



Summer Tanager at Rock Springs Run State Reserve. Photo: Mary Keim

Monthly Field Trip: April 23, 2016 Rock Springs Run State Reserve

On Saturday, April 23rd, from 8:30 a.m.-noon Orange Audubon Society will visit Rock Springs Run State Reserve near Sorrento. This property, on the west side of the Wekiva River, has been designated among Florida's Special Places, as it provides an important wildlife corridor for the threatened Florida Black Bear. We will walk about three miles observing plants and animals along the way. For information about the property, see [this link](#).

Pay the \$3/carload admission fee (correct change required), then meet at 8:30 a.m. in parking lot #2 of the reserve. Bring plenty to drink, sun protection, insect protection, birding gear, and lunch (for after the hike). No registration is required. If you have questions about the trip, contact us at rsmhk@gmail.com or (407) 851-5416. We hope you join us!

Mary Keim, Field Trip Chair

This Month's Program:

April 21, 2016

Florida Wildlife Corridor Expedition: Everglades to Okefenokee by Maddie Southard

The Florida Wildlife Corridor is a conservation advocacy organization focused on connecting, protecting and restoring corridors of conserved lands and waters for Florida's wildlife. Filmmaker Elam Stoltzfus, who in 2012 presented his beautiful film *Kissimmee Basin: The Northern Everglades* to Orange Audubon Society (OAS), produced the *Florida Wildlife Corridor Expedition: Everglades to Okefenokee* in 2013.

This film documents the 1000-mile, 100-day trek of four friends traveling from the Everglades National Park to Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge in southern Georgia. Bear biologist Joe Guthrie, conservationist Mallory Lykes Dimmitt, photojournalist Carlton Ward Jr., and filmmaker Elam Stoltzfus started on January 17, 2012 in the Everglades and ended around Earth Day 2012 in the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge. They made and documented the arduous journey afoot because a dedicated statewide Corridor will benefit wildlife, watersheds and people for generations to come.

Maddie Southard, the Program Manager for the Florida Wildlife Corridor, will be OAS' April 21st speaker and will present the hour-long *Florida Wildlife Corridor Expedition: Everglades to Okefenokee* film. This program will be inspiring as well as informative. Join us April 21st at 7 p.m. See box at left for location details.
Brook Rohman, Programs



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/



Above, On Earth Day, April 22, 2012, day 97 of the Florida Wildlife Corridor Expedition, the team treks north to the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge. Photo: Carlton Ward. Below, April presenter Maddie Southard, Program Manager, Florida Wildlife Corridor. Photo courtesy Florida Wildlife Corridor



Bird Friendly Communities

National Audubon Society is focusing on five conservation initiatives as part of the Conservation Element of its Strategic Plan. These are: Working Lands (forests, agricultural and ranch lands); Saving Seas and Shores; Bird-Friendly Communities; Saving Important Bird Areas; and Healthy Climate.

People like to spruce up their yards in spring and Orange Audubon Society (OAS) is focusing on the Bird-Friendly Communities initiative. We also promote Water Conservation efforts in April, traditionally Florida's driest month. OAS members continue participating in the Central Florida Water Initiative.

We urge you, our members, to find ways to reduce the amount of turf you water and fertilize. To see examples of landscapes that have reduced turf and turned their yards into wildlife havens, please take the opportunity to go on the second annual Florida Native Plant and Wildlife-Friendly Yard Tour on April 16th and read Linda Carpenter's recap of Mary Keim's excellent talk on Planting for Wildlife (both on p.4).

Deborah Green

Board Member Elections

April is the official annual meeting of the Orange Audubon Society (OAS), where this year's election for members of the OAS Board of Directors will be held just prior to the April 21st program.

All five officers' terms expire this year: President Deborah Green will be succeeded by current First Vice President Rick Baird. Deborah has agreed to serve in the First Vice President position, while OAS works to develop new leaders.

Second Vice President/Program Chairperson Brook Rohman and Treasurer Teresa Williams have agreed to remain in their positions, and Mary Keim has offered to serve as Secretary.

Five 2013-2016 directors' terms expire at the end of June: Milton Heiberg, Kathy Rigling, Dominique Shimizu, Dena Wild, and Mary Keim. While Mary has moved into the officer track (2016-2018), each of the other four



Luna Moth Among the Leaves. Honorable Mention, 2014 Chertok Photo Contest. Photo: Michele Flacco

directors has agreed to be nominated again with Jackie Masterski being nominated to the fifth open 2016-2019 term.

