



# Habi-Chat

Newsletter of the Merritt Island Wildlife Association

Volume 16 Number 2

Summer 2010



## Refuge Biologist Corner

At the time this article is being written, the staff of Merritt Island NWR is actively involved in the wildlife response for the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill event in the Gulf of Mexico. I thought I would take this opportunity to fill MIWA members in on the wildlife response to date.

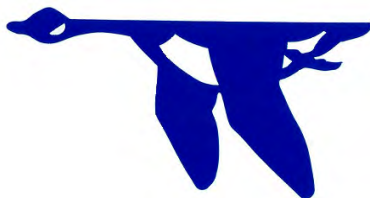
The wildlife and environmental impact response is coordinated under the National Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) process. NRDA teams are currently developing and implementing monitoring programs across the entire potential spill impact zone, from east Texas through the entire coast of Florida. These NRDA teams are divided into wildlife species guilds, i.e. colonial birds, marsh birds, beach/shorebirds, marine mammals and sea turtles. Each team is developing the monitoring protocol that will measure and assess the impact of this spill event to their guild. The ultimate goal of the process is to restore the impacted areas and effected species to their pre-impact condition. The process is divided into pre-assessment, impact assessment and damage assessment time periods. Essentially we need to document the condition of the habitats and the population size of species pre-impact, assess the impact on the habitat and wildlife, then restore the habitat and wildlife to pre-impact levels.

How does this effort impact Merritt Island NWR? Because this effort and the scope of this spill are so large, the US Fish and Wildlife is calling in all available personnel. At the time this was written, 12 of our staff have been deployed to the Gulf area for duty ranging from 4 days to 4 weeks. Our staff has participated in the damage assessment plan development, pre-assessment fieldwork, and helicopter support operations.

Could the spill impact the wildlife of Merritt Island? Yes. If oil washes ashore at Merritt Island it could seriously impact several species of concern: our sea turtles and beach birds. Merritt Island NWR is a globally important place for Loggerhead Sea Turtle nesting. Only two beaches in the world have a higher density of nesting loggerheads (Ras al Hadd in Oman, and our own Archie Carr NWR). Wilson's Plovers nest on a small portion of our beach, and would certainly be impacted by any oil washing ashore. What are we doing to prepare, in case oil comes on Merritt Island beaches? NASA, the Refuge, and Canaveral National Seashore have partnered in a response plan that focuses efforts on protecting the sea turtles and nesting birds of Merritt Island NWR. The latest information on the spill response can be found at <http://www.fws.gov/home/dhoilspill/>.

Some good news regarding much needed help: The refuge welcomes 4 new biological interns that are conducting exotic plant control on the Refuge, helping with sea turtle monitoring, as well as assisting with other biology and management duties. Jessica Sosnicki from Virginia, Gisselle Domiguez from Florida, Amanda Hoffmeyer from Michigan, and Johanna Espenschied from Titusville will be here throughout the summer. Please say "hello" if you get the chance.

*Mike Legare, MINWR Biologist*



Mike Legare, Jessica Sosnicki, Gisselle Domiguez, Johanna Espenschied, and Sammy Clark in the salt marsh conducting pre-oil sampling at Lower Suwannee NWR in Cedar Key, Florida.

## President's Message

Hello. As promised in our last Habi-Chat, I informed you that I would give you a brief synopsis of the SE Regional Conference hosted by the Friends of Chassahowitzka NWR and co-sponsored by the USFWS from April 9-11 in Crystal River Florida. And what wonderful hosts they were. The accommodations, meals and field trips were outstanding.

Saturday was a very busy day. There were several informative and inspiring sessions that I attended. Two of the four had a definite impact. The first was called Citizen Scientist Programs which provided avenues for ordinary people to monitor environmental landmarks and send the data to universities and governmental agencies. Another session was called Connecting Youth to the Great Outdoors. As many of you know, a large percentage of our children suffer from NDD (Nature Deficit Disorder) because of their computer game-filled life. This session provided strategies for the "return to the outdoors" that even included the use of computers to collect environmental data that could also be sent to important agencies for study. Check out Budburst.com and get your children/grandchildren involved. If you have any questions concerning this wonderful event please email to [jpedersn5@cfl.rr.com](mailto:jpedersn5@cfl.rr.com).

