



OASis



Orange Audubon Society
A Chapter of National and Florida Audubon Societies

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The 112th Christmas Bird Count Wed., Dec. 14, 2011 to Thursday, Jan. 5, 2012

The Orange Audubon Society invites you to participate in a Christmas Bird Count (CBC) this December. Novices are welcome to join and learn. The Christmas Bird Count epitomizes Audubon's approach to bird conservation, involving people to help birds. Born of the budding conservation ethic at the beginning of the 20th Century, the Christmas Bird Count program is the longest running Citizen Science program in the world.

Tens of thousands of volunteers throughout the Americas take part. Audubon and other organizations use data collected in this bird census to assess the health of bird populations and to help guide conservation action. Nearby CBC compilers' contact information below.

- Zellwood/Mt. Dora CBC, Dec. 16th, Wes Biggs at birdsatfnt@bellsouth.net, 407-384-9766 & 407-376-6967.
- Cocoa CBC, Dec. 17th, David Freeland ygswwallow@cfl.rr.com or Dee Fairbanks Simpson deefairbanks@yahoo.com.
- West Volusia CBC, Dec. 17th, David Stock at dstock@stetson.edu.
- Wekiva CBC, Dec. 17th, Jay Exum at 407-843-6552 or Jay.Exum@aecom.com.
- Merritt Island N.W.R. CBC, Dec. 19th, Ned Steel at nedsteel@msn.com.
- Emerald March CBC, Dec. 23th, Peg Lindsay at pegcondor@embarqmail.com.
- Econlockhatchee CBC, Dec. 26th, Lorne Malo at 321-578-2543 (cell), 407-349-2536 or lornemalo@bellsouth.net.
- Daytona Beach CBC, Dec. 26th, David Hartgrove at birdman9@earthlink.net or 386-788-2630.
- South Brevard CBC, Jan. 2nd, Dee Fairbanks at southbrevardcbc@gmail.com.

Additional locations can be found at www.fosbirds.org/content/christmas-bird-counts-2011-2012.

This Month's Program: Dec. 15th @ 7 p.m. A Year in the Life of a Park Ranger by Amy Conyers

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to be a Park Ranger? Amy Conyers is now Assistant Park Manager at Wekiwa Springs State Park but before that was a park ranger at Troy Springs State Park northwest of Gainesville. In the old days, someone might keep a journal. Today with digital photography and online capability, one can write an online column or blog. Amy wrote a daily blog that is a 365-day account of her life as park ranger. See it at rangervision.blogspot.com. For our December program, we are lucky enough to see Amy's images and hear her stories of a year in the life of a park ranger.

Bring all young naturalists and join us December 15th for a fascinating program. Orange Audubon Society programs are free and no reservations are necessary.

Deborah Green, President

Perfect Holiday Gift Ticket (\$25) for OAS Boat Trip on Saturday, April 7, 2012. See page 2 for more details.

Orange Audubon Society meetings & programs are free & no reservations are necessary. Programs are held the 3rd Thursday of every month (September - June) usually at 7 p.m. in the Camellia Room at:
Harry P. Leu Gardens
1920 North Forest Avenue
Orlando, FL 32803-1537.
For directions call: 407-246-2620

Special OAS Boat Ride Through Old Florida - Saturday, April 7, 2012

Spend an afternoon touring the backwaters of the St. Johns River. Captain Gary Randlett, a knowledgeable naturalist (FL Master Naturalists Program - Coastal Systems), will guide us through parts of Florida that civilization forgot—but you will never forget. The prolific wildlife along the way calls this home just as they did before the European settlers arrived. This is an Orange Audubon Society (OAS) fundraising field trip.

We need to know that at least 30 people will sign up for this trip before we reserve the boat. The cost will be \$25. Please contact Danielle Ponsolle at dponsolle@cfl.rr.com to make your reservation.

