



"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 16, 2006 - 7:00pm "Changing Lanes" by George Sibley

Since the 1950s Florida's leaders have emphasized building roads as the key to our state's future. Now, gridlock and driver frustration are everywhere, but politicians still tell us we can build our way out of highway congestion. In "Changing Lanes," film maker George Sibley looks at Florida's enthusiasm for highways and how it affects human and natural communities. This film encourages us to rethink the path to our future.

Join us November 16 for an interesting and informative program.
Deborah Green, Vice President

November Field Trip - Lake Norris Conservation Area

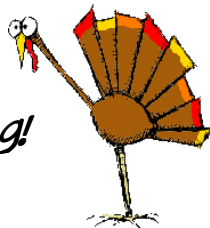
On Saturday, November 18th, OAS will visit Lake Norris Conservation Area near Eustis. The 2352 acre property was acquired by the St. Johns River Water Management District to protect the swamp on the lakeshore. Lake Norris is a dark water lake surrounded by cypress. It flows into Blackwater Creek, a tributary of the Wekiva River. We will hike about 5 miles through pasture and forest.

Meet in the Publix parking lot on SR 46

about 0.5 mi west of I-4 at 7:30 am. Bring drink, lunch (for after our hike), sun protection, insect protection and birding gear. For more information about the property see: http://www.sjrwmd.com/programs/operations/land_mgmt/trail_guides/pdfs/Lake_Norris_TG.pdf. For more information about the trip, call us at 407-851-5416.

Mary Keim and Randy Snyder
Field Trip Committee

Happy
Thanksgiving!



October Field Trip Report MARY KEIM, FIELD TRIP CHAIR

Fourteen attended the OAS field trip to Canaveral National Seashore on October 21st. Fifty-seven bird species were observed including American White Pelican, Reddish Egret, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Black-bellied Plover, Forster's Tern, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Indigo Bunting and Painted Bunting.

At least 16 butterfly species were seen. The highlight was a Mangrove Skipper. Wildflowers in bloom included Doctorbush (*Plumbago scandens*) and Frostweed (*Verbesina virginica*). Other sightings included Scarlet-bodied Wasp Moth, Six-lined Racerunner, Manatee and roughly 10 million mosquitoes.



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

Presidential Ramblings DICK SMITH, PRESIDENT

I have just returned from the Audubon Assembly in Cocoa Beach and wanted to pass on an observation to you. On Saturday morning, we had the Presidents Breakfast and I found out that I was going to have to get up and say a few words about what our chapter does. My first thought was, "We don't do anything". Therefore, while some other people were speaking, I started making some quick notes. Lo and behold, when I was finished, I had filled the entire page, and I was quite proud to stand up and list all of our projects and accomplishments.

One subject that I could not talk about, that so many other chapters did, was a scholarship program. Therefore, I thought, why not? If they can do it, so can we. With this in

mind, I would like to propose that we begin to look at the idea that Orange Audubon Society develop a Scholarship Program for a deserving student in the Earth Sciences. Realizing that we do not have the funding for such a project, we are going to have to find outside funds, i.e., a grant from a charitable foundation or organization. What we need is for some one who has experience in writing grant requests. Surely, we have someone in our organization that has done this that could give us some guidance on how to go about it. In addition, at the same time, I would all of you to give me your thoughts on this subject. Please feel free to e-mail me at RLS-OAS@earthlink.net.

Butterfly Field Course Report

Seven students enrolled in OAS's Butterfly Field Course held October 13, 20 and 27 at Hal Scott Regional Preserve and Park. The class identified 33 butterfly species. Highlights included Gray Hairstreak, Little Metalmark, White Peacock, Viceroy, and Florida Dusted Skipper. The primary nectar source was Vanilla Plant (Deer-tongue). Caterpillars included Zebra Swallowtail on Pawpaw, Black Swallowtail on Water Dropwort, Common Buckeye on False Foxglove, Monarch and Queen on Swamp Milkweed. Non-butterfly sightings included Bald Eagle, Dusky Pygmy Rattlesnake, and Catesby's Lily. Instructors were Orange Audubon members Randy Snyder and Mary Keim.

Conservation News PEGGY COX, CHAIR

The Audubon of Florida (AOF) Regional Conservation Committee met at the end of September to discuss and finalize a regional conservation strategy that all chapters in the Central Florida region will use in developing plans that deal with common conservation issues. The Regional Conservation Committees, of which there are 6 statewide, work on regional issues that reflect AOF's statewide conservation priorities and goals. Orange Audubon, like all other chapters in the region has 2 representatives to the Committee; Peggy Cox, Conservation Chair and Dick Smith, OAS President. Peggy is also a co-chair of the Committee and represents the Central Florida region on the AOF Board of Directors. The Central Florida Regional Committee includes 12 chapters; Orange, Seminole, Kissimmee Valley, Space

Coast, Southeast Volusia, Halifax River, West Volusia, Marion County, Ocklawaha Valley, Ridge Audubon, Lake Region, and Highlands County.

