



# Habi-Chat

Newsletter of the Merritt Island Wildlife Association

Volume 14, Number 3

Fall 2008

## Refuge Update

Tropical Storm Fay was mostly a rain event which dumped about a foot of rain on the Refuge. When Fay stalled over Ft. Pierce, the southerly winds circulating around the storm center caused the water levels in the north Indian River Lagoon to rise. The high water spilled over some roads and caused some mild to severe erosion on some dikes, depending upon their exposure to waves. As the water piled up in the Indian River Lagoon, the only outlet was Haulover Canal, and, according to some accounts, "you could have surfed on the waves going through the Canal". The sustained rains and wave action caused beach erosion and almost every dike was damaged. They are still waterlogged now, several weeks after the storm.

Maintenance crews are busy fixing the roads. As a precaution most dike roads will remain closed until repairs are made and the roads dry out. The only dike roads that are not damaged and are open are Black Point Wildlife Drive and Bio Lab Road. Roads that are damaged and closed include: Peacocks Pocket, Catfish Loop, Gator Creek roads, L Pond Road, and Shiloh Marsh Road. The worst is L Pond Road and it may be spring before repairs can be made and it is reopened. We will attempt to get Peacocks Pocket Road and the Gator Creek roads open as soon as possible. Once other roads are repaired, Black Point will be closed to do annual repairs. The one constant on the Refuge seems to be road and dike repair.

If there is a silver lining, it is that Fay left the impoundments brimming with freshwater. This benefits most aquatic plants which thrive under the right salinity conditions. During droughts the waters can become hyper saline, limiting plant growth and food production. The only source of freshwater on the Island is rain and when we get rain events like Fay, the impoundments freshen up and many desirable submerged plants flourish. These aquatic plants provide food for wintering waterfowl and other migratory birds. However, the water levels now are quite deep and it will take some time for the waters to recede, allowing the plants to grow to the surface where puddle ducks, coots, grebes, and others can feed more effectively.

In other news, the Bunk House and Camper Pads are almost finished and should be open for business by October. The Bunk House will replace the Bio Lab building, which is literally older than the Refuge. The Bunk House will provide decent housing and will help attract interns and students doing research projects on the Refuge. MIWA is providing funding to help furnish the new facility.

**Dorn Whitmore, Supervisory Ranger, USFWS**



**Construction of the new Bunk House.  
Photo by Dorn Whitmore**



## My Trip to NCTC

Tucked away in the West Virginia foothills of the Appalachian Mountains and close to the borders of Maryland, Pennsylvania and Virginia is a well-kept secret of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. It is home to probably the most beautiful training center in the federal government. It is approximately seventy-five miles from Washington, DC. Many of the Service personnel who work in DC love to come here to train, facilitate training or just relax in this most beautiful wooded facility. Many seem reluctant to leave and I cannot blame them. The National Conservation Training Center (NCTC) sits on approximately 100 acres in Shepherdstown, West Virginia. Deer, birds and other wildlife are abundant here and roam freely. I think that even the mosquitoes are protected here! The facilities



**Jim Pedersen at the NCTC.  
Photo by Carol Pedersen.**

and amenities are top-drawer. Some include a fitness center/gymnasium, state-of-the-art classrooms equipped with the latest teaching technology, auditorium, large meeting rooms, large dorms with kitchens and day care areas. However, the best of all the facilities is the building that contains the dining and lounge areas. Not only is this building beautifully designed with many historic artifacts and photos, but the food is outstanding. All meals were fit for royalty. Hate to admit it but with many sedentary meetings and such good food, this writer probably gained a few pounds. *(Continued on Page 4)*



## *Species in Focus:* New Research: Southeastern Beach Mouse

The southeastern beach mouse (*Peromyscus polionotus niveiventris*) is a small, nocturnal, buff colored mouse with a white underside that extends from its chin to the tip of its tail. Its current range is limited to a 25-mile-long stretch of the Atlantic coast, with our habitats at Merritt Island being in the middle. Isolated populations at New Smyrna Dunes, Archie Carr, Pelican Island and the southern half of Sebastian Inlet State Recreation Area complete the entire current range of the species. Historically, this mouse was found along 180 miles of coast from Ponce Inlet, in Volusia County south to Hollywood in Broward County. Habitat degradation, fragmentation, development, predation from feral cats, and catastrophic storms are a constant and serious threat to both the beach mouse and their habitat. These threats and the loss of 75% of the historic range of the species prompted the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to list the Southeastern Beach Mouse as a threatened species in 1989.

