



"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. 2



FLORIDA'S
Water & Land Legacy

Time is Running Out!

Time is getting very short to finish gathering the signatures needed to place the Florida Water and Land Legacy Amendment on the 2014 ballot (signature-gathering deadline is November 30th, 2013). Conservation organizations backing this amendment are doing their best to get the needed number of signed petitions! Audubon Florida is challenging Audubon chapters in the state to gather signatures by providing \$250 to the first 10 chapters who turn in 300 signatures between September 7th and October 18th. Orange Audubon Society (OAS) endorses the Legacy Campaign and would like to also qualify for that \$250. The money could be used to support OAS' conservation and environmental education efforts. Call Deborah at (407) 637-2525 to make arrangements to get petitions for signature gathering—and be sure to identify them as coming from Orange Audubon Society when you mail them in! Not only will this help OAS, but it's the right thing to do for the environment! Thanks.

Call for ART

Orange Audubon Society is proud to be a sponsor for the 3rd Annual Pollution Prevention Awareness Calendar Art Contest. This contest is open to all Orange County high school students, grades 9 through 12. Rules and registration information can be found on the Orange County Environmental Protection Division website at www.ocfl.net/epd or you can call (407) 836-1400 or email orangetogreen@ocfl.net to request a rules and registration form.

This Month's Program:

October 17th at 7:00 p.m.

Observing Central Florida's Butterflies by Chuck Tague

Butterflies are the Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde of insects. The adults are gentle, colorful creatures that bask in the sunlight and gracefully float on gentle breezes. Not only do they add joy, beauty and whimsy to fields and gardens, they are crucial pollinators to many plants. However their voracious larvae, the caterpillars, pillage leaves and blossoms.

Naturalist Chuck Tague, a volunteer at Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge and a part of the team that conducts monthly butterfly surveys, will present a photo essay on the complex lives of the diverse butterflies of central Florida and discuss their multifaceted relationships to plants and other animals.

Please join Orange Audubon Society at Leu Gardens on Thursday, October 17th for what will surely be a fascinating program.

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 7:00 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

October 25th–26th, 2013
Audubon Assembly 2013: Boots on the Ground

It's that time of year again! The 2013 Audubon Assembly will be held at the Innisbrook Resort and Golf Club in Palm Harbor (book by October 3rd for group rate) on Friday and Saturday, October 25th–26th, 2013. You are invited to attend this yearly gathering where you will have the opportunity to connect with like-minded individuals at the banquet, on field trips, and at various learning sessions at Florida's premiere conservation event.

The Assembly theme this year is Boots on the Ground. The 2013 Audubon Assembly is a celebration of the people who put their "boots on the ground" for conservation. Get inspired and get involved in citizen science, habitat stewardship, and grassroots advocacy.

For more information or to purchase tickets, please visit:
fl.audubon.org/audubon-assembly-2013-boots-ground.

**State Conservation Land Assessment:
You Need to Be Part of the Process**

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (FDEP) assessment of which conservation lands they recommend to be SURPLUSED was submitted to the Board of Trustees in September. Some of these lands are in central Florida and can be seen at:

dep.state.fl.us/lands/assessment/Maps.htm

You need to speak up now objecting to the inclusion of the Hilochee Wildlife Management Area properties. These lands are in the Green Swamp, a premier recharge area for the Floridan aquifer from which we obtain our drinking water, and they have significant, needed wildlife habitat value. There are additional properties further out of our membership area about which you may also comment to FDEP at

ARC_mailinglist@dep.state.fl.us.

This is your chance to provide input to FDEP.

FDEP will also hold public workshops at which you can provide input about properties they have identified for surplus. FDEP encourages residents to share their voice regarding the parcels of land that are being considered at meetings scheduled for October 8th in Viera and October 9th in Orlando. Details, times, and dates are posted at <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/lands/assessment/>. If all the meetings have been held by the time you receive this *OASis*, be sure to send your comments; please check the website for deadline for comments.

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.

Orange Audubon Society Conservation Committee

SAVE THE DATES: MARCH 28TH–30TH, 2014 FOR BIRDING IN THE PANHANDLE
FRIDAY: ARRIVAL, SATURDAY: TALL TIMBERS RESEARCH STATION,
SUNDAY: BIRDSONG NATURE CENTER

Mead Botanical Garden, Urban Bird Sanctuary

Mead Botanical Garden in Winter Park is a migration hot spot and year-round urban bird sanctuary. Over 170 bird species have been recorded from this 48-acre park. Mead Botanical Garden is centrally located off Denning in Winter Park, and in our Chapter Annual Plan for the past few years OAS has included speaking up on conservation issues to managers of this property. Mead Botanical Garden, Inc. (formerly the Friends of Mead Gardens), through a partnership with the Florida Native Plant Society Tarflower Chapter, is focusing more and more on restoration of native plants and native habitats, while preserving the historic botanical garden focus. Native plants survive in the Garden's freshwater marsh habitat as well as its sandhill pine uplands.

