



Habi-Chat

Newsletter of the Merritt Island Wildlife Association

Volume 15 Number 4

Winter 2009

Layne Hamilton – New Refuge Manager

MIWA would like to extend a warm welcome to the new Refuge Manager, Layne Hamilton. Layne assumed the duties of Refuge Manager of the Merritt Island Complex on November 9, replacing Ron Hight who served in the position for 18 years (1990-2009).

Layne was born and raised in Florida, growing up in Ft. Pierce on the Indian River Lagoon. She says, "Getting the job at Merritt Island is like coming home." After graduating from the University of Florida, Layne's first professional job was with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission. She later returned to school and received her Masters Degree at LSU. After graduate school, she began her career with the Fish & Wildlife Service, starting as a co-op student at Mississippi Sandhill Crane NWR in 1986. In 1987, she accepted a job as Assistant Refuge Manager at Catahoula NWR in Louisiana, followed by a Refuge Manager position at Pinckney Island NWR in South Carolina (1990-1993). In 1993 she finally found her way back to Florida when she was selected as Deputy Refuge Manager at Ding Darling NWR. She has remained in Florida since and in 2002 was selected as Refuge Manager of Florida Panther NWR and 10,000 Islands NWR located near Naples. Finally in 2009, she was selected as the Project Leader of the Merritt Island Complex. In addition to Merritt Island, her responsibilities extend over Pelican Island, Archie Carr, Lake Wales Ridge, Lake Woodruff, and St. John NWR.



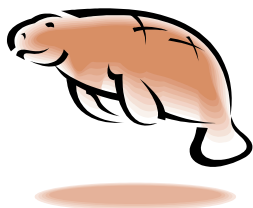
Layne Hamilton, Refuge Manager
Photo by Giacomo Ilardi

Welcome Layne and good luck in your new position.

Dorn Whitmore, Supervisory Ranger



REFUGE UPDATES



Manatee Deck Closure: The Manatee Observation Deck located along the northwest side of Haulover Canal is being rebuilt and will be closed for construction. The construction period is expected to last about 1 month, beginning December 14, 2009 and lasting through January 15, 2010. If you are interested in viewing manatees, a good alternative location is Bairs Cove Boat Ramp located on the southwest side of Haulover Canal.

The old 8' x 40' elevated wooden deck will be replaced with new elevated 8' x 100' concrete structure. The refuge has also received funding to pave the access road and parking lot at the Manatee Observation Deck and this construction will begin in 2010. The construction closure is an inconvenience, but will insure many years of enjoyable Manatee observation in the future.

Refuge Crime Watch: With only two full time Law Enforcement Officers covering 6 refuges in the Central Florida area, it is not always easy to find an Officer when you need one. Now each officer carries a pager and if you need to contact one, you can dial one number and leave a voice message. The Officer on call, or the one closest to your location, will respond to the message resulting in a quicker response to your law enforcement emergency. To report a law enforcement issue on the Refuge, please call this number: **321 227-0107**

Dorn Whitmore, Supervisory Ranger



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

With a wonderful change in the weather, you would think there would be a great influx of waterfowl this time of year. However, the numbers of ducks, coots and other migrants are down at this time. Hopefully they will arrive soon? Speaking of arrival, the number of visitors to the refuge is increasing each day. They are using the wildlife drives and participating in our refuge bird, plant and wildlife tours offered at various times. The usual cost for beginner birding tours is usually \$3.00. However, if you are a MIWA member they are free. So come on over and take advantage.

We have new arrivals at our refuge in recent weeks that I am pleased to introduce. Layne Hamilton, our new refuge manager, who comes to us from Florida Panther NWR in southwest Florida and Charlie Venuto, our newest MIWA board member, who works for United Space Alliance. MIWA would like to welcome these two individuals to our refuge and our board looks forward to working with both.

