

# PROTECTORS OF PINE OAK WOODS



## STATEN ISLAND'S LAND CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION

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FALL/WINTER 2007

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WE URGE EVERYONE TO JOIN PROTECTORS TO HELP SECURE THE FUTURE OF THE GREENBELT

## SI GREENBELT SOON TO REACH MILESTONE

IN 2008, THE GREENBELT WILL REACH A MILESTONE: It will be 25 years old. That's right. A quarter of a century ago a group of determined citizens sought to change the destiny of Staten Island by creating a groundswell of support to preserve and create the Staten Island Greenbelt. I did some research online and found a NY Times article describing the incredible accomplishment. While you read these words, think about the current status of the Greenbelt and the as-of-yet unmapped Richmond and Willowbrook Parkway. We know that you will have many questions about how the Greenbelt is being managed 25 years on.

### THE GREENBELT 25 YEARS AGO

#### City Urges Protection of Greenbelt

(February 6, 1983, NY Times article by Maurice Carroll)

The greenbelt area on Staten Island, described as "one of New York City's most beautiful and irreplaceable natural resources," should be preserved and its development controlled by the city, according to the City Planning Commission.

The greenbelt, 3,500 acres of public and private woodlands and open space, runs northeast to southwest through the heart of the city's most undeveloped borough.

"There is no legal protection for the greenbelt," the commission said....It added: "The Richmond Parkway has been considered the 'cure-all' for Staten Island's traffic problems. But if the greenbelt is to be preserved, the Richmond Parkway cannot be built as mapped." The parkway would run through the greenbelt to link the Staten Island Expressway on the northern end of the island to the Outerbridge Crossing at the southern tip.

Because solutions to Staten Island's traffic problems have been "waiting for" the Richmond Parkway, said the report, the greenbelt is "in jeopardy."

The Planning Commission said the greenbelt should be officially established as "a natural preserve, an area of continuous, undisturbed natural features with extensive tree cover, bodies of water, open space and topographic variations." Development would not be permitted.

The report urged creation of a nonprofit corporation to hold conservation easements in the area. An easement would amount to contributing the land to a trust fund dedicated to keeping it in its current condition. In return, owners of private property in the greenbelt would receive certain tax advantages.

The report also called for expansion of a buffer zone to the north and south of the greenbelt and evaluation of "a proposed alternative to the unbuilt portions of Richmond Parkway."

It said that the conservation easements should be sought from private landowners whose property contains "significant features," subject to review and approval by the commission. The report adds that a master plan should be developed by the commission and the Parks Department and a management council should be formed to coordinate land management and operation.

"As residential development pushes up to the edges of the greenbelt," the commission report said, "the market value of this desirable land escalates, threatening the continued viability of the greenbelt."

John Gulino, a commission member and a lifetime Staten Island resident, said: "In the past, natural features have been lost to Staten Island through the process of development. Fortunately, the greenbelt survived. However, without legal protection for the area, we could easily see it changed irrevocably."

The public perception that the greenbelt is "some kind of a park" is wrong, the commission noted. Actually, it is "an amalgam of publicly and privately owned lands which, because of their historical development as health-related institutions, large estates and highway rights-of-way, have remained open and accessible."

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

**PROTECTOR'S BULLETIN** is printed on  
recycled paper

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## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

*(continued from page 1)*

Sea View Hospital and Home, Farm Colony (the former Staten Island poor-house) and the Staten Island Center for Developmental Disabilities (formerly the Willowbrook Developmental Center) make up almost half of the greenbelt area not already mapped as parks.

