



### This Month's Program:

**September 15, 2016**

## Tales of Everglades National Park Rangers: Honoring the National Parks Centennial

by **Christi Carmichael and Bob Showler**

Since the 1980's Christi Carmichael and Bob Showler have lived and worked in national parks. For much of their careers they have been interpretive rangers at Everglades National Park, Florida's only national park.

Christi and Bob present evening programs, give bird walks, work on park interpretive materials, and answer visitor questions in the Flamingo District at the southernmost end of the park. They love their jobs.

To help Orange Audubon Society commemorate the centennial year of the National Park Service, Christi and Bob will be kind enough to come up from the Flamingo District to Orlando. They will present a brief history of the National Park Service, tell what makes Everglades National Park such a special place and explain how birds have played a major role in the history of the park, weaving in their own anecdotes of what they have seen as rangers.

This is a great opportunity for young people interested in careers as park rangers to ask questions. Join us September 15th at 7:00 p.m. for a fascinating program. Location below. *Deborah Green, Programs Co-Chair*



Christi Carmichael and Bob Showler looking out onto Florida Bay at Everglades National Park. *Photo courtesy Bob Showler*

## Sea Turtle Update

Canaveral National Seashore's (CNS) 2016 sea turtle monitoring program has been a success. Nest screening has again kept predation at a low level. The season's total of 5048 loggerhead nests is just shy of a record year. Green Sea Turtle nests tallied just 246, but following last year's record of 776, a lower count was expected. Leatherbacks made 9 nests, which is about normal. CNS' 24 miles of undeveloped beach on the Atlantic Ocean is unique for Florida. Data from university research projects on lighting and hatchling emergence collected on this dark beach can be compared to research data from developed areas yielding helpful monitoring information.

*Mike Daley, OAS Database Manager and CNS Sea Turtle Monitor*

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/](http://www.leugardens.org/plan/directions/)



### Monthly Field Trip:

**September 17, 2016**

## Canaveral National Seashore

On Saturday, September 17th, Orange Audubon Society (OAS) will bird Canaveral National Seashore in New Smyrna Beach. Created in 1975, the national seashore includes the northernmost buffer lands for NASA's Kennedy Space Center. This pristine beach stretches 24 miles from New Smyrna Beach to Titusville.

This special place is managed by the National Park Service as one of only 10 national seashores in the United States. OAS' trip pays tribute to the Park Service's 100th anniversary.

We will first tour Turtle Mound, the highest Native American midden, and other sites in search of songbirds like Cape May Warblers that migrate down the East Coast to their wintering grounds.



Canaveral National Seashore, showing yellow stakes marking sea turtle nests protected by metal grates. *Photo: Mike Daley*

We will scan for birds feeding on sandbars in the shallow Mosquito Lagoon and for birds on the beach. After birding, you are free to enjoy Canaveral's beautiful beach.

Meet at 8 a.m. at the Apollo Visitor Center. To reach the New Smyrna Beach end of the national seashore takes a little over an hour from most places in Orlando. Cost to enter the national seashore is \$5/carload. Bring plenty to drink, sun protection, insect protection, birding gear, and lunch, and optionally your bathing suit, if you want to take a dip. Carpooling may be possible. Contact Larry at [lmartin5@msn.com](mailto:lmartin5@msn.com) or (407) 647-5834.



## 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, participate in special events and perhaps embark on a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. After years of wishing, thinking and planning for a nature center that OAS might call home, the location has been narrowed down to the Lake Apopka North Shore Restoration Area. While there is still a lot of work to do before plans are revealed, we finally have something to talk about this year.

OAS will continue (in fact, has increased) the great programs and activities that members and the Central Florida community have come to expect. Watch for OAS' 2016-2017 Annual Brochure, graced by winning images from the 2016 Chertok photography contest. Peruse its contents for not-to-miss activities, then

mark your calendars so that you won't! Each new season brings new challenges, some known, others not: challenges to improve outreach through social media; to cultivate a younger and more diverse membership; to offer monthly programs that appeal to all ages; and to have a greater presence at community events. OAS sees these challenges as great opportunities to advance conservation and engage more people in fun, informative nature education programming to enhance the quality of life in Central Florida for wildlife and humans.

Please join us for OAS' monthly programs and other activities. If you like what you experience, become a more active part of Orange Audubon Society. Read the OASis and stay on top of all we have to offer.

