

# The Pelican Flyer



January 2016

[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--

I hope that everyone had a very Merry Christmas and a great New Year's celebration. I wish a happy and prosperous year ahead to each and every one of you.

The year 2016 for me started with my spending time at the Bait & Tackle Shack on Rte. 1 in Wabasso. What beautiful weather we had on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. But on Sunday, when my wife Deby and I planned to visit the Refuge, the weather turned on us with rain and cold temperatures. We will try for another weekend, as the Refuge is one of our favorite places to visit for peace and solitude--I am grateful daily for the opportunity to be president of our support group--PIPS.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Debbie Avery, one of our valued Board members for her time and effort on our behalf. Due to time constraints, she was unable to remain on our Board, but she has volunteered to continue to help with the Wildlife Festival marketing, poster, and arranging for food vendors. Thanks, Debbie, for everything.

Our planning committee continues to meet regularly in preparation for the upcoming festival on Saturday, March 12th at Riverview Park in Sebastian. Please plan to attend this wonderful event; as PIPS members, we would welcome your volunteering with us that day. The festival is a great time, full of fun and education, for the entire family. Remember--Joe Wiegand, aka Teddy Roosevelt-- will be there to host the festivities.

Our next PIPS meeting will be held on January 25th at 7:00 p.m. at the North County Library in Sebastian. Our featured speaker will be Heather Stapleton, Educational Director at the ELC, who will be discussing the complexities of the Indian River Lagoon.

Thanks to everyone in advance, and I hope to see you at both events.

*Steve Massey*

## PIPS January Meeting

Our next meeting will be held on Monday, January 25th at 7:00 p.m. at the North Indian River County Library, 1001 Sebastian Blvd. The meeting is open to the public, and light refreshments will be served afterwards.

Our featured speaker for the evening will be Heather Stapleton, Education Director at The Environmental Learning Center, with which she has been associated since 2003. Upon graduation from

Indiana University, she joined the Peace Corps and spent three years in Benin, West Africa, where she created educational opportunities for the children of the village. During that time, she fell in love with travel and environmental education, thus paving the way for her thirteen years with the ELC.

During the summer months, Heather leads turtle walks at the Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge and also works for the Sea Turtle Conservancy. When not out in nature, Heather can be found singing with local choirs and on stage with the Vero Beach Theater Guild.

Heather will be speaking about the current health of the Indian River Lagoon and how we can all lessen our negative impact on it. The Lagoon is actually an "estuary" and home to Pelican Island, the country's first National Wildlife Refuge. In Indian River County alone, we have over 600 miles of canals and ditches that feed into the Lagoon. Come learn more fascinating facts about this magnificent body of water, the most biologically diverse in all of North America.

You may read more about Heather in a feature article in the January, 2016 issue of Vero Beach Magazine.

### **Migratory Bird Treaty Centennial 1916-2016**

The year 2016 marks the centennial of the Convention between the United States and Great Britain (for Canada) for the Protection of Migratory Birds (also called the Migratory Bird Treaty), signed on Aug. 16, 1916. The Migratory Bird Treaty, and three others that followed, form the cornerstones of efforts to conserve birds that migrate across international borders.

The Treaty connects the Service with other federal, state, private, non-governmental, tribal, and international partners, who share a long, successful history of conserving, protecting, and managing migratory bird populations and their habitats. Celebrating the centennial of the first Treaty allows us to bring together those who have contributed to its success, and to galvanize efforts to protect migratory birds for the generations to come.

The Migratory Bird Treaty Centennial is more than just a celebration. It is an opportunity to create awareness, promote key actions, increase support, and expand opportunities for engagement in the conservation of migratory birds. It is an occasion to reflect on a century of successful bird and habitat conservation and look ahead to the future of bird conservation.



Photo: American Bittern, Patty Corapi



Photo: American Oystercatcher, Patty Corapi

For more information, visit [www.fws.gov/birds/MBTreaty100](http://www.fws.gov/birds/MBTreaty100). Additionally, Audubon also has some great information explaining the significance and importance of Migratory Bird Treaty, as well as the timeline of its development and implementation. Visit them at [www.audubon.org/news/migratory-bird-treaty-act](http://www.audubon.org/news/migratory-bird-treaty-act). We will be celebrating the Migratory Bird Treaty anniversary as well at the Pelican Island Wildlife Festival coming up soon! [See the related story below.](#)

### **24th Annual Pelican Island Wildlife Festival**

We are again making preparations for our annual PIPS-sponsored Wildlife Festival, to be held on Saturday, March 12th in Riverview Park, Sebastian, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Because the festival's

theme celebrates wildlife, our Arts & Crafts exhibitors as well as non-profit and commercial representatives all have an environmental connection. Admission is free.

