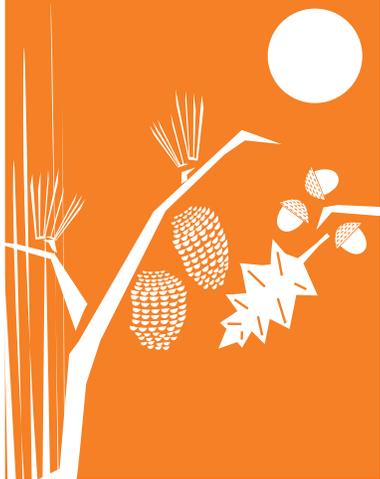


PROTECTOR'S OF PINE OAK WOODS



STATEN ISLAND'S LAND CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION

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TO THE CALENDAR

FALL 2005

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Eco-POLITICS

ECOPOLITICS IS A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER of the New York League of Conservation Voters (NYLCV) and its Education Fund (NYLCVEF). Five years ago, in November 2000, NYLCV recognized Protectors of Pine Oak Woods with its Visionary Waterfront Award, "in Recognition of its Contribution to the Habitat Conservation and Preservation on the New York City Waterfront." Protectors President and a number of other officers were in attendance at that very special occasion. We will showcase that plaque at our October semiannual meeting at the Greenbelt Nature Center.

NYLCV researches, surveys and interviews political candidates to find out who will provide the leadership needed to improve the environment. A pre-election report card is issued on candidates for local Staten Island, NY City, NY State and Federal positions. That report card is widely distributed and is available on www.nylcv.org. The best candidates for the environment earn NYLCV's endorsement. Many legislators vie for this recognition (the good guys) although there are some who survive with miserably low environmental ratings and make no attempt to work towards raising their environmental scores.

This President's Letter is devoted to brief excerpts from the most recent NYLCV newsletter.

The New York City Council

Five City Council members recently sponsored five separate bills aimed at reducing air pollution by modernizing the 1991 laws. The new legislation requires city diesel trucks and buses to use the best available emission-control technology and cleaner ultra-low-sulfur diesel fuel. It includes a recommendation to substitute electricity powered vehicles for those presently using gasoline for vehicles that travel a limited distance in a day. Staten Island Councilman Michael McMahon was one of

(continued on page 2)



PROTECTOR'S OF PINE OAK WOODS FALL MEMBERS MEETING

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26
GREENBELT NATURE CENTER
700 ROCKLAND AVE (AT BRIELLE AVE),
6:30 P.M.-9 P.M., FREE ADMISSION**

**CANDIDATES' FORUM:
STATEN ISLAND'S ENVIRONMENT**

**DEPT. OF CITY PLANNING PRESENTATION
ON THE FUTURE 2,200-ACRE
FRESH KILLS PARK**

6:30: Refreshments and registration
7:15: Introductions and Announcements
7:30: Special Program: Candidate's
Presentation and Discussion;
Goodhue Update
8:30: Fresh Kills Park Presentation
9:00: Closing remarks and raffle

Call 447-2220 for more information.
Consider car-pooling to this event as parking is limited.

GOODHUE WOODS

IT'S THE ONLY SIZEABLE natural area on the entire North Shore. It's Goodhue, the Children's Aid Society's 32-acre mature woodland, with steep slopes, a wooded ravine, streams and boat pond at the mouth of a valley. It's up for sale and could be developed as housing. (Join us at Goodhue on the Oct. 9 or Dec. 4 walks—see Calendar.)

There's already impressive SI political support for saving the woodland. Learn more at our Fall Members Meeting.

FRESH KILLS PARK

THE CITY OF NEW YORK, led by the Department of City Planning, has begun a master planning process for the now-closed Fresh Kills Landfill that will guide the site's evolution over the next thirty years. Fresh Kills, at 2,200 acres, is almost three times the size of Central Park. Come learn more at our Fall Members Meeting.

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Eco-POLITICS (continued from page 1)

the five sponsoring Council members. Once implemented, this legislation will mean the reduction of particulate matter. Particulate matter and nitrogen oxide irritate lung tissue, trigger asthma attacks, and cause heart attacks and premature death. Once implemented, this legislation will mean significant air-quality improvements for city residents and will help lessen associated health and environmental concerns.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg

The Mayor was recognized for leadership in seven major environmental areas. He introduced the Smoke Free Air Act which proposed to eliminate tobacco smoke from indoor environments. Passage of this legislation resulted in a 11% decline in NYC smokers between 2002 and 2003 and an estimated 30,000 fewer smoking related deaths according to NYLCV. He reached an agreement with the State government to construct the Croton Water Filtration Plant bringing NYC into compliance with the federal Safe Drinking Water Act. He also purchased more than 27,500 additional undeveloped acres of upstate watershed land.

His Solid Waste Management Plan shifts the city's truck based system to one more reliant on rail and barge transport. This shift not only eliminates more than 6 million miles of intracity truck trips every year but improves the quality of our air, reducing both noxious odors and traffic congestion.

Mayor Bloomberg entered into a 20-year contract with Hugo Neu Corporation that will reduce the cost of recycling wastes in half, building a waterfront plant allowing materials to be transported into and out of the facility by barge, further reducing truck transport of waste in the city.

During his tenure, the city acquired 260 acres of park including improved green space on the South Shore of Staten Island.

Mayor Bloomberg created the Energy Policy Task Force to assess NYC's projected energy needs through 2008. That task force has developed 28 strategies to meet those needs through conservation, new sources of energy, delivery infrastructures, and expansion of city agency initiatives.

