



Pelican Island Audubon Society

Peligrum

- founded in 1964 to serve Indian River County -

P.O. Box 1833, VERO BEACH, FL 32961 772-567-3520 www.PelicanIslandAudubon.org

Our 54th Year Vol. 54 No. 8 November 2018

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.

Upcoming Events

For more information visit PelicanIslandAudubon.org
or call 772-567-3520

11/10/18 - Field Trip	Bee Gum Point - Guide Jim Shea - starting at 7AM - End of Fred Tuerk Drive in Indian River Shores
11/13/18 - Meeting	Protecting Our St. Johns River with Lisa Rinaman, St. Johns Riverkeeper - 6PM - North County Library - 1001 Sebastian Blvd. (CR 512), Sebastian
11/16/18 - Meeting	Nature Education, Advocacy, & Volunteer Opportunity Class - Audubon House - 9AM - See back page for more information
11/17/18 - Field Trip	South Oslo Riverfront Conservation Area - Guide: Terry Greene - 9AM - Meet at Audubon House - 195 9th Street. SE (Oslo Road)
11/19/18 - Meeting	Spoil Island Bird Usage with Matthew Anderson, FDEP Indian River Lagoon Aquatic Preserves - Vero Beach Community Center - 7PM - 2266 14th Avenue, Vero Beach
11/25/18 - Field Trip	Bike Tour around T.M. Goodwin Waterfowl Management Area - Guide: Steve Goff - 7:30AM - For more info and to sign up, visit PelicanIslandAudubon.org
12/07/18 - Field Trip	Indrio Savannahs - Guide: Diane Morgan - 9AM - 5275 Tozour Road, Ft. Pierce
12/10/18 - Field Trip	North Sebastian Conservation Area - Guide: Jane Schnee - 8AM - 1295 Easy Street, Sebastian
12/10/18 - Potluck	Annual Potluck at Audubon House - 6PM - Bring your favorite dish to serve 6-8 people
12/14/18 - Field Trip	Cypress Bend Community Preserve - Guide: Dr. Richard H. Baker - Details coming soon.
12/15/18 - Field Trip	South Oslo Riverfront Conservation Area - Guide: Terry Greene - 9AM - Meet at Audubon House - 195 9th Street. SE (Oslo Road)

Friday Night Films at Audubon House

November 9, 2018

Toxic Puzzle

Hunt for a Toxic Killer

Doors open at 6:00PM

Movie start at 6:30PM



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

Sporadic cases of ALS and Alzheimer's strike individuals down in the prime of their lives. Patients grapple for answers. New research by an international team of distinguished scientists and physicians now point to a startling conclusion. Can exposure to cyanobacteria blooms and the toxins the produce trigger neurodegenerative illness? Documentary filmmaker Bo Landin followed ethnobotanist Paul Alan Cox and a consortium of 50 scientists, desperately searching for clues to the toxic puzzle. The puzzle pieces point to both a hidden killer, and to a possible prevention and treatment for the world's most terrible diseases.

Registration online at PelicanIslandAudubon.org

2nd Transforming Landscapes for a Sustainable Future Conference
- February 2, 2019-Indian River County Fairgrounds
7955 58th Ave, Vero Beach, FL 32967

8AM	Registration \$10 in advance, \$15 at door
8AM	Vince Lamb, How to photograph your garden plants & butterflies
9AM	Dr. Craig Heugel, Joy of Native Gardening
9:45AM	Chris Waltz, Treasure Coast plants for your yard
10:30AM	Break to visit demonstrations
11:15AM	Michelle Peterson, Gardening for Native Bees
12PM	Break for lunch
1PM	Dr. Marc Minno, Gardening for Butterflies
1:45PM	Kirsten Hines & Dr. James Kushlan, Gardening for birds in South Florida
2:30PM	Michael Kuras, Planning for a Sustainable Garden & Landscape
3:30PM	Summary & Discussion: What can we do to improve our Lagoon and our Plants and Animals

