



OASis



Orange Audubon Society
A Chapter of National and Florida Audubon Societies

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Issue No. 1

Field Trip - Saturday September 24th Oakland Nature Preserve

Oakland Nature Preserve is a Central Florida jewel in the process of restoration. With a boardwalk to an expansive view of Lake Apopka and a cozy nature center, you do not want to miss this trip on Saturday, September 24, 2011. The specific address for this west Orange venue is 747 Machete Trail, Oakland, Florida 34787. Grab your binoculars and hiking shoes and join me in exploring this great birding spot.

Please meet in the grassy parking area near the entrance gate at 7:30 a.m., hike starts at 7:45 a.m. Expect to hike about 1.5 miles, finishing up around 10:00 a.m. just in time to enjoy the Preserve's Florida Water Festival. \$3.00 recommended donation to the Preserve. Older children welcome. No pets. If you have questions about the trip, call John Cento at 407-913-2417 or jcentocpa@hotmail.com for details about the trip or visit www.orangeaudubonfl.org.

2-Hour 'Workday' at Genius Drive Nature Preserve

The Genius Drive Nature Preserve was the subject of an ecological restoration that began ~2003. OAS has partnered with Rollins College and the Preserve's owner, the Elizabeth Morse Genius Foundation, since 2006 by conducting 'workdays' to help maintain restored areas. The next workday is Sunday, Sept. 25, 9-11 a.m. Gardening, a/k/a weeding and mulching, is needed in the restored cedar grove near Lake Mizell. To help, contact Teresa: 407-644-0796 or mwilliams@cfl.rr.com. Further details provided the week before.

This Month's Program: Sept 15th @ 7:00 p.m. Close up with Raptors by Lynda White

Audubon Center for Birds of Prey

Birds of prey (raptors) are vulnerable to accidents with powerlines, poisoning and other human hazards. The Audubon Center for Birds of Prey (CBOP) in Maitland admits about 600 sick, injured and orphaned raptors (eagles, hawks, owls, falcons, kites, and osprey) each year, including 50-60 Bald Eagles. CBOP is open to the public and has most of the Florida raptor species on display in airy enclosures.

Some of the birds, that have injuries such that they can never be released, have been trained to rest on the gloved arm of a handler, and these are brought to educational programs. For our first program of the 2011-12 season, we are lucky enough to have Lynda White of the CBOP bringing several raptors to show us and tell us about. Bring a child along on Sept 15, if possible, and join us for a fascinating program.

Deborah Green, 2nd 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**

Wildlife Surveys

- Savage Christmas Creek Preserve, Pine Lily Preserve, Long Branch Preserve and Hal Scott Regional Preserve and Park (north portion) butterfly survey on Sept. 10th and Oct. 29th. For more information contact Randy Snyder or Mary Keim at 407-851-5416 or rsnyder11@cfl.rr.com.
- Ferndale Preserve quarterly bird surveys. Contact Gallus Quigley, Jr. at 352-516-8512 or gquigley@lakecountyfl.gov or gallusq@cfl.rr.com.
- Ponce Inlet bird surveys. Contact Stacey Bell at 386-238-4716 or sbell@co.volusia.fl.us, weekdays only; boat seating is limited.

**Take Action for Florida's Special Places
2011 Audubon Assembly
Lake Mary, Florida October 14 and 15**

The 2011 Audubon Assembly offers you the opportunity to connect with like-minded individuals, to participate in forming Audubon's 2012 conservation priorities, to join exciting field trips, and to learn new conservation skills. Most of all, the 2011 Assembly is the time and place to chart your course to take action for Florida's Special Places. It is a time of discovery, reflection, celebration and planning for our next challenges.

The early bird, all-inclusive Assembly registration package is only \$120 per person if booked on or before **October 1**. Room reservations at the group rate are available until **September 24**, so don't wait to register. For more information and to register online go to www.audubonoffloridanews.org. (**To register by mail**, contact Jonathan Webber at 850-222-2473 or jwebber@audubon.org.) We hope to see you there!

