



# Habi-Chat

Newsletter of the Merritt Island Wildlife Association

Volume 9, Number 4

Winter 2003

## MIWA Annual Meeting

The 2003 Annual Meeting was a success with 60 members attending. MIWA President Warren Camp welcomed members and spoke briefly of the completion of the Sandler Education Outpost and ongoing restroom project. MIWA Board of Directors officer elections were headed by Committee Chair, George English. All current officers agreed to serve another term, while the seven board members up for re-election were approved as well as five new members. We would like to welcome our newly elected board members: Chris Fairey, John Tribe, Joel Reynolds, Ron Thorstad and Lorenz Simpkins. Refuge Manager, Ron Hight gave a refuge update and thanked the Association for its commitment to supporting the refuge. He also discussed upcoming road projects and announced the refuge received the highest number recorded in the Customer Satisfaction Index Survey for Federal Land Management. He thanked the staff and volunteers for all their hard work. Other topics included a Comprehensive Conservation Plan update by Cheri Ehrhardt, upcoming field trips by Dorn Whitmore, Brevard Watercolor Society Program by Darleen Hunt, and MIWA Bookstore report by Sandee Larsen. Warren Camp presented a Power Point program celebrating MIWA's 10 years of refuge support. Door prizes were awarded and refreshments were served. Thank you to Laurilee Thompson and Dixie Crossroads for hosting the meeting and for the tasty appetizers. As always, thank you to all our members for your continued support of MIWA and the refuge.

**Sandee Larsen, MIWA Bookstore Manager**

### Officers

President	Warren Camp
Vice President	Dan LeBlanc
Treasurer	Jim Pedersen
Secretary	Darleen Hunt
President Emeritus	George English

### Board Members

#### Board Members

Sam Beddingfield, Jim Butts, Judy Dryja, Emmett B. Ferguson, Robert Hutchison, General Forrest McCartney, Chris Fairey, Joel Reynolds, Lorenz Simpkins, Lee Solid, Ned Steel, Diane Stees, Laurilee Thompson, Ron Thorstad and John Tribe



## Watercolors of Wild Things



Over 150 artists and guests attended the first ever wildlife art exhibition held at the refuge Visitor Center on Saturday, November 1, 2003. MIWA sponsored a wine and hors d'oeuvres reception for the opening of the Brevard Watercolor Society (BWS) exhibition currently on display in the MINWR Visitor Center. Fred Adrian, Refuge Forester, provided live music while the crowd mingled and enjoyed the beautiful artwork. Warren Camp, MIWA President, welcomed guests and thanked those who organized the event. Refuge Manager Ron Hight expressed his appreciation and complimented the artists on their talents. Jini James, BWS President, announced the winners selected by the show judges, Charlie Velek and Marc Epstein, Refuge Biologist. Awarded artists are as follows: First Place, *Gator* by **Witha LaCuesta**, Second Place, *Dropping in for Dinner* by **Therese Ferguson**, Third Place, *Tri-color Heron* by **JJ Tremble**. Awards of Merit were presented for *Fox* by **Jo Ewald**, *Scrub Jays at Merritt Island* by **Therese Ferguson**, *Show Off* by **Francis Adell Gordon**, *Visitors to Blackpoint Drive* by **Barbara Hotton**, *Wood Storks* by **JA Hubert**, *Wet Lands Pitcher Plant* by **Gail Stuart**, *Odd Fellow* by **Helen Wheatley** and *Tri-color Heron* by **Elaine McGavern**. Paintings and prints are available for sale with a portion of the proceeds to be donated to MIWA. As of this writing six original paintings have been sold. The forty-five paintings depicting flora and fauna on the refuge created by BWS members will be on display through January 31, 2004.



**Witha LaCuesta with her first place work *Gator*. Photo by Betty Camp.**

**Darleen Hunt, MIWA Board Member**

## Message from the President

We're just finishing another very busy quarter for MINWR and MIWA. We celebrated the 40th anniversary of MINWR, hosted a portion of the Space Coast Birding and Wildlife Festival, held our annual MIWA meeting, hosted the Brevard Watercolor Society Art exhibit at the Visitor Center, and, on December 15<sup>th</sup>, MIWA and MINWR will host the annual Christmas Bird Count.



