



# OASis



Orange Audubon Society  
A Chapter of National and Florida Audubon Societies

Vol. 48

May 2013

Issue No. 9

## Orange Audubon Society Field Trip Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup> Florida Aquarium & Wild Dolphin Cruise

Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) May field trip, Sat. May 18<sup>th</sup>, will be a reserved group trip (minimum of 15 required) to the Florida Aquarium and its 90-min Wild Dolphin Cruise. **Deadline for registration is Wednesday, May 15<sup>th</sup>.** The Aquarium opens at 9:30 a.m. and we will plan to arrive there shortly before opening to check in and get our admission materials; then all will be free to do an on-your-own visit of the Aquarium prior to boarding the cruise. Two cruises (12:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m.) are available on a first-come, first-served basis and your seats will be reserved as your payments are received by OAS (reservations will be made, but the field trip will only occur if we meet our 15 minimum participants; you will be notified prior to Saturday departure if we do not). Once your cruise is over, you may return to the Aquarium or head back to Orlando.

Group fees for admission to both the Florida Aquarium and their Wild Dolphin Cruise are \$35 (senior 60+); \$39 (adult); \$31 (age 2–12) and \$3.05 (up to 2 years). These costs include a \$3.05 contribution to OAS. Parking is \$6 per vehicle. Accessibility for the cruise is somewhat limited; please call the Aquarium [813-273-4000] if this could be a problem for you.

If you wish to reserve a space, please contact Loretta at 407-421-9437 or [LNS-oas@att.net](mailto:LNS-oas@att.net) for time-of-cruise selection and payment details. Plan to meet for carpooling at 7:30 a.m. (to leave by 7:45 a.m.) at the Whole Foods Market at 8003 Turkey Lake Rd, Orlando, 32819 (Sand Lake Rd and Turkey Lake Rd intersection near I-4) or join up with the carpool group at McDonalds at 44400 U.S. 27, Davenport, FL 33897 (I-4 & U.S. 27) for 8:30 a.m. departure.

## This Month's Program: May 16<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 p.m. Coral Conservation and Research Initiatives at the Florida Aquarium

Dr. Kathy Heym

Coral reefs are some of the most diverse and valuable ecosystems on earth. However, they face many threats to their survival due to natural factors such as climate change and disease as well as human impacts. This talk will highlight the research endeavors that The Florida Aquarium's Center for Conservation and its collaborators have undertaken related to coral conservation efforts in the Florida Keys. From microbes to gametes and boulder corals to branching corals, the Florida Aquarium's team has studied many different facets of maintaining, propagating, and transplanting healthy corals for restoration efforts. Join us on May 16<sup>th</sup> as Dr. Kathy Heym, Veterinarian at The Florida Aquarium, discusses their adventures, research findings, and future endeavors related to preserving these important ecosystems.



*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](http://www.leugardens.org/plan/directions.htm)

## LAST CALL for Photo Contest Entries

There is still time to participate in Orange Audubon Society's 2013 (25th Annual) Kit & Sidney Chertok Florida Native Nature Photography Contest (CFNNPC), but entries in this Florida Native Nature competition must be **received by May 16, 2013**. You may hand deliver your entries directly to a Chertok committee member (preferably Teresa) on May 16<sup>th</sup> during OAS' regular program at Leu Gardens, but you may not leave entries with Leu Garden personnel.

Subject matter must be native to Florida and images may not contain discernible non-native (to Florida) plants or animals, humans or human artifacts/man-made structures. Images must also comply with truth-in-Nature standards and may not be excessively manipulated.

Complete contest rules are on the official entry forms available online: [www.orangeaudubonfl.org](http://www.orangeaudubonfl.org); by request to [mwilliams@cfl.rr.com](mailto:mwilliams@cfl.rr.com) or 407-644-0796; or at Colonial Photo & Hobby, 634 N Mills Avenue, Orlando, FL. While at Colonial Photo & Hobby, please enjoy the display of selected images from the 2012 competition (see related article on page 3).

