



"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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OAS field trip is October 17th to Tosohatchee WMA

This trip will be mostly by car and end around lunch. Hopes of finding migrants, Bachman's Sparrow, Hairy Woodpecker and Brown-Headed Nuthatch as species highlights. \$3.00 per vehicle entry fee. Carpooling from the Burger King at Alafaya Rd and SR 50 at 7:30AM and will leave by 7:45AM. If questions, call Gallus at 407-242-7833.

Orange Audubon Society meetings are held the
 3rd Thursday of every month (Sept. - June)
 at 7 pm in the Camellia Room at:
 Harry P. Leu Garden,
 1920 North Forest Avenue
 Orlando, FL 32803-1537. For directions call:
 407-246-2620
www.orangeaudubonfl.org

This Month's Program, Oct. 15, 2009, 7 p.m.

Marine Turtles and Other Wildlife of the Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge: History, Current Status and Pertinent Conservation Issues by Dr. Llewellyn M. Ehrhart.

Sea turtles in North America nest primarily from North Carolina through Florida, with over 90% of nesting in Florida. A 20.5-mile stretch of beach along our east central coast between Melbourne and Wabasso provides nesting sites for greater numbers of threatened loggerhead turtles than virtually anywhere else in the Western Hemisphere. These Brevard and Indian River County beaches also attract more endangered green turtles than anywhere in the continental U.S. plus occasional endangered leatherback turtles. To protect this critical stretch of sea turtle nesting habitat, the Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge was established by Congress in 1989. Dr. Llewellyn Ehrhart, Pegasus Professor and Professor Emeritus, University of Central Florida, worked toward establishment of the Refuge and has utilized it for his long-term studies of nesting beach productivity. Serving as Team Leader of the Southeastern Region Loggerhead and Green Turtle Recovery Team, Dr. Ehrhart also works on characterization of juvenile and subadult populations in coastal lagoons and over near-shore reefs.

As an Orlando-area resident, Dr. Ehrhart has long been a member of Orange Audubon Society and in the 1980s was a Board member and Treasurer. Join us October 15, as we welcome back Dr. Ehrhart for this update on marine turtle conservation.

Orange Audubon Society programs are free and no reservations are necessary.

Deborah Green,
Program Chair

How to Help With Climate Legislation

The House passed the American Clean Energy and Security Act, H.R. 2454 (ACES), aka Waxman-Markey bill, on June 26, 2009. In addition to capping carbon emissions and slowly ratcheting down these emissions, the bill is designed to 1) create economic incentives to accelerate investments in clean technologies and grow millions of new clean energy jobs, 2) enhance America's energy independence by reducing our dependence on foreign oil, and 3) limit the significant political and military costs of our lack of action on climate change. Despite last minute concessions which weakened it, ACES is considered an important step forward. Florida Congressman Allen Boyd, Congresswoman Kathy Castor, Congresswoman Suzanne Kosmas and Congressman Alan Grayson all supported the Act.

Now the bill must move through the Senate. In December Copenhagen will host the United Nations Climate Change Conference (referred to as COP15), a new and critical opportunity for an international treaty on climate and energy. The Obama administration hopes to arrive at Copenhagen with our own national legislation.

If you wish to support this long-awaited opportunity to move forward on climate change issues, I encourage you to join Audubon's Action Network. Through the Audubon of Florida website, you will be put on an email alert list and will be notified when contacting legislators or other actions could be helpful.

Recently, the Action Network urged us to contact Senator Bill Nelson and newly appointed Senator George LeMieux to urge them to oppose an attempt to block the Environmental Protection Agency's authority to regulate stationary sources of pollution, (coal fired power plants and oil refineries). Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) had introduced a dangerous amendment to the Senate Interior & EPA Appropriations bill, that would have weakened the EPA's ability to regulate and reduce air pollution. While the amendment was opposed by the White House, the EPA, and Senate leadership, I like to think that the volume of our emails to our Senators convinced them not to support it. The proposal did not

make it to the floor for a vote, which maintains the EPA authority to reduce dangerous global warming pollution.

The action website is <http://fl.audubonaction.org/>. Thanks for getting involved.

Deborah Green,
Climate Chair

2009 Audubon Assembly Oct. 23–24, St. Petersburg (pizza party on the 22nd!)

Hurry!! Early registration ends October 6th. Visit the Audubon of Florida website [<http://www.audubonofflorida.org/>] to see the detailed schedule of events at this year's Audubon Assembly and join like-minded individuals for some fun, but educational events. We look forward to seeing you there.



