



"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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Issue No. 8

April Field Trip

On Saturday, April 17th, OAS will visit Wekiwa Springs State Park. This 7,800-acre park near Apopka includes 19 plant communities with a variety of threatened and endangered species. For more information on the property, see: <http://www.floridastateparks.org/wekiwasprings/default.cfm>.

Meet at 8:15 A.M. in the Sand Lake parking lot inside Wekiwa Springs State Park. (The park does not open until 8 A.M.) We will walk about 4 miles in about 4 hours. Bring \$6/vehicle park admission fee, drink, birding gear, and lunch (for after the hike). Please join us. If you have questions about the trip, call us at 407/851-5416.

Mary Keim and Randy Snyder,
Field Trip Committee

April 18 Limited Edition Field Trip Fort DeSoto Park

Get up early and let's go find migrants at one of the premiere migrant traps in Florida! We'll spend the day wandering trails and beaches looking for birds, or maybe just sit by the fountain and let the birds come to us. Scopes, binoculars, fluids, & lunch are appropriate.

Reservations are required. Limited Edition Field Trips are restricted to 15 people and cost \$10 per OAS member and \$15 per non-member. (Contact Gallus at gallusq@cfl.rr.com or 407/242-7833). Carpool from Target parking lot on US 27 just SOUTH of the I-4/US 27 interchange at 7:15 A.M.; leaving at 7:30 A.M.; expect to return around 6:00 P.M. to this location.

This Month's Program:

April 15, 2010, 7:00 P.M.

**Everglades Birding by Loretta Lynn Leda
additional photography by Milton
Heiberg**

Everglades National Park is our nearest national park. Created in 1947, in part to save habitat for wading birds, the park is a mecca for bird watchers. Orange Audubon Society board member and *OASis* editor Loretta Lynn Leda is author of the guidebook *Paddling the Everglades National Park*, published by Falcon Guidebooks. Orange Audubon Society board member Milton Heiberg teaches photographic workshops annually at the national park. With Loretta's birding tips and photos supplemented by Milton's photography, we are in for a treat for our April program. Loretta will have her book available for purchase and autographing or purchase them through local bookstores or online.

Join us April 15 for a fascinating 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 P.M. in the Camellia Room at:

Harry P. Leu Garden,
1920 North Forest Avenue
Orlando, FL 32803-1537.

For directions call: 407-246-2620

Annual Elections This Month

April is the month for the annual meeting of Orange Audubon Society (OAS). OAS members present at the April 15th meeting will be asked to vote for persons to serve on the Board of Directors — as officers for a two-year term and as directors for a three-year term — starting after the June 2010 Chertok Photography Contest awards, silent auction and potluck dinner meeting.

We are offering a tentative slate, but nominations are open for any position — even those for which a name is given. The tentative slate is: President—Mike Godwin, 1st Vice President—**to be determined**, 2nd VP/Programs Chair—Deborah Green, Secretary—Mary Keim, Treasurer—Teresa Williams and Board Members—Cynthia Gosiewski, Milton Heiberg, Loretta Lynn Leda, Dominique Shimizu and Leann Streeper. We are continuing to look for other nominees for ‘vacated’ seats, such as that of Mike Godwin whose board term expires in 2012. If you are a member and are interested in serving OAS in this capacity, please contact **Steve Graves** at ssgesq@aol.com. Thanks.

St. Marks NWR Field Trip Report

Fifteen Audubon members [including one from Apalachee chapter and one with memberships in both Manatee and Sarasota chapters] met our three guides (from VT and AR) at the St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge (SMNWR) Visitors’ Center to begin a beautiful day of ‘field tripping’. Though we knew it would be colder than we are used to because of this past cold front, it really was pleasant and we eventually had to peel off layers, only to put some of them back on as we ate lunch in a shaded area where there was a cool breeze blowing across the water. Luckily, rain gear remained stowed for the entire trip.

Fifty-seven species were seen, including Carolina Chickadee, Carolina Wren and Ruby-crowned Kinglet at the Wakulla State Park (WSP) Lodge before we left for St. Marks. Birds seen at the Visitors’ Center parking lot included Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and Hermit Thrush. Other highlights included Common Loon and Red-breasted Merganser, as well as Ruddy Duck, Redhead, Canvasback Duck, Ring-necked Duck, Bufflehead, Northern

Harrier, Lesser Yellowlegs, Willet, and Ruddy Turnstone. A frequent inhabitant near the lighthouse parking area, American Bittern, eluded us as did the Sora that is usually seen from a small tower close to the rest area by our lunch site. We ‘settled’ for the Peregrine Falcon there instead.