Your participation in OAS' CFNNPC and your interest in nature photography are sincerely appreciated. Good luck!

*Teresa Williams, CFNNPC Chair*

## Florida Water and Land Conservation Amendment Reaches Florida Supreme Court

On April 8, Florida's Water and Land Legacy Campaign took a major step forward in getting the Water and Land Conservation amendment on the November 2014 ballot. For a state constitutional amendment seeking to gain access to the ballot by collecting signatures, review by the Florida Supreme Court is triggered when ten percent of the total 683,149 signatures required—or 68,314—are collected. In early April we crossed that threshold, and the Court will now review the measure to confirm that it satisfies the legal requirements for a constitutional amendment.

The Florida Water and Land Conservation Amendment would dedicate one-third of the existing documentary stamp tax—which is paid when real estate is sold—to restore the Everglades, protect drinking water sources and continue the Florida Forever Program. It would provide more than \$5 billion for water and land conservation in Florida over the next ten years without any tax increase. The campaign had collected 116,573 petitions across Florida as of early April.

Have you signed the petition? We have copies available at all of our meetings and many of our events. Visit [FloridaWaterLandLegacy.org](http://FloridaWaterLandLegacy.org) to learn more. Thank you for working with Orange Audubon and the 255 other organizations supporting this effort.

### Limited Edition Field Trip - Saturday May 25<sup>th</sup> Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge

There's always something going on at Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge near Titusville. At this time of year, all the wading birds, Roseate Spoonbills and Reddish Egrets, will be in "high-breeding" plumage. Nesting shorebirds, like Black-necked Stilts and Willets, can also be found. Other interesting species that we may encounter: Least Tern, Florida Scrub Jay, and the scarce Gray Kingbird.

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**

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

## Chertok Photos Chosen and Displayed by Colonial Photo & Hobby

Congratulations go to twelve photographers whose images from Orange Audubon Society's 2012 Chertok Florida Native Nature Photography Contest (OASCFNNPC) were selected for display at Colonial Photo & Hobby (CPH), 634 N. Mills Avenue, Orlando, FL. Each year before winners are announced (and with photographers' names withheld), the selections are made by CPH from all eligible entries.

The fifteen selected images from 2012 are: *Preening Willet* (1<sup>st</sup> Place) by **Megan Authement**. *Tricolored Heron* and *Wood Stork Mom and Chicks* (Honorable Mentions) by **Yian Chen**; *Feeding Time – Black Skimmers* by **Nancy Elwood** (Honorable Mention); *Nectaring Hazards – Green Lynx Spider* by **Tom Funari**; *Three Heron Babies* by **Melissa R. Gilmer**; *Guardian – Roseate Spoonbill* by **Carol Hansen**; *Roseate Spoonbill Bathing* and *Sandhill Crane Chick on Mom's Back* (Honorable Mentions) and *Limpkin Feeding Chick* by **Larry Lynch**; *Emerald with Diamonds – Double-crested Cormorant* (1<sup>st</sup> Place) by **Amy Marques**; *The Gathering – Great Blue Heron and Egrets* by **Bill Redfoot**; *American Alligator and Gar* (3<sup>rd</sup> Place) by **Marina Scarr**; *Save My Wetlands – River Otter* by **Robert Stalnaker**; and *One Last Look – Bobcat* by **Joyce Stefancic**.

Colonial Photo & Hobby has co-sponsored OAS' CFNNPC since 2004 by contributing some of the prizes for winning photographers and featuring selected entries within their retail premises. The display, which is being installed as this is written, is intended to promote interest in the contest and nature photography and to recognize some of the talented photographers whose work portrays Florida's native nature beautifully.

