



*"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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September 2009

Issue No. 1

## **An Exciting Year Ahead**

Welcome back to another year of Orange Audubon Society (OAS) activities. As you can see from looking at the OAS 2009–2010 brochure, your board has lined up lots of interesting and educational programs and events for the upcoming year. Loretta has provided you, in another article, with many of the names of those that you should thank for making these activities possible. I encourage you to take part in as many activities as possible, whether as an enthusiastic participant and/or active volunteer.

Bob Stamps, President

## **Welcome and Welcome Back**

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) welcomes **Amie Dawson** as our Hospitality Chair. OAS thanks Amie for volunteering and coordinating the hospitality at each of our meetings this next year. At the September meeting, Amie will have a sign-up sheet for volunteers to donate 'goodies' for our upcoming meetings. However, you are always welcome, and encouraged, to bring some type of refreshment for any meeting and you may let Amie know by contacting her at (407)539-2472, as listed on the enclosed brochure for the upcoming year.

Since September is our first meeting and there was no sign-up sheet for it, please bring some 'finger food' or drinks to share with our attendees. We're certain that it'll be much appreciated. Thanks in advance.

Orange Audubon Society meetings are held the 3rd Thursday of every month (Sept. - June)

at 7 pm in the Camelia Room at:

Harry P. Leu Garden,

1920 North Forest Avenue

Orlando, FL 32803-1537. For directions call:

407-246-2620

[www.orangeaudubonfl.org](http://www.orangeaudubonfl.org)

## **This Month's Program, September 17, 2009, 7 p.m.**

### **Lake Apopka Restoration: What's New with the Birds by David Walker**

As Florida's 2nd largest lake and a world-renowned bass fishing site, Lake Apopka was one of Central Florida's biggest attractions in the 1940s. However, the rich, organic soils along the lake edge were discovered to be an excellent growing medium, and in 1941, a levee was built along the north shore to drain 20,000 acres of shallow marsh for farming. Lake Apopka then became the 4th largest lake in Florida. Shorebirds and many other types of birds found the lake environment to their liking, and for birders around the world it became a must see destination. Over time nutrient-rich runoff from the farms led to decline in water quality, and a coalition of concerned citizens pressured the state to step in and remedy the situation. Ultimately, the decision was made to buy out the farms.

The St. Johns River Water Management District since the early 1990s has carried out the Lake Apopka Restoration Project to restore the marshes and eventually the lake. A major bump in the road was a horrendous bird die off in 1998. Orange Audubon has a connection with the lake. In addition to our involvement in the annual Zellwood Christmas Bird Count that has one of the highest numbers of species in the country, Orange Audubon has long hoped to develop a nature center on the North Shore. What is the state of the restoration and our hopes for nature education there? For our September 17th program, David Walker of the St. Johns River Water Management District will give us an update and tell us about opportunities to see unique bird species. Join us September 17th, for a fascinating program. For more information, call (407)553-0028. Programs are free and open to the public. No reservations necessary.

Deborah Green, Program Chair

### CONSERVATION NEWS-SENATE BILLS 360 & 2080

The Florida Legislature passed and Governor Crist signed into law two (2) very controversial bills in 2009 despite objections from environmental and growth management advocates. Because of these laws being enacted, the role of Audubon members and conservationists is more important than ever.

**Senate Bill 360** has given local governments the ability to designate "Urban Service Areas". [Urban Service Area (USA) means built-up areas where public facilities and services, including but not limited to central water and sewer capacity and roads, are already in place or are committed in the first three years of the capital improvement schedule.] This means local governments could help large developments avoid the environmental and growth management consideration by simply moving the boundaries of their "Urban Service Areas". Once an "Urban Service Area" is found to be in compliance by the Department of Community Affairs (DCA), that area will be exempt from the "Development of Regional Impact" (DRI) process, and will not be subject to state requirements for transportation concurrency.

