



"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: September 16, 2004 - 7:00pm Bears in Central Florida by Jean-Marie Conner

Our seldom seen and highly interesting largest mammal, the Florida black bear, is being seen more and more, as homes are built in what was formerly bear country. Our September speaker Jean Marie Conner is a wildlife biologist working for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, reporting to work in the Seminole Forest Wildlife Management Area within the Seminole State Forest between SR46 and SR44. Jean-Marie will fill us in on bear population levels and efforts to help bears survive, as well as tell us about a bit about the biology of this threatened species. Join us September 16 for a fascinating program. As always, our programs are free and open to nonmembers as well as members.

Deborah Green, Vice President

September Field Trip - Seminole State Forest

Great Times Ahead! September 18th marks the return of the Orange Audubon "Field Trip Season"! We are excited to start this year's adventures with a trip to one of our most beautiful State Forests, Seminole State Forest. We will experience a real treat as we tour an area rich with wildlife as well as examples of nearly every natural plant community in Florida. The forest usually shows us many bird species since it is near rivers, creeks, lakes, and contains areas of scrub and hardwood hammocks. This Saturday will give us some special times as we will be led by one of the forest's rangers as well as a UCF biologist that leads the Scrub Jay research project on the property. Our trip will include a visit to the Scrub Jay colony and hopefully a banding demonstration. Recent bird counts here have also produced wonderful encounters with deer, hog, bear, and small animals. We should have a productive outing since hunting seasons have been

closed for weeks and will not reopen until the weekend after our field trip.

We will meet starting at 7am on Saturday Sept 18th at the Highway 46 entrance to the forest. It is located approximately 5 miles west of I-4, just past the Wekiva River Bridge on the north side of the road. Turn in the entrance and enter a nice parking lot on the left at the Bear Pond fishing dock area. Be parked, signed in, and ready to leave at 7:30!! Don't be late! We will carpool in fewer cars, but this trip will allow for mobility impaired people to join in with gusto! Bring binoculars, bug spray, and if you desire, a picnic lunch for after the morning trip. Any questions, please contact me at 407-644-7850 (h) or rfergusonhsd@earthlink.net. Cell phone for the morning of the 18th: 407-619-4484. We look forward to a great time with you and the birds!

Bob Ferguson, Field Trip Chair



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 hope you've all had a wonderful and exciting summer (forget Charley for now!), but that you're anxiously awaiting the start of the 2004 season of activities for Orange Audubon Society (OAS). Included in this issue of the OASis is the new OAS brochure, which lists our schedule of events — to the extent that we know them at this time — for the entire 2004–2005 season. It also lists the phone numbers for the officers and other board members who are chairing many of the society's committees. Keep this brochure in a handy location and refer to it throughout the season. We hope you will look forward to the programs and field trips as much as we do. These schedules are firm, barring any emergencies, so plan ahead to join us. In the brochure you will also note that we have included some of our planned 'special

events' — many of which are activities for obtaining new members or for fundraising. We will need help for these events so mark your calendars and give us a hand; you may even call the listed numbers now and we'll call you with details as the event approaches.

Besides the activities listed in the brochure, OAS has numerous other on-going activities. Our fight to help preserve, conserve and limit harmful encroachments upon our natural resources is never-ending. OAS works on many local and state, as well as national, issues. It's a big job so if you have a particular interest and wish to be involved, please contact Peggy Cox, our conservation committee chair.

OAS is also involved in many other activities not listed specifically in the brochure. We manage some Audubon of Florida sanc-

tuary properties, we participate in wildlife surveys, and new opportunities in which OAS may participate present themselves regularly. Please check this and each issue of the OASis for ways that you may become involved. This issue contains the names and phone numbers of the entire 2004–2005 OAS Board of Directors. Please feel free to call any of them to volunteer or to offer suggestions and, especially, do not hesitate to contact me (407-886-2925; LNS-OAS@att.net) if you have questions, suggestions or wish to volunteer.

Finally, we are having an Orange Audubon Society membership picnic this year. There is an article about it in this issue of the OASis. Please join us for this 'just for fun' event; we'd like to get to know you.