The 40th anniversary celebration in October was a great success, with about 500 visitors attending the event. Business was brisk in the newly renovated bookstore, while the refreshment tent outside kept busy all day. I believe everyone enjoyed the event.

As usual, the Space Coast Birding and Wildlife Festival in November attracted a large number of birders and paddlers to the refuge and surrounding areas. Several MIWA members led tours and provided support for the festival. The MIWA booth was very busy, with several book signings and steady business.

Our Annual Meeting was held at Dixie Crossroads in October. Those attending got an update on MINWR and MIWA happenings. A short slide show on the past ten years of MIWA was presented by yours truly. Thank you to Laurilee Thompson, a MIWA board member and manager of Dixie Crossroads, who provided the attendees with a vast array of excellent seafood for their consumption. (See what you missed if you didn't attend!)

The Brevard Watercolor Society Art Exhibit reception, November 1st, was well attended, with a crowd of about 150 people. The 45 watercolors will be on display through the end of January 2004. Most of the paintings are for sale, with a portion of the proceeds going to MIWA.

The permanent restrooms at the Sandler Education Outpost are nearing completion and should be ready for use by the middle of December. Thanks to Clay Hutchison and Dorn Whitmore for doing a great job in seeing this project through. Unfortunately we lost some of the grant money we were hoping would help with the cost of the restrooms. So, any of you members who have loose change you would like to donate to the restroom project or any other MIWA undertakings, please notify Sandee Larsen at the Visitor Center.



SEO Restroom Construction.  
Photo by Betty Camp.

Warren Camp, MIWA President



The purpose of the Merritt Island Wildlife Association is to promote conservation, awareness, and appreciation of the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge and to provide assistance to Refuge programs.

### Board Members

Sam Beddingfield, Jim Butts, Judy Dryja, Chris Fairey, Bud Ferguson, Robert Hutchison, Forrest McCartney, Joel Reynolds, Lorenz Simpkins, Lee Solid, Ned Steel, Diane Stees, Laurilee Thompson, Ron Thorstad, John Tribe

**President** Warren Camp  
**Vice President** Dan LeBlanc  
**Treasurer** Jim Pedersen  
**Secretary** Darleen Hunt  
**President Emeritus** George English

**Refuge Manager** Ron Hight      **USFWS Liaison** Dorn Whitmore  
**NASA Liaison** Mike Sumner

The Merritt Island Wildlife Association (MIWA) is a nonprofit, cooperating association for the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge. The *Habi-Chat* is published quarterly. For MIWA information, call 321-861-2377.

**Newsletter Editor** Beth Homa      **Technical Consultant** Sandee Larsen  
**Habi-Chat Committee** Beth Homa, Sandee Larsen, Diane Stees & Dorn Whitmore



### Visitor Information Center Hours

Monday through Friday  
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday\*  
9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

\*VIC is closed Sundays  
from April-October

The Refuge is open daily  
from sunrise-sunset,  
except during Shuttle  
launch operations.



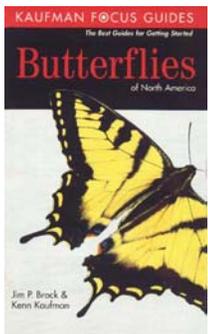
## MIWA's 2003 Accomplishments

- Manned the Booth at the Space Coast Birding & Wildlife Festival
- Sponsored the 2003 Christmas Bird Count

- Hosted the Sandler Education Outpost Dedication Ceremony
- Held the MIWA Members-Only Pelican Island Field Trip
- Held the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge Historical Tour
- Featured Association in Various Articles: Ford Money Market's Quarterly Newsletter, Florida Today, and the Star Tribune
- Attended three Friend's of Florida Refuges Conferences



- Developed Centennial Retail Items
- Attended the Centennial Refuge Friends Conference in Washington, DC
- Participated in the Centennial Celebration at Pelican Island NWR
- Participated in the Southeast Region's National Wildlife System Centennial Celebration in Atlanta.
- Featured Signed Copies: Birds of North America & Butterflies of North America, Kenn Kaufman
- Featured Signed Copies: America's National Wildlife Refuges: A Complete Guide & National Wildlife Refuges, Karen Hollingsworth
- Hosted Author Kenn Kaufman's Butterfly Program



