



"The voice of Conservation in Central Florida"

OASIS



*Orange Audubon Society
A Chapter of National Audubon Society and Audubon of Florida*

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Found...

... hot pink, mesh, zippered tote bag left at June 2004 Pot Luck Dinner. Call Mary @ 407-851-5416.

Orange Audubon Society meetings are held the 3rd Thursday of every month (Sept - June) at 7:00pm in the Camellia Room at

*Harry P. Leu Gardens
1920 North Forest Avenue
Orlando, FL 32803-1537*

For directions, call 407-246-2620

This Month's Program: January 20, 2005 - 7:00pm Florida Travels of André Michaux, 18th Century Botanist by Dr. Walter Taylor

Andre Michaux was one of Europe's most talented botanists who explored the South in the footsteps of John and William Bartram from 1785 to 1796. Our January speaker, Dr. Walter Taylor, long-time Orange Audubon Society member and Professor Emeritus of Biology at University of Central Florida, became interested in Andre Michaux while researching his wildflower books. Dr. Taylor worked with Dr. Eliane Norman, retired Stetson Biology professor, to document the 3 months Michaux spent in Florida in 1788. In period dress, Dr. Taylor will highlight the Frenchman's life, the plants he observed and collected, and the historical places Michaux visited and mentioned in his Journal. The 2002 book, André Michaux in Florida, by Dr. Taylor and Dr. Norman will be available for sale and signing along with Dr. Taylor's very popular books on Florida wildflowers. Join us January 20 for a fascinating program.
Deborah Green, Vice President

January Field Trip - Merritt Island NWR, Titusville FL

Get ready! This is always a favorite trip, and a productive one for those that attend! We will again tour the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge on Saturday, January 22nd. While it might be "cool", the birding will certainly be "hot"! Expect wonderful water fowl, super shore birds, and wiley waders! The intracoastal waters at Titusville and the waters along Black Point Wildlife Drive always combine to give us views of hundreds of birds. Each year we also enjoy watching many birders record lifetime firsts on this trip. Merritt Island is a winter and migratory haven for many species and the drive on the dikes allows incredible views of species that are often difficult to find, much less observe with leisure using scopes and binoculars.

If you can, don't miss this trip. Bob Wheeler and Dick Smith will be our most capable and intrepid leaders for this trip. We

will meet in the rear parking lot of the Burger King located at Hwy 50 (Colonial Dr.) and Alafaya Trail in east Orange County in time to sign up, get assigned to a vehicle for carpooling and leave at 7:30am. Return time to Burger King will likely be after lunch, but those that need to leave early can "caravan" with the group and leave from Black Point Drive at their leisure. This is not a "locked in" trip in that there are no gates to traverse for access. Please note that this is also a great trip for those that don't want to hike! The entire trip can be done from a car, so come on and bring a friend! If you have any trouble finding Burger King or the group on Saturday, Bob Wheeler's cell# is 407-739-0333. Hope to see you with the ducks on the 22nd!

Any questions prior to the trip date, I can be reached at 407-644-7850. Thanks!
Bob Ferguson - Field Trip Chair.

President's Message LORETTA SATTERTHWAITE, PRESIDENT

Happy New Year! Best wishes for a healthy and safe 2005!

I hope you were able to do some birding over the holidays. Enjoying nature more might be one of your new year's resolutions. If so, join Orange Audubon Society (OAS) for some of our field trips in the coming months. We have some more good ones for your participation — including some hawk ID sessions (see calendar of events on the back page).

Thanks to those who volunteered to help OAS at the Winter Park Farmers' Market. It was a good day for us despite the smattering of showers near the end of the event. Speaking of volunteers — the Or-

lando Wetlands Park Annual Festival is scheduled for February 26th. OAS co-sponsors this event with the city of Orlando and we help lead butterfly, birding and other tours during the event and could use your help if you have expertise in those areas. OAS will also have our nature items (t-shirts, totes, books, and signs) for sale at the event and, as usual, we will need several volunteers to help with the fundraising portion of the event (call or email Teresa to volunteer; 407-644-0796 or mwilliams@cfl.rr.com). Watch next month's OASis for more details on specific activities for the festival. Please remember that you may also contact me to volunteer in any way for these events [407-

886-2925 (with a recorder for leaving names, phone numbers and messages) or LNS-OAS@att.net].

As you venture forth to enjoy the outdoors, don't forget to carry those cameras so that you may be equipped to take that winning photo for OAS' 17th annual Chertok Nature Photography Contest (CNPC). The deadline is not until mid-May, but as new life emerges after the cold weather, it could make an excellent setting for prize-winning shot. For more CNPC information, go to our website [www.orangeaudubonfl.org] or call or contact Teresa (see above).