Another important item from this conference that I had not realized was the importance of the Federal Duck Stamp Program. I know this is required by waterfowl hunters in all states. However, did you know that for each dollar collected through this program, 98 cents goes to the purchase of conservation lands? The cost per stamp is \$15 and I encourage each of you to buy one in the fall.



I thank you for all you do for our association and I will see you in the next Habi-Chat.

*Jim Pedersen, MIWA President*



*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>Vice President</b>	Dan Click
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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**.

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

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

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## Volunteer Recognition at Sea World



Refuge Volunteers at Sea World

Annually, the Refuge hosts a spring volunteer recognition and this year's event was hosted by Sea World, Orlando. Sea World staff rolled out the red carpet for our volunteers who participated in a behind the scenes tour of their wildlife rehabilitation facilities, attended at a spectacular sea life show and enjoyed a delicious lunch in a private pavilion nestled in a garden setting. Volunteers observed and learned about the rehabilitation work that goes on in the manatee, sea turtle and bird rescue facilities. The volunteers were honored at the luncheon with an award ceremony. Once again, our volunteers went above and beyond and annually volunteered more than 12,000 hours. Jo Ann Heenan was announced Volunteer of the Year 2010! Thank you MIWA for sponsoring the luncheon and award ceremony. Thank you to our outstanding Refuge Volunteers for their dedication and hard work! We couldn't do it without you! The Refuge acknowledges and thanks

the following volunteers for reaching the mile stone volunteer hour awards:

**100 Hours:** Deborah Ferraro, Joseph Ferraro, Ron Henderson, Dale Nichols

**250 Hours:** Kathie Benson

**500 Hours:** Curt Arnold, Patricia Thomas-Arnold, Al McKinley

**750 Hours:** Donn Bruse

**1000 Hours:** Daryl Foreman, Connie Foreman, Jo Ann Heenan, Jim Pedersen, Kay Stahl

**1250 Hours:** Al Brayton, Kathy Eichinger

**1500 Hours:** John Boucher, Margaret Towe, Susan Waldron

**1750 Hours:** Barbara Schoen, Sandy Walters

**2250 Hours:** Dan Witmer

**2500 Hours:** Bill Nunn

**2750 Hours:** Jim Stahl, George Schoen

**3250 Hours:** Carol Powell

**3500 Hours:** Betty Salter

**4250 Hours:** Bill Powell

**4500 Hours:** Cary Salter

**Volunteer of the Year: Jo Ann Heenan**



Volunteer of the Year, Jo Ann Heenan  
Photo by Public Use Ranger, Nancy Corona

## Volunteer of The Year – Jo Ann Heenan Earns 1,000 Hours

Jo Ann became Volunteer of the Year 2010 for her enthusiasm and dedication to the Refuge resources and its visitors. She staffs the volunteer desk, assists with environmental education programs and manatee and eagle watch programs, staffs off site events, conducts clerical work and even adopted Bio Lab Boat Ramp through the Refuge's Adopt an Area program. Jo Ann Loves kids and can't wait to stamp their hands with washable wildlife stamps and give them free wildlife activity booklets at the visitor center. Jo Ann is hard-working and her enthusiasm is contagious!

Thank you Jo Ann for all that you do for the Refuge.

*Nancy Corona, Public Use Ranger*

## Refuge Photo Club



We are excited to announce the creation of the Merritt Island Wildlife Refuge Photography Club. Three successful meetings on framing photos, copyrighting photos, using Photoshop, and professional photographers critiquing attendees' photos were presented. The club meets on the 4th Thursday of every month at 6 pm at the Refuge Visitor Center. All ages and skill levels are welcome to attend. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 24 at 6 pm. Please join us!

For more information or to be added to the Club's mailing list please contact Volunteer Lucy Pruss at 321-508-6742 or [Lucinda.Pruss@gmail.com](mailto:Lucinda.Pruss@gmail.com) or Refuge Ranger Nancy Corona at 321-861-0668 or [Nancy\\_Corona@fws.gov](mailto:Nancy_Corona@fws.gov). Contests, field trips, product demonstrations, and more upcoming!

*Lucy Pruss, Refuge Volunteer*





## MIWA Minute

The dog days of summer have begun here at the Refuge. The migratory birds (& snowbirds) have left and many species of bugs have multiplied! With our economy still struggling, a visit to the Refuge for many families is an economical, educational & fun way to spend some quality (or is it quantity?) time with the kids. Despite the heat, the Refuge is still the best show in town. Entry to the Refuge is still free, so pack some water and lunch, apply some bug repellent and sunscreen, and bring the kids by the Visitor Center & Manatee Observation deck.

