



OASis

Orange Audubon Society
A Chapter of National and Florida Audubon Societies



Vol. 46

May 2011

Issue No. 9

Field Trip - Saturday May 21st Seminole Ranch Conservation Area

OAS will visit Seminole Ranch Conservation Area near Christmas, FL. We will walk about four miles in about four hours, stopping to look at flora and fauna along the way. Restroom facilities are across the street at Orlando Wetlands Park. For more information see: <http://www.sjrwmd.com/recreationguide/seminoleranch/index.html>.

Meet no later than 7:30 a.m. in the back parking lot of Burger King on S.R. 50 (Colonial Drive) just east of S.R. 434 (Alafaya Trail) to carpool or at 8 a.m. at the Wheeler Road parking lot of Seminole Ranch. Bring plenty to drink, sun protection, insect protection, birding gear, and lunch (for after the hike). Please join us. No registration is required for this trip. If you have questions about our trip, contact us at rsnyder11@cfl.rr.com or 407-851-5416.

Mary Keim and Randy Snyder, Field Trip Committee

Registration Required for June 16th Potluck

Our most popular program! Last year the room was filled to capacity and this year, to ensure we do not exceed the <180 person limit, we must do things a little differently. **Everyone MUST register.** If you have not done so already, please email (LNS-OAS@att.net) or call (407-886-2925) and leave a message with names of each person in your party; contact information; and what type of food you will bring (entrée, side dish, dessert, etc.).

The Potluck buffet line will be on the verandah and our world famous silent auction (cash or check only; no plastic accepted) in the Camellia Room!

PLEASE register before June 7th to allow us to make adequate plans to accommodate everyone. See you there. Thanks.

This Month's Program: May 19th @ 7:00 p.m. Conserving Scrub Jays at the Lyonia Preserve by Stephen Kintner and Katrina Locke

The Florida Scrub-Jay is an intelligent and beautiful bird that lives in family groups. This evolutionary adaptation, unusual in the bird world, has to do with its limited habitat- scrub in an early stage of succession. Lyonia Preserve is a great place to visit and to see the Florida Scrub-Jays. The 360-acre Lyonia Preserve in Deltona, has been managed with Scrub-Jays in mind. Retired Volusia County Environmental Management Director Stephen Kintner will share with us his long-term quest to conserve Scrub-Jay habitat and manage it, so this rare species may survive. Steve will be joined by Lyonia Environmental Center Manager Katrina Locke. The Lyonia Preserve and Environmental Center, named for an abundant scrub plant, rusty lyonia, is located at the Deltona Regional Library, 2150 Eustace Avenue, Deltona. The preserve's website is lyoniapreserve.com.

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, 2nd Vice President

Orange Audubon Society meetings & programs are free & no reservations are necessary (except June meeting). Programs are held the 3rd Thursday of every month (September - 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

OAS Election Results

The following slate of nominees for the class of 2014 members of the Board of Directors was approved by acclamation of the Orange Audubon Society (OAS) members present at the annual OAS meeting on April 21, 2011: Rick Baird, John Cento, Danielle Ponsolle, Sharon Robbins, and Randy Snyder.

In addition to the election at the general meeting, current board vacancies were filled during the Board of Directors meeting. Deborah Green transferred to fill the vacant 2nd V. P. position, Cynthia Gray transferred to fill the 1st V.P. slot vacated by Deborah. Former OAS President, Bob Stamps, was elected to fill the 2012 slot vacated by Cynthia Gray's transfer, and new board member Lori Mathis was elected to fill the vacant 2013 board slot.

Thank you to all the new and re-elected Board Members. Your participation in OAS is greatly appreciated. Many thanks also goes to the members of the Nominating Committee: Cynthia Amoruso, Richard Poole, and Loretta Satterthwaite.

To help you familiarize yourselves with our new members, Rick Baird retired from Orange County Environmental Protection Division in March 2011, after 34 years working in all aspects of the environment. His work included water quality analysis, wetland identification, noise measurements, environmentally sensitive lands acquisition and hazardous materials emergency response. For the last six years he was the Clean Lakes Administrator where he managed water quality and storm water management construction projects.

Rick has a Bachelor's of Biology and a Master's of Public Administration from the University of Central Florida. He is a long time member of the Florida Lake Management Society and the Florida Association of Environmental Professionals. In retirement, Rick looks forward to taking a more active role with a broader range of environmental activities, including the Orange Audubon and Florida Native Plant Societies.

Lori Mathis is a current resident of Winter Springs, FL where she lives with her husband Jerry Mathis. She hails from Winter Park, FL and is an avid birder and long-time member of the Orange Audubon Society. In her leisure time, Lori involves herself with conservation efforts and looks forward to getting more involved with Orange Audubon Society.

