



"The voice of Conservation in Central Florida"

OASis



*Orange Audubon Society
A Chapter of National Audubon Society and Audubon of Florida*

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This Month's Program: May 15, 2003 - 7pm Lake Apopka Restoration by Dr. Gian Basili

Florida's once third (now fourth) largest lake had become a major gathering point for shorebirds and other birds as the vegetable farmers flooded and then drained their fields. Lake Apopka birding was known around the world. But lake water quality declined drastically over the years. Friends of Lake Apopka and other groups urged cleanup, and, funded by the St. Johns River Water Management District, the naturally filtering marshes are now being restored. Our May speaker Dr. Gian Basili of the St. Johns River Water Management District Land Acquisition Program will give us a progress report on restoration efforts. Orange Audubon Society considers Lake Apopka OUR lake, and we hope to build environmental education programs on the North Shore. Dr. Basili, a former ornithologist for Audubon of Florida, has been our ally in these efforts and will talk about what needs to be done. Join us on May 15 for a great program. Deborah Green, Vice President

April Field Trip Report DICK SMITH, FIELD TRIP CHAIR

On Saturday, April 19, 2003, 27 members of OAS and their guests enjoyed the beautiful weather in lovely Mead Gardens on our field trip of the month. We didn't see a large number of species, but what we saw were really "quality" birds.

Thanks to Alex Vinokur, we had a Ruby-throated Hummingbird on the nest before we left the parking lot. Directly overhead, on a little limb, was what looked like a little glob of mud. After looking closely, we could see a hummer sitting on the nest. It was a good thing Bob Sanders brought his spot-

ting scope, or some of us would still be there looking for it!

Later in the morning, we fortunate enough to see Northern Parula, Prairie, Black-and-white, American Redstart, and Common Yellowthroat Warblers, and White-eyed, Yellow-throated and Red-eyed Vireos. On the way back to the picnic tables, we spotted two juvenile Barred Owls that still had a lot of down on them.

All in all, it was a good day to be in a beautiful park with good birding friends.

May Field Trip - South Brevard WTF, Viera FL

On Saturday, May 17, 2003, our field trip will be at the South Brevard Water Treatment facility in Viera. This will be a "driving" field trip, as we are allowed to take our vehicles up onto the berms. Last year, we were treated to quite a display by the Black-bellied Whistling Ducks and the nesting Black-necked Stilts. Maybe we will get lucky again.

Meet behind the Burger King at Alafaya Trail and Colonial Dr. (SR 50) on the east

side of Orlando in time to get car-pooled, signed up and leave by 7:30 AM. Bring binoculars, spotting scopes if you have one, field guides, sunscreen, insect repellent, water and your lunch. We will bird until about 11:30-12:00, and have our picnic lunch on one of the observation towers.

If you have any questions, call me at 407-834-2197.

Dick Smith, Field Trip Chair

Orange Audubon Society meetings are held the 3rd Thursday of every month at 7:00pm in the Camellia Room at

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

For directions, call 407-246-2620

President's Message LORETTA SATTERTHWAITE, PRESIDENT

Have you heard the Chuck-will's-widows calling lately? Or seen the Common Nighthawks 'buzzing' for insects? How about Northern Mockingbirds chasing the Crows? I hope you're taking the opportunity to enjoy the great weather we've been having.

I want to take this opportunity to extend thanks for all of the wonderful support that has been given to me and to Orange Audubon Society (OAS) during this past year. I know that there is still one more month before this fiscal/program year is complete, but your generosity has been uplifting. At a time in our country when it seems that the environment has been forgotten, we asked for your monetary support and it was

forthcoming. A recent Gallup poll even suggests that two-thirds of the country still believes that we should try conservation to ease our energy woes rather than despoil the environment to obtain new production. If only the powers that be would listen!!

