips per day with an experienced guide, all meals at the Lodge, a Canopy Adventure, and transportation to the Lodge and airport. The Canopy Lodge, a newly constructed facility, is located in the El Valle foothills along a mountain stream. It is an ideal location for relaxation and excellent birding.

VAAS reservations will need to be completed by February 1, 2009. Each participant will need a \$300 (non-refundable after 2/1) deposit to secure a place for this fabulous trip.

The cost for the lodge, birding trips, Canopy Adventure and all meals is \$2695.00 (dbl room/per person). Air fare, transportation to Miami airport and total lodge costs are incomplete at this time. Signups for the trip and itinerary will be available at the VAAS meetings.

For a preview of El Valle, visit the website, <http://www.canopylodge.com/itinerary.php>. Contact Carolyn or Charlie for additional information, 497-6463.

There are a few openings available in the double room category. If all the spaces are not taken, we will be contacting other Audubon chapters to fill the trip. If you have any interest in a fabulous trip, contact the leaders ASAP.

### Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation

Venice Wildlife Center  
941-484-9657



**Visit your Venice Audubon Website**  
**[www.veniceaudubon.org](http://www.veniceaudubon.org)**

Save mailing costs and paper.

Sign up to receive Wings & Things electronically by email.

Contact Membership Director Steve Freedman at  
492-2563 or email [steve.freedman@att.net](mailto:steve.freedman@att.net)

## Meet Our New President

### Missy Christie

Missy worked for 25 years as an Executive Director in secondary educational facilities where the outdoors was the classroom. Upon moving to Florida, she became involved in sea turtle conservation and in 2003 began work with Charlotte County Environmental & Extension Services, Natural Resources Division. Her work began as an Education and Outreach Specialist/Code Compliance Officer enforcing the County's Sea Turtle Protection Ordinance and working to reduce impacts to nesting sea turtles. Her title changed to Environmental Specialist and her responsibilities now include nesting shorebird monitoring, overseeing marine turtle habitat conservation, an iguana control project, and ensuring compliance with County, State, and Federal permitting conditions associated with a beach nourishment/erosion control project. Her work days fluctuate from educational presentations to counting nesting shorebirds. She holds a Bachelor's Degree of Social Science and a Graduate Degree in Education. She is currently pursuing a degree in environmental studies.

## Meet Our New Vice-President

### Conservation Director, Ellen King

Ellen has been involved with Scrub Jay research and monitoring for many years. She is deeply interested in preserving the environment. She extends an invitation to our VAAS members to join the Conservation Committee.

## Meet Our New Treasurer

### Brenda Bossman

Brenda is a Marine Sea Turtle and Shorebird Consultant and owner/president of Professional Mortgage Solutions in Englewood. She has a background in banking, radio advertising and management and mortgage broker finance. Brenda is the District 3 Representative of the Charlotte County Planning and Zoning Board, a member of the Placida Rotary, a mentor for Big Brothers/Big Sisters and past president of Lemon Bay Conservancy. Brenda's passion is conserving the environment.

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*2749 Ringling Blvd. Sarasota, FL. 34237*

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**For info call 492-9778.**



*Census Leader: Charlie Sample, Ellen King, Bob MacGonagle, Bill Fairbanks, Abbie Banks (Photographer)*

## Pinelands Bird Census

### Charlie Sample

The Venice Audubon Pinelands bird census is in full swing. At this writing (December 15) the VAAS volunteer teams have identified 69 species during the last quarter of 2008. The area is surveyed twice monthly, both inside the landfill by one team and in the backcountry by a second team on the same day. The results are compiled in preparation for a future bird checklist to be available at the landfill headquarters.

The notable Pinelands bird is the Crested Caracara which has been observed on two occasions within the landfill area in December. Also the Northern Harrier has been seen on several occasions. Other birds worthy to mention are the Brown-headed Nuthatch, Cooper's Hawk, Prairie, Black-throated, Black and White Warblers. High numbers (in one day) of species include the Laughing Gull (3200), Bald Eagle (22), Fish Crow (300), Turkey Vulture (410), Black Vulture (200), and Tree Swallow (525). With the exception of Tree Swallows, the large numbers seem to be surrounding the dumping on the landfill. I wonder why?

