



# OASis



Orange Audubon Society  
A Chapter of National and Florida Audubon Societies

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## Field Trip - March 17, 2012 Rock Springs Run State Reserve, Sorrento

The Orange Audubon Society (OAS)-nominated Florida Special Place—Rock Springs Run State Reserve—will be the destination for our March field trip. With the diversity of habitats there, we will have a great day birding. This is also an opportunity to understand its importance as a key piece in the Wekiva River Basin properties with its underpass allowing bears to move from the Ocala National Forest into the Basin. The profile of Rock Springs Run State Reserve as one of Florida's Special Places is at <http://audubonoffloridanews.org/?p=7819>.

We will begin at 8 a.m. Pay the \$3 per car entry fee at the entrance, and take the road to the left to the stables. Bathrooms are there, and we can carpool to our birding sites and return there for lunch. The easiest way to find Rock Springs Run State Reserve is to drive on SR-46 west towards Mt. Dora past the Wekiva River, approximately 7 miles west of I-4. Don't confuse this with Rock Springs at Kelly Park—a separate location. This field trip is free and open to the public. Dress comfortably for walking with water, hat, sunscreen, and binoculars. Field trip leader is Deborah Green [sabalpress@mac.com](mailto:sabalpress@mac.com) or mobile 386-690-4705. If you wish to find someone else attending for possible carpool, go to [www.meetup.com/Orange-Audubon-Society/](http://www.meetup.com/Orange-Audubon-Society/).

**Are you migrating?** If you move, take the *OASis* with you! To update your email or street address, contact Mike Daley: [miked531@bellsouth.net](mailto:miked531@bellsouth.net).

**Go green?** You can also tell Mike you want to receive the *OASis* electronically. E-subscriptions save resources, which saves your chapter and its volunteers (who absorb much of the newsletter's costs) up to \$2 per month per subscriber.

## This Month's Program: March 15th @ 7 p.m. Red-cockaded Woodpeckers: Repopulating the Disney Wilderness Preserve by Jennifer Milikowsky

The Red-cockaded Woodpecker is a federally endangered species whose populations plummeted after extensive logging of longleaf pine throughout the South. This woodpecker is unusual in making its cavity in living pines, favoring older longleaf pines that have heart rot. The Disney Wilderness Preserve in Osceola County, owned and managed by the Nature Conservancy, has areas of old growth longleaf pines and has been a site for reintroduction of these woodpeckers. How does the process work? Is there potential to reintroduce this species to other areas in Central Florida?

For our March program, Jennifer Milikowsky, staff biologist at the Disney Wilderness Preserve, will use her excellent photography and expert knowledge to educate and enlighten us about this fascinating bird.

Please join us March 15th. Orange Audubon Society programs are free and open to the public. No reservations are necessary. Children are welcome.

Orange Audubon Society meetings & programs are free & no reservations are necessary. Programs are held the 3rd Thursday of every month (September - June) usually at 7 p.m. in the Camellia Room at:  
Harry P. Leu Gardens  
1920 North Forest Avenue  
Orlando, FL 32803-1537.  
For directions call: 407-246-2620

## Board Members Wanted

The Orange Audubon Society is looking for members to fill vacancies on the Board of Directors at the April meeting. The Board is comprised of twenty volunteer members who serve staggered two and three-year terms. Each year one-third of the non-officer positions are open for election/re-election. The officers' positions, a two-year term, will also be up for re-election at the April meeting.

To be eligible, you must be a member of Orange Audubon, have an interest in wildlife and the environment that supports it, and be able to attend monthly board meetings held on the third Thursday of every month at Leu Gardens in Orlando.

This is a great opportunity to get involved with environmental projects and events as well as help make decisions that will have a positive impact in your community.

If you wish to volunteer and serve on the Board please contact Cynthia Gosiewski at [cyngos@aol.com](mailto:cyngos@aol.com) or 407-426-8982. Thank you.