- Supplied Refreshments for Refuge CCP Intergovernmental Meetings
- Supplied Refreshments for Refuge Law Enforcement Meeting
- Funded the MINWR 40th Anniversary Celebration
- Funded the VIC Native Garden Project
- Published the Quarterly Newsletter
- Added Three Benches to VIC Boardwalk
- Funded MINWR Boardwalk Plank at Pelican Island NWR
- Held the Member's-Only Sea Turtle Walk
- Renovated and Moved into New Bookstore Area
- Participated in the Annual Songbird Festival
- Joined the National Wildlife Refuge Association
- Funded Sandler Educational Outpost Restroom Project
- Donated Funds to Wildlife Rehabilitator, Chris Heller Wise
- Donated to Pennies to Protect Police Dogs and Received a Canine Vest for our Refuge Canine Officer, Duke
- Hosted Brevard Watercolor Society Reception and Exhibit
- Funded Fall Volunteer Social



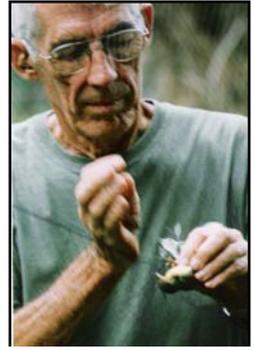


Photo by Windy Lunsford.



Judy Dryja measures one of migratory visitors. Photo by Ron Hight.



Picking and grinning with the Shadetree Pickers. Photo by Ron Hight.

### You, too, may someday be a birder!

Can't tell a gull from a tern in flight? (Terns usually hold their bills at a 45 degree angle to the line of flight, whereas gulls usually hold their bills parallel to the line of flight.) What's the sure-fire way to distinguish Lesser Yellowlegs from Greater Yellowlegs? (Body shape is a clue to size and species—Lesser is more streamlined, and Greater is more plump.) What's the sure method to know a Least Sandpiper vs. a Western or Semipalmated Sandpiper? (The



Least has yellow legs, even if they are covered with mud sometimes.)

For more information on tricky, and everyday, identification techniques, join volunteers for a beginning birding tour, most

Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays through March. For more information call the refuge at 321-861-0667 or visit the website at [merrittisland.fws.gov](http://merrittisland.fws.gov).

**Cary Salter, Refuge Volunteer**



### Did you know...

- MINWR has more than 650,000 visitors each year.
- MINWR covers more than 140,000 acres.
- MINWR is home to more than 500 species of wildlife and 1000 species of plants.

**Don't wait to unwrap those binoculars...**

**Check them out for free!**

We have a wide selection of binoculars available for loan at the refuge visitor center. Just leave your license or a credit card and really get a close up view of the refuge. The binoculars, donated by the Great Florida Birding Trail Association, may be checked out during regular visitor center hours and must be returned before closing time. So no more excuses, come on out and really see what's out here.



## NATO Members Visit Merritt Island NWR

On a windy November 10<sup>th</sup> morning, roughly 700 NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) members and their families visited Kennedy Space Center and the refuge to learn about the United States' space program and the nature found in the shadow of the shuttle. Refuge staff held a festival for the group at KSC's Visitor Complex, introducing the refuge and its role in wildlife conservation. An introduction area offered refuge maps and giveaways and oriented the NATO members to the refuge. A wetland tent described the role wetlands have in the ecosystem and how we manage water levels for different species of wildlife. Fire staff decked out in their gear explained the role of fire in nature and how prescribed burning is used to maintain habitat. A fourth tent focused on how wildlife co-exists under the greatest technological program in the world, NASA. A bald eagle, red-tailed hawk, kestrel and great-horned owl from Audubon Birds of Prey joined us to help illustrate the need for wild places for wildlife. Refuge volunteer George Baker wandered around the exhibit area with a gopher tortoise in tow, talking to visitors about the refuge's unique scrub habitat and the importance of gopher tortoise burrows to the more than 360 other species of wildlife that use them. An American alligator and several snakes were also on hand to illustrate how the Refuge System preserves habitat for wildlife. The blue goose also made an appearance, delighting kids and adults with hugs and waves. Thanks to all the volunteers and staff who helped make the day a success!