"Florida's Special Places"

Audubon of Florida has embarked upon a "Florida's Special Places" effort, www.audubonofflorida/specialplaces. Chapters or individuals nominate preserved places where they enjoy seeing wildlife. As an example, in January the Florida Department of Environmental Protection listed 53 state parks or preserves for possible closing, if certain budget cuts occurred. The only one within Orange Audubon's area was Rock Springs Run State Reserve on SR46, a key part of the public conservation lands connecting the Wekiva River Basin to the Ocala Forest. Although Governor Rick Scott listened to public outcry and reversed the move to close these parks, our chapter nominated this Reserve on the AOF's Special Places website.

AOF's "Connect People to Special Places Take Five Campaign" asks members to: 1. take yourself to a park or other special place, 2. take friends and family, 3. take pictures and notes, 4. take time to share your experience with others, 5. take action to protect special places." Our chapter president Mike Godwin has asked that we submit write-ups for the *OASis* after visiting our favorite local places. Newsletter editor Robert Amoruso can receive your write-ups at ramoruso-oas@att.net. If you wish to nominate a special place for the Audubon of Florida website, contact Bob Stamps, rhs-oas@att.net or 407-886-2925.

Fall 2011 Beginners' Bird Watching Class Offered

Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) former board member Bob Sanders will teach a fall 2011 Beginners' Bird Watching Class (BBWC). Bob began OAS' successful Limited Edition field trips and Birds of Prey ID Classes while serving on the board; he has taught for the Elderhostel/Exploritas program "Beautiful Birds of Central Florida" and is an independent birding guide who has escorted US, Canadian and European visitors to some of Central Florida's best birding spots.

Enroll in the class to learn new skills or sharpen your existing ability to name bird species using sight, sound, behavior or a combination of these and other clues. The course includes a classroom session October 22nd at Orlando Wetlands Park (with mini-field trip in the park) and 2 field sessions on October 29th and November 5th; all sessions are 8:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Field session locales will be announced at the first class. Goals of the course are to increase knowledge and awareness of North American bird species; teach bird ID techniques, basic birding principles, bird habitat and anatomy; provide binocular basics and tips on using field guides and checklists; and discuss birding ethics.

Registration is required and class is limited to 20 students. Total cost for all three sessions is \$30 for Audubon members, \$45 for non-members and \$10 for children through age 12 with a registered adult, payable by check or money order to Orange Audubon Society. Non-members can join when registering and pay \$50, which includes BBWC registration (member price \$30) plus introductory 3-way annual membership in OAS, National Audubon Society and Audubon of Florida (\$20 promotional rate). Such new memberships *must be paid directly to OAS as prescribed herein*. Visit www.orangeaudubonfl.org for a membership application.

To reserve a space in OAS' Beginners' Bird ID Class, contact Teresa at 407-644-0796 or mwilliams@cfl.rr.com. For questions about the class, contact Bob at 407-454-0542.

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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<http://www.orangeaudubonfl.org>

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

Please Join Orange Audubon's Efforts

Twenty volunteers, ages 31 to 74, serve as your Orange Audubon Board of Directors. There are over 2000 of you who value Orange Audubon Society (OAS) enough to be members. Hopefully, you will be willing to share your abilities and interests to help our chapter preserve our local natural environment. We will highlight a few of our chapter's more needy committees in this *OASis* and continue to provide information on others throughout the year; however, you may contact any chair by going to our website (www.orangeaudubonfl.org) or by checking the enclosed brochure for a phone number. Thank you!

The most important mission of National Audubon Society, Audubon of Florida (AOF), and OAS is conservation of land, water, and wildlife. OAS' **Conservation Committee** works to stave off threats to local wildlife and its environment by attending and speaking up at hearings where issues affect local conservation and by contacting local elected officials and other people able to influence policy. The committee chair meets with AOF staff and conservation chairs of other chapters in the region about regional strategies. You could help by attending public hearings, which are mostly during the day; you don't have to speak, just accompany the other members. Or you can help by writing letters or emails. To join the efforts of the Conservation Committee, please contact Rick at rbaird4@cfl.rr.com or 407-277-3357.