*Teresa Williams, OASCFNNPC Chair*

## Orange Audubon Hosts 2013 Audubon Academy in Mount Dora

Kudos to Orange Audubon Society (OAS) members Rick Baird, Phyllis Gray, Deborah Green, Mary Keim, Bill Partington, Loretta Satterthwaite, Randy Snyder and Teresa Williams for helping make this year's Audubon Academy a success. Academy is a venue "planned by the chapters for the chapters" and includes face-to-face information sharing, training on how to be better chapter leaders, and energizing presentations about protecting Florida's wildlife and natural environments. Thanks also to Mosquito Creek Outdoors in Apopka for loaning OAS a 330-quart Yeti cooler to use as our "refrigerator" for the hospitality room we hosted since Lakeside Inn did not have a room with a refrigerator. Twenty-nine of Florida's 44 Audubon chapters participated in this event. Participants rated all the workshops led by OAS members close to 10 on a scale from 1 to 10—Yahoo! If you did not attend you should plan to do so in the future. Audubon Academy is Awesome.

*Bob Stamps, Audubon Florida Chapters' Committee Chair*

## Invitation to a Baby Owl Shower and Volunteer Opportunity

You are invited to the Audubon Center for Birds of Prey (ACBOP) Annual Baby Owl Shower on Saturday, May 11, 2013 from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Admission to the Center that day is free when you bring a 'baby gift' that will be used in caring for young raptors. What do you bring to a baby owl shower? A Wish List of suggestions—from medical and every-day cleaning supplies to baby food and equipment materials—is available on the Audubon Florida website: [http://fl.audubon.org/sites/default/files/documents/wish\\_list\\_2012.pdf](http://fl.audubon.org/sites/default/files/documents/wish_list_2012.pdf). Cash and gift card donations are also appreciated.

Your gift will help ACBOP provide the best of care to injured and orphaned baby raptors. This is a great event for young and old who can participate in fun activities and meet the Center's resident birds and babies du jour. It's like a box of 'chocklits' that day—you never know what kind of baby you'll get to see amazingly close-up!

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) will be participating and volunteers are needed from 9:00 a.m. setup time to closing, which takes about 20 minutes. OAS' little shop of nature-oriented merchandise will be open for business and we will offer the kids' art activity. If you can help, please contact Teresa at 407-644-0796 or [mwilliams@cfl.rr.com](mailto:mwilliams@cfl.rr.com).

## Florida's Breeding Bird Atlas 2

The Florida Ornithological Society, Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission and USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center are sponsors of the Florida Bird Breeding Atlas 2 (FBBA2). Bruce H. Anderson is coordinator for Orange County and Greg Bretz, a former president of Orange Audubon Society, is coordinator for Seminole County. They are looking for atlasers to help accumulate and compile data for this and the next four years. If you can tell the difference between a House Sparrow and House Finch, you may want to join them for this very important statewide project. Contact Bruce H. Anderson at [scizortail@aol.com](mailto:scizortail@aol.com) or Greg Bretz at [jgregbretz@aol.com](mailto:jgregbretz@aol.com); indicate subject as FBBA2, and include your residential address. You need not be a resident of either county to participate.

## OAS' June 20<sup>th</sup> Silent Auction

Silent auction items are already being solicited for our June meeting: Disney (WDW) has contributed four ParkHopper passes; Ritz Carlton is donating golf for four and brunch for two; P. F. Chang's is donating a gift card; and Dexter's Restaurants is donating two gift cards plus owner Dex Richardson will 'guide' a lucky auction winner on a Central Florida birding tour. And, there are lots more things "in the works".

Will you show off your artistic, culinary or crafty talent(s) by donating a creation of your own? Or ask a frequented restaurant, clothier or other business for a silent auction donation? Ask for all the picky accounting details while you're at it and bring those details [your name and phone number, description of item(s), retail or appraised value, starting bid amount (if desired)] and any solicited or personally contributed (non-perishable) items that you have in hand to Orange Audubon Society's meeting on May 16<sup>th</sup>. This will help organizers determine table and layout needs, prepare bid sheets and rally enough volunteers for a special evening.