I look forward to seeing you on September 15th at 7 p.m., Harry P. Leu Gardens when we kick off the 2016-2017 season, and on the 3rd Thursday of each month thereafter.

*Rick Baird, President*

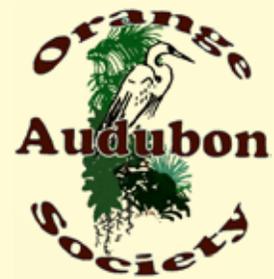
## Protecting Our Parks

The National Park Service's [100th anniversary](#) is an occasion to talk about making sure our public lands survive. I had visited Malheur National Wildlife Refuge on a Western trip years ago, so I watched with disbelief the 41-day armed occupation of this refuge in January and February. This siege left over \$5.7 million in damage, an enormous backlog of unfinished work on environmental projects, destruction of Native American artifacts, and psychological toll on workers. Refuge headquarters are still not open. The [Friends of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge](#) Facebook page tells more of the story, including about grazing fees that are only \$1.35 per cow per month on public lands, compared to about \$15 per cow on private lands. Yet the Nevada rancher whose son led the invasion had not paid his subsidized public lands grazing fees in 20 years. Friends of Malheur also provides links to groups of sportsmen who recognize the value of America's 640 million acres of national public lands and are working to preserve it.

In Florida, threats to public land, both national and [state-owned](#), are real, too. Seventy-five percent of Florida voters supported purchase of more public lands in 2014. The push to move forward the highly ranked Florida Forever projects in our area, the Wekiva-Ocala Greenway, for example, is ongoing.

The Osceola Expressway Authority wants to build a road through Split Oak Forest Wildlife and Environmental Area, a "mitigation bank" paid for through state, Orange and Osceola County funds and providing relocation Gopher Tortoise habitat for the past 22 years. If you would be interested in learning more and potentially writing letters in regard to these or other issues, please contact Conservation Chair Phyllis Hall at [phylliscath814@gmail.com](mailto:phylliscath814@gmail.com).

An annual pass is \$80 per year, allowing entry into most federal public lands, but a senior pass, for 62 or over, is only \$10-forever. And there's now a free Fourth Grade pass for the president's Every Kid in a Park initiative. The entire family gets in free for the child's fourth grade year and summer after. Let's enjoy and treasure our parks! *Deborah Green, Conservation Committee*



The purpose and dedication of Orange Audubon Society (OAS) is to promote public understanding of, and an interest in, wildlife and the environment that supports it.

OAS' education programs foster the recognition of the tangible and intangible values in the remaining natural areas of Florida and the world, and our responsibility for the conservation of the Earth's natural ecosystems and the services that they provide for the health of the planet.

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The OASis (*Orange Audubon Society information source*) newsletter is published monthly from September through June. The newsletter is posted on the OAS website and the link e-mailed to OAS members.

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## Millennials Discover the National Parks



**Congaree Big Trees**

Photo courtesy Victoria Schwartz



**Yosemite**

Photo courtesy Melissa Gonzalez



**Big Bend, Pinnacles Trail**

Photo: Deborah Green, Inset: Danny Raleigh

### Congaree

A recent move from Orlando to begin a grad school at the University of South Carolina led to my discovery of Congaree National Park. I'm lucky to have a national park just 40 minutes from campus, and I made visiting Congaree a priority once I moved.

Congaree preserves the largest tract of old growth bottomland hardwood forest left in the U.S., and was saved from timbering through a grassroots campaign led by the Sierra Club. It became Congaree Swamp National Monument in 1976 and was elevated to a National Park in 2003.

It has hiking trails, campsites, waterways for canoeing, and a convenient 2.4 mile boardwalk loop trail. During my recent visit I walked the loop trail and was amazed by the height of the bald cypress trees and loblolly pines. Over 170 bird species have been identified there including Prothonotary Warblers, Eastern Wood-Pewees, Indigo Buntings, and many raptor species. The visitors center even has a log where visitors can record where wildlife has been spotted.

Due to its wetland system, the park experiences periods of flooding during the year. Throughout my time in South Carolina I know I will be visiting on many more occasions for both educational and recreational purposes. Congaree is unlike any other park I've visited, and I can't wait to explore more of what it has to offer.