In an effort to learn more about conservation needs of this imperiled species, the Merritt Island staff and MIWA volunteers have recently partnered with biologists from Dynamac and Canaveral National Seashore. This research project includes an intensive survey to determine the presence or absence of Southeastern Beach Mouse throughout selected beach, dune and scrub habitats at Merritt Island and Canaveral National Seashore. This effort is aimed at learning more about the “preferred” habitat for the little mouse. Our goal with this project is to identify the habitat condition that sustains the population over a long time period, and determine the best management practices to get there. To accomplish this task, this dedicated group will place hundreds of PVC tubes at locations on the Refuge and Seashore. These tubes are like small snack counters for beach mice. Mice walk into the tube, walk across an ink pad, then a piece of felt paper to eat a few seeds, and then walk back out. Volunteer and staff researchers will then collect the felt paper. The tracks can then be reviewed to determine the species entering the tube for the bait. This information will help with development of habitat management recommendations to reach the goal of ensuring long-term survival of the species.

**Mike Legare, Wildlife Biologist, Merritt Island NWR, USFWS**



*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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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-Topper
<b>Habi-Chat Committee</b>	Brad Sloan, Sandee Larsen, Dorn Whitmore, Cheri Ehrhardt-Topper
<b>Official Photographer</b>	Joel Reynolds

## Thank You to Our Corporate Sponsors

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## CCP Updates

The Refuge Complex has completed yet another Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP). Hooray! The Final CCP for Archie Carr NWR will soon be mailed out to the public and made available on the Internet (select Final Documents at <http://www.fws.gov/southeast/planning/>, then scroll down to Archie Carr NWR). If you would like to obtain a copy, CD and paper copies will also be available at the Refuge's offices in Vero Beach and at Merritt Island NWR's administrative offices in Titusville (321-861-0667 or [MerrittIsland@fws.gov](mailto:MerrittIsland@fws.gov)). Contact the Refuge ([ArchieCarr@fws.gov](mailto:ArchieCarr@fws.gov) or 772-562-3909 x275) for more information.

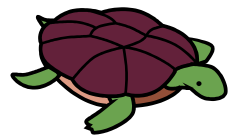
On September 25, 2008 the Refuge will be holding a public scoping meeting at the South Florida Community College Highlands Campus in Avon Park to gather input into the development of a 15-year management plan (CCP) for Lake Wales Ridge NWR. You are invited to attend! Of course, since it's kind of far, you can always email, fax, or mail comments to us, too: [LakeWalesRidgeCCP@fws.gov](mailto:LakeWalesRidgeCCP@fws.gov); 561-533-5166; Lake Wales Ridge NWR CCP, PO Box 2683, Titusville, FL 32781-2683. For more information, please contact Bill Miller at 561-715-0023 or [LakeWalesRidgeCCP@fws.gov](mailto:LakeWalesRidgeCCP@fws.gov) or visit the Internet: <http://www.fws.gov/merrittisland/subrefuges/LWR.html>. Also, we invite you to sign up for the mailing list, if you would like to keep informed throughout the planning process: <http://www.fws.gov/merrittisland/subrefuges/MailListReq-lwr.pdf>.

Cheri M Ehrhardt-Topper, AICP, Natural Resource Planner, USFWS



## Members-Only Sea Turtle Walks

MIWA hosted three sea turtle walks this summer for our members. Each program consisted of an informational program at the VIC, followed by a trip to the seashore to wait for the elusive reptile.



Thirty members attended the June 20<sup>th</sup> walk led by Refuge Ranger, Nancy Corona. It was a beautiful evening with surprisingly few mosquitoes feeding on us! Turtle scout Jim Pedersen did a great job, finding a nesting turtle quickly. The group observed the mother turtle lay her eggs and after the children secured and numbered the nest #805, named her Barnacle Betty. On the way back to our vehicles we were treated to another nesting turtle by the boardwalk.