**County and City Commission actions should be carefully monitored for proposals to establish or modify an Urban Service Area.** If you think an Urban Service Area Proposal doesn't meet the definition: (1) Notify the DCA immediately via phone or email to Mike McDaniel [850-488-2356 or [mike.mcdaniel@dca.state.fl.us](mailto:mike.mcdaniel@dca.state.fl.us)] or Charles Gauthier [850-488-2356 or [charles.gauthier@dca.state.fl.us](mailto:charles.gauthier@dca.state.fl.us)]. (2) Follow up with a paper letter to: Department of Community Affairs, 2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100. Specify in your letter and email as to why the proposed USA is not consistent with the definition and also detail the environmental resources that will be jeopardized if the USA is found "in compliance" by DCA. (3) Direct your advocacy to local government officials to let them know you are watching them.

**Senate Bill 2080** changed the water management district (WMD) permit approval process, despite objections by Audubon and the conservation community. Now all permits

(except denials) are delegated to each districts' Executive Director for final decisions and citizens are not allowed to voice their concerns before the governing board. However, because of the controversy over the bill, water management districts are creating more opportunities for public input on Consumptive Use Permits (CUPs) for withdrawing water from aquifers, rivers, and lakes and Environmental Resource Permits (ERPs), which allow alteration of wetlands. You can check the following water district web sites on how to access their permit tracking and information systems:

South Florida Water Management District-  
[www.sfwmd.gov](http://www.sfwmd.gov)

St. Johns Water Management District-  
[www.sjwmd.state.fl.us](http://www.sjwmd.state.fl.us).

Please consider taking these actions on your own, but—for more clout—join Orange Audubon's conservation committee and work on these or other issues that will help sustain a healthy, quality environment in Central Florida. **TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

Sharon Robbins,  
Conservation Committee Chair

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>

## Welcome to All Members

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) extends a big welcome to all of our members and especially to those of you who are new to us since our last issue of the *OASis* in June. For those members who are unfamiliar with our chapter, we are a large chapter of both National Audubon Society (NAS) from whom you will be receiving *Audubon* magazine, and Audubon of Florida (AoF), the state organization from whom you will receive *The Florida Naturalist*. No matter how you joined Audubon—through NAS, AoF or OAS—you became a member of all three organizations. This helps when we are fighting conservation battles because we can fight on any of the three levels with the same clout from our chapter. Please help us take advantage of this when we are trying to make a point with our legislators—nationally, regionally or locally—and respond to requests for action; only with your help do we stand a chance to win these never-ending battles.

Please remember if we lose a Natural Area to development or a Scenic River to pollution or an Endangered Species to encroachment, we lose it forever. If we win, we simply win until the next attempt to ‘destroy’ it comes along. We must not let down our guard or give up if we wish to live in a world where ‘quality of life’ includes natural areas and organisms for us and our children and grandchildren to enjoy.

Having said that, as you read through each issue of the *OASis*, your newsletter, and see events or problems with which you could lend a hand, please don’t hesitate to get involved. As mentioned earlier, OAS is a large chapter (~ 1,500 households in the Central Florida area) but we have only a relatively small number of people who are ‘active’. Help us change that!! Call or email any officer/board member/committee chair and volunteer. We welcome your membership and, even more, your involvement. Thanks for joining us.

Loretta Satterthwaite, Membership Chair

## Your Guide to Adventure—and More

Look at the new Orange Audubon Society (OAS) 2009–2010 brochure. It achieves that quality that we have come to expect thanks to **Sonia Stephens**, a volunteer who has done the layout for us for the last two years. Feel free to send compliments to her (I’ll be happy to forward any that I get at [LNS-OAS@att.net](mailto:LNS-OAS@att.net) to her). Thanks also to Mary Keim, Danielle Ponsolle, Bob Stamps and Teresa Williams for help in proofreading the brochure as we were getting it ready for the printer; they did a terrific job. However, I take all blame for any errors that you may find.

Obviously, while you are looking at it, you’ll notice that a lot of time and effort this summer has gone into planning for another successful year of programs (thanks to Deborah Green and her committee), field trips (thanks to Gallus Quigley, Deborah Green and Loretta Lynn Leda), ID classes (thanks to Randy Snyder, Mary Keim

and Gallus Quigley) and other special events (numerous individuals and organizations). Please plan to participate and/or volunteer to help with any of these that interest you.

