



"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: November 17, 2005 - 7:00pm The Ocala/Wekiva Conservation Project by Keith Schue

Florida black bears once roamed from the Ocala National Forest freely into the Wekiva River Basin, as one population. Purchase of conservation lands in the Wekiva River Basin was among the State's highest conservation priorities in the 1980s and 1990s, leading to over 50,000 acres of state conservation land purchased. Now a major highway threatens the integrity of these preserved lands. The Nature Conservancy has joined the State of Florida in efforts to maintain preservation of the Ocala/Wekiva corridor and has enlisted articulate conservationist Keith Schue to lead this task. In this month's program, Keith will fill us in on the efforts that are underway and what we can do to help. Join us November 17 for what promises to be a very informative and captivating program.

Deborah Green, Vice President

November Field Trip - Lake Apopka Restoration Area

It's exciting to look forward to the delightful birding at the Lake Apopka Restoration Area! (LARA) St. Johns River Water Management District has once again been kind enough to give us guided access to these fields and marshes that always yield great birding. It seems we are also treated to regular sightings of rarely seen birds when we visit this area. This is a terrific area that allows us to view woods, fields, and marsh habitat all in one morning. It is truly a treat and privilege that the SJRWMD allows us to tour the restoration while in progress. Come join us on Saturday, November 19th at the "Lust Road Gate" entrance. Any questions, call Bob Ferguson at 407-644-7850 (H) / 407-699-4134 (pager). We will meet at the gate and be ready to leave for the trip in carpools at 7:30am. Be there early so that we can leave about 7:30am. This is a good trip to bring the older kids or any friend that is mobility

impaired, as we will be driving on good berm roads and doing very little walking. See you there!

DIRECTIONS: Take Hwy 441 north from Apopka to Mt. Plymouth. The traffic light on the north end of Mt. Plymouth is Binion Road (Hwy 437). Turn left at the light and cross the rail road tracks continuing through the "S" curve on Binion Rd. You will quickly see a street sign on the right for Lust Road. Turn right onto Lust Rd and travel until you reach the locked gate at the LARA entrance. If you are going to be late due to travel problems, call me so we won't "lock you out"! 407-619-4484 (cell for Saturday)

FYI—there are no rest rooms at the gate or on the berms (other than "natural" ones), so come "empty" and bring supplies if you desire.

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

Hello again. Each year at this time, the months just seem to fly by. Is that because the weather is so nice or is it because of our very busy schedules as the holiday season approaches? Whatever the reason, I hope you are taking advantage of the cooler weather and enjoying the outdoors. Lots of fall blooming plants are making the natural landscapes spectacular [perhaps you're taking pictures of them for Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) Kit and Sidney Chertok Nature Photography Contest? See the related article in this issue.] If you're not a picture taker, perhaps you'll take advantage of the Hawk Field ID course on Nov. 12th or help with some of the wildlife surveys in which other OAS members participate. If you've never been on a survey, now might be the time to call and offer your services (see the Calendar of Events on the back page); this is a great way to meet other members and help collect data that can be used to determine

trends in wildlife populations and the health of certain ecosystems. These surveys are a great learning tool also since novices can be paired with experts to everyone's advantage.

OAS will be providing some kids' art tables at the Mennello Museum of American Art in Orlando (407-246-4278) on Nov. 5th in conjunction with the John James Audubon show that is there presently. We will also be selling nature-related merchandise at the Lake Eola Fiesta in the Park on Nov. 5th and 6th. Come on out for either of these events.

Please remember that it is not too late to provide Audubon Adventures for an elementary school class. You may sponsor a particular class or underwrite the program in general by contributing funds to OAS who provides the program to dozens of classrooms in the local area. Lessons in this year's packet include: The Nature of Spiders, Turtles – Armored Reptiles, Dragonflies and

Damselflies, and The Watery World of Waterbirds. Contact Leesa Sward at 407-677-5374 for more information.

In the conservation update article in this issue, I presented some local issues that OAS is dealing with; however, please remember to let our Senators and Representatives in D.C. know how you feel about issues such as the Pombo 'Endangered Species Legislation', which passed the House and has now moved to the Senate, and the battle to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to exploration and drilling. Information regarding both of these issues can be found on the National Audubon Society web page (<http://www.audubon.org/>).

We hope to see you at the upcoming program. Find out why the Wekiva Parkway is such a big deal. Perhaps it will motivate you to join our conservation team and help to keep Central Florida a place where we like to live.

Member Looking for a Ride!

