



Left, Catherine Bowman leading a 2013 plant tour for Valencia College faculty and staff on Valencia's West Campus. Photo courtesy Valencia College. Right, Partridge Pea, a native plant that harbors many pollinators, and Black-throated Blue Warbler feeding on American Beautyberry. Photos: Mary Keim

This Month's Program:

March 21, 2019

Native Planting for Wildlife by Catherine Bowman

Birdwatchers promote the use of Florida native plants as a way to bring wildlife to your yard. But which native plant species are best to attract wildlife? Which are most suited to your own yard conditions? Where do you buy them? What can you expect as you grow them?

For Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) March 21st program, Catherine Bowman will share her vast knowledge. Catherine is a botanist and ecological consultant who has served as president of the state-wide Florida Native Plant Society as well as the local Tarflower Chapter. Catherine co-founded Backyard Biodiversity Day at Mead Botanical Garden, with the Tarflower Chapter, OAS, and others. She now focuses on an upland native plant restoration project there, when not busy with consulting work. Her own home's native plant landscape was a popular stop on the Florida Native and Wildlife Friendly Landscape Homes Tour that OAS co-founded several years ago.

Join us March 21st at 7 p.m. for a fascinating program. See box below for location.
Rick Baird, Program Chairperson

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/



Beginners' Bird Watching Class

March 2, 9 & 16, 2019

Have you been wanting to improve your birdwatching skills? Orange Audubon Society offers a Beginners' Bird Watching Class taught by Bob Sanders this March. The "outdoor" classroom session with mini-field trip will be March 2nd at Orlando Wetlands Park (OWP). Two additional field sessions will be on March 9th and 16th at OWP and Lake Jesup, respectively.

Sessions will be 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. If you miss a day, you can make up the trip in fall 2019. The class is limited to 20 students and registration is required.

Total cost for all three sessions is \$30 for Audubon members, \$45 for non-members. Children are also welcome and cost is \$10 per child (through age 12) with a registered adult. To register, contact Teresa at (407) 644-0796 or mwilliams@cfl.rr.com. For questions about the class, contact Bob at (407) 459-5617.

Ethos 5% Day

March 2, 2019



On Saturday, March 2nd, Ethos Vegan Kitchen will be donating 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. Some OAS folks will be eating together at 11:30 a.m. if you would like to join us.

This is the seventh year that Ethos has selected OAS to benefit from their generous 5% Day. [Ethos Vegan Kitchen](#) is located at 601-B South New York Avenue, Winter Park, FL 32789, phone (407) 228-3899.



Legislative Session Begins

In preparation for the upcoming legislative session – March 5 through May 3, 2019 – Audubon Florida (AF) has selected bills to be watched and worked on with legislators. In general, AF's legislative activity will follow water quality, water quantity/supply, climate change, Indian River Lagoon, septic tank issues and conservation program funding. Governor DeSantis has requested larger amounts of money for environmental and conservation issues than previously recommended by the Scott administration. You can follow 2019 bills at Welcome: [Online Sunshine](#). Sign up [at this link](#) for the [Audubon Florida Advocate](#) for calls to action and follow the [Audubon Florida's Facebook](#) page. *Deborah Green*

Climate Change in Florida

Local Florida environmental advocates and experts came together on February 21, 2019 to discuss Florida's unique vulnerabilities to climate change, as well as plans for mitigating inevitable environmental impacts. The panel included: Amy Green, environmental reporter for 90.7 WMFE; Trevor Aaronson, executive director of Florida Center for Investigative Reporting (FCIR); Tristram Korten, a journalist based in Miami, storm/hurricane enthusiast, and author of *The Storm*; and Dr. Randall W. Parkinson, research associate professor at Florida International University, Institute for Water and Environment.

