



"The Voice of Conservation in Central Florida"

OASis

Orange Audubon Society
A Chapter of National and Florida Audubon Societies



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Help Florida's Beleaguered Black Bears

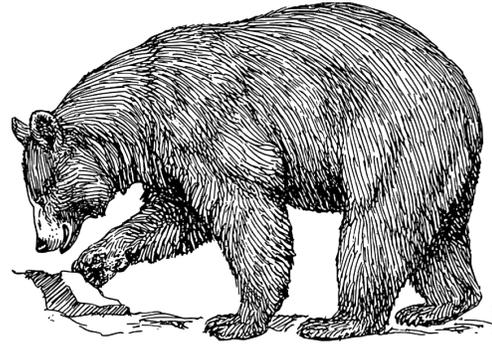
With 19+ million residents and 94+ million tourists a year, our three thousand Florida black bears (*Ursus americanus floridanus*) are woefully outnumbered and need help from all of us. As more people move to Florida and bear habitat diminishes, human-bear encounters will increase. Florida black bears are an important component of our natural areas and, if they are to be allowed to exist, we must teach people to value them and learn to live with them.

You can help by sharing bear-awareness and bear-smart practices such as the use of bear-resistant trashcans and dumpsters and the stopping of outdoor feeding of pets and wildlife, and yes, even birds if bears are nearby. Encourage people to attend the Florida Black Bear & Wildlife Conservation Festival that will be held on Saturday, October 11th, 2014 in Umatilla. Finally, encourage everyone to Vote Yes on Amendment 1 in the fall. This is absolutely one of the most important things you can do to protect our wildlife,

**VOTE
YES ON 1**

including our bears, and our wildlands before they are lost forever.

Bob Stamps



Thursday, May 15th—7:00 p.m.
**The Green Swamp—Heart of the
Floridian Aquifer**
by Peggy Cox

Because there is constant development pressure on this largest natural habitat core in Central Florida, Orange Audubon Society again listed it in our 2013–2014 Annual Plan as a regional habitat on which we will concentrate efforts to protect, preserve and/or restore. The Green Swamp has a vast array of wildlife and it provides important water recharge to the Floridian Aquifer, the source of drinking water for most of the State's population.

Peggy Cox, a member of the Lake County Water Authority Board of Directors (an elected position) and a past president of Orange Audubon Society, as well as a past member of the board of Florida Audubon Society, is a leader in helping to protect the Green Swamp—the "liquid heart of Florida" and an Area of Critical State Concern. At this program she will explain the regional ecological value of the Green Swamp and discuss the newest threat to the swamp and the four rivers that originate in it, and how we can help protect it.

Please join us at 7:00 p.m. at Leu Gardens on Thursday, May 15th for this fascinating presentation.

Loretta Satterthwaite, Programs Chair

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) meetings & programs are free & no reservations are necessary. Programs are held the 3rd 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

Go Green Update: Only One Paper Newsletter Left

If you still need to sign up, send your email address (subject: go green) to Mike Daley (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.

Saturday, May 17th, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. **Charles H. Bronson State Forest** **Field Trip**

On Saturday, May 17th, OAS will visit the Joshua Creek Trailhead (south entrance) of Charles H. Bronson State Forest near Christmas. This 10,945-acre forest borders the St. John's River in Orange and Seminole Counties. For more information about the property and directions, see: <http://floridaswater.com/recreationguide/charleshbronson/>.

Meet at 8 a.m. in the parking lot of the Joshua Creek Trailhead of the forest located at the northern end of Phillips Road off Ft. Christmas Rd. in Orange County. Day permit fee for the forest is \$2/person. No registration is required. No facilities. Bring \$2, plenty to drink, sun protection, insect protection, birding gear, and lunch (for after the hike). 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.

Mary Keim and Randy Snyder, Field Trip Committee

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 conservation 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.

LAST CALL for Photo Contest Entries!

There is still time to participate in Orange Audubon Society's 2014 (26th Annual) Kit & Sidney Chertok Florida Native Nature Photography Contest (CFNNPC), but entries must be postmarked by May 15th, 2014 or hand delivered directly to a Chertok committee member (preferably Teresa) on May 15th during OAS' regular program at Leu Gardens. Please do not leave entries with Leu Garden personnel.

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.

Complete contest rules are on the official entry forms available online: www.orangeaudubonfl.org; by request to mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or (407) 644-0796; or at Colonial Photo & Hobby (CPH), 634 N Mills Avenue, Orlando, FL. While you are there (CPH), look for the new display of selected images from the 2013 competition—selections to be announced in the June OASis.

Your participation in OAS' CFNNPC and your interest in nature photography are sincerely appreciated. Good luck!

Teresa Williams, CFNNPC Chair

Election Results

Elections for board members were held just prior to the evening program this past month at Leu Gardens on Thursday, April 17th. After asking for nominations from the floor prior to the election, members of the Orange Audubon Society elected by acclamation the following nominated board members.