At the center, you can cool off inside, while the kids look over our exhibits or watch our orientation video. It's a great time to do some shopping at our nature store, the Bookery. We have plenty of children's items to choose from. Be sure to ask Ranger Nancy for a chance to visit Buddy, our resident snake. Please note: the center is closed on Sundays.

The Manatee Observation deck has been upgraded, with a longer deck to accommodate visitors. The kids will enjoy watching for these slow moving, gentle creatures. You may even get to view dolphins swimming in the waterway! It's a great way to spend the day and get the kids off the computer!

I am happy to announce our newest Life Member, **Jim Pedersen** of Mims, Florida. Jim is currently our MIWA President and has been a volunteer on the refuge for many years. Thank you to all our Life & Patron Members listed below:

Arlova Allen	George English	Fran Louwerse	Cynthia Schneider
Halifax River Audubon Society	Richard English	Marian Lunsford	Judge & Mrs. Joseph Schneider
Space Coast Audubon Society	Jim Escoffier	Barry Maness	Robert Sieck
David Bame	Valerie Fadok	Phyllis & Howard Mansfield	Jerome & Kerry Skelly
Tommie Barron	Mrs. Emmett B. Ferguson, MD	Captain Fredrick Mastin	Sid & Carol Smith
Sam Beddingfield	Dennis & Kathleen Gasick	Forrest & Ruth McCartney	Lee & Shirley Solid
Mary Beyrer	Kathy Gay	Marian Meguiar	Tiffany Stamas
Homer & Pat Bodiford	Andrew & Rosemary Georganna	Bob Merrilees	Ned Steel
John & Linda Boucher	Robert Green	John Milani	Frank & Liz Steele
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H.P. Bruckner	Barbara Hoelscher	Jo Lynn Nelson	Joyce & Bill Stefancic
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James L Butts	Jay Honeycutt	Hugh & Mary Nicolay	Laurilee Thompson (Patron)
Warren & Betty Camp	Darleen & Jerry Hunt	Lewis Oliver	John Tribe
Paul & Leah Casper	Barbara Hutchinson	Gerry & Arline Oppliger	Gerald & Vatsna Wallace
Dan Click	Thomas Ingersoll	Kerry Palermo	Bill & Natalie Walls
B.E. Cushing	Carl Jones II	Jim Pedersen	Jean & Ron Weed
Howard and Kiki Davidow	Bill & Ann Kellermeyer	James & Elza Phillips	Malcom & Amy Whitelaw
Neil Doby	Kam & Judy Kersey	Charles Platt 3rd	Nan Wilson
Margaret Dolan	Charles Keyes	Dr. Bill Rylander	Maureen & Wayne Wright
Judy & Jim Dryja	Darlene Koenig	Cary & Betty Salter	Jarrett Wyant
Cheri Ehrhardt-Topper	Daniel LeBlanc	James Salyerds	Thomas Wyrobek
Karl & Betty Eichhorn	Judith Lindquist	Joseph Sanders	
Lori & Steve Emly	Richard & Carol Loehr	Charles Schneider	

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. Please come in out of the heat and browse the Bookery for gifts and field guides.

I'll see you at the Refuge!  
*Sandee Larsen, Bookery Manager*



## 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.

## Adopt an Area



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**Orlando Kayak Fishing Club**  
**Pruss Law Firm**  
**Sculptor Charter School**  
**Space Coast Audubon Society**  
**Steve "AB" Allen**  
**Tom Quinn and Rosalie Wolf**  
**United Waterfowlers of Florida**

## Adopt an Area Update

The Adopt an Area litter program is developing nicely. We have eighteen active groups, including an Adopt a Trash Can site on the north side of Haulover Canal.

Recognition signs have been placed at the adopted areas. Since May of 2009, at least 420 bags of litter have been removed from the Refuge. Two bags of monofilament, tires, waste oil, boat parts, and other debris have also been removed.

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

On April 24<sup>th</sup> MIWA held a hot dog roast at Sandler Outpost to recognize the efforts of our active adopters. Please call Nancy Corona, Public Use Ranger at 321-861-0668 for information.

