



This Month's Program:

March 15, 2018

Creating Gardens for Bees by Kelly Greer



Above, Leaf-cutter Bee on Vanillaleaf.
Below, Bumblebee on Partridge Pea.
Photos: Mary Keim

Beautiful butterflies, buzzing bees, and beneficial bugs will abound in your garden, if you follow some easy tips.

Orange Audubon Society's March 15th speaker is Kelly Greer, University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, Orange County Extension, Residential Horticulture and Florida Friendly Landscaping specialist.

Kelly will share with us some strategies for creating a sustainable pollinator and beneficial insect habitat.

Why should we care about bees? They are responsible for 1 out of every 3 bites of food we take each day, but they are in decline for a number of reasons.

From this presentation we will learn about the needs of bumblebees and other native bees as well as the non-native honeybees that pollinate most of our crops.

Beetles and even birds like hummingbirds are also pollinators, and all will benefit by the strategies presented.

By planting more nectar and pollen sources in our urban landscapes, we can help to improve pollinator health and numbers.

Kelly will share a variety of resources about pollinators, including the website www.pollinator.org

Join us March 15th for a fascinating program. Location details are below.
Dena Wild, Programs Chair

Monthly Field Trip to Isle of Pine Preserve March 17, 2018

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) will take its March monthly field trip to Isle of Pine Preserve in southeast Orange County, off of Lake Mary Jane Road. Isle of Pine is adjacent to Moss Park, which is adjacent to Split Oak Forest Wildlife and Environmental Area, an area OAS has been working diligently to protect (p.2).

Isle of Pine Preserve is an Orange County Green PLACE (Park Land Acquisition for Conservation and Environmental Protection), part of Orange County's initiative to preserve, enhance and restore environmentally sensitive lands. There are pine flatwoods and cypress swamps and plenty of wildlife. The property is awash with blooming wildflowers in spring.

Bring water, snacks and dress comfortably for a birding hike. We'll start at 8 a.m. and end around noon. Meet in the parking lot of Isle of Pine Preserve, 14032 Lacebark Pine Rd., Orlando. Contact me at (407) 647-5834 if you have any questions. We hope you join us!

Larry Martin, Field Trips Chair

March 3, 2018 Ethos Vegan Kitchen 5% Day to Benefit Orange Audubon Society



On Saturday, March 3, 2018, Ethos Vegan Kitchen will donate 5% of its sales throughout

the day to Orange Audubon Society (OAS). Simply dine in or take out and 5% of your check will go to our chapter. This is the sixth year that Ethos has selected OAS to benefit from their generous 5% Day. Ethos is located at 601-B South New York Avenue, Winter Park, FL 32789, phone (407) 228-3899.

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/





State Legislative Session Ends Soon

The Florida Senate and House Session will adjourn on March 9, 2018. Florida Forever funding has been a big Audubon effort, along with preventing fracking and warding off other negative environmental bills. Please sign up [at this link](#) for the Audubon Florida Advocate and follow their calls to action. Please act soon, as the window of opportunity to influence decisions this session is closing. There is also [Audubon Florida's Facebook page](#), that is a quick way to find out what needs to be done. For more information and to sign up for requests for action, contact OAS' conservation chair Mike Jones at conservation@orangeaudubonfl.org.



Split Oak Bonnet Pond. Photo: Dave Wegman

Split Oak Forest and the Osceola Parkway

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) is part of a coalition of environmental groups opposing a possible Osceola Parkway expansion through the 1700-acre Split Oak Forest Wildlife and Environmental Area, off Narcoossee Road. Articles in the OASis in [November 2016](#) and [February 2017](#) have provided critical information about this issue and the danger of setting a precedent of roads transecting publicly purchased mitigation preserves.

If you are free during the morning of March 8th, please attend the Central Florida Expressway Authority (CFX) meeting starting at 9 a.m. The location is 4974 Orl Tower Rd, Orlando, Florida 32807. At that meeting the CFX board will lay the groundwork for consultants to begin a Project Development and Environment Study (PD&E) for the Osceola Parkway expansion. OAS is encouraging the CFX board to include a route that skirts Split Oak Forest entirely, and we are also examining a recent proposal that clips the southwest corner of Split Oak but includes a package of compensation lands to be added to Split Oak and the adjacent conservation properties. We are working to make this a stronger package prior to endorsing it. A lot of work has gone into warding off this expressway that has no other purpose than to foster new development. If you have not already done so, please send comments about avoiding Split Oak to CFX at ConceptStudies@CFXway.com in early March. Indicate that comments are to be included with the Poinciana public meeting. The [Friends of Split Oak Forest website](#) or [Facebook Group](#) has a petition opposing the road crossing Split Oak Forest that you can sign and share if you choose.

