



# OASis

Orange Audubon Society  
A Chapter of National and Florida Audubon Societies



Vol. 46

April 2011

Issue No. 8

## **Field Trip - Saturday April 23rd Bourlay Historic Nature Park**

The Park is located at 910 N. Canal Street, Leesburg FL. Meet in parking lot at 7:45 a.m.; hike starts at 8:00 a.m.. Someone from LCWA will be co-leading the trip; hiking about 1.5-2.0 miles finishing up around 12:00 p.m.. *Contact Gallus Quigley: 407-242-7833, gallusq@cfl.rr.com.*

## **Limited Edition Field Trip - April 24th Fort DeSoto Park**

This field Trip has a cost of \$10 per person per trip for members and \$15 per person for non-members. Reservations are required and taken on a first-come, first-served basis the week prior to the trip.

Meet at Target on US 27 just south of the I-4 interchange with US 27 at 7:30 a.m. leaving there at 7:45 a.m. and expect to return between 6:00-7:00 p.m. please bring lunch and lots to drink. *Contact Gallus Quigley: 407-242-7833, gallusq@cfl.rr.com.*

## **Registration Required for June Potluck June 16, 2011**

Our most popular program. Last year the room was filled to capacity and this year, to ensure we do not exceed the 180 person limit, we must do things a little differently. You **MUST** register. Call 407-886-2925 and leave a message with names and total number in your party; contact information; what type of food you will bring (entrée, side dish, dessert, etc.) or email the same information to: LNS-OAS@att.net.

The Potluck buffet line will be on the verandah and our world famous silent auction in the Camellia Room! See you then.

**REMEMBER** to register before June 7.

## **This Month's Program: April 21st @ 7:00 p.m. Beautiful & Interesting Snakes:**

### **38 Years of Snake Farming**

by George VanHorne

For the past 38 years, George VanHorn has owned and operated Reptile World Serpentarium east of St. Cloud and has supplied venom for antivenin and medical research. The Serpentarium houses over 50 species of snakes from around the world, ranging from the familiar and innocuous to the exotic and deadly. There are also turtles, a large alligator, and other reptiles on display. Visitors have a chance to watch George VanHorn "milk" several highly dangerous snake species for venom. It was he and his family who brought the endangered Indigo Snake last year to support our speaker on the Orianne Project. We are very fortunate to have George back to tell about his experiences and about the fascinating snakes he has loved since childhood. He has promised to bring a snake or two, so bring your kids or grandkids and join us April 21st for a fascinating program.

Reptile World Serpentarium is located about 10 miles east of the St. Cloud Turnpike exit on US 192. Phone is 407-892-6905. Visit their website at [www.reptileworldserpentarium.com](http://www.reptileworldserpentarium.com).

*Deborah Green, Vice President*

**Orange Audubon Society meetings & programs  
are free & no reservations are necessary.**

**Programs are held the 3rd Thursday of every  
month (September - 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**

## Board Member Elections This Month

April is the official annual meeting of members of Orange Audubon Society (OAS). This year's election will be held just prior to the evening program at Leu Gardens in Orlando on Thursday, April 21st. Each year, after serving a three-year term, five board members rotate off the board and this election is held to fill those Director positions. Directors whose terms expire in June 2011 are John Cento, Danielle Ponsolle-Heiberg, Sharon Robbins, Randy Snyder and Pete Vogt. Due to an inability to continue to serve, there is also one opening for a term that expires in 2013. Thanks to each of these Directors for their service to OAS.

The nominating committee is announcing a slate of five OAS members as candidates for the terms expiring in 2014: Rick Baird, John Cento, Danielle Ponsolle-Heiberg, Sharon Robbins, and Randy Snyder. The nominee for the 2013 term is Lori Mathis. One Officer position is also available due to a resignation and Cynthia Gray has agreed to serve as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and Deborah Green will return as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President/ Programs Chair. To fill the 2012 position vacated by Cynthia Gray, the nominee is Bob Stamps.