The biggest climate-related threats to Florida are the rising sea levels and increased storm activity. Amy Green highlighted two Florida communities that are being greatly affected. Yankeetown is a small fishing community in the Big Bend region of the state that is currently at 5 feet above the sea level. The town is situated within the Withlacoochee River basin, where the river flows into the Gulf of Mexico. The residents of this small town are experiencing sea level rise that is starting to affect their community. The community is actively trying to adapt, but so far there has been no state or federal assistance. This is the situation for most towns and cities affected by climate change. The burden is put on the communities to adapt and mitigate, when higher governments should help. Current mitigation efforts include oyster bed implementation and the utilization of barrier islands.

Everglades City was hit hard by Hurricane Irma in 2017 and, more than a year later, it is still recovering. Tristram Korten emphasized that hurricanes are becoming harder to predict. Everglades City is a town of less than 1,000 people, many elderly and lower income. "The poor are the canary in the coal mine." If policies are not put in place to help the poor and vulnerable, environmental injustice will only become more common.

With climate threats on our coasts, people are moving inland. The fast paced development is planned very one-dimensionally, without looking at surrounding areas (counties, waterbodies, geological functions, etc.)

Dr. Randall W. Parkinson stated that climate change projections from 35 years ago have changed drastically. What used to be the maximum expected rise in sea level is now the minimum. Wetlands can only hold so much water at one time. CO2 stays in the atmosphere for 100s if not 1000s of years. There is no going back to Pre-Industrial Revolution conditions. We must plan strategically by determining risk, assessing vulnerability, and mitigating.

Panel members mentioned that the risk of climate change must not be overemphasized because it will turn people, who are not convinced, away. Sensationalistic news coverage also hurts the climate change initiative. Our governments, both state and federal, have censored their workers when it comes to talking about climate change. Florida's current governor Ron Desantis seems to be taking a different approach and is planning on establishing a Coastal Resiliency Office for the state.

The common theme throughout this discussion was that we need to adapt. There's no erasing what's already been done, but we can move forward without adding to the problem. Every little bit helps, but more government involvement is necessary to ensure that not only Florida, but our planet as a whole, has a future. *Marah Green, OAS Board Member*



Orange Audubon Society (OAS) mission: To promote public understanding of, and an interest in, wildlife and the environment that supports it; 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.

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The OASis (Orange Audubon Society information source) newsletter is published monthly, September–June, and posted on the OAS website. A link to each issue is e-mailed to subscribers.

Never miss out on OAS happenings. Add or update your email address by contacting newsletter@orangeaudubonfl.org.

For other membership information, contact: Mike Daley
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(407) 417-7818

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In case you missed it ...

Tracking Sea Turtles

University of Central Florida (UCF) biology professor Dr. Kate Mansfield gave a fascinating talk for Orange Audubon Society's February program. After sea turtle hatchlings emerge from their nests on the beach, they vanish into the sea. Dr. Mansfield and students carry out oceanic "lost years" tracking work in the Gulf of Mexico, North and South Atlantic, and Indian Oceans.



Green Sea Turtle in Sargassum. Photo courtesy Kate Mansfield.

They also carry out research on long-term sea turtle nesting within the Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge and juvenile sea turtle movements in the Indian River Lagoon. Some of the challenges Dr. Mansfield told us about were affixing a tracker onto the back of a growing sea turtle. She told us about the high cost of getting out by boat to the areas where the sea turtles live, and how most data is from the North Atlantic while sea turtles occur around the world.

Dr. Mansfield referred frequently to the work of her predecessor, past OAS board member Dr. Llewellyn Ehrhart, who founded the UCF Sea Turtle Research Program in the late 1970s. She pointed out how long it takes for a sea turtle to mature, almost spanning the entire career of a researcher. Her student interns, including OAS board member Melissa Gonzalez, learned a lot from the long-term memory of "Doc Ehrhart" about sea turtle behavior and distribution.

As we learned when Dr. Ehrhart presented for OAS years ago, he got his start learning from the late Dr.

Archie Carr of the University of Florida, for whom the Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge is named.