Some other news that may be of interest to you is the annual Birding Festival beginning January 27th through February 1st. Sandee Larsen, our MIWA Bookery Manager, will sponsor a booth at the event with many interesting wildlife articles for sale. Several wildlife and birding book authors will also be there signing their books purchased through our booth. So please come by and support this important event.

Thanks and see you on the refuge.

Jim Pedersen, MIWA President



Jim Pedersen, MIWA President
Photo by Carol Pedersen



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.

President	Jim Pedersen
Vice President	Dan Click
Treasurer	Jim Butts
Secretary	John Tribe
President Emeritus	George English

Board Members

Sam Beddingfield, Warren Camp, James Clark, Chris Fairey, Bud Ferguson, Darleen Hunt, Robert Hutchison, Dan LeBlanc, Forrest McCartney, Joel Reynolds, Truman Scarborough, Lee Solid, Ned Steel, Laurilee Thompson and Charlie Venuto

Refuge Manager Layne Hamilton **USFWS Liaison** Dorn Whitmore
NASA Liaison Mario Busacca

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**.

Newsletter Editor Carol Pedersen **Technical Consultant** Cheri Ehrhardt

Habi-Chat **Committee** Cheri Ehrhardt, Sandee Larsen, Carol Pedersen, and Dorn Whitmore

Thank You to Our Corporate Sponsors

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THE MERRITT ISLAND WILDLIFE ASSOCIATION (REGISTRATION #CH29759) HAS COMPLIED WITH THE REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS OF CHAPTER 496, FLORIDA STATUTES, SOLICITATION OF CONTRIBUTIONS ACT. A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE (800-435-7352) WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.

The Brevard Nature Alliance presents the 13th Annual
**SPACE COAST BIRDING
& WILDLIFE FESTIVAL**

January 27 - February 1, 2010
Brevard Community College
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**Bring the Family and Enjoy Outdoor Adventures
Right Here on Florida's Space Coast!**

Variety of Birding & Wildlife Field Trips
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Free Exhibit Area with over 70 Exhibitors!

****NORTH AMERICAN GULL CONFERENCE****

If you want to learn more about gulls . . .
Special Presentations and
Field Trips are Planned During the Festival!

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Sponsored by Florida Power & Light
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See Hawks, Eagles & Owls UP CLOSE!
Make a Bird Feeder!

ACTIVITIES AT THE ENCHANTED FOREST

To find out more contact Neta Harris at:
festival@brevardnaturealliance.org

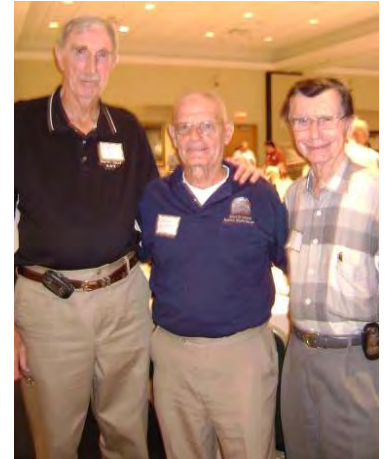
321-268-5224

or visit www.nbbd.com/fly



MIWA Annual Meeting at Debus Center

One hundred forty two MIWA Members and Refuge Staff attended the 2009 MIWA Annual Meeting at the Debus Center at the KSC Visitor Complex. The evening consisted of a full agenda of reports and presentations. MIWA President, Jim Pedersen, served as MC for the evening. Jim encouraged all to bid on 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 (Warren Camp, Dan Click, George English, Chris Fairey, Dan LeBlanc, Forrest McCartney, Jim Pedersen, and John Tribe). Charlie Venuto of United Space Alliance was nominated as a new board member. Officers nominated are:



Warren Camp, Gen. Forrest McCartney and George English enjoy the event.
Photo by Sandee Larsen



Jerry Hunt ponders, to bid or not to bid.
Photo by Sandee Larsen

Jim Pedersen	President
Dan Click	Vice President
Jim Butts	Treasurer
John Tribe	Secretary

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 will be voted in at the November MIWA Board meeting.