*Kathy Eichinger, Refuge Volunteer*



Adopt an Area Volunteers  
Photo by Richard Eichinger



## BP Oil Spill Not the Only Danger

I am going to break from my normal fishing article, to write an article that tears deeply at my heart. By now, everyone is aware of the critical danger facing various ecosystems due to the BP oil rig explosion and consequent oil spill. You cannot turn a news station on without hearing some expert talking about the perils that we will be facing for a long time. Then, the story is followed up by how upset people are about the spill; and rightly so. But, this leads me to another question for all of these upset people. When was the last time you looked around locally at the issues facing our own wildlife refuge, local waterways and lakes? Take a trip down any of the roadways and you will easily spot loads of empty cans, plastic grocery bags, paper cups, and every other sort of garbage imaginable. Go down a couple of the Merritt Island Wildlife Refuge roads and you will see far worse: old fishing line, packages from chicken (used as crab bait), too many types of bottles and cans to mention, and we have even found furniture that people just went out and dumped. When I see this, I get angry and at the same time I feel a pain in my heart.

What are the people thinking that dump this stuff? The answer, they aren't thinking. Maybe they do not realize how many birds; marine mammals and fish are killed from this type of debris. Or maybe, even a worse thought, they are too lazy or just don't care. Either way, it is up to the rest of us to educate these people. Next time you see someone litter, remind him or her of the harm it does and of the fine that they can receive if they are caught littering. Also, report violators to the park service. The wildlife refuge is "our" property and no one has the right to abuse it.

What else can you do? Well, how about organizing a trash pick-up day. The refuge would welcome any group that is willing to donate a little time. We have done these very successfully. When you're out there, take a little time and an extra trash bag and pick up the spot you are enjoying. Will it make a difference? Well, let me tell you about a positive that I saw just yesterday.

After my son and I completed our grocery shopping, we were headed back to the car. A plastic bag was blowing across the parking lot and my son began chasing it. Finally, he caught it and crumbled it up in his hand. I asked what he was doing and he responded, "Like you dad, I don't want to see this get somewhere and hurt an animal." I smiled to myself and thought of all of the times he has seen me or my wife go out of our way to grab a bag in the water or along a shoreline. So, yes, it can make a difference.

*Captain John Tarr, MIWA Board Member*

## MIWA Members Donate by Visiting Costa Rica

On April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010 fourteen MIWA Members selflessly departed Orlando Airport for the first ever "MIWA Costa Rica Fundraising Eco-Tour". Arranged by Holbrook Tours this 10 day adventure was filled with visits to bio-parks, boat tours, a Pacific Ocean beach day, a volcano site, rain forests, cloud forests, a pineapple plantation tour, horse back trail ride, virgin forest hike, and numerous birding/wildlife hikes. The trip ranged from the tropical lowlands in southeastern Costa Rica to Pacific Coastal Reserves and Talamanca Mountain highlands, ending in the Central Valley.

The wildlife was plentiful and the flora & fauna was fantastic. Species of interest include: **Birds:** Clay Robin, Grey Necked Wood Rail, Yellow-Headed Caracara, Grayish Salator, Great Kiskadee, Northern Jacana, Melodious Blackbird, Black Capped Pygmy Tyrant, Great Tinamou, Montezuma Oropendola, Mealy Parrot, Keel-Billed Toucan, Violaceous Trogon, Sun Bittern, Ant Tanager, Green Honey



MIWA Group at the INBio Parque in Costa Rica  
Photo by Sandee Larsen



A White-faced Capuchin.  
Photo by Warren Camp

Creeper, Squirrel Cuckoo, Crested Guan, Cinnamon Becard, Black Cheeked Woodpecker, Masked Tityra, Dusky Capped Flycatcher, Great Curassow, Shining Honeycreeper, Turquoise Brownded Motmot, Social Flycatcher (eats Bees), Scarlet Macaws (in Nest), Rufus Tailed Jacamar, Tiger Heron, Double Toothed Kite, Resplendent Quetzal (male & female), Black Faced Solitaire, White Collared Swift, Magnificent Hummingbird, Violet Headed Hummingbird, White Throated Mountain Gem, Volcano Hummingbird, Tropical Kingbird, N. Rough Winged Swallow, Parakeets, Double Striped Thick Knee, Southern Lapwing, Boat Billed Heron, Mangrove Black Hawk, Green Kingfisher, and the Great Winged Blackbird. **Insects:** Forest Floor Millipede, X Spider (on Web), Leaf Cutter Ants, and the Horned Beetle. **Reptiles/Amphibians:** Red-eyed Tree Frog, Spiny Tailed Iguanas, Bird Eating Snake, Crocodiles, Black Iguanas, Jesus Christ Lizards, Red Poison Dart Frog, and the Green & Black Poison Dart Frog. **Mammals:** Agouti, Black Tailed Squirrel, White Nosed Coatimundis, Three Toed Sloth, Peccary (hog), Silky Anteater (Rear only!), Two Toed Sloth, Sack Winged Bats, White-faced Capuchin and Howler Monkeys. **Plants:** (too

numerous, here's two fun ones) Hot Lips, and Horse Balls Tree.

