

SOUTH SHORE SKIMMER



NEXT MEETING

Enid Klein

DATE: Tuesday, November 14, 2006
TIME: 7:30 P.M.
PLACE: Freeport Memorial Library
144 W. Merrick Rd. (at S. Ocean Ave.)
SPEAKER: John Brokos
TOPIC: A Showcase of Nature

At our next meeting, frequent SSAS guest John Brokos returns for a slide show of natural photography, showcasing artistic representations of natural settings.

John is a founding member and current president of the Freeport Photography Club. He is a professional nature photographer, with photos published in many places, including in Nikon World magazine and calendar. When he competed in international salon exhibitions, he was ranked #12 in the nature category. You can see some of his work at his website, www.imagesfordecor.com.

Pre-Meeting Program on Birds. Starting at 7 P.M. each month, Scott Oglesby and Jim Remsen expand our birding horizons in the room beyond our coffee-break tables. Topic suggestions for future talks are welcome.

Parking Lots. In addition to the parking lot adjacent to the library, there's a lightly used, well-lit, and fairly close municipal lot on the east side of S. Ocean Ave., on the near (south) side of the Gulf station that borders Sunrise Highway. Also, SSAS has a verbal pledge from neighboring Citibank that cars will no longer be towed from their lot during our meetings, but we can't guarantee this.



IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE WASTE, PLEASE
BRING COFFEE MUGS TO OUR MEETINGS.

SHADE-GROWN COFFEE PROTECTS RAINFORESTS!

OUR E-LIST http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ssas_list

OUR WEB SITE (incl. online store) www.ssaudubon.org

BIRDSEED SALE REMINDER

Last month's *Skimmer* contained our annual birdseed order form and the preordering deadline was October 17, but extra seed will be available on the sale date and probably for a short time afterwards. The sale is on **Sunday, November 5**, from 9 A.M. to 2:30 P.M., in the parking lot of Tackapausha Museum (on Washington Avenue in Seaford, just north of Merrick Road). For information, call or e-mail Michael Sperling at 221-3921 or mssperling@optonline.net, or call the sale's chairperson, Paul Butkerei, at 593-1994.



VOTE YES ON ELECTION DAY!

Michael Spelling

SSAS's board urges our members to vote in favor of the \$100 million Environmental Program bond issue that was approved unanimously by the Nassau County Legislature and will be on our ballots on Election Day.

Much of the money from last year's \$50 million Environmental Program Bond Act has already been spent, with just \$483,442.44 left for open space preservation out of the original \$37.8 million. Of the 15 properties recommended for acquisition by the Bond Act's Advisory Committee, one of the ones yet to be acquired is the four-acre Brooklyn Water Works property, which is immediately south of Brookside Preserve in Freeport/Baldwin and was nominated for preservation by SSAS. The developer who owns the property has been trying for years to finalize plans to build a nursing home or dozens of condominiums on the site.

According to the League of Women Voters of Nassau County's Voters' Guide, the wording of the proposition is as follows:

"In order to preserve open space, natural lands and scenic places, protect drinking water sources, reduce water pollution, remediate brownfield sites, and expand and improve parks, should Local Law No. 10-2006 be added to the Miscellaneous Laws of Nassau County au-

thorizing the issuance of \$100 million in bonds to fund and implement an Environmental Program, to require a vote of thirteen members of the Nassau County Legislature to approve all projects proposed under the Environmental Program and to create a tax and special revenue fund dedicated exclusively to paying off the debt service on the bonds?"

The Voters' Guide includes the following explanation: "The approval of as well as the funding for each of the projects funded by the bonds will become part of the County's Capital Plan upon approval by a super-majority vote of thirteen members of the Nassau County Legislature. The Program is to be funded by the bonds and paid for by an increase of approximately \$16 per household in the County's property tax. The local law also provides that the revenues generated from the increase are to be placed in a Special Revenue Fund, kept separately from other county funds, to be created for this Program and spent only on the debt service associated with the bonds issued. The County Executive is directed to provide an annual report on the Program to the Nassau County Legislature."



We hope you will vote "YES" on Election Day.

Environmental Voting Records of the Candidates.

To learn how your Senators and Congressman/ Congresswoman voted on key bills, go to the League of Conservation Voters' website, www.lcv.org/scorecard. To learn how your State Senator and Assemblyman/ Assemblywoman voted, go to EPL/Environmental Advocates/EPL's site, <http://www.eany.org/capitolwatch/votersguide/votersguide.html>.



The mission of South Shore Audubon Society is to promote environmental education; conduct research pertaining to local bird populations, wildlife, and habitat; and preserve and restore our environment, through responsible activism, for the benefit of both people and wildlife.



SSAS NEEDS A DOT-MATRIX PRINTER KEEPER!

