



"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. 3



Time is Running Out!

To Help Conserve, Restore and Manage Florida's Waters, Wildlands and Wildlife go to <http://floridawaterlandlegacy.org/pages/168/important-instructions-for-downloading-the-petition/> and, if you have not already signed one, fill in and mail the Conservation Amendment Petition.

PLEASE DO IT TODAY.

The deadline for accepting signed petitions is November 30th, 2013. To ensure that our cherished beaches, rivers, lakes, springs and forests are protected for future generations, WE NEED YOUR HELP to get this amendment on the November 2014 ballot. For further information go to <http://floridawaterlandlegacy.org> and <http://www.orangeaudubonfl.org/> or contact me at (407) 886-2925.

Thanks to all who have signed the petition and to those who have helped gather signatures.

*Bob Stamps, Orange Audubon Society
Conservation Committee Chair*

OASis 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 "OASis Going Green." In 2014, the OAS newsletter will be sent in electronic form. Send your email now! Thank you!

**This Month's Program:
Thursday, November 21st—7:00 p.m.**

Reptiles: Basics & Beyond

by Reinier Munguia

Bring the kids! At this program our guest speaker, current president of Lake Region Audubon Society and a nature photographer and illustrator with a strong education and conservation vision, will not only show some of his wonderful photographs, but he will also bring live specimens to show us some of the remarkable features of reptiles. Join Orange Audubon Society in this journey through the fascinating world of reptiles and be prepared to interact with our cold-blooded friends. Learn about their adaptations and ecological importance as we review some of the most interesting species. Reinier will also discuss some of the most threatened species in Florida and what is being done to save them from extinction.

The program is in the Camellia Room at Leu Gardens; please join us for this informative and exciting venture into the world of reptiles.

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

Energy Efficiency While We Wait for Solar to Be Affordable

Until solar and other forms of renewable energy become affordable for the majority of us, being energy efficient is the best way to save money and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It is dramatic how much energy you can save by dressing for the weather while inside rather than trying to create perfect temperatures throughout your whole house.



This article details a survey of offerings from our local utilities.

If you are an OUC customer, you can call for a home energy audit. Once you have identified areas for improvement, there are many energy efficiency rebates available at <http://www.ouc.com/residential/save-energy-water-money/residential-rebates>.

City of Winter Park Electric Utility also provides free energy audits and some rebates. More information is available at http://cityofwinterpark.org/Pages/Departments/Electric_Utility/Energy_Conser-vation_Rebates_and_Incentive_Program.aspx.

Duke Energy (which bought Progress Energy) will also send an energy auditor to your home and has a series of energy efficiency rebates. The Duke Energy website, which anyone can access, also has a useful Home Energy Appliance Calculator, found at <https://www.progress-energy.com/app/energycalculator/energycalculator.aspx?loc=florida>. You can plug in the temperatures you keep your AC in the summer and heat in the winter and see the difference that a few degrees can make on your electric bill and greenhouse gas emissions. In a 1500-square-foot house, you can save about ten dollars and 80 lbs of CO₂ per month by raising your summer thermostat from 78 to 80 degrees! Although the calculations use Duke Energy rates, OUC's rates are just slightly lower and Winter Park Electric Utility rates are roughly equivalent.

The Orange County Homeowner Energy Efficiency Program (OCHEEP!) was funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act) of 2009, aka stimulus funds, part of \$7.5 million secured by Orange County Environmental Protection Division.

Participants were eligible for some great rebates that could be combined with utility rebates. While that program's funding source has dried up, Orange County Environmental Protection Division seeks funding to revive it. Check developments at <http://www.orangecountyfl.net/NeighborsHousing/HomeownerEnergyEfficiencyProgram.aspx> or the County's web portal at <http://powerupgreenenergy.com>.

Being energy efficient is one of the most important things we can do for both our wallets and the planet.

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 conversation of these remaining resources.

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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.

Deborah Green, OAS President and Climate Chair

**Orange Audubon Society
Budget for the Year Ending
June 30, 2014**

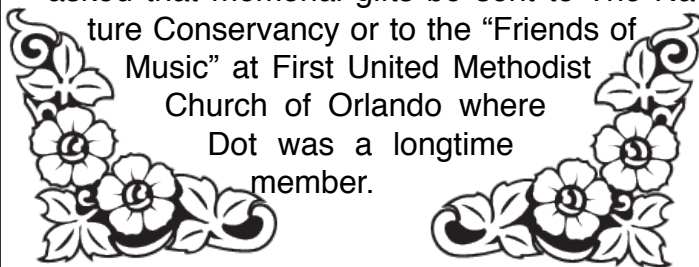
<u>Income:</u>	
Contributions	\$12,500
Fund raising/outreach events	6,000
Investment earnings (realized and unrealized, net)	980
Membership dues	3,485
Educational classes and programs	4,640
Other fund raising	3,175
Total income	\$30,780
<u>Expenditures:</u>	
Conservation	\$1,325
Education programs	8,555
Fund raising/outreach events	3,300
Newsletters and annual brochure	8,460
Insurance	3,000
Office and general and website	1,530
Other fund raising	750
Sanctuary maintenance	100
Total expenditures	\$27,020
<u>Change in net assets (see analysis)</u>	<u>\$3,760</u>
Analysis of Change in Net Assets by Fund Type	
<u>Increases:</u>	
CNPC endowed/restricted funds	\$500
Nature education center restricted funds	3,075
Unrestricted funds	665
<u>Decreases:</u>	
Education restricted funds	(380)
Holiday Highlands restricted funds	(100)
<u>Change in net assets</u>	<u>\$3,760</u>