The second walk was held on July 9<sup>th</sup> and was attended by 43 members. Operation Specialist, Dorn Whitmore led the happy group and Beverly Osborne of CNS was our turtle scout. There were plenty of biting bugs, but few turtles. Finally at 11 pm a turtle was sited, but unfortunately she did not nest.

The third and final walk was held on July 18<sup>th</sup>. Twelve members attended and enjoyed a beach night lit by the full moon and the awesome site of bioluminescence in the ocean's water. The no-see-ums were thick, but our determined leaders Nancy Corona and Beverly Osborne did not give up. Finally at 11 pm a turtle was sited. Named Luna and numbered #1521, the group enjoyed a close up look at the mother loggerhead.

Thanks to Dorn, Nancy, Jim, Beverly, and Volunteers: Ed Larsen & Bill Nunn for some buggy, muggy and wonderful evenings.

Sandee Larsen, Bookery Manager



## Birds of a Feather Art Exhibition at KSC



Lloyd Behrendt and daughter Alyson.  
Photo by Joel Reynolds

The "Birds of a Feather" art exhibition by Lloyd Behrendt of the Blue Sawtooth Studio was on display the KSC IMAX Gallery East July 14<sup>th</sup> through August 31<sup>st</sup>. The exhibition consisted of wildlife and launch images that illustrate the relationship between the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge and the Kennedy Space Center. Lloyd graciously contacted MIWA and offered to donate funds from his artist reception to the Refuge.

The reception was held Thursday, August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at the IMAX Gallery East. Over 125 guests attended and enjoyed complementary light hors d'oeuvres, a cash bar, and Lloyd's fantastic artwork. Over \$1,400 in donation from guests, FPL, and Dixie Crossroads were received. Thank you to Lloyd for thinking of the Refuge and to volunteers, Chris Fairey and Savannah Veltman for manning the reception table. A big thank you goes to Tiffany Fairley for organizing the event.

Sandee Larsen, Bookery Manager



(Continued from Page 1)



**Jim Pedersen at the Rachel Carson Lodge.**  
**Photo by Carol Pedersen.**

I attended a 5-day Friends Academy seminar at the NCTC provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from August 18 to 22. It was attended by 25 Friends organizations from across the nation. Some came from as far away as Hawaii and Alaska. I discovered that our Friends group has the most members with nearly 1200. They were impressed!

Some of the highlights are listed:

- How Friends groups can help the National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS) support its four priorities defined as habitat, wildlife, law enforcement and the public.
- Describe resource challenges facing the NWRS including air/water quality, residential encroachment development, utility corridors, trash, climate change and invasive species.

- Improving partnerships with your refuge by engaging important decision-making members of your local community. Relationships are very important!
- How to utilize non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to help support refuge conservation efforts.
- Educational strategies to help diffuse the "Nature Deficit Disorder" (NDD) affecting so many of our computerized children.
- Provide opportunities to Friends groups in areas of transportation, road construction, citizen science programs and grant writing.

In addition to all this education, we were given the chance to network with each other where ideas and experiences were shared in earnest. Many new friends were made and there was a great exchange of information, addresses, emails, memorabilia pins, etc. The afternoon of the third day of the seminar, we were treated to a trip to the Antietam Battlefield National Park in Antietam, MD.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service could not say enough about the resources Friends groups provide. This is especially true when it comes to lobbying. When you think about it, as a collective voice, Friends groups can provide much needed support when it comes to refuge funding. Remember, the Service cannot lobby and refuges need our help.

I cannot say enough about this very worthwhile experience. It is my hope that I may share these ideas, program opportunities, priorities and goals so that MIWA can provide maximum support to this jewel on the Kennedy Space Center.



**Fawn.**  
**Photo by Carol Pedersen.**

**Jim Pedersen, MIWA Treasurer**



### **Photography Exhibit: Merritt Island Wildlife Refuge Landscapes**



For the first time, Photographs of Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge will focus on the landscape of the Refuge. Photographers Rich Franco and Dale Nichols present these large digitally captured images that highlight the environment that is the Refuge and not just the avian residents that draw thousands of visitors each year. From earliest light, to the last rays of the setting sun, these images will show you the beauty that is there, year round. This has been a four year project, having captured images from all four seasons. This exhibit opened Sept. 13 and will run through the end of October, 2008

Images from this project will become a coffee table book to be released August of 2009. A portion of proceeds from the sale of this book will benefit the Merritt Island Wildlife Association.

