



Orange Audubon Society

(A Chapter of National and Florida Audubon Societies)

PO Box 941142, Maitland, FL 32794-1142

www.orangeaudubonfl.org

February 01, 2013

Dear Orange Audubon Member and Friend:

Once again, it is time for your local Audubon chapter to appeal to your friendship and loyalty. This is the **once-a-year** letter that the Orange Audubon Society (OAS) writes to ask you for the financial support needed to continue sponsoring education programs, spearheading conservation and environmental advocacy work, and maintaining financial stability—all attributes of a great Audubon chapter and all mentioned by Audubon Florida as some of the reasons OAS was named the 2012 Chapter of the Year, an honor made possible by members and friends like you.

OAS has a long history of financial stability. We strive annually to attain a balanced budget and preserve or increase funds for education and seed money for a future nature education center. With your support, OAS brings informative speakers to monthly meetings, provides nature education classes, conducts field trips, holds an annual nature photography contest, underwrites elementary education programs that will reach 800+ youths this year, and publishes the *OAS's* newsletter. These mission-driven programs and activities promote public understanding of, and an interest in, wildlife and the environment and are aimed at improving the quality of life in central Florida and elsewhere for humans and wildlife. They would not be possible without your support.

OAS is run by an **all-volunteer** board that contributes hundreds of hours to attend meetings, plan and execute regular and special activities, and administer to the ongoing needs of running OAS smoothly. Other members and friends volunteer by taking visitors birding in our area, participating in bird and wildlife surveys, providing hospitality items for monthly meetings, making presentations to civic or school groups, helping with fundraising/outreach events, tracking specific conservation issues, appearing at related planning board and commission meetings, helping with the monthly *OAS's* labeling and mailing, maintaining a membership database, and more. All absorb their own out-of-pocket expenses to help defray OAS' operational and other costs so that 100% of your donation can go into programs.

Without your financial support, OAS would not be nearly so effective in fulfilling its mission. Please consider a generous contribution of \$15, \$25, \$100 or more. Any level of support truly helps. You can send a check in the enclosed envelope or donate on OAS' website: www.orangeaudubonfl.org using the secure PayPal Donate button in the upper right corner of the home page. You may designate that your **tax-deductible** contribution be directed to conservation, education or a future OAS Nature Education Center. Otherwise it will be used wherever OAS has the greatest need. Thank you very much in advance for your contribution and please let me know if **you** would like to help as a volunteer also.

Sincerely,

Deborah Green, President

Orange Audubon Society, Inc. is a Florida not-for-profit organization recognized as tax exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Your donation is tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

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OASis

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Vol. 48

February 2013

Issue No. 6

Orange Audubon Society Field Trip
Saturday, February 23rd
Ferndale Preserve

Orange Audubon travels west to Ferndale Preserve for our February field trip. On Saturday, February 23rd at 8:30 a.m. we meet in the parking lot of the preserve. From there, birders will hike along a 1.3-mile loop and a few shorter segments (warning: the trail has some steep portions). The preserve is a former orange grove, which is being restored to Longleaf Pine, Wiregrass, Xeric Scrub and meadow ecosystems. It offers nature lovers lots to enjoy with more than 140 birds, 40 butterflies, and numerous other animals including: the Pine Snake, Gopher Tortoise, Bobcat, River Otter, American Alligator, Box Turtle and Fence Lizard. It is also home to many native plants including an endangered tree species. Birds of interest include sparrows, raptors, and winter visitors common to the Lake Apopka area. Restrooms are on site.

Please bring a picnic lunch to enjoy after birding. The preserve is a short drive from Orlando along the west shore of Lake Apopka, north of Montverde (19220 County Road 455 Ferndale, FL). For more information, please call John Cento at (407) 913-2417, and he will be happy to answer your questions.

Florida's Special Places

Andrew Boyle, who does mist netting/bird banding at Lake Lotus, will present this as his 'Special Place' that was inadvertently omitted from the program in December. I apologize to Andrew for the omission and look forward to his presentation at the beginning of our February program.

Loretta Satterthwaite, Program Chair

This Month's Program: Feb. 21th @ 7 p.m.
Ready, Set, Go Wild...Florida!
by Andy Wraithmell

Andy is currently working for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) as an Information Specialist promoting wildlife viewing programs such as the Great Florida Birding & Wildlife Trail (www.floridabirdingtrail.com). He has been birding



since he can remember; he has worked at Stackpole National Nature Reserve, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, and Dungeness Bird Observatory in Great Britain. In the States since 2003, he has worked at Cape May Bird Observatory, Tall Timbers Research Station, Wild Birds Unlimited, and the Florida Park Service prior to his current position.

