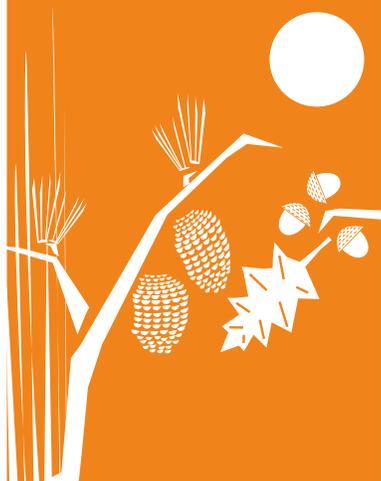


PROTECTORS OF PINE OAK WOODS



STATEN ISLAND'S LAND CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION

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FALL 2004

To Be Bulldozed To Extinction — A Globally Rare Species, Two State Rare Ecological Communities And An Endangered Phenomenon

THE GLOBALLY RARE SPECIES IS TORREY'S MOUNTAIN MINT. The two state rare, ecological habitats are the Sweet Gum, Red Maple swamp community and the Post Oak-Black Jack Oak barrens community (found globally only on Staten Island). The endangered phenomenon is a blight-resistant, reproducing population of American Chestnut trees. Honest! Live American Chestnut trees with chestnuts.

Yes, we are writing about the Kreischer Hill site in Charleston. Elsewhere in this Protectors' Bulletin are the informative communications we received on the Kreischer Hill site. We hope you will read all the material to realize what an environmental tragedy the developers have planned.

The plaintiffs in the suit to stop the Charleston Retail Center are David Burg of WildMetro, Brad Sewell of Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), Carolyn Summers, formerly of NRDC and Richard Lynch of Sweetbay Magnolia Bioreserve Conservancy, Inc. The plaintiffs are being represented pro bono by Harry Zerlin, Esq. of the law firm of Debevoise and Plimpton, NY. Protectors was not a plaintiff in the suit, though we worked closely with those in the suit by offering affidavits, visiting the site, participating in nature walks open to the public and informing Protectors members with our bulletin. Burg, Summers and Lynch have been Protectors good friends for decades, Sewell is a new friend and we thank all involved for caring so much about Staten Island and its biota.

David Burg will be our main speaker at our November 4 semiannual meeting at the SI Zoo. Carolyn Summers was a most valuable advisor and mentor in our suit to stop the destruction of the forest of Bloomingdale Park. She has also addressed Protectors on environmental matters at past meetings. Richard Lynch is Staten Island's most valuable botanist, having discovered large numbers of rare plant species here, including the Torrey's Mountain Mint, in the last several decades. Richard formed a Conservancy to protect the Sweet Bay Magnolia Bioreserve with its rare species, written a

(continued on page 2)

FREE
ADMISSION

**PROTECTORS OF PINE OAK WOODS
FALL MEMBERS MEETING
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4 ♦ STATEN ISLAND ZOO
6:30-9:30 PM, ADMISSION FREE**

STATEN ISLAND FLORA: A HERITAGE UNDER SIEGE

- 6:30:** Refreshments and registration
(there will also be a 15-min. break during the program)
- 7:30:** Slide show: Staten Island Flora—An appreciation of an historical bounty
—Dick Buegler
- 8:30:** Our Heritage Under Siege:
 - ♦ In-depth analysis of Kreischer development plans and impacts on Staten Island Flora
—David Burg, WildMetro
- 9:15:** Closing remarks and raffle

Call 447-2220 for more information

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TO BE BULLDOZED TO EXTINCTION

(continued from page 1)

beautiful book on Staten Island Rare Plants that many of you have received as a gift from Protectors and has been a reliable resource of information about Staten Island native plants.

The most recent (early October) news on their suit against the development is that the court has ruled not in their favor but for the developers. Though an appeal of the court decision may be submitted, the developer may, by the time of your reading, have already proceeded to destroy the 130 acre site for the Charleston Retail Center.

