



# Habi-Chat

Newsletter of the Merritt Island Wildlife Association

Volume 13, Number 1

Spring 2007

## Black Point Wildlife Drive Enhancement Project



**Observation Deck on Wild Bird Trail.**  
**Photo by Warren Camp**

The Black Point Wildlife Drive Enhancement Project is almost complete! Thanks to the generous support from our many contributors, the MINWR staff, and our volunteers, we are nearing the end of the Project. The Handicapped Accessible Tower at Cruickshank Trail was completed in December. As of this writing, we still need to install one additional spotting scope on the Tower. The restrooms were also completed in December and have been a very popular addition to the Drive. Wild Bird Trail, with its two observation decks, is complete. We are planning to add material on the Trail to prevent weed growth and improve the surface. Spotting scopes have been mounted in each of the decks. We have three donated benches to install on the Trail. The parking areas at both Cruickshank Trail and Wild Bird Trail are presently being improved to facilitate parking. The last major work to be completed is the landscaping and addition of new signs. John Boucher,

our volunteer Master Gardener, has developed a plan for landscaping around the new features and along the walking trail. The purchase and planting of native vegetation will be accomplished in the next few weeks. The signs are being designed and will be purchased and installed in the next few weeks.

Here are some of the people who made this Project a success: Ron Hight, Refuge Manager; Dorn Whitmore, Ranger and MIWA Liaison; and Dick Putnam, Refuge carpenter. Also, volunteers: Jim Pedersen, Hutch Hutchison, John Tribe, Ed Larsen, Lorenz Simpkins, Chris Fairey, Darleen Hunt, Ned Steel, Dan Witmer, and Susan Waldron. And of course, our MIWA staff: Sandee Larsen, Bobbi Lasher, and Brad Sloan.

**Warren L. Camp, Project Leader, Black Point Wildlife Drive Enhancement Project**



**Warren Camp.**  
**Photo by Brad Sloan**



### Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

On Tuesday, April 10, MIWA hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Black Point Wildlife Drive Enhancement Project at the trail head for the new Wild Bird Trail. Approximately 60 MIWA members, Refuge staff, and major contributors were in attendance to see the christening for this Project. Amidst a grey sky, Refuge Manager Ron Hight hosted the proceedings. All major contributors were given a chance to speak and join in with the cutting of the ribbon.

After the ribbon cutting, the participants all ventured out to the first of the new observation decks on the Wild Bird Trail. The group then caravanned to the Cruickshank Trail parking lot to view the new restrooms and observation tower there.



**Cutting the ribbon.**  
**Photo by Betty Salter**

Ribbon cutting participants (pictured left) include: Steve Bankert for the S.C. Coastal Cuckoos, Amy Calvin from the "Debbie Thomas Fly Away Friends", Steve Szabo of Jones and Edmunds, Craig Lovell of United Space Alliance, Dana Lewis from Advanced Electrical Installations, Inc., Refuge Manager Ron Hight, MIWA President Dan LeBlanc, and S.C. Audubon Society President Sarah Linney.

Thanks go out to all who contributed to the Project and to those who attended this lovely event. And special kudos go to Project Leader Warren Camp, who provided hundreds of labor hours to the Project.

**Brad Sloan, Habi-Chat Editor**

## MIWA Minute

We are ending the busy season at the Refuge Visitor Information Center (VIC) and I would like to thank all the VIC desk volunteers for their hard work and dedication. Visitation is up, which means more questions, retail sales, and work in general! There is no way MIWA could have made it without volunteer support. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

I am happy to report we have gained several new Life Members and Corporate Sponsors. We welcome our newest Life Members: **Gary Stevens** and **Dennis & Kathleen Gasick**. And our newest Corporate Sponsors: **Advanced Electrical Installations, Inc.**, **Blazing Paddles Kayak Adventures**, and **North Brevard Tires, Inc.** As Life Members and Corporate Sponsors they will receive benefits, including discounts on field trips, educational programs, and purchases at the Bookery Gift Shop. We encourage all members to become actively involved in our programs and we ask you all to promote membership to your friends and families.

We would like to thank MIWA member John Milani for donating \$600 to the Association. John resides in Daytona Beach Shores and has been very generous to MIWA for the past few years. Thank you, John! Your kindness is greatly appreciated.

For information on volunteering at the Refuge, contact Nancy Corona at 321-861-0668. Feel free to call MIWA's direct line, 321-861-2377, if you need membership, donation, or retail information.

See you at the Refuge!