As you can see, there are a lot of committees used to help OAS accomplish its goals for the upcoming year. Although we have a named chair for each committee, most of the committees have only a couple of members and would appreciate your help. If you have a particular idea for a committee or a special talent that might be used, or even some free time that could be made available to your local chapter, please call the committee chair or (407) 886-2925 to volunteer. We look forward to hearing from you. Thanks again to Sonia for all her efforts on the new brochure. Great job!

Loretta Satterthwaite, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

## Garden Tour Features Florida Natives

The Fall Tour of Gardens, hosted by the Central Florida Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society on Sunday, Oct. 25, 2009, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., offers an excellent opportunity to learn how to enhance the natural beauty of your landscape and neighborhood with native plants. Florida’s natives can help you save water, energy and money. They require less fertilizers and pesticides and benefit local wildlife. More than a dozen gardens are available to tour. Come be inspired.

Tickets are \$5, which includes a brochure with garden descriptions, highlights and locations. Tickets will be available at Green Images Native Landscape Plants (E. Orlando), Biosphere Consulting, Inc. (W. Orlando), South Seminole Farm & Nursery (Casselberry), and Blodgett Gardens (College Park). Unsold tickets will be available the day of the tour at the Florida Friendly Landscaping Demonstration Garden at the Orange County Administration Center and the Seminole County Environmental Studies Center. Visit: <http://www.fnps.org/pages/chapters/chapterpg.php?keyword=Tarflower>.

## September Field Trip

### Palatlakaha River Park, Saturday, September 19

Palatlakaha Park is located 12325 Hull Rd, Clermont, off Lake Shore Drive. For details contact Gallus Quigley at [gallusq@cfl.rr.com](mailto:gallusq@cfl.rr.com) or 407-242-7833.

## Limited Edition Field Trip

### Saddle Creek Park, Lakeland, Oct. 4th

Please see enclosed brochure. contact Gallus Quigley, [gallusq@cfl.rr.com](mailto:gallusq@cfl.rr.com) or 407-242-7833

## Florida “Finally” Getting Serious about Recycling!

The Energy, Climate Change and Economic Security Act of 2008 was signed into law by Governor Crist and establishes a new statewide recycling goal of 75 percent to be achieved by the year 2020. In 2007 the recycling rate was 28 percent. Florida’s Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) has been directed to develop a program designed to achieve the 75 percent goal and submit it to the Legislature for approval by January 1, 2010. The passage of this Act is long overdue considering the massive amounts of municipal solid waste being landfilled each year in Florida (over 38 trillion pounds in 2007). Consider the monumental waste of energy and resources this represents. Let’s take the example of a relatively high energy, high value item common in the waste stream—the aluminum can. It takes 95 percent less energy to manufacture aluminum cans from recycled cans than to make them from scratch. Yet according to FDEP, Florida’s 2007 aluminum can recycling rate was only 22 percent, and for Orange, Seminole and Osceola Counties the rates were miserable at 11, 11 and 2 percent, respectively.

Besides the energy waste, consider the environmental damage done by strip mining and shipping the bauxite and producing the energy to process it into aluminum cans. The Florida recycling rates are even worse for glass, 18 percent, and plastic bottles, 16 percent. It does not have to be this way. The average aluminum can, PET plastic bottle, and glass bottle recycling rates in 2006 for states that have container deposits averaged 76, 44 and 64 percent, respectively. While beverage containers are only a relatively small component of the solid waste stream, the success of “bottle bill” legislation points out the effectiveness of using economics to motivate people to recycle. Until “reduce, reuse, recycle” becomes ingrained in each of us through education, the state will likely have to resort to financial rewards and penalties in order to meet the 75 percent recycling goal. To learn more about this proposal go to [dep.state.fl.us/waste/recyclinggoal75](http://dep.state.fl.us/waste/recyclinggoal75). Keep informed and let FDEP and your legislators know that you support the 75 percent goal.

Bob Stamps, President

## Thank You, 2009 Photo Contest Judges

Florida’s natural world is *at the heart* of Orange Audubon Society’s (OAS) annual Kit & Sidney Chertok Nature Photography Contest (CNPC)—a Florida native nature competition—and *in the hearts* of this year’s judges: John Yeackle, Rebecca Eagan and Prem Subramanyam, who served as artist, naturalist and photographer judges, respectively.

