



# OASis

Orange Audubon Society  
A Chapter of National and Florida Audubon Societies



Vol. 48

October 2012

Issue No. 2

## **Orange Audubon Field Trip – Oct. 20<sup>th</sup> Orlando Wetlands Park, Christmas, FL**

Since 1987, Orlando Wetlands Park has attracted birds and birders. Its wetlands provide food and cover for over 150 avian species. The berms provide excellent views of wading birds and waterfowl. The un-intercepted skies provide aerial views of numerous raptor species. The mixed wood, understory, and ground cover of the perimeter of the park contain permanent residents and migratory passerines.

We will meet in the parking lot at 7:30 a.m. and will plan on birding for several hours. Please bring drinks, sunscreen, binoculars, cameras and a snack. Orlando Wetlands is located at 25155 Wheeler Road, Christmas, Florida 32709. If you have questions about the trip, please contact Lori Mathis at 407-579-3795 or email at [lopiandjerry@cfl.rr.com](mailto:lopiandjerry@cfl.rr.com).

## **Limited Edition Field Trip - Sunday Oct. 21<sup>st</sup> Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge**

Migrant raptors and songbirds; native waders and water birds; plus a whole lot more await you on this field trip to Merritt Island NWR near Titusville, FL.

This trip is limited to 15 people and has a cost of \$10 per person per trip for members and \$15 per person for non-members. Reservations are required and will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis the week prior to the trip. For trip questions or reservations call Bob Sanders at 407-454-0542.

**Are you migrating?** If you move, take the OASis with you! To update your email or street address, contact Mike Daley: [miked129e@gmail.com](mailto:miked129e@gmail.com).

## **This Month's Program: Oct. 18<sup>th</sup> @ 7 p.m.**

### **Lake Apopka: A Wildlife Magnet and Economic Growth Center—Past, Restoration & Future**

Kay Cappleman, Director of the Winter Garden Heritage Foundation, and Mona Phipps, Director of the Oakland Nature Preserve, will give a presentation on the historic impact of the lake, its current status, the proposed Lake Apopka Loop, recent events threatening the north shore wildlife preserve, and the future of the lake as an outdoor recreation and eco-tourist destination.

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) has long had an interest in Lake Apopka and its restoration, as well as its potential as a location for our own environmental/nature education center. Join us for this program and see why we still think it's a good idea to pursue this endeavor.

*Loretta Satterthwaite, Program Chair*

## **Get this one-time only deal of \$15.**

### **A Ticket to the Boat Trip on the St. Johns River!!**

**See page 2 for more details.**

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

## Special OAS Fundraising Event: A Boat Ride Through Old Florida Saturday, October 13, 2012

Spend a leisurely afternoon touring the backwaters of the St. Johns River and help Orange Audubon Society (OAS) 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.

The registration is on a first-come, first-serve basis. You are registered once your payment has been received—for only \$15/person. (This is a one-time only deal.)

Historically, this trip fills up fast, so sign up today on-line at our web site [www.orangeaudubonfl.org](http://www.orangeaudubonfl.org) and/or contact Danielle Ponsolle at [dponsolle@cfl.rr.com](mailto:dponsolle@cfl.rr.com). **Wheelchair-friendly, handicap accessible.**



### Help the Cause!

We continue our appeal for an additional Board member. If you would like to get more involved in the organization by serving on the Board of Directors and actively participate in our monthly meetings, please let us know.

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](mailto: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](http://www.orangeaudubonfl.org)

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

## 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](mailto: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](http://www.orangeaudubonfl.org) for a membership application. The workshop is limited to 16 students. To reserve a space, contact Teresa ([mwilliams@cfl.rr.com](mailto:mwilliams@cfl.rr.com) or 407-644-0796).

## Orange Audubon Society's Overnight Field Trip BIRDING IN SARASOTA—JAN 11–12, 2013—THE CELERY FIELDS

Birders have flocked to this wildlife preserve just east of I-75 and south of Fruitville Road for years. Sarasota County bought the farmland in 1992 as part of a wetlands project and in 2011, reshaped the park for recreational use. Shell trails wrap around Observation Hill, where walkers, joggers and bikers enjoy climbing the trails to the top of the 75-foot mound in addition to 300 acres of varied terrain.

