



"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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Reminders...

... Volunteers needed to help OAS at the 8th Annual Magnolia Park Bluegrass Festival. See p5 for details.

This Month's Program: May 17, 2007 - 7:00pm Snakes of Central Florida by Jim Duby

Most of Central Florida's 30 or so native snakes are harmless, with only 4 venomous species posing a potential threat. All are beneficial and serve a purpose in the environment. A few are endangered as their required habitat has nearly disappeared. Jim Duby, Program Manager of the Seminole County Natural Lands Program, is a snake aficionado and expert with over 30 years experience. In our May program, Jim will educate us on the habitats of these interesting creatures and will bring several live specimens to show.

Join us May 17 for a fascinating program.
Deborah Green, Vice President

May Field Trip - Little Big Econ State Forest

On Saturday, May 19th, OAS will visit Little Big Econ State Forest – Barr Street Trailhead NE of Oviedo. The forest comprises 5,048 acres of the Econlockhatchee River basin. We will hike about 4.5 miles, some on trails with uneven terrain and steep banks. This is the last OAS field trip until September. Please join us.

We'll meet at 7:30 am in the parking lot

of the Publix located at the NW corner of SR419 (E. Broadway Street) and Lockwood Blvd. Bring \$1/person State Forest day use fee, drinks, birding gear, and lunch for after the hike. For more information about the trip, call us at 407-851-5416.

Mary Keim & Randy Snyder
Field Trip Committee

April Field Trip Report MARY KEIM, FIELD TRIP CHAIR

Nine birders from three Audubon chapters attended the trip to Lower Wekiva River Preserve on April 7th. The group observed 39 bird species including Wood Stork, Short-tailed Hawk, Northern Bobwhite, Chimney Swift, Red-headed Woodpecker, Great Crested Flycatcher, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Carolina Chickadee, Yellow-throated Vireo, Pine Warbler, and Summer

Tanager.

Eleven butterfly species were seen during our trip, including Pipevine Swallowtail, Zebra Swallowtail, White M Hairstreak, Little Wood-Satyr, and Sleepy Duskywing. Flowers in bloom included Pawpaw, Shiny Lyonia, Tread Softly, Sandhill Milkweed, and Greeneyes.

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

Presidential Ramblings DICK SMITH, PRESIDENT

Some individuals do more for the Orange Audubon Society than others; that's no big secret or great revelation, but I have always felt that these individuals should be singled out and praised for what they do. One of my axioms is "Give credit where credit is due".

With that in mind, let me relate a recent incident. Some time ago, months in fact, a person representing Pineloch Realty and/or Development, approached Teresa Williams, OAS Treasurer, and inquired about the feasibility of OAS building, and selling to them, a large number of nest boxes, or bird houses, for them to place on some of their undeveloped properties. For background, Pineloch is the resulting organization that came from the Caruso family citrus interests after the that industry went downward in the '90s. The Caruso family did not rush about building on every available piece of land that they

owned; instead they have proceeded in a very responsible manner. In any case, they also wanted some guidance and advice on how, and where, to place the boxes. Could we help them out? Teresa put the individual in touch with Dr. Richard Poole, who builds, mounts, and monitors nest boxes at Holiday Highlands, the OAS property in northwest Orange County. He also builds them for us to sell at various environmental functions. Richard talked to the Pineloch representative and assured him that he would be happy to help.

We didn't hear anything else for months, and guessed that the project had not been approved, or they had just changed their minds. Then, one day last month, Teresa received an order, with check, paid in full, for fifty (50) nest boxes of two different sizes. I don't know if you have ever built a nest box,

but an order this large is a lot of work. It is also a lot of lumber, hinges, eye screws, building screws, hooks and metal flashing. Fortunately, one of the accounts that I do business with is DIXIEPLY, a lumber wholesaler in the Rosemont area. The GM, Eric Foreholt, is a avid birder, and agreed to supply us with all of the lumber needs, if he had it in stock. I expected to receive a very substantial discount, and was shocked, almost, not quite, when he agreed to give us all of the lumber at no cost, as in FREE. Richard and I went down and cut all the boards; they were all in 16 foot lengths, and took them to his house.

As of today, with willing help from Randy Snyder, OAS BOARD member, all fifty (50) nest boxes are finished. So the next time you see Dr. Richard Poole or Randy Snyder, walk up to him and say "Thank you". They deserve it.

Legislative News PEGGY COX, CONSERVATION COMMITTEE CHAIR

The State Legislature is nearing the end of its session as I write this report. By the time you read this –the good and bad news could be on its way to being law.