Cynthia Gosiewski, Nominating Committee Chair

Silent Auction Extravaganza!!!

It's that time of year and we're reaching out to you, your family and friends for donations to the Silent Auction taking place at the Annual Chertok Photo Contest and Potluck event. The Silent Auction is a fabulous opportunity for OAS to showcase donors and their businesses! If you know a business owner who might be willing to contribute, please solicit a donation or provide us with the name of a contact person.

Please start your solicitation process now as planning ahead can make this event even bigger than last year! When soliciting items, don't forget that OAS can provide an acknowledgement letter for tax deduction purposes. If you have questions regarding an item or information and contact names for businesses willing to donate, please contact Samantha Eckhaus at eckhaus@yahoo.com. Thank you for your help!

Samantha Eckhaus

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.

Orange Audubon Society

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<http://www.orangeaudubonfl.org>

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

Yikes, Stripes, LAST CALL for Photo Contest Entries!

There is still time to participate in Orange Audubon Society's 2011, 23rd Annual Kit & Sidney Chertok **Open (Amateur/Advanced)** and **Youth** Nature Photography Contests (OAS' CNPC), but entries in this Florida Native Nature competition must be **received by May 19, 2011**. You may hand deliver your entries directly to a Chertok committee member (preferably Teresa) on May 19th during OAS' regular program at Leu Gardens, but you may NOT leave entries with Leu Gardens' personnel.

Subject matter must be native to Florida and images may not contain discernable non-native (to Florida) plants or animals (including humans), human artifacts or man-made structures. Images must also comply with truth-in-Nature standards and may not be excessively manipulated.

The forces of nature have conspired to produce patterns in all living things: there are colors and shapes to attract pollinators; spots and stripes to blend in the environment; and more colors and textures for attracting mates as well as for camouflage. *Nature's Patterns*, the broad theme for the 2011 OPEN contest, lets you explore the amazing colors, geometry and textures present in Florida's native animals, plants, landscapes and habitats. Similarly *Natural Florida*, the broad theme for the 2011 YOUTH contest, entices participants to explore the amazing native animals and plants present in an array of habitats—from your own backyards to Florida's many parks, wildlife refuges, and preserves.

Complete contest rules are on the official *Open* (for any participant) and *Youth* (for ages 17 or younger) contest entry forms available online: www.orangeaudubonfl.org; by request to mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or 407-644-0796; or at Colonial Photo & Hobby (CPH), 634 N Mills Avenue, Orlando, FL. While there (CPH), enjoy some of the featured images from the 2010 competition, currently on display. See Display article in this issue. Your participation in OAS' CNPC and your interest in nature photography are sincerely appreciated. We wish you all—good lighting and good luck.

Teresa Williams, OAS-CNPC Chair

Colonial Photo & Hobby Display Images Selected

Congratulations! The following photographers' named images from Orange Audubon Society's 2010 Chertok Nature Photography Contest were selected for in-store displays at Colonial Photo & Hobby (CPH), 634 N. Mills Avenue, Orlando, FL: *Curls** by **Mary Atwood**; *Limpkin with Egg* by **Charlie Corbeil**; *Dragonfly* by **Alan Dart**; *Sandhill Cranes—Checking on the Babies* by **Myrna Erler-Bradshaw**; *Outside the Shell** by **Paul Hennessy**; *Limpkin Chicks* by **Vince Lamb**; *Anhinga with Fish**, *Great Egret Chicks* and *Ruby-throated Hummingbird** by **Michael Libbe**; *Gnatcatcher and Insect** by **Ruth Pannunzio**; *Just a Little Snack* by **Jack Rogers**; *Spiny-backed Orb Weaver* by **Larry Rosen**; *Crested Caracara** by **Bob Stamps**; *Ghost Orchid** by **Prem Subrahmanyam**; *Osprey Feeding Week Old Chick* and *Red-shouldered Hawk & Juveniles* by **Jim Urbach** and *Burrowing Owls* and *Grasshopper on Flower* by **Kathy Urbach**.

By the time you read this article, the designated (*) images will be gracing CPH's front window and the remaining images will be displayed in intervals throughout the summer. Nature puts on a great show—don't miss these displays.

Teresa Williams, OAS-CNPC Chair

Hospitality Help Wanted

OAS is currently in need of an Orange Audubon Society member to coordinate our Hospitality table. The responsibilities include setting up and breaking down the refreshments table before and after the monthly general meeting as well as requesting from members food and drink donations. It does not require a lot of time or energy and your efforts will be greatly appreciated by all.

Bonus, you get to chat with all OAS members and catch up with all the latest news. Please contact Cynthia Gray at cynthiasgray@bellsouth.net or 407-298-5806 if you are interested.

Call for Program Ideas

OAS works on the program for the coming year starting in the spring and finalizing it by July. If you have any ideas for programs please call Deborah Green at 407-637-2525 with your suggestions or send them to her at sabalpress.mac.com.