*Victoria Schwartz, formerly a volunteer with Orange Audubon Society, is a graduate student at the University of South Carolina in Environmental Resource Management.*

### Yosemite

Yosemite National Park is nestled in the High Sierras with towering granite monoliths, waterfalls and glaciers. Established in 1890, Yosemite is a place that you dream of discovering. John Muir, known as father of the national parks, led the way for Yosemite to be preserved as a national park.

After I watched the Discovery Channel documentary called "Valley Uprising", I was drawn to Yosemite and visiting it last August was one of the best experiences of my life thus far.

The Merced River runs right through Yosemite Valley, which makes it ideal during summer for people to cool off and refresh themselves. Hiking is one of the top things to do at Yosemite. There are countless meadows, ideal for photography as well as birding.

Yosemite Valley is filled with camping sites, cabins, restaurants, a lodge, gift shops, and did I mention people? But if you decide to hike and explore away from Yosemite Valley, you can immerse yourself in quiet wonders.

There is only one place like this, and we must protect it. I am thankful for the National Park Service, 100 years and many more to come! John Muir said, "But no temple made with hands can compare with Yosemite. Every rock in its walls seems to glow with life." Yosemite National Park is truly the national park that has my heart.

*Melissa Gonzalez, a current Orange Audubon Society board member, is a senior at the University of Central Florida studying Environmental Science.*

### Big Bend

Big Bend National Park is a long drive, even from where I am in grad school at Texas Tech in Lubbock. But it is well worth the effort to go there.

The region was named Big Bend for the drastic change in course of the Rio Grande River from a southeastern to a northeastern flow. The broad range of habitats from the lush vegetation on the river banks to the shrubs and scrub of the park's dry flatlands attracts tropical birds that can be seen nowhere else in the United States.

Forest-dwelling species make their homes on the peaks of the Chisos Mountains, and many species come through during spring and fall migration. Quail, hummingbirds, orioles, grosbeaks, and roadrunners, are regulars. Vagrants appear suddenly in this corner of South Texas.

I enjoy the stark contrasts. The desert has cool evenings and dazzling stars at night that give way to scorching heat under the bright sun during the day. The fertile riverbanks stand out as oases against the dry desert scrub and red rocks of the canyons.

One can look up to see the soaring silhouette of a Turkey Vulture, then across the path watch a covey of Mountain Quail scurry for cover. I especially enjoy watching the sun set on the landscape from the observation deck at Chisos Mountain Lodge, then sitting back as stars slowly shine into view above Casa Grande Peak.

*Danny Raleigh, formerly an Orange Audubon Society board member, is a graduate student at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, TX, in Natural Resources Management.*

## Happenings on the Lake Apopka North Shore

The St. Johns River Water Management District created public access to the Lake Apopka North Shore by opening the Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive in May 2015, and 54,000 people visited it in its first year. With close-up views of the marshes, the drive provides a chance to see diverse waders, other birds, alligators, otters, raccoons, and bobcats, all from the comfort of one's car.

Some sightings from this May through August include Blue Grosbeaks in the hackberries at the start of the Drive, Least Bitterns, Black-Necked Stilts, Black-crowned Night-Herons, Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks, Orchard Orioles, Yellow-billed Cuckoos, and Gray Kingbirds. There were also sightings of Pectoral Sandpipers and other shorebirds in wet areas of the sod fields towards the end of the drive, and migrating Yellow Warblers in the willows. Fall and winter can only be more exciting. There will be ducks, many species of warblers and raptors, including Northern Harriers, Cooper's Hawks, Red-tailed Hawks, American Kestrels and Merlins.

The 11-mile drive is open to the public Friday through Sunday plus on federal holidays, from sunrise to an hour before sunset. The unpaved, one-way road begins at Lust Road in Apopka and empties onto Jones Road in Zellwood. Speed limit is 10 mph. At the Historic Pumphouse, you can take the lakeside route where you will share portions of the road with hikers and bicycle riders on the Lake Apopka Loop Trail or an inner route. Both are good for birding. Allow at least two hours to go through the drive. The Lake Apopka North Shore has been designated by the American Bird Conservancy as an Important Bird Area, and Orange Audubon Society (OAS) is dedicated to protecting it.