Victoria Schwartz, Killian Hiltz and Susan Kirby are nominated to fill 2014-2017 board positions vacated by Sasha George, Susan Ledlow and Danielle Ponsolle, respectively.

This slate is tentative. Additional nominations to run for any of the open positions will be accepted up to and including from the floor on April 21st.

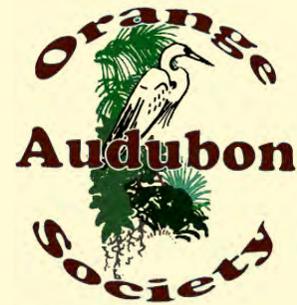
Nominees must be current members of OAS and will be expected to be present at monthly board meetings (held at 6 p.m. prior to the program meetings) and a summer planning meeting. All board members must have a commitment to helping OAS succeed and meet its goals.

If you have any questions or would like to serve on the board, please contact Nominating Committee Chair Susan Kirby at skirby1964@gmail.com or (407) 257-7361 or nominating committee members Teresa Chin at tschin@mindspring.com or Victoria Schwartz at victoriaschwartz628@gmail.com. Susan can provide you with the current OAS board application form.

If there is not a vacant slot at any given time, we encourage you still to apply, as vacancies may appear.

Meanwhile, we hope you will join one of our committees: conservation, education, field trip, finance, hospitality, membership, *OASis* (newsletter), program, publicity, sanctuary, website, wildlife survey, birdathon, Chertok Nature Photography Contest, silent auction, nature education center, nominating, brochure, climate, and speakers bureau. Thanks for getting more involved with your chapter!

Susan Kirby, Nominating Committee 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.

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

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

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

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Spring Bird Walks in Mead Botanical Garden

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) will be holding guided bird walks every Saturday in April for spring migration, as we have for the past five years. Eastern warblers and other colorful songbirds that winter in the Caribbean or Central or South America are moving north to breed. Most will just pass through our area en route to forests of the Appalachians, the Eastern Seaboard or Canada. Mead Botanical Garden in Winter Park is one of the best public places birders have found to see these lovely birds in Central Florida. Mead has food (insects and berries), water and shelter for bird stop-overs, with a variety of habitats, including wetlands, open water, and an upland area with oaks and tall pines. Over 160 species have been documented at Mead, including 23 species of warbler and 6 species of woodpecker. Many of the birds should be in their colorful mating plumage.

The walks will be on Saturdays, April 2nd through April 30th. They begin at 8:00 a.m., and last 2 to 3 hours at a casual pace. All are open to the public and are FREE. Walks are led by experienced birders (Brook Rohman, John Thomson, Renee Thomas, and Bob Sanders have all agreed to lead, and other experienced birders will be there as well). Mead Botanical Garden is located at the intersection of south Denning Drive and Garden Drive, two blocks east of Orlando Ave (Hwy. 17-92).

Orange Audubon has a limited number of loaner binoculars. 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. The walks last fall 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 you join us!

Larry Martin OAS-Mead Liaison



Great-crested Flycatcher
Photo: Larry Martin

International Flower and Garden Festival: Volunteers Needed

Audubon Florida seeks volunteers to showcase its Purple Martin exhibit at the EPCOT International Flower and Garden Festival through May 31st. Volunteers are needed for Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, mostly Fridays. The shift is 4 hours (10 a.m.-2 p.m.), and you can tour EPCOT for the rest of the day. Fifteen tickets to the Disney parks will also be raffled to the volunteers, with the winners drawn at the close of the festival. To volunteer, contact me at (407) 921-8008 or email audubon.at.epcot.festival@gmail.com.

*Brook Rohman, Audubon Florida
EPCOT coordinator*



Above, Rosegentian spp.; Below, Bee Fly on Wild Pennyroyal at Savage/Christmas Creek Preserve. Photos: Mary Keim

Youth/Family Photography Workshop, April 3, 2016

Young people are taking some great nature photos, as seen in the Youth Category winners of the [Chertok Florida Native Nature Photography Contest](#) in the past few years. To help those who wish to gain some extra skills, award-winning bird and nature photographer, Jack Rogers, will present a Youth/Family Photography Workshop on Sunday, April 3rd from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Orlando Wetlands Park. (This is a rain date from the March workshop.) Young people, age 10-17, must be accompanied by a registered parent or other authorized adult for the entire workshop, to allow one-on-one help. Adults must be accompanied by at least one child. No photographic experience is necessary for children or their adults.