The attorney for the city argued that the plaintiffs were from Manhattan (Burg), from Westchester (Summers) and from the eastern section of Staten Island (Lynch lives in St. George), not any from the community where the mall is to be built. Big joke! There is no community at the site. No one even lives at or near the site. The attorney for the developer told the judge, "We are anxious to proceed with a development that will be fabulous for Staten Island." What a pity they never realized how fabulous were the rare plants, the rare ecological habitats and the blight resistant American Chestnut. I can't wait to see what nonnative, fabulous exotics they import to "beautify" their development.

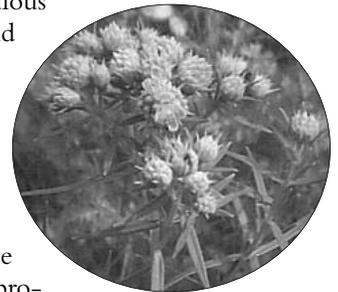
I wager that not one of the developers, planners or even attorneys for the retail center have anything to do with Staten Island other than developing, much less live here or support Protectors' three decades long environmental effort to preserve and protect more natural areas for a healthier and more beautiful Staten Island. They are, unfortunately, involved for financial gain, with planning and overseeing the natural area destruction. Imagine, outsiders, with no roots in the community, labeling the volunteer preservationists as outsiders in front of a justice of the peace.

No homes, stores or even sidewalks are in the area and very few streets exist within at least half a mile of the site. There are, however, only a few commercial/industrial properties as well as the two major intersecting parkways and the Outerbridge Crossing Plaza. There is no community other than Tottenville a mile south and Charleston, a mile north. But yet there are all the natural, healthy, even rare plants and plant communities there.

Protectors will continue visits to the Charleston site to educate Staten Islanders and other visitors of the ecological value of these many acres. Our next site visit will be at the end of our next Clay Pit Ponds State Park Preserve walk Sunday, November 14, 1 to 3:30 PM. Clay Pit Ponds State Park Preserve is another part of the same rare ecosystem that is to be destroyed but important due to its own biological significance and preserved by Protectors efforts in the early 1970's. The Charleston Retail Center walk will meet at the entrance to Clay Pit Ponds State Park Preserve at 3:30 PM, then proceed by car about one mile and a quarter to the intersection of Veterans' Road West and Tyrellan Avenue. We need only half an hour to visit the perimeter of the site. It may well be too muddy to enter very far if work has progressed. The Torrey's Mountain Mint is alongside Veteran's Road West, temporarily protected by metal fencing. The American Chestnut grove is easily accessible nearby over packed road bed.

We really appreciated the Borough President's offer to grow the Mountain Mint in his office. He doesn't realize, however, that there are at least several dozen specimens of this NY State rare plant, along with at least eight other NY State rare species in sizable numbers needing growing sites and loving care. Of the close to 1600 different plant species recorded by botanists in 1879 and 1930, we have fewer than 900 left at present. We have lost close to half (50%) of our native American botanical heritage on Staten Island. There are also a dozen

Torrey's Mountain Mint



Daniel Reed—www.2bnthwild.com

(continued on page 8)

Thursday, November 4

Protectors Fall Semi-Annual Meeting—6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Staten Island Zoo Auditorium, Broadway entrance. The Kreischer Hill Rare Plant Site. Presentation of plaintiff David Burg of WildMetro with slides of Torrey's Mountain Mint and healthy American Chestnut trees. Meet Protectors' Board and many other fellow members and guests. Slide presentation, refreshments and raffle of a treasured Bernard Paul bird wood carving. Call (718) 447-2220 for more details.

Saturday, November 6

Mt. Loretto Unique Area—2:00 to 4:00 p.m. A two hour tour of meadows, bluff, woodlands and wetlands. Walk a leisurely two miles with naturalist, science educator and expert field scientist Ray Matarazzo, Assistant Science Curator S.I. Museum. Youngsters and adults find his presentation fascinating. He knows the plants and wildlife he will show you. Meet in the parking lot on Hylan Blvd. opposite Kenny Road. Phone (718) 761-7496 for more information. Mt. Loretto Unique Area walks are sponsored by the NYC Environmental Fund.