OAS is working toward a Nature and Environmental Education Center on the North Shore. Two new OAS kiosks are in the works. And we are working to show that birding can be an economic engine for the area. We are organizing a birding festival the day before and after the 5th annual Lake Apopka Wildlife Festival & Birdapalooza (see below). Bob Sanders will lead a Limited Edition Field Trip to the Lake Apopka North Shore, starting at the Clay Island Trailhead on September 24, 2016 (National Public Lands Day) as well as Birds of Prey classes on Sundays December 4, 2016, January 8 and February 5, 2017. On January 7, 2017, Reinier Munguia will teach a photography workshop on the Drive. If you have not had a chance to visit this local treasure, treat yourself. Every pass through the [Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive](#) provides something different.

*Brook Rohman and Deborah Green, Education Committee Members*



Pectoral Sandpipers, Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive, late August.  
Photo: Lynn Marie Folts

## Exciting Events Coming Up: Reserve Early

### Florida Panhandle Birding and Botany Field Trips and North American Wolf Encounter

From Dec 9-11, 2016, Orange Audubon Society (OAS) will be visiting the Florida Panhandle. This year we will visit Torreya State Park, Seacrest Wolf Preserve and the Red Hills Region (Tall Timbers, Greenwood Plantation and Birdsong Nature Center). Cost for the entire weekend (includes guides, field trip fees, some meals) is \$80 for members and \$95 for non-members. To book the Seacrest private tour only is \$35/\$45 non-members. The birding/botany trips only are \$55/\$65 non-members. For lodging information and other details or to book your space, contact Teresa Williams at (407) 644-0796 or [mwilliams@cfl.rr.com](mailto:mwilliams@cfl.rr.com).

**Birdapalooza Birding Weekend:** The Lake Apopka Wildlife Festival & Birdapalooza is now a weekend event and will be held January 20-22, 2017. This is a great opportunity for birders to add to their life lists and learn from knowledgeable leaders. On Friday, January 20th and Sunday January 22nd, enjoy field trips on and around the Lake Apopka North Shore. Trips will search for recently sighted rarities, and as many of the 360+ bird species documented on the property as possible. This year we have added dinners and keynote talks on Friday night and Saturday night. We are thrilled to announce that our Saturday keynote speaker is none other than Greg Miller of *The Big Year* fame, who will also lead field trips. More information will be in next month's *OASis*, but save the dates.

**Flamingo Quest 2017:** On April 9th Orange Audubon Society (OAS) was hosted by Audubon Society of the Everglades in a tour of one of the South Florida Water Management District's Stormwater Treatment Areas in search of the American Flamingos that had been showing up there each spring. Unfortunately, water levels were too high that day for us to see them. So we are going to try again this year two weeks later in April, on Saturday April 22, 2017 (Earth Day). As last year, we will be led by birding guide David Simpson to bird Saturday after leaving the flamingo site and on Sunday. The weekend-trip cost is \$40 for Audubon members and \$55 for non Audubon members, covering trip leaders' time, contributions to Audubon of the Everglades and to OAS to assist our fund-raising toward a nature center. Saturday only participation will cost \$25 for Audubon members and \$40 for non Audubon members. To register contact Teresa at (407) 644-0796 or [mwilliams@cfl.rr.com](mailto:mwilliams@cfl.rr.com).

**People Who Saved Natural Florida  
September 6, 2016**

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) member Bill Partington developed a talk for OAS in 2007 on People Who Saved Natural Florida. Join the [Tarflower Chapter, Florida Native Plant Society](#) on Tuesday, September 6th at 7 p.m. at Leu Gardens to hear Bill's talk updated. There are so many unsung heroes, but Bill remembers them. Free.

**Youth Field Trip  
September 24, 2016**

Youth field trips allow children to observe and enjoy the natural world on easy hiking trails.



The first trip of the new season is on September 24, 2016 at Mead Botanical Garden, 1500 S. Denning Drive, Winter Park. The walk starts at 8:00 a.m. in the parking lot. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Cost is free and loaner binoculars are available. No reservations are required. Please contact Brook Rohman at [brookrohman@gmail.com](mailto:brookrohman@gmail.com) or (407) 921-8008 if questions.

**Limited Edition Field Trip  
Lake Apopka North Shore, Clay Island  
September 24, 2016**

Orange Audubon Society's first Limited Edition field trip of the new season will start at the Clay Island trailhead, which is in Lake County on the north side of the St. Johns River Water Management District's Lake Apopka North Shore on Saturday, September 24th.

