

"The Voice of Conservation in Central Florida"



OASis



Orange Audubon Society
A Chapter of National and Florida Audubon Societies

Vol. 47

June 2012

Issue No. 10

This Month's Program: June 21, 2012 – 6:30 p.m. at Harry P. Leu Gardens OAS' Annual Chertok Nature Photography Awards Program, Party & Silent Auction

It is time once again to celebrate the end of another Orange Audubon Society (OAS) season with the traditional final program that features entries in the 2012 (24th Annual) Kit and Sidney Chertok Florida Nature Photography Contest. A Silent Auction has also become a tradition for this end-of-season event, but this year we will not have a Potluck dinner. Say ... what??!!

No Potluck? No problem! Instead, OAS will furnish tasty and substantial finger foods so that you stay out of the kitchen. No Potluck also means that the Camellia Room where we meet will be setup theatre style rather than banquet style to accommodate more guests and eliminate the need for reservations. You only need to bring an appetite for delicious food and beautiful photography plus your wallet for the silent auction. Any who wish may also make a small donation to help defray the cost of the event.

The party and Silent Auction will begin at 6:30 p.m. The photo contest program will begin around 7 p.m. The theme for the YOUTH and OPEN (Amateur and Advanced) contest categories, *Florida Native Nature*, elicited outstanding images from across Florida. This exclusive show is one that you will not wish to miss.

Winners of the 2012 contest will be announced and awards and ribbons presented following the show, but competition will continue throughout the evening for dozens of Silent Auction donations (and still counting) from local restaurants, native nurseries, camera and outdoor retail outfitters, resorts, spas, our fantastic members and more (see article inside for featured items).

Mark the date and don't forget to bring three things with you: an appetite for good food and camaraderie, your checkbook or cash for our world famous 'cash-n-carry quickly' auction (credit cards accepted, but unbelievably slower to process!!) and your best party attitude. Let's make a fuss over us!

Teresa Williams, OASCNPC Chair

June Reservations??

But, I thought you said that we needn't pre-register! That is true for the program. However, if you intend to bring anything to contribute to the silent auction, we welcome it but we MUST have that information at least 24-hrs prior to your bringing it. We must plan space, print cards for bidding purposes, etc. Please help us achieve our goal of a smoothly run silent auction by complying with this request. Last minute contributions to the silent auction can be detailed (description, retail value, minimum bid and your name) to Loretta (407-886-2925 or LNS-OAS@att.net). Thank you for your support.

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

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

Chertok Photos on Display

Congratulations go to twelve photographers whose images from Orange Audubon Society's 2011 Chertok Nature Photography Contest (OASCNPC) were selected for display at Colonial Photo & Hobby (CPH), 634 N. Mills Avenue, Orlando, FL. Each year before winners are announced (and with photographers' names withheld), the selections are made by CPH from all of the eligible entries.

The selected images from 2011 are: *Snake in the Grass – Rat Snake* by **Myrna Erler-Bradshaw**; *White Pelican over Lagoon* by **Shaw Frederick** (Honorable Mention); *Limpkin with Apple Snail* by **Junko Hennessy**; *The Highs and Lows of It – Cypress Trees* by **Gini Henry** (Honorable Mention); *Gator Hole at Fakahatchee Strand* by **Vince Lamb**; *Spider Web* by **Ruth Pannunzio**; *Hummingbird and Butterfly* by **Joaquin Paredes**; *Red Eye – Sandhill Crane Close Up* by **Hilda Perez**; *Bridal Veil* by **Jack Rogers** (1st Place); *Shaken, Not Stirred* by **Joyce Stefancic** (2nd Place); *Io Moth* by **Jim Urbach**; and *Snowy Egret in Breeding Plumage* by **Kathy Urbach**.

Colonial Photo & Hobby has co-sponsored the OASCNPC since 2004 by contributing some of the prizes for winning photographers and featuring selected entries within their retail premises to promote interest in the contest and nature photography and recognize the talented photographers whose work portrays Florida's native nature so beautifully.