The slate of nominations included officers with terms ending in 2016: Deborah Green, President; Rick Baird, 1st Vice President; Susan Ledlow, 2nd Vice President; Susan Kirby, Secretary; and Teresa Williams, Treasurer.

Board Members with terms expiring in 2017 include: John Cento, Larry Martin, Danielle Ponsolle, Brook Rohman, and Randy Snyder. Maria Kreps-Paasch has filled a position with a term expiring in 2016, and Linda Carpenter and Danny Raleigh with terms expiring in 2015.

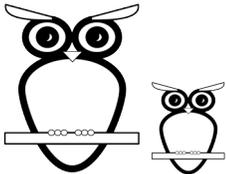
We're very excited to welcome our new board members: Linda Carpenter, Maria Kreps-Paasch, Danny Raleigh, and Brook Rohman. They bring with them experience and enthusiasm for nature and conservation. We also want to thank Loretta Satterthwaite who is taking a break from the board of directors. She has been a tireless leader and we are very grateful to her for her many years of support and dedication to the board of directors and the Orange Audubon Society.

Thank you to all the board members for their service to Orange Audubon Society.

Cynthia Gosiewski, Nominating Chair

2014 Election Results:

President (2016) – Deborah Green
 1st VP (2016) – Rick Baird
 2nd VP (2016) – Susan Ledlow
 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) – Brook Rohman
 Board Member (2017) – Randy Snyder
 Board Member (2016) – Maria Kreps-Paasch
 Board Member (2015) – Linda Carpenter
 Board Member (2015) – Danny Raleigh



Birdathon Note:

Thanks for your participation and support for Orange Audubon. Please contact Loretta at (407) 886-2925 or LNS-oas@att.net if you need a total number of species seen for collecting your pledges.

Invitation to a Baby Owl Shower and Volunteer Opportunity

You are invited to the Audubon Center for Birds of Prey (ACBOP) Annual Baby Owl Shower on Saturday, May 10th, 2014 from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Admission to the Center that day is free when you bring a 'baby gift' that will be used in caring for young raptors. What do you bring to a baby owl shower? A Wish List of suggestions—from medical and every-day cleaning supplies to baby food and equipment and materials—is available by calling (407) 644-0190 or on the Audubon Florida website: 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 the Center's resident birds and babies du jour. It's like a box of 'chockliits' that day—you never know what kind of baby you'll get to see amazingly close-up!

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-oriented 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.

Save the Date! Chertok Photo Contest Program and Silent Auction

Orange Audubon Society's 2014 (26th Annual) Kit and Sidney Chertok Florida Native Nature Photography Contest (CFNNPC) show and awards program will be here before you can say 'shutterbug' so please mark your calendars for June 19th, 2014, then volunteer to help.

We expect about 200 to attend the CFNNPC program—a favorite for many, but loads of work for a disproportionate few. Many busy hands will make for a more successful and stress-free evening. Can you help with food table setup, arranging silent auction tables, cashiering, decorating the meeting room with Chertok contest entry displays, closing auction tables?

Or would you solicit silent auction items from your favorite restaurants, clothing stores, etc.? Or show off your own personal artistic, culinary or crafty talent(s) by donating a creation of your own? Gift certificates are very popular items and easy to handle. It will help to know by May 31st what you have solicited so that organizers can determine table and layout needs, prepare bid sheets and rally ample help.

To volunteer for setup from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. and/or during the event from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. or to offer your services by soliciting for the silent auction please contact Teresa [(407) 644-0796 or mwilliams@cfl.rr.com] or Loretta [(407) 886-2925 or LNS-oas@att.net] and provide these details: your name and phone number and, for auction donations, a description of item(s) obtained, the retail or appraised value and starting bid amount (if desired). Proceeds from the silent auction 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. Thank you!

Teresa Williams and Loretta Satterthwaite

Saturday, May 24th, Limited Edition Field Trip Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area, Joe Overstreet Rd., Osceola Co.

The Three Lakes WMA and nearby Joe Overstreet Road offer some outstanding scenery and some very interesting birds. Some possibilities include: Red-Cockaded Woodpecker, Bachman's Sparrow, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Short-tailed Hawk, White-tailed Kite, Snail Kite, Crested Caracara, Burrowing Owl, Sandhill and Whooping Cranes, and lots of Bald Eagles. The Florida Grasshopper Sparrow does breed here but in such small numbers that, unfortunately, it will be very difficult to find, but we'll try.

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.

OAS' By-Laws Meeting

The Board of Directors of Orange Audubon Society (OAS) will soon be considering changes to the OAS by-laws. If you would like to attend, please contact OAS President Deborah (407) 637-2525, or one of the committee members: Danielle (407) 658-4869, Mary (407) 851-5416, Susan (407) 440-3448 or Loretta (407) 886-2925 for meeting details.



Audubon Academy Rated 9.1

Audubon Academy, the leader-training event planned and organized by Florida's Audubon chapter leaders for Florida's present and future chapter leaders, received an overall 9.1 on a 10-point scale for organization, content and venue. Participants' comments included "good ideas shared", "useful info", "learned a lot", "this was a wonderful experience and I look forward to coming back next year".

