



"The Voice of Conservation in Central Florida"

OASis

Orange Audubon Society

A Chapter of National Audubon Society and Audubon of Florida



Vol. 46

September 2010

Issue No. 1

And now, a few words from our President...

It's hard to believe summer is almost over and with its leaving our Orange Audubon Society meetings and monthly programs begin. Please be sure to mark your calendar for our next general meeting on September 16, 2010. Besides a great program from the *Avian Reconditioning Center*, we will also be discussing a variety of topics such as our "Go Green" initiative, the Gulf Oil Crisis, OAS committee participation, as well as the recent conservation issues in our area. With one of the largest membership bases in Florida, the Orange Audubon Society is an important part of not only Florida Audubon, but National Audubon as well. As your new president, I would love to meet all of our members, and hear what issues are important to you!

Hopefully, you all have had an opportunity to review our new 2010-2011 OAS brochure highlighting the upcoming programs, field trips, classes and special events that will be available to everyone. Your OAS Board of Directors and Committee Chairs have worked very hard in organizing some really exciting programs and activities for the upcoming season and I would like to take a moment and personally thank all of them for their hard work and dedication. We have several new Directors on the Orange Audubon BOD for this season; please join me in welcoming John Cento, Samantha Eckhaus and Jason Gingras to the board.

The strength of any organization is found in the participation of its members, not just in the board and officers of the group. Please consider attending a monthly meeting or joining a committee... we need YOUR input and YOUR help in continuing to make the Orange Audubon Society THE voice of conservation in Central Florida!

Mike Godwin, President

This Month's Program:

Sept 16, 2010, 7:00 p.m.

Rehabilitating Birds of Prey by Paula Ashby & Carol McCorkle, Avian Reconditioning Center

Birds of prey (raptors) are vulnerable to accidents with powerlines, poisoning and various human hazards. The Avian Reconditioning Center, a not for profit birds of prey rehabilitation and education facility, is located on 10 acres in Apopka. One of the center's main focuses is the physical reconditioning of raptors that have been inactive for an extended period of time while recovering from illness or injury. The center uses falconry techniques to evaluate a bird's chances for survival in the wild after recovering from an injury and to teach young birds how to hunt. For our September program, Paula Ashby and Carol McCorkle will inform us how this work is done. This is a chance to see several raptors up close. Join us Sept 16 for a fascinating program.

Orange Audubon Society programs are free and no reservations are necessary. Programs are held in the Camellia Room of Leu Gardens, 1920 N. Forest Avenue, Orlando (for directions call 407-246-2620).

Deborah Green, Vice President

Orange Audubon Society meetings are held the 3rd Thursday of every month (Sept. - June)

at 7 P.M. in the Camellia Room at:

Harry P. Leu Garden,

1920 North Forest Avenue
Orlando, FL 32803-1537.

For directions call: 407-246-2620

**Want to get involved with Orange Audubon?
Not sure how? Join a committee!**

The **Hospitality Committee** is seeking energetic and friendly individuals to answer the call of duty in helping setup and greet members before meetings. Volunteers will work with the committee chair in setting up food, drinks and information before the meetings. If you have a flair for hosting and love to socialize contact Samantha Eckhaus at eckhauss@yahoo.com or 407.435.7747. The **Publicity committee** is also looking for an extra pair of hands, contact: Danielle at dponsolle@cfl.rr.com

Central Florida Butterfly Identification Class

Orange Audubon Society is offering a fall Butterfly Identification Class. The 7.5-hour course (3 sessions of 2 ½ hours each) is on Saturdays, Oct. 9, 16, 23 from 2:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The class involves lectures, field observation and identification of butterflies at Orlando Wetlands Park (OWP) and Seminole Ranch Conservation Area in east Orange County. Lectures will be held in the OWP Nature Center on Wheeler Road in Christmas, FL.

Recommended field guide is *Butterflies through Binoculars: Florida* by Glassberg, Minno, and Calhoun, 2000, Oxford. Close-focusing binoculars are helpful and will be provided for use during class sessions. Instructors are Orange Audubon members Randy Snyder and Mary Keim. If you have questions about class content, call or e-mail Randy and Mary (407-851-5416, rsnyder11@cfl.rr.com).

Registration is required. **Cost is \$25 for Audubon members; \$40 for non-members; and \$10 for children 12 or younger (must be accompanied by a registered adult)**, payable by check or money order to Orange Audubon Society. Non-members can join when registering and pay \$45, which includes butterfly class registration (member price \$25) plus introductory 3-way annual membership in Orange Audubon and National Audubon Societies and Audubon of Florida (\$20 basic rate). Visit www.orangeaudubonfl.org for a membership application. The class is limited to 16 students. To reserve a space, contact Teresa (mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or 407-644-0796).

