

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE BALLENSLES WILDLIFE FOUNDATION



NATURE MATTERS

Spring 2016

See page 3 for Featured Article:
A Random Act of Kindness

See page 4 for information on
BIWF Wildlife Seminar on April 16



Photograph by Jack Robbins

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Friends,

Spring is a time of new beginnings, and we at BIWF have experienced a few new happenings of our own. Our first ever fund-raising effort included an online auction in November 2015 and a Champagne Brunch at the International Polo Club, Wellington, in January 2106; thanks to our many supporters, both were very successful, raising \$21,433. In addition, in 2015 we received \$8,805. from our generous donors. Our goal in 2015/2016 was to be able to fulfill our mission and our foundation goals without having to do another major fund-raiser in 2017—and we achieved it! Our other new happening was going paperless with *Nature Matters*; we are grateful to all who viewed it and for your positive comments.

“In the end, maybe it’s wiser to surrender before the miraculous scope of human generosity and to just keep saying thank you, forever and sincerely, for as long as we have voices.”—Elizabeth Gilbert, Eat, Pray, Love: One Woman’s Search for Everything Across Italy, India and Indonesia

Naturally yours,
Marianne Guerra

Board Members

Marianne Guerra, *President*
Linda Hornsby, *Vice President*
Jody Passov, *Treasurer*
Sylvana Klein, *Secretary*
Bob Wright, *Compliance*
Irwin Edenzon, *Director*
Jackie Fabisch, *Director*

Committee Members

Toby Bartosh
Brenda Bellowe
Kerry Beren
Donna Blanchard
Margie Block
Joyce Cornick
Frankie Edenzon
Tibor Feigel
Diane Feldon
Judy Grace
Denise Johnson
Lucy Keshavarez
Mary Kirby
Peter Levathes
Michaela Mattox
Rhonda Paston
Jack Robbins
Liza Sarinsky
Kathy Seidel
Ellen Setliff
Donna Shaw
Dee Strahl
Jackie Strumwasser
Linda Teitelbaum
Linda Weiss
Julie Widett
Diana Wright

Mission Statement and Foundation Goals of BallenIsles Wildlife Foundation

BallenIsles Wildlife Foundation (BIWF), a nonprofit 501©(3) charitable organization, is a group of volunteers who love and respect animals. Our inspiration comes from Mona Roberts, a resident of Bermuda Bay, who during her 18 years in BallenIsles devoted herself to the rescue and rehabilitation of animals in need.

BIWF MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of BallenIsles Wildlife Foundation is to preserve, foster, and respect all animal life in the BallenIsles community.

BIWF FOUNDATION GOALS

- Aid and assist injured animals, stray animals, and lost pets found in BallenIsles.
- Maintain a feral cat TNVR (trap, neuter, vaccinate, return) program for the BallenIsles community to avoid overpopulation.
- Educate and inform BallenIsles’ residents about wildlife/animal/flora matters.
- Maintain and establish working relationships with, assist, and endorse wildlife and animal organizations that help BallenIsles Wildlife Foundation achieve our mission and foundation goals.

To advertise in *Nature Matters*, please send an email to info@balleniseswildlifefoundation.org.



Subject matter published is the opinion of the author. Advertisers assume responsibility for the content of the ads paced in this publication. The information and advertisements contained in this magazine are provided for the residents of BallenIsles as a courtesy. No representations or endorsements by the BallenIsles Wildlife Foundation or the BallenIsles community are made as to information presented, the quality of the good or services advertised, or the veracity of the statements relating to the goods or services.

To learn more about the BallenIsles Wildlife Foundation, visit our website at BallenIslesWildlifeFoundation.org and our Facebook page at facebook.com/BallenIslesWildlifeFoundation.

A RANDOM ACT OF KINDNESS

They Fell Through the “Quacks”—A Story of an Egyptian Goose and the Rescue of Her Babies

by Rosie Slocum, Director of Membership, BallenIsles Country Club

Random acts of kindness are no accident.

