



*"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: December 10, 2002 - 7pm The Florida Panther Posse and Wings of Hope Program

Can radio collaring endangered Florida panthers and tracking their movements by telemetry ensure their survival? Ricky Pires, founder and director of the Panther Refuge/Panther Posse program at the Florida Gulf Coast University in Naples, wants to instill an awareness that an individual can make a difference. Ricky has been rehabbing wildlife in Southwest Florida for 15 years. Don't expect to see a live Florida panther at this presentation, but join us December 10 for an fascinating program.

Deborah Green, Vice President

## December Meeting Date Change

Please note that due to the holidays, the December general meeting will be held on **Tuesday, December 10th at 7pm**. The meeting will still be held in the Camellia Room at Leu Gardens. The OAS Board Meeting will be at 5:30pm, same date.

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

May you and yours have a safe and joyous holiday season.

*Orange Audubon Society meetings are held the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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*

## November Field Trip Report DICK SMITH, FIELD TRIP CHAIR

Wow! It was cold on the morning of November 23, 2002, when 23 members and guests of OAS birded the North Shore Restoration Area of Lake Apopka. Jim Peterson of St. Johns River Water Management District was gracious enough to give up his Saturday morning to act as our host. We are very grateful, and extend our thanks to Jim.

Fifty-nine (59) species were observed with Cassin's Kingbird, Western Kingbird and Black-crowned Night Herons being the birds of the day. Eight (8) species of raptors were also present: Bald Eagle (both juvenile

and adult), Northern Harrier (lots), Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk (lots) and American Kestrel (several).

Zellwood is a great place to bird, and we obviously could not cover the entire area in one morning. There were so many species to observe that we could have spent all morning in just one section. It was a beautiful day, without a cloud in the sky, and a great place to be in the great outdoors with good birding friends.

## Participate in a Christmas Bird Count in your Area!

Although there is no field trip this month, we are encouraging everyone to participate in a Christmas Bird Count in your area. The data gathered during these counts is vital in assessing the health of bird populations across North America so please help if you can. Contact the count leader for details on dates and times:

### **Emeralda-Sunnyhill Area**

Ruth Duesing  
352-324-3452

### **Zellwood-Mount Dora Area**

Kurt Radamaker [kurtrad@bellsouth.net](mailto:kurtrad@bellsouth.net)  
407-352-6113

### **Econlockhatchee Area**

December 28, 2002  
Lorne Malo [lmalo@sjrwmd.com](mailto:lmalo@sjrwmd.com)  
407-659-4853 (w) / 407-349-2536 (h)

### **Wekiva River Area**

December 14, 2002  
Fred Harden [gatorfred@aol.com](mailto:gatorfred@aol.com)  
407-323-7459

## President's Message LORETTA SATTERTHWAITE, PRESIDENT

I hope you all had a very happy and healthy Thanksgiving holiday. Your Orange Audubon board of directors has been thankful this past year to find very qualified and willing members to replace those elected to the board who have since had to resign their positions because of moving away from the area. In June, David Hendricks submitted his resignation because he was moving to the West Palm Beach area for a short while before moving to the west coast (as in Oregon). At the summer board meeting, the board approved the nomination of Claire Hilliker to fill the vacant position. As you know, Claire is our new editor and she also serves as our membership recruitment chair. I was especially thankful to have her help with the audio-visual equipment at the November

meeting. In September, Gary White who served on our conservation committee, and who also wrote several excellent letters to the editor to The Orlando Sentinel, accepted a position in the Lakeland area and submitted his resignation. In October the board approved the nomination of Susan Clary to fill the vacant seat. Susan had been elected to the board previously, but had been unable to serve because of a job conflict. We are happy to have Susan back on the board.

Just after the October meeting, Jeremy Taylor notified me that he had accepted a position with Florida Fish and Wildlife in the Ft. Lauderdale area. Therefore, we have another vacancy on the board. If you have an interest in helping Orange Audubon fulfill its goals of conservation and education

in the central Florida area and would like to serve on the board of directors, please contact me (LNS-OAS@att.net or 407/886-2925). We need to fill this position at the Dec. 10th meeting, so do it now.