Fiscal Year 2010 in Review

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) ended fiscal year 2010 on a positive note with net income of \$7,861—consisting of a \$2,555 increase in the value of marketable securities and net income of \$5,306 primarily from membership dues, program revenue, soliciting campaigns and fundraising/outreach events. A Silent Auction that took place during the June 2010 Chertok program and potluck dinner generated \$2,306, the most successful auction to date, with proceeds designated for a future nature education center.

OAS' efforts to secure permanent funds for educational programs will ensure longevity of the very activities that mold the next generation of environmental stewards. OAS' fiscal stability will ensure its future and continued ability to be a strong voice for conservation and the environment.

OAS recognizes that its greatest resource is you—its dedicated board, general membership and other friends who contributed time and other resources to help achieve a balanced budget and increase funds for the Society.

Anyone interested in obtaining additional financial details may contact Teresa Williams, Treasurer, by phone: 407-644-0796 or e-mail: mwilliams@cfl.rr.com.

The Orange Audubon Society (OAS) promotes the understanding of and an interest in wildlife and the environment, recognition of the intangible values in the remaining natural beauty of Florida and the World and the responsibility for the conservation of these remaining resources.

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<http://www.orangeaudubonfl.org>

The Oil Spill's larger message: The End of Cheap Oil

We watched the details of the BP Gulf Oil disaster in horror and now wonder how permanent the fix is and how great the damage. But the message is much broader. The reason oil companies are drilling 5000 feet below the water surface is because the easy-to-extract oil is long gone. We've reached the Age of "Tough Oil."

The rate of oil 'production', meaning extraction and refining, has grown almost every year of the last century.

In the bell-shaped curve called Hubbert's Peak, oil is increasingly plentiful on the upslope of the curve, increasingly scarce and expensive on the down slope. The peak of the curve coincides with the point at which oil reserves have been 50 percent depleted. Once the peak is passed, oil production begins to decline while costs go up.

Oil geologist M. King Hubbert in 1956 accurately predicted that US domestic oil production would peak in 1970. His prediction that global production would peak around the year 2000 would have been accurate, had the politically created oil shocks of the 1970s not delayed it for about 5-10 years (<http://www.lifeaftertheoilcrash.net/>)

It is not that we are 'running out of oil', but the days of easy to extract oil are over. And the expensive oil that remains is more environmentally damaging to extract, as we have seen in the Gulf. Environmentalists worry about Shell Oil's plans to drill in the Beaufort Sea off Alaska. The likelihood of accidents that cannot be repaired is great in the harsh Arctic environment.

If you want to know more about Peak Oil, one of the longer established sites is www.theoilrum.com. National Public Radio's program *Fresh Air* had a fascinating story on June 30 on The Age of "Tough Oil" by Michael Klare, professor at Hampshire College. Find it at <http://www.npr.org/>

All of the oil substitutes, like Canadian tar sands, that are fossil fuels have their problems. Some of the renewable energies do also, as I'll write about in a later article.

We all need to reduce our energy use in every way we can.

As Orange Audubon Society's Climate Change Chair, I welcome input from everyone else passionate about this issue. Email me at sabalpress@mac.com.

Kudos to 2010 Photo Contest Judges

The judges for Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) 2010 Chertok Open Nature Photography Contest were David Hunter, Mike Godwin and Josh Garrick.

Artist judge David Hunter is a native Floridian, USF zoology major and former science teacher who switched careers to that of full-time artist in 1978. His work, especially pen and ink drawings and etchings, is easily recognized by its attention to detail. David exhibits in seven states and participates in numerous art shows in the Southeast, where he has won an array of awards.

Naturalist judge Mike Godwin, a 6th generation Floridian and grandson of Gatorland's founder, was raised at his family's Central Florida tourist attraction, where his appreciation for wildlife was bolstered. Over the years, Mike presented several programs (with live gators in tow) to OAS members before joining its board of directors. As webmaster, he led the project of updating OAS' website and is currently serving as president.

Photographer judge Josh Garrick is the managing editor of Central Florida's *Lifestyle Publications*. He is also a writer, educator, professor of ancient Greek art, fine art curator and judge for numerous art shows and photography competitions including many for the Orlando Camera Club. His photography has been featured in numerous high-profile publications and exhibited in New York City's Helio Gallery, the Bibro Gallery in SoHo and throughout Central Florida. OAS appreciates the level of credibility these highly qualified judges bring to the contest. We extend sincere thanks to each of them for their contributions of time and talent.