In addition to the exhibit, a Presentation by the photographers will be given, **October 25 at 1:00 p.m.** describing the techniques and equipment required to digitally capture these images and also to prepare them for large format printing. Following the presentation, there will be a reception to meet the photographers and have any additional questions answered. For more information, please call 321-861-2777.

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



## MIWA Minute

The visitor's center has been quiet these past few months. Between the summer heat, hungry mosquitoes, and tropical storm Fay, visitation numbers have been low. MIWA staff stayed busy inventorying the Bookery and getting ready for our annual meeting.

A big thank you goes to **Kathie Coon**, Communication Specialist for Parrish Medical Center. Kathy heard of our need for a wheelchair at the VIC and contacted **David Stoldt**, regional Manager for Medline Industries. David graciously donated a new wheelchair to MIWA. Thanks David. Because of your generosity, visitors with disabilities can now enjoy the VIC boardwalk with their friends and families.

MIWA is happy to announce our newest Corporate Sponsor, **Bruno White Entertainment, Inc.**, and new Senior Couple Life members, **Karl & Betty Eichhorn** of Cocoa Beach, and **Jerome & Kerry Skelly** of Merritt Island. Karl & Betty have been volunteers at the Refuge for many, many years and Jerome & Kerry are local nature lovers. Thank you for becoming Senior Couple Life Members.

Thank you to all our Life Members:

<i>Halifax River Audubon Soc.</i>	<i>Karl &amp; Betty Eichhorn</i>
<i>Space Coast Audubon Soc.</i>	<i>Lori &amp; Steve Emly</i>
<i>Arlova Allen</i>	<i>George English</i>
<i>David Bame</i>	<i>Richard English</i>
<i>Tommie Barron</i>	<i>Jim Escoffier</i>
<i>Sam Beddingfield</i>	<i>Emmett B. Ferguson, MD</i>
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<i>John &amp; Linda Boucher</i>	<i>Andrew &amp; Rosemary Georganna</i>
<i>Kathryn Brown</i>	<i>Robert R. Green</i>
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<i>James L. Butts</i>	<i>Barbara Hoelscher</i>
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<i>Paul &amp; Leah Casper</i>	<i>Jay Honeycutt</i>
<i>B.E. Cushing</i>	<i>Darleen &amp; Jerry Hunt</i>
<i>Howard &amp; Kiki Davidow</i>	<i>Barbara Hutchinson</i>
<i>Neil Doby</i>	<i>Thomas Ingersoll</i>
<i>Margaret Dolan</i>	<i>Carl L. Jones II</i>
<i>Judy &amp; Jim Dryja</i>	<i>Kam &amp; Judy Kersey</i>
<i>Cheri Ehrhardt-Topper</i>	<i>Charles Keyes</i>

<i>Darlene Koenig</i>
<i>Kerri Lambert</i>
<i>Daniel LeBlanc</i>
<i>Judith Lindquist</i>
<i>Richard &amp; Carol Loehr</i>
<i>Marian Lunsford</i>
<i>Barry Maness</i>
<i>Phyllis &amp; Howard Mansfield</i>
<i>Captain Fredrick Mastin</i>
<i>Gen. &amp; Mrs. Forrest McCartney</i>
<i>Bob Merrilees</i>
<i>John Milani</i>
<i>Tom &amp; Virginia Mills</i>
<i>Jo Lynn Nelson</i>
<i>Hugh &amp; Mary Nicolay</i>
<i>Lewis Oliver</i>
<i>Gerry &amp; Arline Oppliger</i>
<i>Kerry Palermo</i>
<i>Charles Platt, 3<sup>rd</sup></i>
<i>Roy Roberts</i>
<i>Dr. Bill Rylander</i>