If you have never visited Split Oak or if you wish to hike with a nice group of advocates, join Friends of Split Oak Forest on one of their walks this month. These are listed both on the Friends' website and Facebook page. Split Oak is an Orange County Green PLACE located off Narcoossee Road, 3.6 miles south of SR 417. Turn onto Clapp Simms Duda Rd to the east, at the sign for Back to Nature Wildlife Sanctuary. Watch for the parking lot on the right.

Conservation Committee



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.

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The OASis (Orange Audubon Society's 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.

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Beginners' Bird Watching Class

March 3, 10, & 17, 2018

Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) Bob Sanders will teach a Beginners' Bird Watching Class this spring. An "outdoor" classroom session and mini-field trip on March 3rd at Orlando Wetlands Park (OWP) are followed by two field sessions on March 10th and 17th at OWP and Lake Jesup.



Mirror, Mirror: Pied-billed Grebe. 2017 Chertok Photo Contest Honorable Mention Winner, Novice category. Photo: Debra Harper

All sessions are 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The course will teach basic birding principles and ID techniques, including bird habitat and anatomy, use of binoculars ("loaner" binoculars available), field guides and checklists, and birding ethics.

If you miss a session, you may catch a make-up session during the fall 2018 class at no additional charge.

Registration is required, limit 20 students. 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 for \$50, which includes registration plus 3-way membership in Orange, National and Florida Audubon societies. New memberships must be paid directly to OAS, as instructed when you register, by contacting Teresa at mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or (407) 644-0796. For questions about the class, contact Bob at (407) 459-5617.

Central Florida Fair

Orange Audubon Society will be at the 106th Central Florida Fair with an outreach table in Building C. Volunteers will be there from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. on Friday-Sunday during the first on the first three weeks of March. If you would like to help, contact Susan Kirby at skirby1964@gmail.com.

Orlando Wetlands Festival Returns

About 3000 attendees welcomed the return of the Orlando Wetlands Festival on February 17, 2018. The event is hosted by the City of Orlando, with co-sponsorship by Orange Audubon Society (OAS), Orange County Parks & Recreation Department and Tarflower Chapter, Florida Native Plant Society. LYNX again provided buses for the guided tours and more than 150 city staff and volunteers worked to assure a fun, successful event.

OAS volunteers led bird walks, photo trips, bus trips, provided bird banding demonstrations, and helped with outreach and a kids' art table. To help defray sponsorship costs and raise funds for OAS' nature and environmental education center fund, other volunteers sold nature-inspired tee-shirts.

Trip leaders Rick Baird, Sherri Brown, Reinhard and Jutta Geisler, Deborah Green, Karen Hamblett, Michael Kay, Mary Keim, Lorne Malo, Larry Martin, Lori and Jerry Mathis, Kathy Rigling, Randy Snyder Rebecca Smith, were awesome.



Yellow-breasted Chat caught during bird banding at Orlando Wetlands Festival. Photo: Andrew Boyle.

Bird-banders Susan Angermeier, Andrew Boyle, Christine Brown, Kate Dolamore, Connie Dolan, Lynn Folts, and Richard Poole delighted onlookers, especially those who saw the Philadelphia Vireo and Yellow-breasted Chat.

Kids swarmed the art table where Gabbie Buendia and Susanna Khachatryan provided instruction. Outreach about OAS' advocacy efforts and upcoming Congaree field trip and nature education opportunities were shared by Linda Carpenter, Linda Gaunt and Dena Wild.

And nobody 'hawks' those tee-shirts like Mike Broussard, Cyndi Kay, Wayne Kennedy, Terrie Leibler, Brent Mobley, Lori Parsons and Teresa Williams. Thanks to all who helped!

Mary Keim and Teresa Williams

Homeowners' Orange County EAST Solar Co-op has 100+ members!

Orange County homeowners who live east of Interstate 4 are invited to join with their neighbors to access affordable solar photovoltaics (PV) for their homes. When homeowners join the Co-op, they learn if their homes are suitable for solar PV and receive information on solar equipment, solar financing, and how the solar co-op helps them to bundle their buying power to receive a competitive price.