According to the Sarasota Audubon, the location of the site, the large number of diverse bird species, and its public ownership by Sarasota County make the Celery Fields an ideal location for wildlife watching. The 300+ acre site is also the County's primary storm water collection zone. Wetlands restoration of 100 acres is now complete at the Celery Fields. More than 20,000 aquatic plants and trees have been planted, and two boardwalks have been installed.

Sarasota Audubon plans to build a nature center to highlight the open marshlands, deep ponds, shallow pools and canals. The Celery Fields are roughly divided into three segments East of I-75, South of Fruitville Road to Palmer Blvd. and Porter Road. Bird surveys at the Fields since 2001 have recorded 216 species. The Fields also host breeding birds. Least Terns breed on nearby buildings and use the ponds as a primary food source. Rarities show up from time to time, including Upland and White-rumped Sandpipers, Short-eared Owl and Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow. We are working on having a guide available to show us the "best" spots. Participants should register for the field trip by contacting Teresa ([mwilliams@cfl.rr.com](mailto:mwilliams@cfl.rr.com) or 407-646-2611). There is a field trip fee of \$10 per person/Audubon members and \$15 per person/non-Audubon members payable to Orange Audubon Society. Participants should make their own hotel reservations.

There are a lot of places to stay overnight and the closest to the Fields is: AmericInn Sarasota Hotel, 5931 Fruitville Rd., Sarasota, 34232 ([SARASOTA.FL@AMERICINN.COM](mailto:SARASOTA.FL@AMERICINN.COM) or 941-342-8778).



## 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, 2012 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.

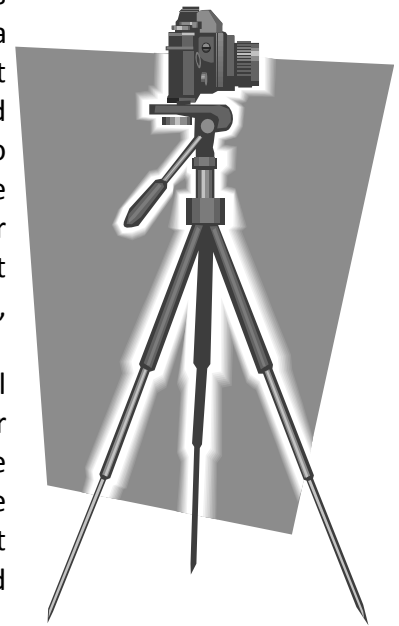
The in-the-field portion of the workshop is hands-on, so bring your photography equipment. The indoor sessions does not require a computer and the presentations will be given to you on a CD.

Information: Robert Amoruso; [ramoruso-oas@att.net](mailto:ramoruso-oas@att.net) or 407-808-7417

Registration: Teresa Williams; [mwilliams@cfl.rr.com](mailto:mwilliams@cfl.rr.com) or 407-644-0796

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

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



### OAS' Silver Anniversary Nature Photo Contest

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) announces its 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Kit & Sidney Chertok Florida Native Nature Photography Contest. There are three divisions: Novice—for new and less experienced photographers; Advanced—for experienced nature photographers; and Youth—for participants age 17 and younger.

The theme for all categories, *Florida's Creatures and Features*, allows participants to explore and photograph Florida's amazing native creatures (animals) and features (plants, landscapes and habitats). In this Florida native nature contest, images cannot show humans, human-made structures or artifacts, or discernible non-native (to Florida) fauna and/or flora, which is 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 16, 2013. Images may also be entered by the **optional early deadline** of April 18, 2013 (*received by date*) for a free prescreening and the opportunity for early-bird participants to replace ineligible images free, subject to the contest's final deadline and all other rules.

Official application forms containing complete contest rules and regulations and further division clarification are available at future OAS meetings and/or Colonial Photo and Hobby, 634 N. Mills Avenue, Orlando, FL, or by downloading and printing the 2013 form (\*.pdf file) from OAS' website: [www.orangeaudubonfl.org](http://www.orangeaudubonfl.org) using free Adobe Acrobat Reader. For additional information, contact: 407-644-0796 or [mwilliams@cfl.rr.com](mailto:mwilliams@cfl.rr.com).