Saturday, November 13

Forest Restoration Workshop—Buck's Hollow in the Greenbelt. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Meet at the entry road to the Eger Home at the intersection of Manor Road and Rockland Avenue. We will walk the quarter mile down the trail to our working location at the crossing of the Blue and White Trails. Gloves, plants, tools and refreshments provided. We may plant additional shrubs and trees, check on our Elderberry and American Elm plantings as well as remove all the new invasive vegetation. Call Dick Buegler for more information at (718) 761-7496.

Mt. Loretto Unique Area—1:00 to 3:00 p.m. A two hour tour of meadows, bluff, woodlands and wetlands. Walk a leisurely two miles with naturalist, science educator and expert birder, Howie Fischer. Youngsters & adults find his presentations fascinating. He knows the plants and wildlife well, especially the birds. Meet in the parking lot on Hylan Blvd. opposite Kenny Road. Phone (718) 981-4002 for more information.

Sunday, November 14

Clay Pit Ponds State Park/Preserve—Wildflowers, Trees and Wildlife. 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Find out why Protectors urged the preservation of this parkland and how we got our name in 1975. It has Pine Barrens, rare southern "pine and oak" trees, fence lizards, and a few rather unusual wildflowers, not like our Greenbelt forest. We'll check in sand and mud for

deer prints in the park. Last Fall was our first S.I. deer, spotted by a young girl. We will also check on the status of two reproducing American chestnut trees. Meet at the park office at the end of Carlin Ave. off Sharrott's Rd. in Rossville. Call Dick Buegler (718)761-7496 for information. Co-leader, Hillel Lofaso (718)447-2220.

Mt. Loretto Unique Area—1:00 to 3:00 p.m. A two hour tour of meadows, bluff, woodlands and wetlands. Walk a leisurely two miles with naturalist, science educator and expert field scientist Ed Johnson, Science Curator S.I. Museum. Youngsters find his presentation fascinating. He knows the plants and wildlife well. Meet in the parking lot on Hylan Blvd. opposite Kenny Road. Phone (718) 761-7496 for more information.

Wednesday, November 17

Executive Board Mtg—7:30 to 10:00 p.m. 80 Mann Avenue

Saturday, November 20

Mt. Loretto Unique Area—9:00 to 11:00 a.m. A two hour tour of meadows, bluff, woodlands and wetlands. Walk a leisurely two miles with naturalist, science educator and expert birder, Howie Fischer. Youngsters find his presentations fascinating. He knows the plants and wildlife, especially the birds he will show you. Meet in the parking lot on Hylan Blvd. opposite Kenny Road. Phone (718) 981-4002 for more information.

Friday, November 26— Frosty, Beaver Full Moon

Sunset Moonrise Walk at Mt Moses—4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sunset is at 4:32 p.m. and moonrise is 17 minutes earlier at 4:15 p.m. It takes another 20 minutes to rise above the hills of High Rock. Meet at the entry road to Eger Home at intersection of Rockland and Meisner Avenues. Bring a light refreshment to share with others and a flashlight for each person in your group. Please dress warmly. The walk is barely fifteen minutes each way. On the way to the intersection see the hundreds of shrubs, trees and wildflowers that DEP planted in the flood control system that has worked well so far in heavy rains. Call Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496 for more information.

Saturday, December 4

Mt. Loretto Unique Area—2:00 to 4:00 p.m. A two hour tour of meadows, bluff, woodlands and wetlands. Walk a leisurely two miles with naturalist, science educator and expert field scientist Ray Matarazzo, Assistant Science Curator S.I.

Museum. Youngsters and adults find his presentation fascinating. He knows the plants and wildlife he will show you. Meet in the parking lot on Hylan Blvd. opposite Kenny Road. Phone (718) 761-7496 for more information.

Sunday, December 5

Mt. Loretto Unique Area—10 a.m. to 12 noon. A two hour tour of meadows, bluff, woodlands and wetlands. Walk a leisurely two miles with naturalist, science educator and expert field scientist Ed Johnson, Science Curator S.I Museum. Youngsters and adults find his presentation fascinating. He knows the plants and wildlife he will show you. Meet in the parking lot on Hylan Blvd. opposite Kenny Road. Phone (718) 761-7496 for more information.

