



"The Voice of Conservation in Central Florida"

OASis

Orange Audubon Society

A Chapter of National and Florida Audubon Societies



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Issue No. 1



**FLORIDA'S
Water & Land Legacy**

**Help Protect and Preserve Florida's Water,
Wildlands and Wildlife**

To help Conserve, Restore and Manage Florida's Waters, Wildlands and Wildlife go to [Florida's Water & Land Legacy website](http://floridawaterlandlegacy.org/) and, if you have not already signed one, fill in and mail the Conservation Amendment Petition. PLEASE DO IT TODAY. The Trust for Public Land, Audubon Florida, Florida Wildlife Federation, Sierra Club, and many other organizations, together with concerned citizens like you, have united to launch a major constitutional amendment campaign for the November 2014 ballot to ensure that our cherished beaches, rivers, lakes, springs and forests are protected for future generations. WE NEED YOUR HELP. For further information,

contact me at (407) 886-2925 or go to

<http://floridawaterlandlegacy.org/>

<http://www.orangeaudubonfl.org/>

*Bob Stamps, Orange Audubon Society
Conservation Committee Chair*

**Sunday, September 22nd, 9:00–11:00 a.m.
2-Hour 'Workday' at Genius Drive
Nature Preserve**

A 2-hour Workday is planned at the Genius Drive Nature Preserve in Winter Park. Volunteers bring their favorite gardening gloves and tools to help with weeding and mulching to 'spruce up' the restored cedar grove near Lake Mizell. Please contact Teresa: (407) 644-0796 or mwilliams@cfl.rr.com if you can help. Further details provided the week before.

Teresa Williams

This Month's Program

Thursday, September 19th, 7:00 p.m.

Travels of a Bird Bum

For our opening program of this 2013–14 Orange Audubon Society (OAS) season, on Thursday, September 19th, Andy Bankert will present "Travels of a Bird Bum". After graduating from college with an engineering degree, Andy decided to spend a few years traveling the country before settling down into a career. His journey took him to unique and exciting locations such as the green forests of the Appalachians, the dry and desolate southwestern deserts, and the ice covered shores of the Arctic Ocean. Andy will share some of his most exciting birding and nature stories from his travels on his multi-year adventure.

Andy is a Civil Engineer by trade, but he has been a birder since age five. He was raised in Melbourne Beach and began leading field trips for the Space Coast Birding and Wildlife Festival and Space Coast Audubon Society while still in high school.

Please join us at Leu Gardens on September 19th for this informative program. OAS programs are free and need no reservations.

Loretta Satterthwaite, Programs 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

President's Welcome and New Board Members Introductions

Welcome, Orange Audubon Society (OAS) members, to our new program year! We have a great slate of activities, as you can see from our brochure, which is graced with photos from the Chertok contest.

Our four new members of the OAS Board all bring real strengths to our chapter. Lori Parsons is now our Secretary as well as our Newsletter Editor. Susan Kirby will work on the Publicity committee and her husband Charlie is taking on coordination of our monthly Hospitality tables. Dr. Susan Ledlow is now our Membership Chair, and Larry Martin will coordinate this year's Mead Botanical Garden migration Saturday birding walks. We do have one Board vacancy if you or anyone else is interested in joining your dedicated Board.

We look forward to seeing you all at this year's events!

Deborah Green, President

Conservation Committee Members Needed, No Experience Necessary

Central Florida's conservation issues are many and varied—ranging from water quality and quantity problems to development to invasive species to you name it—all of which threaten our native wildlife, wildlands and quality of life. Orange Audubon Society would like your help. You do not need to be a scientist or public speaker to help. Simply attending meetings to show support and taking notes can help. We need to be alerted to what is going on when it is still early in the process as it is so much easier to deal with any threat or other situation at its outset.

It is important to communicate and try to find common ground with those who have somewhat or vastly different views than we do. One lasting thought that prevails from *Last Child in the Woods* by Richard Louv is that in our culture, the important thing is to get people outdoors to enjoy it—in whatever way they may, even if we disagree with their methods of 'enjoyment'. Once they are outdoors and loving it, they will assist in the battle to keep green space present and useable.

Our most imminent battle at this time is the fight for land preservation and maintenance money. Please read the Florida Water and Land Legacy campaign article (page 1) and do what you can to help place this amendment on the 2014 ballot. We must meet our signature goal by November this year. If you would be willing to help the conservation committee, please contact Bob Stamps at (407) 886-2925 or rhs-oas@att.net.

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 areas 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 the Orange Audubon Society.

COME JOIN OUR TEAM!

**Saturdays, September 21st–October 26th (excluding October 19th), 8:00 a.m.
Autumn Bird Walks in Mead Botanical Garden**

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) will be conducting bird walks in Mead Botanical Gardens this fall. They will begin on Saturday September 21st and, with the exception of October 19th, run each Saturday through October 26th. Each walk will be led by an experienced birder and is open to the public. With the hope of getting more people to experience the pleasures of birding and to become aware of this beautiful and accessible park in Winter Park, this event will be free to attend. Mead Botanical Garden is located at the intersection of South Denning Drive and Garden Drive two blocks east of Orlando Avenue (Hwy. 17-92).

