



"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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Welcome Back Members!!!

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: September 18, 2008 - 7:00pm Wildlife and Preservation of the St. Johns River by Neil Armingeon and Milton Heiberg

In 1998, the St. Johns River was designated an American Heritage River, one of only 14 rivers in the United States to receive this national recognition. But recently, the St. Johns River has been named one of the 10 most endangered rivers in the country. American Rivers, a Washington D.C.-based nonprofit group dedicated to waterway conservation, put it on their endangered list because of plans to allow removal of water to quench Central Florida's growing thirst. Is this river worth saving? In part one of this presentation, some of the extraordinary wildlife that lives in the river floodplain will be illustrated by OAS Board member and photographer extraordinaire Milton Heiberg. Then Neil Armingeon, the St. Johns Riverkeeper, key advocate for the Jacksonville nonprofit organization whose name he bears, will update us on river protection efforts.

Join us September 18 for an informative program.
Deborah Green, Vice President

September Field Trip - Lake Lotus Park, Altamonte Springs

On Saturday, September 20th, OAS will visit Lake Lotus Park in Altamonte Springs. This 150 acre city park borders Lake Lotus that is fed by the Little Wekiva River. We will hike about 2 miles, half of which will be on sometimes slippery boardwalks. For more information about the property see the city's website: www.altamonte.org/DEPARTMENT/LEISURE/INDEX.ASP?ACTION=viewsub&ID=22

Meet at 8:40am at the tram stop in the Lake Lotus Park off-site parking lot on Magnolia Homes Rd. just south of Maitland Blvd (parking lot and park do not open until 8:30). Carry your lunch in your pack because we will not return to our vehicles until after lunch. Also bring drink, birding gear, and

be prepared for mosquitoes. Please join us. If you have questions about the trip, call us at 407-851-5416.

Mary Keim and Randy Snyder
Field Trip Committee



Steven D'Amato

Don't Vote, Don't Complain BOB STAMPS, PRESIDENT

Elections are just around the corner so I encourage you all to vote to protect our environment and maintain our quality of life. If you do not vote, then others will determine our future. For whom should you vote? Good question. A good source of information on how persons already in public office have voted on important environmental issues can be found on the League of Conservation Voters website at www.lcv.org. Some candidates' stands on key environmental issues like energy independence, global warm-

ing, the endangered species act, clean air, clean water, etc. are available on the Sierra Club website at www.sierraclub.org/politics/candidates. At the local level, attend meetings and ask the candidates where they stand on such issues as growth management, water resource conservation, support for mass transit, purchasing environmentally sensitive lands, preserving green space, etc. Remember, if you don't participate in our democratic process by voting, you'll have little right to

complain if you don't like the outcome.

Regardless of who wins the elections, make the best of what is left of our natural resources. Take time to thoroughly read the enclosed annual activities brochure and get out and enjoy the wonders of nature that are unveiled through OAS activities—meetings, field trips, classes, events and programs.

Hope to see you at our September meeting dealing with issues related to the St. Johns River.

Conservation Update PEGGY COX, CO-CHAIR AUDUBON'S CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Water, Water, everywhere! I write this at the end of Central Florida's visit by Tropical Storm Fay that we were beginning to think would never go away! All of Florida needed rain, and some of us got a beneficial amount and others got harmful floods. Some of the flooded areas are the result of building in low-lying lands or filled in wetlands. As we review the experience of this storm, the lessons of irresponsible wetlands and dredge and fill policies must be seriously reviewed as Central Florida grows into the future.

Water is the leading issue with the probability of not enough potable water being available from the aquifer after 2013 without causing irreparable harm to wetlands, springs, lakes and rivers. The alternative water supply projects proposed by the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) for Central Florida water utilities and municipal governments are meeting with serious opposition for their short-sighted plans and lack of underlying science to really determine what surface and aquifer withdrawals will do to our wetlands, rivers and lakes. Audubon chap-

ters and Audubon of Florida are proposing serious, enforceable conservation measures with limiting irrigation, landscape ordinances that require drought tolerant plantings, less use of nitrogen fertilizers, reclaiming and re-using wastewater, etc., to local governments and the Water Management Districts. We have a way to go in getting more responsible regulations and conservation measures especially from SJRWMD.

The first Consumptive Use Permit (CUP) for an alternative water project is on the St. Johns River at Yankee Lake in Sanford. The CUP permit has been legally challenged by several including the City of Jacksonville and the Riverkeeper, and is currently waiting for a hearing on the challenge. Ocklawaha River proposed withdrawals are meeting serious opposition from Marion County and the Putnam County Environmental Council.

