



A Florida black bear recently fitted with a collar equipped with a tracking device to accumulate information on bear movements. Photo: Dan Smith

This Month's Program: December 15, 2016

Impacts of Urbanization and other Human Influences on Bears by Dr. Daniel Smith

Bears in Central Florida freely move between the Ocala National Forest and Wekiva River Basin in one of the best expanses of habitat in the state.

Nearly 1200 bears are estimated to live in this area, which is rapidly being threatened by the effects of encroaching development.

On Thursday, December 15th, Dr. Daniel Smith, a Research Associate and Wildlife Biologist at the University of Central Florida, will be Orange Audubon Society's speaker. Information from a recent two-year research project examining habitat use, movement and behavior of bears in the upper Wekiva River Basin will be presented. Dr. Smith will share rare photographs and videos as well as insights on bear activity in the wildland-urban interface. This program will leave you knowing more about bears, their movements, behaviors, and the challenges they face.

We hope you join us December 15th at 7 p.m. for this fascinating program. See box below for location.

Brook Rohman, Second Vice President

Orange Audubon Society programs are free and no reservations are necessary.

Programs are the 3rd Thursday of each month (September-June)
and all but June start at 7:00 p.m.
in the Camellia Room at

Harry P. Leu Gardens

1920 North Forest Ave., Orlando, FL 32803

For map and directions, visit:

www.leugardens.org/plan/directions/



Monthly Field Trip: Citizen Science: Christmas Bird Counts

Instead of leading a regular field trip in December, Orange Audubon Society encourages you to participate in one or more Christmas Bird Counts from December 15-30, 2016.

The [annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count \(CBC\)](#), now in its 117th year, is the longest-running Citizen Science survey in the world. Each year the Audubon CBC mobilizes over 70,000 volunteer bird counters in more than 2,400 locations across the Western Hemisphere. This effort tracks the health of bird populations at a scale that professional scientists alone could never accomplish.

Each CBC is performed by at least 10 volunteers in a count circle that is 15 miles in diameter. The volunteers are broken up into small parties and follow assigned routes counting every bird they see. Despite different weather conditions each year, valid data on bird population trends is obtained with the same birders counting in the same sections year after year. However, if you have never done a CBC, the compiler will group you with experienced birders. See page 8 for CBC dates and contact information.

In a new development, Orlando Wetlands Park is now open all year, thanks to the purchase of hunting rights from the original owners by the City of Orlando. Local birder Karen Hamblett has initiated a CBC around the Christmas area. This new circle, called the Christmas CBC, will be Sunday, December 18th. Contact Karen at karen.hamblett@gmail.com to participate.

A relatively new CBC where the compiler John Thomson is actively looking for help is the Bay Lake CBC near Disney. Contact John at john.thomton@gmail.com.

For Florida results of the 2015-2016 CBC, see [this link](#). Happy CBC season!

**Letter to Birders
from Bob Sanders**

In any election there are winners and losers. I fear that the biggest loser in this one may be the environment—and by that I mean this planet, this Earth, in all the universe our one and only home, unique and perhaps unprecedented.

The fundamental, foundational issue is the environment. All of our debates, arguments and intra-specific conflicts are but theater. All of our strutting about, victories, losses, pain, suffering, successes, failures, ecstasies, loves, hopes and fears; all of our politics, religions, economic theories, ethics, and morality are but plays upon a stage. That stage is our Earth, and its healthy functioning is essential. Without that, existence is pointless, irrelevant and doomed.

Now, we all love birds and we gather at times to watch them...flying paradoxes of delicate fragility and heroic strength and perseverance. Free of, yet constrained by, the very gravity that holds all of this together. Not mere objects but sentient creatures that are at once both real and, to us, so important symbolically, gifted weavers that in flight stitch together Heaven and Earth—what is solid, what is vaporous, what is definitive, what is ethereal. Throughout our brief human history the birds have inspired some of our highest aspirations. Walking upright, like us, with sharp, bright eyes, intelligence, curiosity and caring, they are our kindred.

So today, or any day that you venture out to watch the birds, you need to ask yourself two questions, one rhetorical and one personal. First: while looking around at all of this, “Who Cares?” And second: “Do I care?” If that answer is “YES,” let that inform and guide your politics from this day forward as so much of human behavior is political and politics has implications difficult to imagine or predict.