Mead Botanical Garden has been one of the best migration traps in Central Florida. As many as 23 warbler species have been reported there in a single fall season. The park provides a place to rest with food, water, and shelter for the migrating birds as they pass through on their way south to their winter quarters in the Caribbean, Mexico, Central and South America. The park has the newly named Alice Pond, and Howell Creek runs through on its way from Lake Sue to Lake Virginia. These waterways provide feeding sites for several species of wading birds and ducks. Mead also has a wetlands and a higher area with large oaks and pines—all providing a variety of habitats for many different birds. Barred Owls, Red-shouldered and Cooper's Hawks have been nesting in the park. From 2005 through 2010, Dexter Richardson (one of our walk leaders) and a team of volunteers documented 164 species of birds in Mead Gardens.

The walks will start at 8:00 a.m. and will last 2 to 3 hours. The pace will be slow with lots of stopping to look at birds and will cover as much of the park as possible. Loaner binoculars will be available. If you do need to borrow binoculars, please arrive a little early to sign them out and to be shown how to use them for the most enjoyable experience. For more information, contact Larry Martin OAS-Mead Liaison at (407) 647-5834 or at lmartin5@msn.com.

**Saturday, September 21st, 7:30 a.m.
September Field Trip
Savage/Christmas Creek Preserve**

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) will visit Savage/Christmas Creek Preserve in Christmas, FL. This 1126-acre Orange County Green Place preserve consists of sandhill, pine flatwoods and cypress domes. OAS is in the process of nominating this property as an Audubon Florida "Special Place". We will walk about 3 miles of trails at a pace to observe plants and animals as we go. For more information about the property, please click [here](#).

Meet no later than 7:30 a.m. in the rear parking lot of Burger King on SR 50 just east of Alafaya Trail. Bring plenty to drink, sun protection, insect protection, birding gear, and lunch (for after the hike). Free. No registration is required. Please join us. If you have questions about the trip, contact Mary Keim and Randy Snyder at rssmhk@gmail.com or (407) 851-5416.



**Saturday, September 28th
Limited Edition Field Trip
Orlando Wetlands Park**

The amazing Orlando Wetlands Park near Christmas, FL is the destination for the first limited edition field trip of our new season.

With the wide variety of resident birds, September migrants, and returning wintering species, this field trip should be a great birding experience.

This trip is limited to 15 people and has a cost of \$10 per person per trip 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.



Saturdays, October 5th, 12th, and 19th, 8:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Fall 2013 Beginners' Bird Watching Class Offered

Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) Bob Sanders will teach a Beginners' Bird Watching Class (BBWC) this fall. The class is intended to teach or enhance skills in identifying bird species using sight, sound, behavior and other clues. The course includes a classroom session October 5th at Orlando Wetlands Park (with mini-field trip in the park) and 2 field sessions on October 12th and 19th; 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 basic birding principles and bird ID techniques—including bird habitat and anatomy; provide binocular basics (OAS has 'loaner' binoculars for use during the class), and tips on using field guides and checklists; and discuss birding ethics. If you miss a fall session, you may take a make-up session during the spring 2014 class at no additional charge. No participant substitutions please.

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. Non-members can join when registering and pay \$50, which includes BBWC registration (member price \$30) plus introductory 3-way annual membership in Orange, National and Florida Audubon Societies (\$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 Sanders: (407) 454-0542.

Backyard Biodiversity Day at Mead Gardens

OAS is teaming up with the Florida Native Plant Society and Mead Botanical Garden, Inc. to sponsor a new nature event on October 26th from 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. at Mead Botanical Garden in Winter Park. Featured presentations are on Landscaping for Wildlife, Native Pollinators, The Importance of Biodiversity, and Birds of Mead Gardens. Interpretive Hikes include Edible Plants, Native Plant Identification, Birding for the Whole Family, and Fascinating Insects. A variety of exhibitors and food trucks will be there, and native plants will be sold. Join us!

Saturday, November 2nd, 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Central Florida Butterfly Identification Workshop

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) is offering a fall Butterfly Identification Workshop. The 8-hour workshop is Saturday, November 2nd, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. with a short lunch break. The workshop involves slide presentations, field observation and identification of butterflies at Orlando Wetlands Park (OWP) and nearby Seminole Ranch Conservation Area in east Orange County. Slide presentations will be held in the OWP Education Center on Wheeler Road in Christmas, FL.



Recommended field guide is *Butterflies through Binoculars: Florida* by Glassberg, Minno, and Calhoun, 2000, Oxford. Close-focusing binoculars are helpful and will be available for use during the workshop. Instructors are OAS members Randy Snyder and Mary Keim. Participants should bring drink, lunch and wear appropriate field attire including close-toed shoes you don't mind getting wet.

