

## Membership Application

Name:

Organization:

Address:

C/S/Z:

Phone:

Email:

Membership Categories: Please indicate your choice

- Student or Youth - \$5.00  
 Individual - \$10.00       Family - \$25.00  
 Sponsor - \$50.00       Patron - \$125.00

Mail check payable to ONP to Oakland Nature Preserve

The Oakland Nature Preserve, Inc. (ONP) is classified as a public charity under sections 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi) of the Internal Revenue Code. ONP is exempt under section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions to ONP are deductible under section 170 of the Code. ONP is also qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, transfers, or gifts under section 2055, 2106 or 2522 of the Internal Revenue Code. Thank you for your support.

Oakland Nature Preserve, Inc.  
PO Box 841  
Oakland FL 34760-0841

Non-Profit Org  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Winter Garden  
FL 34787  
Permit No. 60008



Autumn 2011

## Letter from the President

At last, the promise of autumn is in the air! We have had a brutal summer, but we still had a lot of people in the Preserve. The Environmental Day Camp, offered for the first time this summer, was a great success, and we already have requests for another one next summer. The After-School Science Club, where students meet one day a week, is full, and it is very rewarding to see these students get enthusiastic about natural and cultural history. Thanks to all of you who have helped with these and other programs.

One of the main reasons so many of us have been willing to work hard to develop the Preserve and its programs is because students no longer get exposed to the natural world. Even many teachers in Florida have not been trained to teach this, and they feel insecure when outdoors with a class. The Education Committee has agreed to continue with teacher training programs to help with this problem. All of us should be concerned--these students are tomorrow's leaders and decision makers, and without sensitivity to the environment, quality of life will suffer.

As part of the cultural history programs, we plan to develop a pioneer garden, reminding students, who think all food comes from supermarkets, that early settlers had to grow or catch what they needed. We want to demonstrate how our ancestors lived 100 years ago. We are even looking for an outhouse!

All this activity takes money. Many of our members have provided financial support and some offer assistance in grant writing, manning booths at public events, and other activities that keep us in the public view. Our managing director has done a great job in developing a realistic budget and keeping us within it, and the Town of Oakland has increased some financial support for our programs.

Our biggest fundraiser every year is the Oakland Heritage Festival, which is scheduled for October 29 at Speer Park. This annual event is a lot of fun, but also a lot of work. I urge every person interested in ONP to help make this project successful and to spread the word about it. Volunteer some time, contribute to the silent auction, sell tickets to the bike raffle for two beautiful bikes, help us find vendors, and plan to spend the day with us.

The restoration of the entire 128-acres, back to what was there 100 years ago, must continue. We recently completed a transitional garden using native plants to show the differences in plant requirements, from very dry to wet. We still have a work party every third Saturday, and we need lots of help. Our restoration committee now meets on Monday mornings, and they always welcome helpers. We are also reviewing the Adopt-A-Plot program where an individual, family, or club can take charge of a plot and restore and maintain it. We will provide all the training you will need, and you will learn a lot about natural Florida!

As the weather cools, I hope each of you will spend time hiking through the Preserve and enjoying the results of all our efforts. Watch for the changes in fall foliage colors--some years it is spectacular! I'll see you out there.

*Jim Thomas*

## Science Saturdays - Exploring Nature at ONP

Oakland Nature Preserve has initiated a new program designed to offer the community an opportunity to learn about a variety of topics on Saturday mornings. The program began on September 24 with the Florida Water: It's Worth Celebrating Festival and will continue every month. All Science Saturdays will be held in the Classroom at ONP from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 unless otherwise advertised. Please plan to attend every month and let us know what you think about the program. Science Saturday programs are free and all are welcome. Mark your calendars and save the date for a few of the programs that have been scheduled:

- **October 22** - World of Bats, presented by Daniel Judy
- **November 19** - Florida Black Bear Presentation, presented by Cathy Connolly
- **December 17** - A Christmas Tree for Critters, Mona Phipps (with lots of helpers)
- **January 28** - A Look at Bird Migration
- **February 25** - Open House, Wildlife Exhibits, Hikes and Fun! 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

- **March** - Birds of Prey with Eagle Lady Doris Mager, date to be announced
- **April 28** - A Look at How Early Settlers Used Their Natural Surrounds, presented by Pat Burkett
- **May 26** - Bees: Buzzing all Around, presented by Christopher Stalder

### The World of Bats - October 22

What better time than October, with the harvest moon and Halloween, to offer a lecture on bats, those strange little creatures that fascinate us with their unusual sleeping habitats and hunting skills. Plan to come out to Oakland Nature Preserve on Saturday, October 22 from 10:00 a.m. until noon to learn all about them.

