



"The Voice of Conservation in Central Florida"

# OASis

Orange Audubon Society  
A Chapter of National and Florida Audubon Societies



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Issue No. 8

## Save the Date! Chertok Photo Contest Program and Silent Auction

On June 19<sup>th</sup> Orange Audubon Society (OAS) will present its final program of the season—showing the 2014 Kit and Sidney Chertok Florida Native Nature Photography Contest (CFNNPC) entries, announcing the winners and awarding prizes. Please save the date!

The CFNNPC program is a favorite for many. We expect about 200 to attend this year, and why not? Tasty finger foods and beverages and a silent auction make the contest show even livelier. Already we have confirmed that Walt Disney World will donate park tickets!

Will you ask a frequented restaurant, clothier or other business for a silent auction donation? Or show off your artistic, culinary or crafty talent(s) by donating a creation of your own? Ask for all the picky accounting details while you're at it and tell us what you receive or will donate personally as soon as possible. It would help so much to know by May 31<sup>st</sup> so that organizers can determine table and layout needs, prepare bid sheets and rally enough volunteers.

To make a donation, please contact Teresa at (407) 644-0796 or [mwilliams@cfl.rr.com](mailto:mwilliams@cfl.rr.com) or Loretta at (407) 886-2925 or [LNS-oas@att.net](mailto:LNS-oas@att.net) and provide these details: your name and phone number, description of item(s), retail or appraised value, starting bid amount (if desired). Proceeds from this program will benefit a future OAS nature center and/or related project.

Your support will be sincerely appreciated and acknowledgements for tax purposes are available upon request.

*Teresa Williams and Loretta Satterthwaite*

**VOTE  
YES ON 1**

## Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup>—7:00 p.m. Corkscrew Swamp—Investigating an Ancient Forested Wetland by Jason Lauritsen

Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary's ancient bald cypress forest is the largest virgin old growth forest of its kind remaining in the world. Its unique character and diverse flora and fauna—from massive trees nearly 600-years old to rare ghost orchids and endangered woods storks—are the products of time, climate and hydrology. This program will explore this ancient forest and its important place in the Western Everglades. Please join us on Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup> at Leu Gardens as Jason Lauritsen, Sanctuary Director, shares his story of Corkscrew.

*Loretta Satterthwaite, Programs Chair*

## THANK YOU

to the members who have generously donated to Orange Audubon Society's annual Letter Appeal fundraising campaign! It's not too late to help fund field trips, programs, and conservation efforts. Please consider a donation to your local Chapter.

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) meetings & programs are free & no reservations are necessary. Programs are held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month (September–June) usually at 7:00 p.m. in the Camellia Room at:

Harry P. Leu Gardens  
1920 North Forest Avenue  
Orlando, FL 32803-1537

For map and directions, visit:

[www.leugardens.org/plan/directions.htm](http://www.leugardens.org/plan/directions.htm)

**Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 a.m. to 12 noon**  
**Econlockhatchee Sandhills Conservation Area Field Trip**

On Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, Orange Audubon Society (OAS) will visit Econlockhatchee Sandhills Conservation Area east of U.C.F. This 706-acre property with sandhills, pine flatwoods and riverine swamp is jointly owned by St John's River Water Management District and Orange County. For more information about the property, see: <http://www.sjrwmd.com/recreationguide/econsandhills/>.

Meet at 7:30 a.m. in the parking lot of the conservation area located on the north side of Lake Pickett Rd. (CR 420), about 2.5 miles north of SR 50. Bring plenty to drink, sun protection, insect protection, birding gear, and lunch (for after the hike). Free. No registration is required. We will walk about four miles at a pace to observe plants and animals along the way. Please join us. If you have questions about the trip, contact us at [rssmhk@gmail.com](mailto:rssmhk@gmail.com).

*Mary Keim and Randy Snyder, Field Trip  
Committee*

**Spring, Tallahassee, Springs**

Spring is in the air and our legislators in Tallahassee are at it again—some trying to give away our natural resources and some trying to protect them. Many of you have signed up for our local Orange Audubon conservation email network-THANK YOU. To keep abreast of statewide conservation issues, you can visit the Audubon Florida (AF) website below. There you can sign up to receive the AF Advocate Conservation Network enewsletter if you want to do so. You can also sign up to receive e newsletters from the Climate Action Network, Center for Birds of Prey, Corkscrew Swamp and more. For more information, go to the website at [http://fl.audubonaction.org/site/Survey?ACTION\\_REQUIRED=URI\\_ACTION\\_USER\\_REQUESTS&SURVEY\\_ID=1425](http://fl.audubonaction.org/site/Survey?ACTION_REQUIRED=URI_ACTION_USER_REQUESTS&SURVEY_ID=1425).

