



Oakland Nature Preserve, Inc.

PO Box 841 Oakland Florida 34760 Phone 407.905.0054

Autumn 2009

Message from the President

As our programs at ONP expand at a rapid rate and our utilization of the preserve constantly increases, I get a great deal of pleasure from all the activity. Many of our members have been active since the initiation of the preserve and we can be particularly proud of what is happening.

Review of a recent yearly interim report submitted as a requirement of Florida Communities Trust, which provided our first grant to purchase the property, shows how much progress we have really made.

Plant and animal surveys were begun in 1998 and the initial purchase began that year and was completed in 1999. The Amon Pavilion, our first building, was completed in 2001 and the fencing and paved parking areas completed in 2002. The boardwalk was also completed late in 2002, hiking trails expanded in 2006 and finally, our greatest project, the environmental education center was completed and opened in early 2009.

When we acquired the site all the uplands had been cleared 60-80 years before, planted in citrus for many years and then, following the devastating freezes of the 1980's, densely planted with slash pines. The habitat value was very low in the upland because of the monoculture and both wetlands and uplands hosted many species and large populations of exotic and invasive plant species. Many hard-working volunteers have expended a tremendous amount of hard labor removing them and this process is on going. Native species that belong there are beginning to thrive and native wildflower species continue to populate the area. All these processes are being interpreted in our expanding education programs.

Our original intent was to find a spot on Lake Apopka so we could keep the public informed about the decline of this great resource and the massive restoration project. As we saw the value of upland and wetland restoration we realized we had a much bigger story to tell and we also decided we should include the cultural history of the area as well in our programs. This is a classic example of "scope-creep" but we feel it is extremely important.

Our most recent accomplishment was raising enough funds to hire a full-time Director of Education who will be introduced in this newsletter. We now have two full-time staff members: Tom Rodriguez, Executive Director and Clay Ferrara, Director of Education. Working with our active committees, volunteers, Advisory Board and Board of Directors, we will have a fantastic program and a project that will increase in value in future years.

My personal thanks go to everyone who has helped with this project. The fact that this has been accomplished by volunteers is, to me, nothing short of amazing!

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• Volunteers have invested over 17,500
• hours to create and sustain the Oakland
• Nature Preserve.
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Educating • Conserving • Restoring

Oakland Heritage Arts and Crafts Festival

A family oriented event in the heart of the Town of Oakland

Arts & Crafts - Music - Food - Fun for Everyone

Festival Food

In addition to the great hotdogs and hamburgers, the Oakland Nature Preserve cooking team, led by **Frank Merritt**, will be cooking up "North Carolina Style" Barbecue again. The pork shoulders will be slow cooked over oak coals, chopped and served on a bun with optional traditional cold slaw and a choice of sauces.

ONP Food Court

Chili / Dessert Cook-Off

Popcorn - Cotton Candy

Hiawasse Kettle Corn

Gandolpho's NY Deli

Breakfast, salads, gellato, desserts



Arts & Crafts

A Vested Interest

Barbara Gabele - Sewn Items

Cookie Marsden Bead Essentials

FSI Designs

Janet Samosky - Crochet & Knit

Jim Donovan - Pens

JK Sand Art

Megs Gems

Pat Meir Marshmallow Shooters

ONP Plant Sale

That's Sew Nice

Wood Burning Guy



Community Services and Businesses

Oakland Nature Preserve

At last years Festival, guided tours were conducted of our recently finished Environmental Education Center. This facility is now fully operational and will be open from 1 - 4 PM for inspection and personnel will be available to answer any question you may have. Directions to the Preserve can be obtained from the Oakland Nature Preserve or the Information booth.

Annie V's Wholesale

Avalar Real Estate Services

Bethany Christian Services

Central Florida Anthropological Society

Friends of Lake Apopka

Green Mountain Scenic Byway

Oakland Historical Archaeology Project

Oakland History Tour

Town Of Oakland Police Department

Old Time History Quiz

Orange County Property Appraiser

Run for Freedom

Unity Family Chiropractic

Activities for the Younger Set

Children's Art Exhibit

Art from local elementary schools. The environment will be theme of the art this year. Advisor Board Member Lorraine Burch is coordinating this activity.

Kids Corner

Once again the Oakland Avenue Charter School will present the Kids Corner and the activities will include crafts, games, contests and a costume parade. This years venue will be spearheaded by Kathy Dickey.



Hay Rides - Don Duncan and Rotary Club of Winter Garden

Churches

Mosaic Community Church

Oakland Presbyterian Church

Oasis Community Church

West Orange Baptist Church

See our website for the latest listing of vendors and activities.

Last Year's Festival Sponsors

Lake Apopka Sponsors

Jack R. Amon

Wetlands Sponsors

Progress Energy
Tavistock Foundation

Ecotone Sponsors

Health Central

Uplands Sponsors

Bray Ace Hardware, Walter Toole

Oak Hammock Sponsors

ABC Companies
Biosphere Consulting, Inc., Jim Thomas
Castle & Cooke Florida
Friends of Lake Apopka
Greenbriar Landscape

Oakland Heritage Arts and Crafts Festival

Speer Park

October 24, 2009 - 10:00 AM until 4:00 PM

The Oakland Nature Preserve, with cooperation and assistance from the Town of Oakland, is proud to present the 12th annual Oakland Heritage Arts and Crafts Festival on October 24, 2009 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, dessert and chili cook-off contests, children's activities, craft and plant vendors and displays by various community organizations and businesses, and great food! A Highlight of the event will be narrated eco-boat tours of Lake Apopka. There will be music by the Lakeview Middle School Jazz Band. There will also be a Silent Auction with lots of wonderful items, and a Bicycle Raffle.