There is no fee to join and no obligation to sign the contract presented by the solar installer who will be chosen by co-op members. [Deadline to sign up is April 15.](#)

Everyone is invited to attend a free, public "Solar Information Meeting" to learn more on Tuesday, March 13th, 6:30 to 8 p.m., Lake Nona High School, Performing Arts Center, 12500 Narcoossee Road, Orlando, FL 32832.

Do you live west of Interstate 4? Orange County West Solar Co-op will open in late April. Sign up to receive the e-newsletter [at this link.](#)

Items Needed for Chertok Silent Auction

On June 18th Orange Audubon Society (OAS) will present its final program of the season, showing the 30th annual 2018 Kit and Sidney Chertok Florida Native Nature Photography Contest entries, announcing the winners and awarding prizes.

Please save the date! We expect over 150 to attend this year, and why not? Tasty finger foods, beverages and a silent auction make the contest show even livelier.

Our Silent Auction is an important OAS fund-raiser toward our nature and environmental education center fund. Will you ask a frequented restaurant, clothier or other business for a silent auction donation? Or show off your artistic, culinary or crafty talent(s) by donating a creation of your own? Consider re-gifting desirable presents (just not by you) received over the holidays. To make a donation, please contact Teresa at (407) 644-0796 or mwilliams@cfl.rr.com. Thanks!

Youth/Family Photography Workshop, March 17, 2018



Young photographers, clockwise from top left: Mason Theurer stalking a wetland bird, *Photo: Jenny Welch*; Reese Rubio photographing an alligator crossing the road at Orlando Wetlands Park, *Photo: Melissa J. Peacock*; Shaw Frederick photographing a sea turtle, *Photo: Vince Lamb*; J.J. Clark with Mallards, *Photo: Susan Kirby*; Jack Rogers' granddaughter Soleil focusing on you, *Photo: Jack Rogers*.

Young people can take great nature photos, as seen in the Youth Category winners of the [Chertok Florida Native Nature Photography Contest](#). To help youngsters who wish to gain some extra skills, nature photographer and past Orange Audubon Society board member Susan Kirby will present a Youth/Family Photography Workshop on March 17, 2018 from 1:00–4:00 p.m. at Mead Botanical Garden.

The workshop encourages children and their adult(s) to learn together many basic nature photography techniques to enhance their skills and enjoyment.

Cost per child is \$5 with registered adult. Cost per adult is \$10 (Audubon members), \$25 (non-members). To reserve your spaces, contact Teresa at mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or (407) 644-0796. For additional workshop information, contact Susan at (443) 994-9909. Mead Botanical Garden is at 1300 S. Denning Dr, Winter Park, FL 32789.

Connecting Children, Nature and Fun This Summer

For the children in your life, check out these summer nature camps. The first is an overnight camp while the others are day camps. They fill up fast, so don't delay!

Wekiva Youth Camp is a residential nature camp for 3rd through 8th graders, sponsored by the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. Campers stay at Wekiwa Springs State Park in the Youth Camp for a one-week session, of which there are six available during June and July. Kathy Rigling, Orange Audubon Society board member, is nature director for the Wekiva Youth Camp, and we know it is a great program. Since this is a statewide camp, located at the park since 1972, and is very popular, only limited spaces are available at this point. Visit [this link](#) or contact the registrar at WYCRegistrar@gmail.com.

Raptor Camp at Audubon Center for Birds of Prey, Maitland has one-week sessions, each day from 9:00 a.m.–2 p.m. The June 4–8 session is for children 6–8 years old. The June 18–22 session is for children 9–12 years old. The camp is fun and educational. For information, see [this link](#) or email auduboncbop@audubon.org.

Mead Botanical Garden Young Naturalist Summer Camp, Winter Park, has week-long camp sessions, starting the week of June 11th and ending the week of July 25th. Hours are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. All weeks are open to children ages 5–12. This year sessions for teens, ages 13 and 14, are offered Week 3 (June 27–July 1) and Week 5 (July 18–22). More information is at [this link](#) or email camp@www.meadgarden.org.

Oakland Nature Preserve, Oakland, offers week-long environmental day camps for grades 1–5. Hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., for four weeks starting June 18th. For information, visit [this link](#), call (407) 905-0054 or email education@oaklandnaturepreserve.org.

Connecting children, nature and fun is what it's all about!