**Kathie Coon and Stephanie Odom.**  
Photo by Sandee Larsen

<i>Cary &amp; Betty Salter</i>
<i>Joseph Sanders</i>
<i>Charles Schneider</i>
<i>Cynthia Schneider</i>
<i>Judge &amp; Mrs. Joseph Schneider</i>
<i>Robert Sieck</i>
<i>Jerome &amp; Kerry Skelly</i>
<i>Sid &amp; Carol Smith</i>
<i>Lee &amp; Shirley Solid</i>
<i>Tiffany Stamas</i>
<i>Ned Steel</i>
<i>Frank &amp; Liz Steele</i>
<i>Rick &amp; Diane Stees</i>
<i>Joyce &amp; Bill Stefancic</i>
<i>Gary Stevens</i>
<i>John Tribe</i>
<i>Bill &amp; Natalie Walls</i>
<i>Malcom &amp; Amy Whitelaw</i>
<i>Nan Wilson</i>
<i>Maureen &amp; Wayne Wright</i>

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**



## United Waterfowlers at Glory Hole

Founded in 2000, the United Waterfowlers-FL is an organization concentrating on the improving duck hunting opportunities in Florida. Twelve UW members put in 200 volunteer hours restoring duck habitat in the Refuge's V3 impoundment, also known as Glory Hole. One of the biggest Refuge impoundments, it is located in a remote area on the north east side of Mosquito lagoon. To date, UW members removed five large water control gate flaps, and dug out mud and debris which will improve flushing of the impoundments

The management plan is to continue the rotation of flushing the hyper saline soil with rain water, then installing boards at the water control structures to collect fresh water. This will promote growth of emergent grass, a great food source for migrating waterfowl. To date, Glory Hole is full. In spring 2009, the draining and flushing will continue. Mother Nature's deluge of rain and the hard work of the UW have done wonders for the restoration of Glory Hole. Thank you United Waterfowlers! For more information, visit their website at: [www.UnitedWaterfowlersFL.org](http://www.UnitedWaterfowlersFL.org)

**Pat Stone, United Waterfowlers, and Nancy Corona, Public Use Ranger, USFWS**



**The United Waterfowlers.**  
Photo by Pat Stone

## 2008 Christmas Bird Count

The 2008 Christmas Bird Count at MINWR will be held on Monday, December 15, 2008. Anyone interested in participating should contact count coordinators Ned Steel at nedsteel@msn.com or Jim Pedersen at pedersenjc@comcast.net for more information.



*Gifts in memory of loved ones were donated by...*

*... John & Melinda Tribe and George English, in memory of their dear friend Nancy Sieck.*

*...the many friends and family of Stafford Carter, Jr.*

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



## National Public Lands Day

Join Refuge staff for the sprucing up of the Refuge Trails on Saturday, September 27 from 8 am to 11 am. Mulch, trim and pick up litter along the several of the Refuge hiking trails. Wear long pants, closed shoes, sun hat, and bring sunscreen and insect repellent. Water, snacks, trash bags and latex gloves will be provided. Call 321-861-5601 for information and reservations.

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



*Hello to...*

**...Rob Vernachio**, Prescribed Fire Specialist, is filling a new position. He comes from the Fire Program at Okefenokee

NWR. He will be assisting with the planning and implementation of prescribed fire and monitoring the response of fires and fuel levels.

**...Joe Sharbaugh**, Forestry Tech, also comes from Okefenokee NWR fire program. He replaces Jay Mickey. In his job, he will be assisting the fire program in various capacities as a fire fighter. Welcome Rob and Joe.

*Goodbye to...*

**...Robert Register**, Law Enforcement Officer was selected for a Special Agent position in Cambridge Maryland and left in July. Robert out competed hundreds of other candidates for this coveted position as a Special Agent and we congratulate him on being selected. Robert replaced Jason Vehrs and served here with distinction since January 2007.

**...Wayne Boykin**, Bio Tech retired after 30 years of government service in several locations. Wayne's primary duty was controlling exotic plants, a job he did with zeal. We think we heard a faint but audible cheer coming from a whole array of exotic plants (Brazilian Pepper, Old World Climbing Fern, and Rosery Pea) as he drove off the refuge for the last time. This was Wayne's second assignment with the Refuge and we wish him all the best in his retirement.