Another problem of this long term research is that since sea turtles were eaten by sailors and coastal peoples for centuries, it is hard to estimate what populations once were. But from the early 1980s when UCF's research began, Dr. Mansfield said that it is clear that conservation efforts have helped populations. The most critical effort has been monitoring nesting at night and covering the nests with grates so that predators don't eat the eggs. Endangered species designations have also helped.

Dr. Mansfield shared differences in the three sea turtles that regularly nest on Atlantic beaches. The first to nest are the Leatherbacks, second are the most abundant of the three species, the Loggerheads, and finally the Green Sea Turtles. The Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge, particularly in the area just north of Sebastian Inlet State Park, has the highest sea turtle nesting populations on the North Atlantic coast.

She noted how UCF research had revealed a pattern in which Green Sea Turtles nest every other year, and that summer 2019 should be a great year to see them.

If you missed this interesting talk, you have an opportunity to see it online. A videotape was made by OAS member David Bottomley that you can see at [this link](#).

But don't get in the habit of missing the monthly program! Having Dr. Mansfield, "the real deal," was a treat. Next month our speaker will be John Serrao on snakes. Hope to see you then.

Deborah Green



Jim Thomas listening to Oakland Mayor Kathy Stark read proclamation of Jim Thomas Day in Oakland. Photo: Friends of Lake Apopka

Wekiwa Springs State Park Bird Survey March 9, 2019

Monthly field surveys at Wekiwa Springs State Park continue. The next survey is Saturday, March 9th, starting at 7:30 a.m. New participants are welcome. Contact Kathy at riglingk@aol.com or (407) 488-9559.

Monthly Field Trip: March 23, 2019 Wekiwa Springs State Park, Apopka

Continuing Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) efforts to profile the Wekiwa River Basin state lands, OAS will explore Wekiwa Springs State Park on Saturday, March 23rd.



Bachman's Sparrow at Wekiwa Springs State Park. Photo: Kathy Rigling.

We will start by the spring and continue through a tour of the habitats. Bachman's Sparrow, Brown-headed Nuthatch, and Red-headed Woodpecker are a few of the specialty birds of Wekiwa.

We will meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Publix parking lot on 3883 Wekiwa Springs Road, Longwood, FL 32779. Bring drinks, snacks, lunch if you wish, and sunscreen. Bring \$6 per vehicle to enter the park. Carpooling is encouraged. If you have any questions, contact me at lmartin5@msn.com or (407) 647-5834. Hope to see you!

Larry Martin, Field Trips Chair

Jim Thomas Honored

Friends of Lake Apopka (FOLA) founder Jim Thomas was honored at a ceremony at Oakland Nature Preserve by naming the preserve headquarters the Jim Thomas Environmental Education Center. More on Thomas and FOLA in an upcoming issue.

*Featured species:***Northern Parula: Often Heard, Not So Often Seen**

John James Audubon called it “a blue, yellow-backed warbler.” Mark Catesby, an English naturalist, called it a “finch creeper.” Others have referred to it as “little titmouse.” Parula is a diminutive form of parus, which is Latin for tit—meaning titmouse or birds related to it. None of these descriptions do justice to this plump wood warbler with the distinctive noisy song and abundant colorful features.

The exquisite Northern Parula has a blue-gray head, a yellowish-green mantle or patch on its back, two short white wing bars, a sharp bill with an orange lower mandible, narrow white eye crescents, and a bright yellow throat and breast. Its short tail is often raised.

The male has a dark “necklace”, or chestnut breast band. It is among the smallest of the warblers—about the size of a Ruby-crowned Kinglet. Adult females and immature Parulas are paler than the males and lack the chestnut breast band.



Northern Parula on Carolina Willow, Orlando Wetlands Park, March 2017. Photo: Mary Keim

In Central Florida during spring and summer, Northern Parulas can be found in the upper canopies of forests draped with Spanish moss or lichen where they nest and forage. They really like to stick to the high canopy so you most certainly will achieve “warbler neck” while searching for them.