Not only have many of you supported Orange Audubon financially, but many of the same people and others have also donated their time generously. Whenever a task or an opportunity has arisen, someone has taken up the gauntlet and run with it. If it were not for these dedicated individuals, my efforts as President would not have been nearly so successful as they seem. It is often said that 'many hands make light work', but

that is never so true as when a few hardworking individuals share the load of achieving the goals of an organization such as OAS. I fear mentioning names because invariably someone who has been very important to our success may unintentionally be omitted; let it suffice to say that whether the person has been a board member, served as a chairperson of a committee, or been a loyal friend to OAS even though not a board member, your efforts have not gone unnoticed and I, personally and as President of OAS, thank you for your assistance. Let's continue the good work and continue to make a difference — locally, statewide and nationally.

Conservation News PEGGY COX, CHAIR

Environmental news from the Legislature is not good. Most of you have probably read of the attack on the Everglades restoration by special interests, led by the Sugar Growers in south Florida. Both Senate and House bills will probably pass, according to Audubon of Florida's conservation lobbyist, Charles Lee. He also said that Gov. Bush will probably NOT veto these bills. The bills make the process and timeline for reducing the pollution flowing into the river of grass basically ineffective. The new legislation is opposed by Florida's Congressional delegation, as it will endanger the federal funding agreed upon in the Everglades Forever Act for the restoration plan.

Regarding the Ocklawaha River restoration - both the Senate and House have passed bills to establish the Kirkpatrick Memorial State Reserve, from the Eureka Dam

to the Buckman Lock, preserving Rodman Reservoir and Dam. This effectively stops the restoration plans for the Ocklawaha River by the US Forest Service. Over 30 years of effort and sound reasons for removing the dam and reservoir are being usurped by special interests and political favors. According to the US Forest Service's Record of Decision, December, 2001, the 4 most significant environmental problems caused by Rodman Dam are: Chronic inundation of the floodplain degrading the water quality of the upper river; trapping of particulate nutrients within the reservoir reducing downstream fish productivity; fragmentation of the once contiguous river and floodplain and wildlife habitat; and increasing coverage of invasive exotic aquatic plants by stagnant water levels created by the Dam. Call, email, or fax Gov. Bush to veto these bills (SB 2042) on the proposed State Reserve.

Phone: 850-488-7146/ 850-488-4441

Fax: 850-487-0801

Email: jeb.bush@myflorida.com

Legislation on the Wekiva Basin Task Force Recommendations may not happen this year. The proposed legislation for the Wekiva Springshed Protection and land use planning in the Wekiva River Protection Area has been significantly weakened by a barrage of lobbyists for developers, large property owners, Lake County and Cities of Apopka, Eustis, and Mt. Dora. Rep. Brummer is now considering amending the House bill to halt construction of any expressways in this area for 5 years to give time for a comprehensive plan to be formed by all counties and cities affected. The effect of that will be to allow for development to get approved in these areas as desired, without any protections for

the Wekiva Springshed. On the good side, Orange County is supporting the Task Force recommendations and has a lawsuit against the City of Apopka for their recent annexation proposals of lands within the proposed alignment of the Wekiva Parkway and in now rural areas of the county, including lands inside the Wekiva River Protection Area. Continue to voice your concern on the Wekiva to your legislator, and Gov. Bush!

Mobility 20/20: OAS concerns over the possibility of mitigation of rail freight from the main CSX line through downtown Orlando to a possible new line in eastern Orange county near the Econ River and public conservation lands have been addressed by Orange County. In the Mobility 20/20 recommendations for the transportation sales tax referendum, Orange county Chair Crotty has assured OAS that Orange County representatives on the Freight Relocation Study Group will not support any realignment of rail freight into east Orange County or through any public conservation lands, and that no Mobility 20/20 funds will be used for such an alignment. We continue to support the I-4 improvements and the mass transit elements of Mobility 20/20 as needed in the metropolitan area. Stopping continued urban sprawl and improving the air quality in the county are the basis for our support of these elements.

Have you tried ebird? This is a new collaborative website between National Audubon and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Birders can record their observations of species, down to exact locations. There are links to track bird migration through radar sites, and research sites. Articles of interest

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

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<http://www.orangeaudubonfl.org>

Audubon Adventures Update

OAS was able to sponsor an additional 23 Audubon Adventures kits in classrooms thanks to the continued generosity of our membership and supporters. This brings our total to 64 classroom kits for the year! We greatly appreciate those who have agreed to help sponsor some of the kits. However, we still need help in order to achieve our budgeting goal of making Audubon Adventures available to every third through fifth grade teacher who requests the kit for their classroom.