We share this great stage with the birds and all other living things. How long will we remain privileged to play upon it? It is all up to us.

Bob Sanders, Orange Audubon Society Field Trip Leader



Sandhill Crane Chick on Mom's Back. 2012 Chertok Photo Contest, Honorable Mention, Advanced category. Photo: Larry Lynch

Let's Get To Know Our Elected Officials

One of the best ways to help the environment is to develop relationships with your elected officials and discuss conservation issues with them before code changes, bills, and other changes are drafted or instituted. You likely will not agree with all the positions of your elected officials, but at least by having civil discussions with them on a regular basis you can provide them with viewpoints and information that they might not get otherwise. Here are [election results](#) and here's where to [look up your representatives](#) by your address.

Bob Stamps, past Conservation Chair

Solar Update

Amendment 1, which was put forward by the investor-owned utility monopolies, was defeated because it did not receive the 60% of vote necessary to pass. State solar advocates are delighted that a grassroots effort could defeat such a well-funded deceptive campaign. Solar advocates will regroup and work toward the 2018 election.

Meanwhile, the first Florida Solar Co-op was started in Winter Park in collaboration with the Community Power Network, a Washington D.C.-based network of grass roots, local, state, and national organizations that works to promote locally-based renewable energy projects and policies. As the Solar Co-op concept spread, [FL SUN](#) was formed and has helped more than 100 homeowners go solar, totaling 1,000 kW of new solar installed.

Deborah Green, Climate Chair



The purpose and dedication of Orange Audubon Society (OAS) is to promote public understanding of, and an interest in, wildlife and the environment that supports it.

OAS' education programs foster the recognition of the tangible and intangible values in the remaining natural areas of Florida and the world, and our responsibility for the conservation of the Earth's natural ecosystems and the services that they provide for the health of the planet.

Orange Audubon Society
P.O. Box 941142
Maitland, FL 32794-1142
www.orangeaudubonfl.org

President:
Rick Baird
rbaird4@att.net
(407) 277-3357

OASis Editor:
Deborah Green
sabalpress@mac.com
(407) 637-2525

The OASis (*Orange Audubon Society information source*) newsletter is published monthly from September through June. The newsletter is posted on the OAS website and the link e-mailed to OAS members.

Address Change or E-Delivery:
Mike Daley
miked129e@gmail.com
(407) 417-7818

JOIN OAS' [MEETUP](#) GROUP
LIKE OAS ON [FACEBOOK](#)

A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE, 1-800-435-7352, WITHIN THE STATE. FROM OUTSIDE OF FLORIDA CALL 1-850-410-3800. VISIT www.800helpfla.com FOR HELP. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. REGISTRATION NO. CH2330

Good News on Critical Wildlife Areas

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's (FWC) [Critical Wildlife Areas](#) program, in which rookeries are nominated for special protection, is a 2016 Audubon Florida conservation success led by Julie Wraithmell, Deputy Executive Director. On November 16, 2016 FWC approved [improvement of 5 of the 20 existing CWAs and designation of 13 new CWAs.](#)

Loxahatchee Update

Managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the past sixty years, Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge now hosts some of the healthiest remaining Everglades habitat, and located near Boynton Beach, is closer for visitors than Everglades National Park. In an effort that has long been encouraged by the sugar industry, Florida has begun the process of evicting the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The 144,000 acre Refuge provides critical habitat to 250 species of birds, including the largest wading bird colony in the Everglades with more than 7,000 active nests.

Like other wildlife refuges, Loxahatchee is visited by tourists, nationally and internationally, and has an outstanding Visitors' Center. Return to the water management district, whose mission emphasizes visitation by the public to a far lesser degree, could result in an economic loss to the area.

Thousands of letters have been sent to Governor Scott (and please add yours through [Audubon Florida's links](#)). Audubon Florida and Audubon Society of the Everglades are organizing a December 5th Community Forum to seek solutions to this threat.

The Orange Audubon Society Conservation Committee sees many threats to our public lands, but this one could set a devastating precedent. By the 75% vote for the Water and Land Legacy Amendment in 2014, we know that the voters want our public lands to survive and in fact want more public lands. Contact Phyllis at phylliscath814@gmail.com, if you wish to help.