He also created the Task Force on Sustainability which helps with and coordinates the integration of sustainable practices into city government. Protectors had tried to initiate a Sustainable Staten Island Committee, holding many meetings several years ago. Is it time for us to reawaken that effort?

New York State

On the state level, neither the Assembly nor the Senate had major environmental accomplishments. One of NYLCV's top legislative priorities, the Clean Water Protection/Flood Prevention Act (The Wetlands Bill) remained stalled due to the objections of Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno, despite its strong support throughout the state. Bruno states that wetlands have all the protection they need, thwarting the Assembly's, the Senate's and the Governor's intent.

The Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) had its budget of \$125 million happily increased by another \$25 million. The EPF has been funding many of our Protectors activities, including the hiring of additional nature walk leaders, the purchase of trees and shrubs for restoration projects and the purchase of additional park acres such as Mt Loretto and St Francis properties. Governor Pataki can be thanked for that budget increase.

A settlement was reached between State Attorney General Eliot Spitzer and the two dirtiest power plants in NY State, with emission reductions that will not kick in fully until 2013, although the settlement requires the largest cuts to be made in the next 12 months. The terms of the agreement require the Huntley Power Plant in Tonawanda, near Niagara Falls, and the Dunkirk Power Plant along Lake Erie to reduce their sulfur dioxide emissions by 87% and nitrogen oxide emissions by 81% over the next 8 years. That drastic reduction should have very positive effects as far away as New York City. The reductions are equivalent to removing 2.5 million cars from New York roadways.

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FREE NATURE WALKS TO POND AND PARK FOR CHILDREN AND PARENTS

WITH EXPERIENCED NATURALISTS—ALL ON STATEN ISLAND!

NOTE: THE SYMBOL (♦) INDICATES THIS WALK RECEIVED FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM THE NYC ENVIRONMENTAL FUND.

Sunday, October 2, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

♦ Migrating Sparrows at Mt Loretto—Come join Seth Wollney for a walk through the fields at Mt. Loretto. This is the time of year sparrows are on the move, and we will be focusing on finding and learning about the species that pass through Staten Island. We will also be stopping by the ponds to check for any waterfowl. Bring your binoculars and spotting scopes. Meet in Mt Loretto Parking Lot at Kenny Rd and Hylan Blvd across from the CYO. Call Seth at (718) 619-5905 or Protectors (718) 761-7496 for more information.

Sunday, October 2, 9:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m

Monarch Butterfly Walk, Great Kills—This is the annual 6-mile walk to Crooke's Point. Meet at the auto entrance to Gateway National Park, opposite Buffalo Street where the 78 bus from the ferry stops. Count butterflies feeding on the goldenrods and asters. Meet the Nancy Lincoln killer plant, close relative to favorite plants. Enjoy your bagged lunch and beverage at the shore. Feel free to leave and return to the starting point when you wish. We will lunch sitting on the sandy beach looking out on Great Kills Harbor, Sandy Hook and the NY Lower Bay while looking for harbor seals. Call Dick Buegler at (718) 761-7496 for more information.

Sunday, October 2, 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

♦ First of Five Butterfly/Bird migration Walks at Blue Heron Park—A one-mile stroll from the Blue Heron Nature Center to its newly designed Butterfly Pond led by expert naturalist Cliff Hagen. This begins the early fall study of butterfly populations and migration of the Monarch Butterfly and many migrating birds. Your counts and observations may serve as annual records of these species at the park. Return here in the winter to see how different it is. Meet outside the visitors' center on Poillon Avenue. Would you believe this is a man-made pond and landscape? For more information phone Cliff at (718) 227-8839 or Protectors at (718) 761-7496.

Saturday, October 8, 9 a.m to 11 a.m.

♦ Early Fall Migrating Birds at Mt. Loretto—Join Howie Fischer, expert birder, in welcoming all the various meadow sparrows back from their summer breeding vacation far north. We are always surprised by a wide variety of common and not-so-common birds including hawks and water fowl. Walk is worth it for the fresh breezes and glorious vistas of the meadows and lower bay. Meet in the Mt Loretto parking lot on Hylan Blvd. opposite the CYO at Mt Loretto. Bring binoculars and light refreshment. For more information phone Howie at (718) 981-4002 or Protectors at (718) 761-7496.



Saturday, October 8, 9 a.m to 11 a.m.

♦ Goodhue Woods—Leisurely stroll through the Goodhue Woods in search of migratory birds and insects with naturalist Cliff Hagen. Meet at the front gate at the corner of Prospect and Clinton Aves. For more information phone Cliff at (718) 227-8839.

Saturday, October 8, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

♦ Forest Restoration Workshop—High Rock from Nevada Avenue to Hour Glass—Meet in the Nevada Avenue Parking lot at High Rock. If you are late, walk along the Loosestrife Swamp and take the right trail towards Hour Glass Pond. Gloves, plants, tools and refreshments are provided. We will plant many additional shrubs, check on our Highbush Cranberry plantings as well as remove all the new invasive vegetation. Tools, as well as shrubs and trees, are provided by a grant from the NY Environmental Fund. Call Dick Buegler at (718) 761-7496 for more information.



Saturday October 8, 10 a.m. to 12 noon

♦ Long Pond, Tottenville's newest Pond Park—Enjoy a one-to-two-mile tour of the woodlands, ponds and wetlands in the Long Pond Park area. Take a leisurely two-hour stroll with naturalist, science educator and columnist, Clay Wollney. Share Clay's reminiscences of his childhood roaming this area and learn of its natural history, the seasonal changes and the succession of habitats that has occurred over the years. Meet at PS 6, on Page Avenue, about 3 blocks NW of Hylan Blvd. at 10 a.m. Phone Dick Buegler at (718) 761-7496 or phone Clay Wollney at (718)303-7825.

