



This Month's Program:

September 19, 2019 Red-cockaded Woodpeckers and Healthy Pine Ecosystems by Jon Hoch



Left, Jon Hoch in tree to band endangered Red-cockaded Woodpeckers. Photo: Adam Kent.
Right, Red-cockaded Woodpecker family from the Ocala National Forest. Photo: Rebecca Smith

For Orange Audubon Society's September 19th program, biologist Jon Hoch will present on the current populations of endangered Red-cockaded Woodpeckers (RCWs) and the unique environmental conditions necessary for these birds to thrive.

Jon is Ecology Unit Supervisor at the Withlacoochee State Forest. He formerly monitored populations of RCWs at Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area, Triple N Ranch, and Bull Creek Wildlife Management Area, all in Osceola County.

He will share details of RCW recovery efforts and management practices at the areas he oversees. RCWS need healthy pine ecosystems maintained with prescribed burning. Other wildlife species benefit also from conditions that support RCWs.

Join us September 19th at 7:00 p.m. for a fascinating program. Location below. *Rick Baird, Programs Chair*

Hospitality Help Needed

Can you bring some goodies to the program and/or help set up? If so, contact Laurel at (407) 277-3357.

Monthly Field Trip:

September 21, 2019 Crosby Island Marsh Preserve

The Crosby Island Marsh Preserve in southeast Orange County is 243 acres of pine flatwoods, freshwater marshes and oak hammocks. Purchased in 2004, it recently opened as Orange County Green PLACE program's 13th property with free entrance. It includes a portion of the Florida National Scenic Trail.

Orange Audubon Society has chosen this Green PLACE as a good kickoff for its monthly field trips. The walk will be around 2 miles, at a pace to observe resident and migratory birds and other animals and plants and take a few photos. We will meet at 8:30 a.m. in the parking area at 13601 Moss Park Road, Orlando, FL 32832. Bring drink, sun protection, insect protection, closed-toed shoes, and birding gear. There are no facilities, except next door at Moss Park. The trip is free and no registration is required. If you have questions about the trip, contact me at lmartin5@msn.com or (407) 647-5834. We hope you join us.

Larry Martin, Field Trips Chair



Slender Flattop Goldenrod. Split Oak Forest Wildlife and Environmental Area. October 2017. Photo: Mary Keim

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

Programs are the 3rd Thursday of each month (September–June) and all but January and 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/



National Public Lands Day, September 28, 2019

Volunteer with Orange County Environmental Protection Division to celebrate National Public Lands Day on September 28, 2019 at Long Branch, a Green PLACE property near Bithlo. For more information or to register, email evip@ocfl.net or call (407) 836-1430.



President's Message

Welcome to a new year in which Orange Audubon Society (OAS) will host informative programs, local and overnight field trips, wildlife identification classes and photography workshops. OAS' 2019–2020 annual brochure, graced by winning images from the 2019 Chertok nature photography contest, will arrive at your mailbox by mid September. We hope you join us at many of the great scheduled activities! And, please give generously in response to the letter appeal you'll receive with the brochure! Thanks.

I am just back from the National Audubon Society (NAS) biennial convention, where I developed a network of contacts with leaders of other similarly-sized chapters that face many of the same challenges — to cultivate a younger and more diverse membership; to improve outreach through social media; to offer monthly programs that appeal to all ages; to have a greater presence at community events, etc..



NAS President David Yarnold with OAS President Deborah Green at her poster presentation on results of OAS' low income residential energy efficiency program, funded by an Audubon TogetherGreen by Toyota grant.

NAS has a big emphasis now on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI). OAS Education Chair Melissa Gonzalez also attended the convention and will be sharing more about EDI in coming months. NAS is also providing support to college-attending nature-lovers who are trying to start student Audubon chapters, with 12 college chapters represented at the Convention. We are delighted to announce that a new Audubon chapter is forming at UCF!

