

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 45th Year Vol. 45 No. 7 October 2009

Our Mission: To preserve and protect the animals, plants, and natural communities in Indian River County through advocacy, education, and public awareness.

Real-Life Aliens: Invasive Plants and Animals in South Florida

October 19

**Vero Beach
Community Center**

2266 14th Avenue

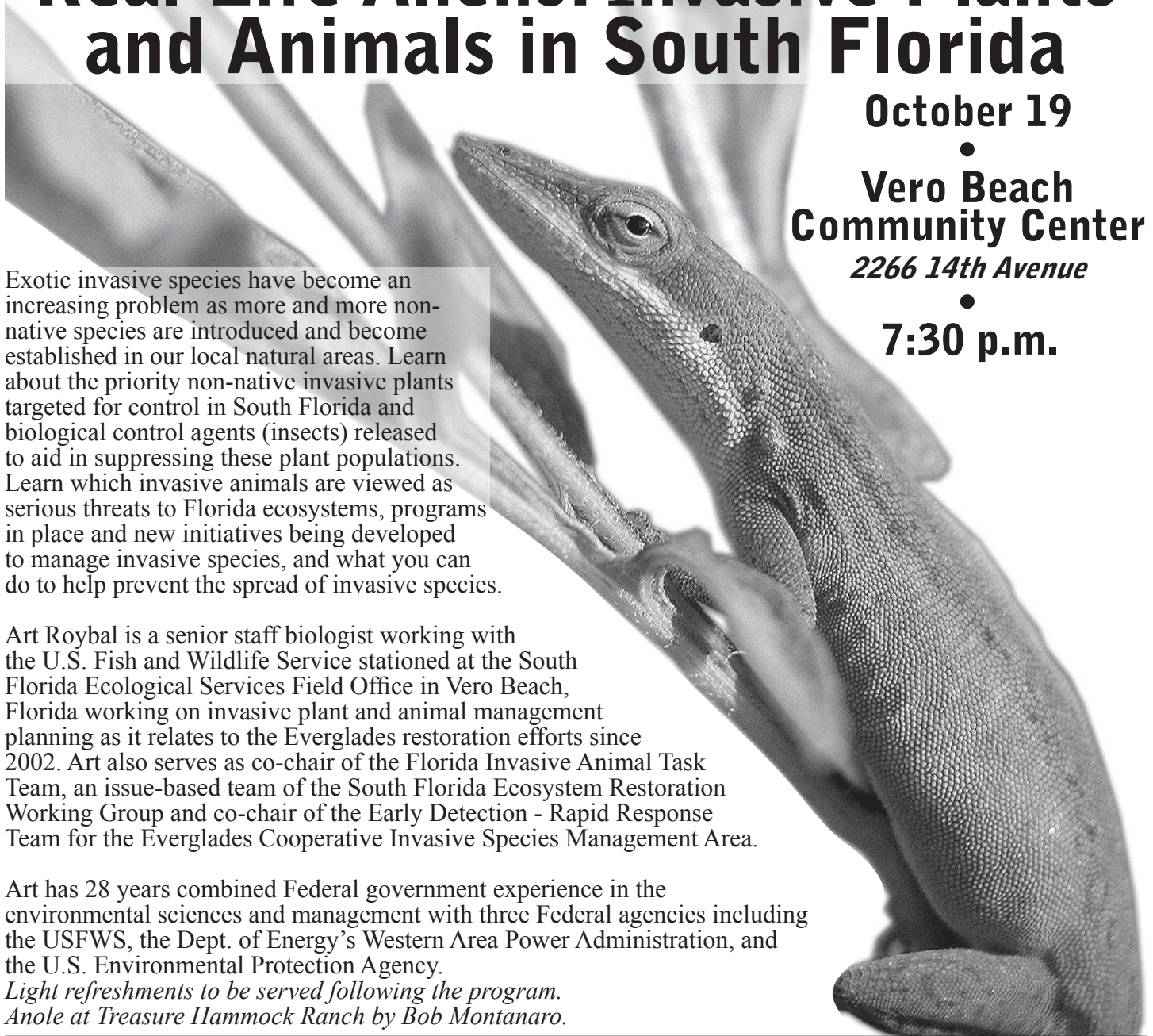
7:30 p.m.