An OAS member residing in Maitland is searching for a ride to and from the monthly meetings. If anyone lives near the Maitland House condos (a little north of the Enzian Theater off 17-92) and would be willing to provide a monthly ride to the meetings, please contact Julia Childs at 407-539-2985. Thank you!



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

<http://www.orangeaudubonfl.org>

\$o Many Reason\$ and So Much Time To Enter 2006 Nature Photo Contest

Now that Orange Audubon Society (OAS) has made its debut into the digital age with the announcement last month of its 2006 Kit & Sidney Chertok Nature Photography Contest, it's time for all you nature loving shutterbugs to do your part.

The 2006 theme, 'Florida – Wild & Wonderful', is new, but contest rules regarding content are the same — subject matter must be native to Florida and cannot contain any significant trace of humans or human-made objects or artifacts.

Only digital images in *.jpg format (jpeg, joint photographic experts group) and XGA resolution (96 dpi [dots per inch]) 1024 x 768 supplied on CDs are acceptable. Not a state-of-the-art photographer? Don't despair, you can have your prints, negatives or slides (transparencies) converted to digital images to enter this contest. Images may not be excessively manipulated.

Deadline for entries is May 18, 2006 (postmark date) or you may hand deliver them to Teresa Williams at OAS' meeting at Leu Gardens that evening. Limit is 4 images per entrant at \$3 each for Audubon members (including contestants who join when submitting entries) or \$5 each for nonmembers.

All winners will receive ribbons and recognition in OAS published articles. In addition to OAS's cash prizes of \$200, \$100 and \$50, respectively, Colonial Photo & Hobby (CPH), Orlando, will contribute three in-store gift cards with values of \$100, \$50 and \$25, respectively, for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners. All winning entries also vie for placement on the cover of OAS' next annual brochure and the opportunity to be featured in a store display(s) at CPH.

Application forms containing complete contest rules and regulations can be picked up at all future OAS meetings or at Colonial Photo and Hobby, 634 N. Mills Avenue, Orlando, FL. You may also download and print the application form (PDF file), available soon on OAS' website: www.orangeaudubonfl.org using free Adobe Acrobat Reader. For additional information, contact Teresa Williams by phone 407-644-0796 or e-mail mwilliams@cfl.rr.com.

With so many prizes and recognition at stake and so much time in which to take your winning photographs, we encourage you to get out your cameras and head for the wilds of wonderful Florida.

Teresa Williams, Chair, OASCNPC

Conservation Update LORETTA SATTERTHWAITE

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) members are currently putting efforts into several different projects in central Florida. This article will briefly summarize several of these projects (in alphabetical order). If you see some issue that you might 'sink your teeth into', please contact me (407-886-2925; LNS-OAS@att.net). The conservation committee and OAS can use your help.

Green Swamp – Several new threats are surfacing — from Lake County and Mascotte, some from around Lake Alfred in Polk County also. So far they are just proposals that people have approached officials with and a couple have talked with DCA. The Judge's ruling on the administrative hearing that was held Oct. 5–7 between the City of Groveland and DCA will be issued within 30 days of Oct. 21 (the day both sides are to have submitted recommended orders on the hearing to him with their arguments). If the Judge rules for Groveland and allows the density that is being requested of 2 dwelling units (du) per 1 acre, instead of what is now 1 du per 5 acres, it will allow 532 homes on about 270 developable acres, instead of the 57 that are now allowed. Not only that, but it will increase the chances of even more projects coming forth.

Innovation Way – A Town Hall meeting was held Thursday evening, October 27th followed by a Saturday workshop on the 29th regarding how the area of District 4 around the Innovation Way corridor is to be developed. Maps of possible scenarios for development were presented and discussed. The best choice would be compact development with no intrusion into the rural, floodplain areas near the TM Ranch, to the east of Moss Park and Lake Mary Jane.

Lake Apopka – There is a move afoot by Lake County Water Authority to use the CC Ranch parcel, the only part of the 15,000-acre shoreline that was never tilled for vegetable farming, for installation of the proposed Apopka-Beauclair Canal Nutrient Reduction Facility. It is the only portion that could be restored to a wet prairie habitat (others will become deep marshes). Construction of this project would eliminate it from the restoration plans. Additionally, noise from the facility and the need for tanker truck access will decrease the habitat value. OAS is drafting a letter in opposition to this industrial use at this location.

Maitland Extension (Apopka Bypass) – The final public workshop was held on October 17th; they are coming within about 300 feet of Lake Apopka when it is restored. The road could actually be a better choice than fertilizer run-off from subdivisions. Construction is planned to begin in June, 2006.

