



"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...

... OAS Birdathon 2006, April 8, 2006.
 ... Eco-Rollins along with the student run Recycling Program will be holding their annual Earth Day festivities on Thursday, April 20th. The event will run from 11am - 2pm out in front of the Cornell Campus Center.

This Month's Program: April 20, 2006 - 7pm Bats of Florida by Laura Finn

Bats are gentle mammals and typically bite only if frightened or provoked. Many species are social and some have even been known to care for each other's young, according to our April speaker Laura Seckbach Finn, an expert in the field of bat research, bat habitats, and bat management. Laura and her husband Tom run Fly By Night, Inc, which is supported by donations, consulting, and sales of bat boxes. Laura will bring several bats, many of which we can hold. This program is suitable for children! Leu Gardens has a bat box Laura has installed, and working around Leu Gardens' closing time, we may be able to check this box with our speaker. Please join us April 20 for a fascinating program.
 Deborah Green, Vice President

Election of the Board of Directors and Officers

At the upcoming general meeting in April, we will be electing Officers and five members of the Board of Directors. We still need two more nominees for the at large board positions, and a nominee for the presidency.

As with any organization, we need to have a constant flow of "new blood" coming into the leadership positions, or we will become stagnant. If you are at all interested in any of these positions, please consider stepping forward. You don't have to have previous experience on a Board of Directors; we

don't expect you to take on any great responsibilities. We will find what your interests are, and channel you in that direction.

With almost 20 committees, we have many areas of interest where your talents can be used. Your chapter needs you, and we would be pleased to have you contribute in your own way. Please contact Dick Smith at dick.smith@zepmfg.com, or Cell (407-257-7361).

Dick Smith, Nominating Committee Chair

March Field Trip Report BOB WHEELER

Our March field trip to Wekiwa Springs State Park turned out to be great in terms of new species and participation. A group of 25 met at the Albertson's on SR 434 before car-pooling to the park. Our first stop was the Banding Station where Richard Poole had, for most of us, a new and rare Orange-crowned Warbler in one of his nets. Later we also observed him net and band a Carolina Wren. Walking south on the banding trail, we saw a pair of Red-headed Woodpeckers and a rare junior Grey Fox!

Our next stop was the little Sand Lake where we were treated to a bit of an aerial show by a pair of Swallow-tailed Kites, and another quiet uncommon bird, the Hermit Thrush displayed for us while eating along the trail.

We then gathered ourselves and drove to the spring by way of the Youth Camp and the motor home park. At the spring, a pair of Red-shouldered Hawks showed off their colors for us. All in all it was a great trip, and I hope to see y'all next month!

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

This is what it's all about!! The weather has been beautiful for all of the outdoor events that make for springtime in Florida. Wish it'd rain (at night?) though. Orange Audubon Society (OAS) continues to be asked to participate in many events; just this past week we've received an invitation to participate at the Audubon Center for Birds of Prey Baby Owl Shower (10am-4pm, May 13th), a community event, being held to celebrate Mother's Day and the baby bird season at the Center. The Center will be offering free admission to guests in exchange for a "baby shower" gift to help offset the costs incurred during baby bird season. A detailed "wish list" will be in next month's OASis or call the Center (407-539-5700). If you'd care to help OAS for an hour or two, please contact me (407-886-2925 or LNS-OAS@att.net) or Teresa (407-644-0796 or mwilliams@cfl.rr.com). OAS was also asked to participate in 'Society Row' at the Central

Florida Fair, April 20th-30th. There will be specific dates and times that they'd like someone in attendance, so if you could help with that for a couple of hours, contact me; I don't have dates and times yet, but will by the time this newsletter reaches you.

I understand from our nominating committee that they are having some difficulty finding someone willing to accept the office of the President. Please remember that I cannot continue to serve due to term limits. How can I let you know that this is not some big onerous obligation? I have held the office for the last four years while having a full-time job and I also served as President from 1987-89, so either I'm the dumbest person in the world or the job isn't that bad!! If I can do it, so can you. Things may not always be done to perfection, but you do the best you can. You will have the best people in the society supporting you every step of

the way — the board is composed of excellent people and there are many other people who will help you also. This is not a one-person endeavor; we're all there to back you up. Please step forward and help Orange Audubon continue to serve the environment and people of Central Florida.

Remember Earth Day is April 22nd. What will you do to help protect and preserve the environment? Little things can make a difference — whether it be picking up litter, recycling (better yet, reduce and reuse, then recycle), saving energy (lights off, don't buy gas guzzlers, carry your own reusable cloth bags to the grocery store) or contacting your legislators with a specific environmental support letter (endangered species act, water quality, selling off our public lands — see related article, or something else) — so, act now to help the Earth survive humankind's impacts. Thanks.

MyRegion.org Presentation

Orange Audubon Board Member Susan Clary, who serves as chairman of the Orange Soil & Water Conservation District, has invited myregion.org to make a presentation on its study of growth in Central Florida and remedies for preservation. Charles Lee, Director of Advocacy for Audubon of Florida, and Developer Randy Lyon, will present the myregion.org findings at 4pm Wednesday, April 12th at the Orange County Board of County Commission Chambers in downtown Orlando. The meeting is open to the public.