The team leaders are: Mary Dommermuth, Barry Rossheim, Rett Oren and coordinator, Charlie Sample. At this time, twenty-one VAAS members have responded to participate in the census. We have ten months to bird the Pinelands before the checklist is drafted. Anyone interested to assist with the birding, contact Charlie at 497-6463.

**Update Note:** The Shamrock Park bird census completed by VAAS and updated from subsequent bird walks is complete in brochure/checklist format (Birds of Shamrock Park), similar to the Carlton checklist This checklist is available at Shamrock Park and copies will be available at the VAAS meetings.

## Charlie's Walks

### Carlton and Shamrock Bird Walks

#### Carlton Reserve 7:30 AM

Jan 11 (Sun)  
Feb 7 (Sat)  
Mar 15 (Sun)

#### Shamrock Park 7:30 AM

Jan 14 (Wed)  
Feb 11 (Wed)  
Mar 11 (Wed)





*Rett, Priscilla, Steve Freedman, our boat captain, Don Rippeon and Abbie Banks braved the harsh, warm, balmy sunshine to do the Lemon Bay bird count.*

**Count For Fun  
Count For the Future Sets New Records!**

Bird watchers outdid themselves during the 2008 Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC), sponsored by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society. Participants submitted more than 85,000 checklists during the four-day event, February 15-18, surpassing last year's all-time record by several thousand. Participants also identified a record 634 species and sent in thousands of stunning bird images from around the continent.

Be sure to check out our Kids Art Gallery featuring the works of budding artists from all over the country. Visit [www.birdcount.com](http://www.birdcount.com) for more details from this year's results. You can explore maps, see beautiful photos, prize-drawing winners, and the list of cities and towns that topped their state or province for the number of checklists submitted--our "checklist champs." Keep in mind the next GBBC is on President's Day weekend February 13-16, 2009.

Did you know that the Great Backyard Bird Count was one of the answers on the popular game show, Jeopardy?!

| Rank | Species                | Checklists |
|------|------------------------|------------|
| 1    | Northern Cardinal      | 43,936     |
| 2    | Mourning Dove          | 42,073     |
| 3    | Dark-eyed Junco        | 39,477     |
| 4    | Downy Woodpecker       | 33,903     |
| 5    | American Goldfinch     | 31,775     |
| 6    | Blue Jay               | 31,031     |
| 7    | House Finch            | 29,975     |
| 8    | Tufted Titmouse        | 28,023     |
| 9    | Black-capped Chickadee | 26,757     |
| 10   | American Crow          | 26,708     |



*Venice Area Audubon Society thanks Rett and Priscilla Oren for their work Organizing VAAS Christmas Bird Count.*

**Fall-2008, Winter/Spring-2009  
Nature Walk Schedule**

**By Bill & Margaret Dunson  
([wdunson@comcast.net](mailto:wdunson@comcast.net))**

These will deal with general nature topics including birds, native plants and ecological relationships unless otherwise indicated.

- Jan. 11- Tippecanoe Park, 9-11 am, Char. Cty., Bill
- Jan. 18- Amberjack Park, 9-11 am, Char. Cty., Margaret
- Jan. 25- Oyster Creek Park, 9-11 am, Char. Cty., Bill
- Feb. 15- Tippecanoe Park, 9-11 am, Char. Cty., Bill
- Feb. 22- Amberjack Park, 9-11 am, Char. Cty., Margaret
- Mar. 1- Oyster Creek Park, 9-11 am, Char. Cty., Bill
- Mar. 15- Tippecanoe Park, 9-11 am, Char. Cty., Bill
- Mar. 22- Amberjack Park, 9-11 am, Char. Cty., Margaret
- Mar. 29- Oyster Creek Park, 9-11 am, Char. Cty., Bill

Bill is the bird interpreter every Wednesday at the Myakka State Park birdwalk/boardwalk.