The latest group of teachers enrolled are: Jennifer Rickey and Kay Bragg, Columbia Elementary, Mirrian Bryant, Ivey Lane Elementary, Catherine Lindner, Orlo Vista Elementary, Lori Eld, Ocoee Elementary, Kathy Black, Steve Metheny, June Rogers, Pam Rogers, Gail Geiger and Ruth Ball, Minneola Elementary, Mary Gentry, Sara Holbrook, Amber Rangel, Teresa Sippel, Karen Newman and Betty Waldrop, Lost Lake Elementary, Steve Tutunick, Hunter's Creek Elementary, Rafael Pena, Little River Elementary, Kimberly Clough, Lake Como Elementary, Donna Palagano, Spring Lake, Cindy Filosof, Riverdale Elementary and Jam Odum, Clay Springs Elementary. All the teachers receiving Audubon Adventures for their classrooms also receive a membership to Orange Audubon.

If you would like to be an Audubon Adventures classroom sponsor for the upcoming year, make your check out to OAS and mail it to P.O. Box 941142, Maitland, FL 32794-1142. Please specify Audubon Adventures on your check.

Conservation... cont'd

on specific species, online study courses on bird ID, bird behavior, etc. are also available. I registered with the site so I could keep a record of some of my special bird sightings and check on what others are seeing in specific locations. Recorded my first special identification last week. While I was out with my team on the scrub-jay survey, we positively identified a pair of indigo buntings, near the roadside in south Lake County. A first for me and what beautiful birds! I recorded that sighting on ebird and look forward to using this tool to help me learn more about where some birds are and why. You can access ebird through their website: www.ebird.org, or the National Audubon or Cornell websites. Happy birding.

Fort DeSoto Field Trip Report

On Friday, when we arrived in St. Petersburg, the wind was really blowing hard, and we were concerned for the next day. Saturday morning was bright and beautiful, without a cloud in the sky and no wind. We were really in luck!

The birds were plentiful and very cooperative, giving us really good views. The Scarlet and Summer Tanagers posed for us in the same tree. We were able to see the differences in color and body structure. They were so bright that they were like "rubies" hanging on the trees. The Blue Grosbeaks and Indigo Buntings posed side by side, and we could see the differences in color and size. They were the "sapphires" on the ground and in the trees. Orchard Orioles were plentiful and allowed us to really see them well. Black-hooded Parakeets were a life bird for several birders.

The total species count was 82. We had six Wood Warblers: Prairie, Palm, Black and white American Redstart, Worm-eating and Hooded species. The Shorebirds were outstanding – 17 species in all. Here's the roll call: Black-bellied, Snowy, Wilson's, Semipalmated and Piping Plovers, Killdeer, American Oystercatcher, Willet, Long-billed Curlew, Marbled Godwit, Ruddy Turnstone, Sanderling, Semipalmated, Western and Least Sandpipers, Dunlin, and Short-billed Dowitcher. With all the spotting scopes that we had, everybody got very good looks.

Eckerd College provided us with very nice, clean accommodations and the breakfast was extremely complete. Of course, Ft. DeSoto Park is just an outstanding place in its own right, and we could easily have stayed another day but we all had to get back to the real world. All in all, it was a great day to be in a great location with good birding friends.



Visit an IBA Near You!

One of Central Florida's designated Important Bird Areas (IBA) is the William Beardall Tosohatchee State Reserve located in east Orange County. So close to urban Orlando, but still a beautiful wilderness area that is home to some of Florida's endangered animal species and unique plant communities. It was purchased in 1977 by the Department of Environmental Protection under the Environmentally Endangered Lands program, in part because of the extensive marshes bordering the St. Johns River and their importance in maintaining the health of the river.

Tosohatchee State Reserve has 28,000 acres bordering 19 miles of the western shore of the St. Johns River. It is a varied landscape of freshwater marshes, swamps, pine flatwoods and hardwood forests. In the winter, the freshwater marshes are feeding areas for large numbers of migrating waterfowl. Wading birds, bald eagles, hawks, owls, and many species of songbirds, are permanent residents of the Reserve. The Reserve also has a number of endangered plant species, including orchids and hand ferns.