Bird of the Month by Juanita Baker

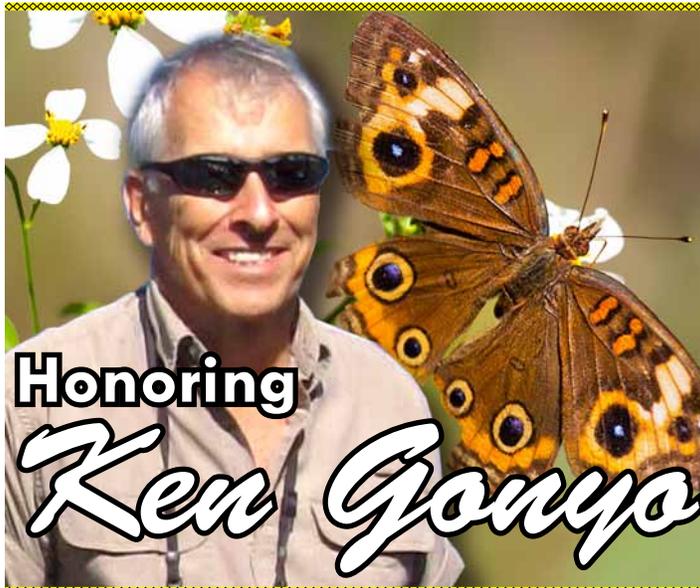
Great Blue Heron - *Ardea Herodias*

From the tallest perch around, for the grand view, Great Blue Herons build their nests. The male fetches and brings sticks for the female to weave into a nest.

Doesn't Dennis Huff's photograph look like a painting, a work of art in itself? Feathers on display, flared, like fine brush strokes. How balanced, harmonious as our eye sweeps around the curving lines and the shapes always coming back to the center focus on the birds. Subtle coloring: from white face shading to ochre, flowing to lower white neck feathers.



Romance: Nest building together! Great Blue Herons © Dennis Huff 01
Ritch Grissom Wetlands at Viera
Canon EOS 7D EF300mm f/2.8L IS II USM, ISO 400, 300mm, 1/640, f/8



Ken Gonyo was vital to our chapter, the county's conservation lands, and our environment in so many ways. Yet we lost him on October 10, 2018. He devoted himself to our landscape gardens and particularly to planting a butterfly garden and educating us about pollinators and the plants they require. We greatly appreciated his friendship. We regret he won't be present when dedicating his butterfly garden to him.

Please join Penny Gonyo (Ken sister), the Indian River Land Trust, and Pelican Island Audubon in celebrating Ken Gonyo's life and in dedicating the Butterfly Garden he started in his name at the Audubon House on Saturday, December 1, 2018 at 11:00 am. Instead of flowers, if you wish, please bring a Florida native plant, to add to our landscape, or make a donation to the organizations he dedicated the last years of his life to the Indian River Land Trust and Pelican Island Audubon Society.

It would be helpful if you please let us know you are coming by RSVP on line at piaudubon@yahoo.com or call 772-567-3520 by Nov 18th.

Smart bird! by Linda Chancellor

I have watched blue herons wade the shallows looking for prey for years. However last month during a rainy day and an especially high tide I observed a blue heron foraging in a different way. After landing on the pier, he walked to the end and hopped down onto the floating oyster cage. Stepping across the coated wire mesh top he then curled his toes around the edge of the PVC frame. Bending his knees he lowered his body and when securely balanced he began to compress his long neck into an S shape. He kept his eyes firmly on the water as he lowered his head. Ever so slowly he continued to bend his knees so that his body was even closer to the water. Then he would raise his body, just a little, to get a better look at his possible prey and then lowered his body again. His movements so closely followed the way I have seen a cat move when it looks like it is ready to

pounce on its prey. Like lightning he darted his dagger sharp bill into the water and came up with a fish! The fish was about six inches long and very narrow. He turned to look at me, tilted his head up and the fish was swallowed whole. I could see the movement as it made its way down his throat and neck. He must have been hungry for he tried again and after a few minutes he again came up with another fish. Finally satisfied he flew away. Another week passed and when he came again he used the float to get closer to the deeper water. I realized this method of foraging did not disturb the fish the way his wading feet did in the shallows. I wondered how he had discovered this method and would he remember next year.

FYI: Many studies have been done on the intelligence and behavior of birds. One theory known as optimal foraging states that an animal will minimize its energy spent in obtaining prey. This blue heron certainly did that.

The President's Hoot by Richard H. Baker, Ph.D.