**Sandee Larsen, Bookery Manager**

*Habi-Chat* has email! If you would like to be on our mailing list to receive MIWA announcements, please add us to your safe senders list and send a request to **HabiChat@MerrittIslandWildlifeAssociation.org**



**Ruby throated hummingbird on Golden Dewdrop flower.**

**Photo by Joel Reynolds**



*The purpose of the Merritt Island Wildlife Association is to promote conservation, awareness, and appreciation of the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge and to provide assistance to Refuge programs.*

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<b>Refuge Manager</b>	Ron Hight	<b>USFWS Liaison</b>	Dorn Whitmore
	<b>NASA Liaison</b>	Mike Sumner	

The Merritt Island Wildlife Association (MIWA) is a nonprofit, cooperating association for the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge. The *Habi-Chat* is published quarterly. For MIWA information, call **321-861-2377**.

<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Brad Sloan	<b>Technical Consultant</b>	Cheri Ehrhardt
<b>Habi-Chat Committee</b>	Brad Sloan, Sandee Larsen, Dorn Whitmore, Cheri Ehrhardt		
<b>Official Photographer</b>	Joel Reynolds		

## Thank You to Our Corporate Sponsors

Advanced Electrical Installations, Inc.

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**Baby Gopher Tortoise.**  
**Photo by Betty Salter**

## *Species in Focus:* Gopher Tortoise – Keeper of the Uplands

A warm climate, a diversity of habitat, and interspersed high and dry places to live. This describes well-drained sandy soils found in upland habitats such as scrub, pine flatwoods and sandhills, coastal dunes, and xeric oak hammocks throughout coastal (and sometimes inland) areas of Florida and other southeastern states. The combination of these features attract land-dwelling gopher tortoises by providing habitat where burrows can be easily excavated, with plant growth for food is plentiful, and with open sunny areas for nesting and basking.

### **Natural History**

Ranging from 9 to 14 inches in length at adulthood, gopher tortoises average 8-10 pounds and live from 40-60 years – perhaps up to 100 years in some instances. Although grasses and legumes make up the majority of their diet,

blackberries, prickly pear cactus, saw palmetto berries, and other herbs are also used for food. Mating occurs April through June with 3 to 15 eggs being deposited in a tortoise-dug hole near the burrow or in a close-by sunny place. The eggs mature and hatch in 70 to 100 days when tiny, but recognizable, 1- to 2-inch hatchling tortoises emerge and journey into the enormous world before them. This slow growing species does not reach sexual maturity for 13-17 years – assuming an individual survives that long.

Tortoises are no stranger to this land. Ancestors of gopher tortoises have been in North America for nearly 60 million years. These land dwelling creatures are extremely adept burrow diggers – this makes them a keystone species. The average burrow is 15 to 20 feet long and 6 feet deep with the longest burrow on record being measured at more than 47 feet in length! Even small tortoises dig burrows. You can usually determine the size of the tortoise by the size of the burrow as they typically fill the tunnel with their shell as they travel through it.

Without gopher tortoise burrows, a bewildering number of amphibians such as gopher frogs; reptiles, including the eastern indigo snake and pine snake; dozens of small mammals, such as the Florida mouse and opossum; and even burrowing owls would suffer serious consequences. A total of 360 species has been documented using burrows for habitat and shelter, including serving as hideaways by creatures seeking refuge from encroaching flames during fires.

### **Adaptation or extinction?**

Will the gopher tortoise follow the passenger pigeon and dusky seaside sparrow along the path to extinction? No one knows for sure. What we do know is that loss of habitat is the number one threat to gopher tortoise existence. Like humans, tortoises like to build and live in high and dry places – especially here in Florida where wetlands dot the landscape. The explosion of urbanization, lack of fire to maintain their habitat with herbaceous foods, collisions with automobiles, and an often fatal upper respiratory tract disease are all taking their toll on the species.

In attempts to ensure the survival of this species, gopher tortoises are listed as a state Species of Special Concern in Florida. Georgia, Mississippi, Louisiana, and South Carolina all afford some level of legal protection as well. This species, once commonly used as a food source and for tortoise races, now requires a permit for possession, study, or relocation throughout its range.

Gopher tortoises inhabit various uplands on Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge. Because fire plays such a critical role for tortoises and other upland species, including Florida scrub-jays, Refuge Fire Program staff conduct frequent prescribed burns and are working towards upland habitat restoration in several areas. Cutting of overgrown scrub and roller-chopping shrubs and small trees adds fuel to the understory and enables fire to effectively carry through the habitat.

