

PROTECTOR'S OF PINE OAK WOODS



**STATEN ISLAND'S
LAND CONSERVATION
ORGANIZATION**

INSIDE . . .

- GOODHUE WOODS: WHAT MAKES
IT WORTH PRESERVING? 2
- IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM
THE PRESIDENT 2
- PROTECTOR'S CALENDAR: WALKS
GALORE FOR EVERYONE 3-6**
- MEMBERSHIP NEWS 7
- THE GIRL SCOUTS EARN THEIR
MERIT BADGE IN OUR BOOK! 7
- SO YOU HAVEN'T HEARD OF
THE COOLEST CAMP FOR TEENS? 8

**FIND OUT MORE AT
WWW.SIPROTECTOR'S.ORG**

- ◆ **PROTECTOR'S ISSUES**
- ◆ **FREQUENT UPDATES
TO THE CALENDAR**

FALL 2006

LET THE LEAVES FALL! FREE NATURE WALKS FOR CHILDREN AND PARENTS!

REDISCOVER YOUR CONNECTION WITH NATURE

NURTURING THE NATURALIST WITHIN

FALL IS A GREAT TIME TO VISIT OUR WOODS WITH THEIR FALL FOLIAGE DISPLAY and our meadows flush with late-blooming asters, goldenrod and milkweeds. You may prefer a solitary walk or choose to enjoy good company on one of our guided nature walks listed in the calendar. I know that I have become acquainted with many of you on the trails and I always welcome the opportunity to talk about and share the wonders of nature on Staten Island with you.

We hear so much about overdevelopment that we can easily lose sight of the natural richness, diversity and surprises discovered in our many hundreds of acres of parkland. Most spectacularly, during the great migrations of birds and butterflies, we become attuned to the rhythms of the natural world that exist outside our day-to-day lives. Hopefully, we make time to appreciate these events and thus make it a part of our life's experience that will continue to delight and invigorate us for years to come.

We each have moments when we have been witness to a vivid sunset, a brilliant night sky or a powerful thunderstorm. We have been in the right place at the right time to catch a meadow of wildflowers in their peak of blooming at Mt. Loretto on a late afternoon summer day. We have caught sight of deer bounding in the woods at Clay Pit Ponds State Park Preserve. We have stood atop Moses Mt. gazing at a carpet of golds, reds and vermilions stretching below us. Then, when we have the right words, we will share those experiences with others, and that excitement of discovery—a gift really because it was so unexpected—makes us yearn to seek out and repeat those experiences on our own. So we go into the woods and fields and wetlands and become apprentices to nature's multi-layered, integrated structure. We cultivate patience and inquisitiveness, and we are ultimately rewarded as nature gives up her secrets. A life of discovery opens up before us.

There are those who have become particularly good at observation, and these have become our elder naturalists who have passed on their passion to a newer, younger generation. They include Bill Flamm, Gloria Deppe, Lois and Jack Baird, Scotti Jenkins, Hans Behm and Dick Buegler. Protector's wants to honor the work of these people and learn more about the special calling that is theirs as naturalists. What is their

(continued on page 8)

**NEW
LOCATION!
GREENBELT
NATURE CENTER**

**PROTECTOR'S OF PINE OAK WOODS
FALL MEMBERS MEETING**

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2 ♦ GREENBELT NATURE CENTER
700 ROCKLAND AVENUE (AT BRIELLE AVE),
6:30 P.M.—9 P.M., ADMISSION FREE**

TO BE A NATURALIST—UNCOVERING THE WONDER IN NATURE

- 6:30:** Doors open: Refreshments and registration; View the exhibits
- 7:15:** Introductions and Announcements
- 7:30:** Open forum on the special vocation of the naturalist from 3 of S.I.'s Foremost Naturalists:
Hans Behm, Gloria Deppe and Bill Flamm
- 9:00:** Closing remarks and raffle

Call (718) 751-6629 for more information.

We strongly encourage car-pooling to this event as parking is limited.

