



"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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November Field Trip – Lake Lotus Park

On Saturday, November 21st, OAS will visit Lake Lotus Park in Altamonte Springs. This 150-acre city park borders Lake Lotus that is fed by the Little Wekiva River. We will hike about 2 miles, half of which will be on sometimes slippery board-walks. For more information about the property see: <http://www.altamonte.org/DEPARTMENT/LEISURE/INDEX.ASP?ACTION=viewsub&ID=22>

Meet at 8:40 a.m. at the tram stop in the Lake Lotus Park off-site parking lot on Magnolia Homes Rd. just south of Maitland Blvd (parking lot and park do not open until 8:30). Carry your lunch in your pack because we will not return to our vehicles until after lunch. Also bring drink and birding gear. Please join us. If you have questions about the trip, call us at 407-851-5416.

Mary Keim & Randy Snyder, Field Trip Committee

Birdathon – Jan. 10th!!

You can help by forming a team and birding and/or by gathering pledges. Information will be in the Dec. *OASis*. Contact Gallus Quigley [gallusq@cfl.rr.com; (407) 242-7833] or Loretta [LNS-oas@att.net; (407) 886-2925].

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

This Month's Program, Nov. 19, 2009, 7 p.m.

Bringing Back the Indigo Snake by Fred Antonio

The eastern indigo snake is the largest non-venomous snake in North America and native to our sandhill habitats. But when was the last time you saw an eastern indigo snake in the wild? For most of us, it has been years and years. Classified since 1971 as a threatened species by the Florida Game and Fresh Water Commission and since 1978 by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, indigo snake populations have been extirpated from many areas by habitat loss and fragmentation.

So why not do a reintroduction program? The Orienne Center for Indigo Conservation (<http://projectorianne.org/>), based in central Florida, will serve as a breeding center for repatriation projects in the Florida panhandle.

Our November speaker, Fred Antonio, published the first studbook and Population Management Plan for the eastern indigo snake. Fred has most recently been the General Curator/Director of Operations at the Central Florida Zoo and Botanical Gardens.

Join us November 19 for a fascinating program!

OAS Members' favorite U.S. wildlife viewing spots

What is your absolute favorite wildlife viewing place in or outside of Florida? Do you have photos to share? If so, we welcome you to take 5 minutes at our Dec. 17th program. This is the first time we have tried this, and we hope to get good participation. If you are interested, please start now finding images of that most amazing place. Email intent to submit and then your images to me at sabalpress@mac.com. I will need the images by December 1st to add them to the program. It's your chance to share those special places!

Deborah Green, Program Chair

CONSERVATION NEWS—CONTINUED URBAN SPRAWL

Ok, money is tight, we cannot purchase environmentally sensitive lands and we are even short on funds to properly maintain them. Does that mean we need to give greedy developers the right to destroy our lands just so governing authorities can get tax money to spend on pet projects and venues that, when complete, few can even afford to attend? Critical Services are being cut back, water supplies are dwindling and crime is on the rise in many areas of Orange County. This makes no difference to those who want to profit by destroying our fragile environment, build houses no one will live in and construct unneeded stores and offices. Now is the time to step back and take a look at what is happening. Given time, we will be in a position to preserve and protect these lands rather than allow developers to destroy them now. Once they are gone, they are gone forever.

Despite tough economic conditions we are all going through, developments that constitute Urban Sprawl are continuing to be approved even though projects like Horizons West in Southwest Orange County and Avalon Park in East Orange County have not achieved their goals of residents being able to walk to schools, parks and work. In fact, they drive everywhere and wait in long lines of traffic.

Officials need to be reminded that Hometown Democracy also known as Amendment 4 will be on the ballot in 2010 and citizens will finally have a say in what happens in their State. Right now, developers are flocking to get their ill-conceived developments approved prior to the passage of Hometown Democracy. This is the time to attend as many proposed development meetings as you can and to make your voices heard before it is too late. The future of our quality of life for us, our children and grandchildren depends on it.

In 1862, Henry David Thoreau wrote "In Wildness is the Preservation of the World". Almost a century and a half later, this is truer than ever before. Natural wild lands clean our air and filter our water. They protect open space from sprawl, and provide much needed wildlife habitat, especially for endangered species. If we want to protect the environment and the lands that restore our bodies and souls, we need to legislate more land as wilderness, and the sooner the better.

Make time to explore the outdoors with your family & loved ones. Teach children to appreciate all the joys of nature.

They will pass their love and concern for the environment along to their children.

Sharon Robbins, Conservation Chair

Two Central Florida Regional Conservation Committee Representatives Elected to AoF Board of Directors

At the September Central Florida Regional Conservation Committee (CFRCC) meeting at Orlando Wetlands Park, two individuals were nominated as chapter-representative member candidates for the Board of Directors of Audubon of Florida (AoF). Bob Stamps (OAS) and Jens Tripson (Pelican Island AS) were warmly received and unanimously elected to the AoF Board of Directors at the board meeting held in conjunction with the Audubon Assembly in St. Petersburg on Oct. 24th. The CFRCC consists of representatives from 12 Audubon chapters and has three board positions; the third seat is held by Chuck Geanangel of Lake Region Audubon Society.



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>

Finished Shopping for the Holidays?

Me either! This is just a quick reminder that Orange Audubon Society (OAS) will be selling its nature-oriented merchandise (adult and children t-shirts, tote bags, nest boxes, caps, signs, mugs, books, etc.) at the November meeting. We hope to be set-up and selling no later than 6:30 pm, so come early and browse and buy! OAS cannot accept plastic (debit or credit), so bring cash or your check-book. BTW, it would be very helpful, since our board meeting begins at 5:30 that evening, if someone could arrive early to help with our merchandise sales activity until the board meeting adjourns. If you can help, please contact me (407-886-2925; LNS-oas@att.net). Thanks.