Please plan to join Orange Audubon for a meeting, field trip or special event sometime soon. Thanks.

Audubon Adventures

Do you know a student (grades 3-6) who might be interested in the environment, perhaps your child or grandchild? Sponsor an Audubon Adventures classroom! A check to Orange Audubon in the amount of \$41.50 will send a package of environmental lessons for the children, a teacher's guide, a poster, and other materials to the local classroom of your choice. Note on your check that the (tax deductible) donation is for Audubon Adventures and mail it to OAS at the address listed below.
Thanks!



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Gordon Wolfram (06)	407-855-9633



Birders Needed for Monthly Rock Springs Run Survey

The Florida DEP is looking for a few good birders for help in conducting a monthly wading bird and limpkin survey on Rock Springs Run. The survey is being conducted because there is concern that the limpkin population in the Wekiva River and tributaries is declining. The project requires at least two people canoeing together or a solo kayaker, and the surveyors would also need to use GPS to record lat/long for limpkin locations (GPS and training will be provided). It would be OK for several people to take turns, just as long as the run is covered on a monthly basis. Interested parties are asked to contact Marsha Butler at 407-330-6727 or Marsha.Butler@dep.state.fl.us.



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
P.O. Box 941142
Maitland, FL 32794-1142

President.....Loretta Satterthwaite (lins-oas@att.net)
407-886-2925
Address Change.....Mike Daley (miked@atlantic.net)
386-668-5021
Editor.....Claire Hilliker (hilliker@iag.net)
407-677-5374

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

<http://www.orangeaudubonfl.org>

Rally for the Ocklawaha River: Come for Field Trips, Parties, and Tree Planting!

By Karen Ahlers

The Rally for the Ocklawaha River, sponsored by the Putnam County Environmental Council, Inc. (PCEC) is a weekend full of great field trips, a big party and the beginning of "The People's Restoration." In short, it's an opportunity for you, your friends and family to have fun and make a difference in the ongoing struggle to restore the Ocklawaha River. Here in Putnam County, almost daily we deal with the controversy in our backyard - the dammed Ocklawaha River and the resulting Rodman Reservoir. While we understand the apprehension of local officials and the business community that fear a negative economic impact if the river is restored, PCEC has planned a fun-filled weekend event to demonstrate the positive impacts of nature-based tourism that will result from a restored river.

To make this successful, we need you! We are asking supporters from across the state to come to Putnam County February 19-20, 2005 (President's Day weekend). We've created 50+ outings to satisfy a wide variety of interests and have enlisted the help of some of the best trip leaders in north central Florida including Gian Basili, Joyce King, Marc Minno, Rex Rowan, Bob Simons, and Lars Anderson. Great birders, botanists, naturalists, outfitters, and artists will be on hand to show you what makes this area so special. Come and enjoy the field trips and tours and please, spend a little money! We're asking participants to buy gas, eat at local restaurants, do a little shopping, or stay a night or two. We're asking you to be obvious: strap your canoes to the roof, wear your binocs 'round your neck, in other words, be conspicuous eco-tourists. PCEC will provide you with Ocklawaha restoration calling cards to leave everywhere you go and be sure to ask for and save your receipts.

Both Saturday and Sunday, you'll have the opportunity to participate in the kick-off of PCEC's "The People's Restoration" by helping us plant trees. Almost one square mile of the Ocala National Forest is flooded by Rodman Reservoir. Those lands will be exposed during this time due to a periodic drawdown for aquatic plant control and we've arranged with the US Forest Service to take this opportunity to begin the reforestation process. We'll provide the native trees and tools.

On Saturday night at 7:00 pm, join us at Ravine Gardens State Park in Palatka for a free, music- and fun-filled pep Rally for the River with live music by Florida's Troubador Dale Crider and other well known Florida folk musicians. Renowned Florida author Al Burt will be our featured guest and cheerleaders from Florida's leading conservation groups (including Charles Lee from Audubon of Florida) will be on stage to encourage us all to achieve our goal of removing Rodman Dam and restoring the Ocklawaha River.

Remember those receipts you were asked to save? Bring them to the pep rally so we can tally them up for our report back to local officials. THIS IS A CRITICAL PART OF OUR STRATEGY! Concern over the local economy is one of the main reasons proponents of Rodman cite for keeping the Ocklawaha River dammed. We need your help to demonstrate that there is more to nature-based tourism than bass fishing.

There's more information on this event at the Audubon of Florida website at <http://www.audubonofflorida.org/main/calendar.htm>. Reservations for field trips are required. We will gladly send you maps, calling cards, and other pertinent information.

We need a big crowd to make this work and are counting on the support of like-minded folks that are equally frustrated over the decades we've spent working on this issue. Hope to hear from you soon!