During the Convention at the Atlantic Flyway meeting I was thrilled to receive the William Dutcher Award, that was earlier won by OAS' Bob Stamps and Loretta Satterthwaite back in 2014. [Here is the link](#) to Audubon Florida's press release on my award (photo from Grayton Beach State Park). It is a great pleasure for me to serve OAS as a volunteer and as your president, and being recognized nationally certainly gives me a boost. OAS is run entirely by volunteers, and although about 100 people volunteered with us this past year to help make our activities successful, we have long needed to expand our volunteer force. This year's North Shore Birding Festival (p. 4), has specific tasks for which volunteers are needed. Please email volunteer@orangeaudubonfl.org or call me at (407) 637-2525 to discuss getting more involved.

I look forward to seeing you on September 19th at 7 p.m., Harry P. Leu Gardens when we kick off the 2019–2020 season, and on the 3rd Thursday of each month thereafter.

Deborah Green, President

Endangered Species Still Need Protection

On August 12th the Trump administration moved to dismantle the [1973 Endangered Species Act \(ESA\)](#), one of the best environmental safeguards of our time. A package of regulatory changes undermines the fundamental purpose of the ESA.

On August 21st, Earthjustice filed suit in federal court for the Center for Biological Diversity, Defenders of Wildlife, Sierra Club, Natural Resources Defense Council, National Parks Conservation Association, WildEarth Guardians, and the Humane Society of the United States. The state governments of Connecticut, California, and Massachusetts are also standing up to this extreme overreach. The ESA has helped save the Florida manatee and Bald Eagle from extinction. Other Florida species still on the edge include the Florida Panther, Burrowing Owl, Florida Grasshopper Sparrow, and Indigo Snake. Many of OAS' monthly programs are about recovery efforts for endangered species made possible by the ESA: *continued next pg.*



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 announcing new issues 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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Continued from p. 2. Red-cockaded Woodpeckers by Jon Hoch is this month. The Monarch-Milkweed Initiative by Scott Davis on October 17th is about saving monarch butterflies. In Amazing Snakes on December 19th George Van Horn will share about endangered or threatened species like the indigo Snake and Pine Snake and their dependence on Gopher Tortoise burrows. Translocating Florida Scrub-Jays by Lauren Deaner on February 20th is about progress in saving scrub-jays. Twenty Years of Freshwater Turtle Sampling by Eric Munscher on March 19th will inform us of successes and failures of freshwater turtle protection. The Comeback of the Snail Kites by Tyler Beck on April 16th features yet another endangered species. [Now is not the time to weaken the ESA!!](#) *Deborah Green*



Unusual Brown-eyed Beauty – Burrowing Owl. 2017 Chertok Photo Contest. Third Place, Novice Category. Photo: Terry Godbey

Improve Plan to Protect Wekiwa & Rock Springs

Wekiwa and Rock Springs have a pollution problem. Too much nitrogen and phosphorous are causing excessive growth of filamentous algae and other undesirable plant species such as hydrilla, in the Wekiwa River and Rock Springs Run, threatening the food sources and habitat for fish. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) developed a plan to reduce the nitrogen loading to Wekiwa and Rock Springs. However, the Friends of the Wekiwa River (FOWR) believes that the state’s plan does not fully address the sources of this pollution, and has challenged the plan.

The Florida Springs and Aquifer Protection Act of 2016 required FDEP to develop plans known as Basin Management Action Plans (BMAPs) for first order magnitude springs and springs of regional significance, which include Wekiwa and Rock Springs. The BMAP for Wekiwa and Rock Springs was adopted by FDEP in June, 2018.

Solar Progress

The City of Orlando’s Green Works Orlando program has worked with the nonprofit Solar United Neighbors (SUN) to offer a new solar co-op to all Orange County residents. SUN expands access to solar by helping organize group solar installations and strengthen Florida solar policies and its community of solar supporters. Co-op members select a single company to complete all of the installations. They will then have the option to purchase panels individually based on the installer’s group rate. By choosing a single installer, members can save and have the support of fellow group members and solar experts at SUN.

As one of 25 US cities participating in the American Cities Climate Challenge, the City of Orlando has ambitious carbon emission reduction goals, and residents can help by offsetting their energy use with zero-emission solar energy. Solar co-op informational meeting dates are September 17th, 21st and 25th, and October 15th and 19th, with more information and sign up options available at solarunitedneighbors.org/orlando. The solar co-op is free to join, and joining is not a commitment to purchase panels. Once the group is large enough, Solar United Neighbors will help the co-op solicit competitive bids from area solar installers.