Exotic invasive species have become an increasing problem as more and more non-native species are introduced and become established in our local natural areas. Learn about the priority non-native invasive plants targeted for control in South Florida and biological control agents (insects) released to aid in suppressing these plant populations. Learn which invasive animals are viewed as serious threats to Florida ecosystems, programs in place and new initiatives being developed to manage invasive species, and what you can do to help prevent the spread of invasive species.

Art Roybal is a senior staff biologist working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service stationed at the South Florida Ecological Services Field Office in Vero Beach, Florida working on invasive plant and animal management planning as it relates to the Everglades restoration efforts since 2002. Art also serves as co-chair of the Florida Invasive Animal Task Team, an issue-based team of the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Working Group and co-chair of the Early Detection - Rapid Response Team for the Everglades Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area.

Art has 28 years combined Federal government experience in the environmental sciences and management with three Federal agencies including the USFWS, the Dept. of Energy's Western Area Power Administration, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

*Light refreshments to be served following the program.
Anole at Treasure Hammock Ranch by Bob Montanaro.*

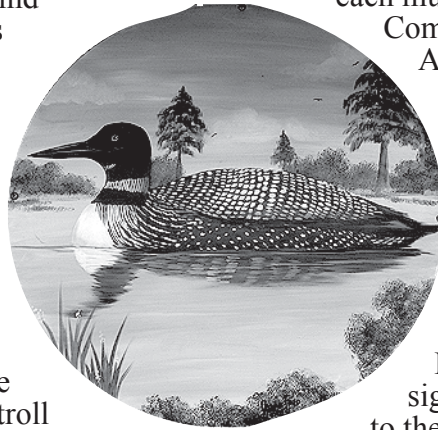


Bird watching in Lake Placid *by Linda Chancellor*

Bird watching in Lake Placid? Lake Placid, Caladium Capital of the World, Town of Murals and Bird Watching. Take SR 70 West, turn right onto US27, and turn left onto CR621 to Lake Placid located on the highest ridge in Florida. You will find yourself in a small town that celebrates its Caladium industry each year with a festival the last weekend in August. This year it will be August 28, 29, 30, 2009. Lake Placid produces 95% of the World's production of these bulbs on more than 1,500 acres. These wonderful shade/sun loving bulbs which produce beautiful colored leaves of red, pink, white and green are grown in fields of black lake bottom muck. During that weekend one can take a tour by bus of the fields or stroll Main Avenue and see vendors selling anything to do with caladiums including art and jewelry. You can also drive along CR621 and see the fields yourself anytime during late summer.

Lake Placid is also known for its collection of 42 murals that have been painted on the sides of buildings representing many historical events and native animals of Florida such as: the Cracker Trail Cattle Drive, the Turpentine Industry, the Old Post Office, Turkey Hunt,

Scrub Jays, Indian Heritage and Our Citrus Heritage. Some of these murals have sound or hidden pictures within the mural. Purchase a map for the walking tour of Murals that includes all the information about each mural at the Lake Placid Chamber of Commerce/Welcome Center, 18 North Oak Avenue. Visit their website www.lpfla.com/visit/murals.htm.



They take their bird watching seriously in Lake Placid. Lake Placid, located in Highlands County, is on the State Birding Trail. It offers sanctuary to more than 300 winged species. But you can also see many birds in downtown Lake Placid.

It is easy and you are guaranteed sighting over four dozen birds indigenous to the area. Nestled along the streets among the murals are many small circular paintings of individual species. They give one an opportunity to observe a bird that will stand still as long as you do. Look for them on your stroll or use the Mural map to locate them.

I do hope you will visit Lake Placid. It is a beautiful little town and you can be assured of these bird sightings on any day of the year.

Photo by Linda Chancellor.



About Kayaks

Across from
St. Sebastian River
& Dale Wimbrow Park

772-589-3469
25 Airport Drive West
Sebastian, FL 32958

www.AboutKayaks.net
aboutkayaks@comcast.net

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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.

Keep those recipes and advertisements coming in!

We want to thank all of you who have contributed, so far, to our cookbook project. We still need your help to reach our goal of 450 recipes. So please take a few minutes to share your recipes with us. Please submit them on a 5X8 sheet of paper.

Please send your recipes to:

Darlene Halliday
c/o Pelican Island Audubon Society
P.O. Box 1833
Vero Beach, FL 32961

Or e-mail piaudubon@bellsouth.net

Time is of the essence so please send them soon. The sooner we reach our goal the sooner we can get it to the publisher.

We still have advertising space so if you have a business or an organization you would like to advertise in our cookbook please contact the office. If you do not have a business but would like to contribute, you could help us by adding your name to our patrons page for \$10.00.

