



*"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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## Reminder...

The 2004 OAS Birdathon is fast approaching! Join us in counting birds to help raise much needed funds for Orange Audubon Society. See p3 for details or visit the Orange Audubon web site for additional information at [www.orangeaudubonfl.org](http://www.orangeaudubonfl.org)



*Orange Audubon Society meetings are held the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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: March 18, 2004 - 7:00pm Frogs of Florida, by Paul Moler

Ever wonder about the chorusing of frogs after a spring rain? That weird clicking sound on cloudy days when you are hiking in the woods? That quank quank quank near water bodies? That balloon-rubbing sound? We've invited Florida's frog expert Paul Moler to talk this month about Florida's many species of frogs. Paul is a biologist for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission in Gainesville. He may bring some tapes of frog songs he has recorded that he will let us have for the cost of duplication, \$5. Join us March 18 for a fascinating program.

Deborah Green, Vice President

## March Field Trip - Disney Wilderness Preserve

On Saturday, March 20, 2004, our monthly field trip will be to the 12,000-acre Disney Wilderness Preserve in Osceola County. This is a magnificent property, which is owned and managed by The Nature Conservancy. We will hike at very leisurely pace for about 3 or 4 miles through the pine flatwoods ecosystem, which is comprised of fifteen different plant communities.

Bring binoculars, field guides, water, insect repellent, sun screen, head cover, lunch, wear your good hiking boots, and be

prepared for a wonderful walk in the great outdoors. We will bird until approximately noon and return to the Learning Center for a picnic lunch.

Meet in the parking lot across from the K-Mart at Sand Lake Road and Turkey Lake Road, just west of I-4, in south Orange County in time to sign up, get assigned to a carpool and leave at 7:30 am.

If you have any questions, contact Dick Smith 407-834-2197 (Home), 407-257-7361 (Cell) or [dick.smith@zepamfg.com](mailto:dick.smith@zepamfg.com).

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

On February 21, 26 OAS members and guests enjoyed a wonderful morning at the Orlando Wetlands Park. We really got lucky! We had a total of 66 species. The bird of the day honors goes to the two Bald Eagle nestlings on the nest. It was quite a sight to see the two together, as this is quite unusual. A "life bird" for many people was the four Gull-billed Terns that put on quite a show for us and allowed us to get really good looks at

them. Other notable birds for the day include American Bittern, Black-crowned Night Heron, Mottled Duck, Cooper's Hawk, Peregrine Falcon, Sora, Purple Gallinule, Limpkin, Common Snipe and Purple Martin. After birding all morning, we had a very nice picnic lunch, complete with homemade brownies, at one of the pavilions.

All in all, it was a great place to be in the great outdoors with good birding friends.

## President's Message LORETTA SATTERTHWAITE, PRESIDENT

As I sit writing this, on what feels like the coldest day so far this season, I know that things will heat up and there will be a flush of growth as spring approaches. Indeed, Orange Audubon is now flush with activities also. The science fair and Orlando Wetlands Festival are behind us, but there are bird and butterfly surveys and field trips continuing monthly, conservation endeavors, legislative activities, the Birdathon, and two more fundraising/outreach events on back-to-back weekends in March and April (see requests for volunteers). Have you

thought about how many hours each of these activities requires of your fellow Auduboners? I know that I am grateful for all of our volunteers who step forward to help out. Orange Audubon receives numerous requests to participate in various arenas and if it were not for these members who are willing to commit just a little time every once in a while, we would be unable to have a presence at these events. Judging the science fair projects, giving talks at the Central Florida Fair, and leading bird walks or tour bus groups at the Orlando Wetlands Festi-

val may take some skills that you feel inadequately suited for, but watching children do nature collages and selling or folding nature t-shirts take no extraordinary skills. Yet all of these activities help Orange Audubon leave a footprint in the community. So, make an effort to help when you can. Thanks.

One other activity in which you may have the privilege to participate is the upcoming primary election on March 9th. Please exercise your right and go to the polls that day. Plan ahead now for November!

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## Nominating Committee Announced

Fellow Audubon members — Dick Smith, Danielle Ponsolle, and Marjorie Holt — have agreed to serve as the nominating committee for the upcoming Orange Audubon Society election at the April meeting. They are charged with bringing a slate of candidates forward at the March meeting to fill each officer position (2-yr terms) and five board positions with terms that expire June, 2007. (Other board positions may need to be filled if any officer positions are filled by current board members whose terms will not expire in June 2004 when the new board takes office.) They will also accept nominations from the floor at either the March or April OAS general meetings. Terms of those elected will begin immediately after the June potluck dinner meeting.

Requirements for any board position are that you be a member of Orange Audubon Society and that you be willing to attend board meetings. A basic commitment to serve OAS and to help it achieve its goals is all that is really needed. Can you help? If you would like more information, you may contact any of these three nominating committee members (Dick at 407/257-7361; Danielle at 407/658-4869; or Marge at 407/679-6759) or any current officer (phone numbers listed on back of this newsletter) or board member. Visit the OAS website at [www.orangeaudubonfl.org](http://www.orangeaudubonfl.org) for other ways to contact current board members or other OAS leaders.