### North Mount Loretto Woods Saved!

Protectors reported in our Spring/Summer 2006 bulletin that we were supporting initiatives to have the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee allocate \$3 million of preservation funding for Long Pond/Butler Woods in New York, of which North Mount Loretto Woods makes up the largest parcel. We are very pleased to report the recent announcement of the purchase of the 75 wooded acres of North Mount Loretto Woods by the Trust for Public Land (TPL) with money set aside by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

The Port Authority will reimburse the Trust for Public Land \$12.5 million for its purchase of the site from the Archdiocese of New York, from funds in a program designed to purchase environmentally sensitive land in exchange for Port Authority expansion in other areas. According to the Port Authority, "on July 26, 2001, the Board authorized the Executive Director and/or General Counsel, either one acting individually, to acquire, for and on behalf of the Port Authority, one or more sites in New York and New Jersey in the Port District areas of the Hudson-Raritan Estuary that may be identified by Port Authority staff as suitable for conservation, ecological enhancement, public access or environmental mitigation in support of Port Redevelopment, Economic Development and other Port Authority Capital Programs.

The Property [North Mount Loretto Woods] has been identified as suitable for conservation acquisition and public access. Acquisition of this site would advance the goals of the Program and provide open space for the community through the creation of conservation easements and/or restrictive covenants with governmental agencies or municipalities. Additionally, acquisition of the site would advance the Port Authority's pursuit of strategic land acquisitions that may become necessary to assure the timeliness and cost effectiveness of facility expansion and redevelopment in light of community concerns over loss of public access and natural resource areas and facility operational impact."

### Accolades

We applaud long-time board member Ellen Pratt and her husband George for being the honored recipients of the Leng & Davis Award by the Staten Island Institute of Arts and Sciences at its gala on November 1. The award recognizes the couple's decades of service in land preservation, science and culture on Staten Island. It was their tireless efforts and accomplishments that have provided us with the benefits we enjoy today. Ellen has been the conservation chair of Protectors since its inception, and is now sharing that role with Don Recklies.

We think that it would be a wonderful way to show Ellen you appreciate the work she has dedicated her life to—nothing less than helping to save nature for everyone to enjoy, not just a select few—through your continued support of Protectors. We have no paid lobbyists, no paid executive directors. We rely on our members. Through your continued financial support you can see the Staten Island you want take shape.

Please see our list of members who have contributed so generously in the Life, Patron, Supporter, Donor, Organization and Contributor level. By publicizing this list, we acknowledge with gratitude your support and encourage others to consider giving at these levels. Protectors networks, lobbies, teaches, plans, does outreach, and represents Staten Island to other national and state organizations all on your behalf.

On behalf of the Board, I extend warmest wishes for a season of holiday enjoyment and brisk walks, with confidence in next year's accomplishments.

—Hillel Lofaso

**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.

**Saturday, December 15, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.**

Long Pond - Adaptations for winter are evident as the season approaches. Both plants and animals prepare for the cold in a number of ways which will be the focus of this leisurely one and a half mile hike. 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)303-7674.

**Sunday, December 23, 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

♦ Cold or Long Night Full Moon: Sunset Moonrise Walk at Mt Moses - Sunset is at 4:33 p.m. and moonrise is 35 minutes earlier at 3:58 p.m. But it takes the moon another 15 to 20 minutes to rise above the hills of High Rock so we should see moonrise about 15 minutes before the sun is setting. With a clear sky, this may be a first for Protectors sunset/moonrise watchers. We have seldom seen the sun set just after the full moon rose. 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 light refreshment or nibble to share with others. Be sure to dress for a cold evening. The walk is barely fifteen minutes each way. On the way past the intersection, see the hundreds of shrubs and trees that DEP planted in the flood control system that has worked well so far in moderately heavy rains. Leader is Sandra Mechanic, naturalist. Call Dick Buegler (718)761-7496 before Saturday, Dec 22, for more information.

**Tuesday, January 1, 2008, 12 noon to 2:00 p.m.**

18th 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 many other environmental groups including NYC Sierra Club, NYC Audubon and SI Museum. Take a half hour leisurely stroll of the beach to Crooke's Point at Gateway National Recreation Area. We expect many dozens of walkers. All are encouraged to join and share in their past successes and goals for the year 2008. 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 with safe bubbly. For more information, phone Dick Buegler (718)761-7496 or Jim Scarcella (718)987-6037.