Teresa Williams, OASCNPC Chair

Please Send Your Birdathon Contributions

This year's Birdathon was held on Sunday, April 29, 2012. The weather was great and our birding teams and individuals picked specific areas in Central Florida in their attempt to find and identify as many of Florida's interesting, beautiful, and unique bird species as possible. One team birded Lake County exclusively, while four other teams headed to either the Atlantic or the Gulf shore. Three teams did their home neighborhoods, with one also adding Mead Gardens, and one team birded the Genius Drive Nature Preserve, which Orange Audubon Society (OAS) has been helping to restore to a native habitat. Highest number (50) of first-reported species goes to Lori Mathis and her teammates—Brook Rohman and Graham Williams, who saw 124 total species.

At day's end, we managed to tally 170 species plus an exceptional Great White Heron—a white morph of the Great Blue Heron—as well as a white morph of the Reddish Egret, neither of which is a species of its own, but both deserve listing. OAS extends its congratulations to all of our Birdathon participants for their skills and efforts and our thanks for spending your time and gasoline on this fundraiser for OAS. Readers, if you haven't yet made your contribution, please send it to Orange Audubon Society, P.O. Box 941142, Maitland, FL 32794-1142.

Loretta Satterthwaite, Birdathon Co-chair

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

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



Lake Apopka Happenings

There is much going on around Lake Apopka. One bit of good news is that on June 1st, another portion of the trail that will eventually go entirely around the lake was dedicated and opened to the public. It is a 3.5-mile hiking/biking trail that begins at Magnolia Park and goes up to the old pump house on the shore of Lake Apopka. Grab your bike or your walking shoes and some water and explore!!

The not so good news is that the West Orange Aviation Authority continues to move forward trying to lengthen their existing runway by making a land swap with the St. Johns River Water Management District. The major problem with this plan is that if they are able to acquire the land to increase the runway to one that will allow turbine engines to access the airstrip, and if they ask for federal funds from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) (which they will inevitably do), the turbine engines will trigger a regulation to 'control or suppress' hazardous wildlife within 10,000 ft. from all points of the runway. In order to control or suppress the hazardous wildlife (birds!), the flooding of the restored marshlands would be halted because they are the foraging grounds that attract the birds on this federally recognized Important Bird Area (IBA). What a shame if this restoration process is halted now that we are on the brink of realizing the ultimate success as the application of sound science pays off with reduced Phosphorus, increased water clarity, and the beginning of the re-establishment of native vegetation. To think that all this progress towards restoration of the entire basin is threatened after spending so much time, effort and taxpayer money on it causes the entire environmental community much concern. We ask that you stay alert to happenings around Lake Apopka over these summer months so that you may take action as needed. Monitor floridawaters.com (after checking out the main page, select 'news, meetings and notices' and choose 'get the facts'). You may wish to access floridapublicnotices.com (type in keywords) and search for important meetings and announcements. To be put on an Orange Audubon 'Lake Apopka Alerts' group list, call 407-886-2925 and leave a message saying that you wish to be added to the 'Lake Apopka Alerts' list; include your name and email address and a phone number in case we need to call regarding your message. Also, help keep us informed if you learn of any meetings or events of which we should be aware. Thanks and keep your ears open!! *Loretta Satterthwaite*

Public Input Requested Regarding Your State Lands

The St. Johns River Water Management District (WMD) has begun a 2012 public land assessment. They will spend the next couple of months accepting public input regarding this assessment either in meetings (June 25-Gainesville; June 27-St. Johns County; July 2-City of Palm Bay; and **July 5-City of Winter Garden Commission Chambers**) or from an online survey (deadline unknown, but I heard June 12th). Go to <http://www.sjrwm.com/landassessment/> and click on 'online comment form' on the upper right of the page. (The above URL will give you an introduction to the whys and wherefores of this land assessment, rather than take you directly to the form.)

