



# Habi-Chat

Newsletter of the Merritt Island Wildlife Association

Volume 13, Number 4

Winter 2007

## 2007 Annual Meeting Rocks Your Socks

The 2007 MIWA Annual Meeting was a huge success with 150 members and Refuge staff members in attendance. Members were treated to a full agenda of reports and presentations. MIWA President Dan LeBlanc served as master of ceremonies for the evening and began by referring to the silent auction. He then gave the floor to Board Member and Nomination Committee Chair George English for the Board of Directors officer and member nominations. All current board members whose terms expired this year have agreed to serve for another two-year term. George called for additional nominations from the floor and none were presented. A vote was taken and all board member and officer nominations were approved unanimously. Officers were voted in at the November MIWA Board meeting and are listed:

**President** Dan LeBlanc  
**Vice President** Lee Solid  
**Treasurer** Jim Pedersen  
**Secretary** Joel Reynolds

The remainder of the evening consisted of: a President's Update by Dan LeBlanc, Black Point Wildlife Drive Enhancement Project presentation by Jim Pedersen (standing in for Warren Camp), and a Refuge Update by Refuge manager Ron Hight. The evening was capped off with a fascinating program by the keynote speaker, Refuge Biologist Mike Legare, on the Wildlife of the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, with emphasis on the Florida Scrub-jay. To add to the excitement, Mike's program was briefly interrupted so that we could all go out to the Rocket Garden to view an Atlas 5 launch!

Members enjoyed delicious appetizers and a fund-raising dinner. Silent auction items were up for bid and were awarded. Over \$4,000 in funds were raised through the auction (see Page 4 for a list of winners and donors). Thank you to all who attended, donated items, and participated in the silent auction! A big thank you to Dan LeBlanc at Delaware North Parks and Services for hosting the event and to his Assistant, Tiffany Fairley, for helping to coordinate the evening's activities! Thanks to Mike Legare for an engaging program and to the Brevard Zoo for coming out with a juvenile alligator and a Crested Caracara. Also, many thanks to Sandee Larsen for all of her hard work organizing the event, and to volunteers Mel and Dot Fringer, JoAnn Heenan, Darleen and Jerry Hunt, Margo Sloan, and Sandy Walters for helping to make it all run so smoothly.

**Brad Sloan, Habi-Chat Editor**



**Crested Caracara.**  
**Photo by Brad Sloan**



**Refuge intern Dawn Powell shows her artistic side.**

**Photo by Tom Dunkerton**

## Celebrating Our National Wildlife Refuge System

Thousands of people across the country celebrated National Wildlife Refuge Week (October 7-13). Every October, Refuges host special events that showcase the wealth of natural resources conserved on the approximately 97 million acres that comprise the National Wildlife Refuge System. Presently there are 548 National Wildlife Refuges, including at least one Refuge in every state. This year's weeklong celebration is also part of a yearlong commemoration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of conservationist and writer Rachel Carson, the author of *Silent Springs*. Ms. Carson's book documented the harmful effects that chemical pesticides, including DDT, had on the environment.

At Merritt Island NWR, nearly 900 visitors celebrated during a weekend festival. Face painting, Florida folk music, live animal displays, wildlife programs, kids programs, and crafts highlighted the Refuge's resources. The festival was a success due to the dedication and hard work of many dedicated

Refuge volunteers. Without support of the members of the Merritt Island Wildlife Association and the Refuge volunteers, many of the Refuge's outreach and education programs would not take place. Thank you for supporting your Refuge. To find more about your National Wildlife Refuge System visit: <http://www.fws.gov/refuges>

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

## MIWA Minute

The cool weather has finally arrived here at the Refuge, and you can see the changes in the numbers of shorebirds and waterfowl! We have also seen the eagles return to the Wildlife Drive. With the cooler weather comes the holiday season, and I encourage all MIWA members to give memberships as gifts and shop for nature-themed gifts in the Bookery.

A Big THANK YOU to **William Trulson** and Thursday Crew Refuge Volunteer **Dan Witmer** for donating funds of \$1,900. William generously donated a used boat to MIWA, and his good friend Dan was the acting boat salesman. Kudos to you both for thinking of the Refuge! These funds will be earmarked for future volunteer projects.

