



OASis



Orange Audubon Society
A Chapter of National and Florida Audubon Societies

Vol. 48

November 2012

Issue No. 3

Orange Audubon Field Trip – Nov. 17th Lake Louisa State Park, Clermont, FL

Orange Audubon travels west to Lake Louisa State Park for our November field trip. On Saturday, November 17th at 8:15 we meet in the parking lot at Hammond Lake (near the campground). From there, birders will hike along a small wetland and circle a lake. Birds of interest include warblers, sparrows, raptors, and winter visitors to an abandoned citrus grove.

Please plan on walking about two miles followed by a lakeside picnic. On their own, participants can enjoy the lakes and bicycle the hills afterwards. A short drive from Orlando, this park is noted for its beautiful lakes, rolling hills and scenic landscapes. Lake Louisa, the largest in a chain of 13 lakes, is designated an Outstanding Florida Water. For more information, please call John Cento at 407-913-2417. I will be happy to answer your questions.

Limited Edition Field Trip – Saturday, Nov 24th Smyrna Dunes Park

Coastal species of birds such as gulls, tern, loons and shorebirds—including the endangered Piping Plover—are the objectives of this field trip to Smyrna Dunes Park near New Smyrna Beach.

This trip is limited to 15 people and costs \$10 per person 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.

This Month's Program: Nov. 15th @ 7 p.m.

***The Life and Times of Marjorie Rawlings* A One-Woman Show by Karen De Vos**

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) presents "Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings, Pulitzer Prize winning author of *The Yearling*". Actually, Karen DeVos, a retired teacher and school librarian, transforms herself into Rawlings and discusses the author's colorful Florida "Cracker" characters and more. Join us at Leu Gardens for this one-woman show; you won't be sorry you did! Reminder: arrival at 6:30 will allow you time to explore OAS' nature merchandise tables and purchase holiday gifts for all ages. *Loretta Satterthwaite, Program Chair*

October Limited Edition Field Trip Report

On October 21st, twelve birders and I enjoyed spectacular weather as we explored Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge near Titusville. Sixty-eight (68) species were seen. Areas covered were West Gator Creek, Bio Lab Road, Scrub Ridge Trail and Black Point Wildlife Drive. Highlights were: Wilson's Phalarope, American Avocet, Red Knot, Reddish Egret, Peregrine Falcon and Florida Scrub-Jay. Many thanks to all who attended. *Bob Sanders*

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

Orange Audubon receives 2012 Chapter of the Year award at Audubon Assembly

Orange Audubon Society was honored at Audubon Assembly as 2012's Chapter of the Year out of the 44 Audubon chapters in the state. The diversity of our conservation and education efforts were the basic criteria for the award. We were also recognized for the 2012 Best Membership Recruitment Program, which included the way we bring in members through our Chertok Photo Contest and through our field trips and classes. Orange Audubon has previously received Chapter of the Year honors in 1987 and Best Chapter Conservation Project Award in 2005. Many chapters do excellent work in the state, and we are thrilled to have been recognized again after so many years. Thanks to all for contributing and making Orange Audubon Society such a strong chapter! Please keep up the good work!!



Sarasota Audubon, host chapter for this year's Assembly, also hosted field trips including to the Celery Fields. This 300+ acre site, formerly an agricultural area, is Sarasota County's primary storm water collection zone and now a popular birding destination. Orange Audubon will be visiting the Celery Fields on an overnight trip, January 11–12, 2013. The ducks will be in by that time. See October's *OASis* and this issue on Page 3 for more details.

The 2012 Assembly's theme was *Conserve Water to Sustain Life* and keynote speaker Cynthia Barnett spoke about Creating a Water Ethic. Our own Teresa Williams and Bob Stamps were presenters at the packed-room "Creating a water-friendly habitat with native plants" workshop, which Bob also moderated.

It is exciting to learn what other chapters are doing and members are encouraged to attend Assembly next year. Audubon Academy, which is the second time each year that the chapters come together, will be in Mount Dora, and Orange Audubon is one of the host chapters. Please put April 12–14 in your calendar, as you will want to attend and we can use your help.

*Deborah Green, Chapter President and
Loretta Satterthwaite, 2nd Vice President*

Shop with OAS and Help us Make Our Budget

Do your holiday shopping at Orange Audubon Society's November 15th meeting. Our very popular **nature-oriented merchandise** (adult and youth t-shirts, nest boxes, tote bags, signs, mugs and books) will be available at our meeting at Harry P. Leu Gardens (cash or check for quick check-out; PayPal for credit cards is available). 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 arrive early and help at our merchandise tables, please contact Loretta [LNS-OAS@att.net or 407-886-2925] or Teresa [mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or 407-644-0796 (eve.)] to volunteer. Thanks.