An efficient method to find Parulas is to listen for their long buzzy trill that drops off quickly at the end. You may then see a tiny bird fluttering at the edge of hanging moss plucking insects or flitting about branches while bursting with song: zeeeeeeeeee-up!

**Limited Edition Field Trip to Orlando Wetlands Park
March 30, 2019**

Black Skimmers at Orlando Wetlands Park, February 2014. Photo: Mary Keim

Orlando Wetlands Park is the site of the Saturday, March 30th Orange Audubon Society Limited Edition Field Trip. Expect to see wading birds, Wood Storks, Roseate Spoonbills, Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks, Purple Gallinule, American and Least Bitterns, and various songbirds. We may see the rare Short-tailed Hawk if we are lucky.

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) 459-5617.

Once after hearing a Parula’s repetitive voice, I still was unable to see the bird’s marvelous colorful features noted in my guide. I became impatient and used a phone app to call it and the bird promptly descended to within about five feet of me. My first close, clear view of a Northern Parula! Relying on a phone app to call birds is not recommended, however, especially during breeding season. Find an experienced birder to help you learn to recognize bird calls, join an Audubon bird walk, be very patient in your search, and nimble with your binoculars.

Northern Parulas breed in humid woods from Florida north to the boreal forest of Canada. They skip parts of Iowa, Wisconsin, Michigan, and some states in the Northeast, however, probably because of habitat loss and increasing air pollution in these states, which affects the growth of moss on trees the birds depend on for nesting.

Northern Parulas don’t visit feeders but you can provide habitat for them by landscaping your yard with native plants. Introducing Spanish moss for their nests, as high as possible in trees, and providing clean bird baths are other strategies to attract them. Creating a bird-friendly yard helps Northern Parulas and many other species, during migration and all yearlong.

Linda Carpenter

Lake Harney Wilderness

The February 24, 2019 Limited Edition trip was to Lake Harney Wilderness Area, a Seminole County Natural Lands property on the St. Johns River. We saw Bald Eagles (a nest with one visible chick), Northern Harriers, American Kestrels, Sandhill Crane pair on its nest with 2 eggs, Wild Turkeys, songbirds including a lot of newly arrived Northern Parulas, and others.

Bob Sanders



Florida Scrub-Jay at Rock Springs Run State Reserve. Photo: Kathy Rigling.

Rock Springs Run State Reserve

The February 23rd trip to Rock Springs Run State Reserve did not disappoint. Participants were able to spot the Florida Scrub-Jays that have moved over to the Reserve from nearby Seminole State Forest. We thank Larry for coordinating our monthly field trips, and look forward to the Wekiwa trip on March 23rd.

Kathy Rigling

Swallow-tailed Kite Named “Apopka” on the Move

Swallow-tailed Kites have started their 5,000-mile migration from South America back to their breeding grounds. These beautiful kites once bred along the Mississippi River and were seen as far north as Minnesota. Loss of habitat has reduced their breeding range by two-thirds, with most of the remaining breeding population here in Florida.

From the research of Dr. Ken Meyer of the Avian Research and Conservation Institute (ARCI) in Gainesville, we have learned a lot about these fascinating birds. Biologist Gina Kent has worked with Dr. Meyer at ARCI over the past 18 years, and we are pleased to host her as our May 16th speaker.

For the past 22 years ARCI has been tracking Swallow-tailed Kites with satellite transmitters and, more recently, GSM (cell phone) telemetry. ARCI now has 12 kites transmitting, including one tagged in South

Carolina that is in her eighth trip. The southbound trip may take from 8 weeks to 3 months. The northbound migration to set up breeding territories is more hurried, as it is for many other migratory bird species.

About March the kites arrive here and build nests in secluded areas. One or two young kites fledge and learn to do their amazing aerial foraging. They capture dragonflies and beetles out of the air and pluck anoles and frogs from trees, devouring everything on the wing. Around July the young are self-sufficient and the family joins other kites in large congregations to put on fat reserves for the journey to South America.