OAS Conservation Committee



Snowy Owl. Photo: Reinhard Geisler

(C) Reinhard G

In case you missed the program ... Nature Photography Tips

It looks easy, but is surprisingly difficult, tedious, highly technical, and requires expensive equipment. Furthermore, you often must stand for hours patiently waiting for the suspect to dart from a clutch of grass or leaves.

If, however, you have been photographing for more than 30 years as Reinhard Geisler has, you learn a few tricks that can ease the process, and increase your enjoyment. A passionate birder, Florida Master Naturalist and nature photographer, Reinhard revealed his secrets at the November OAS program.

A significant aspect of bird photography is "knowing your birds, their habitat, migrating patterns so you know where to find them and how they will behave," he said. You need binoculars to facilitate the process. "Let the birds come to you. Anticipate movement, be casual, control your excitement, and make no sudden stops. Always have the birds' interests in mind."

Since birds have great vision, do not wear white or bright colors that will frighten them away. To protect them, never immediately post photos of nesting or young birds on Facebook or in competitions. "Don't share the location of these birds," he said.

Basic technical tips include: Buy the best lens you can afford, a 400 mm or better, preferably NOT a zoom. Limit your spending, since DSLR technology advances every few years.

Always shoot raw to obtain the greatest detail to benefit from future image processing improvements." He also suggests shooting in the manual mode (M) to gain more control. Or shoot with the aperture (AV/A) mode and monitor your shutter speed, increasing it for birds in flight. Reinhard usually shoots at ISO 800 and uses spot metering to obtain the best exposure on the bird. Using a histogram is helpful. A quality tripod can improve your photographs. And always "gently squeeze the shutter button in order to prevent vibration and maintain a sharp focus."

Also "Practice, practice, practice," said Reinhard. And have "patience, patience, and more patience." Finally, he asked the audience to identify birds from a portion of images he projected; he chose four experienced birders to identify the more challenging species.



The expert panel consisted of Mary Keim, Lori Mathis, Graham Williams, and Bob Sander. Photo: Rick Baird



Reinhard Geisler. Photo: Jutta Geisler

In closing Reinhard shared his favorite shots of a Snowy Owl at Little Talbot Island near Jacksonville in January 2014. Linda Carpenter, Publicity

**Birds of Prey Identification Classes, Lake Apopka
December 4, 2016 &
January 8 and February 5,
2017**

Orange Audubon Society will hold three Birds of Prey Identification Classes on the [Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive](#) on Sundays, December 4, 2016, January 8, 2017 and February 5, 2017. Each class will be from 7:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. You can attend single or multiple days. Suggested donation for each day is \$5 (Audubon members) or \$10 (non-members).



Short-tailed Hawk. Photo: Mary Keim

Popular instructor Bob Sanders is an avid birder who for many years has taught raptor identification. Before moving to Central Florida, Bob was co-founder of the Chimney Rock Hawk Watch in Martinsville, New Jersey. No early registration is required. Bob can be reached at (407) 459-5617. Mark your calendars!

**North Florida Birding and
Botany Field Trips and
Wolf Encounter
December 8-11, 2016**

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) will lead a weekend trip to the Florida Panhandle's Red Hills area, called one of America's "last great places." The weekend includes 4 birding/botany field trips, other natural history activities and a private, hands-on tour at Seacrest Wolf Preserve, Dec 9-11, 2016. A longer description of events appears in the November *OASis*.

This trip is almost full, and final registration deadline is Dec 5, 2016 to allow organizers adequate preparation time. Contact Teresa at (407) 644-0796 or mwilliams@cfl.rr.com.

Split Oak Field Trip

Twenty nature lovers joined Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) November 19th monthly field trip to Split Oak Forest Wildlife and Environmental Area off Narcoosee Road in East Orlando.

Thirty-seven species were seen, including Brown-headed Nuthatches, Eastern Bluebirds, American Kestrels and Bald Eagles.

Led by Larry Martin and Bob Sanders, the group saw a Pygmy Rattlesnake, White-tailed Deer, Little Yellow and other butterflies, beetles, ant lions, and walking sticks.



