



"The Voice of Conservation in Central Florida"

OASis

Orange Audubon Society

A Chapter of National Audubon Society and Audubon of Florida



Vol. 45

March 2010

Issue No. 7

Field Trip to Ferndale Preserve March 20, 2010

Come see spectacular views of Lake Apopka and birds too. Ferndale is a 192-acre Lake County Preserve that is being restored to its historic ecosystem. The preserve boasts more than 160 species of birds on its checklist. We'll hike about 3.0 miles, sometimes uphill, so bring good shoes and water! Birds we might see include Painted Bunting, Grasshopper Sparrow, Bald Eagle, Pine Warbler and Pileated Woodpecker. There is an Ash-Throated Flycatcher being seen on and off in the preserve as well. So grab your binoculars and hiking shoes and join me in exploring this great birding spot.

Meet in the parking lot at 7:45 a.m. Hike begins at 8:00 a.m. For details email: gallusq@cfl.rr.com
Gallus C. Quigley Jr., Field Trip Chair

From the Nominating Committee

Calling all Auduboners: this is your chance. Now is the time for all good Auduboners to join the action.

The Orange Audubon Society is looking for volunteers to fill the current vacancies on the Board of Directors. The 2010 annual elections for the Board of Directors is also right around the proverbial corner. The Board is comprised of twenty volunteer members who serve staggered terms of three-years. Each year one-third of the positions are open for election/re-election. If you are a member of OAS, your time has come and this would be a good opportunity to serve your Society.

If you are interested in serving OAS in this capacity, either in a current vacancy or for the next 3-year term, please contact Steve Graves at ssgesq@aol.com.

This Month's Program:

Creating a Backyard Bird Habitat by Alan and Janey Jahner

Many of us delight at seeing active and energetic birds at our feeders. We may have also created wildlife habitat in our yard through plantings. Most of us never tire of hearing tips about creating a backyard bird habitat, in hopes we can learn one more thing that brings in a cool new species or more of our favorites. Our expert on the topic this year is Alan Jahner, who with his wife Janey, opened the Wild Birds Unlimited on Red Bug Lake Road in Winter Springs in 2004. Local birders who buy seed and supplies from WBU tell the Jahners of their backyard sightings, and the Jahners keep track, which contributes to the wealth of information they will share with us.

Join us March 18th, for an informative program. Orange Audubon Society programs are free and no reservations are necessary. Programs are held in the Camellia Room of Leu Gardens, 1920 N. Forest Avenue, Orlando (for directions call 407-246-2620).

Deborah Green, Program Chair

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

Sent with this newsletter is Orange Audubon Society's *once-a-year* request for financial support. Please read it and consider contributing.

February Field Trip Report

Forty-six birders attended the Orange Audubon Society field trip to Orlando Wetlands Park on February 20th, including ten cub scouts. The group observed at least 60 bird species including Lesser Scaup, Blue-winged Teal, American Bittern, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Glossy Ibis, White-faced Ibis, Bald Eagle (with young in nest), Sora, Purple Gallinule, Forster's Tern, Gull-billed Tern, Common Ground-Dove, Purple Martin, Tree Swallow (many thousands), Painted Bunting, Savannah Sparrow and Swamp Sparrow.

Thanks to the more experienced birders for helping the less experienced ones find and identify birds. Also thanks to those that carried spotting scopes to help the group get closer looks at the birds. The weather was great. Besides being a good place for birds, the park had many human visitors, with a nature photography class and at least four Audubon chapters being represented.

Mary Keim, Field Trip Committee

Water Quality and Quantity — What You Can Do

There are many things you can do regarding water issues here in Central Florida. One simple action that you can take that may have a great impact is to let your elected officials and representatives of other government agencies know where you stand on water issues. Here are a couple of examples: 1) A local State Senator, Lee Constantine (chairman of the Environmental Preservation and Conservation Committee) has filed a bill (SB568) commonly known as the "Florida Springs Protection Act". The legislation is designed to help protect Florida's springs from harm due to flow reductions and reduced water quality. You know how important springsheds and springs are to the economic and ecological health of central Florida so please let Senator Constantine (407-331-9675) and your other state legislators know how you feel about this bill. 2) Many of you live in areas served by the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD). SJRWMD is proposing "changes to permitting rules that would result in increased water conservation throughout northeast and central Florida." We all know how important water conservation is to our future and quality of life here in central Florida. Let the SJRWMD (800-451-7106) know your opinion on this issue.

Bob Stamps

Spring 2010 Beginner's Bird Watching Class Offered

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) member Teri Marks will return to teach a spring 2010 Beginner's Bird Watching Class (BBWC). Learn new skills or sharpen existing ability to name bird species using sight, sound, behavior or a combination of these and other clues.

Course includes 1 classroom session March 20th, Rollins College (with mini-field trip to nearby site); and 2 field sessions on March 27th and April 3rd; 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; 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. 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 OAS, National Audubon Society 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 at 407-644-0796 or mwilliams@cfl.rr.com. For questions about the class, contact Teri (tmarks@cfl.rr.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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The *OASis* is published monthly from September through June and is sent free to all members of Orange Audubon Society.

<http://www.orangeaudubonfl.org>

Youth Photo Contest

The Orange Audubon Society (OAS) announces its 2010 Chertok Youth Nature Photography Contest for photographers 17 years old and younger. Like the regular contest, there are two contest categories, "Actions and Interactions" and "Close Encounters". Subject matter must be of native (to Florida) plants and animals and can not contain any humans or human artifacts. You may submit 5 images (up to 3 in a category). Entry fees are \$3 per image (Audubon members, including children of members) and \$5 per image (non-members).