### **Up Close and Personal**

As man has changed the ecosystem by clearing forests to make way for timber and crop production, residential dwellings, and commercial development, some gopher tortoises appear to be moving into surrounding pastures, old fields, and grassy roadsides. Last summer, while sitting on the porch of my rental home, I noticed the wire fence beside my house moving at the bottom. This also attracted the attention of the dog who decided to explore. As I watched, a 13-inch gopher tortoise emerged from under the fence and made a beeline across the front yard, stopping only briefly to check out the dog. She headed down the dirt road in front of the house made her way to who knows where. I had noticed about a dozen burrows alongside the dirt road, in the pasture, and amongst 10-year old planted pines on the 200 acres surrounding the house. With prolific blackberries, a green pasture, and sandy soil, I suppose this was as good a place as any for the tortoises to stake their claim on the land.

As development continues throughout uplands, the squeeze on habitat will shrink the species onto smaller and smaller tracts. Some predict that gopher tortoises will only exist on public lands and more extensive undeveloped tracts in the future. Only time will tell.

If you are lucky enough to have one or more of these unique and fascinating creatures sharing your land, there are a few things you can do to help ensure they stay. Perhaps walk your land and note any of the telltale signs of the gopher tortoise burrow. Be careful when you mow or use heavy equipment, limit your use of herbicides and other pesticides, watch where you drive, keep an eye on your outdoor pets, and most importantly teach others around you about the importance of this keystone species. After all, a world without the Keeper of the Uplands just wouldn't be the same.

**Kathy Whaley, Deputy Refuge Manager, MINWR Complex**



## 2007 MIWA Tours

MIWA members have been busy this new year. Since January eight tours have occurred. The wildlife has been amazing this year with as many as 80 different species of birds seen on some tours. We are fortunate to have so much so near.

**Black Point Wildlife Drive Tour (1/13/07)** A van full of eager MIWA members enjoyed a beautiful morning on Black Point Wildlife Drive. We had a great start with the bald eagle on the nest at the entrance. Wildlife was abundant. We saw at least 60 different species of birds and 5 species of butterflies, plus snakes, turtles, alligators, and fish.

**Forever Florida Tour (1/20/07)** Forever Florida never fails to thrill our members. The swamp buggy broke down at the apex of the drive around the ranch, giving the Cracker cattle a chance to mosey up to the road and check us out. Eventually the tractor that rescued us last year arrived unceremoniously towed the swamp buggy back to the ranch house. There we enjoyed authentic Cracker beef. We saw incredible wildlife on the drive to Lake Kissimmee, including sandhill cranes, caracara, bald eagles, whooping cranes, wild turkeys, and kestrel. Thanks to Dorn Whitmore for leading this tour.

**Bio-Lab Wildlife Tour (2/10/07)** Another gorgeous winter day for another successful wildlife tour. Fourteen MIWA members filled the van and cars to see the plentiful wildlife along this popular drive.



The group at the Ponce Inlet Light House.  
Photo by Bob Armbruster

**Marine Science Center and Ponce Inlet Lighthouse Tour (2/17/07)** Fifteen MIWA members journeyed to the Marine Science Center for an informative tour of their visitor/education center and rehabilitation facilities for injured sea turtles and birds. Afterwards we walked to an observation tower off a wooded boardwalk. Then we had a quick brown bag lunch before our guided tours of the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse and site buildings. Most of us climbed the 203 steps to the top of the lighthouse. The 360-degree view was reward enough for the climb.

**Scrub Ridge Trail Hike (2/27/07)** A small group of MIWA members joined me on this cool Tuesday morning. What a treat we had. One scrub-jay delighted us by picking at our hats and packs. A bobwhite, robin, and scrub-jay grouped together to further our enjoyment.

**History Tour of Merritt Island (3/10/07)** Dorn led an impressive tour of historic Merritt Island sites. We had to trek into the undergrowth to find old homesteads, sugar mills, shell middens and, burial mounds.

**Black Point Wildlife Drive/L Pond Road Tour (3/13/07)** Although the turnout was small for this Tuesday morning tour, the wildlife was abundant. I have never seen so many birds of different species together like they were this day. At one location on L Pond Road we saw 30 white pelicans with 50 great egrets, 12 little blue herons, 7 spoonbills, dozens of ibis (glossy and white), 15-20 snowy egrets, 4 great blue herons, 3 reddish egrets, and some shorebirds.