In GOOD NEWS – the Restoration of the Ocklawaha River can move forward as all bills to establish the George Kirkpatrick State Reserve again were defeated and never got both Senate and House approval.

Bills to allow the South Florida Water Management to formulate stronger rules for stormwater runoff from new developments in the Lake Okeechobee watershed were approved. \$100 million more for Lake Okeechobee watershed water treatment and

storage projects was added to the budget in the House also. This will aid several different projects in the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Project (CERP).

BAD NEWS continues as the 2 Senate Transportation Bills sail on to approval. Several environmental groups including Audubon, 1000 Friends of Florida, The Nature Conservancy, and Defenders of Wildlife have sent a letter to the Governor asking him to veto the harmful parts of these bills (which are most of them) or try to stop approval by the full Legislature.

SB 2804 provides for the Fl. Dept. of Transportation and the Turnpike Authority to build new toll roads with little impediment. This bill would remove financial feasibility for new Turnpike segments from State requirements. New limits on the amounts of funds the Turnpike Enterprise could bond would double from the current limit of \$4.5 Billion to \$9 billion! This would pave the way, literally, for the proposed new toll roads – "The Heartland Parkways" that would go across south Central Florida coast to coast and up the center of the State. This bill would also give the mining and extraction industries special status. Every local government and State agency that reviews any zoning change, land use amendment to a local Comp Plan, or development order would be required to consider the effect of their decision on the "Construction Aggregate Materials" industries with input from

DOT officials before they make their decision. It doesn't take much imagination to see a mining/ cement plant industry lawyer telling a County Commission that a specific land use change or rezoning is necessary or is harmful to them and should be either approved or denied, no matter what the community or the local growth management plan states. Local County and city control of growth management would be severely impacted by this provision. Please contact the Governor to veto this provision of SB 2804.

SB 1928 would allow local governments to fix transportation concurrency backlogs by creating concurrency management districts that they would control and finance them in exchange for concurrency approvals on new development.

The language is vague and the intent is to bypass concurrency requirements on new development. There is NO mention of funds for alternative public transportation.

Please contact Governor Charlie Crist and ask him to veto these bills if they are approved by the full Legislature and are sent to him. The Legislature ends on May 4th and by the time you read this there still may be time to prevent these bad policies from becoming law.

Gov. Crist can be reached at: 850-488-7146 or 850-488-5000, or email: www.flgov.com/contact_form.

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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<http://www.orangeaudubonfl.org>

Help Celebrate International Migratory Bird Day

International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD), held annually on the second Saturday in May, is an invitation to celebrate and support migratory bird conservation. Created in 1993 by the Smithsonian and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, this year International Migratory Bird Day is May 12th. IMBD is now under the direction of the US Fish and Wildlife Service and supported by many conservation organizations.

The IMBD 2007 theme is Climate Change. Many activities around the world are held to bring attention to IMBD including bird walks, bird counts, talks and workshops, festivals with displays and presentations, and more. The 2007 theme of Climate Change is very timely as birds have long been indicators of environmental change. The reaction of birds to weather has long been noted. A change in the movements of some species is just one indicator of the warming of the Earth's atmosphere.

To help celebrate IMBD, I'm planning a tour of bird habitats in the Green Swamp area. Most of you know I live in this area near Clermont, and I'd like to lead any interested birders on a tour of some of our most prolific birding sites. Birds that are frequently sited in the area this time of year besides the Scrub-jays include Swallow-tailed Kites, Bluebirds, and Short-tailed Hawks. The tour will include a visit to part of the new Colt Creek State Park or parts of Green Swamp Wilderness Preserve East in northern Polk county; a visit to the Florida Scrub-jay trail near Clermont, and a visit to Lake Louisa State Park just south of Clermont. We will meet at 8:30am in Clermont and should be enjoying our picnic lunch at Lake Louisa by 1pm. Drinks will be provided for the picnic lunch.

Please contact me by May 10th if you're planning to help count birds to celebrate IMBD in the Green Swamp. Peggy Cox
Cox – pegcox@att.net, or 352-429-1042.

More information about International Migratory Bird Day, Climate Change and the Green Swamp can be found at these websites:
www.BirdDay.org; <http://birds.fws.gov/imbd>; www.abcbirds.org/climatechange/statepage.htm
<http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/climate/climateextremes.html>.
www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/education/interactive/greenswamp/greenswamp.html

Orange Audubon Board Members Elected at April Meeting

On April 19, 2007 Orange Audubon elected board members to fulfill three year terms. Of the five current Board Members whose terms expire this year, four agreed to continue to serve: Milton Heiberg, Claire Hilliker, Ellen Rocco and Ayme Smith.