Nominations will also be accepted from the floor prior to the election. Nominees must be current members of OAS and will be expected to complete the term for which they are nominated as well as being present at monthly board meetings. Beyond that, it is hoped, the nominees have a commitment to helping OAS succeed and meet its goals.

If you have any questions, please contact one of the Nominating Committee members: Cynthia Gosiewski (cyngos@aol.com or 407-426-8982), Cindy Amoroso (suncyn1031@mac.com) or Richard Poole (catbird@cfl.rr.com.) Thank you for your interest!

*Cynthia Gosiewski, Nominating Committee Chair*

## ATTENTION BIRDERS!

Volunteers are needed to conduct a bird survey at Druid Lake located east of Bumby Avenue and halfway between Corrine Drive and E. Colonial Drive. A 3-hour preliminary survey produced 34 bird species including Blue-winged Teal, Wood Duck, Bald Eagle, Red-shouldered Hawk and Baltimore Oriole.

For more information or to volunteer, please contact Randy Snyder or Mary Keim at 407-851-5416.

### Website updates, Facebook and Twitter

Chapter President Mike Godwin and the web committee continue to keep the OAS website up to date at [www.orangeaudubonfl.org](http://www.orangeaudubonfl.org).

Mary Keim and Cynthia Gray will be working on OAS' Facebook page. Members and friends using Facebook are invited to "Like" Orange Audubon Society at <http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/pages/Orange-Audubon-Society/170295309668448> or just logon to Facebook and search for "Orange Audubon Society"

Jason Gingras will be working on having an OAS presence on Twitter also. More information coming as these new projects develop.

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.

### **Orange Audubon Society**

**P.O Box 941142**

**Maitland, FL 32794-1142**

President: Mike Godwin

[mgodwin@cfl.rr.com](mailto:mgodwin@cfl.rr.com) 407-535-2640

Address Change: Mike Daley

[miked531@bellsouth.net](mailto:miked531@bellsouth.net) 386-668-5021

Editor: Robert J. Amoroso

[ramoruso-oas@att.net](mailto:ramoruso-oas@att.net) 407-808-7417

<http://www.orangeaudubonfl.org>

The **OASis** is published monthly from September through June and is sent free to all members of Orange Audubon Society.

## Orange Audubon Society’s BIRDATHON — Saturday, April 17, 2011

On Apr. 17<sup>th</sup> Orange Audubon Society (OAS) will conduct its annual Birdathon fundraiser with members traversing the state to see the greatest number of species of birds in a single 24-hr period. Teams can go anywhere across Florida (i.e. various habitats) to try to see as many different species as possible. Last year OAS’ total number of species was 148, far below our goal of 200 because the day was cold and miserable to be out in (my dentist’s wife had snow at her place!). Our goal this year, as it was last year, is 200 species, so our teams have their work cut out for them. Birdathon co-chair, Gallus Quigley, has challenged any team to see more species than he does. He says they won’t; however, he has promised to ‘each member of the team that sees the most species’ a window sticker proclaiming “Caution Birder On-Board”. If you want to form a team, contact Gallus [407-376-4930; gallusq@cfl.rr.com] for details.

For this annual fundraiser we ask our members to go outside of our membership to find friends, relatives, co-workers, dentists, doctors, veterinarians, etc. (you get the picture) to pledge support for our “thon” just as you pledge to others for ‘walkathons’, ‘bikeathons’, ‘danceathons’, school class projects, Girl or Boy Scout money raisers, etc. Gallus has promised that the person collecting the most contributions (\$) in support of this year’s birdathon will also receive one of the above-mentioned window clings. So, I challenge you to beat me for that window cling!! I’ve already procured a flat-amount contribution of \$20, another pledge of 10¢ per species and will be heading off to see my vet for his annual support; I’ll also ask my co-workers and relatives. A pledge of 10¢ per species (multiplied by 200 species if Gallus can do it!) would be a pledge of \$20. If only 1,500 of our members procured pledges from two or three people, just think of the benefit that would bring to OAS’ coffers AND all that money stays with OAS to use for educational and conservation programs! Furthermore, the pledges need not be for \$20, some people may give \$2 while others give \$50. When you ask for support, ask for only what the person feels they can offer. Every penny helps.