Each day was action packed, always ending with a delicious meal and fantastic grounds at every eco-lodge. \$3,500 was raised via the tour. MIWA hopes to book another trip next year, please contact our office at 321-861-2377 if you would like to attend.

The Refuge will host a Costa Rica Tour Art Exhibition in the Visitor Center Auditorium during the month of August. Please come in and enjoy this mixed media art event and experience the beauty of Costa Rica.

*Pura Vida!!*

*Sandee Larsen, MIWA Bookery Manager*



### *Hello to...*

...Allison Jevitt from Merritt Island, Florida will be interning in the Public Use Department through early August. She is enrolled at Florida State University majoring in Biological Science. Upon graduation, Allison would like to work in the Marine Biology field.

... Jessica Sosnicki from Radford, Virginia

... Gisselle Domiguez from Lehigh High Acres, Florida

... Amanda Hoffmeyer from Michigan

... and Johanna Espenschied from Titusville, Florida are all interning with the Biology Department assisting miscellaneous biological duties. Welcome interns – you are a valuable resource to our refuge!!



## Art for Wildlife

This past January the Downtown Gallery hosted an amazing event to help raise money for the Merritt Island Wildlife Refuge. Artist Diane DeShong Cannon gave a watercolor demonstration of how she creates her trademark palm trees which were raffled off in a hurry.

All the artists there have a special appreciation for the Refuge & show it in their artwork. For example, jewelry artist Barbara Evans creates beautiful sea turtle necklaces and Dale Nichols, photographer & refuge volunteer, spends his spare time taking spectacular photos of the refuge area. Yvette Whitmore is an amazing acrylic & pastel artist who also does murals.

"We're proud to say we raised \$350 this year for the Refuge! We can't wait to do it again next year & hope we can raise more." said, owner Heidi Thamert.

The Downtown Gallery has a wide range of art styles & sizes, from jewelry & sculptures to photography & acrylics. And sizes from small artistic pieces to large wall sizes ready to hang over your sofa. It's worth a trip to downtown Titusville to see this amazing shop.

Gallery hours are Monday through Friday 10:00am to 5:00pm & Saturday 11:00am to 3:00pm. Call 321-268-0122 for more information.

*Heidi Thamert, Downtown Gallery Owner*



Left to right is Artist Diane DeShong Cannon, Gallery Owner Heidi Thamert and Dorn Whitmore MINWR Supervisory Ranger



## BP Oil Disaster Update

Currently, the forecasted trajectory for the Deepwater BP oil slick indicates that five national wildlife refuges are in immediate threat of incursion by the slick. The five refuges are Delta, Breton, Bayou Sauvage, Mississippi Sandhill Crane, and Grand Bay. These refuges are along the coast of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama.

At least twenty-two coastal refuges in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida could be impacted over the coming days as the spill spreads. If the oil reaches the "Gulf Loop" the potential is another 40 national wildlife refuges along the Atlantic Coast and Texas. This is a critical nesting time for wildlife. National wildlife refuges along the Gulf provide habitat for wading birds such as egrets and herons as well as shorebirds, gull and tern species that live and nest in large colonies on the beach.

Based upon your comments National Wildlife Refuge Association has updated our webpage dedicated to keeping you informed of the impacts the Deepwater BP oil slick on National Wildlife Refuges to include the latest news, a donation page, what you can do - including a volunteer registration form, and a media link. The site includes:

- Donations from this page will support non-profit Refuge Friends groups along the Gulf Coast. Friends are vital to the success of our wildlife refuges - particularly during this crisis.
- A monumental long-term volunteer effort is being organized in partnership with federal agencies and other wildlife conservation non-profit organizations to respond to this crisis. If you are interested in volunteer opportunities please register at our site. We will keep you informed of volunteer opportunities as they arise.
- If you are in the area of the slick, alert authorities if you have found injured or oiled wildlife. Please call the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service hotline at 866-557-1401. Document injured and oiled wildlife with photographs.
- Remember, please do not handle oiled or injured wildlife unless you have received training and/or are under the supervision of trained professional wildlife rehabilitators - you might inadvertently injure the wildlife further and endanger yourself by unprotected contact with toxic chemicals.