I am happy to announce and welcome our new Life Members: **John & Melinda Tribe**, of Merritt Island, **Arlova Allen** of Melbourne, **Frank & Liz Steele** of Titusville, **Andrew & Rosemary Georganna** of Titusville, and **Phyllis Mansfield** of Cocoa Beach. John Tribe has been an active Board Member for quite a few years. He developed and installed the corporate supporter's sign at the VIC. Phyllis Mansfield, a long-time Refuge volunteer, has conducted bird surveys for the Biology Department. Frank and Liz Steele received their membership as a gift from long-time MIWA supporter, Roy Roberts. Arlova Allen upgraded from a Supporting to a Life Member. Andrew and Rosemary Georganna are our newest members. I hope they become actively involved in Refuge/MIWA activities. As Life Members 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.

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 or retail information.

I'll see you at the Refuge!

**Sandee Larsen, Bookery Manager**



**Dan Witmer presents a check to Dorn Whitmore and Sandee Larsen.**  
Photo by Jeff Smith



*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.*

<b>President</b>	Dan LeBlanc
<b>Vice President</b>	Lee Solid
<b>Treasurer</b>	Jim Pedersen
<b>Secretary</b>	Joel Reynolds
<b>President Emeritus</b>	George English

### Board Members

Sam Beddingfield, Jim Butts, Warren Camp, Dan Click, Judy Dryja, Chris Fairey, Bud Ferguson, Darleen Hunt, Robert Hutchison, Forrest McCartney, Lorenz Simpkins, Ned Steel, Laurilee Thompson, John Tribe

<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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Comprehensive Health Services, Inc.  
Courtyard Cocoa Beach  
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Dixie Crossroads Restaurant  
Fun Day Tours  
Halifax River Audubon Society  
Clifton A. McClelland, Jr., P.A.  
North Brevard Tires, Inc.  
TLC Engineering  
United Space Alliance



## MIWA Accomplishments 2006-2007

### Refuge Support/Funding:

- Public Use Environmental Education Specialist Funding
- Refuge Work Campers Funding
- Volunteer Pick Up Truck Annual Leasing
- Fall Refuge Volunteer Trip/Luncheon to the *Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex*
- Spring Volunteer Recognition Program Gifts and Tour (Boat Tour of Banana River & KSC Luncheon)
- Three Lake Whales Ridge National Wildlife Refuge Clean Up Volunteer Luncheons
- NASA Center Director Tour/Luncheon/Gifts
- Provided Over 252 Solo Hours VIC Desk Support
- Refuge Manager's Community Leaders Luncheon
- Refreshments for Volunteer Butterfly Survey Training Program
- Refreshments for the Refuge LE Duck ID Program
- Refreshments for Annual Scrub Jay Count Project
- Daily Snacks/Sodas for Volunteers
- Two Artist Receptions

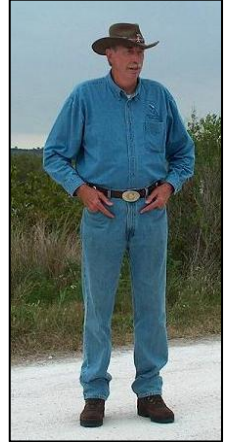
### MIWA Projects:

#### **Black Point Wildlife Drive Enhancement Project:**

- Completion of Project that includes: Handicap Access Tower, Two Wildlife Viewing Blinds, Restrooms, Landscaping, Two Wildlife Viewing Scopes, Parking Improvements, etc.
- Ribbon Cutting Ceremony & Wild Birds Unlimited Appreciation Program

#### **Misc. MIWA Projects:**

- MIWA Members 2006 Annual Meeting Program: Speaker Mike Walsh DVM of SeaWorld; Manatee Rehabilitation
- Featured Speaker Region 4 Friends Conference at Ding Darling NWR (Board Member Warren Camp)
- Six Park Benches Installed (Oak Hammock Trail, Wild Bird Trail, Manatee Deck)
- Brevard Watercolor Society 2006 Art Reception and Exhibit
- Annual Christmas Bird Count