*Loretta Satterthwaite, Birdathon Co-Chair*

To help you get 3 pledges, here are some simple forms. If you can get more than three, that would be wonderful. Thanks for your help.

Birdathon Pledge Form	Birdathon Pledge Form	Birdathon Pledge Form
Name _____	Name _____	Name _____
Address _____	Address _____	Address _____
City,State,Zip _____	City,State,Zip _____	City,State,Zip _____
Amount pledged/species _____	Amount pledged/species _____	Amount pledged/species _____
<u>or</u> amount contributed _____	<u>or</u> amount contributed _____	<u>or</u> amount contributed _____

### Going Green: Newsletter Moving Toward Electronic Format

Our drive to move the membership to receiving the newsletter by email surges forward with an ever increasing number of persons opting in. THANK YOU to those that have contacted Mike Daley.

We will still print newsletters, but those members who will accept the newsletter electronically can save our chapter money and resources. If you have email, are willingly to receive the newsletter electronically in Adobe PDF format and would like to save your society money, please email our membership list chair *Mike Daley* at [miked531@bellsouth.net](mailto:miked531@bellsouth.net) and ask to receive the OASis by email. Get your free Adobe PDF Reader at the following link: <http://get.adobe.com/reader/>

*Robert Amoruso, Newsletter Editor*

### Orange Audubon 'Outreach'/Volunteer Events

Help make Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) participation in a member recruitment/binoculars/birding/outdoors informational table at **Mosquito Creek Outdoors' booth at the Apopka Art & Foliage Festival, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day, Saturday and Sunday, April 30th and May 1st** a success by contacting me (information in last paragraph) to volunteer or by simply stopping by while you are at the event and spending some time talking to attendees who are interested in learning more about Orange Audubon, birds or birding areas. Bob Stamps and I will be there; stop by and visit and give us a break!

Volunteer to help at our largest spring merchandise sales and kids' art fundraising event — **The Baby Owl Shower at Audubon Center for Birds of Prey in Maitland on Saturday, May 7th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** Set-up will start about 9:00 a.m. and tear-down will start at 2:00 p.m. What hours can you help? Please contact Teresa (407-644-0796; mwilliams@cfl.rr.com) to volunteer. OAS will also have an informational booth at the **May 7th Magnolia Park Bluegrass Festival, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.** Come by and visit and/or lend a hand.

OAS will offer our nature merchandise for sale starting about 6:30 p.m., just before our own general meeting at **Leu Gardens on Thursday, May 19th**. Since many of our 'regular' volunteers are board members and will be in a meeting, we need YOU to help! You may call or email anytime [407-886-2925; LNS-OAS@att.net] to volunteer for any of these events. Thanks. Many hands make light work!

*Loretta Satterthwaite*

### Genius Drive Nature Preserve Field Trip

Reservations are required for a guided field trip through the 48± acre **Genius Drive Nature Preserve in Winter Park on Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, 8 a.m. to Noon**. Surveyors have documented 160 bird species on the Preserve. This walking field trip (FT) will be concurrent with Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) Birdathon Fund Raiser and bird survey led by survey leader and preeminent birder, Bruce Anderson. Expect fun fund raising citizen science in one venue!

The Preserve is also rich in 19<sup>th</sup> 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, as have Wind Song's infamous Peacocks.

Recently, OAS 'workday' volunteers assisted in planting a wildflower meadow of native wild flowers and grasses that add to the Preserve's plant diversity, thus enhancing its value for birds and other wildlife.

You must be a current OAS member or active Preserve workday volunteer to attend this FT (limit 20 people). More details provided when you register by contacting Teresa at 407-644-0796 or mwilliams@cfl.rr.com.

