

we heavily use our beaches but at the same time create programs to save the plovers that compete with us for the sand. There are innumerable examples of environmentalists attempting to remedy problems created by us humans.

Tackapausha Museum and Preserve, a natural history museum and wetlands environment, has been impacted by human decisions. Nassau County, in economic receivership, placed under scrutiny by a finance authority (NIFA), has decided to back away from properly maintaining parks in general and Tackapausha in particular. The economy is bad and the environment seems to be the first thing that is abandoned. During the Great Depression of the 1930s, the national government created jobs that helped the environment. The Civilian Conservation Corps



was created to put people to work and create access to the natural environment for our people. Not so today — instead, good people are laid off and the public suffers, as do our parks, preserves, and museums. Where is FDR when we need him?

Citizens of Nassau County, many of them long-standing environmentalists, are now attempting to remedy the problems created by the current recession and the so-far lackluster attempts by government at all levels to solve the crisis. A fellow Nassau County resident and environmental educator recently used the word “apocalypse” to describe the current situation. The Friends of Tackapausha and the South Shore Audubon Society, always a “friend” of this beloved south shore institution, are now confronting this apocalypse.

The South Shore Audubon Society supports efforts to preserve our environment, and to bring environmental education to all of Nassau County, especially to the young. Tackapausha Museum and Preserve has long been key to the realization of these goals in the County, and we call upon our County government to continue full support of this important institution. During the turmoil of the 1930s, our environment and those hardworking people who took care of it received special attention because it was important to do so. We should do the same today!

ENVIRONMENTAL QUOTATIONS

Editor's note: Keeping Tackapausha in mind, I found the following in *A Dictionary of Environmental Quotations* by Barbara K. Rodes and Rice Odell (published by Simon & Schuster, copyright 1992).

“The conservationist’s most important task, if we are to save the earth, is to educate.” — Peter Scott, founder chairman of World Wildlife Fund, quoted in *Sunday Telegraph*, November 6, 1986

“In the end, we conserve only what we love. We will love only what we understand. We will understand only what we are taught.” — Baba Dioum, Senegalese poet

NASSAU COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL HOTLINE 571-6306

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Wendy Murbach

One of the wonderful perks that you get from an Audubon membership is the chance to be a part of your local Audubon chapter, South Shore Audubon Society.

You are automatically a valued member of this active and friendly chapter, so please come out to the next meeting at the Freeport Library from 7:30–9:30 P.M. on the second Tuesday of the month to hear what you can do to help preserve your local environment’s health and viability, to hear about local issues that you can help to solve, and to see an interesting program.

Whether you are a beginning birder or someone with a large life list, you will enjoy our weekly Sunday bird walks. Check out the special events that are mentioned in this *Skimmer*. Attend them yourself, and bring your family and friends too.

You are warmly invited to be an active participant in this vibrant all-volunteer organization comprised of persons who, like you, care about the earth we live on, about our local environment, and about the creatures that live alongside us.

Our new members since the last *Skimmer* are:

- Baldwin Peter Darrigo, Miranda Figueras, Diane Harnes, Catherine E. O’Leary
- Bellmore Vivian Devens, Karolyn Hertzberg, Deborah Tuccio
- Bethpage Rachel Chayka
- East Rockaway Ann Llewellyn
- Floral Park Martha Burnacz
- Hempstead Lela Belanoff
- Lynbrook Harry Sidor
- Massapequa Janet C. Buescher, The Vozzo Family
- Massapequa Park A. Mirtha Rodrigue
- Merrick Suzanne Weinstein
- Rockville Centre Judith Crane, Rosemary Lago
- Valley Stream Bertha Ballou, Jeffrey R. Smith
- Wantagh Kerri Dikun, Maryann Laronga
- Woodmere Melvin Winkler



AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP STATUS (800) 274-4201

Phone: (516) 931-1445
 Fax: (516) 931-1467
 E-Mail: lgk1cpa@aol.com

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COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP TIME

Betsy Gulotta

Thanks again to the much-appreciated support of long-time member Evelyn Bishop, South Shore Audubon Society is offering two \$750 Jerry Bishop Environmental Scholarships this spring to college juniors, seniors, or graduate students who are continuing their studies toward a degree in an area of biological or environmental science, such as wildlife management, forestry, animal behavior, ecology, marine biology, oceanography, mammalogy, or ornithology. Our annual college scholarship program began in 1994 and was named in memory of Jerry two years later. For information, call Betsy Gulotta at 546-8841 or send e-mail to gulotte@ncc.edu. Applications are due by April 30. Please help us spread the word.

