



"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...

.... Don't forget your donations for the 'Make It, Bake It, Grow It' silent auction. Please contact Teresa (mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or 407-644-0796) by Sunday, June 13th with details to ensure that we'll have adequate tables, bid sheets, etc.

....The June meeting is our last meeting of the season before our summer break. There will be no meetings in either July or August. Meetings will resume in September. Have a safe and fun summer!

This Month's Program: June 17, 2004 - 7:00pm

OAS Annual Potluck Dinner & Chertok Nature Photography Contest

The final program of the season is a combination of delights that begins with the annual potluck dinner — a feast for the palate. OAS will provide ham and turkey, so please bring salad, side dish, dessert or beverage and join us at 6:00 p.m. Please also remember to bring your own plates, glasses, flatware and serving utensils.

A feast for the eyes will begin around 7:00 p.m. — it's the 16th Annual Chertok Nature Photography Contest slide presentation featuring contest entries and the announcement of awards. Seat belts are required for this year's program that couples fierce competition and diversity of subject matter in photographs taken across Florida.

Throughout the evening you may bid on silent auction items that have been contributed by local businesses or made, baked, etc. by fellow members. See article inside for featured items. This will also be your last opportunity of the season to purchase OAS nature T-shirts.

Don't miss this fun evening and don't forget to bring plate, etc., your favorite culinary specialty and your checkbook or cash. We'll be looking for you!

May Field Trip Report DICK SMITH, FIELD TRIP CHAIR

On Saturday, May 22, 2004, twelve avid birders traveled to the South Brevard Water Treatment facility in Viera for our final field trip of the year. Before we were even on the grounds, we spotted a family of Crested Caracara, (2 adults and 3 immature) on the government building on the north side of the road. Although we only had a total of 43 species, everyone agreed that the Black-bellied Whistling Ducks were the "bird of the day". Actually, there were over 40 of them in the same pond, and everyone got really good

views of them. Randy Snyder and Mary Keim found eleven species of butterflies for us. The Variegated Fritillary was voted "butterfly of the day".

It was a nice little relaxing time, and after birding for most of the morning, we enjoyed a picnic lunch at one of the observation towers. Ellen Rocco treated us all to homemade chocolate chip cookies. All in all, it was a good day to be in the great outdoors with good birding friends.

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

We've seen some marvelous birds from our backyard this year. Stand outs must include the Scrub Jay that we saw on Mother's Day (not the first one we've seen in 23 years on our property, but they are not frequent visitors); others were Red-headed Woodpecker, nesting Bluebirds, American Redstart, Painted Bunting, Ovenbird and Swallow-tailed Kites.

Now, once again, we come to the close of another very satisfying 'Orange Audubon' year. I wish to thank the entire Board of Directors for their very valuable input throughout the year. The general membership perhaps isn't aware of just how much effort goes into one year's activities for Orange Audubon Society (OAS), but it is a terrific amount and any success that we achieve is due to the

hardworking board and committee members. Space doesn't really permit me to thank each one individually, but let me at least name the ones who are departing from the board. Louise Friderici has served on the Conservation Committee and the Lake Apopka Nature Education Center Committee. Mary Keim stepped forward to fill a vacancy on the board and moved on to fill the Secretary position and can always be counted on to help OAS. Randy Ranson served on the Conservation Committee and as Sanctuary Committee chair. Dick Smith, our ever-enthusiastic Field Trip Leader, has also served on the Birdathon and Finance committees. Our heartfelt thanks to each of them for their service; we look forward to their continued 'volunteering'!! Finally, my thanks also to

each contributor to OAS — whether monetary or time and skills; it takes both types of contributions to achieve our goals.

Our board responsibilities 'change hands' immediately after our June meeting, our fiscal year ends June 30th, and this is the last OASis until September. However, although OAS has no meetings or field trips during July and August, our world continues and we will remain vigilant and active. Please keep us informed and if you have ideas regarding next year's activities (see article regarding summer planning meeting), contact me or other board members. I look forward to seeing you at the June potluck, always a fun meeting, and since I have agreed to serve as your President for one more term, I'll see you in September.

Conservation News PEGGY COX, CHAIR

In Orange County the proposed Resource Sector Plan for District 4 (County Commission district) is still ongoing, with various stakeholder groups meeting to discuss the elements needed for a successful sector plan for further protecting the environmental resources in southeast Orange County. Within the next month, we expect the next steps toward the sector plan to begin with actual plans and policies being proposed for review by all interested parties. District 4 Commissioner Stewart would like to have this plan ready for presentation to the County Commission within a few months, and OAS certainly hopes that the plan can move forward that quickly before more proposed Comp Plan changes for higher density development in more sensitive areas are put forward.

