



Left, Nashville Warbler on American Beautyberry. Photo: Mary Keim. Right, Lavon Silvernell. Photo courtesy Lavon Silvernell

This Month's Program March 16, 2017

If You Plant It, Birds Will Come by Lavon Silvernell

We've heard the saying, "feed them and they will come," so many people hang a feeder to bring birds close. But, there is a better way to bring more birds to your yard. Plant it and they will come, native plants that is.

Native plants provide flowers for nectar, enjoyed by hummingbirds, orioles, and some others, provide bird food in the form of seeds and berries, and provide nesting sites and material. But most importantly (and little understood by most people), native plants attract native caterpillars and other insects, which are protein-rich food for birds, especially their hatchlings.

For our March 16th Orange Audubon Society program, Lavon Silvernell will share information about native plants, their habitat needs, and the birds and insects they attract. Lavon is a long-time member of the Florida Native Plant Society, Audubon Society, and before retirement, served for 12 years as Naturalist at Trout Lake Nature Center in Eustis. Join us March 16th at 7 p.m. for a great program. See box below for location. *Deborah Green*

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: March 18, 2017 Green Mountain Overlook on Lake Apopka, Monteverde

With the [Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive](#) hitting a record 10,000 visitors in January, Orange Audubon Society (OAS) wishes to introduce people to some other access points onto the Lake Apopka North Shore.

One alternative entry point is the McDonald Canal area, where the Lake Apopka Wildlife Festival and Birdapalooza Birding Festival was held in January and which just had its official opening February 23rd.

For OAS' March 18th field trip, we will enter the Lake Apopka North Shore on the west side of the lake near Clermont and Monteverde off C.R. 455. We will start from the [Green Mountain Overlook](#). We will hike several miles looking for spring migrants. Be aware that facilities are limited.

To car pool, meet at 7:30 a.m. in the Winn Dixie parking lot, 1565 U.S. 441 N., Apopka or meet at the Green Mountain Overlook a little after 8 a.m.

If you have any questions in advance of the trip, contact me at lmartin5@msn.com or (407) 647-5834. Hope to see you! *Larry Martin, Field Trips Chair*

Ethos 5% Day March 25, 2017

On Saturday, March 25th, Ethos Vegan Kitchen will be donating 5% of its sales throughout the day to Orange Audubon Society (OAS). Simply dine in or take out and 5% of your check will go to our chapter. This is the fifth year that Ethos has selected OAS to benefit from their generous 5% Day.

Check out the delicious menu of [Ethos Vegan Kitchen](#). Ethos is located at 601-B South New York Avenue, Winter Park, FL 32789, phone (407) 228-3899.



Split Oak Forest March 7th Commission Meeting

Split Oak Forest Wildlife and Environmental Area is about 2/3 in Orange County and 1/3 in Osceola County. Twenty-two years of restoration efforts have gone into recreating excellent wildlife habitat and mitigation credits have been sold by Orange County. For more details on this 1,689-acre property that our members enjoy recreationally, see the November and February OASis ([link to all past issues](#)).

The engineering firm planning the Osceola Parkway Eastern Extension, a road designed to support development in the Deseret Ranch area, sees crossing Split Oak as the cheapest option.

Environmental and recreational user groups, including Orange Audubon Society, have convinced Commissioner Jennifer Thompson, the Orange County Commissioner whose District includes Split Oak, to question this routing. If you are available March 7th to attend the Orange County Commission meeting, please help this grass-roots effort to protect open space and adherence to environmental laws.

To let us know you will be joining us, please contact me at 407-637-2525 or sabalpress@mac.com. Thank you!
Deborah Green, Conservation Committee

Anti-Fracking Bills in Florida House and Senate

As legislation to ban fracking in Florida's moves through Florida's Senate and House, it's time to let your legislators know you support these bipartisan bills. In fracking, oil and gas companies use millions of gallons of water and secret chemicals to crack open underground rock formations, forcing deposits of oil and gas tucked deep within the earth up to the surface.