It may have been a long drive to see some birds that can be seen closer to home but the WSP Lodge is a wonderfully quaint part of old Florida and everyone seemed to like the accommodations. Thanks to Loretta Leda for arranging the guided trip at SMNWR and the stay at the Lodge; we’re sorry she was unable to make the trip and enjoy the fruits of her labor. I hope this is a trip that will be repeated.

Loretta Satterthwaite

Genius Drive Nature Preserve F.T.

Reservations are required for two guided field trips to the 48± acre Genius Drive Nature Preserve in Winter Park on May 2nd and 16th, 8 AM ~ Noon (dates tentative at press time). These walking field trips (FT) are concurrent with migration bird surveys and led by Bruce Anderson. There are 153 bird species on the Preserve, which is also rich in 19th century history. You must be a current OAS member or Preserve workday volunteer to attend. FT is limited to 20 people. Details when you register with Teresa: (mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or 407/644-0796).

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>

Butterfly Identification Class

Orange Audubon Society is offering a Butterfly Identification Class. The 7.5-hour class (3 sessions of 2 ½ hours each) is on Saturdays, May 1, 8, and 15 from 2:30 PM to 5:00 PM. 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, contact Randy and Mary (407/851-5416; rsnyder11@cfl.rr.com).

Registration is required. The class is limited to 15 students. To reserve a space, contact Teresa (mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or 407/644-0796). Cost is \$25 for Audubon members/\$40 for non-members, payable by check or money order to Orange Audubon Society. Non-members can join when registering (visit www.orangeaudubonfl.org for a membership application) and pay \$45 (seniors 62+ and full-time students pay \$40), which includes butterfly class registration (member price \$25) plus introductory 3-way annual membership in Orange and National Audubon Societies and Audubon of Florida [\$20 promotional rate (\$15 for seniors/students)].

Volunteer Opportunities—Lucky Fours

Between now and June 17th, Orange Audubon Society (OAS) will participate in four fundraising/outreach events giving you four opportunities to enjoy the camaraderie of OAS friends (or meet new ones) while helping your chapter meet its educational and financial goals.

On Saturday April 17th, under the magnificent moss-draped oaks of Orange County's Magnolia Park, 2929 S. Binion Rd., Apopka (east shore of Lake Apopka), you can enjoy a relaxing day listening to dulcimers and bluegrass music at the 11th Annual Magnolia Park Bluegrass Festival (10:00 AM–6:00 PM). Admission is \$2 for adults (free for pre-arranged volunteers); children free. Stop by OAS' tent to say 'Hello'; or visit for a while; or volunteer (best idea). Bring your lawn chair and a laid-back attitude, then unwind as you enjoy the music, the outdoors and a chance to buy *and sell* OAS' nature t-shirts, nest boxes, totes, etc. Please contact Loretta (LNS-OAS@att.net; 407/886-2925) for details or to volunteer.

On Saturday, May 8th the Audubon Center for Birds of Prey (CBOP) in Maitland will have a Baby Owl Shower (9:00 AM–2:00 PM) and you are invited. OAS participates in this annual fundraiser to benefit the CBOP. Admission that day is free with a "baby gift" useful in caring for

young raptors: multi-packs of paper towels, cotton balls, Gerber or Beechnut chicken or turkey baby food (meat only), king size flat sheets, fiberglass pet carriers and nasty old cash donations are examples! Get a complete wish list from CBOP: www.audubonofflorida.org. Contact Teresa (mwilliams@cfl.rr.com; 407/644-0796) for details or to volunteer.

At OAS' May 20th program at Leu Gardens, nature-related merchandise will be available for the last time until ~November. Please arrive about 6:30 PM to shop before the program begins at 7:00 PM. Your assistance at our 'little nature shop' would be most welcome since many 'regular volunteers' also serve on the board, which meets at the same time. Contact Loretta or Teresa (information above).

Finally, plan now to help at OAS' June 17th meeting, a potluck dinner; photo contest and awards program; and very popular silent auction extravaganza. It takes a lot of time and effort to run this evening smoothly (see article in this newsletter) and we need help from ~4:00 PM for set-up until ~9:00 PM when we must vacate the parking lot!! Mark your calendars now (best idea), then call one of us, too. Thank you!