### Bookery Highlights:

- Annual Sales of over \$178,000
- Acquired autographed publications by Authors: David Argo, George Leland, Harrell & June Geiger, Scott Weidensaul, Kevin Karlson, Michael O'Brian, and Publisher, Bill Thompson III
- Space Coast Birding & Wildlife Festival Booth Sales/Book Signings

### Donated to Others:

- \$100 to Hubbs SeaWorld
- Books & T-Shirts for Refuge Christmas Family (\$95 value)
- Two Retired & Senior Volunteer Program Lunch Funds & Goodie Bag Gifts (\$70 value)
- Door Prizes for S.E. Assn. of Fish & Wildlife Agencies-Minorities in Natural Resource Committee Program (\$100 value)
- 2006 Crew Member Silent Auction Basket for the KSC Visitor Complex United Way of Brevard Fund Raiser (\$150 value)
- Door Prizes for USFW Administrative Assistant Workshop (\$60 value)
- Door prizes for Boy Scouts of America Program

### Acquired:

- Silent Auction Items for 2006 Fund Raiser (raising over \$2,700)
- Bird Feeders & Seed Donations from Titusville Wal-Mart (600+ Lbs.)
- Keep Brevard Beautiful Grant for VIC Project
- Andy Bankert's Nikon/Space Coast Coastal Cuckoos World Series of Birding Fundraiser Recipient (over \$700)
- William Trulson/Dan Witmer Boat Sale Donation (\$1,900)



### Members-Only Field Trips:

- Two Refuge Birding Tours
- Forever Florida Day Trip
- Scrub Ridge, Cruickshank Trail, Oak Hammock Walks & Lagoon Programs
- Refuge Historical Tour
- Four Sea Turtle Walks
- Ponce Inlet Lighthouse Trip

### Other MIWA Projects:

- *Habi-Chat* Quarterly Newsletter & Website



**THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR ANNUAL MEETING SILENT AUCTION DONORS AND WINNERS:**

Dan LeBlanc: One-Night Stay donated by **Pat Looney at Residence Inn by Marriott**  
Two Hand-Knitted Scarves donated by **Betty Camp**  
Shell Collection donated by **Mel & Dot Fringer**  
Nautilus Framed Artwork donated by **Melody Hendrix**  
Knitted Cloths donated by **Ms. Ruth McCartney**  
Woodpecker Artwork donated by **Sandy Walters**  
1/2 Day Charter for One Angler donated by **Capt. Mark Wright**

Margo Sloan: Two Complimentary Passes donated by **Brevard Zoo**  
Two Passes donated by **Butterfly World**  
Two Passes donated by **Cynthia Turner at Historic Bok Sanctuary**  
Two Passes donated by **St. Augustine Lighthouse**  
Ghost Tour Tickets for Two donated by **Tour St Augustine**  
Yellowstone/Teton Photos donated by **Ken Wyant**

Ed Larsen: Dolphins Gift Pack donated by **The Miami Dolphins**  
\$40 Community Bucks donated by **Rusty's Seafood & Oyster Bar**  
Two Complimentary Passes donated by **St. Augustine Lighthouse**  
Potters Wax Museum Passes donated by **Tour St. Augustine**  
Passes to Old FL Museum donated by **Tour St. Augustine**

George English: Water Buffalo Carving donated by **Mel & Dot Fringer**  
Batik Tote donated by **Mary Ann Theis**  
Original Paintings/Photos donated by **Diane Walsh**  
Black Vase donated by **Sandy Walters**

Jill Spitzer: Two Passes donated by **Cynthia Turner at Historic Bok Sanctuary**  
Parrot Palm Art donated by **Sonia & Steve Larson at Palm Tree Art**  
Blue Crystal Earrings donated by **JoAnn Heenan**  
Squirrel Feeder donated by **Forrest McCartney**