Your *Skimmer's* mailing labels are printed inexpensively on the chapter's vintage 1986 Epson FX-86e dot-matrix tractor-fed impact printer. If your computer is old enough to have a parallel port to connect to this printer (drivers were shipped with Windows 3.1, 95, and NT) and you have a copy of Microsoft Word (we can provide the driver), we need you! Alternatively, we may be able to loan you an old computer along with the printer. We're looking for a volunteer who is willing to spend about two hours printing labels, using the Word file provided by our membership chairperson, Wendy Murbach. If you're available, please e-mail Michael Sperling at mssperling@optonline.net.

BIRD WALKS
Elliott Kulner

All walks start at 9:30 A.M. except for Pelham Bay; no walk if it rains or snows or temperature is below 25°F. Any questions? Call Elliott at 486-7667. Directions and summaries may be found at ssaudubon.org.

- Oct. 29 Norman J. Levy Park and Preserve
- Nov. 5 Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
- Nov. 12 Point Lookout Town Park, S.E. corner
- Nov. 19 Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
- Nov. 26 Pelham Bay *for Owls* [pull over to street on extreme right after going through Throgs Neck Bridge toll (Pennyfield Ave.); meet at 9 A.M.; hiking shoes recommended]
- Dec. 3 Zach's Bay Parking Field #4, N.E. corner
- Dec. 10 Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
- Dec. 17 Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner
- Dec. 24 *Season's Greetings — No Walk*
- Dec. 31 *Happy New Year — No Walk*
- Jan. 7 Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
- Jan. 14 Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner
- Jan. 21 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- Jan. 28 Hempstead Lake State Park (Exit 18, first lot south of Southern State Parkway, south end of lot)
- Feb. 4 Pelham Bay (9 A.M.)



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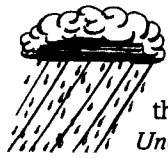
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THE 2006 SUMMER DAY CAMP PROGRAM

Betty Barowsky

It rained for three of the four days in the last week of August this year. We've certainly had rain during the week of our annual scholarship day camp program before, but not for three whole days! The day before camp began, I kept flashing back to the rainy days when my children were small, to the rainy days when I was small, and to the *Uncle Wiggily* children's books from the '40s that were all about what happens on rainy days. It did not bode well.



As it turned out, it didn't matter at all. The 15 children we sent to the Theodore Roosevelt Day Camp this year had a wonderful time.

To remind you all: Every year, the South Shore Audubon Society sends about 15-20 children between the third and sixth grade to one week of summer day camp at the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary and Audubon Center in Oyster Bay. All the children come from families at poverty level, but are considered especially bright by their teachers. South Shore funds the tuition for the children, and the school bus which is necessary to take them from their home school district to camp and back every day. This latter is very important, as most of the parents don't have a car and/or cannot leave work to bring the children to camp.

2006 is the ninth year we've been conducting the program and brings the total number of children we've sent to camp to 135. We offer the program to different school districts on a rotating basis; this year the children were selected from the Hicksville School District.

These are very bright children and, although they may never have been in the woods before, they know a surprisingly great deal about nature from their readings and especially from watching the Discovery Channel. Nevertheless, the children are kept interested and engaged by a variety of activities that the counselors carefully alternate between focused, sedentary activities and games that involve running through the forest or wading through the pond. All the activities have an environmental or a conservation theme, so the children always learn a great deal. This year, one sedentary activity involved dissecting owl pellets to try to figure out what the owls had been eating (and how much). The children loved that. Running activities involved taking on the role of predator or prey, and so forth.

But the highlight of the day comes at the end, just before they are ready to leave. At that time, a live animal is brought out and shown to the children. It might be a giant millipede, a big lizard, or a bird of prey. The counselor first asks the children what the animal is and what they might already know about it; then the counselor tells the children about the animal's habits and life history, and allows them to look at it very closely. They love this. And it is a joy for

us to see how interested the children are and how much they are learning.

As always, we have many people to thank. First, thank you to the Superintendent of the Hicksville schools, Maureen K. Bright, and to Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Marianne Litzman, for encouraging their teachers to select the children. They also took the trouble to contact the parents to find out whether they would be interested or not, and to distribute and collect the application forms.

A very big Thank You to TR's counselors and staff. I especially want to thank Karl Brummert, Director of Education, who arranged to conduct the camp just for our children this year, as the regular camp ended before ours was scheduled.

This year, Alice Blaustein, Wendy Murbach, and Gloria Berkowitz were our chaperones. Special thanks go to Alice, who attended all four days. I also wish to thank Marilyn Hametz, who made many critical phone calls on our behalf.

Last, but not least, I thank the children for their enthusiasm and for their appreciation. This year it came out as "Do we have to go home now?" and "Oh, I wish I could go tomorrow too!" and "Can I go to the winter camp?" Arranging this program takes as much time and effort as having a second job. But, as always, I come away with the renewed desire to provide this experience to as many children as I can.



The earth is breathtakingly beautiful, but, as is becoming increasingly clear, unless we convey this joy in the natural environment to our children, it will not last very long.

This is more than a program for SSAS — it is a commitment to the future of our world.

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