Senior scientist and bat biologist Daniel Judy will be presenting the lecture. He has been conducting research on bats for nine years in the United States, Costa Rica, and Brazil. His research on bats has been published in scientific journals numerous times, and he continues to be fascinated by them.

The lecture is part of ONP's Science Saturdays and is free to the public. All are welcome.

Educating • Conserving • Restoring

14th Annual

Save the Date



Save the Date

October 29th, 2011 10am - 4pm

The Oakland Nature Preserve, in partnership with the Town of Oakland, is proud to present the 14th annual Oakland Heritage Festival on October 29, 2011, from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at Speer Park in Oakland. The festival will be a fun-filled event for the entire family. Activities include hay rides, local history tours, live music, children's activities, craft and plant vendors, and displays by various community organizations and businesses including a wildlife exhibit and a petting zoo. A highlight of the event will be narrated eco-boat tours of Lake Apopka and great food! The silent auction offers lots of wonderful items this year.

Some of the more noteworthy offerings this year will be the following:

### Lake Apopka Boat Tours

Organizational captain Tom Johnson, who serves on the board of the Friends of Lake Apopka, is putting together a great opportunity for visitors to get out on Lake Apopka and see for themselves the positive impacts St. Johns River Water Management District restoration efforts have had on the lake.

ONP board members Jim Peterson and Paul Ek, who are also staff members with SJRWMD, will be tour guides along with Friends of Lake Apopka president Jim Thomas.

The last few years the informative boat tour on Lake Apopka has been a very popular event at the festival. The price for the tour is \$10 and it has sold out early in past years, so come by the Information Booth and make your reservation early.

### The Silent Auction

Once again the Silent Auction offers an impressive selection of vacation excursions, golf, entertainment, dining, luxury gifts, and services. Come to the Festival, visit the Silent Auction tent, and place your bid for your choice of gifts. All proceeds go to the Oakland Nature Preserve for their ongoing programs. A list of the auction items will be contained on the Oakland Nature Preserve web site, oaklandnaturepreserve.org, and will be updated as we receive new contributions. You can see a preview of some of the Silent Auction items on the back of the flier insert.

### Music, Music, Music

Liz Clark and Tony Wold have out-done themselves this year with a great line-up of diverse music and entertainment that offers something for everyone. Check out a complete schedule on the back of the flier insert.

### The Highwaymen

In 2004, twenty-six individuals were inducted into the Florida Artists Hall of Fame as "Florida Highwaymen." Among them were RL Lewis Jr. and Isaac Knight. For the last two years both of these artists have participated in the AAA Festival in Oakland, and this year they have agreed to attend the Oakland Heritage Festival to help celebrate our cultural history.

The Florida Highwaymen Artists began Florida's contemporary art tradition and are credited for the beginning of the "Indian River School" art movement. They developed their own individual techniques and captured waterscapes, backcountry marshes, and inlets the way they were before recent developments. From the beginning, people collected Florida Highwaymen art and paintings. However, only in recent years has the recognition of their skill and their story caused their paintings to skyrocket in value. Come and watch them paint, learn about their history, and take advantage of the opportunity to take home one of their paintings or a new calendar for 2012.

### Swamp Girl Adventures at Heritage Day

As part of Oakland Heritage Festival on October 29, 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Oakland Nature Preserve will be offering "A Swampin Critter Experience", with Swamp Girl Kim Titterington. Titterington, aka Swamp Girl, is dedicated to educating the public about wildlife, conservation, and the environment. She focuses on critters that can be found right here in Florida in your own back yard. This is her first year to participate in the Oakland Heritage Festival, so drop by to see her and all the little critters she will be bringing along. You can learn about how they exist in the wild and what you should be aware of if you are keeping a wild animal as a pet. You can visit her website at swampgirladventures.org to learn more about the adventure.

### Food Court

In addition to the great hotdogs and hamburgers, the Oakland Nature Preserve cooking team, led by Frank Merritt, will be offering some new menu items this year. Frank is itching to try out some new recipes, so be ready to enjoy something different.

### Pumpkin Carving Contest

Carve a pumpkin at home with the family and bring it to the festival for the Pumpkin Carving Contest. A variety of categories will be available, so get creative and have some fun. This is the first year for this event. Mary Beth Bathke is coordinating.