Cost per adult is \$10 (Audubon members) and \$25 (non-members). Cost per child is \$5 with a registered adult. To register contact Teresa at (407) 644-0796 or mwilliams@cfl.rr.com. If you have questions about the workshop, contact Jack at (407) 341-7709 or jrogers62@cfl.rr.com.

March Field Trip Report

On Saturday, March 19th, nine attended the Orange Audubon Society field trip to Savage/Christmas Creek Preserve, an Orange County Green PLACE.

At least 27 bird species were observed including Wild Turkey, Red-shouldered Hawk, Sandhill Crane, Downy Woodpecker, White-eyed Vireo, Tree Swallow, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Gray Catbird, Northern Parula, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler and Eastern Towhee.

Other vertebrates were Oak Toad, Southern Leopard Frog, Yellow Rat Snake and Dusky Pigmy Rattlesnake.

Invertebrates included Little Blue Dragonlet, Gray-green Clubtail, Citrine Forktail, Sleepy Duskywing, Bee Fly and Spider Wasp.

At least 30 native wildflowers were in bloom including Yellow-eyed Grass, Yellow Stargrass, Grassy Arrowhead, Pinebarren Frostweed, Orange Milkwort, Candyroot, Yellow Butterwort, Small Butterwort, Zigzag Bladderwort, Dwarf Sundew, Large-flower Rosegentian, Wild Pennyroyal, Bog White Violet, Early Blue Violet, Virginia Dwarf Dandelion, Early Whitetop Fleabane and Roserush.

It was a great group of attendees, full of wonder toward nature.

Mary Keim, Field Trip Chair

**In Case You Missed the Program....
Planting for Wildlife**

If you are a homeowner, you may often wonder, as I do: what is the best plant for your lawn? Mary Keim and Randy Snyder, naturalists, veteran Orange Audubon Society (OAS) activists, wildlife photographers, and native plant specialists have a serious, feasible plan for you.



*Zebra Heliconian on Coastalplain Chaffhead.
Photo: Mary Keim*

“Plant with an environmental purpose,” said Keim at the March OAS program meeting. With 40 million acres of lawns in the U.S., American homeowners are land managers of “significant potential wildlife habitat.” And if you consider how you may help wildlife, you can have a rewarding impact on conservation.

“Native plants support 29 times more biodiversity than do exotic plants,” she said. Therefore always use native plants (after getting rid of your St. Augustine grass which requires too much water.)

Consider the food chain. “Birds eat bugs and bugs eat plants, mostly native plants. Many exotic plants are insect resistant, so you don’t want these,” she said. “You want things to eat your plants.” For example, 96 percent of terrestrial birds feed arthropods to their young, so it is beneficial to include plants and trees that caterpillars like to feed on. More than 534 caterpillars use oak trees. Black cherry and deer berry shrubs also attract caterpillars.

Many native plants host butterflies that add beauty and interest to your yard. These plants include the Hercules club, partridge pea, shyleaf, passion flower, butterfly weed, and others. And native plants such as coral honeysuckle, firebush, and blue porterweed, are nectar sources for hummingbirds that will be drawn to your garden.

Other native plants like cedar, wild coffee, wax myrtle, and black cherry provide fruit for wildlife. And if you pick the correct plants, you won’t need pesticides or fertilizers, another benefit to the environment, your pocketbook, and your health. Once you establish a wildlife-friendly yard, don’t prune your plants too much. You may be eliminating something critical for wildlife habitat.

“The benefits of planting natives are high and the costs are low,” concluded Keim, “As land stewards we’re empowered to make a difference for wildlife.” Mary and Randy’s urban home landscape in Orlando was one of the most popular on last year’s Florida Native Plant and Wildlife-Friendly Yard Tour and is full of interesting and attractive butterflies, birds, and other wildlife.

Linda Carpenter

Wildlife-Friendly Yard Tour, April 16, 2016

The second annual Florida Native Plant and Wildlife-Friendly Yard Tour will be Saturday, April 16th from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Six yards and one commercial landscape that use Florida native plants, are wildlife-friendly, and attractive, from Winter Park to Longwood, are featured this year. Orange Audubon Society (OAS) and the Cuplet Fern and Tarflower Chapters of the Florida Native Plant Society (FNPS) are collaborating on this tour. Attendees visit the sites at their own pace between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. The tour map, information on the individual landscapes, and an annotated plant list will be emailed to ticket purchasers a week before the event.