**Saturday, January 5, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.**

♦ Great Kills Park, A Winter Wonderland - Meet Howie Fischer at the Hylan Boulevard parking lot opposite Buffalo Street. Cars pick up the bus riders and carpool to various sites. "Winter on the bay" - Emphasis will be on winter wildlife in the park. Bring binoculars and field guides. If you missed the New Year's Day walk, you have a second chance at Gateway Park. For more information, phone Howie at (718) 981-4002 or Dick Buegler at (718) 761-7496

**Sunday, January 6, 12 p.m. to 2 p.m.**

Conference House Woods and Beach - Depending on the weather, we may walk the beachfront or through the woodlands. In addition to examining evidence of the recent and long term history of the area, we'll study the geology of the beach as well as the flotsam and jetsam accumulated at the high tide lines to see what nature's debris has to tell us. Conditions permitting, we'll move into the intertidal zone as the tide recedes to find out what sorts of living things survive in this challenging environment. It's going to be muddy so dress appropriately. Meet at the parking lot at the end of Hylan Blvd. on the left. For more information phone Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496 or Clay Wollney at (718)303-7674.

**Saturday, January 12, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.**

♦ Bucks Hollow in the Greenbelt - Meet at the corner of Meisner Ave. and London Roads (near Eger Nursing Home) and we will enter via the White Trail into the mature woodlands to search for winter birds and trees. Our goal will be to find the Pileated Woodpecker or at least the live sweet gums the pair were feeding on this past spring. We'll look for deer hoof prints if there is snow on the ground to see if they have invaded the Greenbelt. Dress warmly but even in winter, the forest trees cut down the wind's effect. For more information, phone Howie at (718) 981-4002 or Dick at (718) 761-7496.

**Saturday, January 12, 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 near Manor Road. Gloves, plants, tools and refreshments provided. We may plant additional shrubs and trees unless we have a dry spell this week. 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.

**Monday, January 14, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.**

♦ Monday Night Owl Howl at Bloomingdale Park - Forget football! Heart Pounding excitement comes from listening to silence and a dark park explode with barks, whines, and screeches of our local owls. Meet Cliff Hagen, the owl prowler, at the corner of Ramona Avenue and Lenavar Street in Woodrow. Be entranced by the plaintive owl calls Cliff makes that entice owls to respond and sometimes alight in the trees overhead. Bring a flashlight and preferably, a strong beam that will illuminate an owl perched overhead if we are lucky. For more information phone Cliff at (718) 227-8839 or Dick at (718) 761-7496.

**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, January 19, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.**

◆ High Rock and the Greenbelt in winter - Birds, trees and terminal moraine. The Wisconsin glacier left the ponds and hills some 10,000 years ago, to create the varied Greenbelt habitat. Howie will not dawdle if it's very cold. Bring warm clothing, binoculars and a camera. Meet in the High Rock parking lot at the top of Nevada Avenue. For more information, phone Howie at (718) 981-4002 or Dick at (718) 761-7496.

### **Tuesday, January 22, 3:45 p.m. to 5:15 p.m.**

◆ Full Moon after Yule: Sunset Moonrise Walk at Mt Moses - Sunset is at 5:17 p.m. and moonrise is 16 minutes later at 5:33 p.m. But it takes the moon another 15 to 20 minutes to rise above the hills of High Rock so we should see moonrise almost a half hour after sunset. It won't be a long wait if the sky and clouds color up. 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 light refreshment or nibble to share with others. Be sure to dress for a cold evening. The walk is barely fifteen minutes each way. On the way past the intersection, see the hundreds of shrubs and trees that DEP planted in the flood control system that has worked well so far in moderately heavy rains. Leader is Sandra Mechanic, naturalist. Call Dick Buegler (718)761-7496 for more information.