Ocklawaha River: The St. Johns River Water Management District held a public hearing on Friday, Oct. 21st to assess interest in the lower Ocklawaha River as a potable water source (mainly for east coast counties). A decision to use the Ocklawaha as a water source in this manner would jeopardize the 'freeing of the Ocklawaha' by removing the Rodman Dam.

Wekiva Parkway and the SR 46 Bypass – First public meetings Nov. 9 (Apopka High School); Nov. 10 (Lake Receptions, Mt. Dora) and Nov. 14 (Sanford Civic Center). Attend these meetings if you can; check out the maps for encroachment into environmentally sensitive areas (water recharge areas, spring-feed areas, scrub habitat, etc.) when there

are other alternatives and make comments. This is still early enough that your input may cause some changes to be made. OAS is still working with the Wekiva Coalition and attending the new Wekiva Committee meetings whenever possible (next one is Dec. 14th at the Embassy Suites in Altamonte Springs; visit www.wekivacommittee.org or www.ecfrpc.org/wekivacommission for more details).

Audubon of Florida (AoF), in its latest strategic plan, has proposed a new approach to its conservation efforts. By using an ecosystem approach, it will be better able to involve local chapters that are already stewards of those ecosystems. In Central Florida efforts would be directed toward stabilizing and increasing populations of at-risk species of birds (bald eagle, sandhill crane, whooping crane, limpkin, woodstork, snail kite, and Audubon's Caracara); protecting and restoring habitats essential for vulnerable species — i.e. IBAs (including Lake Apopka) and river system headwaters (Everglades/Kissimmee, St. Johns, Peace, Withlacoochee, Hillsborough, Ocklawaha, Wekiva); and improving and protecting the health of ecosystems that support birds of the Americas (Wekiva, St. Johns, Econlockhatchee, Upper Kissimmee Prairie, Chain of Lakes, Green Swamp, Lake Apopka and the Lake Wales Ridge) rather than putting our efforts into more distant issues. This was to be discussed at the Audubon Assembly 2005 meeting that was canceled. If approved by the membership, it would have then been put up for adoption by the AoF board. We'll keep you informed regarding the implementation of this approach; however, as you can see from our projects listed above, we're already working with it.

October Field Trip Report MARY KEIM AND RANDY SNYDER

Eleven OAS butterflyers braved the threat of Hurricane Wilma to visit Rock Springs Run State Reserve on October 22, 2005. While the weather was cloudy, there was no rain.

Twenty-one butterfly species were seen on our hike through the sandhill community including Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, Southern Dogface, Sleepy Orange, Red-banded Hairstreak, Ceraunus Blue, Common Buckeye, Queen, Long-tailed Skipper,

Clouded Skipper and Ocola Skipper. A few of us witnessed a Green Lynx spider eating a Great Purple Hairstreak as we left the reserve.

Wildflowers were abundant in the sandhill. They included Summer Farewell,



Paintbrush, Elephant Foot, Dog Fennel, Blazing Star, Silver-leafed Aster and Goldenrod.

Interesting vertebrate sightings were Southern Toad, Pine Woods Treefrog, Dusky Pigmy Rattlesnake, Red-shouldered Hawk, Eastern Phoebe, House Wren, and Brown Thrasher. Wildlife signs along our trail included Wild Turkey tracks and feathers, Southeastern Pocket Gopher mounds and Florida Black Bear tracks.

Best Chapter Conservation Award Announced

Recently, Orange Audubon Society (OAS) was informed that our chapter has received the Best Chapter Conservation Project award for 2005. The award would have been announced at the 2005 Audubon Assembly at Cocoa Beach, October 20–23, but the Assembly was canceled due to the impending Hurricane Katrina and the need for people throughout the southern and central part of the state to prepare for the storm.

The conservation project submitted for this award was actually two independent, yet connected, projects that should affect the preservation and protection of conservation lands and water in Lake County. The first project resulted in a successful public land acquisition ballot referendum in Lake County that passed with 72 % voter approval. This project was conceived by Terri Godts, then Secretary of OAS, who worked diligently for over two years on this project. In undertaking this project, the group worked with County Commissioners and County Staff, the Trust for Public Lands and The Nature Conservancy to educate the public on this issue before the referendum was placed on the ballot. Subsequently, the County appointed a 9-member Public Lands Acquisition and Advisory Committee to suggest lands for acquisition. For some reason, unfortunately, when this year's tax bills were delivered, the ad valorem tax for this purpose was not included. Efforts are being undertaken to borrow funds for the program for this year's funds.

