This Month's Program: April 19, 2007 - 7:00pm
William Bartram: Puc Puggy's Travels in Florida by J.D. Sutton

In 1773, thirty-four year old William Bartram set off alone on a four-year journey from the foothills of the Appalachian mountains to Florida and all the way to the Mississippi River. Throughout his explorations, young William made drawings and took notes on the native flora and fauna and the native American Indians. His visit to Florida was a time of earliest contact between white men and Creeks, who had only about 35 years earlier settled in Alachua County.

Cowkeeper, chief of the Alachua band, celebrated Bartram's visit to his village with a great feast. When Bartram explained to the chief that he wished to study the local plants and animals, the chief was amused and began calling him "Puc-puggy," or "the flower hunter." But he also gave him free rein to explore his territory on Payne's Prairie.

J.D. Sutton, an Orlando-area actor and playwright, has recreated a moment in the life of this fascinating early explorer. Join Sutton as he brings Bartram to life, sharing tales of his adventures and his awe at the beauty of Florida.

Join us April 19 for an educational and entertaining program.

Deborah Green, Vice President

March Field Trip Report  Mary Keim, Field Trip Chair

Six OAS birders attended the trip to Lyonia Preserve in Deltona on March 17th. With the early start of daylight savings time, we arrived to hear many morning bird songs. At least 30 bird species were observed including Red-tailed Hawk, Northern Bobwhite, Northern Flicker, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Brown Thrasher, White-eyed Vireo, and Eastern Towhee. The Florida Scrub-Jays did not disappoint us. Two people in our group had never seen one. Before the trip was over, they had not only seen and heard them, but had them land on their hats. Close encounters with wild species never lose their appeal.

The preserve is undergoing some pretty drastic habitat restoration efforts. This led us into discussions about the importance of habitat structure, e.g., low-growing oaks, to Scrub-Jay conservation. The Sky-blue Lupine was in bloom. We took time to look at scrub plants such as Sand Pine, Florida Rosemary, Silk Bay and Garberia. Some in the group were surprised to learn that using binoculars backwards works like a magnifying glass.

April Field Trip – My apologies to any who missed our April 7th trip to Lower Wekiva Preserve due to my forgetting to send details for the March OASis. The report on that trip will appear in the May OASis.
The Florida Legislature is in full session now and several bills have been introduced that concern us. For many years Audubon has supported and worked for the restoration of the Ocklawaha River and removal of the Rodman Dam, a relic left from the ill-conceived Cross Florida Barge Canal. Again legislation has been introduced to stop that restoration and keep the Dam in place. House Bill 0427 and Senate Bill 1930 to establish the George Kirkpatrick State reserve at Rodman Reservoir are in the hopper. The House bill has been heard by the House Conservation and State Lands committee and was approved by a vote of 6-2. HB 0427 now goes to the House Environmental and Natural Resources Council for a hearing. No date has been scheduled. SB 1930 has not been scheduled for any committee hearings yet. Please contact your local State Representative and Senator and ask them to oppose these bills if they are in a committee or should either one come to the full chamber for a vote. You can read more on why the restoration is needed and important at the Florida Defenders of the Environment website: www.fladefenders.org, or the Putnam County Environmental Council.

Legislative good news includes the Governor's budget that includes $100 million increase for the Florida Forever Land Acquisition program to $400 million for this budget cycle, $100 million for the State share of Everglades Restoration projects, and $90 million on Lake Okeechobee restoration and St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Rivers and estuaries restoration and management.

Locally, several requests to St. Johns River Water Management District for more water are opposed by OAS and others. City of Apopka has requested 5 million gallons a day from Lake Apopka and the City of Minneola is requesting 20 million gallons a day from the Marsh Flow-way at Lake Apopka. We vigorously oppose any withdrawals from Lake Apopka and continue to lobby the Water Management District to deny these requests. Millions of taxpayer dollars have been and are being spent on restoring the Lake, restoring the natural marshes on the north shore for bird and wildlife habitat, and eventual linkage of a recreational loop trail to the West Orange and South Lake trails. Friends of Lake Apopka has more information on the issue or contact, OAS Board member Bob Stamps or Tom Rodriguez of the Oakland Nature Preserve.

Climate Change and Global warming are taking center stage in Congress and US Senate Bill 309, the Global Warming Pollution Reduction Act of 2007, is important legislation we think should be supported. Audubon of Florida and National Audubon have made global warming/climate change a conservation priority as it will affect all other environmental issues if efforts to curb carbon dioxide and greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere are not seriously addressed starting now. To more about climate change issues and what we can do locally, take part in the Orlando StepItUp event being held on April 14th from Noon-3pm at the University of Central Florida at Lake Claire. Information is available at www.stepitup2007.org.

