

WINGS & THINGS



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE VENICE AREA AUDUBON SOCIETY | veniceaudubon.org

Founded in 1965

WE'RE GOING GREEN

A "green" environment and conservation of our natural resources is a concern of the VAAS Board of Directors. Therefore, we have decided to discontinue printing all but a small number of our newsletters, starting with the January edition of *Wings & Things*.

After January, *Wings & Things* will be sent via email and also available on the VAAS web site. A limited number of printed *Wings* will be available at our general meetings. To receive your January edition of *Wings*, you must make sure we have your current email address. Email CSample41@aol.com with corrections and or updates.

If you do not have access to the internet and still need *Wings* mailed to you, contact Bill Fairbank at the Membership table at the next meeting.

EXCITING AND NEW EVENTS

VAAS club year 2009-2010 holds some surprises and fun events to look forward to. In the planning stages are a Mardi Gras Night, Silent Auction, Community-wide Yard Sale, Photography Contest and Rookery Open House. We will be making good use of the Venice Audubon Center for all of these events. There will be lots of opportunities for everyone to get involved, meet new people and have a great time. Keep tuned to the newsletter, website and general meetings for more details.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT - Missy L. Christie

You will see in this newsletter and the upcoming year: Great things are happening. Many opportunities are available and many hands make for light work. Give us a call and become part of a great organization.

VAAS 2009-2010 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September

- 15 Conservation Committee, 3:30 PM
- 15 Board Meeting, 5:00 PM
- 20 Carlton Bird Walk, 7:30 AM
- 23 Shamrock Park Bird Walk, 7:30 AM
- 25 Panama Trip
- 29 General Meeting, 7:00 PM, Venice Audubon Center

October

- 10 Pinelands Census, 7:30 AM
- 11 Deer Prairie Creek Preserve Birding (Forbes Trail Rd), 7:30 AM
- 16 *Wings & Things* deadline for November newsletter
- 17 Carlton Birding Field Trip, 7:30 AM
- 20 Conservation Committee, 3:30 PM
- 20 Board Meeting, 5:00 PM
- 21 Shamrock Park Bird Walk, 7:30 AM
- 22-24 Audubon Assembly (St. Petersburg)
- 24 Caspersen/Florida Scrub-jays Field Trip, 8:00 AM
- 27 General Meeting, 7:00 PM, Venice Audubon Center
- 31 Pinelands Birding Field Trip, 7:15 AM, Venice Audubon Center

BIRDS IN PARADISE

Whether it's a resident bird, a migrating bird or an "accidental" visitor if you've seen it in the Venice area, it's a "bird in paradise".

Starting with the general meeting in September, we invite one of our members to teach us a little about the bird of their choice. Come share your knowledge with your fellow birders. In as little as five minutes you can present your "bird in paradise" relating statistics and

personal experiences. Be it funny, serious or surprising, we'd like to hear facts about the bird that caught your fancy.

We're hoping to do this at each general meeting. So don't be shy. You're among friends. Your participation is greatly appreciated.

To reserve your place on the "speakers list" just contact Marty Shirley at 941-496-4494 or mjshirley@comcast.net.

IN MEMORIAM Herbert F. Hahn

We are saddened by the departure of our friend and longtime VAAS member on July 1, 2009. Herb was always there behind the scenes to support the VAAS mission. He will be missed. Our sympathy and prayers to Ermina and family.

PINELANDS CENSUS

During the past year, 44 VAAS volunteers have identified 114 bird species. A checklist of census results will be compiled and printed as a checklist, available to visitors to the landfill.

We thank all those that have volunteered their time to make this census of the landfill and backcountry areas possible.

The census continues through October. If you would like to assist, contact Charlie at 941-497-6463.

AUDUBON'S CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK

Bob Vance
Conservation Committee Member

Would you like more of a say about what happens to our environment? If the answer is yes, then sign up for Audubon's Climate Action Network (CAN).

CAN allows you to register your support for pending legislation that National and Florida Audubon supports by simply pushing a key on your computer keyboard.