Conservation News PEGGY COX, CHAIR

In the last Conservation report in the OASIS in June, I reported on a proposed Comp Plan change to 213 acres adjacent to Split Oak Mitigation Park in southeast Orange county. OAS along with other conservationists opposed this change from rural land zoned at 1 house per 10 acres to an expansion of the Lake Hart/Whippoorwill Rural Settlement at 1 house per 2 acres gross density. That was over 100 homes that would be situated on historic floodplain lands and would compromise the management of Split Oak Park by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, who also officially opposed this

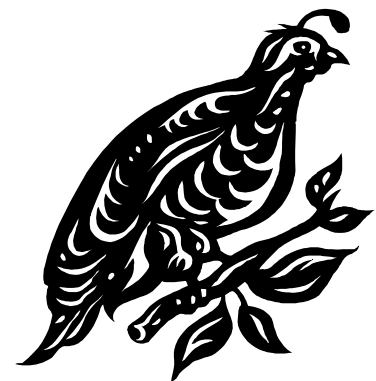
proposal. After this request was denied by the Orange County Planning & Zoning Commission, and heavily opposed by Conservation organizations and adjacent residents, the backers withdrew their request. So for now the area remains rural and the idea of purchasing this land for conservation purposes to add to Split Oak is still a possibility. In that same southeast area of Orange County, the proposed Resource Sector Plan in District 4 is ongoing with a proposed plan in the beginning stages by consulting planners and Orange County.

In other Orange County news, an Environmental Education Center, highlighting the Econ River system, is being pursued by Orange County after being proposed by Commissioner Ted Edwards. Several sites are being considered, including part of the Hal Scott Preserve (in conjunction with the St. Johns River Water Management District that manages the site), land near Long Branch Park near Union Park, land north of Hal Scott Preserve near SR50 and 520, and a site that is part of the Avalon development on the west side of the Econ River. Discussion of possible sites and the scale of such a Center will be part of this year's Orange County budget meetings that will take place in September.

The Conservation Committee is looking for your help and support as we watch our area's rapid growth continue to impact

important environmental resources and natural habitats in Orange, south Lake and south Seminole counties. If you would like to participate in this effort, even if only to work on one specific issue or area, we welcome your effort and invite you to join us at our next Committee meeting. The Conservation Committee will meet the week beginning Monday, Sept. 20th, time and place TBA after Labor Day. Any interested members can also meet with us briefly right before the OAS meeting on Sept. 16th at about 6:40pm.

Contact me at 352-429-1042 or pegcox@att.net for more information or any other questions.



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>

HAVE YOU REGISTERED??

Audubon Assembly 2004 on October 7-10 at the Hilton St. Petersburg
Deadline for \$99 early registration is September 15

Register now for this year's **Audubon Assembly** in St. Petersburg, being held in conjunction with the **Florida Birding Festival**, to enjoy the fantastic selection of fieldtrips and workshops offered by these two events! And we need your help to encourage your current and prospective board members and others to sign up as well. Assembly highlights include **Dr. Stephen Kress, Dr. Peter Stangel, Dr. Jerome Jackson, Kenn Kaufman** and more! Join chapter members and leaders for a highly participatory workshop to define our 2005 Conservation Priorities and Action Plans. Get together with old friends and make new ones. Hear the latest about dues sharing and provide comments on the proposed new NAS Chapter Relations policy. Exchange ideas on Chapter governance, conservation projects, education programs, fundraising, and other Chapter activities. Find a treasure at the Silent Auction! All this and more.....Register now on-line at www.audubonofflorida.org or call Vicky Johnston at 305-371-6399 to request a Registration brochure.

The Florida Birding and Nature Festival site is on the campus of Eckerd College which is minutes away from our conference site so you can participate in both events. The Festival features over 25 field trips, internationally known birding and wildlife experts, children's activities and more. Check out their website at www.flabirdfest.com for the complete festival program and easy on-line registration.