Field Trip Participants at Bonnet Pond, Split Oak Forest Wildlife and Environmental Area. Photo: John Hall

To help other photographers, Susan Kirby, OAS Publicity co-chair and avid photographer, brought her long-lens camera and tripod. Split Oak is one of Orange County's Green PLACE properties, and photos taken there entered in the OAS Chertok Photo Contest (p.7) are eligible for bonus prizes.

Split Oak is a "mitigation bank" paid for with state and Orange and Osceola county funds. It has provided Gopher Tortoise relocation habitat for the past 22 years. Extensive prescribed burning and invasive plant removal have created good habitat.

While enjoying this interesting property, the group discussed threats to it from the Osceola Expressway. More on this situation as it develops.

Larry Martin, Field Trip Chair, with Deborah Green, Conservation



Two-striped Walkingsticks. Photo: Mary Keim

**Limited Edition Field
Trip to Lake Jesup
Marl Bed Flats
December 18, 2016**

Join popular Orange Audubon Society (OAS) field trip leader Bob Sanders on Sunday, December 18th for a Limited Edition Field Trip to the Lake Jesup Conservation Area. This 6000-acre + St. Johns River Water Management District property on the north shore of Lake Jesup is rich in bird life. Habitats are oak and palmetto hammock, pasture, and wetlands adjacent to Lake Jesup.

Past sightings have included American White Pelicans, Bald Eagles, Limpkins, several species of shorebirds, Bonaparte's Gulls, Black Skimmers, American Pipits, 6 species of warblers, Blue-headed Vireos, and Eastern Meadowlarks.

Limited Edition Field Trips have a maximum of 15 participants so that beginners can receive individualized attention. Cost is \$10 per person per trip for OAS 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) 459-5617.

Birdapalooza Birding Festival, January 20-22, 2017

A great way to enjoy bird watching is to go to festivals around the state and country—they're organized to get you to great birding spots at a great time of year. Experts and locals help you see more birds, and you meet other visitors who share your hobby. The 20,000-acre Lake Apopka North Shore area (North Shore), managed by the St. Johns River Water Management District (District), with 360+ species recorded, has been designated an Important Bird Area. Since the District opened the Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive in May 2015, visitors have flocked to the area.

When it became clear that ecotourism was being looked at as an economic engine for the area, Orange Audubon Society (OAS) thought, why not birding ecotourism? Why not have a festival and bring in out-of-towners to contribute to the local economy?

Bob Stamps and Loretta Satterthwaite led OAS's effort 5 years ago, in conjunction with then Orange County Commissioner Fred Brummer, to found the [Lake Apopka Wildlife Festival & Birdapalooza](#) at Magnolia Park. With field trips led by District and OAS volunteers, this free family-oriented festival introduces people from the Apopka area and other Central Floridians to the North Shore. It is organized by Orange County's Magnolia Park staff, the District and OAS, with partners Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, University of Florida Mid-Florida Research and Education Center, and other entities. The festival last year was on track to attract about 4000 people (before rains rolled in at 2 p.m.).

The Birdapalooza planning committee, chaired by current Orange County Commissioner Bryan Nelson, starts planning shortly after the festival ends. OAS Conservation Chair Phyllis Hall is now coordinating OAS volunteers. If you would like to help, contact her at phylliscath814@gmail.com.

Last year, in coordination with District Land Manager Maria Zondervan, OAS rolled out the first Birding Festival on



Actor Jack Black and Greg Miller.
Photo courtesy Greg Miller.

the Friday before Birdapalooza. With posting on national and state websites where people look for birding festivals, OAS attracted participants from 10 states, including Florida, and from 27 different Florida cities.

This year Birdapalooza is scheduled for one week before the Space Coast Birding and Wildlife Festival, so we could book our headliner [Greg Miller](#) (of *The Big Year* fame) and top Florida birder [David Simpson](#). Two full-day trips and nine half-day trips are offered, along with keynotes by Miller and Gian Basili, a long-time District land manager who was instrumental in creating the

Lake Apopka North Shore Restoration Area. OAS' regularly scheduled January program on Swallowtail Kites by Ken Meyer has been included in the birding festival offerings, since speakers, trip leaders and attendees may come in on Thursday.

For each field trip OAS requests a donation to its Nature and Environmental Education Center Fund. The committee putting this event together consists of Brook Rohman, Kathy Rigling, Killian Hiltz, Teresa Williams and myself, working with Maria Zondervan of the District and the Birdapalooza planning committee. OAS appreciates the field trip leaders, speakers, and other volunteers who are donating their time.