As part of the assessment process, WMD staff is evaluating every acre of property to examine its need for conservation purposes. The evaluation will determine if any properties, or portions of these tracts, should be identified as surplus lands, or if portions of any properties should be considered for alternative uses. Orange Audubon Society urges you to participate in this land assessment; these meetings, and the survey in particular, take the place of the previously scheduled, then cancelled because of airport issues, public input meetings regarding the types of Recreational Activities that the WMD should aim to provide at the Lake Apopka Restoration Area (North Shore). Please let your voices be heard regarding usage of YOUR public lands. *Loretta Satterthwaite*

July 9, 2012 – Bill Belleville on Salvaging the Real Florida

Bill Belleville, author and film producer, will recount his eco-adventures in the backcountry of the Florida Keys, on the Suwannee River, in the swamps of the Wekiva River and in freshwater spring and caves systems. During the program, Bill will read from his latest book "Salvaging" and show nature photos to illustrate. This free program is hosted by the Cuplet Fern Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society on Monday, July 9 at 7:00 p.m., at the Sanford Garden Club, 200 Fairmont, Sanford. Public welcome. Call 407-302-7616 for further information. *Deborah Green, President*

Silent Auction Donor Acknowledgement

by Teresa Williams and Loretta Satterthwaite

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) gratefully acknowledges the donors below who, at press time, have pledged to make contributions for the silent auction on June 21st. Funds generated by the silent auction are designated for OAS' future nature education center. As other donations are received, we hope to be able to update a list on the website: www.orangeaudubonfl.org.

- Albin Polasek Museum, Winter Park – Admission tickets (8)
- Amoruso, Robert & Cynthia – 'Living Waters – Aquatic Preserves of Florida' (DVD) signed by Elam Stoltzfus
- Atlas Screen Printing/Wild Cotton – Nature magnets, mug, t-shirts & tote bag
- Audubon Center for Birds of Prey, Maitland – Behind-the-Scenes tour for 5 people
- Bamboo Trading Company – Matching jewelry sets (5)
- Biosphere native plant nursery, Winter Garden – Gift Certificate for plants or other merchandise
- Blue Heron River Tours – Gift Certificates for 2-adult admissions (2)
- Blume's Bathers [Blumenauer, Suzanne (Susie)] – One-of-a-kind, hand-made 21" ceramic bird bath and stand
- Bok Tower Gardens, Lake Wales – Admission tickets (4)
- Café Tu Tu Tango, Orlando – Gift Cards
- Cady, Margaret – Hand-made table runner
- Colonial Photo & Hobby, Inc., Orlando – Cool merchandise for the cool photo hobbyist
- Darden Restaurants – Gift Cards
- Eo Inn Spa, Orlando – A 1-night stay and couples' massage
- EPCOT International Flower and Garden Festival tote bags (7)
- Garden on Park, Apopka – Box Lunch (or equal value) Gift Certificates (2)
- Gatorland & Mark McHugh, President & CEO – Gift Basket; photographer's passes (2)
- Green Isle Gardens native plant nursery, Groveland – Gift Certificate
- Hart, Barbara – "Birding in the Wetlands" framed painting
- Heiberg, Milton, world renowned photographer – Field Instruction, Merritt Island NWR or Orlando Wetlands Park
- Heiberg, Milton – 3 prints: Bald Eagles, Black-crowned Night Heron, Roseate Spoonbill
- Hounds & Kitties, Maitland – Gift Certificate for healthy pet foods & treats, toys, etc.
- Ivanhoe Village – Gift basket
- Kiss, Sue – Original, first print Wind Song/Genius Drive Nature Preserve notecards
- Lake Apopka Restoration Area guided, driving tours (2) for up to 8 people each; led by SJRWMD's Gian Basili and/or Jim Peterson (TBD)
- Le Coq au Vin casual French restaurant (Y'all) – Gift Cards
- Linn, Mary-Slater – stuffed emu, sleep outfit, serving plate, t-shirts, kids' activity & kids' recipe books, nature notecards, holiday towels
- Morse Museum – General admission tickets (2)
- Motley, Charles – Book: 'Chronicles of Peru's Cloud People'
- Mosquito Creek Outdoors, Apopka – Gift Cards, Tilley Hat (size exchangeable), pair of Costa sunglasses (exchangeable), Picnic Time basket, LED flashlights (2), 'Life is Good' outdoor wear package (1 woman's; 1 man's; each exchangeable), Nikon backpack, 2 Coleman Marine Dry Bags (29 x 13), Columbia PFG 'Ditch Bag' (binocular size)
- O'Connor, Brendan – Original art
- Orlando Wetlands Park – 2012 official festival t-shirt
- Panera Bread – Bread for a Year Certificate