More than 1,000 cases of water contamination have been documented near areas of fracking, as well as sensory, respiratory, and neurological problems in local residents. Gas that is leaked during the fracking process, along with the numerous toxic chemicals, creates air and water pollution that is a danger to human health.



Blue Heron. Second Place, 2012 Chertok Photo Contest, Youth Category. Photo: Alicia Devine

In November 2016 Concerned Health Professionals of New York along with the Nobel Prize-winning group, Physicians for Social Responsibility, released the [Fourth Edition of the Compendium of Scientific, Medical, and Media Findings Demonstrating Risks and Harms Of Fracking](#). This updated compendium includes 900 studies on the negative impacts of fracking.

With our vast underground aquifer system from which we take most of our drinking water, the last thing we need here in Florida is fracking.

Senate Bill 442 is entitled Advanced Well Stimulation Treatment and was introduced by Senator Dana Young (Tampa), and co-sponsored by several senators including Central Florida's own District 13 Senator Linda Stewart. An identical bill (HB 451) was filed in the House by Central Florida's own District 47 Representative Mike Miller.

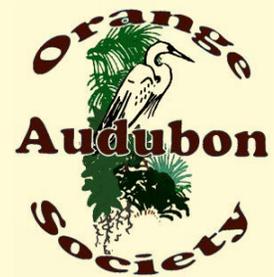
The bills relate to advanced well stimulation treatments and would ban all types of fracking in Florida including hydraulic and acid fracking and matrix acidizing. Please thank Senator Stewart and Representative Miller and encourage your own legislators to support these positive bills.

Phyllis Hall, Conservation Chair

Legislative Session - Keep Informed and Act

The Florida Legislative Session extends from March 7th to May 5th. Bills have already been filed and will be referred to committee and then if moved forward in committee, will reach the floor for a vote by all legislators.

One place to keep up to date on comments to our legislators we should be making is to sign up for Audubon Florida Action Alerts at [this link](#). You can also follow Audubon Florida's [Facebook page](#).



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 the link e-mailed to OAS members.

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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

Contact Legislators

Orange Audubon Society members live in Florida Senate Districts 9, 11, 12, 13, 15 and 22. [Use this link to find your state senator.](#) Below is easy contact information.

Senator David Simmons
Senate District 9
220 Crown Oak Centre Drive
Longwood, FL 32750
(407) 262-7578
simmons.david@flsenate.gov

Senator Randolph Bracy
Senate District 11
150 N. Lakeshore Drive
Ocoee 34761
(407) 656-6716
bracy.randolph.web@flsenate.gov

Senator Dennis Baxley
Senate District 12
206 So Hwy 27/44
Lady Lake 32159
(352) 750-3133
baxley.dennis.web@flsenate.gov

Senator Linda Stewart
Senate District 13
1726 S. Bumby Avenue
Orlando, FL 32806
(407) 893-2422
stewart.linda@flsenate.gov

Senator Victor M. Torres, Jr
Senate District 15
101 Church Street, Suite 305
Kissimmee, FL 34741
(407) 846-5187
torres.victor@flsenate.gov

Senator Kelli Stargel
Senate District 22
2033 East Edgewood Dr., Suite 1
Lakeland, FL 33803
(863) 668-3028
stargel.kelli@flsenate.gov

To find your Representatives [use this link.](#)

Fertilizer Ordinance

Seminole Audubon Society and county staff brought before the Seminole County Board of Commissioners on February 28, 2017 an ordinance to regulate fertilizer use in order to minimize the negative impacts to our natural waterbodies caused by nitrogen and/or phosphorus. Fertilizer containing nitrogen and/or phosphorous cannot be applied to turf from June through September, and fertilizer containing nitrogen that is used during the non-restricted season must contain at least 50% slow release nitrogen. The ordinance passed. Good work, Seminole Audubon!



Bald Eagle chasing Osprey, Orlando Wetlands Park. Photo: Mary Keim

Eaglewatch

Florida has one of the largest Bald Eagle populations in the United States with over 1,400 nesting pairs. Some individuals remain here all year, while others travel north outside the breeding season. Individual pairs often returning to the same nesting territory and nest year after year.