An Alabamian by birth, Seminole County’s Wekiva River ‘claimed’ artist John Yeackle as a boy when his family moved there and established a fish camp along its banks. Observe many of his watercolor paintings and you discover that ‘a river runs through it’. Yeackle has received hundreds of awards in juried competition and is best known for his wildlife paintings, especially wild turkeys, and landscapes of Florida’s glades, rivers and marshes. His work is on display locally in Fredlund Gallery, Winter Park, and Mosquito Creek Outdoors, Apopka.

Naturalist judge Rebecca Eagan is known for her personal advocacy for wilderness and wildlife conservation—efforts that received recognition by the *Orlando Sentinel* and led to an award from the Sierra Club. An undisputed champion of the State’s threatened Gopher Tortoise, she serves as a public representative on Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Tortoise Stakeholder Steering Committee. To the naturalist’s many other attributes, add that she is a pastel artist, children’s book illustrator and writer and Florida native.

Photographer judge Prem Subramanyam’s images, many depicting Florida’s native and naturalized orchids, appear in magazines, textbooks, educational displays and brochures. The Florida native is a software engineer, graphic designer and 3-D computer animator (of PBS’ “Florida, the Outdoor Adventure” and “Florida Takes to the Trails” fame) and orchid aficionado. Prem’s images of the Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary super Ghost Orchid were recently exhibited there. He photographs, grows, collects (legally purchased) and speaks on the subject of native orchids and maintains a website ([flnativeorchids.com](http://flnativeorchids.com)) to promote education and awareness.

OAS is grateful to the 2009 panel of judges for their contributions of time and talent.

Teresa Williams, OAS’ CNPC

## 21st Annual Photo Contest Awards Dinner

Once again Orange Audubon Society's Annual Chertok Nature Photography Contest (CNPC) and potluck dinner program on June 18<sup>th</sup> had all the winning ingredients: for every healthy side dish, at least one decadent dessert was contributed by program guests; Brandywine's Delicatessen, Winter Park, and owners/OAS members Kathy and Johnny Frankenberger provided veggie lasagna, turkey, ham and all the condiments; a silent auction featured Leupold Golden Ring binoculars donated by Mosquito Creek Outdoors, Apopka; a full house of 150± members and other guests packed the Camellia Room to capacity; and the main attraction—hundreds of photo contest entries in the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Kit & Sidney Chertok Nature Photography Contest delighted everyone!

Guests included Mike Rausch and Nicki Buck from Colonial Photo & Hobby (contest co-sponsor) and the 2009 panel of judges (see related article). Contest results were announced and awards given in person at the end of the program to winning photographers, who were all present or represented. Winners are presented below by image placement and title, photographer's name and Audubon chapter affiliation or city.

*Florida Vertebrates and/or Scenics* category winners were: 1<sup>st</sup> place, *Snowy Plover and Newborn Chick*, Jim Urbach, Seminole Audubon Society; 2<sup>nd</sup> place, *Storm Over Palms*, Mary Keim, Orange Audubon Society (OAS); and 3<sup>rd</sup> place,

*Preening Pair (Egrets)*, Myrna Erler-Bradshaw, Hernando Audubon Society. Honorable mentions were awarded to: *Alligator*, Eileen Fuchs, Kissimmee; *Blue-headed Vireo*, Mike Cruz, Orlando; *Gopher Tortoise*, Gordon White, OAS; *Little Raccoon in Oak Tree*, Karen Peron, Apopka; *Skimmer Doing Headstand*, Diane Chenault, OAS.

*Florida Invertebrates & Wildflowers* category winners were: 1<sup>st</sup> place, *The Pollinator*, Larry Brooks, Casselberry; 2<sup>nd</sup> place, *Great Southern White*, Vince Lamb, Space Coast Audubon; and 3<sup>rd</sup> place, *Grasshopper*, Bill Wohlfart, OAS.

Honorable mentions were awarded to: *Blue Land Crab / Don't Come Any Closer*, Ursula Dubrick, West Melbourne; *Butterwort—Small Butterwort*, Paul Rebmann, Halifax River Audubon Society; *Cassius Blue*, Jake Paredes, Boca Raton; *Dewy Dragon*, Kevin Barry, Broward County Audubon Society; and *Pine Lily / Rising Up*, Brett Miley, Frostproof.

