



*"The voice of Conservation in Central Florida"*

# OASis



*Orange Audubon Society  
A Chapter of National Audubon Society and Audubon of Florida*

VOLUME 42

September 2006

NUMBER 1

## In this Issue...

<i>This Month's Program</i> .....	p1
<i>Field Trip</i> .....	p1
<i>Presidential Ramblings</i> .....	p2
<i>Conservation News</i> .....	p2
<i>Let your Voice be Heard</i> .....	p2
<i>Audubon Assembly 2006</i> .....	p3
<i>Invitation to Fall FOS Meeting</i> .....	p3
<i>Hospitality Volunteers Needed</i> .....	p3
<i>Fiscal Year in Review</i> .....	p3
<i>Last Word</i> .....	p3
<i>2006 Photo Contest Results</i> .....	p4
<i>Past Presidents' Words of Wisdom</i> .....	p4
<i>Past President's Article</i> .....	p4
<i>Be a COOL OWL</i> .....	p5
<i>Birds &amp; Bicycles at Emeralda Marsh</i> .....	p5
<i>CNPC Contest Judges</i> .....	p5
<i>Butterfly Field Course</i> .....	p6
<i>Calendar of Events</i> .....	p6

### **This Month's Program: September 21, 2006 - 7:00pm Saving Gopher tortoises (and maybe their Upland Habitats at the same time) by Ray and Patricia Ashton**

More and more we hear of gopher tortoises being buried during development of upland properties, through "take" permits. But on June 7, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission reclassified the gopher tortoise from species of special concern to threatened species. Leading the fight to save the gopher tortoise and at the same time other animals and plants of the tortoise's habitat are Ray and Patricia Ashton. Having studied and written on reptiles and amphibians for nearly 30 years, they now run the Gopher Tortoise Conservation Initiative through their Ashton Biodiversity Research & Preservation Institute, Inc. near Gainesville. The Ashtons will report on their work with agencies, local governments, and stakeholder groups to develop some real protections, plus will answer anything we want to know about these interesting and important animals. Join us September 21 for a fascinating program.

Deborah Green, Vice President

### **September Field Trip - Hal Scott Regional Preserve & Park**

On Saturday, September 23rd, OAS will visit Hal Scott Regional Preserve and Park. This 9515 acre property in east Orange County, straddles the Econlockhatchee River. We will hike about four to five miles through pine flatwoods, as well as riverine swamp. For more information on the property, read the St. Johns River Water Management District Recreation Guide to District Lands (Free from SJRWMD's Office of Community and Government Affairs, P.O. Box 1429, Palatka FL 32718-1429) or on the internet at [http://sjr.state.fl.us/programs/operations/land\\_mgmt/index.html](http://sjr.state.fl.us/programs/operations/land_mgmt/index.html).

We will meet at 7:30am in the back parking lot of Burger King on SR 50 just east

of Alafaya Trail. Bring something to drink (see Past President's message on dehydration, p.2), sun protection, insect protection, birding gear, and lunch (for after the hike). Please join us. For more information, contact us at 407-851-5416.

Mary Keim and Randy Snyder  
Field Trip Committee



*Orange Audubon Society meetings are held the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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*

## Presidential Ramblings DICK SMITH, PRESIDENT

Can you believe that is September again, already? It really is true that as you get older the time passes more quickly. I can attest to it.

Your Board of Directors have spent a lot of time putting the plans for 2006-2007 together, and we hope you enjoy what we have come up with for the year.

Mary Keim-Field Trip Chair- has an exciting slate of field trips planned. All of the locations have been "scouted out" and we know that they are great places to bird.

Deborah Green-Program Chair- has worked very hard to provide us with interesting and educational programs for the meetings.

Claire Hilliker-OASis Editor- has put together a beautiful brochure with all of our

chapter activities and information for the entire year.

Milt Heiberg and the Finance Committee have, once again, built a balanced budget to keep us in the "black". No easy task.

Teresa Williams and the Chertok Photo Contest Committee have an exciting plan for this year with increased prize monies for the winners.

Peggy Cox and the Conservation Committee are attending meetings, watching over politicians and fighting developers to try to save what little bit of wild Florida that we have left.