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Typesetting & Design:
D. Hillel Lofaso
Printed By: Almar Printing
Company, Inc., New York City

PROTECTORS BULLETIN is printed on recycled paper

Mailing address: P.O. Box 140747, Staten Island, NY 10314-0747; (718) 751-6629

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ONE NATURALIST'S VIEW OF GOODHUE WOODS

Ed. Note: Board member and naturalist Cliff Hagen was asked to submit remarks on the value of preserving Goodhue Woods. Here are Cliff's comments, which were included in the testimony on behalf of Goodhue Woods preservation.

Protectors: Describe the value of the Goodhue Woods properties as open space for the various aspects of wildlife, such as birds and butterflies.

CH: A thorough consideration for the preservation and conservation of an open space property must include three aspects of the site's ecology. One must look at migratory habitat, nesting habitat and wintering habitat. Without examining the year-round importance of a property, any consideration would be incomplete.

The Goodhue Woods lend a vital, safe harbor for migratory birds, butterflies, dragonflies and bats. Through the Spring and Fall seasons the Goodhue Woods are active. Migration in May might cast as many as twenty-five species of wood warblers along the hillsides. Ten species of sparrow pass each Spring and Fall as well as dozens of neo-tropical migrants, such as thrushes, vireos, orioles and tanagers. Five species of woodpeckers come and go as do six species of flycatchers.

Beyond the birds, migrant and wandering butterflies choose the Goodhue properties to nectar at wild and cultivated flowers till the winds shift favorably. Such butterflies include Red Admiral, Buckeye and Variegated Fritillary. An assortment of migrant dragonflies, Pondhawks and Meadowhawks, the Saddlebags and the Darners stop over at Goodhue each Fall.

Another important aspect of the Goodhue Woods ecology is the nesting opportunities it provides. The deciduous trees on the Goodhue property offer plenty of nesting cavities for chickadees and nuthatches, four species of woodpeckers and Screech Owls. House Wrens and Carolina Wrens also take advantage of the cavities. Above, in the branches, Red-eyed Vireos, Baltimore Orioles and Great Crested Flycatchers raise their young, while below, in the understory, Towhees, Catbirds and Robins care for their fledglings.

Lastly, and equally important, is the security the woodlands provide each winter. Resident birds such as Titmice and Cardinals, Blue Jays and Goldfinch each brave snow and cold in the Goodhue Woods. These birds are joined each year by Juncos and sparrows. The quiet slopes of the Goodhue Woods are busy each winter with dozens of birds gleaning seeds from autumn's debris.

The necessity of preserving and conserving the Goodhue Woods is obvious when one views the wholeness of the property. The quality that the Goodhue Woods offers the north shore of Staten Island is a treasure worth saving, an invaluable open space which is active with wildlife the year round.

Dear Protectors Members:

First, let me say **THANK YOU** for your uninterrupted financial commitment to Protectors of Pine Oak Woods. Your contribution helps fund our education initiatives, member meetings, printed material, networking, advocacy projects and operational expenses. We wouldn't exist without you.

Unfortunately, there are some of you who have not kept current with your membership dues (\$10 a year for individuals! \$15 a year for families! \$5 a year for students and senior citizens!), despite receiving reminders from us on several occasions. How do you know if you are still a member? Simply look at the mailing label on page 8 of this bulletin. It tells you the date your membership expires.

This will be the last newsletter you receive unless you act now. Protectors still counts you among our supporters, but we have had to make the hard decision to withhold sending our newsletter to those of you with lapsed memberships. (Each newsletter now costs about \$2.00 to print and mail, and if we send 4 a year, that's \$8.00.) Fill out the form on page 7 and mail it with your dues fulfillment. We strongly encourage you to calculate an amount from your expiration date—and add another year—so that you are members through March 2008.

Please don't hesitate to contact Membership Secretary, Elaine Croteau, at ecroteau@siprotectors.org, or call Protectors at (718) 751-6629 if you have any questions. —Hillel Lofaso, President

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 22, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.**

Fall Migrants at High Rock Park—Meet in the parking lot at the top of Nevada Ave. Be prepared for some wet areas so bring appropriate shoes. Binoculars are necessary. A late fall trek in the Greenbelt will focus on migrants such as Winter Wren, Fox Sparrow, Ring-necked Ducks, Wood Duck and other woodland birds. For more information phone Howie Fischer at (718) 981-4002.

