



"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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Reminders...

... Our December Meeting will be held in the **Orchid Room** of Leu Gardens rather than the usual Camellia Room. See you there!

This Month's Program: December 15, 2005 - 7:00pm Right Whales in Northeast Florida by Frank Gromling

Few of us have ever seen a whale in Florida waters. Yet, the only known calving ground of the North Atlantic Right Whale is off the coasts of Georgia and North Florida. The right whale is one of the most endangered of large whales. Frank Gromling has been following winter visits of these whales in the Marineland area for many years. For our December program, OAS welcomes this author and publisher who will share with us details about the natural history of this whale and the monitoring effort.

Join us December 15 for an interesting and informative program.

Deborah Green, Vice President



December Field Trip - Join a Christmas Bird Count

As usual at this time of year, we will not have a December field trip. Rather, we encourage our membership to participate in one of the local Christmas Bird Counts that will be occurring from December 14th, 2005 to January 5th, 2006.

Birders of every skill level are needed so don't be shy! Even if it's all you can do to recognize a blue jay, perhaps you can assist in spotting or recording while others make the identification. Get out and help National Audubon collect valuable data.

Local CBCs and their contacts are listed on page 2. See you there!



Orange Audubon Society meetings are held the 3rd Thursday of every month (Sept - June) 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

I hope you are all enjoying a relaxing holiday season. This is a superb time of year to get out and enjoy nature. The weather is usually very nice — not too hot and not yet too cold. While you are out strolling along, be sure to have your camera ready to take that winning photo for our 18th annual Chertok Nature Photography Contest. You have plenty of time before the May 18th deadline, but you might see that spectacular shot now — perhaps on one of the Christmas Bird Counts. Sunrises and sunsets always make nice contest entries and since these are 24-hour counts (don't be scared off — not everyone goes for the full 24 hours!), it could be a perfect opportunity for you.

For you last minute shoppers, t-shirts and other nature items will be available at the December 15th Orange Audubon meeting. It's a great way to support the local chapter. (Sorry, we're unable to accept credit cards.) Please remember that our program has been moved to the Orchid Room (at Leu Gardens) for this meeting. Hospitality and t-shirts will be available in the Rose Room (or perhaps on the patio, if the weather cooperates!). Join us for our December program — we'll have a whale of a good time!

Remember to keep your feeders filled and some water close by for our visiting feathered friends. What have you seen lately?

By the way, we're still looking for some conservation-minded individuals to help us with our efforts here in Central Florida. If you are interested in learning more about how you can help your Society, please contact me [407-886-2925; LNS-OAS@att.net]; the things that need to be done are not very difficult, but we need volunteers who have a little free time and who can offer it to keep our community as 'green' as possible. Thanks for your consideration.

My sincere wishes to each of you for a safe and peaceful holiday season and the best of New Years.

OAS' 2006 Digital Photo Contest Update

Extra, extra! Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) 2006 Kit & Sidney Chertok Nature Photography Contest application forms are now available. You can download and print copies from OAS' official website www.orangeaudubonfl.org using free Adobe Acrobat Reader or pick them up at future OAS programs (3rd Thursday each month at Leu Gardens), at Colonial Photo & Hobby, 634 N. Mills Avenue, Orlando, FL, or make other arrangements by contacting Teresa, 407-644-0796 or mwilliams@cfl.rr.com. Here's a reminder of the general contest information.

The 2006 theme is 'Florida – Wild & Wonderful.' Subject matter must be native to Florida and cannot contain any evidence of humans or human-made objects or artifacts.

Only digital images in *.jpg format (jpeg, joint photographic experts group) and XGA resolution (96 dpi [dots per inch]) 1024 x 768 supplied on CDs are acceptable. You may convert prints, negatives or slides (transparencies) to digital images before you enter this contest. Images may not be excessively manipulated.

Deadline for entries is May 18, 2006 (postmark date) or by hand delivery to Teresa Williams at OAS' meeting at Leu Gardens that evening. Limit is 4 images per entrant at \$3 each for Audubon members (including contestants who join when submitting entries) or \$5 each for nonmembers.

