



"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: March 16, 2006 - 7pm
 The St. Johns River: A Photographic Journey through
 four counties by Milton Heiberg**

The St. Johns River is one of only 14 American Heritage Rivers, in company with the Potomac River, Hudson River, and the Rio Grande. Milton Heiberg is an outstanding professional nature photographer and instructor, whom we are pleased to have on our OAS Board. Milton has put together his favorite images of the river and its inhabitants and staged these to music for our viewing pleasure. Also, as an added feature, Milton will also give a short slide show on the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge. See additional images on www.miltonheiberg.com. Join us March 16 for an inspiring program.

Deborah Green, Vice President

Reminders...

- ... OAS Birdathon 2006, April 8, 2006. Pledge Sheet may be found on p4.
- ... Volunteers needed to help at the Spring Fiesta in the Park at Lake Eola on April 1-2, 2006. See page 5 for details.

March Field Trip - Wekiwa Springs State Park

Come join the fun trip on Saturday March 18th at Wekiwa Springs State Park. Bob Wheeler has put together some nice experiences for us including starting the day with a mist net and banding demonstration! It is very interesting to see how highly trained bird specialists handle, identify, and band these birds for research purposes. It is amazing how gentle and effective they are with our tiny friends. Seeing a Thrush, Cardinal, Wren or Warbler up close and personal is amazing! The remainder of the trip will consist of driving and shorter walks to different habitats. If you are not able to walk, you can still see many areas from very near the

cars. I should also point out that the banding station is only 75 feet from a paved access road. You may want a fold up chair for this part.

For this trip, meet at the Albertson's parking lot at the corner of 434 and Wekiwa Springs Blvd in Longwood at 7:30 am. We will leave by 8 am. Any questions before the trip you can call Bob Wheeler home 407-869-0303. Directions or problems on the day of the trip use cell # 407-739-0333. We will carpool from Albertson's to the park. There might be a nominal charge to enter the park. Bring a snack lunch to enjoy after the trip.

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

Thanks to all of you who have responded to the once-a-year appeal letter sent out with last month's OASis. If you have not yet made your contribution, please think about doing so now. If you didn't receive a letter and would like to know why we need money, contact me (407/886-2925 or LNS-OAS@att.net) and I will be happy to respond to your questions.

We're excited!! We've seen Bluebirds and Red-bellied Woodpeckers checking out our nest boxes and Goldfinches have finally arrived in good numbers. What's happening in your area?

Success at OWP Festival Because of Volunteers and the Weather

Thanks to Bill Partington, Tom Williams, Dick Smith, Lorne Malo, Leesa Sward and Bob Stamps (bus tours); Mary Keim, Randy Snyder and Michael Kay (bird hikes); Richard Poole and Christine Brown (mist-net & bird banding), Milton Heiberg (photography field trips); Sonia Stephens, Katie Bretz, Peggy Cox, Susan Clary and Lonnie Thompson (kids'art and conservation/membership tables); and Teresa Williams, Cyndi Kay, Ellen Rocco, Betty Seegers and Chris Gandy (merchandise sales tables) for volunteering at the 7th Annual Orlando Wetlands Park Festival. It takes many people to allow Orange Audubon Society to co-sponsor this event. The weather cooperated and the crowd was one of the largest that has attended this event. Thanks again to all our wonderful volunteers.

Loretta Satterthwaite

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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<http://www.orangeaudubonfl.org>

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) has multiple requests at this time of the year to participate in outdoor events — festivals, garden fairs, celebrations, and the like. These affairs are in addition to our ongoing commitments to conservation and education and we could use your help. At most of these events, we are simply using a table-top display and attempting to attract new members to the organization. Perhaps you could help us at one of these events; it isn't difficult to spend a couple of hours telling people why you joined Audubon and why you think it is important for others to do so. Check out

the calendar of events on the back of this newsletter and call the contact person if you would like to help.

Don't forget to sign up for that special class that you've been wanting to take. OAS is offering a Beginner's Birding Class (Tom Williams, instructor) and, in a joint effort with Harry P. Leu Gardens, a Central Florida Butterfly and Caterpillar ID course (Randy Snyder and Mary Keim, instructors).

Once again, we reiterate a welcome to our new members. We hope you'll get involved with your organization; see you at the meetings or on the field trips!