♦ **Sunday, October 22, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.**

Late Fall Migration Walk at Conference House Park—Meet naturalist Seth Wollney at the Conference House Visitor Center at the end of Hylan Blvd. We will be looking for late fall migrant birds while enjoying beautiful fall colors of the southernmost tip of New York State. Bring along your binoculars, and field guides. For more information call Seth Wollney at (718) 619-5905.

♦ **Sunday, October 22, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.**

Page Avenue Beach: Life in the Intertidal Zone—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 parking lot at the bottom of Page Avenue below Hylan Blvd. For more information phone Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496 or Clay Wollney at (718) 303-7825.

Saturday, October 28, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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 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 (718) 761-7496 for more information.

♦ **Sunday, October 29, 10 a.m. to 12 noon**

Long Pond, Tottenville's newest Pond Park—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 and Academy Place about 3 blocks NW of Hylan Blvd. For more information call Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496 or Clay Wollney at (718) 303-7825.

♦ **Monday, October 30, 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.**

Sparrows at Great Kills Park—Join Seth Wollney for a walk around the baseball fields at Great Kills Park in search of migrating sparrows. Multiple species are possible this time of year, such as White-Crowned, Field, Fox, and Savannah Sparrows. Hawks, and other migrants are possible this time of year. Bring along your field glasses and guides. Meet in the baseball field parking lot. For more information call Seth Wollney at (718)-619-5905.

♦ **Wednesday, November 1, 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.**

Owl Prowl at Great Kills Park—Meet at the auto entrance parking lot opposite Buffalo St. Join Cliff as he wanders through portions of the park, enticing the birds to alight overhead and perhaps return his call. Be dressed warmly to stand around while the birds fly to Cliff. For more information, phone Protectors at (718) 761-7496 or Cliff at (718)227-8839.

Thursday, November 2, 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Protectors' Fall Semi-Annual Members Meeting—Join Protectors for a free, informative, get-together at the Greenbelt Nature Center, 700 Rockland Ave. at Brielle Ave. The stars of the evening will be three veteran Staten Island Naturalists who step away from the binoculars and spotting scopes to discuss their love—might we say obsession?—with the outdoors. Updates, action alerts, and literature table. Refreshments. Call (718) 751-6629 for more information.

♦ **Saturday, November 4, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.**

Late Fall Migrants at Mount Loretto—Meet in the parking lot opposite the CYO center off Hylan Blvd. Bring binoculars and comfortable shoes. We hope to find a number of late migrants including sparrows, hawks and various waterfowl species on the ponds and bay. Maybe even Eastern Bluebirds will turn up! For more information phone Howie Fischer at (718) 981-4002.

♦ **Saturday, November 4, 12 noon to 2 p.m.**

Life in the Intertidal Zone—Meet at the parking lot at the bottom of Page Avenue below Hylan Blvd. 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. For more information phone Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496 or Clay Wollney at (718) 303-7825.

Important Disclaimer—While we strive for safety, the activities of Protectors of Pine Oak Woods ("Protectors") have certain uncontrollable hazards which each participant undertakes and for which each participant is responsible. Neither the leader nor the substitute leader is responsible in any way whatsoever for any of these hazards. All participants assume the responsibility and risks of hiking and participating in Protectors events, and release Protectors, its leaders or substitute leaders, from any liability whatsoever for any loss, damage to personal property, or injury, however caused, of any kind, nature, and description.

♦ **Saturday, November 4, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.**

Northern Mount Loretto Woods—Join Protectors Vice President Dominick Durso on a walk on the OTHER side of Mount Loretto Unique Area as we explore these healthy woodlands. Turn into the Mount Loretto grounds at Cunningham Road and take the road all the way to the top. Park at the parking lot adjacent to the school buses. See why this area merits preservation and learn how you can help. For more information phone Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496 or Dominick Durso at (718) 967-0379.

