

Orange Audubon Society

The Voice of Conservation in Central Florida



Vol. 52 Issue 8 • April 2017



Wayne Osborne with Snapping Turtle. Photo courtesy Wayne Osborne

This Month's Program April 20, 2017 Freshwater Turtles of Central Florida by Wayne Osborne

Florida's springs, rivers, and lakes have a large number of turtle species, some doing well but others in need of conservation help. Turtle populations reflect populations of macro-invertebrates, fish, and the quantity and type of vegetation in the water body. They can be considered a window into the health of our aquatic ecosystems.

To guide conservation efforts, population data is essential. Turtle surveys began at Wekiwa Springs State Park in 1999, with one to three sampling sessions a year through 2011, to assess the continued impact of development surrounding the park. Biologists and volunteers search for turtles by snorkeling, and collect, tag and release them to recapture the next year.

Wayne Osborne, a biologist and volunteer on this project, will share details about survey and conservation efforts. He'll also share how to identify our local turtle species, bringing several species for us to see up close.

Take the opportunity to learn to identify species seen in Central Florida, including the Florida Softshell, Common Snapping Turtle, Striped Mud Turtle, Loggerhead Musk Turtle, Florida Redbelly Cooter, Peninsula Cooter, and the Red-eared Slider, an invasive species from the pet trade.

Join us April 20th for a fascinating program, suitable for all ages. See box below for location.

Deborah Green

Orange Audubon Society programs are free and no reservations are necessary.

Programs are the 3rd Thursday of each month (September-June) and all but June start at 7:00 p.m.

in the Camellia Room at

Harry P. Leu Gardens

1920 North Forest Ave., Orlando, FL 32803 For map and directions, visit: www.leugardens.org/plan/directions/

Monthly Field Trip: April 22-23, 2017 South Florida Birding and Flamingo Quest II

Would you like to add some tropical bird species from South Florida to your life list? Orange Audubon Society's April 22-23, 2017 South Florida trip will replace our regular monthly field trip.

Seeing the rare American Flamingos at the South Florida Water Management District's Stormwater Treatment Area 2 (STA-2) will be a life experience for most of us. No guarantees, but they have shown up there for over 10 years. We will be guided by David Simpson, one of Florida's top birders, through Sunday April 23rd about 3 p.m.

Registration will end April 15th and there are only a few slots left, so if interested register quickly by contacting Teresa at (407) 644-0796 or mwilliams@cfl.rr.com.

Limited Edition Field Trip: April 23, 2017 Fort DeSoto Park, Pinellas County

Fort DeSoto is legendary! It is what we call a "migrant trap." During spring migration many songbirds make the arduous and dangerous Gulf crossing from Central America and Mexico to Florida. With favorable weather conditions and birders' luck, the numbers and variety of migrants at Fort De Soto on any given day in April can be nothing less than awesome.

Be aware that it takes 1 1/2 - 2 hours to drive to Fort DeSoto from Orlando. 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) 459-5617.





Conservation Efforts

Audubon Things move quickly during the 60-day legislative session.

Please join the Audubon Advocate Action Network at this link. You can find out how you can help by emailing or calling legislators.

Regarding the fracking ban that seemed hopeful two weeks ago: SB 442 and HB 451 seem to be tabled for this year, with the state House and Senate unwilling to agree on whether a scientific study is needed before considering an all-out fracking prohibition.

Fertilizer Ordinance

Orange County is revising its Fertilizer Ordinance to comply with the Springs and Aquifer Protection Act of 2016. By July 2017 the county must bring its 2009 ordinance into compliance.

Landscape plants are being added to the rule, instead of only turf grass. New training requirements will be part of the ordinance, along with requirement for 50% slow release nitrogen formulations, a 10-foot setback from wetlands and water bodies, and new wording requiring the collection and disposal of over-spill fertilizer on impervious surfaces.

The ordinance includes a ban on the application of fertilizer containing nitrogen and phosphorus between June 1st through September 30th.

However, it provides an exemption to certified applicators who have taken and passed the Green Industries Best Management Practices class and have other certifications. There is also an exemption for non-commercial applicators who have taken and passed the County's online education/training class and are working to expand County-wide educational programs.