I have asked the OAS Board of Directors to consider officially endorsing the Florida Hometown Democracy Amendment that is a citizen initiative referendum for the 2008 general election. This amendment would make any changes to a municipality's (county or city) Comprehensive Policy Plan through the Comp Plan amendment cycle be put on a referendum for the voters decision after the proposal has been through the existing process in local government. Cities and Counties have 2 cycles per year for landowners to propose changes to the existing Comp Plan. Comp Plans determine the density and intensity of land development for a municipality – They are reviewed and evaluated for changes every 5 years by the local government, but twice a year landowners can propose individual changes and if the majority of the elected commission or council can be convinced of a proposed change – it happens. In reality these decisions are likely to be based on political reasons, not sound planning and community desires. I’d like to know what you think about OAS endorsing the Florida Hometown Amendment. Please email me (pegcox@att.net) or OAS President Dick Smith (rls-oas@earthlink.net) and let us know what you think. You can learn more and read the exact amendment, as well as see a list of official endorsements at www.floridahometowndemocracy.com.

More on Bartram

John and William Bartram: Travelers in Early America is by Sandra Wallus Sammons, an award-winning author of Florida historical biographies. I purchased Sammon's book from Frank Gromling, our Right Whale speaker of last year who is the publisher. The book fascinating and simple to read, suitable for younger readers but no embarrassment for an adult to read. I hope to have the book for sale to accompany the April 19 William Bartram program, and possibly the author, who lives in Edgewater might come herself. Florida needs a Bartram curriculum, and with J.D. Sutton's portrayal and Sammons' book, the elements are all here! Deborah Green, Vice President

Ocean Publishing, P.O. Box 1080, Flagler Beach, FL 32136-1080, phone: (386) 517-1600
www.ocean-publishing.com/Bartram.html
Living Gently on Planet Earth

PEGGY LANTZ

Are you doing the best you can to leave a better world?

If each one of us changes only one incandescent lightbulb to fluorescent, we will be contributing to the reduction of global warming.

If each one of us carries only one canvas bag to the grocery store, we will reduce the number of plastic bags manufactured and thrown away.

If each one of us reduces our lawns by planting part of it with native groundcover plants and using mulch, we could save hundreds of gallons of fresh water.

Some of you know that I drive a hybrid car. The instrument panel gives me a continuous readout of just how many miles per gallon I am getting as I drive. I have found that when I can drive at a steady rate of speed for a mile or more, my gas mileage goes up. If I have to stop for a traffic light or if I speed up to pass another car, my gas mileage drops. When I see a red light ahead of me, I slow down as I approach and let the car coast to a stop, and I speed up slowly, to keep my gas consumption low. If my gas mileage begins to decline, the first thing I do is check the air pressure in my tires. Even if they are only a couple of pounds below my nominal pressure of 40 pounds, I pump them back up, and my mileage improves. You, too, can drive gently and keep your tires fully inflated in order to reduce your gas consumption.

What else do I do? I compost my kitchen waste, to reduce the amount I send to the dump, except meat scraps. Those I put in the freezer until garbage pickup day. I refuse to buy plastic bags for the sole purpose of throwing them away. My dry trash goes in the garbage can without a liner, just like it did in my mother’s day, before the advent of plastic bags. I have solar hot water collectors on my roof. I open doors and windows when the weather is right; my air conditioner is set at 80 in the summer, so there is less contrast when I go inside and outside, and 70 when I need to heat in the winter. I recycle papers and cans and bottles. I looked for the Energy Star when we had to buy a new appliance recently. I use the backs of used office paper in my printer and for notes to myself. I buy organic or locally grown fruits and vegetables whenever I need to heat in the winter. I recycle papers and cans and bottles. I looked for the Energy Star when we had to buy a new appliance recently. I use the backs of used office paper in my printer and for notes to myself. I buy organic or locally grown fruits and vegetables whenever I can to protect the soil and reduce the transportation costs of our food. My yard has no “lawn”. Whatever comes up that’s green is our yard. We recently...  

OAS Volunteers ‘Digging’ Ecological Restoration of Genius Reserve

On February 25th eleven OAS volunteers helped with maintenance at the Genius Reserve in the newly restored cedar grove near Lake Mizell. When the relatively easy tasks of weeding and mulching were completed (for this workday), next on tap was the planting of native love grass to create a garden path along the lake’s edge. In time, the grass will also provide an airy show of soft color and an important food source for many bird species.

