



# Laughing Gull

*The Newsletter of the St. Lucie Audubon Society*

VOLUME 33, ISSUE 1

OCTOBER 2008

## President's Message

St. Lucie Audubon is devoted to conservation. We embrace alternative forms of energy including wind turbine generated energy if placed in appropriate areas.

Michigan Audubon has adopted a wind turbine generated energy resolution. It reads as follows:

WHEREAS, the Michigan Audubon Society strongly supports public policies and private projects that advance energy conservation and efficiency, and

WHEREAS, of the renewable energy options currently available, wind power has one of the best potentials in the mitigation of harmful environmental effects caused by the burning of fossil fuels, and

WHEREAS, sufficient data exist to demonstrate that poorly sited wind turbine energy generation facilities can have detrimental impact to residential and migratory wildlife, and

WHEREAS, the environmental risks of wind energy development can be reduced by the development and use of responsible and informed standards for siting wind turbine energy generation facilities, and

WHEREAS, the wind energy industry and state and federal permitting agencies could benefit from a framework of comprehensive planning and facility siting criteria to guide projects to the most appropriate locations.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Michigan Audubon Society encourages the state of Michigan to:

- Develop ecologically sound siting criteria to guide wind turbine energy generation facility site selection on state and federal lands and waters;
- Refine state regulatory permitting procedures to incorporate such siting criteria;
- Establish ecologically sound protocols for the development and evaluation of pre- and post-construction monitoring of wind turbine energy generation facilities; and
- Establish procedures for decommissioning obsolete and abandoned wind turbine energy generation facilities, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in planning, permitting, operation, and decommissioning of wind turbine energy generation facilities, the location and scale of wind farms be such so as not to pose significant, immitigable threats to terrestrial, aquatic, or avian wildlife or habitat, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that unless it can be demonstrated that the construction and operation of wind turbine energy generation facilities would not significantly affect the habitat value or pose undue mortality risks to wildlife at a proposed site, the siting of such facilities should avoid:

- Areas containing old growth forests and habitats of similar ecological value;
- Area along inland and Great Lakes corridors that are major avian migratory routes;
- Areas where the positioning and operation of turbines could cause significant loss to a local or regional population of birds or other migratory species such as bats;
- Areas documented as important habitat for state and federally listed endangered or threatened species;
- Areas designated as important Bird Areas.

We should adopt a similar resolution to benefit the wind energy industry, local, state, and federal permitting agencies. It should be written for the State of Florida which has minimal wind but abundant sunshine, the opposite of Michigan.

We need your support. Join St. Lucie Audubon, if possible at the Donor level or higher, attend our monthly meetings, and join our field trips led by experienced world class birders.

*Thank you for your support,  
Dan Walma*

[www.stlucieaudubon.org](http://www.stlucieaudubon.org)

## Feathered Friends *Submitted by Dotty Hull*

Fall migrants are beginning to come through our area. Some birds are passing through on their way to South America and others will be with us until spring. Many people report not seeing as many birds in their yards as in previous years. In an attempt to verify this premise, National Audubon Society has set up a place on their website to report your bird sightings in your area.

Fortunately, there are many things you can do for the birds and for our future. Start at home. It may seem indirect, but by conserving energy, for example, you can save habitats from the worst impacts of global warming. Take action for sound environmental policy, urging lawmakers to pass laws to fight global warming, improve farming practices, and save wetlands. And as a volunteer, monitor birds and protect their habitats through citizen science efforts by reporting your sightings on Cornell and Audubon's ebird. The website is at <http://ebird.org/content/ebird/>

## Upcoming Events

St. Lucie County and the local branch of the U.S. Green Building Council are hosting the **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Treasure Coast Green Conference on October 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Havert L. Fenn Center** in Fort Pierce. Designed for the development, building and conservation communities, the conference will build on last year's success by bringing nationally-recognized, inspirational speakers who will share ideas and concepts that are taking root around the globe. The conference will enhance your understanding of sustainability and green development with plenty of opportunity to exchange ideas and network with like-minded people. Some highlights include: keynote speaker Ken Alston who will explain the bold Cradle to Cradle design strategy that is being hailed as the next ecologically-inspired 'Industrial Revolution,' and is already transforming the way business is done on a global scale; DEP Secretary Mike Sole who will share emerging green technologies and public policy trends in Florida, and other experts who will explain the new state stormwater rules, how current transportation rules are driving failing communities, and much more!