Bill will give several park-wide nature walks/drives at Myakka State Park through the Friends of Myakka programs TBA.



# Bill Fairbanks Walks Locations 2009

| Birding Place               | Address  | Meeting Point               | Program   |
|-----------------------------|--|-----------------------------|---|
| Shamrock Park               | 3900 Shamrock Drive, Venice  | Tennis court parking lot.   | Birding will follow a loop through Shamrock park. Duration will be about 2 – 3 hours involving walking 2 – 3 miles.   |
| Service Club Park           | 1190 Harbor Drive S., Venice   | Parking lot.                | Several beaches will be visited by car, including Service Club Beach, Brohard Beach, and Caspersen Beach. Some walking will be done at each site. Duration will be about 2 – 3 hours. |
| Deer Prairie Creek Preserve | 7001 Forbes Trail, Venice.<br>Follow the signs at the end of Border Rd. to the preserve.   | Parking lot                 | Birding will follow a loop through the northern part of Deer Prairie preserve. Duration will be about 2 – 3 hours involving walking 2 – 3 miles.                                      |
| Jelks Preserve              | 2300 North River Road, Venice.<br>Located between the Venice Avenue and Center Road intersections on River Road, across from the Stoney Brook development. | Parking lot                 | Birding will follow a loop through the Jelks preserve. Duration will be about 2 – 3 hours involving walking 2 – 3 miles.  |
| Pinebrook Park              | 1251 Pinebrook Road, Venice.<br>Pinebrook Park is adjacent to Well Field Park.   | Parking lot by tennis court | Visits will be made to Pinebrook Park and the nearby Curry Creek Preserve. Duration will be about 2 – 3 hours involving walking 2 – 3 miles.  |

**NOTES:**

- 1) Weekend bird trips do not have a trip leader. Just show up by the 7:30 AM meeting time and participate.
- 2) Bird walk durations will be about 3 hours and involve walking up to 3 miles.
- 3) Bring binoculars and field guide for birding. Bring scopes if available.
- 4) Bring water, snacks, sun screen, mosquito repellent, and other necessities.
- 5) Wear appropriate clothing, foot wear suitable for walking, hat, jacket if needed etc.
- 6) No drinking water or toilets are available at Deer Prairie Creek Preserve and Jelks Preserve
- 7) Contact Bill Fairbank by phone at (941) 412-1610 or by email at [wgfairbank@hotmail.com](mailto:wgfairbank@hotmail.com) if additional information is needed.



## Audubon Adventures An Environmental Learning Program

Please contribute to Audubon Adventures. Open Children's Eyes to Nature. A \$45. donation funds one classroom for one school year. Help us meet our goal. Any size donation is greatly appreciated. Write check payable to:

### Venice Area Audubon Society

Mail to: Lorry Stover  
1015 Laurel Avenue, Venice Fl 34285

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed (Tax Deductable) \_\_\_\_\_

## BILL FAIRBANKS WALKS

[wgfairbank@hotmail.com](mailto:wgfairbank@hotmail.com)

### Meet at 7:30

1/17/09 DEER PRAIRIE CREEK PRESERVE

1/25/09 PINEBROOK PARK Meet in parking lot. 2-3 miles

Pick up the Bill Fairbanks Walks flyer with additional information at the meetings.

**Venice Area Audubon Society is most grateful to those who have become LIFETIME MEMBERS.**

**For \$ 1500 per person you can become a lifetime member of VAAS.**



## Overnight Field Trip to Clewiston

Venice Area Audubon Society’s annual overnight trip for 2009 is a weekend stay at the historic Clewiston Inn which will include great food and drink and visits to some of the best birding spots in South Florida. Arriving at the Inn in sleepy Clewiston is like returning to the Florida of the 1950s. The old switchboard sits in the lobby opposite a very elegant sitting area with warm cypress paneling and a large wood-burning fireplace. The Inn was originally built by Southern Sugar (now U.S. Sugar Corporation) in 1926 to house executives and visiting dignitaries. After a fire destroyed the Inn, it was rebuilt in 1938. The Everglades Lounge pictured above is heaven for birders. Relaxing in the lounge is to be surrounded by absolutely stunning murals of native Florida avian life wading amongst the reeds of the everglades. The murals were painted in the 1940s by the renowned artist J. Clinton Shepherd. The food at the Inn is absolutely delicious.