OAS along with The Sierra Club, and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is opposing a proposed change on 213 acres adjacent to the 1600+ acre Split Oak Mitigation Park, that's located between Lakes Hart and Mary Jane in southeastern Orange County. The land is currently zoned rural, at 1 house per 10 acres. The requested change is to expand the Lake Hart/Whippoorwill Rural Settlement to include this land and allow a zoning of 1 house per 2 acres, gross density. The land was historically a slough, and has been ditched and drained for pasture land. The developer is proposing 107 homes, all on private wells and septic tanks, on land that is located in the 100 year floodplain. The FFWCC manages the Split Oak Mitigation Park and feels their ability to properly manage the wildlife habitat in the Park, which are public conservation lands, will be compromised by a development of that density and urban design (clustered to 2 houses per acre) right next to the Park. We agreed and spoke at the Orange County Planning and Zoning Commission meeting in opposition to this proposed Comp Plan amendment. We also opposed this proposal for the environmental impacts to Lake Hart wetlands, groundwater, and the impacts from that many septic tanks, possibly having to be installed above ground. The P&Z Commission voted to deny the request, and it will be heard by the County Commission on June 15th. It was then suggested, by P & Z Commissioner Max Hunt, that this land be purchased as conservation lands by Orange county. We

will be talking with the County about that idea. The land could be restored and become part of the public conservation lands in that area.

National Audubon Society has produced a program called "Audubon at Home", that gives people information and tools to make their backyards and homes environmentally and wildlife friendly. The program is based on 5 Simple Actions:

- 1) Reduce pesticide use in and outside of your home;
- 2) Conserve Water – and we know in Florida how important that is now;
- 3) Protect Water Quality - another very important fact when looking at the composition of lawn run-off and dumping of chemicals around your home;
- 4) Remove exotic plants and pests; and
- 5) Plant Native Species.

You can learn more about this program at www.audubon.org/bird/at_home or write Audubon Science Office, 545 Almshouse Road, Ivyland, PA. 18974, or call 215-355-9588.



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>

Skipper Identification Class

On Saturday, August 21, 2004, Harry P. Leu Gardens in Orlando will offer a class on Skipper Identification from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. This is an intermediate level class for those with a basic knowledge of butterflies. Instructors will be OAS members Randy Snyder and Mary Keim. A portion of the registration fee will go to Orange Audubon Society. Preregistration is required through Leu Gardens. Call Leu Gardens at 407-246-3621 for registration information. For information about course content, call Randy or Mary at 407-851-5416.

OAS Butterfly Field Course Report

Sixteen attended the OAS Butterfly Field Course held in May at Orlando Wetlands Park and adjacent Seminole Ranch Conservation Area. The class observed 32 butterfly species including: 5 swallowtails, 3 hairstreaks, and 11 skippers. Among the most abundant butterflies were Phaon Crescent, Pearl Crescent, Viceroy, Horace's Duskywing, and Fiery Skipper. With so much other wildlife activity, it was often difficult to stay focused on butterflies. We were distracted by Swallow-tailed Kites, a family of Sandhill Cranes, hummingbird-like Nessus Sphinxes, Green Anoles, Green Treefrogs, young Brown Bullheads, Eastern Pondhawks, Ebony Jewelwings, and surprisingly white-flowered Pickerelweed. Despite the distractions, all students passed the final exam! Randy Snyder and Mary Keim

Summer Board Meeting Scheduled

Orange Audubon Society will hold its summer board/planning meeting on Sunday July 11, 2004, in the Rose Room at Leu Gardens from noon to 4:00 PM. All 2004–2005 board members should expect to attend. Additionally, any board member whose term is expiring this year or anyone actively serving on an OAS committee is encouraged to attend. Any OAS member is certainly welcome. If you plan to attend, but are not one of the twenty 2004–2005 directors, please contact me (407/886-2925; LNS-oas@att.net) so I may let Leu know our expected number of attendees. Thank you. Loretta Satterthwaite

No Keeping Quiet about June 17th Silent Auction

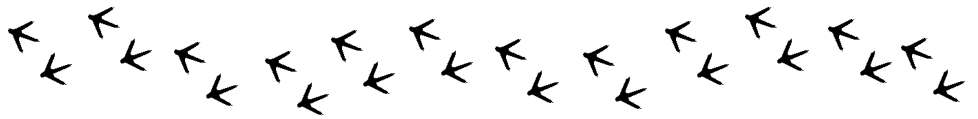
The silent auction at our CNPC dinner program gets better each year. We are anxious to see the creations that members will donate this year for the Make It! Bake It! Grow It! auction. The following donors, to date, are generously contributing merchandise or gift certificates to benefit the Chertok Nature Photography Contest endowment fund:

Boston's Fish House – Restaurants in Winter Park, Edgewood and New Smyrna Beach
Dexter's – Restaurants in Winter Park, Orlando (Thornton Park) and Lake Mary
Gatorland – Twilight Tours in "The Alligator Capital of the World"
Deborah Green – Natural History Author
Milton Heiberg – Fine Arts Photographer, Author
Panera Bread
Wild Birds Unlimited
Winter Park Scenic Boat Tour

If you wish to make a donation, please contact us to ensure that adequate table space, bid sheets, etc. will be available. By providing your name, phone number, description of item(s), value, starting bid (if desired) and designation (i.e., the CNPC endowment or general operating fund) you will further help us with preparations. Contact Teresa by Sunday, June 13th: e-mail (preferred) mwilliams@cfl.rr.com, or phone 407-644-0796 (evening).