Fiscal Year in Review

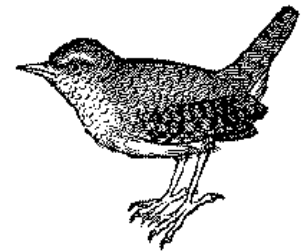
Orange Audubon Society ended its June 30, 2004 fiscal year on a positive note, despite the continued decrease in membership revenue because of National Audubon's dues restructuring policy and unprecedented low interest earnings on restricted and endowed funds because of distressed financial markets. Highlights include achieving a balanced budget, increasing reserves designated for education programs in the upcoming year(s) and increasing the Chertok endowment.

OAS' success in meeting financial goals is attributed to a dedicated board, general membership and friends who donated their personal time and resources. By attaining a position of fiscal stability, OAS ensures its future and continued ability to be a strong voice for conservation and the environment. Anyone interested in additional financial details can contact Teresa Williams: 407-644-0796 or mwilliams@cfl.rr.com.

BIRD BANDING

Wekiwa Springs State Park.

Volunteers needed for fall migration studies. Call either Bob Wheeler at 407-869-0303, Richard Poole at 407-774-9501, or e-mail Catbird@cfl.rr.com for details.



Audubon of Florida St. Johns Regional Conservation Committee

The St. Johns Regional Conservation Committee of Audubon of Florida meets quarterly during the year, with the last meeting being June 26th in Titusville. Several items of interest were discussed, including this year's Legislative session. AOF's Charles Lee reported that this year's Land Acquisition through Florida Forever was fully funded, that the Wekiva legislation that was the product of the Governor's Wekiva Coordinating Committee was passed. Since that meeting several bad bills Audubon opposed, including SB2774 allowing communication towers to be placed on public conservation lands, and the "Agricultural Economic Development" bill, were vetoed by the Governor.

Audubon of Florida Conservation Priorities that have originated or been partially sponsored by the St. Johns Regional Committee include the Transportation Resolution, Growth Management, Ocklawaha River Restoration, Climate Change, Land Acquisition and the Green Swamp resolutions. All of the chapters in this regional conservation committee continue to work on issues related to these resolutions in their local conservation efforts.

Volusia County's Audubon chapters have been very active in the push to put a referendum on the ballot for voter approval of Urban Growth Boundaries throughout the County. Pelican Island Audubon has helped put a land acquisition bond issue on the ballot in their County, and OAS has helped put the conservation land acquisition referendum on the ballot in Lake county.

The next meeting of the regional conservation committee will be Saturday, Sept. 11th in Flagler County at the Island House, Princess Place Preserve at Pellicer Creek, 10am-3pm. All interested Audubon members are welcome to attend. Contact me for more information. Peggy Cox, Co-chair-AOF St. Johns Regional Conservation Committee
pegcox@att.net

ORANGE AUDUBON SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS — 2004-2005

Susan Clary (05).....	407-836-6348
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Spotlight on 2004 Photo Contest Judges

The daunting task of selecting winners of the 2004 Chertok Nature Photography Contest (CNPC) belonged to a panel of three independent judges — Milton Heiberg, Stephen Koury and Bill Partington. What an honor to have such an acclaimed jury, each of whom is recognized nationally and internationally for his respective work in the art and environmental communities.

Photographer **Milton Heiberg** began his photographic career at age eight with a love of nature and a Kodak Brownie-Target box camera. In his own words, he “has been a tree hugging shutter-bug ever since”. Literally thousands of his images have been published by the likes of HarperCollins, McGraw-Hill, Time-Warner, National Audubon and National Geographic societies or exhibited at places such as International Center for Photography, Gray Advertising and McGraw-Hill buildings in New York and Israel Museum in Jerusalem. He taught nature photography at New York City Audubon Society and other institutions in New York City from 1980 until his move to Florida in 1998, where he now works from his studio in Orlando and teaches nature photography at the Crealdé School of Art, Winter Park. He currently serves on the board of Orange Audubon Society (OAS) and its Finance and Photo Contest Committees. To learn more visit his website www.miltonheiberg.com or meet him personally at the next OAS program.