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>

Kestrels and Owls are Replacing Pesticides in the Middle East

We all know that biodiversity is our best weapon against catastrophic biological events. Here is an example of how it works in an applied situation. Kestrels and owls are being used to control crop-damaging rodents in the Middle East.

In Israel, there is an effort to reduce the use of toxic chemical pesticides and there is a government-funded national program promoting this idea. Because of this, farmers are installing nest boxes to encourage rodent-eating birds to live nearby. Jordanian and Palestinian scientists and conservation charities have joined in this effort.

According to the charity BirdLife International (<http://www.birdlife.org>), hundreds of birds of prey—including many endangered species—have been killed in the Middle East because the birds of prey were eating rodents containing poisonous "rodenticides" used to protect the crops.

Now, scientists in Israel are working with farmers to combat this problem of rodent damage by deploying kestrels and owls as natural pest controllers. The scheme started in 1983, near a kibbutz (farming village) in the Bet-She'an Valley, south of the Sea of Galilee. Motti Charter, a researcher from Tel Aviv University and team leader of the Global Owl Project in Israel says that "We have been reaching out to the farmers, to encourage them to reduce their use of rodenticides and install nest boxes instead. Kestrels hunt during the day and barn owls hunt at night. This constant 24-hour threat of predation has caused changes in the pests' behavior, resulting in less crop damage."

Because the sub-species of barn owl in Israel is not very territorial and the population of rodents is stable throughout the year, the nest boxes can be placed relatively close together.

Sound familiar? Remember when owl nest boxes were installed in the Apopka area to help reduce the massive house mice infestations in that area?

Once again, Mother Nature knows best.

Bob Stamps, President

It's Fiesta Time!!

Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) annual participation in the Lake Eola Fiesta in the Park occurs on Nov. 7th and 8th, with preparatory set-up on Friday evening Nov. 6th starting at approximately 5:00 pm. Friday evening will consist of helping to set up the tent, tables, etc. Saturday and Sunday (~8:00–6:00 each day) mainly consists of setting up and taking down of merchandise and, the fun part — helping to sell merchandise and talking to people about OAS. Usually, it is easiest to stay for 3–4 hours, but if you only have two hours to volunteer, please do so. We need 3 or 4 people for each of the days, just for our sales activities. If you volunteer early, you can have your choice of day and time of day. If by some extraordinary luck we were to have enough volunteers or volunteers who *only* wish to work with children, OAS could, once again, offer our "kids' art" table; however, unless we have enough volunteers, we cannot offer this fun activity.

This is OAS' biggest outreach event directed beyond our membership and we *really* do need your help. Please contact us to volunteer or if you have questions [LNS-oas@att.net or 407/886-2925 (eve.) or mwilliam@cfl.rr.com or 407/644-0796 (eve.)]. Please call soon and then mark your calendar and commit to help OAS meet our financial goals and reach out for new members. Thanks.

Loretta Satterthwaite and Teresa Williams

Holiday Shopping Opportunities at OAS November Meeting

Save some of your holiday shopping for November 19th when Orange Audubon Society (OAS) will provide **nature-oriented merchandise** (adult and youth t-shirts, nest boxes, tote bags, signs, mugs and books) for your holiday shopping needs at its meeting at Harry P. Leu Gardens (sorry, no plastic — cash or checks only). If you wish to purchase items, please try to arrive about 6:30 so you don't miss any of the exciting program on the Indigo Snake. If you can help at our merchandise tables, please contact Loretta [LNS-OAS@att.net or 407/886-2925 (eve.)] or Teresa [mwilliam@cfl.rr.com or 407/644-0796 (eve.)] to volunteer.

If you can't wait until the 19th to do your 'nature' shopping, come to OAS' sales booth at the Oakland Heritage Festival (Oct. 24th) or the Lake Eola Fiesta in the Park (Nov. 7th and 8th) [see articles in this newsletter].

2009–2010 Budget

OAS’ board of directors approved the following 2009–2010 budget, which is consistent with the organization’s strategic financial goals of achieving a balanced budget while increasing restricted funds for a nature education center. The Chertok endowment is also expected to increase, while a portion of restricted funds designated for education (Audubon Adventures) and Holiday Highlands will be utilized during FY10. Requests for additional financial information should be directed to Teresa Williams, Treasurer: 407-644-0796 or mwilliams@cfl.rr.com.