The rhythm of our work along the lake’s edge was kept in tempo by a Pileated Woodpecker’s fast hammering — in tune with instructions to “dig deeper”, Claire (Hilliker); “dig deeper”, Richard (Poole) — atop a dead snag. Bruce Stephenson, the Rollins College professor who leads the restoration effort, remarked that dead trees (if natives) are left on the reserve to provide food and habitat, to-wit the Pileated hammered “Thank you”.

A few Monarch Butterflies also fluttered by to show their thanks for the milkweeds planted by OAS volunteers last November. Other species present were: Anhinga, Northern Cardinal, Downy Woodpecker, Osprey, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Red-winged Blackbird, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and Yellow-rumped Warbler, one in particular was vigorously fly-catching off a large elderberry bush in bloom by the lake.

Stephenson delivered other restoration news: orange trees within the original grove have been replaced and the reserve now boasts the only working grove in Winter Park. Although orange trees are not a native species, the grove itself is an important cultural and historic component of the Morse-Genius legacy.

Stephenson also identified several young hickory trees with visible leaf buds, explaining that hickories are the hardest plant in the historic native landscape to re-establish because of their low propagation rate. By contrast, their importance as an understory plant and food source for wildlife are among the highest. Once established, these young hickories will serve as an indicator species for the health of the entire landscape.

The familiar scene of OAS volunteers, with shovels in hand, will continue to be an important element in the transition of the Genius Reserve into a scene of romantic old Florida. Many thanks to Jackie, Leesa, Mary Ann, Rod and Ted Sward; June Long, Christine Brown, Cecie Catron and the others mentioned above. If you’re a natural-born gardener or you just dig ecological restoration, please contact me (407-644-0796 or mwilliams@cfl.rr.com) to join the workday volunteer team. The next workdays will occur in June and August (exact dates/times TBD) when students are away for summer break.

Teresa Williams, OAS/Genius Workday Coordinator
Have you seen my new Field Guide?  

CLAIRE HILLIKER, EDITOR

I love books. I'm particularly fond of field guides. Field guides about birds, butterflies, dragonflies, trees, amphibians, I love them all. I hesitate to admit to exactly how many I own, but let's just say my that my collection is considerable. One of my latest additions is *Birds of Florida*, a field guide dedicated to identifying the regularly occurring species of our very own home state of Florida. Although the authors mainly concentrate on the 325 species that occur annually in Florida, they've also included an appendix containing the 39 or so less common birds that we might be lucky enough to encounter.

A handy comparative reference guide at the front of the book gives the general size of the bird and the page number where you can get details for each particular species. A similar guide to the bird groups is located on the book's back cover which correlates to the color-coded tabs used to facilitate group and species location.

The introduction section covers subjects such as Birding basics, equipment, techniques, the primary Florida Internet birding sites for Florida, and how cool is this: a section on the Top Birding Sites in the state! There are also Glossary and Reference sections at the back, and you can search the index by either scientific or common name so it's easy to use whether you're a beginner or an expert.

Of all the book's features, I especially like the layout:

- The top third of the page gives the common and scientific names of the species, as well as a comprehensive description of the bird.
- The middle third of the page is dedicated to the illustration(s) of the bird itself in the plumages that we're most likely to see it in Florida (breeding, nonbreeding, juvenile).
- The bottom third of the each page contains a Florida range map along with a species account of the bird that contains information on it's size, status, Habitat, Nesting, Feeding, Voice, Similar Species, and Best Sites in which to find the species.

All in all, I found *Birds of Florida* to be excellent in terms of content if you're looking for a local reference. It's ease of use makes it a great gift for beginning birders and a welcome addition to more advanced birders' libraries.

*Birds of Florida* by Bill Pranty, Kurt A. Radamaker, Gregory Kennedy
Lone Pine Publishing International, 2006

Help Desperately Needed for Lake Eola Fundraising Event

We appreciate the three who have already signed up to help OAS at the Lake Eola Fest in the Park Arts and Crafts Festival on April 14th and 15th in downtown Orlando — but we still desperately need coverage during the following times:

- **Saturday** *April 14th* 8 am – 6 pm.
- **Sunday** *April 15th* Noon – 6 pm.