The Central Florida strategy targets the major ecosystems in Central Florida; the St. John's River/Econ Mosaic, Upper Kissimmee River; Lake Wales Ridge, The Green Swamp; and the Wekiva River Corridor. The general strategies presented focus on 1. Land conservation and acquisition; 2. Growth management/land planning and transportation issues; 3. Water for the Environment; 4. Wildlife habitat and protected species, preservation and protection; 5. Global Warming. The issues we have been advocating for and working with our communities on are essentially all part of these broad priorities.

Audubon of Florida has adopted state-

wide conservation/legislative strategies that all fall under the above listed 5 conservation priorities. Copies of the full resolutions and plans will be available at the next OAS meeting and should be available soon on the AOF website.

Thank you to those who attended the "listening sessions" on Sept. 25th at the Convention Center. Results of the nationwide sessions will be available early next year from the federal government.

The Conservation Committee will meet November 14th, Tuesday, 5:30 pm-7pm at the Herndon Branch of the Orange County Public Library. The Herndon Branch Library is on E. Colonial Drive (SR50), just past Fashion Square Mall on the south side of Colonial Drive. Call the Library for directions-407-835-7481.

You Are What You Eat RICHARD POOLE & CHRISTINE BROWN

"Removing the causes of environmental degradation is often more effective than seeking to control the symptoms." Cornelis de Haan, Livestock Adviser to the World Bank.

Are you a bird watcher or a bird lover? Maybe both? Are you only interested in seeing birds, or do you want to create a world that will make life better for your feathered friends -- and you? Then consider what you eat.

Did you know that two thirds of the world's agricultural land is used to maintain livestock? Seventy percent of the world's production of corn is used to produce meat, and in the United States, ninety five percent of our soya production is used as feed. Almost one third of the world's cereal harvest is fed to the one and a half billion cows worldwide.

Unfortunately, this is not a very efficient use of resources: one hundred pounds of plant protein fed to a cow becomes 92 pounds of waste and eight pounds of protein. Twelve pounds of grain produce one pound of hamburger, grain that could have been used to make eight loaves of bread or 24 plates of spaghetti.

Around the globe, forests, prairies, rainforests, and wetlands are being destroyed daily to create acreage to feed the animals that will eventually wind up on our dinner plates or in our fast-food burgers. Those lands were producing birds but can no longer do so.

For more information, please refer to 'How Our Food Choices can Help Save the Environment' by Steve Boyan, PhD at www.earthsave.org/environment/foodchoices.htm

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>

First Hawk ID Class Review

Fifteen people (plus Don & Donna Nickerson) participated in what has to be one of the best sessions yet! Conditions were just about perfect - temps in the 70s, some cloud cover but not too much, and a good NE breeze at about 10 mph. **And plenty of raptors!**

Including the vultures, 10 species of raptors were seen with many excellent opportunities for detailed study: perched, flying, hunting, soaring; high and low, near and far. Traditional field marks could be seen plus differences in shape, movements, and behaviors were discussed.

Highlights and points of interest:

- 1 adult Peregrine Falcon in determined flight, seen briefly!
- 20 to 30 Bald Eagles in various plumages foraging in freshly mown fields.
- Northern Harriers, all immature. I didn't see an adult female or adult male!
- Lots of Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawks, Cooper's Hawks, and American Kestrels.
- At least 35 other species including: 1 Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Purple Gallinule, Ground Dove, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Chimney Swift, Red-eyed Vireo, Blue Grosbeak, and Indigo Bunting.

Join us for the Next Hawk ID class on November 11th!

Bob Sanders



Restoration of Genius Reserve Continues...with Your Help

Your help is needed on November 12th when OAS undertakes its second ecological restoration workday at the 48-acre parcel of Winter Park land known as the Genius Reserve — the historical landscape purchased in 1921 by Charles Hosmer Morse and owned today by the Elizabeth Morse Genius Foundation.

The reserve is the subject of a 10+ year project aimed at preserving culturally, historically and environmentally significant aspects of the property — basically re-creating a vision of romantic old Florida. Rollins College Professor Bruce Stephenson, who is leading the restoration project, contemplates birding/bird surveys and other wildlife activities, but at the present time maintaining (and creating more) newly restored areas is of primary concern and focus.

The Foundation provides the mulch, you provide the muscle and I'll bring the ibuprofen when we meet at 10:30 am to continue with maintenance (weeding, mulching) of a newly restored area and planting of native grasses. Contact me (407-644-0796 or mwilliams@cfl.rr.com) to sign up and obtain other details. Your continued interest and assistance are both appreciated.

Teresa Williams

A T-shirt in Every Stocking!

Santa's little helpers will be setting up shop at the November 16th program at Leu Gardens so that you may purchase nature-themed adult and youth t-shirts, tote bags, signs, books, nest boxes and more for everyone on your holiday list. Nature is always fashionable, so put a t-shirt in every stocking and show off your good taste. Your purchases work double-duty by helping OAS meet its financial goals and allowing you to check one more name — naughty or nice — from your holiday gift list.

The 'shop' opens around 6 pm and early birds get the pick of the goodies. Please bring cash or check because we don't accept plastic. Thank you for supporting OAS.