### Activity Corner

Sponsored by the Oakland Avenue Charter School Parent Teacher Organization and led by Kelli Dinkel, the Activity Corner lives up to its name. An on-going list of things to do has both adults and

children involved. Plan to be part of the costume parade. You are never too old to dress up and join in the fun! See the flier insert for more information.

### Children's Art Show

Art from three of the local elementary schools will be displayed during the festival. The theme of the art will be the environment. The children are excited about their art displayed. The Festival Committee is looking forward to seeing what the kids come up with. Advisor Board Member Lorraine Burch is coordinating this activity.

### Arts and Craft Vendors and Community Service Organizations

We anticipate a large number of Arts and Craft vendors this year, as well as booths representing not-for-profit and community organizations, as many vendors return for another year and ONP welcomes new ones. Seasonal plants and trees will be available at the Plant Sale. A complete listing of these will be found on the web site at oaklandnaturepreserve.org as the date for the Festival draws near. If you are interested in becoming a vendor you can find an information packet complete with application on the ONP website under links, or call 407.905.0054 for additional information.

All proceeds benefit Oakland Nature Preserve, a 501(c) (3) not-for-profit organization. The 128-acre Preserve and facilities have become an important part of West Orange County, and the Oakland Heritage Festival is a major fundraiser for the Preserve.

Join the fun as ONP celebrates the cultural and natural history of central Florida.

### Friends of Lake Apopka Bike Raffle

The Friends of Lake Apopka will be raffling off a pair of Torke Alpentel bikes at the Oakland Heritage Festival, Saturday, Oct. 29, at Speer Park in Oakland.

This brand of bikes is noted for comfort on the trail or riding an off-road bike path. A wide range of 21-speed gearing, front suspension fork, and lightweight alloy wheels make riding a pleasure.

Tickets are being sold for \$1.00 each or 6 tickets for \$5.00. The tickets are on sale at the Oakland Nature Preserve or Town Hall in Oakland and will be available at the Festival. The winner's name will be drawn at the Festival at 3:35 p.m., and the winner does not have to be present to win. Both bikes go to the winning ticket.

The bikes, which are valued at \$850.00, are donated by FOLA and Dennis Jones, owner of Wheel Works in Winter Garden. All proceeds from ticket sales go to Oakland Nature Preserve.

## Interpretive Oak Forest

Oakland Nature Preserve now has nine new large oak trees added to the beginning of the green trail. These trees were purchased from Green Isles Nursery with a donation from the Florida Native Plant Society (FNPS).

During the FNPS conference in May, 2011, attendees were asked to make a \$5.00 donation to help offset the amount of carbon they used in driving to the conference in Orlando from all over the state and for electricity used while in attendance.

The funds were earmarked for the Oakland Nature Preserve to assist in the restoration of the Preserve to its original Sandhill and Scrub ecosystems.

The Preserve opted to purchase these different oak trees, ranging from one gallon to 30 gallon sizes: two bluejack oaks, two myrtle oaks, two turkey oaks, and three chapman oaks. The larger sizes will offset carbon quicker than the smaller sizes. Interpretive signage will be added along the split rail fence so visitors to the Preserve can learn about the different oaks and see how their leaves and bark differ.

## Volunteers: Worth Celebrating!

Oakland Nature Preserve hosted a festival focused on Florida's water resources and the importance of conservation on September 24 at the Preserve. Water - Worth Celebrating, scheduled to be an annual event, was sponsored by the St. Johns River Water Management District, the City of Winter Garden, Town of Oakland, and the Oakland Nature Preserve.

Although 'water' was the word of the day, 'volunteerism' played an important part in the success of the event. Over 60 volunteers did a great job setting up and keeping activities running smoothly. Even the bands donated their time and musical talents. Lucky Mud Music came all the way from the Panhandle to share the day, and the Ashley Gang, whose members are spread out around the state, helped to make it a memorable day for all who attended.

Throughout the Preserve volunteers stayed busy helping, cooking, teaching, and welcoming visitors. For some it was their first time to ONP. Others, especially the group from Dr. Phillips High School led by ONP Board Member Mary Louise Grable, have become familiar faces, and their passion for the Preserve shows in their commitment. Even before the festival began, Cub Scout Pack 978 from Oakland Presbyterian Church were busy cleaning the lakefront at Newton Park in Winter Garden and then planting the lakefront at the dock on Tubbs Street in Oakland. Jim Thomas, ONP Board President, not only volunteered his time to direct those activities, and also provided the plants from Biosphere. **Thank you, volunteers – there would be no ONP without you!**

Visit our website at [www.OaklandNaturePreserve.org](http://www.OaklandNaturePreserve.org). Up-to-date information on activities at the preserve.