With business completed, the remainder of the evening consisted of a MIWA Update by Jim Pedersen, Refuge Update by Dorn Whitmore and Mike Legare, and a presentation on "Florida's Beaches" by Dr. Blair Witherington.

All enjoyed a delicious dinner complete with appetizers and dessert. **Thank you** to Dr. Witherington for a wonderful program, Bill Moore of Delaware North Company for hosting the event and to Kerry Ward for help coordinating the event. I could not have done it without you, Kerry! I also want to thank volunteers, Jo Ann Heenan and Andrea Mattew, for working the registration desk. Good work ladies! It was also great to see the Brevard Zoo at the opening of the evening with a few of their animal friends.

Total funds of \$7,250 were raised via dinner ticket sales and silent auction bids (listed on page 5& 6). Thanks to all who participated in the auction, (donating and bidding).

So, until next year...I'll see you at the Refuge!
Sandee Larsen, Bookery Manager



Jim Pedersen, Mike Legare, Jim Lyon and Laurilee Thompson share a table.
Photo by Sandee Larsen

Silent Auction Winners and Donators:

<i>Pamela Ark</i>	Autographed flag #82 Derek Hagan donated by Miami Dolphins 1 angler to a 1/2 Day Charter donated by IR& Mosquito Lagoon Fishing Charters 2 one-day Park Hopper Tickets donated by Walt Disney World 2 one-day Park Hopper Tickets donated by Walt Disney World Shell Necklace with Tiger Shell Pendant donated by Grass Shack Trading 1/2 day Fishing Trip donated by Back Country On Fly Tripod flashlight donated by Andrea Matthews Tripod flashlight donated by Andrea Matthews Kayak Trip for two donated by A Day Away Inc
<i>Bob Armbruster</i>	Custom Fly Rod donated by Delmer Southhall
<i>Kathleen Benson</i>	Festival Gift Certificate donated by Space Coast Birding & Wildlife Festival
<i>Paula Berntson</i>	Framed Print donated by Diane Walsh Artist cards donated by Diane Walsh Antique Wooded African masks donated by Dan Witmer
<i>Warren Camp</i>	1/2 day fishing trip for 4 anglers donated by Fishing Frenzy Charter Service
<i>Dr. James Clark</i>	Swarovski crystal earrings donated by Jo Ann Heenan Bird House donated by Sandy Walters
<i>Ron Corbett</i>	Jaguars mini helmet donated by Jacksonville Jaguars
<i>Joanne Dykes</i>	SS Eagle Pendant donated by Joyce Stefanic
<i>George English</i>	Custom framed Osprey Photo donated by Ken Wyant Loop bracelet garnet donated by Jo Ann Heenan Kitten Shawl donated by Andrew & Rosemary Georganna Handmade Blue/Gray Shawl donated by Andrew & Rosemary Georganna Swarovski crystal bracelet donated by Jo Ann Heenan Double weave bracelet donated by Jo Ann Heenan Fall Wreath donated by Sandy Walters
<i>Nancy English</i>	Plate donated by Carol Pedersen Plate donated by Carol Pedersen
<i>Rick English</i>	12 Person Stadium Suite donated by Kelley Wheeler
<i>Carl Exline</i>	Handmade Orange/Beige Shawl donated by Andrew & Rosemary Georganna
<i>Chris Fairey</i>	Gift card donated by Caffe Chocolat \$50 gift card donated by Walmart/Titusville #649
<i>Mel & Dot Fringer</i>	Scarf donated by Betty Camp
<i>Joann Heenan</i>	Framed Manatee hugs photo donated by Bill Nunn
<i>Barbara Hoelscher</i>	Country Folk Art Bird Tree donated by Jim & Kay Stahl Purse from Thailand donated by Patricia Arnold
<i>Elaine Horner</i>	Framed 1000 puzzle kit donated by Trudy Metzger Framed Antique Audubon Print donated by Sean, Cheri & Ian Topper
<i>Richard Kneifl</i>	Wall Hanging from Singapore donated by Mary Ann Theis
<i>Ed Larsen</i>	2 Admission tickets donated by St. Augustine Lighthouse 3 day/2 Nights in 2bd suite donated by Wakulla Suites Gift Certificate one night stay donated by Residence Inn by Marriott
<i>Sandee Larsen</i>	Scarf donated by Betty Camp



