



"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...

... Birds of Prey ID #2 will be held Saturday, November 10th. Meet at the Lust Rd gate no later than 8:00am. For details or directions, call Bob Sanders at 407-766-5490.

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

This Month's Program: November 15, 2007 - 7:00pm People who saved Florida -- 1965-80 by Bill Partington

Amazing environmental events happened in Florida 20 years after World War II. There had been one hundred years of exploitation and wanton destruction of native landscapes- bays, estuaries, rivers, swamps, forests and wildlife- actually encouraged by governments. But starting in 1965, this destruction was turned around ALMOST 180 degrees through pressure by citizens and local groups.

Who were these people? Trained advocates? Professional organizers? Environmental scientists? Wealthy extremists? Their opponents, whose pet schemes for wealth were threatened, tried in vain to discover financial rewards that would drive these nature nuts who seemed to be having such a good time opposing "progress." Bill Partington, Orange Audubon Society member and popular speaker, had worked with these activists during this period. In our November program, Bill will describe a dozen of "the People Who Saved Florida." Although half of these heroes have died, their examples hopefully will encourage dozens more to take their places to protect what remains of our beautiful state. Join us November 15 for a fascinating program!

Deborah Green, Vice President

November Field Trip - Smyrna Dunes Park

On Saturday, November 17th, OAS will visit Smyrna Dunes Park in New Smyrna Beach. We'll walk about three miles, much of it on boardwalks, through coastal strand and coastal hammock communities. For more information about the park you can visit: <http://volusia.org/parks/smyrnadunes.htm>

Meet at 7:30am in the parking lot of the

McDonald's just north of SR 46 on Hickman Drive (just east of I-4). Bring \$3.50/vehicle park entry fee, drink, sun protection, insect protection, birding gear and lunch (for after the hike). Please join us. If you have questions about the trip, contact us at 407-851-5416.

Mary Keim & Randy Snyder
Field Trip Committee

October Field Trip Report MARY KEIM, FIELD TRIP CHAIR

On Saturday, October 20th, seven people, including two first-timers, drove through the rain to attend the OAS trip to Colt Creek State Park near Lakeland. At least 37 bird species were observed including Killdeer, Wilson's Snipe, Eastern Phoebe, Carolina Chickadee, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Eastern Bluebird, Gray Catbird, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Pine Warbler, Palm Warbler, and Eastern Towhee.

Twenty-six butterfly species were seen including Eastern Tiger Swallowtail (a couple were

dark morph females), Palamedes Swallowtail, Cloudless Sulphur, Ceraunus Blue, Little Metalmark, Gulf Fritillary, Question Mark, Gemmed Satyr, and Long-tailed Skipper. We looked at spiders including Wolf Spider carrying its young, Green Lynx waiting for prey on Paintbrush, Golden Silk Spider, Spiny-bellied Spider, as well as Black and Yellow Argiope. Wildflowers in bloom included Yellow Star Grass, St. Peter's Wort, Beggar's Lice, Meadow Beauty, Caesar's Weed, Piriqueta, Dog Fennel, Flat-topped Goldenrod, and Blazing Star.

Holiday Shopping Opportunities at OAS November Meeting

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) will offer a night filled with good things at our November meeting. As if Bill Partington's program were not enough, we will also have a silent auction (see below) and offer **nature-oriented merchandise** (adult and youth t-shirts, nest boxes, tote bags and signs) and **rummage items** for sale (sorry, no plastic — cash or checks only) with proceeds benefiting OAS' educational programs.

Throughout the evening you may bid on silent auction items that have been contributed by local businesses or made, baked, grown or contributed by fellow attendees. If you start your holiday baking early (remember, Thanksgiving will be only a week after the meeting), you might wish to donate some of those calories to help OAS meet

its revenue budget. If you wish to make a contribution, **please contact us no later than Sunday, November 11th** to ensure that adequate table space will be available. We look forward to hearing from you [Loretta at LNS OAS@att.net or 407-886-2925 (eve.) or Teresa at mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or 407-644-0796 (eve.)]. When contacting us, if you get our recorders, please provide your name, phone number and/or email, and a description, value and starting bid for each item so that we may prepare appropriate bid sheets and contact you about delivery of your item for the auction.

The evening will also provide the opportunity to **reuse and recycle** items donated by members and friends. Look for some bargains from our **rummage** tables. Pay the

suggested price, or more!, and the item is yours NOW, no waiting until the end of the evening to check out. You can even barter for a better deal on these items! [If you donate items for this category that do not sell, please **reclaim** them at the end of the evening — OAS does not have a place to store them.]

To make the evening run smoothly and especially since I (Loretta) am recovering from foot surgery, we need a couple of volunteers for the merchandise sales table, a couple more at the rummage tables and an additional 3 or 4 for the silent auction tables. Please contact us at your earliest convenience if you can help OAS with this event. Thank you.