There are many birdwatching and photographic opportunities when you visit the Reserve. The name Tosohatchee comes from the Tosohatchee Creek flowing through a portion of the Reserve. The creek was named by the original Native American residents of the area; roughly translated it means "fowl" creek. The Reserve is open 365 days a year, but also has managed hunting areas certain times of the year, so calling the Ranger Station to verify that the roads and trails are accessible is recommended. The Reserve is located off Taylor Creek Road, about 3 miles south of SR 50, near the town of Christmas in east Orange county. It is also near 2 other great birdwatching sites, Orlando Wetlands Park and the Seminole Ranch Wildlife Management Area.

Call the ranger station for more information at 407-568-5893.

OAS Volunteers Make Fiesta Fantastic!

The weekend of April 5th and 6th offered Birdathon, bird banding and bird surveying activities aplenty, but those who desired to walk on the really wild side came to Lake Eola 'cause it's a little asphalt jungle in Downtown Orlando ~ especially during Fiesta in the Park! This marked the beginning of OAS's 8th year, and 15th consecutive participation in spring and fall Fiesta activities, where OAS has always had successful fundraising and outreach efforts.

Thanks to Chris Gandy, Christine Brown, Richard Poole, Leesa Sward and L. D. Lambright, this event was no exception. Chris didn't leave until the last Rhino shirt was sold. For Christine, Richard and Leesa, it was too hard to chose between activities, so they simply did them all ~ counting, banding, surveying and fundraising. And for youngest volunteer, L. D. (age 13), the nature art activity took on an educational character. While giving instruction on collage making, he helped younger children identify animal cut outs used to make the art. Good job L. D. Couldn't have done the kids' activity without you.

Last month's Leu Gardens Plant Sale article should have included thanks to Mario Fernandez from Boynton Beach, who was here visiting our own Ayme Smith. Mario was great to tag along with Ayme to the sale, then graciously pitch in to help set up our booth. If you're visiting the same time next year, we'll meet you at Leu Gardens!

Without dedicated volunteers, such a high level of activities and outreach could never be achieved. Our sincere thanks for all that you do for OAS.

Teresa Williams & Loretta Satterthwaite

In case you missed the last meeting...



Did you know there are 162 species of butterflies in Florida? On April 17, about 70 Audubon members and guests were treated to a wonderful talk on butterflies, by Buck and Linda Cooper of Haines City. Buck and Linda have seen 160 of the 162 species, in journeys around the state over the past nine years. Most of these species occur in very localized areas, where their larval host plants occur. Many of them fly for no more than a few weeks. The Coopers are "Stealth Gardening," gradually replacing their lawn with frog fruit, a tiny-flower native groundcover that attracts small butterflies. Some other great nectar plants in the wild, pointed out by the Coopers, are Bidens (Spanish needles), red root, Garberia, Carphophorus, blazing star, thistle, plum, Sabal palm, and pickerel weed. Linda's excellent slides also showed butterflies seeking salts on charred wood and animal wastes and on human heads.

Dr. Walter Taylor mentioned that there may have been more butterflies in the Eastern United States, after settlers cleared forests, since butterflies prefer open areas. A lively discussion ensued in which Bill Partington pointed out that use of DDT several decades ago took a significant toll on butterflies. Since butterflies are so specific as to host plant, extinction of rare host plants as part of habitat loss continues causing decline of butterfly species today. Hopefully, collecting of butterflies as a mortality factor is declining today. Buck and Linda, like many "leppers" today, do not collect but rather hunt butterflies with special short-range focusing binoculars. They recommend the book *Butterflies through Binoculars*, Florida edition. If you want to learn more and missed this talk, sign up for Mary Keim and Randy Snyder's ongoing butterfly classes.

Deborah Green, VP for Programs, with contributions by Mary Keim

Summer Board Meeting

Figuring that the board would prefer not to meet over the July 4th weekend, the date for the summer planning meeting will be July 12th or 13th. Please keep that weekend free for this meeting. If you can not meet on one of those days, please contact Loretta during May so a definite date and time can be set and announced in the June OASis. Location will be given at that time also. Thanks.