For more information go to www.fladefenders.org/events or contact Karen Ahlers, Putnam County Environmental Council, (352) 546-3560 or PCECRiverRally@hotmail.com

In Remembrance of Ruth Herron Williams

Audubon member Ruth Herron Williams, age 70, passed away on December 10, 2004 from complications resulting from abdominal cancer. Ruth was known for her warmth, sincerity and fun-loving nature, attributes that well suited her for 20 years of traveling as the wife of naval officer Thomas (Tom) Williams, whom she married January 12, 1960 in Long Beach, CA where they met. After moving to central Florida in 1976, those attributes led her to a career in sales followed by a partnership in Shear Designers Hair Styling Salon until she sold the business in 1996 to join Tom as an active retiree. Ruth contributed her time and energy generously as a volunteer of the Harry P. Leu Gardens and Orange Audubon Society, where she has served for the last several years as co-chair of hospitality with Tom (a service she originally undertook for OAS during the 1980-81 season). In that role her warmth and enjoyment of others brought an enhanced social element to OAS' monthly program meetings.

Ruth is survived by her husband Thomas (Tom) Williams, 111 Foxridge Run, Longwood, FL 32750; her daughter Linda Stone, Rock Springs, WY; her son Robert Ford, San Diego, CA; two sisters; five grandchildren and one great-grandchild. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in Ruth's name to the Harry P. Leu Gardens, 1920 N. Forest Ave., Orlando, FL 32803. A memorial celebration of Ruth's life will take place on what would have been her 71st birthday, Friday, February 18, 2005 in the gardens that she loved so well. Additional details will be provided in the February issue of OASis. This loving and beloved lady will be missed by her Audubon family.

Teresa Williams (with information from December 19, 2004 Orlando Sentinel)

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Calendar of Events

January 15, 2005 - Saturday
Birds of Prey ID Class - Lake Apopka North
Shore Restoration Area, Zellwood
Bob Sanders 407-898-9798

January 15, 2005 - Saturday
Mead Gardens Bird Survey; 8:00am-10:00am.
Dexter Richardson 407-760-8193
dex@dexwine.com

January 15-17, 2005 - Sat-Mon
Everglades BirdFest, Everglades Nat'l Park
Broward Co. Audubon Society 954-776-5585.
www.browardaudubon.org/birdfest.htm

January 20, 2005 - Thursday
General Meeting, 7:00pm, Leu Gardens.
OAS Board Meeting takes place prior to the
General Meeting at 5:30pm. All welcome.
Loretta Satterthwaite 407-886-2925

January 22, 2005 - Saturday
OAS Field Trip - Merritt Island NWR, Titusville
Bob Ferguson 407-644-7850
rfergusonhsd@earthlink.net

January 29, 2005 - Saturday
Hal Scott Regional Preserve & Park and Long
Branch Park Butterfly Survey.
Randy Snyder 407-851-5416

February 12, 2005 - Saturday
Birds of Prey ID Class - Lake Apopka North Shore
Restoration Area, Zellwood
Bob Sanders 407-898-9798

February 17, 2005 - Thursday
General Meeting, 7:00pm, Leu Gardens.
OAS Board Meeting takes place prior to the
General Meeting at 5:30pm. All welcome.
Loretta Satterthwaite 407-886-2925

February 18-21, 2005 - Fri-Mon
Great Backyard Bird Count
www.Birdsource.org/GBBC

February 19, 2005 - Saturday
OAS Field Trip - Orlando Wetlands Park
Bob Ferguson 407-644-7850
rfergusonhsd@earthlink.net

February 19-20, 2005 - Sat-Sun
Rally for the Ocklawaha River
www.fladefenders.org/events or Karen Ahlers
352-546-3560 / PCECRiverRally@hotmail.com

February 26, 2005 - Sat
Orlando Wetlands Festival, Christmas FL
Mark Sees 407-567-1706, Olabisi Cox 407-246-2213

Have Fun with the 2005 Great Backyard Bird Count!

As in years past, Audubon, in conjunction with the Cornell Lab or Ornithology (CLO), wants to take a snapshot of North American bird populations and YOU can help them during the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) on February 18-21, 2005. Everyone's contribution is important. It doesn't matter whether you identify, count, and report the 5 species coming to your backyard feeder or the 75 species you see during a day's outing to a wildlife refuge.

All you need is basic knowledge of bird identification and access to the Internet at home, a friend's house, local library, school, or anywhere you can get access to the web. Count the birds in your backyard, local park, or other natural area on one or all four count days. Then simply go to the GBBC web site (www.birdsource.org/gbbc) and enter your data. That's all there is to it!

You can do it at your leisure so it can be a fun family activity that even the kids can

participate in. And the more people who participate in this project, the more data will be able to be collected to help researchers help our feathered friends, so join us won't you?



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