Orange County settled its legal challenge to the South Florida Water Management District denial of the County's CUP request to withdraw surface waters from the Lake Hart basin for supplementing reclaimed systems and for the new OUC power plant's cooling water needs. Unfortunately, Orange County still doesn't seem to see the need for serious, enforceable water conservation measures. In May they approved a Water Conservation Ordinance that implemented the SJRWMD's irrigation rules limiting irrigation to 2x a week,

but not limiting irrigation using reclaimed water. Because of no limit on reclaimed water use, Orange County changed the definition of reclaimed water in this new ordinance to include that "primary reclaimed water systems may be supplemented or augmented by water from another source". This appears to be a tactic to get around the regulation requiring Water Management District approval to withdraw surface water in the amounts needed for large systems.

Lake County's Board of County Commissioners legally challenged SJRWMD's decision to approve a CUP for a commercial water bottling plant that would withdraw over 174 million gallons a year from the aquifer through 3 new wells at the plant site near Groveland. They have been joined by Groveland in the challenge. The bottling company, Niagara Bottling LLC, has apparently found another source of water and is trucking it in to begin the operation of their plant despite widespread opposition throughout Lake county.

Future water use and water conservation is a serious consideration for all of us. Some suggested books I've found to be very informative are: "Mirage" by Cynthia Barnett; "Bottlemania – How Water Went on Sale and Why We Bought It", by Elizabeth Royte; and "When the Rivers Run Dry – Water-The Defining Crisis of The Twenty-First Century" by Fred Pearce.

Conservation News SHARON ROBBINS, CONSERVATION CHAIR

As the incoming Conservation Chair for Orange Audubon Society, I would like to take this opportunity to thank each of you for being part of such an important organization. As such, you obviously care for Florida's fragile environment and the Wildlife, Flora and Fauna it supports. Our Conservation Committee needs dedicated individuals who can volunteer some time to be watchdogs in their communities to bring awareness of wanton development before it is too late, and/or attend Public County or City meetings and take notes. We also need individuals to attend fun functions like Earth Day gatherings etc. and engage others to join in conservation efforts and become members of Audubon. If you would like to take an active part to help conserve our environment, please feel free to email me, Sharon Robbins, @ robb9766@bellsouth.net or call 407-376-4930.

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>



Welcome to All Members

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) extends a big welcome to all of our members and especially to those of you who are new to us since our last issue of the OASis in June. For those members who are unfamiliar with our chapter, we are a large chapter of both National Audubon Society (NAS) from whom you will be receiving Audubon magazine, and Audubon of Florida (AoF), the state organization from whom you will receive The Florida Naturalist. No matter how you joined Audubon — through NAS, AoF or OAS — you became a member of all three organizations. This helps when we are fighting conservation battles because we can fight on any of the three levels with the same clout from our chapter. Please help us take advantage of this when we are trying to make a point with our legislators — nationally, regionally or locally — and respond to requests for action; only with your help do we stand a chance to win these never-ending battles. Please remember if we lose a natural area to development or a Scenic River to pollution or an Endangered Species to encroachment, we lose it forever. If we win, we simply win until the next attempt to 'destroy' it comes along. We can not let down our guard or give up if we wish to live in a world where 'quality of life' includes natural areas and organisms for us and our children and grandchildren to enjoy.

Having said that, as you read through each issue of the OASis, your newsletter, and see events or problems with which you could lend a hand, please don't hesitate to get involved. As mentioned earlier, OAS is a large chapter (~ 1,500 households in the Central Florida area) but we have only a handful of people who are 'active'. Help us change that!! Call or email any officer/board member/committee chair and volunteer. We welcome your membership and, even more, your involvement. Thanks for joining us.
Loretta Satterthwaite, Membership Chair

Education Program in Local Schools

Last spring Sharon Robbins graciously agreed to visit schools using the Audubon Adventures kit. We had more requests than we could fill, but the schools she visited received her presentation extremely well. A class at Conway Middle School sent hand made thank you notes. This a sampling of one:

Dear Mrs. Robbins,
I really appreciate you coming to our class on Tuesday!
You were very interesting and made me learn a bunch of new things. Thank you once again for coming and saving animals for our world!
From, Tiffany

All of the teachers who used the Adventures kit last year have been contacted with information on the new materials for this year and invited to continue these studies with their classes. This year's program is called "Feats of Nature." The four study units are Migration of birds and animals; Animal Builders addressing how, why and what animals build; Animal Defenses investigating strategies that animals use to defend themselves; and Plants and their importance to life on the planet.