Limited Edition field trips are led by popular birding guide Bob Sanders and limited to 15 people. With fall migrants passing through, wintering species returning, plus resident wetland birds, this field trip should be a great birding experience.

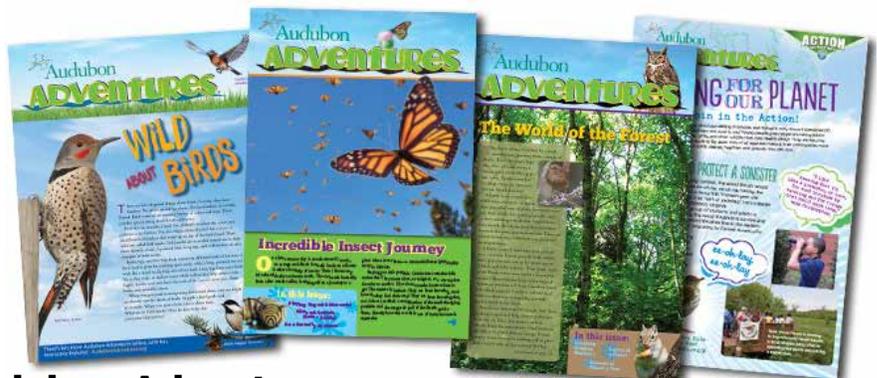
Cost is \$10 per person for members and \$15 per person for non-members. Reservations are required and will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis the week prior to the trip. For trip questions or reservations, call Bob Sanders at (407) 459-5617.

**Beginners' Bird Watching Class  
October 1, 8, 15, 2016**

Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) Bob Sanders will teach a Beginners' Bird Watching Class this fall. It includes an "outdoor" classroom session and mini-field trip on October 1st at Orlando Wetlands Park (OWP) and field sessions on October 8th and 15th at OWP and Lake Jesup, respectively. All sessions are 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Goals of the course are to increase knowledge and awareness of North American bird species; teach basic birding principles and bird ID techniques—including bird habitat and anatomy; provide binocular basics (OAS has "loaner" binoculars for use during the class) and tips on using field guides and checklists; and discuss birding ethics. If you miss a fall session, you may take a make-up session during the spring 2017 class.

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 can join when registering. New memberships are paid directly to OAS, as instructed when you register. Contact Teresa at (407) 644-0796 or [mwilliams@cfl.rr.com](mailto:mwilliams@cfl.rr.com). For questions about the class, contact Bob at (407) 459-5617.



**Audubon Adventures**

*Audubon Adventures* is an excellent nature education resource for grades 3-6, after-school programs, and other groups that comes packaged as a Classroom Kit (serving 32 students with teacher materials, four times a year). Developed by environmental educators and National Audubon Society staff, contents include hands-on activities and scientifically accurate information about birds, other wildlife, and their habitats. Teachers report that students look forward to using the fun activities.

Audubon chapters defray the cost of these kits (about \$50 with shipping for a classroom kit). Last year Orange Audubon Society (OAS) supplied kits to 38 classrooms. Can you help OAS do so this year? As 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*. The teacher of your child or grandchild might appreciate these materials and you can specify which classroom you wish to sponsor. Thank you for supporting this education effort.

*Dominique Shimizu, Education Committee Chair*

**Hometown Habitat Film Showing  
October 4, 2016**

To promote bird-friendly communities, Orange Audubon Society is co-sponsoring (with Tarflower Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society) the showing of a 90-minute inspirational video titled "Hometown Habitat: Stories of Bringing Nature Home." Local showing is October 4th, 6:45 p.m. at Leu Gardens. Free admission. Click the link for a [short preview](#). If you have questions, call (407) 851-5416.

**Dragonfly Identification Workshop**

**October 9, 2016**

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) is offering a Central Florida Dragonfly Identification Workshop on Sunday, October 9, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Instructors are OAS members and dragonfly enthusiasts Mary Keim and Randy Snyder.



Four-spotted Pennant at Orlando Wetlands Park. Photo: Mary Keim

An introductory slide presentation will start at 9:00 a.m. at the Orlando Wetlands Park (OWP) Education Center on Wheeler Rd in Christmas, FL.

The field portion of the workshop will be at OWP and adjacent Seminole Ranch Conservation Area.

Participants should bring binoculars, drink and lunch. Please prepare for the field with sun protection, insect protection and close-toed shoes that can get wet. An optional recommended text is Paulson, D. 2011. *Dragonflies and Damselflies of the East*. Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ.