*Teresa Williams*

### Area Wildlife Surveys

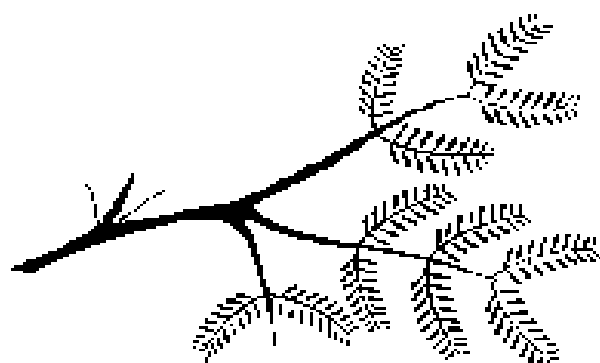
The Orange Audubon Society invites you to participate in the upcoming wildlife surveys.

- **Charles H. Bronson S. F. (Turkey Creek Tract) butterfly surveys** – (tentative) – April 30th; Randy Snyder or Mary Keim at 407-851-5416 (home) or rsnyder11@cfl.rr.com.
- **Palm Bluff Conservation Area** – contact Lorne Malo at 407-659-4853 (work), 407-349-2536 (home), lmalo@sjrwmd.com, or lornemalo@bellsouth.net.
- **Ferndale Preserve quarterly bird surveys** – Gallus Quigley, Jr. at 352-516-8512 or gquigley@lakecountyfl.gov or gallusq@cfl.rr.com.
- **Ponce Inlet bird surveys** – Stacey Bell at 386-238-4716 or sbell@co.volusia.fl.us – weekdays only; boat seating is limited.
- **Lake Apopka, North Shore Restoration Area bird surveys** – contact Pam Bowen at 386-329-4870 or Pbowen@sjrwmd.com or Jim Peterson at 352-735-1267 or JPeterson@sjrwmd.com.
- **Emeralda Marsh Conservation Area bird surveys** – John Stenberg at 386-329-4822 or jstenberg@sjrwmd.com.

## Youth, Amateur & Advanced Photo Contest Update

Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) Chertok Nature Photography Contest (CNPC) has two primary objectives: promoting interest and concern for preserving Florida's native species and encouraging nature photography. With the latter goal in mind, in 2010 OAS re-instituted a separate YOUTH competition for photographers age 17 or younger; and this year, after years of discussion OAS is separating the OPEN competition into categories by photographer level rather than by subject matter hoping to further encourage nature photography.

The OPEN competition categories are: AMATEUR, for beginners and inexperienced photographers, and ADVANCED, for experienced nature photographers who wish to compete (more fiercely?) with their peers.

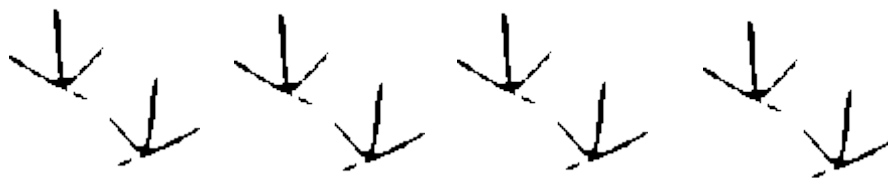


The 2011 YOUTH theme is *Natural Florida* and the OPEN (all ages may compete in this competition) AMATEUR/ADVANCED theme is *Nature's Patterns*. This is a Florida native nature competition that tests your photographic skills and knowledge of Florida's native species. Subject matter cannot contain discernable non-native (to Florida) animals or plants nor traces of humans or human artifacts.

To enhance your knowledge of Florida's native species and as a courtesy to our valued participants, the CNPC screening committee will provide FREE early screening and a chance for a FREE do-over of any disqualified image if your entries are received by the OPTIONAL early entry deadline of April 21, 2011. **The FINAL DEADLINE is May 19, 2011** (received-by date).

Complete contest rules and requirements are shown on entry forms available at OAS meetings, on the website: [www.orangeaudubonfl.org](http://www.orangeaudubonfl.org), at Colonial Photo & Hobby (Orlando), or by request to 407-644-0796 or [mwilliams@cfl.rr.com](mailto:mwilliams@cfl.rr.com).