## Come to a Garden Party..

With your help Orange Audubon's second-time participation in Harry P. Leu Gardens' Annual Spring Plant Sale can be a big success. The dates and times are Saturday, March 27th (8:00am-5:00pm) and Sunday, March 28th (9:00am-5:00pm). Attendees of the plant sale - about 9,000 expected - receive free admission to the gardens where OAS and other participating organizations "set up shop" to sell plants, pottery, related garden goodies, or in our case, nature t-shirts. The public is invited to this 'garden party' where they will enjoy s-h-o-p-p-i-n-g while wandering through the grounds. OAS needs you for Friday setup (4-7pm) or for a Saturday or Sunday shift (8am-noon, or noon-5pm). To sign up for either day, contact Teresa: phone 407-644-0796 or email her at [mwilliams@cfl.rr.com](mailto:mwilliams@cfl.rr.com).

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## OWP Festival a Success!

Although it started out a bit on the chilly side, those of you who were able to attend the Orlando Wetlands Park Festival this past February 28th were treated to an absolutely beautiful day. There were a number of local organizations represented, as well as a variety of activities to participate in: guided bus and walking tours, bird banding and mist-netting demonstrations, rappelling and tree climbing, face painting, horse and pony rides, wildlife shows, live folk music and Native American demonstrations to name but a few.

A big THANK YOU to all who volunteered at the Orlando Wetlands Park Festival. Your generous donation of time and expertise was invaluable in helping make this event the success that it was. We couldn't have done it without you, thanks again!

## ...or Take a Walk in the Park

This is OAS' ninth year of participation in Orlando's Fiesta in the Park, a two-day arts and crafts festival at beautiful Lake Eola in downtown Orlando, April 3rd & 4th. If you're unable to help at Leu Gardens, don't despair. Lend a hand during Fiesta in the Park, where volunteers are needed from 8am until 6pm each day.

The Fiesta event requires about 80 volunteer hours. Got no experience? That's no problem - no bad habits to break. Benefits include on-the-job training and time off to enjoy a walk in the park. To sign up for a shift (8am-1pm or 1-6pm), contact Teresa: phone 407-644-0796 or e-mail her at [mwilliams@cfl.rr.com](mailto:mwilliams@cfl.rr.com). Thanks for volunteering!

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  
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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>





## Third and Final "Return to Roost" Evening Field Trip for 2004

We will have our last evening field trip of the season on March 21, 2004. This is a driving field trip where we simply drive to one location in the Orlando Wetlands Park and let the birds come to us. It really turns into a social event as we sit, snack on goodies and engage in stimulating conversation, while the roosting birds return after a day of foraging at other locations.

We will meet in the rear parking lot of the Burger King at Hwy 50 (Colonial Dr.) and Alafaya Trail at 5:00 PM and carpool to the park. Bring binoculars, spotting scopes, field guides, folding chairs, water and snacks and join us for what has become a very pleasant and different type of field trip.

If you have any questions, contact Dick Smith at 407-257-7361 (Cell) or dick.smith@zepamfg.com.

## 16th Annual Chertok Nature Photography Contest

You are encouraged to enter Orange Audubon Society's 16th Annual (2004) Chertok Nature Photography Contest. The theme for 2004 is "Native Wildlife of Florida – Preserving Nature through Photography". This is a 35-mm slide competition, open to all ages. The subject matter must be native (to Florida) flora and/or fauna. Here is a fun, and possibly profitable, way to learn something about Florida's native plant and animal life and receive recognition for your photographic talent.

Cash prizes are \$125 for first place, \$75 for second place, and \$50 for third place. First through third place winners and those awarded an honorable mention also receive a ribbon and recognition in Orange Audubon Society's membership newsletter, OASis. First place winning slide will be featured on the cover of OAS' 2004-2005 brochure.

Deadline is May 20, 2004 for postmark or hand delivery of entries, with winners announced June 17, 2004 at OAS' annual potluck dinner and slide show presentation of contest entries. Winners need not be present. A contest entry form with rules for the contest can be obtained by visiting the OAS web site at [www.orangeaudubonfl.org](http://www.orangeaudubonfl.org), or by giving your name and address to Teresa (407-644-0796 or [mwilliams@cfl.rr.com](mailto:mwilliams@cfl.rr.com)). Good lighting and good luck!  
Teresa Williams, CNPC Chair

## Orange Audubon Recognizes Outstanding Young Scientists

Two local students were named as this year's recipients of OAS' Special Award for the 2004 Dr. Nelson Ying Orange County Science Exposition that was held this past February 17-19, 2004 at the Central Florida Fairgrounds. This special award was for research that support efforts to improve the quality of our air, water, and habitat critical to humans, birds, and other wildlife.