We appreciate your timely help in this endeavor.

Help save trees and postage! Read the Peligram online.

If you'd like to have the Peligram emailed monthly,
contact us at piaudubon@bellsouth.net

Indian River County: Walking the Walk Towards Sustainability!

For the first time in 100 years, the U.S. has reduced its carbon emissions. For the last 2 years the carbon emissions were reduced by 9% and this reduction is expected to continue in the near future. Some of the reduction nationally is due to the poor economy and the high price of gasoline, but there are also positive carbon-cutting steps:

- Stronger automobile fuel-economy standards
- Better appliance efficiency
- Increased wind, solar and geothermal energy resources
- Citizen's awareness and reduction of using energy, "the carbon footprint" and the eat local food movement

Last year coal use dropped by 5%.

Locally, we are proud and praise Indian River County for contributing to this effort as well and give accolades to the Sustainable group including former PIAS award recipients Judy Orcutt (environmental citizen), Amy Thoma (Tierra Verde and LEED certifier), and Himanshu Mehta (Managing Director of the Solid Waste Disposal District and IRC Sustainability Coordinator) for their initiatives and compiling this list:

The Sustainable Group of Indian River County's initiatives:

- Education Campaigns to Promote Sustainability (recycling, red bins, signs, using biodegradable items, upgrade appliances, install solar)
- Tree Planting
- Energy & Water saving programs (lighting upgrades, low flow plumbing, using biodegradables)
- Florida Green County - Gold Level Certification, April 14th 2009.

Indian River County School District

- Opened the first "green" school with Florida Friendly Landscaping, a rain catchment system for irrigation, environmentally friendly building materials, automatic day lighting sensors and high efficiency air conditioning.
- Purchased two LP gas school buses as an alternative for diesel

The Environmental Learning Center

- Broke ground in June for a new building which will be certified "green" and include both solar

power and solar thermal

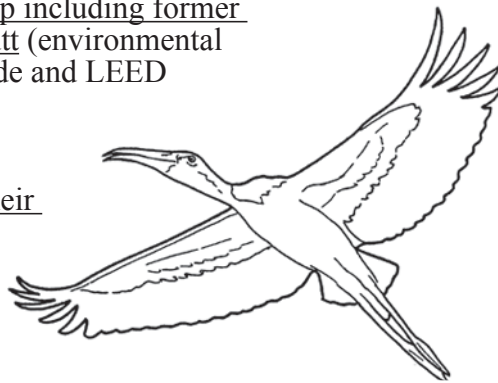
- Offered a series of Hands-On Green Workshops
- Working in partnership with IRSC to offer 2 part workshop called "Eat Local"

Solar Progress

- Climatic Solar is installing the largest solar thermal system in the county at Howard Johnson's Motel to heat hot water. The Carlton Club has contracted for solar pool heat and will receive \$2500 grant from Sun Catcher Program.
- The largest Building Integrated Photovoltaic System in county is currently being installed in a south county residence.

IRC Chamber of Commerce

- New Building w/ green features including solar hot water, environmentally friendly building products, dual flush toilets, motion sensors for interior lighting, energy efficient insulation.



City of Fellsmere

- Converting retention ponds into attractive parks by reconfiguring slope and adding paths, benches, landscaping
- Attracted a bank to cut down on road trips to Sebastian
- Developed the North County Greenway to promote eco-tourism

Indian River Medical Center's Green Initiative

- Reduced energy usage 13.55% through conservation measures such as raising room temperatures, installing energy efficient lighting and improved maintenance procedures
- Began using EPA Green certified cleaning materials and reduced chemicals 70%
- Recycling began June 2008 – recycled 40 tons of paper, plastic and cans
- Using green lawn care products
- Reduced water usage through low flow aerators and retrofits on plumbing

Pelican Island Audubon Society

- Initiated a Quality of Life Survey – to bring the community together to eventually develop a tool for planning
- Successfully passed a stronger county tree and landscaping ordinance

The President's Hoot — continued from page 3

Go-Line

- There has been a 46% increase in bus ridership; Plan to add shelters to high use stops

Habitat for Humanity

- Continues to build all homes to FGBC Green Standard including solar hot water, no irrigation (Florida Friendly Landscaping), Energy Star Refrigerators, window tinting, ceiling fans, CFL bulbs, low VOC paints
- Comparison of energy use for homes with solar hot water shows 25% savings
- Through job site recycling and resale center scrap, \$62,025 has been earned
- Require all home owners to participate in Green Education Classes

Unitarian Universalist Church

- Completed a nationally recognized accreditation program to earn a “Green Sanctuary” designation.
- Uses 100% recycled paper in bathrooms and partial recycled content in copy paper.
- Energy usage was decreased by 15% through conservation, window film, thermostat control and plantings
- Offers on-going series of public programs on Sustainability.