**Cruikshank Trail Hike (3/20/07)** What an adventure. Nine brave souls showed up in the early morning to walk the five-mile Cruikshank Trail. Another beautiful day before Spring. No bugs. We had a light cool breeze along our easy walk with one brief sprinkle. All had a good time.

For information on tours, call my direct line at 321-861-5601 or email me at [beverly\\_osborne@hotmail.com](mailto:beverly_osborne@hotmail.com).

**Beverly Osborne, Environmental Educator**



MIWA members on the Cruikshank Trail.  
Photo by Beverly Osborne

## A Loss for the Refuge

Bob Sleczkowski, Ski, as we called him, typically sauntered into the Visitor Center with a big smile, an amusing story, and lots of enthusiasm, always with his fine set of handyman tools. He religiously worked at the Refuge two days a week over the course of two years. Sadly, Bob, passed away untimely in January. He was the finest and handiest of craftsmen. If anyone could fix a maintenance problem, it was Bob. It was his excellent skills, determination, and willingness to use plenty of elbow grease that set him apart. He accomplished many projects that would have remained undone. An example of one of his fine projects regarded the purple martin nesting gourds that are located at the back of the Visitor Center. For five years the purple martin gourds lay quiet. As on all his projects, Bob put his heart into researching and finding a solution. He created a way to extend the height of the nesting pole. Two weeks after the adjustment and five years after the pole was first erected, purple martins settled in and nested. As I walk through the Refuge, whether it is at the Visitor Center, Sandler Education Outpost, or Oak Hammock Trail, I can see the many accomplishments and enhancements Bob gave to the wildlife, visitors, and staff of the Refuge. We will miss him.

Nancy Corona, Public Use Ranger, USFWS



Bob "Ski" Sleczkowski.  
Photo by Nancy Corona

## 2007 Space Coast Birding & Wildlife Festival



The MIWA festival booth.  
Photo by Jaime Brown

the publication, *The Shorebird Guide*, and our new manatee t-shirt. Thank you to volunteers Al Brayton, Beverly Campbell, Betty Camp, Mel & Dot Fringer, Ed Larsen, Trudy Metzger, and Dan Witmer for setup, break down, and manning the booth.

See you at the Festival next year!

Sandee Larsen, Bookery Manager

The MIWA booth was busy during the festival with total sales of \$4,385.58, up approximately \$680 from the 2005 event sales. MIWA hosted three separate book signings featuring Editor, *Bill Thompson III*, and authors: *Michael O'Brien*, *Kevin Karlson*, and *Scott Weidensaul*.

The big sellers for this 3½-day sales event were



Authors Michael O'Brien and Kevin Karlson sign books in the booth.  
Photo by Lisa White – Houghton Mifflin

### New Administrative Office Under Construction

If you have ventured over to the Shop area lately you may have noticed a new building under construction. When finished in June, this 2,400 sq. ft. block building will be the site of the new Refuge Administrative Headquarters. After leaving the Visitor Center building in 2003, to make room for the expanded book store and other visitor improvements, the management staff moved into a triple wide trailer in the Shop compound. This was never intended to be a permanent move, but only served as temporary quarters until the new office was built. The building will provide office space for the Refuge Manager and most of his administrative staff and will feature five offices, a conference room, a lunch room, and a reception area.

Dorn Whitmore, Refuge Operations Specialist, USFWS



The new Refuge administration office building.  
Photo by Brad Sloan

### Park Bench Program Continues

MIWA is proud to announce the installation of three additional park benches on the Refuge. Two benches are now located on the Wild Birds Trail viewing blinds. A memorial bench in honor of *Bill Creedon* was sponsored by his many friends and family members. Another bench, donated by the *Debbie Thomas Fly Away Friends* in Debbie's memory, also includes a verse from an Emily Dickinson poem. The third bench, located on the Oak Hammock Trail, was donated by Liz & James Rich's family and friends in loving memory of their son, *Cliff Bonsall*. MIWA has also received funds for additional benches from friends & family of *Robert Nociti* and *Eugene Parkhurst*. We will update our members of the location of these benches upon installation.

Many thanks go out to volunteer Ed Larsen for assembling and installing the benches. Just one of the things he does so well.

Thank you to all who have participated in the bench program. It is a great way to give the public a place to reflect, as well as honor a loved one. For information on sponsoring a bench, contact MIWA at 321-861-2377.