♦ **Sunday, November 5, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

Trip to Greenbrook Sanctuary, NJ—Join Herman, Sylvia, Dick and Hillel at the famed Greenbrook Sanctuary, perched 350 feet above the New Jersey Palisades. Morning walk led by Nancy Slowik, Naturalist/Director of the sanctuary and a native Staten Islander who, while successful at the sanctuary, has followed Protectors successes for three decades. Just the views over the Palisades to Yonkers and upper Manhattan are worth the trip. Then there are all the birds and the wildflowers. Nancy loves the sanctuary. She will give you a strong sense of the importance of this cliff top aerie, high above the Hudson River. Bring your cameras, lunch and beverage. \$4 fee. Phone Dick for registration and directions at (718) 761-7496.

♦ **Sunday, November 5, 4:15 p.m. to 5:45 p.m.**

Beaver or Frosty Full Moon—Sunset Moonrise Walk at Mt Moses—Sunset is at 4:49 p.m. Moonrise is at 4:38 p.m., 11 minutes earlier. Meet at the entry road to the Eger Home at the intersection of Rockland and Meisner Aves. Flashlight is required for each person in your group. Please bring a light refreshment to share with others. Be sure to dress for a cool evening. The walk is barely fifteen minutes each way. On the way past the intersection, see the hundreds of shrubs, trees, grasses and fall wildflowers that DEP planted in the flood control system that has worked well so far in moderately heavy rains. Call Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496 for more information.

♦ **Saturday, November 11, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

Forest Restoration Workshop—Egbertville Ravine in the Greenbelt—We walk to the entrance of the white trail off London Road to continue our removal of the English Ivy Ground Cover. For those who don't want to pull and uproot, we will have additional plants and shovels for further restoration work. Gloves, plants, tools and refreshments provided. Bring a friend who likes to work outdoors. Call Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496 for more information.

♦ **Saturday, November 11, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.**

Moravian Cemetery Walk—Discover nature and over 200 years of history at Moravian Cemetery with naturalist Mike Shanley. Mike will be exploring the 113-acre cemetery that is not only the final resting place for many prominent islanders but also a natural jewel. Mike will share his knowledge of the site obtained while researching it during graduate school. He has also spent countless hours bird watching along the cemetery's majestic evergreen peppered roads which juxtapose against its melancholic funerary architecture and statuary. Meeting in front of the Church. For more information phone Protectors at 718-761-7496 or Mike at 917-753-7155

♦ **Sunday, November 12, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.**

Wolfe's Pond Park Exploration—Join the S.I. Museum's Section of Natural History for an exploration of one of the south shore's oldest parks. Excellent birding possibilities are possible this time of year. We hope to find some interesting waterfowl and possibly even a few rare GULLS! Meet near the bathroom building in the main parking lot. For more information call Seth Wollney at (718)-619-5905.

♦ **Sunday, November 12, 10 a.m. to 12 noon**

Long Pond, Tottenville's newest Pond Park—A one to two mile tour of the woodlands, ponds and wetlands in the Long Pond area 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 and Academy Place about 3 blocks NW of Hylan Blvd. For more information call Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496 or Clay Wollney at (718) 303-7825.

♦ **Wednesday, November 15, 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.**

Owl Prowl at Blue Heron Park—Meet at the Nature Center on Poillion Avenue. Be dressed warmly to stand around while the birds fly to Cliff. For more information, phone Protectors at (718) 761-7496 or Cliff at (718)227-8839.

♦ **Saturday, November 18, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.**

Waterfowl and Late Shorebirds at Great Kills Park—Meet in the parking lot just off Hylan Blvd. We will then drive into the park and first park near the tidal flats to look for waterfowl and late shorebirds. Bring binoculars and appropriate shoes for dune and field walking. For more information phone Howie Fischer at (718) 981-4002.

♦ **Friday, November 24, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.**

Walk off the Turkey Walk at Conference House Park—Come along on a journey through time. Seth Wollney will lead a walk in the woods and beaches where the Lenape Indians once called home. Learn about the Lenape way of life, and history on Staten Island. Bring along binoculars to search for some of the early winter birds. Call Seth Wollney at (718)-619-5905 for more information.