For more information, email Susan at claryconserve@aol.com or call 407-575-8036.

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>

Is Tosohatchee Your Playground?

Word is that the Division of Recreation and Parks and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) are quietly orchestrating a property swap that would put Tosohatchee into the hands of the FWC as a Wildlife Management Area. This is an agenda item of the April 21st meeting in Tallahassee of the Acquisition and Restoration Council. Tosohatchee was purchased in the 1970s under the Florida Endangered Lands Plan and millions in mitigation money have been spent to restore habitat for the benefit of endangered species. Tosohatchee was the mitigation site to compensate for the loss of functional wetlands at the Brevard Crossings property in Central Brevard. If Tosohatchee gets into the hands of the FWC, there will be a general hunt and ATV trails for the use of hunters, and diminished recreational opportunities for the passive user. Additionally, the swap will most likely be to the detriment of non-game species and the endangered species at Tosohatchee.

Central Florida's population is growing and Tosohatchee provides a quality nature-based recreational experience. It is increasingly an ecotourism destination and a number of ecotour operators use it. This change in management and usage doesn't make sense at a time when the population of hunters in Florida is contracting but the population of passive nature-based recreators is increasing.

People with concerns about this issue should make them known to the following key players (it'd be a good idea to send a copy of your correspondence to Governor Bush also!):

Ms. Colleen Castille, Secretary Florida Department of Environmental Protection 3900 Commonwealth Blvd., MS 10 Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000 Phone: (850) 245-2011 Fax: (850) 245-2021 colleen.castille@dep.state.fl.us

Mr. Robert G. Ballard, Deputy Secretary Florida Department of Environmental Protection 3900 Commonwealth Blvd., MS 44 Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000 Phone: (850) 245-2043 Fax: (850) 245-2048 bob.g.ballard@dep.state.fl.us

Mr. Michael Bullock, Director Division of Recreation and Parks 3900 Commonwealth Blvd., MS 500 Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000 Phone: (850) 245-3029 michael.bullock@dep.state.fl.us

Double Feature of Winning Photographs Now Showing at Colonial Photo & Hobby

Take a drive on the wild side. Take a drive to Colonial Photo & Hobby, 634 N. Mills Avenue, Orlando, where enlargements of winning images selected from Orange Audubon Society's Kit and Sidney Chertok Nature Photography Contest (OASCNPC) will be on display during the month of April.

The first feature includes three images from the 2004 and 2005 contests that we previously announced. Described below are the image title, artist's name, and contest placement. The images are:

- Sandhill Cranes by John D. Lucas (Miami): 1st Place 2005.
- Crested Caracara Flight by Jim Urbach (Longwood): 1st Place 2004.
- Helianthus and Slash Pines by Bob Stamps (Apopka): Honorable Mention 2004.

The second feature is an unexpected surprise from Colonial Photo & Hobby (CPH), who will devote their entire front display window to OASCNPC. To fill the window, three additional winning images have been selected to receive this honor. They are:

- Eastern Meadowlark by Mike Brinkley (Apopka): Honorable Mention 2004.
- Cattle Egret Calling Mate by Diane E. Chenault (Orlando): 2nd Place 2002.
- Brown Pelican with Eggs by Kevin Doxstater (Port Orange): 2nd Place 2001.

We congratulate all six photographers and extend our sincere thanks to CPH for bringing Florida native nature and the contest to life in a store front on Colonial Drive!
Teresa Williams, OASCNPC Chair

Welcome New Members!

Vincent M Abruzzo, John Allen, Nancy K Anderson, Elizabeth Baab, Darcy R Bergman, Susan Berry, Marty Bixler, Eric S Bowers, Mary W Bywater, Cheri Carse, Maureen Connors, Mr&Mrs William Crandall, Sue S Davidson, Mark Davis, Greg Dawson, Tom Dickerson, Frank Edge, Charles J Farrell, Ronald Forehand, Larry Gergley, Joan Grice, Brenda Harrison, Ines Harriss, Wendy Janes, Bette Kasch, Joel-Lynn Katz, Aaron Kierstead, Cheryl Kinney, Lori Lambert, Melissa Maccarelli, Ronna F McFadden, Diana P Miles, Robin Morland, Tony Myer, Kathleen Nash, The Paul Neal Family, Julia Noran, Case Patten, Elizabeth Perry, Luther Pollok, Marcia Randolph, Eileen R Rogers, Gail Romain, Anita Sargeant, Benjamin M Schick, Thomas J Schou, Lawrence L Schuldeisz, Debra Singer, Clark-Doris Slayman, M Sharon D Smeenck, Ileta Spitzer, David Stamps, Lea Stanton, Samantha Stock, Shelley Stocksdale, Mr&Mrs David Sukkert, Donald L Sullivan, Margaret Svancar, Jaïnes D Taylor, Christine Tiedtake, Cheryl West, Patricia Wheeler, Amy Wieck, Ken Worrow, Janet Wyatt, and Connie Zell.