Limited Edition Field Trip—Saturday, Dec. 17th

Lake Jesup is the destination for Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) December Limited Edition field trip. There will be about a one-mile walk to the main area for viewing eagles, hawks, and waterfowl, with birding for passerines along the way. Limited Edition field trips are limited to 15 people per trip and cost \$10/OAS member and \$15/non-OAS member. Reservations are required and will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis the week prior to the trip. For meeting place details, time of departure and return, and to make your reservation for this trip, please contact Bob Sanders at 407-454-0542.

Wildlife Surveys

- Savage Christmas Creek Preserve, Pine Lily Preserve, Long Branch Preserve and Hal Scott Regional Preserve and Park (north portion) butterfly survey. For more information contact Randy Snyder or Mary Keim at 407-851-5416 or rsnyder11@cfl.rr.com.
- Lake Apopka, North Shore Restoration Area bird surveys. Contact Pam Bowen at 386-329-4870 or Pbowen@sjrwmd.com or Jim Peterson at 352-735-1267 or JPeterson@sjrwmd.com.
- Emerald Marsh Conservation Area bird surveys. Contact John Stenberg at 386-329-4822 or jstenberg@sjrwmd.com.
- Ferndale Preserve quarterly bird surveys. Contact Gallus Quigley, Jr. at 352-516-8512 or gquigley@lakecountyfl.gov or gallusq@cfl.rr.com.

Genius Drive Nature Preserve Field Trip

Reservations are required for a guided field trip to the 48± acre Genius Drive Nature Preserve (GDNP) in Winter Park on December 10th, 8 AM ~ Noon. This walking field trip (FT) will be concurrent with the GDNP bird survey and led by preeminent birder, Bruce Anderson. In just three+ years surveyors have documented 168 bird species on the Preserve, which is also rich in 19th century history. You must be a current Orange Audubon Society member or active Preserve workday volunteer to attend and FTs are limited to 20 people. More details provided when you register with Teresa at mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or 407-644-0796.

2-Hour 'Workday' at Genius Drive Nature Preserve

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

The next workday is Sunday, Dec. 11, 9–11 AM. Gardening, a/k/a weeding and mulching, is needed in the restored cedar grove near Lake Mizell. To help, contact Teresa at 407-644-0796 or mwilliams@cfl.rr.com. Further details provided the week before.

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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www.orangeaudubonfl.org

The **OASis** is published monthly from September through June and is sent free to all members of Orange Audubon Society.

Summit on the Future of Lake Apopka and the North Shore Restoration Area

The First Annual Lake Apopka Restoration Summit will be held from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 14th in Clermont in the Community Room (#204) of Building One at the South Lake Campus of Lake Sumter Community College, 1250 N. Hancock Road. The meeting—billed as “a summit to explore a multi-agency approach to the rehabilitation of Lake Apopka”—will start with presentations from each agency that has, thus far, been involved with the restoration. After those presentations, the summit will focus on the future of the lake and the restoration process.

Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) November field trip was held at the Lake Apopka North Shore Restoration Area (NSRA) and it was a superb opportunity to see what the St. Johns River Water Management District has been able to accomplish, especially after having been faced with the enormous pesticide contamination issue in the early days of the restoration. Their progress is applauded by OAS and we hope they are able to continue on track with the rest of their plans for the full restoration. Some of us have seen firsthand the improvements in the water quality in the lake and the return of native vegetation and aquatic wildlife. In addition, we look forward to the opening of the magnificent wildlife-viewing ecotourism area on the 'North Shore'. For further information, contact Bob Stamps (407-886-2925, rhs_oas@att.net).

Please attend this summit, organized by Senator Alan Hays, Representative Bryan Nelson and Lake County Commissioner Sean Parks, and show your appreciation for the progress the SJRWMD has made to date and support them in their continuing efforts to restore the lake and adjacent wetlands (NSRA). **If you plan to attend**, RSVP to Anne-Marie Norman (352-360-6739, norman.anne-marie.s20@flsenate.gov) by 12/1/11.