They happen spontaneously in situations that reveal true character. Often they occur as a response to others in danger. We are especially moved by those who rush to help the helpless: lifeguards who rescue a drowning child, firefighters who race into a burning building to save a kitten, police officers who pull a puppy from an icy lake. We admire these altruistic people when we read about them; however, we don't usually expect to find them right in our backyard.

This story of kindheartedness and concern took place right here in BallenIsles where protecting wildlife is embraced by the community and supported by the BallenIsles Wildlife Foundation, whose mission is to preserve, foster, and respect all animal life within BallenIsles.

The story starts on the morning of December 8, 2015, in the Golf Course Maintenance Department at BallenIsles Country Club as Jeff Jones, Eliphane Geffard, and Romos Horace,* all members of the Golf Course Maintenance staff, began their daily routine to groom and prepare the BallenIsles golf courses for member play. It started out as just another day—but something out of the ordinary was about to happen!



The heroes Romos, Jeff, and Eliphane

Jeff Jones, Second Assistant Superintendent, suddenly received a call from John Bednar in the golf Pro Shop that seven baby Egyptian geese had fallen into a storm drain on the 15th hole of the East Golf Course. Mama Goose was waddling across the grate, her babies lined up in formation behind her; however, the tiny bodies of her baby chicks were not nearly big enough to clear the large spaces in the grate,



Rescuing Egyptian goose chick

and they had fallen through the cracks down into the drain. Jumping into action, Jeff headed out to assess the situation. When he arrived at the scene, the mother goose was watching frantically as she listened to her chicks chirping far below. Jeff enlisted the assistance of Eliphane Geffard and Romos Horace, Golf Course Maintenance Associates, to help him uncover the drain and fetch the little ones out of harm's way. When they removed the cover, they saw that the babies were about 5 feet down in a pool of water at the bottom. Eliphane, the smallest of the three gentlemen, quickly jumped into the hole with the assistance of Romos. Eliphane took off his plastic work hat and began to scoop up the chicks one-by-one, handing them off to Jeff and Romos. Once they all were out of the drain, Mama Goose gathered her little ones and headed off with them safely in tow to a nearby lake.

When the three rescuers collected themselves, Romos, acknowledging what they had just accomplished, raised his hands in the air, saying, “God is great.” He later explained that he was afraid the babies would die and was so thankful when he was able to help rescue them. When asked why he had sprung into action, he replied that the Egyptian geese are God's creatures, that he cares about animals, and that it was the right thing to do. The helpless chicks had no chance

(continued on page 4)

(continued from page 3)

at survival without the immediate attention of John, Jeff, Eliphrane, and Romos. These men are true animal lovers and heroes for reacting so quickly in coming to the aid of the seven baby Egyptian geese and their distraught mother. How fortunate BallenIsles is to employ such competent and humane individuals!

Just In: Good news! To prevent future incidents, the Golf Maintenance Department is working with Palm Beach County officials to develop a plan to fix the grates so that all wildlife is safe from falling through the grates into the drains.

**Jeff Jones moved to Florida from North Carolina and has worked at BallenIsles for 1½ years as a Second Assistant Superintendent under the tutelage of Gary Myers, Director of Agronomy. Eliphrane Geffard is a native of Haiti; he has five children and has worked at BallenIsles for 9 years. Romos Horace, also a native of Haiti, has four children, and has worked at BallenIsles for 8 years. John Bednar has been an Associate Golf Professional at BallenIsles Country Club since October 2011; he is from Woodbury, CT. He and his wife Allyson were married on November 28, 2015.*



Mamma goose watching her chicks being rescued

BALLENISLES WILDLIFE FOUNDATION presents

Living with Wildlife in an Urban Environment

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER

**David Hitzig, Executive Director
Busch Wildlife Sanctuary**



DATE and TIME: Saturday, April 16, at 2 p.m.
LOCATION: BallenIsles Country Club – Fireside Room