Enough about the food and facilities. How about the birds? STA-5 is a government water treatment facility and closed to the public most of the time. It also is reputedly one of the best birding spots in Southern Florida. At Green Cay you can have a close encounter with the birds. Be sure to bring your camera. Loxahatchee is over 140,000 acres and a favorite wintering spot of the neo-tropical songbirds.

This is a very popular trip. Please call or email Ann Lieberman at (941) 223-3789 – annlieberman@comcast.net for further details. Please mail the form below to:

Norma Lee Rhines  
710 Fording Bridge Way  
Osprey, Florida 34229

The cost for this trip is \$275 for VAAS Members (\$315 for non-members) per person if you are sharing a room, and \$350 (\$390 for non-members) per person for a single room. Please fill out the form below and send the total amount due to the Venice Area Audubon Society care of Norma Lee Rhines at the above address.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_



Wakadahatchee Wetlands



## Dr. Meg Lowman to Speak at VAAS Luncheon

### Topic: Conservation for the Next Generation

The Venice Area Audubon Society is privileged to have the renowned scientist Dr. Meg Lowman speak at the VAAS fundraising luncheon Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 at the Crossroads American Grille.

Dr. Lowman has recently returned from speaking at the Ecological Society of Australia Conference in Sydney, Australia, where she was interviewed by ABC Radio National. During the interview she discussed the mysterious world of the canopy and remarked that over half of the life on earth lives in the tops of trees which includes millions of insects and thousands of birds. Dr. Lowman stressed the urgency to uncover the secrets of the rain forest before we lose the forests.

Meg Lowman pioneered the science of canopy ecology. For 30 years, she has designed hot-air balloons and walkways for treetop exploration to solve mysteries in the world's forests, with special expertise on the links between insect pests and ecosystem health. Meg is affectionately called the grandmother of canopy research as one of the first scientists to explore this "eighth continent". She relentlessly works to "map" the canopy for biodiversity and to champion forest conservation in Florida

as well as around the world. Her academic training included Williams College (BA, Biology); Aberdeen University (MSc, Ecology); Sydney University (PhD, Botany); and Tuck School of Business (Executive Management).

Her first book, *Life in the Treetops*, received a cover review in the New York Times Sunday Book Review. Working tirelessly on sustainability initiatives at home and abroad, she recently received the Lifetime Achievement Award for Conservation from Sarasota County.

"Canopymeg" is currently Director of Environmental Initiatives and Professor of Biology and Environmental Studies at New College of Florida. She also serves as the Science Advisor for Climate Change to Florida's CFO, Alex Sink. Previously she has served as CEO of The Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, was Professor of Biology and Environmental Studies at Williams College, and co-managed a sheep and cattle station in outback Australia. Meg is married to attorney Michael Brown. They are the proud parents of Eddie, research associate at Environmental Defense working on urban environmental policy; and James, applied math major at Princeton University who is modeling forests as global carbon sinks. Reflecting her love for linking kids to nature, Meg's personal mantra is "No child left indoors." Tickets for this event are \$23 each. Tables for 10 or eight are available.

### **SIGN UP NOW! Limited Seating**

Please fill out the form below and send a check to the Venice Area Audubon Society to:

Norma Lee Rhines  
710 Fording Bridge Way  
Osprey, Florida 34229

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_



## Government Review Confirms Red Knot and Other Imperiled Birds Should be Listed as Endangered Species

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) has released its revised list of species that are candidates for protection under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The list raises the priority for listing the declining Red Knot. The knot, a robin-sized shorebird, is threatened by a decrease in the availability of horseshoe crab eggs, the bird's main food source during its migration stopover in Delaware Bay. Designation as a Candidate Species is not a requirement for listing under the ESA, and FWS can, and regularly does, list animals and plants without first placing them on the Candidate List. As a result, the Candidate List is regarded by many conservationists as a stall tactic by FWS.