Nominating Committee Hard at Work

The task of finding a slate for the Orange Audubon Society annual elections in April falls mostly on the shoulders of our nominating committee, consisting this year of Betty Seegers (407-351-3624), Tom Williams (407-332-5089) and Dick Smith, Chairman (407-257-7361 or dick.smith@zepamfg.com). This year is the biennial election of five officers, who serve two-year terms, as well as the election of at least five of the other fifteen members of the board of directors, who serve three-year terms. There may be a need for more than five board members due to resignations of current members who are no longer able to fulfill their three-year term obligations (e.g. the member has moved into an officer position, is unable to attend board meetings, is unable to contribute as a board member, etc.).

The president of the organization, especially, relies on the other officers and the complete board of fifteen members to facilitate the task of 'running' the society. I have had an especially good board of directors for the past four years and really appreciate those individuals who have stepped forward to assist in keeping Orange Audubon Society an active and successful chapter of National Audubon Society and Audubon of Florida.

Is it time for you to consider benefitting your society by serving on the board of directors? To make it easier for 'newcomers' to the board, remember that usually only 5

directors' chairs are due to be elected each year, leaving 10 seats (plus the officers) of 'experienced' directors. Additionally, remember that each board member was new to the board at one time, so don't be afraid that you'll be too 'green' to be of service; every one of you has some special talent that can be put to use for the worthy cause.

If you are interested in serving your society by volunteering for the board of directors, please contact one of the nominating committee members. Thanks for your consideration.

Loretta Satterthwaite



Fort DeSoto Field Trip

Because Eckerd College could only provide ten (10) rooms this year, we are completely booked at this time. Of course, you are more than welcome to make your own arrangements and meet us on Saturday, April 8. We will be carpooling from the parking lot in front of the welcome center of the park between 8:30 and 9:00 AM. Several birders have already informed us that they will be meeting us there. If you want meet us, please me know in advance, so we can plan accordingly. My cell is 407-257-7361; e-mail is dick.smith@zepamfg.com.

We did not get enough of a response to the bus concept to justify chartering a bus for the day. If we have this field trip next year, we will probably do the chartered bus

program. It is less expensive and more environmentally sound than all of us driving over to St. Petersburg individually, and we don't have to depend on another organization having space for us.

For those who are signed up, the charge is \$75.00 per room. The college will not be providing us with breakfast this year; our group is just too small for them to open the cafeteria on a Saturday. Please make your check payable to Orange Audubon Society and bring them to the March meeting or send them to our P.O. Box 941142, Maitland, FL, 32794-1142 by March 24. The last date to cancel for a full refund is April 3, 2006. If you have any questions, please contact me. Dick Smith, Field Trip Leader

February Hawk ID Course

The weather decided to give eighteen members and friends a great day to spend "learning our Hawks" at the Lake Apopka Restoration Area (LARA). With Bob Sanders' lead, we recorded 56 bird species including seven raptors. Highlights of the day were the Peregrine Falcon and some less common variants of Red-Tailed Hawks, including Krider's form.

LARA continues to be a joy to visit as it gives us encounters with multiple bird species at once, allowing for great teaching comparisons. We also were able to view examples of birds at many ages and from many angles, allowing all us to come away with more confidence in identifying raptors. As a bonus, we also saw Grasshopper Sparrow, Purple Gallinule, and Forster's Tern. We even watched an American Kestrel try to steal a mouse from a Red-tailed Hawk. Once again, thank you to Bob Sanders for giving us his Saturday and teaching us about his favorite birds.

Bob Ferguson

Welcome New Members!