Cost is \$25 for Audubon members; \$40 for non-members; and \$10 for children 12 or younger with a registered adult. The workshop is limited to 16 students and registration is required. To reserve a space, contact Teresa at [mwilliams@cfl.rr.com](mailto:mwilliams@cfl.rr.com) or (407) 644-0796. If you have questions, contact Randy and Mary at [rssmhk@gmail.com](mailto:rssmhk@gmail.com) or (407) 851-5416.

**Genius Drive Workday**  
**October 2, 2016**

Volunteers needed. Contact Teresa Williams at (407) 644-0796 or [mwilliams@cfl.rr.com](mailto:mwilliams@cfl.rr.com).

**Fall Bird Walks at Mead Botanical Garden**  
**October 1, 8, 15, 22, & 31, 2016**

To celebrate fall migration, Orange Audubon Society (OAS) is hosting bird walks at Mead Botanical Garden, 1500 S. Denning Drive, Winter Park on Saturdays, October 1, 8, 15, 22, and 31, 2016.

To entice people to experience the pleasures of birding and become aware of this great location in Winter Park, the walks are free and open to the public with no registration needed. Each walk will be led by an experienced birding leader.

The walks start at 8:00 a.m. and will last 2 to 3 hours. The pace will be slow with lots of stopping to look at birds and will cover as much of the park as possible. Loaner binoculars will be available. If you need to borrow a pair, please arrive a little early to sign them out and to be shown how to use them for the most enjoyable experience.

For information, contact OAS-Mead Liaison Larry Martin at (407) 647-5834 or [lmartin5@msn.com](mailto:lmartin5@msn.com).

**Wings and Wildflowers Festival**  
**October 14-16, 2016**

The 5th Annual Wings and Wildflowers Festival will be held October 14-16, 2016.

Keynote speakers include Eric Draper, Executive Director of Audubon Florida, and writer Janisse Ray. Orange Audubon Society (OAS) board member Milton Heiberg is among the other speakers. There will be numerous field trips to show off Lake County's great natural parks and preserves, plus an array of exhibitors. Wings and Wildflowers is at Venetian Gardens, 109 E. Dixie Ave., in Leesburg. For information about the festival, see [this link](#).

OAS Board member Kathy Rigling will be there representing OAS and Cornell Labs' Bird Sleuth Program. She can be contacted at [riglingk@aol.com](mailto:riglingk@aol.com) or (407) 488-9559.

**Backyard Biodiversity Day**  
**Mead Botanical Garden**  
**October 15, 2016**

For the 4th year, Orange Audubon Society is teaming up with the Florida Native Plant Society and Mead Botanical Garden, Inc. to sponsor Backyard Biodiversity Day.

The event will be Saturday, October 15th from 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. at Mead Botanical Garden (MBG) in Winter Park.

This free event will host a native plant sale, the proceeds of which will benefit MBG in restoring its upland habitat. 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 make this a fun event. More details in the next *OASis*.

**Photographer's Green PLACE Nature Walk**  
**October 8, 2016**

Orange County Environmental Protection Division is pleased to offer guided nature walks on the County's Green PLACE properties for birding, wildflower viewing and photo opportunities.

Green PLACE Nature Walks are offered in conjunction with OAS' annual Chertok nature photography contest. Photos taken at Green PLACE sites entered into this contest are eligible for bonus prizes and inclusion in Orange County's 2018 nature calendar. Click this link to see the list of [Green PLACE](#) properties.

On Saturday, October 8th, bring your binoculars and cameras and enjoy an early morning hike at [Johns Lake Conservation Area](#), 880 Avalon Road, Winter Garden. The walk begins at 7:30 a.m., and will be co-lead by Beth Jackson, Environmental Program Supervisor, and Renee Thomas, experienced nature photographer.

The walk is FREE. Please sign-up at <https://greenplacewalks.eventbrite.com>. The next walk will be March 4, 2017, 7:30 a.m. at Savage Christmas Creek Preserve.

## 2016 Chertok Florida Native Nature Photo Contest Results

In its 2016 (28th Annual) Kit and Sidney Chertok Florida Native Nature Photography Contest, Orange Audubon Society (OAS) sponsored Youth, Open/Novice and Advanced Amateur/Professional competition categories with the theme *Florida Native Nature*.