This is one presentation you are not going to want to miss. Our guest speaker, David Hitzig, is frequently seen on various local and national news stations talking about wildlife and environmental issues. He often collaborates with well-known wildlife experts such as Jack Hanna. David has appeared on Animal Planet, Discovery Channel, National Geographic, The Today Show, Good Moring America, Late Show with David Letterman, The Tonight Show with Jay Leno, and many other talk shows. Additionally, Hitzig received the 2012 Special Recognition Award by the Board of County Commissioners-Palm Beach County for his extraordinary dedication and devotion to helping save Florida's indigenous wildlife through rehabilitation, conservation, and education.

**Reserve your spot by emailing us at:
info@ballenisleswildlifefoundation.org.
Seating is limited and reservations will be provided
on a first-come, first-served basis.**

Please DO NOT FEED the Wildlife

It has recently come to the attention of BIWF that the juvenile sandhill cranes on the golf courses are approaching golf carts, unafraid and possibly looking for food. When wild animals/birds display no fear of humans, it is likely that some well-intended humans may be feeding them.

Whether duck or goose, swan or sandhill crane, it is not a good idea to feed wild birds as it will increase their dependence on us for survival, and the food humans frequently feed them (such as bread and cereal and chips) is utterly unsuitable for them and can cause multiple health problems for them down the line. Wildlife and humans can coexist safely and successfully if we keep the wildlife wild.

Featured PET

R.I.P. Jake (2000–2016)

Jake's story is sad and beautiful all rolled into one. About 16 years ago a pretty orange teenage cat walked up Liza Sarinsky's Massachusetts driveway, followed her into the garage, jumped into her lap, and fell asleep. It was love at first sight for both of them.

Liza has always had an affinity for orange cats, so Jake became an instant family member. Jake traveled back and forth from Massachusetts to Florida with Liza and her husband Ira for about 4 years. Then Jake developed a bad habit of urinating on their furniture. The veterinarian told Liza that Jake had crystals in his urine and needed surgery to remove the stones in his bladder.

When he came home after surgery, Liza kept him isolated in a bathroom until he got used to using the litter box again, but unfortunately he started to urinate inappropriately again. Ira said it was either him or the cat, so Liza had no choice but to find Jake a new home. About 3 years later Liza received a phone call from an animal rescue group in Jupiter, FL, saying they had Jake (luckily Liza had had him micro-chipped). She rushed to get him. He was so skinny and sad that she kept him for about a month, nursed him back to his former healthy self, and again found 8-year-old Jake a new home.



About 2 months ago, Liza received a postcard in the mail from the West Palm Animal Care and Control saying they had Jake but that he was in pretty bad shape. Once again, Liza rushed to get him back! He had a large hard mass on his right cheek that was inoperable; his teeth were so bad he could barely eat anything but some soft food. Despite his difficult life, Jake was still a remarkably sweet cat. Since Ira had passed away, Liza decided to keep him for whatever time remained in his life. She cried for 3 days from the guilt of ever letting him go. In retrospect, it is clear to Liza what a rough life Jake had had. Hindsight is 20/20.

When Jake started sleeping in Liza's closet several weeks later, she knew his time was near. She finally called Peggy Adams Animal Rescue League and made an appointment to have him euthanized. As the veterinarian gave him the injection, Liza held him and told him she would see him again in heaven. Jake's was a quick and painless end. Liza had his body cremated and kept his ashes to be scattered soon in her butterfly garden.

Liza is so glad she had had Jake micro-chipped. If she had not, they would never have been reunited, and his death would have been so much worse. Liza believes that we come into this world for a reason, and Jake's reason was to show her how important compassion is at the end of a loved one's life.

PURPLE MARTIN SHOW TIME

by Tim Whelan, owner, Art By Nature Garden Center

When the purple martin show starts, we see that flash, hear that bubbly song, and kick up our heels. The purple martins are home again!