November Field Trip Report

Forty-five people enjoyed a beautiful day at the Lake Apopka North Shore Restoration Area on Saturday, Nov. 19th. Our thanks to Bob Sanders, Dick Smith, Ellen Rocco, Lori Mathis, Jim Peterson and many others whose bird identification expertise allowed us to see such highlights as Barn Owls using the nestboxes placed on the property, American Bitterns, a Roseate Spoonbill, Northern Harriers, Eastern Phoebes, Loggerhead Shrikes, Northern Pintails, Belted Kingfishers, Black-necked Stilts, Northern Shovelers, a Ruddy Duck, and many more. Our major disappointment was missing the Whooping Cranes that Jim saw on his way through the property to meet us at the start up point. Maybe they'll be there in February when Orange Audubon volunteers conduct bus tours through the property during the Old Florida Outdoors Festival.

Bob Stamps and Loretta Satterthwaite

Subject Matters in 2012 Photo Contest

The theme for the Youth, Amateur and Advanced categories of Orange Audubon Society's 2012 (24th Annual) Kit & Sidney Chertok Florida Nature Photography Contest is *Florida Native Nature*. Non-native species need not say “cheese” because the subject matter for this competition must be native (to Florida) and must not include any discernable trace of non-native species, humans or human artifacts.

The theme is broad—you may enter images of any of Florida's amazing native animals, plants, landscapes and habitats. This competition tests not only your skill behind the camera's lens, but also your knowledge of Florida's native species.

A species is considered native to Florida if its natural range included Florida at the time of European contact or if the species arrived and established itself in this state unaided by man. The OAS website contains links to many resources that may assist you with plant and animal identification. To further assist you, OAS will again pre-screen all entries that are received early (by April 19, 2012) and notify early participants of any ineligible images, which can be replaced at no additional fee subject to the final deadline and other contest rules.

With a final deadline of May 17, 2012 (received by date); and OAS' jam-packed 2011 – 2012 schedule of Regular, Limited Edition, Birds of Prey and Special Field Trips (see annual brochure), you have ample time and abundant natural locales in which to encounter and photograph the real Florida.

Official entry forms containing complete contest rules are available online: www.orangeaudubonfl.org; at Colonial Photo & Hobby, 634 N Mills Avenue, Orlando, FL; at OAS meetings; or by request to 407-644-0796 or mwilliams@cfl.rr.com.

Teresa Williams, Chair



Nature Journaling Field Trip - March 10, 2012

Nature journaling is a way to become more aware of the sights, sounds and impressions of the natural world. It is a way to begin a lifelong record of personal observations and impressions. In this workshop geared toward children ages 7-12 we'll hike at Orlando Wetlands Park in Christmas, FL and there will be activities incorporated into the walk that will make us have to stop, look and quietly listen. Notebooks, preferably unlined (artist spiral bound sketch pads will work fine), and pencils, or waterproof pens are required. Pack snacks, lunch and water. Bring a camera and binoculars if available, and wear closed shoes.

Parents are encouraged to enjoy walking, hiking or biking the many trails at the Wetlands Park while their children attend the workshop. Cost for the workshop is \$12 for children of members, \$20 for non-member's children. Meeting place is at the Orlando Wetlands Park Nature Center at 8:00 a.m. Trip leaders are Certified Florida Master Naturalists Cynthia and Robert Amoruso. For reservations or more information contact Robert Amoruso at 407-808-7417 or ramoruso-oas@att.net. You can also download an informational brochure at www.wildscapeimages.biz/storage/natureOAS.pdf.

