



OASis



Orange Audubon Society
A Chapter of National and Florida Audubon Societies

Vol. 48

December 2012

Issue No. 4

This Month's Program: Dec. 20th @ 7 p.m.
Orange Audubon Society's Holiday Fun

Join Orange Audubon Society (OAS) at our December meeting to have a relaxing social evening of food, photos and fun.

We'll start the program with a photo contest of "What I Would Have Entered" by OAS Board and Chertok committee members who are ineligible to enter Orange Audubon's 25th Annual Kit and Sidney Chertok Florida Native Nature Photography Contest (deadline May 16, 2013). Entries for this December program will be in this year's contest theme of "Florida's Creatures and Features" and will follow the rules of the contest. At this meeting the audience will get its chance to judge the entries and select the best of these photos.

The second portion of the program will consist of photos that represent 'Special Places' to participants in our audience. This is your opportunity to tell others about some 'special places' that deserve recognition and preservation. In last month's *OASis*, you were invited to submit 5–10 photos of a 'Special Place' that you would tell the attendees about through photos and words. If you have not already contacted me about submitting your images to be included in this program, please do so now to assure inclusion in the program (LNS-oas@att.net or 407-886-2925). Thanks and have a great holiday season. See you on the 20th!

Loretta Satterthwaite, Program Chair

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

Limited Edition Field Trip – Saturday, Dec 22nd
Lake Jesup Conservation Area
Marl Bed Flats Tract

Located on the north side of Lake Jesup east of highway 417 and south of Sanford, the Marl Beds Flats Tract of the Lake Jesup Conservation Area is a birding hotspot. Participants can expect to see many Bald Eagles and other raptors, wintering woodland birds, grassland species, shorebirds, waterfowl, and wading birds.

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.

113th Christmas Bird Count

The year's count will take place from December 14, 2012 through January 5, 2013. You can check "Find a Count near you" at National Audubon's CBT webpage on the right-hand side of that page to get involved. Go to birds.audubon.org/christmas-bird-count.

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 map and directions, visit:
www.leugardens.org/plan/directions.htm

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 407-644-0796). 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).

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 (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.

Florida Native Species for OAS's Photography Contest and Beyond

Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) Kit and Sidney Chertok Native Nature Photography Contest promotes an interest and concern for preserving native fauna and flora of Florida. So, what do we mean by native and why does OAS promote native species?

Florida native plants and animals are those that were here prior to European contact or those that arrived since that time without human involvement. Those that were introduced due to human activity afterward are exotic or non-native species. All OAS photo contest entries must depict Florida's natives. OAS photo contest entries have been disqualified from the contest for showing exotic animals such as Cuban Treefrog (from Cuba), Tilapia (from Africa) and Honey Bee (imported from Europe). For help in determining if an animal in your photo is native or exotic, one helpful site is Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Florida's Exotic Fish and Wildlife (myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/nonnatives/). Exotic plants depicted that have caused photos to be disqualified from the OAS contest include Citrus (from Asia), Queen Palm (from South America), Air Potato (from Asia), and Brazilian Pepper (from South America). For help in determining whether a plant in your photo is native or exotic, see the University of South Florida's Atlas of Florida's Vascular Plants (www.florida.plantatlas.usf.edu/). Other links to Florida's flora and fauna are provided at OAS's website (www.orangeaudubonfl.org/oas_links.html). Exotic plants have caused a variety of problems in our state. Those ranked as Class I invasive exotics by the Florida Exotic Plant Pest Council (www.fleppc.org) "alter native plant communities by displacing native species, changing community structure or ecological function or hybridizing with natives."

Of course, you can always submit your images for pre-screening and qualified members of the Chertok committee will alert you if you have any non-native or exotic plants and animals in your photographs. The pre-screening is optional with a deadline of Apr 18, 2013. Disqualified images can be replaced free.

Florida native plants can provide many benefits. When plants are correctly sited in landscapes, "Right Plant - Right Place," they are "Florida-Friendly" (www.FloridaYards.org) in that they greatly reduce or eliminate the need for fertilizer, pesticide and water (after establishment). This reduction can help us preserve water quantity and quality. While certain exotics have been called "Florida-Friendly" in that they help us conserve water, exotics do not do well at supporting Florida's wildlife. Florida native plants, in contrast, are vital to our wildlife including birds. Most land birds need insects (especially caterpillars) to feed their young. Important plants to caterpillars that birds eat are oak, willow, cherry, blueberry, maple, elm, pine and hickory ("Bringing Nature Home" bringingnaturehome.net/native-gardening/woody-plants). Suburban and urban landscapes with a diversity of native plants can thus serve as mini-wildlife preserves.