Birdathon With a Twist

Want to help Orange Audubon Society (OAS) raise funds for our future nature and environmental education center while pursuing one of your favorite activities? OAS' annual Birdathon on Saturday, April 7th let's you go birding at one of your favorite locations and those pledging contribute the funds.

As a new twist, if you are new to birding you can join an experienced team for a small donation (\$10 for 1/2 day, \$20 for a full day) that will also go to the OAS Nature and Environmental Education fund. We still need experienced birders to volunteer to allow less experienced ones to join their teams for Birdathon (meeting locations to be determined by those teams).

There will be prizes for the team that collects the most pledges and also a prize for the team that finds the most species of birds. Those willing to host new birders or new birders who want to join a team, please contact Birdathon Chair Kathy Rigling at riglingk@aol.com or (407) 488-9559.

In Case You Missed the Program...

**Birds of Panama
by Clyde Stephens**

For the February 15th program, researcher and author Clyde Stephens treated Orange Audubon Society members and guests to a colorful and lively presentation showcasing some of the 970+ bird species of Panama.

Clyde is a native Floridian, but spent 32 years in Panama researching banana pests. From the comfort of his backyard in Bocas del Toro province plus in his travels around the country, he has observed many beautiful tropical birds.



Long-tailed Silky Flycatcher. Photo: Alex Chester

A unique history of development and restoration has made Panama a prized destination for birders. Panama City is built right on the Panama Canal and is accessible through the Panama City bridge. Despite the presence of this large urban center, many birds can be spotted very close by, because the capital is surrounded by restored flora and fauna. The land surrounding Panama City and the bridge has been declared a National Park and Biological Reserve and continues to be protected.

Clyde notes sightings of up to 5,000 juvenile Swainson's Hawks, along with Yellow-headed Caracara, Crimson-backed Tanager and the Orange-chinned Parakeet. Just the names of these species alone draw up a bright and vibrant image of the environment.

Clyde shared a story that illustrates just how visible and prevalent the birds are in the city. He recalls spotting a Southern Lapwing on top

I Saw It; Did You??

It was thrill to see the Ash-throated Flycatcher again this winter on the Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive (LAWD). I didn't immediately recognize the species. The bird rarely appears in Florida, but is often seen in the Southwest U.S. and northern Mexico.

I thought perhaps it was a Great Crested Flycatcher because they are so common here. But an expert quickly informed me: "those aren't supposed to be here in winter, so it's certainly the Ash-throated."

Back again to confound the novices!

Of very similar size and shape, the two birds could be confused; although Peterson's Field Guide describes the Great Crested Flycatcher as a "kingbird-sized flycatcher at least 8.5 inches long." The Ash-throated, in contrast, is said to be "a medium-sized flycatcher, smaller than a kingbird" and no longer than 8 and a quarter inches. (Minute difference to me!) Sibley's notes about size are less definitive.

The adult Ash-throated Flycatcher, however, is paler all-round with a very pale yellow belly and very pale gray breast and throat. The adult Great Crested Flycatcher in contrast has a bright yellow belly, and definitively gray breast. Both species have extensively rusty tails.

of nearby Ancon Hill while standing in front of the US Embassy. As he shaded his eyes to get a better view of the bird, he was suspected of taking pictures by Embassy officials. The awkward situation was soon resolved, and Clyde left with a good story and another bird checked off of his list.

Clyde also shared stories of birds that he had seen on his property at Hospital Point on Bocas del Toro. This land had also been restored, and he and his wife currently protect it.

There, they have met the Red-lored Parrot, known to pick food out of people's teeth, and the Three-wattled Bellbird, identified by the 3 black worm-like appendages on its bill. Most fun of all is the moonwalking, smooth moving Red-Capped



Ash-throated Flycatcher. Photo: Mark Hainen.

If you are clever at distinguishing bird voices, it may help to know these two species differ markedly in this respect. The Great Crested's voice is a series of clear, strong, alternated phrases of *quit* and *queeto*, and their call is a strong, clear, rising queep and a rough level *KRREEP*, often strung together in an excited series, according to Sibley's Field Guide. In contrast, the Ash-throated's song is a series of short repeated phrases *kibrr* or *kaBRIK* with a low flat quality, and the call is a sharp *bik*, a soft *prrt*, and others. Got it?