The Orlando solar co-op will be the 51st set up in Florida. Thirty-three million dollars has been spent on rooftop solar through co-ops in just 3 years, with 13,000 people attending the educational meetings. Among significant highlights is that the first net-zero school, that runs entirely on solar, has been built in Osceola County. In addition, solar panels will soon be installed on the City of Winter Park’s wastewater plant, which is the city’s biggest electricity user.

Solar is not without unique construction challenges, for example, installations on street-facing roofs in historic districts. And there are some environmental quandaries. In Lake Mary an investment bank’s solar installation could come at the expense of 150 trees to be downed, which is not a desirable trade-off. But despite lack of support from the Florida Legislature, citizens have organized; they are using resources that have worked in other states, including SUN, and are making great progress. *Heaven Campbell, Mary Dipboye, Deborah Green, and Marah Green*

The BMAP estimated that about a million pounds of nitrogen enter the groundwater in the Wekiwa and Rock Springs springshed each year. Major sources include septic tanks (29%), urban turfgrass fertilizers (26%), wastewater treatment facilities (17%), farm fertilizer (11%), and sports turf fertilizer (7%).

The nitrogen concentrations in the springs range from 0.8 to 1.4 milligrams per liter – about four times higher than is considered safe. And phosphorous concentrations are about two to three times higher than the limit. In 2008, because of these high nutrient levels, FDEP designated the Wekiwa River and Rock Springs Run as “impaired.”

FOWR’s main concern is that the BMAP does not address the entire nitrogen load to the springshed. Instead the plan proposes to only reduce nitrogen loads by about 200,000 pounds per year, which is only about 20% of the total nitrogen load to the springshed. It also does not account for future nitrogen loads

from new residential and commercial development in the springshed. The plan will also allow new septic tanks to be installed for over 5 years, and recommends just a 6-10% reduction in nitrogen from fertilizers!

FOWR believes that the BMAP must identify strategies to reduce the entire nitrogen load to reduce the nitrogen concentrations in the groundwater that reaches Wekiwa and Rock Springs. An administrative law judge to hear FOWR’s petition, a costly effort, is in September. FOWR would appreciate any support you could give through its website (FriendsOfWekiwa.org) and click on the “DONATE” button. We cannot afford to let these precious jewels become over-run with algae!

Mike Cliburn, FOWR

Help Back to Nature

Back to Nature (BTN) wildlife rehabilitators are holding a Wine for Wildlife fund-raiser on September 12th at the Quantum Leap Winery, 1312 Wilfred Drive, Orlando. Purchase tickets at [BTN’s website](#).

New Turnpikes In Task Force Stage

Senate Bill 7068, the 2019 bill to create three toll roads to facilitate additional growth, was a sad certainty in this legislative session, and when that was clear, Audubon Florida (AF) worked to make it better.

The legislation established three Task Forces to study whether, where, and how these three turnpikes might be built. AF will be represented on the three Task Forces, with Director of Advocacy Charles Lee serving on the Suncoast and Northern Turnpike Connector Task Forces, and Dr. Paul Gray, AF's Everglades Science Coordinator, serving on the Southwest-Central Florida Task Force.

Other environmental organizations also have representatives on the Task Forces, including Defenders of Wildlife, 1000 Friends of Florida, the Nature Conservancy, the Florida Wildlife Corridor, and the Everglades Foundation.

For public input as the task forces proceed in their deliberative process, AF recommends that you go to the new web page established by DOT (<http://floridamcores.com/>), and follow the schedule of task force meetings, public hearings, and community workshops.

Sign up to receive updates and notices of meetings. We will share detailed information on points that residents can make once the public hearings are set up.

