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CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

CAS monthly meetings are held the First Thursday of each month at 6:30 PM at OWC Niceville Learning Resources Center (LRC), Room 128. Non members are welcome.

December 1, 2007:

"Christmas Party" A social gathering to celebrate the holiday season and local birding expert and CAS Bird Count Coordinator, Don Ware will show slides of birds that we may expect to see during the Christmas Bird Count. Location: Caffe' Italia restaurant, Time: 6:00pm. Visit our [website](#) to RSVP

December 17, 2007:

Christmas Bird Count

Contact Don Ware to volunteer

862- 6582

donware@embarqmail.com

January 3, 2008: "Birds of the Philippines" Don and Carole Ware made a trip to the Philippines where they saw many exotic and beautiful birds. Don will share a professionally produced DVD and tell us of their encounters.

January 12, 2008: Bird Walk Blue water Bay/ Lake Pippin area. Meet at 7:30 AM Winn Dixie.

February 2008: CAS annual retreat, Eufaula NWR Alabama, watch CAS website for details.

I'M DREAMING OF A GREEN CHRISTMAS

BY: THERESA DENNIS



Happy Holidays everyone! Its that time of year when we get to look forward to plans of fun and festivities of all flavors. As we begin to write our shopping lists I would like to offer up some sug-



gestions on how to keep your Holidays a little more Earth friendly. We are living in a time period where people are just realizing the importance of thinking the way we have been for years. This is a wonderful thing because it is driving down the price of specialty items and increasing the availability of many eco-minded gifts. We all know that in this era of consumerism there is way too much stuff in everyone's lives. [Care2.com](#) has suggested many ideas of consumer less gifts on their website. These are wonderful things to consider as they save resources, can be an act of good will to other creatures, as well as the recipient and are often more personal. Here are a few of my favorites but please check out the full list for your self: put together a photo album, make a video of people that the recipient loves, give an experience like a kayak trip or dolphin watching, a gift certificate to a used book store (this is a double bonus because it recycles too!). If you are like me and you really enjoy shopping take heart, there are tangibles to buy with a green conscience just about everywhere if you know how to look. For instance, Wal-Mart has a line of clothing and linens that are made of bamboo, a fast growing plant that needs no fertilizers or pesticides. The cloth is very soft like rayon which is made from trees. Don't forget what we all enjoy in our backyards, our bird feeders! These are available just about everywhere in all shapes and sizes, you could include a gift certificate to become Backyard Habitat Certified by the National Wildlife Federation. If you prefer to shop online in your jammies check out [Amazon.com](#) they have a great selection of organic goodies in the grocery section. If you can't find everything that you need there, just blackle whatever it is you are looking for. [Blackle.com](#) is a search engine powered by Google custom search. It saves energy by having a black background. It is just another small step in saving our Mother Earth. Last but not least remember to support our businesses that have always been a bit greenerCont on page 3



Parkel Memorial Dedication

By: Bob Penhollow

On November 3, the Charlie Parkel Memorial Kiosk was dedicated. The kiosk was sponsored in part by our local Audubon Society. It is located in Rocky Bayou State Park off of Hwy 20 in the Niceville/Bluewater Bay area. The kiosk turned out beautiful and we had a great dedication. Lenny Fenimore was the principal speaker and told several humorous stories about Charlie. His three children and some family members also attended along with about 50 or so friends, etc. The weather was beautiful and after the dedication, several of us walked one of the trails in the Park. We were mostly talking but still managed to see several birds including a Bald Eagle across the bayou from the park. A good time was had by all.

Hometown Democracy: COUNTDOWN TO DEADLINE!

Submitted via Email from Lesley Blackner

Never before have the developers been so terrified of a simple reform that will finally begin to turn the tide and make growth decisions accessible to the electorate. The desperate and vicious developer spin will get much worse as we get closer to getting on the ballot. We are under attack from all quarters because the power structure is so threatened by the simple act of people voting!

Will we get to the ballot? That's the big question. We can with your help - if you will continue to make getting signatures on petitions a priority for these last few weeks of the year. Donations are urgently needed - from \$5.00 to \$500.00 - every dime will be spent on petitions. This opportunity missed would be tragic. A reform like this will not come again.

We have submitted over 500,000 petitions to the supervisors of elections for validation. A percentage of those are rejected so we must collect more in order to net the required 611,000 total.

Please, please help put this on the ballot. Send all petitions in weekly and then send more....and send donations! This labor of love isn't cheap.

HELP SAVE WHAT'S LEFT OF FLORIDA...

LET THE PEOPLE VOTE to control growth!

Help put HOMETOWN DEMOCRACY on the 2008 ballot

Please download and SIGN THE PETITION !

<http://www.FloridaHometownDemocracy.com>

PO Box 636, New Smyrna Beach, FL 32170-0636.

FLORIDA
www.50states.com



If you have not yet heard about the Hometown Democracy amendment it is calling for a constitutional change requiring voter approval of all Comprehensive Plan amendments by local governments. Please check out the website above for more information. If you do not have access to the internet please call Theresa Dennis at (850)621-4093



CAS Member Adventures



By: Kathleen Reed

We had an exciting Eventure at Henderson Beach State Park!