[Audubon Center for Birds of Prey](#) (CBOP) treats more than 75 injured Bald Eagles each year with the goal of releasing them back into the wild. CBOP launched its EagleWatch Program 25 years ago with just 22 volunteers and the goal of monitoring eagle nests in Central Florida. Audubon Florida now sponsors the program with CBOP and has over 200 volunteers statewide.

This citizen science program seeks information about active nest locations and possible disturbances or threats to nesting activities.

The U.S Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) utilizes EagleWatch data to enhance their conservation and law enforcement efforts.

The EagleWatch program educates volunteer participants about eagle nesting biology, applicable laws, the identification of nest threats, monitoring techniques and the verification of previously unrecorded active eagle nests.

Have you seen an active Bald Eagle nest near your home or work? The nesting season extends from October 1 through May 15, so it is not too late to start monitoring an eagle nest now. If you are interested in participating in the EagleWatch Program, email the recently hired EagleWatch Coordinator Shawnlei Breeding at eaglewatch@audubon.org.

Whether you become an Eagle-Watch volunteer or not, you can report disturbance to an active eagle nest. [The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Eagle Management Guidelines](#) state that an active nest cannot be disturbed by any approach within 660 feet. The wildlife alert emergency number to report fish and wildlife violations is 1-888-404-FWCC and you can report to the Audubon EagleWatch program also.

In 2007, the USFWS removed the Bald Eagle from the list of federally endangered and threatened species. Although the Bald Eagle is no longer protected under the Endangered Species Act, it is still protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

Bald Eagle habitat in Florida is constantly being encroached upon. Eagles need our help and vigilance.

County Commissions Pass Resolutions in Support of Land and Water Trust Spending

In response to a League of Women Voters request, the Orange County Board of County Commissioners on February 23, 2017 passed a resolution requesting legislative support for state investment for land acquisition, as specified in the 2014 Amendment 1 Water and Land Legacy Act. With this resolution, the Board urges the Florida Legislature to fulfill its obligation to its people and provide adequate funding in the Land Acquisition Trust Fund. Osceola County passed a similar resolution on February 20, 2017.



Tropical Orb Weaver. Photo: Mary Keim

Three Lakes and Joe Overstreet Field Trip

Orange Audubon Society's February 18th field trip to Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area, then through Lake Jackson and then up to Joe Overstreet Road on Lake Kissimmee, was attended by 11 people. The group saw 67 species, including Eastern Bluebird, Snail Kite, Red-headed Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Eastern Towhee, and Limpkin. Bachman's Sparrows were singing and we saw several active Bald Eagle nests.

Larry Martin, Field Trips Chair

In case you missed it ...

Our Amazing Arachnids: Florida's Spiders

John Serrao, a DeLand-based naturalist, is a big fan of spiders. And over the course of his February 16th program for Orange Audubon Society, the audience was becoming so also (over half the audience crowded around to see the live specimens he brought out at the end).

John shared that there are over 43,000 different species of spiders in the world. Of these, only a small number are dangerous and only about 25 have been responsible for human deaths. The venomous ones in Florida are the widows. There are four widow species in Florida, with the Northern Black Widow (*Latrodectus variolus*) occurring only in the Panhandle. Florida has its own endemic red widow spider (*Latrodectus bishopi*) that occurs in the sandpine scrub habitat and seldom comes in contact with humans. No bites have been recorded. The Brown Widow (*Latrodectus geometricus*) is not native, originating probably in South Africa, and its bite usually causes only minor problems. The famous Southern Black Widow (*Latrodectus mactans*) is also not as deadly as urban legend has it, especially now with anti-venom available. The fatality rate after a bite is only 4%.

John explained that the black widow's habit of eating its mate after mating is well documented, and this occurs in many other spider groups also. Also, in many of the groups he illustrated, the male spider is tiny compared to the female. Appearing very similar to the widow spiders is the harmless American House Spider (*Achaearanea tepidariorum*) that beneficially feeds on a variety of little insects in your home, including small cockroaches.