Teresa Williams, Treasurer

Announcing OAS' 2007 Nature Photo Contest ~ Two Categories and Two Prize Packages ~

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) announces its 2007 (19th Annual) Kit & Sidney Chertok Nature Photography Contest, which offers nature-loving shutterbugs two separate categories of competition and two prize packages with a combined value of \$1,050. Category themes are: **"Florida's Birds!"** and **"No Birds Allowed!"** Audubon organizations, while focusing on birds, are concerned with conservation and education regarding all wildlife and wild environments. Therefore, OAS seeks to foster your interest in all of Florida's wildlife and natural areas, not just birds. We encourage entries depicting any of Florida's native animals and plants, natural landscapes, seascapes and the like. In keeping with contest objectives of promoting interest and concern for preserving Florida's native fauna and flora and encouraging nature photography, rules require that subject matter in each category be native to Florida and contain no significant trace of humans or human-made objects or artifacts.

The contest is a digital competition open to all ages. Images may not be excessively manipulated. Images in other formats such as slides or photographs may be converted to digital format before submission. Details regarding image specifications and submission criteria will be delineated on the application form.

Deadline for entries is May 17, 2007 (postmark date) or you may hand deliver them to Teresa Williams at OAS' meeting at Leu Gardens that evening. Enter a maximum of 4 images (in one or a combination of the two categories). Entry fees per image are: \$3, age seventeen and under; \$5, Audubon members (any chapter); and \$7, nonmembers. Contestants who join OAS concurrent with submitting their entry forms (membership application on back) pay member fee of \$5.

As a courtesy and to enhance your knowledge of Florida's natives, the screening committee will pre-screen all entries received by April 19, 2007. Entrants will be notified shortly thereafter of images not meeting contest eligibility criteria and have the opportunity to replace those images at no additional charge. Replacements must be made in accordance with contest deadline and all other rules.

All winners will receive ribbons and recognition in OAS published articles and on its website. In addition to OAS's cash prizes of \$200, \$100 and \$50 for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners, Colonial Photo & Hobby (CPH), Orlando, will contribute three in-store gift cards with values of \$100, \$50 and \$25, respectively. 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 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 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.

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Calendar of Events

November 11, 2006 - Saturday

Bird of Prey ID Class #2 - LARA
Bob Sanders 407-898-9798

November 11, 2006 - Saturday

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

November 14, 2006 - Tuesday

Conservation Committee Meeting
Peggy Cox 352-429-1042

November 16, 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

November 18, 2006 - Saturday

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

November 18, 2006 - Saturday

OAS Field Trip - Lake Norris Conservation Area
Mary Keim & Randy Snyder 407-851-5416

November 25, 2006 - Saturday

Rock Springs Run State Reserve Butterfly Survey.
Randy Snyder 407-851-5416

December 2, 2006 - Saturday

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

December 9, 2006 - Saturday

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

December 16, 2006 - Saturday

Wekiva River Christmas Bird Count
Jay Exum 407-843-6552x4720 (w) or
Kathy Hale 407-843-0615 (w)

December 15, 2006 - Friday

Ocklawaha Valley Audubon Christmas Bird Count
Emeralda Marsh Wood Duck Parking Lot - 7am
Peg Urban 352-326-3868.

December 16, 2006 - Saturday

Econ River Christmas Bird Count
Lorne Malo 407-349-2536/407-659-4853(w)

December 16, 2006 - Saturday

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

December 21, 2006 - Thursday

General Meeting, **6:30pm**, Leu Gardens.
OAS Board Meeting takes place prior to the
General Meeting at 5:30pm. All welcome.
Dick Smith 407-257-7361

December 30, 2006 - Saturday

Rock Springs Run State Reserve Butterfly Survey.
Randy Snyder 407-851-5416

Join Us at the Orlando Wetlands Park Festival - Saturday February 24, 2007

Please plan to join us once again for the Orlando Wetlands Park Festival in Christmas, FL on Saturday February 24, 2007, from 9am-3pm. Event co-sponsor Orange Audubon Society will lead guided birdwatching excursions and expert-guided nature photo shoots. The Florida Native Plant Society will lead native plant identification hikes and wilderness hikes will also be available by the Florida Trail Association. Ace of Hearts Ranch will offer guided horseback rides and pony rides for the children. For those who like to sit and ride, guided bus tours will travel along the wetland berms giving riders a chance to experience Florida's wild wetlands first hand. In addition to the numerous guided tours, there will be bird banding and mist-netting demonstrations, police canine demonstration, tree giveaways, door prizes and live folk music. Featured in the various wildlife shows, many different live animals will be present such as alligators, Florida panthers, snakes, birds and many others. Also the City's Families, Parks and Recreation Division will be giving away free backyard trees to each family. Food will be available for purchase.

There will be many interactive children's activities (like the Out-On-A-Limb kids tree climbing, rock climbing wall, horseback riding, hay rides and games), so bring the whole family and invite your friends and neighbors to this fun, free, educational festival. For more information call Olabisi Slade Cox at 407.246.2213 or Mark Sees at the Orlando Wetlands Park 407. 568.1706 and check out upcoming editions of the OASis for more details.

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