

# The Pelican Flyer



April 2015

[www.firstrefuge.org](http://www.firstrefuge.org)

Compiled and written by Carol Lynn Peterson and Tim Glover

This newsletter is available on our website at [www.firstrefuge.org/about/librarynewsletters](http://www.firstrefuge.org/about/librarynewsletters)

## **From the President's Desk**

By Steve Massey

Dear Reader,

Another PIPS Wildlife Festival has come and gone, and this year's may have been one of our best. Mother Nature cooperated and gave us beautiful weather, the food was delicious, and the public came out in large numbers. We offered many educational opportunities to festival goers as numerous non-profits shared their knowledge of Florida wildlife—from live displays of raptor birds, snakes, fish and sea life, to presentations on the nesting habits of sea turtles as well as mosquito control, to conservation history by the master of ceremonies Joe Wiegand in the role of Teddy Roosevelt. One activity the kids loved, among many, was role playing as sea turtles and crawling through an obstacle course.

Pontoon boat rides were also available to the public to visit the PINWR. Refuge-related merchandise was sold in the PIPS tent as well as raffle tickets to Mike Beck's handcrafted kayak. The Indian River Historical Society had wonderful displays of old Fellsmere, Roseland, and Sebastian.

And, of course, Tim Brown of Treasure Coast Wildlife Center released a rehabilitated brown pelican. I could go on and on about all that our 112th celebration of the Refuge had to offer the public this year, but instead I want to stress my sincere appreciation to the Sponsors, Partners, Refuge Volunteers, Boys & Girls Club, numerous Volunteers, and the Festival-planning Committee, without which we could not even accomplish this terrific event. The monies we raise at this annual festival all go toward helping the PINWR fund needed projects.

We are so lucky to be a Friends group of the first established national wildlife refuge. Have a safe and healthy summer, and please remember to attend our annual PIPS meeting on April 27th.

## **PIPS Annual Meeting – April 27th**

Monday, April 27<sup>th</sup> will be the Annual Meeting of the Pelican Island Preservation Society. Current PIPS members will be electing this year's Directors and the office of Secretary – no other Officers are due for election this year. Lorna Thibeault has agreed to the nomination of Secretary. The terms of Board members Ilka Daniel and Bruce Dangerfield are expiring and

they have decided not to run for re-election. We greatly appreciate their service to PIPS and thank them for their expert advice. A few vacancies remain on our Board. If you are interested in participating, please let us know, or attend the meeting – nominations will be accepted from the floor.

The presentation at our meeting will be by Nick Sanzone of the Marine Resources Council. As reported in our October newsletter, the MRC has been coordinating various volunteer groups working on and around Paul's Island, within the Pelican Island NWR. The projects have included invasive plant removal and replanting of native grasses and mangroves. The final activity for this project will take place on April 25<sup>th</sup> with students from the Florida Institute of Technology seining for fish species in the refuge. Nick will give us an overview of the project and work they have coordinated, and the benefits to the refuge.

Please also remember to renew your membership at our meeting, or join! See the related article about membership below.

### **Membership Renewal**

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April, 2015 is the beginning of our membership renewal year. Basic membership levels are \$10 for an individual and \$15 for a family. Please visit our website at [www.firstrefuge.org](http://www.firstrefuge.org) for full membership details, a membership application, or to renew online using a credit or debit card. Dues or donations may also be mailed to PIPS at:

Pelican Island Preservation Society

P.O. Box 781903  
Sebastian, Florida 32978-1903



White pelicans at Pelican Island NWR  
Photo: Sandy Peterson

### **Paul Kroegel Refuge Manager of the Year**

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Congratulations to Tom Kerr, Refuge Manager at the St. Croix Wetland Management District and Whittlesey Creek National Wildlife Refuge in Wisconsin, as the 2015 recipient of the Paul Kroegel Refuge Manager of the Year award. For those of you who may not know your local history, Paul Kroegel was the first Pelican Island Reservation (as named by Theodore Roosevelt in 1903) warden, at a salary of \$1 a month. Without Kroegel's and Frank Chapman's (creator of the Audubon society), valiant efforts to save Florida's wading birds from the plume hunters, the nesting birds that you view today from the platform looking out upon Pelican Island would no longer exist; they would have been mass killed into extinction.

Now that the Refuge system has 562 refuges, ours being the first, how appropriate that Paul Kroegel should be the namesake on a national Manager of the Year award.

