



"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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Wanted! Program Suggestions for 2003-2004

Is there a particular topic of interest that you'd like to see presented as one of our monthly programs? Or was there a past speaker whom you'd enjoy hearing again? If so, we're interested in hearing from you! Suggestions for next year's programs are being taken for the upcoming 2003-2004 year. Focus on local natural history and conservation. Email to Deborah Green, VP for Programs at sabal@cfl.rr.com or call 407/869-7762. Program will be set in July.

This Month's Program: June 19, 2003 - 6:30pm OAS Annual Potluck and Chertok Nature Photography Contest

June is our month to have special fun at our meeting. Orange Audubon Society is providing ham and turkey, so please bring something of your choice (salad, side dish, dessert, drinks) and join us for dinner at 6:30 p.m. Please also remember to bring your own plates, glasses, flatware, and serving utensil!! The dinner will be followed with the showing of the Chertok Nature Photography Contest entries and awards presentation.

Throughout the evening, you are encouraged to make bids on the silent auction items (make it, bake it, grow it, or the items contributed to benefit the Chertok endowment) and this will be your last chance until next fall to visit OAS' "gift shop" that includes t-shirts, tote bags, signs, etc. Any of these items might be just the thing you need for a summer birthday, anniversary or other special event. You won't want to miss this fun evening, so grab your plate and checkbook (or cash), bring that special food item, and join us for a great time! We look forward to seeing you.

May Field Trip Report DICK SMITH, FIELD TRIP CHAIR

The weather was fantastic in Viera! Although the temperature was a little on the hot side, we didn't even notice it because of the constant light breeze that was blowing all morning. And once again, the birds were very cooperative, allowing us to study them through the spotting scopes. This is especially important with some of the Shorebirds because of the similarities of species. Some of the species seen: Semipalmated Plover, Black-necked Stilt, Lesser Yellowlegs, Spotted,

Semipalmated, Western, Least and White-rumped Sandpiper, Long-billed Dowitcher, Bonaparte's Gull, Gull-billed, Forrester's, Least and Black Terns.

All together, we had 55 species for the day with the Black-bellied Whistling Ducks putting on the best show and winning the "Bird of the Day" award. All in all, it was a great day to be in the great outdoors with good birding friends.

Make it! Bake it! Grow it!

What can you make, bake, or grow to bring to the silent auction fundraiser for Orange Audubon Society (OAS)? Each of you has something that you do especially well. Now's the chance to do that to benefit Orange Audubon. Simply bring your item to the June 19th meeting. We will have bid sheets available for your item — you may suggest a minimum bid or not — and whoever bids the highest for your contribution, pays that amount to Orange Audubon, and takes the item home. That could even be you if you don't want to part with it!! So, bring your checkbook (or cash) and/or your special item to the meeting and help OAS. See you there!

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

We have a Northern Cardinal nesting right outside our window. Baby Eastern Screech Owls were banded recently when found in a birdbox at the Audubon sanctuary at Holiday Highlands. While photographing monarch caterpillars the other evening, we looked up and saw a Swallow-tailed Kite flying overhead. There is so much wildlife activity at this time of year, you really must take time to enjoy it!

Well, another program year is coming to a close. Each month, you have had the opportunity to attend an excellent program and an exciting field trip and you have been kept informed of current 'happenings' regarding Orange Audubon Society's conservation, education and fund raising efforts

through the monthly newsletter, the OASis. The 'behind-the-scenes' efforts to make all of this happen have been tremendous and my special thanks to all the board members. The unflagging efforts of these twenty people, along with about that same number of non-board members who also gave willingly of their time and expertise, have helped OAS have another successful year.

Things aren't over, however. Although there will be no program, field trip or OASis for July and August, there will continue to be conservation and education 'opportunities' for OAS to take advantage of. With that in mind, if you have any suggestions, comments or time to volunteer regarding ongoing conservation problems, don't hesitate

to contact me (407/886-2925 or LNS-OAS@att.net) or Peggy Cox (352/429-1042); we welcome, and need, your help.

And, of course, all of the planning efforts to bring you more exciting programs and field trips for next year will need to be done by the end of August. Again, if you have suggestions or comments (or time) regarding these efforts, please feel free to contact me and I will see that Deborah Green (programs) or Dick Smith (field trips) or another appropriate board member is aware of your contribution.

Thanks again for all your efforts to make Central Florida a better place to live. Enjoy your summer by visiting some of Florida's beautiful natural areas. We look forward to seeing you in September.