♦ **Saturday, November 25, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.**

Fall Walk at Crooke's Point—Join naturalist Mike Shanley as he explores Crooke's Point at Great Kills Park. Crooke's Point offers many types of habitat including pristine beach, woodlands, and everything else in between! The point is an important site for many types of birds and butterfly, so bring binoculars! Mike will discuss the history of the point and how its character has changed drastically over time. Meeting near the restroom in the last public parking lot before Crooke's Point entrance. CAUTION Do not drive onto the dirt road to Crooke's Point. Drivers have received \$50 tickets for that federal offense. For more information phone Protectors at 718-761-7496 or Mike at 917-753-7155

♦ **Saturday, December 2, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.**

Woodpeckers, Ducks and More at Clove Lakes Park—Meet at the Marlings Ave bridge just west of the Zoo parking lot. Bring binoculars. We will look for the numerous woodpecker species in the park and search the ponds for Wood Ducks and

Hooded Mergansers. For more information phone Howie Fischer at (718) 981-4002.

♦ **Sunday December 3, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

Life in the Intertidal Zone—Meet at the parking lot at the bottom of Page Avenue below Hylan Blvd. 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. For more information phone Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496 or Clay Wollney at (718) 303-7825.

♦ **Sunday December 3, 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.**

Owl Prowl at Blue Heron Park—Meet at the Nature Center. Be dressed warmly to stand around while the birds fly to Cliff. For more information, phone Protectors at (718) 761-7496 or Cliff at (718)227-8839.

Tuesday, December 5, 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Cold or Long Night Full Moon—Sunset Moonrise Walk at Mt Moses—Sunset is at 4:30 p.m. and moonrise is 18 minutes later at 4:48 p.m. It takes the moon another 20 minutes to rise above the hills of High Rock so we should see moonrise 40 minutes after sunset. Meet at the entry road to Eger Home at intersection of Rockland and Meisner Avenues. Flashlight is required for each person in your group. Please bring a light refreshment to share with others. Be sure to dress for a frosty evening. The walk is barely fifteen minutes each way. On the way past the intersection, see the hundreds of shrubs, trees, grasses and wetland plants that DEP planted in the flood control system that has worked well so far in moderately heavy flood rains. Call Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496 for more information.

♦ **Saturday, December 9, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

Forest Restoration Workshop—Buck's Hollow, Intersection of Blue and White Trails—Meet at the foot of Light House Hill, Meisner Avenue and Rockland Avenue. This site will need a lot of exotic removal. We'll also check the BMP 8 Bluebelt restoration at Meisner Ave and maybe plant a few trees or shrubs at our major location. Bring a friend who likes to work outdoors. Gloves, plants, tools and refreshments provided. For more information, call Dick Buegler at (718) 761-7496.

♦ **Sunday, December 10, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.**

Mount Loretto, Early winter bird species—This time of year brings some interesting birding possibilities to Mount Loretto. Join birder Seth Wollney on a hunt for some early winter species. Seth will also discuss the history of the site, and some current conservation issues. Meet in the Kenny Ave parking lot, across from the Mt Loretto CYO. Call Seth Wollney for more information at (718) 619-5905.

♦ **Sunday, December 10, 10 a.m. to 12 noon**

Long Pond, Tottenville's newest Pond Park—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 and Academy Place about 3 blocks NW of Hylan Blvd. For more information call Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496 or Clay Wollney at (718) 303-7825.

♦ **Sunday, December 10, 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.**

Owl Prowl at Blue Heron Park—Meet at the Nature Center on Poillion Avenue. Be dressed warmly to stand around while the birds fly to Cliff as he imitates both the screech owl and the great horned owl. For more information, phone Protectors at (718) 761-7496 or Cliff at (718)227-8839.

♦ **Saturday, December 16, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.**

Winter Ducks at Great Kills Park—Join Mike Shanley as he searches Great Kills Park in search of ducks and other birds of the winter. Thousands of Scaup and other ducks make their home here during the winter and hopefully we will see some of less common species, such as Canvasback and Redhead mixed in with them. Spotting scope will be helpful. Meeting in the first parking lot near the mudflats. For more information phone Protectors at 718-761-7496 or Mike at 917-753-7155.