Denise Allen, Rita Allison, Rex D Alves, Rosanne Amellal, Thornton Anderson, Henry Andrews, Torry Armor, Carole Ayala, Lynette Bouche, Patrick E Brady, Barbara Branch, Sherry L Breier, Beverly Byars, Carol Christie, Sherry Cooper, Mr&Mrs Ben Corcoran, Kellie Coyle, Rodrigo DeOliveira, John F Deery, Rolland A Desmarais, Mr&Mrs James Ehlinger, James A Ferris, Rita L Forbes, Genette Garcia, Lillian C Gerent, Roland Greep, Rae F Gruening, Linda Gutierrez, Judith Harris, Francys Heliessen, Paul-June Hennessy, Laurie H Hill, Jan Huebner, Winston Hughes, Robert C Hulcher, Mary Hull, Forbes R Johnson, Gloria D Jones, Elizabeth J Kamrad, Donald Kent, Joseph Kimball, Diana Kraus, Corbett Kroehler, Tammy Leathers, Edward Kay Lesnick, Tricia Lundsted, Warren Lynch, Christy Maddox, Sandra Manns, Mary Ann McGee, Donald McIntosh, John W McReynolds, Frank E Merrick, Lew Morrison, Jean Noe, Barbara Noiseau, George A O'Keefe Jr., James A Oberlin, Albert A Ott, H P Pandit, Daniel Perdomo, Wendy L Perdue, Sarah Pierce, Nora Popko, Gilbert H Pry, Catherine Quilling, Linda Ravoo, Heather Reasoner, Jason Robinson, Judy Robinson, P Rose, Carolyn Bruner Russell, Stacy Sattler, The Seed Family, Jacquelin Seger, Lavon Shelley, Herry G Simerly Jr., Mr&Mrs W Simon, John H Smith, Penny Smith, S Stone, Lindsey Strachan, Dixie Tate, Jean Taylor, John & Martha Tempest, Denis Timlen, John W Topper, Michael Tracy, Penny Villemaire, Ruth Wallace, and Denise Young.

Central Florida Butterflies Course



A 7.5-hour, 3-session Central Florida Butterflies course is being offered through Harry P. Leu Gardens (HPLG) and will be held Saturdays, May 6, 13 and 20, 2006 from 2:30pm - 5:00pm. The course will emphasize identification of local butterflies and their caterpillars and will consist of classroom and butterfly garden sessions. Recommended field guide is *Butterflies through Binoculars: Florida* by Glassberg, Minno and Calhoun. Instructors will be Orange Audubon members, Randy Snyder and Mary Keim. For registration and fee information call HPLG at 407-246-3621.

Beginner's Bird Watching Class Registration Deadline – Parking – Directions

Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) 2006 Beginner's Bird Watching Class, led by naturalist Tom Williams, will include 2 classroom sessions on March 25th and April 1st, 9 am–noon, Rollins College; and 2 field sessions on April 8th, Mead Gardens (to coincide with OAS' annual Birdathon event) and April 15th, Orlando Wetlands Park, times TBA.

Registration Fees: Audubon members \$25; non-members \$40, which includes hand-out materials and parking at Rollins College. Non-members may join the Audubon Society when registering and pay just \$45, which includes class registration at the \$25 member price and \$20 for introductory membership (promotional rate for annual 3-way membership in OAS and the State and National Audubon organizations).

Deadline: All registrations and payments must be received by Tuesday, March 21st. Send check payable to Orange Audubon Society along with your name, address, phone and e-mail information to: PO Box 941142, Maitland, FL 32794-1142. Include completed membership application form if joining OAS. For more information, contact Tom (407-332-5089) or Teresa (407-644-0796 or mwilliams@cfl.rr.com). Download membership application form from OAS' official website: www.orangeaudubonfl.org.

Parking passes & directions: Please pick up Rollins parking passes and directions from Teresa at the March 16th meeting at Leu Gardens, or call her to make arrangements.

Get Ready for Birdathon on April 8th!

Calling all Birders and Birding Teams!!! Remember to mark your calendars for this upcoming Saturday, April 8th!!! Whether you decide to take off at the crack of dawn for a day of marathon birding or simply stroll your local birding sites before heading for a cappuccino, please get out and help us with our annual Birdathon fundraiser. A pledge sheet has once again been included for your convenience. Don't forget to ask your neighbors, co-workers, and friends to sponsor your efforts! Remind them of all the candy, wrapping paper, and cookies you've purchased over the years if you must! It'll be a grand time so join us in helping raise much needed funds.

See you out in the field!