The site address is <http://www.refugeassociation.org/new-issues/delta.html>.

We will update this website on a regular basis so please bookmark the site to get the latest news and needs.

*Joan Patterson, Director of Grassroots Outreach National Wildlife Refuge Association*

## Harvey Hill, Miracle Man

Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge's (MINWR) Miracle Man, Harvey Hill, passed away on February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010, at his home in Lumber City, Georgia, after a valiant fight with cancer. Harvey was born on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1942, in Lake City, Florida, and grew up near Sebring. After working for the Florida Game and Freshwater Fish Commission and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, doing a stint in the U.S. Air Force, and earning a degree in Wildlife Ecology from the University of Florida, Harvey became the biologist at MINWR serving from 1992 until 1996.

Harvey was an old-school naturalist and conservationist who combined education with his innate ability to understand wildlife and their habitats. He earned his nickname, Miracle Man, through his work to restore and manage MINWR's impounded salt marshes. In a cooperative effort with the St. Johns River Water Management District, he orchestrated the restoration of 5,000 acres of marsh, including installation of 183 culverts that greatly improved impoundment management capabilities. In another cooperative venture, this time with Brevard County, Harvey won a \$1.5 million grant from the North American Wetland Conservation Council to purchase 2,100 acres of marsh on the north end of the Indian River. This wetland eventually became part of MINWR. A few of Harvey's other accomplishments were writing a comprehensive plan to address invasive cattail encroachment in impoundments, initiating wading bird nest and roost surveys, and helping establish a soft-release site in the Banana River for rehabilitated, orphaned, and captive-born manatees. Harvey was equally at home in MINWR's upland habitats as he was in the wetlands, and he was instrumental in establishing scrub restoration agreements between NASA and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Endangered Species Office. These agreements were the basis for scrub-jay habitat restoration efforts that continue today.

Besides being an excellent biologist, Harvey was also a wonderful person. Scott Taylor, Harvey's counterpart with Brevard Mosquito Control in those days, described him this way: "Harvey was a study in contrasts, horsing around with the field crew one minute, negotiating complex political landscapes with upper management the next, and then fretting about the stock market at the end of the day." Mike Legare, MINWR's current biologist, remembers Harvey as being an enthusiastic, kind mentor when Mike was working at the Refuge as a graduate student. Harvey's southern charm and uncompromising honesty blessed him with friends wherever he went. He gave each situation his full attention and made every person feel special.

Harvey left behind his best friend and wife of 30 years, Betty, one daughter, three sons, six grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, and countless others who adored him. He was incomparable and his passing created a void that cannot be filled. However, Harvey's legacy, the beautiful habitats and wildlife of MINWR that he so passionately protected and managed, is available for us and future generations to enjoy.

*by Becky Bolt of Dynamac with contributions from Refuge Supervisory Ranger Dorn Whitmore, Scott Taylor Biologist at the Brevard County Environmental Endangered Lands and Refuge Biologist Mike Legare*



Ibis in marsh.  
Photo by Joel Reynolds

## Let Your Voice Be Heard on America's Great Outdoors

President Obama has launched a national dialogue about conservation in America following the April 16 White House Conference on America's Great Outdoors. Americans are now being encouraged to share their ideas about community-level conservation. You can share your stories about the places where you caught your first fish, camped for the first time, etc. There are the places where families spend time together, where children play, and where we each forge lifetime memories. Add your comments about national wildlife refuges at: [www.doi.gov/americasgreatoutdoors/Feedback.cfm](http://www.doi.gov/americasgreatoutdoors/Feedback.cfm).