PROPOSED COUNTRY POINTE AT PLAINVIEW

Five years ago, SSAS was part of the successful opposition to the proposed Old Plainview development on the largest piece of unprotected open space in Nassau County (over 90 acres of woodlands on a 143-acre parcel). The land is still owned by Charles Wang but the latest proposal comes from the Beechwood Organization, which owns Meadowbrook Pointe in Westbury, Arverne By the Sea in Queens, etc., and would buy the property from Wang. The following positive declaration appeared in the January 25 issue of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's Environmental Notice Bulletin:

The Town Board of the Town of Oyster Bay, as lead agency, has determined that the proposed Country Pointe at Plainview may have a significant adverse impact on the environment and a Draft Environmental Impact Statement must be prepared. The action involves a proposal by the applicant to develop the 143.25 acre subject property with 890 units of multifamily housing and 114,330 square feet of commercial space. The subject premises are situated in Office Building (OB) and R1 1A One-Family Residence districts, and currently contain quasi-municipal, not-for-profit, and recreational uses. In order to accommodate the proposed uses, the applicant has petitioned for rezoning to RMF 16 Multi-Family Residence, RSC 25 Multi-Family Senior Residence, and General Business (GB) districts. Relief from the dimensional requirements of the proposed multifamily zoning districts would be needed with respect to building height, maximum number of units per building, minimum distance between buildings, and minimum garage setback. Approximately 44 acres of the site would be dedicated to the Town of Oyster Bay for park and recreation use. The proposed development plan also requires modification of restrictive covenants which were established when the zoning of a portion of the property was changed to OB district in 1997. The project is located on the southwest corner of the intersection with Old Country Road and Round Swamp Road in Plainview.

NATURE WALK SCHEDULED AT MORTON NWR

John Gaglione

On **Saturday, March 31** from 9 to 11 A.M., SSAS will visit the Morton National Wildlife Refuge. Black-capped Chickadees and Tufted Titmice (pictured) greet visitors year-round along the trail, with the **possibility to hand-feed** these curious resident birds. Black-oil sunflower seeds are a good source of food for these beautiful birds. Northern Cardinals, White-breasted Nuthatches, and Blue Jays make themselves known by song and call, hoping for signs of spring. During spring and fall migrations, warblers and hawks can often be seen. Wood Ducks and Mallards use the freshwater pond we'll pass along the trail.



Established on December 27, 1954 through a donation by the Morton family, the 187-acre Elizabeth A. Morton National Wildlife Refuge boasts exceptionally diverse habitats, including bay beach, a brackish pond, a freshwater pond, kettle holes, tidal flats, saltmarsh, freshwater marsh, shrub, grasslands, maritime oak forest, and red cedar.

Join us! Wear comfortable shoes and bring binoculars to get better views of the wildlife we come across.

Directions: The Refuge's address is 784 Noyack Rd., Sag Harbor, NY 11963; phone number 631-286-0485. There is a small entrance fee (\$4 per car) for all visitors. Take Sunrise Highway (Route 27) to Southampton and turn left onto North Sea Road (County Road 38) toward North Sea for 2.6 miles. Turn right onto Noyac(k) Road and continue for 5 miles. The refuge entrance is on the left.

BIRD WALKS
Steve Schellenger

All walks start at 9:30 A.M.; no walk if it rains or snows or temperature is below 25°F. Any questions? Call Steve at 987-8103. Directions and summaries may be found at ssaudubon.org.

- Feb. 26 Massapequa Lake*
- Mar. 4 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- Mar. 11 Hempstead Lake State Park (Southern State Parkway Exit 18 south, Field #3)
- Mar. 18 Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner
- Mar. 25 Mill Pond Park (Wantagh/Bellmore, north side of Merrick Rd.)
- Apr. 1 Point Lookout Town Park, S.E. corner (and Lido Preserve afterwards)
- Apr. 8 Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)

*For Massapequa Lake (the southern end of Massapequa Preserve), use street parking on westbound side of Merrick Road, west of Lake Shore Blvd.