Perhaps you'll see some Orange Audubon volunteers at the Winter Park Farmers' Market on Dec. 7th. (If we're not there, check it out on the 14th.) Join us at the general meeting on Dec. 10th if you can; remember to bring your checkbook for that last minute purchase of stocking stuffers, including nature-oriented tee shirts, tote bags, books and coffee mugs, not to mention some great bargains on the auction block! *Have a wonderful holiday season. Peace to all.*

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## Conservation News PEGGY COX, CHAIR

OAS members Marge Holt and Peggy Cox have been attending the Orange County Transportation Commission meetings and OAS presented formal comments to the Commission on November 13th. We stated support for the I-4 corridor improvements, including light rail, mass transit projects that use commuter rail, light rail, expanded bus routes, and other means to expedite moving people to large employment and activity centers like Downtown, Maitland Center, UCF, and the I-Drive area. We are opposed to new road corridors that push sprawl into rural areas, fragmenting ecosystems and causing more damage to our stressed water resources. The final report of the Transportation Commission will be presented on December 18th at 9am in the County Administration Build-

ing. The Commission report will be presented to the Orange County Board of Commissioners on January 7, 2003. Members of the Wekiva Coalition (Nancy Prine, Keith Schue) and the Wekiva Task Force (Charles Lee) presented formal comments on the Wekiva area and the proposed "Western Beltway" that would impact the Wekiva River basin. Suggestions on the roadway design and proposed land acquisitions that would continue to protect this area and the rural areas of northwest Orange County were presented as a necessary part of any future transportation plan for Orange county. A proposed Text Amendment to the Orange County Comp Plan has been presented and passed by the Orange County Planning Agency. It would establish a Future Land Use Designation of "Preservation" to recognize publicly owned lands acquired for environmental protection. Low-impact recreational or education uses would be allowed under this designation so long as they avoid human encroachment into environmentally sensitive areas. Establishing this designation is a step towards acquiring more environmentally sensitive properties by the County. We are seeking answers as to what is planned for the criteria and selection of such lands, who will be making these decisions (Orange County has had a Natural Lands Selection Committee in the past, with representation from several environmental groups), and how will such a program be funded. Orange County currently has a Natural Resource Enhancement program run by their Dept. of Environmental Protection that has pur-

chased some lands for environmental protection, notably the Hal Scott Preserve and part of the Holland Ranch just this year. That program has no dedicated funding source. The Comp Plan Amendments will be discussed at the Dec. 17th County Commission meeting.

Orange Audubon is monitoring a possible violation of State law by the Lake County School Board in failing to survey a new school site for gopher tortoises before clearing and excavating the site just south of Clermont. Formal complaints were filed with the FFWCC by area residents, as this is the third school site that the Lake County School Board has failed to follow the necessary procedures and permits about gopher tortoises. In the previous 2 instances, gopher tortoises were killed on the sites and the School Board was fined. Gopher tortoises were known to inhabit this new site, but no formal survey was done, as is required, so the investigation has now been turned over the State Attorney's office. A formal Scrub Jay Survey will be conducted by the Lake County Department of Water Resources in Lake County. Training will be in January and February with the survey to start in late February or March. Call Peggy Cox, at 352-429-1042, or email [pegcox@att.net](mailto:pegcox@att.net) for a brochure to sign-up to help.

The next Conservation Committee meeting will be in January, either the 6th or 20th. Details will be in the January OASIS, or call Peggy Cox at 352-429-1042 for more information after January 1st.

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

<http://www.orangeaudubonfl.org>

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## Hats off to OAS Volunteers!

Beautiful weather and a gathering of terrific volunteers, made for a successful and fun-filled Lake Eola Fiesta in the Park event on November 2nd & 3rd. However, Mother Nature was not so cooperative on November 16th for the First Annual Tibet-Butler Preserve Birding & Wildlife Celebration. Cindy Meketa and other T-BP staff & volunteers thought of everything (well, everything except sunshine) for this well organized event – even lunch for participants.

We couldn't have done it without a lot of help from these folks at Lake Eola or both\* events. Thanks you, Chris Gandy\*, Doris Dehler, Delma O'Malley, Richard Poole & Christine Brown, Winnie Tyler, L. D. Lambright, Claire Hilliker, Leesa Sward, Bob Stamps, & Loretta Satterthwaite\*. We appreciate your efforts!