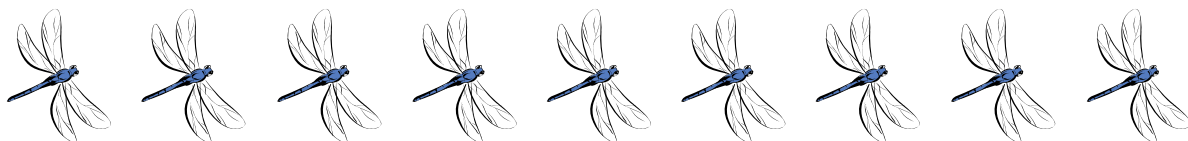
Education is the first step in conserving our natural habitats; if one is not aware of the issues, there will be no public support for preservation. Therefore, education of the public and our members on ecological and environmental issues is a major goal of Orange Audubon, as it is with most Audubon chapters. Education of children is also part of this goal. *Audubon Adventures* are excellent quarterly activity newsletters written for grades 3–5, with accompanying teacher materials, which are written to the Florida State Standards. Orange Audubon each year supplies these materials to local classrooms and takes donations specifically for *Audubon Adventures*. If you are a teacher, former teacher, know a teacher, or have other contacts in the schools, we can use your help to identify more teachers (not restricted to grades 3–5) to utilize *Audubon Adventures*. **Education Committee** Chair Dominique Shimizu is a teacher herself, but she could definitely use help making connections in the school system. Please contact her at shimizu_wcs@yahoo.com or 407-287-4078.

OAS also wishes to increase presentations on birds and nature by our members to classrooms, but we need volunteers available during the day to do this. If you do not feel confident enough of your bird knowledge, we can train you and give you tools and tricks to give good school presentations. For insight on just how important this is, read the book *Last Child in the Woods* or look up the campaign "No Child Left Inside". Not only are children our future, but children that experience nature can keep the world steered in a direction that preserves nature. Contact Deborah Green (sabalpress@mac.com or 407-637-2525) to volunteer to help with this activity as the need arises.

The **Hospitality Committee's** goal is to make meeting attendees feel welcome, have an enjoyable time, and leave the meeting wanting to come back again. You don't have to be a member of the committee to bring goodies for any meeting, but coordinating with the chair helps make sure that there are adequate refreshments at each meeting. Our Hospitality Committee Chair is Cynthia Gray (cynthiasgray@bellsouth.net or 407-298-5806). Please offer to bring refreshments or to greet other attendees as they come into the meeting room.

These committees are in constant need of volunteers, so your help would be welcomed. We will be asking for help for other specific needs as they arise. Please don't hesitate to help your chapter have another successful year by volunteering as you can. Thanks in advance for your support!

Deborah Green and Loretta Satterthwaite, Membership Co-Chairs



2011 Chertok Florida Nature Photo Contest Results

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) sponsored Youth, Amateur and Advanced competition categories in its 2011 (23rd Annual) Kit and Sidney Chertok Nature Photography Contest. The theme for the Youth category was *Natural Florida* and the theme for the Amateur and Advanced (Open) categories was *Nature's Patterns*. Winners were announced on June 16th at Harry P. Leu Gardens, Orlando, where members and guests met to enjoy dinner, a silent auction and a slide presentation featuring eligible contest entries.

Youth category winners were: 1st place, *Snowy Egret** by Megan Authement, St. Petersburg; 2nd place, *Gopher Tortoise*, by Shaw Frederick, Merritt Island; 3rd place, *Bright and Blooming – Black-eyed Susan* by Alicia Devine, Orlando; and Honorable Mentions: *Contrasting Nature – Monarch Butterfly and Blanket Flower* by Alicia Devine; *White Pelican Over Lagoon* by Shaw Frederick, *Squirrel in Oak Tree* by Sheyenne Lake, Sanford and *Cypress Tree Branches* by Savannah Smith, Orlando.