On a drive around the LAWD in late February, I didn't see the Ash-throated Flycatcher in the canal near the entrance on Lust Road. Perhaps it had already left; but then we have the Great Crested Flycatchers to look forward to and enjoy---all summer long. *Linda Carpenter*

Manakin. Search for this species on YouTube to see its moonwalk.

Other popular birding spots Clyde mentioned included mangrove forests and the International Friendship Park at the border between Panama and Costa Rica. *Gabbie Buendia*



Snowy-bellied Hummingbird. Photo: Alex Chester.

Center for Birds of Prey and Doris Mager

Many Central Floridians remember Doris Mager, the Eagle Lady. Doris was working at the Florida Audubon Society Headquarters in Maitland as a store manager in 1963, when someone brought in an injured red-tailed hawk. At that time there were no local raptor experts to care for this bird. So Doris volunteered to nurse the bird back to health. After two months of common sense care and patience, the hawk was able to be released back into the wild. From that point on, Doris assumed care of all injured raptors brought in to the Society.

Then, within two years, a hunter reported finding an injured Bald Eagle in a remote cypress swamp. Doris arrived by boat the following day and found the full-grown Bald Eagle shot through its wing. She captured the scared, helpless bird and was able to save it. This eagle, that she named Hallie, was never able to fly again, and became an education bird, helping Doris learn about Bald Eagles and other raptors and to share that knowledge with others.



Doris Mager in the eagle nest, 1979-. Photo courtesy SOAR

In a story that many of us remember, in 1979, Doris raised money to build a Florida Audubon aviary by sitting in an unoccupied eagle's nest about 50 feet up a pine tree. She stayed there for one week, while donations came in. At the recent Center for Birds of Prey "Wind Beneath Our Wings" fundraiser, center director Katie Warner recognized Doris as having founded the Center. Since 1979, the Audubon Center for Birds of Prey has treated over 20,000 birds.

In June 1983 Doris established an educational and research group called S.O.A.R. Inc., Save Our American



Doris Mager with Golden Eagle. Photo courtesy SOAR

Raptors. Part of her research work was to conduct aerial surveys of Bald Eagle nesting sites for scientists studying the population and habits of these birds in the wild. SOAR's work spawned [Audubon EagleWatch](#), a statewide citizen science program dedicated to the protection of Bald Eagles and their habitat. Through this program today, many volunteers in the field monitor nesting success of more than 25% of Florida's nesting Bald Eagle population.

Doris now lives in the Pasco, Washington area and still gives raptor programs.

If you haven't made a recent visit to the Center for Birds of Prey in Maitland, a great occasion is the annual Baby Owl Shower coming up the Saturday before Mother's Day. The baby owls and other raptors will be on once a year display. *Deborah Green*

Old Abe and the Civil War

The Bald Eagle became our National emblem when the great seal of the United States was adopted in 1782. You may remember that Benjamin Franklin was lobbying for the Wild Turkey.

A Wisconsin regiment of Union soldiers had an unusual mascot accompanying it into battle for the entire Civil War, a Bald Eagle named Old Abe. A Chippewa chief had cut down a tree to capture two eaglets, one of which died in the fall. According to [Wikipedia](#) sources, he sold the surviving fledgling to a trader for a bushel of corn. In August 1861, soon after the 8th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Regiment formed, this trader offered to sell the eagle to the regiment for \$2.50. The volunteers put in twenty five cents apiece. The Captain of the regiment named the eagle after President Abraham Lincoln, his quartermaster made a special perch on which to

carry the bird into battle, and a young soldier was designated to care for him. The bird reached his full adult plumage by the end of the war. The so-called 'eagle regiment' was very popular. When Generals Grant, Sherman, McPherson, Rosecrans, Blair, Logan, and others passed the regiment, they raised their hats as they passed Old Abe, which always brought a cheer from the regiment and then the eagle would spread his wings.

Deborah Green



Old Abe and his regiment. Photo and painting: Wisconsin Historical Society.

Bald Eagles and Golden Eagles

The number of Bald Eagles in Florida is second only to Alaska. Bald Eagles live almost exclusively around water—lakes, rivers, ponds, oceans—as fish make up much of their diet, and they are not averse to picking off ducks and coots as well.