Winners were announced on June 16th at Harry P. Leu Gardens, Orlando, where about 175 members and guests enjoyed hors d'oeuvres, a silent auction and a presentation of all eligible contest entries. Here are the 2016 winners:

### YOUTH CATEGORY

#### 1ST PLACE

**Hank Tushek**, Gettysburg, PA  
*Alligator Sunning - American Alligator*

#### 2ND PLACE

**Jessica Kamuda**, Ocoee  
*Sunset at Lake Apopka*

#### 3RD PLACE

**Avery Chan**, Oviedo  
*Nature's Rubies - Pink Sundew*

#### HONORABLE MENTIONS

**Hank Tushek**, Gettysburg, PA  
*Wood Stork Silhouette*

**Jessica Kamuda**, Ocoee  
*Circle of Life - Cannibalism of American Alligators and Great Blue Heron*

**Caroline Clark**, Orlando  
*Wild Flower - Butterweed and Nature's Masterpiece - Blue Flag Iris\**

### OPEN/NOVICE CATEGORY

#### 1ST PLACE

**Lynn Folts**, Apopka  
*Circle of Life - Immature Little Blue Heron and Tree Frog*

#### 2ND PLACE

**Pam Clark**, Orlando  
*Gus, the Caterpillar - Spicebush Swallowtail*



Great Blue Heron. 2016 Chertok Photo Contest Honorable Mention, Youth category. Photo: Jessica Kamuda

#### 3RD PLACE

**Tamar Boorstin**, Winter Springs  
*A Napping New Mom - American Alligators*

#### HONORABLE MENTIONS

**Michael Tushek**, Gettysburg, PA  
*Profile - Pileated Woodpecker*

**Bonnie Lu Vanzant**, Mount Dora  
*I See You - Florida Softshell Turtle*

### ADVANCED AMATEUR/PROFESSIONAL CATEGORY

#### 1ST PLACE

**Larry Lynch**, St Petersburg  
*Gator Waiting for Dinner - American Alligator\**

#### 2ND PLACE

**Marina Scarr**, Sarasota  
*First Peek - Eastern Screech Owllet \**

#### 3RD PLACE

**Steven Long**, Clermont  
*A Little Rain Must Fall - Nemomydas melanopogon (Mydas fly)\**

#### HONORABLE MENTIONS

**Debbie Tubridy**, Hollywood  
*The Battle for Survival - Great Blue Heron and Banded Water Snake*

**Kathy Bargar**, Orlando  
*Perched on a Cattail - Female Red-winged Blackbird*

**Amy Marques**, Port St. Lucie  
*Strange Situation - Roseate Spoonbill*

Images marked with an asterisk (\*) are on the 2016-2017 OAS brochure. All winning images are on OAS' website: [www.orangeaudubonfl.org](http://www.orangeaudubonfl.org) where 2017 contest information will soon be available.

OAS sincerely appreciates all photographers who entered the 2016 contest and looks forward to your participation in 2017.

*Teresa Williams, Chertok Photography Contest Chair*

## Thanks to the 2016 Judges

Artist Caitrine Hellenga, naturalist Vince Lamb and photographer Reinier Munguia were Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) 2016 Chertok Florida Native Nature Photography Contest (CFNNPC) judges.

Dr. Caitrine Hellenga's work as a watercolor artist takes a back seat to her work as Medical Director at the Winter Park Veterinary Hospital, yet her work with animals, including raptors at Center for Birds of Prey, inspires her work as a fine avian and pet artist. While a college biology major, she enhanced her professors' research papers with botanical illustrations. Her art appears on the cover of the *Journal of Avian Medicine and Surgery*, a book on Red-winged Blackbirds and on the walls of many clients' homes.

Vince Lamb is a Florida Master Naturalist, an Audubon Jay Watch volunteer and citizen scientist who helps biologists with efforts involving Red-cockaded Woodpeckers, sea turtles, Florida Manatees, Gulf Sturgeon and beach mice. A past chairman of the Florida Wildflower Foundation and an active member of the Florida Native Plant Society. Vince was chosen earlier this year to receive the 2016 Citizen Conservation Award from the Florida Chapter of the Wildlife Society. A nature photographer to boot, he leads nature photography workshops and photo editing classes. He and grandson, Shaw Frederick, are past participants (and winners) of the CFNNPC.