Sunday, October 9, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

♦ Nature's Symphonies at Great Kills Park—Today is the first of a four-month series of bird walks—every second Sunday through January—to observe the park's seasonally changing habitats and fluctuating bird life. Enjoy avian behaviors, sounds, and field marks while appreciating the park's stunning 575 acres, which include woods, fields, beaches, cliffs, ponds, a tidal marsh, bay and harbor. Early October is a fun time for late warbler, flycatcher, and swallow migrants. It's also good for sparrows. Think they look alike? Look closer. You'll be amazed by sparrows' subtle beauty and charming behaviors. Meet in the parking area off Hylan Blvd., opposite Buffalo Street. Dress in layers. Reservations required for walk to occur. To reserve, e-mail Arleen O'Brien at birdjoy@att.net, or call (917) 502-8826.

Sunday, October 9, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Graniteville Quarry—Noted geologist and CSI professor Dr. Alan Benimoff leads a walk through Graniteville Quarry. Learn the astonishing facts about the rocks that make up this site and why Staten Island has become world famous among geologists. Meet on Forest Avenue between Van Name and Simonson Avenues. Call Hillel Lofaso at (718) 447-2220 for more information.

Sunday, October 9, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Staten Island's Newest Wildflower Garden —See this creation of the NYC DEP who also constructed the lovely pond at the foot of Lighthouse Hill. We will walk around the pond and nearby trails to discover butterflies, frogs and dozens of recently planted native flowering trees, shrubs, grasses and wildflowers at the intersection of Manor Road and Rockland Avenue. We will encourage you to return on your own

to experience the seasonal changes. Park at the foot of the roadway leading up to Eger Home. For more information, phone Dick Buegler at (718) 761-7496.

Sunday, October 16, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Short Walk to Mt Moses and Back—Total three miles at a gentle pace. Meet near the back entrance to Susan Wagner High School on Manor Road. See the end of the summer and fall flowers from the great view at the top of Mt. Moses. Call Dick Buegler at (718) 761-7496 for more information.

Sunday, Oct. 16, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

◆ Beach Life in the Intertidal Zone at Conference House Beach—We'll begin by beachcombing the high tide line to see what nature's debris has to tell us. As the tide goes out, we'll move into the intertidal zone to see what living things survive in this challenging, but rewarding, habitat. A variety of crabs, snails, clams, worms and small fish are likely to be discovered. It's going to be muddy so dress appropriately. Meet at the Conference House parking lot. For more information phone Dick Buegler at (718) 761-7496 or Clay Wollney at (718) 303-7825.



Sunday, October 16, 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

◆ Second Butterfly/Bird migration Walk at Blue Heron Park—a one-mile stroll from the Blue Heron Nature Center to its newly designed Butterfly Pond led by expert naturalist Cliff Hagen. We may find that butterfly populations are smaller but more migrating birds appear. Ask Cliff what was seen two weeks ago. Your counts and observations may serve as annual records of these species at the park. Come back in one, three and five weeks to see nature's changes. Meet outside the visitors' center on Poillon Avenue. We will also evaluate the effectiveness of the wetland management efforts of NYC DEP with its Butterfly Pond. For more information phone Cliff at (718) 227-8839 or Protectors at (718) 761-7496.

Monday, October 17, Hunter's Full Moon, 5:45 p.m. to 7:15 p.m.

Sunset Moonrise Walk at Mt Moses—Sunset is at 6:13 p.m. and moonrise is 3 minutes later at 6:16 p.m., but it takes an additional 20 minutes to rise above the High Rock hill. Meet at the entry road to Eger Nursing Home at intersection of Rockland and Meisner Aves. (at Manor Rd). Bring a light refreshment to share with others and a flashlight for each person in your group. The walk is barely fifteen minutes each way. Call Dick Buegler at (718) 761-7496 for more information.

Saturday, October 22, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

◆ Mt Loretto: Close-up Photography—Meet in the Mt Loretto parking lot opposite the CYO center on Hylan Blvd. Join Sandra Mechanic, photographer of those two beautiful color pictures of the ragged fringed orchid in the Staten Island Advance this past August. She will display a large number of close-ups, many of which magnify the flower or insect chosen, and demonstrate with Protectors' digital camera how it was all done. For more information phone Sandra at (718) 967-6685 or Protectors at (718) 761-7496.

Saturday, October 22, 10 a.m. to noon

Brisk Nature Walk with Views—Chuck Perry leads this 3-4 mile, faster-paced walk for seasoned walkers, from the Greenbelt Nature Center, up Mt. Moses and down to DEP's wildflower garden and pond at Meisner and Rockland, before

returning. Bring beverage and wear appropriate shoes. Park and meet at the Greenbelt Nature Center at Brielle and Rockland Avenues. For more information, phone Chuck Perry at (718) 667-1393.

Sunday, October 23, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

◆ Conference House Park, Birding in the Fall—Join Seth Wollney for a walk through the Conference House woods and learn about some of the late migrants and winter bird visitors to our south shore. Meet at the parking lot at the end of Hylan Blvd. For more information call Seth at (718) 619-5905 or Protectors at (718)761-7496.

Sunday, October 23, Forest Restoration Workshop, 10 a.m. to 12 noon

◆ Egberville Ravine and the Meisner Ave. Dam—Meet at the entry road to the Eger Home at the intersection of Meisner and Rockland Ave. (at Manor Rd). We will free many plants from the invasive honeysuckle and bittersweet that kill our plantings if not controlled. Gloves, plants, tools and refreshments provided. Our Staten Island politicians and their families have been invited to participate. Come and get to know how green your government is! Call Dick Buegler for more information at (718) 761-7496.