Loretta Satterthwaite & Teresa Williams

Conservation News - Water Wars Begin! PEGGY COX, CONSERVATION CHAIR

The Water Management Districts in Florida have issued statements to all water users and prospective water users that after 2013 there will be No more Consumptive Use Permits (CUPS) issued for withdrawals from the Floridan Aquifer — the main source of all of Central Florida's drinking water. They have determined that the aquifer itself and water bodies and natural springs that are fed by the aquifer will suffer adverse impacts if withdrawals are increased beyond what is already allowed at that time.

Looking for alternative water supply for potable water has led to a proposed project for the Lake County Water Alliance to provide water for cities and private public water supply companies in Lake County.

The proposal is for withdrawing and piping water from the lower Ocklawaha River below its confluence with the Silver River with secondary choices being the Withlatchoochee River, Lake Panasoffkee, and Yankee Lake at the St. Johns River. The Ocklawaha River site has been rated the most effective, although the other sites will still be considered for future water supply to the Central Florida area.

The lower Ocklawaha proposal would allow between 100-107 million gallons a day to be withdrawn from the river and piped as far as south Lake County, a distance of 70+ miles. The Water Management district also has proposed conservation measures and increasing reuse capabilities in this effort to identify future sources of potable water.

We are opposed to this pipeline plan for the Lake County Water Alliance from St. Johns. The primary reason being the environmentally adverse impacts to an Outstanding Florida Water — the Ocklawaha River;

- NO Minimum Flows and Levels (MFLs), which are technical hydrologic measurements that dictate the viability of water supply from surface water and groundwater based on historic levels of flows in the water body, have been established for the Ocklawaha River.

- The Water Management Districts have been mandated to provide MFLs to all water bodies above a specific threshold and have not even come close to providing these scientific measurements in the major rivers

and water bodies, specifically the Ocklawaha River.

- The Ocklawaha River is the largest tributary to the St. Johns River — which is already a surface water source of potable water in its lower basin.

- The pipeline itself can become a conduit for unintended growth along its length by bringing a potable water source to areas not intended for urban type growth.

Orange Audubon's Board of Directors and the Central Florida Regional Conservation Committee of Audubon of Florida have passed a resolution opposing this plan. Audubon of Florida is proposing advocating for conservation measures that enforce conservation policies through local and state ordinances and regulations as the primary approach to providing for natural water resource protection and additional human consumptive needs. Surface water withdrawals for potable water are not completely opposed, but the idea of taking water from a natural system to pipe it long distances for drinking water and irrigation could have a significant adverse impact on some of our most treasured water bodies, like the Ocklawaha and Withlatchoochee rivers. It could also establish a precedent to allow pipelines from some of our less populated areas with large supplies of surface water to areas running out of potable water.

More information on this can be found on the St. Johns River Water Management District website at www.sjrwmd.com.

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>

Committee Rocks and Photo Contest Rolls into Twentieth Year

What do you get when you combine good food, good Audubon friends and beautiful photography in the month of June? You get OAS' final program of the season for the past going-on-twenty years — a potluck dinner and program featuring entries in its Kit & Sidney Chertok Nature Photography Contest (CNPC). Who knew this combination would delight so many and last so long? The 1985 photo contest committee who aided the contest's namesake, Kit Chertok, in starting this highly anticipated annual competition with the recurring theme of Florida's native nature.

Some have been serving on the contest committee since 1985, while others have

come and gone. I offer you this glimpse of the committee's efforts to bring you OAS' annual CNPC. Committee work begins 10-12 months before each June program. The 2008 committee met in August to make planning decisions about contest theme(s), rules, budget projections, etc. and feast on pizza. Meetings of the mind occur by phone or in cyberspace if needed until the pre-screening (late April) and final screening (late May), traditionally held at the home of Mary Keim and Randy Snyder, whose personal knowledge, vast library of native plant and animal reference books and yummy snacks have been invaluable to that process. During or after each meeting or screening, committee

members enjoy dining together, so you might say that good food is a recurring theme of the CNPC committee.

The longevity of the contest by itself (20 years) is a measure of success, but the committee and others worked diligently over the past five years to build an endowment that would ensure the contest's future. Last year we met our goal of \$25,000. If needed, earnings from the endowment will make another long-standing goal a reality — exhibitions of winning images at venues such as Leu Gardens and Bok Tower Gardens. To facilitate exhibition and other needs, Loretta Satterthwaite and Bob Stamps are now scanning about 150 slides from the winning images archives to create an enhanced digital portfolio. Remember, for its first 17 years, CNPC was a slide competition.

2008 committee members John Winfree, who answers our questions of legalese, along with Keim, Snyder, Satterthwaite and Stamps also served on the 1985 committee; Milton Heiberg has served since moving to Florida in 1998 from New York, where he founded the Photo Committee for New York City Audubon; Phyllis Gray, whose knowledge of native plant species is a tremendous asset during screening, was recruited in 2006; and newest member Paul Hueber volunteered this year to lend his photographic and other skills to the needs of the committee. Involvement has been a fun way for me to learn about natural Florida from immensely talented co-members, while contributing to the growth of a worthwhile educational program.