Loretta Satterthwaite

Interesting Websites

Of the bazillion websites on the internet there are many with information of interest to those who love Nature and want to enjoy and protect the environment. Check out these sites:

protectfloridasbeaches.org – With out-of-state oil drillers working our legislators and citizens to allow them to start nearshore drilling (three miles off Florida's Atlantic coast and ten miles off its Gulf beaches), check out this site to get the facts. This may well be one of the major environmental issues in next year's legislative session. This site is supported by Audubon of Florida, Florida Wildlife Federation, Caribbean Conservation Association, Sierra Club and other organizations.

www.floridaseden.org – Florida's Eden is a nonprofit citizen initiative to unite 30 North Florida counties for the purpose of protecting their natural resources and using their environmental and creative assets to build a sustainable, prosperous economy. There is a wealth of information at this site including scenic trail guides, water awareness campaign information, announcements of environmental and art exhibits, lectures, and many other topics of interest.

hp.com/powertochange, www.verdiem.com/edison.aspx, www.google.com/corporate/green/tools-for-users.html – All three of these websites offer small tools (a.k.a. widgets) to help computer users save energy. Unfortunately, studies have found that most computer users disable the energy-saving software settings on their machines and that computers (and other electronic equipment) are often left on even when not in use. These widgets help enable energy conservation and remind users to shut off their computers. Hewlett Packard (hp) has versions for both Windows PCs and Macs, the other two widgets are only available for PCs (Windows XP or Vista).

Bob Stamps

OAS' 2010 Nature Photo Contest

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) announces themes for its' 22nd Annual Kit & Sidney Chertok Nature Photography Contest—"Actions & Interactions" and "Close Encounters."

This digital competition is open to all photographers of all ages. In this Florida native nature contest, images cannot show humans, human-made structures or artifacts, or discernable non-native (to Florida) fauna and/or flora, which is consistent with contest objectives of promoting interest and concern for preserving Florida's native wildlife and wild places and encouraging nature photography.

Images must conform to 'truth in Nature' standards and 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.

Entries must be received by May 20, 2010, final. OR enter by April 15, 2010 (received date) for an optional pre-screening and the opportunity to replace ineligible images free, subject to the contest's final deadline and all other rules.

Enter a maximum of 5 images (overall total), with a limit of up to three in one category. Entry fees per image are \$5, Audubon members (any chapter); and \$7, nonmembers. Contestants who join OAS when submitting their entry forms pay member fee of \$5. Participants age seventeen and under may compete in this open competition or enter a separate 'junior' competition to be announced in next month's OASis.

All winners receive ribbons and recognition in OAS and other published articles and on the OAS website. OAS provides cash prizes of \$200, \$100 and \$50, respectively, and co-sponsor Colonial Photo & Hobby (CPH) provides three in-store gift cards with values of \$100, \$50 and \$25, respectively, for winners of 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. All winning entries vie for placement on the cover of OAS' next annual brochure and the opportunity to be featured in store displays at CPH.

Official application forms containing complete contest rules and regulations will be available soon at future OAS meetings and/or Colonial Photo and Hobby, 634 N. Mills Avenue, Orlando, FL; or by downloading and printing the form (*.pdf file) from OAS' website: www.orangeaudubonfl.org using free Adobe Acrobat Reader. For additional information, contact me: 407-644-0796 or mwilliams@cfl.rr.com.

Teresa Williams, OASCNPC Chair

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

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Pete Vogt (11)		407-855-4122

Calendar of Events

Nov. 14, 2009 - Saturday
Urban Think bookstore, Book signing and presentation.

Nov. 14, 2009-Saturday
CH Bronson State forest Lee Tract Bird Survey. Lorne Malo 407/659-4853 (work) 407/349-2536 (home) lmalo@sjrwmd.com or lornemalo@bellsouth.net

Nov. 19, 2009-Thursday
Monthly membership meeting, Leu Gardens, 7 pm

Nov. 21, 2009 Saturday
Lake Lotus Park, 8:40 am, Mary or Randy, 407/851-5416

Nov. 28, 2009-Saturday
Wekiwa Springs State Park Butterfly Survey. Randy Snyder (h) 407-851-5416 or rsnyder11@cfl.rr.com

Dec. 17, 2009-Thursday
Monthly membership program, Leu Gardens, 7 p.m.

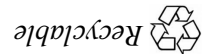
Wildlife Surveys-Ferndale
Preserve quarterly bird surveys - Gallus Quigley, Jr. 352/516-8512, gquigley@lakecountyfl.gov

Lake Apopka North Shore Restoration Area quarterly bird survey - contact Pam Bowen, 386/329-4870 or Pbowen@sjrwmd.com

Cross Florida Ditch of Dreams

David Tegeder, an associate professor of history at Santa Fe College in Gainesville, Florida and Steven Noll, a lecturer in history at the University of Florida, will be giving a presentation at a book signing hosted by the UrbanThink! Bookstore, 625 East Central Blvd, Orlando, Florida on Saturday, November 14, from 12-2 pm.

Their new book—Ditch of Dreams: The Cross Florida Barge Canal and the Struggle for Florida's Future—has just been published by the University Press of Florida. Many of you may be interested in this important story that, in many respects, shapes the modern environmental movement, especially in Florida. For more information, visit www.urbanthinkorlando.com.



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