Audubon Florida would like to see these exemptions removed to be more in line with Seminole County's recently passed ordinance. To find out more about the ordinance and/or to provide input, please contact Julie Bortles of Orange County Environmental Protection at julie.bortles@ocfl.net.

Rick Baird



Leaving the Nest - Osprey First Place, 2015 Chertok Photo Contest, Youth Category. *Photo: Arwen Paredes*

Constitutional Review Commission

Florida's Constitutional Review
Commission met in Orlando on March
29th, in a process that is unique
to Florida and has only happened
twice before. The 37 appointed
commission members will be crafting
constitutional amendments for the
2018 ballot. The commissioners
seemed to listen well to the public
comments, of which there were over
100. Some comments were about
funding for land acquisition. For more
on this process, see this link.

Wekiwa Springs Management Plan Review

Orange Audubon Society was among the stakeholders on the advisory board for the 10 year management plan for Wekiwa Springs State Park, Rock Springs Run State Reserve, and Lower Wekiva River Preserve State Park. Timbering is only used as part of restoration activities to expand the scrub and sandhill habitat. There is no grazing in the plan. Florida Scrub-Jays may possibly be introduced to Rock Springs Run State Reserve. There were also two public meetings, and anyone can download the plan at this link and send in comments by April 13th.

Split Oak

Orange County District 4
Commissioner Jennifer Thompson, who is on the board of the Central Florida Expressway, is positive to our efforts to stop the Osceola Expressway Eastern Extension from going through Split Oak Forest Wildlife and Environmental Area. If you live in the Lake Nona area or enjoy visiting Split Oak, please contact me at sabalpress@mac.com and we will make you part of the coalition.

Deborah Green



The purpose and dedication of Orange Audubon Society (OAS) is to promote public understanding of, and an interest in, wildlife and the environment that supports it.

OAS' education programs foster the recognition of the tangible and intangible values in the remaining natural areas of Florida and the world, and our responsibility for the conservation of the Earth's natural ecosystems and the services that they provide for the health of the planet.

Orange Audubon Society P.O. Box 941142 Maitland, FL 32794-1142 www.orangeaudubonfl.org

President: Rick Baird rbaird4@att.net (407) 277-3357

OASis Editor: Deborah Green sabalpress@mac.com (407) 637-2525

The OASis (Orange Audubon Society information source) newsletter is published monthly from September through June. The newsletter is posted on the OAS website and the link e-mailed to OAS members

Address Change or E-Delivery: Mike Daley miked129e@gmail.com (407) 417-7818 JOIN OAS' MEETUP GROUP LIKE OAS ON FACEBOOK

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Ethos Vegan Kitchen 5% Profit Day

Thanks so much to Ethos Vegan Kitchen in Winter Park for donating 5% of its profits

from March 25th to Orange Audubon Society.

Ethos, which has been in business in Winter Park for 10 years, is a favorite of many of us. The restaurant is located at 601-B South New York Avenue, Winter Park. See http://www. ethosvegankitchen.com.

Green Mountain Overlook Lake Apopka

Orange Audubon Society's March 18th field trip to Green Mountain Overlook allowed participants to check out a different entry point to the Lake Apopka North Shore. The group saw Northern Parula, White-eyed Vireo, Yellowbellied Sapsucker and other woodland species. It was a beautiful walk with lots flowering plants in bloom. Try it on your own (see map on p. 6).

Larry Martin, Field Trips Chair

Limited Edition Ocala National Forest Trip



On Saturday, March 25th, Orange Audubon Society had another awesome Limited Edition Field Trip led by Bob Sanders. This one was to the southern end of Ocala National Forest. Forty-eight species sighted included at least 8 Florida Scrub-Jays, Red-headed Woodpeckers, Northern Flickers, Pine Warblers, Brown-headed Nuthatches, Carolina Chickadees, and Swallow-tailed Kites. Kathy Rigling

In case you missed it ... Plant It and They Will Come by **Lavon Silvernell**

Lavon Silvernell, naturalist and past director of the Trout Lake Nature Center in Eustis, presented Orange Audubon Society's March 16th program on bringing birds to our yards with native plants. For those just starting the process of changing from a landscape dominated by St. Augustine grass, she suggested making islands of native plants.

