



Tropical Audubon Bulletin

The Voice of Conservation in South Florida...



5530 Sunset Drive; Miami, Florida 33143

(305) 667-7337

Sept/Oct. 2007

BIODIESEL IS NOW AVAILABLE IN MIAMI-DADE !

Diesel vehicle drivers can now take a very concrete step towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global warming. Biodiesel is here! Biodiesel is the name of a clean-burning alternative fuel that does not contain petroleum. Biodiesel is derived from vegetable oils for use in diesel engines and is biodegradable, nontoxic and essentially free of sulfur and aromatics. Biodiesel is not the same as raw vegetable oil; fuel-grade biodiesel must be produced to strict industry specifications in order to insure proper performance.

Biodiesel can be used in any diesel engine (compression-ignition) with no modifications and can be blended with petroleum diesel at any concentration in most modern diesel engines. Biodiesel produces a cleaner-smelling exhaust, sometimes likened to the smell of French fries or popcorn. This alternative fuel reduces emissions of greenhouse gases, provides a cleaner burning exhaust, and helps clean injectors, fuel lines, pumps and tanks. It is also safer to store and transport because it has a higher flash point than traditional diesel and it is classified only as combustible, not flammable or explosive. It is also a domestically produced and renewable fuel! Biodiesel is as non-toxic as table salt and biodegrades four times faster than conventional diesel; it therefore presents a much smaller risk in the case of spills in marine and other sensitive environments.

Are there downsides to biodiesel? Biodiesel will degrade natural rubber gaskets and hoses in vehicles (mostly found in vehicles manufactured before 1992), but these gaskets and hoses can be replaced with Viton which is nonreactive to biodiesel. Biodiesel's higher lubricity index compared to petrodiesel is an advantage and can contribute to longer fuel injector life. Biodiesel is a better solvent than petrodiesel and has been known to break down deposits of residue in the fuel lines of vehicles that have previously been run on petroleum. Fuel filters may become clogged with particulates if a quick transition to pure biodiesel is made, as biodiesel "cleans" the engine in the process. It is, therefore, recommended to change the fuel filter within 600-800 miles after first switching to a biodiesel blend. At some point after switching to biodiesel, you may experience symp-

toms of a clogged fuel filter (i.e., trouble starting, coughing, smoke, poor fuel economy, loss of power). It is best to always keep an extra filter on hand in case you need it. After fuel filters are replaced and the fuel system is clean, normal engine operation will continue. Biodiesel ultimately promotes longer engine life. Trials with a Mercedes Benz engine determined that using 100% Biodiesel resulted in a 60% reduction in engine wear and tear, compared to normal operation using regular diesel fuel.

In Miami-Dade, you can now get biodiesel from Sol Atlantic Biodiesel LLC located at 9695 NW 79th Ave, Bay #7-8, Hialeah Gardens, FL 33016. You can reach Chris Miranda and Lisa Bowman with Sol Atlantic at (305) 698-3679 or email them at

solatanticbiodiesel@hotmail.com



ARE YOU EXECUTIVE MATERIAL? DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO IS?



Tropical Audubon Society is seeking a qualified candidate for its full-time Executive Director position involving environmental advocacy, fundraising, and administrative duties. The position is available now and will be filled as soon as possible. The selected candidate is expected to work in coordination with partner NGOs and under the direction of the TAS Board of Directors. The Executive Director is expected to maintain the organization's position as one of the most influential conservation voices in Miami-Dade County and be recognized as a local and regional conservation leader.

Interested? Check out the full job announcement and application process posted on our website at

www.tropicalaudubon.org

What our friends are doing:Fairchild Tropical Garden

Sept. 8, 7:30 - 10:00 am: **Bird Watching at Fairchild**

Sept. 15 & 16: **Aroid Show and Sale**

Oct. 13 & 14: **Bonsai Show and Sale**

Oct. 13, 10:00 am-2:00 pm: **Brunch at Fairchild**

Oct. 20, 7:00-10:00 pm: **The Rare Event - Bidding Against Extinction**

Oct. 27, 7:30- 11:30 pm: **Halloween Bash**

Oct. 28, 9:30-4:30 pm: **Family Harvest Day**

Florida Native Plant Society

The Dade Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society meets at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, 10901 Old Cutler Road (South entrance) at 7:30 on 4th Tuesdays. Meetings are free and open to the public and include refreshments and book sale starting at 7:15, plant raffle and discussion of the raffle plants. Call 305-255-6404 for more information or see <http://dade.fnpschapters.org>.