The second project involved a citizen initiative ballot referendum sponsored by a local Lake county coalition, one of whose founding members was Orange Audubon Society's then Conservation Chair, Peggy Cox. This ballot initiative, amending the City Charter of Groveland to limit building densities in Green Swamp Area of Critical State Concern lands that are annexed into the city, was approved by 72% of the Groveland voters after a strong 'educate the public' campaign. The fight is not over; the initiative has been challenged and regional meetings involving the Florida Department of Community Affairs, Lake County, Polk County and concerned citizens are being held. The actions undertaken by this group of citizens should have highly significant regional effects on the Floridan aquifer and land preservation.

Congratulations to Terry and Peggy for their immense efforts on these projects. Orange Audubon Society is proud to have supported these efforts.

First Hawk ID Class

On Saturday November 12, Bob Sanders will hold his first Hawk ID Class of the year at the Lake Apopka Restoration Area. We will meet at the Lust Road gate, which leads into the restoration Area at 8:30 AM. From U.S. Hwy 441, in Plymouth, take SR 437 south, to Lust Road, and turn right. The gate is about 200-300 yards straight ahead. Extra cars will be left inside the gate, and we will car pool to the selected viewing area. This is a driving and sitting class.

Bring binoculars, field guides, spotting scopes if you have one, water, a snack, and a folding chair. We will bird until approximately noon. There is no charge for this event. Call Bob Sanders if you need any additional information at 407-898-9798.

Dick Smith



Make your opinion count!

The National Park Service (NPS) is proposing to update the policies that guide the management of the national park system. The policies are being updated to improve their clarity and to keep pace with changes in laws, regulations, socio-economic factors and technology. The revised policies will also improve understandings among NPS managers, and between NPS managers and the public, regarding how decisions are made in protecting park resources and providing opportunities for public enjoyment of the parks. Public comment is invited for a 90-day period between 10/19/2005 - 01/19/2006. Proposals will cover Park System Planning, Land Protection, Natural Resources, Cultural Resource Management, Wilderness Stewardship, Interpretation and Education, Use of the Parks, Park Facilities, and Commercial Visitor Services. To view the proposals and find out how to comment, please go to the Park Service's Management Policies website at

<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/document.cfm?projectId=13746&documentID=12825>

2006 Field Trip to Fort DeSoto

The overnight field trip to Ft. DeSoto will be on Friday, April 7, 2006, with a full day of birding on Saturday, April 8. The price for a room for two people at Eckerd College will be \$75.00. Breakfast will be served in the school cafeteria on Saturday morning for a charge of \$5.00. Sign up sheets will be at the monthly meetings during November, December, January, February and March.

Dick Smith

Stepping Up to the Plate

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) has already had two successful recruitments of volunteers to help make OAS more visible to the public, one of the major goals in our strategic plan. Thank you to Bob Sanders and Sam Benedetto for their help with the Florida Ornithological Society (FOS) field trips to Lake Apopka Restoration Area and Emerald Marsh, respectively. Also thanks to Richard Poole, Christine Brown and Bob Wheeler for their bird banding demonstration field trip that weekend and to Dot Freeman, Claire Hilliker, Ellen Rocco, Bob Stamps and Leesa Sward for their help at the registration table and OAS' sales tables at that event. OAS was well represented and FOS organizers were impressed and appreciative of our efforts.

OAS' participation in the Lake Eola Fiesta in the Park on November 5th and 6th was made much easier by a good group of

volunteers — both 'old hands' and 'new blood'. As we go to press before the event, volunteers include: Richard Poole, Christine Brown, Chris Gandy, Michael and Cindy Kay, Marie Bostrum, Sabine Moreno, Ellen Rocco, and Bonnie and Alexandra Roberts. Behind-the-scenes help from Mary Keim, Randy Snyder and Bob Stamps is also greatly appreciated. Teresa Williams and I are sincerely grateful for the willingness of these individuals to assist OAS in our endeavours to make more people aware of Orange Audubon Society, to obtain new members and to help meet our budgetary goals by selling our nature-oriented merchandise of t-shirts, tote bags, nest boxes, metal signs, books and notecards. Next time you see a request for help, please don't hesitate to volunteer. We can use your help.

Loretta Satterthwaite

Stocking Stuffers For You and Others

Just in time for the holidays!! Orange Audubon Society (OAS) will present its nature-oriented merchandise for your shopping pleasure at the November 17th meeting at Leu Gardens. There will be t-shirts, tote bags, nest boxes, metal signs, books and notecards available for purchase. You may even find an OAS coffee mug for someone's stocking. And, don't forget the perfect gift for someone who has everything — a gift membership to Orange Audubon Society, which also includes membership in National Audubon Society and Audubon of Florida.