RARE BIRD ALERT (212) 979-3070

HORSESHOE CRAB MONITORING WORKSHOP

With funding from a grant from Audubon New York, New York City Audubon and Huntington–Oyster Bay Audubon Society will be co-hosting a horseshoe crab monitoring workshop on **Wednesday, April 11** from 7 to 8:30 P.M. The workshop will take place at the Cold Spring Harbor Library and Environmental Center, 95 Harbor Road, Cold Spring Harbor.

New York State’s Department of Environmental Conservation has been systematically monitoring horseshoe crabs at various sites on Long Island for several years and is very keen to have Audubon members participate in this program. NYC Audubon has been coordinating the monitoring in Jamaica Bay for DEC since 2009, as part of its efforts to understand how shorebirds use the bay and to improve stopover habitat there. The workshop will cover all aspects of the monitoring on Long Island, including where additional assistance is needed. Horseshoe crab monitoring starts up in early May and ends in late June or early July.



All participants are asked to register for the workshop to ensure the room setup is appropriate and for catering purposes (a light dinner will be provided). The workshop is open to all Audubon members. Please direct all questions and send your registration information (name, phone number, e-mail address, and the name of your chapter) to John Rowden at New York City Audubon, jrowden@nycaudubon.org, 212-691-7483.

2012 GREEN PLAYBOOK

The 16-page *2012 Green Playbook: Advice from New York State’s Environmental Organizations for the Governor & State Legislature* consists of ten memos, six of which were endorsed by Audubon New York. It’s posted at www.eany.org/images/Reports/greenplaybook_final_web.pdf. Fifteen organizations provided input into the Playbook. The memos’ titles are as follows:

- ① Protect New York from the Dangers of Fracking
- ② Invest in Solar Energy
- ③ Cut Climate-Altering Pollution
- ④ Strengthen the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative
- ⑤ Invest in Public Transit
- ⑥ Rebuild New York’s Environmental Agencies
- ⑦ Restore the Environmental Protection Fund
- ⑧ Reduce Disposable Bag Use
- ⑨ Fix the Brownfield Cleanup Program
- ⑩ Require the Disclosure of Toxic Cleaning Product Ingredients

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

24TH ANNUAL WATERFOWL SURVEY DATES

The remaining dates for our 2011–2012 Waterfowl Survey, rain or shine on Saturdays, are **February 25** and **March 24**. Volunteers are welcome to participate in the surveys. If you are interested in spending a full or half day visiting up to 28 locations from Valley Stream to Massapequa Park, call Joe Grupp, SSAS’s Research Chairperson, at 481-4208. A second team, led by Paul Butkerei, surveys the freshwater ponds in the Five Towns area.

SWS Garage Door Service Co.

43 Mackey Ave.
Port Washington, NY 11050
(516) 627-0600
Fax (516) 627-8504
SWSGARAGEDOORS@GMAIL.COM

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EARLY SPRING BIRD MIGRATION HIKE AT JAMAICA BAY REFUGE (March 31, 10 A.M. to 1 P.M.). We’ll look for great egret, laughing gull, American oystercatcher, phoebe, osprey, more. Leader: Don Riepe. Free (with NYC Audubon). Contact Don.

SHORELINE CLEANUP AT PLUMB BEACH, BROOKLYN AND DUBOS POINT, QUEENS (Earth Day — Sun. April 22, 10 A.M. to 1 P.M.). Contact Don for details. Groups welcome.

SPRING MIGRATION BIRD WALK AT JAMAICA BAY REFUGE (April 28, 10 A.M. to 1 P.M.). Hike around refuge trails to look for migrating warblers, orioles, tanagers, and many other species. Leader: Don Riepe (with NYC Audubon).

HORSESHOE CRABS & RED KNOTS (May 20, 8:30–11 A.M.). Meet at the Jamaica Bay Refuge visitor center. Hike along shoreline to view horseshoe crabs and shorebirds. Leaders: Mickey Cohen & Don Riepe. Free. Contact Don for reservation.

JAMAICA BAY SUNSET CRUISES (May 27 and June 17, 5–8 P.M.). Leave from Sheephead Bay, Brooklyn for narrated tour aboard the “Golden Sunshine.” Learn about the history, ecology, wildlife & management of the refuge; see egrets, herons, osprey, peregrine falcon, terns, shorebirds, and waterfowl. Cost: \$55 incl. wine & cheese, fruit, drink, snacks.

For information and free field trip brochure, call/write Don Riepe, (718) 318-9344, donriepe@gmail.com, 28 West 9th Road, Broad Channel, NY 11693; www.alsnyc.org.