### **Saturday, January 26, 9:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

Protectors Annual Winter Ten Mile Walk of the SI Greenbelt - Come join others including Don, Dominick, Sandra and Chuck who enjoy a cold day outdoors. It is ten moderate miles at a comfortable pace. Meet at the beginning of the Blue Line Trail at the end of Staten Island Boulevard, off Ocean Terrace by the Sunnyside campus of Petrides complex. Bring lunch and beverage and sturdy walking shoes. Dress warmly in layers. We go in all weather but walk is shortened if high pollution levels occur. Come see what the winter woodland has to offer: winter birds, bare forest trees, frozen ponds, evergreens and possibly some snow cover to detect deer visits, and always beautiful vistas. Call Dick Buegler (718)761-7496 for more information.

### **Saturday, January 26, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.**

◆ Long Pond - Evidence of animal life from the summer as well as those animals still active will be discovered. We'll also take a look at the adaptations of plants as we take an unhurried one and a half mile stroll through the park. 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) 303-7674.

### **Sunday January 27, 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, Sandra and Dick will lead us into 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 (that tree now is 20 feet tall and 9 inches in diameter and still disease free). 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.

### **Monday, January 28, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.**

◆ Monday Night Owl Howl at Willowbrook Park - Forget football! Heart pounding excitement comes from listening to silence and a dark park explodes with barks, whines, and screeches of our local owls. Meet near the park entrance off Richmond Avenue, end of Eton Avenue. Be entranced by the plaintive owl calls Cliff makes that entice owls to respond and sometimes alight in the trees overhead. Bring a strong beam that will illuminate an owl perched overhead if we are lucky. For more information phone Cliff at (718) 227-8839 or Dick at (718) 761-7496.

## **From Our Archives**

### **A MOTH NIGHT WALK, 7/6/07**

Cliff Hagen phoned me that night at 11:45 to announce that all had gone well earlier that evening at Blue Heron Park. The group of 13 including 5 children had seen loads of moths. There were many different species as expected because moth species outnumber butterfly species, eleven to one. It was reported that there are at least 1,000 moth species on Staten Island. Moths seem to have speciated more than butterflies since there are about fifty families of moths and only eleven families of butterflies.

Prior to the walk, Cliff had spread a mixture of fermented juice and brown sugar on tree bark and fallen logs with only modest success in attracting moths. Fortunately, there was a butterfly bush near the visitor center that was attracting large numbers of moths for examination.

No single characteristic can differentiate butterflies from moths. Several must be used. Moth bodies are more plump and furry than those of butterflies. At rest, moths usually hold their wings flat or fold them roof like over their backs while butterflies rest with wings folded back. The antennae of butterflies are thin, ending in a knob. Those of moths never end in knobs and are often feathery. Butterflies fly by day and moths usually fly at night. Butterflies form a chrysalis when the larva has matured. Moths often spin silken cocoons, pupate on the ground or in underground chambers as does the tomato horn worm. Some moths can be over three inches in wing spread, such as the luna, Prometheus, ailanthus silk, cecropia, imperial and the tomato hornworm which can reach four to five inches. Some moths are more familiar in their larval or caterpillar stage such as the tomato hornworm, the tent caterpillar and the Isabella moth (the common woolly bear caterpillar). A screech owl was seen and heard, but Cliff's imitation call did not attract it to a nearby tree branch as his call often does.

Four bats flying over the butterfly pond provided much excitement as did the very large number of signaling fireflies. The bats were probably eating insects including mosquitoes and the fireflies were attracting mates. At least five loud croaking bull frogs were spotted with flashlights and a botanist discovered that jewelweed, the touch-me-not flower, closes at night as many flowers do, to reopen the next day.