Our flock and their friends returned from Brazil to their abodes at Art By Nature on Northlake Boulevard in mid-January. These feathered acrobats left Palm Beach Gardens in September 2105, made it to Rio de Janeiro, and are back now, having built their nests and laid their eggs. When the eggs hatch, they will care for their young in the same apartment houses they inhabited last season.

When they first returned, the purple martins dickered with each other over who got which apartment in the four houses that line the garden center—first come, first served! The most desirable spots face the office because these wild birds want to be near human activity. Long ago Native Americans hung hollowed gourds to attract them to nest because martins devour pesky insects; since then, the martins' nesting behavior slowly changed from tree dwelling to content coexistence with people. Now, throughout their range in the eastern United States and Canada, purple martins have become dependent on people to supply their nesting sites.



How accommodating are they? Purple martins will not abandon their nests when you lower their apartment building and pop open their “front door” to do a nest check. And contrary to a lifetime of admonitions that we all have heard, purple martins don't mind if you gently cradle their eggs or caress a timid fledging. Imagine the delight of a child of any age blessed with this opportunity to interact with nature in his or her own backyard. There is no age limit on hosting and enjoying purple martins. Their interaction is so accessible that children, parents, and grandparents alike find wonderment and respect for nature from these social and delightful birds.

Last spring, the purple martins at Art By Nature Garden Center laid 76 eggs, up from 15 the year before and 5 the first

year that the houses were installed. Because Art By Nature now has four houses of various designs, the colony is expected to grow year after year. How many eggs will be laid this year? We're hoping there will be as many as 125. Drop by the garden center by the end of April to see for yourself.

Purple martins are easy to attract, fun to watch, and ask very little in return. Simply erect (or have Art By Nature erect for you) a high quality purple martin house and pole. Select an open area at least 25 feet from trees, preferably near a water source, and conveniently placed so you can watch their stunning flights and social antics and hear their gurgling song.* You don't have to feed purple martins or give them water; just put up a high quality aluminum house on a 15-foot pole that cranks up and down so easily a child can do it.

To view a short entertaining video of the purple martins at Art By Nature taken in early March 2016, [click here](#)

After arriving from Brazil around the middle of January, purple martins settle into nest building until early March. Expect to be enthralled by these acrobatic aces that are more gossamer than purple, delta winged with a split tail

that flicks them here and there faster than seems possible. In late March, they begin laying eggs, one per day at sunrise until they have laid from one to seven eggs. They do not skip a day. Incubation begins before the last egg is laid and requires about 15 days. Here in south Florida, most purple martin eggs hatch by mid April. A month later, nestling martins fledge (start to fly). It's a hoot to watch first time flyers wobble away!

Any time is a good time to erect a purple martin house. Very early in January, the apartments should be opened in anticipation of the return of last year's flock. In 2015, the first scouts returned to Art By Nature on January 16. This year, we clocked the scouts in at 8:33 a.m. on January 18. But even houses put up as late as mid-June can attract nesting martins.

(continued on page 7)

(continued from page 6)

INTERESTING PURPLE MARTIN FACTS

- Purple martins (*Progne subis*, family *Hirundinidae*) are the largest North American swallow. They have purplish-blue plumage, and the male is the only swallow with uniform dark plumage on its belly.
- Purple martins are insectivores. They eat flying insects (beetles, winged ants, flies, dragonflies, damselflies, leafhoppers, grasshoppers, crickets, butterflies, moths, wasps, bees, caddisflies, spiders, cicadas, termites, and mayflies) at altitudes higher than other swallows, often higher than 150 feet and sometimes 500 feet or more off the ground. When they encounter prey, they turn suddenly sideways or upward, speed up, and then flare their tails as they trap the insect. Purple martins fly with quick flaps and glides, outlining big circles in the sky as they hunt insects. They rarely land on the ground except to collect nesting material and pick up grit to aid their digestion of insect exoskeletons.
- Purple martins not only get all their food in flight, they also get all their water in flight by skimming the surface of a pond and scooping up the water with their lower bills.
- The oldest purple martin on record was at least 13 years, 9 months old, banded in 1933, and found in 1947. It lived in Illinois.