"Study of the Effects of Petroleum Pollution on Groundwater in an Aquifer", by **Katrina Newman** was chosen as the most outstanding project in the junior category. Katrina used an model to investigate and quantify the possibility of seepage of com-

mon motor oil into the aquifer if dumped on a typical soil configuration. Her results indicated that even a small amount of oil can make its way down to the aquifer level to contaminate our drinking water supply and that education is critical to the public's understanding of water pollution. Katrina is a student at Gotha Middle School.

**Justin Patterson**, a student at Lake Highland Prep, was chosen as the recipient for the most outstanding project in the senior category. His project, "Removal of Non-Biodegradable Organics from Landfill Leachate" examined the possibility, feasibility, and effectiveness of on-site cyclical treatment of

leachate which is an inevitable by-product of our landfills. His results showed a definite promise for this new, original idea and Justin expressed a desire to further his research in this terribly important field by examining different compounds to treat the leachate.

Each award recipient received a prize consisting of a Certificate of Recognition, a year's membership to the Audubon Society, (National, Audubon of Florida, and Orange Audubon) as well as a cash prize of \$50. Congratulations to these promising young scientists for excellent research and presentations!

## FNPS Annual Conference in Orlando

The Tarflower Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society will host the 24th Annual Conference this year in Orlando. The conference will be held at the Hotel Royal Plaza at Lake Buena Vista, May 13-16, 2004, and will offer an educational experience in understanding and preserving native flora and fauna.

With 400-500 attendees, the Annual Conference is the Society's biggest event. It features renowned speakers, field trips, and three concurrent seminar sessions. Seminar subjects range from the latest academic papers to butterfly gardening for beginners, and vendors will sell books, art, and native plants. There is always something for everyone.

Please join the members of FNPS at this exciting event. The conference website has more detailed information at the following case-sensitive address: [www.fnps.org/chapters/tarflower/conferenceHomePage.htm](http://www.fnps.org/chapters/tarflower/conferenceHomePage.htm).

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact our Conference Chairperson, Karina Veaudry at 407.228.2875 / [veaudry@netzero.net](mailto:veaudry@netzero.net).

Terry Godts

## Ft. DeSoto Field Trip Reminder

Space is still available for the Ft. DeSoto Park overnight trip. \$70.00 gets you a very nice room at Eckerd College for two persons (or, just one, if you desire) for the night of Friday, April 23, 2004. Payment will be due the by the April 15th regular meeting.

Dick Smith, Field Trip Chair



**OAS BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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**FINANCE** ..... Tom & Ruth Williams  
**HOSPITALITY** ..... Mike Daley  
**MEMBERSHIP** ..... Claire Hilliker  
**NEWSLETTER** .....

**Calendar of Events**

**March 6, 2004 - Saturday**

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

**March 13, 2004 - Saturday**

Hal Scott Regional Preserve & Park and Long Branch Park Bird Survey. Call Lorne Malo (407-349-2536)

**March 18, 2004 - 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

**March 20, 2004 - Saturday**

Field Trip - Disney Wilderness Preserve  
Dick Smith 407-834-2197  
dick.smith@zepamfg.com

**March 21, 2004 - Sunday**

Return to Roost - Orlando Wetlands Park  
Dick Smith 407-834-2197  
dick.smith@zepamfg.com

**March 27, 2004 - Saturday**

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

**March 27-28, 2004 - Sat-Sun**

Leu Gardens Plant Sale, Happy P. Leu Gardens  
Teresa Williams 407-644-0796

**April 2-4, 2004 - Fri-Sun**

Big "O" Birding Festival; Lake Okeechobee FL  
www.bigobirdingfestival.com

**April 3, 2004 - Saturday**

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

**April 23-24, 2004 - Fri-Sat**

Ft. DeSoto Field Trip; St. Petersburg FL  
Dick Smith 407-834-2197  
dick.smith@zepamfg.com

**May 13-16, 2004 - Thurs-Sun**

FPNS Annual Conference  
Hotel Royal Plaza, Lake Buena Vista, FL  
Karina Veaudry 407-228-2875  
veaudry@netzero.net

**Free Florida Friendly Landscaping Workshops**

DO YOU KNOW HOW TO:

- \* How to choose Florida Friendly plants?    \* How to winterize your landscape?    \* When to spray for pests and when to fertilize?
- \* How to prepare your lawn for Spring and Summer?    Attend one of these free workshops and learn the answers and more. Seating for these workshops is limited, So reserve your seat today, 407-836-6800. These workshops are sponsored by the Orange County Utilities/Water Division and IFAS' Florida Yards and Neighborhoods program.

March 13, 2004, Saturday - 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
Florida Friendly Landscape Workshop  
South Orlando Elks Club,  
333 Oak Ridge Road, Orlando

April 14, 2004, Wednesday - 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.  
Basic Florida Friendly Landscape Workshop  
South Creek Branch Library,  
1702 Deerfield Boulevard, Orlando

Check out this web link to print out a workshop flyer to pass out to your neighbors!

[http://countyline.ocfl.net/jDocs/jLIBS/documents/\\_announcements\\_/landscapeschedu/landscapeschedu.pdf](http://countyline.ocfl.net/jDocs/jLIBS/documents/_announcements_/landscapeschedu/landscapeschedu.pdf)

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