**Goodbye to Our Friend
Dorothy Freeman
1930–2013**

Dorothy "Dot" Freeman passed away on October 20th. Dot will be fondly remembered by those who knew her in Orange Audubon Society (OAS). She helped many of us get started in birding. Dot's enthusiasm for birding was infectious. Her knowledge about birds never ceased to amaze those of us who were lucky enough to bird with her. Dot served as a Christmas Bird Count compiler, a founding member of Florida Ornithological Society, Orange County coordinator for the first Florida Breeding Bird Atlas, and the first chair of the Wildlife Survey committee of OAS. She also was active in the birding community in north Georgia where she lived part-time. Dot was a life-long learner, earning a Master's in Microbiology from FTU (now UCF) while in her 40s.

Dot loved to laugh and she loved her family. She was predeceased by her husband, Wayne Freeman, who served as OAS board member and *OASis* editor. She is survived by her children Drayton Wilson Freeman of Boston and Dottie Harris (husband John) of Orlando, three grandchildren and two great grandchildren. The family asked that memorial gifts be sent to The Nature Conservancy or to the "Friends of Music" at First United Methodist Church of Orlando where Dot was a longtime member.



**Second Annual Wings & Wildflower Festival
Lake County**

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) provided a table under "the big tent" at the Wings and Wildflower Festival, October 4th–6th at Hickory Point Recreational Park, along with a host of other Conservation groups. The Festival was well attended, drawing people from Sumter, Seminole, Lake and Orange Counties. The weather was perfect, the crowds were friendly, and the bonus came from The Florida Water and Land Legacy, who gave OAS a big "shout out" in their weekly newsletter: "Big thanks to the Orange County Audubon for being the petition hub at the festival," said Jason Brady, North Central Florida Organizer. We mailed in 199 signed petitions after the Festival ended.

Susan Kirby, Board Member

SIGN UP FOR THE ELECTRONIC VERSION OF *OASis* AND LET'S GO GREEN!

Saturday, November 23rd, 8:00 a.m.

Rock Springs Run State Reserve Field Trip

On Saturday, November 23rd, Orange Audubon Society (OAS) will visit Rock Springs Run State Reserve near Sorrento. This property, on the west side of the Wekiva River, provides important habitat for the threatened Florida Black Bear. We will walk about three miles at a pace to observe plants and animals along the way. For more information about the property see the following: <http://www.floridastateparks.org/rockspringsrun/>

Meet no later than 8:00 a.m. in the parking lot of the Publix at 5240 W State Road 46, Sanford. Bring \$3/carload park admission fee, plenty to drink, sun protection, insect protection, birding gear, and lunch (for after the hike). No registration is required. Please join us. If you have questions about the trip, contact us at rsmhk@gmail.com or (407) 851-5416.

*Mary Keim and Randy Snyder,
Field Trip Committee*

Genius Drive Nature Preserve Survey Field Trip

Current OAS members and/or Genius Drive Nature Preserve workday volunteers are invited on a guided field trip through the 48± acre Preserve on Sunday, November 10th from 8 a.m. to around noon. This walking field trip will be concurrent with the Preserve's monthly survey led by preeminent birder, Bruce Anderson, whose survey team has documented 180 bird species using the property. The field trip is limited to 20 people and reservations are required. Contact Teresa for details and to reserve your spot: mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or (407) 644-0796.



114th Christmas Bird Count

Hold the date and plan to participate!

Wekiva River: December 14th, 2013; Jay Exum (Jay.Exum@aecom.com) (321) 229-5653
Zellwood/Mt.Dora: December 20th, 2013; Wes Biggs (birdsatfnt@bellsouth.net) (407) 384-9766
Econlockhatchee: December 21st, 2013; Lorne Malo (lornemalo@bellsouth.net) (407) 349-2536
Emeralda/Sunnyhill: December 23rd, 2013; Peg Lindsay (pegcondor@embarqmail.com)

Please contact the compiler associated with your area to participate.

Saturday, November 16th Limited Edition Field Trip Lake Apopka Restoration Area

Join us for this field trip and explore a part of the Lake Apopka Restoration Area ordinarily closed to public access. An exciting and dynamic place, the number and variety of birds found here can at times be simply amazing. From Raptors and water birds to sparrows and other interesting passerines. To learn more about the Lake Apopka Restoration Area go to <http://www.sjrwmd.com/recreationguide/lakeapopka/>.

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.