**Sandy Edmondson, Refuge Ranger**



Blue goose is always popular with the young crowd. Photo by Ron Hight



### Smoky Skies are in Your Future...

The skies over Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge may appear cloudier in the coming months, as the refuge begins its prescribed fire season. The season kicked off a few weeks ago, when fire staff burned 7,000 acres for hazardous fuel reduction and wildlife habitat management, the primary goals of most prescribed burns. After the holiday season is over, fire staff will again begin burning operations. The grounded shuttle program has provided an open window for prescribed burning, since fire operations are restricted with a shuttle on the pad. The refuge hopes to increase media exposure to educate the general public about the benefits of fire and its natural role in Florida's ecosystem.

**Sandy Edmondson, Refuge Ranger**

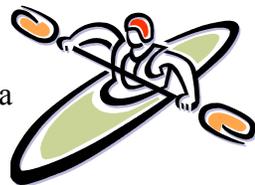


Who's walking who?  
Photo by Steve Johnson.



### Festival Draws Record Crowd

With its highest attendance ever, the Space Coast Birding and Wildlife Festival was a smashing success this year. Highlights included field trips, seminars, workshops, book signings and a wide array of exhibitors. Many of the tours occurred on the refuge with Dorn Whitmore and Nancy Corona leading two of them. Refuge volunteers were a big help as always with the event. Walt and Liz Kanjorski even offered their backyard as one of the stops on the butterfly tour. The MIWA booth was busy with several book signings and lots of new merchandise. Kenn Kaufman drew a large crowd as always, being cheered as he arrived. A limited quantity of autographed books are available for sale at the MIWA bookstore. Plans are already underway for the 2004 festival. Hope to see you there!





## MIWA Minute



Things have gone from quiet to busy to hectic here at the Bookstore. The new sales area is up and running and we have already filled it to near capacity. Please take time to visit and do some holiday shopping. New items include; heron t-shirts, *Magic* butterfly t-shirts, silver earrings and necklaces from Wild Bryde Jewelry Company and tan Merritt Island visors.

MIWA's booth at the Space Coast Birding and Wildlife Festival was a popular site, where we hosted authors Kenn Kaufman, Marc Minno, Dr. Walter Taylor, David Gluckman and wildlife photographer Karen Hollingsworth for book signings. We doubled our previous year's sales and had fun promoting the refuge and Association. Thank you to volunteers **Mel and Dot Fringer, Beverly Campbell, Chanjira Kenyon and Jim Butts** for helping out at our booth.

The Brevard Watercolor Society reception was a huge success with approximately 150 attending. Please visit and enjoy the exhibition at the VIC. The watercolor artwork will be on display through January 2004, with a portion of the proceeds being donated to MIWA. It's a great way to promote local artists and MIWA! Thanks to volunteers, **Beverly Campbell and Betty and Cary Salter** for working the high-energy program. Also thank you to **Fred Adrian**, for providing music during the event. You rock Fred!

We welcome our newest Life Members, **Cary and Betty Salter** of Rockledge. Cary and Betty have been active volunteers at the refuge for years and are especially popular for their lively bird tours held on Sundays seasonally. As Life Members they will receive benefits, including discounts on field trips, educational programs, and purchases at the MIWA Gift Shop. We encourage all members to become actively involved in our programs and we ask you all to promote membership to your friends and families.

### We especially want to thank our Life Members:

Halifax River Audubon Society	Indian River Audubon Society	Sam Beddingfield	John & Linda Boucher
H.P. Buckner	Kathryn Brown	Bobby & Sue Buckalew	Warren Camp
Paul & Leah Casper	Jim & Judy Dryja	Lori & Steve Emly	George English
Jim Escoffier	Emmet B. Ferguson, MD	Kathy Gay	Carolyn Hass
Barbara Hoelscher	Darleen & Jerry Hunt	Dan LeBlanc	Judith Lindquist
Richard & Carol Loehr	Marian Lunsford	Barry Maness	Capt. Fred Mastin
Gen. & Mrs. Forrest McCartney (ret)	Bon Merrilee	Tom & Virginia Mills	Hugh & Virginia Nicolay
Lewis Oliver	Gerry & Arline Oppliger	Roy Roberts	Dr. Bill Rylander
Cary & Betty Salter	Cynthia Schneider	Charles Schneider	Jude & Mrs. Joseph Schneider
Robert & Nancy Sieck	Sid & Carol Smith	Marcelite J. Harris, Maj. Gen. (ret)	