Keep purple martin houses open until early September to attract fledglings that are hunting for next year's breeding sites.

In the fall, the houses should be cleaned, a process that takes only a few minutes, and the entrance blocked by turning around the nest box inserts.

Once you have attracted a purple martin colony, you probably will have them for life. You will be amused and amazed and entertained by purple martins, America's most wanted bird.

Purple Martin hatchlings at various stages of development.

DONATE TO BALLENSLES WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

Your tax-deductible donation will help us implement our mission to preserve, protect, foster and respect the wildlife in BallenIsles and to educate and inform our residents.

- 1. Gifts by check** can be made by sending a check payable to the BallenIsles Wildlife Foundation (BIWF) to 303 BallenIsles Circle, Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33418.
- 2. Gifts by credit card or PayPal** can be made by [clicking here](#).
- 3. Tribute Cards** to recognize a special person or life event can be requested in any financial increment by emailing BIWF at info@balleniseswildlifefoundation.org. BIWF will send an acknowledgement card to your designee. A charitable donation to honor your designee is a thoughtful gift.

BALLENSLES WILDLIFE FOUNDATION, INC., A 501 (c)(3) ORGANIZATION BASED IN FLORIDA, DOES NOT SOLICIT CONTRIBUTIONS FROM PERSONS OUTSIDE OF FLORIDA. A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE 800-435-7352, WITHIN THE STATE, REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. FLORIDA REGISTRATION #CH41017.

SOUTH FLORIDA'S CLIMATE DECISION POINT

by Scott Carlin, Ph.D.

In coming decades, climate change will remake the map of South Florida, transforming the Everglades, the oceans and bays, and the surrounding lands. These changes will persist for centuries. As the science of climate change continues to mature, scientists have grown more confident that average temperatures around the world, as well as sea levels, will continue to rise far into the future. Climate scientists also agree that fossil fuel consumption and deforestation are two major causes of global warming.

Global temperatures show a persistent trend of increasing temperatures with each passing decade (see figure 1). Some critics have focused on year to year variability in temperature,

A useful tool for exploring sea level rise, the eyesontherise app, has been produced by Florida International University. Among the cities facing rising seas, Miami is the world's second most vulnerable to financial asset losses.

Although Florida is one of America's richest biological states, stresses are coming from many different directions. Wildlife must adapt to changing temperatures, rainfall patterns, habitats, and coastlines or perish. As sea levels increase, some crocodile populations will shift northward; others will die. The least tern, a favored shore bird, faces significant pressures from sea level rise and coastal land use changes; least terns nest on beaches, and sea level rise will erode much of south