Mary Keim

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. 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.

2012 Public Lands Assessment

Recommendations derived from the St Johns River Water Management District's (SJRWMD) lands assessment will be presented at the SJRWMD Governing Board meeting in Palatka on Tuesday, Dec. 11th. One specific Orange County property recommendation is particularly disturbing—the recommendation to sell or exchange 625 acres adjacent to the Lake Apopka North Shore Restoration Area. This piece of property includes the 'land swap' property requested by the West Orange Aviation Authority so that they can increase the length of the runway at the North Orange Airport. This change would facilitate the use of jet airplanes at that site, a move that would surely trigger the requirement by the FAA that a 'hazardous wildlife management zone' be put into effect around the runway, bringing a halt to the restoration of Lake Apopka and an end to the North Shore Restoration Area as one of the premier birding sites in North America because continued restoration would be a wildlife attractant.

There are several reasons to be against this particular recommendation. Uplands are vital to any true restoration process and just because this land lies above the set 'water line' for water district management areas, it does not mean that it is not important to the restoration of the whole ecosystem. At the very least, the district could sell this land with a conservation easement that would protect the property and the adjacent North Shore. Outright sale or exchange without this conservation protection is too risky to the restoration process that has cost millions of taxpayer dollars. In light of the fact that there is a move afoot to have the North Shore Restoration Area designated as a National Wildlife Refuge, 'surplussing' of this land could be premature since the land could be an attractive addition as part of a collaborative venture for ecotourism. Finally, just the fact that this is a piece of property already owned by the people of the State and one which can be managed for wildlife (black bears, bobcats, avian species, etc.) by another state agency whose mission is not so directly aimed at just water quality and quantity should be enough reason to keep it as state-owned land.

Please plan to attend the Governing Board meeting on Dec. 11th and speak against this particular recommendation or go online to the Water Management District's facts page (<http://www.floridaswater.com/landassessment/>) and click on 'online comment form' in the third box down on the right side of the page. Please make your comments before the meeting day so that they will be included in the summary reported at the board meeting. At OAS's press time meeting time and agenda had not been announced. It can be found online at <http://floridaswater.com/meetings/>. Thank you!!

Loretta Satterthwaite, 2nd Vice President

Kudos to Super Volunteers!

A very sincere THANK YOU is extended to these repeat and first-time volunteers who helped to make Lake Eola Fiesta in the Park outreach and fund raising event on Nov 3rd – 4th and/or merchandise sales during Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) Nov 15th meeting successful: Rick and Laurel Baird, Nancy Christman, Chris Gandy, Cynthia Gosiewski, Deborah Green, Anne and Chris Hirst, Cyndi and Michael Kay, Wayne Kennedy, Melinda McCurry, Brook and Maddie Rohman, Loretta Satterthwaite, Randy Snyder and Teresa Williams. At Lake Eola, first-timers quickly learned from seasoned volunteers the method to the madness of OAS' little shop of horrors. Many talented hands made the work fun for all and OAS had two very successful events, selling almost 150 nature t-shirts, totes, signs, mugs and books.

More Super Volunteers Needed!

No matter what your skill level, there is a job perfect for you at one of OAS' next three events: 5% Profit Day, Ethos Vegan Kitchen (Winter Park) on Jan 19th (your meal will yield us 5% of the cost and you'll not only help OAS, you'll have a delicious dining experience), the Orlando Wetlands Festival (Christmas) on FEB 16th and/or the Lake Apopka Nature Festival (Magnolia Park) on Mar 8th – 9th. If you would like to help, please contact Loretta (407-886-2925 or LNS_oas@att.net) or Teresa (407-644-0796 or mwilliams@cfl.rr.com). Thank you.

Teresa Williams

Help with Hospitality Needed

We need a chair or co-chairs and members for the Hospitality Committee. It isn't difficult. Just call those who bring hospitality regularly or those who have signed up at the meeting to remind them. If you attend nearly every month, please consider helping our chapter this way. If you don't want to serve on a committee but will bring goodies from time to time, that works also.