Teresa Williams, OASCNPC Chair

Wachovia/Wells Fargo Banking on Nature with OAS

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) recently received a \$5,000 grant from Wachovia Wells Fargo Foundation and Wells Fargo Foundation to provide funds for nature education.

The first part of the grant provides for nature education at Orlando Wetlands Park (OWP). One of OAS's education goals is to assist nature centers in our chapter area. One such place is OWP, a City of Orlando property of 1,650 acres including 1,200 acres of wetlands that cleanse treated wastewater from a regional wastewater treatment plant. Beyond that function, OWP has become an exceptional bird and wildlife habitat that is included in the Great Florida Birding Trail. OAS "adopted" OWP under National Audubon Society's "Adopt a Refuge" program. Since then, OAS has partnered with OWP by leading nature tours, assisting with environmental education displays and co-sponsoring the annual Orlando Wetlands Festival (next planned for February 19, 2011).

Although visitors to OWP have benefited from guided nature tours, the equipment needed for a full appreciation of OWP's complex ecosystems has not been available due to lack of financial resources. Now, thanks to generous grants from Wachovia Wells Fargo Foundation and the Wells Fargo Foundation, a wildlife spotting telescope, a digital stereo zoom microscope and aquatic sampling nets have been purchased. The spotting scope will be used by school groups and other visitors to view birds, birds' nests (for example, the Bald Eagles that have nested for several years at OWP) and other wildlife that inhabits the wetlands. The digital microscope will be used in the OWP Education Center to explore small, often unnoticed flora and fauna. Its accompanying digital camera allows specimen images to be displayed on a monitor for group presentations. The aquatic sampling nets will be used to explore the diversity of fishes, frogs and larger invertebrates in the wetlands. This equipment will significantly enhance the nature experience of OWP's 10,000 visitors per year, fostering greater appreciation for and

understanding of the diversity of wildlife in a wetland environment.

The second part of the grant from Wachovia Wells Fargo Foundation and Wells Fargo Foundation provides funds for OAS to purchase *Audubon Adventures* teaching resources for several Central Florida elementary schools. These classroom materials, produced by National Audubon Society for 3rd through 5th graders, help students form positive attitudes about nature while supporting teachers with instructional content that is aligned with national standards for the language arts and science as well as Florida standards for academic achievement. Each *Audubon Adventures* classroom kit is titled *Wildlife on the Move* and includes editions about migrating animals that serve 32 students. The program is designed to be easily implemented and integrated into existing curriculum areas of science, social studies, mathematics, language arts and creative arts. Teachers and their students learn about the natural world as Audubon helps to educate the future stewards of America's natural treasures.

Wachovia Wells Fargo Foundation and Wells Fargo Foundation are enriching the quality of life in Central Florida by funding environmental education programs.

FINE FEATHERS---How the Peacock Came to Winter Park, presented by Winter Park Historical Association (WPHA)

You are invited to a first viewing of an all-new exhibit showcasing the history of peacocks from their significance in ancient art, culture and religion; appearance in Louis Comfort Tiffany's art and Tiffany's influence on Dr. Hugh McKean and his wife Jeannette; subsequent import to the McKean's Genius Drive estate, Wind Song; to their status today as the symbol of Winter Park. The exhibit and a champagne reception on Friday, September 10, 2010, 4--8 PM marks the grand re-opening of the Winter Park Historical Museum at the Winter Park Farmer's Market. This celebration is free to the public. Call WPHA Executive Director Dani Janesick at 407-647-2330 for additional information.

CONSERVATION NEWS –The America's Great Outdoors Initiative

"It's a recognition, passed down from one generation to the next, that few pursuits are more satisfying to the spirit than discovering the greatness of America's outdoors," President Barack Obama, April 16, 2010.

On April 16th, 2010, the President established the America's Great Outdoors initiative to promote and support innovative community-level efforts to conserve outdoor spaces and connect Americans to the outdoors. To accomplish this mission a team from the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Department of the Interior has been traveling around the country holding General Listening Sessions. I attended the Session that was held yesterday in Kissimmee.

The one resounding thought from the attendees was to reach out to our children in their formative years through early ecology & conservation education in schools. The general consensus was that too much time is being spent indoors with electronics and TV, etc. As the saying goes, in order for one to care about something they must first know about it. Once they care about, they will hopefully come to love it and want to be a part of it and protect it. There are some volunteer groups in Florida that do sponsor Environmental Conservation through festivals and tours that are geared towards children. We just need more of them.