The owners and helpers will be on-site to answer questions, and many plants will be labeled. Some native plants, grown by Cuplet Fern Chapter members, and bird boxes, built by Richard Poole, will be sold at one or more of the sites, with proceeds divided among the three societies to support programs.

Tickets are \$5 per person and can be purchased at Wild Birds Unlimited (5687 Red Bug Lake Rd, Winter Springs, FL 32708), at the April 5th, 7 p.m., Tarflower Chapter FNPS meeting at Harry P. Leu Gardens (1920 N. Forest Ave, Orlando), at the April 11th, 7 p.m., Cuplet Fern Chapter FNPS meeting at the Sanford Garden Club (200 Fairmont Dr, Sanford), or on the [OAS website](#) (scroll to bottom). Tickets can also be purchased on the day of the tour at the first tour site, Dix.Hite + Partners, an award winning landscape architecture firm (150 West Jessup Avenue, Longwood). If you have any questions, please contact me at (407) 637-2525. We encourage you to check out these exemplary landscapes for ideas for your own yard.

Deborah Green



Ora Borrechi’s Yard. One of the Landscapes on the 2016 Yard Tour. Photo: Deborah Green



Black-throated Blue Warbler visits Wildlife Friendly yard in migration. Photo: Mary Keim

Ways to Think Like a Bird

1. Let leaf litter accumulate under bushes and trees for ground-feeding species such as Brown Thrashers and native sparrows. Mulch is also good for some birds to pick through, but smaller birds, like Ovenbirds, can more easily turn leaf litter.
2. When you bird, pay attention to the plants where you see the most birds. If suitable, plant similar varieties in your yard.
3. Plant clusters of bushes or trees together instead of putting a single tree or bush in a large expanse of lawn.
4. Mix evergreen and deciduous trees and shrubs as sources of food and shelter for birds all year.

Modified from *Wild Bird* November/December 2003

Birdathon is April 9th!

Birdathon is like a Walkathon, except you collect donation pledges based on the number of species of birds seen on Birdathon day instead of miles walked. The person pledging money pledges not just for the birds one birder sees but for the collective bird species seen by all Orange Audubon Society (OAS) Birdathon birding participants during a 24-hour period on April 9, 2016.

For example, if all OAS Birdathon participants collectively record 180 species, and the person pledges 10 cents a species, they owe \$18. Ask for more if they are willing or for a flat amount.

In addition to collecting pledges, you can bird and participate in Birdathon as an individual or as a team. Call your birding buddies, grab your binoculars, pick a spot and have fun! Or just bird in your backyard.

The Florida Ornithological Society provides the official list of birds in Florida at [this link](#). ALL BIRD SPECIES ARE COUNTABLE for Birdathon....exotic or not. Report your information by Thursday, April 21st 4:00 p.m. to compiler Brent Mobley by emailing brentmobley1@bellsouth.net or by calling (407) 376-1722. Leave your name, or team name, number of species seen and total pledged amount. The pledge sheet is included on the following page and is on the [OAS website](#).

Send checks collected to Orange Audubon Society at P.O. Box 941142, Maitland, Florida 32794 or bring to the April 21st OAS meeting. The person or team recording the most bird species and the person securing the most pledges will be announced at OAS' May meeting. Birdathon donations will be used to fund OAS conservation, advocacy and education efforts. Thanks! Go out and bird!

Brook Rohman and Brent Mobley, Birdathon Co-Chairs

Lake Apopka Loop Trail Is Now 18 miles

The St. Johns River Water Management District (District) invites Orange Audubon Society to join staff and other invitees on Thursday, April 7th at 10:30 a.m. for a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate completion of the trail extension joining the Green Mountain Scenic Overlook and Trailhead in Lake County with the Lake Apopka Loop Trail.



The Green Mountain Scenic Overlook (lower left of [map](#)) has stunning views of Lake Apopka and the North Shore from 132' above sea level. It is close to Sugarloaf Mountain (312', the highest point in peninsular Florida), along the State Designated Green Mountain Scenic Byway. The long-awaited 2.5-mile extension links Lake and Orange counties, extending the Loop Trail ~18 miles to Magnolia Park. There are now greater opportunities to learn about wildlife and birding at Lake Apopka. The event will be held at the Green Mountain Scenic Overlook and Trailhead at 20700 County Road 455, Montverde, FL. Please RSVP by April 1, or as soon as possible after, to sdavis@sjrwmd.com or (407) 659-4838. Orange Audubon along with Friends of Lake Apopka, has long advocated for the Loop Trail and Wildlife Drive, and we hope some of you join us at this event.