Sustainable Agriculture, Eat Locally initiatives:

- Gifford Community Center and Abilities Resource Center started Community Gardens
- Organic Farms – White Rabbit, Osceola Organics, B & W Quality Growers
- Green Lodging Program through the Department of Environmental Protection (those committed to continuously improve environmental performance (Waste Reduction, Reuse and Recycling, Water Conservation, Energy Efficiency, Indoor Air Quality, or Transportation)
- Disney Resort, Holiday Inn Oceanside, Springhill Suites

Vero Chemical

- Now carries green Earth Friendly Brand cleaning products
- Introduced new product line of compostable take out containers

K-Mart and Sears Stores

- Reduced peak-hour lighting by 50% and installed timers and motion sensors in warehouse areas which has saved 20% on electric bill
- Raised thermostat to 79 daytime, 84 night

Navo Builders and Mandala Development Group

- Constructed 3 luxury homes that far exceed FGBC Residential Green Building Standards. One has completed certification, two remaining are in process.

Kimley-Horn

- Constructing the first commercial building in IRC to LEED certification.
- So far, they have diverted 96% of their construction debris from the landfill by recycling to six different locations.
- Supporting the Go-Line Bus Shelter Program by purchasing the first shelter.

Thanks for everyone's efforts in getting us “Walking the Walk Towards Sustainability!”

With an increase in environmental awareness and a possible reduction in carbon emissions, we might be able to improve our continually eroding seagrasses and our bird populations. Lester Brown from the Earth Policy Institute, says the US should push for 80% reduction in carbon emissions by 2020. Clearly we are on the right path.

Richard Baker, President

October & November Field Trips with Rick Lucas

October 3, 2009—Turkey Creek Sanctuary in Palm Bay. Carpoolers meet at Wal-Mart on US 1 in Sebastian. Park next to US 1 west of the gas pumps. We will leave promptly at 7am. Directions: US 1 north to Port Malabar Blvd, West to Turkey Creek.

November 14, 2009—Viera Wetlands. Carpoolers meet at McDonalds located at I-95 and County Road 512 (Sebastian/Fellsmere exit). We will leave McDonalds promptly at 6:30am. Directions: I-95 North to Wickam Road Exit, West to end. All vehicles must be registered at office prior to driving on dikes or visiting “click” ponds.

Please call 772-567-3520 for reservations & information.

AUDUBON ASSEMBLY OCTOBER 23-24 , 2009 ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA

The two-day program brings together conservation leaders and scientists—as well as policy makers, and business people from across Florida to discuss strategies to protect our coasts, birds, and wildlife, and secure our quality of life. Come and enjoy two days of Audubon fellowship. Connect with nature and birds on expert-led and self-guided field trips. Learn more at www.audubonofflorida.org or call Lisa Reichert at 1-305-371-6399, ext 120.

Pelican Island Audubon Society Bird Photo of the Month

Part of the PIAS mission is to encourage education and public awareness of our natural environment. The **Bird Photo of the Month's purpose** is for members to get involved and out in nature observing and taking bird photos, to learn about specific birds that are selected, to appreciate and understand good bird photography.

Instructions for PIAS Bird Photo of the Month

To submit a photo for November, Deadline is Oct. 31, 2009.

1. You must be a paid up PIAS member.
2. A bird must be pictured in your photograph.
3. A photographer may submit only one digital image per month.
4. PIAS will accept only **.jpg digital images**.
5. **Deadline:** The last day of the month.
 - a. email to piaudubon@bellsouth.net
 - b. if CD or DVD is mailed (Mail to: P.O. Box 1833, Vero Beach, FL 32961-1833, postmarked by the last day of the month)
 - c. if CD or DVD is brought to PIAS office (Office: 200 9th Street SE (Oslo Road), bring by the last open business day in the month.
6. If PIAS receives your digital image after the deadline (last day of the month), it will automatically be submitted for the following month's PIAS Bird Photo of the Month.
7. You will be notified by email of receipt for which month.
8. **Information must be provided:**
 - Photographer's full name:
 - Email address (if you have one){
 - Home address:
 - Telephone:
 - Date photograph was taken:
 - Place photograph was taken:
 - Camera, lens used
 - Bird(s) identification (but we can help you with this if unknown):
 - Title of photo:
 - Other remarks:
9. You may only be selected once in one year (Sept-May).
10. **Birds should remain undisturbed**, whether resting, feeding or caring for nestlings when you photograph birds. Wildlife does not exist for our personal pleasure; it is simply trying to survive. Do not feed the birds, use audio means to call the birds to you, or disturb them to take a picture of their fleeing. Your photograph may be disqualified if we judge you obtained your photograph by disturbing the bird. Please do not submit nest photos unless you are on a boardwalk or trail or using telephoto lenses at a distance.