In addition, something, which I especially encourage you to watch for, is the series of articles, which will be written by the

Past Presidents of the Orange Audubon Society. They have been told that they can write about whatever subject they chose; it will be interesting to see what words of wisdom they have for us. In addition, each Committee Chair is going to do a short article explaining what their committee does. We encourage you to join a committee of your persuasion. We need people who are not on the Board of Directors to take an active role on each committee. This is also the best way for you to learn about the internal workings of your Chapter. I hope that you will want to make some kind of contribution of time and effort, and, even, serve on the Board.

So, please join us at any, and all, of the upcoming meetings and field trips.

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## Conservation News PEGGY COX, CHAIR

Orange Audubon conservation committee members have been involved in several environmental roundtables in May and June that were part of the Innovation Way Comp Plan amendment process. Along with other environmental representatives, Orange Audubon helped clarify and strengthen some of the environmental policies included in the plans for Innovation Way. We worked with others to help narrow and better define the actual Innovation Way Corridor to prevent further sprawl in the area near the Econ River Protection Zone, added language protecting the river and upland buffers, along with a plan for an environmental stewardship pro-

gram that will require dedication for preservation of lands designated as environmentally sensitive by developers when they begin any project in the I-W corridor. The policies on Innovation Way have been approved by the County and are in review at the State Dept. of Community Affairs (DCA) at this time.

A proposed Development of Regional Impact (DRI) in the proposed Innovation Way corridor, called Innovation Place DRI was opposed by OAS, but subsequently transmitted by the Board of County Commissioners to DCA for approval. Problems with this proposed development have been

commented on to the County and DCA. Innovation Place proposes over 2,200 residential units in its first phase (8,500 residential units at build out in 2020), and over 300,000 sq.ft. of retail buildings that would exacerbate sprawl in that area off Narcoossee Road, and have negative impacts on the vast wetland systems on the property. Charles Lee of AOF is working with other environmentalists, the County, and the developer to work on these concerns and greater preservation of the large wetland system that makes up almost half the property, including Hart Branch, draining into Lake Hart to the south.

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>

## Let Your Voice Be Heard!

"Listening Sessions" are being held across the United States by the Departments of Interior, Commerce, Agriculture and Environmental Protection as part of the "Cooperative Conservation and Environmental Partnerships" agenda established by the White House Council on Environmental Quality. These public sessions have been held across the nation and one will be held in Orlando, on Monday, September 25th at the Orange County Convention Center, exact time yet to be set.

Gov. Jeb Bush, Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne, and Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Stephen Johnson will be in attendance and "listening". These sessions are for comment on federal policy and regulations pertaining to conservation and environmental issues. National Audubon has sent out a talking points memo for commenting on the Endangered Species Act, currently being reviewed at the federal level. Check the NAS website or contact me for the memo. All environmentalists are being urged to attend or send comments via the website listed below.

No pre-registration is required; Speakers will be asked to register at the session. Please check the website for more information: <http://cooperativeconservation.gov/session/index.html>.

## **Audubon Assembly Goes to the Beach!**

### **Saving Birds and Special Spaces**

#### **Audubon Assembly 2006 - October 19-21, Cocoa Beach**

Relax and enjoy the casual, beachfront atmosphere of the Holiday Inn Cocoa Beach Oceanfront Resort. Join Audubon of Florida for engaging programs that highlight Florida's coastal environments and issues that affect their wellbeing. Get inspired and sharpen skills for advocating for birds and their protection. Hear scientists share insights on global warming and its consequences for Florida's extensive coastal areas. Collaborate with other environmentalists and birders from across the region to shape policies and take an active part in saving our birds, wildlife, and habitats. Enjoy one of Florida's best beaches while you catch up with friends, colleagues, and fellow Audubon members. Field trips will take in some of Florida's birding hot spots, so don't forget the binoculars!

Register by September 27 and pay only \$99 for all receptions, meals, programs, workshops, and even a movie. (After September 27, this all-inclusive package is \$125.) Conference costs are underwritten by Audubon of Florida to keep participants' costs to a minimum, so make plans NOW to attend! Download the registration form at [www.audubonofflorida.org/conservation\\_assembly.html](http://www.audubonofflorida.org/conservation_assembly.html) and mail or fax it in today! You can also contact Vicky Johnston at (305) 371-6399 ext. 134 to have a registration form mailed to you.

Book hotel accommodations directly with the Holiday Inn, and take advantage of the special rate for Audubon Assembly participants. Oceanfront rooms are available at additional cost.