—Dick Buegler

## STATE EYES WATERFRONT PARCEL IN CHARLESTON

ONCE AGAIN A PARK PROPOSED BY PROTECTORS is coming to reality. The new 25 acre parcel is in Charleston on the waterfront, between Androvetta Street and Sharrots Road, west of Arthur Kill Road.

“Sharrots Shorelands” is Protectors name for these 25 acres. It is only half of our proposed addition to Clay Pit Ponds State Park Preserve. The complete addition will eventually include the Tappen Creek corridor below Arthur Kill Road, which connects freshwater Clay Pit to the salty Arthur Kill waterway.

The imminent purchase was announced November 6, with the Trust for Public Land assisting as the real estate transfer agent. DEC, the State’s Department of Environmental Conservation, will own this natural parkland because of its unique features.

To shepherd this unique site to park-preserve status, Don Recklies, co-chair of PPOW’s Conservation Committee, prepared a spectacular 13 page report, replete with photos and a naturalist’s evaluation of the parcel by Cliff Hagen, Recording Secretary of Protectors, with comments from NYC Audubon.

The Report was delivered to DEC in Albany and in N.Y.C. Region 2, and the State Parks Agency in Albany and in the N.Y.C. Region. It was also presented to Senator Lanza and local political leaders. The Report highlights the features which make the site unique: the incredible sight of huge oil tankers passing nearby; a derelict barge; an unusual sand spit.

You can expect to enjoy this lovely addition to our island parks next Spring. Protectors plans several walks to this unique part of our island’s natural heritage. We hope you will join us then.  
—Ellen Pratt

## CAMP PACK FOREST NEWS

PROTECTORS OF PINE OAK WOODS HAS ONCE AGAIN brought the future of environmental education to the teenagers of Staten Island. Two high school students from our Island were welcomed at the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation’s Camp Pack Forest for a week long, in-depth experience with Nature.

Both Jenny Fischman and Alex Luisi spent a week hiking and studying on the shores of Lake George in Warren County with dedicated environmentalists from across the state. Both Alex and Jenny have taken part in park cleanups and restorations in the past. After a week stay at Camp Pack, they both value our local parks ever more.

Protectors is proud to encourage the young environmentalists of the future. We offer sponsorship for Staten Island teenagers aged 13 to 17, to attend the NYSDEC Camp Pack Forest each summer and are now in the process of accepting applications for next summer’s group of teens.

For more information or an application call Cliff Hagen at (718) 313-8591.  
—Cliff Hagen

## LETTER FROM PACK FOREST

This summer I went to Pack Forest Conservation Camp. It was a week I enjoyed and profited from. There I learned many interesting things about the environment and how we affect it. I am very thankful to Protectors of Pine Oak Woods for sponsoring me.

At Pack Forest, we had many interesting activities. We went on a night hike and learned about nocturnal animals. Along the hike we played different games to learn about how the animals used their senses to survive. We all split up to observe nature at the prime animal viewing time, sunset. At sunset, the day animals are going to sleep and the night animals are waking up. It was amazing lying down and having bats dart right over me.

We learned about “Leave No Trace” on a long hike around Lake George. Leave No Trace lists the rules and tips on how to have a fun time in the wilderness while also being prepared, safe and not disturbing the wildlife around us. We learned about setting up bear bags and how far away from the water we need to be to wash dishes (seventy paces). The hike as to a place called Tongue Point. It was six miles each way. I learned how hard it was to hike twelve miles with a forty pound backpack on my back. Along the walk we encountered new creatures. There were rattlesnakes along the trail and the counselors told us what to do if we got bitten by one.

Since it was a conservation camp, the counselors promoted conservation. They didn’t want any food wasted and they didn’t give us napkins at dinner, because it was an unnecessary waste of paper. In the bathrooms, they had signs above the sink about conserving water and making sure the faucets weren’t dripping. This is something I have brought home with me. I rarely use napkins anymore at meals and always make sure that all the faucets in the house aren’t dripping. I used to forget about turning off my light when leaving my room and now I do it by habit. In this way I am helping the environment. I’ve always loved nature, but this experience has further progressed my way of thinking. I always wanted to protect my environment, but this program has filled me with new ideas on how to do so.