For the full scoop see the 2006 application form, which contains complete contest rules, regulations and prize information.

Teresa Williams, OASCNPC Chair

Join in the 106th Annual Christmas Bird Count!

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

<http://www.orangeaudubonfl.org>

Join tens of thousands of fellow birders who will be outside counting birds for the 106th Annual Christmas Bird Count, dubbed the oldest and largest citizen science event in the world! CBCs across the Americas will take place from December 14th, 2005 to January 5th, 2006. Local birders are needed to help in gathering data critical to our understanding bird population trends, species' geographic expansions or declines and to aid in general avian conservation nationwide. Contacts for local CBCs are listed below so please give them a call if you can help in any way or if you need details. It's a great excuse to be out birding while helping collect valuable data.

Emeralda-Sunnyhill – Dec. 16th — Mary Remer [352-365-0934; remers5@netzero.net]

Wekiva River Basin – Dec. 17th — Jay Exum [407-804-1331 (h)] or
Kathy Hale [407-843-0615(w)]

Merritt Island NWR – Dec. 19th — Jim Pedersen [321-276-4981] or
Ned Steel [321-452-1140; nedsteel@msn.com]

Zellwood-Mt. Dora – Dec. 21st — Wes Biggs [407-384-9766, 407-376-6967 (c)]

Econlockhatchee – Dec. 24th — Lorne Malo [407-659-4853(w), 407-349-2536(h)]



BUILDING THE NEXT ARK: How NGOs work to Protect Biodiversity

By Michael M. Gunter, Jr.,
University Press of New England

As members of the Audubon Society, most of us have probably heard of other organizations like The Nature Conservancy, Sierra Club, or Earthwatch Institute and think we're familiar with their goals, but what do we know about how these groups operate and work to achieve these goals? If you're like me, I'm sympathetic to the objectives of many of these environmental nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and have either joined or made monetary contributions over the years, but if someone were to ask me to describe how doing this "helps save the environment and protect biodiversity" I would have been at a bit of a loss to answer. That is, until now.

We all know that biodiversity plays an important part in safeguarding our future, yet "Protecting biodiversity is widely recognized as problematic for both ecological and political reasons. Ecological threats often stem directly from political hurdles, and political differences, in turn, increasingly find their root cause in ecological questions and controversies." So here we are, with two different yet connected items: biodiversity and politics. Besides the fact that agreeing on the definition of biodiversity and sustainability can be thorny issues, throw into the mix a dose of political self-interest and you can often come up with complex yet ineffective policies. This can be complicated enough when you look at these problems on a domestic level, but what about on a national and transnational level? Yet, NGOs are forging ahead and making progress despite these hurdles. How do they do it and what enhances their ability to protect transnational biodiversity? Gunter takes an in-depth look at NGOs, what they are, how they operate, and their use of various strategies in the battle to protect biodiversity.

I particularly enjoyed the first section of the book, *The Transnational and Interdependent Nature of Biodiversity Protection*. It sounds intimidating, but don't let the big words fool you. Gunter's easily understandable analysis makes it clear that he has a passion for the intricacies of this subject, and the diagrams make the dialog very clear. He starts off by setting the framework for our understanding of why biodiversity is so important globally and how political differences come into play by leading us through the roles of NGOs in both the ecological and political realms. He guides us easily through the three fundamental linkages that he asserts enhance the ability of an NGO to protect transnational biodiversity: the domestic—international link, the ecological—economic link, and the short-term—long-term link. The better NGOs are at making the connections, the more effective they will be according to Gunter. When I emerged from this first section, I felt like I already had a much better understanding of the topic.

He uses the next two sections to take a closer look at the two main groups of strategies that NGOs currently utilize: mainstream strategies (lobbying, litigation, scientific research, property acquisition/maintenance, and monitoring of agreements) and participatory strategies (grassroots networking, and community education). Using examples, he demonstrates how different organizations use and focus on different combinations of strategies to help them build relationships which in turn help them be effective advocates and negotiators.