## **Invitation to the Fall 2006**

### **Florida Ornithological Society Meeting**

#### **October 27-29, 2006 - Titusville**

The Florida Ornithological Society's Fall 2006 meeting will be held October 27-29, 2006 in Titusville, FL. This year's fall meeting is being hosted by the Brevard Nature Alliance and the Space Coast Audubon Society and will be headquartered at the Best Western Space Shuttle Inn, 3455 Cheney Highway, Titusville, Florida 32780; Tel: 321-269-9100; Special FOS rate: \$69.00 plus tax/ double occupancy. Make reservations before October 13 for this rate – Identify yourself as an FOS member. Complimentary Continental breakfast included daily.

Join fellow birding enthusiasts as we meet for various social activities (including Friday evening's Flocking at the Space Walk of Fame Museum in Titusville) and field trips around the Space Coast, and make plans to attend the Scientific Sessions on Saturday to discover what local researchers have been working on in our state. For more detailed information and for a copy of the registration form, please visit the FOS website at [www.fosbirds.org](http://www.fosbirds.org)

## **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 Williams at 407-332-5089. We look forward to seeing you at the next meeting!

## **Fiscal Year in Review**

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) ended fiscal year 2006 on a positive note, attributable primarily to a successful annual letter appeal to its membership, a bullish stock market and fundraising events and activities benefiting two major education programs: OAS' Chertok Nature Photography Contest (CNPC) endowment fund and the Audubon Adventures (AA) education program.

OAS appreciates the efforts of a dedicated board, its general membership and other friends who gave the personal time and resources necessary to meet the fiscal 2006 financial goals of achieving a balanced budget while also increasing its CNPC endowment fund and reserves for AA. By attaining and sustaining a position of fiscal stability, OAS ensures its future and continued ability to be a strong voice for conservation and the environment. By focusing efforts to ensure funding for education programs such as CNPC and AA, OAS ensures longevity of the very activities that mold the next generation of environmental stewards.

Anyone interested in obtaining additional financial details can contact Teresa Williams, Treasurer, by phone: 407-644-0796 or email: [mwilliams@cfl.rr.com](mailto:mwilliams@cfl.rr.com).

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## **Final Word**

Please let me take this opportunity to, once again, thank you all for a wonderful June meeting and potluck. Special thanks to Tom Williams for preparing the Orange Audubon hospitality and overseeing the entire scrumptious event. His experienced mastery of this event makes it look easy, but we know that it takes lots of preparation.

Thanks, also, to the custodial crew at Leu Gardens. I truly appreciated all of your efforts to make each of our evening programs run smoothly.

Special thanks to Teresa Williams for

superbly meeting the challenge of our first digital Kit and Sidney Chertok Nature Photography Contest. She, with the aid of the photo contest committee, did an amazing job of providing the evening's entertainment — of course, there was that small matter of help from all of the contest entrants!

Thanks to everyone who contributed some amazing silent auction items. Everything from the last-minute arriving night blooming cactus to the Dexter's Restaurant gift certificate were well received and bids on them bolstered the secure financial posi-

tion that Orange Audubon has managed to attain over the last few years. Thanks to all who have helped in achieving that goal for OAS during these last four years.

Finally, thank you all for the food, the silent auction items or your presence to lend support (moral or financial) at that last meeting. It was a nice ending to my presidency. I look forward to seeing you at programs, field trips and/or fundraisers — enjoy the new Audubon season!!

Loretta Satterthwaite

## 2006 Photo Contest Results

Winners of Orange Audubon Society's 18th Annual (and first digital) Kit and Sidney Chertok Nature Photography Contest (CNPC) were announced at our June 15th meeting at Harry P. Leu Gardens. Members and guests met to enjoy dinner, a silent auction and a program featuring over 300 eligible entries taken in locales as far northwest as Florida Caverns State Park; south as Dry Tortugas National Park and the Florida Keys; along the east coast to St. Augustine; and 100 or more wild places in between.

### Contest winners:

- 1st place, *Royal Terns Mating Display*  
by Robert J. Amoruso, Orlando;
- 2nd place, *Sunset Serenade*  
by Gerald Faircloth, Umatilla;
- 3rd place, *Feather Count*  
by Deborah Sandidge, Oviedo;

### Honorable Mentions:

- Purple Gallinule*  
by Jaime Paredes, Coconut Creek;
- Spider 'Danger Dew'*  
by Debbie Korfmacher, Deltona;
- Grooming Anhinga*  
by Dominick Martino, Gainesville;
- Butterfly*  
by Jim Odom, Winter Springs;
- Reddish Egret Fishing*  
by Ken Benson, Palm Beach Gardens.