In July 2017, the Swallow-tailed Kite named Apopka was tagged by the ARCI with a GPS/GSM-tracker. See the [May 2018 OASis \(p.6\)](#), for the unusual story of how this kite was injured, rehabilitated, and tagged. In

2018, similarly to 2017, Apopka flew south to winter in Rondonia, Brazil near Alta Floresta d'Oeste.

This year Apopka started north on February 2nd and ARCI was able to track his movements until he reached the Peruvian border where contact with cell towers was lost on February 13th.

ARCI says, “We are anxious for him to make it safely through the Amazon and over the Andes Mountains before he gets to the real obstacle of crossing the Gulf of Mexico. Safe travels, Apopka!”

You can follow journeys of Apopka and the other kites through ARCI's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/ARCIInst/>.

Deborah Green with Gina Kent



Urban Oasis

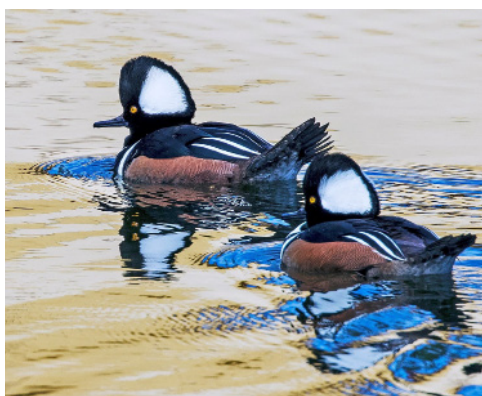
It's hardly more than a puddle, really, its banks ringed with weeds and scattered trash, sheltered at the rear by a few scrub oaks. You won't find it on an Orlando map, but if you glance over when you're waiting for the light to change, you might spot this man-made waterhole on Edgewater Drive north of Lee Road. It's across from a Dollar General, placed between a squat, yellow-block cheesecake shop and a Wawa gas station that crawls with cars and trucks around the clock. It's a gritty neighborhood, not the ideal place for winter lodging, you might think.

But somehow, several pairs of Hooded Mergansers, Mallards, Ring-necked Ducks, Red-shouldered Hawks, a Little Blue Heron, and an egret or two have discovered the place. They seem to love it despite its unrelenting traffic noise and dubious location. I came across it by chance and, based on all the feathered activity, thought it deserved a name. So I took the liberty of calling it Little Lake Wawa. Unaware of this new and elevated status, LLW's inhabitants carried on, accepting my company and ignoring my camera. It was a win all around.

During my visits, I learned that the mergansers, especially the females, are tireless divers and witnessed them pull out several chunky crayfish and fat minnows. The males, not so much. They preferred to wait until a female scored, and then gave chase in hopes of claiming the prize. The hawks watched this activity with interest but made no menacing swoops while I was around.

When I find places like this, I'm reminded that our feathered friends are remarkably adaptive in their quest for survival. I'm hopeful that Little Lake Wawa's bounty helped them winter in style.

John Webber, Orange Audubon Society member



Male Hooded Mergansers, top; female with crayfish, middle; and Red-shouldered Hawks, bottom. Photos: John Webber

Nest Boxes for Sale

March is not too late to install nest boxes for Great Crested Flycatchers that will be migrating back from the tropics this month. The same medium-sized box is also used by screech owls and flying squirrels. Past OAS president Richard Poole's article on nest boxes is [at this link](#). To buy a nest box, donated by Richard, give us a week's notice and we will bring one to a meeting. The medium-sized boxes for flycatchers sell for \$25. Email info@orangeaudubonfl.org.

South Carolina Magical Birding, May 17-19, 2019

Orange Audubon Society's fun fund-raising trip from May 17-19, 2019 is to South Carolina, a fantastic birding area. We will see the unique synchronous fireflies and visit Congaree National Park, the closest national park besides the Everglades. Trip registration fee is \$60 members/\$75 non-members, which includes honoraria for local expert guides, a picnic supper Friday at Congaree, and residual, if any, will benefit OAS' nature center fund. Lodging, other meals, transportation, park entry fees, and incidentals are not included.