Completing the 2007 slate Michele Greco was elected. Ms. Greco grew-up in West Florida. She is employed by Beta Center, a local not-for-profit agency that assists teenage mothers in raising their children while completing their education to become good mothers and role-models. She is eager to learn about environmental issues that affect the unique Florida landscape.

"We welcome Michele to Orange Audubon," said President Dick Smith. "She will be a source of new energy for the Board."

We extend our sincere thanks to all of the Board Members and especially to the Officers for their service to Orange Audubon Society and for their continued dedication.

Orange Audubon Society's Fundraising — Past and Future —

It was hot and dry, and there were many dogs whose feet were dancing on the blistering pavement. Once again, conflicting activities kept large numbers from descending on Lake Eola's Spring Fiesta in the Park on Saturday, April 14th and the threatening weather forced us, and many other vendors, to abandon the Fiesta on Sunday, April 15th. Needless to say, this was not a very successful event for our fundraising activities.

Sincere thanks to Christine Brown, Richard Poole, Bob Stamps, and Teresa Williams for helping set up the tent and tables for the weekend event. Thanks also to Mary Keim and Randy Snyder for, once again, the loan of the tables. Intrepid warriors that withstood the heat with me all day Saturday were Leesa Sward and Teresa Williams. Sunday morning Chris Gandy, Teresa Williams, Ellen Rocco, and I worked furiously to get the tent folded and the tables and display lattice packed away before the stormy weather hit. We made it with not much time to spare and without much fundraising to show for the efforts!! [We are not just 'fair weather' friends, but with the items that we have for fundraising (t-shirts, tote bags, books, etc.), we can not allow them to get wet or they could be ruined.]

As an alternative fundraising event, we plan to have these items for sale at Orange Audubon Society's May 17th meeting. We hope this will take the place of having them available at the June potluck meeting, where because of the growth of the Silent Auction held in conjunction with the OAS Chertok Nature Photography Contest, space is becoming very limited. If you are willing to help at the sales table at the May meeting, please contact me (407-886-2925 or LNS-OAS@att.net) as soon as possible so that we may make plans for this alternative. Thank you.

Loretta Satterthwaite

Be an Effective Advocate and Live Gently PEGGY COX, PAST PRESIDENT

Last month's article by Peggy Lantz asked if we are doing what we can to leave a better world and does it make a difference if we do? Absolutely it makes a difference! Collectively we all make choices every day that can make a difference in protecting and conserving our water resources, improving air quality, preserving bird and wildlife habitat and more.

One more thing we can all do is become a more effective advocate for what we know is good for the environment and our natural resources. National Audubon Society published guidelines a few years ago for being a more effective advocate and I want to restate them now and hope it inspires you to be an advocate for something important to you. I know some of you don't want to get "political", but speaking up for what you believe is true and necessary isn't getting "political" – it's part of the public process that we use in this country to achieve policies, rules and laws.

First – Contact your Lawmakers/Elected Officials; at the city or county level, State legislators or Congressional representatives depending on the issue. Contact them when you know an issue needs to be supported or defeated. Depending on the urgency of an

issue, you can place a phone call to their office; write a letter or email message; or schedule a personal visit. Regardless of the method you use, always let your lawmakers know you live and VOTE in their district; always be specific, brief and courteous in your communication. Lawmakers calculate that each message they receive from a constituent represents a similar view of 100 more constituents.

Second – Monitor The Media. As a newspaper or magazine subscriber; a TV or radio news listener, your letters and phone calls are important and can be effective.

A newspaper or magazine's response guidelines, phone and fax numbers and email addresses should be on their editorial page.

Third – Get Others Involved. Tell your interested friends and neighbors and ask them to help. Neighborhood groups can be very effective in conveying specific concerns about an issue to lawmakers and the media. Elected officials and community leaders gauge public sentiment about current issues by letters and calls they receive and through media responses to their actions.

Remember, you can always make a difference.

2007 Ft. DeSoto Field Trip Report

On Saturday, April 14, 31 members of OAS and their guests, traveled to Ft. DeSoto Park in Pinellas County for our annual field trip to this delightful county facility. The weather was very cooperative, although this meant the park was a little crowded with locals, and we got caught in the Triathlon again.