## Audubon Adventures Needs Sponsors!

OAS has sponsored 15 Audubon Adventures kits in classrooms so far this school year. OAS strongly supports the education of our natural resources and is committed to the goal of making Audubon Adventures available to every third through fifth grade teacher who requests the kit for their classroom. We need your help! We desperately need sponsors to help secure the 50 additional requests OAS has for this year. A donation of \$41.50 can go along ways towards promoting an understanding of the fragile balance of world's ecosystems by giving teachers the tools they need to educate their students.

The program this year features four distinct ecological communities: desert, freshwater wetland, temperate deciduous forest and coastal. When the classroom receives the kit the teacher becomes a member of OAS and receives the monthly newsletter. The teachers enrolled so far in this year's program are: Besty Bains from Lost Lake Elementary; Kim Middleton, Erin Bolsten, Elizabeth Mitchell, Sandi Dickson, and Jeff Bush all from Deerwood Elementary; Dee Fraiser, Kendra Sasser, Joy Tyson, Kathy Peacock and Steffanie Bertino all from Brookshire Elementary; and Sandy Young, Ms. Willaiams, Ms. Duncan and Ms. Putman from Aloma Elementary.

If you or someone you know would like sponsor a classroom for Audubon Adventures, please make out a check to Orange Audubon Society and mail it to P.O. Box 941142, Maitland, FL 32794-1142. Please specify Audubon Adventures program on your check.

Mona Phipps, Education Co-Chair

## Spring Migration Field Trip to Fort DeSoto

Just a reminder. We will be having a special field trip to Ft. DeSoto, in St. Petersburg, on the weekend of April 12, 2003. (This is in addition to the regular monthly field trip for April which will be on Saturday, 4/19/2003 at Mead Gardens.) The plan is to drive over, at your convenience, the afternoon or evening of Friday, April 11th and spend the night at Eckerd College in the Elderhostel. The rooms will cost us \$55.00 each, with accommodations for two (2) people per room.

The next morning we can then be at Ft. DeSoto bright and early to bird the entire day. Ft. DeSoto has always been a premier birding spot for returning migrants coming back across the Gulf of Mexico. It is also an



excellent location for gulls and terns.

We must inform Eckerd College of the number of rooms that we want at about the time of the December meeting, so you need to be thinking about this now. There will be a sign-up sheet at the December meeting, or you can call me at 407-834-2197. Dick Smith, Field Trip Chair.

## Silent Auction Continues at the December Meeting

The action continues on "The Auction Block", a mini silent auction to benefit the Chertok Nature Photography Contest (CNPC) endowment fund. Items auctioned include:

- ☆ Bird's Nest Box - **Lukas Nursery**
- ☆ Bird's Nest Box - made & donated by **Dr. Richard Poole**
- ☆ Premium Picnic Wild Bird Chow, 40 lb. bags - **Purina Mills**, Bushnell, FL
- ☆ Gourmet foods & stoneware bread basket - **Williams-Sonoma**, Winter Park
- ☆ Shade Grown & Fair Trade coffee, 1-lb. bags - **Starbucks**, Winter Park (17-92)
- ☆ "The Essentials of Nature Photography" – written & donated by **Milton Heiberg**
- ☆ "Coral Honeysuckle", 1st Place Photo, 2000 CNPC - photographed & donated by **Robert H. (Bob) Stamps**

More items are expected, just not here at this writing. Bring cash and checks. Support CNPC, bargain hunt and do some holiday shopping all at once. Have an item you wish to donate? Let me know - 407-644-0796, mwilliams@cfl.rr.com. Thanks for your support.

Teresa Williams, CNPC Chair

## Conservation...cont'd

The Audubon of Florida St. Johns Regional Conservation Committee meeting will be January 18, 2003 in Flagler Beach, hosted by the Flagler Audubon Society.

The St. Johns River Summit will be January 13-14, 2003 in Jacksonville, FL at the Prime Osborn Convention Center. This Summit is sponsored by the St. Johns River Water Management District, the City of Jacksonville, and the FL DEP. Conservation or-

ganizations are being urged to attend, and OAS will have several people in attendance. Seminole, St. Johns, Volusia and Flagler Audubon Societies are planning on attending along with representatives from Audubon of Florida. The Summit is free, but registration is necessary. For more information call 904-630-2709, or go to the St. Johns River WMD website, or City of Jacksonville website.

