

The Pelican Flyer



June 2014

www.firstrefuge.org

Compiled and written by Carol Lynn Peterson and Tim Glover

From the President's Desk

By Steve Massey

It was a beautiful, clear-water day on the Lagoon as my wife Deby and I passed by Pelican Island in our small motor boat and noticed a number of nesting birds on the island as well as flying over it. We expressed our gratitude to each other for being so lucky to have this incredible natural treasure right in our backyard. How fortunate we are besides to have such a dedicated staff at the PINWR to oversee its property and to educate the public about its history. Many thanks to the Refuge managers Charlie Pelizza, Karen Hillier, Kevin Lowry, and their staff for their public outreach programs and for all they do to maintain the integrity of the Refuge.

I recently assisted my wife with a 5K race to raise breast cancer awareness and to benefit women in Fort Pierce who were in need of free mammograms. Two ladies approached our group, stating they were lost, and wanting to know if anyone knew the way to the Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge. I immediately responded with, "I can help you!" and my wife added, "He is the President!" She meant PIPS, of course. What an irony that I could send individuals from Fort Pierce all the way to Sebastian and our Refuge by being in the right place at the right time!

I want to take this opportunity to thank the Directors and members of the PIPS Board for 2014:

David Cox--Vice-President	Megan Adams
Sandee Dawdy--Secretary	Gini Prasch
Tim Glover--Treasurer	Bonnie Swanson
Ilka Daniel	Bruce Dangerfield

Lastly, I want to give special thanks to Walt Stieglitz for his many years of dedicated service to PIPS. He has worn multiple hats over the years--in particular, that of Treasurer, and previously as President for a number of years. His service to the Pelican Island NWR, however, began even before he moved to the Sebastian area, as an employee of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Walt chose to retire from the PIPS Board recently, but we look forward to his and wife Lynn's continued volunteer service to PIPS and the Refuge.

Have a wonderful and safe summer.

Famed Sebastian Naturalist George Nelson's Glass Slides Come to Life at our June 30th Meeting

Florida State Genealogical Society President Pamela Cooper has very kindly agreed to do a power point presentation of the George Nelson glass slide collection dating back to the early 1900's. Nelson first came to Sebastian from Maine in 1901 and took thousands of photos of the flora and fauna of Indian River County; 2500 of his glass and hand-tinted lantern slides are still safely stored in archival boxes. In September 1963, the collection was donated to his cousin Helen Stewart's private library following his death in 1962. Nelson ended a long career working for Harvard University as a collector, preparator, botanist, zoologist, ornithologist, and passionate photographer. Most of his manuscript



collections are at Harvard. However, his glass slide collection is by far the largest visual collection of his work and is now located in the Archive Center of the Indian River County Main Library. All items have been preserved, scanned, and made available for viewing at the library. An article about George Nelson recently appeared in the May 15th issue of Vero Beach 32963.

Cooper, supervisor of the Archive Center, will give a biographical sketch of George Nelson and show slides of Pelican Island, Swan Island, Honduras, Cuba, and a small portion of his many slides of flowers and wildlife. This presentation promises to be a one-of-a-kind opportunity to learn about one of the area's greatest naturalists. The meeting is free and open to the public. Please join us at 7:00 p.m. at the North Indian River County Library, 1001 Sebastian Blvd. in Sebastian on Monday, June 30th. Light refreshments will be served.

Butterflies, and Bees, and Birds!--Oh, My!

Did you know that over 150 food crops in the U.S. depend on pollinators, including oranges, tomatoes, and almonds? Kevin Lowry, Visitor Services Manager at the PINWR, is inviting all who are interested to a FREE family program on pollinators on Saturday, June 21st at 10 a.m. to learn about the butterflies of Florida and how they may become regular visitors to your backyards. The program will be held at the Pelican Island NWR, off of the Jungle Trail on A1A in Sebastian. Arrive early for kids' face painting! Space is limited, so call now for reservations at 772-581-5557 ext.2.

Fertilizer Ban Now in Effect (June 1st-September 30th)

Indian River County has adopted a new fertilizer ordinance restricting fertilizer application in order to help protect the ailing Indian River Lagoon from excess nutrients contained in summertime runoff. These nutrients contribute to the growth of algae blooms, which then cut off the oxygen supply to grow sea grass, a major food source for manatees as well as habitat for new-born fish.

No fertilizer containing phosphorous is to be used at any time, and all fertilizers must contain at least 50% slow-release nitrogen. No fertilizer is to be applied within ten feet of any body of water. Contact www.ircgov.com for more information regarding the ordinance or e-mail Alexis Thomas, the County's storm water educator and fertilizer enforcement officer at athomas@ircgov.com. Thanks to Judy Orcutt for bringing our attention to this matter. Now that the rainy season has arrived, we certainly don't want to endure another crisis similar to last summer's when we lost over 300 manatees, 70 dolphins, and countless birds and fish. Let's all do our part to help our beloved Lagoon regain its health.

Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge and Summer Turtle Walks

Directly across the street from the Pelican Island NWR lies another refuge comprised of 20.5 miles of protected habitat, extending from Wabasso to Melbourne Beach--Archie Carr NWR. Its significance lies in the fact that it is the world's #1 most productive nesting site for Loggerhead sea turtles. Leatherback and Green sea turtles also choose these beaches as nesting sites. The Refuge was named in honor of Dr. Archie F. Carr, a conservationist who, through his writings and research, brought attention to the plight of sea turtles and their possible extinction if protective actions were not taken to help them survive.