Winning images now vie for selection by Colonial Photo & Hobby to be enlarged and featured in an exclusive Orange Audubon Society CNPC front window display (Spring 2007) in their Orlando location on Mills Avenue.

OAS appreciates the support of the photographers who competed in 2006 and looks forward to their participation in the 2007 (19th annual) contest. Please watch for contest information in the October issue of the OASis and on the OAS website at [www.orangeaudubonfl.org](http://www.orangeaudubonfl.org).

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.

Teresa Williams, CNPC Chair



## Past Presidents' Words of Wisdom

Throughout the year, we are going to have an article in each OASis written by a Past President on a subject of their choice. Watch for the articles from these authors in the following months. Maybe we can learn something from the people who have given so much of their time for this organization.

MONTH	PRESIDENT	TERM
September.....	Mary Keim.....	1982-1984
October.....	Richard Poole.....	1971-1973
December.....	Greg Bretz.....	1980-1982
January.....	Jim Thomas.....	1969-1971
February.....	Tom Williams.....	1996-1998
March.....	Bob Stamps.....	1994-1996
April.....	Peggy Lantz.....	1989-1991
May.....	Peggy Cox.....	1998-2002
June.....	Loretta Satterthwaite.....	1987-1989 & 2002-2006

## Past President's Article: Birding and Dehydration MARY KEIM

This topic is of interest because my husband, Randy Snyder, and I led OAS field trips for eleven years. The most common mistake we've seen made on field trips and other outings is underestimating needed fluid amounts. While we have not had a heat-related medical emergency, we stopped doing June field trips after a June hike when we had a fatigued, flushed, overheated birder get our attention.

We have seen some birders come on half-day field trips with only a pint or 2 of water, when the weather called for about 5 or 6 pints. While needed amounts of fluid vary with temperature, activity and body size, 1 ½ to 2 gallons per day (12 to 16 pints per day) is a typical amount needed for hiking in hot weather.

Symptoms of mild dehydration include increased thirst, decreased urine output with dark yellow urine, dry mouth, and sticky saliva. Other dehydration symptoms include light-headedness (due to decreased blood volume), irritability, fatigue, constipation and headache. One way to determine if you are well hydrated is if your urine output approximates your fluid intake and/or your urine is a pale yellow (i.e., not concentrated).

Things we have seen that suggest dehydration are birders (or butterflies, etc.) that:

1. leave the activity after an hour or two saying they are overheated
2. report extreme fatigue at end of trip
3. report headache after trip
4. have very red, flushed skin

Replacing fluids and electrolytes (salts) is an important key to prevention of heat-related illness. Sports drinks or water and electrolyte-containing snacks are good. We mix powdered Gatorade at less than the recommended rate, and usually carry apples or other snacks.

Throughout the year, stay hydrated and enjoy your outing.

For more information see the American College of Sports Medicine's position stand on Exercise and Fluid Replacement at: [http://www.acsm.org/Content/NavigationMenu/Research/Roundtables\\_Specialty\\_Conf/PastRoundtables/Position\\_Stand\\_Fluid\\_Replacement.htm](http://www.acsm.org/Content/NavigationMenu/Research/Roundtables_Specialty_Conf/PastRoundtables/Position_Stand_Fluid_Replacement.htm)

Mary served as OAS President 1982-4. She has also been OAS Secretary and Field Trip Chair. Mary teaches biology at Seminole Community College.

## Become a “COOL OWL”

In April of this year, Orange Audubon Board members Peggy Cox, Loretta Satterthwaite, Susan Clary, Ayme Smith, and Pete Vogt began meeting with other concerned Orange County conservationists on trying to initiate a long-term public land acquisition program for Orange County. We have begun the process and have formulated a proposal based on the successful land acquisition programs of all the Counties surrounding Orange County.

We became the ORANGE WILD LANDS Committee or OWL for short – and are continuing our quest to develop a voter referendum on establishing a long term land acquisition bond program for Orange County, in 2008 most likely, funded by a small ad valorem tax for a 20 year program.