No experience is necessary. Shifts from 8 am–1 pm or 1 pm–6 pm are preferred, but any amount of time will be sincerely appreciated. Please help make this event a big success. For more details, contact Loretta (407-886-2925 or lns-oas@att.net) or me (407-644-0796 or mwilliams@cfl.rr.com). We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Teresa Williams, Treasurer

Welcome New Members

Jeff & Cathie Abbott, Dorothy Abelson, Jalan Agnew, Robert & Rebecca True, Mr & Mrs W E Austin, Gene Baker, Alexandra Balogh, Kay Barrett, Carol Bishop Phifer, Marvin E Blum, Valerie Bonatis, Elise R Bradford, S Breeding, Sarah Brown, Christalee Burkett, G L Campbell, Janice E Casey, Helen P Check, Julia A Child, Matthew & Melissa Clarady, David Cogsshall Sr, Lisa Cook, Mary Cook, Ms. Coyle, Mr & Mrs Dick Crabtree, Margaret Cruickshank, Patrick Cruit, Jacob Dalpiaz, Carolyn Davis, Loretta Davolos, Lisa DeZwarte, Debbie Decampus, Caryl Degrandi, Ms Dyer, Karen A Ead, Julie Farrell, E Fasciglione, Inez Fink, John Fitzemmons, Edward H Freeman, Donald Fuller, Hortensia Gaitan, Julie Garner, Dan Gasick, Kate Gogolen, Steven Grant, Judith B Greene, Barbara Gros, Art Hansen, Joseph Hardison, Brenda Heflin, C Helton, Timothy Henquies, Sylvia Hollabaugh, Karl Jacobs, Mr & Mrs James D Lantz, Courtland Johnson, Debbi Johnson, Cornelia Joyce Rabe, Jacob Kauffman, Sami Khan, Beverly A Kilbey, Joanne Kinsler, Emily P Knight, Jack C Lane, Jody Lazaf, Clifton Lindsay, Connie Loftin, Craig & Kathy Lopus, Getrude G Lukas, Jim Lunceford, Mr Lynn, Cindy Maldonado, Marilyn Mall, Manette Martz, Ronald E McConaughy, Robert J McDole, Coralee McInerney, Nancy Mewborn, Suzanne & Larry Miranda, Renne T Monroe, Laura Mueller, Ray Murphy, Albert O Neall, Mike Neel, Roy Newman, Susan O'Brien, Susan Otis, Teresa Pass, Robert Y Patterson, Mr & Mrs Pentek, Connor Pfeiffer, Willard T Phillips, Lisa Picora, Marilyn L Potz, Shelley Preston, Nancy Reinert, Violet Restall, Randy N Richardson, Kathy Rigling, Guyla Rippard, Kevin & Judy Hill, April Roder, Phyllis Rouzer, Jeanne C Scarborough, Mark Sees, Sandra Senger, Selma S. Shumate, Bari Smildsin, Glenn Smith, June H Smith, Thomas Smith, Olga Soltesz, Ann E Stachura, Catherine Stacy, Angela Stout, L Strobel, Lynn Sullivan, RF Swift, Nancy Tait, Churchill B Thompson, John Thomson, Michael Tracy, Elin Tredway, Sandra Trussell, Clara Uelze, Julia Voght, Mamie R Walsh, Barbara Watts, Maryellen Weber, Harold Westbrook, Patricia A Williams, Penny Woodruff, Janet Xenias, Joyce H York.
Orange Audubon & Bluegrass

What could be more fun than attending a bluegrass festival? Attending it and helping Orange Audubon Society, perhaps. Bob Stamps and Loretta Satterthwaite have volunteered to set up a sales/information booth for Orange Audubon Society at the 8th Annual Magnolia Park Bluegrass Festival on Saturday, May 5th. The event is from 10 AM to 6 PM and there is free admission with the donation of 2 canned goods, which will be donated to Second Harvest of Central Florida. If you’d like to stop by and volunteer some time to help OAS or just enjoy the music, bring your lawn chairs and stop by and say ‘Hello’. Magnolia Park is an Orange County Park sitting on the east shore of Lake Apopka. It’s a pretty little park, so come out and enjoy the day and take advantage of one more chance to buy OAS’ nature t-shirts, nest boxes, signs, etc.

FNPS Home Garden Tour

On Saturday, May 12th, the Tarflower Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society will conduct a tour of home gardens. Contact 407-647-5233 for details.

Subject Matters in 2007 Photo Contest:

Part II — Natives are “In”; Humans are “Out”

OAS’ 19th Annual Kit & Sidney Chertok Nature Photography Contest will, for the first time since 1992, offer two competition categories with the themes of “Florida’s Birds” and “No Birds Allowed!”

New contest themes, but the same basic rules apply: subject matter must contain Florida native fauna and flora, but must not contain humans, human-made structures or artifacts. These rules are consistent with contest objectives of promoting interest in and concern for Florida’s [remaining] native wildlife and the wild places they call home. In last month’s OASs, we discussed the native criteria and provided reference resources to assist with their identification. In this article we explain by example what is meant by “may not contain humans, etc.”