We had a total of sixty-one species on Saturday, with really good observations of many of them. Some of the birds seen were: Northern Gannet, Brown Pelican, Magnificent Frigatebird, Reddish Egret, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Red-breasted Merganser, Black-bellied Plover, Marbled Godwit, Least Tern, Black Skimmer, Black-hooded Parakeet, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Gray Kingbird, Cedar Waxwing, Blue-headed Vireo, Black-throated Blue, Yellow-throated, Prairie, Palm, Black-and-white, Prothonotary and Hooded Warblers, Summer and Scarlet Tanager, Blue Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting and Brown-headed Cowbird. The "birds of the day" were a toss-up between the Hooded Warblers and the Yellow-crowned Night Herons. The Hoodeds were in plentiful numbers, both male and female, in the Oak trees across from North Beach, which allowed everyone ample time to observe them at leisure. The Yellow-crowneds were on the rookery in the same location as last year, in the East Beach Woods, between the two trails. We saw at least six (6) adults just staring down at us in beautiful breeding plumage.

Many thanks to Ted and Gaye Smith for organizing the trip making the arrangements at Eckerd College for Friday night. This makes the trip so much easier when we can all stay in one nice acceptable location. Many thanks to both Bob Wheeler and Bob Sanders for leading the tour and doing their best to help everyone see all of the species, which is no easy task in itself. We would like to have seen more, but, all in all, it was a good day for birding in the great outdoors with good birding friends.

Dick Smith



Baby Owl Shower and Celebration of Mother's Day and Spring

On Saturday, May 12th from 10:00–2:00, Orange Audubon Society will participate in the celebration at the Audubon Center for Birds of Prey (CBOP) at 1101 Audubon Way in Maitland. Admission to the Center that day is free with the presentation of a 'baby gift' that can be used in caring for the birds at the Center. Slightly used items such as baby receiving blankets, queen- or king-sized sheets, heating pads and bath towels, or new items such as large garbage bags, multipacks of paper towels, bleach, laundry detergent, cotton balls, Q-tips, adhesive tape, rubbing alcohol and hydrogen peroxide are always needed. Even office supplies such as writeable CDs are needed. Food items for the birds, such as fish or rodents, might best be contributed by making a cash donation that can then be used to buy those items. For the complete 'wish list', contact the Center at 407-644-0190 or email tmarks@audubon.org.

As in previous years, Orange Audubon will be fundraising with the sale of our nature-oriented merchandise (t-shirts, nest boxes, tote bags, signs, books, etc.). However, CBOP would like to have OAS host our kids' art table, but we must have volunteers to work that activity or we can not offer it. If you could help for the entire event [9:30–2:30, which includes set-up and tear-down], or for a part of it, please contact me (407-886-2925 or LNS-OAS@att.net) as soon as possible so that we can confirm that activity with our CBOP hosts. Thanks.

Loretta Satterthwaite



FNPS Home Garden Tour

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

Colonial Photo & Hobby Selects and Features Winning Images From OAS' Chertok Nature Photo Contests

Orange Audubon Society congratulates the photographers whose winning images from previous Chertok Nature Photography Contests (CPNC) were selected this year for a full window display by Colonial Photo & Hobby (CPH), 634 N. Mills Avenue, Orlando. Described below by title, locale where photographed (if available), artist's name and contest placement, the selected images are:

- *Dagger Moth Larva* by Randy Snyder of Orlando: Honorable Mention 2001.
- *False Turkey Tail* by Glen Wood of Jericho, VT: Honorable Mention 2000.
- *Lubber Grasshopper & Fakahatchee Grass*, Apopka, by Bob Stamps of Apopka: Honorable Mention 2004.
- *Queen Conch* by Steve Beecham of Apopka: Honorable Mention 1998.
- *Sunset Serenade*, St. Augustine, by Gerald Faircloth of Umatilla: 2nd Place 2006.
- *Royal Terns Mating Display*, Ft. DeSoto, by Robert J. Amoruso of Orlando: 1st Place 2006.

CPH began co-sponsoring the contest in 2004 with donated prizes and expanded that role in 2006 by featuring a full window display of winning images from previous OAS photo contests. This year it just got better because also on display inside CPH are all other winning images from OAS' 2006 competition.