**...Jeff Smith**, Restoration Ecologist has worked here at the refuge for about two years (June 06- September 08). During his stay he has developed numerous restoration plans which reconnected impounded wetlands with the lagoon. He is leaving here for a job in the private sector in New Smyrna Beach. Good luck Jeff.

## 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.

## 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/>



## Brevard Watercolor Society 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Art Exhibition

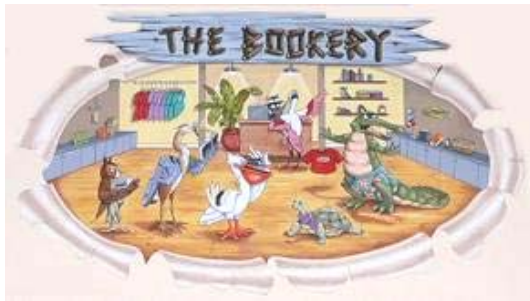
The sixth annual 'Watercolor Images of the Refuge' art exhibition by members of the Brevard Watercolor Society (BWS) will be held at the Refuge Visitor Center from November 2, 2008 through January 31, 2009. Original watercolor paintings of flora and fauna that are seen on the MINWR will be exhibited in the conference room.

BWS members were given a special tour by Dorn Whitmore this past winter so artists could photograph reference material for their paintings. Paintings will be juried in October with approximately 38 paintings selected by the judges. There are many talented and award winning artists among the 200+ members of the BWS and each year the paintings reflect very high quality of art. Original paintings will be offered for sale with a portion of the proceeds donated by the artists to MIWA. Matted prints of some of the paintings will also be for sale in the Bookery.

You are cordially invited to attend the opening reception on Sunday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> from 2 to 4 p.m. Please RSVP to the MIWA office at 321 861-2377.

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

### New Items In



#### *Peterson Field Guide to Birds of N. America*

By Roger Tory Peterson.....\$26.00

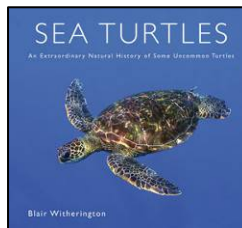
This new book combines the Western and Eastern Peterson Field Guides in one volume, filled with accessible, concise information and including almost three hours of video podcasts to make bird watching even easier.



#### *Sea Turtles: An Extraordinary Natural History of Some Uncommon Turtles*

By Blair Witherington.....\$29.95

Sea turtles have been roaming our oceans for millions of years. They have inspired cultures around the world for centuries. This beautifully illustrated portrait takes a comprehensive look at the lives of these astonishing creatures and their importance to our natural world.



#### Cottonmouth water Moccasin

By Safari Ltd.....\$7.95

This is an extra large, soft, playful, true-to-life vinyl replica of the amazing snake. Excellent as a learning tool to introduce young children to our delicate and often endangered inhabitants of our planet. A fun way to spark the innate curiosity of a child. Each replica is finely hand painted and accurate down to the last detail.



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



**2007 Best of Show winner "Compost Cruiser."  
By Adele Park**

### THIS MAY BE YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER!

Check the mailing label to determine your expiration date / membership status. Cut out the box below 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**

### 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 2683, Titusville, FL 32781

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

☐ **Senior Couple Life** – \$350

☐ **Patron** – \$1000

☐ **Optional** – Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

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



# You're Invited to the Merritt Island Wildlife Association Annual Meeting



*Join us for an evening of fun while helping support the Refuge!*

*Guest Speaker: Educator & Field Biologist, Ray E. Ashton Jr., will provide an informational program:  
The Gopher Tortoise, its Future is at Hand*

*When: Wednesday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008*

*Where: The Debus Center at the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex*

*Time: 6:00 pm*

*Cash Bar & Silent Auction  
Fundraiser Dinner (\$20)  
Corporate Tables available*

*Watch your mailbox for your invitation & RSVP via  
response card or phone at 321-861-2377 by  
September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2008*

## **Call for Silent Auction Donations**

MIWA is requesting donation items for our upcoming annual meeting fundraiser. Gift certificates, artwork, handmade items, and anything with a **nature theme** are needed. All donations are tax deductible and will be displayed with your name or company name. Contact Sandee Larsen at 321-861-2377 for additional info.



Merritt Island Wildlife Association  
P.O. Box 2683  
Titusville, FL 32781  
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