Register securely at: [www.treasurecoastgreen.com](http://www.treasurecoastgreen.com)

## Quick Tip

*Submitted by Dotty Hull*

**An Easy Solution for Ants** - We have had a terrible problem with ants in and around our house and have had a pest control company come several times without much success. The man said that as long as we have Brazilian Pepper bushes in the wooded lot next door we will have ants.

Recently I got one of those forwarded emails that said to place some cornmeal in areas where you see ants inside and outside your house. It claimed that the ants will take it back to their nest and since they can't digest cornmeal it will kill them. I was skeptical but it seemed worth trying. I put a small amount in several areas and watched as the ants came to it. I also put some on the edge of the wooded lot. I was amazed that the next day there were no ants to be found. A week has passed and still no ants. If you have an ant problem, you may wish to try this. Use the cornmeal right out of the box.

[www.stlucieaudubon.org](http://www.stlucieaudubon.org)



**Recycle!  
Reuse!  
Reduce!**

### 2008 - 2009 Chapter Officers & Committees

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## Membership Renewals

A one-year chapter membership extends from October to October. You may use the coupon below to begin or renew your membership.

SLAS is now offering a Chapter-only annual membership for those who want to financially support their local chapter. The following dues options apply:

**Individual:** \$20 per year  
**Sponsor:** \$50 per year  
**Lifetime:** \$500

**Family** (for 2 or more people): \$25 per year  
**Patron:** \$100 per year

Each local membership includes a subscription to the monthly newsletter "The Laughing Gull". You may receive "The Laughing Gull" via standard mail or electronically via email. Please indicate your preference below.

Please make checks payable to and send to: St. Lucie Audubon Society, P.O. Box 12474, Fort Pierce, FL 34979

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
 New membership: \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Please send my "Laughing Gull" by: **Email** \_\_\_\_\_ or **Standard mail**: \_\_\_\_\_

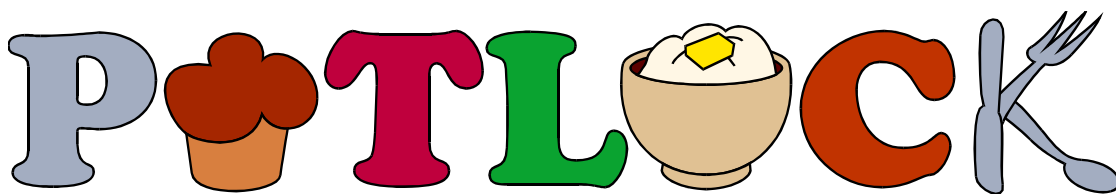


*Thanks for your support.*

### GET YOUR LAUGHING GULL BY E-MAIL



Do the "**Green Thing**" and help our chapter save printing and mailing costs by getting your newsletter by email. No special program is needed to open it, and you can print it out if you prefer to read it offline. Send your name and email address to [newsletter@stlucieaudubon.org](mailto:newsletter@stlucieaudubon.org) to sign up.



*Join us for a potluck dinner to kick off the new season.*

*Thursday, October 2, 2008*

*5:30 PM at the Oxbow Eco-Center*

*Bring a dish to share  
and also bring your table setting.*



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**Meeting: Thursday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 7pm**

Our first meeting of the season will be "Birds of the Lagoon" presented by Capt. Chop Lege. Plan to attend the field trip as he takes us on a lagoon boat ride.

**Field Trip: Saturday October 4<sup>th</sup>**

Our first field trip of the season will be a boat ride on the Indian River with Captain Chop Lege. Plan to attend the meeting on October 2 to hear him tell about what we will be seeing. There is a limit of 30 people on the boat so reservations are required. Priority will be given to our members.

Call Dotty Hull at 340-2226 to make a reservation. Meet at the Manatee Center in downtown Fort Pierce. Park at 9:45 a.m. Parking is available at the Manatee Center or at "H" Dock on Indian River Drive.

**Meeting Place: Oxbow Eco-Center 5400 NE St. James Dr., Port St. Lucie, FL 34983**



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St. Lucie Audubon  
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