*Deborah Green with Beth Alvi,
AF Policy Director*



Fuzzy Friend—Sandhill Crane Colt. 2019 Chertok Photo Contest. Third Place, Novice Category. Photo: Jeffrey Gammon

Conservation Leadership Initiative

A part of Audubon Assembly for the past 7 years, the Conservation Leadership Initiative (CLI) is a program that brings college students into the Audubon fold. In this program chapter leaders volunteer to be paired with students in mentor-mentee relationships. Groups go on field trips introducing conservation efforts and have interactive indoor sessions, emphasizing positive conservation action.

The hope is that students continue the relationship with the local chapter and become conservation leaders. University of Central Florida student and Orange Audubon Society board member Melissa Gonzalez first participated in CLI in 2013 and has assisted Audubon Florida staff in coordinating the program since then. Through grants, the program is being expanded for 2019-20 to keep students interacting with their local chapter. Consider being a mentor when you register for Audubon Assembly, which will be October 25-26, 2019 in Gainesville. Students [follow this link](#) to apply.

Deborah Green

June Challenge

The June Challenge is a friendly competition between birders in the same county to try to see as many species as they can in the month of June, which is typically the slowest month of birding. It was started by Becky Enneis of Alachua County in 2004.

To add to the challenge, the birds need to be seen not just heard. Of course birders must do their observations based on skill and patience, not through any disturbing of the birds.

This year Orange Audubon Society initiated a June Challenge Kick-off trip on June 1st, starting at Orlando Wetlands Park and ending at Tosohatchee WMA. With the expert guiding of Bob Sanders with Larry Martin and Gigi DelPizzo, participants on the all-day trip saw 50 species including, including Bald Eagle, Roseate Spoonbill, Red-headed Woodpecker, Brown-headed Nuthatch and Cliff Swallow.

Challengers continued to bird throughout the month of June, sharing interesting sightings with each other. Totals below are for Kick-off participants, with native/non-native shown in parentheses:

- Mary Soule: 111 species (102/9)
- Larry Martin: 106 species (96/10)
- Kathy Rigling: 105 species (92/13)
- Gail Spratley: 87 species (86/1)
- Bert Alm: 55 species (54/1)
- George Perry: 50 species (43/7).

The top birder for June Challenge in all of Florida was Sam Ewing of Alachua County with 115 countable species.

Kathy Rigling

Exciting Events Coming Up: Reserve Early

North Florida Birding & Seacrest Wolf Preserve Private Tour

By popular demand, Orange Audubon Society plans a return trip to the Florida Panhandle Dec 5th-8th. This year's destinations are Seacrest Wolf Preserve (private tour Thursday), Tall Timbers/Red Hills Region (where we will tour the Stoddard Bird Lab), and St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge. Costs including local expert guides, Seacrest admission and some meals are: Weekend - \$100 members/\$115 non-members; or Seacrest private tour only - \$45/\$55. For registration, lodging, and other details, contact Teresa at (407) 644-0796 or mwilliams@cfl.rr.com.

North Shore Birding Festival:

Through the North Shore Birding Festival, January 16-20, 2020, Orange Audubon Society seeks to put the 20,000-acre Lake Apopka North Shore on the map nationally! Trips will primarily start at the McDonald Canal area, with leaders in quest of recently sighted rarities, and as many as possible of the North Shore's 360+ bird species. Tell your out-of-town family and friends who have wanted to visit that [North Shore Birding Festival](#) weekend is a great time. For further information, contact Deborah at (407) 637-2525 or festival@orangeaudubonfl.org.

**Limited Edition Field Trip to Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge
September 28, 2019**

On Saturday, September 28th, popular birding guide Bob Sanders will lead a Limited Edition Field Trip to Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, the extraordinary 140,000-acre refuge near Titusville.

At this time of year, we will see Roseate Spoonbill, Glossy Ibis, Black Skimmer, gulls, terns and some shorebirds, including possibly American Avocets.

Limited Edition Field Trips are limited to 15 people. Cost is \$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. Contact Bob at (407) 459-5617.



Prairie Warbler in Carolina willow.
Photo: Robert Sena

The Prairie Warbler

September is the month of the Prairie Warbler in our area. As we go out looking for fall migrant warblers and find we are too early to see most species, the charming Prairie Warbler feeds hyperactively in the willows and hackberries.