I loved being at camp because I felt really close to the environment, closer to nature than I have ever felt. At times it was just me and nature discovering each other. At camp I remember looking around, hearing the animals and thinking, “This is it, this is how it’s supposed to be.”

—Jenny Fischman

## PROTECTORS MEMBERS ARE THE TRUE FORCE BEHIND STATEN ISLAND'S LAND PRESERVATION MOVEMENT

2007 LIST OF COMMITTED GIVERS (AS OF 11/07)

### LIFE—\$500 and up

Anonymous, Alyson Brdsley, Catherine Barron, Albert F. Barry, Neal Barton, Hans-Joachim Behm, Peter P. Blanchard, III, David Brittenham, Mr. & Mrs. David Buegler, Mr. & Mrs. Richard Buegler, Louise Colavito, Norman Condit, Margaret A. Coughlan, Elaine B. Croteau, Helen Cusack, Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Cuzzocrea, Dr. Janis R. D'Angelo, Gloria J. Deppe, Mr. & Mrs. Henry Dowding, Lou & Mary Dujmich, Dominick Durso, Eva Gabriel, Stella Genovese, Bruce Gillam, Walter Paul Gordon, Helen M. Granatelli, Clifford & Kathy Hagen, The Historic Districts Council, Mr. & Mrs. Paul Hollender, Joyce Hyon, Christopher Iannace, Katina Johnstone, James F. Kenny, Helen Kravatz, D. Hillel Lofaso, John Luisi, Peter Mancuso, Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Manifold, Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Marraccini, Mr. & Mrs. Roy Martin, Walter Metzger, Stanley & Lenore Miller, The Mudlane Society, Grace M. Murphy, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Nadel, Lois & Richard Nicotra, Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Paul, Renee Pearson, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Perry, Stephen Petrowicz, Susan Porter, George & Ellen Pratt, The Preservation League, Julia F. Rando, M. Viktorin Reinertsen, Christine Rocco, Thomas Ronan, Mr. & Mrs. Peter Salvatore, Paul C. Schwartz, Robert Schweikert, Stephen Frank Sciannemea, Nancy Slowik, Henry Smeal, Dr. & Mrs. David Soifer, Mr. & Mrs. George Vorwick

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### ORGANIZATION—\$50 and up

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Rose Ancona, Mr. & Mrs. David Avrin, Laura Barlament, Dr. Alan Benimoff, Jean Bennett, Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Bianco, Gertrude Coleman, Ann Connors, Mr. & Mrs. Allen Cohen, Mr. Robert Connelly, Edgar Freud, Mary & George Fulks, Mr. & Mrs. Bradford Greene, Dale Salamon Hahn, Ms. Agnes Kerber, Mr. & Mrs. Daniel C. Kramer, Alfred Levine, Ms. Frances Lowney, Ms. Esther Magid, Mr. Richard Norberg, Mr. Edward Oddo, Mr. & Mrs. Richard Persichetty, Eric & Marie Petersen, Donald Recklies, Barnett Shepherd, Mr. Edward S. Smith, Mr. Rick Spanier, Penny & Michael Varriano, Eric N. Vitaliano, Mr. Jeffrey Wachtel, Maria Zokoturia.

## PROTECTORS APPLAUDS RECENT LAND ACQUISITIONS

**P**ROTECTORS OF PINE OAK WOODS HAS BEEN heartened by the Nov. 6 article in the Advance about the acquisition of 25 acres along Staten Island's West Shore that will preserve a part of the wetlands there and possibly provide public access to the waterfront. We applaud the successful efforts of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the Trust for Public Land (TPL) in preserving this area.