Lavon brought cuttings of plants like Hercules club



that have berries eaten by birds and also are a larval host for the giant swallowtail butterfly. Crush its leaves to release a fragrant citrus 'odor.' Winged sumac makes up for its deciduous period with flowers in the spring that attract pollinators, and berries in the fall that are enjoyed by bluebirds, catbirds, and mockingbirds. Flowers as well as fruit from Elderberry are eaten by birds.

Although berries and seeds are important food for birds, Lavon emphasized the importance of insects, particularly as food for hatchlings. For example, oaks and wild cherries have many species of caterpillars, particularly in spring, that are easy pickings for warblers and easily fed to their young. She also stressed how leaving snags helps woodpeckers as well as other species that nest in vacated woodpecker holes. She also mentioned how dead fronds of cabbage palms are home to bats and screech owls, and how Northern Parula warblers nest in Spanish moss.

Lavon stressed how changes can be made gradually and that it is infinite fun to see the increased diversity of birds in your yard if you plant natives. If you want further advice on plant selection, visit Green Isle Gardens Native Plant Nursery in Groveland, where she works most Saturdays. Deborah Green

Orange Audubon Society Election Month

In April, Orange Audubon Society (OAS) holds its official annual meeting to elect officers and/or members of its board of directors. The 2017 election will be held before the April 20th program at Harry P. Leu Gardens at 7 p.m.

The nominating committee, consisting of Mike Daley, Danielle Ponsolle and myself, has identified the following nominees to be voted on at the April meeting to fill the 2015-2018 term: Killian Hiltz (returning board member filling seat vacated by Phyllis Hall); and the 2017-2020 term: Susan Kirby and Larry Martin (returning), Michael Broussard and Michael Jones. Two seats are still available: one seat each for a 2016-2019 and a 2017-2020 term. Officers' terms are for 2016-2018 and Dena Wild, a current director with 2016-2019 term, has accepted the nomination for Second Vice President/Programs Chair, which was vacated earlier this year.

Nominations will be accepted up to April 20th. Nominees must be current OAS members and are expected to attend monthly, one-hour board meetings held at 6 p.m. prior to monthly programs, plus an all-day summer planning meeting. Board members should have a commitment to helping OAS meet conservation, education, financial and other goals. OAS has great need of help with conservation and education and will soon need help from people skilled in fundraising as we move closer to a capital campaign for an OAS nature education center.

Upon request, I will provide you with OAS' board application form that outlines expectations for you and allows OAS to learn your interests and skills. Service is also needed on OAS' many committees. You do not need to serve on the board to serve on a committee(s), which is a great place to learn about OAS' structure, its conservation and nature education missions and ways you can help Audubon connect people with nature to benefit wildlife, wild places and humans-and feel richly rewarded for doing so! If you wish to increase your involvement or have questions, please contact me at skirby1964@gmail.com or (407) 440-3448. Your time would be a most valuable asset to Orange Audubon Society. Thank you very Susan Kirby, Nominating Committee Chair much.



Birdathon is April 8, 2017!!

Birdathon is like a Walkathon, except you collect donation pledges for species of birds seen instead of miles walked. Some Audubon chapters make Birdathon their biggest fundraiser.

The beauty of Birdathon is that members bring in donations from others besides themselves. If you bought Girl Scout cookies from a neighbor or pledged for another cause, ask that person to donate now to Orange Audubon. You'll be surprised how your dentist, eye



doctor, vet, or hair stylist might be willing to pledge.

Birdathon this year is April 8th. See the next page for the pledge sheet. If all our OAS Birdathon birders collectively during a 24-hour period on that day record 180 species, and a person pledges 10 cents a species, then they owe \$18. Ask for more if they are willing. You can also ask them to donate a flat amount.

In addition to collecting pledges, we need people to bird and participate in Birdathon as individuals or teams. Call some birding buddies, grab your binoculars, pick a spot and have fun! Or just bird in your backyard. The Florida Ornithological Society provides the official list of birds in Florida at https://doi.org/10.1001/just-bird and participate in Birdathon...exotic or not.