We congratulate all selected photographers and extend our sincere thanks to CPH for bringing Florida native nature and the contest to life along Mills Avenue and Colonial Drive! We invite you to visit CPH to view the featured images, which will be on display through May 17th. Teresa Williams, Chair

Orange Audubon 'Pickin' & 'Strummin'

What could be more fun than attending a bluegrass festival? Attending it and helping Orange Audubon Society, perhaps. We have volunteered to set up a sales/information booth for Orange Audubon Society at the 8th Annual Magnolia Park Bluegrass Festival on Saturday, May 5th. The event is from 10 AM to 6 PM and there is free admission with the donation of 2 canned goods, which will be donated to Second Harvest of Central Florida. If you'd like to stop by and volunteer some time to help OAS or just enjoy the music, bring your lawn chairs and stop by and say 'Hello'. Magnolia Park is an Orange County Park sitting on the east shore of Lake Apopka. It's a pretty little park, so come out and enjoy the day and take advantage of another chance to buy OAS' nature t-shirts, nest boxes, signs, etc. (To volunteer, in advance, please contact us at 407-886-2925 or LNS-OAS@att.net. Thanks.) Loretta Satterthwaite and Bob Stamps

JOIN AUDUBON'S BIRDING CAMP!



Audubon CENTER FOR BIRDS OF PREY

**JUNE 5-8 -DAY CAMP FOR AGES 9-12
TUES-FRI 9AM -12PM**

CAMPERS WILL PARTICIPATE IN EXCITING, HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES LEARNING BIRD ID, BIOLOGY AND CONSERVATION ISSUES SURROUNDING OUR FEATHERED FRIENDS. A FIELD TRIP WILL BE HELD ON THE LAST DAY OF CAMP TO APPLY EVERYTHING LEARNED THROUGHOUT THE WEEK! JOIN US FOR A JOURNEY INTO THE LIFE OF FLORIDA'S MAGNIFICENT RAPTORS!



VISIT www.audubonofflorida.org for registration materials. CONTACT TERI MARKS FOR MORE QUESTIONS AND HOW TO REGISTER; LIMITED SCHOLARSHIPS OFFERED.

407-644-0190—tmarks@audubon.org

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: MAY 1



Chertok Photo Contest Deadline is May 17th

Nature-loving shutterbugs take note! The deadline for submitting entries in Orange Audubon Society's 2007 (19th Annual) Kit and Sidney Chertok Open Nature Photography Contest is May 17, 2007 (postmark date). You may also hand deliver entries to me, but please only during OAS' May 17th program at Harry P. Leu Gardens (see article, page 1).

Entry forms will be available from Colonial Photo & Hobby, 634 N. Mills Avenue, Orlando and at OAS' May 17th program; you may also request a form from me (mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or 407-644-0796) prior to that evening. You may also download and print entry forms using (FREE) Adobe Acrobat when you visit OAS' official website: www.orangeaudubonfl.org.

Winners of this digital competition will be announced at OAS' annual covered dish dinner and program presentation of contest entries and awarding of prizes on June 21, 2007.

We sincerely appreciate your support and interest in native nature photography. Good luck and good lighting, all participants. Teresa Williams, CNPC Chair

**ORANGE AUDUBON SOCIETY
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Bob Stamps (08) 407-886-2925
Pete Vogt (08) 407-855-4122

Calendar of Events

May 5, 2007 - Saturday

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

May 12, 2007 - Saturday

Wekiva River Buffers Conservation Area Bird Survey
Lorne Malo 407-349-2536/407-659-4853(w)

May 12, 2007 - Saturday

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY

May 12, 2007 - Saturday

Baby Owl Shower; 10:am-2:00pm
Center for Birds of Prey, 407-644-0190

May 12, 2007 - Saturday

Tarflower Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society will conduct a tour of home gardens.
Contact 407-647-5233 for details.

May 17, 2007 - Thursday

General Meeting, 7:00pm, Leu Gardens.
OAS Board Meeting takes place prior to the General Meeting at 5:30pm. All welcome.
Dick Smith 407-257-7361

May 19, 2007 - Saturday

OAS Field Trip - Little Big Econ State Forest
Mary Keim 407-851-5416

May 19, 2007 - Saturday

Audubon Central Florida Regional Conservation Committee Meeting; Center for Birds of Prey 10am-2pm
Peggy Cox 352-429-1042/pegcox@att.net

May 19, 2007 - Saturday

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

May 24, 2007 - Thursday

Community Forum; Leu Gardens 8:30am-noon.
"Florida 2060-Alternative Futures for Florida"
Presentation by Univ. of Pennsylvania Dept. of City and Regional Planning. Sponsored by UCF Metropolitan Center For Regional Studies and 1000 Friends of Florida.
FREE – RSVP 407-823-2741 / metro@mail.udf.edu.

May 26, 2007 - Saturday

Rock Springs Run State Reserve Butterfly Survey.
Randy Snyder 407-851-5416

June 5, 2007 - Saturday

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

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