Audubon Academy, held at DaySpring Episcopal Center, had something for everyone: informative workshops, member-to-member sharing, chapter-to-chapter sharing, state level Audubon Florida speakers, campfires, and s'mores!

The workshops ranged from getting free conservation apps like "ivegot1" to boat rides touring Sarasota Bay. We learned about "Green" banking from Ken LaRoe and climate change effects on Florida from Steve Traxler, as well as numerous other topics.

Eric Draper, Executive Director of Audubon Florida and President of Florida Audubon Society, gave a welcoming talk entreating us to learn from one another during the Academy. He helped participants understand the academy's goals for chapters sharing and learning first-hand the wealth of conservation activities across the state. He also reminded us that Audubon Assembly (October 17th-18th at Hutchinson Island) is where the statewide membership will convene to establish the specific annual conservation goals for Audubon Florida.

OAS had five members present at the Academy: President Deborah Green; Loretta Satterthwaite and Bob Stamps, Audubon Academy co-organizers; and Susan and Charlie Kirby. Our chapter's work for and with Lake Apopka was recognized as an example of the need for partnership in conservation with multiple layers of interested parties. It is through these dynamic partnerships with Federal, State, and Local entities that progress is being made to have a conservation program on site on the North Shore of Lake Apopka. It was a busy weekend with much shared and new ideas learned. Plan to attend the next Academy; you won't be sorry!

Susan Kirby

April Field Trip Report

Ten attended the OAS field trip to Econlockhatchee Sandhills Conservation Area on April 19th. The group observed 33 bird species including Swallow-tailed Kite (flying low over the trees), Barred Owl (calling near the river), Eastern Bluebird (carrying food for young), Northern Parula (singing) and Black-and-white Warbler (greeting us near the parking lot). Other wildlife included Gopher Tortoise, Zebra Swallowtail, and Variable Dancer.

Wildflowers in bloom included Piedmont Staggerbush, Florida Greeneyes, Sky-blue Lupine, Rose-ling, Hooded Pitcherplant, Rose Pogonia and Sensitive Brier.

To answer questions that came up along the trail, the management plan http://floridaswater.com/landmanagementplans/pdfs/2009_Econlockhatchee_Sandhills.pdf explains that the property was purchased in late 2008 with Florida Forever funds. It forms an important part of the regionally significant Econlockhatchee wildlife corridor.

Tall Timbers and Birdsong Overnight Field Trip Report

The Tall Timbers & Birdsong Nature Center overnight field trip was a great success and a fabulous weekend. Seventeen people attended and experienced birding, navigating through the slippery red hills, and a Beadel House tour. Highlights included learning about the fire ecology and resource management work at Tall Timbers Research Station and Land Conservancy (TTRS). The team was lead by Jim Cox and Juanita Whiddon and tallied 62 species of birds on Saturday in spite of the rainy morning. Continuing into Sunday, the group was delighted to have Wilson Baker guide them through the Birdsong Nature Center with a dose of nature's quietude at their listening place. The Bird tally was 56 at Birdsong for a total of 77 different species identified over the weekend.

Big shout out to Teresa Williams for working hard to coordinate an event that allowed Audubon Members behind the scenes tours with top caliber guides.

Spring Mead Garden Walks a Great Success

Central Florida has a number of excellent birders who spend as much time as they can “birding.” Connecting these expert birders with beginners in a great place for birding is the formula for one of OAS’s best new programs: the Mead migration bird walks. Mead Botanical Garden, the 47.6-acre park owned by the City of Winter Park, is a superb migrant trap where migrating birds stop for food and rest on their way north in spring or south in fall. The variety of habitats—wetlands, open water, and an upland area with oaks and tall pines—appeals to these migrants as well as resident birds.

Now in its third year, Orange Audubon Society’s spring migration walks have ended, but walks are planned again for September and October. Coordinated by Larry Martin, with help from program originator OAS Past President Dick Smith, these walks draw 50-80 people each week.

We would like to thank Larry and Dick for coordinating and the experts who led and shared their knowledge, among them Lori Mathis, Dexter Richardson, Ellen Rocco, Brook Rohman, Bob Sanders, Bob Sicolo, Scott Simmons, Renee Thomas, and John Thomton. Bruce Anderson and Marcus Sharpe assisted through development of the bird list.



Orange Audubon Society

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Calendar of Events



- Baby Owl Shower.** May 10th. Audubon Center for Birds of Prey. See page 3.
Chertok Florida Native Nature Photo Contest. Final deadline May 15th. See page 4.
May Program: The Green Swamp—Heart of the Floridian Aquifer. May 15th. See page 1.
Field Trip to C.H. Bronson State Forest. May 17th. See page 2.
Limited Edition Field Trip to Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area. May 24th. For trip reservations or questions, call Bob Sanders at (407) 454-0542.
OAS Silent Auction and Chertok Nature Photography Contest Show. June 19th.
Genius Drive Nature Preserve Workday. Sunday, June 22nd, 9:00—11:00 a.m. Contact Teresa: mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or (407) 644-0796.