Thank you to the following 2003 **Contributors:**

**F. Warren Frost, Florette Schneider, BP Foundation and Space Coast Nature Tours.**

Thank you to our **Corporate Sponsors: Holiday Inn Riverfront KSC, United Space Alliance and the Merritt Island WAL-MART.**

For information on volunteering at the refuge contact Nancy Corona at 321-861-0667. Feel free to call MIWA's direct line, 321-861-2377 if you need membership or retail information, or would like to make a donation.

Have a safe and happy holiday! I'll see you at the refuge.

**Sandee Larsen MIWA Bookstore Manager**



Don't forget!

Show your MIWA membership card and receive a 10% discount on all purchases.

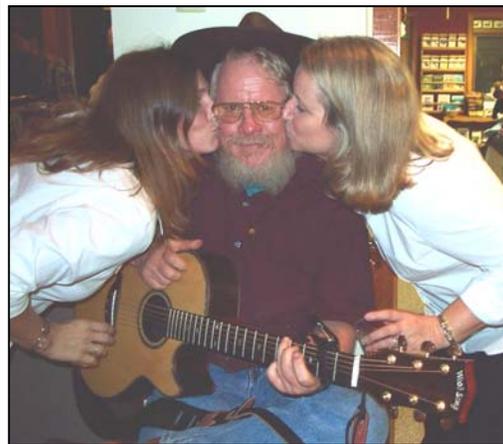
# BWCS Art Show



Fred Adrian serenades the crowd.  
Photo by Betty Camp.



Darleen Hunt chats with some of the BCWS opening guests. Photo by Betty Camp.



Fred greets his fans.  
Photo by Betty Camp.



Dorn and Yvette Whitmore discuss their favorite painting. Photo by Betty Camp.



## Available for a limited time only...

### Autographed Books

Looking for an extra special gift for someone? Stop by the MIWA Bookstore and check out our selection of signed books. There is a limited supply left, so make sure to drop by for a visit. While you're here, check out our newly renovated bookstore. Autographed books available include;

Kenn Kaufman	
Lives of North American Birds	\$25.00
Focus Guide: Birds, an excellent bird guide	\$22.00
Focus Guide: Butterflies, his latest focus guide	\$22.00
Walter Kingsley Taylor	
Florida Wildflowers in their	
Natural Communities	\$24.95
The Guide to Florida Wildflowers	\$26.95
David Gluckman	
Sea Kayaking in Florida, where to go and how to get there for the best sea kayaking in FL.	
Marc Minno	
Florida Butterfly Gardening	\$34.95
Deborah Greene	
Paradise Preserved, a handy guide to MINWR and Canaveral National Seashore	\$10.99
Karen Hollingsworth, wildlife photographer	
Smithsonian Book of National Wildlife Refuges, a beautiful book that examines the past, present and future of the refuge system.	\$39.99
America's National Wildlife Refuges, a complete guide to the refuge system.	\$29.95



Volunteers Cary and Betty Salter, Bev Campbell and Fred Adrian. Photo by Betty Camp.

## Pintails at Wagon Wheel

As Freddie Futch picked up his mullet nets each morning he kept an eye open for working ducks. He and his brothers Curtis and Oscar, natives of Merritt Island, checked in sightings for my hunting buddy, Doc Hotard and me. The call came in about a nice flight of pintails using Wagon Wheel. The pioneers had named this island pond, like all the other venues throughout the length of the salt marshes and fresh water ponds. Two long ponds with a divider canal derived the name. From our camp on highway A1A west to the marshes meant a two-mile down Banana Creek through a maze of twists and turns in total darkness. Running lights might lead others to our private shoots.