♦ **Sunday, December 17, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

Great Kills Park Winter Bird Species—Join Seth Wollney for a walk through the heart of Great Kills Park. We will first be exploring the fire road, then the baseball fields. We'll continue to the back of Great Kills Harbor, then to the main fields for a chance to see the Horned Lark, and Snow Bunting. Bring binoculars. For further details call Seth at (718) 619-5905.

♦ **Saturday, December 23, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.**

Midland Beach Walk—Endure the cold as we walk the beach in search of bird life along the shore in winter. Despite adverse conditions many species of shorebird and duck can be found here during this time of the year including Purple Sandpiper, Sanderling, Ruddy Turnstone and many species of loon, duck and grebe. Meet at the end of the Midland Beach fishing pier. Bring proper clothing. Spotting scope will be helpful. For more information phone Protectors at 718-761-7496 or Mike at 917-753-7155.

Monday, January 1, 2007, 12 noon to 2:00 p.m.

17th Annual Environmentalists' New Year's 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 2007. 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 (718)761-7496 or Jim Scarcella (718) 987-6037.

Wednesday, January 3, 2007, 4:15 p.m. to 5:45 p.m.

Full Moon After Yule—Sunset Moonrise Walk at Mt Moses—Sunset is at 4:42 p.m. and moonrise is 3 minutes earlier at 4:39 p.m. But it takes the moon another 20 minutes to rise above the hills of High Rock so we will see the sunset for 15 minutes or so before the moon appears. 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, wildflowers and grasses that DEP planted in the flood control system that has worked well so far in moderate rains. Call Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496 for more information.

♦ Wednesday, January 3, 2007, 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Owl Prowl in the Greenbelt (Latourette Golf Course)—Meet at corner of Travis Avenue and Forest Hill Rd. Be dressed warmly to stand around while the owls fly to Cliff. For more information, phone Protectors at (718) 761-7496 or Cliff at (718) 227-8839.

♦ Saturday, January 6, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Winter birds at Great Kills Park—Meet at the Hylan Blvd. parking lot. Be sure to dress for cold weather. For more information phone Howie Fischer at (718) 981-4002.

Sunday, January 7, 1 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Clay Pit Ponds State Park/Preserve—Pine barren trees and wildlife—Find out why Protectors urged the preservation of this parkland and how we got our name in 1975. It has rare southern “pine and oak” trees, nothing like our Greenbelt forest. With a permit, we will enter the restricted area where few have trod. We’ll check in the sand, snow or mud for deer prints throughout the park. We’ll find the diseased clone of the American Chestnut that has produced flowers and fruit the past few years and the healthy 7 to 8 inch diameter chestnut tree. Meet at the park office at the end of Carlin Avenue, off Sharrott’s Road in Rossville. Call Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496 for more information.

♦ Wednesday, January 10, 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Owl Prowl at Great Kills Park, Gateway—Meet at the auto entrance parking lot opposite Buffalo St. Join Cliff as he wanders through portions of the park, enticing the birds to alight overhead and perhaps return his call. Be dressed warmly to stand around while the birds fly to Cliff. For more information, phone Protectors at (718) 761-7496 or Cliff at (718)227-8839.

♦ Saturday, January 13, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Forest Restoration Workshop—Greta Moulton 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 not plant additional shrubs and trees unless we have a very warm spell this day. We will check on our old Highbush Cranberry plantings as well as remove all the new or returned invasive vegetation. Bring a friend who likes to work outdoors. Call Dick Buegler for more information at (718) 761-7496.

♦ Sunday, January 14, 10 a.m. to 12 noon

Long Pond, Tottenville’s newest Pond Park—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 and Academy Place about 3 blocks NW of Hylan Blvd. For more information call Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496 or Clay Wollney at (718) 303-7825.