Sunday, October 23, 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

◆ Third Butterfly/Bird migration Walk at Blue Heron Park—A one-mile stroll from the Blue Heron Nature Center to its newly designed Butterfly Pond led by expert naturalist Cliff Hagen. This continues the study of butterfly and bird migrations. Ask or guess what was seen in the two previous walks and what will happen two and four weeks from today. Meet outside the visitors' center on Poillon Avenue. Were you aware that this is a man-made pond, beautifully landscaped with native plants? For more information phone Cliff at (718) 227-8839 or Protectors at (718) 761-7496.

Wednesday, October 26, 6:30 p.m. 9:00 p.m.

Protectors Fall Members Meeting CANDIDATES' FORUM: THE STATEN ISLAND ENVIRONMENT—In the new Greenbelt Nature Center on Rockland Avenue, at the intersection of Brielle Avenue. Meet Protectors' Board and many other fellow members and guests. Special slide presentation by NYC Dept. of City Planning on the future Fresh Kills Park. Refreshments and raffle of a treasured Bernard Paul bird wood carving. Call Hillel Lofaso at (718) 447-2220 or Dick Buegler at (718) 761-7496 for more details.

Saturday, October 29, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

◆ Mid-Fall Migrating Birds at Mt. Loretto—Join Howie Fischer, expert birder, in welcoming all the migrating songbirds, as well as hawks and large numbers of waterfowl floating in the nearby bay. Walk is worth it for the fresh breezes and glorious vistas of the meadows with perhaps a few monarch butterflies still migrating south. Meet in the Mt Loretto parking lot on Hylan Blvd. opposite the CYO at Mt Loretto. Bring binoculars and a light refreshment. For more information phone Howie at (718) 981-4002 or Protectors at (718) 761-7496.

Saturday, October 29, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

29th Annual Fall 10 Mile Walk of the SI Greenbelt—Meet at the bridge leading to the Clove Lakes Café. Bring lunch and beverage and sturdy walking shoes.

Come meet others who enjoy a day outdoors. We go in all weather, but walk is shortened if high pollution levels occur. Our pace could be considered a comfortable one. Come see the fall colors at their peak while there is still some green for contrast. Call Dick Buegler at (718) 761-7496 for more information.

Sunday, October 30, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Red, White and Blue Trails: Crossroads of the Greenbelt—Early-fall loop walk through Heyerdahl Hill and Buck's Hollow, with a stop at the Greenbelt Nature Center. Meet at the entry road to the Eger Home at the intersection of Manor Road and Rockland Avenue. We will spend the morning here, then you are welcome to join Dick Buegler for the 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. walk "Staten Island's Newest Wildflower Garden." Bring a lunch and beverage for a full day outdoors. For more information, phone Hillel Lofaso at (718) 447-2220.

Sunday, October 30, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Staten Island's Newest Wildflower Garden—See this creation of the NYC DEP who also constructed the lovely pond at the foot of Lighthouse Hill. Discover butterflies, frogs and dozens of recently planted native flowering trees, shrubs, grasses and wildflowers at the intersection of Manor Road and Rockland Ave. Park at the foot of the roadway leading up to Eger Home. For more information phone Dick Buegler at (718) 761-7496.

Saturday, November 5, 10 a.m. to 12 noon

◆ Long Pond, Tottenville's newest Pond Park—Enjoy a one-to-two-mile tour of the woodlands, ponds and wetlands in the Long Pond Park area. Take a leisurely two-hour stroll with naturalist, science educator and columnist, Clay Wollney. Share Clay's reminiscences of his childhood roaming this area and learn of its natural history, the seasonal changes and the succession of habitats that has occurred over the years. Meet at PS 6, on Page Avenue, about 3 blocks NW of Hylan Blvd. at 10 a.m. Phone Dick Buegler at (718) 761-7496 or phone Clay Wollney at (718) 303-7825.

Sunday, November 6, 12:30 p.m. to 3 p.m.

The Ancient Forest Trees of Wolfe's Pond Park—Meet at the far right corner of the parking lot at the end of Cornelia Avenue, near the rest rooms. In an easy two miles, large numbers of trees 200 to 300 years old will be examined in Staten Island's most ancient forest. Walk up a short hill and view the broad flood plain forest of this major Bluebelt stream below us and discover an old beech tree forest near the top. Call Hillel Lofaso (718) 447-2220 for more information.

Sunday, November 6, 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

◆ Fourth Butterfly/Bird migration Walk at Blue Heron Park—A one-mile stroll from the Blue Heron Nature Center to its newly designed Butterfly Pond led by expert naturalist Cliff Hagen. This continues the study of butterfly and bird migrations. Ask what was seen in the three previous walks and what will happen two and four weeks from today. Meet outside the visitors' center on Poillon Avenue. Were you aware that this is a man-made pond, beautifully landscaped with native plants? For more details phone Cliff at (718) 227-8839 or Protectors at (718) 761-7496.

Saturday, November 12, Forest Restoration Workshop, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

◆ Buck's Hollow in the Greenbelt—Meet at the entry road to the Eger Home at

the intersection of Manor Road and Rockland Avenue. We 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 will plant additional shrubs under the dying Norway maples, 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.