Young waterfowlers Wilbur Davis and John Dickson, home for the Christmas holidays eagerly accepted my invitation. We met the following morning at 4:00 am at a duck camp Doc and I had at Hump Back bridge across the river from Titusville. In a matter of minutes, hunters, guns, 40 Herter decoys were headed west. The run began at Fitch's Cove, through the Divides past Picnic Island, Broadaxe, Devils Elbow and into the Harrison Flats. Our destination lie ahead that had to be reached by climbing over a new dike, then using dead reckoning. Hike through wire weeds and palmettos. Freddie's directions put us near the pond in minutes. We paused to listen for sounds of our quarry. Faint whistles from baldpate and chatter from coots heralded our arrival. Other sounds emitted from the construction crews that were preparing us for space exploration. We eased around the east side of the first pond. Tall fern fronds provided a natural blind. The decoys were out in record time. The threesome of waterfowlers were about to witness sights that were soon to be memories.

A thin sliver of gray gradually brought the stool and edges of the pond into view. Coots and teal were busily



feeding within a few feet of our blind. My two partners anxiously waited for instructions from me. This short respite from collegiate rigors had them whisper comments like, "Paul, when do we load our guns? Are you sure this is the right place? Is the limit 100 point with a 10-point per pintail?" I answered all inquiries politely. The legal half hour before sunrise arrived amid a flurry of decoying teal and ring necks.

"Okay you guys load up" I said. "Let the first bunch of pintails in. They will return with their buddies." High overhead the first arrivals circled and in a graceful arc dropped into the decoys. Four baldpate splashed in. It was tough getting the guys to hold their fire. Moments later the first of many passes of pintails began to arrive. I whispered the okay to commence shooting. Five pintails barely visible in the low light made three laps around the pond, stiffened their wings and glided

in. Four shots rang out. Four pintails stayed. John was anxious to make the retrieve. I held him back, telling him to look up. A balled group of at least twenty pintails gave us a clinic in maneuvering before settling in. Three Browning auto-loaders greeted the targets. It was time for a retrieve. John and Wilbur waded in and picked up four ducks each. During the retrieve, ring necks and teal came barreling in. One sound waterfowlers love to hear is that of a ringneck speeding by dropping his primaries and making an after burner burst. Other visitors at Wagon Wheel were gadwalls, mottled ducks, shovelers and mergansers.

We looked at each other and thought, "Should we keep shooting?" In less than an hour three limits were filled. It was time to head back to the boat. The sunrise awakened the workers at the Cape. Security guards revved up the patrol cars and headed down the dikes. Just as we shoved off a truck stopped by and asked what we were up to. "Just having some fun," we answered.

Back at camp we stopped by to clean the ducks at Futch's place. Freddie was the last one to leave the old homestead after NASA bought him out. All the Merritt Islanders we knew were relocated. Space vehicles replaced some of the best duck habitat in the world. Wilbur, John and I never hunted together again. We have gone our separate ways. Doc and all my Merritt Island friends have gone to that vast duck marsh in the sky. I was fortunate to hunt waterfowl in Mexico, Argentina, Canada and all of the US. They were all great hunts, but nothing will ever surpass that December morning at Wagon Wheel.

**Paul S. Andrea**

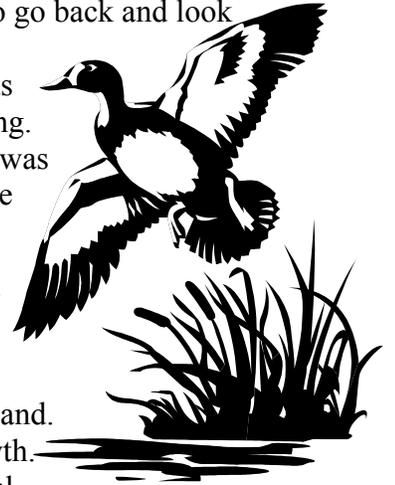
(Originally printed in Waterfowl Magazine Vol. 21 No. 2. Reprinted with permission of author.)



## Hunting, Why?

While passing through the Visitor Center, I was asked by a visitor, “Why does the refuge allow hunting?”. The visitor was perplexed by two seemingly conflicting principals. On one hand the Refuge provides a safe place for waterfowl, and on the other, allows hunting. Why? To answer this question we need to go back and look at our history.