National Audubon requests photographers: "When photographing birds it is essential to avoid disturbing them. When you're trying to get close-ups, be sure to watch the bird's behavior. You will quickly learn to recognize signs of nervousness, and when you see those signs, you should back off. Do not flush birds (that is, disturb them and make them fly)—either your subject or other birds near your subject. Nest photography is especially delicate. Be sure not to keep the parents away from the nest during incubation or the feeding of nestlings, and do not move or remove anything near the nest—camouflage is key to success for most bird nests."
11. Please follow the **American Birding Association's Birding Code of Ethics**, see: <http://www.aba.org/about/ethics.html>

If there are any questions, please call the PIAS office:
Phone: 772-567-3520 - Office hours: M-F 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.



Red-bellied Woodpecker at Treasure Hammock Ranch by Bob Montanaro.

Who is this?

This noisy duck-like member of the Rail family, conspicuous for its red forehead, inhabits marshes and ponds throughout the Americas, Europe, Africa, Asia, and even Hawaii. Sometimes feeds on snails but especially likes seeds of grasses and sedges. Has long toes to help it walk on vegetation but swims very well. Threatened by loss of wetland habitat. *Species info from Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Photo by Bob Montanaro.*



Answer:
Common Moorhen

Plant of the Month

by Janice Broda



Late-flowering thoroughwort

Bees, wasps, flies, small to medium-sized butterflies, skippers, moths, mosquitoes, and other insects revere late-flowering thoroughwort, *Eupatorium serotinum*. Also known as late-flowering boneset, this perennial plant is topped by a flat-topped cluster of white flowers (corymb) in the late summer and early fall.

You will find this plant, often unnoticed when not in flower, along roadsides, mosquito control dikes, and perhaps in disturbed places in your own yard. Usually unbranched and growing from three to six feet tall, this plant has opposite lanceolate leaves with decidedly toothed margins. Its range is vast and reaches throughout all of Florida west to Texas and north up to on Ontario. In New York, late-flowering thoroughwort is listed as endangered.

The genus name, *Eupatorium*, honors Mithridates VI Eupator, King of Pontus about 115 BC, who is said to have discovered an antidote to a poison in one of the species in this genus. Its species name, *serotinum*, means late-flowering.

Flowering gloriously in some of the disturbed areas at the Oslo Riverfront Conservation Area right now, late-flowering thoroughwort is attracting beavies of mangrove buckeye and southern white butterflies for its copious nectar, as well as bunches of bees. Bees both sip its nectar and collect its pollen. Beetles feast on its pollen, too. Late-flowering thoroughwort is an important fall food source for insect-eating birds.

Photo by Janice Broda.

Pelican Island Audubon Society 2009 Membership

Because each Audubon chapter is expected to support its operations without retention of members' dues -- which are sent to and retained by National Audubon -- **WE NEED YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT** for our many educational programs, field trips and environmental advocacy projects; for our handling of public questions; and the ten issues of our newsletter the *Peligram* we send to each member.

National Audubon*	\$20	_____
Pelican Island Audubon**		
Individual	\$20	_____
Family	\$30	_____
Supporting	\$50	_____
Contribution	\$	_____
Total	\$	_____

*National Audubon membership

This includes subscriptions to *Audubon Magazine* and *The Florida Naturalist*.

**Pelican Island Audubon membership

Dues which PIAS will use for environmental education and advocacy and subscription to the *Peligram*

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

Credit card payments call (772) 567-3520 M - F 9AM-1PM

Please email us if there is a local environmental issue which concerns you at piaudubon@bellsouth.net

Advertise in the Peligram

**Call 772-567-3520 for information
or email piaudubon@bellsouth.net**