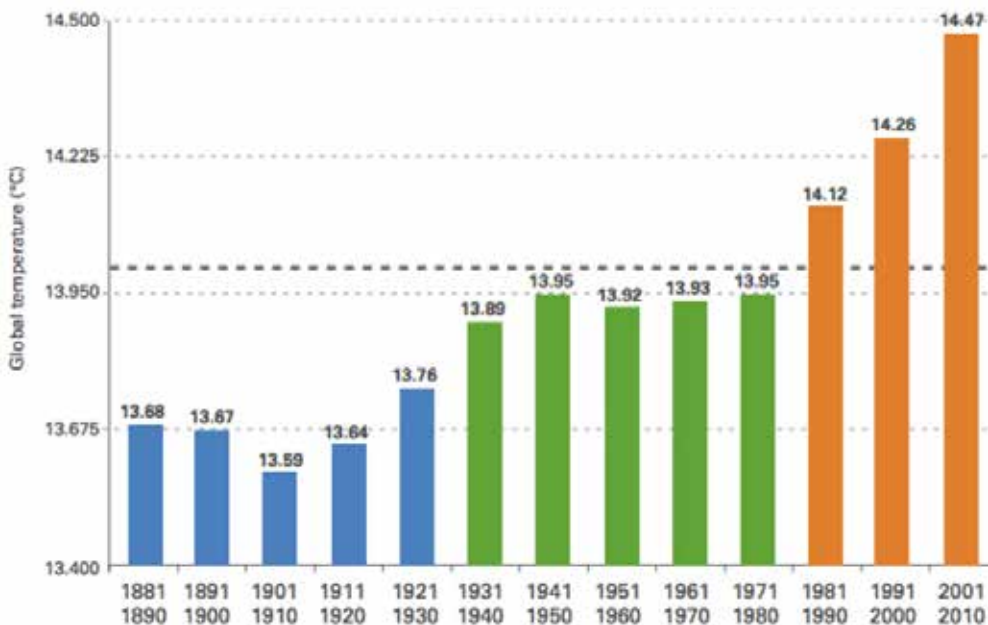


Figure 1: Decadal Global Surface Temperatures. Source: World Meteorological Organization, 2013. The Global Climate, 2001-2010, library.wmo.int/pmb_ged/wmo_1119_en.pdf

calling attention to a plateau in temperature trends, but more recently, 2014 and 2015 became the hottest years on record, undercutting temperature plateau criticisms.

Rising global temperatures have two significant impacts on sea level rise. First, a warmer planet is releasing 1.5% more fresh water into the oceans each year, according to a 2010 study. Second, warmer waters occupy more volume of space because of thermal expansion. These two factors currently account for 40% of sea level rise. Oceans are likely to rise at least 3 feet by the end of the century, spelling disaster for low-lying south Florida.

Florida's famous beaches not only destroying the least tern's habitat but also severely damaging many Miami Beach condominiums and creating a significant impact on south Florida's tourism industry.

Florida panthers, already one of our most endangered mammals, also favor low elevations for their habitat. The flooding that will likely take place in Florida's lowest elevations later this century will increase pressures on panther habitat, and storm surges will further exacerbate south Florida's ability to sustain its panther population. In the oceans and bays, warmer temperatures could bring increases

(continued on page 9)

(continued from page 8)

in toxic algal blooms—a threat to marine species like the manatee. Carbon dioxide, released from burning fossil fuels, also mixes into the oceans making our waters more acidic. This effect has become a major threat to coral reefs in Florida and other parts of the world.

The City of West Palm Beach and local libraries offer a variety of resources for local residents, tools that help them to understand the impact of their lifestyle choices on climate change and strategies for conserving natural resources:

- In 2010, the City adopted a Sustainability* Action Plan.
- The City's Sustainable Advisory Committee works to inform all city residents about "practical and attainable ways to live sustainably."
- Residents can borrow "Sustainability Kits" from local libraries.

*Sustainability is how biological systems remain diverse and productive. The action plan includes four interconnected domains—ecology, economics, politics, and culture—working together to create sustainability.

We are at a critical moment in the global fight against climate change. Miami-Dade has "more people living less than 4 feet above sea level than any state in the nation except Louisiana," according a 2014 World Resources Institute report. Left unchecked, Florida will sustain major economic, transportation, water supply, other infrastructure, health, and environmental damages. Sea level rise will compound rising costs from storm damages. Mitigating these effects requires global action, and Florida can lead that call for action!

Dr. Scott Carlin is Associate Professor of Geography, LIU Post in NY. He will co-chair a United Nations conference in South Korea in May 2016. He works regularly with grassroots organizations and local governments on sustainability issues. Dr. Carlin visited his family, Michael and Jackie Fabisch, at BallenIsles earlier this year.

BNY MELLON PRESENTS: THE EMPOWERED WOMEN'S SERIES

Women's busy lives can often take precedence and shift our focus off of taking care of ourselves; we are head of households, make up a majority of the workforce in the U.S. and 80% of us are making ALL financial decisions for our families. BNY Mellon Wealth Management is FOCUSED on assisting women with their financial GOALS. Our local Empowered Women's Series covers topics such as life's transitions, the importance of estate planning and wills as well as retirement planning. We hope you can join us in our Palm Beach Gardens location for an upcoming event.