September 25: "The effects of global warming on South Florida's environment" - Dr. Hal Wanless, Chair of the University of Miami Dept. of Geological Sciences.

October 23: "Making and using compost in your Florida garden" - Dr. George Fitzpatrick, Prof. of Environmental Horticulture, Univ. of FL, Editorial Board of Compost Science and Utilization.

North American Butterfly Assoc.Miami Blue Chapter Events

Sept. 8, 8:30 am - Field trip to Bill Baggs-Cape Florida State Park
Leader: Liz Golden. Meet inside the park by Boater's Grill, No Name Harbor, first paved road to the right after the park's pay station. Bring snacks/lunch, lots of water, sun, rain and mosquito protection. Park fee: \$5 per car for 2-8 people; \$3 if single occupant

Sept. 15 & 16 - Field trip to Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park
Leaders: Buck and Linda Cooper. Participants are limited to a group of 20, and pre-registration no later than September 1 is required. For additional information, email to Mi-amiBlueEvents@bellsouth.net or call Elane at 305-666-5727.

Oct. 6, 9:00 am - Field Trip to Crandon Park

Leader: Dennis Olle. We will explore the several trails in Crandon Park's Bear Cut Preserve as well as the Crandon Garden. Bring snacks/lunch, lots of water, sun, rain and mosquito protection. Park in Lot #1 and meet at Crandon Park Visitor & Biscayne Nature Center. Parking fee, \$5.00 per car.

Oct. 27 - Field Trip to Everglades National Park

Leader: Sue Perry. Meet at Coe Visitor's Center just after main entrance to park.. Time permitting, we will investigate Lucky Hammock/ Aerojet Road and/or Navy Wells. Bring snacks/lunch, lots of water, sun, rain and mosquito protection. Park fee: \$10 per vehicle.

**BACK TO THE BEACH
SAVE THE DATE**2007 Audubon Assembly

November 1- 3

By popular demand, we are heading back to the beach, only this time we will be at the Hilton Cocoa Beach Oceanfront. Reserve rooms now at 800-526-2609. Let them know you are with the Audubon group for this event to get the special event rate.

Don't miss the information-packed programs and exciting awards when Florida's conservation-minded citizens gather this November in Cocoa Beach. Join chapter leaders and members, Audubon staff and scientists, wildlife professionals, environmental advocates, agency and elected officials to network and learn about how we are, together, making a difference for the environment. Assembly registration information and details about programs, exhibits, and field trips to nearby birding hotspots will appear in the summer Naturalist and will also be available online at

<http://www.audubonofflorida.org>.

Thanks !

The following generous individuals have contributed to TAS since the last Bulletin. We **GREATLY** appreciate your support!

White-Crowned Pigeon

(\$50 to \$99)

**John Atkinson
Elizabeth Plater Zyberk
& Andres Duany**

Tropical Audubon Society (TAS) is a group of dedicated citizens who care about the quality of South Florida's environment. Established in 1947, we are a chapter of National Audubon Society and Florida Audubon Society. Our headquarters, the Doc Thomas House, is a Dade County Historic site on three subtropical acres of native habitat in South Miami.

Tropical Audubon's purposes are:

1) Conservation: to work toward protection of the natural world and to promote wise stewardship of natural resources, especially native plants and animals and their habitat.
2) Education: to promote, among members and the public of all ages, an understanding and appreciation of nature, the environment, and ecological relationships.

3) Enjoyment: as a society of members with compatible interests, to enjoy together the study and protection of nature. We believe in the wisdom of nature's design. We seek to foster and promote ecological conscientiousness in our community.

Editor: Jen Lindsley
Desk Top Publishing: Steven Mumford

Tropical Audubon Bulletin, the official newsletter of the Tropical Audubon Society, is published bimonthly by the Tropical Audubon Society, a non-profit, 501(c) (3) tax-exempt organization. Throughout this newsletter, "TAS" refers to the Tropical Audubon Society, while "DTH" refers to the Doc Thomas House, the site of our office located at 5530 Sunset

Drive: Miami, Florida 33143. The phone number is (305) 667-7337. Membership rate, \$20 per year. Please make your checks payable to Tropical Audubon Society, and mail to our office (address above). Articles, news of events, original drawings, and letters to the Editor are welcomed, and should be submitted to the TAS office 4 weeks prior to each by-monthly publication. It would be preferable if your copy were submitted via the internet. See the "About TAS" section of our website for more information.