Thanks, contest committees past and present. Twenty years later you still rock! Teresa Williams, CNPC Chair

Genius Reserve Ecological Restoration Workday Schedule

OAS' next workday at the Genius Reserve, Winter Park, will take place on Sunday, November 18, 2007 from 10 am ~ Noon, and involve planting and weeding in newly restored areas (emphasis on planting). Although OAS' involvement may seem small, it is an important element in the overall restoration project, anticipated to last ten or more years.

Volunteers should bring appropriate tools such as shovels, spades and gloves; those who are sensitive to the elements should dress appropriately with hats and sun protection; and all should bring water. Please contact me (mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or 407-644-0796) if you can assist. New volunteers should provide name, address and phone number(s).

There is good news thanks to Bruce Stephenson, Rollins College environmental studies professor who is leading the restoration effort. The Elizabeth Morse Genius Foundation, which owns the Reserve, approved his request for OAS to conduct monthly bird surveys. Although limited at this time to a specific small group of experienced birders, the surveys 'took flight' in September 2007. With Bruce Anderson leading, the group will initially establish a baseline inventory of year-round and migratory birds that use the Reserve for breeding and/or foraging habitat. The seventy-eight species identified thus far are now listed and will be updated monthly on the Genius Reserve's website: (www.rollins.edu/olin/archives/Genius/). OAS anticipates the data collected will provide another important measure of the success of the ecological restoration effort. Will improved habitat improve bird populations? We shall see. Teresa Williams

Audubon Adventures Update

Ten Audubon Adventures classroom kits have been ordered for teachers in seven different schools. Several of these teachers used last year's materials. We received comments such as, "This is a wonderful help for the classroom"; "My students enjoyed (the material) very much. I try to teach my students about environmental awareness"; "I am very interested in Audubon Adventures. This goes hand-in-hand with our Wildlife Section in our reading program." In addition to these comments, all the teachers expressed their gratitude to Orange Audubon for making this program available to them without cost.

Our next step is to seek out additional teachers and schools that would like to use the program, especially if these schools have not used Audubon Adventures before. As we look for new participants in the teaching program, we will also be offering copies of our Orange Audubon brochure and a variety of nature magazines and publications, donated by Bill Partington, for school libraries or science rooms. Any elementary or middle school teachers, including home school teachers, in Orange Audubon, or related to members, are encouraged and welcome to participate in this program. The National Environmental Education Training Foundation named Audubon Adventures one of the top ten projects for K-12. It also meets the language arts and science standards for Florida. Interested teachers may call or email me at (407)249-3969 or smith_ted_gaye@bellsouth.net.

Gaye Smith, Education Committee Chair

Bird of Prey ID Fun

On October 13th, eighteen lucky birders enjoyed great weather, good company, and some wonderful birds during the first Bird of Prey ID Class of the new season at the Lake Apopka Restoration Area. Including the vultures, ten species of raptors were seen, most notably: 2 Peregrine Falcons, 25 Bald Eagles, and about 50 Northern Harriers. In all, 50 bird species were seen. The next BoPID Class is scheduled for November 10th. Call Bob Sanders at 407-766-5490 for more information.

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Calendar of Events

November 2-3, 2007 - Fri-Sat

Audubon Assembly, Cocoa Beach Hilton
www.audubonoflorida.org

November 3, 2007 - Saturday

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

November 10, 2007 - Saturday

Bird of Prey ID Class #2 - LARA
Bob Sanders 407-766-5490

November 10, 2007 - Saturday

Wekiva River Buffers Conservation Area Bird Survey
Lorne Malo 407-349-2536/407-659-4853(w)

November 10, 2007 - Saturday

Project FeederWatch Workshop 11am-12pm
Audubon CBOP, 407-644-0190 \$5.00

November 11-16, 2007 - Sun-Fri

ABA 2007 Regional Conference, Plantation FL
www.americanbirding.org

November 15, 2007 - 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 17, 2007 - Saturday

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

November 17, 2007 - Saturday

Planting Native Workshop 2pm-3pm
Audubon CBOP, 407-644-0190 \$5.00

November 24, 2007 - Saturday

Seminole Ranch (North) Butterfly Survey
Mary Keim & Randy Snyder 407-851-5416

December 1, 2007 - Saturday

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

December 15, 2007 - Saturday

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

December 20, 2007 - 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

Bird Banding Opportunities!

If you enjoyed Meret Wilson's talk on bird banding at Tomoka State Park last month and want to get some hands-on experience, join us at Wekiva Basin Banding Station in Wekiwa Springs State Park where we need volunteers, especially on weekdays. It is a busy time during Fall migration, with Gray Catbirds and Common Yellowthroats aplenty heading south. Other not so common birds we have banded include Connecticut Warbler, Swainson's Warbler, Yellow-throated Vireo and Swainson's Thrush.

If you would like to see these birds up close and personal come and help, or just observe, with a project we are conducting for U.S. Fish and Wildlife and the park.

For more information see: <http://home.cfl.rr.com/wekivabirdband/> or call 407-774-9501.

Richard Poole

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