This fall, VAAS will make a push to sign up as many members as possible on CAN. The Conservation Committee will have a sign up table at our general meetings. Also, look for more details in future issues of *Wings & Things*.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

6:30 PM Social period | 7:00 PM Meeting

September 29, 2009 - Venice Audubon Center

Welcome Back

We begin the new club year with a "Welcome Back" to our members. This will be an opportunity to visit and catch up with each other after the summer break. We will be sharing some new ideas and projects with a focus on how everyone can get more involved with VAAS. The Directors will report on plans for upcoming field trips, programs, education and goals for the coming year.

October 27, 2009 - Venice Audubon Center

Fossils for All, presented by Steve Wilson

Florida has one of the richest fossil records, both invertebrate and vertebrate, of any place in the world. The Southwest Florida Fossil Club is one of the oldest and largest groups for fossil collectors. One of their club members, Steve Wilson, will present a program that will focus on collecting fossil shark teeth and highlight other fossils that can be found in our area. There will be a slide show and a large collection of actual specimens to view. Steve welcomes our members to bring in their own fossil finds to be identified. Come and learn everything you always wanted to know about the fossil strewn beaches we call home.

ROOKERY HAPPENINGS

Charlie Sample

The nesting season is drawing to a close with just a few nesting birds left. I noticed for the first time, the Snowy Egret nesting. A few Anhinga are raising their young. Black-crowned Night Herons are also nesting. Several Green Herons have been hanging around the rookery and probably nested there. Red-winged Blackbirds also nested in the reeds around the rookery edges.

We had a sighting of a Least Bittern in July for almost a week.

Many bird species roost at the rookery at night: Snowy and Great Egrets, White and Glossy Ibis and Great Blue Herons.

The two tables in the pavilion that were removed have been replaced by the county. We have been promised that the tables will be bolted down to prevent future theft.

A new alligator has appeared in the rookery pond which will provide continued nesting bird protection.

We have been granted a permit to deepen the ends of the second rookery to allow the island protection from encroaching predators. The county will do the dredging. We thank Ed Wolfenbarger for arranging with the county to provide the equipment and manpower to do the job. Our next project is to remove the tall oak trees in order to encourage nesting.

CHARLIE'S BIRD WALKS

For more information: 941-497-6463

Carlton Reserve - Meet at 7:30 AM

Sept. 20 (Sun.)	Feb. 7 (Sun.)
Oct. 17 (Sat.)	Mar. 20 (Sat.)
Nov. 15 (Sun.)	Apr. 17 (Sat.)
Dec. 6 (Sun.)	May 1 (Sat.)
Jan. 9 (Sat.)	

Shamrock Park - Meet at 7:30 AM

Sept. 23 (Wed.)	Jan. 13 (Wed.)
Oct. 21 (Wed.)	Feb. 3 (Wed.)
Nov. 18 (Wed.)	Mar. 24 (Wed.)
Dec. 2 (Wed.)	Apr. 14 (Wed.)

VAAS BUTTERFLY GARDEN

Claire Norton

It has been a very productive summer at the Butterfly Garden. We have a great team of dedicated volunteers: Evelyn Bona, Phyllis Courter, Laurel Rhodes, Jane Wallace and Claire Norton.

Accomplishments

- We repaired/enhanced the irrigation system and can see some major improvement already.
- Prepared and planted a new area of the garden
- Mulched, weeded
- Planted milkweed, red salvia, 2 kinds of passion vines (needed due to high population of gulf fritillaries), citrus, firebush, tall pentas and fennel. Many hours were spent tending to the new plantings and weeding.

We were richly rewarded with the following sightings: long tailed skippers, many gulf fritillaries, monarchs, polydamous swallowtails, large orange sulphurs, dainty skippers, julia, red banded hairstreaks, and zebra longwings.

Caterpillars seen: gulf frits, polydamous and monarchs.

Future Plans

We plan to upgrade the irrigation system, continue to add more larval food plants to attract new species.

