



**Collier County Audubon Society  
Annual Report 2010-2011**

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Paul Arsenault, *Keywadin* Original oil on canvas painting, 20x30.  
View other Arsenault originals at [www.arsenaultstudio.com](http://www.arsenaultstudio.com)



Painting on Cover: Frank P. Corso, *Night Watchman*, original oil on canvas (30x48)  
Mr. Corso is represented by **Gardner-Colby Gallery, 386 Broad Ave. S, Naples FL**

## Who we are

Collier County Audubon Society, the oldest conservation organization in Collier County, is an independent chapter affiliated with National Audubon Society and Audubon of Florida and has over 2,000 members. We have a volunteer board of directors, a paid staff of three and many regular volunteers.

*Our missions are to promote interest in and understanding of wildlife and the natural environment and to conserve as much of the Southwest Florida natural environment as possible.*

## What we do

### Conservation

CCAS is one of the most effective environmental policy and lobbying organizations in Southwest Florida. We are active in Collier, Lee, Hendry and Glades counties, whose eco-systems are inextricably interlinked. Conservation in all four counties is critical for water quality and availability; for the health of our estuaries, beaches and the Gulf of Mexico; and for the survival of the bird, fish, and other animal species that make Southwest Florida a special place.

Our staff is widely recognized for policy expertise; negotiation skills; timely provision of scientific environmental information to politicians, economic decision makers and other influential groups such as fishing and hunting associations as well as to the general public; effective advocacy for conserving as much environmentally significant land as possible through public acquisition, rural land stewardship, transfer development rights, alternative agriculture, and ecotourism. As necessary, CCAS joins in lawsuits against egregiously harmful development and other strategic legal measures. CCAS supports efforts to reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions.

### Education

CCAS supports in school Environmental Education. Students are introduced to environmental concepts and the importance of conservation. They are encouraged to “take the message home” and educate family members as well.

CCAS also conducts an extra curricular Audubon Young Birders program that is intended to connect young people and their families with nature by having positive emotional experiences with their natural surroundings.

Each year we expand our Bluebird Team Rescue Project, which is an outreach program to school science teachers at the Elementary school level, to get more schools involved in Collier County. We provide boxes, help locate them on the school property, give educational training on bluebirds, record the activities of the bluebirds, thus reintroducing the bluebird trail in Southwest Florida.

### Adult Programs and Field Trips

CCAS sponsors annual lecture series on a wide variety of topics relating to habitats, conservation issues, and specific bird and other animal species. Our field trips and eco-tour adventures take place in prime habitats and birding locations throughout the region.



## Message from the Board of Directors

**Eileen Arsenault  
Ted Below  
Alan Keller, President  
Ken Humiston  
Martha Kriek  
Lu Lackore, Treasurer  
PJ Marinelli, Vice President  
Brandon Nichols  
Rebecca Wells**

Our third Annual Report covers the second half of 2010 and the first half of 2011, the year of our *fiftieth anniversary*. Founded in 1961, Collier County Audubon is the oldest conservation organization in the county and remains a major force in environmental conservation and education in the area.

We are proud of the fact that we finished our 2010-2011 June to July fiscal year in the black for the first time in several years. During the past four years we decided not to reduce our policy/advocacy activities while major political decisions affecting the prospects for the future health of our environment were taking place and while the national economic situation deteriorated. Similarly we did not reduce our education programs, especially not those aimed at the next generation of decision makers, our public school youth. We owe the achievement of a balanced budget in 2010-2011 primarily to the generosity of our donors, who are listed later in this report, and to an increase in the market value of our very modest reserve. The details of our financial situation are found later in this report.

During 2010-2011 we welcomed three new members to our Board. Ken Humiston brings a long background in coastal engineering to our ranks. Brandon Nichols is a local attorney with a strong interest in conservation. Rebecca Wells has the technical background to lead Collier Audubon into the world of 21<sup>st</sup> Century communications technology.

As will be seen in the achievements section of this report, Collier Audubon has contributed to some important environmental successes this past year. Nevertheless, in overall terms the past fiscal year has marked many significant reversals of long standing environmental protections, and consequently the challenges in the immediate future are even more daunting than usual. Given the coinciding threats to the environment and our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we sincerely hope that our donors find ways to increase their support to Collier Audubon.

Finally, we would like to acknowledge, as we do every year, that environmental achievements are rarely the product of single institutions but rather stem from concerted action of coalitions. While we are certain that Collier Audubon has been a vital partner in regional environmental struggles and are confident that it will continue to be in the future, we wish to express our appreciation for the roles of our fellow environmentalists and partner organizations as well.