Osprey with Youngster on Nest. First Place. 2010 Chertok Photo Contest. Photo: Kathy Urbach

Genius Preserve Survey-Birdathon Field Trip

Be the guest of Orange Audubon Society (OAS) for a guided, walking field trip to the 48-acre Genius Drive Nature Preserve in Winter Park, not open to the public. Date and time is April 9th from 8 a.m.-noon. It is Birdathon day and surveyors and guests will 'team-up' to compete with other teams that day in counting different bird species for OAS' fundraiser.

The field trip is FREE. However, we hope you will consider soliciting one Birdathon donation from a friend, family member or relentless fundraising neighbor or donate personally. Pledges of just 5¢; 10¢; \$1, etc. per species or flat amounts add up to a successful fundraiser. The Preserve is an important stopover for spring and fall migrants. Surveyors have recorded 182 species including the state's first confirmed sighting of Townsend's Solitaire. The Preserve is home to the Wind Song estate, built in 1936 by Elizabeth Morse Genius; and the Ward house and a citrus packing house that were relocated there in recent years. Citrus groves and the meandering Genius Drive lined with shell ginger and Turk's cap appear today as they did when installed by museum namesake, Charles Hosmer Morse.

Space is limited and current OAS members or Genius Workday volunteers get first dibs. Reservations are required. Details provided when you register by contacting me at mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or (407) 644-0796.

Teresa Williams

Lake Apopka Sightings

The Lake Apopka North Shore is an Important Birding Area, and the Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive, since its opening last May 1st, has become more and more popular, as evidenced by postings on [this Facebook site](#). Barn Swallows are starting to nest under the bridges, and Black-necked Stilts and Least Bitterns are starting to nest in the wetlands. Wintering birds are leaving.

The Wildlife Drive, open Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, and Federal Holidays, is located at 2803 Lust Road, Apopka. See you out there!

Limited Edition Field Trip, Fort De Soto Park, April 17, 2016

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 songbirds that cross the Gulf of Mexico flying north in spring. April is the peak month for spring migration. On a good day birders at Ft. De Soto may see hundreds of warblers, buntings, thrushes, grosbeaks, orioles, tanagers, and other songbirds. 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) 459-5617.



Fort Desoto Park Limited Edition Field Trip.
Photo: Joyce Stefancic



Red-Shouldered Hawk Chick.
Photo: Center for Birds of Prey

Baby Owl Shower May 7, 2016

Each spring Audubon Florida's Center for Birds of Prey holds its annual Baby Owl Shower the Saturday before Mother's Day to raise funds to offset the increased costs during baby season. Non-releasable baby raptors should be available to view. Admission is "free" that day with an item from the wish list of supplies for caring for these young raptors. See the wish list at [this link](#). Contact the Center at (407) 644-0190 if you have questions.

Orange Audubon Society participates by selling nature-inspired merchandise and offering a kids' art activity. We need help with both. Baby owls attract lots of baby people (grown people, too!). The event starts at 10 a.m. but set up help is needed at 9 a.m. The event ends and tear-down begins at 2 p.m. To help, please contact Teresa at mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or (407) 644-0796.

Ethos Vegan Kitchen 5% Day

Thanks so much to Ethos Vegan Kitchen for donating 5% of sales from March 12th to Orange Audubon Society (OAS). In this fourth year as a 5% Day beneficiary, OAS received over \$500 from Ethos. The [restaurant](#), which has been in business for nearly nine years, is located at 601-B South New York Avenue, Winter Park.



Chertok Display Coming Soon to Colonial Photo & Hobby

Images from the 2015 Chertok Florida Native Nature Photography Contest have been selected by contest co-sponsor, Colonial Photo & Hobby. Big prints of these selections will soon be featured in window and in-store displays. Selections will be announced next month. Stay tuned.

Jay Watch Trainings

Jay Watch volunteers contribute to research (Citizen Science) and preservation of the threatened Florida Scrub-Jay. As explained by Orange Audubon's February speaker, St. Johns River Water Management District (District) biologist Maria Zondervan, the Florida Scrub-Jay is dependent on Florida's shrinking scrub habitat. These sandy high dry areas are where rainfall soaks into the aquifer, so scrub-jays are indicators of the health of our water supply, as emphasized by Jay Watch volunteer Milton Heiberg.

The closest Jay Watch sites are Lyonia Preserve, Blue Spring State Park, North Peninsula State Park (all in Volusia County), and two District properties, Lake Monroe Conservation Area in Volusia County and Buck Lake Conservation Area in Brevard County.

