



"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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Audubon Adventures

Do you know a student (grades 3-6) who might be interested in the environment, perhaps your child or grandchild? Sponsor an Audubon Adventures classroom! A check to Orange Audubon in the amount of \$41.50 will send a package of environmental lessons for the children, a teacher's guide, a poster, and other materials to the Orange County classroom of your choice. Note on your check that the (tax deductible) donation is for Audubon Adventures and mail it to OAS at the address listed on page 2. Thanks!

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

This Month's Program: October 16, 2003 - 7:00pm Bioscape: Landscaping with Nature with Jim Thomas

"Bioscaping" is a term coined by Jim Thomas to refer to landscaping to increase wild-life habitat in developed areas. A past OAS Board member and president, Jim Thomas has been promoting the bioscape concept since 1975, through his environmental consulting firm Biosphere Consulting. Since 1991, Jim has furthered this concept through his Biosphere Nursery in Winter Garden. Many of us know of Jim's leadership of Friends of Lake Apopka in efforts to clean up the lake and more recently the new Oakland Nature Preserve on Lake Apopka's South Shore.

In this program, Jim will share with us what we can do recreate the natural environment in our own backyards. Join us on October 16 for a great program. As always, it is free and open to the public, so invite your friends.

Deborah Green, Vice President

September Field Trip Report DICK SMITH, FIELD TRIP CHAIR

On September 20, 2003, fourteen OAS members and their guests traveled to Saddle Creek Park near Lakeland to try to find some fall migrants. Although we didn't have great luck with the Wood Warblers, we did have 56 species including Limpkin, Wood Stork and

Barred Owl. The weather cooperated, (it wasn't too hot or humid), and afterwards we had a nice picnic at one the pavilions. All in all, it was a good day to be in the great outdoors with good birding friends.

October Field Trip - Smyrna Dunes Park

On Saturday, October 18, 2003, we will travel to Smyrna Dunes Park in New Smyrna Beach for our monthly Field Trip. This is a good location for Shorebirds, Gulls and Terns, and the timing should be just about right for fall migration. We will walk at a very leisurely pace on the boardwalks and the beach for about two (2) miles. Afterwards, we will enjoy a picnic lunch back at the parking lot pavilion at about 11:30-12:00.

Meet at rear of the McDonalds' parking

lot on the east side of I-4 on SR 46 in Sanford across from Seminole Town Center shopping center in time to get signed up, assigned to a carpool and leave at 7:30 AM. Bring binoculars, field guides, sunscreen and/or insect repellent, water and a picnic lunch.

Should you have any questions, contact me at 407-834-2197 (H), 407-257-7361 (M) or dick.smith@zepamfg.com. See you there!

Dick Smith, Field Trip Chair

President's Message LORETTA SATTERTHWAITE, PRESIDENT

It's fall!! Can't you just feel the change in the weather? Now is the time to watch for the fall migration. You should see some great birds coming through but, even if you don't, you should try to get out and enjoy these cooler mornings and evenings.

We've included the budget for this fiscal year in this issue; check it out and you'll see that we've again 'balanced the budget'. Anything you can do to help the cause (tell a friend about great t-shirt buys at our booth at Lake Eola or ask if they'd like to under-

write one of the Audubon Adventure classrooms, etc.). We're also, always, looking for new members so bring someone to the meeting or to a field trip; maybe they'll join OAS!!

We still have one open position on the board — are you interested in getting more involved in the operations of OAS? We welcome your assistance (contact me at 407/886-2925 or LNS-oas@att.net). And don't forget, we can use non-board volunteers, too (especially for Lake Eola on Nov. 1st and 2nd, hint! hint!)

One last thing, if you are planning to replace your binoculars or if you get new ones as a gift, perhaps you'd consider donating your used ones to OAS for use with our nature education programs. It would be great to have some 'extras' on hand to use when we have groups, of children or adults, who are beginners. Keep that in mind throughout the upcoming holiday season. See you at the meeting on the 16th!!