**Tamiami Sunset**, Photo by John Brady



**Shark Point**, Photo by John Brady  
[www.timeandlight.com](http://www.timeandlight.com)

# Achievements during 2010-2011

## Conservation

**In the context of a year of major threats to 40 years of environmental protection regulations at state and national levels, Collier Audubon still played vital roles as listed below:**

### Everglades Restoration

- Picayune Strand Restoration continues to receive federal funding breaking ground on Phase 3 of 4. Construction is moving quickly. CCAS' advocacy was recognized by the Army Corps, along with many colleagues.
- CCAS provided strong support for expansion of wetland conservation programs and wildlife refuge creation in the Northern Everglades – the Kissimmee River and Fisheating Creek watersheds, as well as major expansion of the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge.

### Water Quality and Quantity

- CCAS contributed significantly to effective planning and advocacy for water storage and restoration projects in the Greater Everglades including “water farming” projects on privately owned ranch lands, federal funding for major infrastructure projects including the ten thousand acre C-43 reservoir in Hendry County (necessary to provide water for salinity balance for the Caloosahatchee River without competing with dry season needs for southern Everglades restoration projects), and planning to address the nitrogen nutrient pollution which is significant factor in algal blooms in coastal waters but not addressed in earlier restoration plans.
- CCAS provided a strong voice for coastal interests on the Southwest Florida Watershed Council, the Estero Bay Agency for Bay Management, the water quality subcommittee of the Regional Planning Council, the Caloosahatchee Riverwatch Association, the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program's Citizen Advisory Committee, the Florida Water Resources Association, the Board of the 160,000 member/subscriber Snook Foundation, and the fifty-four member Everglades Coalition. We have been active participants in the South Florida Water Management District's Advisory Commission (WRAC) including the Adaptive Protocol negotiations for management of Lake Okeechobee water levels and releases and have helped to establish science based numeric nutrient standards for local waters.
- CCAS continued advocacy for effective Collier County Watershed Management Plans and successfully promoted fertilizer control ordinances in Collier and Hendry counties.

### Habitat Conservation

- CCAS advanced the Florida Panther Protection Program through local policies, an objective science review, and initiation and pursuit of a federal Habitat Conservation Plan for panthers and many other species on 170,000 acres of eastern Collier County. CCAS supported research, negotiation and work toward pending resolution of panther depredation issues. Part of that included participation in planning the first annual Florida Panther Festival, fall, 2011.
- CCAS was active in the development of a wildlife corridors study for south Florida seeking to establish least cost pathways between major public and private habitat holdings including the Panther Refuge, Babcock Ranch Preserve/Webb wildlife management area, Lykes Ranch, Fisheating Creek wildlife management and conservation easement areas in the Kissimmee valley including Avon Park.
- CCAS participated in a two year effort to establish a land use program for Hendry County to focus development on appropriate areas, protect wetlands and wildlife habitat, and contribute to sustainable agriculture with a transfer of density program. Although adopted by the Hendry Board of County Commissioners in 2010 it was just repealed following revisions of the growth management act by the state legislature.
- CCAS, with Florida Audubon, Rookery Bay, Marco Island, and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission continued a Shorebird Stewardship project to protect imperiled beach nesting birds. A new and fascinating stewardship program for rooftop nesting birds (Least Terns, primarily) was initiated.
- CCAS participated in ongoing litigation, with a coalition of groups, to defend growth policies in Lee County's Density Reduction/Groundwater Resource Area that keep rock mines and development away from wetlands and habitat. Rock miners have challenged the new plan.
- CCAS successfully opposed, within a civic and environmental coalition, three rock mining applications near Corkscrew Swamp.
- CCAS continued development, working closely with Audubon of Florida, of revised state and federal wetland permitting procedures and rules to reduce wetland losses. This required engaging heavily with the Florida Legislature in 2011.

- CCAS advocated appropriate public land management in Big Cypress National Preserve, and participated actively in the Off Road Vehicle Advisory Committee for Big Cypress.
- CCAS continued advocacy of resource protection policies in Hendry and Glades Counties and served on the Babcock Ranch Management Advisory Board.

### **Climate Change and Energy Conservation**

- As a major sponsor of an environmental information outreach effort, *Eco-Voice*, we have provided thousands of policy makers the best science based information on climate change, sea level rise and ecosystem implications. A member of staff serves as the moderator for this effort.
- CCAS has been involved in the establishment of, and participation on, the Collier County Energy Efficiency Ad-hoc Task Force.
- CCAS has begun advocacy for effective sea level rise planning responses by local governments.