Past OAS President Dick Smith started Saturday bird walks, open to the public, in fall 2011 throughout migration season. On these walks, novice birders have a chance to learn from our local experts, and many have been inspired to take up birding as a hobby and join OAS.

OAS Board member Larry Martin started the walks again this September and will be holding them on October 5th, 12th, and 26th. Dick Smith had kept bird species tallies, using the developing bird checklist, for each weekly field trip. OAS has now committed to tally not just species but numbers of each species, similar to our Christmas Bird Counts. Help is needed with this effort.

Loaner binoculars and bird books are provided, along with a printed checklist for the birds. The walks start at 8:00 a.m. by the parking lot. Larry can be contacted at Lmartin5@msn.com or (407) 647-5834.

Saturday, October 26th 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Backyard Biodiversity Day at Mead Botanical Garden



At Mead Botanical Garden's First Annual Backyard Biodiversity Day and Native Plant Sale you can buy hard-to-find Native Trees, Shrubs, Grasses and Wildflowers. This event on Saturday, October 26th will have speakers, hikes, and exhibits on how native plants enhance the beauty, sense of place, and changing seasons of your yard.

Exhibits include how to bring more birds, butterflies, and other pollinators into your home landscapes and how to identify and control invasive exotic plants. Well-known author Bill Belleville joins other locally knowledgeable speakers presenting on the beauty, health, and diversity of our backyard plants, soils, and wildlife. Hikes, led by birders, botanists, herpetologists, and naturalists, include an insect walk by OAS's own Mary Keim and Randy Snyder and a family bird walk led by Deborah Green. Native plant growers and knowledgeable volunteers from the Orange and Seminole County Florida Native Plant Society (FNPS) Chapters will staff the Native Plant Sale.

The Florida Native Plant Society joins Orange Audubon Society, the Florida Wildflower Foundation, the Sierra Club, and Mead Botanical Garden, Inc. in hosting this event. Learn how fascinating our own backyards can be and how we can all be part of a valuable habitat network in the urban environment. Mead Botanical Garden is located at 1500 S. Denning Drive, Winter Park. The event on Saturday October 26th is from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and follows the final Mead Garden bird walk of the fall season. For further information or to volunteer for our Orange Audubon Society's outreach table, email Deborah Green at sabalpress@mac.com or call (407) 637-2525.

Audubon Adventures

Audubon Adventures helps 3rd through 5th graders, mainly, form positive attitudes about nature and supports teachers with instructional content aligned with national and Florida standards for Social Studies, Science, and Language Arts. Students can write in the newsmagazines and take them home. Orange Audubon Society is pleased to support Orange County Elementary school teachers by providing Audubon Adventures kits free of charge. Teachers can sign up by emailing Education Chair Dominique Shimizu at shimizu_wcs@yahoo.com or calling (407) 287-4078. If you would like to sponsor a classroom, perhaps that of your child or grandchild, cost is approximately \$42. Contact Dominique with the name and address of the teacher. Send your donation to the OAS mailbox listed on this newsletter.

Saturday, October 19th, 7:30 a.m.**October Field Trip: Hal Scott Regional Preserve and Park**

OAS will visit Hal Scott Regional Preserve and Park. This 9000+ acre property in east Orange County, straddles the Econlockhatchee River. We will walk about 3.5 miles through pine flatwoods, as well as riverine swamp at a pace to observe plants and animals along the way. For more information on the property, see: <http://floridaswater.com/recreationguide/halscott/>. 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.

**It's Lake Eola Fiesta Time!—Please Help**

Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) annual participation in the Lake Eola Fiesta in the Park Arts and Crafts Festival occurs on November 2nd and 3rd, with preparatory set-up on Friday evening November 1st starting at approximately 5:00 p.m. to set up the tent, tables, and the like. Saturday and Sunday (~8:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m. each day) mainly consists of setting up and taking down of merchandise and, the fun part—helping to sell merchandise and talking to people about OAS. Usually, it is easiest to stay for 3–4 hours, but if you only have two hours to volunteer, please do so. We need 3 or 4 people each day just for sales activities. If you volunteer early, you can have your choice of day and time. With enough volunteers, or volunteers who only wish to work with children, OAS could offer its kids' art table; however, unless we have enough volunteers, we will not be able to offer this fun, free children's activity.

This is OAS' biggest outreach event, and we do need your help. Please contact us to volunteer or if you have questions [LNS-oas@att.net or (407) 886-2925; mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or (407) 644-0796 (eve.)]. Please contact us, mark your calendar, and commit to help OAS meet its financial goals and reach out for new members. Thanks.