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) promotes the understanding of and an interest in wildlife and the environment, recognition of the intangible values in the remaining natural areas of Florida and the World, and the responsibility for the conversation of these remaining resources.

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The *OASis* is published monthly from September through June and is sent free to all members of the Orange Audubon Society.

*Bob Stamps ([rhs-oas@att.net](mailto:rhs-oas@att.net)),  
OAS Conservation Committee Chair*

**Go Green Update!**

Thanks to the 47 members who submitted their Go Green requests last month. This brings our total to 316 requests! Only two more paper newsletters left!

If you still need to sign up, send your email address (subject: go green) to Mike Daley ([miked129e@gmail.com](mailto:miked129e@gmail.com)). If you do not have access to electronic mailing, please let us know by sending a note to Orange Audubon Society - *OASis*, P.O. Box 941142, Maitland, FL 32794-1142. Please include your name and address and tell us that you do not have electronic access. Please don't delay; we want to be able to stay in touch with all of our members. Thanks.

## Time for Elections: Volunteer Today!

The Orange Audubon Society (OAS) is looking for members to fill vacancies on the Board of Directors after the June meeting. The Board is comprised of twenty volunteer members who serve staggered two- and three-year terms. Each year one-third of the non-officer positions are open for election/re-election at the April meeting. The officers' positions, a two-year term, are up for re-election this year.

### Proposed Slate 2014 Election:

President (2016) – Deborah Green  
 1<sup>st</sup> VP (2016) – Rick Baird  
 2<sup>nd</sup> VP (2016) – Open  
 Secretary (2016) – Susan Kirby  
 Treasurer (2016) – Teresa Williams  
 Board Member (2017) – John Cento  
 Board Member (2017) – Larry Martin  
 Board Member (2017) – Danielle Ponsolle  
 Board Member (2017) – Randy Snyder  
 Board Member (2017) – Open  
 Board Member (2016) – Open  
 Board Member (2015) – Open

If you or someone you know is interested in being on the Board of Directors please let us know. To be eligible, you must be a member of Orange Audubon, have an interest in wildlife and the environment that supports it, and be able to attend monthly board meetings held on the third Thursday of most months at Leu Gardens in Orlando.

This is a great opportunity to get involved with environmental projects and events as well as help make decisions that will have a positive impact in your community. If you wish to volunteer and serve on the Board, please contact Cynthia Gosiewski at [cyngos@aol.com](mailto:cyngos@aol.com) or (407) 426-8982 or any Board member. All of their names and numbers are listed in the OAS brochure or online at [www.orangeaudubonfl.org](http://www.orangeaudubonfl.org). Thank you very much for your interest.

*Cynthia Gosiewski, Nominating Chair*

### Spring Bird Walks in Mead Botanical Gardens

The spring migration season is right around the corner. To celebrate, Orange Audubon will be holding guided bird walks at Mead Botanical Garden in Winter Park. The walks will be on Saturdays starting April 5<sup>th</sup> through April 26<sup>th</sup>. They will begin at 8:00 a.m. and last 2 to 3 hours at a casual pace. Each walk will be led by an experienced birder, is open to the public, and there is no charge. Mead Botanical Garden is located at the intersection of south Denning Drive and Garden Drive two blocks east of Orlando Ave (Hwy. 17-92).

Mead Garden has been a good migration trap, a place for migrating birds to stop for food and rest on their way back north after the Winter. The variety of habitats, wetlands, open water, and an upland area with oaks and tall pines, appeals to a number of bird species. 164 species have been documented in the past several years, including 23 warblers and 6 types of woodpeckers. Barred Owls, Red-shouldered and Cooper's hawks have been nesting in Mead Garden. In the spring, many of the birds should be getting into their mating plumage, which could make for a colorful show.

A limited number of loaner binoculars are available. If you need a pair, please come a little early to sign them out and, if necessary, get a quick course on their proper use.

Please join us. The walks last Fall were lots of fun, inspired several people into the world of birding, and introduced many to the "oasis of Nature" that is Mead Botanical Garden. No need to preregister, just show up and have fun. Hope to see you there.

### Environmental Colloquium Series Continues—April 11<sup>th</sup>

The series of environmental presentations sponsored by Seminole State College's Biological Sciences Department continues. All are free and open to the public. For directions, see <http://www.seminolestate.edu/slm/directions>.

April 11<sup>th</sup>; 12:30–1:30 p.m., Sanford/Lake Mary Campus, Bldg G, Concert Hall, Room G118—"Celebrating the Wild Side of Florida: Portals into Nature, Culture, and Sense of Place" by Bill Belleville, Environmental Writer & Documentary Filmmaker ([www.billbelleville.com](http://www.billbelleville.com)).