New Year's Resolution Time

During this holiday season, take time to think about what you are thankful for. As members of the Orange Audubon Society (OAS) Board of Directors, we are especially thankful for those people who are willing to give a little bit extra to help Orange Audubon with its many projects. This article will concentrate on those who help with our membership outreach/sales events—in hopes that we'll get more volunteers willing to step up and help. Thanks to Cyndi Kay who spent all day at our Oakland Heritage Festival, turned around the following weekend and helped with set-up on Friday and then spent all day Saturday and Sunday with us at our Lake Eola event. And when we needed someone to do our merchandise sales at the November meeting because we would be in the board meeting, she was once again there to help set-up the merchandise and manage the sales. Another person always willing to help is Wayne Kennedy, a volunteer at Lake Eola for both Friday set-up and Saturday afternoon and again at the November meeting. Both Cyndi and Wayne lead busy lives, but when OAS has an event and they are available, we always hear from them. Thanks to Cyndi and Wayne for 'being there'!!

How about making a New Year's Resolution to help your chapter and to get to know other OAS members by volunteering a little bit of **your** time (we don't expect you to be able to spend as much time as Cyndi or Wayne, but a few hours at any of our events would be great!)? We really do have fun at these events and any training needed (can you fold a shirt or talk about an OAS meeting that you've attended?) is done on-the-job. Resolve today to volunteer the next time you see the 'call for volunteers'. We are making plans now for two events in February: 1) the Old Florida Outdoors Festival (OFOF) in Apopka with OAS participating not only with outreach displays and merchandise sales (Feb. 10–12), but also as mini-bus tour leaders (Feb. 11–12) as we introduce, or reinforce, getting folks outdoors in Florida by visits to the Lake Apopka North Shore Restoration Area and 2) our long-standing co-sponsorship and participation with bus tours, nature hikes, conservation information and merchandise sales at the Orlando Wetlands Festival (OWF) in Christmas, Florida (Feb. 18).

Please have a great holiday season and then welcome in 2012 with your pledge to help. You may even call now to volunteer – “operators are standing by to take your call” (OFOF, Loretta, 407-886-2925 or LNS-oas@att.net; OWF, Randy, 407-851-5416 or rsnyder11@cfl.rr.com). Thanks. *Loretta, Teresa, and Randy*



New OAS Board Members and Officers

We are happy to announce that three Board positions were filled at the last meeting on November 17th. These positions were open due to resignations by Mike Godwin, Jason Gingras and Samantha Eckhaus. We are happy to welcome Cynthia Amoruso, Margaret Cady, and Paul Lockett. They are all interested in fulfilling the mission of the Orange Audubon Society and the terms they are filling end in 2012.

A couple executive positions were also filled with terms ending in 2012. Deborah Green was elected to the President's position and Loretta Satterthwaite filled the 2nd Vice-President's position vacated by Deborah Green. Many thanks to our new Board members and to Deborah and Loretta who have volunteered to step into executive positions. Our new members have graciously shared some of their experiences.

Paul Lockett moved to Orlando from Chicago in 1968 and assisted in the opening of a regional office, including two new office buildings in Orlando, which insured the construction of Walt Disney World. His company was responsible for insuring the entire construction of all of Walt Disney World—the parks, lakes, golf courses, accommodations and more. In 1983, he opened his own insurance company, which he sold in 1991. Presented with a new opportunity in the banking and insurance business he began training employees for various licenses that resulted in new careers for over 3000 people. Since 1998, Paul has worked with friends chasing hurricanes and related disasters. His last hurricane was Irene in September, 2011.

In community related endeavors: Paul has volunteered with WMFE PBS working as an auction floor manager, traveled to Honduras to assist with dairy farm projects, Junior Warden on Vestry, President of Meridian Club, VP of USO board, Executive Board alumni at Rollins College, track official for State high school meets, Santa Claus for Central Florida charities, and has assisted with Meals on Wheels.

Margaret Cady moved to the Central Florida area in 1995 after living in Horseheads, NY and previous to that was an elementary school teacher in Elmira, NY. Since retirement, the Cady's have traveled throughout the United States and Canada in a motorhome—birding and discovering new places. For many years, Margaret was very active in the Chemung Valley Audubon Society, holding a variety of offices.