- Richard Poole – Nest boxes made by the Eagle Scout maestro himself (various sizes)
- Richard Poole & Christine Brown – plants for wildlife
- PRP Wine International – Certificate for in-home wine tasting for up to 12 people
- Patricia (Pat) Scheffler – Hand-crocheted baby's afghan
- Screw You Entertainment, Dewey Chaffee and Douglas McGeoch – Funky bird nest box
- Spin City Cycles of Apopka – Gift Certificate
- Starbucks (Park Avenue), Winter Park – A pound of coffee beans
- Stefancic, Joyce – Hand-painted Rain Barrel
- Sun Cleaners – Gift certificate for dry cleaning
- The Mountain – Nature graphics t-shirts and Sun Dress
- Total Wine & More, Orlando – Gift Card
- Walt Disney World – Tickets for the day at any Central Florida Disney theme park (4)
- Watkins, Mistie – Original art
- Weber, William – *Wildflowers of Florida and the Southeast* by David W. Hall and William J. Weber
- Wekiva Island – 4 All-day canoe rentals
- Wild Birds Unlimited, Winter Springs – Merchandise for Nature-lovers
- Winter Park Scenic Boat Tour – Adult tickets to tour 3 canal-linked Winter Park lakes

Restrictions may apply to time and use of gift cards, certificates and/or tours, etc. and Florida sales tax (6½%) will be added where applicable.

Many contributions will be received too late to be listed here, including those of the Make It, Bake It, Grow It type (but please let us know ahead of time if you plan to bring them; see related article on page 1 of this *OASis*). Plan to be surprised by additional items at the event and plan to outbid even your best Audubon buddies! Remember to bring cash or checkbook for speedy checkout (we can accept credit cards, although processing may be slower). Your participation as a solicitor or contributor of donations or bidder or all three is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Wings and Wildflowers!

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) will be participating in the inaugural Wings and Wildflowers Festival, Lake County's Birding Festival, September 28–30. Please mark your calendar for what should be a spectacular birding/environmental event. We will need help on Friday and Saturday with merchandise sales and, because organizers are providing us with a second booth area, we'll also need volunteers for both outreach and kids' nature collage activities. OAS has also been asked for volunteers to lead birding bus (Lake Apopka North Shore) and boat (Lake Dora) tours (details of times, etc. still to be worked out). Hours of the event are: Fri., Sep. 28, 2012 – 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and Sat., Sep. 29, 2012 – 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. I am still trying to find out what happens on Sunday, since the event is scheduled for Friday through Sunday—stay tuned!! Please contact Loretta (407-886-2925 or LNS-OAS@att.net) to volunteer.

The event, held at Hickory Point Park, Tavares, will be presented in close partnership with Lake County Parks & Trails Division, the Florida Scrub-jay Consortium, the Ocklawaha Valley Audubon Society, Trout Lake Nature Preserve, St. John's River Water Management District, the Lake County Water Authority and the Lake Beautyberry Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society. Check details at: www.lakecountyfl.com/gowild.