Is your talent dessert making or nest box building? Or is it spending money? Your participation as a contributor, bidder or both will make for a fun and highly successful auction! Thank you.

Teresa Williams, CNPC Chair



2nd Annual Ft. DeSoto Field Trip Report



On Saturday morning, April 24, 2004, 29 members and guests of Orange Audubon Society were in Ft. DeSoto Park bright and early, looking for migrants. After spending the night at the comfortable facilities of Eckerd College, we were rested and ready to go. The birds started cooperating right away and many birders picked up "life" birds almost from the beginning. It was amazing to see so many species in breeding colors that were just dazzling in the brilliance and freshness of what was obviously new plumage. The colors were so strong and clean- reds, yellows, whites, blacks, blues, greens, oranges. They were brighter than any drawing or photograph in any book.

All together, we had 80 species for the day, with some birders staying until 8:00 in the evening before leaving for the drive back to Orlando. Some of the more notable sightings: Magnificent Frigatebird, Reddish Egret, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Roseate Spoonbill, Swallow-tailed Kite, Merlin, Marbled Godwit, White-rumped Sandpiper, Sandwich Tern, Black Skimmer, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Great Horned Owl, Chuck-will's-widow, Black-headed Parakeet, Yellow-throated Vireo; Black-and white, Worm-eating, Northern Parula, Cape May, Black-throated Blue, Blackpoll, Prairie, Palm, Ovenbird, Kentucky, Common Yellowthroat and Hooded Warblers, Orchard and Baltimore Oriole, Scarlet and Summer Tanagers.

We did not have great numbers of birds, but we had really good birds with new species coming in all day long. It turned out to be just a magnificent birding trip. If you have never birded Ft. DeSoto Park in April, you owe it to yourself to make the trip some time. You will never see birds that are brighter and more colorful!

Dick Smith, Field Trip Chair

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FIELD TRIPS Dick Smith

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HOSPITALITY Tom & Ruth Williams

MEMBERSHIP Mike Daley

NEWSLETTER Claire Hilliker

Calendar of Events

May 13-16, 2004 - Thurs-Sun
First Coast Birding & Nature Festival
St. Augustine, FL. 800-653-2489
www.visitoldcity.com/interests/nature/festival/

May 29, 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)

June 5, 2004 - Saturday
LANSRA Bird Survey; 7:30am-Noon.
Pam Bowen 386-329-4870
pbowen@sjrwmd.com

June 17, 2004 - Thursday
Annual Pot Luck and Chertok Nature Photography Contest, 7:00pm, Leu Gardens.No board meeting this month. All welcome.
Loretta Satterthwaite 407-886-2925

June 12, 2004 - Saturday
Hal Scott Regional Preserve & Park and Long Branch Park Bird Survey. Call Lorne Malo (407-349-2536)

July 3, 2004 - Saturday
LANSRA Bird Survey; 7:30am-Noon.
Pam Bowen 386-329-4870
pbowen@sjrwmd.com

July 10, 2004 - Saturday
Hal Scott Regional Preserve & Park and Long Branch Park Bird Survey. Call Lorne Malo (407-349-2536)

August 14, 2004 - Saturday
Hal Scott Regional Preserve & Park and Long Branch Park Bird Survey. Call Lorne Malo (407-349-2536)

August 21, 2004 - Saturday
Skipper Identification Class, Randy Snyder and Mary Keim instructors. Leu Gardens 1:00pm-4:00pm; Pre-registration required through Leu Gardens (407-246-3621).

October 7-10, 2004 - Thurs-Sun
Audubon Assembly 2004
Hilton Hotel, St. Petersburg, FL
www.audubonofflorida.org

OAS Board Member Seeks SWC District Seat



Susan Clary, board member for Orange Audubon, announced her candidacy for Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor on the November 2nd ballot in Orange County. Susan is running for this unpaid, nonpartisan, countywide seat as a lifelong conservationist and Florida native who wants to work in public office on conservation issues and improve the environment for everyone. To assist her efforts or learn more about this elected office, visit Susan's website at www.susanclary.com or call her at 321-217-7371.



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