Saturday, November 12, 10 a.m. to 12 noon

◆ Beach Life in the Intertidal Zone at Conference House Beach—We'll begin by beachcombing the high tide line to see what nature's debris has to tell us. As the tide goes out, we'll move into the intertidal zone to see what living things survive in this challenging but rewarding habitat. A variety of crabs, snails, clams, worms and small fish are likely to be discovered. It's going to be muddy so dress appropriately. Meet at the Conference House parking lot. For more information phone Dick Buegler at (718) 761-7496 or Clay Wollney at (718)303-7825.

Sunday, November 13, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

◆ Nature's Symphonies at Great Kills Park—Today is the second of a four-month series of bird walks—every second Sunday through January—to observe the park's seasonally changing habitats and fluctuating bird life. Enjoy avian behaviors, sounds, and field marks while appreciating the park's stunning 575 acres, which include woods, fields, beaches, cliffs, ponds, a tidal marsh, bay and harbor. November is ripe for loquacious Brant and the diving antics of Horned Grebes. It's also a good time to enjoy residential darlings such as titmice, woodpeckers, and nuthatches. Meet at the Education Field Station located across Great Kills Harbor (past the Rangers' Field Station). Dress in layers. Reservations required for walk to occur. To reserve, e-mail Arleen O'Brien at birdjoy@att.net, or call (917) 502-8826.

Sunday, November 13, 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Clay Pit Ponds State Park/Preserve, Wildflowers, Trees and Wildlife—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 including cranberry, not at all like our SI Greenbelt forest. We'll check in the sand and mud for deer prints in the park. Fall 2003 was our first S.I. deer, spotted by a young girl, Harry Madden's daughter. We will also check on the status of two reproducing, but diseased American chestnut trees and a 10 inch diameter healthy chestnut tree. Meet at the park office at the end of Carlin Ave. off Sharrott's Rd. in Rossville. Call Dick Buegler at (718) 761-7496 for information. Co-leader, Hillel Lofaso (718) 447-2220.

Wednesday November 16— Frosty, Beaver Full Moon, 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Sunset Moonrise Walk at Mt Moses—Sunset is at 4:38 p.m. and moonrise is 10 minutes later at 4:48 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 Ave. (at Manor Rd). 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, grasses and wildflowers that DEP planted in the flood control system that has worked well so far in heavy rains. They've created a beautiful wetland habitat. Call Dick Buegler at (718) 761-7496 for more information.





Saturday, November 19, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Staten Island's Newest Wildflower Garden — See this creation of the NYC DEP who also constructed the lovely pond at the foot of Lighthouse Hill. Butterflies, frogs and dozens of recently planted native flowering trees, shrubs, grasses and wildflowers at the intersection of Manor Road and Rockland Avenue. We will encourage you to return on your own to experience the seasonal changes. Park at the foot of the roadway leading up to Eger Home. For more information phone Dick Buegler at (718) 761-7496 .

Sunday, November 20, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

♦ Late Fall Migrating birds at Mt. Loretto—Join Howie Fischer, expert birder, in welcoming all the migrating winter songbirds, including juncos, finches and nuthatches as well as large numbers of various migrating duck species floating in the bay just below the bluff from which we view. Walk is worth it for the fresh breezes and glorious vistas of the newly mowed meadows where the two resident deer have been grazing. Perhaps they will find a safe overwintering habitat at Mt Loretto. Meet in the Mt Loretto parking lot on Hylan Blvd. opposite the CYO at Mt Loretto. Bring binoculars and light refreshment. For more information phone Howie at (718) 981-4002 or Protectors at (718) 761-7496.

Sunday, November 20, 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

♦ Fifth and last Butterfly/Bird migration Walk at Blue Heron Park—a one-mile stroll from the Blue Heron Nature Center to its newly designed Butterfly Pond led by expert naturalist Cliff Hagen. Are the birds and butterflies still migrating? How long is the migration period? Ask what was seen in the four previous walks and what will happen two and four weeks from today. Is the pond and its plants as beautiful as it was months ago? Were you aware that this is a man-made pond, beautifully landscaped with native plants? Meet at the visitors' center on Poillon Avenue. For more information phone Cliff at (718) 227-8839 or Protectors at (718) 761-7496.

Sunday, November 27, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

♦ Gateway National Recreation Area Croke's Point Waterfowl Walk—The waterfowl are on the move! Come and join Seth Wollney on a search for exciting ducks, and grebes in the Raritan Bay, and the Great Kills Harbor. A walk at this time of year can produce such beauties as Long-tailed Duck, and Scoters, and little cuties such as Buffleheads. Dress warmly and bring binoculars!! Meet at the last parking lot before the Croke's Point dirt road. We will walk the quarter mile to the tip end. Call Seth at (718) 619-5905 or Protectors at (718) 761-7496 for more information.

Saturday, December 3, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

♦ Late Fall Migrating birds at High Rock in the Greenbelt—Join Howie Fischer, expert birder, in welcoming all the wintering woodland songbirds, including juncos, woodpeckers, finches and nuthatches as well as two inland duck species, the ring-necked and the wood duck. The pleasant woodland stroll is worth it for the peace and solitude of our Greenbelt. Meet in the High Rock parking lot on Nevada Ave. Bring binoculars and light refreshment. For more information phone Howie at (718) 981-4002 or Protectors at (718) 761-7496.

Saturday, December 3, 10 a.m. to 12 noon

♦ Long Pond, Tottenville's newest Pond Park—Enjoy a one-to-two-mile tour of the woodlands, ponds and wetlands in the Long Pond Park area. Take a leisurely two-hour stroll with naturalist, science educator and columnist, Clay Wollney. Share Clay's reminiscences of his childhood roaming this area and learn of its natural history, the seasonal changes and the succession of habitats that has occurred over the years. Meet at PS 6, on Page Avenue, about 3 blocks NW of Hylan Blvd. at 10 a.m. Phone Dick Buegler at (718) 761-7496 or phone Clay Wollney at (718) 303-7825.