We congratulate the 2009 winners and extend sincere thanks to all participants. By supporting the contest you also support OAS' efforts to protect, preserve and promote awareness of Florida's remaining native wildlife and natural places. Please visit OAS' website ([www.orangeaudubonfl.org](http://www.orangeaudubonfl.org)) to view winning images and watch for 2010 contest news to be announced soon on the web and in the *OASis*!

Teresa Williams, OAS' CNPC Chair

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### Fiscal Year 2009 in Review

A decrease in the value of long-term investments caused a net loss of \$8,647 for Orange Audubon Society's fiscal year ended June 30, 2009. Unrealized losses for the year were \$13,736. Market conditions have subsequently improved and as of press time, OAS' long-term investments had gained back approximately \$3,600 in value.

On a positive note, actual net income for the fiscal year, ignoring unrealized losses, was

\$5,089 of which \$1,640 was designated for the Chertok endowment. OAS appreciates the efforts of its board, general membership and other friends who contributed personal time and resources to achieve both results. In the coming year OAS will strive to maintain a position of fiscal stability, continue to focus on plans for a nature education center and closely monitor long-term investments. Anyone interested in obtaining additional financial details contact Teresa Williams, Treasurer: 407-644-0796 or [mwilliams@cfl.rr.com](mailto:mwilliams@cfl.rr.com).

**Orange Audubon Society  
Board of Directors 2009-2010**

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- Randy Snyder (11) 407-851-5416
- Pete Vogt (11) 407-855-4122

**Calendar of Events**

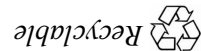
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| <p><b>Sept. 12, 2009 - Saturday</b><br/><b>Wekiva Springs State Park</b><br/><b>Butterfly Survey</b><br/>Randy Snyder (H) 407-851-5416</p> <p><b>Sept. 17, 2009 - Thursday</b><br/>First 2009-2010 <b>Orange Audubon Society General Meeting</b>, Leu Garden, 7 pm</p> <p><b>Sept. 19, 2009 - Saturday</b><br/><b>CH Bronson State Forest Lee Tract Bird Survey</b><br/>Lorne Malo (H) 407-349-2536</p> <p><b>Sept. 19, 2009 - Saturday</b><br/><b>Palatka River Park, Clermont, Field Trip</b><br/>Gallus Quigley 407-242-7833</p> <p><b>Oct. 4, 2009 - Sunday</b><br/><b>Saddle Creek Park, Lakeland, Limited Edition Field Trip</b><br/>Gallus Quigley 407-242-7833</p> | <p><b>Oct. 4, 2009 - Sunday</b><br/><b>Genius Work Day, 9:30-11:30</b><br/><b>Genius Drive Nature Preserve</b><br/>Teresa Williams 407-644-0796</p> <p><b>Oct. 23-24, 2009</b><br/>Audubon Assembly<br/>St. Petersburg, FL<br/><a href="http://www.audubonofflorida.org">www.audubonofflorida.org</a></p> <p><b>Oct. 24, 2009 - Saturday</b><br/>Oakland Heritage Festival,<br/>Oakland, FL</p> <p><b>Oct. 25, 2009 - Sunday</b><br/>Fall Garden Tour, 10 am - 4 pm<br/>See inside for details</p> |
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**Genius Drive Nature Preserve Ecological Restoration Workday Scheduled**

OAS' next workday at Genius Drive Nature Preserve, Winter Park, is Sunday, October 4, 2009 from 9:30 ~ 11:30 am. Ecological restoration of the 48± acre property was largely completed last year. Never-the-less, a perpetual project of weeding and mulching the restored areas will provide 'job security' for OAS participants for years to come.

Volunteers should bring shovels, spades, gloves and other tools appropriate for the tasks at hand; those who are sensitive to the elements should dress appropriately with hats and sun protection; and all should bring water.

If you can help, contact Teresa ([mwilliams@cfl.rr.com](mailto:mwilliams@cfl.rr.com) or 407-644-0796). New volunteers please provide name, address and phone number(s). To learn more about the Genius DNP visit their website: <http://www.rollins.edu/olin/archives/Genius/>. Thank you. Teresa Williams



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