You may certainly continue to solicit items after the May meeting, but please contact Teresa ([mwilliams@cfl.rr.com](mailto:mwilliams@cfl.rr.com) or 407-644-0796) or Loretta ([LNS-oas@att.net](mailto:LNS-oas@att.net) or 407-886-2925) and provide all the details listed above as soon as possible so preparations for these later submitted items can be made. We must be notified of all items no later than Sunday, June 16<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for understanding our time constraints for preparations.

Proceeds of this program will benefit a future OAS nature center and/or related project. Your support will be sincerely appreciated and acknowledgements for tax purposes are available upon request.

*Teresa Williams and Loretta Satterthwaite*

## OAS Celebrates Earth Day

On Saturday April 20<sup>th</sup>, the Central Florida Earth Day celebration took place at Lake Eola in downtown Orlando and Orange Audubon Society (OAS) was there. It was our first participation in the annual event, sponsored by Vegetarians of Central Florida, The Orlando Sentinel, OUC and a host of others. Joining groups representing conservation, environmental education, animal issues and earth stewardship, OAS was able to show our support for this community event. The attendance was estimated at 15,000, and we were able to reach a diverse group of people whose first contact with OAS was that day.

We shared information about our mission, field trips, monthly meetings and collected signatures for the Florida's Water and Land Legacy campaign. OAS also led nature walks around Lake Eola in an effort to show that valuable wildlife exists everywhere, especially in Orlando's best-known and busiest park. We hope to see some of the new faces we met at our upcoming meetings and events. Thanks to Rick Baird for going the extra mile and helping with set-up, working the morning shift and breakdown, to Lori Parsons for working the morning shift, to Nancy Christman for working the afternoon shift and breakdown, to Deborah Green for leading the nature walks and along with Cynthia Amoruso for staffing the booth all day, from set-up to breakdown.



## OAS Brings Audubon Adventures into 28 Classrooms

*Audubon Adventures* is an environmental education program for children, mainly in grades 3 to 5. Developed by professional environmental educators, the program presents basic, scientifically accurate facts about birds, wildlife, and their habitats — covering topics that are important to Audubon's mission. The program can be purchased as 'classroom kits' that include four different study units, a teacher's manual for each unit and individual newspapers for students. Manuals include captivating hands-on activities aimed at bringing the natural world into the classroom, connecting kids, their teachers, sometimes even their parents to the natural world in positive, fun ways. Plus, *Audubon Adventures'* content is aligned with the state academic achievement standards in Florida.

This year Orange Audubon Society (OAS) delivered 28 classroom kits to local elementary schools — almost tripling last year's sponsorship — and will strive to expand the *Audubon Adventures* program. However, we can only expand if we maintain and expand our monetary reserves for education.

Please tell us of any business you know that might wish to help by sponsoring one, two ... ten local classrooms. The cost per classroom kit is still just \$45.95 — a small price for a big investment in Florida's environmental future. We are all in this together — a lesson that *Audubon Adventures* teaches our youth. Contact Deborah Green (386-690-4705 or [sabalpress@mac.com](mailto:sabalpress@mac.com)) or Dominique Shimizu ([Shimizu\\_wcs@yahoo.com](mailto:Shimizu_wcs@yahoo.com)) with your suggestions or to learn more about *Audubon Adventures*.

### Birdathon Pledges?

If you participated in Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) Birdathon by acquiring pledges of support, please contact Loretta (407-421-9437 or [LNS-oas@att.net](mailto:LNS-oas@att.net)) to find out how many species were seen on April 28<sup>th</sup> by the OAS teams. [Sorry the deadline for this issue of the *OASis* was prior to the Birdathon date so we can't include the number of species in this article.] Please collect your pledges — and you can still solicit after the Birdathon if you didn't have a chance to do so before it occurred. — and bring them to OAS' May meeting. Thank you for your continued support of OAS' Birdathon.