Saturday, December 11

Mt. Loretto Unique Area—9:00 to 11:00 a.m. A two hour tour of meadows, bluff, woodlands and wetlands. Walk a leisurely two miles with naturalist, science educator and expert birder, Howie Fischer. Youngsters and adults find his presentations fascinating. He knows the plants and wildlife, especially the birds he will show you in this morning walk. Meet in the parking lot on Hylan Blvd. opposite Kenny Road. Phone (718) 981-4002 for more information.

Forest Restoration Workshop—Southwest Latourette, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Meet at St Andrews Parking lot. We will want to check on all our numerous planting sites along Old Mill Road and along the upper trail. We will free many plants from the invasive honeysuckle and bittersweet that kill our plantings if not controlled. Gloves, plants, tools and refreshments provided. We may plant additional shrubs and trees. Call Dick Buegler for more information at (718) 761-7496.

Wednesday, December 15

Protectors Board Meeting—7:30 to 10 p.m. The Art Lab Snug Harbor. Come see us planning. Important decisions are often made at the meeting. Refreshments. For more information, phone Dick Buegler (718)761-7496 or any board member.

Saturday, December 18

Discover the new Greenbelt Visitors' Center and Latourette Park trails—10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Meet at the Visitors' Center on Rockland Avenue at the end of Brielle Ave. It is hidden in the woods. We'll walk 3 to 4 miles through woods rarely visited. Bring a light lunch and beverage. For more information, call Dick Buegler at (718) 761-7496.

Sunday, December 19

The Best of the Blue Trail: From High Rock to the Overlook—Join Hillel Lofaso on this walk from High Rock to take in the vista from the Overlook. 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Meet at the High Rock Park parking lot at the top of Nevada Avenue. We go in all but extreme weather. Bring beverage and lunch. Call Hillel Lofaso at 447-2220 for more information.

Sunday, December 26 Long Night Full Moon

Sunset Moonrise Walk at Mt Moses— 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sunset is at 4:36 p.m. and moonrise is 12 minutes earlier at 4:24 p.m. It takes another 20 minutes to rise above the hills of High Rock. Meet at the entry road to Eger Home at intersection of Rockland and Meisner Avenues. Bring a light refreshment to share with others and a flashlight for each person in your group. Please dress very warmly. The walk is barely fifteen minutes each way. On the way to the intersection see the hundreds of shrubs, trees and wildflowers that DEP planted in the flood control system that has worked well so far in heavy rains. Call Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496 for more information.

Saturday, January 1, 2005

15th Annual Environmentalists' New Year's Day Walk—Great Kills Park to Crooke's Point. 12 noon to 2:00 p.m. Protectors of Pine Oak Woods and Natural Resources Protective Association are your hosts. Take a two hour leisurely stroll of the beach at Gateway National Recreation Area with members of other environmental groups. We expect several dozen walkers. All are encouraged to join and share in their past successes and goals for the year 2005. Many like to bring a treat to share with others, Meet at 12 noon at the main entrance parking area off Hylan Blvd. across from Buffalo Street. From there we will car pool to the last beach house and walk the half mile to the point to celebrate. For more information, phone Dick Buegler(718)761-7496 or Jim Scarcella (718)987-6037.

Wednesday, January 5

Executive Board Mtg.—7:30 to 10 p.m. 80 Mann Avenue

Saturday, January 8

Forest Restoration Workshop—Greta Moulton and Old Homesite at High Rock. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Meet in the Nevada Avenue Parking lot at High Rock. If you are late, walk to the first bend of the entry road and follow the yellow trail to the green trail to our working location. Gloves, plants, tools and refreshments provided. We may plant additional shrubs and trees, check on our Highbush Cranberry plantings as well as remove all the new invasive vegetation. Call Dick Buegler for more information at (718) 761-7496.

Sunday, January 9

Explore Heyerdahl Hill in Buck's Hollow—Hillel Lofaso leads a roundtrip walk from High Rock Park to the serpentine barrens of Heyerdahl Hill with a stop at Moses Mountain. Meet at the Nevada Ave. parking lot to High Rock Park, 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. We go in all but extreme weather. Bring beverage and lunc. Call 447-2220 for more information.