Outgoing board members are welcome to join the returning and newly elected board members for this meeting. However, if you do not wish to attend, and you have materials that need to be handed on to new board members, please make arrangements to do so at the June meeting if at all possible.

Make It, Bake It, Grow It ...

It's nearly summer!! Time to begin making plans for the June meeting. Not only do we ask that you bring some delectable dish to accompany the ham that OAS will provide, and your own table service (plates, glasses, flatwear, and serving spoon for your dish), but we also ask whether you have another special talent that you can share? What can you make, bake or grow to benefit OAS at our silent auction? There will not be ticket sales for those popular bromeliads and other items at the June meeting. Rather, we will have some items made or grown especially for the silent auction at this meeting. There will most likely be another 'Chertok Silent Auction' activity at the June meeting and Orange Audubon will also have its t-shirts, totes and signs available at the meeting, so don't forget your checkbook. Enjoy the marvelous food and wonderful display of entries to the Chertok Nature Photography Contest, and rejoice with the winners of the photo contest and the silent auctions. Come one, come all for an evening of special food and fun.

Winged Migration to show at the Enzian July 4th!

Using groundbreaking camera techniques, Jacques Perrin gorgeously documents the flight patterns of several species of birds within both urban and exotic locales such as Paris, New York City, the Arctic, and the Amazon. During the making of the film, Perrin's crew was able to capture the lives of the featured birds from birth, granting them a privileged opportunity to beautifully capture images of the birds' migration patterns without any obstruction. Four years and 400 hours of footage later, the breathtaking WINGED MIGRATION reveals a portrait of the world from an angle seldom experienced. Nature lovers and film fans of all ages should rejoice. This incredible film will be playing at the Enzian Theater on July 4th, 2003. For more information, call the theater's Showtime Hotline at 407-629-0054, or visit their website at www.enzian.org.

OAS Birdathon! 2003 a Success... Here are the results

Well, the weather cooperated to give a beautiful Florida day to go birding for the annual Birdathon on Saturday, April 5th. Four teams scoured four different areas around Orlando and spotted 120 different species of birds! Congratulations to all teams for their outstanding efforts. The Birdathon committee would like to thank the following people for volunteering their time and expertise in bird identification. Mead Gardens team, led by OAS Members Renee Thomas and Tom Williams, consisted of the OAS Bird ID Class Students: Adam Wershil, Becky & Pete Orr, and Julian Green. The Orlando Wetlands Park team, Bill & Betty Seegers and Sue Farnsworth. The Clermont team, Peggy Cox and Marsha Butler. The team at Lake Apopka North Shore Restoration Area consisted of Claire Hilliker, Leesa Sward, Dick Smith, Bob Sanders, and several LANSRA volunteers whose names were not available at press time. We wish to thank you all for your generous assistance.

Pledge requests have been sent out for those who sent their pledge sheets to Birdathon Chair Sue Farnsworth. If you have any pledges or donations, please send a check payable to Orange Audubon Society to Sue Farnsworth at 419 Elkwood Court, Orlando, 32825 by Friday, May 9th, to be included in our results. All sponsors who provided an address will receive a Thank You letter from Orange Audubon Society, along with a list of all the species seen. Remember that donations could be tax-deductible, and go directly to support our local community.

Once again, Thank you to all of sponsors and volunteers for making Birdathon! 2003 happen.
Birdathon Chair, Sue Farnsworth

Annual Election Held at April Meeting

The nominating committee presented a slate to fill four of the five 3-year board member positions at the April meeting. Elected were Mike Daley, Randy Ranson, Randy Snyder and John Winfree. There is one seat open and we hope that someone will come forward and volunteer to serve before the summer planning meeting in July so that we will be at full capacity at that time. If you have an interest in serving on the board, but are nervous about committing for a 3-year term, please contact Loretta (407/886-2925; LNS-OAS@att.net) to discuss the opportunity. This is a great chance to 'get your feet wet' and help Orange Audubon Society fulfill its goals. We can use your assistance. Thanks in advance.