Silent Auction Winners and Donators:

<i>Sandee Larsen</i>	Handmade Blue/white Shawl donated by Andrew & Rosemary Georganna
	Jewel tone Lap Afghan donated by Marie Ramer
<i>Bill Lathrop</i>	Gator Head donated by John Tanner
<i>Andi Matthews</i>	Fruit Basket donated by Jerry & Darleen Hunt
<i>Barbara McCoy</i>	Original framed oil painting of spoonbills donated by Sandra Burke
	Bird House donated by Sandy Walters
	Bird House donated by Sandy Walters
	Bird House donated by Sandy Walters
<i>Marian McGuire</i>	Table runner from Singapore donated by Mary Ann Theis
<i>John Milani</i>	Perching Spoonbill Photograph donated by Bill Nunn
	Gift bag donated by Dixie Crossroads Restaurant
<i>Maggie Nichols</i>	Scarf donated by Betty Camp
<i>Stephanie Odom</i>	2 pass Daytona 500 Experience donated by Daytona USA
<i>Donna Ody</i>	Framed Manatee Print donated by Jim & Kay Stahl
<i>Terry Palmer</i>	Brown Bear Puppet donated by Folkmanis Puppets
	Baby Birds in Nest Puppet donated by Folkmanis Puppets
<i>Carol Pedersen</i>	2 Friendship Passes donated by Bok Tower Gardens
<i>Bill Prentis</i>	12 Homemade jellies with basket donated by Trudy Metzger
<i>Marie Ramer</i>	Fresh water pearl bracelet donated by Jo Ann Heenan
<i>Kathy Rothenburg</i>	Double strand beaded bracelet donated by Marie Ramer
	Matted print original watercolor "Manatee" donated by Mary Ann Theis
	Garnet Bracelet donated by Jo Ann Heenan
	Burrowing Owl Puppet donated by Folkmanis Puppets
	Bat House donated by Jerry & Darleen Hunt
	Children's Book donated by Susan Wooldridge
<i>Tank Sherman</i>	2007 World Series Red Sox T Shirt donated by Joanne Napieralski
<i>Linda Somers</i>	Wooden bowl donated by Lynn Watson
	Palm Tree Art donated by Palm Tree Art
<i>Delmer Southall</i>	Antique Fishing Lures donated by Warren Camp
	Gift bag donated by Dixie Crossroads Restaurant
<i>Billy Specht</i>	Framed Cardinal Print donated by Al McKinley
	Rustic Framed Waterfowl Print donated by Paula Preston
<i>Jill Spitzer</i>	Swarovski crystal earrings donated by Jo Ann Heenan
<i>Jim & Kay Stahl</i>	2 Entrance Tickets donated by Butterfly World
<i>Joyce Stephancic</i>	Framed Great Blue/Wild Turkey Aud donated by Mel & Dot Fringer
	Fairey Print donated by Kim Wendt
<i>John Tribe</i>	\$25 Rusty's Community Bucks donated by Rusty's Seafood & Oyster Bar
	4 Admission Passes donated by Brevard Zoo
<i>Natalie Walls</i>	2 Friendship Passes donated by Bok Tower Gardens
<i>Dorn Whitmore</i>	2 nights 3 days stay donated by Hawk's Cay Resort
	3 admission tickets donated by St. Augustine Lighthouse
	Admission for 4 donated by Alligator Farm Zoological Park
<i>Nick Wirwa</i>	Gift Certificate donated by Stickee Surf Shop





Adopt an Area Update

The Adopt an Area litter program is developing nicely. We have fourteen active participants, including an Adopt a Trash Can on the north side of Haulover Canal. We should have all fourteen recognition signs placed at the adopted areas by the end of January. Thanks to the efforts of volunteers, including those of other refuges, at least 160 bags of litter have been removed from the Refuge since May.

