



OASis

Orange Audubon Society
A Chapter of National and Florida Audubon Societies



Vol. 48

January 2013

Issue No. 5

OAS Field Trip
Saturday, January 19th
Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) will travel to Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge (Black Point Drive and surrounding areas) for our January field trip on Saturday, January 19th. Black Point Drive is always exciting with lots of shorebirds, waders and duck species. Bring binoculars, spotting scopes, field guides and sunscreen. Also be sure to bring lunch, snacks and drinks. Be advised there is a \$5.00 per car charge for Black Point.

We will meet at the rear parking lot of the Burger King at Hwy 50 and Alafaya Trail in East Orange County to carpool. We will leave at 7:30 a.m. If you have any questions, call Lori Mathis at 407-579-3795.

Limited Edition Field Trip – Saturday, Jan. 26th
Lake Apopka North Shore Restoration Area

The Lake Apopka Restoration Area (LARA) is potentially one of the most important birding destinations in all of Florida. The numbers of birds and the variety of species can be simply amazing. Because of ongoing restoration work much of LARA is closed. Birders are encouraged to take advantage of this rare opportunity to explore currently restricted portions of this important place. We can expect to find wintering raptors, waterfowl, waders, sparrows, etc.

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.

This Month's Program: Jan. 17th @ 7 p.m.
Disney's Best Kept Secret—Current Efforts to
Protect Wildlife, Wild Places and
Communities that Depend on Them
by Andrew Stamper

Despite Disney's obvious focus on entertainment and the resources it takes to accomplish its goals, Disney has one of the best kept secrets in its commitment to conservation of animals, wild places and the people that depend on them. It goes well beyond just writing a check and Dr. Andy Stamper, D.V.M., Senior Research Manager and Clinical Veterinarian at Epcot's The Seas, will be discussing the different aspects of Disney's efforts in these areas. From its conservation fund, to its Casts' hard work in leading conservation programs, to Disney's efforts to effect behavioral change of people's attitudes and dedication to the environment, Disney is making ground and learning how to make a tangible and lasting impact.

Please join us at Leu Gardens on Thursday, January 17th to learn about this unexpected 'behind-the-scenes' aspect of Disney's conservation efforts.

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 map and directions, visit:

www.leugardens.org/plan/directions.htm

OAS Co-sponsors 13th Annual Orlando Wetlands Festival

The 13th annual Orlando Wetlands Festival will be held on February 16, 2013, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Ft. Christmas Park (1300 N. Ft. Christmas Rd.). While parking and vendors will be at Ft. Christmas Park, tour buses and shuttles will take visitors to nearby Orlando Wetlands Park. The City of Orlando, Orange County Parks and Recreation and Orange Audubon Society sponsor the event. OAS members lead nature and photography hikes as well as nature bus tours through Orlando Wetlands Park. OAS will also be selling nature-oriented merchandise including t-shirts, tote bags, signs and mugs (bring cash or checks).

OAS needs volunteers! No experience is necessary. To assist with bird watching hikes or nature bus tours, please contact Randy (407-851-5416 or rsnyder11@cfl.rr.com). To volunteer for AM or PM shifts at the kids' art table and/or to sell merchandise, please contact Loretta (407-886-2925 or lns-oas@att.net) or Teresa (407-644-0796 or mwilliams@cfl.rr.com).

Birds of Prey Identification Lake Apopka Restoration Area, Apopka, Lust Rd. Entrance. Saturday Feb 9, 2013, 7:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

This field trip lead by Bob Sanders is designed to further the appreciation of raptors and to enhance a birder's ability to identify them using a holistic approach.

For more information contact Bob Sanders at 407-454-0542. Cost is \$5 for members and \$10 for non-members. No early registration required.

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.

Orange Audubon Society

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

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* (link: http://www.orangeaudubonfl.org/oasis/OASis_2012-10-October.pdf) 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).

Resolve to join the Board of Directors in 2013

Help to make our Audubon chapter the best ever by resolving to join the Orange Audubon Board of Directors in 2013. We won Chapter of the Year in 2012. Let's do it again in 2013.

We're always looking for dedicated and interested members to bring their ideas and creativity to the table to help make the chapter an inspiring place to learn about birds, of course, and the environment and how we can effect change in a positive way. If this is you, please get involved and join other like-minded individuals.

To be eligible, you must be a member of Orange Audubon, have an interest in wildlife and the environment that supports it, and be able to attend monthly board meetings held on the third Thursday of every month at 5:30 p.m. (before the monthly OAS program) at Leu Gardens in Orlando.

This is a great opportunity to support a worthwhile organization working to make a positive impact on all of our communities.

If you wish to volunteer and serve on the Board please contact Cynthia Gosiewski at cyngos@aol.com or 407-426-8982. Thank you.

Florida's Water and Land Conservation Amendment: Please Sign the Petition

Orange Audubon Society has joined a statewide environmental coalition working to put a new amendment onto the 2014 state ballot to create stable long-term funding for conservation and restoration. Statewide we need 500,000 signatures.