Sunday, January 16

Mt. Loretto Unique Area—9:00 to 11:00 a.m. A two hour tour of meadows, bluff, woodlands and wetlands. Walk a leisurely two miles with naturalist, science educator and expert birder, Howie Fischer. Youngsters and adults find his presentations fascinating. He knows the plants and wildlife, especially the birds he will show you in this morning walk. Meet in the parking lot on Hylan Blvd. opposite Kenny Road. Phone (718) 981-4002 for more information.

Wednesday, January 19

Protectors Board Meeting—7:30 to 10 p.m. The Art Lab Snug Harbor. Come see us planning. Important decisions are often made at the meeting. Refreshments. For more information, Phone Dick Buegler (718)761-7496 or any board member.

Saturday, January 22

Annual Winter Ten Mile Walk of the SI Greenbelt—9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Meet at the bridge leading to the Clove Lakes Café. Bring lunch and beverage and sturdy walking shoes. We go in all weather but walk shortened if high pollution levels occur. Come see what the winter woodland has to offer; winter birds, bare forest trees, frozen ponds and possibly some snow cover to detect deer visits and always beautiful vistas. Call Dick Buegler (718)761-7496 for more information.

Tuesday, January 25—Full Moon After Yule

Sunset Moonrise Walk at Mt Moses—4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sunset is at 5:06 p.m. and moonrise is 10 minutes later at 5:16 p.m. It takes another 20 minutes to rise above the hills of High Rock. Meet at the entry road to Eger Home at intersection of Rockland and Meisner Avenues. Bring a light refreshment to share with others and a flashlight for each person in your group. Be sure to bundle up the children. The walk is barely fifteen minutes each way. On the way to the intersection see the hundreds of shrubs, trees and wildflowers that DEP planted in the flood control system that has worked well so far in heavy rains. Call Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496 for more information.

Saturday, January 29

Mt. Loretto Unique Area—2:00 to 4:00 p.m. A two hour tour of meadows, bluff, woodlands and wetlands. Walk a leisurely two miles with naturalist, science educator and expert field scientist Ray Matarazzo, Assistant Science Curator S.I Museum. Youngsters and adults find his presentation fascinating. He knows the plants and wildlife he will show you. Meet in the parking lot on Hylan Blvd. opposite Kenny Road. Phone (718) 761-7496 for more information.

Sunday, January 30

Mt Loretto Unique Area—10 a.m. to 12 noon. A two hour tour of meadows, bluff, woodlands and wetlands. Walk a leisurely two miles with naturalist, science educator and expert field scientist Ed Johnson, Science Curator S.I Museum. Youngsters and adults find his presentation fascinating. He knows the plants and wildlife he will show you. Meet in the parking lot on Hylan Blvd. opposite Kenny Road. Phone (718) 761-7496 for more information.

Saturday, February 12

Forest Restoration Workshop—High Rock from Nevada Avenue to Hour Glass Pond 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Meet in the Nevada Avenue Parking lot at High Rock. If you are late, walk along the Loosetrife Swamp and take the right trail to Hour Glass Pond. Gloves, plants, tools and refreshments provided. We may plant a few additional shrubs and trees, check on our Highbush Cranberry plantings as well as remove all the new invasive vegetation. Call Dick Buegler for more information at (718) 761-7496.

Wednesday Feb 23— Snow, Hunger or Wolf Full Moon

Sunset Moonrise Walk at Mt Moses—5:10 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Sunset is at 5:41 p.m. and moonrise is 27 minutes earlier at 5:14 p.m, shortly after we meet. It takes another 20 minutes to rise above the hills of High Rock so we'll have to go promptly up Mt. Moses to see the moonrise occur. Meet at the entry road to Eger Home at intersection of Rockland and Meisner Avenues. Bring a light refreshment to share with others and a flashlight for each person in your group. Please dress warmly. The walk is barely fifteen minutes each way. On the way to the intersection see the hundreds of shrubs, trees and wildflowers that DEP planted in the flood control system that has worked well so far in heavy rains. Call Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496 for more information.

