



*"The Voice of Conservation in Central Florida"*

# OASis

*Orange Audubon Society*

*A Chapter of National Audubon Society and Audubon of Florida*



Vol. 45

May 2010

Issue No. 9

## **Wading Bird Nesting at Gatorland OAS Member Event**

**Sunday, May 16, 2010 - 4 P.M. - 8 P.M.**

Gatorland's remarkable rookeries are very accessible for public observation and photography and on Sunday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, from 4 to 8 P.M., Orange Audubon Society (OAS) members will be treated to this amazing spectacle of nature. 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 a board member and in-coming President of OAS.

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. 14501 South Orange Blossom Trail, Orlando, FL 32837. Phone: 1-800-393-5297. [www.gatorland.com](http://www.gatorland.com).

## **Viera Wetlands - May 22 Field Trip**

It is May but Viera Wetlands is sure to hold some good birds for us like Crested Caracara, Black-Bellied Whistling Duck and Limpkin. Binoculars, scopes, bug spray, liquids, sunscreen and lunch should be brought.

Meet at the Burger King at SR 50 and Alafaya Trail at 7:30 A.M. to carpool, leaving at 7:45 A.M.; we will then meet in the parking lot at Viera Wetlands 8:15 A.M. Contact Gallus Quigley ([gallusq@cfl.rr.com](mailto:gallusq@cfl.rr.com) or 407/242-7833) for details.

This Month's Program:

**May 20th — 7:00 P.M.**

## **Central Florida: Extraordinary for the Naturalist**

by Deborah Green

Writer Deborah Green's thesis of why Central Florida is so extraordinary combines human history back to the Timucuan and Seminoles, more recent logging and natural history. Following her two natural history books on the Wekiva area and book on Canaveral National Seashore, Deborah has a new book in the works that profiles 32 places within a 2 or 2 1/2 hour ride from Orlando. Join us May 20<sup>th</sup> as, with slides and anecdotes, she profiles these special places.

Orange Audubon Society programs are free and 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

### April Field Trip Report

Fourteen birders attended the Orange Audubon Society field trip to Wekiwa Springs State Park on April 17<sup>th</sup>. The group observed at least 29 bird species including Wild Turkey, Great Crested Flycatcher, White-eyed Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Carolina Chickadee, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, Gray Catbird, Northern Parula, Pine Warbler, Eastern Towhee, and Bachman’s Sparrow. Other vertebrates included White-tailed Deer, Southern Fence Lizard, Six-lined Racerunner and Southern Black Racer. Southeastern Pocket Gopher mounds dotted the Sandhill.

At least ten butterfly species were observed including Zebra Swallowtail, Palamedes Swallowtail, Little Wood-Satyr, and Northern Cloudywing. Flowers in bloom included Blue-eyed Grass, St. Peter’s Wort, Rusty Lyonia, Fetterbush (Shiny Lyonia), Shiny Blueberry, Mock Bishops Weed, Wild Pennyroyal, Lyre-leaved Sage, and Queens Delight. Some of the blueberry bushes had spongy-looking galls. The leaves had grown into 2-inch cubes. For those of you who won’t be able to rest until you know what causes the galls, it is a fungus, *Exobasidium vaccinii*.

Our trail took us through varied habitats from Sandhill to Oak Hammock to Sand Pine Scrub to Loblolly Bayhead to Swamp. One comment was “I feel like I’m going from one room into another.”  
Mary Keim, Field Trip Committee

### Nature Merchandise Available at OAS’ May Meeting

At OAS’ May 20<sup>th</sup> program at Leu Gardens, nature-related merchandise will be available for the last time until ~November. Please arrive about 6:30 P.M. to shop before the program begins at 7:00 P.M. No plastic! Only cash or checks accepted. Also, your assistance at our ‘nature merchandise shop’ would be most welcome since many ‘regular volunteers’ also serve on the board, which meets at the same time. Contact Loretta (LNS-OAS@att.net; 407/886-2925) for details or to volunteer.

### Audubon Center for Birds of Prey Baby Owl Shower

On Saturday, May 8<sup>th</sup> the Audubon Center for Birds of Prey (CBOP) in Maitland will have a Baby Owl Shower (10:00 A.M.–2:00 P.M.) and you are invited. OAS participates in this annual fund raiser that benefits 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.