The person or team recording the most species and the person securing the most pledges will be recognized in the May *OASis*. We hope many of our members will collect pledges this year, even a few will help. Birdathon donations will be used to fund OAS conservation, advocacy and education efforts.

Let me know if you will be birding that day and turn in your April 8th species list to me by April 20th (the day the Chertok photo entries are due). You can bring your pledge sheet and funds collected to OAS treasurer Teresa Williams at the April meeting or mail to OAS, P.O. Box 941142, Maitland, FL 32794-1142. I can be reached at riglingk@aol.com or (407) 488-9559. Thanks for your participation in this fun OAS fund-raiser. *Kathy Rigling, Birdathon Coordinator*

Ride Around Lake Apopka, April 2, 2017



Friends of Lake Apopka (FOLA) will host its inaugural "FOLA 40" on Sunday, April 2, 2017. FOLA 40 is a 40-mile bike ride around Lake Apopka aimed at raising awareness of progress made in restoring the lake; spotlighting the West Orange and Apopka Loop trails; making people aware of the need to connect these two trails; and having fun!

The ride (not a race) starts at the Winter Garden Farmers Market area between 7:30-8 a.m. and goes east on the West Orange Trail, counter-clockwise around

the lake. At four rest stops, energy drinks and energy bars will be provided by Crooked Can, co-sponsoring along with Wheel Works bicycle shop in Winter Garden. Founded in 1991, FOLA is a citizen advocacy group dedicated to restoring Lake Apopka to its once pristine condition. Connecting these trails used for biking, hiking, birding and other nature pursuits, would be positive for ecotourism.

Spring Bird Walks at Mead Botanical Garden April 1, 8, 15 & 29, 2017

Orange Audubon Society will offer guided bird walks at Mead Botanical Garden on Saturdays (except April 22nd) throughout April, as we have for the past five years.

Warblers and other colorful songbirds that winter in the Caribbean or Central or South America are moving north. Most will just pass through our area en route to forests of the Appalachians, the Eastern Seaboard or Canada, although Northern Parulas and a few others will stay with us to breed. Mead Botanical Garden (Mead) in Winter Park is one of Central Florida's best public places to see these migrants.

Mead has food (insects and berries), water and shelter for bird stop-overs, with a variety of habitats: wetlands, open water, and an upland area with established oaks and pines. Twenty-three warbler species have been seen in recent years.

The walks will begin at 8:00 a.m. and last 2 to 3 hours at a casual pace. All are free and open to the public. Experienced birders leading this year's walks include Bob Sanders, Renee Thomas and John Thomton.

A limited number of loaner binoculars are available. If you need a pair, please come a little early to sign them out and, if necessary, get a quick course on their proper use. No need to preregister; just show up and have fun.

The "oasis of nature" that is Mead Botanical Garden is located at the intersection of south Denning and Garden drives in Winter Park, two blocks east of Orlando Ave (Hwy. 17-92). If you have any questions in advance of the trip, contact me at Imartin5@msn.com or (407) 647-5834. Hope to see you!

Larry Martin, Field Trip Chair

Chandler Robbins (1918–2017)

The first birding field guide for some of us was "The Golden Guide" by Robbins, Bruun, and Zim. Conservation titan 'Chan' Robbins passed away this month at 98. For a biography of this avid naturalist, enthusiastic birder, and citizen-science innovator, see this link.





"The Voice of Conservation in Central Florida"

Sheet Birdathon - 2017 Pledge

Our annual Birdathon is April 8, 2017. All donations are tax-deductible and go directly to support Orange Audubon Society and the protection of Florida birds and their habitat.

Birdathoner	Please make your check payable
Street Address	to Orange Audubon Society.
City, State, Zip	Thank you for your support!
Phone E-mail	

	•	•	•	•	•
TOTAL					
TOTAL					
PER SPECIES					
FLAT RATE?					
PHONE					
ADDRESS					
EMAIL					
NAME					

THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING!

TOTAL AMOUNT COLLECTED: \$

Report your pledge amounts by April 20th to compiler Kathy Rigling by emailing riglingk@aol.com or by calling (407) 488-9559.

Please mail pledge sheet and checks to Orange Audubon Society, P.O. Box 941142, Maitland, Florida 32794 or bring money to the April 20th Orange Audubon Society meeting.