## Special OAS Fundraising Field Trip: A Boat Ride Through Old Florida Saturday, April 7, 2012

Spend a leisurely afternoon touring the backwaters of the St. Johns River and help Orange Audubon Society (OAS) at the same time. Captain Gary Randlett, a knowledgeable naturalist, will guide us through parts of Florida that civilization forgot—but you never will. The prolific wildlife along the way calls this home just as they did before the European settlers arrived.

This is an OAS fundraising field trip. Due to the overwhelming response we have commissioned 2 boats—one departing at 1 p.m. and the other at 3:30 p.m.. The registration is on a first-come, first-serve basis. You are registered only once your payment has been received. The cost is \$25/person. We have a wait-list that

may open up again on March 5, 2012, but you must contact Danielle Ponsolle at [dponsolle@cfl.rr.com](mailto:dponsolle@cfl.rr.com) BEFORE sending your payment. Wheelchair-friendly, handicap accessible.



## 2-Hour 'Workday' at Genius Drive Nature Preserve

Bring your shovels and dig in! The next workday at Genius Drive Nature Preserve is Sunday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 9 –11 a.m. Gardening, a/k/a weeding and mulching, is needed in the restored cedar grove near Lake Mizell. The Preserve was the subject of an ecological restoration project that began ~2003. OAS volunteers, in partnership with Rollins College and the Preserve's owner, the Elizabeth Morse Genius Foundation, have conducted 'workdays' since 2006 to help maintain restored areas. If you can help, contact Teresa: 407-644-0796 or [mwilliams@cfl.rr.com](mailto:mwilliams@cfl.rr.com). Further details provided the week before.

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.

## EPCOT Flower and Garden Show

Once again OAS is looking for member volunteers to host the information table at the annual EPCOT Flower and Garden Show. The event takes place from March 7 – May 20. Volunteers are asked to staff the information table from 10 a.m.–3 p.m. on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, answer a variety of visitor questions, extol the virtues of OAS membership, as well as set up and break down the information table during your shift.

Disney will compensate your efforts with a complimentary one-day, one-park admission ticket to a Disney park of your choice. The OAS table is in the Festival Center where other educational vendors are set up.

If you have time in your schedule to donate to this worthwhile and fun cause please contact Cynthia Gosiewski at [cyngos@aol.com](mailto:cyngos@aol.com) or 407-426-8982. Thank you for volunteering.

## Mead Botanical Garden Bird Walks

Each Saturday morning, during the month of April, Orange Audubon Society will conduct free, guided bird walks in Mead Botanical Garden. The walks will be led by an experienced guide. Free loaner binoculars will be available. The walks will begin at 8:00 a.m. and will be two to three hours in length, at a very relaxed (birding) pace. Mead Botanical Garden is located at 1300 S. Denning Drive; at the intersection with Garden Street, just two blocks east of Hwy 17-92 (Orlando Avenue) in Winter Park.

Experienced birders, beginning birders, or folks who have been thinking about getting into birding, are welcome. Join us for a delightful walk in the park at this beautiful oasis in the heart of the city. We will meet at the parking lot near the public restrooms. If you need loaner binoculars, come a few minutes earlier, so that you can be fitted and shown how to use them. If you have any questions, call Dick Smith 407-257-7361.

## Mead Botanical Garden Young Naturalist Summer Youth Camps

Enclosed in this issue of your *OASis* is information concerning the wonderful week long day camps which take place at Mead Botanical Garden each summer. You may recall that OAS has entered into a partnership with Mead Botanical Garden. With this partnership in mind, OAS is sending information about another organization in our newsletter. The camps are set up for four different age groups, with only three of them being in the park at the same time. This is really a great way for children, ages 6 to 16, to spend quality time in the outdoors this summer right here in the city. Rather than try to give you the complete schedule for each age group, it is recommended that you go on to the website for complete information for the weeks that work for your child or grandchild. The website address is: [www.meadgarden.org/programs/young-naturalist-camps](http://www.meadgarden.org/programs/young-naturalist-camps).