*Venice Area*



*Audubon Society*

### Vaas General Store

T-shirts with this beautiful logo (photo courtesy of John Hazard) as well as golf shirts, caps, visors and shopping bags are available at the VAAS Welcome Center and also at our monthly meetings. Profits from sales are used for our local VAAS projects.



### Youth Education by Deb Johnson

Lorry Stover ordered 60 Audubon Adventure kits this year. They were delivered to over 1900 students in 4th and 5th grades. Thank you, Lorry, for your dedication to the program and thank you Ann and Erik Lieberman, Jackie and

Tom Barrett, and Joanne and Jerry Robertson for your financial support.

The 'People for Trees' in North Port sent an appreciation certificate to VAAS for participating in the 5th Annual Eco-Kids Blast in Sep. Thank you, Hannah Wilkins and Alena Capek, for setting up your booths at Dallas White Park and teaching the children about birds.

Alena and Norma Dayton were busy at the United Church of Christ this fall. They presented a powerpoint program of local birds to young members and adults. Afterwards they went outside with binoculars and spotted a mockingbird, a red bellied woodpecker, and several doves. If you know of a group that would benefit from a program like this, please contact me at 492-9778.

**Youth Education Training**  
for 2nd Grade Bird Study Program.  
Jan 24th, 9 - 12:00 Meet at Rookery.  
For info call 429-8725.

### BirdWatcher's Digest

Fellow Venice Audubon members, we have exciting news.

#### **BirdWatchers Digest will give VAAS 50% of all subscriptions.**

When you purchase a \$20 subscription, our Venice chapter receives \$10.00 and you get an interesting publication about nature and birds. Go to our web site and order gifts for your bird watcher friends...and for yourself.

<http://www.veniceaudubon.org/>



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## Think Globally – Act Locally

### Why You Need To Join This Audubon Chapter

**Steve Freedman,  
Membership Director**

About two-thirds of our members are assigned to our chapter through their affiliation with the National Audubon Society. They select this routing because it provides them with all the advantages of joining the local chapter and, in addition, they receive a subscription to the Audubon magazine as well as a ten percent discount at National Audubon Society stores. There is a simple logic to this decision.

When members become enrolled in our local chapter they expect that the chapter will provide a newsletter, and in this day and age, create and maintain a website. Of course, there needs to be regular chapter meetings and a field trip program. The Venice Audubon Rookery requires supervision and we should maintain our educational program that serves many of the elementary school children in this area. The Birding Instructional Classes, introduced last year, should be repeated and it would be useful to expand this program as is indeed planned. Of course, our participation in the Christmas Bird Count and the Back Yard Bird Count will need to be continued annually. It is beneficial that we have become more actively involved in local and state conservation issues. These efforts need to be brought to the attention of the general public as well as our own membership.

The numerous projects described in the preceding paragraph are essentially funded by the approximately 250 members that directly join our local chapter. The National Audubon Society only returns about \$1150 or ten percent of the dues they receive from our 650 or so nationally affiliated members back to the VAAS. This sum isn't even sufficient to pay the \$1600 rent that we pay the Venice Community Center for the five chapter meetings we hold at that facility each year. We utilize all the money derived from the membership dues in our VAAS chapter. This revenue source provides our life blood.

I hope that the information provided in this article brings our in-house operation into a clearer perspective.

## We Welcome The Following New Members Of The Venice Area Audubon Society:

(All the members listed below joined the local chapter directly. We have not received any new membership information from the National Audubon Society since May 31, 2008).

|                  |                               |
|------------------|-------------------------------|
| Mary Jane Beeman | Cathy Makowski                |
| Brenda Bossman   | Kim, Missy and Todd McDonough |
| Ted Burns        | Mike Thompson                 |
| Gary Craig       | Shelly & Stanley Wheeler      |
| Dolores Feeney   |                               |
| Pat Jones        |                               |

### Venice Area Audubon Society

Yes! I want to be a chapter member of VAAS.  
Enclosed is my check made payable to VAAS