## **Amendment 1 and its Ramifications**

The citizen initiative known as the Water and Land Legacy constitutional amendment is also known as Amendment 1. 75% of Florida voters approved the amendment last November; ballot language specifically referred to the purchase of sugar land south of Lake Okeechobee. A 26,000-acre parcel would be used to build a reservoir to hold excess water before it is purified and sent south to the Everglades, thus reducing damaging releases of contaminated water into the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee estuaries. Sadly, Florida lawmakers are dragging their feet and need to allocate the necessary funds by May 1st in order to purchase it before the option expires on October 1<sup>st</sup>. We sincerely hope that politics will not supersede the needs of wildlife and humans in south Florida. Summer rains loom large in the near future and millions of gallons of sugar land run-off will again be discharged into our estuaries on a daily basis. We encourage all of our PIPS members to stand up for conservation and contact your state senators and representatives, urging them to purchase U.S. Sugar Corp. land before it is too late.

## **Birding Community E-Bulletin**

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The Birding Community E-Bulletin is an e-mail newsletter concerning birds, birding and bird conservation. Coedited by Paul Baicich and Wayne Petersen, the newsletter is distributed by e-mail at the start of each month and is intended to keep friends and associates abreast of important bird, birding and bird conservation news.

"There aren't many publications that make me say 'wow' after every paragraph. Come to think of it, there's only one – it's the Birding Community E-bulletin. I can only imagine the painstaking work that the two editors do to craft this gem. Whether you're an expert birder or an amateur (like me) you'll be fascinated, enlightened, and truly entertained by this wonderful service. And you will say 'wow.'"

*-Ray Brown, host, "Talkin' Birds" on WATD, WCNX, WNBX, and more*

The bulletin is sponsored by Zeiss Sports Optics and hosted by the National Wildlife Refuge Association, the umbrella group for the national wildlife refuge "friends" organizations. For more information visit the NWRA at <http://refugeassociation.org/news/birding-bulletin/>. Information on how to subscribe to the e-bulletin is available in each issue – the archive of issues is available on the website.



White pelicans, Pelican Island NWR  
Photo: Sandy Peterson

Pelican Island Preservation Society  
P.O. Box 781903  
Sebastian, Florida 32978-1903  
772-202-0697  
info@firstrefuge.org

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### **PELICAN ISLAND BEAUTY**

by Brenda Shea

Pelican Island National Wild Life Refuge,  
where the land is vast and huge;  
an island preserved as a beautiful place,  
where the seasons of life blend with grace.

Located amongst a lagoon to amaze  
Indian River rushes through its days;  
etching its legacy so fine,  
an island generating life all the time

Theodore Roosevelt valued nature strong,  
his efforts protected the wilderness long;  
echoing beauty like a melody's song,  
blending wild creatures and growth to belong.

The natural rhythm of life,  
persevering without strife;  
ancient growth through every tree,  
many birds, butterflies and wildlife to see.

A natural historical landmark,  
welcoming all from morning till dark;  
to explore nature under the sun,  
learning something special for everyone.

Many birds soar high,  
etching life in the sky;  
you may see a snowy egret,  
amongst the amazing sunset.

A white pelican perched upright,  
is always a wonderful delight;  
bringing a charm to the refuge that's bright,  
Its white feathers shining like light.

The Florida zebra long wing butterfly sight,  
adds glory to the atmosphere with might;  
a butterfly garden is a special place to explore,  
a variety of butterflies to see and more.

The Centennial path brings you to a spectacular horizon,  
where you can view many aspects of Pelican Island;  
you can see the island through a viewing scope,  
giving you a vision with incredible hope.

Vision to protect a land so great,  
an island with a valuable trait;  
we hope that you enjoy your journey here,  
embracing the "Pelican Island Beauty" that's dear.

The date above your name is the month/year  
that your membership renewal is/was due.  
Thank you!

### **Pelican Island Preservation Society Membership Application**

Please check one:

- ☐ Student (under 18) - \$5/year
- ☐ Individual - \$10/year
- ☐ Family (joint) - \$15/year
- ☐ Contributing - \$50/year
- ☐ Corporate/Business - \$100/year
- ☐ Supporting - \$250/year
- ☐ Life - \$500

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Company \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

*Send completed application and dues to:*

**PIPS Membership**  
**P.O. Box 781903, Sebastian, FL 32978-1903**

Or use your credit/debit card to make a