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*We represent Audubon Society members in Northern Pinellas County and provide services to all who are interested: free local field trips with expert birders; inexpensive extended field trips within the US and to other locales, free monthly programs, volunteer & networking opportunities within the local conservation community; scholarships to local summer camps and speakers for a variety of classrooms and groups.*

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## **If you build it they will come – eventually**

John Hood

The Least Tern is the smallest tern in North America. There are 3 sub populations – Eastern, Interior, and Pacific. Unlike the Pacific and Interior populations our Atlantic population is not listed as federally endangered but it is listed by several states. This little bird arrives in March and April and departs by the end of September to the northern part of South America. In Florida its breeding success on our sandy beaches has been dismal. About 90% of all fledglings are now raised on gravel rooftops. Unfortunately, these rooftops are being resurfaced with more energy-efficient membranes.

In 2010 a group of us decided to try building gravel topped floating rafts to see if we could attract nesting birds. This had been done in other parts of the world with other tern species. The first one was constructed from old aluminum floating docks at Ft. De Soto. Two sections were bolted together and a wooden lip was constructed around the top to hold the gravel in place and a hardware cloth fence fastened to the wood to keep the chicks from falling off. It was then transported from the shop compound to the North Beach lagoon. This was done at o' dark thirty in the morning since it was so big (10x16 feet) that the road had to be closed. After launching, pea gravel and decoys were placed on the top and it was towed to the center of the lagoon and anchored. Birds landed but nobody set up housekeeping.

Only slightly discouraged in 2011 another raft was constructed using leftover dock floats and materials from a failed nesting platform from a Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) project in Lake Toto. This raft was modular consisting of six 4x8 ft sections. They were assembled on the shore, launched, graveled, and anchored in the lagoon. Again birds landed but nobody set up housekeeping.

The third year was the charm. Least Terns landed, made scrapes, laid eggs, hatched the eggs, and raised young. Shortly before the young fledged the rafts, the raft was towed to the edge of the lagoon so that the fledglings would not land in the water in the middle of the lagoon. This allowed us to band 14 fledglings. We think one of our 2010 birds from the Ulmerton rooftop was a nester. Encouraged by our success plans are afoot to build another raft or two at Ft. De Soto and one at Honeymoon. A ranger in the Miami area has picked up on the idea. We have received coverage in both the newspaper and on TV.

Contact us if you want to help.

**Clearwater Audubon Society**

August, September 2012

Vol. 48 No. 1

Supporting our community since 1959

Our Motto: Conservation through Education

For more information call us at 727-442-9140





## Dear Audubon Family,

Florida's fund for water and land conservation will run out unless voters renew it. That's why conservation organizations like the Clearwater Audubon Society are supporting the campaign to put the Florida Water and Land Conservation Amendment on the November 2014 ballot.

The legislature has slashed 97.5% of the funding for water and land conservation since 2009. This effort is backed by many conservation organizations including Florida Wildlife Federation, The Nature Conservancy, Sierra Club, The Trust for Public Land, 1000 Friends of Florida, Defenders of Wildlife, etc. (all the big hitters). Petitions will be available at our monthly meetings as soon as they are published.

If passed, the amendment will keep the fund – historically about \$300 million a year – working for Florida's future by protecting critical drinking water supplies, keeping natural areas intact for people and wildlife and managing existing parks and conservation areas.

We need volunteers to help us gather 500,000 signatures to put this amendment on the November ballot in 2014. Will you sign up to gather signatures?



Until 2009, Florida invested in conserving and restoring our most cherished natural areas, from the Everglades to the Apalachicola and St. Johns Rivers. But recent funding cuts are putting critical water protection areas, wildlife habitat and natural areas unique to Florida in danger. That's why we need your help now.

In just three weeks, the campaign has recruited more than 700 volunteer signature gatherers – and many are willing to gather signatures at events and public locations! Most signatures will come from this type of signature gathering, and the campaign aims to recruit 2,000 volunteers by mid-September.