## Officers & Board Members

President ..... Loretta Satterthwaite 407-886-2925  
 1st Vice-President ..... Leesa Sward 407-677-5374  
 2nd Vice-President ..... Deborah Green 407-869-7762  
 Secretary ..... Terry Godts 321-436-4932  
 Treasurer ..... Teresa Williams 407-644-0796

Alex Alexander • Susan Clary • Peggy Cox • Susan Farnsworth  
 Louise Friderici • Marjorie Haverland-Holt • Milton Heiberg  
 Claire Hilliker • Mona Phipps • Arthur Ranson • Dick Smith  
 Bob Stamps • Jim Thomas • Pete Vogt

### Committees/Chair

Birdathon ..... Susan Farnsworth  
 Chertok Nature Photo Contest ..... Teresa Williams  
 Conservation ..... Peggy Cox  
 Education ..... Deborah Green & Mona Phipps  
 Field Trips ..... Dick Smith  
 Finance ..... Milton Heiberg  
 Hospitality ..... Tom & Ruth Williams  
 Membership/Promotion ..... Claire Hilliker

## Calendar of Events

### December 7, 2002 - Saturday

Lake Apopka North Shore Restoration Area Bird Survey; 7:30am-Noon.  
 Jim Peterson 352-735-1267

### December 10, 2002 - Tuesday

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

### December 7 or 14, 2002 - Saturday

Fund-raising Event, 7:00am-2:00pm.  
 Winter Park Farmer's Market.  
 Teresa Williams 407-644-0796

### December 14, 2002 - Saturday

Wekiva Area Christmas Bird Count  
 Fred Harden [gatorfred@aol.com](mailto:gatorfred@aol.com)  
 407-323-7459

### December 28, 2002 - Saturday

Econlockhatchee Area Christmas Bird Count  
 Lorne Malo [lmalo@sjrwmd.com](mailto:lmalo@sjrwmd.com)  
 407-659-4853 (W) / 407-349-2536 (H)

### January 13-14, 2003 - Mon-Tues

St. Johns River Summit  
 Prime Osborne Convention Center  
 Jacksonville, FL  
 904-630-2709

### January 16, 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

### February 14-17, 2003 - Fri-Mon

Great Backyard Bird Count  
<http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/>

### February 20, 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

### February 22, 2003 - Saturday

Orlando Wetlands Park Festival, Christmas, FL  
 Mark Sees 407-568-1706

### April 5-6, 2003 - Sat-Sun

Lake Eola Festival in the Park, Orlando, FL  
 Teresa Williams 407-644-0796

### April 5, 2003 - Saturday

OAS Birdathon, Central Florida  
 Sue Farnsworth 407-281-9178

### April 12, 2003 - Saturday

Spring Migration Field Trip, Fort DeSoto, FL  
 Dick Smith 407-834-2197

## December Meeting Date Change

Please note that due to the holidays, the December general meeting will be held on **Tuesday, December 10th at 7pm**. The meeting will still be held in the Camellia Room at Leu Gardens. The OAS Board Meeting will be at 5:30pm, same date.

## T-Shirts at December 10th Meeting

For those who are interested in purchasing OAS T-shirts, the entire inventory will be available at the December meeting. Special orders placed in November will also be available. Arrive early for an opportunity to browse & make your purchases before the meeting begins. Display tables will be set up by 6:30 p.m. Early birds get the bargain priced items! Thanks for supporting OAS through past and future purchases.

## Future Outreach/Fund Raising Event

The next opportunity to help will be December 7th (or 14th) at the Winter Park Farmer's Market, from 7 a.m. until 2 p.m. This festive market is especially fun during the holidays, and promises to be another good fund raising event. The date was tentative at this article's writing, but will be confirmed at its reading. If you want to help, please contact me by phone (407-644-0796) or email ([mwilliams@cfl.rr.com](mailto:mwilliams@cfl.rr.com)). Many thanks!  
 Teresa Williams

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 ORGANIZATION  
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