### Nature Merchandise Available at May OAS Meeting

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) will offer our nature merchandise for sale starting about 6:30 p.m., just before our own general meeting at **Leu Gardens on Thursday, May 16<sup>th</sup>**. We'll have youth and adult t-shirts, tote bags, mugs, signs, nestboxes and more available. This will be the last OAS sales event until the fall, so plan now for graduation and Father's Day gifts. For a speedy checkout, bring your cash or checkbook; we can accept credit card payments through PayPal, but expect some delay if you wish to charge items. Since many of our 'regular' volunteers are board members and will be in that meeting, we need YOU to help. You may call or email anytime [407-886-2925; [LNS-OAS@att.net](mailto:LNS-OAS@att.net)] to volunteer; walk-in help is also invited. Thanks.

*Loretta Satterthwaite and Teresa Williams*

### Annual Election Results

The following slate of nominees for the Orange Audubon Society (OAS) Board of Directors were approved by acclamation at the April 18<sup>th</sup> general meeting: The Class of 2016 Board members include: Cynthia Gosiewski, Milton Heiberg, Mary Keim, Susan Kirby, and Dominique Shimizu. The nominee for the open 2015 term is Robert Stalnaker. Lori Parsons steps into the role of Secretary with a term ending in 2014. Two vacant 2014 positions were not filled.

We'll have more information on our new Board members in next month's newsletter. We also have more nominations to look forward to.

Thank you to our directors who are resigning — Lori Mathis who planned and led many of our field trips during her board tenure and Robert Amoruso who put so much time and energy into creating our newsletter every month. We greatly appreciate your efforts and patience. Thank you also to the Nominating Committee: Cynthia Amoruso, Richard Poole and Jerry Mathis.

*Cynthia Gosiewski, Nominating Committee Chair*

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

**PRESIDENT**

Deborah Green (14) 407-637-2525

**1st VICE PRESIDENT**

Rick Baird (14) 407-277-3357

**2nd VICE PRESIDENT**

Loretta Satterthwaite (14) 407-886-2925

**SECRETARY**

Mary Keim (14) 407-851-5416

**TREASURER**

Teresa Williams (14) 407-644-0796

**BOARD MEMBERS**

Cynthia Amoruso (15)	407-808-7411
Robert Amoruso (13)	407-808-7417
John Cento (14)	407-913-2417
Cynthia Gosiewski (13)	407-426-8982
Milton Heiberg (13)	407-658-4869
Paul Lockett (15)	407-679-9644
Lori Mathis (13)	407-579-3795
Brent Mobley (15)	407-376-1722
Danielle Ponsolle (14)	<a href="mailto:dponsolle@cfl.rr.com">dponsolle@cfl.rr.com</a>
Dominique Shimizu (13)	407-287-4078
Randy Snyder (14)	407-851-5416
Bob Stamps (15)	407-886-2925



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**Calendar of Events**

**OAS EVENTS**

**Orange Audubon Society (OAS) Meeting May 16, 2013.** OAS will be selling t-shirts and other merchandise at its May meeting. See Page 5.

**Chertok Nature Photography Contest - Final Submission Deadline: May 16, 2013. Awards: June 20, 2013.** Contact Teresa at 407-644-0796. See 'Last Call' on Page 2.

**Field Trip to Florida Aquarium and Wild Dolphin Cruise, May 18, 2013.** For trip reservations call Loretta at 407-886-2925. See Page 1.

**Limited Edition Field Trip to Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, May 25, 2013.** For trip questions or reservations call Bob Sanders at 407-454-0542. See Page 2.

**SPECIAL EVENTS**

**Baby Owl Shower, Audubon Center for Birds of Prey, Maitland, May 11, 2013.** Call 407-539-5700. See Page 5 for more details.

**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).