To learn more and register for events (don't wait too long!), go to <http://orangeaudubonfl.org/birdapalooza>.



Deborah Green, Birding Festival Committee Chair

Flamingo Quest! April 22, 2016 Exciting Event! Reserve Early to Secure Your Space!

American Flamingos were a rare sight in the wild in Florida for a century *until 10 years ago*. At that time the tall pink and black birds showed up on a South Florida Water Management District (District) property south of Lake Okeechobee. They have been appearing annually by late March and disappearing by mid-May. Exactly where they breed is unclear, but two flamingos with leg bands came from Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula.



American Flamingos at STA-2. Photo: Reinhard Geisler

American Flamingos like mudflats and shallow brackish coastal or inland lakes. The long-legged wading birds have found these habitats in a restricted property that is one of the District's Stormwater Treatment Areas (STAs) south of Lake Okeechobee and the Everglades Agricultural Area. STAs are designed to filter and clean water flowing south through the Everglades.

The location where the flamingos have been seen within the 15,500-acre STA-2 was kept secret until it was leaked two years ago. Fearing that unregulated visits would disturb the birds, the District asked Audubon Society of the Everglades (ASE) to organize weekend tours of the area. The first year these trips filled immediately and had a long waiting list. Orange Audubon Society (OAS) member Reinhard Geisler (our November speaker) was fortunate enough to hear about the trips and took the photograph above. Now ASE prefers working with other chapters to organize group trips.

OAS has booked Saturday, April 22, 2016 from noon to 4 p.m. for the 20-mile loop tour into STA-2. Please be aware that there is no guarantee that we will see flamingos, as they do move around. Last year with heavy rains in the winter, water levels in the spring were too high for the flamingos in early April when we went, although flamingos were seen later in April. Fortunately, STA-2, which is managed for seasonal waterfowl and alligator hunts, has many other exciting birds at that time of year, more species reported than any of the other STAs. To help us find great birds, OAS has again booked David Simpson, one of Florida's top birders, who has extensive field experience in South Florida.

We will meet at noon on Saturday, April 22nd at the entrance to STA-2 and carpool into STA-2, four per car. The trip from Orlando is approximately 3 1/2 hours. This can be a day-trip. However, since April 22nd is during spring migration, the trip will include additional birding with David after we leave STA-2 through Sunday about 4 p.m. Possible locations for Saturday afternoon and Sunday birding are Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, Spanish River Park, Snook Island Preserve, Green Cay Nature Center and Wetlands, Wakodahatchee Wetlands and others, to be narrowed down based on reported sightings.

The weekend-field trip fee is \$40 for Audubon members and \$55 for non-Audubon members, covering trip leaders' time, contributions to ASE and to OAS to assist our fund-raising toward a nature center. The Saturday-only field trip fee is \$25 for Audubon members and \$40 for non-Audubon members.

Early registration is recommended as the field trip is limited and reservations are required. Contact Teresa at (407) 644-0796 or mwilliams@cfl.rr.com for space availability and registration and payment instructions. Full payment is needed to confirm your spot. Cancellation and refund policies will be provided in the January *OASis*. Participants are responsible for meals, transportation, lodging and incidentals. If requested by 10+ registered participants, OAS will try to secure a discounted group lodging rate for Saturday night in the Boca Raton area as we did last year.

Update on Bald Eagles In Storm Drain

In mid November the nation closely followed two Bald Eagles trapped in an Orlando storm drain. When rescued, one eagle flew away and the other was taken to and treated at the Audubon Center for Birds of Prey (CBOP) in Maitland. Clinic staff sadly report that the injured eagle died on November 14th. The eagles were both females, and this was thought to be a territorial dispute.

CBOP has treated 65 injured or ill Bald Eagles this year. Many have recovered and were returned to their home territories; 546 Bald Eagles have been released back into the wild since 1979.



Bald Eagles. Photo: Mary Keim

"Our team, along with Dr. Robert Hess and the staff at the Winter Park Veterinary Hospital made every attempt to save this beautiful bird," said Katie Warner, Director of the Audubon Center for Birds of Prey. "Releasing recovered eagles back to the wild is important. We are calling on all Floridians to work with Audubon to protect eagle habitat so the once endangered species can thrive."