Andy will talk about the FWC's wildlife viewing programs that highlight the incredible birding & wildlife watching opportunities that are available throughout a 2,000-mile, self-guided highway trail of nearly 500 sites across Florida.

Please join us on Thursday, February 21st at Leu Gardens to learn about some great wildlife viewing opportunities throughout Florida.

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

13th Annual Orlando Wetlands Festival—Fun, Education & Fundraising

On February 16, 2013, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Orange Audubon Society (OAS) will again co-sponsor the Orlando Wetlands Festival at Ft. Christmas Park and have the opportunity to benefit the community by leading nature and photography hikes, co-leading bus tours, and talking to attendees about our conservation and education programs. Additionally, the Festival is usually a great OAS fundraising event. This year OAS will again offer nature-oriented merchandise for sale: adult and youth t-shirts, nest boxes, tote bags, signs, books, etc. We would love to also offer our kids' art table activity, but we must have additional volunteers to conduct that activity.

Mark the date on your calendar now, but first please call to volunteer your time. Contact Loretta (407-886-2925; LNS-OAS@att.net) or Teresa (407-644-0796; mwilliams@cfl.rr.com) to volunteer for any time between set-up and tear down (8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.) or ask questions about the fundraising, conservation and education displays and/or the kids' art activities. Contact Randy, OAS' festival liaison who also organizes OAS' field trip leaders, to volunteer or ask questions about the educational tours (407-851-5416; rsnyder11@cfl.rr.com).

This event is well-attended and loads of fun, so plan now to come out and learn about Orlando Wetlands Park and while you're there, volunteer for a couple of hours to help your Audubon chapter.

Visit: www.cityoforlando.net/public_works/wetlands/festival/index.htm for a Festival flyer and more information.

Loretta Satterthwaite, Teresa Williams and Randy Snyder, OWP liaison

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.
- Emerald Marsh Conservation Area Bird Survey - contact John Stenberg at 386-329-4822 or jstenberg@sjrwmd.com.

Limited Edition Field Trip – Sunday, Feb. 17th *Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area*

Located south of St. Cloud in the wilds of Osceola County, the Three lakes Wildlife Management Area and nearby Joe Overstreet Road offer unique birding opportunities. Florida is home to more Bald Eagles than any other state outside of Alaska and this region may hold more Bald Eagles than any other area in Florida. Other species found here include: Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Snail Kite, Bachman's Sparrow, White-tailed Kite, Crested Caracara, Sandhill Cranes and occasionally Whooping Cranes. Although we may not see them, Three Lakes is an important habitat for the nearly extinct Florida Grasshopper Sparrow.

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.

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

P.O Box 941142

Maitland, FL 32794-1142

www.orangeaudubonfl.org

President: Deborah Green

sabalpress@mac.com; 407-637-2525

Address change or Internet Delivery: Mike Daley

miked129e@Gmail.com; 386-668-5021

Editor: Robert J. Amoruso

ramoruso-oas@att.net; 407-808-7417

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

Lake Apopka Wildlife Festival & Birdapalooza

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) is helping to organize a new event—the Lake Apopka Wildlife Festival & Birdapalooza—celebrating the Lake Apopka North Shore. The event will be at Orange County's Magnolia Park (Lakeside), 2929 S. Binion Rd., Apopka, 32703 on Saturday, March 9th from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Some of the activities at this free admission event include bus tours of the North Shore (reserve a spot in advance at www.birdapalooza.com/tours/), tree giveaway, nature hikes, lots of nature-oriented information, music and other entertainment, kids' activities, and merchandise and food sales. Check out the list of participating exhibitors at the website.

Because OAS is one of the organizers of the event, we need lots of volunteer help such as guides for the bus tours and nature hikes, and lots of people to help with our t-shirt, tote bags, sign and mug sales, our outreach and conservation issues, and our kids' art/nature collage activity. If you can volunteer a couple of hours (maybe before or after you take a bus tour), please contact Loretta (LNS-oas@att.net or 407-886-2925) or Teresa (mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or 407-644-0796). Thanks for your help.