[Please help us reach that goal by signing up to volunteer today.](http://floridawaterlandlegacy.org/volunteer) (<http://floridawaterlandlegacy.org/volunteer>)

The Clearwater Audubon Society supporters know the importance of healthy rivers, springs, wetlands and beaches. The more volunteers who sign up, the more signatures we can collect!

For Florida's future,

John Hood  
CAS President



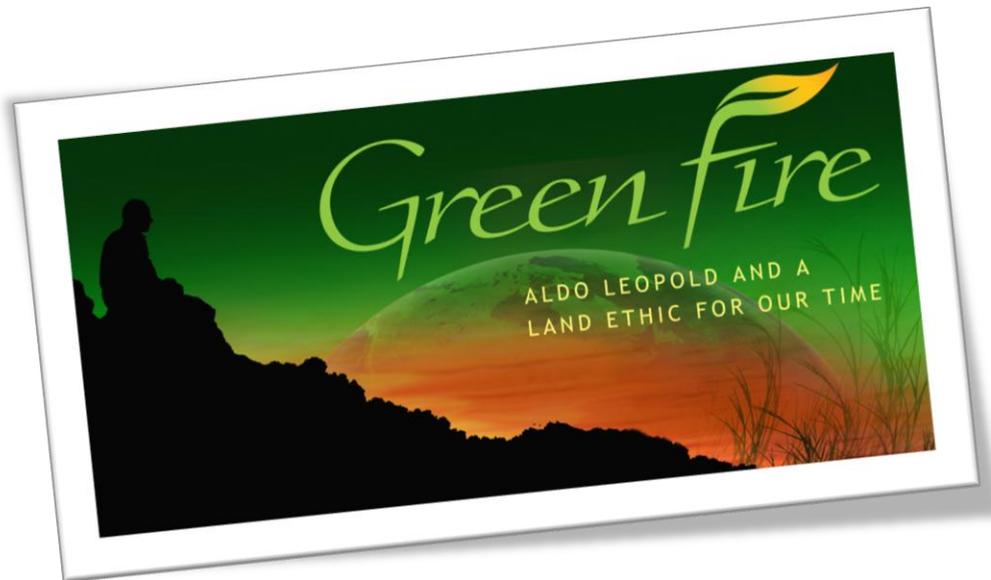
## Green Fire: Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for Our Time

Cynthia Kluss

If the name Aldo Leopold and his book *A Sand County Almanac* are not familiar to you, then you deserve to give yourself a special treat. The next showing by the Clearwater Audubon Society of *Green Fire: Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for Our Time* will introduce you to the Land Ethic and the man, Aldo Leopold.

It is scheduled for October 25 at the Boyd Hill Nature Preserve as part of an Environmental Film Series. The address is 1101 Country Club Way South, St. Petersburg, Florida in the Boyd Hill Environmental Center. The program runs from 7 to 9PM with the film elapse time of 73 minutes. A brief question and answer period will follow. The preserve is fund raising, so there will be a charge of \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children 3-16.

The movie *Green Fire* takes us back to the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. It shows how one person can make a difference. It helps show the way land use and development during those times led to a need for purposeful and thoughtful land management. Some of the problems resolved by modern land management methods are shown in graphic detail. It is important for us to remember the impact of past problems so that we and future generations can avoid the hard lessons learned so many years ago.



So far in 2012 the Clearwater Audubon Society has presented *Green Fire* six times. The initial two showings were introductions to local conservation and education groups. The viewings took place at the Safety Harbor Library and Moccasin Lake Nature Park. Public showings took place in April for Earth Day at the Largo Library, in May at Starkey Wilderness Preserve for the West Pasco Audubon Society, in July at the Florida Gulf Coast Center for Fishing and Interactive Museum with the Pinellas Native Plant Society, and in August at the Weedon Island Nature Center.