If you have an eagle nest in your neighborhood, please make sure it is being monitored through the Eagle Watch program, managed through CBOP. The raptors on display make CBOP a great place to visit. For more follow [this link](#). The CBOP phone number is (407) 644-0190.

Deborah Green

Nature and Environmental Education Center Update

Orange Audubon Society's Nature and Environmental Education Center (NEEC) Committee continues working toward identifying the location for the long-awaited center on the Lake Apopka North Shore. To our patient members who have been so generous in contributing to our chapter over the years, please know that the committee is eager to announce the location, but it has not yet been secured. We hope to have positive news soon.

Thank you to all who have already donated in response to Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) once-a-year Letter Appeal sent to you in September to request financial support. If you have not already done so, we hope you will consider supporting your local Audubon chapter with a year-end donation. You can donate on the [OAS website](#) or mail a check to Orange Audubon Society, P.O. Box 941142, Maitland, Florida 32794. Any amount is appreciated.

Lake Apopka Sightings

Two Groove-billed Anis have settled for the winter on the Lake Apopka North Shore near the observation tower, about a mile from the Clay Island trailhead. These Southwestern birds appear to be the same ones seen two years ago. Birders from far and wide are flocking to see them.

Other rarities found on the [Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive](#) as of press time are Ash-throated Flycatcher, Vermillion Flycatcher, Short-tailed Hawk, Swainson's Hawk, Short-eared Owl, and Gray-headed Swamphen. Other winter residents that require some looking to see are Wilson's Snipe, American Bitterns, Soras, Northern Harriers, American Kestrels, Merlins and Peregrine Falcons. Get out and see what you can find! *Deborah Green with Larry Martin*



Groove-billed Ani.
Photo: Kathy Rigling

Lake Eola Fiesta Volunteers - Thanks!

Orange Audubon Society's annual participation in the Lake Eola Fiesta in the Park Arts and Crafts Festival on November 5th and 6th was a big success in terms of nature merchandise sales and outreach. Thanks to all the volunteers who made this event possible: Rick and Laurel Baird, Melissa Gonzalez, Phyllis Hall, Cyndi and Michael Kay, Wayne Kennedy, Brent Mobley, John and Lori Parsons, Kathy Rigling, and Dena Wild.

Teresa Williams, Coordinator



Amazon Smile

Support Orange Audubon Society while you shop on Amazon! Amazon will donate a small amount—a half percent of the price of eligible purchases—to our chapter whenever you shop on Amazon Smile. The same great products at the same great prices are available and you should not need to change any login credentials. Click here for a [direct link](#). Every little bit helps!

Announcing the 29th Annual Chertok Nature Photo Contest

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) announces its 2017 (29th Annual) Kit and Sidney Chertok Florida Native Nature Photography Contest, themed: *Florida Native Nature*. Competing in this contest will sharpen your photo skills, increase knowledge of Florida's amazing wildlife and wild places and teach valuable ethical field practices.

Eligible photos may not include humans, human artifacts or introduced plant or animal species—subject matter must be native to Florida—and entries must be taken in compliance with the [NANPA code of conduct](#).

The deadline is April 20, 2017 (postmarked by date). Participants will be notified of any disqualified entries and may optionally replace them at no charge by following instructions given when notified.

New and bonus prizes in addition to the \$1,200 prize package from OAS and co-sponsor Colonial Photo & Hobby have been added. Tarflower Chapter of Florida Native Plant Society will add \$100 in NEW cash prizes for 1st-3rd place Youth winners.

Photographers in all categories with 1st-3rd place winning images taken on Orange County natural lands (Green PLACEs) are eligible for a National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Annual Pass (\$80 value) as BONUS prizes. The list of Orange County's Green PLACE properties is at [this link](#). Orange County Environmental Protection Division is offering a final Green PLACE photo workshop on March 4 to Savage-Christmas Creek Preserve in Christmas.

The contest is open to all photographers (members of OAS' board and Chertok contest committee excluded) and there are three skill level competition categories: Youth—for photographers age 17 or younger by April 20, 2017; Novice—for new and less experienced photo hobbyists; and Advanced Amateur/ Professional—for experienced photographers who have practiced and honed their skills over time. Entry submission details are now on the OAS website. So get outside with your camera and start shooting and preserving Florida's amazing native nature! Contact me at mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or (407) 644-0796 if you have questions.