Conservation News PEGGY COX, CHAIR

Updates: •The Lake Butler Water Quality Ad Hoc Committee heard the report of Dr. Lawrence Battoe, of St. Johns River Water Management District at their September 15th meeting. Dr. Battoe's report determined that the decline of water quality in Lake Butler was due to several events, starting with the drought of 1999-2003, then the sudden rise of water levels from record amounts of rain in 2003 washing several year's worth of sediment into the Lake. Other factors included increased runoff through 2 stormwater outlets to the Lake, due to increased development feeding the stormwater systems. While the cove restoration project that included dredging the cove contributed increased phosphorus to the Lake, it was not the leading cause of the water quality decline. The committee will meet on October 13th for peer review reports of Dr. Battoe's report, and to discuss a possible future management plan for Lake Butler. •The proposed Econ River Educational Center feasibility and site study, and planning and design were included in

the new Orange County budget. OAS expects to be part of a review of possible Center sites in October. •Land Acquisition efforts continue in Lake and Orange counties. In Orange County, the Board of County Commissioners approved a \$20 million bonding program to cement an environmental land acquisition program for the County. We look forward to helping structure a advisory type committee to implement the program with County staff. In Lake county, the public polling done by Trust for Public Lands and Nature Conservancy was just completed and we are awaiting the results. They need to show at least 35% support for a public land acquisition program for continuation with a ballot referendum for an ad valorem tax for the program. The County has appointed an excellent 9 member Public Lands Acquisition and Advisory Committee that will begin work when the ballot referendum is passed. We expect the referendum to be on the primary ballot next spring.

A Very Important Issue is being discussed in the coming months by the St. Johns River Water Management District. They have released their draft 2003 Water Supply Assessment for public comment. This assessment projects water use and the resulting impacts to water resources and natural systems through the year 2025. Water supply assessments are used to determine whether existing and reasonably anticipated sources of water and conservation efforts are ad-

equated to supply water for all existing and anticipated future needs, and to sustain the water resources and related natural systems. These assessments are required every 5 years. The 1995 water data is the base year for this assessment and will continue to be the base year in future assessments. The goals are to project water use through the year 2025 and define the limits of water resource impacts; and to compare the projected water resource impacts with water resource constraints to identify Priority Water Resource Caution Areas (PWRCA). Most of Orange, Seminole and Lake counties are already identified as PWRCA's from the 1998 Water Supply Assessment. A public workshop will be held Friday, October 17th from 1:00-3:00pm at the SJRWMD Headquarters, 4049 Reid Street, State Hwy 100, Palatka, Florida. The assessment summary is available on the St. John's website at http://www.sjrwmd.com/programs/plan_monitor/sup_planning/assessment/. You can submit comments either online by email to: bwilder@sjrwmd.com, or by sending written comments to:

Beth Wilder
Division of Water Supply Management
P.O. Box 1429
Palatka, FL 32178-1429.

All comments must be received by October 31, 2003. I will have a summary of the workshop and specific comments on the 2003 Water Supply Assessment in the November edition of the OASis.

Lake Apopka -- Good News!!

A proposed agreement with the U.S. Department of Justice has been added to the agenda for the St. Johns River Water Management District Governing Board meeting in Palatka on October 7, 2003. This agreement will resolve all the legal issues pertaining to the District resulting from the bird die off in the late 1990s. For details about this, visit www.sjrwmd.com and go to "What's New". Once this memorandum of understanding has been approved by the SJRWMD Governing Board, the Lake Apopka restoration project should be able to move forward.

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>

First Hawk ID Field Trip

The 1st Hawk ID Field Trip will be held on Saturday, November 15, 2003 on St. Johns River Water Management District property at the Lake Apopka North Shore Restoration Area in Zellwood. Bob Sanders will be the Field Trip Leader, assisted by Bob Wheeler of OAS and Jim Peterson of SJRWMD. The plan is to car pool and drive to a location on the property where a stationary observation post will be established. The field trip will be for approximately 3 hours.

Meet at the old Bass Sod Farm gate, located 1.1 miles west of U.S. Hwy 441 on Jones Ave., at 9:00 AM. The extra vehicles will be left inside the locked gate and the group will car pool to the selected location. Car-pooling is absolutely necessary on this property, so if you have an SUV, truck or other high clearance vehicle, it would be good to bring it. Bring binoculars, spotting scopes, field guides, folding chairs or stools, water and your enthusiasm for raptors, and please be on time.

