



OASis

Orange Audubon Society
A Chapter of National and Florida Audubon Societies



Vol. 48

September 2012

Issue No. 1

Orange Audubon Field Trip – Sept. 22nd Mead Botanical Gardens, Winter Park

Grab your binoculars and join OAS for a great birding field trip on the first day of Autumn. Mead Botanical Gardens is a fall migration hot spot with as many as 23 warbler species reported there in a fall season. This location offers food, water, shelter and a place to rest as birds travel to their wintering homes. Mead Botanical Gardens is located at 1300 South Denning Drive, Winter Park, FL 32789. We will meet in the parking area at 7:45 a.m. near the restrooms straight in on the entrance road. We will leave the parking area at 8:00 a.m., covering the park at a casual birding pace lasting two to three hours. Bring drinks, snacks and water. If you have questions about the trip, call Lori Mathis at 407-579-3795 or email to lopiandjerry@cfl.rr.com.

2-Hour 'Workday' at Genius Drive Nature Preserve

A 2-hour Workday is planned on Sunday, September 30, 9-11 a.m. at the Genius Drive Nature Preserve in Winter Park. 'Workdays' usually entail weeding and mulching in the restored cedar grove near Lake Mizell with volunteers bringing their favorite gardening gloves and tools for the most productive dig.

To volunteer please contact Teresa: 407-644-0796 or mwilliams@cfl.rr.com. Further details provided the week before.

**Where can you get more for \$27?
A Ticket to the Boat Trip on the
St. Johns River!!
See page 3 for more details.**

This Month's Program: Sept. 20th @ 7 p.m. "A Bird Photographer's Story" By Arthur Morris

For our opening program of this 2012–13 Orange Audubon Society season, Arthur Morris will present "A Bird Photographer's Story," a slide-illustrated lecture featuring hundreds of Artie's spectacular images as he shares the story of his life's journey from his childhood in Brooklyn through his 23-year teaching career in New York City, to the realization of his dream of becoming a fulltime professional nature photographer specializing in birds.

As we travel with him to his favorite locations, Artie will be telling us about the birds and other creatures that he photographs and about the equipment and techniques that he uses to create his images. Join us and enjoy this beautiful presentation. He will have a selection of books and CDs available for purchase. To learn more about Arthur Morris visit www.BIRDSASART.com and www.BIRDSASART-blog.com.

Loretta Satterthwaite, Program Chair

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

Notes from OAS President Deborah Green

It is exciting to be part of such a great Audubon chapter. We are large, with over 2000 members. In the Southeast, only Tropical Audubon in Miami-Dade County and Atlanta Audubon Society are larger. Last year 900+ people attended OAS' 10 monthly programs and 4,600+ people attended its 30 field trips.

Considerable time and effort (5250 volunteer hours) was required to plan and deliver these programs, field trips and other fun, educational activities programs for you. OAS' 20-person board of directors did the majority of that work.

We know you love our local environment or you would not be a member. On behalf of our chapter, I must ask you to please help us a little more.

Education and Conservation are our most important missions. If you are a retired teacher or otherwise can present well to children, please volunteer to join our Education Committee. We are trying hard to increase the number of *Audubon Adventures* classrooms that we sponsor and also offer a workshop for teachers on how to best utilize *Audubon Adventures*. We would also like to offer classroom presentations on birds and nature. Contact Dominique Shimizu at 407-287-4078 or email shimizu_wcs@yahoo.com if you are interested in these or other Education efforts. For instance, some chapters have been able to develop Junior Audubon clubs. Perhaps you could help with a project similar to that. We'd also like to engage older youth—high school and college students. Do you have ideas about how we could accomplish that? We need help with all of these projects.

This past year Orange Audubon focused its conservation and education work in three main locations—Lake Apopka, Mead Gardens, and Orlando Wetlands Park. There is still much work to be done to protect and enhance the outdoors experiences at these locations—and many others in Central Florida. Conservation efforts can be exhausting and those on the front lines always need back up. If you can go to a commission meeting (you don't have to speak), particularly if you have availability during the day, or can write a letter to the editor or to an elected official, we need your help. Contact our Conservation Chair Rick Baird at 407-277-3357 or rbaird4@cfl.rr.com.