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KREISCHER HILL RARE PLANT COMMUNITY

By Helen Forgione, Botanist

THE CITY-OWNED 130-ACRE parcel of undeveloped land in Staten Island historically known as Kreischer Hill is proposed for development as the “Charleston Retail Center.” (*Metro Forest Council News* (Vol. 7 No. 1)). As implied by the name, most of Kreischer Hill is upland, with a small, narrow New York State DEC-mapped wetland in the northeastern portion. The wetland includes a feeder stream of Mill Creek that drains part of Clay Pit Pond Park.

The natural area from Bloomingdale Road south to Richmond Valley including Clay Pit Ponds and Kreischer Hill is unique in New York State with its combination of diverse surficial geology and topography in the southernmost part of the state. This has resulted in diverse habitats with a high number of rare species and ecological communities that survive in a highly developed landscape. It has a fascinating history of land use that was essential to the development of this part of Staten Island. It has endured many impacts, especially the construction of super highways, but it has recovered to the point of preserving the organisms and natural history of this important ecosystem.

According to Steve Young, Program Botanist of the New York Natural Heritage Program, the Clay Pit Ponds/Kreischer Hill area has the highest number (14) of rare species and ecological communities of any site between the Hudson Highlands and Suffolk County. It has the highest number of rare elements in Richmond County and New York City. For reference, in the New York City area, Jamaica Bay is second with 13, Gateway/Rockaway is third with 12, and Pelham Bay is fourth with 10 elements.

This area has the highest quality example of only eight red maple-sweetgum swamps in the state. In addition, New York Natural Heritage ecologists classified a new natural community type, post oak-blackjack oak barrens, during recent surveys at Clay Pit Ponds. More recently, it was also found at Kreischer Hill. This community is known in New York only on Staten

Island. This is the first recognition of this natural community type anywhere in North America, and its description is being incorporated into the National Vegetation Classification System, the federal standard for vegetation classification, and is the only post oak-blackjack oak barrens in New York.

Kreischer Hill’s forest communities include a blight-resistant, reproducing population of American chestnut trees. It is astonishing that these trees have survived at the very epicenter of the blight’s introduction. Yet, not only are they surviving, they are producing viable seeds and saplings. American chestnut has no formal protected status because stump sprouts are relatively common. But a reproducing population such as the one at Kreischer Hill must be considered an “endangered phenom-

enon,” because of its extreme rarity and valuable genetic material, especially in a northern location. Such trees and their offspring are vitally important to the ongoing efforts to breed blight-resistant trees and restore this keystone species to its rightful place throughout eastern forests.

But it is the occurrence of the globally-endangered plant, Torrey’s Mountain Mint (*Pycnanthemum torrei*); on the site that makes the preservation of Kreischer Hill such a priority. Not only is this New York City’s rarest plant, it is endangered with extinction throughout its range, with only about 20 colonies known today in the entire world. Compared with many of the plants on the Federal endangered species list, Torrey’s Mountain Mint is much rarer.

There are an additional eight rare plants that once grew here and have not been seen since the late 1800s and early 1900s. Many of them may still be found with more intensive plant searches,

POPULAR, SUCCESSFUL MT. LORETTO WALKS OF DISCOVERY

BY THE TIME YOU RECEIVE this bulletin, all 20 previously scheduled 2004 Mt Loretto walks will have been held. In attendance were over two hundred Protectors members and friends, led by six different naturalists from early morning through late evening; from late spring, through all of summer into late autumn; all enjoyed the meadows, woodlands, fresh water wetlands, tidal wetlands, and seashore of the Unique Area of Mt Loretto.

We studied wildflowers, invasive weeds, butterflies, birds, insect larvae, spider webs, dragonflies and anything else of natural interest in an unrehearsed program with leader and participants in a walk of discovery. Some groups kept finding new things, others had to search or be shown, but all participated in their examination of Mt Loretto. Many will remember the fabulous view of the lower bay and Sandy Hook from the bluff, or discovering the trail to the beach or the small pond nestled against the retreat house hill with its early morning herons, frogs and wetland fall wildflowers at the edge.

I’ll always remember the big, fat green Io moth caterpillar (*Automeris io*), with

clusters of stinging spines along its body and a thin horizontal red and white stripe along both sides. There was also the group of a hundred Green Darners, a migrating dragonfly hovering over the site of the girls’ dormitory. We didn’t complain about the lack of migrating Monarchs. One group was fascinated by a black and yellow striped orb weaving spider (*Argiope*) munching on some large insect while hanging out in its own orb web.