A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE, 1-800-435-7352, WITHIN THE STATE. FROM OUTSIDE OF FLORIDA CALL 1-850-410-3800. VISIT www.800helpfla.com FOR HELP. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. REGISTRATION NO. CH2330 Donations to Orange Audubon Society, Inc., a Florida nonprofit [501(c)[3]] organization, are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.



Central Florida Earth Day Earth Day In the Park **April 22, 2017**

For the sixth year, Orange Audubon Society (OAS) will have a tent and display table and will do outreach at Central Florida Earth Day at Lake Eola Park in downtown Orlando. The FREE event is Saturday, April 22nd, from 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

OAS is provided a great spot right by Lake Eola, since we offer free bird walks around the lake. Several of our walk leaders will be on the Flamingo Quest that same weekend, and we could use help introducing beginners to some of the birds. We will provide a photo sheet on the Lake Eola swans, as the swans, while not native, are a big attraction. Contact Rick at rbaird4@att. net or (407) 277-3357 if you can help.



Earth Day Volunteer Project at Egret Island, Windermere

Egret Island is a 10-acre island in the northeast area of Lake Butler near the Windermere shore. It is known as a roosting and nesting site for egrets, ibises, herons, and anhingas and recently for Brown Pelicans. The island was dedicated to the Florida Audubon Society in 1958 as a wildlife sanctuary. Celebrate Earth Day with Windermere Mayor Gary Bruhn and the Orange County Environmental Protection Division by helping to cleanup this important habitat. Volunteers with their own kayaks are needed to clean the perimeter of the island. The event takes place the morning of April 22nd. Volunteers must pre-register in order to participate. Email Carrie. Mohanna@ ocfl.net to RSVP or request more information.

April 9, 2017

Join Orange Audubon at Earth Day in the Park in Winter Park's Central Park. Festivities will be from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Contact Rick at rbaird4@att.net or (407) 277-3357 if vou can help.

Other Earth Day Events

Orange Audubon Society board members will again be at Earth Day at Valencia College East Campus on April 6th.

We will also join Friends of Lake Apopka doing outreach for Disney employees at the Disney Reservation Center in Orlando on April 20th.

It's a busy month!

Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive, 2nd Anniversary on the **Drive, April 30, 2017**

On Sunday, April 30th, to commemorate the 2nd anniversary of the Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive (LAWD), Orange Audubon Society (OAS) volunteers will be along the drive with binoculars, bird books, and spotting scopes to help beginners enjoy some of the area's most interesting birds.

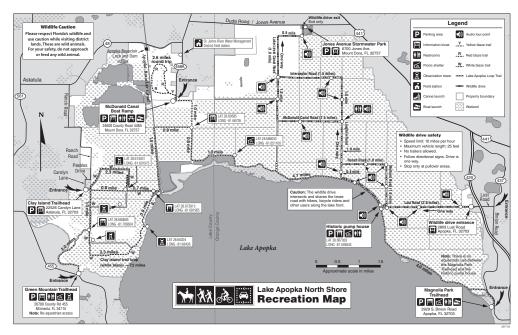
On May 1, 2015, the St. Johns River Water Management District (District) opened the 11-mile drive, located at 2803 Lust Road, Apopka. LAWD is open Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and federal holidays.

During the first year over 50,000 people explored LAWD, and this year the visitor numbers exceed 70,000. Visitors marvel at alligators and wading birds, learn the difference between coots, grebes, and ducks, and turn up rarities. Photographers find LAWD a paradise. There's always something interesting to see.

Orange Audubon Society has worked with the District to promote the Lake Apopka North Shore through the annual Birdapalooza Festival (which will be January 18-21, 2018). We have also developed and continue developing interpretive signage and manage a Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive Facebook page with sightings and comments by the public.

If you love LAWD and would like to share your enthusiasm that day, contact me at sabalpress@mac.com or (407) 637-2525. See you out there!

Deborah Green





Silent Auction Help Needed

On June 15, 2017 Orange Audubon Society (OAS) presents its final program of the season, an exclusive showing of entries in the Kit and Sidney Chertok Florida Native Nature Photography Contest, announces winners and presents awards. Tasty finger foods and a silent auction make the event even more fun, but also frenetic!