Take a guess which state has the next most Bald Eagles after Alaska and Florida? I would never have known this if I hadn't visited there last month. It's Minnesota, followed by neighboring Wisconsin. The [National Eagle Center](#) is located in Wabasha, about an hour and a half south of Minneapolis. It is no coincidence that Wabasha is located on the Mississippi River, our nation's second-longest river, behind only the conjoining Missouri River. The 2,320-mile

Mississippi River starts as a glacial lake in north central Minnesota, and in the upper reaches, it flows through a wide floodplain bordered by bluffs. The bluffs cause air turbulence that make it easy for eagles to soar above a river full of fish.

The river freezes solid in winter, but the town of Wabasha lies near where the Chippewa River joins the Mississippi, and turbulence caused by the rivers meeting keeps ice from forming. Bald Eagles gather here in large numbers to feed in the open water. We spotted groups of 15-20 Bald Eagles in trees or the river banks in several places.

Golden Eagles that are more common in the arid West also live in remote areas in the bluffs there in Minnesota. They are solitary birds that are excellent hunters of small mammals.



Immature Bald Eagle. Photo: Lynn Marie Folts

Juvenile Bald Eagles are primarily brown. They reach full maturity and their adult plumage in four to five years. Many birders excitedly think they are seeing a Golden Eagle when they spot a juvenile Bald Eagle.

Although Golden Eagles have been recorded in Central Florida, it is much more likely that you are seeing a juvenile Bald Eagle, of which there are plenty. The easiest way to distinguish them, if you can see the undersides of the wings, is that juvenile Bald Eagles have light “armpits,” to quote Bob Sanders, a raptor expert. Adult Golden Eagles lack these, and juvenile Golden Eagles have other white markings.

Eagles have no natural predators, and interactions with humans are their most dangerous threat. In Florida, the major cause of death is loss of habitat through development. In Minnesota

2018 Orange Audubon Society Board Elections

The Orange Audubon Society (OAS) annual election of board of directors and officers will be held during the general membership meeting on April 19, 2018. I, Linda Gaunt, have the pleasure of chairing the nominating committee with committee members Jenny Williams Cohen (jennycohen181@gmail.com) and Maureen (Mo) Cortese (mocor1129@gmail.com).

The OAS board is comprised of twenty volunteer members: 5 officers who serve two-year terms and 15 non-officer members of the board of directors who serve staggered 3-year terms. All officer positions—president, 1st vice president, 2nd vice president, secretary and treasurer—are up for election/re-election in April 2018. Board member seats for the 2018 term are up for election/re-election, and OAS has an unfilled seats for the 2019 term (1 seat) and 2020 term (1 seat). The slate of nominations for April’s election will be announced at the March 15th OAS meeting.

To serve on the board, you must be an OAS member, have an interest in wildlife and the environment, and be able to attend monthly, 1-hour board meetings on the third Thursday of each month (except July and August) at Leu Gardens. There is also an all-day summer planning meeting, usually in late July, that board members are expected to attend.

Joining the OAS board is a great way to get involved with environmental projects and events as well as help make decisions that will have a positive impact in your community.

The OAS board application details volunteer options and donation expectations and will allow us to find out what interests and skills you bring, so we can best use your help. Please contact me for an application form.

If there is not a vacant slot on the board at any one time, we encourage you to still apply and to join one of OAS’ committees: conservation, education, field trips, finance, hospitality, membership, OASis (newsletter), programs, publicity, sanctuaries, website, wildlife surveys, Birdathon, Chertok photography contest, silent auction, mature education center, nominating, brochure, climate, and speakers’ bureau. OAS’ greatest need is for help with conservation and education.

Please contact me at lgaunt246@gmail.com or (941) 704-1189 if you have time and interest in increasing your involvement with OAS and you wish to receive a board application form. Thank you very much.

Linda Gaunt, Nominating Committee Chair

the key hazard is lead poisoning from eagles’ prey killed with lead fishing tackle or ammunition. Lead is extremely dangerous because of the eagle’s powerful digestive system. Even a tiny fragment can be broken down by their stomach acids and released into the blood stream.

Lead damages their nervous systems and organs, leading to motor control problems and ultimately organ failure. Loss of motor control contributes to collisions with power lines. Sadly, U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke issued an order overturning a prior administration ban on use of lead ammunition and fishing tackle on federal lands and waters. This nod to hunters and fishermen was on his first day on the job on March 1, 2017. Education on lead-free fishing tackle and ammunition continues, so that these magnificent birds can survive. *Deborah Green*

Limited Edition Field Trip to Ocala National Forest, March 24, 2018

The Ocala National Forest is a 400,000-acre conservation and timber management area that is well worth a visit. On Saturday, March 24th, Bob Sanders will lead a Limited Edition Field Trip to the well-burned sandhill habitat near Paisley on the Ocala National Forest’s southern border. Target birds will be Florida Scrub-Jays, possibly Red-cockaded Woodpeckers, plus other pineland and scrub species.