**Orange Audubon Society
Budget for the Year Ending June 30, 2009**

Income:	
Contributions	\$ 8,750
Fundraising/outreach events	3,025
Investment earnings (realized and unrealized, net)	5,200
Membership dues	3,645
Educational classes and programs	4,100
Other fund raising	<u>1,650</u>
Total Income	<u>\$26,370</u>

Expenditures:	
Conservation	\$ 1,600
Education programs	4,635
Fund raising/outreach events	1,675
Membership	100
Newsletters and annual brochure	8,336
Insurance	2,600
Office and general	410
Other fund raising	425
Sanctuary maintenance	<u>1,000</u>
Total expenditures	<u>\$20,781</u>

Change in net assets(see analysis) \$ 5,589

Analysis of Change in Net Assets

Increase in restricted funds:	
CNPC endowment	\$ 1,500
Nature education center	6,209
Decreases in restricted funds:	
Education (Audubon Adventures)	(1,120)
Holiday Highlands	<u>(1,000)</u>
Change in net assets	<u>\$ 5,589</u>

Eat, Meet and Greet

First, thank you to all who supplied goodies for our September meeting; they were delicious. And, thanks to Amie and her hospitality crew for setting the food tables up and to Adam for cheerfully greeting and asking everyone to sign-in. Since only one person committed to bring something for the October meeting, once again, we are asking that you bring something to share. You may contact Amie (407/539-2472) to find out what you might bring or to let her know that you will be bringing something. If you do not get a chance to contact her, don’t hesitate to bring something anyway. And thanks for sharing!

Besides bringing goodies to share, when you come in—and especially when the board meeting is still in progress—please greet and chat with other attendees and make them feel welcome. We will have name tags for your use at all future meetings and that will make it easier for you to become acquainted with each other. It is especially important that when someone comes to our meeting for the first time, we should welcome them and make them want to attend more meetings. It is also helpful if new attendees introduce themselves to others and join in group conversations.

Thanks to all for your help with hospitality for our other guests. Come and enjoy the food and the meeting.



Fall Garden Tour Features Native Plants

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. Tickets are \$5, includes a brochure with garden descriptions, highlights and locations. Information available here: Visit: <http://www.fnps.org/pages/chapters/chapterpg.php?keyword=Tarflower>.

September Field Trip Notes

Palatlahaha River Park Field Trip on 9/19/2009: 24 birders (12 were OAS members) made the 1.0 mile hike around the park for the North American Migration Count but few birds were to be found, only 23 species. However, the highlight was a Barred Owl that was called in and perched on a dead snag in perfect light for all to see.

Having finished early and with few birds, I led a number of the group to Ferndale Preserve on Lake Apopka, which is still closed to the public, for more birding. The 3.0 hike produced more birds including Northern Waterthrush, Acadian Flycatcher, Yellow-Throated Warbler, with a total of 30 species.

Interestingly, pairs of Bald Eagles greeted us at both locations. Day total was 38 species.

Next field trip is October 17th to Tosohatchee WMA (\$3.00 per vehicle entry fee): Carpooling from the Burger King at Alafaya Rd and SR 50 at 7:30AM and will leave by 7:45AM. This trip will be mostly by car and end around lunch. Hopes of finding migrants, Bachman's Sparrow, Hairy Woodpecker and Brown-Headed Nuthatch as species highlights.

Limited Edition Field Trip

Saddle Creek Park, Lakeland, Oct. 4th

Contact Gallus Quigley, gallusq@cfl.rr.com or 407-242-7833 for details.

Oakland Heritage Festival

Orange Audubon Society has been invited to participate at the 12th annual Oakland Heritage Arts and Crafts Festival (OHF) held at Speer Park in Oakland on Saturday, October 24th. This invitation came at a good time for us because we had just learned that the Orlando Wetlands Park Festival (OWPF) that OAS co-sponsors with the City of Orlando (who owns the park) had just been cancelled because of budgetary restraints. We will test the waters with this new event to see how productive it will be towards helping us reach out to new members and fulfilling our budgetary goals for the year.

Of course, the success of these events depends on OAS volunteers. Unfortunately, this event coincides with the 2009 Audubon Assembly (see related article) in St. Petersburg, so some of our usual volunteers may be planning to attend that event to learn how to help the chapter fulfill its mission. Are you attending the Assembly? If not, how about volunteering to help with the new one-day event in Oakland? Please contact Loretta [LNS-OAS@att.net or 407/886-2925 (eve.)] or Teresa [mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or 407/644-0796 (eve.)] to volunteer. We really do need your help! Thanks in advance.