If you are a teacher, or know a teacher in the area, of students in 3rd through 6th grades, we recommend this highly acclaimed program to you. It is correlated to national and Florida learning standards, enriching science and language arts lessons. I would welcome your contact at 407-249-3969, or at smith_ted_gaye@bellsouth.net.
Gaye Smith, Education Chair



Oh, Goody — er, Goodies!

We all enjoy those refreshments at each of our meetings, don't we? They don't just magically appear. We need a volunteer who will call to remind those who have signed up to bring things to the monthly meetings and organize the set-up and take-down for each meeting. This usually means heating water for coffee or tea and setting out cups, napkins, ice and the like. Orange Audubon (OAS) has a rolling dolly and supplies — tablecloths, coffee urn, cups, etc. — for your use. You should expect to arrive no later than 6:15 prior to the 7:00 PM general meeting; since the Board of Directors meeting starts at 5:15 and goes until nearly 7:00, none of the board members can undertake this responsibility for OAS. Therefore we need your cheery smile and willingness to help. Please contact Bob and Loretta at (407) 886-2925 or LNS-OAS@att.net if you can assist OAS in this way. Everyone will appreciate your help!

See That New Brochure

Look at Orange Audubon Society's 2008–2009 brochure. Once again, it achieves that quality that we have come to expect. This year, we can thank Sonia Stephens for volunteering to do the layout for us. Feel free to send compliments to her (I'll be happy to forward any that I get at LNS-OAS@att.net to her). Obviously, while you are looking at it, you'll notice that a lot of time and effort has gone into planning for another successful year of programs (thanks to Deborah Green and her committee), field trips (thanks to Mary Keim, Randy Snyder, Deborah Green, Bob Sanders and Ted Smith), ID classes (thanks to Leesa Sward, Randy Snyder, Mary Keim, Bob Sanders and Teresa Williams) and other special events (numerous individuals and organizations). Please plan to participate and/or volunteer to help with any of these that interest you.
Thanks again to Sonia. Good job!
Loretta Satterthwaite, 1st Vice President



Gardeners Needed for Ecological Restoration Workday

The next workday at Genius Drive Nature Preserve is Sunday morning, September 28th, 9am–11am. Volunteers will work in the Cedar Grove near Lake Mizell and the newly restored area along Lake Berry. Contact Teresa if you can help (mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or 407-644-0796) and bring gloves, garden tools appropriate for weeding and mulching, water and sun protection. First-time volunteers please provide your full name, e-mail and street addresses and phone number. I look forward to hearing from you.
Teresa Williams, Volunteer Coordinator

Limited Edition Field Trip to be held on Sept. 13th

The first Limited Edition Field Trip of the new season is scheduled for Saturday September 13th. Our destination will be the Orlando Wetlands Park in Christmas. Limited Edition Field Trips are limited to a maximum of 10 people and there is a \$10.00 fee. Advanced reservations are required. For more information and to make a reservation contact Bob Sanders, 407-766-5490, procrow@bellsouth.net.

OAS Nominee Wins Prestigious 1000 Friends of Florida Award

Earlier this year Orange Audubon Society (OAS) nominated Rollins College and the Elizabeth Morse Genius Foundation for 1000 Friends of Florida's Better Community Award for their collaborative effort — the Genius Reserve Ecological Restoration Project. The project's goals included: protecting and restoring the native and historical landscape of the targeted 48-acre 'old Florida' landscape in Winter Park; providing a working laboratory in landscape restoration for Rollins faculty, its students and others; and providing a working model for others to use in developing similar endeavors.

1000 Friends of Florida's president, Charles Pattison, presented the award to representatives from the Foundation and Rollins College at OAS' Genius Reserve Workday on June 28th. Said Pattison, "This is a well-planned and implemented effort to restore and protect an important piece of open space in an urban setting. It shows what a committed group of people can accomplish with vision and a workable plan".

OAS' volunteer involvement began early in 2006 with workdays that entail planting native vegetation and assisting with maintenance of newly restored areas of the property, particularly while Rollins students are away for summer breaks. The workday partnership led to monthly bird surveys that began last September. To date, 106 bird species have been identified using the property as breeding/nesting habitat and/or a vital ecological stepping stone during migration.

The Foundation has recently designated the property as The Genius Drive Nature Preserve. At OAS' January 15, 2009 meeting, Dr. Bruce Stephenson, who leads the restoration effort, and Bruce Anderson, who leads the survey, will present a program about the Preserve's restoration and its birds.

Teresa Williams

Fall Bird ID Class

In a very short time, Orange Audubon Society will be announcing the Fall Bird ID Class (see enclosed OAS 2008–2009 brochure) to the public through the Orlando Sentinel and other means. This is always a popular class and usually has a waiting list before the class begins. Since the class size is limited, you — our members — should take advantage of this 'pre-announcement' and call now to reserve your space if you are interested in taking this beginners' bird identification class.