Reinier Munguia is a full-time naturalist and a commercial and nature photographer based in Lakeland, Florida. He is president of Lake Region Audubon Society and coordinator of the Audubon EagleWatch Program. His photos appear in books, magazines and scientific publications. In his spare time, Reinier leads photo workshops in exotic destinations like Galapagos, Costa Rica and Panama.

OAS thanks Caitrine, Vince and Reinier for contributing their valuable time and talents to help make the 2016 Chertok photography contest a success. *Teresa Williams, Chertok*



Alligator Sunning - American Alligator. First Place, 2016 Chertok Photo Contest, Youth category. Photo: Hank Tushek

## Audubon Assembly 2016

The Audubon Assembly is Florida's premier conservation event and conference. This year's gathering will be held on October 28-29, 2016 at the Sirata Beach Resort in St. Petersburg, and you are invited to attend! The theme this year is "One Gulf." Florida's Gulf Coast is vital to the survival of many wildlife species, including many nesting and migratory birds. From the remote mangrove islands teeming with life in Florida Bay to the wide, windswept beaches of southern Texas, the Gulf Coast plays a vital role for our birds, our citizens, and our economy. Sadly, the challenges to Florida's Gulf Coast couldn't be much greater. Increased development, disturbance, dwindling resources, predators, and sea-level rise threaten birds and other animals at every stage of their lives. Gulf restoration opportunities made possible by the financial settlements resulting from the Deepwater Horizon disaster present a landmark opportunity for Florida and our Gulf. Please visit [this link](#) for the latest information, mark your calendar and make your reservation!



Strange Situation - Roseate Spoonbills.  
2016 Chertok Photo Contest, Honorable  
Mention, Advanced category.  
Photo: Amy Marques

## Lake Apopka North Shore Wildlife Tours

The St. Johns River Water Management District is offering five free natural history tours, some hikes, some driving tours, in September. These are led by Lorne Malo, natural history expert and Orange Audubon Society member, who has organized birding surveys in Central Florida for years. Dates are September 7th, 13th, 17th, 22nd, and 25th. For more details including sign up link, see [this link](#).

### SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### People Who Saved Natural Florida - Bill Partington

September 6, 2016  
Contact Deborah at (407) 637-2525

#### September Program: Tales of Everglades National Park Rangers - Cristi Carmichael and Bob Showler

September 15, 2016  
Contact Deborah at (407) 637-2525

#### September Field Trip: Canaveral National Seashore

September 17, 2016  
Contact Larry at (407) 647-5834

#### Limited Edition Field Trip to Lake Apopka North Shore, Clay Island

September 24, 2016  
Contact Bob at (407) 459-5617

#### Youth Field Trip: Mead Botanical Garden

September 24, 2016  
Contact Brook at (407) 921-8008

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

October 1, 8, & 15, 2016  
Contact Bob at (407) 459-5617

#### Mead Botanical Garden Bird Walks

Oct 1, 8, 15, 22, and 31, 2016  
Contact Larry at (407) 647-5834

#### Genius Drive Workday

October 2, 2016  
Contact Teresa at (407) 644-0796

#### Free Movie Night - Hometown Habitat: Bringing Nature Home

October 4, 2016  
Contact Mary at (407) 851-5416

#### Photographer's Green PLACE Nature Walk: Johns Lake

October 8, 2016  
Contact Carrie.Mohanna@ocfl.net

#### Dragonfly Identification Workshop

October 9, 2016  
Contact Randy at rssmhk@gmail.com

#### Wings and Wildflowers Festival, Leesburg

October 14-16, 2016  
Contact Kathy at (407) 488-9559

#### Backyard Biodiversity Day, Mead Botanical Garden

October 15, 2016  
Contact Mary at rssmhk@gmail.com

#### Limited Edition Field Trip to Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area

October 16, 2016  
Contact Bob at (407) 459-5617

#### October Program: Gull and Tern Identification - Michael Brothers

October 20, 2016  
Contact Brook at (407) 921-8008

#### October Field Trip: Mead Botanical Garden

October 22, 2016  
Contact Larry at (407) 647-5834

#### Oakland Heritage Festival

October 22, 2016  
Contact Taylor at  
tclark@oaklandnaturepreserve.org

#### Audubon Assembly, St. Petersburg

October 28-29, 2016  
Contact Deborah at (407) 637-2525