Teresa Williams, Chertok Photo Contest Chair

Photography Workshop by Reinier Munguia

January 7, 2017, Lake Apopka

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) will offer a Photography Workshop on January 7, 2017 to help enhance your skills and encourage entries in the 2017 Chertok Florida Native Nature Photography Contest (p.7). The workshop leader is Reinier Munguia, a full-time naturalist and nature photographer whose work has appeared in books, magazines and scientific publications. Reinier is president of Lake Region Audubon Society and was interim program coordinator of Audubon Florida's EagleWatch program. This well-known and respected photographer leads workshops to the Galapagos, Costa Rica, Panama, and other locations, documenting nature and wildlife's struggles in a constantly changing environment.

This workshop starts with an indoor session at University of Florida Mid-Florida Research and Education Center in Apopka and continues at the [Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive](#) and/or trails. Goals are to share techniques to improve the quality of your images through use of proper exposure; share information about the dynamic range of modern digital cameras and use of ND filters; and tips on what gear to take and how to solve problems in the field - harsh light, wind and other elements - that can affect the quality of your images.

You will learn how to see nature from a documentary perspective. OAS' November speaker, photographer Reinhard Geisler, highly recommends this workshop, stating that he learned some great tips from Reinier, including the best use of flash. Proceeds from the workshop are generously being donated by Reinier to benefit OAS' future nature and environmental education center on Lake Apopka.

Date and time: Saturday, January 7 from 9-11 a.m. in class followed by a field session on Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive and/or trails from 1-4 p.m. Suggested donation for the entire workshop is \$60 (members) and \$75 (non-members); classroom session only, \$30/\$40 or field session only, \$35/\$45. To reserve a space and receive instructions for making payment by check or credit card contact me at (407) 644-0796 or mwilliams@cfl.rr.com. We hope you take advantage of this workshop, which is limited to 25 participants.

Teresa Williams, Chertok Photo Contest Chair



Reinier Munguia, Photo courtesy Reinier Munguia.

DECEMBER/JANUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Birds of Prey Identification, Lake Apopka

December 4, 2016

Contact Bob at (407) 459-5617

Florida Panhandle's Red Hills & Seacrest Wolf

Preserve Field Trip

December 9-11, 2016

Contact Teresa at (407) 644-0796

December Program: Impacts of Urbanization and other Human Influences on Bears - Dr. Daniel Smith

December 15, 2016

Contact Brook at (407) 921-8008

Christmas Bird Counts: Contact the compiler to participate.

- **Zellwood/Mt. Dora:** December 15, 2016
Contact Wes Biggs at birdsatfnt@bellsouth.net
- **Emeralda/Sunnyhill:** December 15, 2016
Contact Barb Gay at stkite52@gmail.com
- **Bay Lake:** December 16, 2016
Contact John Thomson at jthomton@hotmail.com
- **Wekiva River:** December 17, 2016
Contact Jay Exum at jay.h.exum@gmail.com
- **Christmas:** December 18, 2016
Contact Karen Hamblett at karen.hamblett@gmail.com
- **Kissimmee Valley:** December 18, 2016
Contact Chris Newton at dexterdevon68@gmail.com

- **Econlockhatchee:** December 26, 2016
Contact Lorne Malo at lornemalo@bellsouth.net

- **Clermont:** December 30, 2016
Contact John Thomson at jthomton@hotmail.com

Limited Edition Field Trip to Lake Jesup Conservation Area, Marl Bed Flats Tract

December 18, 2016

Contact Bob at (407) 459-5617

Birds of Prey Identification, Lake Apopka

January 8, 2017

Contact Bob at (407) 459-5617

January Program: Swallowtail Kites - Dr. Ken Meyer

January 19, 2017

Contact Brook at (407) 921-8008

Lake Apopka Wildlife Festival and Birdapalooza Birding Festival

January 20-22, 2017

Contact Deborah at (407) 637-2525

Lake Apopka Wildlife Festival and Birdapalooza

January 21, 2017

Contact Phyllis at (407) 265-7164

*Best Wishes for a Safe and
Peaceful Holiday Season!*