Problem areas still needing adoption include portions of the Haulover Canal area, East and West Gator Creek Roads, Pump House Loop, Live Oak Road, and portions of Bio Lab Road.

We will be actively recruiting new adopters during the winter. In March, an event will be held to recognize the efforts of our active adopters.

If you would like to volunteer, please call Nancy Corona, Public Use Ranger at 321-861-0668 for information.

Kathy Eichinger, Refuge Volunteer



CCP Updates

The Refuge Complex is in the process of completing the Lake Wales Ridge NWR Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) and is starting the St. Johns NWR CCP process. These are our final two plans of the six refuge complex!

Lake Wales Ridge NWR CCP Update: The Lake Wales Ridge NWR Draft CCP (DCCP) and associated Environmental Assessment (EA) will be made available to the public for comment soon. Once complete, the documents will be made available for a 30-day comment period and can be found on the Internet (select the "Draft CCP Documents" button at <http://www.fws.gov/southeast/planning>), then navigate to the Lake Wales Ridge NWR). Paper and CD copies will be available at the Refuge's offices in Vero Beach (call 772.562.3903 x244 or email LakeWalesRidgeCCP@fws.gov) and at Merritt Island NWR's administrative offices in Titusville (call 321-861-0667 or email MerritIsland@fws.gov). You can also sign up to be a member of the CCP's mailing list by visiting <http://www.fws.gov/lakewalesridge> and navigating to the mailing list form. For those who've already asked to be on the mailing list, you'll be receiving a card in the mail soon asking whether you'd like a copy of the draft plan and in what form. If you would like a paper or CD copy, please make sure to contact us with a request for a copy. For more information, please visit: <http://www.fws.gov/lakewalesridge>. We look forward to your comments!

St. Johns NWR CCP Update: St. Johns NWR is just starting its planning process and will be holding a public scoping meeting this winter to gather input into the development of the 15-year management plan for the Refuge. We'll announce the date and time for the meeting soon on our webpage: <http://www.fws.gov/merrittisland/subrefuges/SJ.html>. You can also call our Merritt Island NWR administrative office for meeting details at 321-861-0667, or contact Bill Miller, our Service point of contact for the CCP, at 561-715-0023. If you can't make the meeting, you can always email comments to St.JohnsCCP@fws.gov, fax us at 321-861-8913, or mail comments to St. Johns NWR CCP, c/o Bill Miller, Wildlife Biologist, P.O. Box 2683, Titusville, FL 32781. Also, if you would like to keep informed throughout the planning process, we invite you to sign up for the mailing list (you can find a form on our webpage listed above). We invite you to attend the upcoming meeting and please share your ideas and opinions with us regarding future management of the Refuge. Based on input from the partners and the public, we anticipate developing these documents out for public review and comment around March 2011. We look forward to hearing from you!

Bill Miller, Fish and Wildlife Biologist



Aerial view of the St. Johns NWR, USFWS
File Photo

MIWA Minute

The season has begun, and the sound of happy nature lovers can be heard once again throughout the Visitor's Center. Sales have been brisk, and I am looking forward to another busy retail season. Thank you to all who purchased holiday gifts from the Bookery.

I am happy to announce receiving a donation of \$538 from our good friends at **Jon's Fine Jewelry (JFJ)** in Cocoa Village. This is the fourth donation we have received via JFJ's jewelry repair/battery replacement program. Each month, a lucky group is the recipient of funds from repairs and watch battery replacement. Thank you JFJ for supporting your community and including us in your program. I encourage MIWA Members to stop in at JFJ when shopping for trinkets as gifts or to repair a sentimental piece you own.