Its olive-green upperparts blend in with the leaves, but the yellow throat and belly and black streaks on the face, sides and flanks are distinctive. Even the immatures and females, which have duller colors and fainter markings, can easily be identified by this species' familiar tail-wagging.

Contrary to its name, this species breeds in the Eastern U.S. in shrubby habitats, including regenerating forests and open fields. A separate Florida subspecies nests in mangroves. Some will stay with us for the winter but enjoy them now as most are just passing through.

Deborah Green

**Common But Uncommonly Beautiful:
The Red-winged Blackbird**



Male Red-winged Blackbird singing.
Photo: Susan Kirby

Red-winged Blackbirds are so abundant across North America that we forget how remarkable they are. One of the first birds I could identify as a child, it is a frequent visitor to ponds and lakes in my neighborhood.

I have always admired the bright red-and-yellow shoulder patches of the glossy black male—most conspicuous during breeding when he puffs up and displays his tri-color beauty. Agile males fly about aggressively, loudly marking their

territory with vocal calls of *chek* or slurred *tee-err*. During breeding season they may spend more than a quarter of daylight hours chasing away other males and nest predators, even attacking much larger animals such as horses and people!

In contrast, the laid-back female is brownish, with a sharply pointed bill, well-defined dark streaking and a pinkish throat. The immature bird is sooty brown, mottled like the female, but with red shoulders. Females and immatures are often mistaken for sparrows.

Red-winged Blackbirds breed in wet places like fresh or saltwater marshes or in drier places like sedge meadows and fallow fields. In fall and winter they congregate in agricultural fields, feedlots, pastures, and grasslands. These birds primarily eat insects in summer and seeds, including corn and wheat, in the winter. Sometimes they use their slender bills to probe at the bases of aquatic plants, prying them open to get at insects hidden inside.

The nesting habits of Red-winged Blackbirds are a marvel. Females choose the site—with some input from the male. Typically she places their nest near the ground or water in dense, grass-like vegetation such as cattails and bulrushes. She winds stringy plant material around several close, upright stems and weaves a platform of coarse, wet vegetation, adding more wet leaves and decayed wood. She then plasters the inside with mud to make a cup that she lines with fine, dry grasses.

When completed, nests typically are four to seven inches across and three to seven inches long. A naturalist who dismantled a nest in the 1930s found 34 strips of willow bark and 142 cattail leaves, some two feet long. No shabby creations!

Although they are among the most abundant native birds on our continent, Red-winged Blackbirds declined in population by over 30 percent throughout most of their range between 1966 and 2014 according to the North American Breeding Bird Survey. Partners in Flight estimates a global breeding population of 130 million, down from 190 million in 1974. We conservationists must be vigilant.

The oldest recorded Red-winged Blackbird was 15 years, 9 months old. Banded in New Jersey in 1967, it was found alive but injured in Michigan in 1983 and was released after recovering from its injuries. Amazing!

Linda Carpenter



Camouflaged female Red-winged Blackbird on nest. Photo: Susan Kirby

Beginners' Bird Watching Class October 5, 12 & 19, 2019

Orange Audubon Society offers a Beginners' Bird Watching Class this fall, taught by popular instructor Bob Sanders. An "outdoor" classroom session and mini-field trip are both on October 5th at Orlando Wetlands Park (OWP) and 2 field sessions are on October 12th and 19th at OWP and Lake Jesup, respectively.

All sessions are 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. If you miss a fall session, you may make-up the class in spring 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 and \$10 for children through age 12 with a registered adult. Non-members wishing to join will be given instructions upon registration. Contact Teresa at (407) 644-0796 or mwilliams@cfl.rr.com. For questions about the class, contact Bob at (407) 459-5617.

Backyard Biodiversity Day Mead Botanical Garden October 19, 2019



For the 6th year, Orange Audubon Society (OAS) is teaming up with the Florida Native Plant Society and Mead Botanical Garden, Inc. to sponsor Backyard Biodiversity Day. This year's event takes place Saturday, October 19th from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. at Mead Botanical Garden in Winter Park.

Come early to buy the best selection of native plants to attract birds, butterflies and other pollinators to your landscape. Walks, talks, vendors, music, and food trucks add to the fun. If you would like to help at the OAS table at the event, contact Kathy at riglingk@aol.com or (407) 488-9559.