Another issue was the obstacles that exist to achieve goals for conservation, recreation and reconnecting people to the outdoors. One important obstacle to overcome is to make sure the recreational areas are safe and kept up so that families will feel good about going to them. Another is that funding is needed for acquisition

of new lands, which is difficult in these challenging economic times. Some participants even felt that it was wrong that FCAT exams in schools took up so much time that Physical Education in schools was being cut back or entirely eliminated.

Another question was how the Federal Government could be a more effective partner in helping to achieve conservation, recreation or reconnect people to the outdoors. Suggestions ranged from getting inner city school children to parks and on hikes on a regular basis to getting more advertising on the air and on billboards about America the Beautiful and recreation areas, etc.

Lastly, the question was asked what tools and resources were needed to help our efforts be more successful. One thought was to have conservation areas developed near military bases for recreational purposes. Another was to have grant monies available for conservation and recreation areas and to build nature sanctuaries.

The team has a few more cities where they will present the same program and questions. They will then compile all the ideas and thoughts from around the country and give the feed back to Washington, DC.

If any of you have any comments or ideas you would like to submit you may do so either online at www.doi.gov/americasgreatoutdoors/ or by email to: ago@ios.doi.gov

You may also mail your comments to:

Department of the interior, Americas Great Outdoors, 1849 C St. NW, Mailstop 3156, Washington, DC 20240

Sharon Robbins, Conservation Chair

2-Hour 'Workday' at Genius Drive Nature Preserve

The Genius Drive Nature Preserve is the subject of an ecological restoration that began ~2003. Since 2006 Orange Audubon Society has partnered with Rollins College and the Preserve's owner, the Elizabeth Morse Genius Foundation, by conducting 'workdays' to help maintain restored areas.

The next workday is Sunday, Sept. 26, 9–11 AM; it entails gardening, a/k/a weeding and mulching, in the restored cedar grove near Lake Mizell.

To help, contact Teresa: 407-644-0796 or mwilliams@cfl.rr.com. Further details provided the week before.

**Orange Audubon Society
Board of Directors 2010-2011**

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Calendar of Events

Sept. 16, 2010 - Thursday
OAS monthly membership meeting, 7 pm, Leu Gardens.

Sept. 18, 2010 - Saturday
Field Trip, Mead Gardens with Gallus, gallusq@cfl.rr.com

Sept. 19, 2010 - Sunday
Limited Edition Field Trip, Oakland Nature Preserve with Gallus, gallusq@cfl.rr.com

Oct. 9, 16 & 23 - Saturdays
Butterfly ID classes.
See page 2. Teresa
407-644-0796.

Oct. 16, 23 & 30 - Saturdays
Beginning Bird ID classes.
\$30/members, \$45 non-members. Orlando Wetlands Park & Seminole Ranch Conservation area. Teresa
407-644-0796.

Oct. 21, 2010 - Thursday
Membership meeting, 7 pm at Leu Gardens, Florida Turtles.

Oct. 23-24, 2010
Audubon Assembly in St. Petersburg, FL
www.audubonofflorida.org

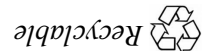
Oct. 24, 2010 - Sunday
Limited Edition Field Trip, Wekiva Basin Banding Station. gallusq@cfl.rr.com

Oct. 30, 2010 - Saturday
Field Trip - P.E.A.R. Park, Leesburg, gallusq@cfl.rr.com

Oct. 31, Dec. 5 & Jan. 6 - Sundays-Birds of Prey ID
FREE, at Lake Apopka Restoration area. Gallus, gallusq@cfl.rr.com

Wildlife surveys for September - December 2010

Yarborough Tract, Little-Big Econ State Forest bird survey (tentative) – Sept. 18, Oct. 9, Nov. 13, and Dec. 11 - contact Lorne Malo at 407/659-4853 (work), 407/349-2536 (home), lmalo@sjrwmd.com, or lornemalo@bellsouth.net. **Ferndale Preserve** quarterly bird surveys – contact Gallus Quigley, Jr. at 352/516-8512 or gquigley@lakecountyfl.gov or gallusq@cfl.rr.com. **Charles H. Bronson S. F.** (Turkey Creek Tract) butterfly surveys – Sept. 25, Oct. 24, Nov. 27 - contact Randy Snyder or Mary Keim at 407/851-5416 - home or rsnyder11@cfl.rr.com.



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