*Dick Smith, OAS-Mead Liaison*

## OAS' 2012 Nature Photo Contest Update

Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Kit & Sidney Chertok Nature Photography Contest has a category to fit your skill level and a theme to allow participants to explore, photograph and learn more about the amazing native animals, plants, landscapes and habitats of Florida. Categories are: Amateur—for new and less experienced photographers; Advanced—for experienced nature photographers; and Youth—for participants age 17 and younger.

The theme for all categories is **Florida's Native Nature**. In this competition discernible non-*native* (to Florida) fauna and/or flora is not allowed. Similarly, discernible non-*nature* subject matter such as humans and human-made structures or artifacts is not allowed. The Florida native nature requirements are consistent with contest objectives of promoting interest and concern for preserving Florida's native wildlife and wild places and encouraging nature photography. There are *two* submission deadlines. The **final deadline** for all entries (*received by date*) is May 17, 2012. Images may be entered by the **optional early deadline** of April 19, 2012 (*received by date*) for a *free* pre-screening and a *free* do-over if they did not meet the native, nature and other contest criteria.

Official application forms containing complete contest requirements and further category clarification are available online: [www.orangeaudubonfl.org](http://www.orangeaudubonfl.org); at OAS meetings and at Colonial Photo and Hobby, 634 N. Mills Avenue, Orlando, FL; or by contacting Teresa: 407-644-0796 or [mwilliams@cfl.rr.com](mailto:mwilliams@cfl.rr.com).

*Teresa Williams, OASCNPC Chair*

## OAS Success Stories

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) had a successful February with our special events. At the first annual Old Florida Outdoor Festival (Feb. 11–12) in Apopka, OAS volunteers — Bob Stamps, Dick Smith, Mary Keim, Randy Snyder, Michael Kay, Bob Sanders, Deborah Green, Cynthia Gosiewski, and Gallus Quigley — joined St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) staff to conduct wildlife viewing bus tours on the Lake Apopka North Shore Restoration Area (LANSRA). The tour originated from the University of Florida's campus in Apopka. Over 170 people took the guided tours and saw alligators, coyotes, otters, Peregrine Falcons, Roseate Spoonbills, Bald Eagles, hawks, thousands of Blue-winged Teals, Black-necked Stilts and many other species. Comments were very favorable and participants were very excited about the bus tours. SJRWMD plans are to open part of the 17-mile long biking/hiking trail across the north shore from Orange to Lake County in April and later open the rest of that trail plus an additional 'Black Point Drive'-type auto trail on the property. However, the SJRWMD has received a request to 'swap' land that would allow the expansion of an airport adjacent to the LANSRA, which would affect current and future plans for management of the area for wildlife (see related article, page 5). Birds and airplanes do not play well together.

Meanwhile Cyndi Kay, Paul Lockett, Wayne Kennedy, Teresa Williams, Cynthia Goswieski, Margaret and Bill Cady and Loretta Satterthwaite were at the 'main event area' doing outreach for new members, selling our nature-oriented merchandise and signing more people up to participate in the bus tours. Saturday was a great day and we saw lots of 'traffic', but Sunday was very cold and, therefore, not so many were in attendance. However, we considered the event, which reportedly drew 15,000 attendees, very successful and look forward to participating again next year.

At the OAS co-sponsored 12<sup>th</sup> annual Orlando Wetlands Festival (Feb. 18) with 4,000 attendees, it was another beautiful and successful day for OAS. Our outreach, kids' art, and sales tables were tended by Cyndi Kay, Teresa Williams, Cynthia Gray, Wayne Kennedy, Paul Lockett, Cynthia and Robert Amoruso and Loretta Satterthwaite. Mary Keim and Randy Snyder also helped with display set-up and tear-down in our area, and Randy, OAS liaison for the event, coordinated the OAS-volunteers led bus tours and nature/bird hikes. Helping with those events were: Mary Keim, Dick Smith, Michael Kay, Deborah Green, Lori and Jerry Mathis, Rick Baird, Bill Partington, Lorne Malo, Reinhard Geisler, Joe Garchinski, Lee Small and Clyde Wetteland. OAS members Robert Amoruso, Milton Heiberg and Reinhard Geisler also led some well-attended photo hikes and Andrew Boyle and his bird-banding crew (Christine Brown, Richard Poole, Maria Paasch, Susan Angermeier, Bill Burke and his son William Burke) participated in the event.