Educating for our future! Best Chapter Education Project Award 2018

Audubon Florida presented the Best Chapter Education Project of the Year Award to our chapter at the Audubon Assembly on October 20, 2018. This was our fifth award our chapter has received in the last four years and 12th for the last 16 years. This award was for our **multifaceted education program to educate our whole community about conservation of our paradise.** Our educational goal is to **provide folks of all ages with a science-based understanding of local natural resources and restoration practices that safeguard the health and vigor of these environmental resources. All our programs relate local conservation to our goals for Education, Advocacy, and Public Awareness.**

Children oriented educational programs:

- **The 3rd year of an outdoor- science, afterschool Audubon Advocates program** focused on 104 5th graders and their parents from four underserved elementary schools. We get students into nature to learn to kayak, photograph, sketch, and understand habitats, the role of seagrasses, mosquitos, snakes and birds. The students and their parents tell us that they now spend more time together in nature. This was witnessed by the number of families coming to 'their' Audubon House on weekends and holidays to explore/show off the classroom, the native gardens, and walk the trails. The students felt proud to show and teach their parents what they learn. This experience is encouraging these students to be strong advocates now and in the future!
- **A free monthly weekend family program** for these same students, parents and family members focuses on the importance of the outdoors, volunteerism and conservation.
- **The 5th year having 4x4 square foot (vegetable and pollinator) gardens** at local schools, and have established with partners two Garden Clubs at Vero Beach Elementary and Oslo Middle School.
- **Our 3rd summer adventure camp, ages 10-17.** The first week was made up of 13-17-year-old Junior Guide candidates (from the Hope for Families Shelter) that learned leadership skills, kayaking, first aid, and team building skills who then volunteered for the following four camp weeks to assist the Outdoor Educator.

Adult programs - We offer many courses in environmental education for the public:

- **Intensive Birding and an eBird class** involving 10 course hours and 2 field trips, 33 adult participants, 2 instructors, and 12 volunteer guides
- **ORCA Volunteer Nature Stewardship Course** includes eight 3-hour classes and ongoing activities for participants with nature walks at local nature reserves and a native-plant propagation workshop. PIAS volunteers lead walks from November-April, performed trail maintenance, helped control invasive plants, and released air potato beetles for further research.
- **North American Butterfly Association Butterfly Census**, event including 2 educational presentations: Butterfly Identification Census Procedures and Butterfly Gardening with Native Plants, 46 participants, 1 instructor;
- **16 Monthly meetings** are educational, with guest speakers in Sebastian and Vero Beach. We also initiated 3 winter meetings at the Audubon House to reach new audiences.
- **Birding and Nature Field Trips.** This season we are collaborating with the Indian River Land Trust to offer 41 field trips.
- **Our monthly newsletter, the Peligram mailed and on our website:** Ties all our programs together, and educates our

membership. We print, mail, email, and place on our web site: The President's advocacy "Hoot," bringing issues to the community's attention, A Photo-of-the-Month on a bird species, A nature personal experience column, advertisements and descriptions of our program schedule and news and opinion on local, state and national conservation issues, including pictures of our Audubon Advocate students.

- **Citizens Science Projects:** Osprey monitoring, Jay Watch, Eagle Watch and Spoonbill Watch programs
- **Conference, "Transforming Landscapes for a Sustainable Future."** Second conference will be on Feb 2, 2019. Educating how to plant their own yards and community in native plants and why it will aid our health.
- **Greenhouse Project Initiation:** to grow native plants including trees for birds and teach adults and students plant propagation.

We have laid the foundation for our student advocates program for next and future years. Through our student programs we help improve their science vocabulary scores in their school classes, particularly the scores for female and minority students. We can also measure success by the funding support we have received. Indian River County School District continues to be a significant partner in our afterschool programs. To fund these educational efforts depends upon membership funds and substantial grants from:

- The Indian River Lagoon Council National Estuary Program (\$25,000),
- The Indian River County Children's Service Advisory Council (\$20,000) requiring academic achievement growth.
- John's Island Foundation \$35,000 for a 15-passenger van to transport students from school to Audubon House and on field trips, as transportation is essential to get students involved.

Education is essential for us all in the community to learn how we can work together to protect our health, conserve our environment, so our waters and lands will be clean and environmental habitats will encourage wildlife that is the basis for not only our pleasure but the basis for our economy and future of our community. The future depends upon all of us working together, collaborating with other organizations so that they too can be involved to protect our waters and to 'green' the whole county, to attract wildlife, preserve habitats, reduce water and energy use, and by preventing pollution into the environment by non-native plants that require heavy use of pesticides, fertilizers and water. A major educational effort will be needed to make this year's "100,000 Trees for Life" program successful, and help everyone understand how to plant and care for a tree and our environment; how trees sequester carbon, reduce temperatures in our communities, and save our precious water. Trees being highly visible and life producing will help educate the community for us and bring many out into nature.

