



# Speaker Series

## 2011-2012

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2011. Genevieve Dumonceaux, DVM, Palm Beach Zoo.**

**Topic “Avian Anatomy”**

**Dr. Dumonceaux**, clinical veterinarian of the Palm Beach Zoo, has kindly offered to speak to us on the topic of Avian Anatomy, in advance of AoMC’s November 12<sup>th</sup> field trip to the Avian exhibits and Animal Hospital at the Palm Beach Zoo. Dr. Dumonceaux (Dr. G) was a resident in zoological medicine at the University of California Davis. After a brief time at the El Paso Zoo in Texas as a contract veterinarian she was hired as an associate veterinarian for Busch Gardens and Sea World entertainment parks. After 13 years at the corporation, Dr. G left to pursue interests in aquatic medicine and became the veterinarian at the Florida Aquarium. Her desire for more clinical work and her love of zoos led her to her current role as veterinarian for the Palm Beach Zoo. Dr. G has many publications and professional presentations to her name. She has also traveled globally for research and conservation opportunities. Dr. G has provided consultation services for several zoos around the world and most recently advised the Central Zoo in Kathmandu, Nepal.

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2011. Sam Fried, birding expert and worldwide birding tour leader.**

**Topic: “Birding in Kansas, Unbelievable”**

**Over 50% of shorebirds** breeding in North America stop in migration for refueling at the vast marshlands that comprise Cheyenne Bottoms State Wildlife Area and Quivira National Wildlife Refuge. Incredibly massive concentrations of about 25 species of shorebirds occur here, flying in shimmering clouds, blanketing ponds and mudflats, feeding voraciously as they put on fat to continue their lengthy journey to Arctic breeding grounds. Sam, Past President of Hartford Audubon Society, has had hundreds of photographs and over 40 feature articles published in field guides, books and magazines, including *National Audubon*, *Birder’s Word*, *Bird Watcher’s Digest*, *Birding and Living Bird Quarterly* magazines. Sam, also a golf and fishing writer, is co-founder of Flights of Fancy Adventures, Inc., a birding, photography, natural history and golf travel company. **Sam will be leading a birding trip to Kansas in the spring of 2012.** See [www.flightsoffancyAdventures.com](http://www.flightsoffancyAdventures.com) for details of the trip to Kansas and more.

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 2012. Ellie Van Os, Director of Education and Exhibits, Florida Oceanographic Society. Topic: “Wildlife Biodiversity in the Mangroves”**

**The Indian River Lagoon** system has lost 80% of its mangroves to development. Ellie will tell us of the myriad of animals and plants that rely on the mangrove habitat and of the importance of this critical environment to a healthy coastal water system and to humans. Don’t forget to attend Ellie’s guided tour of the Florida Oceanographic Society’s mangroves for a firsthand view, along with a privileged tour of an Oyster farm on the FOS property, which is not open to the public.

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2012. Michael Yustin, Environmental Lands Coordinator of Martin County.**

**Topic: "Restoration of the Cypress Creek tributary of the Loxahatchee River"**

**Interpretation of 1940 aerial photographs** of the Cypress Creek tributary of the Loxahatchee River System shows a vastly different vegetative structure existed at that time than what occurs today. In 1940 the property was dominated by large open areas of wet prairie interspersed with wet flatwoods, deeper areas of depression marsh and slough, and cypress and oak dominated floodplain forest along Cypress Creek. The most obvious difference was the amount of canopy closure that has occurred, most likely due to hydrologic alterations and the lack of fire. Isolation by agricultural and residential development has resulted in a strand swamp heavily infested with exotic vegetation. Michael discusses the efforts to restore this significant ecosystem in Martin and North Palm Beach counties.

**THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 2012. Craig Weyandt, Treasure Coast Golf Course Superintendents' Association and Superintendent of The Moorings Club in Vero Beach.**

**Topic: "Golf Course Restoration Fore Better 'Birdies' "**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 12, 2012. Bob Montanaro.**

**Topic: "Critters, Cows and Cowboys"**

**In preparation for our field trip to the Sexton cattle ranch** our trip host, Bob Montanaro, will be discussing the operation of a working Florida cattle ranch. The historic Treasure Hammock Ranch is owned by the Sexton family in Indian River County. Bob's photographic and video presentation will document the diverse array of wildlife that live alongside the cattle. Bob is a native Floridian and grew up in Vero Beach. He holds a B.A. in history from the University of Central Florida and a M.A. in U.S. History from Florida State University. Bob is a long-time volunteer at both Pelican Island & Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuges. He has been interested in photography and wildlife, especially the Osprey, all his life. Bob maintains a website <http://www.ospreywatch.org> which displays many of his photographs. If you attended Bob's fascinating Osprey presentation last spring, you will surely not want to miss this one.