Marian Meguair: Pearl Necklace & Earrings donated by **JoAnn Heenan**  
Two Passes donated by **St. Augustine Lighthouse**  
Fiesta Basket donated by **Jerri & Darleen Hunt**  
Silver Earrings donated by **Lynn Watson**

Roy Roberts: Gift Basket donated by **Leia at ABC Fine Wine & Spirits**  
Two Framed Fly Collections donated by **Warren Camp**  
Framed Oriental Puppets donated by **Saralyn Lamb**  
Framed Oriental Masks donated by **Saralyn Lamb**

Barbara Hoelsche: Two Gift Cards donated by **The Mango Tree Restaurant**  
Certificates to the TICO Warbird Show donated by **Valiant Air Command, Inc.**  
Living Wreath donated by **Jerrine Mullan**

Cameron Myers: Pelican Sunrise Artwork donated by **Melody Hendrix**  
Framed Cardinal Artwork donated by **Sandy Walters**  
Birdhouse donated by **Sandy Walters**

Dan Witmer: 1/2 Day Redfish Guided Fishing Trip for Two donated by **Capt. Larry Fowler**  
Key West Scooter donated by **Saralyn Lamb**  
Birdhouse donated by **Sandy Walters**

Joyce Stefancic: Silk Painted Scarf donated by **Karin Crosby**  
Painted Feather Framed donated by **Ms. Ruth McCartney**  
Field Guide Pack donated by **Sandy Walters**

Larry King: Two Passes donated by **Butterfly World**  
Set of Framed Butterflies on Silk donated by **Karin Crosby**  
Birdhouse donated by **Sandy Walters**

Maggie Nichols: Hand-Knitted Scarf donated by **Betty Camp**  
Holiday Plates donated by **Sandy Walters**  
Holiday Salt & Pepper Set donated by **Sandy Walters**

Ralph Lloyd: Two-Night Stay donated by Courtyard by **Marriott/Cocoa Beach**  
Crystal Blue Necklace and Earring Set donated by **JoAnn Heenan**  
Midnight Simplicity Jewelry Set donated by **Kathy Whaley**



(Continued on Next Page)