Fall Bird Walks at Mead Botanical Garden October 5, 12, 19 & 26, 2019

To celebrate fall migration, Orange Audubon Society (OAS) will host bird walks at Mead Botanical Garden each Saturday in October.

The walks are free and open to the public with no registration needed. Each walk will be led by an experienced birding guide.

Walks start at 8:00 a.m. and will last 2 to 3 hours. The pace is slow with lots of stopping to look at birds.

Loaner binoculars will be available. If you need to borrow a pair, please arrive early to sign them out and to be shown how to use them for the most enjoyable experience.

Location is Mead Botanical Garden, 1500 S. Denning Drive, Winter Park. We will meet in the parking lot. For information, contact me at (407) 647-5834 or lmartin5@msn.com.

Larry Martin, OAS-Mead Liaison

Join Audubon Florida's EagleWatch Program

Florida's eagle nesting season is approaching! Audubon's EagleWatch program is seeking volunteers to join our community science effort to monitor eagle nests from October to May.

New volunteer trainings will be held around the state in the coming weeks, including one for the Central Florida region to be held Sept 15th from 1:00-3:00 p.m. at the Central Florida Zoo. Please visit [this link](#) for additional details and to register to attend (space is limited, so registration is required). Contact Shawnlei Breeding, EagleWatch Program Manager, at (407) 644-0190 or eaglewatch@audubon.org for more information.



The [Florida Birding & Nature Festival](#) is October 17-20, 2019 at Hillsborough Community College in Brandon, co-sponsored by Tampa Bay Audubon.

31st Anniversary Chertok Photo Contest Thanks

When Orange Audubon Society (OAS) founded the Kit and Sidney Chertok Florida Native Nature Photography Contest 31 years ago, who knew how it would grow? This year approximately 300 entries challenged the 3 judges (p.7-8) who selected winners. The June 20th awards event was attended by over 200 people, and the Silent Auction was an excellent fund-raiser, thanks to hard working volunteers, generous donors and those who made auction purchases.

I would like to particularly thank Silent Auction Co-Chairs Linda Gaunt and Lori Parsons, as well as the following (*indicates OAS board member): Della Allen, Rick* & Laurel Baird, Mike Broussard*, Gabbie Buendia*, Linda Carpenter*, Mo Cortese, Melissa Gonzalez*, Deborah Green*, Marah Green*, Milton Heiberg*, Charles Hunt, Kim Kampe, Cyndi Kay, Mary Keim, Susan & Charlie Kirby, Jessi Lambricht, Susan Ledlow, David Marano, Larry Martin*, Brent Mobley*, John Parsons, Terry Piper*, Kathy Rigling*, Loretta Satterthwaite, Betty & Dan Schnurr, Victoria Schwartz*, Bob Sena, Randy Snyder, Mary Soule, Bob Stamps, Joyce & Bill Stefancic, Renee Thomas, and Dena Wild.*
Teresa Williams



Festival of Flight and Flowers, October 11-13, 2019

Oklawaha Valley Audubon Society

(OVAS) is Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) sister chapter with whom OAS collaborates on issues affecting Lake Apopka and the Wekiva River Basin. OVAS will host a three-day [Festival of Flight and Flowers](#) on October 11-13, 2019. The festival features information on native plants, outdoor recreation, wildflowers, and bird and butterfly watching around Lake County. There are guided field trips each day. On Saturday, October 11th, from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. enjoy a free festival at the Eustis Community Center with food, entertainment, speakers, kid-friendly activities, plus arts and crafts for sale. If you would like to help at the OAS table at the event, contact Kathy at riglingk@aol.com or (407) 488-9559.

2019 Chertok Florida Native Nature Photo Contest Results

In its 2019 (31st Annual) Kit and Sidney Chertok Florida Native Nature Photography Contest, Orange Audubon Society (OAS) sponsored Youth, Novice and Advanced Amateur/Professional competition categories with the theme *Florida Native Nature*.