Florida Forever, its predecessor Preservation 2000, and earlier land buying programs from the 1970s and 1980s protected over 2.4 million acres of critical water resources, natural areas, wildlife habitat, parks, greenways, and trails throughout Florida. The money came from a portion of the documentary stamp taxes ("Doc stamps," which are fees on real estate transactions) as well as through bond sales. Since 2009, funding has been basically eliminated, and many wetlands, beaches, springs and other vital natural areas remain unprotected. Through this amendment one-third of the existing "Doc stamps" would fund water and land conservation, management, and restoration, providing an estimated \$5 billion for conservation in Florida over the next ten years and \$10 billion over the twenty-year life of the amendment.

Please help by signing the petition at our meeting or at any of our events. Note that you must sign exactly as your name appears on your voter registration card, so please check this in advance. You can help even more by becoming a petition gatherer, for example at one of the farmer's markets or to your own contacts. To learn more visit www.FloridaWaterLandLegacy.org. Thank you for your help!

Deborah Green, OAS Chapter President

OAS Special Event Photography Workshop – Saturday, February 2, 2013 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 February 2, 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.

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.

Registration for Workshop: Teresa Williams; mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or 407-644-0796

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

Cost: \$45 (members); \$55 (non-members)

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

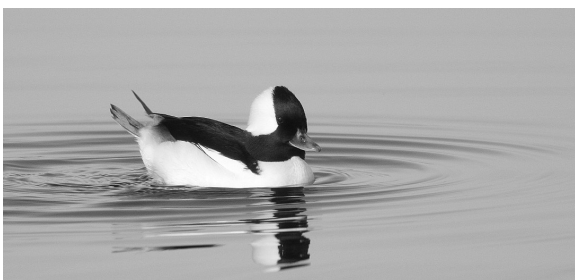
Photography Workshop 101 - Backgrounds

In conjunction with our Photography Workshop at the Orlando Wetlands Park February 2nd and the OAS Chertok Native Nature Photography Contest (see Calendar of Events), this is the second in an ongoing series of helpful how-to articles to improve your nature photography.

In October we talked about how background influences your exposures. In this segment we talk about how background influences your compositions. My personal style of wildlife photography is to set the subject apart from the background or to provide a background void of distractions, and I don't mean cloning it out in Photoshop later. Some backgrounds provide a pristine palette upon which you can paint – such as water (see Bufflehead Duck image below left) and sky (see Great Blue Heron image below middle). For an American Bittern, obtaining a "clean" background is difficult. In those instances I'll search for the bittern in a pleasing display of uniform grass as is the case below right. The vertical-pointing grass does not grab the viewer's attention as a thicket of tangled brush would.

Use shallow depth of field (large aperture) to make backgrounds soft (out of focus). Put yourself on the same level as the subject (lower point of view), placing the background further away thus making it softer. The added benefit is a lower view point will enhance your connectivity with the subject.

For more tips and in-the-field teaching, join me 2/2/13 at OWP (see above). *Robert Amoruso*



Fun while Learning - Chapter Leadership Training!

This year's Audubon Academy will be held Apr. 12–14, 2013, at the Lakeside Inn in Mount Dora (www.lakeside-inn.com). Share pizza, drinks and conversation with other attendees and join one of four 'walking field trips' (one is a 'rocking chair field trip' for those who are less active). These will be followed by more discussions on everything from how to engage your community via programs, field trips, conservation, etc., how to keep your chapter finances on track, and how to participate in bird conservation initiatives such as Eagle Watch (details to follow in subsequent months). This program is planned and presented by chapters for chapters. Costs are kept low to encourage participation and OAS' board has budgeted to reimburse several members for registration. Registration does not include meals. For anyone wanting to stay at the Inn, room costs start at \$99/night, two double beds.

Although we are trying to negotiate a change, at this time, room reservation discounts at the Lakeside Inn in Mount Dora will not be available after January 31st, so please make your reservation now (48-hr cancellation policy) to ensure your discounted rate. Please call 352-383-4101 and let them know you are with 'Audubon Academy'.

2013 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.

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 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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Bob Stamps (15) 407-886-2925

Calendar of Events

OAS EVENTS

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

Field Trip to Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, Jan. 19, 2013. For trip questions or reservations call Lori Mathis at 407-579-3795. See Page 1.

Limited Edition Field Trip to Lake Apopka North Shore, Jan. 26, 2013. For trip questions or reservations call Bob Sanders at 407-454-0542. See Page 1.

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

Orange Audubon Society – 5% profit day
Ethos Vegan Kitchen, Winter Park
Jan 19, 2013 407-808-7411.
See Page 2.

Birds of Prey Identification at Lake Apopka Restoration Area, Apopka, Lust Rd. Entrance. Saturday Feb 9, 2013, 7:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m.
Leader: Bob Sanders—407-454-0542, Cost: \$5 (members); \$10 (non-members). See page 2.

13th annual Orlando Wetlands Festival, Christmas, FL. February 16, 2013. See page 2.

Audubon Academy, Apr. 12–14, 2013, at the Lakeside Inn in Mount Dora (www.lakeside-inn.com). See page 5.

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