Loretta Satterthwaite, 1st Vice President

First Bird of Prey ID Class scheduled for Oct. 11th

Fall and winter in Florida is raptor season! The first Bird of Prey ID Class will be held on Saturday October 11th. We will meet between 7:30 and 8:00am at the Lust Road entrance to the Lake Apopka Restoration Area. There are no limitations or fees for this event. For more information or directions contact Bob Sanders, 407-766-5490, procrow@bellsouth.net.

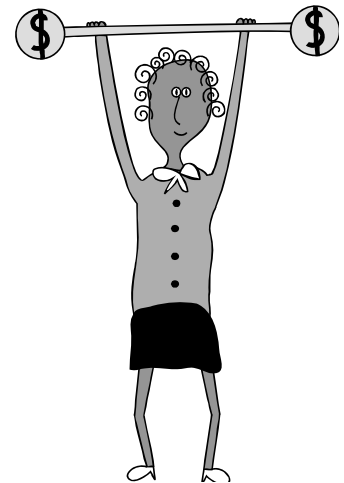
Fiscal Year 2008 in Review

For the first time in six years, Orange Audubon Society did not achieve its financial goal — falling approximately \$3,500 short of its \$4,696 net income projection for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2008. While revenues from the letter appeal fundraiser, and nest box and photo contest programs met expectations, those from Birdathon and outreach fundraisers did not. Investment earnings were also below expectations due to declining interest rates and falling stock market values.

However, OAS did achieve a balanced budget. In addition, approximately \$4,000 of contributions received was designated for the Chertok endowment and a future OAS nature education center. OAS appreciates the efforts of its board, general membership and other friends who contributed personal time and resources to achieve both results. In the coming year OAS will strive to maintain a position of fiscal stability and continue to focus on plans for a nature education center.

By attaining and sustaining a position of fiscal stability, OAS ensures its future and its continued ability to be a strong voice for conservation and the environment. By focusing efforts to ensure funding for environmental education programs, OAS ensures the longevity of activities that will mold the next generation of environmental stewards.

Anyone interested in obtaining additional financial details may contact Teresa Williams, Treasurer: 407-644-0796 or mwilliams@cfl.rr.com.



Thanks to Photo Contest Judges

Orange Audubon Society's 2008 Chertok Nature Photography Contest (CNPC) was judged by Vicki Ferguson (artist), John Winfree (naturalist) and Milton Heiberg (photographer) — three long-time members and/or supporters of Orange Audubon Society (OAS) and its annual photo contest.

Vicki Ferguson is a self-taught wildlife illustrator. Her background in biology, wildlife rehabilitation, and citrus production somehow led to a career in wildlife art. She exhibits in shows and galleries nationally and internationally and has work in the City of Orlando's permanent art collection. Recently Ferguson was accepted as a signature member of the Artists for Conservation, with one of her drawings juried into the group's upcoming museum exhibition and fundraising event to benefit the Wildlife Conservation Society. Vicki was a member of the first/founding Chertok nature photo contest committee.

Milton Heiberg has taught nature photography throughout his career as a studio and outdoor photographer. He founded the New York City Audubon Society's photo committee, its annual photo contest, and the Nature Photography course, which he taught until he moved to Florida in 1998. He currently teaches photography and Photoshop at the Crealdé School of Art, Winter Park and Digital Photo Academy, the Panasonic/Lumix nationwide school of photography. He is an Orange Audubon board member and has been involved with the Chertok nature photo contest since 1998.

John Winfree is a native Floridian, long-time Central Florida resident and OAS member, who served during the 80s and 90s as Conservation Chair. He recently moved to South Florida in connection with his nine-year job with The Nature Conservancy, where he serves on the senior staff of the FL Chapter and has conducted land transactions for the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan in the Corkscrew Watershed and Everglades Buffer. More recently John directed the Conservancy's ranchland protection efforts, working with Florida ranchers in the Lake Okeechobee-Kissimmee River Basin to protect family ranches with conservation easements. John, too, was a member of the first/founding Chertok nature photo contest committee.

