



OASis



Orange Audubon Society
A Chapter of National and Florida Audubon Societies

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OAS Field Trip Saturday, May 19, 2012 Circle B Bar Reserve, Lakeland

Orange Audubon Society's May 19th field trip will visit the Circle B Bar Reserve, 4399 Winter Lake Road, Lakeland, FL. To learn more about this diverse place, go to <http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/recreation/areas/circlebbarreserve.html>. We will meet our trail guide—Lake Region Audubon Society member, naturalist, and photographer, Herman Moulden—there at 8:30 a.m. "Circle B", jointly owned by Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) and Polk County, is home to some of the most impressive bird activity on SWFWMD property and includes a variety of wading birds, waterfowl, ospreys and bald eagles. Oak hammock, freshwater marsh, hardwood swamp and the lakeshore are among the habitats of this property. We will do about 3 miles of leisurely hiking and photographing (these birds are usually up-close!). Bring drinks, sunscreen, hats, binoculars and cameras. Also, bring lunch and the kids and enjoy the on-site Polk County Nature Discovery Center (<http://www.polk-county.net/newsdetail.aspx?id=9698>) on your own after our hike, if you wish.

Plan to meet for carpooling at 7:15 a.m. (to leave by 7:30) at the southwest corner of the parking lot between Whole Foods Market at 8003 Turkey Lake Rd, Orlando and O'Charley's (Sand Lake Rd and Turkey Lake Rd intersection near I-4). This field trip is free. For trip details, call Loretta at 407-421-9437.

Go green? Contact Mike Daley at miked531@bellsouth.net and tell him 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 May 17th @ 7 p.m.

Kissimmee Basin: the Northern Everglades A Film by Elam Stoltzfus

Although many stories have been told about the Everglades from its drainage to restoration, few have been told about where it all begins: the Kissimmee River Basin. Restoration and protection of this vast, watery landscape may well hold the key to restoration of the Greater Everglades ecosystem. *The Kissimmee Basin: the Northern Everglades* is a film produced by Elam Stoltzfus of Live Oak Production Group. The film contains lush and ethereal cinematography and rare historic photos to bring the Kissimmee's story into focus. In-depth interviews bring you face-to-face with the engineers, activists, ranchers, military personnel and politicians critical in this river's history. Orange Audubon Society supports the effort to create a national wildlife refuge in the Kissimmee Basin. For our May program, we are delighted to host the filmmaker with the premiere of this beautiful film. For more information go to: www.NorthernEverglades.com.

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) programs are free and no reservations are necessary. All ages are welcome, including young naturalists.

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) 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

No Potluck at June OAS Meeting

This is just a quick reminder that this year's June 21st meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. with hospitality 'finger foods' and Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) own Silent Auction. About 7:00 p.m. the presentation of entries into this year's 24th Annual Kit and Sidney Chertok Florida Nature Photography Contest will begin. Winners of each of the three competitions—youth, amateur, and advanced—will be announced and presented with their awards. If you must miss the program, winners will be posted on our website (www.orangeaudubonfl.org) shortly after the program.

There will not be a dinner potluck at this meeting so there will be no need to 'preregister' as we did last year. More details will be in next month's *OASis*, but plan now to join us for a wonderful culmination to this year's programming.

Nature Merchandise Available at May OAS Meeting

Orange Audubon Society (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 17**. We'll have youth and adult t-shirts, tote bags, mugs, signs, nestboxes and more available. This will be the last OAS sales event until the fall, so plan now for graduation and Father's Day gifts!! For a speedy checkout, bring your cash or checkbook; we can accept credit card payments through PayPal, but we're still learning how to deal with it, so expect some delay if you wish to charge items. Since many of our 'regular' volunteers are board members and will be in their meeting, we need YOU to help! You may call or email anytime [407-886-2925; LNS-OAS@att.net] to volunteer; walk-in help is also invited! Thanks.

Loretta Satterthwaite

OAS Limited Edition Field Trip to Joe Overstreet Rd. and Three Lakes WMA Saturday, May 26, 2012

Limited Edition field trips are limited to 15 people per trip (on a first-come, first-served basis) and cost \$10/OAS member and \$15/non-OAS member. For meeting place details and to make your reservation for this trip, please contact Bob Sanders at 407-454-0542.

Attention Birders!