With the show of confidence that many organizations have demonstrated in our education and outreach programs and in our all-inclusive programs we will expand our efforts to reach more students of all ages. Audubon House is a key piece in our community providing a special opportunity, demonstrating how people and nature can thrive and work together. Our major goal continues to be to provide Indian River County residents – especially students and their families' - education opportunities to explore our natural world so that everyone can work together and make intelligent choices for the future.

Nature Education, Advocacy, & Volunteer Opportunity Classes: How to be an Audubon Activist!

2018-2019 Free Course Series!

At the Audubon House
195 9th St. SE (Oslo Road)
Vero Beach, FL 32962

Friday Mornings 9 am -12:00 pm

Attend classes & field walks
to enhance your
Environmental Understanding and Skills
to lead communities to:

- Plant native gardens
- Attract wildlife
- Decrease fertilizer & toxins
- Conserve water
- Remove CO₂

All classes are taught by dynamic guest speakers on topics related to our local natural habitats and associated flora and fauna. Each class will have a classroom segment of interactive lectures followed by outside field excursions relating to the classroom topics. The class will give you opportunities for hands-on learning of various habitats.

11/16/18	Being an Audubon Activist - Dr. Richard Baker, History of ORCA , Dr. Richard Baker, Indian River Lagoon - Bob Montanaro, Walk to ORCA Tower led by Dr. Richard Baker
12/14/18	Field Trip to Cypress Bend Community Preserve guided by Dr. Richard H. Baker, details to follow.
01/18/19	Flora & Fauna of the Indian River Lagoon followed by seining for fish in the Lagoon - Dr. Grant Gilmore
02/02/19	Conference: Transforming Landscapes for a Sustainable Future , Indian River County Fairgrounds - 8AM-5PM
2/15/2019	Scrub-jays & their habitats - Ellie Van Os, The Secret Life of the Florida Scrub-Jay - Bob Montanaro, Video: The Gopher Tortoises of Red Hill at Archbold Biological Station; Scrub walk at ORCA
03/15/19	Hammock Habitats followed by an ORCA Hammock Walk - Ellie Van Os
04/19/19	Invasive Plants & their Control - Beth Powell & Wendy Swindell, Plants for Birds & Pollinators , Tim Harrison
05/17/19	Blood Suckers followed by finding them at ORCA - Dr. Nathan Burkett-Cadena

Audubon invites you to join our 2019 Intensive Beginning Birding Course

with Juanita Baker, Ph.D. & David Simpson.

Learn basic knowledge to understand birds through four "indoor field trips" (Feb 5, 7, 19, 21, 6-8:30 pm) with many beautiful photographs representing Indian River County's variety of Bird Families, plus two "outdoor field trips" (Sun. Feb 10, 7 am-12 pm & Sat. Feb 23, 7 am-1 pm) to local birding Hotspots. Learn what to look for, understand and appreciate our Florida wonders. Limited to 30 participants. Learn more & sign up at www.PelicanIslandAudubon.org. \$95 for members.

Join or renew your membership in Pelican Island Audubon Society

Membership benefits include:

- Monthly Peligram newsletter
- Monthly meetings on the environment and wildlife
- Birding field trips led by expert guides
- Opportunities to volunteer to help the environment
- . . . and much more!

For more information and to join, visit www.PelicanIslandAudubon.org or mail in the application ⇨⇨⇨⇨⇨⇨⇨⇨⇨⇨

Pelican Island Audubon Society Officers & Directors	
Officers	Elected Directors:
President	Graham Cox, Ph.D. '20
Richard H. Baker, Ph.D.	Bill Halliday '20
1st Vice-President	Nancy Irvin '19
Donna Halleran	Bill Loftus, Ph.D. '18
2nd Vice-President	Toni Robinson '19
David Cox, Ph.D.	Bonnie Swanson '18 —
Recording Secretary	Appointed Board Members:
Darlene Halliday	Susan Lovelace
Corresponding Secretary	Tina Marchese
George Glenn	Steve Palmquist
Treasurer Steve Goff	

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.

Pelican Island Audubon Membership

\$100 Florida Scrub-Jay Level \$200 Osprey Level
 \$25 Individual \$30 Family

Is this a membership renewal? Yes No

Join National Audubon Society for an additional \$20 a year.

I want to make an additional tax deductible donation of \$ _____

Total \$ _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

E-Mail _____

Please send your name and address along with a check payable to the "Pelican Island Audubon Society" to:

Pelican Island Audubon Society
P.O. Box 1833, Vero Beach, FL 32961

or join online using your credit card at:
<http://www.pelicanislandaudubon.org/membership.html>

Questions: call 772-567-3520 or e-mail piaudubon@yahoo.com