OWL members have spoken to the League of Women Voters of Orange County and gotten their enthusiastic support, to Orange County Commissioners, the College Park Rotary Club and several community leaders, and all have been quite supportive. The Trust For Public Lands will be working with us in the near future as we move forward towards our goal.

Recently Orange County Mayor Crotty announced a new initiative that would, among other things, reinstate the GreenPlace ad hoc land acquisition program with a \$125 million dollar, 5 year acquisition program financed by bonding part of the surplus tax revenues received by Orange County in 2005-06. We applaud this new initiative and the commitment of Orange County to preserving environmental lands, but we foresee the practical need to go beyond the ad hoc structure of GreenPlace to a long-term program with a dedicated funding source. More information will be at this OAS meeting and in future editions of the OASIS, or available by contacting an OWL committee member. If you are interested in joining OWL or becoming an official supporter, please contact me at pegcox@att.net, or 352-429-1042. Join us in Conserving Our Orange Lands and become a ‘COOL OWL’. Peggy Cox, OWL Co-Chair

## Birds & Bicycles at Emeraldal Marsh

Looking for something a little different than your typical spin over the asphalt? Join us for a natural adventure at Emeraldal Marsh. Peddle along the old farm levee which now creates the interpretive drive. On either side of you will be a wetlands marsh ecosystem complete with waterbirds, alligators, raccoons and – “birders” to tell you what you are seeing.

Birds & Bicycles

October 28 or November 4 (Date not final yet)

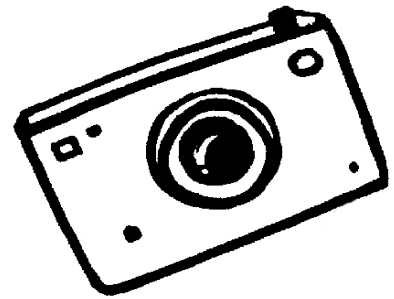
8:00am – 11:00am

Wood duck parking area – Emeraldal Marsh

Trout Lake Nature Center, Lake Audubon, and Lake Rails Trails are planning an activity we are calling, “Bicycles and Birds”, at Emeraldal Marsh on October 28. Emeraldal Marsh is a St. Johns River Water Management District property purchased to protect and preserve the water of Lake Griffin and the Ocklawaha River. We are inviting individuals from the community to bicycle or walk the driving loop, and if they are feeling extra adventurous the extension which goes out to Lake Griffin. There will birders and naturalist stationed at rest stops on the route to tell you about the natural systems, plants and wildlife you are passing. The short loop is about 4.5 miles of firm but natural surface. Ibini Tera will provide snacks and drinks at the rest areas. Participants may begin between 8:00 and 11:00am. All participants must be signed off of the property by 12:00 noon.

There is no fee for this activity but registration is requested. Call Trout Lake Nature Center at 352-357-7536 for more information or to reserve a space.

To reach the Wood Duck parking lot at Emeraldal, travel east of Haines Creek Canal on SR 44, turn north onto Lisbon Rd. When Lisbon Rd T's onto Emeraldal Island Drive turn left. You are now on Emeraldal Island Dr.; it will make a 45 degree turn to the right. Immediately after that turn you will turn left into Wood Duck Parking lot.



## 2006 Photo Contest Judges

The panel of judges for Orange Audubon Society's 2006 Kit and Sidney Chertok Nature Photography Contest (CNPC) included wildlife art professional Jon Fredlund, Winter Park; naturalist Leesa Sward, Ph.D., Winter Park; and photographer Jon Manchester, Orlando.

**Jon Fredlund** has been an art dealer in the area for 18 years. He is a birder and a hobbies wood carver of realistic birds (with several competition wins, including a world championship). Fredlund Wildlife Gallery, where visitors are welcome, recently moved to Park Avenue and displays works by some of Florida's finest wildlife artists.

**Leesa Sward** is a professor of biology/environmental studies at Valencia Community College, Winter Park, where she recently developed a Florida Birds class designed to increase awareness of Florida birds, their habitats, behaviors and critical issues that affect their populations. She studied at UCF and earned a Ph.D. from Florida Institute of Technology. She is an active Audubon member and an avid photographer, who won an award in the 2002 CNPC contest.

**Jon Manchester** had, at time of judging, just completed studies and been added to the summer faculty roster at Crealdé School of Art. Since 2000 he has been actively exhibiting his work in Florida. Recent exhibits include: Dynamic Relationships, Orlando City Hall, and Back Roads, Museum of Florida History, Tallahassee, until September 10th.