And that is why OAS solicits your help. Please volunteer to help setting up or cleaning afterwards.

Now is also the time to solicit silent auction items for this major fundraiser. Will you ask a frequented restaurant, outdoor shop, fitness trainer, etc. to donate? Or donate a personal creation that is artistic, culinary or crafty and provide value, description, minimum bid and other details to me by May 31st so that organizers can determine table and layout needs, prepare bid sheets and rally other volunteers for this special evening. Contact mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or (407) 644-0796 to leave some good news. Thank you! *Teresa Williams, Treasurer*

Baby Owl Shower at Center for Birds of Prey May 13, 2017

Each spring Audubon Florida's Center for Birds of Prey holds its annual Baby Owl Shower. It takes place on the Saturday before Mother's Day to raise funds to offset the increased costs during baby season. Non-releasable baby raptors – those with physical or mental (imprinting) injuries that would prevent survival in the wild – should be available to view. Admission is "free" that day when you bring an item from the wish list of supplies needed to care for these young raptors. See list at this link. Contact the Center at (407) 644-0190 if you have questions.

Orange Audubon Society participates at this event selling nature inspired merchandise and offering a kids' art activity. We especially need help with the kids' art activity. Baby owls attract lots of baby people (and grown people, too!). The event starts at 10 a.m., but set up help is needed at 9:00 a.m. The event ends and tear-down begins at 2:00 p.m. To help with the Baby Owl Shower, please contact Teresa at (407) 644-0796 or mwilliams@cfl.rr.com.

Last Call to See Chertok Display at Colonial Photo & Hobby! New Display Coming Soon!

This is your last chance to see the current display of Chertok photography contest entries that are displayed at Colonial Photo & Hobby (CPH), 634 N. Mills Ave., Orlando, FL before a new display of selected entries is unveiled.

Before winning images and photographers' names are announced each year, CPH, the contest co-sponsor since 2004, selects a limited number of entries from which enlargements will be made for a long-running display in their retail premises. The display and later uses of enlarged images, which always credit the photographers, help to enhance the contest's educational value and promote interest in nature photography. When you visit CPH, please enjoy the current display and thank owners Mike and Steve Rausch and CPH's knowledgeable staff for their continued support.

Please stay tuned to the OASis newsletter to learn whose images will be featured in the new display. *Teresa Williams, Chertok Photo Contest Chair*

Jay Watch Training May 13, 2017

Jay Watch volunteers contribute to research (citizen science) and preservation of the threatened Florida Scrub-Jay. The friendly and charismatic scrub-jay is dependent on Florida's shrinking scrub habitat. The closest Jay Watch sites are Lyonia Preserve, Blue Spring State Park, North Peninsula State Park (all in Volusia County), and two water management district properties, Lake Monroe Conservation Area in Volusia County and Buck Lake Conservation Area in Brevard County.



Hello There - Scrub Jay. Honorable Mention, 2012 Chertok Photo Contest, Youth Category.

Jay Watch will conduct a statewide survey from June 15 to July 15, 2017. To become a Jay Watch volunteer, you must take a free half day training session in which you will learn standardized survey methods. The closest Jay Watch training workshop is at the Lyonia Preserve on Providence Blvd. & Eustace Ave. in Deltona on Saturday morning May 13th.

If you cannot attend that morning, there are other sessions around the state. Contact Audubon Florida's Jacqui Sulek at jsulek@audubon.org.

Donate to Support Orange Audubon Society

Last fall at the start of the new program season, Orange Audubon Society (OAS) mailed its once-a-year Letter Appeal to ask for your financial support. Many have generously contributed to support a future OAS nature education center, school programs, and general funding needs, but we have not yet reached our modest annual goal of \$7000. If you have not already done so, please consider making a gift directly to your chapter for the July 2016–June 2017 program year.

When you renew your dues annually through National Audubon Society, OAS will receive a small portion of the renewal amount (less than \$2 per member no matter how generous your renewal amount is). It is local Audubon chapters like OAS that sponsor local programs, field trips and other activities that enhance your enjoyment of the natural world and provide opportunities for you to meet people with common interests. Your generous financial support made directly to Orange Audubon Society makes it possible.