Report on Smart Goal Session from Audubon Academy

When leaders from Audubon chapters around the state met at Audubon of Florida's Audubon Assembly in October or at the grassroots chapter effort called Audubon Academy in March, inspiration happens. Successes are shared, and ideas are born. Since we are Audubon, there is always good birding too.

This year at Audubon Academy in Gainesville, birding was combined with workshops as Walking Workshops. I attended one at Tuscawilla Prairie, a new preserve purchased by the Alachua Conservation Trust. The main thrust of the workshop was that we need to use the lands that our local conservation lands program has purchased. Ideas on how to get members and children out to these lands were presented.

One of the main features of Audubon Academy this year was a session on Setting "Smart Goals." We were supposed to focus on a Special Place, so I chose Rock Springs Run State Reserve. We were asked what makes it so special? I wrote, it is a bear corridor, scrub jay habitat, protects the Wekiva River and tributaries, is an open area for hiking. We were asked what we would like to see our chapter do: I wrote make sure it stays preserved (as it was on the list of 53 parks and preserves listed in January for possible closing by the Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection). Specifics: We need to have people of influence visit the Reserve (including officers of the HOAS of the subdivisions nearby). We need to strategize with the Wekiva park management.

We were asked to list measurable goals: I wrote within 6 months to get 2 or 3 new field trips there. Attainable/achievable: I wrote select target groups, develop packets, recruit leaders. Relevant/Realistic: I wrote HOAs are a connection to the Chamber of Commerce and local people with power to make decisions. Timeline: I wrote should be quick, related to the threat of the park closing.

Finally, we were asked what is the Smart Goal: I wrote- to publicize the park in the media and get people there with field trips.

Today it seems there is more to do to protect the environment than ever before, and as a volunteer, each of us only has limited time. I was able to write up and send in a nomination of Rock Springs Run State Reserve as one of "Florida's Special Places" on the Audubon of Florida website. Many people on the Orange Audubon Board contributed to and edited the article, including Pete Vogt who made the important point that visiting these places locally is more and more important as cost of travel increases. Fellow OAS board member Mary Keim contributed the wonderful photos, including one of a Florida black bear. When the write-up was posted, Mary posted it on Facebook. Some key people in our chapter, Friends of the Wekiva, Florida Native Plant Society, and Sierra Club posted comments. To see this posting, do an internet search for Rock Springs Run State Reserve Special Place.

So this is a beginning. We will be looking for opportunities to have field trips out there. Incidentally, Audubon Assembly will be on October 14-15, 2011 here in Lake Mary! Our chapter will be leading field trips and you can be sure Rock Springs Run State Reserve will be one of them. Let us know if you have any contacts or interest in joining this conservation effort. For more information about Audubon Academy, Florida's Special Places and other interesting topics go to <http://audubonoffloridanews.org>.

Deborah Green, 2nd Vice President

2011 OAS Birdathon Results

The total number of bird species seen by Orange Audubon Society (OAS) 'Birdathoners' was 133. Gallus Quigley and his team of birders saw 112 species, all in Lake County, so his team won the 'Caution Birder Driving' car window sticker. Lorne Malo reported 62 species from Hal Scott Regional Preserve and Park, adding four species not seen by Gallus. Bruce Anderson, leader of Teresa Williams' team at Genius Drive Nature Preserve, reported 57 species—adding 12 new species and Bob Sanders added three otherwise unseen species from Mead Gardens. Robert Amoruso and Bob Stamps each added one species from their incidental sightings on Birdathon Day. Unfortunately Mike Daley's Magnificent Frigatebird was seen in Mississippi and could not be added to our list. However, if you want to add that to your species seen, feel free to do so. Our thanks to all who participated on another busy spring day! Next year we must have a team at the coast; coastal species were conspicuously absent from our list!

You have probably collected your flat-amount contributions already, but now it's time to collect from those who pledged a specific amount per species. Simply multiply the pledged amount by 133 and ask your 'pledgers' to make their contributions. Hopefully each of you were able to get at least two pledges; however, if you were able to garner more pledges, you could still be in the running for that other 'Caution Birder Driving' window sticker promised to the person bringing in the most dollar contributions. Please have your pledges collected and bring them—along with names, addresses and amount contributed—to the May OAS meeting or mail them to Orange Audubon Society, Birdathon, PO Box 941142, Maitland, FL 32794-1142. Thanks for your support.

Loretta Satterthwaite, Birdathon Co-chair

Area Wildlife Surveys

The Orange Audubon Society invites you to participate in the upcoming wildlife surveys.