Many others helped with these events, please pardon us if we have overlooked putting your name here. Thanks to everyone for your support of OAS.

*Loretta Satterthwaite, 2nd Vice President*

### Annual Birdathon Fundraiser—Sunday, April 29<sup>th</sup>

Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) annual fundraising birdathon will be held on Sunday, April 29<sup>th</sup>. On that day, birders (teams or individuals) will spend the entire day striving to identify as many bird species as possible. Birders may concentrate on one area (parks and uplands or seashores, etc.) or travel across the state to find those elusive birds that will increase the total number of species seen during that 24-hr period. OAS' goals are two-fold: 1) see lots of species that day and 2) get lots of pledges in support of the birdathon.

We are asking for your help. Join or lead a team of birders (contact Loretta at 407-886-2925 or [LNS-oas@att.net](mailto:LNS-oas@att.net) to volunteer) and/or ask for pledges (5¢, 10¢, 25¢, 50¢, \$1 or any amount per species seen or a flat contribution of \$5, \$10 or any other amount). When we tally the number of species, we'll let you know and you collect the money for OAS from your pledgers. This is OAS' 'Girl Scout Cookies', or 'walkathon'; don't be shy about asking your co-workers, vet, dentist, doctor, neighbor, etc. to support our efforts to raise funds that will be used in the Central Florida area for conservation or education. Thank you.

*Loretta Satterthwaite, 2nd Vice President*

### Fourteen bird boxes installed at Valencia West Campus

On February 10, Orange Audubon Society volunteers Richard Poole and Christine Brown helped about 25 eager Valencia College faculty and staff members to put up bird boxes on West Campus. This was part of a Learning Day Event involving volunteer work in the community (and on campus) in conjunction with local non-profit organizations. Construction Engineering Professor Andy Ray followed Richard's directions to purchase wood and cut the pieces. The volunteers assembled the boxes and put them up. There were 6 Wood Duck boxes (installed along Lake Pamela and the two retention ponds), 6 Great-Crested Flycatcher/Eastern Screech Owl boxes (installed on pines and palms near the lake and woods) and 2 Eastern Bluebird Boxes (installed on a split rail fence in an open field). Three of the boxes had electronics installed in them so the inhabitants can be monitored. Thanks, Richard and Christine. *Deborah Green, Pres.*

### Audubon Academy News

The Audubon Academy scheduled for March 16-18, 2012 has been cancelled. The Academy will resume next year.



## Spring 2012 Beginners' Bird Watching Class Offered

Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) former board member Bob Sanders will teach a spring 2012 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 March 17<sup>th</sup> at Orlando Wetlands Park (with mini-field trip in the park) and 2 field sessions on March 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>; 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 (\$45 for students), which includes BBWC registration (member price \$30) plus introductory 3-way annual membership in OAS, National Audubon Society and Audubon of Florida [promotional rate \$20 (students \$15)]. Such new memberships *must be paid directly to OAS as prescribed herein*. Visit [www.orangeaudubonfl.org](http://www.orangeaudubonfl.org) for a membership application. To reserve a space, contact Teresa: [mwilliams@cfl.rr.com](mailto:mwilliams@cfl.rr.com) or 407-644-0796. For questions about the class, contact Bob: 407-454-0542.

