



Oakland Nature Preserve, Inc.

PO Box 841 Oakland Florida 34760 Phone 407.905.0054

Summer 2007

Message from the President

These are exciting times at the Preserve as we move closer to beginning construction of our environmental education building. We have hired a construction manager, made a down payment on our log package and begun trying to plan interiors and work on the programs we want to offer.

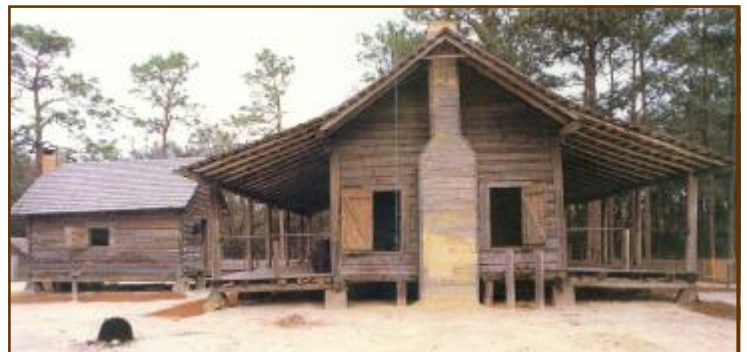
We need help from the community to complete our plans. We do not have enough funding to cover a "turnkey" contract. We now hope to get donations of time and materials to help us reach our goal. We need help with electrical, plumbing, air conditioning and roofing. Please help us find help with these things. This building is going to be a real asset to West Orange County and we want it done right and completed soon!

We have begun our docent-training program and need many more volunteers to help us run this project. We are really looking forward to training people and planning all our programs. We have adopted a new motto for our proposed offerings: "Learning about our Cultural and Natural History". We want to interpret what early life was like in West Orange as well as our natural history. Watch for our scheduled hikes and training sessions and attend if you can.

I'd like every one to consider volunteering to serve on a committee so we don't continue to over-work our Board members. We now have an Advisory Board and they will be sent all notices about meetings and encouraged to attend. We also have a Docent Committee just beginning to learn about how they can help with the Preserve. We plan to schedule a series of meetings and field trips to help us plan and we will have fun at the same time. Call Tom Rodriguez at 407 905-0054 and join one of the many groups !

Jim Thomas

*Concept illustration for
the environmental edu-
cation facility.*



Educating • Conserving • Restoring

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Wildlife Report



keeping an eye on the goal



A troop of **Roseate Spoonbills** patrolling the edge of Lake Apopka looking for a likely spot to have lunch. Photo by Jim Peterson, SJRWMD.

Mike Brinkley took the other photographs on this page and provided the caption for each



Our largest woodpecker, the **Pileated Woodpecker**, can be heard hammering and calling throughout the preserve. Keep an eye out for the young sticking their heads out of a cavity when the parent shows up with food. Some times they will nest in places that can be seen from the boardwalk.

Bald Eagles are nesting in the preserve though the nest can't be seen from the boardwalk. They are seen on occasion gathering nesting materials, perched on a snag, catching a fish or taking it from an Osprey.



The Oakland Nature Preserve has many good parking spots for feeding **Ospreys**. The dead trees near the lake along the boardwalk is a great place to see them come and go with a fish in their grasp.



Great Horned Owls are seen from time to time in the preserve. They are large in size, from 18"-25" high with a wingspan of 36"-60" and weighing from 32-63.5 oz. They generally become active at dusk, but may be seen in late afternoon or early morning. Both male and female may be very aggressive towards intruders when nesting.

Alligators are very active this time of year and they can be seen cruising back and forth, interacting with other alligators whether it be territorial or looking for a mate or searching for food.



Oakland Nature Preserve Membership Application

Name _____
Business/Organization _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Phone / Fax / email _____
Volunteer / Interests _____

- _____ Student or Youth—\$5.00
_____ Individual—\$25.00
_____ Family—\$35.00
_____ Sponsor, Corporation or Organization—\$50.00
_____ Patron—\$100.00

Please mail this form with your check. Your interest in **Oakland Nature Preserve** is vital to the ongoing restoration effort.

Make check payable to: ONP

Mail to: Oakland Nature Preserve
PO Box 841
Oakland, FL 34760

Reasons to Celebrate

It seems hard to imagine, but this year is the **10th Annual Oakland Heritage Festival (OHF)**. For the 4th year, Oakland Nature Preserve's Board of Directors is organizing the event. We have been so blessed with the contributions made by our friends through the years. For this, we say thank you.

The Oakland Heritage Festival is held in the Town of Oakland, in Speer Park, on October 27th. Why am I letting you know about this event this early? As in the past, we are actively seeking sponsors and vendors for the event.