Similarly, the work and actions of wildlife artist **Stephen Koury** speak volumes about the person. Steve’s body of work has earned him nearly every honor afforded an artist such as numerous ‘Best of Show’ and ‘Best of Painting’ awards; three-times Florida Ducks Unlimited Artist of the Year; Juried Artist designation, Society of Animal Artists; International Masters (one of 60); poster and national print artist to name a few. Although authoring a book, *Painting Nature’s Little Creatures*, led to teaching workshops at locales such as New York Botanical Gardens, his full-time (in person) show schedule never missed a beat. Dubbed ‘The Painter of Little Jewels’, the self-taught naturalist declares that “through his art he is supposed to capture and share the beauty of nature and in so doing, increase awareness of nature’s critters and the environments we share with them”. To learn more visit www.skoury.com or meet Steve at an upcoming show.

The name ‘**Bill Partington**’ has become a household term in Florida’s environmental community. Since 1965 when he moved here, Bill has been involved with various environmental projects that include conducting conservation activities for (then) Florida Audubon Society and Florida Defenders of the Environment; founding and directing Florida Conservation Foundation; founding the Florida Native Plant Society; chairing the Rollins College Environmental Studies Program in its early years and assisting his late wife, Joan, in founding the Florida Solar Coalition. Bill also led numerous wildlife education tours to natural areas of Florida, other southeastern states and Costa Rica. In 1995 Williams College awarded him a bicentennial medal for distinguished environmental career achievements. Like Milton and Steve, Bill himself is an environmental treasure and OAS is fortunate to call this former OAS board member and naturalist extraordinaire its friend. To learn more about Bill, forget websites; pick anyone from Florida’s environmental and conservation community and ask away!

Once again the credentials of the CNPC judges added another element of prestige to the contest. We thank them for donating time and expertise to this popular program.

Teresa Williams, CNPC Chair

Orange Audubon Photo Contest Results

Winners of Orange Audubon Society’s 2004 (16th Annual) Chertok Nature Photography Contest were announced on the evening of June 17, 2004 at Harry P. Leu Gardens, Orlando, Florida, where members and guests met to enjoy dinner, a silent auction and a slide presentation featuring eligible contest entries.

This year’s entries were photographed in Florida locales as near as Orlando and as far away as the Florida Keys. After screening to ensure eligibility — contest rules specify that entries may not contain non-native (to Florida) species, humans, human-made structures or artifacts — entries were judged by an independent panel of judges consisting of an artist, a naturalist and a photographer. The 2004 panel included wildlife artist Stephen Koury, Lakeland; naturalist William (Bill) Partington, Winter Park; and wildlife/nature photographer Milton Heiberg, Orlando; all of whom are recognized nationally and internationally for their respective work in the art and environmental communities.

Contest winners were: 1st place, ‘Crested Caracara Flight’ by Jim Urbach, 2nd place, ‘Sora’ also by Jim Urbach, and 3rd place, ‘Dragonfly’ by Carolyn Newby. Honorable mentions went to ‘Eastern Meadowlark’ by Mike Brinkley, ‘Lubber Grasshopper on Fakahatchee Grass’ by Bob Stamps, ‘Laughing Gulls’ by Kevin Doxstater, ‘Helianthus and Slash Pines’ also by Bob Stamps and ‘Snowy Egret’ by Kevin Barry.

In addition to ribbons awarded to all winners and the cash and other prizes awarded for 1st through 3rd place, the winning image will grace the cover of Orange Audubon Society’s 2004–2005 membership/program brochure. Two of the winning images — ‘Crested Caracara Flight’ and ‘Helianthus and Slash Pines’ — were also selected as display pieces for the store front of Colonial Photo & Hobby in Orlando, Florida. The display will encourage nature photography by showcasing enlargements of the images, recognizing the artists, subject matter, locales where photographed and techniques and equipment used, while publicizing Orange Audubon’s annual sponsorship of the contest.

Florida native nature exists for us to treasure, to protect and preserve, and yes, to photograph! The contest was created with those objectives in mind. To the photographers who competed in 2004, we express our sincere appreciation; your entries made for a delightful and highly anticipated awards dinner and program. We look forward to your participation in the 2005 (17th Annual) Chertok Nature Photography Contest. Deadline for entries is May 19, 2005. Please watch for contest information in upcoming issues of the OASis and on the OAS website: www.orangeaudubonfl.org

Teresa Williams, CNPC Chair

Connect Children to Nature in your Community with AUDUBON ADVENTURES!