*Teresa Williams, CNPC Chair*



### Silent Auction Extravaganza!!!

It's that time of year and we're reaching out to you, your family and friends for donations to the Silent Auction taking place at the Annual Chertok Photo Contest and Potluck event. The Silent Auction is a fabulous opportunity for OAS to showcase donors and their businesses! If you know a business owner who might be willing to contribute, please solicit a donation or provide us with the name of a contact person.

Please start your solicitation process now as planning ahead can make this event even bigger than last year! When soliciting items, don't forget that OAS can provide an acknowledgement letter for tax deduction purposes. If you have questions regarding an item or information and contact names for businesses willing to donate, please contact Samantha Eckhaus at [eckhaus@yahoo.com](mailto:eckhaus@yahoo.com). Thank you for your help!

*Samantha Eckhaus*

**Orange Audubon Society  
Board of Directors 2010-2011**

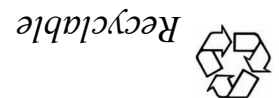
<b>PRESIDENT</b>		
Mike Godwin (12)	407-535-2640	
<b>1st VICE PRESIDENT</b>		
Deborah Green (12)	407-637-2525	
<b>2nd VICE PRESIDENT</b>		
Loretta Leda (12)	321-438-0838	
<b>SECRETARY</b>		
Mary Keim (12)	407-851-5416	
<b>TREASURER</b>		
Teresa Williams (12)	407-644-0796	
<b>BOARD MEMBERS</b>		
Robert Amoruso (13)	407-808-7417	
John Cento (11)	407-913-2417	
Samantha Eckhaus (12)	407-435-7747	
Jason Gingras (12)	407-927-0034	
Cynthia Gosiewski (13)	407-426-8982	
Steve Graves (12)	407-671-6572	
Cynthia Gray (12)	407-298-5806	
Milton Heiberg (13)	407-658-4869	
Danielle Ponsolle (11)	dponsolle@cfl.rr.com	
Gallus Quigley (12)	407-242-7833	
Sharon Robbins (11)	407-376-4930	
Dominique Shimizu (13)	407-287-4078	
Randy Snyder (11)	407-851-5416	
Leann Streeper (13)	352-702-9072	
Pete Vogt (11)	407-855-4122	

The **Hospitality Committee** is seeking energetic and friendly individuals to help setup and greet members before meetings. Contact Cynthia Gray at [cynthiasgray@bellsouth.net](mailto:cynthiasgray@bellsouth.net) or 407-298-5806.

<b>Calendar of Events</b>	
<p><b>OAS Birdathon April 17, 2011 407-242-7833</b></p> <p><b>Apopka Art &amp; Foliage Festival, Apopka April 30–May 1, 2011, 407-886-2925</b></p> <p><b>Baby Owl Shower Center for Birds of Prey, Maitland, May 7, 2011, 407-539-5700</b></p> <p><b>Magnolia Park Bluegrass Festival, Apopka May 7, 2011, 407-886-2925</b></p> <p><b>Florida Native Plant Society Conference, Maitland May 19–22, 2011, 321-388-4781</b></p>	<p><b>Upcoming Field Trip on May 21, 2011, Seminole Ranch in Christmas, FL</b></p> <p><b>Limited Edition Field Trip May 22, 2011, Joe Overstreet Rd./Three Lakes WMA</b></p> <p><b>Chertok Nature Photography Contest</b> Final Submission Deadline: May 19, 2011 Optional Pre-screening* Deadline: April 21, 2011 (*Replace disqualified entries FREE by May 19th deadline) Awards: June 16, 2011– 407-644-0796</p>

**Get involved! Join a committee!**

The **Publicity committee** is looking for help. If you have or know contacts in the media (printed or otherwise) please help get the word out. Contact: Danielle at [dponsolle@cfl.rr.com](mailto:dponsolle@cfl.rr.com).



**Orange Audubon Society**  
P.O. Box 941142  
Maitland, FL 32794-1142

Address Service Requested <sup>2</sup>

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Orlando, FL  
PERMIT NO. 790