### Genius Drive Nature Preserve F.T.

Reservations are required for a guided field trip to the 48± acre Genius Drive Nature Preserve in Winter Park on May 16<sup>th</sup>, 8 A.M. ~ Noon. This walking field trip (FT) is concurrent with a migration bird survey and will be led by Bruce Anderson. There are 154 bird species on the Preserve, which is also rich in 19<sup>th</sup> century history. The FT is FREE, but 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>

## **Potluck Dinner and Silent Auction Attractions Are you feeling lucky?**

A gorgeous pair of binoculars (Swarovski EL 8 x 32 W B that lists for \$2,088 and generally sells for \$1,780 to \$1,880) has been contributed by Paul and Diane Faircloth, OAS members and owners of Mosquito Creek Outdoors, Inc., Apopka, for the June silent auction. Start planning now to come and bid on these excellent binoculars.

Again this year, Bill and Rachel Tippit, OAS members and owners of Driftwood Gardens, Inc., Apopka, will contribute the centerpieces for the dinner tables at the June potluck/silent auction meeting. One person at each table will be lucky enough to take one of these centerpieces home.

We also have a \$50 gift certificate from Biosphere, Inc., Winter Garden, owned by OAS member Jim Thomas; a \$55 gift certificate from Essence Salon and Day Spa, Winter Park, owned by Ana Yebba; two signed prints from OAS board member and world renowned nature photographer, Milton Heiberg; nestboxes and native plants from OAS members Richard Poole and Christine Brown; and Dorothy (Dotty) Ward from Rollins has donated a Birds Choice Waters Edge 3 Floor-6 Room Suites Purple Martin House with Crescent Holes Model PMW3 (List \$140), pole not included. More details will be in the June *OASis*, but we extend our thanks to these generous early contributors for their support of Orange Audubon and its activities.

We're certain to get many excellent gifts that will attract bids in our silent auction — a major fundraiser for OAS. Can you contribute something? Do you know some business that could offer something for the outdoors people attracted to our Audubon meetings? If you have items to offer or suggestions to make, please contact Loretta at [LNS-OAS@att.net](mailto:LNS-OAS@att.net) or 407/886-2925; or Teresa at [mwilliams@cfl.rr.com](mailto:mwilliams@cfl.rr.com) or 407/644-0796, as soon as possible. We welcome your assistance.

Loretta Satterthwaite and Teresa Williams

## **OAS Officers and Board Members Elected**

At Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) annual meeting in April the slate of nominees announced in the March *OASis* were approved by acclamation of OAS members present at the meeting. Those elected as officers serving through June 2012 are: **President**—Mike Godwin, **2<sup>nd</sup> VP/Programs Chair**—Deborah Green, **Secretary**—Mary Keim, **Treasurer**—Teresa Williams and elected as **Board Members** serving through June 2013 are: Cynthia Gosiewski, Milton Heiberg, Loretta Lynn Leda, Dominique Shimizu, and Leann Streeper. Also elected to fill the seat vacated by Mike Godwin as he assumes the presidency was Samantha Eckhaus (term expiring in June 2012). OAS is still looking for someone to serve as **1<sup>st</sup> Vice President**; if you have an interest in serving your chapter, this could be your role. Please contact any of the current board members if you wish to help OAS in this capacity.

Please welcome two new board members appointed by the Board of Directors to fill seats that had been vacated during the current term. John Cento was appointed to a current term expiring in June 2011 and Jason Gingras was appointed to a term expiring in 2012. Both new board members were present and participating at the April board meeting and we are excited to have them on board.

Loretta Satterthwaite

## **Genius Ecological Workday Planned!**

A workday at Genius Drive Nature Preserve in Winter Park is planned on Sunday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, from 9:30 – 11:30 A.M. This is the perfect time of year for 'gardening' and Genius DNP is the perfect 'garden' in which to do it.

All work, no play? No way! Most workdays end with a walk through the property, a treat for new and seasoned volunteers who simply wish to linger in this 'old Florida' landscape a while longer. Further details and a reminder will be e-mailed to those who volunteer. If you can help, please contact me at [mwilliams@cfl.rr.com](mailto:mwilliams@cfl.rr.com) or 407/644-0796. Thank you.

Teresa Williams, Genius DNP Volunteer Coordinator

## Conservation News - Florida Legislative Session Comes to a Close

Friday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, the Florida House and Senate concluded their business, passing final bills, letting the clock run out on others, and authorizing a budget including funding for Florida Forever and Everglades Restoration. The following are excerpts from a report of the session written by the *Audubon of Florida Policy Team*; visit [http://fl.audubonaction.org/site/MessageViewer?em\\_id=5583.0&printer\\_friendly=1](http://fl.audubonaction.org/site/MessageViewer?em_id=5583.0&printer_friendly=1), for their full report.