Save the Date: March 28th–30th, 2014 Panhandle, FL Trip

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) is planning a weekend trip to the Panhandle of Florida March 28th–30th, 2014. The trip will include a Friday afternoon arrival, Saturday birding, bird banding, a picnic and guided tours of the Natural History Museum and Beadel House (more if you're up to it) at Tall Timbers Research Station (TTRS) in Tallahassee, FL plus Sunday birding at nearby Birdsong Nature Center in Thomasville, GA. Participation limit is 20-40 people. Mark your calendars and watch for details coming soon. Contact Teresa if you have questions: mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or (407) 644-0796.

October Field Trip Report

Ten (10) attended the OAS field trip to Hal Scott Regional Preserve and Park on October 19th. Twenty-five bird species were observed on the trip including Red-shouldered Hawk, Wilson's Snipe, Eastern Phoebe, Brown-headed Nuthatch, House Wren and Pine Warbler. Several Eastern Bluebirds were cooperative enough to give everyone a good look. Fifteen butterfly species were seen including little yellow, common buckeye, white peacock, and the rare Loammi skipper. Other invertebrates included slug, golden silk orbweaver, halloween pennant, katydid, mole cricket, whirligig beetles and a stinging slug caterpillar with the pupae of parasitic braconid wasps attached. Wildflowers in bloom included lop-sided Indiangrass (a Loammi skipper host), lovegrass, St. John's wort, false foxglove (a common buckeye host), blazing-star, Florida paintbrush, goldenrod and flat-topped goldenrod.

We talked about longleaf pine flatwoods habitat and the importance of fire management for many of its plant and animal species, including the Red-cockaded Woodpecker found on the property. It was a fun group and another nice adventure in nature.

Mary Keim, Field Trip Chair

It's Regrettable if You Missed Audubon Assembly!

Audubon Assembly, the annual state-wide meeting of Audubon Florida (AF), was held October 25th–26th at Innisbrook Resort in Palm Harbor. What a great event—field trips to Anclote Gulf Park, Honeymoon Island State Park, John Chestnut Sr. Park, Key Vista and Green Key, Brooker Creek Preserve (a great model for a future OAS environmental center), Possum Branch Mitigation Area, and Wall Springs Park; learning sessions about Habitat Stewardship, Conservation Wins, Citizen Science (related article in an upcoming *OASis*); excellent speakers (Dr. Reed Bowman [Scrub Jays], Dr. Paul Gray [Florida Grasshopper Sparrow]); workshops on GIS mapping; a chance to interact with and learn from other Audubon chapter members; and much more. In addition, AF and the Regional Conservation Committees (and each chapter in the region) set their conservation priorities for the year. The Central Florida Region, of which OAS is a member, committed to working in three broad areas: Conservation Lands Protection, Water Protection and National Wildlife Refuges (expansion, protection and/or establishment). Plan to attend Assembly next year! [Visit <http://fl.audubon.org/documents/2014-conservation-action-agenda> to see statewide priorities.]

Bob Stamps, Conservation Chair

Birds of Prey Identification Class

Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) Bob Sanders will teach a birds of prey identification class on multiple Sundays at the Lake Apopka Restoration Area. These field trips are designed to further the appreciation of raptors and to enhance the birder's ability to identify them using a holistic approach. The Class will be held on the following Sundays: December 8th, January 5th and February 2nd from 7:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m. Attend single or multiple days; no early registration is required. Cost for each day is \$5 (members) or \$10 (non-members). For more information contact Bob Sanders—(407) 454-0542.

First Backyard Biodiversity Day a Success!

The Tarflower Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society partnered with Orange Audubon Society and other not-for-profits to host the first annual Backyard Biodiversity Day at Mead Botanical Garden in Winter Park. The event was an educational event as well as a native plant sale featuring fall-blooming species. The Tarflower Chapter has developed a partnership with Mead Botanical Garden, Inc., the Friends group that manages the park in coordination with City of Winter Park. Tarflower is working to promote removal of invasive species and replanting of native species. Orange Audubon Society has also developed a partnership with Mead Botanical Garden, Inc. through our highly successful migration bird walks, now coordinated by Larry Martin and led by some of our best local birders.

Orange Audubon Society Board of Directors 2013–2014

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Calendar of Events



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

November Program: Reptiles: Basics and Beyond. November 21st 7:00 p.m. at Harry P. Leu Gardens.

Field Trip to Rock Springs Run State Reserve. Sorrento. November 23rd. Contact Mary Keim at (407) 851-5416 or rssmhk@gmail.com.

Birds of Prey Identification. Lake Apopka Restoration Area. December 8th. For trip reservations or questions, call Bob Sanders (407) 454-0542.

Christmas Bird Count. December 14th to January 5th. Please join us! See page 4 for details.

December Program: The Way Things Are: Orlando Wetlands and Lake Apopka plus The Way I See Things: An Illustrated Essay. December 19th 7:00 p.m. at Harry P. Leu Gardens.

Limited Edition Field Trip to Lake Jesup (north side). Sanford. December 22nd. For trip reservations or questions, call Bob Sanders (407) 454-0542.