A glimpse of the movie can be seen at [www.aldoleopold.org/greenfire](http://www.aldoleopold.org/greenfire). If you have an organization that can benefit from the educational message of *Green Fire*, contact can be made at [programs@clearwateraudubon.com](mailto:programs@clearwateraudubon.com).



# Officers of Clearwater Audubon Society

## Membership

### [Membership Application](#)

Size : 141,717 Kb

Type : pdf

## Monthly Meetings

October – May

The first Monday of each month at Moccasin Lake Nature Park:

Meet and Greet @ 6:30PM

Public Program @ 7:00PM

(Unless otherwise noted)

**First meeting is October 8**

## Past Issue of Wing Beat



*click issue to view  
Aug-Sept 2012*

**"A Boater's Guide to Clearwater Harbor & St. Joseph's Sound including Three Rooker Island, the Anclote Keys and Anclote Bar" is now available online.**



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Clearwater Audubon Society's

Fall 2012 Inside Birding

# GEARGUIDE

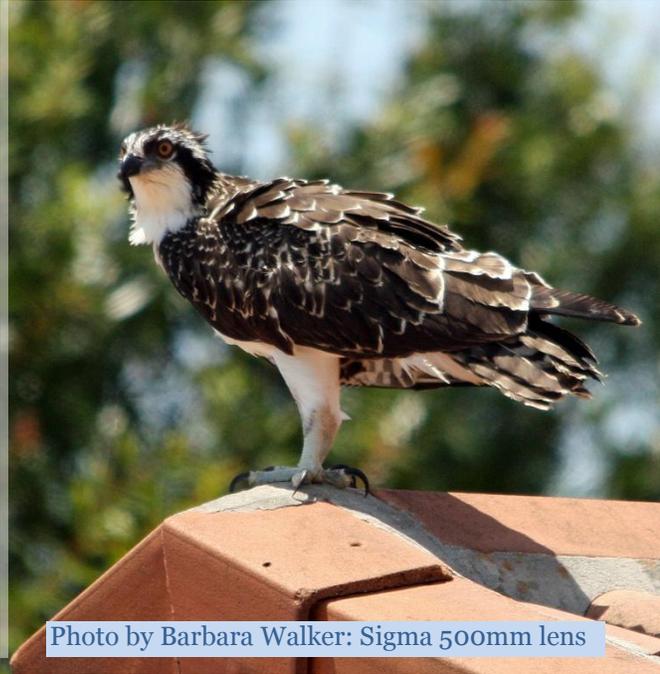


Photo by Barbara Walker: Sigma 500mm lens

**BINOCULARS**  
**CAMERAS**  
**SCOPES**  
**BIRD I.D.**  
**FIELD GUIDES**  
**TECH GEAR**  
**KAYAKS**  
**AND MORE!**

Clearwater Audubon Society Officers weigh in on the gear they can't go birding without.

## BINOCULARS

Leica Ultravid HD  
8x42  
Waterproof  
Fogproof  
AquaDura® Lens Coat



Video:



[Leica Ultravid HD Binoculars](#)

Zeiss Conquest HD  
8x42  
Waterproof  
Fogproof  
LotuTec® Lens Coat



Video:



[Zeiss Conquest HD Binoculars](#)

Nikon Monarch 3  
8x42  
Weatherproof  
Fogproof



Barb Walker notes that the Zeiss Conquest quality is equal to that of the Leica for about half the cost!

