

Spoonbills Speak

echoes across the Pacific

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BEIJING OR BUST 2006!

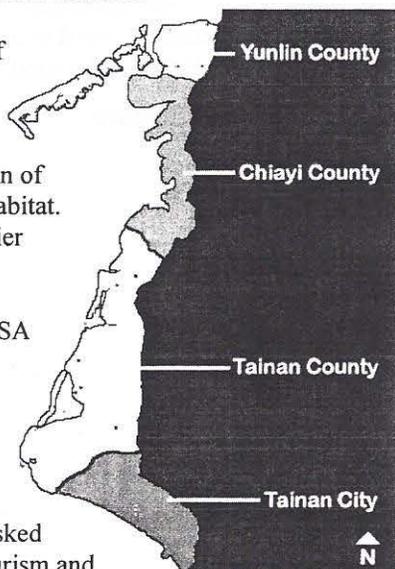
SAVE is gearing up to organize and attend a session at the annual conference, *Democratic Design in the Pacific Rim*, set for August 2006 in Beijing. Currently, SAVE members are making valuable contacts and researching black-faced spoonbill habitat sites in Taiwan, China, Hong Kong, Macau, Vietnam, Korea, the Philippines and Japan. China is a key flyway country and is also centrally located for attendance by other flyway contacts in Asia. SAVE will fundraise over the next year to enable members and international contacts to attend. The group is excited about this opportunity to work with other environmentalists from the Pacific Rim and to further our efforts to protect valuable habitat all along the flyway of this migratory species. Only through cooperation and protection that stretches across borders can we ensure the long-term survival of the black-faced spoonbill.

NGO'S WATCHDOG SCENIC AREA PROCESS

Taiwan's Southwest Coastal National Scenic Area (SCNSA), established at the end of 2003, provides a tremendous opportunity for the protection and expansion of black-faced spoonbill habitat. Compared with the earlier Nan-ning Scenic Area version, proposed by Magistrate Su, the SCNSA is much larger and contains a more complete eco-system.

The SCNSA administration office, located in Beimen, is tasked with development of tourism and preservation of the ecology and traditional industry of the coastal area.

A management master plan is the first step for this and will not only determine the future of the black-faced spoonbill but will also be critical for the overall eco-tourism vision for the southwest coastal area.



The SCNSA

In December 2004, the SCNSA office held the first review meeting for the draft of the master plan. The report contained several tourism development sites that conflict with critical ecologically sensitive areas. Local environmental groups, including Wetland Taiwan and Taiwan Environmental Protection Union (TEPU), protested the report's focus on development and lack of vision for preserving the ecological value of the SCNSA. SAVE is working in cooperation with these groups and Dr. Ong, Yi-Tsung to push for habitat preservation and to serve as a watchdog over the NSA planning process.

TAIWAN MEETINGS I.D. PRESERVATION SITES AND STRATEGY

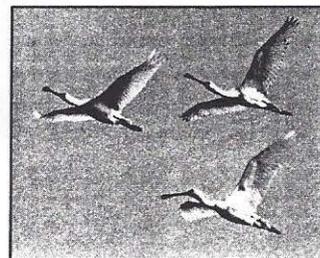
On May 27th SAVE representatives Wen-ling Tu, Randy Hester, and Marcia McNally held a series of meetings with key decision makers along the southwest coast of Taiwan.

The first was a luncheon with Chen Chun-an of Magistrate Su's office. Accompanied by Fuchang Tsai of NTU Building and Planning Foundation; Professor Ong, Yi-Tsung; and Calvin Wen from Legislator Wang Tuoh's office, the team then met with Hong Tong-tao, the director of the National Scenic Area.

At this auspicious meeting, the group hammered out a plan for designating lands for wildlife habitat conservation. After agreeing not to decide about the area around the proposed airport until after the election, four additional core habitat preserves were identified.

If the agreement becomes National Scenic Area policy and is implemented through the master plan this would represent a major step in saving the spoonbill from extinction. Although the airport site now is home to a roosting and foraging population, the group agreed to withhold pressure about the site for the present.

Next the group proceeded to the Chiayi County Government headquarters to meet with Fred Hung, the director of planning for the county, to discuss planning for the Augo wildlife refuge. The director welcomed SAVE's plan for preservation and local control of tourism. He indicated that SAVE could also assist their work south of Augo where they are facing land subsidence and rapidly changing land use.



A trio of black-faced spoonbills

GAONG INSPIRES

Randy Hester, Marcia McNally, and Kao Hsu-jen went to Longshan village to visit with Uncle Gaong, ally and friend to SAVE. We sat in front of his house and talked for about an hour.



Uncle Gaong with NTU Students

In spite of ill health, Uncle Gaong's eyes still sparkle with fiery intensity when he talks about the Bin-nan fight and his struggle to save his and the spoonbill's homeland.

He told us that you have to possess three hearts to successfully combat monstrous powers: love, patience, and insistence. Love for Gaong is attachment and devotion to people and place.

He sees this as a brotherhood including the entire community – human and nonhuman – as one for which he has a passion and tenderness. Patience is the will to endure, to persist, to persevere with calmness and self control. Insistence is to take and maintain a firm demand and never back down. He is a great man and an inspiration to SAVE!

If you would like to donate towards Uncle Gaong's medical care, please send checks to:

Tainan Environmental Protection Union, No. 17, Alley 75, Lane 37, Tung-men Road, Tainan, Taiwan.



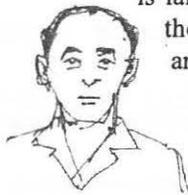
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SAVE UPDATE

Goodbye

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of Dr. Kim, Sooil on August 8th, 2005. A dedicated scientist, he is largely responsible for key discoveries about the spoonbill's nesting ecology. Both friend and ally of SAVE, Dr. Kim will not be forgotten.



Spoonbills Flock to Berkeley

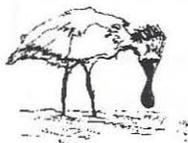
On October 13th, SAVE will hold its 9th Annual Great Spoonbill Migration at UC Berkeley. Stop by in the afternoon (at the lawn between Café Strada and Wurster Hall) to see the visions of students in the College of Environmental Design's ED1 course. Each student's work springs from the convergence of art, ecology, politics and design to result in a unique three-dimensional sculpture.

Congratulations

SAVE would like to congratulate Kao Hsu-jen on his new position as the director of Tainan County's international orchid enterprise. Covering many hectares, his headquarters include greenhouses, a conference center, and administrative offices. Long range plans include a hotel.

HELLO FROM CHI-CHAO THE SPOONBILL

Hi guys -- how are you?



Wow, I heard you are planning a trip to China next summer! I wish I could come too, but we always spend the summer in Korea and I don't know the way to China. I hear there are lots of other spoonbills who like to hang out there, so please spread the word and make sure they have a nice place to stay. Keep up the good work! Gotta Go.

Love, Your Friend, Chi-chao