Loretta Satterthwaite and Teresa Williams

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.

December “Orange Audubon Society’s Holiday Fun”

The plan for the Orange Audubon Society (OAS) December meeting is to have a relaxing social evening of fun including a potluck of holiday finger foods and two short (about 30 minutes each) photo programs.

Our first program will be a photo contest of “*What I Would Have Entered*” featuring Florida’s Creatures and Features by OAS Board and Chertok committee members who are ineligible to enter OAS’ Kit and Sidney Chertok Florida Native Nature Photography Contest. Entries for this photo program will follow all the rules of this year’s 25th annual Chertok Nature Photography Contest. OAS December meeting attendees will select the best of these photos. This is your chance to act as a judge and choose what *you* think is the best photo!

For our second program, OAS members are invited to share 5–10 photos of a ‘Special Place’ to them. Images submitted in advance of the meeting will be combined into a slide show and submitters, if they wish, will present their portion of the show. Photographer credits will be included in the ‘Special Places’ program. The Deadline for submitting photos to me (LNS-oas@att.net) for the ‘Special Places’ program (up to 10 per person) is **Sunday, December 2nd**.

If you have suggestions regarding other inclusions that might make this evening a nice, relaxing social get together (i.e. music, etc.), please relay that information to me (LNS-oas@att.net or 407-886-2925). Help us make this a special evening for all. Thanks.

Loretta Satterthwaite, Program Chair

New Additions at Mead Garden

We have some new additions at Mead Garden, and I don't mean the amphitheater. Wild Birds Unlimited, 5687 Red Bug Lake Rd, Winter Springs, has donated two seed feeders, one hummingbird feeder, a stand for the seed feeders, two different types of bird seed and a container of liquid hummingbird food. The “Mayor of Mead Garden”, Marcus Sharpe, has obtained a second stand, so that the feeders could be separated.

Marcus has placed the hummingbird feeder in the center of the butterfly garden where we see hummingbirds every year. The seed feeders have been placed about fifty feet away over near the area where we had the Clay-colored Sparrow approximately two weeks ago. This will separate the types of birds and cause less conflict. Both feeders are very visible from the two benches so that one can sit, relax and wait for the birds to show themselves.

So the next time you are in Mead, come by to sit and relax, and enjoy the birds. And, while you are at it, thank the “Mayor” for putting them up and keeping them filled. BTW, if you would like to make contribution for bird seed, an account has been established at Wild Birds Unlimited to receive donations for bird seed for Mead. You can send the store a check (indicate Mead Bird Seed Account in the note section) or simply make a contribution the next time you are in the store. Bird seed can get expensive over the course of the winter.

And, of course, the next time you are in Wild Birds Unlimited, please thank Alan and Janey Jahner for their generosity. See the Wild Birds Unlimited website at www.wintersprings.wbu.com for location.

Dick Smith, OAS-Mead Liaison

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. Participants should register for the field trip by contacting Teresa (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. See October *OASis* for extended details.

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 or 941-342-8778).

2012–2013 Budget

Orange Audubon Society's board of directors approved the 2012–2013 budget (shown at right), which is consistent with OAS' strategic financial goals of achieving a balanced budget and increasing restricted funds for a nature education center. This budget anticipates increased spending to provide 30 *Audubon Adventures* classroom kits to certain central Florida schools—resources that will introduce teachers and approximately 1,400 students from K–8th grades to nature in positive ways. Tell us if you know a business that may wish to sponsor *Audubon Adventures* for just \$45.95 per classroom: 407-644-0796 or mwilliams@cfl.rr.com.

The budget also includes increased spending to accommodate growing newsletter costs—about \$7,500 this year. You can help to reduce these costs by receiving your OASis newsletter electronically. Simply contact Mike Daley: miked129e@gmail.com, provide your email address and ask to Go Green.

Requests for additional financial information should be directed to Teresa Williams, Treasurer: 407-644-0796 or mwilliams@cfl.rr.com.

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.
- Emerald Marsh Conservation Area Bird Survey - contact John Stenberg at 386-329-4822 or jstenberg@sjrwmd.com.
- The 113th Christmas Bird Count will take place from December 14, 2012 through January 5, 2013. Beginning in mid November you can check "Find a Count near you" at National Audubon's CBT webpage (link below) on the right-hand side of that page to get involved. Go to birds.audubon.org/christmas-bird-count for more information. The December issue of the OASis will have full information on local CBT surveys.