Limited to 15 people, the trip costs \$10 per person per trip for Audubon members (\$15 per person for non-members). Reservations will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis the week prior to the trip. For trip questions or reservations, call Bob at (407) 459-5617. Join us!

Annual Chertok Nature Photo Contest

Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) 2018 Kit and Sidney Chertok Florida Native Nature Photography Contest, is themed: *Florida Native Nature* and has a **deadline of April 19, 2018** (postmarked by date). This 30th annual contest is open to all photographers (except members of OAS' board and Chertok contest committee). There are three competition categories: Youth—for photographers age 17 or younger by April 19, 2018; Novice—for new and less experienced photo hobbyists; and Advanced Amateur/Professional—for experienced photographers who have practiced and honed their skills over time.

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. See contest rules for details. Again this year, Tarflower Chapter of Florida Native Plant Society will add \$100 in NEW cash prizes for 1st–3rd place Youth winners. Together with OAS and co-sponsor Colonial Photo & Hobby's cash and other prizes, the total prize package is valued at \$1,200.

Entry submission details are on the [OAS website](#). So get outside with your cameras and start shooting and preserving Florida's amazing native nature! Contact me at mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or (407) 644-0796 if you have questions.

Teresa Williams, OAS' Chertok Photography Contest Chair

Mark Your Calendars!

South Carolina Magical Birding, May 18–20, 2018

Orange Audubon Society's fun fund-raising trip in mid May is to the Columbia, South Carolina, area. On Friday, May 18th, we will drive 6 hours from Orlando, with a lunch stopover in Savannah. Our destination is [Congaree National Park](#), formerly Congaree Swamp National Monument.

Southeastern breeding birds and lingering spring migrants will be singing up a storm at that time of year, and after a picnic dinner at the park we will stay to see the [synchronous fireflies](#)!

Saturday, May 19th includes guided birding at the [Audubon Center & Sanctuary at Francis Beidler Forest](#) and a search for the rare Swainson's Warbler. On Sunday, May 20th we will visit the [ACE Basin](#), another birding hotspot, on the way home.

The Hampton Inn and Suites in nearby Orangeburg offers a group rate for Friday and Saturday nights for which we need a minimum number of participants ready to book. Cost of the trip is \$60 members/\$75 non-members, which includes honoraria for local expert guides, field trip fees, and picnic supper Friday at Congaree. Lodging, other meals, transportation and incidentals are not included. For more information, contact Deborah: (407) 637-2525 or sabalpress@mac.com. To reserve a spot, contact Teresa: (407) 644-0796 or mwilliams@cfl.rr.com.



Prothonotary Warbler, easy to see on this Carolina trip. Photo taken at Mead Botanical Garden as a rarity. Photo: Frank Salmon.

MARCH/APRIL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Beginning Birdwatching

March 3, 10 & 17, 2018

Contact Teresa at (407) 644-0796

Ethos Vegan Kitchen 5% Day to Benefit Orange

Audubon Society, Winter Park

March 3, 2018

Contact Teresa at (407) 644-0796

Youth & Family Photography Workshop, Mead Botanical Garden

March 17, 2018

Contact Teresa at (407) 644-0796

Monthly Field Trip, Isle of Pine Preserve

March 17, 2018

Contact Larry at (407) 647-5834

Limited Edition Field Trip to Ocala National Forest, Paisley

March 24, 2018

Contact Bob at (407) 459-5617

Spring Mead Botanical Garden Bird Walks, Winter Park

April 7, 14, 21, & 28, 2018

Contact Larry at (407) 647-5834

OAS Birdathon

April 7, 2018 (This could include Split Oak birding)

Central Florida Earth Day at Lake Eola

April 22, 2018

Contact Deborah at (407) 637-2525

Limited Edition Field Trip to Fort De Soto Park, Pinellas County

April 22, 2018

Contact Bob at (407) 459-5617

Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive 3rd Anniversary

April 29, 2018

Contact Deborah at (407) 637-2525

South Carolina Magical Birding Trip

May 18–20, 2018

Contact Deborah at (407) 637-2525