OAS expresses sincere thanks to these panelists who gave considerable time and talent to the judging process. Teresa Williams, CNPC Chair

**ORANGE AUDUBON SOCIETY  
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Pete Vogt (08) ..... 407-855-4122

**Calendar of Events**

**September 2, 2006 - Saturday**  
LARA Bird Survey; 7:30am-Noon.  
Pam Bowen 386-329-4870/pbowen@sjrwmd.com

**September 21, 2006 - Thursday**  
General Meeting, 7:00pm, Leu Gardens.  
OAS Board Meeting takes place prior to the  
General Meeting at 5:30pm. All welcome.  
Dick Smith 407-257-7361

**September 23, 2006 - Saturday**  
OAS Field Trip - Hal Scott Reg. Preserve & Park  
Mary Keim & Randy Snyder 407-851-5416

**September 16, 2006 - Saturday**  
Mead Gardens Bird Survey; 8:00am-10:00am.  
Dexter Richardson 407-760-8193  
dex@dexwine.com

**September 30, 2006 - Saturday**  
Rock Springs Run State Reserve Butterfly Survey.  
Randy Snyder 407-851-5416

**October 7, 2006 - Saturday**  
LARA Bird Survey; 7:30am-Noon.  
Pam Bowen 386-329-4870/pbowen@sjrwmd.com

**October 14, 2006 - Saturday**  
Bird of Prey ID Class #1 - LARA  
Bob Sanders 407-898-9798

**October 14, 2006 - Saturday**  
Lake Jessup Conservation Area Bird Survey.  
Lorne Malo 407-349-2536/407-659-4853(w)

**October 19, 2006 - Thursday**  
General Meeting, 7:00pm, Leu Gardens.  
OAS Board Meeting takes place prior to the  
General Meeting at 5:30pm. All welcome.  
Dick Smith 407-257-7361

**October 19-21, 2006 - Thu-Sat**  
Audubon Assembly 2006  
Holiday Inn Cocoa Beach Oceanfront Resort  
Cocoa Beach, FL. www.audubonofflorida.com

**October 21, 2006 - Saturday**  
OAS Field Trip - Canaveral National Seashore  
Mary Keim & Randy Snyder 407-851-5416

**October 21, 2006 - Saturday**  
Mead Gardens Bird Survey; 8:00am-10:00am.  
Dexter Richardson 407-760-8193  
dex@dexwine.com

**October 27-29, 2006 - Fri-Sun**  
Florida Ornithological Society (FOS) Meeting  
Best Western Space Shuttle Inn, Titusville FL  
Neta Harris 321-268-5224  
neta@natureandspace.com

**Butterfly Field Course**

Orange Audubon Society is sponsoring a field course on Central Florida Butterflies. The 7.5-hour course (3 sessions of 2 ½ hours each) is being offered on Fridays, October 13, 20, 27 from 12:30pm to 3:00pm. This course will involve observation and identification of butterflies at Hal Scott Regional Preserve and Park in east Orange County. Instructors will be Orange Audubon members Randy Snyder and Mary Keim.

Early registration fee is \$25 (postmarked on or before October 6, 2006). Make check payable to ORANGE AUDUBON SOCIETY. Note on check "Butterfly Field Course" and mail to: Randy Snyder, 1584 Outlook Street, Orlando, FL 32806-7806.

**The regular registration fee of \$35 is due at the beginning of class on October 13th.**

Recommended field guide is Butterflies through Binoculars: Florida by Glassberg, Minno, and Calhoun, 2000, Oxford Univ. Also recommended are close-focusing (6 ft. or less) binoculars. Eagle Optics Ranger 8x32 (www.eagleoptics.com), for example, has a minimum focus of 3 feet. See [http://www.birds.cornell.edu/Publications/LivingBird/winter2005/Age\\_Binos.html](http://www.birds.cornell.edu/Publications/LivingBird/winter2005/Age_Binos.html) for other binocular suggestions.

Meet at the Hal Scott parking lot on Dallas Blvd in Wedgefield at 12:30pm. For more information call 407-851-5416 or for driving instructions see [http://sjr.state.fl.us/programs/outreach/pubs/recguide/sc03\\_hal\\_scott\\_regional\\_PP.html](http://sjr.state.fl.us/programs/outreach/pubs/recguide/sc03_hal_scott_regional_PP.html).

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