For more information or to join our "emailing"
list contact: Johna B. Fidanza,
johna.fidanza@bnymellon.com or 561-868-7434





Visiting Angels
LIVING ASSISTANCE SERVICES



Our Angels can help your family!

OUR CAREGIVERS ARE CAREFULLY SCREENED AND SELECTED
FULLY BONDED AND INSURED

**SPECIALISTS IN
ALZHEIMER'S AND DEMENTIA CARE**

561.328.7611
VisitingAngels.com/PalmBeaches



FL Lic # 30211527

THOUGHTS ABOUT LIGHTNING PROTECTION FOR OUR HOMES

by Philip W. Ackerman, Chairman, Energy Conservation Committee

I recently received a letter from FPL, indicating that I do not have SurgeShield installed on my electric meter. Lightning protection is a topic not often mentioned but worth considering.

Many of us remember a neighbor who had a lightning strike a few years ago. It came in on their electric wires, went under the foundation, rose up in their kitchen, and blew out all their appliances. I have a generator, and the installer recommended adding a lightning arrester on my main panel in the garage. I called my insurance company, asking about lightning coverage. They said I was fully covered! Then I asked about my deductible. Guess what? It is \$20,000 per occurrence! I had a surge protector installed by a licensed electrician and feel it is a worthwhile investment.

FPL is offering this protection for \$9.95 a month. My installation cost \$360. Depending on how long you expect to stay in your home, you have these two choices. I suggest the peace of mind is worth considering either alternative.

The Importance of **Native** Milkweed to Monarch Butterflies

Monarch butterfly populations are on the decline. Monarchs lay their eggs exclusively on milkweed because it is the only plant Monarch larvae can eat. The loss of native milkweed habitat is contributing to their decline, and an additional threat is the planting of non-native “tropical milkweed.”

Many nurseries say that they carry one of our native butterfly milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*), but from my experience, 99.9% of the time they are really selling the non-native tropical milkweed, *A. curassavica* (also called Mexican milkweed among other names). Last week at Home Depot on Northlake Blvd., a non-native milkweed was incorrectly labeled *A. tuberosa*. As seen in the photo with wrong label, the non-native milkweed is typically red-orange with yellow centers and sometimes solid yellow. Both native and non-native milkweed are easy to grow and attract Monarch butterflies to drink the nectar and lay eggs upon; however, scientists tell us that to ensure the health of the Monarchs we should plant only native milkweed.



Mislabeled! This plant is **NON-NATIVE**. It typically has flowers that are red-orange with yellow centers but can be solid yellow. It has an upright growth pattern with long and thin leaves.



This is the **REAL** *Asclepias tuberosa*, native to Florida pinelands. Most often the flower is orange but can be red or yellow. It has a small bushy growth pattern with rounded leaves. Photograph by Roger L. Hammer

At the February meeting of the Palm Beach County Chapter of Florida Native Plant Society, I had the pleasure of hearing entomologist Sandy Koi present the amazing scientific details about the chemistry between plants and insects and how they have evolved together for hundreds of thousands of years, developing very “specialized” relationships in order to survive. Monarchs and milkweed are highly specialized; milkweed is a toxic plant, but the monarch butterfly and larva are able to chemically “bind” the toxins in parts of their bodies and use it as a defense mechanism against predators. It is the high levels of toxins in our native milkweed that are so important to the monarch as they journey back and forth from north to south. The non-native tropical milkweed lacks the high amounts of toxins needed.

The use of non-native milkweed may be causing other major shifts as well. Scientists have noticed that more Monarchs are starting to stay in Florida year round and that these non-migratory Monarchs are a lighter shade of orange. The scientists have observed that the Monarchs that continue their migration south are darker orange, a result of their wing scales being thicker. So scientists wonder if the lighter orange Monarchs are not able to make the trip to South America because of their thinner scales. Although there are many unanswered questions and more research to be done, we know that planting native milkweed in our urban areas will help Monarchs tremendously!