*(Silent Auction Continued)*

Rick English:	Carved Antelopes donated by <b>Mel &amp; Dot Fringer</b> Pure Gold Artwork donated by <b>Melody Hendrix</b> Blue Waries Artwork donated by <b>Melody Hendrix</b>
Tom Williamson:	Combo Dinner for Two donated by <b>Miguel &amp; Bertha Sanchez at El Leoncito Cuban Restaurant</b> Two Passes donated by <b>St. Augustine Lighthouse</b> Midnight Reflection Artwork donated by <b>Melody Hendrix</b>
Candra Berglund:	Full-Day fly Fishing Trip donated by <b>Captain John Turcot at Back Country on a Fly</b> 1/2 day Fishing Trip donated by <b>Neal Goodrich at Fishing Frenzy Charter Service</b>
Jerri Hight:	Hand-Knitted Scarf donated by <b>Betty Camp</b> Holiday Casserole donated by <b>Sandy Walters</b>
Joel Reynolds:	Two-Night Stay donated by <b>Hampton Inn</b> Certificates to the TICO Warbird Show donated by <b>Valiant Air Command, Inc.</b>
Kathy Whaley:	Disney Watch donated by <b>JoAnn Heenan</b> Great Blue Photo Art donated by <b>Melody Hendrix</b>
Margaret Thompson:	Gift Bag donated by <b>Denise Thompson at Dixie Crossroads Restaurant</b> Five Boxed Lures donated by <b>Warren Camp</b>
Neta Harris:	Gift Bag donated by <b>Dixie Crossroads Restaurant</b> Photo Artwork donated by <b>Dee Whited</b>
Sally Hutchison:	Two Complimentary Passes donated by <b>Deb Batt at Brevard Zoo</b> Family Pass for Four donated by <b>Molly Ebersold at St. Augustine Alligator Farm</b>
Sandee Larsen:	Hand-Knitted Scarf donated by <b>Betty Camp</b> Hand-Knitted Potpourri Pouch donated by <b>Ms. Ruth McCartney</b>
Sandy Snowe:	Certificate for Registration & Social donated by <b>Neta Harris at Space Coast Birding &amp; Wildlife Festival</b> Two Complimentary Hopper Passes donated by <b>Pat Scott at Walt Disney World</b>
Sandy Walters:	Certificate for Registration & Social donated by <b>Neta Harris at Space Coast Birding &amp; Wildlife Festival</b> Auto Magnet donated by <b>Mel &amp; Dot Fringer</b>
Barbara McCoy:	Two Birdhouses donated by <b>Sandy Walters</b>
Barbara Wood:	Basket of Six Penguins donated by <b>Dee Whited</b>
Bob Armbruster:	Framed Mallard/Wood Duck Artwork Set donated by <b>Lorry Simpkins</b>
Brian Waldron:	Certificates to the TICO Warbird Show donated by <b>Frank Pound at Valiant Air Command, Inc.</b>
Curt Arnold:	Two Deep-Sea Fishing Passes donated by <b>Canaveral Charter Boats</b>
Dan Click:	Original Paintings/Photos donated by <b>Diane Walsh</b>
Darleen Hunt:	Beverage Charms donated by <b>Sandy Walters</b>
Dee Whited:	Birdhouse donated by <b>Sandy Walters</b>
Dot Fringer:	Kayak Tour for Two donated by <b>Elizabeth at A Day Away, Inc.</b>
Gerry Cantin:	Two Complimentary Tickets donated by <b>Robin Carson at Busch Gardens Tampa Bay</b>
Hutch Hutchison:	Complimentary Tickets for Two donated by <b>Robin Braig at Daytona USA</b>
Jack Juba:	Birdhouse donated by <b>Sandy Walters</b>
Jane Provancha:	Gift Certificate for Two-Day Stay donated by <b>Ruby Daniel at Wakulla Motel</b>
Jeff Schardt:	Framed Shipyard Scene donated by <b>Saralyn Lamb</b>
Jennifer English:	Set of Six Artworks donated by <b>Mel &amp; Dot Fringer</b>
Jerry Hunt:	Two Complimentary Hopper Passes donated by <b>Pat Scott at Walt Disney World</b>
Jim Butts:	Two Passes donated by <b>St. Augustine Lighthouse</b>
Jim Illardi:	Fisherman Wood Carving donated by <b>Mel &amp; Dot Fringer</b>
Joanne Raymer:	Hand-Made Framed Country Scene donated by <b>Saralyn Lamb</b>
Jolynn Nelson:	Autographed Photo of Nick Anderson donated by <b>The Orlando Magic</b>
Kay Cooper:	Oil Painting donated by <b>Dave &amp; Melissa Yunker</b>
Lee Solid:	Squirrel Feeder donated by <b>Forrest McCartney</b>
Margaret Towe:	Family Annual Pass donated by <b>Morgan Black at Museum of Science &amp; History</b>
Mel Fringer:	\$50 Gift Card donated by <b>Wal-Mart/Titusville #649</b>
Peter Eggret:	Three Boxed Lures donated by <b>Warren Camp</b>
Richard Eichinger:	Barnwood Framed Photo donated by <b>Ken Wyant</b>
Ruth McCartney:	Silk Painted Scarf donated by <b>Karin Crosby</b>
Samantha Odom:	Large Penguin donated by <b>Dee Whited</b>
Stephanie Schardt:	Black/Silver Necklace donated by <b>Lynn Watson</b>
Susan Waldron:	Bear Cabin donated by <b>Sandy Walters</b>
Zella Fowler:	Purple Crystal Earrings donated by <b>JoAnn Heenan</b>



## Operation Migration

is coming to the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Space Coast Birding & Wildlife Festival

Come and hear the incredible story of how Whooping cranes, the world's most endangered crane, are being taught to migrate following ultra light aircraft. Operation Migration plays the leading role in the project, which is reintroducing Whooping cranes to Eastern North America. Described as, "The wildlife equivalent of putting a man on the moon," you will be enthralled and awed as you learn how this ambitious project is safeguarding Whooping cranes from extinction.