Volunteers are needed to conduct the following two bird surveys:

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) has received a request to survey the Druid Lake area located near Bumby Avenue and Corrine Drive. A 3-hour preliminary survey produced 34 bird species including Blue-winged Teal, Wood Duck, Bald Eagle, Red-shouldered Hawk and Baltimore Oriole.

OAS has received a request from the Orange County Green PLACE Program to conduct a bird survey at the Savage Christmas Creek Preserve. The 1126 acre preserve in east Orange County at Christmas, Florida, is a mixed habitat property and home to many wildlife species.

For more information or to volunteer, contact Randy Snyder at rsnyder11@cfl.rr.com or 407-851-5416.

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.

LAST CALL for Photo Contest Entries!

There is still time to participate in Orange Audubon Society's 2012 (24th Annual) Kit & Sidney Chertok **Open (Amateur/Advanced)** and **Youth** Florida Nature Photography Contests (OAS' CNPC), but entries in this Florida Native Nature competition must be **received by May 17, 2012**. You may hand deliver your entries directly to a Chertok committee member (preferably Teresa) on May 17th during OAS' regular program at Leu Gardens, but you may not leave entries with Garden personnel.

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; by request to mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or 407-644-0796; or at Colonial Photo & Hobby (CPH), 634 N Mills Avenue, Orlando, FL. While there (CPH), enjoy some of the featured images from the 2011 competition, currently on display.

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

Silent Auction Action Requested!

With June only a month away your board and other volunteers are deep into planning for the Chertok photo contest program and Silent Auction. We hope that you will help by soliciting donations from the area businesses that you patronize. The Silent Auction provides great exposure for business donors whose gifts are prominently displayed during the program. Their gifts also let Orange Audubon Society (OAS) members know that they value the good work carried out by OAS and you. If you know a business owner who might contribute, please let us know that you will solicit a donation (so we don't double-team them) or provide us with contact information and we will do the rest. We're not shy about asking and the worst they'll do is say NO! Don't know what to ask for as a contribution? Make it easy, what would you bid on at the Silent Auction?

We would like to have a list of all contributions and contributors to the silent auction posted in next month's *OASis*; therefore, we would request that you bring the items to us at the May OAS meeting at Leu Gardens. If you are unable to have the contribution by the meeting, please get in touch with us; we must have the items in hand by June 14th to allow us to make bid sheets and arrange space for them. Please start your solicitations now and let us know if a gift acknowledgement letter for tax deduction purposes is needed. Contact Teresa (407-644-0796 or mwilliams@cfl.rr.com), Loretta (407-886-2925 or LNS-oas@att.net) or Cynthia Gray (407-298-5806 or cynthiasgray@bellsouth.net) to help or make suggestions.

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.
- 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.
- Emerald Marsh Conservation Area bird surveys. Contact John Stenberg at 386-329-4822 or jstenberg@sjrwmd.com.
- Ferndale Preserve quarterly bird surveys. Contact Gallus Quigley, Jr. at 352-516-8512 or gquigley@lakecountyfl.gov or gallusq@cfl.rr.com.

Scan Here to Visit us Online

QR Code (Quick Response Code) is a two-dimensional barcode first designed for the automotive industry. The system has become popular outside the industry due to its fast readability and large storage capacity. QR Code readers for Smart Phones like iPhone, Android and Blackberry are available. Using your smart phone and barcode reader, scan the graphic on the right, read the OAS website address and your phone's internet browser will take you to our website.



Urgent Conservation Issue—Lake Apopka North Shore Restoration Area

Lake Apopka with its North Shore Restoration Area (NSRA) (2nd largest lake in Florida) is a designated Important Birding Area that has some great things happening: The Clay Island trail and tower in Lake County are already open to hikers/bikers and this month (May), a 3.5-mile Orange County hiking/biking segment from Magnolia Park into the North Shore will be opening. Later the 17-mile hiking/ biking trail from Orange to Lake County will be opened. Plans are to also open an automobile wildlife-viewing trail, similar to Black Point Drive at Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge.