Essentially, images should not contain any trace of humans. Some are obvious: human beings and human buildings, for example. Others are not: human footprints and tire tracks on a sandy beach; jet streams across the sky; propeller cuts on a manatee; shadows, silhouettes and reflections of people and man-made structures; bird bands; mowed fields and manicured shrubs and trees; to name a few. All of these signs of man’s impact on the environment are disallowed.

Get the picture? Still worried that you’ve missed some small trace of humans? Or still not certain your subject matter is native to Florida? Then you should take advantage of OAS’ courtesy pre-screening, which is offered to enhance the educational value of the contest. All images received by April 19, 2007 will be pre-screened and participants will be contacted as soon as possible thereafter to allow the option of replacing nonqualified images at no additional charge. Replacements must be submitted by the contest deadline of May 17, 2007 (postmark date) and meet all other contest requirements. For entry forms and other information, visit www.orangeaudubonfl.org or call 407-644-0796.

Teresa Williams, Chair

Local Rehabber in Need of Volunteers

Ann Young Wild Bird Refuge is in need of caring adults to care for orphaned, wild baby birds. The refuge is a non profit shelter aimed at rescuing injured and orphaned wild birds. It is located in Ann’s home. Each year, Ann (Licensed by the state and federal governments), rehabilitates and releases hundreds of wild birds brought to the refuge by caring people. Ann has nurtured birds for 29 years. She works very diligently, at times around the clock, assisted by a small team of volunteers. Her work has become vital to these fragile creatures whose survival is being threatened.

We need quiet, bird loving volunteers to work at least 2 hours, one time per week to feed the baby birds. (nestlings need to be fed every 1/2 hour - we use a small shovel to feed the birds)

• Scheduling: Please come by the refuge and sign up for the time slot that you need. Please be prepared to volunteer at this time, as she may need you. Please do not phone the refuge as Ann does not have time to answer the phone.
• College students may be able to receive credit for volunteering at the center.
• Snacks: Please bring your own.
• Birthing Season: It is usually between April 1st and the end of August.

Directions: Ann’s home is located at 205 Robin Road, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701. It is off of Hwy 436, between Hwy 17-92 and the Railroad tracks. Specific Directions from Hwy 17-92:
• Go West on Hwy 436
• Go through 2 stoplights (passing Circuit City on the Left)
• Turn left at Robin Road (At Calico Corner Fabrics)
• Ann's home is behind a stone wall on the left at the bend.

Any donation would be gratefully appreciated. Please feel free to phone me with any questions. Also, if time permits, I will be happy to show you how to feed the birds. Ann, the critters and I thank you for your concern for wildlife.
Kaye Yonge (407) 273-7733, Patriot070@aol.com

Answers to Hog Island

Impractical Final Exam III

If you come up with any additional answers, email Deborah Green at sabal@cfl.rr.com.

Has been in a freezer? Snowy Plover, Eskimo Curlew, Iceland Gull

Is a bend in a chimney? Sooty Tern

Doesn’t know the words? Mute Swan, Whistling Duck, Hummingbird

Is a Russian census? Redpoll

Is a grand of liqueur? Wild Turkey, Old Crow

Is a conversation? Chat

Is a poor boxer? Whip-poor-will, Thrasher, Belted Kingfisher

Is all tied up? Red Knot

Cuts a liquid? Skimmer, Shearwater

Needs oiling? Rusty Blackbird, Screech Owl

Is a rich elderly lady? Dowitcher

Subject Matters in 2007 Photo Contest:
Part II — Natives are “In”; Humans are “Out”
**Calendar of Events**

**April 7, 2007 - Saturday**  
LARA Bird Survey; 7:30am-Noon.  
Pam Bowen 386-329-4870/pbowen@sjrwmd.com

**April 7, 2007 - Saturday**  
OAS Field Trip - Lower Wekiwa River State Preserve.  
Mary Keim 407-851-5416

**April 12-15, 2007 - Thu-Sun**  
Florida's First Coast Birding & Nature Festival  
St. Augustine, FL  www.getaway4nature.com

**April 14, 2007 - Saturday**  
Wekiva River Buffers Conservation Area Bird Survey  
Lorne Malo 407-349-2536/407-659-4853(w)

**April 19, 2007 - Thursday**  
General Meeting, 7:00pm, Leu Gardens.  
Dick Smith 407-257-7361

**April 20-22, 2007 - Fri-Sun**  
FOS 2007 Spring Meeting (in conjunction with the Georgia Ornithological Society)  
Brunswick, GA  www.fosbirds.org

**April 22, 2007 - Sunday**  
EARTH DAY!