See one of Operation Migration's working ultra light aircraft, and learn the inside workings of this amazing project from Joe Duff, someone who knows what it is like to fly with birds! Mr. Duff, co-founder and CEO of Operation Migration, is also its senior pilot, and has accumulated more hours in flight alongside more species of birds than any other human.

**Presentations will be: Friday, 1/25 from 1 – 2 P.M.**

**Saturday, 1/26 from 10:30A.M. – Noon**

*Presentations are in the BCC Titusville Campus Auditorium. Seating for these free presentations is first-come-first-seated up to 150 persons.*

Funding to bring Operation Migration to the Festival is provided by: Jim And Jonnie Swann Corporation, Barbara Hoelscher and family, and The Brevard Nature Alliance.

Operation Migration will have a booth in the Exhibit Area. Please visit them for additional information about this program and learn how YOU can become involved in these exciting activities. Visit the web site at: **[www.operationmigration.org](http://www.operationmigration.org)**

Donations are eagerly and gladly accepted to keep the ultra-lights flying as well as covering other expenses associated with this great program. Please visit the web site to see how you and your family can become involved.

**Neta Harris, Executive Director of the Brevard Nature Alliance**



**The Operation Migration aircraft.**



**Best of Show winner "Compost Cruiser."**  
**By Adele Park**

"Winter Whites" by Darleen Hunt, "Lagoon Blues" by Diane Cannon, "Sea Grapes" by Linda Neal, "The Otter Couple" by Betty Noone, "Nature's Kiss" by Cindy McKee, "Gone Wild" by Jo Ewald, "Surf Fishing" by Helen Morr, "Color Fantasy" by Carole Wilen, "Magnolia" by Sandi Williams, and "O.K. Line Up Everyone" by Therese Ferguson.

At this writing two of the paintings have been sold. Artists donate a portion of the proceeds to MIWA. Please take the time to view this fabulous art exhibition before January 31.

**Darleen Hunt, MIWA Board Member and BWS Event Coordinator**

## 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Brevard Watercolor Society Event

The auditorium at the Refuge Visitor Center was filled to capacity as 80 artists, guests and MIWA members gathered for the reception of the 5<sup>th</sup> annual "Watercolor Images of the Refuge" exhibit. The Saturday afternoon event featured delicious snacks and beverages, live music and socializing throughout the Center and boardwalk.

Top Brevard Watercolor Society winners of the juried show are: Best of Show "Compost Cruiser" by Adele Park, Best of Flora "Lost Heron" by Lolly Walton, Best of Fauna "Prince of Tides" by Jeanette Drake, and Refuge Award "Sunset" by Witha Lacuesta. Other ribbon winners were:



**Best of Fauna winner "Prince of Tides."**  
**By Jeanette Drake**



**Nikon**

and The Brevard Nature Alliance present the 11th Annual

# SPACE COAST BIRDING AND WILDLIFE FESTIVAL

**JANUARY 23-28, 2008**

**Brevard Community College ~ Titusville, Florida**

**5 Well known Keynote Speakers**

**31 Workshops/National Experts**

**39 Photo Sessions/Award Winning Pros**

**40 Field Trips/Prominent Tour Leaders**

**57 Seminars/Exotic Locales & Topics**

**70 Exhibitors/Optics, Artists, & More**

**1 Pelagic Trip/Florida's Gulf Stream**

**Archaeology • Kayak Trips • Art Competition**

**Silent Auction • Hands-On Optics Classes**



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## **FEATURING:**

**John Moran** - Journal of Light: A Photographers Search of the Soul of Florida

**Jeff Bouton** - The Evolution of Birding

**Jeff Gordon** - The Ten Greatest Birds of the Last 30 Years

**Kevin T. Karlson** - Birds on the Wind: The Miracle of Migration

**John Acorn** - Field Notes: An Odd Form of Self-Help Therapy

**Susan Epps** - **Mike Freiberg** - **Alvaro Jaramillo** - **Paul Lehman**

**Michael O'Brien** - **Debra Shearwater** - **Chris Wood** - **Johnathan Wood** - **Louise Zemaitis**

[www.spacecoastbirding.com](http://www.spacecoastbirding.com)