Loretta Satterthwaite and Teresa Williams

Subject Matters in 2010 Florida Native Nature Photo Contest

Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) annual Kit & Sidney Chertok Nature Photography Contest (CNPC) began in 1988 with a primary goal of creating interest and concern for Florida's native wildlife and wild places. Hence, subject matter for entries in the 2010 (22nd Annual) CNPC may not include discernable non-native (to Florida) species or human elements.

A species is considered native to Florida if its natural range included Florida at the time of European contact or if the species arrived and established itself in this state unaided by man. Check our website: http://www.orangeaudubonfl.org/oas_links.html for some resources for plant and animal identification. The contest restriction disallowing human elements is intended to challenge photographers to seek out and record Florida in its natural state. Some human artifacts are obvious: people, buildings, signs, soft drink cans or highways. Others may not be so obvious: footprints on the beach, contrail in the sky, leg bands on an endangered bird, propeller scars on a manatee, dirt road in a wilderness area and mowed lawns — to name a few — are all evidence that *Mankind was here!*

As a courtesy and to enhance education, OAS offers **optional pre-screening for entries received by April 15, 2010**. Participants will be notified soon thereafter of any disqualified entry and have the option of replacing the image(s) FREE. Replacements must be received by the **final deadline of May 20, 2010** and conform to all other contest rules.

Official entry forms (note that for 2010 there is also a separate youth contest for participants age 17 or younger) containing complete contest rules are available online: www.orangeaudubonfl.org; at Colonial Photo & Hobby, 634 N Mills Avenue, Orlando, FL; and OAS meetings. Send questions to: 407/644-0796 or mwilliams@cfl.rr.com.

Teresa Williams, CNPC Chair

Remodeling for Water Efficiency: Save money and reduce stormwater problems

A FREE program from the United States Green Building Council (USGBC) Central Florida Chapter LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) for Homes Committee: April 13, 6-8 PM (registration 5:30 PM). Location: Orange County/University of Florida/IFAS Extension, 6021 S. Conway Road, Orlando, FL 32812.

USGBC LEED for Homes committee has organized Central Florida's water conservation event of the year, a free 2-hour workshop. Learn how to save on your water bill through indoor and outdoor retrofits, including landscape updates. Rain barrels, gutter systems and cisterns save water as well as help you reduce stormwater runoff; rain sensors and other smart controllers save water and money on your irrigation system. Find out about upcoming stormwater regulations and how they will impact you, where to obtain water efficiency rebates, how to select the most water efficient fixtures, and how to calculate pay back for fixtures being replaced.

Registration is through the USGBC Central Florida Chapter website under Events. Direct

link is <http://remodelingforwaterefficiency.eventbrite.com>

Silent Auction

The June 17th Orange Audubon Society (OAS) meeting will once again include a Silent Auction with items from local businesses and items that you have personally made, baked or grown (Make It, Bake It, Grow It- i.e. MIBIGI). Unfortunately we cannot accept 'gently used' items for this auction due to space and time constraints. Please plan now to contribute something special to help OAS fulfill its fiscal year budget.

If you 'know' a business owner who might contribute to the Silent Auction, please solicit a donation or provide us with a contact person (OAS can provide an acknowledgment letter for tax deduction purposes). Please start your solicitation process now; planning ahead can make this great event even better. If you question what might be appropriate for the silent auction, please feel free to contact us (407/886-2925 or LNS-OAS@att.net; mwilliams@cfl.rr.com; 407/644-0796). Thanks for your help.

Loretta Satterthwaite and Teresa Williams

**Wading Bird Nesting at Gatorland
— OAS Member Event—
Sunday, May 16, 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM**

This is the time of year when many wading birds are nesting and raising their young at Gatorland. Hundreds of egrets, herons, and storks make their nest above and around the alligator habitat and the Alligator Breeding Marsh. This 10-acre breeding marsh, created in 1991, has become home to many different species of wild Florida birds that roost and nest above the protecting alligators. Today, the Gatorland Rookery is one of the largest and most accessible wading bird rookeries in Florida, with literally thousands of native Florida birds making it their home. Currently, a dozen different species of birds nest within Gatorland's Rookery and over 20 different species of birds use the area for roosting or feeding. Of these, 8 species are listed either as Species of Special Concern or Endangered by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act.