Those of us living in Indian River County are fortunate to be surrounded by caring and educated environmentalists who see that turtle nesting season (March 1st-October 31st) and its associated ordinances are strictly adhered to. You can learn more at www.TurtleNests.org.

Kristen Kneifl, Archie Carr NWR Refuge Ranger, has set aside July 12th as the primary date on which members of PIPS and their families may attend a nesting presentation and turtle walk at the Barrier Island Center on A1A in Melbourne Beach. July 5th has been set aside for Turtle Coast Sierra Club members, but PIPS members may attend on that date if they cannot make the 12th. These walks are offered without charge, but donations to the Friends of the Carr Refuge are greatly appreciated.



Loggerhead turtle: Vince Lamb

Registration online is open at www.turtle705.eventbrite.com or www.turtle712eventbrite.com. The Refuge is anticipating another great year for nesting turtles. Instructions for night time turtle walks are included on each website. We encourage all PIPS members to take advantage of this unique summertime wildlife experience.

Certified ranger-led tours are also available to the public at Sebastian Inlet State Park during June and July. Turtle walks are held nightly, Friday through Tuesday, and reservations are required. Call 772-388-2750 between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. to reserve. Regular park entry fees apply. Visit www.SeaTurtleWalks.org.

PIPS Sponsors Volunteer Appreciation BBQ for Ridge Rangers Workday

The following is a thank-you letter from Kevin Lowry for a lunch funded by PIPS for volunteers at Lake Wales Ridge, a part of the Pelican Island NWR Refuge Complex:



“Dear PIPS,

Our Volunteer appreciation Day at Lake Wales Ridge NWR was a success. We held the event Saturday, May 17th at the Flamingo Villas unit of the Refuge. Staff and Refuge volunteers teamed up with Ridge Rangers and had a workday before the appreciation BBQ.

We removed a dumpster full of garbage and at least ten five-gallon buckets of glass from the Refuge. Kudos to Doug Sutherland, Jack Lampiasi and Russ Bell, PINWR volunteers, for coming out and giving a short talk to the Ridge Rangers and Refuge volunteers about the USFWS, NWR System, and our Refuge complex. They all did a fantastic job!

Thanks to PIPS for supporting this event and for purchasing all the food and beverages served to the volunteers. All 24 participants greatly appreciated the kind gesture.”

How to View Wildlife Safely and Not to Engage in “Bird Disturbance”

A concerned citizen recently wrote a letter to the PIPS Board regarding issues she had been made aware of regarding human interaction with birds during nesting season. She asked that the public be apprised of proper rules of conduct to viewing wildlife safely as laid out by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. The following link outlines their guidelines to wildlife viewing and avoiding “bird disturbance”:

<http://myfwc.com/viewing/how/bird-disturbance>



Egrets: Sandy Peterson

In Anticipation of our 2015 Wildlife Festival

Lorna Thibeault, our volunteer coordinator, is already appealing to PIPS members and others to save the date of March 14th, 2015 for the 23rd Annual PIPS Festival. Volunteer recruitment will begin in January, but if anyone is interested in serving on the Festival Planning Committee, please let us know with an e-mail to info@firstrefuge.org or call 772-202-0697.

In Memoriam (as Recounted by Walt Stieglitz)

We are sad to report the recent passing of Steve Harber. Steve and his wife Alice, who passed away several years ago, were among the most senior of PIPS members, dating back to its incorporation in 1993. The Harber family was extremely supportive of PIPS and the PINWR over the years in a wide variety of ways. Daughter Terese, a ranger at the Sebastian Inlet State Park, served on the PIPS Board for several years and remains a member of PIPS. Son Greg is also a member of PIPS. Terese and Greg collaborated on a unique ornament, which they designed and crafted to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the PINWR in 2003. This beautiful work of art not only served as an educational tool, but proved to be a great fundraiser.

We would like to express our deepest sympathies to the Harber family for their loss; Steve was both a great person to know and a great asset to PIPS.

Pelicanaid to the Rescue!

A couple of our newest members are working to save pelicans after the Gulf oil spill.

Charlie, Jacob and their neighborhood friend Lizzy live in Louisiana and were concerned about the damage caused by the oil spill, especially to the health of the pelicans. So they decided to start selling lemon and limeade to raise money to help.

Their first day of sales brought in \$18 and Charlie and Jacob's dad said they couldn't wait to figure how to use the money to help the pelicans. Their dad "invested" the money in PIPS, buying them each a Student membership, plus a little extra. He said the idea of the "pelicanaid" and raising money to help the pelicans was all the idea of the kids. They are now excited to be members of PIPS and supporting the Pelican Island NWR, one of the most significant brown pelican rookeries in Florida.

Thanks Lizzy, Charlie and Jacob for your support of PIPS and the pelicans! They plan on continuing their Pelicanaid stand to raise more money for pelicans. Here's to a long, hot summer in Louisiana and hoping their business is good!



Charlie, Jacob and Lizzy with a recent satisfied customer.

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

PIPS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization
Printer on 100% post-consumer recycled paper

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

Names(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.