Due to the nature of this type of field trip, attendance may be limited. Contact Dick Smith 407-834-2197 (H), 407-257-7361 (M) or dick.smith@zepamfg.com to reserve space or if you have any questions.

Stewart Nominations to the SJRWMD

Commissioner Linda Stewart, acting on behalf of Orange County, has made the following nominations to the Board of Directors for the St. Johns River Alliance, Citizen Advisory Committee and Technical Advisory Committee:

Marjorie Holt of the Sierra Club Central Florida Chapter and Orange Audubon Society's Econ Chair on the conservation committee for a position on the St. Johns River Alliance Board of Directors; and Ken Bosserman, Keith Schue, Eugene Stocardo and Cecilia Height for the Citizen Advisory Committee. The Technical Advisory Committee members for Orange County will be: Krishna Krishnamurthy, Manager Stormwater Division; Rick Baird Orange County Environmental Protection Division Laboratory Administrator; Beth Jackson, Program Manager, Orange County Environmental Protection Division; and Alex Alexander, OAS Conservation Committee member, former OAS Board member, OCEPC Board Member & DEP, District Director Ret.

WANTED: Conservation Advocates

The Conservation Committee will be meeting on October 6th and November 3rd (Monday evenings) at 6:30pm at the Downtown Orlando Library. We welcome you to come and learn more about current conservation issues in our region. We really need volunteers to follow specific issues. A person to follow National conservation issues is needed. National Audubon has a policy office that disseminates information for local use on important national conservation issues, like Forests, Migratory Birds, Energy policy, etc. We need someone to focus on following those issues and helping us with them. Specific species, specific watershed issues, local County Comp Plan and land use issues. If you are interested in any specific conservation issue, please come to the next Conservation committee meeting and let's work together, if possible, on these issues. If I can answer any questions, please give me a call or send an email..

Peggy Cox, Conservation Chair 352-429-1042 / pegcox@att.net

Let the Festival and the Fundraising Begin!

About 100 "volunteer hours" are needed to cover OAS' participation in the Lake Eola Fiesta in the Park Arts and Crafts Festival on November 1st and 2nd around beautiful Lake Eola in downtown Orlando. Volunteer help is needed each day (Saturday and Sunday) between 8am ~ 6pm. Fiesta in the Park has been OAS' most successful fundraising event of the past 8 years. With fundraising events providing about 30% of OAS' total budgeted revenue this year; they are vital to meeting our fiscal goals.

We have the perfect job opening for your talents, so come for an hour or come for the day. Help set up or break down our display, sell T-shirts, make children's nature art collages, enjoy the gift of gab with event-goers and get to know fellow OAS volunteers. On-the-job training and excellent festival fringe benefits (you can eat funnel cake!) can all be yours by contacting me at mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or 407-644-0796. Every minute of your help and company will be sincerely appreciated.

Teresa Williams

Bylaws Meeting

There will be a special meeting of the OAS Board of Directors at 5:30 pm on October 16, 2003 at Leu Gardens in Orlando, for the purpose of voting on proposed changes to the By-Laws. If you would like more information, call me at 407-851-5416.

Mary Keim, By-Laws Committee Chair

Tibet-Butler Birding & Wildlife Celebration

Join us in "Preserving Natural Florida" during this free day-long event at the Tibet-Butler Preserve & Vera Carter Environment Center on Saturday November 15th from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Enjoy hiking, on-going environmental programs, guest speakers, exhibitors, live music, and activities for the whole family focusing on birding and wildlife opportunities here at the Preserve. Event day registration required for some activities.

How to get there: To reach the Preserve from the downtown area, take Interstate 4 West to Exit # 68. At the end of the ramp make a right turn onto State Road 535. Drive through the first light (WDW Resort Area) and make a left-hand turn at the second light (7-11, Texaco, Olive Garden, and Sheraton on the four corners) onto County Road 535 (also known as Winter Garden-Vineland Road) for 5.5 miles and the Preserve's entrance will be on your right.