In looking at the prehistory of the Refuge, two things stand out as reasons these lands were available when NASA purchased them in the late 1950s, and one of them is hunting. Hunting has had a long tradition at Merritt Island. As early as the 1870s Merritt Island was billed as a sportsman’s paradise “where one could average a deer a day, hunt bear on the beach by moonlight, where duck shooting was unsurpassed, turkey quite thick and channel bass weighing as much as 48 pounds abound.” As the century drew to a close, sporting interests became better organized and two sportsman clubs controlled much of the area that is now the Refuge. Canaveral Shooting Club and Indian River Club had exclusive privileges to the northern end of the island (from Sykes Creek north). These organized sporting interests were instrumental in stemming the tide of growth on the island.



Beginning in the mid-1930s the coastal areas of Florida witnessed phenomenal growth. But Merritt Island was bypassed by this development and remained predominantly rural through the 1950s. This was not a quirk of fate, but due in part to the hunting clubs that controlled most the marshlands. Had the hunting interests not been so strong, you could speculate that many of the marshes would have been drained and developed. Also, since much of the area was owned by the hunt clubs, it made it easier for NASA to acquire large blocks of land for inclusion within the boundaries of KSC rather than dealing with hundreds of small lot owners.



Although the details are unclear, we can speculate that the former owners must have pressed NASA to retain some hunting rights. Citrus was another well-established interest on the island. In 1963, the original agreement between NASA and the Refuge mention that activities like hunting and citrus would continue. To this day, citrus interests are declining but waterfowl hunting continues at the Refuge.

So the next time a visitor asks, why does the Refuge allow hunting, you can reply, “Did you know that hunters played a crucial role in the establishment of this refuge?”.

Oh by the way, the other factor which contributed to Merritt Island being unoccupied and available for purchase was mosquitoes. But that’s another story.



**Dorn Whitmore, Refuge Ranger**



**We’ve got a new space...  
We have new merchandise...  
Now, we just need a name!**

**Help us name the MIWA Bookstore and win a  
\$25.00 MIWA Bookstore gift certificate**

The winner will be chosen by the MIWA Bookstore  
Committee and will be announced in the next Habi-Chat.

**Entries may be submitted by mail to the  
Merritt Island Wildlife Association  
PO Box 6504  
Titusville, FL 32782**



## Upcoming 2004 MIWA Members Only Field Trips



### Lake Woodruff NWR

**Trip Leader: Dorn Whitmore 8am-4pm**

**Saturday, January 24, 2004**

**Group Limit: 22**

**Food: Pancake Breakfast, Bring Lunch (Drinks Provided) Cost: \$5.00/person**

**Transportation Provided by Refuge**

Meet at Publix Parking lot on SR 406 at 7:45 am and leave promptly at 8 am. Drive approximately one hour to DeLeon Springs State Park for pancake breakfast at the Sugar Mill Restaurant. After breakfast we will take a pontoon boat tour of the waters of Lake Woodruff NWR to view bald eagles, osprey, limpkins and many species of wading birds. Afterwards we will have lunch and hike a 1.5 mile trail to see waterfowl and wading birds before returning to Merritt Island. To reserve your spot for this trip contact Sandee Larsen at 321-861-2377 by January 16, 2004.



### MINWR Historical Tour

**Trip Leader: Dorn Whitmore 9:30am-4pm**

**Saturday, February 21, 2004**

**Group Limit 25**

**Food: Bring Lunch (Drinks Provided)**

**No Cost**

**Transportation Provided by Refuge**

Meet at MINWR VIC at 9am. Driving tour will visit the Douglas Dummit Homestead, Fort Anne, Old Haulover Canal, the Sugar Mill Ruins and several Indian Mounds. Bring a brown bag lunch and drinks. Return to VIC about 4:00 pm. To reserve your spot for this trip contact Sandee Larsen at 321-861-2377 by February 8, 2004.



Merritt Island Wildlife Association

P.O. Box 6504

Titusville, FL 32782

[www.nbbd.com/npr/miwa/index.html](http://www.nbbd.com/npr/miwa/index.html)