Conservation News PEGGY COX, CHAIR

As I write this article for the OASIS, the Legislature is in special session to try and complete a budget for the next year, and finish the work on several important pieces of legislation. One of those is a "glitch" bill to correct ambiguities in SB 626 - the bad Everglades bill. Gov. Bush signed 626 into law and then asked for clarifying legislation for it--seems like if it needed clarifying, maybe it wasn't needed at all. Despite heavy lobbying for Gov. Bush to veto the bill, it was signed into law. Audubon opposed this bill and lobbied extensively to defeat it. Some of the main points that Audubon considered were most troublesome were:

- The bill allows the proposed 10 parts per billion phosphorous discharge criteria to be ignored; It substitutes a planning process for an enforceable water quality stan-

dard; It makes the permit for water quality standards conditional on effort, not the outcomes; prevents expansion and enhancement of phosphorous cleanup technologies; and extends the time period for compliance from 2006 to 2016.

- The bill to block restoration of the Ocklawaha River and establish the Kirkpatrick State Reserve passed and is awaiting action by the Governor at this time. We have urged the Governor to veto this ill-conceived bill, aimed solely at stopping the restoration, and to continue his support of restoration of the river. By the time you read, the time period for signing or vetoing this bill will have gone, and hopefully we will be looking forward to beginning restoration.

Orange County voted to put the Mobility 20/20 sales tax referendum on the ballot this autumn for 1/2 penny tax for transportation improvements in Orange county. OAS had previously supported most of the recommendations from the select Transportation Commission, appointed by Chairman Crotty. The actual proposed sales tax referendum and interlocal agreement with the City of Orlando to be voted on was considerably different from the Commission recommendations on one of the most important components, mass transit. Transit was diminished in importance in the final proposal. No specific systems or previously studied rail systems and alignments were named. What was specified was the formation of a Transit Board of 3 officials; The County Chair, Mayor of Orlando, and district Secretary of DOT to create, design, and implement mass transit systems with approval of

the Mobility 20/20 governing Board(that would be 9 elected officials in the county and city), if this referendum passes.

OAS had strongly supported the implementation through this tax of light rail and commuter rail for the County. Proposed environmental land acquisition from mitigation dollars generated by the road construction was presented by the County as a environmentally sensitive lands program. The proposed lands plan had no structure or dedicated funding arrangement (without obtaining legislative authority to do so). So based on these new issues, OAS decided to not make any recommendations for or against Mobility 2020. Most other environmental organizations did not officially support the final proposed referendum, with some giving conditional support with concerns on transit and land acquisition.

In Lake County, we continue to support those opposing a Comp Plan amendment that would allow the transfer of development densities from high density land use categories into low density categories to facilitate subdivision construction in a more sprawling manner. While this proposal would not generate any higher density levels overall, it does target getting higher building densities on land designated as rural or inside the Green Swamp Area of Critical State Concern, in the transitional area. Both land use categories are currently very, low density - at 1 dwelling unit per 5 acres. The proposed amendment could effectively allow doubling of density in current less intensive land use categories. A meeting with the interested parties and the Department of Community Affairs was held

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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.

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

President.....Loretta Satterthwaite (lms-oas@att.net)
407-886-2925
Address Change.....Mike Daley (miked@k2net.cc)
386-668-5021
Editor.....Claire Hilliker (hilliker@iag.net)
407-677-5374

The OASis is published monthly from September through June and is sent free to all members of Orange Audubon Society.

<http://www.orangeaudubonfl.org>

Summer Board of Directors' Meeting

Sunday, July 13th will be the day for the summer board meeting. All 2003–2004 board members are expected to attend. Additionally, any member of Orange Audubon Society is welcome. Please plan on a full-day meeting (9:30 A.M.– 3:30 P.M.). We have a couple of possibilities for a meeting place, but have not yet made a decision; it may well hinge upon how many people plan to attend. If you are thinking of attending, but aren't on the 2003–'04 board, please contact Loretta (407/886-2925; LNS-OAS@att.net) by June 21st so plans can be finalized. Board members, and all others who contact me, will be notified of the location as soon as possible.

Please remember that, as of press time, we still have a seat available on the Board of Directors. No experience is necessary; if you or someone you know has an interest in volunteering, please contact me for details. Thanks.

Loretta Satterthwaite, President

Two Silent Auctions – One Fun Evening

The 'Make It, Bake It, Grow It!' silent auction items will be complemented by other items donated by sponsors from the community to benefit the Chertok Nature Photography Contest (CNPC) Endowment Fund. At this writing, we've already received framed artwork, admission passes, books, collectable items, butterfly-theme merchandise, and photographic prints from these sponsors:

Atlas Screen Printing & Wild Cotton Design
The Enzian Theatre & Florida Film Fest
Gatorland, "The Alligator Capital of the World"
Deborah Green – Natural History Author
Milton Heiberg – Wildlife Photographer, Author
Stephen Koury - Wildlife Artist
Scheid's Park Avenue Gallery
James Urbach – Wildlife Photographer (Past CNPC Winner)
Winter Park Scenic Boat Tour

More items are expected to arrive before the June 19th potluck dinner. If you have an item(s) you wish to donate for either auction, you can let us know before the 19th and bid sheets can be prepared in advance – or just bring your item and we'll have plenty of spare bid sheets at the dinner. Contact Teresa by email (preferred) mwilliams@cfl.rr.com, or telephone 407-644-0796, providing this information: your name, item(s) description, retail or appraised value, starting bid (if desired), and fund you wish to benefit from proceeds (CNPC or general operating fund). Let her know if you require acknowledgment for tax purposes as well.