Do you know a student (grades 3-6) who might be interested in the environment, perhaps your child or grandchild?

AUDUBON ADVENTURES is an environmental education program for children in grades 3 to 6. Developed by professional environmental educators, AUDUBON ADVENTURES presents basic, scientifically accurate facts about birds, wildlife, and their habitats. It comes to you packaged as a Classroom Kit (serving 32 students) or Individual Kit (serving 1 student). The program is used by classroom teachers, after-school program coordinators, special education instructors, language arts teachers, and homeschoolers.

The goal of AUDUBON ADVENTURES is to develop in young people an appreciation, awareness, and understanding of the natural world -- birds, other wildlife, and all living things; the habitats, systems, and interplay of forces that affect living things; and the connections between people and nature.

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!

Awards received:

Classroom Earth Top Ten Environmental Education Projects for K-12 - 2004

Apex Award for Publication Excellence - superiority in graphic design, editorial content and overall communications excellence.

Distinguished Achievement Award Finalist for Excellence in Educational Publishing - Association of Educational Publishers.

Spirit of the Land Meritorious Achievement Award for outstanding efforts in environmental education.



Take action for Birds and Wildlife! It's as easy as a click on your computer...!

Did you know that lawmakers often determine the fate of birds by the laws they pass? It's true. Yet each and every year, our laws fall short in protecting birds, other wildlife and our environment. Audubon is working with lawmakers to try and protect birds, wildlife and the environment, but we can't do it alone - we need your help. And your help can make all the difference.

That's why National Audubon has set up this special web site to give you an easy and convenient way to help make a difference. This site will provide you with the latest information on conservation issues, and communicate with your lawmakers about these issues. Below you'll find a list of the major conservation issues pending before the U.S. Congress, or awaiting action by the President or other government agency. These are issues we need you to weigh in on if we're going to be successful! Simply go to the site below, and you'll get a summary of the measure, and a direct link to your lawmakers. You can also sign up for Audubon Advisory, a twice-monthly conservation update that you can receive via email. It will let you know when you can make a difference on important bird and wildlife issues and is absolutely FREE.

<http://www.capitolconnect.com/audubon/>

Volunteers Needed to Help with Hospitality!

Volunteers are always needed to help our Hospitality Committee with the lovely refreshments that are available at each OAS meeting. To find out how you can help, please call Tom or Ruth Williams (407-332-5089). We look forward to seeing you at the next meeting!



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MEMBERSHIP Mike Daley

NEWSLETTER Claire Hilliker

Calendar of Events

September 4, 2004 - Saturday

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

September 16, 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

September 18, 2004 - Saturday

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

September 18, 2004 - Saturday

OAS Field Trip - Seminole State Forest
Bob Ferguson 407-644-7850
rfergusonhsd@earthlink.net

September 25, 2004 - Saturday

Hal Scott Regional Preserve & Park and Long
Branch Park Butterfly Survey.
Randy Snyder 407-851-5416

October 2, 2004 - Saturday

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

October 21, 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

October 23, 2004 - Saturday

OAS Field Trip - Wekiwa Springs State Park
Bob Ferguson 407-644-7850
rfergusonhsd@earthlink.net

October 23, 2004 - Saturday

OAS Picnic at Wekiwa Springs State Park
Loretta Satterthwaite 407-886-2925

November 12-16, 2004 - Wed-Sun

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

Picnic at Wekiwa Springs State Park

On October 23, 2004, Orange Audubon Society (OAS) members are all invited to share some time with other OAS members at the Sinkhole Pavilion at Wekiwa Springs State Park (WSSP).

Bring your lunch (a grill and charcoal will be provided) or join us after you've eaten. This is a day for adults and/or children. OAS members will lead nature hikes — birds, butterflies, plants — and swimming and canoe rental are available at the park. This is a day for fun so plan now to join us. See next month's OASis or contact Loretta Satterthwaite (407-886-2925; LNS-OAS@att.net) for more details.

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