Cost: **Free event.** Registration required for some activities. For more information call: 407-876-6696.

Budget

For the Year Ending June 30, 2004

Income:	
Contributions	\$ 7,895
Fund raising/outreach events	6525
Investment earnings (net)	960
Membership dues	3165
Nature education classes	450
Other fund raising	2605
Total income	\$ 21,600
Expenses:	
Conservation	\$ 1050
Education	2525
Fund raising/outreach events	3700
Membership	620
Newsletters and annual brochure	6355
Operating expenses	1675
Other fund raising expenses	2175
Programs	2500
Sanctuary maintenance (from reserves)	1000
Total expenses	\$ 21,600

OAS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Loretta Satterthwaite 407-886-2925

VICE PRESIDENT
Leesa Sward 407-677-5374

VICE PRESIDENT (PROGRAMS)
Deborah Green 407-869-7762

SECRETARY
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Teresa Williams 407-644-0796

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CHERTOK NPC Teresa Williams

CONSERVATION Peggy Cox

EDUCATION Deborah Green
& Leesa Sward

FIELD TRIPS Dick Smith

FINANCE Milton Heiberg

HOSPITALITY Tom & Ruth Williams

MEMBERSHIP Mike Daley

NEWSLETTER Claire Hilliker

Calendar of Events

October 10, 2003 - Friday

"The Florida Travels of William Bartram and
Andre Michaux: Garden in the Wilderness",
Evening with the Authors
UCF Library, main floor, 7:00-9:30pm
RSVP 407-823-2564 or rkibbee@mail.ucf.edu

October 11, 2003 - Saturday

"The Florida Travels of William Bartram and
Andre Michaux: Garden in the Wilderness",
Walking Tour of Blue Spring State Park
Blue Spring State Park 10:00-11:30am
407-823-2564 or rkibbee@mail.ucf.edu

October 11, 2003 - Saturday

Hal Scott Regional Preserve & Park and Long
Branch Park Bird Survey. Call Lorne Malo at
407-659-4853(w) or 407-349-2536(h)

October 16, 2003 - 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

October 18, 2003 - Saturday

Field Trip - Smyrna Dunes State Park
Dick Smith 407-834-2197
dick.smith@zepamfg.com

October 25, 2003 - Saturday

Hal Scott Regional Preserve & Park and Long
Branch Park Butterfly Survey. Call Randy
Snyder (407-851-5416) or Lorne Malo (407-
349-2536)

November 1, 2003 - Saturday

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

November 2, 2003 - Sunday

Eagles in Florida at CBOP; 10am-4pm
Katie Warner 407-644-0190
audubonofflora.org/conservation/cbop.htm

November 12-16, 2003 - Wed-Sun

Space Coast Birding and Wildlife Festival
Neta Harris (321-268-5224) or
Laurilee Thompson (321-268-5000).
www.nbbd.com/fly

November 15, 2003 - Saturday

Field Trip - Birds of Prey @ LANSRA
Dick Smith 407-834-2197
dick.smith@zepamfg.com

November 15, 2003 - Saturday

Tibet-Butler Birding & Wildlife Celebration
Tibet-Butler Preserve 9:00am-3:00pm
Cynthia Meketa 407-876-6696

November 20, 2003 - 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

November 22, 2003 - Saturday

Field Trip - LANSRA
Dick Smith 407-834-2197
dick.smith@zepamfg.com

Wekiva Coordinating Committee Schedule

The new committee will meet for the third time on October 15th and 16th. Meetings are held at the Embassy Suites Hotel Orlando-North, 225 East Altamonte Drive, Altamonte Springs (407-834-2400). On Friday October 10th the schedule for the two days should be posted at the web site: www.wekivacommittee.org. This site also has the proposed meeting schedule and work plan and some reports of the previous meetings; you may find those interesting. Generally the first day of meetings starts at 10:00 a.m. and goes until conclusion (with public comments about 4:00 p.m.) and the second day starts at 9:00 a.m., with public comments again about 4:00 p.m. and the meeting continues until all scheduled business is completed. Here's a chance to see many elected and appointed officials from our area in action. Don't miss it!!

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Orlando, FL
PERMIT NO. 790

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