Loretta Satterthwaite and Teresa Williams

September OAS Field Trip Report

Twelve (12) attended the trip to Savage/Christmas Creek Preserve. At least 23 bird species were observed including American kestrel, pileated woodpecker, American crow, white-eyed vireo and prairie warbler. Other vertebrates included six-lined racerunner, oak toad and white-tailed deer. Invertebrates included yellow garden orbweaver, band-winged dragonlet, southern resonant cicada, moustached tiger beetle, zebra swallowtail and three-banded robber fly. Wildflowers in bloom included white-lipped dayflower, loblolly bay, several St. John's wort species, partridge pea, vanillaleaf, and Chapman's goldenrod.

It was a great group, full of curious folks. Information about the property is available on the website www.orangecountyfl.net/Environment/NaturalLands/ExploreOurNaturalLands.aspx.

Mary Keim, Field Trip Chair

OAS's Newsletter Going Green in 2014

The time has come for Orange Audubon Society (OAS) to go green in 2014! To avoid interruption of newsletter delivery, each OAS member needs to send his/her e-mail address to our OAS Membership Data Chair, Mike (miked129e@gmail.com) with the subject title "OAS's Going Green." In 2014, the OAS newsletter will be sent in electronic form. Send your email now! Thank you!

**Sunday, October 20th Limited Edition Field Trip
Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge**

As the temperature and humidity go down, in late October at Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, the number and variety of birds go up. Birders who sign up for this Sunday field trip can expect to see returning water fowl, migrant raptors and a good variety of shore birds, plus the usual resident waders. For more information on Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge go to <http://www.fws.gov/merrittisland/>.

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.

**Saturday, November 2nd, 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
Central Florida Butterfly ID Workshop**

This is a reminder to sign up for Orange Audubon Society's Butterfly Identification Workshop. Details appeared on page 4 of the September *OASis*—archived at www.orangeaudubonfl.org.

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). New memberships must be paid directly to OAS as described when you reserve your space by contacting Teresa at mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or (407) 644-0796. If you have questions about workshop content, contact Randy Snyder and Mary Keim at rssmhk@gmail.com or (407) 851-5416.

2013 Chertok Photo Contest Judges

Artist Redenta Soprano, naturalist Reinier Munguia, and photographer Chris Fooshee served as OAS 2013 Chertok Florida Native Nature Photography Contest (CFNNPC) judges.

Redenta Soprano, a returning CFNNPC judge, is a published freelance illustrator specializing in botanical art. She has a degree in Natural Sciences and Art from Purchase College in New York and a post-graduate certificate in Scientific Illustration from Middlesex Polytechnic in England, where she was a Rotary International Scholar. She teaches botanical illustration at The John C. Campbell Folk School (NC), the North Carolina Arboretum and Harry P. Leu Gardens. Visit Redenta's website: spiralfern.net.

Reinier Munguia is the staff naturalist and president of Lake Region Audubon Society, a nature education advocate, teacher and speaker at such birding events as Space Coast, Big O and First Coast birding festivals. He assists with rescue work for wildlife rehabilitation centers and has worked with a myriad of wildlife species including birds, reptiles and marine mammals. In addition, Reinier holds an art degree and is a professional photographer who leads photography and birding trips in the US, Ecuador, Puerto Rico and Costa Rica.

Reinier will be OAS' guest speaker in November when he and a few reptilian friends present the program Reptiles: Basics and Beyond. Visit Reinier's website: www.wildstockphotos.com.

Chris Fooshee worked in professional photo and film studios before earning two degrees in Plant Sciences. He worked for 12 years in ornamental plant breeding research at the University of Florida's Mid-Florida Research and Education Center (MREC) and during that time served as a naturalist judge of the Chertok contest. As his interests changed, his work with MREC changed and he was coordinator of Information Technology until his recent retirement and a return to his first passion of photography. Visit Chris' website: <http://www.phoosh.net/>.

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) wishes to thank Redenta, Reinier and Chris for contributing their valuable time and talents to help make the 25th Annual CFNNPC a success.

Teresa Williams, Chair CFNNPC

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Calendar of Events



October Program: Observing Central Florida's Butterflies. October 17th 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.

Field Trip to Hal Scott Regional Preserve and Park. East Orange County. October 19th. Contact Mary Keim at (407) 851-5416 or rssmhk@gmail.com.

Limited Edition Field Trip to Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge. October 20th. For trip reservations or questions, call Bob Sanders at (407) 454-0542.

Audubon Florida Assembly 2013. October 25th and 26th. Palm Harbor, Florida. See page 2.

Backyard Biodiversity Day. October 26th. 9:00 a.m.–4 p.m., Mead Garden, Winter Park. Contact Deborah Green at (407) 637-2525.

Lake Eola Fiesta in the Park. November 2nd–3rd, Lake Eola, Orlando. See page 4.

Butterfly Identification Workshop. November 2nd 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Orlando Wetlands Park. See page 5.

Limited Edition Field Trip to Lake Apopka Restoration Area. November 16th. For trip reservations or questions, call Bob Sanders (407) 454-0542.