Besides the widow spiders, the other venomous species in Florida is the Brown Recluse (*Loxosceles reclusa*), native to Texas. As John explained, and as we had been told in a presentation years ago by a Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Plant Industry spider expert, most cases of necrotic lesions attributed to Brown Recluse spiders are from other causes. Only a handful of Brown Recluse specimens have ever been collected in Florida.

The audience began to breathe even more easily, when John discussed Tarantulas. No fatality from a U.S. Tarantula bite has been recorded. In Florida we don't have the larger tarantulas, as they do in the Southwest, but we have a harmless smaller relative, the purseweb spiders (*Sphodros* spp.).

The Golden Silk Orb-weaver spider or "banana spider" (*Nephila clavipes*) is the biggest web-making spider in the U.S. The Black and Yellow Garden Spider (*Argiope aurantia*) also has a bold black-and-yellow pattern, but its classic round orb web is usually decorated with a bold, zigzag band of silk. Dewdrop spiders (*Argyrodes* spp.) are kleptoparasites in the webs of larger spiders. They live in the outer edges of other spiders' webs and move in to steal prey when the coast is clear.

John told us that spiders spin silk out of spinnerets on the underside of their abdomen and can use it to "wrap around a grasshopper like a pig on a spit." Spider silk is extremely strong.

He told us about a whole group of spiders that come out only at night to feed on night-flying insects like moths. These, like the Tropical Orb Weaver (*Eriophora ravilla*), eat their webs before morning. He told us about fishing spiders (*Dolomedes* spp.) that walk on aquatic vegetation and eat insects but sometimes eat fish, crab spiders that rest on flowers to capture bees or wasps, and jumping spiders that are actually cute.

With the exception of the Tarantula he collected in Texas that he keeps for educational purposes, John collected all the live specimens in the weeks before the program and let them go afterwards. Today with all the picture books, photos posted on the Internet, informative websites, and Facebook groups, it has never been easier to identify spiders. John's program provided a jump-start to our identification skills as well as a new appreciation. We hope everyone keeps looking and identifying these amazing arachnids.

Deborah Green

Beginners' Bird Identification

March 4, 11 & 18, 2017

Orlando Wetlands Park

Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) Bob Sanders will teach a Beginners' Bird Watching Class this spring to enhance bird identification skills using sight, sound, behavior and other clues. An "outdoor" classroom session and mini-field trip on March 4th at Orlando Wetlands Park (OWP) are followed by 2 field sessions on March 11th and 18th at OWP and Lake Jesup, respectively. All sessions are 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The course will teach basic

birding principles and ID techniques, including bird habitat and anatomy, use of binoculars ("loaner" binoculars available), field guides and checklists, and birding ethics. If you miss a session, you may catch a make-up session during the fall 2017 class at no additional charge.

Registration is required, limit 20 students. Cost for all three sessions is \$30 for Audubon members, \$45 for non-members and \$10 for children through age 12 with a registered adult. Non-members can join when registering for \$50, which includes registration plus 3-way membership in Orange, National and Florida Audubon societies. New memberships must be paid directly to OAS, as instructed when you register, by contacting Teresa at mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or (407) 644-0796. For questions about the class, contact Bob at (407) 459-5617.



Blue-headed Vireo. Photo: Mary Keim

Volunteers Needed: International Flower and Garden Festival

For the annual EPCOT International Flower and Garden Festival, Orange Audubon Society (OAS) will again be maintaining an information table inside the festival pavilion. From March through May volunteers are needed to hand out materials and/or answer conservation questions. Almost all slots are now full, but there may be a few cancellations. If you are an OAS member and interested in representing our chapter at the festival, please contact me at skirby1964@gmail.com or (407) 440-3448.