**Florida Forever Receives Funding.** Thanks to the leadership of Senate President Jeff Atwater (R-Palm Beach), House Speaker Larry Cretul (R-Ocala), and House and Senate budget chiefs Sen. JD Alexander (R-Lake Wales) and Rep. David Rivera (R-Miami), the state's conservation land buying program, **Florida Forever**, will receive \$15 million in cash funding for the coming fiscal year. This important bridge funding will help ensure continuity in this program, which protects everything from Florida's wild, signature landscapes, to vital urban greenspaces and community parks.

**Everglades Gets Money and Back-up Money.** After tough negotiations, the Legislature agreed to appropriate \$10 million for the Everglades and \$40 million more if the state receives a generous distribution of federal Medicaid funds this summer.

**Springs Bill Provides Septic Tank Inspections.** Senator Lee Constantine (R-Altamonte Springs), who leaves the Legislature this year because of term limits, has been one of the most stalwart pro-environment legislators of all time. As is often the case, passing good things requires that less-good things be accepted on a bill to keep it moving. Through this process, Senator Constantine's SB 550 became a massive water bill by the end of session, but ultimately contained a valuable provision for springs protection: a mandatory 5-year inspection of all septic tanks, to ensure they are not leaking pollutants ranging from nutrients to fecal coliform into Florida's springs and other waterbodies. Despite significant opposition to these septic provisions from local legislators from Heathrow, Longwood, Umatilla, and Apopka, this important measure will become law upon signature by the Governor. [You may want to let Governor Crist (Charlie.Crist@MyFlorida.com) know your position on this legislation.]

**Renewable Energy Fails to Pass Senate.** HB 7229, a bill that would have provided almost 1000 MW of solar and other renewable energy failed to gain consideration in the Florida Senate.

**Nearshore Oil Drilling Fades Away.** A proposal to open Florida's nearshore waters to oil and gas exploration pushed by House Speaker-designate Dean Cannon (R-Winter Park) and Senate President-elect Mike Haridopolos (R-Melbourne) was held at bay this session, largely due to the wisdom of Senate President Jeff Atwater (R-Palm Beach) who signaled his reservations about lifting Florida's decades-old ban [seems prescient considering the current Deepwater Horizon disaster – see “What You Can Do About the Oil Spill” in this newsletter]. Rep. Cannon indicated his intent to revisit nearshore drilling in coming sessions.

**House Leadership Refuses to Reauthorize DCA.** While the Senate passed legislation renewing the Department of Community Affairs, the House refused to take the matter up on the floor, despite a House committee recommending reauthorization of Florida's growth management agency. Florida's Department of Community Affairs (DCA) is the state land planning agency charged with review of local government plan changes, developments of regional impact, and protection of the state's "Areas of Critical Concern" such as the Florida Keys, Green Swamp and Big Cypress. This year marks the second in a row in which the agency's sunset review was left unresolved, leaving the agency ripe for extinction in 2011. [Let your legislator know your position on this topic.]

**Python Legislation Passed.** This legislation bans ownership of Burmese Pythons and several other large constrictors. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission also finalized rules echoing much of the legislation language. This policy will hopefully prevent similar large constrictors from becoming established in Florida's wildlands like the Burmese python has become established in Florida's Everglades.

**Audubon to Urge Governor to Veto HB 1565.** A little-noticed bill amending the “Administrative Procedures Act” passed both the House and Senate and is on its way to the Governor. Audubon and most certainly every other environmental group, and hopefully every conservation-minded citizen, will vigorously urge a veto of HB 1565. The bill requires the Legislature to ratify any agency rule that might cause \$1 million or more in economic impacts to the private sector over a 5-year period, in aggregate, statewide. That essentially means that ALL agency rules will be required to be ratified by the Legislature, shutting down the agency rulemaking process. Other features of the bill make rule proceedings impossibly expensive for state agencies by requiring that detailed economic studies be done at agencies' expense. *cont. on page 5*

### LAST CALL for Photo Contest Entries!

There is still time to participate in Orange Audubon Society's 2010, (22<sup>nd</sup> Annual) Kit & Sidney Chertok **Open** and **Youth** Nature Photography Contests (OAS' CNPC), but entries in this Florida Native Nature competition must be **received by May 20, 2010**. Hand delivery of entries is only acceptable if delivered to Teresa on May 20<sup>th</sup> during OAS' regular program at Leu Gardens. See program article on page one.

Subject matter must be native to Florida and images may not contain discernable non-native (to Florida) plants or animals or humans, human artifacts or man-made structures. Images must also comply with truth-in-Nature standards and may not be excessively manipulated. Complete contest rules are on the official *Open* (for any participant) and *Youth* (for ages 17 or younger) contest entry forms available online: [www.orangeaudubonfl.org](http://www.orangeaudubonfl.org); by request to [mwilliams@cfl.rr.com](mailto:mwilliams@cfl.rr.com) or 407/644-0796; or at Colonial Photo & Hobby (CPH), 634 N Mills Avenue, Orlando, FL. And while you're there (CPH), enjoy the first round of featured images from the 2009 competition, which are currently on display.