Visit Tropical Audubon on the internet at:
tropicalaudubon.org

TAS GENERAL Meetings

Membership meetings are open to the public and held at the Doc Thomas House, 5530 Sunset Dr., near Red Rd. The doors open at 7:30pm and the program begins at 8:00pm. Early-birds may join us at 6:00pm for a pre-meeting dinner at Beverly Hills Café, on Sunset Drive across from Doc Thomas House. Call (305) 667-7337 for more information.

Wed., Sept. 12 — John Kellam: The Florida Panthers of Big Cypress John Kellam, a member of the Big Cypress National Preserve Florida Panther capture/monitoring team, had the unique opportunity to be a participant during the remarkable 2007 season, where an unprecedented number of previously un-collared cats were captured and an abundance of kittens were processed at den sites. For the first time, the entire season was documented in exquisite detail by the camera lens of Ralph Arwood, a local professional wildlife photographer, whose stunning photographs offer a rare glimpse of this fascinating denizen of the Big Cypress Swamp. Experience the Florida Panther as never before as John narrates this extraordinary photographic journey.

Wed., Oct. 10 — Elston Raimundo Chavarria: Latin American Adventures Elston Raimundo Chavarria, a forester formerly with the U.S. Forest Service, has spent several years experiencing the many natural wonders that Latin America has to offer; his travels have taken him to Mexico, Belize, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Jamaica, the Dominican Republic and Brazil. He has recently created an eco-tourism company, *Latin American Adventures*, offering ecological expeditions to Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama. His itineraries include opportunities for hiking, biking, birding, river rafting, snorkeling and horseback riding. In tonight's presentation, Elston discusses ongoing efforts to conserve natural areas throughout Central America, and the cultural and economic effects of habitat conservation, including eco-tourism opportunities.

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Learn to bird! BIRDING 101 with Brian Rapoza

This is a 2-part program focusing on finding and identifying the birds of South Florida. On Thurs., Oct. 18 at the Doc Thomas House (5530 Sunset, Miami), Brian Rapoza, TAS field trip coordinator and author of *Birding Florida*, will cover bird watching basics and present slides of the area's resident and visiting birds. On Sat. Oct. 20, you can put this newly found knowledge to use on a walk in a local park. Call 305-388-1544 for more information.

Reservations and fee required: \$35.00 for an individual TAS member / \$40.00 for TAS member families / \$40.00 for nonmember individuals / \$45.00 for nonmember families (family prices include as many kids as you want to bring). Fee includes a copy of *Birding Florida*. Children and adults will enjoy this class. We would love to see more people of all ages interested in our unique natural heritage!

TAS Conservation Meetings

TAS members and guests are invited to attend Conservation Committee meetings at 7:30 pm on the 4th Wednesday of the month. Meetings are held at the Doc Thomas House, 5530 Sunset Dr., Miami, 33143. Call 305-667-7337 for more information. Meetings will be held Sept. 26 and Oct. 24.

mea culpa

While we love Patty Phares (and her enthusiasm and volunteerism at our events), we mistakenly thanked her instead of Patty Harris in the last edition of the Bulletin for exceptional help with our Wing-Ding. Thanks to both Pattys, and sorry about the silly error!

TAS Work Days

Want to learn about native plants, help Tropical Audubon maintain our native landscape at the Doc Thomas House and get your hands dirty? We need you! Show up anytime between 8:30-noon and you will find a host of hard workers. This is a great opportunity for students to earn community service hours. For more information call 305-667-7337 or e-mail volunteer@tropicalaudubon.org

**TAS workdays will be held
Sept. 15 and Oct. 20**

TAS CALENDAR

CALENDAR OF WALKS, WORKDAYS, FESTIVALS, SALES, CLASSES - EVERYTHING YOU EVER WANTED TO DO WITH TROPICAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
The specifics for Tropical's ongoing activities are indicated below. In some cases, the trip leader has included his email address and phone number for direct contact.
Otherwise, please call TAS at 305 667 PEEP (7337) or email tas007@tropicalaudubon.org, or see our web page <http://tropicalaudubon.org> for more information.