The more places in Florida I have visited, the more I am conscious that our state's natural areas are finite. These special places near us provide us easy opportunities to get out in nature, and even if we don't visit them, we can know they remain as habitat for plant and animal life. This is worth working for.

Thanks in advance for joining our efforts.

Board Member Needed

Would you like to serve your chapter and be on the Orange Audubon Society Board of Directors? We would love to have you! We have an open position on the Board and need a willing person to help us. There are open committee chair positions for Field Trips and Hospitality. You do not have to be on the Board to chair Hospitality but must be willing to attend program meetings every month. We are also looking for a Board Member to step in as the new Secretary of the society.

Board members serve a three-year term, should be available for monthly Board meetings and must be current Orange Audubon Society members. If you, or a friend, with an interest in OAS would enjoy serving your chapter please contact me at cyngos@aol.com or 407-426-8982 or any of the Board members. Thank you.

Cynthia Gosiewski

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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www.orangeaudubonfl.org

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

St. Johns River Boat Tour Fundraiser – Saturday, October 13, 2012

Spend a leisurely two hours touring the backwaters of the St. Johns River and help Orange Audubon Society at the same time. Gary Randlett, our captain is a knowledgeable naturalist. He will guide us through parts of Florida that civilization forgot—but *you never will!* You will see prolific native wildlife along the way—the original inhabitants who call this home just as they did before the European settlers arrived. Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. **NOTE:** You are **not** fully registered until your payment of \$27/person has been received. Last time this trip filled up fast, so don't hesitate if you want to join the fun. So sign up today on our website www.orangeaudubonfl.org and/or contact Danielle Ponsolle at dponsolle@cfl.rr.com. We need 35 people minimum, so ask your family and friends to come.



You can also buy your tickets (checks or credit cards) at our special table at the September 20 meeting and secure your seat on one of the best guided nature trips in Central Florida. Bring your family, children, grandchildren, and friends and enjoy a wonderful program.

Wheelchair-friendly, handicap accessible.

Central Florida Butterfly Identification Workshop – Saturday, October 13, 2012

Orange Audubon Society is offering a Fall Butterfly Identification Workshop. The 8-hour workshop is on Saturday, Oct. 13, 2012, 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.

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 drinks, lunch and wear comfortable closed-toed shoes (they may get wet). Close-focusing binoculars and a field guide are helpful, if you have them. Recommended field guide is *Butterflies through Binoculars: Florida* by Glassberg, Minno, and Calhoun, 2000, Oxford.

Registration is required. Cost is \$25 for Audubon members; \$40 for non-members; 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 Audubon, Audubon Florida and National 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 (mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or 407-644-0796).

2012 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 or rsnyder11@cfl.rr.com.
- Lake Apopka North Shore Restoration Area Bird Survey - contact Pam Bowen at 386-329-4870 or pbowen@sjrwmd.com.
- Ferndale Preserve Quarterly Bird Survey - contact Gallus Quigley, Jr. at 352-516-8512 or gquigley@lakecountyfl.gov or gallusq@cfl.rr.com.

Time to Start Volunteering Again!!

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) will be participating in the inaugural Wings and Wildflowers Festival, Lake County's Birding Festival, **September 28–30** at Hickory Point Park, Tavares. Please mark your calendar for what should be a spectacular birding/environmental event. OAS needs help on Friday and Saturday with merchandise sales and for outreach and kids' nature collage activities; no vendor booths will be set up on Sunday. 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. We will also need volunteers on Thursday (27th) for tent setup and late Saturday for tear down. We especially need some of you 'retired' folks to come out to help on Friday since many of our 'regular' volunteers will be at their real jobs on that day. Please contact Loretta (407-886-2925 or LNS-OAS@att.net) to volunteer.

The schedule is jam-packed with informational presentations and workshops and there will be lots of field trips each day – Friday, Saturday and Sunday; if you are willing to help lead any field trips, please let me know. Check details at: www.lakecountyfl.com/gowild and join us for some fun and educational activities. The event 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, the Lake Beautyberry Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society and the Florida Wildflower Foundation.