We say it often because we mean it—your participation in OAS' CNPC and your interest in nature photography are sincerely appreciated! We wish you all good lighting and good luck.

Teresa Williams, Chertok Photo Contest Chair

### “New Urbanism” Master Program Offered by Rollins College

Rollins College will launch a new Master of Planning in Civic Urbanism (MPCU) graduate degree program in fall 2010. The MPCU is a two-year, 12-course degree offered through Rollins' Evening Program, the Hamilton Holt School. Its focus is on walk-able communities, mixed-use development, public transit and green infrastructure. The MPCU is divided into two subfields: Place Making courses will focus on the design elements of planning, including drawing; and Green Infrastructure courses will address natural lands and their interconnection within metropolitan regions. For more information, call 407/646-2232 or visit [www.rollins.edu/holt](http://www.rollins.edu/holt). For a related article: <http://r-net.rollins.edu/news/2010/04/mpcu.html>.

Application deadline is June 1, 2010 and classes begin August 23, 2010.

### Conservation news *cont. from page 4*

Virtually every item on the environmental agenda is impacted — from Growth Management (rules by the Department of Community Affairs) to Water Quality and public lands (rules by the water management districts and Department of Environmental Protection). Contact Governor Crist ([Charlie.Crist@MyFlorida.com](mailto:Charlie.Crist@MyFlorida.com)) now, and urge a veto of HB 1565.

Thanks to all of you for your continued responses to 'calls to action' by your chapter and your state and national organizations. We must remain vigilant and vocal!!

### Help Preserve Planet Earth

Are you doing everything you can to help preserve this planet? Did the recent anniversary of the first Earth Day, make you consider how your actions are helping or hurting the environment? Below are a few items that speak volumes about the amount of trash that is generated by the human species.

Recycling one aluminum can saves enough electricity to power a TV for three hours. It takes 400 years for aluminum to break down in a landfill. Unlike plastic, aluminum can be recycled an unlimited number of times!

We trash enough office paper to build a 12-foot wall from Los Angeles to New York City. Recycling one ton of paper saves 17 trees, 2 barrels of oil, 4,100 kilowatts of energy, 3.2 cubic yards of landfill space and 60 pounds of air pollution.

Offshore wind turbines have the potential to produce as much power as all of the power plants in the United States. One percent of Australia's untapped geothermal power potential could provide enough energy to last 26,000 years.

Reduce electronic waste! Twenty to 50 million metric tons of waste are generated from electronic equipment around the world every year. Americans throw out about 130,000 computers every day and over 100 million cell phones annually.

One tree can absorb as much carbon in a year as a car produces for driving 26,000 miles. A single tree produces approximately 260 pounds of oxygen per year. That means two mature trees can supply enough oxygen annually to support a family of four!

Loretta Satherwaite and Bob Stamps

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

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**Calendar of Events**

**May 8 & 15, 2010 - Sats.**

OAS Butterfly ID classes

**May 8, 2010 - Saturday**

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

**May 8, 2010 - Saturday**

OAS participation in Audubon Center for Birds of Prey's Baby Owl Shower, 407/644-0796, (article p. 2)

**May 16, 2010 - Sunday**

Genius Drive Nature Preserve Special OAS members only field trips (see article p. 2)

**May 16, 2010 - Sunday**

OAS members only Gatorland Field Trip (see article p. 1)

**May 20, 2010 - Thursday**

Nature Merchandise sales at OAS general meeting at Leu Gardens (no plastic; see article p. 2)

**May 20, 2010 - Thursday**

Receipt deadline for entries for OAS Chertok Nature Photography Contests Open & Youth, (see article p. 5)

**May 29, 2010 - Saturday**

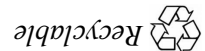
Wekiwa Springs State Park Butterfly Survey, contact Randy Snyder or Mary Keim at 407/851-5416 or rsnyder11@cfl.rr.com

**June 17, 2010 - Thursday**

OAS Potluck dinner/silent auction/Chertok photo contest awards event at Leu Gardens 6 P.M. start time. (see article p. 3)

**What You Can Do About the Oil Spill  
—Help Rescue Florida's Coastal Birds—**

The recent Deepwater Horizon rig explosion in the Gulf continues to spill 5,000 barrels of crude a day into Gulf waters; it is expected that Pensacola will have oil coming ashore before you receive this newsletter. Audubon is now focused on meeting the challenges this disaster poses to our coastal wildlife and their habitat. Learn how you can help by visiting <http://audubonoffloridanews.org/>.



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