This year festival goers will be able to sign up for Pelican Island Pontoon Boat Tours; enjoy center stage presentations about birds of prey and other wildlife; witness the release of a rehabilitated brown pelican; speak with knowledgeable scientists from different wildlife refuges, as well as representatives of local historical societies; watch fishing demonstrations; and buy wildlife-oriented merchandise in the PIPS tent and from various exhibitors. Kids' activities will also include a sea turtle obstacle course. We will feature a photo contest tent in which winners' works may be purchased by means of a silent auction, as well as a separate silent auction and raffle in the PIPS tent.

Overseeing all these events at Center Stage will be none other than our favorite historical re-enactor, Joe Wiegand, as Teddy Roosevelt! Were it not for Roosevelt's setting aside Pelican Island as the country's first conservation site in 1903, our annual celebration would not even be possible, since his edict saved most of Florida's shorebirds. Come and celebrate with us. Feel free to volunteer as well!

### **Pelican Island Wildlife Festival Photography Contest**

Photo Contest coordinators Vince Lamb and Patty Corapi announce that the 2016 Photography Contest and Exhibition is open for entries. The contest will consist of submitting your entries digitally with a deadline of Feb. 28, 2016. The exhibition will be held at the Pelican Island Wildlife Festival on March 12, 2016. All photographs entered will be running on a large screen display in the photo contest tent. Winners will be announced at the festival with cash prizes presented by Joe Wiegand, aka Teddy Roosevelt. The Best of Show and top winners in the three categories – Wildlife, Landscape and Macro – will be printed and framed by PIPS and sold by silent auction the day of the festival. The entry fee is \$25 for up to three photos. Each photographer is allowed to purchase two (2) entries for a total of six (6) photos. There is a maximum of three (3) per category. All subjects must be of native Florida species or landscapes. All funds raised will be used to benefit the Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge. For more information about the contest, visit [www.piwf.eventbrite.com](http://www.piwf.eventbrite.com). If you have any questions, please contact Patty Corapi at 321-431-6801 or e-mail [pacorapi-at-aol.com](mailto:pacorapi-at-aol.com) or [piwf.contest-at-gmail.com](mailto:piwf.contest-at-gmail.com).



Photo: Vince Lamb

### **Special Photography Event**



Photo: White Pelican, Patty Corapi

On Sunday, February 14, 2016 at 3:00 p.m., Vince Lamb will conduct a free class, in conjunction with the Pelican Island Wildlife Photography Contest – “Preparing Your Images for Photo Contests.” If you are wondering how to re-size and prepare your images for this and other contests, this class is for you. It will last about 45 minutes, followed by Vince taking those interested to the beach to see what can be found to photograph. The location is the Barrier Island Center at 8385 S. Hwy A1A, Melbourne Beach. If you have any questions or would like to attend, please e-mail [piwf.contest-at-gmail.com](mailto:piwf.contest-at-gmail.com).

**Pelican Island Preservation Society**  
**P.O. Box 781903**  
**Sebastian, Florida 32978-1903**

**An Evening with Teddy Roosevelt**

As we all gear up for the Pelican Island Wildlife Festival, the Indian River County Historical Society is planning an "Evening with President Theodore (Teddy) Roosevelt" to add to the celebration. Joe Wiegand, as Teddy, will once again bring his wonderful show to the Sebastian River High School Center for Performing Arts. There will be an opportunity for an early dinner with Teddy; hear his exciting lecture; ask him lots of questions; and come



away with all of his quotable quotes.

So, plan to join the Historical Society on the evening of Friday, March 11<sup>th</sup>.

Information on times and tickets will be available after

Photo: Mark Glenn Studio  
February 1st at the Society Office, 2336 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue, downtown Vero Beach; or call Janice at 772-778-3435, or e-mail – indianriverhistro-at-bellsouth.net.

Check out their website also at [www.irchistorical.org](http://www.irchistorical.org).

The PIPS newsletter is published in the months of January, April, June and October. Subscription is included with membership and delivered by e-mail only, unless requested otherwise, or no usable e-mail. Please contact us to notify of change of address or e-mail.

**Board of Directors**

Steve Massey, President  
David Cox, Vice President  
Lorna Thibeault, Secretary  
Tim Glover, Treasurer

Susan King, Apr '16  
Gini Prasch, Apr '16  
vacant, Apr '16  
vacant, Apr '17

[info@firstrefuge.org](mailto:info@firstrefuge.org)

772-202-0697

PIPS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE (800-435-7352) WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.

Printed on 100% post-consumer recycled paper

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 donation via our website.