Gunter's last section is devoted to examining NGOs' organizational structures, detailing the strengths and limitations of organizational characteristics and how each of these can influence an NGO's effectiveness. He stresses that "Partnerships, in particular, play a pivotal role" and that "The majority of environmental NGOs cannot be effective on their own". Trying to do it all and spreading oneself too thin more often than not will lead to nowhere so the extreme importance of forging partnerships with other environmental NGOs is emphasized here. This, probably more than anything else in the book, really made me reflect on how even at a local level (and Orange Audubon Society is definitely a local environmental NGO) cooperative and complimentary partnerships are critical in sustaining effective efforts to promote responsible growth and environmental resource protection right in our own backyard.

I found this book to very informative and enlightening. Gunter gives comprehensive and impartial look at the various ways that NGOs help shape national and international environmental policies and you can be sure that these are the policies that will shape the world for generations to come. A must read for anyone who cares about the environment and seeks a better understanding of what can be done and different ways to do it.

Dr. Michael M. Gunter, Jr. is an Assistant Professor of Political Science at Rollins College. He holds a Ph.D. in Political Science and a graduate certificate in Environmental Systems from the University of Kentucky.



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on issues facing our
environment! Sign
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e-newsletters and
learn how you can
help birds with the
click of a mouse!



<http://ga1.org/natureadvocate/home.html>

Calendar of Events

- December 3, 2005 - Saturday**
LARA Bird Survey; 7:30am-Noon.
Pam Bowen 386-329-4870
pbowen@sjrwmd.com
- December 10, 2005 - Saturday**
Lake Jessup Conservation Area Bird Survey.
Lorne Malo 407-349-2536/407-659-4853(w)
- December 14, 2005 - January 5, 2006**
Christmas Bird Count period. See p.3 for details
- December 15, 2005 - Thursday**
General Meeting, 7:00pm, Leu Gardens.
OAS Board Meeting takes place prior to the
General Meeting at 5:30pm. All welcome.
Loretta Satterthwaite 407-886-2925
- December 16, 2005 - Friday**
Emeralda-Sunnyhill CBC. Contact Mary Remer
321-365-0934 or remer5@netzero.net.
- December 17, 2005 - Saturday**
Mead Gardens Bird Survey; 8:00am-10:00am.
Dexter Richardson 407-760-8193
dex@dexwine.com
- December 17, 2005 - Saturday**
Wekiva River Basin CBC. Contact Jay Exum
407-804-1331 or Kathy Hale 407-843-0615
- December 18, 2005 - Sunday**
Seminole Ranch Conservation Area Butterfly Survey.
Randy Snyder 407-851-5416
- December 19, 2005 - Monday**
Merritt Island NWR CBC. Contact Jim Pedersen
321-276-4981 or Ned Steel 321-452-1140/
nedsteel@msn.com.
- December 21, 2005 - Wednesday**
Zellwood-Mt. Dora CBC. Contact Wes Biggs
407-384-9766 or 407-376-6967 (cell).
- January 7, 2006 - Saturday**
LARA Bird Survey; 7:30am-Noon.
Pam Bowen 386-329-4870
pbowen@sjrwmd.com
- January 14, 2006 - Saturday**
Bird of Prey ID Course #2 - LANSRA
Bob Sanders 407-898-9798
- January 19, 2006 - Thursday**
General Meeting, 7:00pm, Leu Gardens.
OAS Board Meeting takes place prior to the
General Meeting at 5:30pm. All welcome.
Loretta Satterthwaite 407-886-2925
- January 21, 2006 - Saturday**
OAS Field Trip - Merritt Island NWR
Bob Ferguson 407-644-7850
- February 17-20, 2006 - Fri-Mon**
Great Backyard Bird Count
www.Birdsource.org/GBBC
- February 18, 2006 - Sat**
Orlando Wetlands Festival, Christmas FL
Mark Sees 407-567-1706, Olabisi Cox 407-246-2213
- February 24-26, 2006 - Fri-Sun**
Everglades Bird Trek 2006, Everglades Nat'l Park
Broward Co. Audubon Society 954-776-5585.
www.browardaudubon.org/birdfest.htm

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