*Teresa Williams, OASCNPC Chair*

## IT'S FIESTA TIME!! — PLEASE HELP

Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) annual participation in the Lake Eola Fiesta in the Park Arts and Crafts Festival is on Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, with set-up on Friday evening Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup> starting at approximately 5:00 PM. Friday preparations will consist of helping to set up the tent, tables, etc. Saturday and Sunday (8:00–6:00 each day) mainly consists of setting up and taking down of merchandise and, the fun part—helping to sell merchandise and talking to people about OAS. Usually, it is easiest to stay for 3–4 hours, but if you only have two hours to volunteer, please do so. We need 3 or 4 people each day just for sales activities. Volunteer early for your best choice of day and time. With enough volunteers, or volunteers who *only* wish to work with children, OAS could offer its kids' art table; however, unless we have enough volunteers, we won't be able to offer this fun, free and popular children's activity.

This is OAS' biggest public outreach event and we *really* do need your help. Please contact us to volunteer or if you have questions [[LNS-oas@att.net](mailto:LNS-oas@att.net) or 407-886-2925; [mwilliam@cfl.rr.com](mailto:mwilliam@cfl.rr.com) or 407-644-0796 (eve.)]. Please call soon and then mark your calendar and commit to help OAS meet its financial goals and reach out for new members. Thanks.

*Loretta Satterthwaite and Teresa Williams*

## Holiday Shopping Opportunity at OAS' November Meeting

Save some of your holiday shopping for November 15<sup>th</sup> when Orange Audubon Society will offer **nature-oriented merchandise** (adult and youth t-shirts, nest boxes, tote bags, signs, mugs and books) for your holiday shopping needs at our meeting at Harry P. Leu Gardens. If you wish to purchase items, please try to arrive about 6:30 so you don't miss any of the exciting Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings program. If you can help at our merchandise tables, especially during the board meeting before the program, please contact Loretta [[LNS-OAS@att.net](mailto:LNS-OAS@att.net) or 407-886-2925] or Teresa [[mwilliam@cfl.rr.com](mailto:mwilliam@cfl.rr.com) or 407-644-0796 (eve.)] to volunteer.

If you can't wait until the 15<sup>th</sup> to do your nature-shopping, come to OAS' sales booth at Lake Eola on Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> (see article above).

*Loretta Satterthwaite and Teresa Williams*

## Genius Drive Nature Preserve Survey-Field Trip

Reservations are required for a guided field trip to the 48± acre Genius Drive Nature Preserve in Winter Park on November 11<sup>th</sup> from 8 a.m.-Noon. This walking field trip will be concurrent with the regular monthly survey led by preeminent birder, Bruce Anderson. The field trip is FREE.

Surveys began in September 2007 and to date, 170 different species (32 breeding) have been documented including the first Florida sighting of a Townsend's Solitaire in March 2008. The Preserve has remained largely undeveloped since its purchase in 1921 by Charles Hosmer Morse, for whom the Morse Museum in Winter Park is named.

You must be a current OAS member or Preserve workday volunteer to attend and trips are limited to 20 people. Details provided when you register by contacting Teresa ([mwilliams@cfl.rr.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:rsnyder11@cfl.rr.com).
- Lake Apopka North Shore Restoration Area Bird Survey - contact Pam Bowen at 386-329-4870 or [pbowen@sjrwmd.com](mailto:pbowen@sjrwmd.com).
- Ferndale Preserve Quarterly Bird Survey - 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).
- Emerald Marsh Conservation Area Bird Survey - contact John Stenberg at 386-329-4822 or [jstenberg@sjrwmd.com](mailto:jstenberg@sjrwmd.com).



## Fall Bird Walks at Mead Gardens - TIME CHANGE FROM LAST MONTH

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 October 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. 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 9:00 a.m. (**NOTE THE TIME CHANGE**) 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 20<sup>th</sup> at Orlando Wetlands Park (with mini-field trip in the park) and 2 field sessions on October 27<sup>th</sup> and November 3<sup>rd</sup>; all sessions are 8:30 a.m. to 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](mailto: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, 2012

*It's that time of year again!* The **2012 Audubon Assembly** will be held in beautiful Sarasota on Friday and Saturday, October 26–27, 2012 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.

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](mailto:jwebber@audubon.org) with any questions.