All proceeds of the boat tours, silent auction and bicycle raffle will go to benefit the Oakland Nature Preserve, a 501(c) (3) not-for-profit organization, whose mission is to promote understanding of the fragile balances among land, water, mankind, and the environment by EDUCATING present and future generations about the natural ecosystems of the Lake Apopka Basin and by RESTORING and CONSERVING the lands within the Preserve.

Lake Apopka Eco-Boat Tours

Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Windermere

To help raise money and awareness of their ongoing support of the Oakland Nature Preserve, the Rotary Club of Windermere has once again agreed to sponsor the annual boat tours on Lake Apopka for the Oakland Heritage, Arts and Crafts Festival. The effort will be headed by Tom Johnson and George Poelker, who serve on both the Rotary and Friends of Lake Apopka boards.

ONP board member Jim Peterson, who works for St. Johns River Water Management District, has arranged for SJRWMD to provide the tour guides.

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

The Silent Auction

The Silent Auction booth again offers an impressive selection of vacation excursions, golf, entertainment, dining, luxury gifts and services. Oakland residents Janet Braden and Sally Pogany will be manning the booth this year with Mona Phipps helping to gather the goodies. 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 Preserves. Take a look at what is lined up so far and check the Preserve website for details and the LATEST additions to the auction.

Keene's Point County Club: Two rounds of golf for two at one of West Orange County's best golf courses (\$600 value)

Mayor Stark's Basket: with 4 Day Passes for Walt Disney World and Oakland goodies (\$400 value)

Biosphere Consulting: Nursery gift basket including gift certificate (\$100 value)

Jacob Davis Productions in Oakland: offers a 1-week stay at a 3/2 beach house on Anna Maria Island. What could be nicer after the long hot summer. This 3 bedroom/2 bath

condo is one block from the beach with access to heated pool (\$1,200 value)

West Orange Times: 1/4 page ad (\$300 value)

Jack's Bar-B-Q on Hwy 27 in Minneola: A whole smoked turkey and 2 gift certificates worth \$25.00/each (\$100 value)

Mike Brinkley Photography: One of Mike's wonderful pictures from the Preserve on Lake Apopka (\$140 value)

Traywicks Garage in Winter Garden : Regular Oil Change/Lube/New oil filter/Top off fluids (\$68.00 value)

Winter Garden Fitness: Gift Certificate for one hour massage (\$70.00 value)

Portrait Innovations: Gift Certificate for portrait package (\$100 value).

All Aspects Dental: Under Armor Performance Mouthware (\$500 value) and Zoom and Bleaching Tray (600 value)

Orange County National Golf Center and Lodge: Gift certificates for rounds of golf (\$440 value)

Bicycle Raffle

Sponsored by the Friends of Lake Apopka

In support of the Preserve, the Friends of Lake Apopka will be raffling off two bicycles at the Oakland Heritage Festival. There will be one drawing for the 2 Unisex Fuji Palisade Bikes. These bikes feature 7-speed Microshift, Sport comfort Saddles and all the bells and whistles. One bike has been donated by WHEELWORKS (cycling@wgwheelworks.com) and the other one has been donated by Friends of Lake Apopka. Tickets are on sale for \$1.00 each or six for \$5.00 and can be purchased from FOLA board members, the Preserve or from the town hall in Oakland. They will also be available all day at the FOLA booth during the festival. The winning name will be drawn at 3:45 PM. The winner does not need to be present to win.

Membership Application

Name:

Organization:

Address:

C/S/Z:

Phone:

Fax:

Email:

Membership Categories: Please indicate your choice

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

Make check payable to ONP and mail 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.
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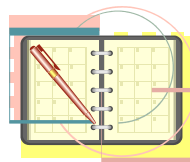
ONP Welcomes Education Director

Introducing Clayton Louis Ferrara

Through the generosity of a substantial education grant from the Winifred Johnson Clive Foundation and a successful fund raising campaign this summer, The Oakland Nature Preserve has been able to hire a full time Director of Education. Clayton Louis Ferrara, a naturalist and graduate of Rollins will head up the curation of the museum, planning of various multi-age educational programs and the establishment of a bimonthly lecture series- all open to the public. Ferrara grew up in Stuart, Florida where a particularly deep affinity for the natural world culminated in a formal education in both Biology and Environmental Studies. He graduated with a Bachelor's degree in May of 2009 and is 22 years old.

In addition to the new educational programs, University of Florida Ph.D candidate and professor, Jason Wenzel, will lead a team of archaeologists on an excavation of the Oakland Nature Preserve to assess the prehistory of the Oakland area and the Central Lakes District in general. Cultural artifacts discovered will be on display at the Education Building. In response to the exciting changes, The Oakland Nature Preserve should be launching an all new website at midnight on September 26th. The address will remain www.oaklandnaturepreserve.org.

Visit our website at
www.oaklandnaturepreserve.org
Up-to-date information on activities at the preserve
Printable color version of the newsletter.



EVENTS TO NOTE

October 3: 9:00 AM - Planting party for the large demonstration habitat garden. Bring gloves, tools and mosquito repellent.

October 10: 9:00 AM - Heritage Festival Committee meeting
10:00 AM - ONP Board of Directors meeting. Visitors welcome
11:30 AM - Killerbees will buzz. Help us kill exotics in a one-hour attack.

October 18: 2:00 PM - Take a Hike - join us for an informal interpreted hike.

October 24: 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM - Heritage Arts and Crafts Festival at Speer Park in Oakland

November 14: 9:00 AM - ONP Board of Directors meeting. Visitors welcome
10:30 AM - Killerbees will buzz. Help us kill exotics in a one-hour attack.

November 22: 2:00 PM - Take a Hike - join us for an informal interpreted hike.