Spring is in the air

Orange Audubon Society has been invited back to the Epcot Flower and Garden Festival. Many of you have volunteered in the past and know what a rewarding and fun opportunity it is. We have a table at the festival center and talk to guests from around the country and world about nature and promote our objective of taking care of birds and the environment.

The Epcot Flower and Garden Festival is being held March 6–May 19 and we will have available positions from March 8–May 19. We are asked to staff our OAS table Friday through Sunday and the shift is from 10 a.m.–3 p.m. It is also necessary to set up and take down the display before and after each shift. Each volunteer will receive a complimentary Disney one-day one-park ticket after successfully volunteering for the day.

We had a very successful show last year and look forward to another one in 2013. If you are available please contact me at cynigos@aol.com or 407-426-8982. *Cynthia Gosiewski, Epcot Volunteer Coordinator*

Florida's Land and Water!!

Let's get to work! Audubon (state and local chapters) is committed to getting the Florida Water and Land Legacy Amendment on the ballot for 2014. This initiative would not involve any new taxes, instead designating monies that were previously used to acquire, restore, improve and manage conservation lands under the Preservation 2000 and Forever Florida campaigns be once again designated for that purpose.



**FLORIDA'S
Water & Land Legacy**

In order to get the amendment on the ballot, we still need over 600,000 signatures on petitions by the end of November 2013. Please consider helping to procure these signatures by getting petitions (volunteer on line at <http://floridawaterlandlegacy.org> or visit the Audubon Center for Birds of Prey in Maitland and pick up 25–50 petitions, for a start) then take these petitions to your place of worship (whether it be a church, synagogue, or campground!), your work place or any other location where you meet up with individuals or groups who are registered Florida voters. We must get away from our usual conservation-oriented gatherings and tap into the vast near-Orlando population. We can do this; we must do this. Governor Scott has already tested the waters for selling off our state parks and instructed our water management districts to conduct studies with the goal of surplussing our state lands; we should not leave it to the elected officials to deal with our state lands in a manner that depends on which way the political wind is blowing in any particular year. Help us now to get this amendment on the ballot. If you have questions, contact Loretta or Bob (LNS-oas@att.net or 407-886-2925) or Deborah (sabalpress@mac.com or 407-637-2525). Thank you.

Spring 2013 Beginners' Bird Watching Class Offered

Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) very own Bob Sanders will teach a Beginner's Bird Watching Class (BBWC) this spring. 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 March 9th at Orlando Wetlands Park (with mini-field trip in the park) and 2 field sessions on March 16th and 23rd; 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.

OAS Selects Florida Master Naturalist Program Scholarship Winner

The Scholarship Committee of Orange Audubon Society (OAS) is pleased to announce that **Sondra Driscoll** has been selected to win a \$112.50 OAS scholarship to pay half of the tuition for a Florida Master Naturalist Program (FMNP) Core Module. 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/>.

Sondra is an OAS member who is also a nature photographer. She explained in her application that she wants to learn more about the subjects of her photography and is looking forward to being able to share her knowledge about nature with others. Sondra feels it is important for Floridians to learn about the natural world so that they can better conserve it.

For those that are interested in OAS-FMNP scholarship opportunities, the committee hopes to be able to offer this scholarship for FMNP courses again next year.

Mary Keim, OAS Scholarship Committee

Audubon Academy—Learn How to Help OAS

Would you like to help Orange Audubon Society (OAS) by volunteering to help with conservation issues, educational programming or some other leadership role, but you are afraid you "don't know how to do those things"? Audubon Academy, an Audubon leadership training program put on by the Florida chapters to help boost the confidence of current or potential chapter leaders by making them more knowledgeable and aware of available resources, is just around the corner. That's literally and figuratively—because this year's Academy will be held at the Lakeside Inn in Mount Dora on April 12th–14th. In fact, OAS is one of the hosts and we may put out a call for 'volunteers' in the March *OASis*. Conference room rates (\$99/night; 2 double beds) are available until Mar 1st, so don't hesitate to reserve a room now (and plan to bring a friend to share expenses!). Please call 352-383-4101 and let them know you are with 'Audubon Academy'. The conference agenda and registration information are posted on the Audubon Florida website (<http://florida-audubon.ticketleap.com/2013-audubon-academy/>) so check there for details.