## CAMERAS

Nikon CoolPix 6100  
16-megapixel  
7x optical zoom  
4x Digital Zoom  
3.0-inch LCD  
Touchscreen  
720p HD video recording



Video:



[Nikon CoolPix 6100](#)

Canon EOS 10D

6.3 Megapixel  
Digital SLR  
7-point AF  
3 fps up to 9 consecutive frames



KODAK Z5120  
16-megapixel  
26X Optical IS Lens  
720p HD video recording





## SCOPES

### Sigma APO 500mm telephoto lens

14 inches long  
less than 7 pounds



### HD PENTAX DA 560mm

White color minimizes heat  
20.5 inches long  
6.7 pounds



### Nikon EDG 65 Field Scope

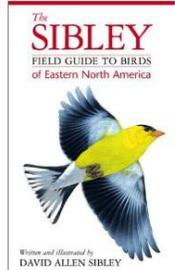
12 inches long  
3 pounds



## BIRD GUIDES & ID APPS

### The Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Eastern North America David A. Sibley

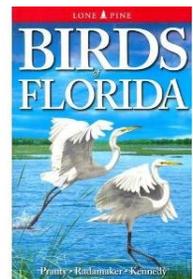
Compact and comprehensive, this new guide features 650 bird species plus regional populations- over 4,200 illustrations



Jane Williams & John Hood agree on these guides and apps.

### Birds of Florida Bill Pranty

Shows only birds found in FL and shows only the plumage they're in while here. No northern breeding plumages.



### APPS: Caller I.D.

iBird Explorer Pro

Peterson Birds of North America

The Sibley eGuide to the Birds of North America



**McManus & McManus, P.A.**  
**R. Bruce McManus      Mary M. Taylor**

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**U Stor N Lock**  
**18946 US Highway 19 N**  
**Clearwater, FL. 33764**  
**727 531-4040**

**U Stor N Lock donates storage space to Clearwater Audubon**  
*If you need a store room, see them and please mention Clearwater Audubon Society.*



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(727) 461-4832 fax (727) 461-4835

Office Hours By Appointment



**Kamilla Sztanko, DMD, PA**  
3830 Tampa Road, Suite 100  
Palm Harbor, FL 34684  
Telephone (727) 789-4044

## TRIKES & YAKS

TerraTrike Rover  
Recumbent Trike

Carbon Steel Frame  
Higher Seat  
Fully Adjustable Seat & Boom  
Direct Steering  
Disc Brakes  
Single, 3, or 8 Speed  
One Size Fits Most  
For Riders Up To 400 Pounds!

The Rover is designed with a higher seat for better visibility and safety, a turning radius that is tighter than most uprights, and layman-friendly adjustments and assembly for easy transportation.

Partially a hands-free biking experience that allows for birding adventures!



Hobie Mirage Revolution 11

Length: 11' 6"  
Width: 29  
Weight: 57#

Mirage drive feature allows you to control the boat hands-free. There are plenty of laces to store your birding equipment. Shade options available.



Perception Carolina 14

Length: 14'  
Width: 24.5  
Weight: 53#

Great speed and tracking compliments the added storage space for longer distances or extended weekend camping.





# OUTFITTERS: BIRDING TOP TO BOTTOM

## The Tilley T3 hat

blocks 98% of UVA/UVB (UPF) of 50+  
repels rain  
machine washable  
Tilley Hats are guaranteed for life not to wear out.  
If you lose it in the first two years Tilley will give you 50% towards a new hat.



## Weekend Traveler Vest

Pockets for everything  
Wrinkle resistant  
UPF/UV 50  
100% NyLite Nylon



John Hood loves all the pockets!

## Columbia Bahama Shirt with Omni-Shade

quick-drying  
vented UPF 30  
100% nylon



Lynn Sumerson says "you can't go wrong with Columbia short and long sleeve shirts".

## Columbia Airgill Chill Pant

Fabric: 100% polyester rip-stop  
Omni-Shield® Blood 'n Guts repellency  
Omni-Freeze advanced cooling  
Omni-Shade® UPF 50 sun protection  
Quick dry  
Vented  
Zip-off legs convert pant to 9.5" inseam short



## Keen Shoes

Multi-directional lugs  
Dual density compression  
molded EVA and PU midsole  
Non-marking rubber outsole  
Torsion stability TPU shank  
Waterproof nubuck leather & breathable mesh upper.