Loretta Satterthwaite

OAS Special Event Photography Workshop – Saturday, November 10, 2012 by Robert Amoruso at Orlando Wetlands Park

Award winning bird and nature photographer Robert Amoruso is presenting an in-the-field and in-the-classroom Photography Workshop as a Special Fundraiser for Orange Audubon Society on November 10, 2013 at Orlando Wetlands Park (OWP) near Christmas, Florida. Robert, a renowned and well respected photographer and teacher is presenting this workshop to complement the OAS's Kit and Sidney Chertok Florida Native Nature Photography Contest. If you've ever wanted to know how to move your images from ordinary to extraordinary, this is the workshop for you. Robert will cover topics such as composition, visual design and dynamics, understanding light and how it affects your photography and more.

The setting at Orlando Wetlands Park provides opportunities for beautiful sunrise images, so the workshop will get underway at 6:00 a.m. After spending time in the field capturing images, the workshop moves to the OWP education center for a question and answer session, and a slide program to emphasize the topics covered in the field, and a session on what constitutes a winning image from a judge's perspective. Participants should have a good working knowledge of digital SLR photography.

Information: Robert Amoruso; ramoruso-oas@att.net or 407-808-7417

Registration: Teresa Williams; 407-644-0796

Cost: \$40 (members); \$50 (non-members)

Class limit: 10 participants. Children aged 12–15 may register, but require parent on site.

Premiere of OASis EXTRA

OASis EXTRA is the new online edition of the *OASis*. Though you have been able to download the *OASis* print version from our website, the new online edition will include all the articles in the mailed print edition plus a lot more. We are still working out the "more" part but I see OAS being able to include member's articles and not just those of us on the Board. And because it will be in *color*, we can now include images too.

The September 2012 edition of *OASis EXTRA* will include a gallery of all the 2012 Chertok Photo Contest winners. Those signed up for the download link will receive links for the print and online versions.

As OAS moves to electronic delivery of the *OASis*, we will be asking members to sign-up for either the online version or the mailed version. By moving to online version, you will help OAS reduce cost and be more environmentally friendly. See the next issue of the *OASis* for more.

Robert Amoruso, OASis Editor

2012 Photo Contest Judges

The panel of judges for Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) 24th Annual Kit and Sidney Chertok Florida Nature Photography Contest included artist Jon Fredlund, naturalist Catherine Bowman and photographer, Robert Amoruso.

Jon Fredlund has been an art professional and art dealer in the area for 24 years; mirroring the timespan of the Chertok contest. He is a birder and a wood carver of realistic birds (with several competition wins, including a world championship). His 'museum quality' Fredlund Gallery, which recently moved to Orange Avenue in Winter Park, displays works by some of Florida's finest wildlife and landscape artists. Visits are welcome in person or online: www.fredlundgallery.com.

Catherine Bowman is an ecologist and field botanist for Lotspeich and Associates, Inc., a private ecological consulting firm in Winter Park. Her work, which involves assessment of natural plant communities for permitting purposes, includes identifying FL endemic, native, naturalized and invasive exotic plants; surveying for rare plants; and monitoring mitigation areas throughout the State. Since 2006 Catherine has served as president of the Tarflower Chapter of the FNPS.

Robert Amoruso, a landscape photographer of 25 years and an avian photographer since 1999, began teaching photography professionally in 2006. He has won numerous photography awards, among them the Birds category of the Nature's Best Windland Smith Photography contest, and Audubon Magazine Photography Awards. Along with Arthur Morris and James Shadle, Robert is a publisher at their nature photography critique website www.birdphotographers.net. Robert's work can be seen on his website: www.wildscapeimages.com. Robert is a certified Florida Master Naturalist and serves as a board member and newsletter editor of OAS.

OAS is deeply grateful to Catherine, Jon and Robert who contributed considerable time and talent to the judging process. Thank you!

Teresa Williams, OASCNPC Chair

2012 Chertok Florida Nature Photo Contest Results

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) sponsored Youth, Amateur and Advanced competition categories in its 2012 (24th Annual) Kit and Sidney Chertok Florida Nature Photography Contest, themed *Florida's Native Nature*. Winners were announced on June 21st at Harry P. Leu Gardens, Orlando, where about 225 members and guests enjoyed an array of hors d'oeuvres, a silent auction and a presentation of all eligible contest entries.