- **Charles H. Bronson S. F. (Turkey Creek Tract) butterfly surveys** – (tentative) – May 28th; Randy Snyder or Mary Keim at 407-851-5416 (home) or rsnyder11@cfl.rr.com.
- **Palm Bluff Conservation Area** – contact Lorne Malo at 407-659-4853 (work), 407-349-2536 (home), lmalo@sjrwmd.com, or lornemalo@bellsouth.net.
- **Ferndale Preserve quarterly bird surveys** – Gallus Quigley, Jr. at 352-516-8512 or gquigley@lakecountyfl.gov or gallusq@cfl.rr.com.
- **Ponce Inlet bird surveys** – Stacey Bell at 386-238-4716 or sbell@co.volusia.fl.us – weekdays only; boat seating is limited.
- **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.
- **Emeralda Marsh Conservation Area bird surveys** – John Stenberg at 386-329-4822 or jstenberg@sjrwmd.com.

Limited Edition Field Trip

Sunday May 22nd

Joe Overstreet Rd./Three Lakes WMA

This field Trip has a cost of \$10 per person for members and \$15 per person for non-members. Reservations are required and taken on a first-come, first-served basis the week prior to the trip. *For additional information contact Gallus Quigley: 407-242-7833, gallusq@cfl.rr.com.*

2-Hour 'Workday' at Genius Preserve

The Genius Drive Nature Preserve was the subject of an ecological restoration that began in ~2003. Since 2006 OAS 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, June 5, 9–11 AM. Volunteers will bring gloves, shovels, etc. for 'gardening' (weeding and mulching) in the restored cedar grove near Lake Mizell.

Contact Teresa at 407-644-0796 or mwilliams@cfl.rr.com to sign up and receive further details.

Patios, Preserves and Public Spaces: Making Connections, May 19-22, 2011

The biggest event for the Florida Native Plant Society each year moves around the state, hosted by local chapters. This year it will be here in town, at the Sheraton Maitland, hosted by the four local native plant society chapters. Orange Audubon is lending the conference support. The messages about making your yard more friendly for wildlife and preserving native habitat are ones we share with the Florida Native Plant Society.

The theme of the conference is *Patios, Preserves and Public Spaces: Making Connections*. As always, field trips and workshops are on Thursday and Sunday. On Friday and Saturday, you have your choice of 3 tracks of excellent speakers.

The Friday keynote is by noted author, designer and horticulturalist Rick Darke of Landenberg, Pennsylvania, on the subject "Livable Florida: Native by Design." The Saturday keynote is by Rutherford H. Platt, Senior Fellow at the Institute for Sustainable Cities, City University of New York, on "Blooming Cities: Restoring Nature in Urban America."

Available at the Conference are:

- Field trips to over 20 Central Florida locations led by botanists and local plant specialists, highlighting native plant communities, native trees, shrubs and wildflowers. Thursday field trips include the Home Tour of native plant landscapes, including several of our OAS members.
- Native plant sales with locally grown trees, shrubs and wildflowers throughout the event. Hundreds of new native plants for home landscapes!
- Educational exhibit tables; many vendors—from books to bird boxes.
- Speakers on the latest in conservation, preservation and restoration of Florida native plant communities.
- Workshops for landscape design, plant identification, scientific information regarding the "Real Florida" and much more.
- Social events with author book signings each evening.

Join FNPS Thursday - Sunday May 19-22, 2011 for this exciting conference that connects Florida's natural values and conservation with the landscapes that we create in our personal and public environments.

The full program and registration information are on the www.fnps.org website. Drop ins are welcome. Give yourself a present!

Deborah Green, 2nd Vice President

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

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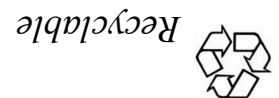
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Randy Snyder (11) 407-851-5416
Bob Stamps (12) 407-886-2925
Pete Vogt (11) 407-855-4122

Calendar of Events

<p>Baby Owl Shower Center for Birds of Prey, Maitland, May 7, 2011, 407-539-5700</p>	<p>Florida Native Plant Society Conference, Maitland May 19–22, 2011, 321-388-4781</p>
<p>Magnolia Park Bluegrass Festival, Apopka May 7, 2011, 407-886-2925</p>	<p>Chertok Nature Photography Contest Final Submission Deadline: May 19, 2011 Awards: June 16, 2011– 407-644-0796</p>
<p>Upcoming Field Trip on May 21, 2011, Seminole Ranch in Christmas, FL</p>	<p>OAS Nature Merchandise Sales at May 19, 2011 meeting starting approximately 6:30 p.m.</p>
<p>Limited Edition Field Trip May 22, 2011, Joe Overstreet Rd./Three Lakes WMA</p>	

Get involved! Join a committee!

The **Publicity committee** is looking for help. If you have or know contacts in the media (printed or otherwise) please help get the word out. Contact: Danielle at dponsolle@cfl.rr.com.



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