Orange Audubon Society Budget for the Year Ending June 30, 2013

Income:	
Contributions	\$ 10,310
Fund raising/outreach events	5,500
Investment earnings (realized and unrealized, net)	1,400
Membership dues	3,745
Educational classes and programs	4,255
Other fund raising	3,485
Total income	<u>28,695</u>
Expenditures:	
Conservation	1,225
Education programs	7,415
Fund raising/outreach events	3,500
Newsletters and annual brochure	9,915
Insurance	2,900
Office and general and website	1,560
Other fund raising	1,180
Sanctuary maintenance	1,000
Total expenditures	<u>28,695</u>
Change in net assets (see analysis)	<u>\$ -</u>

Analysis of Change in Net Assets by Fund Type

	-	-	-
Increases:			
CNPC endowed/restricted funds	\$	1,000	
Education restricted funds		120	
Nature education center restricted funds		2,500	
Decreases:			
Holiday Highlands restricted funds		(1,000)	
Unrestricted funds		(2,620)	
Change in net assets	<u>\$</u>	<u>-</u>	

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 11th 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.

In just six years, surveyors have documented 172 bird species on the Preserve, which is also rich in 19th century history. 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 or 407-644-0796).

2-Hour 'Workday' at Genius Drive Nature Preserve

A 2-hour Workday is planned on Sunday, December 6, 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. Contact Teresa: 407-644-0796 or mwilliams@cfl.rr.com to volunteer. Further details provided the week before.

Help Protect and Preserve Florida's Wildlife and Wildlands

The **Florida Water and Land Legacy Campaign** 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.

I will be gathering signatures on these petitions at our OAS meetings so before you come to the meeting, please check to see how your name is listed on your voter registration card. Your name on the petition must be exactly as it appears on your card. Please do not sign more than one petition during this campaign, but please do sign it once!

For more information on this amendment or to volunteer for the campaign, visit <http://floridawaterlandlegacy.org>. Thanks.

Loretta Satterthwaite, 2nd Vice President

5% Day Benefitting Orange Audubon Society at Ethos Vegan Kitchen

Have you driven on Fairbanks Avenue in Winter Park and noticed a restaurant named Ethos Vegan Kitchen open at the corner of New York Avenue? If you have, and wondered what it's all about, your chance to find out and support Orange Audubon Society is on January 19th. Of course, you absolutely should stop by before if you love delicious, healthful home cooking that just happens to be 100% vegan. But January 19th is special because on that day, Orange Audubon Society will benefit from Ethos Vegan Kitchen's generous 5% Day. The restaurant prides itself on being a socially responsible and environmentally aware business. One of the ways they enact this belief is to share 5% of their profits on a selected Saturday with a local environmental, humane or other non-profit group.

Orange Audubon Society applied and was selected, and now you can enjoy a delicious meal at Ethos and contribute to us at the same time. Ethos is a locally owned business, and tries to use regionally grown produce, organic foods, biodegradable take out packaging and cleaning products, and even ensure that employee uniform shirts are made in the USA. However, the real attraction is the food. Their vegan meals are simply delicious, their menu choices appeal to vegans and non-vegans, and they are consistently rated as the top vegan restaurant in Orlando. To check out the menu and learn more about Ethos prior to the 5% day, visit this link: <http://www.ethosvegankitchen.com/index.html>. Mark the date on your calendar and support Orange Audubon January 19th.



**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

Field Trip to Lake Louisa State Park in Clermont, FL, Nov. 17th. For more information, please call John Cento at 407-913-2417. I will be happy to answer your questions. See Page 1.

Limited Edition Field Trip to Smyrna Dunes Park, Nov 24th.

For trip questions or reservations call Bob Sanders at 407-454-0542. See Page 1.

Overnight Field Trip to The Celery Fields, Sarasota, January 11–12, 2013. See Page 3 for more details.

Chertok Nature Photography Contest - Final Submission

Deadline: May 16, 2013

Optional Pre-screening

Deadline: Apr 18, 2013.

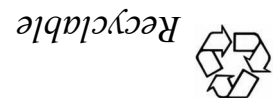
Replace entries disqualified at pre-screening FREE by May 16 deadline. Awards: June 20, 2013—407-644-0796

OAS & SPECIAL EVENTS

BIRDS OF PREY IDENTIFICATION

These field trips are designed to further the appreciation of raptors and to enhance a birder's ability to identify them using a holistic approach. Leader: Bob Sanders—407-454-0542, Cost: \$5 (members); \$10 (non-members). No early registration required. Location: Lake Apopka Restoration Area, Apopka, Lust Rd. Entrance. Dates: Sunday, Dec 9, 2012 & Saturday Feb 9, 2013, Time: 7:30 AM–1:00 PM

**Orange Audubon Society – 5% profit day
Ethos Vegan Kitchen,
Winter Park
Jan 19, 2013 407-808-7411.
See Page 6.**



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NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
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