The final deadline is May 20, 2010 (receipt date), but entries received by April 15, 2010 will be screened for compliance with contest rules and entrants notified soon thereafter of any disqualified entries. These may be replaced at no additional cost, but replacements must meet all rules/requirements and be received by May 20, 2010.

The winner of each category will receive \$50 cash from OAS, a \$25 gift card from Colonial Photo & Hobby and a ribbon. Honorable mentions, which are awarded at judges' discretion, receive ribbons.

Official application forms containing complete contest rules and regulations are available 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. For more info, contact me: 407-644-0796 or mwilliams@cfl.rr.com

Chertok Photos on Display

Colonial Photo & Hobby (CPH) has co-sponsored Orange Audubon Society's Chertok Nature Photography Contest since 2004, by contributing prizes for winning images and featuring selected entries within their retail premises to promote interest in the contest and nature photography.

Butterfly Identification Class

The 7.5-hour class (3 sessions of 2 ½ hours each) is on Saturdays, May 1, 8 & 15 from 2:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The class involves lectures, field observation and identification of butterflies at Orlando Wetlands Park (OWP) and Seminole Ranch Conservation Area in east Orange County. Lectures will be held in the OWP Nature Center on Wheeler Road in Christmas, FL. Recommended field guide is *Butterflies through Binoculars: Florida* by Glassberg, Minno and Calhoun, 2000, Oxford. Binoculars are helpful, especially those that are close-focusing (6 ft. or less). Instructors are Orange Audubon members Randy Snyder and Mary Keim. If you have questions about class content, call or e-mail Randy and Mary (407-851-5416, rsnyder11@cfl.rr.com). Registration is required: \$25 for Audubon members and \$40 for non-members, payable by check or money order to Orange Audubon Society. Non-members can join when registering and pay \$45 (seniors 62+ and full-time students pay \$40), which includes member-price butterfly class registration 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 (407-644-0796, mwilliams@cfl.rr.com).

Display selections are made by CPH from the entire body of eligible entries after judging has occurred. CPH's selections from the 2009 competition—listed below by photographer's name, city, image title and placement—will be on display beginning in March.

Robert Amoruso (Orlando), *Moorhens Fighting*

Kevin Barry (West Park), *Dewy Dragon*

[Honorable Mention (HM)] and *Morning Mangroves*

Wayne Bennett (Altamonte Springs), *Reddish Egret with Fish*

Diane R Brannon (Leesburg), *Swallowtail Caterpillar / Eye to Eye*

Larry Brooks (Casselberry), *The Pollinator* (First Place)

Diane Chenault (Orlando), *Black Skimmer Doing Headstand* (HM)

Ursula Dubrick (West Melbourne), *Blue Land Crab/Don't Come any Closer* (HM)

Myrna Erler-Bradshaw (Bushnell), *Preening Pair/Great Egret* (Third Place) and *Baby Great Horned Owls*

Gini Robinson Henry (Christmas), *Deep in Thought/Barred Owl*

James J Joseph (Palm Beach Gardens), *Green Heron/The Exterminator*

Mary Keim (Orlando), *Jumping Spider*

Brett Miley (Frostproof), *Pine Lily/Rising Up* (HM)

Jake Paredes (Boca Raton), *My Pet Snake*

Bill Stefancic (Clermont), *Shell Hunter/Plover*

Jim Urbach (Sanford), *Snowy Plover and Newborn Chick* (First Place)

OAS extends sincere thanks to Colonial Photo & Hobby and to all participants for their continued support.

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

Mar. 13, 2010 - Friday

Yarborough Tract, Little-Big
Econ State Forest bird survey
(tentative) Lorne Malo,
407/659-4853 or
407/349-2536 or
lmalo@sjrwm.com or
lornemalo@bellsouth.net

Mar. 26—28, 2010

Audubon Academy,
Gainesville, see below

Mar. 27, 2010 - Saturday

Wekiwa Springs State Park
butterfly survey, Randy Snyder
407/851-5416 (h) or
rsnyder11@cfl.rr.com

Mar. 18, 2010 - Thursday

Monthly membership program,
7 p.m. Leu Gardens.

April 10, 2010 - Friday

Yarborough Tract, Little-Big
Econ State Forest bird survey
(tentative) Lorne Malo,
407/659-4853, 407/349-2536
or lmalo@sjrwm.com, or
olornemalo@bellsouth.net

Mar. 20, 2010 - Saturday

Ferndale Preserve, see pg 1

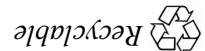
Mar. 20, 27 and April 3

Spring Beginning Bird
Watching Class, see pg.2

AUDUBON ACADEMY 2010

Paramount Plaza Conference Center, Gainesville, FL March 26–28, 2010

Now in its 6th year, Audubon Academy is designed to strengthen chapters by providing both novice and experienced members with encouragement and knowledge. All participants should find workshops informative and useful. Scheduled field trips, social events, workshops, chapter presentations and keynote addresses will focus on building relationships — both inside and outside of Audubon. For a registration form and complete schedule of activities that starts Friday with a kayak trip at 1:00 pm on the Ichetucknee River and ends with a boat trip on the Ocklawaha River beginning at 1:30 pm on Sunday, visit www.audubonofflorida.org. Registration prior to March 15th is \$25 and any Orange Audubon Society (OAS) member interested in attending the Academy may contact Teresa (407-644-0796; mwilliams@cfl.rr.com) regarding reimbursement of the \$25 fee for the Academy. This is an excellent opportunity to get to know other Audubon individuals and to learn from them. Attendance at these types of events leaves participants with a special enthusiasm that comes from spending time and sharing ideas with like-minded individuals. Take advantage of this special opportunity and plan now to attend.



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