Registration is required. Cost is \$25 for Audubon members; \$40 for non-members; and \$10 for children 12 or younger (must be accompanied by a registered adult), payable by check or money order to Orange Audubon Society. Non-members can join when registering and pay \$45, which includes butterfly workshop registration (member price \$25) plus introductory 3-way annual membership in the Orange, National and Florida Audubon Societies (\$20 promotional rate). The workshop is limited to 16 students. 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. If you have questions about workshop content, contact Randy and Mary at rssmhk@gmail.com or (407) 851-5416.

25th Annual Chertok Florida Native Nature Photo Contest Results

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) sponsored Youth, Novice and Advanced competition categories in its 2013 (25th Annual) Kit and Sidney Chertok Florida Native Nature Photography Contest, themed *Florida's Creatures and Features*. Winners were announced on June 20th at Harry P. Leu Gardens, Orlando, where nearly 175 members and guests enjoyed an array of hors d'oeuvres, a silent auction and a presentation of all eligible contest entries.

Youth category winners were: 1st and 3rd Places, Edan Lam-bright, San Francisco, CA; 2nd Place, Corey McCommon, Orlando; and Honorable Mentions: Ally Gribbin, Orlando and Jason Kwatra, Windermere.

Novice category winners were: 1st Place, Kristen Mauzy*, Orlando; 2nd Place, Linda Kochanowski, Zellwood; 3rd Place, Evelyn Mason, Orlando; and Honorable Mentions: Susan Kirby, Orlando; Kristen Mauzy*, Orlando (2); and Ethel Portnoy, Altamonte Springs.

Advanced category winners were: 1st and 2nd Places, Marina Scarr**, Tampa; 3rd Place, Jack Rogers, Orlando; and Honorable Mentions: Kevin Barry, West Park; Robert Kimbrell, Ft. Myers; Jake Paredes, Boca Raton; and Jim Urbach, Sanford (2).

Images of winners marked with * are on the 2013–2014 OAS brochure. All winning images are available [here](#), where 2014 contest information will be available soon. OAS sincerely appreciates all photographers who entered the 2013 contest and we look forward to your participation in 2014.

Teresa Williams, CNPC Chair



Photographer: Marina Scarr, Tampa

OAS's Newsletter Going Green in 2014

We have 160 members so far that have signed up for electronic newsletter distribution. Please join our cause and send your email address to OAS Membership Database Chair, Mike Daley, at miked129e@gmail.com, and let's go green in 2014! Do not fear: the September issue and brochure will continue to be snail-mailed, regardless of electronic preference.



Fiscal Year 2013 in Review

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) ended fiscal year 2013 with an increase in net assets of \$18,435 that includes income from regular operations of \$12,261, plus unrealized gains on long-term investments of \$6,174 (vs. unrealized losses of \$3,100 last year). A Silent Auction during the June 2013 Chertok program generated \$3,851 and two Birdathon participants collected \$1,567 for OAS' future nature education center. Expenditures of \$25,613 included \$5,791 for printing and mailing costs for ten monthly OAS's newsletters, which remains the largest use of funds in OAS' annual budget.

OAS' greatest resource is you—its dedicated board, general members and other friends who contribute time and other resources to help OAS achieve one of its major strategic goals: financial stability with a balanced budget and increased funds for education programs and a future nature education center.

Fiscal stability, which contributed to OAS' being named the 2012 Chapter of The Year by Audubon Florida, will ensure OAS' future and its continued ability to be a strong voice for conservation and the environment. OAS' efforts to secure permanent funds for educational programs will also ensure longevity of activities that shape the next generation of environmental stewards.

To obtain additional financial details please contact Teresa Williams, Treasurer, by phone: (407) 644-0796 or e-mail: mwilliams@cfl.rr.com.

Teresa Williams, Treasurer

Orange Audubon Society Board of Directors 2013–2014

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Orange Audubon Society

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Calendar of Events



September Program: Travels of a Bird Bum by Andy Bankert. September 19th, 7:00 p.m. at Harry P. Leu Gardens.

Mead Garden Bird Walk. Every Saturday starting September 21st through October 26th, excluding October 19th.

Every walk starts at 8:00 a.m. Contact Larry Martin at (407) 647-5834 or lmartin5@msn.com.

Savage/Christmas Creek Preserve Field Trip. Saturday, September 21st, meet at 7:30 a.m. Contact Mary Keim at (407) 851-5416 or rssmhk@gmail.com.

Genius Drive Workday. Sunday, September 22nd, 9:00–11:00 a.m. Contact Teresa mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or (407) 644-0796.

Limited Edition Field Trip to Orlando Wetlands Park. September 28th. For trip reservations or questions, call Bob Sanders at (407) 454-0542.

2013 Wings & Wildflowers Festival. October 4th–6th, Hickory Point Park, Tavares. Please contact Susan Kirby at (407) 440-3448 to volunteer to help OAS with this outreach event.

Beginners' Bird Watching Class. October 5th, 12th, and 19th. 8:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Call Bob Sanders at (407) 454-0542.

Backyard Biodiversity Day. October 26th. 9:00 a.m.–4 p.m., Mead Garden, Winter Park. Contact Deborah Green at (407) 637-2525. More details to appear in the October *OASis*.