We have secured group rates at hotels for Friday and Saturday nights. The number of participants is limited to 20, so don't wait too long to register. For more information, contact Deborah: (407) 637-2525 or info@orangeaudubonfl.org. To reserve a spot, contact Teresa: (407) 718-1977 or mwilliams@cfl.rr.com. See photos and recap from last year on p. 7.

Birdathon April 13, 2019!

Mark your calendars for Birdathon on Saturday, April 13, 2019. Birdathon is one of the major fundraising events for Orange Audubon Society (OAS) and it's fun too!

Birdathon is similar to a Walkathon, but donors pledge based on total number of bird species seen during a 24-hr period instead of miles walked by an individual. Species seen will most likely be between 150 and 200.

Who doesn't like birds and customers and clients? Consider asking your friends, neighbors, relatives, doctors, vets, and the owner of your favorite restaurant. They can pledge 10¢, 25¢, 50¢, etc. per species, or a flat amount (and write their check on the spot). The pledge sheet will soon be posted on the [OAS website](#).

Birding teams wanting to help count birds and beginners wanting to join a team should contact me at riglingk@aol.com.

Kathy Rigling, Birdathon Chair

Contributions Welcome

Do you like to write? We will do our best to fit in any member contributions that match the mission and style of the OAS*is* newsletter. Deadline is about the 15th of the month. Email to newsletter@orangeaudubonfl.org.



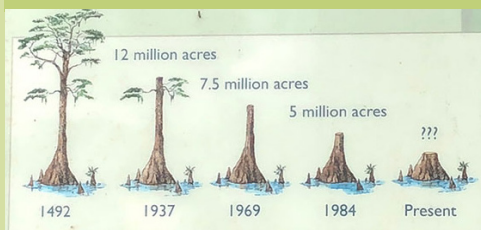
South Carolina Magical Birding

Orange Audubon Society began its spring trip of 2018 at Congaree National Park near Columbia, South Carolina. A boardwalk hike took us through cypress swamps and woodlands, sprinkled with songs and calls of passerines in the canopy. In this last large expanse of preserved bottomland hardwood swamp in the South, the loblolly pines, cypress and tupelos were the biggest I have seen (see third photo). There had been recent heavy rains, and we suddenly heard the sound of gunfire, then firecrackers, then a cannon and turned to see an enormous tree crashing to the ground a distance away. Once darkness fell, the forest was lit by a multitude of fireflies that gathered in groups. When these clusters collected, an entire field of vision in the dense undergrowth was lit by synchronized pulses of light. We caught it just right for this once-a-year phenomenon.

A Saturday morning visit to the Orangeburg Sod Farms allowed us views of Horned Larks and Pectoral Sandpipers. Francis Beidler Forest, a sanctuary owned by Audubon South Carolina, preserves over a thousand acres of the last virgin cypress swamp. Our walk along the boardwalk was often temporarily blocked by Brown Watersnakes lounging in the sun, but we had close looks at pairs of Prothonotary Warblers that perched and sang in full view. Some of the Prothonotaries were banded by researchers from Audubon South Carolina. Photographer Bob Sena captured a Prothonotary nest in a hole in a tree. A foraging Yellow-crowned Night Heron and family of Barred Owls added to the magic of this beautiful preserve.

On Sunday we were guided by USFWS bird specialist Craig Watson into the ACE Basin in coastal South Carolina. On the Edisto Nature Trail a highlight was spotting a perched male Swainson's Warbler. For several minutes, its clear song rang through the forest. Our group was also able to hear an elusive Wood Thrush and a Hooded Warbler that defied our attempts for a clear sighting. The trip was capped off by a visit to Bear Island Game Management Area where we were treated to Gull-billed Terns, an Eastern Screech Owl, Least Bitterns, and even Roseate Spoonbills. The rains threatened but never spoiled the trip, and the group saw (or heard) over 100 unique avian species, many of them lifers. Birding South Carolina was really fun! Look forward to doing it again.