## Calling All Nature-loving Shutterbugs!

There is ample time for nature-loving photographers to enter Orange Audubon Society's 2014, (26<sup>th</sup> Annual) Kit & Sidney Chertok Florida Native Nature Photography Contest. The broad theme for the 2014 contest lets you explore the amazing wildlife and natural habitats of Florida—from your own backyards to Florida's many parks, wildlife refuges, and preserves.

The final deadline is May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014 (postmarked by date). Optionally, you may enter early (by April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014, postmarked by date) to have your images pre-screened to assure compliance with contest rules. Such "Early Birds" may replace any disqualified image free of charge, subject to final deadline and other contest rules.

Subject matter must be native to Florida and images may not contain discernable non-native (to Florida) plants or animals, humans or human artifacts. Images must also comply with truth-in-Nature standards and may not be excessively manipulated and must have also been taken while complying with NANPA code of conduct ([www.nanpa.org/docs/NANPA-Ethical-Practices.pdf](http://www.nanpa.org/docs/NANPA-Ethical-Practices.pdf)).

\$1,200 in cash and other prizes will be awarded by Orange Audubon Society (OAS) and contest co-sponsor, Colonial Photo & Hobby (CPH). Winners also receive ribbons and recognition in Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) and other publications. Complete contest rules are on the official contest entry forms available online: [www.orangeaudubonfl.org](http://www.orangeaudubonfl.org); by request to [mwilliams@cfl.rr.com](mailto:mwilliams@cfl.rr.com) or (407) 644-0796; or at CPH, 634 N Mills Avenue, Orlando, FL.

Your participation in OAS' contest and your interest in nature photography are sincerely appreciated. We wish you all good luck.

*Teresa Williams, Chertok Photo Contest Chair*

### **Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, Limited Edition Field Trip Fort De Soto Park, Pinellas County**

Situated in the mouth of Tampa Bay and surrounded by miles of insanely dense development, this green gem of an island is a target for many migrant songbirds that cross the Gulf of Mexico. April is the peak month in spring and on a good day at Ft. De Soto birders may see hundreds of warblers, buntings, thrushes, orioles, grosbeaks, etc. Weather is a key factor, however, and some days there may be more birders than birds, but it'll be fun, either way.

Because it's a bit of a drive to get there, participants should plan on a long day. Definitely pack a lunch!

This trip is limited to 15 people and has a cost of \$10 per person per trip for members and \$15 per person for non-members. Reservations are required and will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis the week prior to the trip. For trip questions or reservations call Bob Sanders at (407) 454-0542.

### **Invitation to a Baby Owl Shower and Volunteer Opportunity**

You are invited to the Audubon Center for Birds of Prey's (ACBOP) Annual Baby Owl Shower on Saturday, May 10, 2014 from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Admission to ACBOP that day is free when you bring a 'baby gift' that will be used to care for young raptors. For a Wish List of gift ideas, visit the Audubon Florida website: [http://fl.audubon.org/sites/default/files/documents/wish\\_list\\_2013\\_1.pdf](http://fl.audubon.org/sites/default/files/documents/wish_list_2013_1.pdf). Cash and gift card donations are also appreciated.

Your gift will help ACBOP provide the best of care to injured and orphaned baby raptors. This is a great event for young and old who can participate in fun activities and meet ACBOP's resident birds and this season's non-releasable babies. But as Forrest Gump might say, it's like a box of 'chocolits' that day—you don't know what you'll get to see.

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) will be participating and volunteers are needed from 9:00 a.m. setup time to closing, which takes about 20 minutes. OAS' little shop of nature-inspired merchandise will be open for business and we will offer the kids' art activity. If you can help, please contact Teresa at (407) 644-0796 or [mwilliams@cfl.rr.com](mailto:mwilliams@cfl.rr.com).

## Current and Future OAS Leaders

Would you volunteer for one of the open Board of Director positions if you just had a little more confidence in your 'ability' to help Orange Audubon Society (OAS) with its mission? Here is an opportunity for you to join like-minded folks and acquaint yourself with some of the leaders from OAS and other chapters and share ideas and 'know-how'. \$202 covers two nights' lodging, 6 meals and all of the wonderful workshops and activities for this "by-the-chapters, for-the-chapters" Audubon Academy that will be held at DaySpring in Parrish, FL from April 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>. OAS has already budgeted some monies to help defray costs for attendees, so this is a great time to boost your confidence by attending — and it's just in time to help you decide if some volunteer Board activity would be right for you. Please call Bob or Loretta at (407) 886-2925 for details about this year's Audubon Academy; you may also visit <http://fl.audubon.org/2014-audubon-academy>. It's not too late, but time is of the essence.