Loretta Satterthwaite

Florida's Breeding Bird Atlas 2

The Florida Ornithological Society, Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission and USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center are sponsors of FBBA2. Bruce H. Anderson is coordinator for Orange County, and Dexter Richardson is coordinator for Seminole County. They are looking for atlasers to help accumulate and compile data for this and the next five years. If you can tell the difference between a House Sparrow and House Finch, you may want to join them for this very important statewide project. Contact Bruce H. Anderson at scizortail@aol.com, subject: FBBA2, and include your residential address.

May Field Trip Report

Nine people attended the May 19th Orange Audubon Society (OAS) field trip to the Circle B Bar Reserve, jointly owned by Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) and Polk County. This 1,267-acre property will play a key role in the Upper Peace River restoration. Mr. Moulden, our scheduled guide, was unable to walk with us so we were 'on our own'. However, field trip veterans and first-timers pitched in to point out and identify birds, butterflies, reptiles and plants. Highlights included a single American White Pelican, a couple of Swallow-tailed Kites, many Roseate Spoonbills, Black-necked Stilts, Wood Storks, Limpkins, and White and Glossy Ibises. After lunch, six people stayed and did another portion of the trail and added Green Heron, Great Crested Flycatcher and Northern Parula to the list, bringing it up to about 50 species for the trip. That group also watched a soft-shelled turtle laying eggs and a male Pileated Woodpecker feeding grubs to his mate. My thanks to Deborah Green for meeting attendees at the carpool site and for helping to lead the trip. It was a successful trip and a good way to end the season. Thanks to all who participated in the field trips throughout the year; see you in September!

Loretta Satterthwaite

May Limited Edition Field Trip Report

On May 26th, nine birders took advantage of the final Limited Edition Field Trip for the current season. The destination was the Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area and nearby Joe Overstreet Road deep within the wilds of Osceola County. Happily coincidental this region is part of the Kissimmee Basin/Northern Everglades, featured in the program at the May general meeting, the preservation of which has become so important in the long-range plans for Everglades restoration.

The dominant habitat types explored were long-leaf pine flatwoods, dry prairie, oak/palmetto hammocks, ranch land, and lake shore. Fifty-four (54) species of birds were seen, including the endangered Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Swallow-tailed Kite, several fledgling Bald Eagles, Purple Gallinule, Crested Caracara, Red-headed Woodpecker, Eastern Bluebird, Florida Grasshopper Sparrow, Northern Bobwhite and Wild Turkey.

I'd like to thank all who participated in this season's explorations and I hope to see all of you again soon. Enjoy your summer!

Bob Sanders

Wildlife Surveys

- Tosohatchee Wildlife Management Area Butterfly Survey – contact Randy Snyder or Mary Keim at 407-851-5416 or rsnyder11@cfl.rr.com
- Savage Christmas Creek Preserve Bird Survey – contact Randy Snyder or Mary Keim at 407-851-5416 - home or rsnyder11@cfl.rr.com.
- Lake Apopka, North Shore Restoration Area bird surveys – contact Pam Bowen (386-329-4870 or Pbowen@sjrwmd.com) or Jim Peterson (352-735-1267 or JPeterson@sjrwmd.com).
- Ferndale Preserve quarterly bird surveys – contact Gallus Quigley, Jr. at 352-516-8512 or gquigley@lakecountyfl.gov or gallusq@cfl.rr.com.
- Emerald Marsh Conservation Area bird surveys – contact John Stenberg at 386-329-4822 or jstenberg@sjrwmd.com.

Thank You!

Many thanks to all the volunteers who helped make our weekly appearance at the 2012 EPCOT Flower and Garden Show a resounding success. We were able to staff the table for all of the eleven weekends of the event and communicated the Orange Audubon Society message to many people. Eric Draper even stopped by one weekend to chat with Lori Mathis and Brook Rohman, impressive! Everyone's generosity of time was greatly appreciated. Thank you and hopefully we can do it again next year!