### **Education**

- Co-sponsored environmental education reaching over 4,000 third and fourth graders in public schools.
- Students taken on field trips to Florida Gulf Coast University and Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed and provided age appropriate information on habitats, environmental conservation, and species of special interest such as the Florida panther.
- 400 FGCU students participated in the program
- 12,000 adults reached through the students
- 52 children enrolled in Young Birders extra curricular program. 15 field trips provided
- Blue bird rescue program instituted in seven elementary schools in Collier County, the Naples Zoo, Bonita Bay East Golf Course & Bentley Village.

### **Programs**

- Six public lectures sponsored with an attendance of over 800. Topics included Ospreys, Hurricanes and the Impact on our Eco-System, Crested Caracara, Scrub Jays, Roseate Spoonbills & Florida Panther Kittens.

### **Field Trips**

- 25 field trips conducted to birding “hot spots” in Collier, Hendry, Lee, Broward, and Glades counties. Attendance varied from 10 to 25 per trip. Trips introduce participants to environmental concerns as well as to birding.

### **Research**

- Continued support for Ted Below’s research which encompasses the longest (38 years) data set on coastal water bird populations in Southwest Florida.
- Served as a conduit for habitat and wetland research results, especially from Audubon of Florida scientists, to political and economic decision makers.



Frank Corso, ***Cypress Sundown***,  
original oil on canvas painting, 36x48

## Donations July 2010-June 2011

### \$25,000 and over

Martin Foundation

### \$10,000-\$24,999

Collier Enterprises  
Everglades Foundation  
Joseph Tompkins

### \$5,000- \$9,999

Arthrex  
Alan Keller Foundation  
Barron Collier Jr. Foundation  
Pearson Family Foundation

### \$2,500-\$4,999

The Herbert & Margaret Scheu Fund

### \$1,000-\$2,499

Alico Land Development  
John & Rebecca Allen  
Stephen Anderson  
Community Foundation  
Maurice & Dorothy Kent  
Patsy Schroeder  
Roy's Restaurant-Bonita Springs  
Christopher & Jean Smith  
Mrs. William Whaley  
Ken & Paula Zeisler

### \$500-\$999

Donald & Doris Berkey  
Kohl's  
Ernest & Sandy Linneman  
Robert & Linda Morris  
J. Richard & Carol Munro  
William Morton

### \$250-\$499

Stephen Foss  
Love Yoga Center  
Lu Lackore  
Alan Marsh  
Robert & Joanne Marsh  
Geraldine Martin  
Arden McCurdy  
Mr. & Mrs. Alvin McQuinn  
Hugh Nevin  
Don Schrottenboer  
Paul & Nancy Slater  
Don & Nancy Williams  
Woodward, Pires & Lombardo

### \$100-\$249

Helen Ayer  
Michael & Amy Barry  
Stanley Boynton  
Robert & Gisele Colette Trust  
Corinne Duggan  
Eric Draper  
Dick & Lulie Eide  
John Elting  
Stephen Foss  
Jean Gaston  
John & Polly Kaiser  
Richard Macken  
Joe Scott & Susan Morgan  
Mark Morton  
Marie Neil  
Stefanie Nelson  
Bill & Rosann Nunnely  
Susan Schumann-Skehan  
Margaret Spontak  
Roger Tachuk  
Ruth Winters

### Up to \$99

Franklin Adams  
Lorraine Carlson  
Chili's Restaurant-Naples  
Dorothy Cornell  
Sherry Lynn Elliott  
Hendry-Glades Audubon  
Drs. Ana & Jiri Jonas  
Tara McGraw  
Lisa Meyers  
Brandon Nichols  
Margaret Ostrom  
Nick Penniman  
Gail Peyton  
Russell & Liesa Priddy  
Erin Rydzinski  
John & Susan Shewchuk  
Frankie Anne Tester

### Corporate Membership

Pelican Bay Foundation

## FINANCIALS

**Fiscal Year July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2011**

**Assets at Start of Year** \$455,657

### Income

Dues & Programs	\$ 7,964
Gifts	75,142
Grants	71,120
Investment Income	58,230
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$212,456</b>

### Expenditures

\$203,852

### End of year assets

\$464,260



*Brown Pelican*, photo by Ted Below



*Oystercatcher*, photo by Ted Below

*\*Please note that those who generously attended our Fundraising dinner in 2011 are not recognized for the ticket purchase, but are singled out for any other donations they may have made.*



Photograph by John Brady – *Loop Road, Big Cypress #10*  
[www.timeandlight.com](http://www.timeandlight.com)

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