- Regular Member \$20.
- Family Member \$30.
- Lifetime Member \$1500 per person

Yes, I would like to save trees, postage and printing and receive Wings & Things via email

Yes, I would like to donate an additional  
 \$20.  \$50  \$100

Yes, I want to volunteer for

- Center/Rookery  Conservation  Fundraising,
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

- New Member  Renewal

## Urgent - Audubon Center Needs Vounteers

This is an emergency request! Volunteers are needed at the Audubon Welcome Center and Rookery for the months of January, February and March. Please sign up for at least one morning or afternoon a month ( or more) to greet visitors and make their visit to the Rookery and Welcome Center more enjoyable. New people are encouraged to give this a try; we will train you. Please e-mail Arlene Kelpsich, Volunteer Coordinator, arleneask@hotmail.com or phone 941-486-9022. Thanks for your consideration.

*\*Editor's Note: Thank you, Arlene, for doing such a wonderful job. Please support VAAS and just give a few hours of volunteer time. You will get to meet visitors from near and far.*

## OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS, 2008- 2009

### COMMITTEES, 2008 - 2009 PRESIDENT

Missy Christie, 941-764-4392  
missylchristie@verizon.net

#### 1st VICE-PRESIDENT (Conservation)

Ellen King (941-488-6818)

#### 2nd VICE-PRESIDENT (Trips)

Vacant

#### RECORDING SECRETARY

Don Rippeon, 941-698-9412  
donripleon@aol.com

#### CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Kathy Upton, 408-9357  
kau11birds@msn.com

#### TREASURER

Brenda Bossman 941-270-2961

#### DIRECTOR

(Membership/Temporary Field Trip

#### Coordinator

Steve Freedman, 492-2563,  
steve.freedman@att.net

#### DIRECTOR (Public Relations)

Abbie Banks, 941-698-9412,  
amberina@aol.com

#### CO-DIRECTORS

##### (Environmental Education)

Debbie Johnson, 492-9778  
boss302@comcast.net

#### DIRECTOR (Programs)

Ann Lieberman,  
485-7387 annlieberman@comcast.net

#### STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Hannah Wilkins, 429-0900

#### PAST PRESIDENT

David R. Evans,  
475-2172, drevans6@verizon.net

#### BIRD RESEARCH

**Coordinator**, Charles Sample, 497-6463

**Bird Recorder**, Charles Sample

**Bird Census**, Charles Sample

#### Bird Colony Watch

Fred Bernstein, 475-0690

#### CONSERVATION Coordinator,

Missy Christie, 474-1399

#### ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Deb Johnson (492-9778) and  
Joanne Robertson (408-9029),

#### Co-coordinators

##### Youth Education Coordinator,

Alena Capek, 429-8725

#### Classroom Scheduling,

Deb Johnson, 492-9778

#### Audubon Adventures,

Lorry Stover, 485-0094

#### Back Yard Bird Count,

Claire Norton 493-7835

#### FIELD TRIPS

Normalee Rhines, Registrar, 918-0187

#### MEMBERSHIP

Steven Freedman, Coordinator, 492-2563

#### PROGRAMS

Ann Lieberman, Coordinator, 485-7387

#### PUBLIC RELATIONS

Abbie Banks, Coordinator, 941-698-9412

#### Wings & Things, Editor,

Abbie Banks, 941-698-9412  
amberina@aol.com

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**HOSPITALITY:** Virginia Koss, 493-8812

**Archivist:** Virginia Bates, 497-0440

**Mailing:** Daryl Rowland, 412-1608

**Webmaster:** Kalindi Jackson

#### Speaker's Bureau:

Carolyn Quinn, 475-4248

#### VAAS WELCOME CENTER

##### Center/Rookery

#### Volunteer Coordinator,

Arlene Kelpsh, 486-9022

### Wings & Things

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Editor—Abbie Banks 941-698-9412 Amberina@aol.com

*Mission: To promote interest in wildlife and foster the cause of  
conservation with emphasis on birds and their habitat.*

### Venice Area Audubon Society

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