Jay Watch will conduct a statewide survey from June 15 to July 15, 2016. To become a Jay Watch volunteer, you must take a free half day training session in which you will learn standardized survey methods.

The closest Jay Watch workshop is on Saturday, May 14, 2016 from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon at the Lyonia Preserve on Providence Blvd. & Eustace Ave. in Deltona. If you cannot attend on that date, there are other sessions around the state, listed at [this link](#). To register, contact Audubon Florida's Jacqui Sulek at jsulek@audubon.org. We hope you will consider getting involved with Jay Watch!



Florida Scrub-Jay and Jay Watch Volunteer.
Photo: Milton Heiberg

Deborah Green

Photo Contest Deadline Is This Month!!!

Florida Native Nature is the theme of Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) 28th Annual Kit and Sidney Chertok Florida Native Nature Photography Contest. There are three competition categories: *Youth*—for photographers age 17 years or younger by April 21; *Novice*—for new and less experienced photo hobbyists; and *Advanced Amateur/Professional*—for experienced photographers who have practiced and honed their skills over time. The Youth/Family Photography Workshop described on p. 3 supports this contest. See past winners at [this link](#).

The deadline is April 21, 2016 (postmarked by date). *Eligible photos may not include humans, human artifacts or introduced plant or animal species.* Participants will be notified of any ineligible entries and given the option to replace such images at no additional entry fee. Fillable PDF entry forms are now online at [this link](#).

New this year are bonus prizes for 1st through 3rd place winners photographed at Orange County Green PLACE properties, like Isle of Pine, Savage/Christmas Creek, and others listed at this [link](#). Green PLACE entries may also be included in Orange County's 2017 nature calendar.

Winners will be announced and prizes awarded at OAS' big June 16th program. So get outside with your camera and start shooting to capture Florida's amazing native nature! Contact me at mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or (407) 644-0796 if you have any questions.



Photographing wildflowers on Chertok Photo Contest-Nature Walk at Isle of Pine Preserve, an Orange County Green PLACE Property. Photo courtesy Orange County

Teresa Williams, Chertok Photo Contest Chair

June Silent Auction: Donation Items Needed

On June 16, 2016 Orange Audubon Society (OAS) will present its final program of the season, showing the 2016 Kit and Sidney Chertok Florida Native Nature Photography Contest entries, announcing the winners and awarding prizes. We also have a Silent Auction fundraiser, for which OAS can use your help. 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 personal creation? To make a donation, please contact me at (407) 644-0796 or mwilliams@cfl.rr.com and provide 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, Chertok Photo Contest Chair

APRIL/MAY/JUNE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Migration Bird Walks, Mead Botanical Garden

April 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30, 2016
Contact Larry at (407) 647-5834

Orange Audubon Society's Bird-a-thon

April 9, 2016
Contact Brook at (407) 921-8008

Overnight Field Trip & Flamingo Quest

April 9-10, 2016
Contact Teresa at mwilliams@cfl.rr.com

Florida Native Plant and Wildlife-Friendly Yard Tour

April 16, 2016
Contact Deborah at (407) 637-2525

Limited Edition Field Trip, Ft. De Soto Park

April 17, 2016
Contact Bob at (407) 459-5617

Chertok Photo Contest Deadline

April 21, 2016
Contact Teresa at (407) 644-0796

Monthly Program, Florida Wildlife Corridor Expedition: Everglades to Okefenokee by Maddie Southard

April 21, 2016
Contact Brook at (407) 921-8008

Monthly Field Trip, Rock Springs Run State Reserve

April 23, 2016
Contact Mary at (407) 851-5416

Central Florida Earth Day, Lake Eola

April 23, 2016
Contact Deborah at (407) 637-2525

Baby Owl Shower, Audubon Center for Birds of Prey

May 7, 2016
Contact Center for Birds of Prey at (407) 644-0190

Monthly Program, The Secret Life of Dragonflies by Martha Stuart

May 19, 2016
Contact Brook at (407) 921-8008.

Monthly Field Trip, Charles H. Bronson State Forest, Chuluota

May 21, 2016
Contact Mary at (407) 851-5416

Limited Edition Field Trip, Three Lakes WMA, Osceola County

May 28, 2016
Contact Bob at (407) 459-5617

Chertok Nature Photography Contest Awards Program and Silent Auction

June 16, 2016
Contact Teresa at (407) 644-0796