Amateur category winners were: 1st Place, *Bridal Veil* by Jack Rogers, Oviedo; 2nd Place, *Shaken, Not Stirred – American Bittern* by Joyce Stefancic, Clermont; 3rd Place, *Great Egret in Flight* by Paul R. Murray, Casselberry; and Honorable Mentions: *The Highs and Lows of It – Cypress Trees** by Gini Henry, Christmas; *Together – Great Egrets* by James Kochanowski, Zellwood; *Blanket of Color – Red Maple Leaves* by Nancy L. Moore, Orlando; and *Royal Terns* by Ethel Portnoy, Altamonte Springs.

Advanced category winners were: 1st Place, *One Good Tern Deserves Another* by Mike Godwin, Orlando; 2nd Place, *Cormorant Profile* by Marina Scarr, Tampa; 3rd Place, *Barred Owl Close Crop* by Bill Wilbanks, Orlando; and Honorable Mentions: *Green with Envy* by Chris E. Heisey, Mechanicsburg, PA; *Elliott's Aster and Regal Jumping Spider** by Mary Keim, Orlando; *Moon Setting Over Sand Dunes** by Larry Lynch, St Petersburg; and *Gator Tail and Baby* by Ruth Pannunzio, West Palm Beach.

Images marked with * are on the 2011-2012 OAS brochure. All winning images are on OAS' website: www.orangeaudubonfl.org where 2012 contest information will be available soon. OAS sincerely appreciates all photographers who entered the 2011 contest and we look forward to your participation in 2012.

Florida native nature exists for us to treasure, to protect and preserve, and yes, to photograph! The contest was created with those objectives in mind.

Teresa Williams, CNPC Chair

2011 Photo Contest Judges

The panel of judges for Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) 23rd Annual Chertok Nature Photography Contest included artist Brett Miley, Frostproof; naturalist William (Bill) Partington, Winter Park; and wildlife photographer Thomas (Tom) May, Oviedo.

Brett Miley is also a writer, ecologist, botanist and photographer (her 'Pine Lily—Rising Up' image was a 2009 Chertok photo contest winner). Starting with original photographs of imperiled species, Brett transforms the images into vibrant mandalas—an art form used for centuries in Tibetan, Gothic and Navajo cultures. Through these works she hopes to instill an appreciation and reverence for the plants and animals depicted.

Bill Partington, past board member of OAS, was recently dubbed 'environmental hero' in Gary White's new book 'Conservation in Florida: Its History and Heroes'. Bill helped Rollins College found its environmental studies program; started the Florida Conservation Foundation in 1971 and The Florida Native Plant Society in 1980; was a founder and president of Florida Defenders of the Environment; and in 1995 received a bicentennial medal for environmental career achievements from Williams College. Naturalist extraordinaire!

Tom May is a freelance outdoor photographer whose work has been published in various magazines and displayed in the Central Florida Photographers show, Polasek Museum show and the Gallery at Metro. He teaches and speaks about photography and is a frequent judge for the Orlando Camera Club, the Polasek Museum's juried photography contest and for school competitions in Seminole County.

OAS is deeply grateful to Brett, Bill and Tom, who contributed considerable time and talent to the judging process. Thank you!

Teresa Williams, CNPC Chair

Saturday Bird Walks at Mead Botanical Garden

Starting September 3rd, and continuing through October 29th, Orange Audubon Society will conduct bird walks each Saturday in Mead Botanical Garden in Winter Park. These walks will be led by an experienced birder and are open to the public. These bird walks are being conducted free of charge to encourage more people to get into birding and to make the public aware of the birding prospects of this beautiful park in the center of Winter Park. Mead Botanical Garden is located at the intersection of South Denning Drive and Garden Drive, which is two blocks east of South Orlando Avenue (17-92).