Audubon Regional Conservation Committee Hear St. Johns River Navigator

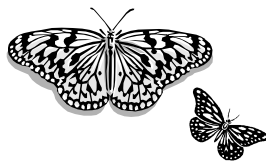
Anne Keller, the St. Johns River Navigator for the American Heritage River Initiative, spoke to the Audubon of Florida St. Johns Regional Conservation Committee on April 26th. Ms. Keller works under the auspices of the EPA on coordinating the activities related to the Heritage River Initiative for the St. Johns River. The St. Johns is one of 13 American Rivers designated by Pres. Clinton in 1997 as an American Heritage River. A public/private partnership, called the St. Johns River Alliance is being formed to implement the goals of the River Initiative for restoration of the River. The Alliance will have directors representing every county in the river basin, various State agencies, Regional Planning councils, and citizens of the basin. Technical and Citizen Advisory committees will be part of the process of deciding goals for the Initiative. This is a large, long-term project, that will need the involvement of all interested in preserving and restoring the river and its environmental and cultural heritage. Duval County and the City of Jacksonville have done the first 5 year projects in their basin with considerable success on meeting their goals in restoration and improvement of water quality. A new website will be up this month detailing the many facets of the St. Johns River Initiative, www.floridariver.org.

Peggy Cox, Conservation Chair

Central Florida Butterfly Course

Harry P. Leu Gardens (HPLG) in Orlando is offering a 4-session course on the identification of Central Florida butterflies and their caterpillars. The course will be held on Saturdays, May 3, 10, 17, 24, 2003 from 2:30 – 5:00 pm. Each day will include a slide presentation and a garden walk. Instructors are long time OAS members Randy Snyder and Mary Keim. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to Orange Audubon Society. Pre-registration is required.

Contact HPLG (407-246-3621) for registration information.



Spring buds are popping out in April & May

Secluded North Carolina Blue Ridge Mt. vacation house, 50 acres, waterfalls

Heavily wooded mountaintop, 3,000 ft. elev., stream, waterfalls, close to canoeing, 40 min. SW of Asheville, 30 min. to Blue Ridge Scenic Parkway, Pisgah National Forest fishing, hiking & wilderness. 1,500 sq. ft home, modern kitchen, cathedral ceiling, wood stove. No smoking, no pets. Limit 6 people. Photos available. April-June \$380/wk. July-Nov \$420/wk.

(321) 951-1741

morganmt@earthlink.net



Open April-Nov.

Beat the summer crowd to the Land of Waterfalls!

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FIELD TRIPS Dick Smith

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HOSPITALITY Tom & Ruth Williams

MEMBERSHIP Claire Hilliker

NEWSLETTER Claire Hilliker

Calendar of Events

May 3, 2003 - Saturday

LANSRA Bird Survey; 7:30am-Noon.
Pam Bowen 386-329-4870
pbowen@sjrwmd.com

May 17-18, 2003 - Sat-Sun

Audubon Nature Festival, Hilton Head, SC
Info: Virginia Culter 843-681-4461
www.hiltonheadaudubon.org/festival.htm

May 3-10-17-24, 2003 - Saturdays

Central Florida Butterfly Course; 2:30pm-5:30pm. Harry P. Leu Gardens 407-246-3621
Instructors: Randy Snyder & Mary Keim

June 1, 2003 - Saturday

LANSRA Bird Survey; 7:30am-Noon.
Pam Bowen 386-329-4870
pbowen@sjrwmd.com

May 15, 2003 - Thursday

Chertok Nature Photography Contest and General Meeting, 7:00pm, Leu Gardens.
OAS Board Meeting to take place prior to the General Meeting at 5:30pm. All welcome.
Loretta Satterthwaite 407-886-2925

Chertok Nature Photography Contest Deadline - May 15th!

Don't forget the deadline for postmark or hand delivery of entries to the 15th Annual Chertok Nature Photography Contest is May 15, 2003. Winners will be announced at OAS's annual potluck dinner and slide show of photo contest entries on June 19, 2003. Entry forms with rules for the contest can be obtained by giving your name and address to Teresa (407-644-0796 or mwilliams@cfl.rr.com) or by visiting the OAS web site at www.orangeaudubonfl.org.

Good luck!

Teresa Williams, CNPC Chair

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