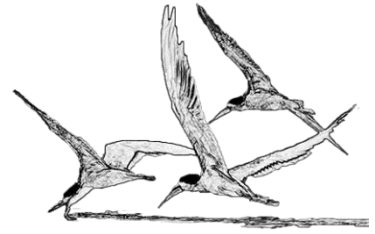


West Pasco Audubon
Conservation Notes
November 2018



Upcoming area events:

Now through February 10 - Audubon Florida and the Tampa Bay History Center present "A History of Conservation - A Bird's Eye View", on exhibit at the History Center, 801 Old Water Street, Tampa.

Now through November 25 - "Expressions of Nature" art exhibit, Brooker Creek Preserve Environmental Education Center, 3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs. Saturday and Sundays only.

November 3 - Stargazing at Jay B Starkey Wilderness Park, 7:30 pm. Hosted by Pasco Astronomers Club.

November 6 - General election. Don't forget to get out and vote!

November 17 - Pasco Upcycle and Art Festival, come spend a day finding new and creative ways to use old things! Sims Park, New Port Richey, 10 am - 4 pm

December 1 - Pasco Household HazMat Recycle. Pasco county recycling officials will be at the West Pasco Government Center, 7530 Little Road New Port Richey, from 8-2 accepting hazardous household goods for recycling. This includes electronics, car fluids, pool chemicals, batteries, paint, pesticides, herbicides, and cleaning chemicals. It's a great opportunity to do a late fall clean-up and ensure environmentally dangerous items are disposed of responsibly!

December 14 - Christmas Bird Count. Save the date for this annual event. More details to follow.

Monthly Challenge: How much of a problem is plastic pollution, really?

About 8.8 million tons of plastic enter the ocean each year worldwide - roughly a dump truck full of plastic every minute of every day. And it degrades very slowly - a plastic water bottle may remain in the environment for 450 years. If nothing changes, by 2025 the flow of plastic into the ocean is expected to double. By 2050 the ocean may contain

more plastic than fish by weight! ... From the Aquarium Conservation Partnership: the Monterey Bay Aquarium, National Aquarium, Florida Aquarium, Audubon Nature Center, and many others... and the world economic forum.

Did you know:

- U.S. consumers generate more plastic waste per person than any other country - each person consumes over 220 pounds of plastic each year on average.
- Plastic debris can now be found in almost every marine habitat on Earth - from polar sea ice to the bottom of the deepest ocean trench.
- Plastic ingestion or entanglement has been documented in every known sea turtle species, over half of marine mammal species, and over half of seabird species.
- It's estimated that over 99 percent of all seabird species—and over 90 percent of individual seabirds—will have ingested plastic by 2050.
- Entanglement impacts have included drowning, suffocations, and loss of limbs through gangrene, while ingestion has led to starvation due to gut obstruction.

Here's How You Can Help:

Bring Your Own Reusable Shopping Bags - Always bring your own bags whenever you shop.

Use Reusable Bottles - Avoid single-use plastic like bottled water. Always use a reusable bottle. Keep a mug at your desk and bring a reusable cup to coffee shops.

Avoid Plastic Straws - Skip it or carry your own stainless steel or glass straw. Skip the lid, too! Consider carrying your own reusable utensil set and avoid the disposable plastic ones wrapped in more plastic.

Choose Paper to Wrap - Choose wax paper to wrap sandwiches, place on top of foods warmed up in the microwave, or when storing food in the fridge.

Buy Boxes, Not Bottles - Buy laundry detergent, dish soap, juice, and milk in boxes or cartons instead of plastic bottles.

Buy From Bulk Bins - Many stores sell bulk food like rice, pasta, beans, nuts, cereal, and granola. Opting to fill a reusable bag or container with these items will save unnecessary packaging.

Use Refillable Dispensers - Like for your hand soap and dish washing liquid, one large bottle is better than using a bunch of small ones.

Skip the Frozen Food Section - Frozen foods offer both convenience and plenty of plastic packaging — even those eco-friendly packaged items made from cardboard are actually coated in a thin layer of plastic.

Recycle - If you use plastic, try to choose #1 (PETE) or #2 (HDPE), which are the most commonly recycled plastics. Avoid plastic bags and polystyrene foam as both typically have very low recycling rates.

For more information check out the ACP Plastic Pollution Initiative.