Sunday, December 4, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

♦ Goodhue Woods—Enjoy the quiet of a Staten Island woodland with naturalist Cliff Hagen. Dress for the weather. Meet at the front gate at the corner of Prospect and Clinton Aves. For more information phone Cliff at (718) 227-8839.

Saturday, December 10, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

♦ Forest Restoration Workshop at Southwest Latourette—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 will plant additional shrubs along the upper trail. Call Dick Buegler for more information. at (718) 761-7496.

Sunday, December 11, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

♦ Winter Birds at Conference House Park—Seth Wollney will lead you on an exciting adventure to discover the birds which nest in the far north, but make Staten Island their homes in the winter. Ask Seth why they don't go further south the way some Staten Islanders do. Bring binoculars. Meet at the parking lot at the end of Hylan Blvd. Call Seth at (718) 619-5905 or Protectors at (718) 761-7496 for more information.

Sunday, December 11, 10 a.m. to 12 noon

♦ Beach Life in the Intertidal Zone at Conference House Beach—We'll begin by beachcombing the high tide line to see what nature's debris has to tell us. As the tide goes out, we'll move into the intertidal zone to see what living things survive in this challenging but rewarding habitat. A variety of crabs, snails, clams, worms and small fish are likely to be discovered. It's going to be muddy so dress appropriately. Meet at the Conference House parking lot. For more information phone Dick Buegler at (718) 761-7496 or Clay Wollney at (718)303-7825.

Sunday, December 11, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

♦ Nature's Symphonies at Great Kills Park—Today is the third of a four-month series of bird walks—every second Sunday through January—to observe the park's seasonally changing habitats and fluctuating bird life. Enjoy avian behaviors, sounds, and field marks while appreciating the park's seasonally stunning 575 acres, which include woods, fields, beaches, cliffs, ponds, a tidal marsh, bay and harbor. Watch for the military foraging of Horned Larks, scampering Sanderlings, and the simple beauty of wintering Fox and American Tree Sparrows. Perhaps we'll have the surprise of a Snowy Owl, an irruptive species that sometimes forages in the dunes. Meet at the beach house. Eat hearty and dress warm. Reservations required for walk to occur. To reserve, e-mail Arleen O'Brien at birdjoy@att.net, or call (917) 502-8826.

Sunday December 11, 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The Ancient Forest Trees of Wolfe's Pond Park—Meet at the far right corner of the parking lot at the end of Cornelia Avenue, near the rest rooms. In an easy two miles, large numbers of trees 200 to 300 years old will be examined in Staten Island's most ancient forest. Walk up a short hill and view the broad flood plain forest of this major Bluebelt stream below us and discover an old beech tree forest near the top. Call Dick Buegler at (718) 761-7496 for more information.

Thursday, December 15 Long Night Full Moon, 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Sunset Moonrise Walk at Mt Moses—Sunset is at 4:30 p.m. and moonrise is 17 minutes earlier at 4:13 p.m., but 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 Ave (at Manor Rd). 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, grasses and wildflowers that DEP planted in the flood control system that has worked well so far in moderate rains. Call Dick Buegler at (718) 761-7496 for more information.

Sunday, December 25, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Best of the Greenbelt—Enjoy a four-mile quiet winter tour of the woodlands, ponds and wetlands along the yellow and blue trails from the Greta Moulton Gate at High Rock to the Overlook at the Richmond County Country Club Golf Course. Bring a snack to share and enjoy at the Overlook. Meet at the High Rock parking lot at the top of Nevada Avenue. Call Hillel Lofaso at (718) 447-2220 for more information.

Sunday, January 1, 2006, 12 noon to 2 p.m.

16th Annual Environmentalists New Years Day Walk—Great Kills Park to Crooke's Point. Protectors of Pine Oak Woods and Natural Resources Protective Association are your hosts along with all other environmental groups including NYC Sierra Club and NYC Audubon. Take a half-hour leisurely stroll of the beach to Crooke's Point at Gateway National Recreation Area with members of other environmental groups. We expect many dozens of walkers. All are encouraged to join and share in their past successes and goals for the year 2006. 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 the New Year. For more information phone Dick Buegler at (718)761-7496 or Jim Scarcella at (718)987-6037

Saturday, January 7, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

♦ The Wild Side of Clove Lakes Park—Join Howie Fischer, expert birder in welcoming all the wintering woodland songbirds, including juncos, gold finches, chickadees and nuthatches as well as five species of woodpeckers, including the red bellied, downy and flicker. We may see towhees and wrens up in the hill area as well as water fowl on the lakes. Clove Lakes is the easiest and most prolific bird watchers location. The pleasant woodland/lake stroll is full of beautiful photo ops. Meet near the dam overlook on Martlings Avenue in Clove Lakes Park. Bring binoculars, cameras and light refreshment. For more information phone Howie at (718) 981-4002 or Protectors at (718) 761-7496.

Sunday, January 8, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

♦ Gateway National Recreation Area—Crooke's Point Walk. Come with Seth Wallney on the long, cold walk out to Crooke's Point in search of interesting winter birds in the dunes. Walks to this location at this time of year can produce some rarities! Bring your binoculars and dress warmly. Seth enjoys bringing the natural experience to youngsters, so include the children in this family-friendly walk. Meet at the last parking lot before Crooke's Point dirt road. Call Seth at (718) 619-5905 for details.