It is easy to donate online using the secure PayPal "Donate" button on OAS' website: www.orangeaudubonfl.org or you can pay by check made payable and mailed to Orange Audubon Society, P.O. Box 941142, Maitland, Florida 32794.

Thank you!

Teresa Williams

Teresa Williams



Last Call for Chertok Photo Contest Entries! Enter by Mail or Online by April 20th!

Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) 2017 Kit and Sidney Chertok Florida Native Nature Photography Contest, is themed: Florida Native Nature and has an entry deadline of April 20, 2017 (postmarked or electronically submitted by date). Instructions for electronic submission and online payment (new this year) are on OAS' Chertok webpage, but participants may still enter by mail following the instructions on entry forms. This 29th annual contest is open to all photographers (except members of OAS' board and Chertok contest committee). There are three skill level competition categories: YOUTH— for photographers age 17 or younger by April 20, 2017; NOVICE—for new and less experienced photo hobbyists; and ADVANCED AMATEUR/ PROFESSIONAL—for experienced photographers who have practiced and honed their skills over time.

New and bonus prizes in addition to the \$1,200 prize package from OAS and co-sponsor Colonial Photo & Hobby (CPH) have been added. Tarflower Chapter of Florida Native Plant Society will add \$100 in NEW cash prizes for YOUTH winners of 1st-3rd place to share.

Photographers in all categories with 1st-3rd place winning images taken on Orange County natural lands (Green PLACEs) are eligible for a National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Annual Pass (\$80 value) as BONUS prizes. The list of Orange County's Green PLACE properties is at this link.

Eligible photos may not include humans, human artifacts or introduced plant or animal species—subject matter must be native to Florida—and entries must be taken in compliance with the NANPA code of conduct. Participants will be notified of any disqualified entries and may optionally replace them at no charge by following instructions that will be provided upon notification. Electronic



Bright and Blooming - Black-eyed Susan. Third Place, 2011 Chertok Photo Contest, Youth Category. Photo: Alicia Devine

entry submission details are now on the OAS website at this link. You may also pick up entry forms at contest co-sponsor CPH, 634 N. Mills Ave., Orlando, FL or by contacting me. So! Get outside with your camera and start shooting, preserving and learning more about Florida's amazing native nature and their 'wild' habitats! Contact me at (407) 644-0796 or mwilliams@cfl.rr.com if you have questions.

Teresa Williams, Chertok Photo Contest Chair

APRIL/MAY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Migration Bird Walks, Mead Botanical Garden

April 1, 8, 15, AND 29, 2017

Contact Larry at (407) 647-5834

Birdathon, Fundraiser

April 8, 2017

Contact Kathy at (407) 488-9559

Earth Day in the Park, Winter Park

April 9, 2017

Contact Rick at (407) 277-3357

Monthly Program, Freshwater Turtles of Central Florida - Wayne Osborne

April 20, 2017

Contact Deborah at (407) 637-2525

Chertok Photo Contest Deadline

April 20, 2017

Contact Teresa at (407) 644-0796

Overnight Field Trip & Flamingo Quest II

April 22-23, 2017

Contact Deborah at (407) 637-2525

Central Florida Earth Day, Lake Eola

April 22, 2017

Contact Rick at (407) 277-3357

Bird Island Clean-up, Lake Butler

April 22, 2017

Contact Carrie.Mohanna@ocfl.net

Limited Edition Field Trip to Ft. De Soto Park

April 23, 2017

Contact Bob at (407) 459-5617

Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive, 2nd Anniversary

April 30, 2017

Contact Deborah at (407) 637-2525

Baby Owl Shower, Center for Birds of Prey, Maitland

May 13, 2017

Contact auduboncbop@audubon.org

Jay Watch Training, Lyonia Preserve, Deltona

May 17, 2017

Contact Jacqui at jsulek@audubon.org

Monthly Program, The Florida Scrub-Jay and Our Water - Milton Heiberg

May 18, 2017

Contact Deborah at (407) 637-2525

Monthly Field Trip, Lyonia Preserve, Deltona

May 20, 2017

Contact Larry at (407) 647-5834