Sandee Larsen, Bookery Manager



Volunteer Ed Larsen and a donated park bench on the new Wild Bird Trail.  
Photo by Brad Sloan



## Hello to...

... **Robert Register**, our new Law Enforcement Officer. Robert comes to us from the Office of Law Enforcement in

Groveland, FL and previously worked with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. He has a B.A. in English and six years of military experience. When he's not working, Robert enjoys mountain biking, fishing, and spending time with his family.

... **Nick Wirwa**, an Assistant Refuge Manager, in training through the Student Career Experience Program. He has a bachelor's degree in Natural Resources Management and recently completed his master's in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences at South Dakota State University. Nick lives in Merritt Island with his wife, Mary Helen. He enjoys hunting, boating, surfing, and anything outdoors.

... **Savannah Grace Whaley**, our newest junior Law Enforcement Officer. Born March 15 at 10:30 A.M. to Refuge Law Enforcement Officer Jane Whaley and husband Jeremy, she was 8 lbs, 2 oz. She spends her time sleeping, eating, pooping, and taking advantage of mommy's and daddy's love.

## Goodbye to...

... **Jay Mickey**, Forestry Technician, who has taken a fire position with BLM in northern Nevada, near Elko. Jay has worked in his current fire position since 2003, but this was his second job at Merritt Island. He was here for a brief period in 2002, when he met his fiancé Sandy Edmondson, who worked in the Public Use Program. Jay and Sandy plan to be married on May 19 in Cocoa before moving to Nevada. Good luck to both of you!



**River otter on Black Point Wildlife Drive.**  
Photo by Joel Reynolds

### Visitor Information Center Hours

Monday through Friday

8:00 am – 4:30 pm

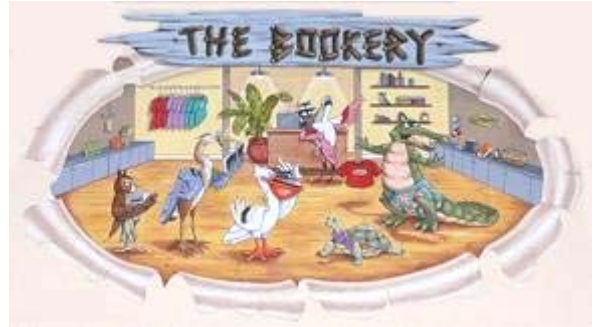
Saturday and Sunday\*

9:00 am – 5:00 pm

\*VIC is closed Sundays from April-October

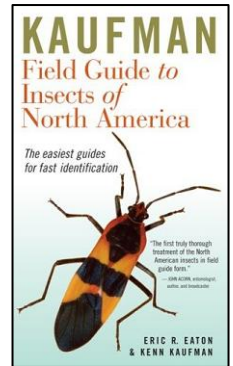
The Refuge is open daily from sunrise-sunset, except during Shuttle Launch/Landing operations.

## New Items in



*Kaufman Field Guide to Insects of North America* by Eric Eaton and Kenn Kaufman.....\$18.95

With more than 2,350 images, everything in this field guide is designed to make it the easiest guide for fast identification. It also contains a wealth of information on insect behaviors and life histories.



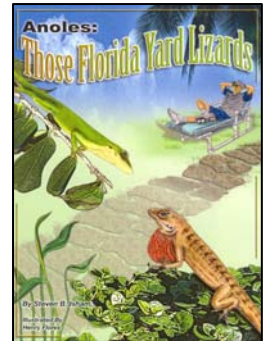
*Snakezz Adult T-Shirts* by Atlas Screen Printing.....\$18.00-\$19.00

This dark slate shirt showcases fourteen species of snakes on the front, and a pattern identification guide on the back. A must-have for any snake lover.



*Anoles: Those Florida Yard Lizards* by Steven Isham.....\$19.95

This fascinating book answers every question imaginable about those entertaining little acrobats that enliven the green spaces around our Florida homes and businesses. It explains all you need to know, but does so in a light-hearted and whimsical way.



**For retail information, call the  
MIWA Office at 321-861-2377**



*Gifts in remembrance were donated by  
George English in memory of his dear friends  
Ben Hursey and Randy Jordan.*

*Donations in remembrance of loved  
ones and friends can be sent to:  
MIWA, P.O. Box 6504, Titusville, FL 32782*



Yes, the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge volunteers are outstanding! Collectively, they worked 8,876 hours in 2006 which is equivalent to approximately 4.5 full-time staff. Their work covered an array of projects, including wildlife gardening, grant writing, litter pick up, and developing and presenting interpretive programs (which are just the tip of the work pile). In return, annually MIWA and the Refuge fund a Spring Volunteer Recognition and Award Ceremony and field trip.