Sunday, January 8, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

♦ Nature's Symphonies at Great Kills Park—Today is the final session of a four-month series of bird walks to observe the park's seasonally changing habitats and fluctuating bird life. Enjoy avian behaviors, sounds, and field marks while appreciating the park's seasonally stunning 575 acres, which include woods, fields, beaches, cliffs, ponds, a tidal marsh, bay and harbor. Overhead, watch for swirling Snow Buntings and, in the harbor, sheltering ducks. Scan the more turbulent waters off Crooke's Point for heartier species such as Red-breasted Mergansers, Greater Scaup, and Long-tailed Ducks. And the wish of all New Year's Wishes—let's hope for a rare alcid, maybe a Dovekie or two? Meet in the Great Kills Harbor parking area. Eat hearty and dress warm. Reservations required for walk to occur. To reserve, e-mail Arleen O'Brien at birdjoy@att.net, or call (917) 502-8826.

Sunday, January 8, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

♦ Owl Prowl at Blue Heron Park—Join Cliff Hagen as he uses his realistic owl calls to coax local screech or great horned owls from afar to nearby trees overhead where they can be observed by strong beam and encouraged to call back. Dress very warmly and each carry your own flashlight or strong beam. Park in Blue Heron's lot on Poillon Ave. For more information phone Cliff at (718) 227-8839 or Dick Buegler at (718) 761-7496.

Saturday, January 14, Forest Restoration Workshop, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

♦ Greta Moulton and Old Homesite at High Rock—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 will plant additional shrubs, 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.

Saturday, January 14—Full Moon After Yule, 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Sunset Moonrise Walk at Mt Moses—Sunset is at 4:53 p.m. and moonrise is 9 minutes later at 5:02 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 Ave (at Manor Rd). 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, wildflowers and grasses that DEP planted in the flood control system that has worked well so far in moderate rains. Call Dick Buegler at (718) 761-7496 for more information.



Sunday, January 15, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Winter Tree Identification and Greenbelt Walk — Meet in the Greenbelt Visitors Center at Rockland and Brielle Avenues for an approximately 3-mile loop walk along the Blue Trail to the Greta Moulton Trail. We will explore the woods along this diverse terrain of steep hills, deeply carved streams, ponds and wetlands. Now is the time to hone your tree identification skills, too, by studying bark and bud. Dress warmly and wear appropriate shoes for wet walking. Bring snacks. Call Hillel Lofaso at (718) 447-2220 for more information.

Saturday, January 21, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Annual Winter Ten Mile Walk of the SI Greenbelt — 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 always beautiful vistas. Call Dick Buegler at (718)761-7496.

Sunday, January 22, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

♦ Mt. Loretto Walk — Come and see Mt. Loretto in the winter. Sometimes we can even see harbor seals from the bluffs! Meet at Kenny Road Parking Lot on Hylan Blvd, opposite the Mt Loretto CYO. Call Seth for more information at (718) 619-5905 or Protectors at (718) 761-7496.

Sunday, January 22, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

♦ Owl Prowl at Blue Heron Park — Join Cliff Hagen as he uses his realistic owl calls to coax local screech or great horned owls from afar to nearby trees overhead where they can be observed by strong beam and encouraged to call back. Dress very warmly and each carry your own flashlight or strong beam. Park in Blue Heron's lot on Poillon Ave. Phone Cliff at (718) 227-8839 or Dick Buegler at (718) 761-7496.

PROTECTORS' BUSINESS MEETINGS

**Wednesday, October 12, November 9,
December 7, February 1, 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.**

Executive Board Meeting — 80 Mann Avenue

**Wednesday, October 19, November 30,
January 11, February 22, 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.**

Protectors' Board Meeting — The Art Lab, Snug Harbor. Come see us planning. Important decisions are often made at this meeting. Refreshments. For more information phone Dick Buegler or any board member.

STRANGERS IN A STRANGE LAND: IGNORING OUR NATURAL ROOTS

NATURE CAN IMPART LIFE'S MOST IMPORTANT LESSONS TO OUR YOUNG

WE ARE RAISING CHILDREN who are becoming strangers to the natural world around them and several factors are converging to create this scenario. Here are a few statistics that highlight this trend.

- Children in the United States typically watch 20 or more hours of television each week, according to the University of Michigan Health System.

- A recent Kaiser Family Foundation national study of technology use found that the typical American child spends over 5 hours a day using computers or other media.

- A July 12, 2005 USA TODAY article points out the trend of American children to prefer indoor or structured activities to the unstructured, outdoor activities of a generation ago:

“The fundamental nature of American childhood has changed in a single generation. The unstructured outdoor childhood — days of pick-up baseball games, treehouses and ‘be home for dinner’ — has all but vanished.

“Today, childhood is spent mostly indoors, watching television, playing video games and working the Internet. When children do go outside, it tends to be for scheduled events — soccer camp or a fishing derby — held under the watch of adults. In a typical week, 27% of kids ages 9 to 13 play organized baseball, but only 6% play on their own, a survey by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found.”

Journalist Richard Louv seeks to thrust this emerging problem into the public eye with his book, “Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children From Nature-Deficit Disorder.”

Louv supports 10 years' worth of anecdotal evidence with a growing body of scientific fact suggesting that children who are given early and ongoing positive exposure to nature thrive in intellectual, spiritual and physical ways that their “shut-in” peers do not. He claims that a child who is deprived of ongoing firsthand experiences of the natural world exhibits increased feelings of stress, lower attention levels, and a sense of not being rooted in the world.

“Kids today can tell you lots of things about the Amazon rainforest; they can't usually tell you the last time they lay out in the woods and watched the leaves move,” Louv says. “It's not that learning about the Amazon is bad, the problem is, it becomes an intellectualized relationship with nature. And I don't think that there's much that can replace wet feet and dirty hands. It's one thing to read about a frog, it's another to hold it in your hand and feel its life.”