Youth category winners were: 1st and 3rd Place, Megan Authement, St. Petersburg; 2nd Place, Alicia Devine, Orlando; and Honorable Mentions: Alicia Devine, Jack Dunkerton*, Titusville and Sheyenne Lake, Sanford. **Amateur category winners** were: 1st Place, Bob Stalnaker, Longwood; 2nd Place, Jill Rundle, Oviedo; 3rd Place, Janine Edmondson, Apopka; and Honorable Mentions: Yian Chen, Tampa (2); Melissa Gilmer, Valrico; and Jill Rundle, Oviedo. **Advanced category winners** were: 1st Place, Amy Marques*, Port St. Lucie; 2nd Place, Ruth Pannunzio*, West Palm Beach; 3rd Place, Marina Scarr, Tampa; and Honorable Mentions: Nancy Elwood, Winter Springs; Larry Lynch*, Tampa (2); and Paul Rebmann, Ormond Beach.

Images of winners marked with * are on the 2012–2013 OAS brochure. All winning images are on OAS' website: www.orangeaudubonfl.org where 2013 contest information will be available soon. OAS sincerely appreciates all photographers who entered the 2012 contest and we look forward to your participation in 2013.

Teresa Williams, OASCNPC Chair



Orange County Conservation Status Update

The Environmental Streamlining Task Force (ESTF) created by Orange County Mayor Teresa Jacobs last year concluded its work when the Orange County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) accepted the ESTF recommendations on July 10, 2012. The main change will be that the current wetlands classification will be replaced with the more quantitative Uniform Mitigation Assessment Method (UMAM) that will encompass all the criteria previously described by the old class system. The UMAM places a numeric value on the functions of all wetlands proposed for impact. With the old classification even the tiniest impact to a larger wetland was taken before the BCC for a public hearing and smaller wetlands, which may have been wiped out, received no consideration. This often resulted in a public hearing about a wetland impact of less than 0.1 acre. In addition, the first time the public would hear about the proposed impact would be a week or so before the public hearing, long after staff evaluations had been made.

The County has agreed to notify interested parties in advance of all wetland impacts so that a dialogue can be started at the front end of proposed wetland impacts. The issue of who will have “standing” to be able to object to a given impact has yet to be determined. However, if the environmental community follows staff deliberations, I think there will be, at least, the same consideration as currently exists. The Orange County Environmental Protection Division teaches that we all live in a watershed and if we all bear the responsibility to protect our natural resources, it should follow that interested parties, such as Audubon, have the responsibility to speak for those resources, if they are threatened.

Other recommendations of the ESTF to be worked on in the coming months include the development of a comprehensive natural resources ordinance to replace all the current articles of Chapter 15, Orange County Code, and to seek delegation of the State Environmental Resource Permit (ERP) rule. The State is currently developing a statewide ERP rule that will streamline environmental permitting around the state. The current drafts will still allow the various water management districts to keep rules that are unique to their geography and hydrology. The proposed new rules will not only allow special basins’ rules, such as Wekiva and Econlockhatchee, to stand, but also any other local rules that are more protective than the state rules, as long as there is no conflict. Changes are inevitable in our current political climate and we must be part of the change or it will be made without us.

Rick Baird, Conservation Chair

Fiscal Year 2012 in Review

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) ended fiscal year 2012 with an increase in net assets of \$4,466, which consisted of net income from regular operations of \$7,566, minus unrealized losses on long-term investments of \$3,100 (compared to unrealized gains of \$10,176 last year). A Silent Auction during the June 2012 Chertok program generated \$3,298, with proceeds designated for a future nature education center. Expenditures for the year of \$24,794 included \$6,600+ for printing and mailing costs for ten monthly OASis newsletters, the biggest single expense item in OAS’ annual budget, and growing.

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, by phone: 407-644-0796 or e-mail: mwilliams@cfl.rr.com.



Fall Bird Walks at Mead Gardens

The Orange Audubon Society bird walks at Mead Botanical Garden in Winter Park will take place on five Saturdays this year, due to a Cub Scout activity in the park on the weekend of October 5 and 6. The walks will be on September 22 and 29 and October 13, 20 and 27. This is one of OAS' outreach programs designed to introduce more people to birding and to show the unique "urban wilderness" of Mead Botanical Garden. The walks are free of charge and open to the public.

Mead Botanical Garden is one of the best fall migration traps in Central Florida with as many as 23 warblers species identified there in the fall seasons. The park is located at the intersection of South Denning Drive and Garden Drive, which is two blocks east of Orlando Avenue (Hwy 17-92).