I also want to announce receiving donations via the Drew 40th Anniversary Celebration. **Drs. Edward & Pamela Drew** have been supporters of the refuge for years, donating a VIC boardwalk bench and joining as Life Members. This year, they held a celebration of their love and, in lieu of gifts, asked friends and family to donate to MIWA. \$575 in donations has been sent in thus far. Thank you Drs. Drew! Your generosity is appreciated. What a great way to support the Refuge.

For information on retail items or ways to donate to MIWA call the office at 321-861-2377. I'll see you at the Refuge!

Sandee Larsen, Bookery Manager



Drs. Edward & Pamela Drew
Photo by Maria Zavala

"Images From The Refuge" 7th Annual Exhibit Featured in Visitor Center

The cozy Refuge Visitor Center auditorium was filled with 80 art enthusiasts and Brevard Watercolor Society (BWS) members for the award presentations in the 7th annual exhibition of "Images From The Refuge." A reception, which was open to MIWA members, was held on Sunday afternoon, Nov. 8th.

MIWA provided wine poured by JoAnn Heenan and Betty Salter, and delicious hors d'oeuvres purchased and plated by Sandee Larsen, while Laura Covel-Clark entertained guests with her enchanting flute music on the deck overlooking the pond. Darleen Hunt and Therese Ferguson gave welcome remarks and introductions. Sandee Larsen expressed appreciation from the Bookery, Dorn Whitmore presented the



Refuge Award Winner "Gator" by
Beth Anne Fairchild



Best of Show Winner "Snowy Egret"
by Jeannette Drake

Refuge Award, and Linda Neal, President of BWS, also presented awards. Award winners of the juried exhibition are: Best of show "Snowy Egret" by Jeannette Drake, the Refuge Award "Gator" by Beth-Anne Fairchild, Best of Babes in the Wild "Proud Mother" by Witha Lacuesta, Best of Fauna "Here's Looking at You" by Lori Jenkins, Best of Flora "Umbrella Skies" by Lolly Walton, 2nd Place "Still Wading" by Cindy McKee, 3rd Place "Cactus Flower" by Barbara Burkhardt, and Merit Awards "Come on in, The Water's Fine" by Therese Ferguson, "Roseate Spoonbill" by Anita Chandler, "Morning Mist" by Cynthia Perry, and "Daisy Stop" by Adele Park. As of this writing one original painting and 3 prints have been sold. Artists donate a portion of the proceeds to MIWA. You are cordially invited to view this exceptional art exhibition with subjects inspired by the MINWR from now through January 29th.

Darleen Hunt, MIWA Board Member



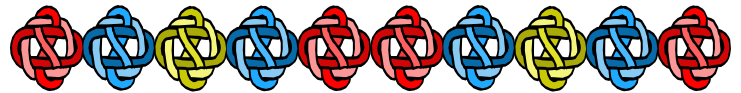
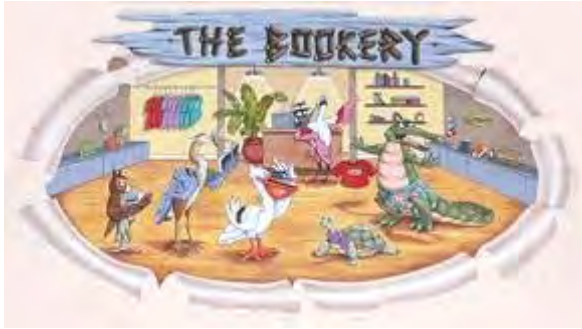
Hello to...

Sheri Girard of Titusville, will be working as a part-time Sales Associate in the Bookery. She brings with her great computer skills and will be going for her teaching certificate.

Christine Box of Port St. John, will also work part-time in the Bookery as Sales Associate. Christine brings experience in retail and customer service and has an interest in Refuge wildlife.

Gregg Bailey has returned from Silver Lake, NH and is back to work in the Public Use Department through April, 2010. Welcome back, Gregg.