This year, MIWA funded an eco-tour on a pontoon boat trip through the Thousands Islands of the Banana River where the volunteers had close views of dolphins and courting manatees. Dan LeBlanc, MIWA's President, and Director of the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex, arranged for a delicious award luncheon amidst a beautiful setting at the Debus Center of the Kennedy Space Center. Thank you Dan LeBlanc and MIWA for all of your support. We couldn't do it without you!

The 2006 Volunteer of the Year Award went to Beverly Campbell for her hard work and dedication in performing a double shift at the visitor center desk on Sundays during the busiest season of the year. A "Group Volunteer of the Year Award" went to the Thursday Crew who have performed many outstanding projects; their accomplishments are too many to list! A big THANK YOU to: John Boucher, Peter Bartman, Bill Martin, Margaret Towe, Susan Waldron, and Dan Witmer of the Thursday Crew. Another paramount achievement was made by Cary Salter who reached the milestone of 3,000 volunteer hours. As the Refuge volunteer coordinator I am so fortunate to work with the best people who support the Refuge in so many ways. I can't begin to thank everyone for the time and dedication. I hope my words in some way convey the gratitude the Refuge staff and I feel for all that you do.

**Nancy Corona, Public Use Ranger, USFWS**



**Nancy Corona and Volunteer of the Year, Beverly Campbell.**  
Photo by Robert Eichinger

### Patillo Creek Clean-Up



**Patillo Creek before the clean-up.**

**Photo by Kathy Whaley**

On March 8<sup>th</sup>, 17 very energetic Refuge volunteers and 3 staff members joined forces to complete a MAJOR clean-up of the Patillo Creek area on Merritt Island NWR. This area, frequented by bank fishermen in search of trout and redfish, had accumulated several thousand pounds of trash – aluminum cans, plastic bottles, tires, mattresses, monofilament, and a hodge-podge of miscellaneous trash, including an estimated 1,800 glass bottles. All aluminum and glass items were collected in separate bags and taken to recycling facilities in Titusville. A hearty thank you to all who participated and to MIWA for providing snacks to the group!

**Kathy Whaley, Deputy Refuge Manager, MINWR Complex**



**The clean-up crew.**

**Photo by Kathy Whaley**

### Merritt Island Wildlife Association

*Supporting the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge*

Joining is simple. Just fill out this form and mail it to the Merritt Island Wildlife Association at  
P.O. Box 6504, Titusville, FL 32782

or join online at

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Membership:

- ☐ **Seniors and Students** – \$10
- ☐ **Individual** – \$15
- ☐ **Senior Couples** – \$15
- ☐ **Family Membership** – \$20
- ☐ **Supporting Membership** – \$50
- ☐ **Senior Couple Supporting** – \$75
- ☐ **Life Membership** – \$250
- ☐ **Patron** – \$1000
- ☐ **Optional** – Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to MIWA. For credit card payments please call the MIWA office at  
**321-861-2377.**



## Announcements

### Hike Palm Hammock

*Saturday, May 19, 2007, 8:00 – 11:00 A.M.*

Beverly Osborne is leading an easy two-mile hike along Palm Hammock Trail. There are no facilities at the Palm Hammock parking lot. Bring sun block, bug spray, water, snacks, binoculars, camera, hat, etc.

### Seining at Sendler Education Outpost

*Saturday, May 26, 2007, 9:00 – 12:00 P.M.*

Join Beverly Osborne for a family oriented seining event. Meet at the VIC auditorium for a brief overview of the program. We will carpool to Sendler Education Outpost where family groups will gather samples of lagoon organisms for identification. Bring sun block, water shoes, hat, bug spray, drinking water, snacks, and a bag lunch if desired. There are picnic tables and restrooms at Sendler Education Outpost. *No children under 5 years old.*

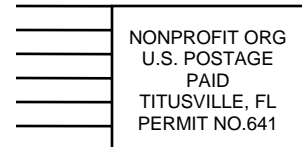


**Limit 20 people per program.**

**For reservations, call Beverly Osborne directly at 321-861-5601  
or email her at [beverly\\_osborne@hotmail.com](mailto:beverly_osborne@hotmail.com)**



Merritt Island Wildlife Association  
P.O. Box 6504  
Titusville, FL 32782  
[www.MerrittIslandWildlifeAssociation.org](http://www.MerrittIslandWildlifeAssociation.org)



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