Unfortunately, there are also some not-so-great things happening to Lake Apopka and the NSRA. To name the three most imminent threats—*water level management issues, hydrilla control, and the expansion of a local airport into a jetport that has the potential to stop the restoration.* **Please plan to attend** a St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) public meeting at 6:00 p.m. on May 31st at the Paul P. Williams Fine Arts Center, Lake Sumter Community College, Leesburg Campus, 9501 U.S. Highway 441, Leesburg, FL to discuss potential water level management options. Despite the universal drop in all lakes due to the drought, at the last meeting the room was packed with ‘Lake Griffiners’ who wanted, *and got*, the locks opened, including those from Lake Apopka, so Lake Griffin’s water levels could be elevated at the expense of every lake upstream. Because Lake Apopka is shallow, a seemingly small change in water extracted from it, has a great effect on the lake’s water level and subsequently on the lake vegetation. Following the May 31st meeting, the District’s Governing Board will consider low-flow discharges and lake regulation schedules for the next year at a June 12 public meeting in Palatka.

Public meetings have been held about controlling the invasive, non-indigenous hydrilla in Lake Apopka, with strong support for continuing the current strategy of containment, but no decision has been made yet.

The airport issue—a proposed land swap of St. Johns River Water Management District property on the North Shore of Lake Apopka applied for by the West Orange Airport Authority (WOAA)—is probably the most immediate threat, since management by the Federal Aviation Authority will not be bird-friendly and will negatively impact the restoration. Both Lake and Orange counties’ government boards are holding meetings that will set the stage for or against this airport expansion. Lake County has already started the process and will meet again in 30 days (~ May 22nd) to make a decision on the first part of the process. We expect Orange County to take up this issue sometime in May. The WOAA will hold a public meeting in Ocoee on May 23rd. We need people to **attend these meetings** (numbers count) and/or **write letters** to the county commissioners to support the current North Shore restoration plans of the SJRWMD and oppose the expansion proposed by the WOAA. Also, **write a letter** to SJRWMD asking them to deny a public lands giveaway ‘land swap’ allowing for the expansion of the airport runway. Too many taxpayer dollars have been spent on this restoration process to place it in jeopardy by these self-serving special interest groups. If you are interested in helping Orange Audubon Society fight this battle, please **send an email** to LNS-OAS@att.net requesting information (and addresses) regarding the issues about Lake Apopka. Thanks for your help.

Loretta Satterthwaite and Bob Stamps

Thank you to ALL who made the 2012 OAS boat trip a success!



We spent an afternoon touring the backwaters of the St. Johns River. Captain Gary Randlett, a knowledgeable naturalist, guided us through parts of Florida that civilization forgot. There was prolific wildlife along the way that calls this home just as they did before the European settlers arrived.

Because of the overwhelming response to this OAS fund-raiser we commissioned 2 boats, one departing at 1 p.m. and the other at 3:30 p.m. The weather was perfect and the scenery was most enjoyable. We saw many, many blue herons, little blues in different phases, gallinules, coots, moorhens and limpkins. Some of the highlights were an American bittern, a cormorant swallowing a fish bigger than the bird, and a vegetation-eating manatee. What a treat!

I hope you saw Milton Heiberg’s slide show at the last program meeting. It also included some shots taken by Bob Stamps. If you missed it, you can enjoy it on our web site: <http://www.orangeaudubonfl.org/index.html>. Thanks again to all who have helped bring this event together. Hopefully we will be able to do it again next year.

Danielle Ponsolle

It's Time to Collect Your Birdathon Pledges

Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) Annual Birdathon Fundraiser was held Sunday, April 29th, after our press deadline. Please contact Loretta at 407-886-2925 or LNS-OAS@att.net to get a total species count so that you may collect your pledges and bring them to the May OAS meeting. Thanks.

Invitation to a Baby Owl Shower and Volunteer Opportunity

You are invited to the Audubon Center for Birds of Prey (ACBOP) Annual Baby Owl Shower on Saturday, May 12, 2012 from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Admission to the Center that day is free when you bring a 'baby gift' that will be used in caring for young raptors. What do you bring to a baby owl shower? A Wish List of suggestions—from medical and every-day cleaning supplies to baby food and equipment materials—is available on the Audubon Florida website: http://fl.audubon.org/sites/default/files/documents/wish_list_2012_0.pdf. Cash and gift card donations are also appreciated.

Your gift will help ACBOP provide the best of care to injured and orphaned baby raptors. This is a great event for young and old who can participate in fun activities and meet the Center's resident birds and *babies du jour*. It's like a box of 'chocklits' that day—you never know what kind of baby you'll get to see. Last year it was a baby Screech Owl and the year before a baby Great-horned Owl! Amazing to see close-up!