We are grateful to the 2008 panel of judges for their contributions of time, talent and credentials to the contest; and their dedication to the Orange Audubon Society and to its Chertok Nature Photography Contest.
Teresa Williams, OAS' CNPC Chair

20 Awards Presented During 20th Annual Photo Contest Program

Orange Audubon Society's 20th Annual Chertok Nature Photography Contest (CNPC) dinner program on June 19th had all the winning ingredients: a bounty of delicious foods courtesy of Brandywine's Delicatessen in Winter Park, which provided three main courses, and guests who brought side dishes and desserts; a silent auction featuring a Gitzo tripod donated by contest co-sponsor Colonial Photo & Hobby, Orlando; a full house of 140± attendees; and hundreds of photos entered in the two categories of competition! Contest winners in both categories are presented below by image placement and title, photographer's name and Audubon chapter affiliation or city.

Florida's Avian Wonders: 1st place, *The Chase—Common Moorhens*, Jaime (Jay) Paredes, Tropical Audubon Society; 2nd place, *Sandhill Cranes & Chicks*, Jim Urbach, Seminole Audubon Society; and 3rd place, *Dunlin*, Robert Amoruso, Orange Audubon Society (OAS). Honorable mentions were awarded to: *Black-necked Stilt*, Mike Brinkley, OAS; *Great Egret with Frog*, Kevin Barry, Broward County Audubon Society; *Great Horned Owl*, Diane Chenault, OAS; *Homer & Bart—Black Skimmers*, Paul Rebmann, Halifax River Audubon Society; *Osprey Banking*, Robert Amoruso, OAS; *Sandhill Crane—Mother's Comfort*, Charlie Corbeil, Space Coast Audubon Society and *White-eyed Vireo*, David Williamson, Manatee County Audubon Society.

Florida—Beyond Birds: 1st place, *Heading Out to the Sea—Loggerhead Hatchling*, Paul Rebmann, Halifax River Audubon Society; 2nd place, *Sunrise Slice*, Alison Thomas, West Volusia Audubon Society; and 3rd place, *White-tailed Deer*, Mike Brinkley, OAS. Honorable mentions were awarded to: *Chilly Morning*, Paul Williams, Hudson; *Dragonfly at Sunrise*, Kevin Barry, Broward County Audubon Society; *Foggy Morning Sunrise*, Jack Rogers, OAS; *Green Anole*, David Williamson, Manatee County Audubon Society; *Moss & Oak*, Tony Blankenship, Maitland; *Pig Frog*, Charlie Corbeil, Space Coast Audubon Society and *Sleepy*, Paul Williams, Hudson.

We congratulate the 2008 winners and extend sincere thanks to all participants. By supporting the contest you also support OAS' efforts to protect and preserve Florida's remaining native wildlife and natural places. Please visit OAS' website (www.orangeaudubonfl.org) to view winning images and watch for news about OAS' 2009 contest to be announced soon in the OASis!

Teresa Williams, OAS' CNPC Chair

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Ted Smith (09) 407-249-3969
Randy Snyder (09) 407-851-5416
Pete Vogt (11) 407-855-4122

Calendar of Events

September 6, 2008 - Saturday

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

September 13, 2008 - Saturday

Limited Edition Field Trip - Orlando Wetlands Park
Bob Sanders 407-766-5490

September 13, 2008 - Saturday, 10am-2pm

Central Florida Regional Conservation Committee Meeting, Dixie Crossroads Restaurant, Titusville

September 18, 2008 - Thursday

General Meeting, 7:00pm, Leu Gardens.
OAS Board Meeting takes place prior to the General Meeting at 5:30pm. All welcome.
Bob Stamps 407-886-2925

September 20, 2008 - Saturday

OAS Field Trip - Lake Lotus Park
Mary Keim & Randy Snyder 407-851-5416

September 20, 2008 - Saturday

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

September 20, 2008 - Saturday

Little Big Econ S.F - Joshua Creek Track Bird Survey
Lorne Malo 407-349-2536/407-659-4853(w)

September 27, 2008 - Saturday

Lower Wekiva State Reserve Butterfly Survey.
Mary Keim & Randy Snyder 407-851-5416

September 28, 2008 - Sunday, 9am-11am

Genius Drive Nature Preserve Workday
Teresa Williams 407-644-0796/mwilliams@cfl.r.com

October 4, 2008 - Saturday

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

October 11, 2008 - Saturday

Little Big Econ S.F - Joshua Creek Track Bird Survey
Lorne Malo 407-349-2536/407-659-4853(w)

October 13, 2008 - Saturday

Bird of Prey ID Class #1 - LARA
Bob Sanders 407-766-5490

October 16, 2008 - Thursday

General Meeting, 7:00pm, Leu Gardens.
OAS Board Meeting takes place prior to the General Meeting at 5:30pm. All welcome.
Bob Stamps 407-886-2925

October 18, 2008 - Saturday

OAS Field Trip - Lake Jesup Conservation Area
Mary Keim & Randy Snyder 407-851-5416

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