A few of those who signed up and brought hospitality this fall are Carolyn McCreary, Ruth Webb, Emily Hartmeyer, Susan Ledbetter, Joan LeMosy and Wayne Kennedy. If you have brought goodies and aren't mentioned here, give us your name so we can thank you. We appreciate your help.

Deborah Green, Chapter President

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—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”. This is not a new tax and the proceeds have historically gone to land acquisition. The language in the amendment prohibits the legislature from raiding this trust fund for other purposes.

In Florida, we depend on our natural systems for clean drinking water, unpolluted rivers, lakes, and streams, and the unspoiled natural beauty that makes our state unique. Because Florida relies on its beaches, springs, rivers, lakes and parks as a key part of our tourism economy, we can't afford not to protect our land and waters. Florida has many critical funding needs, including education, health care, public safety and transportation—but water and land conservation are a vital component of Florida's future. The current state budget is more than \$60 billion, and this amendment would set aside less than 1 percent for water and land conservation. This isn't a matter of cutting other vital services; the amount of funds that would be set aside in the future by this amendment is almost the same as what the Legislature currently appropriates every year to pay off the bonds that were used in the past to buy conservation and recreation lands. In other words, the amendment would take an amount that had been used for water and land conservation and dedicate it for that same purpose, but with constitutional protections. The amendment would have very little real impact on existing state funds for other services.

OAS will be gathering signatures on these petitions at our 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

Orange Audubon Society offers Florida Master Naturalist Program Scholarships

For the second year, Orange Audubon Society (OAS) is pleased to offer two scholarships for environmental educators and/or volunteers in Central Florida to pay ½ of the \$225 tuition to attend a Florida Master Naturalist Program (FMNP) Core Module class (Freshwater Wetlands, Coastal Systems or Upland Habitats). FMNP is an adult education program developed by the University of Florida. The mission of the program is to promote awareness, understanding, and respect of Florida's natural world. For more information about FMNP see <http://www.masternaturalist.ifas.ufl.edu/about/>.

Scholarship applicants must be OAS members and reside in Central Florida. New memberships are welcome in order to apply. Current board members and scholarship committee members are ineligible to apply. Each scholarship recipient is strongly encouraged to complete a course-related project (such as a brochure or display or slide show) and present it to a local school class, civic group, park or other group to help fulfill Orange Audubon Society's environmental educational mission. For ideas, see: http://www.masternaturalist.ifas.ufl.edu/students/final_projects/default.aspx

Last year's winners, Jutta Geisler and Reinhard Geisler, have now completed the Master Naturalist program and have presented bird programs and regularly lead tours at Orlando Wetlands Park, a park that OAS partners with regarding the Orlando Wetlands Festival. Jutta is also the webmaster for the citizen support group Friends of the Orlando Wetlands. At least five other OAS members have taken FMNP courses to help them with their environmental education efforts.

To apply for a scholarship, send OAS your (1) name, (2) address, (3) phone number, (4) e-mail address and (5) a short essay describing your current environmental education role and how you hope to use what you learn in the FMNP course in your job and/or volunteer efforts. The above information should be sent by **January 15th, 2013** to Mary Keim, OAS Scholarship committee at rsnyder11@cfl.rr.com. The scholarship committee will notify the winners no later than February 15th, 2013. The two winners will then be reimbursed \$112.50 each following OAS's receipt of proof of completion of an FMNP module class. For questions about OAS's FMNP scholarships, contact Mary Keim at rsnyder11@cfl.rr.com.

**Orange Audubon Society
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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

Workday at Genius Drive Nature Preserve, Sunday, Dec. 2nd, 9 a.m.– 11 a.m.; contact Teresa at 407-644-0796.

Limited Edition Field Trip to Lake Jessup Conservation Area, Dec. 22nd. 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.

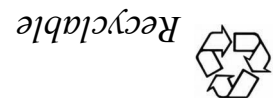
Chertok Nature Photography Contest - Final Submission Deadline: May 16, 2013
Optional Pre-screening Deadline: Apr 18, 2013.
Replace entries disqualified at pre-screening FREE by May 16 deadline. Awards: June 20, 2013—407-644-0796

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 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

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



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