Susan Kirby, OAS EPCOT coordinator

Audubon Florida is also again seeking volunteers to showcase the Audubon Purple Martins exhibit at the Epcot International Flower and Garden Festival from March 1-May 29, 2017. Two volunteers are needed each Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

You will be trained to provide outreach on the Purple Martins and to enthusiastically represent Audubon Florida. You will be outside but a large patio umbrella, benches, and high top table have been provided. After your shift you have free entrance to the Festival and EPCOT. Handicap accessible backstage parking is free for volunteers, and there is an elevator to the Festival Center. Volunteers must be at least 18 years of age.

Meet folks from around the world to share your passion about birds and conservation! For more information and a volunteer packet, please email me at audubon.at.epcot.festival@gmail.com.

Brook Rohman, Volunteer Coordinator for Audubon Florida

Guided Nature/Photo Walk, March 4, 2017

For the 2017 Chertok Photo Contest (p. 8), additional prizes are available if your winning photo is taken on one of [Orange County's Green PLACE properties](#). On March 4, 2017 from 7:30-9:30 a.m. join the guided nature/photo walk at Savage/Christmas Creek Preserve, 11046 NW Christmas Road, Christmas, FL 32709, a Green PLACE property.



Ruby-crowned Kinglet at Savage/Christmas Creek Preserve. Photo: Mary Keim

Savage/Christmas Creek Preserve covers 1,126 acres and features pine flatwoods, cypress domes and a sandhill community.

The walk is offered by Orange County Environmental Protection Division and led by Beth Jackson, Green PLACE Environmental Program Supervisor.

Photo tips will be shared by Susan Kirby, Orange Audubon Society Board member and experienced photographer.

Bring your binoculars and cameras to enjoy an early morning hike focusing on native species identification and nature photography. The walk is open to all ages and hiking experience levels. It is FREE, but limited to 30 participants.

Visit www.greenplacewalks.eventbrite.com to register. Send questions about the walk to OrangetoGreen@ocfl.net or call (407) 836-1400.

**Master Gardeners
Annual Plant and Garden
Festival, March 4, 2017**

Join the UF/IFAS Extension Orange County Master Gardeners on Saturday, March 4, 2017 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 6021 S. Conway Rd., Orlando, FL 32812. This will be a fun day and a great opportunity to buy plants and support the Master Gardeners. For more information, [visit this link](#).

Dena Wild, Orange Audubon Society Board Member and Master Gardener

Leu Gardens Annual Plant Sale, March 11 & 12, 2017

A good place to buy native plants is the Leu Gardens' Annual Spring Plant Sale on March 11th and 12th, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. The Tarflower Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society will have lots of native plants for sale. Help the Tarflower Chapter, Orange Audubon Society's partner in many projects, and add to the diversity of your landscape to attract more wildlife. Visit the [Tarflower website](#) for more information.

**Youth Field Trip
Mead Botanical Garden
March 19, 2017**

The fourth Youth Field Trip of the season is on March 19, 2017 at Mead Botanical Garden, 1500 S Denning Dr, Winter Park, FL 32789.

The walk starts at 9:00 a.m. in the parking lot. Children must be accompanied by adults. Cost is free and loaner binoculars are available.

RSVPs are required by March 12. Contact Brook at brookrohman@gmail.com or (407) 921-8008 to RSVP or if you have questions.



Limited Edition Field Trip to Ocala National Forest, March 25, 2017

The Ocala National Forest is a 400,000-acre conservation and timber management area north of Central Florida that is well worth a visit.

On Saturday, March 25th, Bob Sanders will lead a Limited Edition Field Trip to the well-burned sandhill habitat at Paisley on the Ocala National Forest's southern border.

This trip is limited to 15 people and has a cost of \$10 per person per trip for Audubon members (\$15 per person for non-members). Reservations will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis the week prior to the trip. For trip questions or reservations, call Bob at (407) 459-5617.



Pinewoods milkweed. Photo: Mary Keim

Board Members Wanted

The Orange Audubon Society (OAS) annual election will be held at the April meeting, and I have the pleasure of chairing the nominating committee, along with committee members Mike Daley, (miked129e@gmail.com) and Danielle Ponsolle (dponsolle@cfl.rr.com).