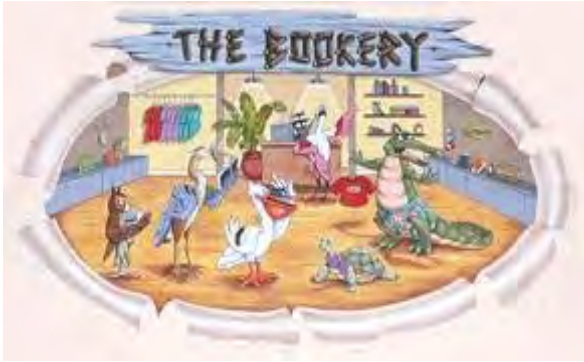
Another site -- <http://ideas.usda.gov/ago/ideas.nsf/> -- is called the "idea jam," where people can give their viewpoints. Web visitors are encouraged to vote for ideas they like on the issues:

- **Reconnecting with the Great Outdoors:** Where you can give your ideas for helping Americans get outside and reconnect with the nation's land, water, history, culture, and wildlife.
- **Public Lands Conservation:** Which open spaces, watersheds, historic or cultural sites, wildlife habitat or other public lands are most important to you, and what can be done at the local, state or federal level to improve their management?
- **Private Lands Conservation:** How can the U.S. better support the voluntary efforts of farmers, ranchers and private landowners?

At the conclusion of the April 16 White House Conference on America's Great Outdoors, President Obama signed a memorandum launching America's Great Outdoors Initiative. As a follow up to the conference, members of the administration, including Interior Secretary Ken Salazar, will host regional sessions in coming months with groups and individuals across the country to discuss ideas that will form a 21<sup>st</sup> century conservation agenda.



## New Items in



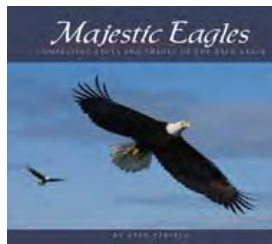
Habi-Chat has email! If you would like to be on our mailing list to receive MIWA announcements, please add us to your safe senders list and send a request to [HabiChat@MerrittIslandWildlifeAssociation.org](mailto:HabiChat@MerrittIslandWildlifeAssociation.org)



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

### **Majestic Eagles**

By Stan Tekiela.....\$14.95  
Take a closer look at the most powerful birds of the sky with *Majestic Eagles*—a picture guide complete with detailed accounts of eagles’ lives, behaviors and habitats. Award-winning nature photographer Stan Tekiela has captured the essence of what makes the eagle a perfect choice as our national symbol.



### **Intriguing Owls**

By Stan Tekiela.....\$14.95  
Stan Tekiela has created a one-of-a-kind collection of photographs and facts depicting the lives of owls, from habitat and diet to mating and nesting. The headings and small text blocks complement Stan’s stunning photography for pleasurable, easy browsing.



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



### **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
- Patron – \$1000
- Optional – Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

### **Visitor Information Center Hours**

Monday through Friday  
8:00 am – 4:30 pm  
Saturday and Sunday\*  
9:00 am – 5:00 pm

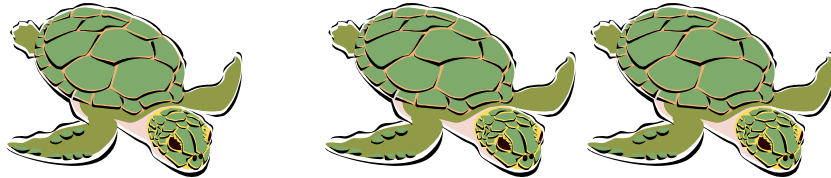
\*VIC is closed Sundays from April – October  
The Refuge is open daily from sunrise – sunset, except during Shuttle Launch/Landing operations.

# MIWA Members-Only Sea Turtle Walk

Saturdays: *June 26<sup>th</sup> and July 17<sup>th</sup>*

7:30 p.m.

**MINWR Visitor Center &  
Canaveral National Seashore**



Meet a Refuge Ranger at the MINWR Visitor Center for a short informational program followed by a trip via personal vehicle to the Canaveral National Seashore in search of a nesting sea turtle. Program typically lasts three to four hours. Long sleeve shirt, bug spray and comfortable walking shoes are recommended.

Cameras and flashlights are not permitted.

RSVP, as limited space is available.

Please call 321-861-2377 to reserve your space now.

Programs are subject to inclement weather, shuttle launch/landing, NASA security closures and cannot be rescheduled.

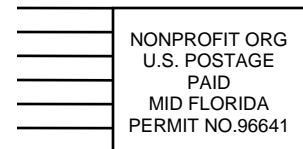


Merritt Island Wildlife Association

P.O. Box 2683

Titusville, FL 32781

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Please check the expiration date on the address label and, if expired, renew your membership today!