Sat. Sept. 1 — Bill Baggs Cape Florida Bird Walk

Jeff Weber will lead. The park opens at 8:00am; meet at No Name Harbor. (Turn right at the first intersection after the park toll booth. A sign will indicate No Name Harbor.) The walk will begin by 8:15 AM. Costs include an entrance fee to the park and the Rickenbacker Causeway toll.

Sat. Sept. 8 — Matheson Hammock / Fairchild Tropical Garden Bird Walk

John Boyd will lead. The group meets at 7:30 am in the parking area on the left inside the Matheson north entrance. Entry to Fairchild is at 10:00 am. The Fairchild entrance fee will be waived for TAS members. Return is at approximately 11:30 am.

Sun. Sept. 9 — A.D. Barnes Park Bird Walk

Bill Boeringer will lead. Enter on SW 72nd Ave. just north of Bird Rd. (SW 40th St.) and take the first left to park near the baseball fields. Meet at 7:30 am, returning at approximately 11:00 am.

Sat. Sept. 15 — North American Migration Count

The North American Migration Count (NAMC), sponsored in Florida by the Florida Ornithological Society, with the assistance of local Audubon chapters, bird clubs and other interested organizations, is a semi-annual snapshot of the progress and shape of bird migration. On Saturday, September 15, birders from around the country will be collecting information on the abundance and distribution of both migrant and resident birds. If you can find and identify birds and would like to participate in the count in either Miami-Dade or Monroe County, email us at fieldtrips@tropicalaudubon.org. We'll send you NAMC instructions and a checklist. We'll also let you know which areas need coverage (or, you can let us know which area you wish to cover; it could be your own backyard, neighborhood, a local park or other natural area). It is important that there is no overlap or duplication of coverage areas, so please contact us before September 15.

Sun. Sept. 16 — Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park Bird Walk

Paul Bithorn will lead. See Sept. 1 for details.

Sat. Sept. 22 — A.D. Barnes Park Bird Walk

Robin Diaz will lead. See Sept. 9 for details.

Sun. Sept. 23 — Matheson Hammock Bird Walk

Joe Barros will lead birders through Matheson Hammock on Old Cutler Rd. immediately north of Fairchild Gardens. The group meets in the parking area on the left inside the north park entrance at 7:30 am. Return is at approximately 11:00 am.

Sat. Sept. 29 — Greynold's Park Bird Walk

Jim King will lead birders through Greynold's Park, 17530 West Dixie Highway in North Miami Beach. Meet at the park boathouse at 7:30am. Parking is available near the playground and the elevated mound opposite the boathouse. Return is at approximately 11:00am.

Sun. Sept. 30 — Cutler Bay Birding

Roberto Torres will lead this tour of Cutler Bay birding locations. Meet at Bill Sadowski Park, 17555 SW 79 Ave., at 7:30am. Other stops may include Black Point, Dump Marsh and Cutler Wetlands. Bring lunch. Walkie-talkies are recommended.

Sat. Oct. 6 — Corkscrew Swamp / Tigertail Beach

Birding Brian Rapoza will lead an all day carpool event to Collier County. Meet at 6:00 am at the east gate (on SW 55th Ave.) of the Doc Thomas property. There is an admission fee for Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary (discount for Audubon members). Bring lunch and wading shoes. Walkie-talkies are recommended.

Sun. Oct 7 — A.D. Barnes Park Bird Walk

Gigi Pardo will lead birders through A.D. Barnes Park. Enter on SW 72nd Ave. just north of Bird Rd. (SW 40th St.), turn left at the T intersection and park in spaces on either side of the road. Meet at 7:30 am, returning at approximately 11:00 am.

Sat. Oct. 13 — South Dade Birding

John Boyd will lead this all day carpool trip, which may include stops at Lucky Hammock, Castellow Hammock and Dump Marsh. Meet at 7:00 am in the parking lot of the Burger King on US-1 in Florida City. Bring lunch. Walkie-talkies are recommended.

Sat. Oct. 27 — Shark Valley / Loop Road Birding

Paul Bithorn will lead this carpool trip. Meet at 7:00am at the east gate (SW 55th Ave.) of the Doc Thomas property (5530 Sunset Drive, South Miami). Bring lunch. Walkie-talkies are recommended.

BIRD WALKS AT THE DEERING ESTATE

Bird Walks at the Deering Estate occur on the second Saturday of the month: Oct. 13.

Tropical Audubon Society
5530 Sunset Drive
Miami, FL 33143

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