The OAS board is comprised of twenty volunteer members. Five members are officers who serve two-year terms and will not be up for re-election until April 2018. There is a vacant Second Vice-President/Program Chairperson slot that First Vice President Deborah Green has been filling.

The non-officer positions serve 3 year terms, and each April five board positions are open for election/re-election. There are generally shorter terms available due to several members being unable to complete their 3 year terms, if you would like to see if this can work for you.

To serve on the board, you must be an OAS member, have an interest in wildlife and the environment that supports it, and be able to attend monthly board meetings on the third Thursday of each month (except July and August) at Leu Gardens. There is also an all-day summer planning meeting, usually in late July, that board members are expected to attend.

OAS' greatest need is people to help with our missions of conservation and education. We also can use people skilled in fund-raising as we move closer to starting a capital campaign for an OAS nature and environmental education center. The OAS board application details other volunteer and donation expectations and will allow us to find out what interests and skills you bring, so we can best use your help. Contact me and I will send you this application.

Joining the OAS board is a great way to get involved with environmental projects and events as well as help make decisions that will have a positive impact in your community. There are also many OAS committees that could use your volunteer help, and you can join a committee without joining the board. The board application includes a description of the committees.

Please contact me at skirby1964@gmail.com or (407) 440-3448 if you have time and interest to increase your involvement. Thank you very much.

Susan Kirby, Nominating Committee Chair

Flamingo Quest! April 22, 2017 Updated Itinerary

Would you like to add some tropical birds from South Florida to your life list? The focus of Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) April 22-23, 2017 South Florida trip is seeing the rare American Flamingos, but we will take the opportunity to see other species that may be new to the participants. We will be guided by David Simpson, one of Florida's top birders, who has done extensive field work in South Florida.



David Simpson at STA-2. Photo: Dee Simpson

The South Florida Water Management District's Stormwater Treatment Area-2 (STA-2) is the location where American Flamingos have been showing up every spring for the past 10 years or so.

This can be a day-trip to STA-2; the trip from Orlando to STA-2 is approximately 3 1/2 hours. However, since April 22nd is during spring migration, the trip will include additional birding with David through Sunday about 3 p.m.

We will stay in the Fort Lauderdale area Saturday night and stop at a park on our way south. The itinerary for Sunday will be decided based on current sightings, but will focus on birding hotspots in the Fort Lauderdale and Miami areas.



Since it is April we may see quite a few species of northbound warblers, thrushes, buntings, and tanagers. We will be on the lookout for Spot-breasted Oriole, Common Myna, Red-whiskered Bulbul, White-winged Parakeets, Short-tailed Hawk, Black-whiskered Vireo, Gray Kingbird, and others.

Field trip fees are \$40/Audubon members or \$55/non-Audubon members for the weekend; \$25/Audubon members or \$40/non-Audubon members for Saturday only, and include trip leaders' and birding guide's time, a contribution to Audubon Society of the Everglades as authorized coordinator into STA-2 and the residual, if

any, will benefit OAS' nature center fund.

Reservations are required by April 15th, but we encourage earlier registration, as spaces are limited. OAS' cancellation policy provides a full refund for cancellations received by April 7th; a 50% refund for cancellations received April 8th-15th; and no refund after April 15th.

Participants are responsible for meals, transportation, lodging and incidentals. If requested by 10+ registered participants, OAS will seek a discounted group lodging rate for Saturday night in the Fort Lauderdale area.

For space availability, registration and payment instructions contact Teresa at (407) 644-0796 or mwilliams@cfl.rr.com. Full payment is needed to confirm your spot. For other field trip questions, contact me at (407) 637-2525 or sabalpress@mac.com. Please be aware that there is no guarantee that we will see flamingos, as they do move around. Think pink!