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) will be participating and volunteers are needed from 9:00 a.m. setup time to closing, which takes about 20 minutes. OAS' little shop of nature-oriented merchandise will be open for business and we will offer the kid's art activity. To help OAS please contact Teresa at 407-644-0796 or mwilliams@cfl.rr.com.

Annual Election Results

The following slate of nominees for the class of 2015 Orange Audubon Society (OAS) Board of Directors, both officers and directors, were approved by acclamation at the April 19th general meeting: President – Deborah Green; First V.P. – Rick Baird; Second V.P. – Loretta Satterthwaite; Secretary – Mary Keim; Treasurer – Teresa Williams; Class of 2015 Board Members - Cynthia Amoruso, Margaret Cady, Paul Luckett, Brent Mobley and Bob Stamps. Class of 2014 Board Member slot – not filled.

Thank you to all the new and re-elected Board members, your interest, dedication and participation is greatly appreciated. Many thanks also to the members of the Nominating Committee; Cynthia Amoruso, Jerry Mathis and Richard Poole.

Our newest member is Brent Mobley who is looking forward to serving on the Board of Directors. Brent was born in Orlando but spent many years traveling around the world and the United States with his family. His father was in the military and as a result Brent has lived in Japan, Germany, Colorado, Louisiana and finally back to Florida where he has spent most of his adult life.

He has worked at Lockheed Martin and also serves as a reserve firefighter for Station 51. He served a three-year term as president of the board of firefighters, which had a roster of 100 active reserve firefighters throughout Orange County.

Brent has been an active member of the First Congregational Church of Winter Park for 15 years and has served on the board for the children's education program at the church for the last five years. He is a member of the Orlando Camera Club and has been a member of the National Audubon Society of New York for five years.

Brent's love of the environment and the outdoors drew him to the Orange Audubon Society four years ago. He believes it is one of the most effective organizations helping to protect the environment and is proud to be a member. He looks forward to contributing his time and efforts and professional assistance to making a difference in the community along with the efforts of the organization.

Cynthia Gosiewski

2-Hour 'Workday' at Genius Drive Nature Preserve

The next workday at the Genius Drive Nature Preserve is Sunday, June 3rd, 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 at 407-644-0796 or mwilliams@cfl.rr.com. Further details provided the week before.

**Orange Audubon Society
Board of Directors 2011-2012**

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Deborah Green (12) 407-637-2525

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Cynthia Gray (12) 407-298-5806

2nd VICE PRESIDENT

Loretta Satterthwaite (12) 407-886-2925

SECRETARY

Mary Keim (12) 407-851-5416

TREASURER

Teresa Williams (12) 407-644-0796

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Robert Amoruso (13) 407-808-7417

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Margaret Cady (12) 352-432-5195

John Cento (14) 407-913-2417

Cynthia Gosiewski (13) 407-426-8982

Steve Graves (12) 407-671-6572

Milton Heiberg (13) 407-658-4869

Paul Lockett (12) 407-679-9644

Lori Mathis (13) 407-579-3795

Danielle Ponsolle (14) dponsolle@cfl.rr.com

Sharon Robbins (14) 407-376-4930

Dominique Shimizu (13) 407-287-4078

Randy Snyder (14) 407-851-5416

Bob Stamps (12) 407-886-2925

Calendar of Events

OAS EVENTS

Field Trip to Circle Bar B Ranch, Lakeland, May 19, 2012, 407-886-2925

Limited Edition Field Trip to Joe Overstreet Rd./ Three Lakes WMA, May 26, 2012, Bob Sanders at 407-454-0542.

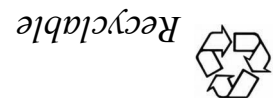
Join us at the **Orange Audubon Society Meeting** on June 21, 2012 for our Silent Auction and announcement of the results for the 24th Annual Kit and Sidney Chertok Florida Nature Photography Contest. **SEE YOU THERE!**

SPECIAL EVENTS

Magnolia Park Bluegrass Festival, Apopka, May 5, 2012, 407-886-2925

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

OAS Chertok Nature Photography Contest Deadline May 17, 2012, see information in this newsletter.



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