Loretta Satterthwaite and Teresa Williams

Fall 2009 Beginners' Bird Watching Class

For most folks, the enjoyment of bird watching increases with the ability to name a species using sight, sound, behavior or a combination of these and other clues to identity. To help you master the rewarding and fast-growing "sport" of bird watching, Orange Audubon Society will offer a Beginner's Bird Watching Class (BBWC) instructed by member Teri Marks, a long-time, avid birder. She worked 17 years in the Orange County Public School system and more recently as the Education and Volunteer Coordinator at The Audubon Center for Birds of Prey in Maitland, where she currently volunteers doing educational tours and off-site programs.

Course includes 2 classroom sessions October 24th and 31st, Rollins College (with mini-field trips to nearby sites); and 1 field session on November 7th; time for all sessions is 8:30 am–12:30 pm. Field trip locales will be announced at the start of class. Course will increase knowledge and awareness of North American bird species; teach bird ID techniques,

basic birding principles, bird habitat and anatomy; provide binocular basics and tips on using field guides and checklists; and more.

Registration is required. Cost is \$25 for Audubon members and \$40 for non-members, payable by check or money order to Orange Audubon Society. Handout materials and parking at Rollins College are included. Non-members can join when registering and pay \$45 (seniors 62+ and full-time students pay \$40), which includes BBWC registration (member price \$25) plus introductory 3-way annual membership in Orange Audubon and National Audubon Societies and Audubon of Florida [\$20 promotional rate (\$15 for seniors/students)]. Visit www.orangeaudubonfl.org for a membership application. The class is limited to 15 students. To reserve a space, contact Teresa (mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or 407-644-0796). For questions about the class, contact Teri (tmarks@cfl.rr.com). Hurry, you know what they say about the early bird!

**Orange Audubon Society
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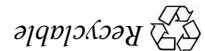
Calendar of Events

- Oct. 4, 2009 - Sunday, Ltd Ed.**
Saddle Creek Park, Lakeland,
Field Trip Gallus 407-242-7833
- Oct. 4, 2009 - Sunday**
Genius Dr. Nature Preserve
Work Day, 9:30-11:30
Teresa Williams 407-644-0796
- Oct. 10, 2009- Saturday**
CH Bronson State Forest Lee
Tract Bird Survey, Lorne Malo
(H) 407-349-2536
- Oct. 10 & 18th, 2009, Sat./Sun.**
Genius Drive Nature Preserve
Walking Field Trip/Bird survey
Teresa Williams 407-644-0796
- Oct. 15, 2009- Thursday**
Monthly Membership Mtg.
Leu Gardens, 7 p.m.
- Oct. 17, 2009- Tosohatchee**
WMA. Gallus Quigley,
gallusq@cfl.rr.com or
407-242-7833 for details.
- Oct. 23-24, 2009**
Audubon Assembly
St. Petersburg, FL
www.audubonofflorida.org
- Oct. 24, 2009 - Saturday**
Oakland Heritage Festival,
Oakland, FL - see inside
- Oct. 24 & 31, Nov. 7, 2009 -**
Saturdays, Beginners' Bird
Watching Class see page 5
- Oct. 25, 2009 - Sunday**
Native Plants Fall Garden Tour,
10 am - 4 pm, see inside
- Oct. 31, 2009-Saturday**
Wekiwa Springs State Park
Butterfly Survey, Randy Snyder
407-851-2536

Genius Drive Nature Preserve Field Trips

Reservations are required for two guided field trips to the 48± acre Genius Drive Nature Preserve in Winter Park on October 10th and 18th, 8 am ~ Noon. These are walking field trips (FT) that will be concurrent with migration bird surveys and led by survey leader and preeminent birder, Bruce Anderson.

In just two years surveyors have documented 144 bird species on the Preserve, which is also rich in 19th century history. The citrus groves and meandering Genius Drive with its hedges of shell ginger and Turk's cap were planted and constructed by Charles Hosmer Morse, the museum's namesake. The original Wind Song estate built in 1936 by Elizabeth Morse Genius still looks across Lake Virginia to Rollins College. A slice of romantic Old Florida has survived. You must be a current OAS member or Preserve workday volunteer to attend and FTs are limited to 20 people each date. More details provided when you register by contacting Teresa (mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or 407-644-0796).



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