### Annual Birdathon Fundraiser—Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup>

From 12:01 a.m. to 12:00 midnight on April 27<sup>th</sup>, Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) teams and individuals will fan out to see as many species of birds as they can as we try to reach our annual goal of 200 species (so far we've had a high of 189 species). You may concentrate on one area (parks and uplands or seashores, etc.) or travel across the state to find those elusive birds that will increase your total number of species seen during that 24-hr period. Please contact John at [jcentocpa@hotmail.com](mailto:jcentocpa@hotmail.com) or (407) 913-2417 about where you plan to bird and how to report your species seen to OAS.

OAS' goals are two-fold: see lots of species that day and get lots of pledges in support of the Birdathon. Don't be shy about asking your co-workers, vet, dentist, doctor, neighbor, child's teacher, etc. to pony up and support our efforts to raise funds that will be used in the Central Florida area for conservation/education. When we tally the number of species, we'll let you know the total and you collect the money from your pledged supporters and turn it into OAS. If each person reading this newsletter would ask one person to pledge 05¢ per species seen (~\$10) — and we reach our goal of 200 species — we would raise \$20,000 to support our efforts.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Genius Drive Nature Preserve Survey-Birdathon Field Trip

Be Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) guest for a guided, walking field trip to the 48± acre Genius Drive Nature Preserve in Winter Park on April 27<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. to around noon. Surveyors and guests will form a team to compete with other teams that day in counting different bird species for OAS' 2014 Birdathon fundraiser. Your good birding and/or observation skills will give this team the advantage!

The field trip is FREE. Although you are not required to do so, please consider soliciting one Birdathon donation from a friend, family member or that relentless fund-raising neighbor. Pledges of a nickel-, dime- or dollar-per-species-seen or fixed pledge amounts can add up to a successful fundraiser. Last year the Genius team saw 45 species; teams collectively saw 170 species. Solicit accordingly! Or donate personally!

Just as Winter Park was once a winter home for northerners, the Preserve has remained an essential winter home to many bird species, an important ecological stepping stone for migrating birds. Surveyors have recorded 180 bird species on the Preserve including a state record for Townsend's Solitaire. The Preserve's 19<sup>th</sup> century cultural history is also of interest especially to locals who remember when it was open to the public. The citrus groves and meandering Genius Drive with its hedges of shell ginger and Turk's cap were planted and constructed by Charles Hosmer Morse, the museum's namesake. The original Wind Song estate was built in 1936 by Elizabeth Morse Genius and looks across Lake Virginia to Rollins College.

Due to space limits, you must be an OAS member or Genius Workday volunteer in current standing to attend and reservations are required. Details provided when you register by contacting Teresa: [mwilliams@cfl.rr.com](mailto:mwilliams@cfl.rr.com) or (407) 644-0796).

### Earth Day Celebrated at Lake Eola on April 19<sup>th</sup>

On Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Orange Audubon Society (OAS) is participating in Central Florida Earth Day at Lake Eola Park (east side, 195 N. Rosalind Ave.). This free event, now in its 9<sup>th</sup> year, is organized by the Vegetarians of Central Florida with support of the Orlando Sentinel.

OAS will have a tent and display near the lake and we will be leading hourly short nature walks, suitable for families. Earth Day will have speakers, food preparation demonstrations, an environmental education center, humane education center, a kids zone, an animal haven, an artist corner, music on a band stage and acoustic stage, lots of other activities, and many Earth-friendly vendors. For more information about each of these aspects of the celebration, visit <http://www.cfearthday.org/>. If you want to join us, talking to attendees about what our chapter does and/or help lead the hourly nature walks, contact Deborah at [sabalpress@mac.com](mailto:sabalpress@mac.com) or (407) 637-2525.



#### Orange Audubon Society

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### Calendar of Events



**Spring Birdwalks in Mead Botanical Gardens.** Saturdays starting April 5<sup>th</sup> through April 26<sup>th</sup>. See page 3.

**Environmental Colloquium Series.** April 11<sup>th</sup>. See page 3.

**Audubon Academy.** April 11<sup>th</sup>–13<sup>th</sup>. DaySpring, Parrish, FL. Call (407) 886-2925 for registration details. See page 5.

**Limited Edition Field Trip to Fort DeSoto Park.** April 13<sup>th</sup>. For trip reservations or questions, call Bob Sanders at (407) 454-0542.

**Chertok Florida Native Nature Photo Contest.** Early entry for free do-over deadline April 17<sup>th</sup>. Final deadline May 15<sup>th</sup>. See page 4. .

**Central Florida Earth Day.** April 19<sup>th</sup>. Lake Eola Park (east side) 10:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m. Contact Deborah Green at (407) 637-2525.

**OAS Birdathon.** April 27<sup>th</sup>. See page 5.

**Baby Owl Shower.** May 10<sup>th</sup>. Audubon Center for Birds of Prey. See page 4.