



PELICAN FLYER

January 2009

From the President's Desk

By Bonnie Swanson

As we look forward to 2009, please remember to add our Wildlife Festival to your calendar. This year's event will be held on Saturday, March 14th and will be our 17th annual festival.

Resolution suggestions for the year!

1. Volunteer regularly at the refuge. Contact Ranger Joanna Webb (772-562-3909 ext. 258).
2. Volunteer as well to work at the Festival by contacting Ranger Joanna Webb
3. Visit the refuge and bring some friends to celebrate this natural wonder.
4. Pledge to do something "green" that will improve your home environment.
5. Come to our general meetings to learn more about the refuge and other environmental projects on the Treasure Coast. The next meeting is Monday, April 27, 2009, 7:00, at the North Indian River County Library in Sebastian.
6. Encourage friends, neighbors, and community leaders to protect our natural environment, especially here in Indian River County!

Hope to see you at the Wildlife Festival and our meeting on April 27th!

What Happened to my January Newsletter (and meeting info)?

First of all, we apologize for not getting our January newsletter out on time and therefore providing everyone with information about our January program. Bob Montanaro has been editing and producing our newsletter for us for the last few years. Because of a new full-time responsibility, he has had to resign his duties for us. Bob has done a marvelous job with producing the newsletter and adding occasional bird and wildlife photos, as he is an avid and accomplished photographer himself. Thanks Bob for all your great work on the PIPS newsletter! To see some of Bob's work, visit his websites at www.lunarcabin.com.

As a result we are looking for someone who would like to help us out with the newsletter. Our Board provides the articles and we have an editor, but if you are interested in helping format and publish this newsletter, let us know by sending an email to info@pelicanislandfriends.org or call Tim Glover at 772-589-0636.

For those of you who we have email addresses for, we were able to notify you about the upcoming January meeting and information about the presentation. If you are not on our email list and would like to be, please send us an email at membership@pelicanislandfriends.org so that we will be able to stay in touch!

The January program presentation was by Marty Smithson of the Sebastian Inlet District. They are charged with maintaining the inlet and the surrounding beaches, impacted by the inlet. Marty is very knowledgeable and has lots of great historical facts and photos about the inlet. He gives similar presentations periodically at

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Refuge Report and Festival Update

By PINWR Ranger Joanna Webb

On Saturday, March 14, from 9am to 4pm, the Pelican Island Preservation Society, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the City of Sebastian will host the Pelican Island Wildlife Festival.

Now in its seventeenth year, the Pelican Island Wildlife Festival has grown to be one of Florida's most popular wildlife festivals. The event is free to the public and focuses on inspiring families to better understand nature through environmental education, children activities, outdoor recreation, and just old-fashioned relaxation and fun!

Held in Sebastian's beautiful Riverview Park alongside the Indian River Lagoon, the event attracts over 8000 people who come to see over 80 environmental exhibitors, including live wildlife exhibitors, local environmental and historical organizations, live bands, art & craft vendors, and food vendors.

To start the festival, a park ranger will release back into the wild a rehabilitated brown pelican. Throughout the day, visitors can take guided kayaking and pontoon boat tours to view famed Pelican Island.

Exhibits include native wildlife shows, featuring birds of prey and reptiles jointly presented by the Treasure Coast Wildlife Hospital and the Treasure Coast Herpetological Society. All exhibits and activities are free except for the pontoon boat tours to Pelican Island and the kayaking activities, both offered at reduced rates.

All funds collected during the event will be donated to the Pelican Island Preservation Society to construct a new wildlife observation facility at Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge.

The proposed wildlife observation facility will be constructed on the current Pete's Impoundment Trail and renamed the Joe Michael Memorial Trail in honor of Mr. Michael's lifetime commitment to conserving lands around Pelican Island and the Indian River Lagoon. The Pelican Island Preservation Society has already raised an initial \$9000 through donations from the annual Volvo for Life Awards from Bonnie Swanson, the Sebastian Fishin' Chics and the Joe Michael Memorial Fund.

The Pelican Island Wildlife Festival is coordinated by a dedicated group of over 20 volunteers and one U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service employee. The committee meets monthly beginning in late summer each year to coordinate the event activities. Well over 250 volunteers are needed on event day to execute the festival.