The levels of sponsorships for the 2007 Festival include the following categories:

- Lake Apopka - \$2,500 (1 available)**
Wetlands - \$1,500 (3 available)
Ecotone - \$1,000
Uplands - \$500
Oak Hammock - \$250



The levels of sponsorship provide various levels of advertising throughout the year. The OHF Committee plans to mail out the Sponsor and Vendor packets in June, and the information will be posted on our website - oaklandnaturepreserve.org.

Last year, the Lake Apopka boat tours were a resounding success. Last year we added a 2 hour tour of the lake, that included a guided tour of the restoration activities along the north shore of Lake Apopka. We had to charge a little more for this, but the folks that took the tour said it was well worth the extra cost.

This Festival includes many exciting events including a chili cook-off, live music, hay rides, a silent auction, and a wide variety of vendors, food and games. We look forward to seeing all of you again at the Festival. If you are interested in sponsoring this event or for more information, please contact Darla Miller at darla.miller@mscwinc.com.

Docent Corner

As a member of the Board of Directors, I am proud to announce the development of a Docent program at the Oakland Nature Preserve (ONP). A public meeting was held on May 31, 2007 at the Oakland Town Hall to present the Docent program. We had a very good turn out and several signed up to be Docents. If you missed this event and you want to become a Docent, training sessions to provide you with all the information you need will be available. Please feel free to contact Darla Miller at darla.miller@mscwinc.com or call Tom Rodriguez at 407-905-0054 for more information. We look forward to seeing you.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a Docent? A Docent is a knowledgeable guide, someone who conducts visitors through the ONP and provides information on the activities taking place in the Preserve.

What do Docents do? Docents greet guests as they come into the Preserve and conduct tours along the boardwalk and upland trails. They may assist with building the Docent program - developing programs and materials. Collect and organize the library for the education building.

Who can be a Docent? Anyone with a desire to share their enthusiasm and knowledge about the preserve with others. You need not be an expert ecologist or have prior knowledge of activities on the Preserve. We will provide all the information you need to become an effective Docent.

How much time must I commit? To encourage volunteers, we have a flexible schedule to suit your needs. You may determine the number of hours you work, and the type of tasks you are interested in. We encourage our seasonal residents to volunteer their time too.

Are there other volunteer opportunities? Yes. We are always looking for active Advisors to the Board. Docents may also be members of our Advisory group.

Oakland Heritage Festival

2006 Sponsors

Castle & Cooke

Lake Apopka Sponsor

Represented by Bob Hennen. Developers of **Oakland Park 1844**, a new lakefront community in the city of Winter Garden and the town of Oakland, Florida—just minutes from Orlando, Florida. Oakland Park 1844 will be a beautiful new traditional neighborhood community, planned to feel like a naturally evolving part of the area's history.

Jack Amon

Wetlands Sponsor

Founding Member and Past President
of Oakland Nature Preserve

Progress Energy

Wetlands Sponsor

Represented by Debbie Clements.
Environmental responsibility is a core value
of Progress Energy.

Oakland Nature Preserve, Inc.

PO Box 841

Oakland, FL 34760-0841

Visit our website

www.oaklandnaturepreserve.org

Wildlife Photographs - Information about the Preserve - Coming Soon: Follow construction of the Environmental Education Building



Photo taken at ONP by Tom Rodriguez

Endangered Plant Project is a Success!

When we received word last fall that a group of endangered plant species were about to be paved over, we raced to the rescue. We transplanted them to the Preserve after a recovery period in a greenhouse.

The Pigeon Wing is a type of pea vine that occurs only in a couple of counties in Central Florida and no place else in the world. The literature states that only a couple of attempts to relocate the plants have been successful.

After out-planting to the Preserve, the plants just went down for the winter and we feared the worst. Suddenly this spring they all began to grow and have been in bloom for the past month! Now we hope to be able to propagate them so they are less endangered.

Online References:

<http://www.fws.gov/endangered/i/q/saqa2.html>

http://www.fnai.org/FieldGuide/pdf/Clitoria_fragrans.PDF

<http://www.afn.org/~ese/endang.txt>

Field Trips Scheduled

Guided tours led by Jim Thomas or one of the Docents along the Boardwalk and the uplands trails are scheduled monthly on Sunday afternoons. Our next tour is scheduled for 2:00 PM on Sunday, July 22 so plan to attend. The tours are informative, fun and great exercise!

To learn more about the Docent program and the part you can have in it, contact Tom Rodriguez at 407.904.0054 for the schedule. Everyone is welcome to join this program and learn about the existing and projected programs at the Preserve.



Over 13,000 volunteer hours logged at
Oakland Nature Preserve
and look what the volunteers have accomplished!
Join us Today!