Many milkweeds are native to Florida (for more details go to [Natives for Your Neighborhood](#) website). The one that grows particularly well in Florida is the swamp milkweed, *A. incarnata*. As the name indicates, it must be kept wet. It likes full sun to sun with slight shade and would be a great addition to a water garden; I’ve also seen it grown in the landscape by sinking a plastic pot with no drain holes in the ground close to a sprinkler, making sure the grade of the soil in the pot is slightly lower, maybe 1/2 inch, than the surrounding grade. When the Monarch finds the plants and the eggs hatch into larvae, the larvae will most likely eat the plants down to the ground. Plant them somewhere in the backyard where you can watch and enjoy the cycle of life knowing that you are helping our magnificent Monarch along with many other butterflies and bees that drink nectar from the flowers of the native milkweed.

For more information, visit [Save the Monarch Butterfly](#) on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife website.

KIDS' NEST

by Judy Grace, Jackie Fabisch, and Diane Feldon

Goose or Duck?

By Judy Grace

Ducks and geese are similar in their looks.
You can look that up online or in books.
They belong to the same big family,
But to different sub-families, you see.
While they're related in the waterfowl family,
Here are some differences for you to see.

Ducks are smaller, with shorter legs.

Geese are larger, with longer necks.

Ducks' bills are bigger, scooping insects and fish to eat.

Bills of geese are smaller for grazing short grass, their treat.

Ducks mate for the season, and geese mate for life,

Staying together as husband and wife.

Another difference is in their names.

Male ducks are drakes, male geese are ganders- not the same.

Their babies, too, have different names.

Ducks are ducklings, geese are goslings —not the same.

The sounds they make are different too.

Ducks quack and geese honk—that is true.

Ducks' many colors can be very bright.

Geese are usually gray, black, or white.

Fill in the missing word of each book title; then check your answers at the bottom of the page.

Choose from the following list of words to fill in the blanks: DUCK, GOOSE, DUCKLING, GOOSE'S, PUDDLE DUCK, QUACK, DUCKS

1. I Wish I Had _____ Feet. By Dr. Seuss
2. A Duck Named _____. By Amber Neives
3. The _____ That Laid the Golden Egg. Aesop Fable
4. The Ugly _____. By Hans Christian Anderson
5. Giggle, Giggle _____. By Doreen Cronin
6. Mother _____. Unknown author
7. _____ and Goose. By Tad Hills
8. Ten Little Rubber _____. By Eric Carle
9. The Tale of Jemima _____. By Beatrix Potter
10. _____ Story. By Carl Best

DUCK, DUCK, GOOSE?

Even though its name is the Egyptian GOOSE, it is really a cross between a duck and a goose. It is in the family named SHELDUCK. The other part of their name tells that they originally came from the Nile Valley in Africa, but in the United States their favorite homes are golf courses and small lakes. Look for the Egyptian Geese on the grounds of BallenIsles, especially on any of the three golf courses.

These are some of the features that make an Egyptian Goose a Shelduck:

- It's smaller than a goose but larger than a duck.
- The legs are longer than a duck's but shorter than a goose's.
- Its bill is shorter than a duck's but longer than a goose's.
- Its neck is longer than a duck's but shorter than a goose's.
- It eats insects like a duck but also eats grasses and seeds like a goose.
- It spends most of its the time on land like a goose but some time in the water like a duck.
- The babies are sometimes called "ducklings."
- It is very colorful like a duck, with yellow eyes and a ring of brown feathers around the eyes and neck. Its feet and legs are pink.
- Like geese the male and female stay together for life and are good parents.

Kids' Nest Answers: 1. Duck; 2. Goose; 3. Goose; 4. Duckling; 5. Quack; 6. Goose; 7. Duck; 8. Duck; 9. Ducks; 10. Geese's