## Wildlife Surveys

- Savage Christmas Creek Preserve, Pine Lily Preserve, Long Branch Preserve and Hal Scott Regional Preserve and Park (north portion) butterfly survey. For more information contact Randy Snyder or Mary Keim at 407-851-5416 or [rsnyder11@cfl.rr.com](mailto:rsnyder11@cfl.rr.com).
- Lake Apopka, North Shore Restoration Area bird surveys. Contact Pam Bowen at 386-329-4870 or [Pbowen@sjrwmd.com](mailto:Pbowen@sjrwmd.com) or Jim Peterson at 352-735-1267 or [JPeterson@sjrwmd.com](mailto:JPeterson@sjrwmd.com).
- Emerald Marsh Conservation Area bird surveys. Contact John Stenberg at 386-329-4822 or [jstenberg@sjrwmd.com](mailto:jstenberg@sjrwmd.com).
- Ferndale Preserve quarterly bird surveys. Contact Gallus Quigley, Jr. at 352-516-8512 or [gquigley@lakecountyfl.gov](mailto:gquigley@lakecountyfl.gov) or [gallusq@cfl.rr.com](mailto:gallusq@cfl.rr.com).

## Lake Apopka North Shore Restoration Area In Jeopardy

The St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) has received a request to 'swap' several hundreds of acres of taxpayer land for about 100 acres of privately owned farmland in order to allow the expansion of an airport adjacent to the Lake Apopka North Shore Restoration Area (LANSRA). This seemingly innocuous plan to swap one parcel of land for another along the north edge of the LANSRA could lead to disastrous effects. The land swap would allow the construction of a mile-long runway next to the North Shore Restoration Area; a plan foolhardy at its best since we all know what happens when airplanes and other flying objects (i.e. any of the plentiful birds now occupying the restoration area) encounter each other. To make matters worse, if this larger runway is built, it would accommodate the types of planes that the airport owners are hoping for (business jets), but the Federal Aviation Administration could now get involved with the management by not only imposing a 10,000-foot exclusion area around the runway but also other rules that would effectively override the SJRWMD's current management of the area for improving wildlife habitat and increasing bird populations by preventing the district from obtaining needed federal permits or grants.

Please act today to let the SJRWMD Executive Director Hans G. Tanzler, III; the SJRWMD Governing Board and relevant staff members (Robert Christianson, David Walker and Gian Basili); Governor Rick Scott; Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Herschel Vinyard, Jr.; and local newspapers and news channels know that you and other environmentalists oppose this land swap because it would undermine the taxpayer-funded restoration efforts of Lake Apopka and its surrounding area and it would endanger more than 300 bird species that roost and/or forage on the north shore restoration area.

*Loretta Satterthwaite and Bob Stamps*

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**Calendar of Events**

**OAS EVENTS**

**Field Trip to Rock Springs Run State Reserve in Sorrento, March 17, 2012, 407-637-2525**

**OAS' Beginner's Bird Identification - March 17, 24 & 31, 2012.** Cost is \$30 for OAS members, \$45 for non-members and \$10 for 12 & under with registered adult. For class information call Bob Sanders at 407-454-0542. For class reservations call Teresa Williams at 407-644-0796.

**Limited Edition Field Trip to Fort De Soto Park in Pinellas County, April 22, 2012, 407-242-7833**

**SPECIAL EVENTS**

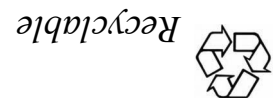
**Workday at Genius Drive Nature Preserve, Sunday, March 25, 2012, 9-11 a.m., contact Teresa: 407-644-0796 or [mwilliams@cfl.rr.com](mailto:mwilliams@cfl.rr.com).**

**OAS Fundraising Boat Tour, April 7, 2012, [dponsolle@cfl.rr.com](mailto:dponsolle@cfl.rr.com)**

**Apopka Art & Foliage Festival, April 27-29, 2012, 407-886-2925**

**OAS Birdathon, April 29, 2012, 407-886-2925**

**Baby Owl Shower, Center for Birds of Prey, Maitland, May 12, 2012, 407-539-5700**



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