The walks will begin at 8:00 AM and be 2 to 3 hours in length, at a very leisurely pace. The guides, Dexter Richardson, John Thornton and Bob Sanders, are some of the most experienced birders in this area.

Loaner binoculars, which were donated to OAS by Mosquito Creek Outdoors of Apopka, will be available to anyone needing them. If you need to use loaner binoculars, please arrive a little early to sign them out and be shown how to adjust them to your eyes. *Dick Smith, OAS-Mead Liaison, 407-257-7361*

Fall 2012 Beginners' Bird Watching Class Offered

Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) very own Bob Sanders will teach a Beginner's Bird Watching Class (BBWC) this fall. Bob originated OAS' popular 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.

The class is intended to teach or enhance skills in naming bird species using sight, sound, behavior and other clues. The course includes a classroom session October 20th at Orlando Wetlands Park (with mini-field trip in the park) and 2 field sessions on October 27th and November 3rd; 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; discuss birding ethics; and provide binocular basics (OAS 'loaner' binoculars available during class) and tips on using field guides and checklists.

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 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 Florida (\$20 promotional rate). Such new memberships *must be paid directly to OAS* as described to you when you reserve your space by contacting Teresa: mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or 407-644-0796. For questions about the class, contact Bob: 407-454-0542.

Audubon Assembly 2012 – Conserve Water to Sustain Life – Sarasota, October 26-27

It's that time of year again! The **2012 Audubon Assembly** will be held in beautiful Sarasota on Friday and Saturday, October 26–27 at Hyatt Regency Sarasota on Sarasota Bay. You are invited to attend our yearly gathering where you will have the opportunity to connect with like-minded individuals at Florida's premiere conservation event. Book by September 25 to reserve the group rate.

The Assembly theme this year is **Conserve Water to Sustain Life**. One thing is certain; Florida's most precious resource is under threat. The 2012 Audubon Assembly is your chance to learn how you can make a difference in Florida's future. This year's keynote speaker is Cynthia Barnett, Author of *Mirage* and *Blue Revolution*.

For more information or to purchase tickets, please visit: <http://fl.audubon.org/audubon-assembly-2012>. Contact Jonathan Webber at 850-222-2473 or jwebber@audubon.org with any questions.

**Orange Audubon Society
Board of Directors 2012-2013**

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Dominique Shimizu (13) 407-287-4078

Randy Snyder (14) 407-851-5416

Bob Stamps (15) 407-886-2925

Calendar of Events

OAS EVENTS

September Field Trip to Mead Garden in Winter Park, FL; Sept. 22nd. 407-579-3795. See Page 1.

OAS' Butterfly Identification - Oct. 13th. Cost is \$25 for OAS members, \$40 for non-members and \$10 for 12 & under with registered adult. For trip information call Randy Snyder & Mary Keim at 407-851-5416. For trip reservations call Teresa Williams at 407-644-0796.

OAS' Beginner's Bird Identification - Oct. 20 & 27; Nov. 3rd. Cost is \$30 for OAS members, \$45 for non-members and \$10 for 12 & under with registered adult. For trip information call Bob Sanders at 407-454-0542. For trip reservations call Teresa Williams at 407-644-0796.

Limited Edition Field Trip to Merritt Island NWR, Oct. 21st. For trip reservations call Bob Sanders at 407-454-0542.

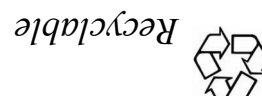
OAS & SPECIAL EVENTS

Wings and Wildflowers Festival, Lake County's Birding Festival, September 28-30 at Hickory Point Park, Tavares. OAS needs volunteers for this event. See page 4 for more details on how to help.

OAS Fundraising Boat Tour, Oct. 13th. See page 3 for more details. dponsolle@cfl.rr.com

Audubon Assembly 2012, Sarasota, FL on October 26-27. See page 3 for more details. jwebber@audubon.org

OAS' Photography Workshop, Nov. 10th. Cost is \$40 for OAS members, \$50. Children 12-15 may register, but require adult on site. For trip information call Robert Amoruso at 407-8087417. For trip reservations call Teresa Williams at 407-644-0796.



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