♦ Monday, January 15, 10 a.m. to 12 noon

Great Kills Park, Crooke’s Point Water Fowl—Meet in the last parking area before Crooke’s Point for a walk along the beach dunes to Crooke’s Point. This time of year brings interesting waterfowl to the bay. Seth Wollney will lead the group in discovering the winter wonders found on the Island. For more information call Seth at 718-619-5905.

♦ Sunday, January 21, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Conference House Winter Bird Walk—Join bird watcher Seth Wollney for a walk at the Conference House Park in search of some avian species that make Staten Island their winter home. Bundle up and bring binoculars! For more information call Seth at (718)-619-5905.

♦ Sunday January 21, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Page Avenue Beach: Life in the Intertidal Zone—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 parking lot at the bottom of Page Avenue below Hylan Blvd. For more information phone Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496 or Clay Wollney at (718) 303-7825.

Saturday, January 27, 2007, 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 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. Dress warmly in layers. 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. We hope to have the Neighborhood Open Space Coalition from “the City” join us for the day. Call Dick Buegler (718)761-7496 for more information.

♦ Saturday, January 27, 2007, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Searching for the Wintering Woodland Birds at High Rock Park—If the Pouch Lake is not frozen we may find ducks, woodpeckers, titmice and sparrows. For more information phone Howie Fischer at (718) 981-4002.



Dear Members:
We thank all of you who renewed your memberships in 2006. As you may have noticed, your membership card states that your renewal goes to March of the following year, regardless of what month you sent your dues. If your mailing label has the date March, 2006, or a previous year, please take the time to renew.

We need your support to continue our work!

New Members: Dr. Steven W. Albert Janet Glickman, Robert Harris, Andrew Krongold, Esther & Stephen Magid, Mary Lou Nelles, Lawrence Nicastro, Dorotea Torchiano, Honorable & Mrs. Eric Vitaliano, and Richard Plunkett

New Life Members: Joseph and Patricia Cuzzocrea, Stella Genovese, Grace Murphy, and Christine Rocco

Donor: Dr. & Mrs. Joel & Judy Berger, Mr. & Mrs. F. Pepper Birchard, Denise Costanza & Richard Schlesinger, Dr. Janis D'Angelo, Brian Levine, Jean Reiss

Patron: Oran & Jean Brown, Ruth Fressola, Robert Harris, Mary Lou Nelles, Dr. & Mrs. Albert Patrick, Honorable & Mrs. Eric Vitaliano

Contributing: Robert J. Adamski, Dr. Steven W. Albert, Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Bianco, Robert & Marion Buegler, Anthony & Terry DeFazio, John & Arlene Donovan, Tania & Richard Eicoff, Rosemary Fitzgerald, Jean & Lawrence

Freedman, Marilyn Keshecki, Paul Gallant, Diane Gurgone & Len Porsello, Esther & Stephen Magid, Mr. & Mrs. Larry Reich, Danile Jablon & Amy Winkler, Agnes Kerber, Louise Lessard, Evelyn Morton, Susan Phelan, Ruth Sprute, Mr. & Mrs. Richard Terranova, Gaile Tucker, Kathy & Derek Wang, and Trudy Weber

Organizations: Acorn Graphics, NRPA

Special Donations: Judith Berger, Janice Bocchicchio & Family, Paul Gallant, Evelyn MacDonald, JP Morgan/Chase Foundation (honoring the volunteer work of Adriano Chinellato), Peter & Camille Mancuso (in memory of John Kenny & James Cherrick (Curtis '64), Random House (matching gift from Grace Jung), Barbara Shelp, and Elinor Williams

—Elaine B. Croteau (Ecroteau@siprotectors.org)

GIRL SCOUTS HIT THE BEACH

EIGHT GIRL SCOUTS OF TROOP 5304 of Holy Child Parish, Pleasant Plains, along with their mothers and several brothers, assisted in a Sharrott Beach Cleanup on Saturday, September 6, in a group of 32 Protectors supporters. The annual beach cleanup was sponsored by the International Coastal Cleanup of the Ocean Conservancy.