In order to understand and appreciate seasonal changes, Protectors has decided to continue the walk series into January with another ten walks led by three top naturalists who will be listed in the calendar (they are briefly listed here). We hope to see you on all of them.

Sat., Nov. 6: 2-4 PM, Ray Matarazzo
Sat., Nov. 13: 1-3 PM, Howie Fischer
Sun., Nov. 14: 1-3 PM, Ed Johnson
Sat., Nov. 20: 9-11 AM, Howie Fischer
Sat., Dec. 4: 2-4 PM, Ray Matarazzo
Sun., Dec. 5: 10-12 AM, Ed Johnson
Sat., Dec. 11: 9-11 AM, Howie Fischer
Sun., Jan. 16: 9-11 AM, Howie Fischer
Sat., Jan. 29: 2-4 PM, Ray Matarazzo
Sun., Jan. 30: 10-12 N, Ed Johnson

—Dick Buegler

especially in the undeveloped area south of the state park. There are two rare plants here that can be seen nowhere else in New York (short-leaf pine, *Pinus echinata* and hawthorne, *Crataegus uniflora*). The rare hawthorne was found after a 90-year absence from the flora of the state.

Clay Pit Ponds/Kreischer Hill Rare Plants:

- Crataegus iniflora*
- Eupatorium hyssopifolium* var. *laciniatum*
- Hypericum hypericoides* ssp. *multicaule*
- Juncus scirpoides*
- Lespedeza stuevei*
- Quercus phellos*
- Pinus echinata*
- Pinus virginiana*
- Pycnanthemum torrei*
- Sabatia angularis*
- Viburnum nudum* var. *nudum*
- Eleocharis ovata*
- Strophostyles umbellate*

Clay Pit Ponds/Kreischer Hill Historical Rare Plants:

- Euonymus americana*
- Euphorbia ipecacuanhae*
- Helonias bullata*
- Lechea pulchella* var. *moniliformis*
- Sabatia dodecandra* var. *dodecandra*
- Smilax pseudochina*

Symphotrichum (Aster) concolor
Viola primulifolia

Kreischer Hill is on the list of sites to be preserved by the Harbor Estuary Program, The New York State Open Space Advisory Committee and the Harbor Herons Region, New York Audubon, and the Trust for Public Land. Kreischer Hill is also included as part of a "Willow Oak/Hybrid Oak Biological Reserve" proposed by Richard Lynch, a botanist specializing in rare plants of Staten Island, since its sandy soils are also within the historic range of a number of rare hybrid oaks.

Kreischer Hill is owned by New York City's Economic Development Corporation and is bounded by Veterans' Road West on the south and east, Englewood Avenue on the north and Arthur Kill Road and privately held land to the west. The eastern portion of the parcel is bounded by Clay Pit State Park Preserve to the north, with which it shares a common border. Kreischer Hill is, in fact, an ecological extension of Clay Pit State Park Preserve. It would be tragic to allow poorly planned development to fragment this intact biologically diverse landscape.



NEW MEMBERS: Marielle Anzelone, Donald Blair, Robert Foster, Robert Harris, Greg & Linda Hauck, Sandra Mechanic, Bob Nogueira, Larry & Pat Ronaldson, Sylviane Russo, Laura Schwanof (EEA Inc.), Christina Sorrentino

PATRONS: Marion Briggin, Mr. & Mrs. Allen Cohen, Steven Glasser & Lila Levey, Dr. Catherine Lavender & Warrick Bell, Enid Mitchell, Michael & Louise Petosa, Robert Schweikert & Arlene Spence

CONTRIBUTING: Marielle Anzelone, Mr. & Mrs. Elias Arout, Harriet & Al Efron, Robert Harris, Diana Nakeeb, John & Lynn Seirup, William Shea, Edward S. Smith, Dolores Stirtan

ORGANIZATION: SE Annadale Woodlands Assn.