You Can Help

To make donations for the purchase of larval plants, contact Claire Norton at claireandfrednorton@verizon.net or 941-493-7835.

Please stop by and visit our Venice Audubon Center growing garden!

**Wildlife Rescue
and Rehabilitation
WILDLIFE CENTER OF VENICE
941-484-9657**

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS - Bill Fairbank, Field Trip Director

Oct. 17 (Sat.): Carlton Reserve We begin with a short walk in the park and end carpooling in the 24,000 acres of the reserve. We will look for red-headed woodpecker, American bittern, brown-headed nuthatch, purple gallinule, Eastern bluebirds, and warbler species. Meet in the Carlton parking area at 7:30 AM. This trip requires little walking and usually ends by 1:00 PM. Charlie Sample, 941-497-6463.

Oct. 24 (Sat.): Caspersen/Scrub Jays See the environmental importance of the area of Caspersen park along the intercoastal waterway for Florida Scrub-jays, gopher tortoise, bobcat, and coyote. Butterfly and native plant enthusiast are encouraged to attend. Meet at the South East parking lot (pavilion/playground) at Caspersen Beach at 8:00 AM. Walk approximately 1 1/2 hours. Ellen King, 941-488-6818.

Oct. 31 (Sat.): Bird the Pinelands We will visit the back country area of the County Pinelands Preserve and County landfill. Meet at the Audubon Center at 7:00 AM to join the half day carpool. Search for brown-headed nuthatch, crested caracara, harrier, red-headed woodpecker and warblers. Charlie Sample, 941-497-6463

Nov. 7 (Sat.): Felts Audubon Preserve Visit the Felts Audubon Preserve near Ellenton. The Preserve is a former farm which has been restored to natural habitat by the Manatee Audubon Society. We will also visit the Gamble Plantation state historical park for a picnic lunch. Carpool from the Audubon Center at 7:30 AM. Bill Fairbank. 941-412-1610.

There are 25 trips this season. See the VAAS 2009-2010 Trips & Program Guide for details.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL REMINDER

Bill Fairbank,
Membership Director

You may be surprised to learn that your membership dues are scheduled to be renewed on September 1, 2009. This is the date that is specified in our chapter bylaws for chapter-only memberships. (Our chapter bylaws can be viewed on our website.) **Please send in the renewal form located in the 2009-2010 Trip & Program Guide along with your payment as soon as possible.**

While membership in the Venice chapter is included in National Audubon membership, we encourage these members to also pay chapter-only dues as a way of supporting our Venice Audubon chapter. VAAS receives very little support from National Audubon (less than \$2/member). We need your dues to

support the Venice Audubon Center, our monthly meetings and programs and our environmental goals.

Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or concerns about your membership at 941-412-1610 or wgfairbank@hotmail.com.

BIRDING WALKS WITH BILL FAIRBANK

Deer Prairie Creek Preserve	Oct. 11 (Sun.)
Jelks Preserve	Nov. 10 (Tues.)
Deer Prairie Creek Preserve	Dec. 19 (Sat.)
Service Club Park	Jan. 20 (Wed.)
Sleeping Turtles Preserve	Feb. 20 (Sat.)
Deer Prairie Creek Preserve	Mar. 10 (Wed.)

Meet in the parking lots at 7:30 AM. 2-3 miles walking and up to 3 hours duration. For more information, call 941-412-1610 or wgfairbank@hotmail.com.

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WINGS&THINGS is published by the Venice Area Audubon Society (VAAS). As a member of VAAS you receive five editions of *Wings & Things* per year, information on our field trips, chapter meetings and programs. Individual memberships are \$20 per year and family memberships are \$30 per year. A lifetime family membership is \$1500. All membership dues go to the Venice Area chapter of the National Audubon Society.

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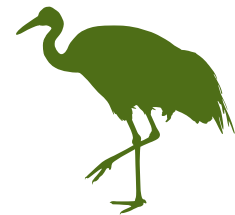
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OUR MISSION: To promote interest in wildlife and foster the cause of conservation with emphasis on birds and their habitat

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