Mead Botanical Garden is one of the best fall migration traps in Central Florida with as many as 23 warbler species reported there in a fall season. The park offers migrating birds food, water, shelter and a place to rest as they travel through on their way to the Caribbean, Mexico, Central and South America. Howell Creek runs through the park on its way from Lake Sue to Lake Virginia and provides nesting sites for Wood Ducks, Barred Owls and Red-shouldered Hawks. From 2005 thru 2010, Dexter Richardson and his team of volunteers documented 164 species of birds in Mead.

Walks will begin at 8:00 a.m. and will be 2 to 3 hours in length. The pace will be very casual and cover as much of the park as can be done at "birding pace" (this means very slow with lots of stopping to look at the birds). Loaner binoculars will be available for those individuals who need them. If you need loaner binoculars, please arrive early to sign up for them and be shown how to use them. If you have any questions, contact Dick Smith at 407-257-7361 or rls-oas@earthlink.net. *Dick Smith, OAS-Mead Liaison*

Experienced Birders Wanted

Here is your chance to make a contribution to your Orange Audubon Society, free of charge; just a little of your time is all that is needed. In a separate article in this OASis, we have outlined a new program which will take place at Mead Botanical Garden. All we need is a few experienced birders to help lead a bird walk for the public at Mead. The walks will be on Saturday morning, for about two hours, during the months of September and October.

If you would like to volunteer to help your chapter for a Saturday morning, please contact me at 407-257-7361 or rls-oas@earthlink.net. *Dick Smith, OAS-Mead Liaison*

Central Florida Butterfly Identification Workshop

Orange Audubon Society is offering a fall Butterfly Identification Workshop. The 8-hour workshop is on Saturday, Oct. 15th, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. with a short lunch break; and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The workshop involves slide presentations, field observation and identification of butterflies at Orlando Wetlands Park (OWP) and nearby Seminole Ranch Conservation Area in east Orange County. Slide presentations will be held in the OWP Education Center on Wheeler Road in Christmas, FL.

Recommended field guide is *Butterflies through Binoculars: Florida* by Glassberg, Minno, and Calhoun, 2000, Oxford. Close-focusing binoculars are helpful and will be available for use during the workshop. Instructors are Orange Audubon members Randy Snyder and Mary Keim. If you have questions about workshop content, call or e-mail Randy and Mary (407-851-5416, rsnyder11@cfl.rr.com). Participants should bring drink, lunch and wear field attire.

Registration is required. Cost is \$25 for Audubon members; \$40 for nonmembers; and \$10 for children 12 or younger (must be accompanied by a registered adult), payable by check or money order to Orange Audubon Society. Non-members can join when registering and pay \$45, which includes butterfly workshop registration (member price \$25) plus introductory 3-way annual membership in the Orange, National and Florida Audubon Societies (\$20 promotional rate). Visit www.orangeaudubonfl.org for a membership application.

The workshop is limited to 16 students. To reserve a space, contact Teresa Williams at twilliams@cfl.rr.com or 407-644-0796.

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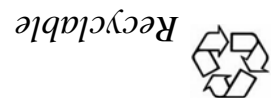
Fiscal Year 2011 in Review

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) ended fiscal year 2011 on a positive note with an increase in net assets of \$15,644, consisting of \$5,468 of income primarily from contributions, membership dues, program revenues and fund raising events; and \$10,176 of unrealized gains on long-term investments. A Silent Auction during the June 2011 Chertok program and Potluck dinner generated \$2,356, with proceeds designated for a future nature education center.

OAS' greatest resource is you—its dedicated board, general members and other friends. By contributing your time and other resources, you help OAS achieve one of its major strategic goals: financial stability with a balanced budget and increased funds for education programs and a future nature education center.

OAS' fiscal stability will ensure its future and continued ability to be a strong voice for conservation and the environment. OAS' efforts to secure permanent funds for educational programs will ensure longevity of the very activities that mold the next generation of environmental stewards.

Anyone interested in obtaining additional financial details may contact Teresa Williams, Treasurer at 407-644-0796 or mwilliams@cfl.rr.com.



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