[www.spacecoastpaddling.com](http://www.spacecoastpaddling.com)

[www.spacecoasthiking.com](http://www.spacecoasthiking.com)



The Raptor Project



To find out more contact: Neta Harris at [neta@natureandspace.com](mailto:neta@natureandspace.com)  
or 321-268-5224 or 800-460-2664 or visit [www.nbbd.com/fly](http://www.nbbd.com/fly)

Photos courtesy of Joel Reynolds





*Hello to...*

... **Jennifer English**, MIWA's new Seasonal Sales Associate for the Bookery, from Merritt Island. Jennifer will be graduating from BCC in December and will transfer to UCF to major in Physics. She would like to work at Kennedy Space Center as either an engineer or a meteorologist.



**Jennifer English with Refuge volunteer JoAnn Heenan and Sandee Larsen.**

**Photo by Bill Nunn**

## Speak up!

Government decisions determine the fate of the Merritt Island NWR. You can help by letting key decision makers know how you feel about the Refuge and other natural resource issues.

### **President**

*George W. Bush*  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500  
(202) 456-1111  
President@WhiteHouse.gov

### **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Southeast Regional Director**

*Sam D. Hamilton*  
1875 Century Boulevard Northeast, Suite 400  
Atlanta, GA 30345  
(404) 679-4000

### **Secretary of the Interior**

*Dirk Kempthorne*  
18<sup>th</sup> & C Streets NW, Rm. 6151  
Washington, DC 20240  
(202) 208-7351

### **FL Senators**

*Mel Martinez*  
356 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
(202) 224-3041  
*Bill Nelson*  
716 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
(202) 224-5274

### **FL Representatives**

<http://www.house.gov/writerep/>

## 2007 Christmas Bird Count

The 2007 Christmas Bird Count at MINWR will be held on Monday, December 17, 2007. Anyone interested in participating should contact count coordinators Ned Steel at 321-452-1140 or Jim Pedersen at 321-267-4981 for more information.



## Haulover Canal Gets Un-Trashed



**A common sight at Haulover Canal.**

**Photo by Tom Dunkerton**

The International Coastal Cleanup is held annually on the third weekend of September; it is truly international, as it encompasses cleanups on every continent. In addition to cleaning shorelines, volunteers collect important data on the types, quantity and location of marine debris that leads to an ongoing marine debris prevention campaign.

This year, the Refuge participated in the event in cooperation with Keep Brevard Beautiful. 176 volunteers battled the heat and mosquitoes and scoured the shoreline along Haulover canal collecting 150 bags of trash, weighing almost 3,000 lbs. The volunteers included 100 Sea World employees, Titusville and Astronaut High Schools Students, Refuge volunteers, members of Titusville Sunrise Rotary Club and local residents. MIWA supplied the much-needed refreshments for the volunteers on the 90 degree day. The Refuge plans to take part in the 2008 cleanup. To learn more about the International Coastal cleanup visit: [www.oceanconservation.org](http://www.oceanconservation.org)  
**Nancy Corona, Public Use Ranger, USFWS**

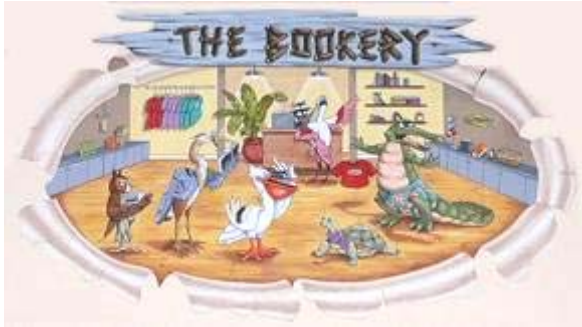


**Nancy Corona speaks to the cleanup volunteers.**

**Photo by Tom Dunkerton**



## New Items In



### Birding Florida

By Falcon Guides.....\$22.95  
With 500 species on its state list, Florida boasts more birds than any other state east of the Mississippi. This book describes over 200 of the best sites, as well as birding locations near the state's popular theme parks. Also included are sections on Florida's diverse habitats and how to plan your trip.