Major event sponsors include Florida Today, Indian River Federal Credit Union, Indian River Mall, Kayaks Etc, Keep Indian River Beautiful, Press Journal, Runners Depot, Starfish Border Collie Rescue, Sunshine Wildlife Tours, Treasure Coast Herpetological Society, Treasure Coast Wildlife Center, TV 10 Talk with Marcia, and Waste Management.

Event website: www.pelicanislandfriends.org.

Event email: info@pelicanislandfriends.org

Event Info & Volunteering: (772) 562-3909 ext 258

Exhibitor Information: (772) 323-4550

Kayak Race Sign-up: (772) 794-9900

Volunteers Needed at the Refuge

From its humble beginnings at Pelican Island, the National Wildlife Refuge System has always relied on citizens, not the government. In 1903 Paul Kroegel, Frank Chapman, and Professor Nelson volunteered. In the 1960s Joe Michael and the Indian River Area Preservation League continued this tradition. In 1993 PIPS was formed. Now, to continue this tradition, the refuge needs volunteers for the following activities:

- Butterfly Garden maintenance
- Adopt the Butterfly Garden – youth groups study and help maintain the butterfly garden, one group per month
- Jungle Trail Trash Patrol - once a month
- Roving Interpreters - weekly
- Light Trail Maintenance - weekly
- Heavy Trail Maintenance – as needed
- Office Support - weekly to once a month
- Pelican Island Wildlife Festival, March 14th. Planning committee meets monthly from Nov – March and a few times two weeks prior to event.
- PIPS Marketing/Public Relations
- PIPS Grant Writer
- PIPS Outreach Coordinator (presentations/events)
- Renew your membership! Currently we are raising funds for the Joe Michael Memorial Trail, a brand new overlook on Pete's Impoundment.

Please volunteer for one of the above activities at info@pelicanislandfriends.org.

Kayak Pelican Island with Kristen & Mike Beck, Kayaks, Etc.

Kayaks, Etc. leads monthly kayaking trips to and around Pelican Island. The next schedule dates are February 21 and March 6. Meet at the first parking lot on the left off of Jungle Trail for a relaxing paddle over the shallow sea grass beds around Pelican Island, the Little Egret Islands, and Roosevelt Island. They often see osprey, brown pelicans, egrets and herons on this trip. White pelicans are back, and more the 50 birds are often spotted on the island and flying overhead.

This trip is suitable for paddlers 2 to 102. Reservations are required. Call 772-794-9900.

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various venues in the area and if you have never seen him speak on the inlet or his other passion - fishing, it is worthwhile attending. Marty's presentation was about the process of the development of the inlet and their most recent project to establish a dredged and marked channel from the inlet to the Inter Coastal Waterway.

The District has recently published a flyer with information about, and an aerial view of the channel. You can view a copy of the flyer on their website at www.sebastianinletdistrict.com. You can also look for the flyer of the new channel in local boating and fishing stores, including the Wabasso Tackle Shop.

There are other recent updates to their website, including live web cam views, so be sure and check it out!

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

Membership Corner with Heather Stapleton

Thank you so much to those of you who have renewed your PIPS membership this past year.

Unfortunately, I don't have much good news concerning Membership renewals. The good news is that 136 members are in good standing. The bad news is that 130 memberships have been overdue since April 2008.

Times are tough, for sure, but please consider renewing your membership now, even if you give less this year.

Not sure of your status? I would love to hear from you! Please feel free to let us know what you expect from your PIPS membership.

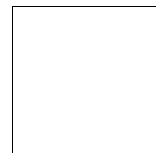
Feel free to drop me a line at
Membership@PelicanIslandFriends.org

This years membership renewal season is quickly approaching once again and we hope that you will consider continuing your support of PIPS. Your membership and donations allow us to continue our support of Pelican Island. This is especially important in these tough budgetary times.

Renewing your membership is easier than ever. You can renew online using your credit card or a PayPal account. Please visit the "Membership" page of our website and use our PayPal service to renew your membership easily and quickly!

Thanks again for your support and we look forward to seeing you at the Pelican Island Wildlife Festival on March 14th.

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



Pelican Island Preservation Society Membership Application

Please check one:

- Student (under 18) - \$5/yr.
- Individual - \$10/yr.
- Family (Joint) - \$15/yr.
- Contributing - \$50/yr.
- Corporate/Business - \$100/yr.
- Supporting - \$250/yr.
- Life - \$500

Names(s) _____

Company _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Send completed application & dues to
PIPS Membership
P.O. Box 781903, Sebastian, FL 32978-1903