Deborah Green

Central Florida Earth Day

For the sixth year, Orange Audubon Society (OAS) will have a tent and display table and will do outreach at [Central Florida Earth Day](#). This is an exciting day of colorful and educational exhibits and activities at beautiful Lake Eola Park in downtown Orlando. The FREE event is Saturday, April 22nd, from 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

OAS is provided a great spot right by Lake Eola, since we offer free bird walks around the lake. Several of our walk leaders will be on the Flamingo Quest that same weekend, and we could use help introducing beginners to some of the birds. We will provide a photo sheet on the Lake Eola swans, as the swans, while not native, are a big attraction. Contact Rick at rbaird4@att.net or (407) 277-3357 if you can help.



Tamara Webster and Kaila Varano doing outreach at OAS Earth Day tent in 2011. Photo: Deborah Green

Earth Day Volunteer Project at Egret Island, Windermere

Egret Island is a 10-acre island in the northeast area of Lake Butler near the Windermere shore. It is known as a roosting and nesting site for egrets, ibises, herons, and anhingas and recently also Brown Pelicans. The island was dedicated to the Florida Audubon Society in 1958 as a wildlife sanctuary.

Celebrate Earth Day with Windermere Mayor Gary Bruhn and the Orange County Environmental Protection Division by helping to cleanup this important habitat. Volunteers with their own kayaks are needed to clean the perimeter of the island. The event will be in the morning of April 22nd.

Email Carrie.Mohanna@ocfl.net to RSVP or request more information. Volunteers must pre-register in order to participate.

Chertok Photo Contest Deadline is April 20th!

Get Out and Take Nature Photos!

Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) 2017 Kit and Sidney Chertok Florida Native Nature Photography Contest, is themed: *Florida Native Nature* and has a deadline of April 20, 2017 (postmarked by date). This 29th annual contest is open to all photographers (except members of OAS' board and Chertok contest committee). 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.

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 walk on March 4th to Savage/Christmas Creek Preserve in Christmas (p.5).

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](#). Participants will be notified of any disqualified entries and may optionally replace them at no charge. See contest rules for details. 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.



Rustled Feathers. Third Place, 2012 Chertok Photo Contest, Youth Category. Photo: Megan Authement

Teresa Williams, Chertok Photo

MARCH/APRIL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Beginner's Bird Identification

March 4, 11 & 18, 2017
Contact Teresa at (407)644-0796

**Photographer's Green PLACE Nature Walk
Savage/Christmas Creek Preserve**

March 4, 2017
Contact Nancy at (407) 836-1442

**March Program: If You Plant It, Birds Will Come -
Lavon Silvernell**

March 16, 2017
Contact Deborah at (407) 637-2525

**Monthly Field Trip to Green Mountain Overlook,
Monteverde**

March 18, 2017
Contact Larry at (407) 647-5834

Youth Field Trip - Mead Botanical Garden

March 19, 2017 By Reservation Only
Contact Brook at (407) 921-8008

**Limited Edition Field Trip to Ocala National Forest,
Paisley**

March 25, 2017
Contact Bob at (407) 459-5617

**Ethos Vegan Kitchen, Winter Park
5% Profit Day to benefit Orange Audubon Society**

March 25, 2017
Contact Deborah at (407) 637-2525

Migration Bird Walk, Mead Botanical Garden

April 1, 8, 15, AND 29, 2017
Contact Larry at (407) 647-5834

Bird-a-thon, Fundraiser

April 8, 2017
Contact Kathy at (407) 488-9559

**Monthly Program, Freshwater Turtles of Central
Florida - Wayne Osborne**

April 20, 2017
Contact Deborah at (407) 637-2525

Chertok Photo Contest Deadline

April 20, 2017
Contact Teresa at (407) 644-0796

Overnight Field Trip & Flamingo Quest II

April 22-23, 2017
Contact Deborah at (407) 637-2525

Central Florida Earth Day, Lake Eola

April 22, 2017
Contact Rick at (407) 277-3357

Bird Island Clean-up, Lake Butler

April 22, 2017
Contact Rick at (407) 277-3357

Limited Edition Field Trip to Ft. De Soto Park

April 23, 2017
Contact Bob at (407) 459-5617