PROTECTORS DEFENSE FUND: John Ciambriello, John Gelles, Bruce Gillam (Life member), Mr. & Mrs. John Grandinetti, Gerald Hall, Patrice Jordan, Tom Kealy, Constance Quanci, Alice Santimays

SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS:

- Beryl Miller, in celebration of the birthday of daughter-in-law Sharon Seitz
- Jeanne Swadosh, In Memory of her father, Sidney B. Swadosh
- The JP Morgan Chase Foundation in recognition of the environmental work of Adriano Chinellato

Note: If you know how to make mailing labels from databases, and would like to help Protectors, please contact me. Thanks!

— Sylvia Zaage (sylhz@earthlink.net)

CLIP AND MAIL

PROTECTORS OF PINE OAK WOODS



STATEN ISLAND'S LAND CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION

ARE YOU A MEMBER? HAVE YOU RENEWED?

YES, I WANT TO HELP STATEN ISLAND'S FINEST REMAINING NATURAL AREAS AND SEE THE GREENBELT PROTECTED.

Please enroll me as a member in the following category:

- NEW RENEWAL
- \$ 5.00...Student
- \$ 5.00...Senior Citizen
- \$ 10.00...Individual
- \$ 15.00...Family
- \$ 25.00...Organizational
- \$ 25.00...Contributing (includes free lapel pin)*
- \$ 50.00...Patron (includes 2 lapel pins)*
- \$100.00...Donor (includes 2 lapel pins)*
- \$100.00 & Up...Corporate (includes 2 lapel pins)*
- \$250 & Up...Protector
- \$500 & Up...Lifetime member
- \$ 3.50...Lapel Pin, mailed to me
- *Please help us defray costs. Check here *only* if you would like to receive lapel pins.

Already a member? Please use this form to continue to generously support Protectors' Defense Fund or other projects.

Enclosed is an additional donation of \$ _____ to defray special expenses for

Protectors' Defense Fund (\$500 or more earns lifetime membership)

Other (specify) _____

CAN YOUR EMPLOYER OFFER MATCHING GRANTS?

NAME(Mr./Mrs./Ms.) _____

ADDRESS _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE () _____ E-mail address _____

Phone me. I want to volunteer my help: _____

Mail to: Sylvia Zaage 160 Simonson Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10303

To Be Bulldozed to Extinction

(continued from page 2)

mature, reproducing American chestnut trees we would like someone to find a loving home for.

We can't apologize for having taken so long to let Staten Islanders know which rare plants are fortunately still here but it takes a lifetime to get to know only a small portion of our rich natural heritage. There are only a few people on the Island who can identify most wild plants. We need more botanists like Richard Lynch to tell us what is still here so we can blow the whistle on potential species exterminations. Can there be anything un-American about saving America's natural plant heritage? We welcome all to attend our meetings and join us on our frequent outdoor ventures. Walks are open to all, even children with adults. Our activities certainly make it more interesting and worthwhile living on Staten Island.

Be sure to come to our Thursday November 4 semiannual meeting at the SI Zoo, 6:30 to 9:30 PM to hear further developments on the suit, see slides of the plants and to help us plan Staten Island's future with delicious refreshments and delightful company.

—Dick Buegler

**If you received a letter saying
"We miss you" —
We do hope to hear from you soon!**

DO YOU HAVE E-MAIL?

If we have your e-mail address you are already a member of Protectors' new **e-mail network**.

You will be kept informed about exciting events like the Sunset/Full-Moon walks on Moses Mountain, as well as fast breaking news concerning Protectors Persuaders, and much more!

If you're not in the Network yet, just send me your name and e-mail address at sylhz@earthlink.net.

Interested in leading a nature walk?

Join us on any of our walks and talk to the leader.

Take notes, and volunteer to lead a future walk.

MEMBERS, PLEASE CHECK THE MAILING LABEL. IF YOU DON'T SEE 2005 OR LIFE, YOUR MEMBERSHIP HAS EXPIRED. PLEASE, RENEW TODAY!

**PROTECTORS SEMI-ANNUAL
FALL MEETING
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4,
6:30-9:30 P.M., S.I. ZOO**

**STATEN ISLANDS
LAND CONSERVATION
ORGANIZATION**



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