

The Pelican Flyer



Pelican Island
PRESERVATION SOCIETY

June 2018

www.firstrefuge.org

Compiled and written by Carol Lynn Peterson and Tim Glover
This newsletter is available on our website at www.firstrefuge.org/newsletterslibrary

From the President's Desk

Greetings everyone,

Even though the summer months are the slowest time of year for visitors, Pelican Island NWR still offers a unique opportunity to enjoy walking trails and the beauty of the country's first dedicated wildlife conservation site. I encourage everyone to get out and visit in the mornings, or later in the day, when it is a little cooler. Jeremy Edwardson of the Refuge staff will be joining us at our meeting later this month to bring us up to date on the latest happenings at Pelican Island – please keep reading for details.

The PIPS Board is beginning a process of working with a consultant to help redevelop our Board of Directors and work on some future planning. Even though we held our Annual Meeting in April, we are working with our consultant to find new folks to join and help out – it is never too late for you to become involved! If you are interested, feel free to let us know and we will fill you in on the details of what we have planned.

I hope everyone has a great summer and we look forward to seeing you in October for our next General Meeting, our annual Bird & Nature Art Show, and helping the Refuge celebrate National Wildlife Refuge Week. Until then, enjoy the summer and stay cool.

Steve Massey

PIPS Membership Renewal

Thanks to those who have remembered to renew their memberships recently! All PIPS memberships become due for renewal in April each year, saving us from having to invoice everyone individually. Our April newsletter includes a renewal reminder and printed copies mailed to members include the month/year in which one's membership expires on the address label. For those who receive our newsletter by email, we have provided a separate email reminder if your membership is due.

This year, we decided to send statements as a renewal reminder and provide information as to when you last made a donation. A printed statement on your desk will hopefully provide an easier reminder to renew your support of PIPS!

Membership dues remain unchanged at \$10 for an individual or \$15 for a family. One may renew one's membership online through our website by using a credit or debit card or by mailing a check to us at PIPS, PO Box 781903, Sebastian, FL 32978-1903. Membership payments will be accepted at our meeting this month as well.

If you have any questions about membership, please contact us at 772-202-0697 or info@firstrefuge.org.

Thanks as always for your support of PIPS and the Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge. Your volunteer support is very much welcome as well! If you are interested in being more involved, please let us know – see the contact information on the back page.

Latest News from Your Backyard Refuges: Pelican Island and Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuges

Jeremy Edwardson, Deputy Project Leader for the Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge Complex, will give a presentation at our meeting this month, on the latest projects and updates for the Pelican Island and Archie Carr Refuges. Jeremy plans a brief overview of the Refuges and an inside view of current staff, visitor opportunities, volunteering efforts, future plans, and other fascinating information that you may not know about the National Wildlife Refuges found in Indian River County.

Although visitations are down since many of our winter residents and visitors migrated back North, Refuge staff have been very busy and Pelican Island NWR is still a great late spring and early summer place to visit. Thanks to Jason Coates of Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge and Chad Shirey of Warm Springs National Fish Hatchery, Pelican Island NWR for restoring public use roads and parking lots throughout the Refuge.

The Refuge also has two new interns with the Student Conservation Association who will be helping throughout the summer - Jonathan Valentine and Amanda Carmichael. They are both Florida residents, and each brings great skills and have already significantly been contributing to all the refuges at Everglades Headwaters NWR Complex.

The Complex will soon be welcoming a new Federal Wildlife Officer to their team. Nicole Prescott is transferring from Montana and will be starting early this month. She will surely be a welcome asset to our Florida National Wildlife Refuges.

With all that good news, the Complex is unfortunately losing Dayma Wasmund, Biological Science Technician, as she will soon be leaving for another U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service position in Hawaii. While the Complex will be sad to see her go, we all wish her the best of luck with that exciting opportunity.

From all the staff at Pelican Island NWR, "...thanks for the ongoing support from the community, and we hope you plan to come out and visit Pelican Island NWR at one of its most underused times of the year. Early morning hikes along the trails during the 'off-season' make a prime opportunity to see a variety of wildlife and abundant plants responding from the rain, all while avoiding the heat and crowds."

Please join us at the PIPS meeting, for a full update from Jeremy, on Monday, June 25th, 6pm at the North Indian River County Library, 1001 Sebastian Blvd, in Sebastian.

Director Kurth Receives NWRA Theodore Roosevelt Award

James W. Kurth, Deputy Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, last month received the National Wildlife Refuge Association's highest award, the Theodore Roosevelt Lifetime Achievement Award. Mr. Kurth has devoted his life to the protection and conservation of our nation's wildlife and wild places and serves as a mentor and role model for new generations of conservationists throughout America.