Claire Hilliker, Birdathon Chair



No Fooling — We Need YOU on April 1 and 2

Orange Audubon Society's large, and last of the fiscal year, spring fundraiser will occur at the Spring Fiesta in the Park the first weekend in April. This event is a large draw and we need many volunteers to help with our sales merchandise (once again, if we have volunteers, we will offer the kids' art table for the young attendees). Please commit now to spending some time with us at the Lake Eola event. This is the last newsletter before this event, so don't procrastinate with your call. Please contact me (407-886-2925; LNS-OAS@att.net) or Teresa (407-644-0796; mwilliams@cfl.rr.com) to give your preference for day (Saturday or Sunday) and block of time between 8:00am and 6:00pm (3-4 hrs. is preferred, but less is also appreciated). We could also use help with the tent and tables set up on Friday, March 31, 5:30pm to about 7:30pm. Provide a phone or email address so that we can reply to your message. Thanks in advance for volunteering. Loretta Satterthwaite

Local Wildlife Rehabilitator Needs

It's that time of year when all the critters are doing 'what comes naturally'. This generally leads to a lot more of them being taken to our local rehabilitators with injuries or as orphans. Please remember that each of these rehabbers has a long list of needed items (paper towels, dry puppy chow, laundry soap, baby cereal, unsalted nuts, soft cloths and towels, to name a few). Cash donations are especially useful and can be used for buying specific dietary products. So, be generous — as you always are — and make whatever contribution you can when you or someone you know makes use of these emergency facilities. A list of local rehabilitators may be found on the Orange Audubon website at <http://www.orangeaudubonfl.org/>

assist.html. We try to keep this list as complete and up to date as possible. If you find that there are any inaccuracies or if you know of any licensed rehabber in the area that should be added to the list, please let us know. Thank you.



Photo Contest Winner's Display Coming to Colonial Photo

Coming soon to Colonial Photo and Hobby (CPH), 634 N. Mills Avenue, Orlando, FL is the anxiously awaited display window that will feature winning photos from Orange Audubon Society's 2004 and 2005 Chertok Nature Photography Contests (OASCNPC).

The expected "unveiling," planned in late March, is perfectly timed to pique interest in the contest. The display will recognize winning photographers and emphasize the contest's objectives of promoting interest and concern for preserving Florida's native fauna and flora and creating an interest in nature photography.

OAS is grateful to CPH for supporting the contest not only with the in-store display, but also by providing prizes for the 1st through 3rd place winners of the 2006 contest, which truly enhances the contest.

Now that your interest is piqued, don't forget that OAS' 2006 (18th Annual) Chertok Open Nature Photography Contest is a digital competition. The contest theme is "Florida – Wild and Wonderful!" and deadline for entries is May 18, 2006. Entries can-

not show humans, human-made structures or artifacts, or fauna or flora that is not native to Florida. There is a limit of four images per entrant. Cash and other awards will be announced June 15, 2006. Cost: \$3 per entry for Audubon members; \$5 per entry for nonmembers.

Application forms with complete contest rules and regulations can be picked up at all future OAS meetings or at Colonial Photo and Hobby. You may also download and print the application form (PDF file) from OAS' official website: www.orangeaudubonfl.org using free Adobe Acrobat Reader. For additional information, contact Teresa: 407-644-0796 or mwilliams@cfl.rr.com. Teresa Williams, OASCNPC Chair.



**ORANGE AUDUBON SOCIETY
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John Winfree (06) 407-302-6536
Gordon Wolfram (06) 407-855-9633

Calendar of Events

March 4, 2006 - Saturday

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

March 4, 2006 - Saturday

Tibet-Butler Backyard Habitat Fest; 9am-4pm.
FREE! For info: 407-876-6696

March 11, 2006 - Saturday

Wekiwa Riverfest at Wekiwa Springs State Park
Loretta Satterthwaite 407-886-2925

March 11, 2006 - Saturday

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

March 12, 2006 - Sunday

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

March 16, 2006 - 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 18, 2006 - Saturday

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

March 18, 2006 - Saturday

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

March 25, 2006 - Saturday

Dr. Howard A. Kelly Celebration, Kelly Park in
Apopka, Loretta Satterthwaite, 407-886-2925

April 1, 2006 - Saturday

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

April 1-2, 2006 - Sat-Sun

Spring Festival in the Park, Lake Eola
Loretta Satterthwaite 407-886-2925

April 2, 2006 - Sunday

Sweetwater Oaks Garden Fair
Deborah Green 407-553-0028

April 7-8, 2006 - Fri-Sat

Field Trip: Ft. DeSoto Park, St. Petersburg
Dick Smith 407-257-7361; dick.smith@zepamfg.com

April 8, 2006 - Saturday

OAS Birdathon Fundraiser
Claire Hilliker 407-677-5374; hilliker@iag.net

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