Protectors of Pine Oak Woods offers ample opportunities for families to connect with the natural world around them on Staten Island. We offer safe venues for children to explore in ways that, while structured, allow children room to explore and inquire and imagine to their hearts' content. You see, Protectors understands that exploring nature is only possible if there are natural places to explore, and we know there are enough challenges in an overly scheduled, technologically driven childhood that put being outdoors in the woods at the bottom of the priority list. Make time to share the outdoors with us soon!

—Hillel Lofaso

NASCAR CONCERNS MOUNT

Officials from ISC/NASCAR met with Sierra club members and WildMetro to give a presentation of the Staten Island Speedway project. (See our archives for our Summer 2005 NASCAR article at siprotectors.org.)

Here are some more facts relating to the scope of the project (thanks to Susan Mattei of Sierra Club and David Burg of WildMetro for gathering these facts):

1. Six helicopter pads will be constructed with 20 to 30 flights expected on a given race day.
2. A total of 14 to 15 wetland acres will be destroyed (not 10 as previously reported). ISC plans to replace what they consider to be "degraded wetlands" and replace them with "new freshwater wetlands". In fact, we may expect to see a wholesale excavation and revegetation of the site if we understand their intent.
3. In case of rain, a race will be postponed to Monday. No traffic plan exists for a workday. Remember that the weekend plan was to approximate a typical workday rush hour scenario. Nor is there a ferry traffic plan yet.
4. Underground fuel storage tanks would be constructed, requiring constant monitoring.
5. A large amount of fill is required, as much as 10 to 12 feet in some places, because of the low-lying contour of the property. This will require careful storm drainage plans, which have yet to be designed. —Hillel Lofaso



NEW MEMBERS: Carl Alderson, Angelo Arena, Deborah Avins, Dr. Sylvia Clark, Tania & Richard Eicoff, Nicholas Fevelo, Kathy Garofalo, Narmene Hamsho, Jean & Bill Hogan, Dr. & Mrs. Robert Kelter, Tamara Keshecki, Elena Mellow, Yumiko Morimoto, Evelyn Morton, Arleen O'Brien & John LePore, Kathy O'Connor, Mr. & Mrs. James Quadrino & family, David & Theresa Raftery, Fran Silberman, Ken Struve, David Taft, Robert Zink (United for Wildlife)

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PROTECTORS' DEFENSE FUND: Lois Barth, Jean Beck, Nancy Biggs, Tina Bliss & Tim Moran, Marguerite DeCoursey, Ted Doerzbacher, Lou & Mary Dujmich (Life members), James Falkenburg, Terri Fedele, Bob Hegler, Yumiko Morimoto, James Murphy, Joseph Nielsen, Constance Quanci, Elisabeth Reiter, Meg Smith, Ruth Sprute, Mr. & Mrs. M. Philip Stern — Sylvia Zaage (sylhz@earthlink.net)

E-mail Network: If you want to be on Protectors' E-mail Network list and receive our latest action alerts and descriptions of our fabulous walks, just send your E-mail address to Sylvia Zaage at sylhz@earthlink.net.

CLIP AND MAIL

PROTECTORS OF PINE OAK WOODS



STATEN ISLAND'S LAND CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION

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- \$100.00...Donor (includes 2 lapel pins)*
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The President and Congress

On the national level, the President made few attempts to look like the “environmental” President and Congress felt free to move in other directions. It seems the President rewarded all legislators with a huge amount of pork to the tune of billions of dollars scattered throughout the Energy Policy Act. Bush did so in order to obtain all their votes for his energy bill and he got them.

This act seeks to improve the reliability of the electrical grid system, to increase domestic energy production and to save power by extending daylight saving time (will that really work?), but it has been criticized for relying too heavily on fossil fuel production and also being too lax in penalizing municipalities that fail to meet federal air quality standards.

In addition, the Energy Policy Act provides \$11 billion in tax breaks to energy producers and billions of dollars

more in direct federal aid, thereby subsidizing the fuels that cause global warming and giving additional incentives to the oil industry as it continues to exploit resources.

In one way, the bill does more than in the past for renewable energy and energy efficiency, but it weakens consumer and environmental protections. For example, it allows the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to override state and local officials in locating import terminals for liquefied natural gas. It even includes billions in subsidies for polluting energy sources. The saddest provision is its authorization of oil and gas production in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska without adequate environmental protections. Our President has a long record of attempting to get approval for this damaging national oil production project and it looks as if he might finally get what he wants.

The President’s \$286.4 billion high-

way and transit bill is the biggest public works bill of the decade. SAFETEA, the Safe, Accountable, Flexible and Efficient Transportation Equity Act, according to environmentalists, represents a step backward for air quality and environmental protection. It provides \$50 billion for transit projects and only \$6 billion for safety programs. Please drive safely.

Many states are not waiting for federal direction after seeing this transportation bill. They are initiating their own state safety regulations and their own Clean Air Acts to set the guidelines for the nation. California and New York are certainly taking this route until the federal government assumes its true responsibility. Perhaps we in New York can lead the nation in a healthy direction.

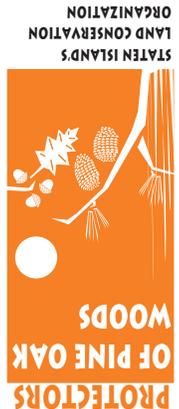
Staten Island was not mentioned to any extent in this report, but we are aware that our Borough President does not have much power in this realm of government upon which he can act.

—Dick Buegler

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