Winners were announced on June 20th. Winning images are [on OAS' website](#). Below are the 2019 winners. Images denoted with an asterisk (*) are featured on OAS' 2019-2020 Annual Brochure.

YOUTH CATEGORY

1st PLACE

Caleb Jore, Orlando
A Leafy Lookout—Cottonwood Leaf Beetle

2nd PLACE

Claire Goodowens, Winter Park
Spring & Sting—Wasp on Spanish Needle

3rd PLACE

Jake Turner, Nokomis
Toothy Turtle—Florida Softshell Turtle

4th PLACE

Alayna Hew, Apopka
Fancy Pants—Great Egret

5th PLACE

Jake Turner, Nokomis
**Itchy Eye Dragonfly—Great Blue Skimmer*

HONORABLE MENTIONS

Claire Goodowens, Winter Park
Oz—Sweat Bee on Dune Sunflower

Tyler Jore, Orlando
A Stick on a Stick—Stick Insect

Levi Davis, Belle Isle
Reflective River

Jake Turner, Nokomis
Big Daddy—White-tailed Deer

Molly McCormack, Orlando
Bunny—Looks Lichen a Bunny to Me

NOVICE CATEGORY

1st PLACE

Donald Martin, Melbourne
**Family Portrait—Great Blue Herons*

2nd PLACE

Vivian McCoy, Orlando
My Very Own Bush—Spicebush Swallowtail on Firebush

3rd PLACE

Jeffrey Gammon, Casselberry
Fuzzy Friend—Sandhill Crane Colt



Introduction of Friends—Bobcat and River Otter, 2019 Chertok Photo Contest. Honorable Mention, Novice Category. Photo: Andria Hoag.

HONORABLE MENTIONS

Jeffrey Gammon, Casselberry
Red, White and Blue—White Ibis in Breeding Plumage

Steven Madow, Orlando
Baby Manatee Doo Doo Doo—Manatees Spot the Bird—Atlantic Ocean Breakfast Time—Double-crested Cormorant

John Bailey, Orlando
One Happy Dude—Florida Softshell Turtle

Andria Hoag, Ocoee
Introduction of Friends—Bobcat and River Otter

Rebecca (Beck) Smith, Minneola
Right at Home—Thick-billed Vireo

ADVANCED AMATEUR/ PROFESSIONAL CATEGORY

1st PLACE

Kristian Bell, Sarasota
Silent Hunter—Eastern Coral Snake

2nd PLACE

Bobby van Mierop, Palm Coast
Ruffled Reddish—Reddish Egret

3rd PLACE

Kristian Bell, Sarasota
**Tiny Teeth—Young American Alligator*

HONORABLE MENTIONS

Michelle Wilson, Apopka
Snowy on the Beach—Snowy Egret

Ruth Pannunzio, West Palm Beach
American Kestrel Landing

Kristian Bell, Sarasota
Little Runner—Snowy Plover Chick

HONORABLE MENTIONS, CONTINUED

Paul Eisenbrown, Orlando
Bald Eagle

Michelle Wilson, Apopka
Evening Swim—Female Hooded Merganser

Bobby van Mierop, Palm Coast
Forest Bear—Black Bear

Mary Lander, Apopka
Remember to Eat Your Greens—White-banded Fishing Spider

Candace Curtis, Ormond Beach
**Anhinga Swimming*

Susan Kirby, Orlando
Great Egret Display

Joyce Stefancic, Clermont
Slowly I Turn, Step-by-Step—Common Gallinule

Mary Lander, Apopka
Patience—American Alligator

Liz Kearley, Tavares
Circle of Life—Great Egret with Black Crappie with Golden Shiner

Thank you to all the photographers who entered. We look forward to your participation in 2020.

Teresa Williams, Chertok

Thanks to the 2019 Judges

Winners of the 2019 Chertok contest were selected by a panel of three independent judges who are professionals in the fields of art, nature and photography, respectively, and completely independent from the competition. This year's judges were Teresa Chin, Mark Sees and Reinhard Geisler.