New Items in



Gifts in remembrance were donated by:

Elizabeth Peloquin
In memory of Joseph Parkinson.

Many Friends and Family
In memory of Wayne Preston.

Sculptor Charter School
Elizabeth M. Nething
In memory of James Jeffords

Donations in remembrance of loved ones and friends can be sent to:
MIWA, P.O. Box 2683, Titusville, FL 32781



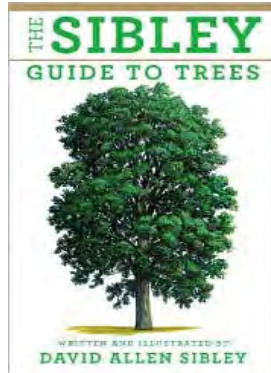
The Sibley Guide to Trees

By David Allen Sibley

Published by Random House... \$39.95

The preeminent bird-guide author and illustrator now applies his formidable skills of identification & illustration to the trees of North America.

Features include leaves (multiple leaf shapes and fall leaf color), bark, needles, cones, flowers, fruit, twigs and silhouettes.

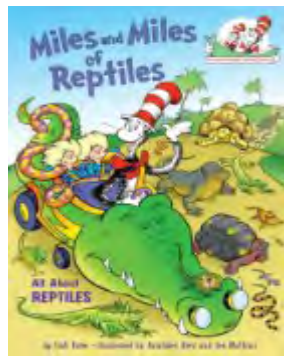


Miles and Miles of Reptiles

By Tish Ribe

Published by Random House... \$8.99

The Cat in the Hat travels the globe—in his trusty crocodile car—to explore the world of reptiles: lizards, snakes, turtles, and crocodilians. Cool creatures include komodo dragons, chameleons, geckos, cobras, leatherback turtles, frilled lizards. Young readers will slither in delight!



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

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**

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 2683, Titusville, FL 32781

or join online at

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

Bald Eagle Presentation and Nest Tour

Sunday, January 10th, 2010

Meet Tom Mertins at the Refuge VIC at 1:00 P.M. for a power point presentation followed by a drive to view the active bald eagles on a nest through spotting scopes. Space is limited to 9 members. See registration info below.

Shilo Marsh Road Tour

Sunday, January 24th, 2010

Meet Tom Mertins at the Refuge VIC at 1:00 P.M. for a tour of a seldom accessible area of the refuge. Space is limited to 9 members. See registration info below.

Florida Scrub-jay Presentation & Tour

Sunday, February 7th, 2010

Meet Tom Mertins at the Refuge VIC at 1:00 P.M. for a 25-minute presentation on Florida's Scrub-jays. The program will be followed by a hike on the Scrub Ridge Trail to observe these unique birds in their natural habitat. Members will caravan via personal vehicle to the trail. Be prepared to hike one mile. Hat, sunscreen, binoculars (loaners are also available), water and comfortable walking shoes are suggested. See registration info below.

Bird/Wildlife Tour

Sunday, February 21st, 2010

Meet Tom Mertins at the Refuge VIC at 1:00 P.M. for an educational tour on Peacocks Pocket Rd and Gator Creek Rd. Space is limited to 9 members. See registration info below.

L-Pond Tour

Sunday, March 7th, 2010

Meet Tom Mertins at the Refuge VIC at 1:00 P.M. for a walking hike (1/2 – 1 mile) on L-Pond Dr. Hat, sunscreen, binoculars (loaners are also available), water and comfortable walking shoes are suggested. See registration info below.

Osprey Power Point Presentation

Sunday, March 21st, 2010

Meet Tom Mertins at the Refuge VIC at 1:00 P.M. for this education presentation on the Osprey. See registration info below.



For reservations, call Tom Mertins at 321-861-5601



Merritt Island Wildlife Association

P.O. Box 2683

Titusville, FL 32781

www.MerrittIslandWildlifeAssociation.org