The Cady's currently reside in Clermont as does their daughter. They love being here and are currently working on renovating their house. Margaret is a long-time quilter and belongs to the Lake County Quilt Guild.

Cynthia Amoruso is a native of Massachusetts with a degree in English/Writing from the University of Massachusetts. She currently works for the Federal Government and previously wrote for several non-profit agencies. She also had a brief career in radio news broadcasting. Former homes include Massachusetts, California, Texas, New York, Kentucky and now Florida. According to Cynthia, Florida is the home she's been looking for; the wildlife, the birds, the unique landscape, the proximity to the seashore, and the vast sky and towering clouds make it a place she loves like no other. She has always been interested in the environment and nature, and of course birds. She still owns some of the first little Golden Guides to nature, proof that this is a passion that grows with time.

Cynthia has recently taken steps to increase her knowledge of the unique Florida ecosystem by completing the Master Naturalist Training course offered by the University of Florida, and is now a Certified Florida Master Naturalist. Her home is in East Orange County where she lives with her husband Robert, two dogs, a cat, and a yard full of Florida native plants. She says she is honored and enthused about being part of such a dynamic group as Orange Audubon Society and looks forward to serving on the Board.

We are very excited to have everyone on board. Thank you.

Cynthia Gosiewski

Best Wishes for a Safe and Peaceful Holiday Season from all of us at the Orange Audubon Society!

**Orange Audubon Society
Board of Directors 2011-2012**

PRESIDENT

Deborah Green (12) 407-637-2525

1st VICE PRESIDENT

Cynthia Gray (12) 407-298-5806

2nd VICE PRESIDENT

Loretta Satterthwaite (12) 407-886-2925

SECRETARY

Mary Keim (12) 407-851-5416

TREASURER

Teresa Williams (12) 407-644-0796

BOARD MEMBERS

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Robert Amoruso (13) 407-808-7417

Rick Baird (14) 407-277-3357

Margaret Cady (12) 352-432-5195

John Cento (14) 407-913-2417

Cynthia Gosiewski (13) 407-426-8982

Steve Graves (12) 407-671-6572

Milton Heiberg (13) 407-658-4869

Paul Lockett (12) 407-679-9644

Lori Mathis (13) 407-579-3795

Danielle Ponsolle (14) dponsolle@cfl.rr.com

Sharon Robbins (14) 407-376-4930

Dominique Shimizu (13) 407-287-4078

Randy Snyder (14) 407-851-5416

Bob Stamps (12) 407-886-2925

Calendar of Events

OAS EVENTS

Field Trip for December - Please take part in the Christmas Bird Count starting December 14, 2011. For local details see page 1 of this *OASis*. (birds.audubon.org/christmas-bird-count).

Limited Edition Field Trip on December 17, 2011, Lake Jesup (north side), Sanford, FL. For trip reservations call Bob Sanders at 407-454-0542.

OAS' Birds of Prey ID Class Lake Apopka Restoration Area - December 4, 2011. We would appreciate a \$5 contribution by OAS members (\$10/non-OAS members) and you need not pre-register for the class. For questions or further details, contact Gallus Quigley at 407-242-7833 or gallusq@cfl.rr.com.

SPECIAL EVENTS

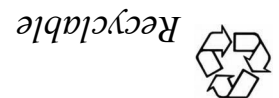
Old Florida Festival, Apopka, FL on Feb 10–12, 2012, 407-886-2925

Great Backyard Bird Count, Feb 17–20, 2012 (www.birdsource.org/gbbc).

Orlando Wetlands Park Festival, Christmas, FL on Feb. 18, 2012, 407-851-5416

Audubon Academy 2012, Clewiston, FL on March 16–18, 2012 jsulek@audubon.org

OAS Birdathon, April 29, 2012, 407-886-2925



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