Artist Teresa Chin is a UCF Graphic Design graduate with 27 years of experience freelancing. For 11 years she was a grade level art director at Harcourt Schoolbook publishing. She has taught Chinese Brush painting and Gyotaku (Japanese fish printing) at the Casselberry Art House and the Art & History Museums Maitland. She was president of the Central Florida Watercolor Society for 2017-2019.

Naturalist Mark Sees' name is synonymous with the City of Orlando's Orlando Wetlands Park (OWP). When he served as Vice President for OAS, he was then a wetlands analyst, and is now wetlands manager at OWP. In addition to having extensive land management credentials, and writing extensively on related subjects, Mark has also participated in numerous wildlife surveys and volunteered extensively

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2019 Judges, Cont. from p.7

within local school systems to provide educational and instructional programs on various environmental topics.

Photographer Reinhard Geisler is a manager for a large corporation and a bird-chaser, as his superb bird photos prove. He is a volunteer at OWP and a Florida Master Naturalist. He started photography over 30 years ago with a film SLR camera. He and his wife, Jutta, created a book "Birds of Orlando Wetlands Park," and Reinhard teaches bird photography workshops to benefit the park. He has also led photo field trips for OAS' North Shore Birding Festival. His images have been featured in *Birding* magazine from the American Birding Association (ABA) and *ABA Field Guide to Birds of Florida* by Bill Pranty.

OAS thanks Teresa, Mark and Reinhard for contributing their time and talents to help make the 2019 Chertok photography contest a success.

*Teresa Williams, Chertok
Photography Contest Chair*



Audubon Adventures

Audubon Adventures is an excellent nature education resource for grades 3-6, after-school programs, and other groups. Classroom kits include 3 or 4 topics a year, and each serves 32 students with teacher materials. Developed by environmental educators and National Audubon Society staff, it includes hands-on activities and scientifically accurate information about birds, other wildlife, and their habitats.

Students look forward to using the fun activities. Audubon chapters defray the cost of these kits (about \$46 with shipping for a classroom set). Orange Audubon Society (OAS) typically provides the kits to 25 or more classrooms. Can you help? Along with the financial support that we hope you will send in response to OAS' Letter Appeal, you can indicate you would like to sponsor one or more classrooms with *Audubon Adventures*. If there is a specific classroom you would like to sponsor, contact me at education@orangeaudubonfl.org. Thank you! *Melissa Gonzalez, Education Committee Chair*

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wekiwa Springs State Park Bird Survey

September 7, 2019
Contact Kathy at (407) 488-9559

September Program: Red-cockaded Woodpeckers and Healthy Pine Ecosystems - Jon Hoch

September 19, 2019
Contact Rick at (407) 277-3357

September Field Trip: Crosby Island Marsh Preserve, SE Orange County

September 21, 2019
Contact Larry at (407) 647-5834

National Public Lands Day, Pine Lily Preserve/Long Branch

September 28, 2019
Contact Orange County EPD at (407) 836-1430

Limited Edition Field Trip to Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, Titusville

September 28, 2019
Contact Bob at (407) 459-5617

Wekiwa Springs State Park Bird Survey

October 5, 2019
Contact Kathy at (407) 488-9559

Beginners' Bird Watching Class: Orlando Wetlands Park and Lake Jesup

October 5, 12 & 19, 2019
Contact Teresa at (407) 644-0796

Mead Botanical Garden Bird Walks, Winter Park

October 5, 12, 19 & 26, 2019
Contact Larry at (407) 647-5834

Festival of Flight and Flowers, Eustis

October 11-13, 2019
Contact Kathy at (407) 488-9559

Limited Edition Field Trip to Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area, Kenansville

October 13, 2019
Contact Bob at (407) 459-5617

October Program: The Monarch-Milkweed Initiative - Scott Davis

October 17, 2019
Contact Rick at (407) 277-3357

Backyard Biodiversity Day, Mead Botanical Garden

October 19, 2019
Contact Kathy at (407) 488-9559

Youth & Family Photo Workshop, Mead Botanical Garden

October 19, 2019
Contact Teresa at (407) 644-0796

Audubon Assembly, Gainesville

October 25-26, 2019
Contact Deborah at (407) 637-2525

Butterfly Identification Field Trip

October 26, 2019
Contact Teresa at (407) 644-0796