Cynthia Gosiewski

May 2012 OAS meeting premiere of *Kissimmee Basin: The Northern Everglades*

Noted filmmaker Elam Stoltzfus was the special guest at the May OAS meeting, where he premiered his new work, *Kissimmee Basin: The Northern Everglades*. Elam is known for his evocative style, and he masterfully captured the wild and quiet beauty of the Kissimmee Basin. The movie led us through the area, with scenes of bird rookeries, cattle ranches, gently swaying cordgrass, and stunning sunrises, sunsets and cloudscapes.

The subject, the Kissimmee Basin, is a special part of our state that is much as it was 100 or so years ago. The Kissimmee River winds and turns through a landscape that is uniquely Florida. It captures amazing scenes of life along the river, white wading birds, gators, panthers, cows, ancient cypress domes and the famed river of grass. His goal in the film, which took 18 months to produce, is to share best practice models, protecting water resources and the preservation of the natural landscape; to bridge the gap between ecosystem services and new political initiatives for the 21st century; to explore the heartland of the Kissimmee Basin; the history of Florida's Cattlemen Ranching traditions and customs and to explore Florida's environmental, economic and cultural heritage.

The packed house was treated to an artful weaving of these diverse yet intertwined topics. After the film, Elam answered questions from the audience. He stated how important it is for conservation groups and private interests to understand that working together for the common goal of preserving the Kissimmee Basin and all of wild Florida is the only hope for any open space and habitat to remain for animals and humans.

The film will be premiering on Florida PBS stations around the third week of June. Be on the lookout for it, it's well worth your time.

Cynthia Amoruso

Boy Scouts Erect Chimney Swift Tower at OWP

A Chimney Swift tower was recently constructed and installed at Orlando Wetlands Park (OWP) by members and leaders of Boy Scout Troop 125. Robert Grieger, an Eagle Scout candidate, and his fellow scouts and troop leaders erected the tower next to the environmental education building at OWP. This was a cooperative project with Orange Audubon Society (OAS) and OWP. The tower has insulation, durable components, predator guards and more. Chimney Swifts in North America are very dependent on man-made chimneys; of course, far fewer are available nowadays than in the past. This tower was designed so that it can be outfitted with a webcam. OAS hopes to find funding for a camera so that, with the newly installed fiber optic cabling at OWP, people can observe the activity in the tower. Keep your fingers crossed that Chimney Swifts will start using the structure. OAS plans to get additional towers built, especially since there will be only one active Chimney Swift nest in any structure regardless of the size of the site.

Bob Stamps

Call for Program Ideas

OAS works on the program for the coming year starting in the spring and finalizing it by July. If you have any ideas for programs please call Loretta Satterthwaite at 407-886-2925 with your suggestions or send them to her at LNS-oas@att.net. Thank you.

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.



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Calendar of Events

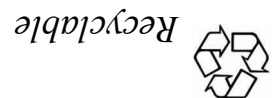
September 20, 2012

**Orange Audubon Society Meeting at 7 p.m. in the
Camellia Room at Harry P. Leu Garden, 1920 North
Forest Avenue, Orlando, FL 32803**

Have a great summer. Get out and enjoy the outdoors, go birding, kayaking, take a nature walk, or any number of summer outdoor activities. Remember to take the kids and get them involved in outdoor activities too. Have fun!

Three places to go in Orange & Brevard Counties great for kids and adults alike:

- Orlando Wetlands Park, Christmas, FL.
(http://www.cityoforlando.net/public_works/wetlands/index.htm)
- Mead Gardens, Winter Park, FL
(<http://www.meadgarden.org/>)
- Barrier Island Sanctuary, 8385 South Hwy A1A
Melbourne Beach, FL 32951.
(<http://www.barrierislandcenter.com/http://www.barrierislandcenter.com/>)



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