Bob Stamps, Audubon Florida Chapters Chair and Academy Coordinator

The History of OAS's "Chertok Nature Photography Contest"

This year marks the 25th anniversary for Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) Florida native nature photography contest. The first contest was announced in the January 1989 *OASis* and the theme was **Florida Birds**. In that first contest, the winners included some familiar names: Audrey Kirschner, Jeffrey Stahl and Bob Stamps received 1st, 2nd and 3rd places, respectively, while honorable mentions went to Mary Keim, Randy Snyder, and John Winfree; special artistic merit awards went to Barbara Brand and William Alt.

At that time, the contest was named the OAS' Sidney L. Chertok Memorial Nature Photography Contest because upon his death, Mrs. Chertok (Kit) asked that memorials in his honor be sent to Orange Audubon Society. The Board of Directors wanted to do something special with those funds so a committee was formed to consider alternatives, which were presented to Kit for her input. Because her husband had been very interested in photography, especially nature photography, and for 34 years had edited a photograph-filled engagement calendar featuring images solicited by competition from area photographers, she chose the idea of an OAS photography contest to encourage others to carry on nature photography.

Kit became a great friend of OAS. She served on the OAS Board of Directors from Nov 1992 through June 1995; during that time, Kit encouraged OAS to also sponsor a Kids' photo (prints) contest. Not only did Kit provide supporting funds for the annual photo contest(s), but she also suggested in 1994 that OAS sell some nature-oriented t-shirts as a fundraising effort (boy, did she create a monster!!). Although Kit moved to South Florida to be closer to her daughter for personal health reasons, she remained in close contact with OAS and attended most of the awards presentations until 2001. After her death in 2003, in her honor, in 2006 the photography contest was renamed the OAS' Kit & Sidney Chertok Open Nature Photography Contest.

Starting with the 2nd annual photo contest in 1990, OAS has presented the annual Chertok Photo Contest & Awards night as its June program each year. Over the years, the annual photo contest has gained more exposure and participation (hundreds of entries) and the June meeting has become a huge success. We fully expect the same performance at the June 20th meeting when we celebrate the entries and present awards for this silver anniversary contest. If you haven't already taken your photographs depicting **Florida's Creatures and Features**, get snappin'!! and send in your entry form. Deadline for early entry with a FREE do-over option if your entry doesn't meet all the contest requirements is April 18th and final entry deadline is May 16th (received by dates). For information about this year's contest, visit www.orangeaudubonfl.org or contact Teresa at 407-644-0796 or mwilliams@cfl.rr.com.

Loretta Satterthwaite & Bob Stamps, Chertok (Photo Contest) Committee members from day 1

Florida Master Naturalist Program Freshwater Wetlands Class at Orlando Wetlands Park

The Florida Master Naturalist Program (FMNP) is an adult education UF/IFAS Extension program developed by the University of Florida. FMNP training will benefit persons interested in learning more about Florida's environment or wishing to increase their knowledge for use in education programs as volunteers, employees, ecotourism guides, and others. The FMNP consists of three Core Modules: Freshwater Wetlands, Coastal Systems and Upland Habitats. Each Module is 40 contact hours of classroom learning, field trips, and practical experience. Each Module is \$225 and includes detailed course manuals and, upon completion, FMNP certificates, patches, and pins.

The Freshwater Wetlands Module is being offered at the Orlando Wetlands Park on Tuesdays, February 26, 2013 through April 2, 2013. A night tour of the Park will be held on the evening of March 12th. For more information on class schedule, instructors, field trip locations and to register please go to the following link www.masternaturalist.ifas.ufl.edu & Select "Current Course Offerings", Freshwater Wetlands, Orange County.



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

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Bob Stamps (15) 407-886-2925

Calendar of Events

OAS & SPECIAL EVENTS

Limited Edition Field Trip to Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area, Feb. 17, 2013. For trip questions or reservations call Bob Sanders at 407-454-0542. See Page 2.

Field Trip to Ferndale Preserve in Ferndale, Feb. 23, 2013. For trip questions or reservations call John Cento at 407-913-2417. See Page 1.

Genius Drive Workday, Sunday, March 24th, 9–11 a.m. Contact Teresa 407-644-0796 or mwilliams@cfl.rr.com.

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 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).

Great Backyard Bird Count, Feb. 15-18, 2013. Go to www.birdsource.org/gbbc for more info.

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

FREE Lake Apopka Wildlife Festival & Birdapalooza, Saturday, March 9, 2013 at Orange County's Magnolia Park, Apopka. See Page 3. (www.birdapalooza.com).

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