How Shall We Grow?

You've heard this phrase recently — it's been on the local news and in the newspapers. A group of business and civic leaders have joined together to try to have an impact on the way the growth in Central Florida occurs over the next few decades. If indeed the population of the region doubles over the next forty years as is projected, steps must be taken to ensure that there is some 'pattern' to this growth. Of course, the real question is 'why would we allow this amount of growth to occur?' Perhaps growth is inevitable, but we can set limits and, just like responsible parents limit the size of their family, our leaders should practice 'family planning' and limit not only where growth occurs, but how much growth occurs. This, however, is unlikely — after all, increased tax revenues are based on increased growth.

So, if it's not likely that the amount of growth will be limited, can we at least limit where growth is allowed? You have a chance to participate in the process of "Creating a Shared Vision for Central Florida". Over the next 15 months, the Founders of this movement would like to have at least 5,000 citizens, community leaders and elected officials working together to craft a vision for the future. Decisions being made will directly impact the future of your children and grandchildren (even if you've made the choice to only have 4-footed children!). Here's your chance to participate. The next Community Information Sessions will be on April 27th at the Hyatt Regency OIA. You can select a 1.5-hr. session from 8:00–9:30am, noon–1:30pm or 3:00–4:30pm with refreshments provided at each session. I have some invitations and if you will contact me (407-886-2925 or LNS-OAS@att.net), I'll mail you one or you may visit www.myregion.org and sign up for the meeting. An RSVP is required, so contact me or them with plenty of lead time so that you can attend the session that is most convenient for you. Please get involved in shaping the future of Central Florida. Loretta Satterthwaite

Public Lands Sell-Off

The Bush administration has proposed the sale of nearly 1000 acres of land in the Ocala National Forest (and other public lands across the nation — for details go to http://www.fs.fed.us/news/2006/releases/02/secure_rural_schools.shtml) to provide revenue for schools and roads. An environmental task force for the Ocala National Forest area, on which Audubon serves, recommended in 2005 that more land be acquired to buffer against possible expansion of SR-40. We need to protect more land in the Forest, not develop it!

Since the announcement of this sell-off proposal, Audubon, other environmental groups and several members of Congress have stated strong opposition to it. Congressman Ric Keller of Florida's 8th District is coordinating a letter from the Florida delegation to the Administration protesting this sale. So far, Senators Nelson and Martinez have signed on, as have several representatives, but more signatures will make a stronger message.

Help end this threat by contacting your member of the House of Representatives. Send a personal letter or go to www.audubonofflorida.org, click on the panther (conservation action), click on "Take Action" and go down the page to the appropriate campaign and send an email from there. Urge your Representative to work to defeat this budget proposal that will induce more development pressure where it is least appropriate. Ask them to sign on to Rep. Keller's letter from the delegation if they haven't already — and if they have signed on, thank them for their support!

A personal letter to the U.S. Forest Service (see website above for address) would also be a good idea. Many of those employees do not think that this sell-off is a good idea, but for fear of losing their jobs, they can't speak out against it. The public must do it for them. The deadline for public comments directed to the U.S. Forest Service has been extended to May 1, 2006, but don't delay — do it now. Thanks. Loretta Satterthwaite

**ORANGE AUDUBON SOCIETY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2005-2006**

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Pete Vogt (08)	407-855-4122
John Winfree (06)	407-302-6536
Gordon Wolfram (06)	407-855-9633

Calendar of Events

April 1, 2006 - Saturday

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

April 8, 2006 - Saturday

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

April 20, 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

April 22, 2006 - Saturday

Field Trip: Mead Gardens, Winter Park
Bob Ferguson 407-644-7850; rfergusonhsd@earthlink.net

April 22, 2006 - Saturday

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

April 29, 2006 - Saturday

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

May 6, 2006 - Saturday

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

May 11-14, 2006 - Thu-Sun

Florida's First Coast Birding and Nature Festival
St. Augustine, FL
www.visitoldcity.com/birding_nature/

May 13, 2006 - Saturday

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

May 18, 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

Chertok Photo Contest Deadline is May 18th

Don't forget the deadline for postmark or hand delivery of entries in Orange Audubon Society's 2006 (18th Annual) Kit and Sidney Chertok Open Nature Photography Contest is May 18, 2006. Winners of this digital competition will be announced at Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) annual covered dish dinner and program presentation of contest entries and awarding of prizes on June 15, 2006.

You may pick up entry forms in person at future OAS meetings held at Leu Gardens, Orlando, or at Colonial Photo & Hobby, 634 N. Mills Avenue, Orlando, FL. You may also download and print entry forms from OAS' official website: www.orangeaudubonfl.org or contact Teresa, mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or 407-644-0796, to have forms mailed to you.

We appreciate your support of native nature photography. Good luck, all participants. Teresa Williams, CNPC Chair

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