### Aquatic Wonders Alligator

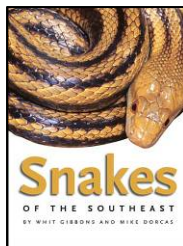
By Gund..... \$11.99

This is the most loveable reptile around. He is made of the softest, snuggliest green plush, with a pale green belly, feet and lower jaw. Watch out for his gaze - this cuddly critter has eyes that actually follow you! Also new from Gund: Hooten Owl and Orbit Otter.



### Snakes of the Southeast

By Whit Gibbons and Mike Dorcas....\$22.95  
Fifty-two kinds of snakes can be found in the Southeast, almost half of all species native to North America. Filled with more than 300 color photographs and written by two of the nation's most renowned herpetologists, this is the most comprehensive, yet most accessible, guide to the snakes of the Southeast.

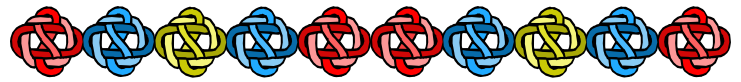


**For retail information, call the  
MIWA Office at 321-861-2377**

### THIS MAY BE YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER!

Check the mailing label to determine your expiration date / membership status. Cut out the box to the right and mail in your payment, if due. If you would like to help us save money and resources, you can receive announcements and *Habi-Chat* newsletters by e-mail. To be on our e-mailing list, please add us to your safe senders and send a request to...

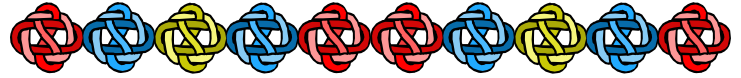
**HabiChat@MerrittIslandWildlifeAssociation.org**



A gift in remembrance was donated by **Audrey and Henry Pizarz** in memory of Jim Malone, husband of Carolyn Malone.

Donations in remembrance of loved ones and friends can be sent to:

MIWA, P.O. Box 6504, Titusville, FL 32782



### 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.

### 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**.

# FREE MIWA Members-Only Tours

## MIWA Bird Tours

Meet MIWA's Environmental Educator Tom Mertins for a Beginning Bird Tour at 1 P.M. on Saturday, December 15, 2007 and Saturday, January 12, 2008. Meet at the Refuge Visitor Center to ride in the van through Black Point Wildlife Drive. The group size is limited to 10 members. The trip will last 2-3 hours. Bring binoculars, field guides, and beverages as you feel necessary. Loaner binoculars are available.

## Scrub-jay Presentation and Tour

Join Tom Mertins at the Refuge Visitor Center on Saturday, December 29, 2007 at 1 P.M. for a 25-minute presentation on Florida's own Scrub-jays. Learn about the habits and habitats of this unique Florida species. The program will be followed by a hike on the Scrub Ridge Trail to provide opportunities to observe the birds in the wild. Attendees will caravan in their personal vehicles to the trail. Be prepared to walk one-mile. A hat, water, sunscreen and insect repellent are all recommended. Binoculars would be useful and loaners are available. Wear comfortable sneakers or hiking shoes. Limit 15 members.



**Florida Scrub-jay.**  
**Photo by Joel Reynolds**

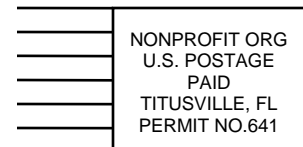
## Bald Eagle Presentation and Nest Tour

Tom Mertins will lead this program on Saturday, January 19, 2008 at 1 P.M. The program will include a PowerPoint presentation at the Refuge Visitor Center followed by a drive via personal vehicle to view the bald eagles on a nest through spotting scopes. Limit 25 members.

**For reservations, call Tom Mertins at 321-861-5601  
or email him at [scrubjayflorida@yahoo.com](mailto:scrubjayflorida@yahoo.com)**



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



**Now Open! Come visit the new  
Pine Flatwoods Hiking Trail. It is  
located off State Road 3 on the  
north end of the Refuge.**