More than 30 bags of trash and debris were collected, weighing approximately eight hundred sixty pounds. Included were over 600 beverage bottles, close to 900 caps and lids, hundreds of plastic utensils, food wrappers and plastic bags, 51 toys and 20 cigarette lighters as well as some fishing lines, floats, lures and nets. The largest item was a blue hawser or tow rope over 15 feet long, weighing at least 150 lbs. It required three or four persons to move it to the trash pickup site.

Each participant received a certificate from the Northeast Chapter of the Littoral Society.

—Dick Buegler

FOR MEMBERS ONLY MISSING OUT?

We prepare a fascinating field report on what we come across on our walks, and we'll e-mail it to you for your reading pleasure. Just send your e-mail address to [Sylvia Zaage at szaage@siprotectors.org](mailto:Sylvia.Zaage@siprotectors.org) and put "Subscribe to PPOW" in the subject line. Not a member? — Join today!

CLIP AND MAIL

PROTECTORS OF PINE OAK WOODS



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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?

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TELEPHONE () _____ E-mail address _____

Phone me. I want to volunteer my help: _____

Mail to: Elaine Croteau, Membership Secretary, P.O. Box 140661, Staten Island, NY 10314-0661

PRESIDENT'S LETTER (continued from page 1)

understanding of what it means to be a naturalist? What was the impetus for their life's work? What do they think is their greatest contribution to the understanding of nature on Staten Island and how can we improve our effectiveness as an organization charged with the responsibility to protect the natural resources of Staten Island? Come hear Gloria Deppe, Bill Flamm and Hans Behm expound on these and other topics at our Fall Semi-Annual Members Meeting. Bring an open mind and a willingness to be influenced by the knowledge, experience and wisdom of these veterans of the field. See the box on page 1 for more information.

I'd also like to take a moment to tell you about our newest board members: **John Luisi, Jacqueline Perine** and **Adrienne Stakofsky**. They each bring their individual levels of experience and expertise to our growing board, but they all share a dedication to helping Protectors maintain its nearly 35-year mission to make Staten Island a better place, naturally. Welcome aboard! —*Hillel Lofaso*

THREE MORE TEENS AT PACK FOREST

THIS SUMMER PROTECTORS sponsored three Staten Island teenagers who attended the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's Camp Pack Forest.

The three young men, Sebastian Conelli, Alexander Luisi and Sam Murphy, each answered our call sent out at the beginning of the 2006 year.

Sebastian Conelli, who attends Staten Island Tech, was at camp during the first week of August. Sebastian is the son of hard-working man who regularly dedicates hours of service to Protectors' Forest Restoration Workshops.

Alex Luisi, a teen attending Monsignor Farrell High School, went off to Pack Forest during the last full week of July. Like Mr Conelli, Alex is a valuable member of Protectors' Forest Restoration team. Alex's strong efforts have garnered the respect of his peers. That respect has enabled Alex to muster friends to volunteer with Protectors.

Another young man, Sam Murphy, attends high school at the Petridies Com-

plex. Sam went upstate to Pack Forest the same week as Sebastian. Mr. Murphy came to the attention of Protectors through the internet. Our Membership Secretary, Elaine Croteau, has amassed a collection of e-mail addresses. When she sent out a call for teens Sam's mother received a message and contacted us directly.

The task set before Protectors is difficult. The conservation and preservation of open space on Staten Island is a multi-faceted effort that integrates our membership in a variety of projects, each designed to foster the environmental education of Staten Islanders. Our membership, a network of talented, concerned citizens, came through this year with three remarkable young men. Next year we will be seeking more teenagers with the desire to be a productive member of a healthy society.

If you, or someone you know, might be interested in Camp Pack Forest please drop us a line or call Cliff Hagen at (718) 227-8839. —*Cliff Hagen*

MEMBERS, PLEASE CHECK THE MAILING LABEL.
IF YOU DON'T SEE 2007 OR LIFE, YOUR MEMBERSHIP
HAS EXPIRED. PLEASE, RENEW TODAY!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING ON NOVEMBER 2?
(HINT: SEE PAGE 1)

JOIN US ON ONE OF OUR NATURE WALKS!
SEE INSERT INSIDE



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