# FLORIDA'S Water & Land Legacy

## Help Protect and Preserve Florida's Wildlife and Wildlands

The **Florida Water and Land Legacy Campaign**, with Audubon Florida as one of its founding organizations, is an effort to get a dedicated source of funds to protect Florida's environment. Orange Audubon Society (OAS) is one of the many organizations that have already endorsed this ballot initiative to have 33% of net revenues from the existing excise tax on documents go into the Land Acquisition Trust Fund "to acquire, restore, improve, and manage conservation lands". The language in the amendment prohibits the legislature from raiding this trust fund for other purposes.

There are many ways you can help get this constitutional amendment on the ballot in 2014. **Volunteer** to gather signatures on petitions—contact any OAS board member or go on-line to link listed below. Since about 700,000 signatures from registered voters will be needed to get the amendment on the ballot, we need your help. **Donate** money to help with printing and signature collection costs. If you are a member of other organizations besides Audubon, have them **endorse** the Florida's Water and Land Conservation Amendment. **Spread the word** by talking to your neighbors and contacting your social media friends. For more information go to <http://floridawaterlandlegacy.org> or contact Bob Stamps ([rhs-oas@att.net](mailto:rhs-oas@att.net)).

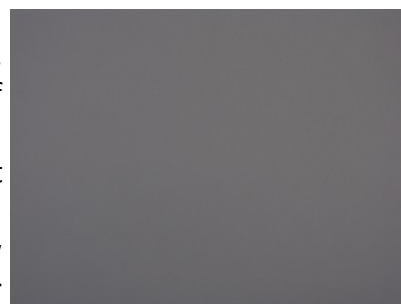
## Photography Workshop 101 - Exposure

In conjunction with our Photography Workshop at the Orlando Wetlands Park November 10<sup>th</sup> and the OAS Chertok Native Nature Photography Contest (see page 4 for articles on both), this is the first in an on-going series of helpful how-to articles to better your nature photography.

No doubt exposure gives most photographers the most problems. However that does not need to be the case given a simple understanding of what your camera is doing. And that fact is your camera's meter is calibrated to average your exposure to Middle Gray (a.k.a. 18% gray). The image at right is an approximate rendering of middle gray.

Envision a Roseate Spoonbill standing in water like the two images below (converted to B&W for reproduction purposes). Same subject and similar lighting. What is the difference? The BACKGROUND.

The one on the left is posed against a dark background (mangrove reflection) and on the right a bright background (pre-dawn water reflecting a bright white sky). If you exposed these two images without any exposure correction, the one on the left would have a brighter background and over-exposed whites in the spoonbill and the one on the right under-exposed to a mid-tone gray. The reason is the camera's meter wants to make the image middle gray. Your exposure correction for the left image is -1 stop and the right image +2 or more stops.



The lesson here is that unless your subject is large in the frame, your background controls your exposure. This subject and more will be covered in my November 10th workshop. *Robert Amoruso*

**Orange Audubon Society  
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Randy Snyder (14) 407-851-5416

Bob Stamps (15) 407-886-2925

**Calendar of Events**

**OAS EVENTS**

**OAS' Butterfly Identification - Oct. 13<sup>th</sup>.** 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. See Page 3.

**OAS' Beginner's Bird Identification - Oct. 20<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>; Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>.** 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. See Page 6.

**Limited Edition Field Trip to Merritt Island NWR, Oct. 21<sup>st</sup>.** For trip reservations call Bob Sanders at 407-454-0542. See Page 1.

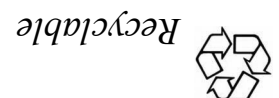
**OAS & SPECIAL EVENTS**

**OAS Fundraising Boat Tour, Oct. 13<sup>th</sup>.** See page 3 for more details. [dponsolle@cfl.rr.com](mailto:dponsolle@cfl.rr.com)

**Audubon Assembly 2012, Sarasota, FL on October 26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>.** See page 3 for more details. [jwebber@audubon.org](mailto:jwebber@audubon.org)

**OAS' Photography Workshop, Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>.** 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. See Page 4.

**Lake Eola Fiesta in the Park, Nov 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>.** 407-644-0796. See page 5 for more details.



Current Resident or

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Orlando, FL  
PERMIT NO. 790

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