Bring your cash or check book (sorry, no plastic) and be prepared to buy for you, your spouse, your children or grandchildren, parents or grandparents, nieces or nephews, in-laws, good friends and co-workers. You'll find something to please everyone at the OAS nature gift shop. Thanks for helping us meet our financial goals by supporting our sales efforts.

Loretta Satterthwaite

John James Audubon Exhibit Continues at The Mennello Museum of American Art

The Mennello Museum of American Art proudly presents two exhibitions that showcase and celebrate Nature and Bird Life: John James Audubon: American Artist and Naturalist (October 14-January 1, 2006) and The Hudson River School (October 14-March 12, 2006). The Audubon exhibition centers around Audubon's aesthetic and historic legacy by presenting a selection of rare works of art and artifacts from the Audubon Museum in Henderson, Kentucky, including Audubon's personal letters, rare books, original paintings, and 60 life-size hand-colored Double Elephant Folio engravings printed from 1826-1836 for *The Birds of America*. Florida birds represented in the exhibition include the Florida Jay, Great Blue Heron, Night Heron, Bald Eagle, and the extinct Passenger Pigeon.

The Mennello Museum of American Art, owned and operated by the City of Orlando, is located at 900 E. Princeton Street, next to the Science Center. Hours are Tuesday-Saturday 10:30 A.M.- 4:30 P.M., Sunday Noon- 4:30 P.M. Admission: \$4.00 Adults, \$1.00 students, \$3.00 seniors. The Mennello Museum of American Art will offer an outstanding array of programs to complement the exhibitions. For a complete listing of programs and workshops please contact The Mennello Museum, 407-246-4278 or www.mennellomuseum.com.



Sunday, October 23, 2005 Subject: Andre Michaux Visits Florida, 1788
Dr. Walter Kingsley Taylor, Professor Emeritus, UCF

Sunday, November 13, 2005 Subject: The Role of the St. Johns River
Dr. Kevin M. McCarthy, Professor of English and Florida Studies, UF

Sunday, December 4, 2005 Subject: Unveiling the Mysteries of Birdsong
Dr. Don Stap, Professor of English, UCF

DEMONSTRATION

Saturday, November 5, 2005, 11:00 A.M.

Birds of Prey Demonstration, Audubon Center for Birds of Prey

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John Winfree (06)	407-302-6536
Gordon Wolfram (06)	407-855-9633

Calendar of Events

November 5, 2005 - Saturday

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

November 12, 2005 - Saturday

Bird of Prey ID Course #1 - LANSRA
Bob Sanders 407-898-9798

November 12, 2005 - Saturday

Seminole Ranch Conservation Area Butterfly Survey.
Randy Snyder 407-851-5416

November 13, 2005 - Sunday

Lake Jessup Conservation Area Bird Survey.
Lorne Malo 407-349-2536/407-659-4853(w)

November 16-20, 2005 - Wed-Sun

Space Coast Birding and Wildlife Festival
Neta Harris 321-268-5224
www.nbbd.com/fly

November 17, 2005 - 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 17, 2005 - Saturday

Mead Gardens Bird Survey; 8:00am-10:00am.
Dexter Richardson 407-760-8193
dex@dexwine.com

December 3, 2005 - Saturday

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

December 14, 2005 - January 5, 2006

Christmas Bird Count period. See next newsletter for
contact information.

December 15, 2005 - 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

December 18, 2005 - Sunday

Seminole Ranch Conservation Area Butterfly Survey.
Randy Snyder 407-851-5416

**Make Plans to Attend the
9th Annual Space Coast Birding & Wildlife Festival
November 16 - 20, 2005**

Past attendees and birders in the know have already marked their calendars for the Ninth Annual Space Coast Birding and Wildlife Festival, being held from Wednesday, November 16 through Sunday, November 20, 2005 in Titusville. This year's schedule promises to delight the entire family and will include keynote addresses from noted underwater photographer Peggy Goldberg, acclaimed bird photographer Neil Fifer, world-renown tour operator Victor Emanuel, and Denver Holt, President of the North American Owl Institute.

As in past years, a wide variety of field trips, workshops, seminars will entertain and educate participants about the incredible diversity that calls Central Florida home. OAS' very own celebrated photographer, Milton Heiberg will also be in attendance conducting photography presentations and workshops that you won't want to miss! So whether you're into birds, butterflies or simply our fabulous nature, join us for what will surely be another incredible festival! For more information, see www.nbbd.com/fly or contact Neta Harris at 321-268-5224 or neta@natureandspace.com

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