Don't miss OAS' season finale, promising scrumptious food, a great slide show, camaraderie with Audubon friends, and perhaps a bit of "friendly" competition at the auction tables! See you there.

Birdathon! 2003 Update

Our Birdathon pledging has been great this year, with almost \$2,000 collected. Thank you to everyone who contributed their time, effort, and monetary pledge to make this one of our most successful Birdathons yet. If you have not made your contribution yet, please send a check payable to Orange Audubon Society to Sue Farnsworth, 419 Elkwood Court, Orlando, FL, 32825. We must get our account in order to report our results to National Audubon. Remember, contributions could be tax-deductible and go to support our local programs. Thanks again to all our participants.

Conservation...

on May 23rd and the outcome was a delay of hearing of the proposal by the County Commission and another meeting of interested parties scheduled by DCA.

Thank you to everyone who has written, phoned, emailed their legislators and other elected officials to try and stop more environmental damage being made lawful during this past year. Every contact is important, because our elected officials at every level don't know we have concerns unless they hear from us. They do hear from vested interest lobbyists on a daily basis, so every call or letter you sent made a difference. Thanks again.

Peggy Cox, Conservation Chair

Lake County Commissioners vote for Land Acquisition

The Lake County commissioners have lately done some very good things. Led by Catherine Hanson's desire for "smart growth," the commissioners have unanimously voted on several occasions to move toward a land acquisition program for this county.

A year ago this May, the commissions unanimously decided to form a 27-member committee to study land acquisition. This committee was made up of members of the community with a wide range of interests and talents. Many members put in long hours doing outside research, many speakers presented information, and county staff gave the committee great support. It was an inspiring effort and the final report was well received.

The commissioners then voted unanimously to accept the recommendations made by the committee. These recommendations were broad and ambitious. They include creating a land acquisition program to buy and preserve natural communities, historical sites, upland/water recharge areas, and passive recreational areas, with voter support by referendum and funding from ad valorem taxes. They also include creating a 9-member citizens advisory council to direct the program and a land trust to facilitate acquisition transactions.

Most recently, the commission unanimously decided to implement the committee's recommendations by enlisting the services of The Nature Conservancy and the Trust for Public Land to poll the citizens of Lake County in preparation for a referendum on land acquisition.

This is the most exciting decision to date. These two organizations specialize in land acquisition. They have worked nationally and internationally to purchase and preserve natural areas, open space, community trails, and wildlife habitat, and to encourage local municipalities to do so. In Florida, they have had excellent results with land acquisition referenda in literally dozens of counties.

Twenty-six Florida counties now have land acquisition programs, the majority of which are established by referenda and funded with ad valorem taxes. These programs are popular with voters, and many have been approved by referendum multiple times. These counties are preserving open space – a "green infrastructure" – for future generations to enjoy. This is our opportunity to do that here.

Ultimately, voters will determine the fate of land acquisition in Lake County, but in the meantime, our commissioners are doing their part. I congratulate them and thank them.

Terry Godts

OAS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Loretta Satterthwaite 407-886-2925

VICE PRESIDENT

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VICE PRESIDENT (PROGRAMS)

Deborah Green 407-869-7762

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Terry Godts 321-436-4932

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FINANCE Milton Heiberg

HOSPITALITY Tom & Ruth Williams

MEMBERSHIP Claire Hilliker

NEWSLETTER Claire Hilliker

Calendar of Events

June 1, 2003 - Saturday

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

June 19, 2003 - Thursday

OAS Annual Potluck and Chertok Nature Photography Contest, 6:30pm, Leu Gardens.
OAS Board Meeting to take place prior to the General Meeting at 5:30pm. All welcome.
Loretta Satterthwaite 407-886-2925

July 4, 2003 - Friday

Showing of "Winged Migration", time TBD
Enzian Theater 407-629-0054
www.enzian.org

July 5, 2003 - Saturday

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

July 13, 2003 - Sunday

Board of Directors Summer Meeting, 9:30-3:30pm, location TBD. All welcome.
Loretta Satterthwaite 407-886-2925

August 2, 2003 - Saturday

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

September 6, 2003 - Saturday

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

September 18, 2003 - Thursday

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

Don't Miss Winged Migration at the Enzian Theater this July!

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 is tentatively scheduled for July 4th, 2003 at the Enzian Theater. For more information, you may call the theater's Showtime Hotline at 407-629-0054, or visit their website at www.enzian.org.

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