I arrived at the park as the sun was setting and followed Nonie and the group up a dune, into the scrub. But the northern sky was filled with forbidding, dark clouds, and after a little while, lightning cracked too close-by, so we took shelter under a pavilion, just as rain started to fall. Nonie read us the story "Follow the Moon", about a sea turtle hatchling's overpowering instinct to go toward light, and its confusion about artificial lighting. In the end, the turtle made it to the sea, but he needed the help of a little boy who stood guard over him and helped him go the right way. After the story, we examined sea turtle artifacts, provided by the park rangers, and we talked about the dangers sea turtles must overcome to stay alive and produce the next generation of turtles. As we finished looking at the artifacts, the rain and lightning had subsided, so we ventured onto the beach to visit a real sea turtle nest--the only one at Henderson this year. It was dark, and we had to use special flashlights that shine only infrared (red looking) light, because other colors of light can be seen by the sea turtles, and any baby turtles on the beach might come toward our lights, instead of following the moon's reflection to the water. When we got to the nest, the nest looked like any other part of the beach, but this part of the beach was marked with a "sea turtle nest" sign, and it was roped off. The park rangers explained that mother sea turtles try to hide their nests from predators by making them look like the rest of the beach, and the mother of our nest had laid her eggs too close to the water, so the park rangers had had to move it. I would like to thank Ranger David Laird, the park manager and his wonderful staff for helping us have a great time despite of the terrible weather!

By: Bob Penhollow

I was on vacation in the Sarasota, Florida area in late Oct. While there I and a group of relatives visited a few sites listed on the Great Florida Birding Trail. The two most productive were the Celery Fields and another site further east near the Crowley Museum and Nature Center (CM&NC). We went to the Celery Fields on a Friday and planned to visit the CM&NC later that same day but by the time we finished at the Celery Fields it was too late as the CM&NC closes at 4 pm, so we had to try for the CM&NC three days later. Unfortunately, it is only open Thur. to Sun. Alas we didn't get to see it that day either. While out in the area we went just a short distance further east and found a wonderful spot at a bridge over what I assume was the Myakka River since we were near the north gate of the Myakka River State Park. We saw a lot of great birds. At the Celery fields were, among others, many Anhingas, Coots, Moorhens (first time I have seen both on one binocular view), Great Egrets, a white morph of a Reddish Egret, Boat-tailed Grackles, White Ibis, my first ever Limpkins, and an Osprey that flew very low over our heads. We were so amazed that neither of us thought to take a video. At the other site we added a Wood Stork, Roseate Spoonbills, a Green Heron, Purple Gallinules, both kinds of Vultures, so many ducks that at first I thought they were stones or vegetation, and another first for me, Crested Caracaras. There were so many White Ibis at the second site that we could not even count them. I also saw scrub Jays and several Kestrels very near my sister home where we were staying. Altogether it was a very enjoyable trip.

Green Christmas continued from page 1: than others. Last year we had a wildly successful silent auction where donations were made by several of these places. Wild Birds Unlimited for instance, sells organic coffees and chocolates and any thing you need for a birder; Gaia's Garden and Gifts sells native plants and trees along with green cleaners and foods; MAC Cosmetics in Belk at the Destin Commons has a fabulous recycling program where shoppers get free stuff for trading in empties; Avant Garde Salon in Destin carries Aveda products which all come from nature; As You Like It, another Aveda salon in FWB; Bella Day Spa in FWB that carries different natural products and offers soothing services; as well as these nature based experience businesses: Daniel Webster Clements Sailing; the Southern Star dolphin cruise; The Silent Lady sailboat. Thank you for taking the time to consider these gift ideas, I hope that they aid you in your gift giving decisions. Also do not forget the little ways that we can help save resources outside of what gifts we buy or give, try LED lights this year, they consume far less energy than their competition and have dropped in priced and popped up everywhere, skip the cute little blow-up yard toys, they constantly suck power to stay filled, consider gifts bags that can be used again next year, save your boxes, and have fun with the Sunday comics! Happy Eco-Days everyone, I hope to see you all at our CAS Christmas party.



Choctawhatchee Audubon Society Membership

Name: _____ Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

- Introductory New Member- \$20.00** **Individual Member Renewal- \$35.00**
 Introductory Student/Senior- \$15.00 **Renewal Student/Senior-\$15.00**

When you join you will be part of national, state, and local Audubon groups and will receive...

- Audubon magazine
- Florida Naturalist Magazine
- Our local Shorelines newsletter
- Inclusion in Audubon of Florida's advocacy network
- Discounts at Audubon Sanctuaries and Nature Centers
- Opportunities for Audubon Ecology Camps and specially priced travel adventures

To join, mail this form and a check, payable to National Audubon Society, to;

NAS Membership Data Center, P.O. Box 51005, Boulder, CO 80323-1005.

CAS ONLY memberships are available and include SHORELINES NEWSLETTER ONLY.

To join CAS ONLY mail this form and a check payable to CAS to; *P.O. Box 1014 Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549.*

- New Member Newsletter Only- \$10.00** **Renewal Member Newsletter Only- \$10.00**

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A great big THANK YOU to all CAS sponsors !

Thank you to the Winn Dixie in Bluewater for the delicious refreshments at our November meeting . Please remember to show our gratitude by patronizing their establishments, you may pick up some of our thank you cards at our meetings to show our local support. Donations are welcome, and all contributions are tax-deductible. Feel free to specify a particular fund/event that you'd wish to sponsor.

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