Gatorland's remarkable rookeries are very accessible for public observation and photography. On Sunday, May 16th, from 4 PM to 8 PM, Orange Audubon Society (OAS) members will be treated to this amazing spectacle of nature and, if you arrive early, you will have a chance to view the breeding marsh and any part of Gatorland you wish. Our guide will be Mike Godwin of the founding family of Gatorland and an OAS board member. Cost is \$10 + tax (\$5 + tax for children under 13). **You must be an OAS member (or accompanying a member) to attend.** Make sure you mention OAS to get your special discount and wristband. No reservations required. Gatorland is just north of Kissimmee on SR 441. Address: 14501 South Orange Blossom Trail, Orlando, FL 32837. Phone: 1-800-393-5297. Website: www.gatorland.com.

Ferndale Preserve Field Trip Report

On March 20th approximately 16 birders joined me to hike at Ferndale Preserve. The infamous Wes Biggs with a birder from Alaska were there when I arrived before 7:30 AM and had heard the pair of Great Horned Owls calling in the pre-dawn hours; by 8:00 AM the group set off to hike the 3.0 mile trail. We identified 50 species including stellar looks at the local pair of Pileated Woodpeckers from the parking lot; highlights were many singing Northern Parula, several Prairie Warblers, Brown Thrasher, courting Common Ground-Doves and the local melanistic Red-Tailed Hawk, which Wes and I believed to be a likely Dark Phase Short-Tailed Hawk before it flew. Shows we all get fooled sometimes!

Gallus Quigley, Jr., Field Trip Chair

**Butterfly Buffet
April 24, 2010 9:30 AM–12:30 PM
Audubon Center for Birds of Prey, Maitland**

Enhance your yard for birds and butterflies. Learn from local experts about some of the best plants to attract butterflies to your yard and where to find them locally. Dig in the dirt and help us create an addition to our existing garden. Event is designed to connect people with ways to make a conservation difference in their local communities and is free; participants must pre-register by calling (407) 644-0190.

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

PRESIDENT		
Bob Stamps (10)		407-886-2925
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Loretta Satterthwaite (10)		407-886-2925
2nd VICE PRESIDENT (PROGRAMS)		
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SECRETARY		
Mary Keim (10)		407-851-5416
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BOARD MEMBERS		
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Milton Heiberg (10)		407-658-4869
Loretta Lynn Leda (10)		321-438-0838
Danielle Ponsolle (11)	dponsolle@cfl.rr.com	
Gallus Quigley (12)		407-242-7833
Sharon Robbins (11)		407-376-4930
Dominique Shimizu (10)		407-287-4078
Ayme Smith (10)		407-425-7504
Randy Snyder (11)		407-851-5416
Pete Vogt (11)		407-855-4122

Calendar of Events

April 10, 2010 & May 8, 2010

- Saturdays Yarborough Tract, Little-Big Econ State Forest bird surveys
Contact Lorne Malo at 407/659-4853 or lmalo@sjrwm.com

April 13, 2010 - Tuesday

FREE water conservation workshop (see article p. 4)

April 15, 2010 - Thursday

OAS' Monthly membership meeting and annual election (see articles pp. 1 & 2)

April 15, 2010 - Thursday

Deadline for receiving photo entries (youth or adult) for optional pre-screening for OAS' 22nd Annual Nature Photography Contest (see article p. 4)

April 17, 2010 - Saturday

OAS' Wekiwa Springs State Park field trip (see article p. 1)

April 17, 2010 - Saturday

Magnolia Park Bluegrass Festival (see 'Volunteers...' article, p. 3)

April 18, 2010 - Sunday

Ft. DeSoto Ltd. Edition Field Trip (see article p. 1)

April 24, 2010 - Saturday

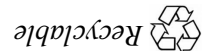
Wekiwa Springs State Park butterfly survey
Contact Randy Snyder or Mary Keim at 407/851-5416 or rsnyder11@cfl.rr.com

May 1, 8 and 15 - Saturdays

OAS Butterfly ID classes (see article p. 3)

Citizen Science for Swallow-tailed Kite Database

The 2010 Citizen Science database is up and running. The Center for Birds of Prey will be administering this program across the Swallow-tailed Kite's (STKI) breeding range in North America again this year. Contact Jennifer McCarthey (stki@avianconservationcenter.org or 703/967-1231) for questions/comments (which we welcome) about the database. To view the 2010 online report form: <http://www.thecenterforbirdsofprey.org/>. To enter data, <http://www.thecenterforbirdsofprey.org/swallowtail-kite.php>.



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