Danny Raleigh, Past Orange Audubon Society Board member



United States Swampland



Photos: Congaree Sign; Congaree boardwalk by David Marano; "the girls" with enormous loblolly pine at Congaree, by Barbara Lieske; Orangeburg sod fields, by Deborah Green; Horned Lark at sod fields, by Bob Sena; eBirding, by Deborah Green; Loss of Swamps display, by Audubon South Carolina; Prothonotary Warbler at Beidler Swamp and Swainson's Warbler at Edisto Nature Trail, by Bob Sena; our group searching for the Swainson's Warbler, by Pam Ford; our guide Craig with Pam Ford at Bear Island WMA, photo courtesy Craig Watson.

Deadline for the Chertok Nature Photo Contest is April 18th!

This year is Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) 31st Annual Kit and Sidney Chertok Florida Native Nature Photography Contest and the theme is Florida Native Nature. Competing in this contest will sharpen your photo skills, increase knowledge of Florida's amazing wildlife and wild places and teach valuable ethical field practices.

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.

The deadline is April 18, 2019 (postmarked or electronically submitted by date). Disqualified entries may optionally be replaced for no additional entry fee by following instructions provided upon notification.

In addition to the prize package of \$1,300 from OAS and co-sponsors Colonial Photo & Hobby and Tarflower Chapter of Florida Native Plant Society, plant aficionados from Tarflower will be available as mentors to help with plant identification.

The contest is open to all photographers (members of OAS' board and Chertok contest committee excluded) and there are three skill level competition categories: Youth—for photographers age 17 years or younger by April 18, 2019; Novice—for new and less experienced photo hobbyists; and Advanced Amateur/ Professional—for experienced photographers who have practiced and honed their skills over time. The deadline for all categories is April 18, 2019.

For complete details and rules, see the 2019 entry forms on OAS' website at this [link for adult entries](#) and [this link for youth entries](#). Get outside with your camera 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



Sandwich Terns Strutting. Honorable Mention, 2018 Chertok Photo Contest, Advanced Category.
Photo: Jim Urbach

MARCH/APRIL/MAY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Ethos Vegan Kitchen, Winter Park, 5% Day

March 2, 2019

Contact Deborah at (407) 637-2525

Beginners' Bird Watching Class

March 2, 9 & 16, 2019

Contact Teresa at (407) 644-0796

March Wekiwa Bird Survey

March 9, 2019

Contact Kathy at (407) 488-9559

March Program: Native Planting for Wildlife – Catherine Bowman

March 21, 2019

Contact Rick at (407) 277-3357

March Field Trip: Wekiwa Springs State Park

March 23, 2019

Contact Larry at (407) 647-5834

Limited Edition Field Trip to Orlando Wetlands Park

March 30, 2019

Contact Bob at (407) 459-5617

April Wekiwa Bird Survey

April 6, 2019

Contact Kathy at (407) 488-9559

Spring Mead Botanical Garden Bird Walks, Winter Park

April 6, 13, 20, and 27, 2019

Contact Larry at (407) 647-5834

Orange Audubon Society Birdathon

April 13, 2019

Contact Kathy at (407) 488-9559

Chertok Nature Photography Contest

Deadline to submit all entries:

April 18, 2019

Contact Teresa at (407) 644-0796

April Program: Florida's Fascinating Snakes–John Serrao

April 18, 2019

Contact Rick at (407) 277-3357

April Field Trip: Mead Botanical Garden, Winter Park

April 20, 2019

Contact Larry at (407) 647-5834

Central Florida Earth Day, Lake Eola

April 20, 2019

Contact Deborah at (407) 637-2525

Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive 4th Anniversary

May 4, 2019

Contact Deborah at (407) 637-2525

South Carolina Magical Birding Trip

May 17-19, 2019

Contact Deborah at (407) 637-2525