"Jim has been a friend, colleague, and inspiration to me personally for nearly four decades," said

Geoffrey Haskett, President of the National Wildlife Refuge Association. "He takes the long view of the shared stewardship of our nation's natural resources as a journey that never ends. Every day there are people doing what they can to protect and enhance our wildlife heritage and Jim is confident that these efforts coalesce and make a real difference whether you are working as a government employee, for a non-profit, or in your backyard."

Jim's conservation ethic, rooted in the writings of Aldo Leopold he studied as a wildlife management student at the University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point, has guided his career and is something he demonstrates to everyone he meets.



Photo: USFWS

Congratulations to Director Kurth on this well-deserved award!

Source: NWRA Press Release, May 22, 2018

2018 NWRA Paul Kroegel Refuge Manager of the Year

The National Wildlife Refuge Association awarded this year's Paul Kroegel Refuge Manager of the Year Award to Andy Loranger of Kenai National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska. He is a visionary, an innovator, and a trusted advisor for fellow conservation partners, community leaders, Alaska Natives, and his staff when it comes to conserving Alaska's critically important landscape. Andy's wisdom, work ethic and modest can-do attitude make him an inspirational and respected leader among his peers.

As most of you know, Paul Kroegel was the first warden at Pelican Island – the country's first National Wildlife Refuge.

Source: NWRA Press Release, March 21, 2018



Photo: National Wildlife Refuge Association

Photo Contest Entries Featured in the Vero Beach Magazine

The Vero Beach Magazine featured photos entered in our Pelican Island Wildlife Festival Photography Contest last year, in the July issue of their magazine last summer - www.verobeachmagazine.com/Vero-Beach-Magazine/July-2017/Camera-Ready. The Magazine will feature this year's wildlife festival photo contest entries, once again, in their July issue. Please look for their magazine at your favorite vendors around town. We expect to have copies of the issue available at our next meeting in October as well.

Indian River Bird & Nature Art Show

PIPS will be hosting our annual nature art show again in October, featuring artwork by local artists of birds, local wildlife and nature. This year the event concentrates mostly on the art feature of the event. The only tour planned as part of the event is the popular evening wine and cheese boat cruise to Pelican Island.

Our event is held during National Wildlife Refuge Week, to help promote the National Wildlife Refuge System and specifically Pelican Island as the nation's first refuge! National Wildlife Refuge Week will be celebrated this year from October 14 – 20 and you will find some events and activities at other refuges around the country listed here - www.fws.gov/refuges/SpecialEvents/FWS_SpecialEventsCalendar.cfm.

The staff at the Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge Complex is planning on some special events and tours at Pelican Island as part of NWR Week, similar to those planned for last year. If you were looking forward to those events last year, you likely recall that most all were canceled due to the extraordinary amount of rain we had around that time, which resulted in much of Jungle Trail being closed to the public. Let's hope Mother Nature is more cooperative this year.

We will be posting more details about plans for this event on our website as they are confirmed, and there will be more information in our October newsletter.

Featured Refuge Volunteer

Ed Olson is this month's featured Refuge volunteer. Ed has been in the area and volunteering for PIPS and the Refuge since 2001. Ed began his career as a biologist for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in the early 1960s, out West, and retired as an Environmental Specialist for the U.S. Coast Guard in 1998.



Ed currently helps with maintenance chores at the Refuge – mowing and maintenance of signage, conducts monthly wildlife surveys, and helps PIPS with the annual wildlife festival. Ed's son Rolf is the Project Leader for the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge in Palm Beach County.

Thank you, Ed, for your volunteer efforts on behalf of PIPS and Pelican Island!

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

World Sea Turtle Day

June 16th is World Sea Turtle Day, a day we honor sea turtles. These beautiful reptiles have nested on our beaches for millions of years. So, of course, they deserve their own day dedicated to their magnificence! The day brings attention to turtles, tortoises and encourages you to learn more and help them survive and thrive. Please visit the World Sea Turtle Day website at <https://bit.ly/2tucZNI> for more information, including a video of baby sea turtles emerging from their nests.



Photo: Green Sea Turtle hatchling
Archie Carr NWR, Keenan Adams, USFWS

Our sister organization, the Friends of the Carr Refuge, conduct evening walks through late July, to view sea turtles that come ashore to nest. Walk dates fill up fast so be sure and reserve early. For more information, visit FOCR online at www.carrrefuge.org/turtle-walks.

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 useable e-mail. Please contact us to notify of change of address or e-mail.

Board of Directors

Steve Massey, President, Apr '20
vacant, Vice President,
vacant, Secretary
Tim Glover, Treasurer, Apr '20

Eric Swenson, Apr '19

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.

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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.