Ever since the TPL and New York City Audubon brought these areas to public attention in "An Islanded Nature," we have advocated protection of these sites, and are especially pleased about the acquisition of this particular area and its picturesque sand spit. However, these 25 acres are but a small portion of the environmentally sensitive open space in the Sharrotts Shore area of the Arthur Kill.

Tappan's Creek, which drains from Clay Pit Ponds State Park into the Arthur Kill just north of the sand spit, flows

almost completely through a number of privately held properties. These lowlands are part of a sand and clay substrate community unique to only a small portion of the New York and New Jersey coast. It is a rich foraging area for shorebirds, and is one of the last places that mud turtles, an endangered species in New York State, may still exist on Staten Island. The area, however, is surrounded by increasing commercial activity that will spill onto these ill-developable lowlands and is likely to cause damage to the creek and its downstream marshes.

We urge the DEC, the city Department of Parks and Recreation and the Trust for Public Land to continue to acquire the balance of the Tappan's Creek wetlands in order to preserve it for the sake of the unique community of plants and animals that depends upon it, and for the public enjoyment of future generations of Staten Islanders.

—Donald Recklies



Dear Members:

We thank all of you who have renewed your memberships this past year. 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, 2007, or a previous year, please take the time to renew.

LIFE: Anonymous, John Luisi

New Members: Lisa West, Raymond Kozma

Donor: Grace Merrill Dunkley, Jayne Alexander, Mary Ann Fitzgerald, Robert Harris, Mr. & Mrs. Larry Sullivan, Patrice Jordan, August Matzdorf, Robert Ingenito, Marilyn Aronson, Mr. & Mrs. Richard Terranova, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Sachs, Roy Fischman & Linda Cohen, Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Coffey, Lila Levey & Stephen Glasser, Paula McAvoy,

Supporter: Matthew Miner, Clare Beckhardt, Dr. & Mrs. Joel Berger, Jean Rowland, Mimi Aloia

Patron: Dorothy & Jules Coven, Kevin J. Fallis, Liza Abbott-Pilarella, Ruth Fressola

Contributor: Ann Connors, Jean Bennett, Dr. Alan Benimoff. Mr. & Mrs. David Avrin, Barnett Shepherd. Rose Ancona, Alfred Levine, Edgar Freud, Penney & Michael Varriano, Dale Salamon Hahn, Gertrude Coleman

Organizations: Acorn Graphics, Lighthouse Hill Civic Association, NYC Audubon Society

Special Donations:

Remember, if your mailing label has the date March 2007, or a previous year, please take the time to renew. March 2007 on your label means that your membership ended in March 2007.

We deeply appreciate your continued support of the activities of Protectors of Pine Oak Woods.

Elaine B. Croteau (Ecroteau@siprotectors.org)

### Volunteer Newsletter Layout Artist Needed

Protectors is looking for someone who enjoys working with nonprofit organizations who will take over the duties of laying out our newsletter, under the supervision of our Bulletin committee. Our Bulletin comes out 3 times a year and ranges from 8 to 12 pages.

The interested applicant will have desktop publishing experience, using Quark Xpress, Illustrator, Photoshop and Adobe Acrobat. Being well-organized and attentive to detail will greatly contribute to success. Sample work should be available for review.

This is a volunteer position for the right member looking to help Protectors. For more information, please contact Hillel Lofaso at (718) 751-6629.

— Hillel Lofaso

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 \_\_\_\_ LIFE

- \_\_\_\_ \$ 10.00...Student
- \_\_\_\_ \$ 10.00...Senior Citizen
- \_\_\_\_ \$ 15.00...Individual
- \_\_\_\_ \$ 20.00...Family
- \_\_\_\_ \$ 35.00...Contributor
- \_\_\_\_ \$ 50.00...Organization
- \_\_\_\_ \$ 50.00...Donor
- \_\_\_\_ \$100.00...Supporter
- \_\_\_\_ \$250.00...Patron
- \_\_\_\_ \$500.00...Life Member
- \_\_\_\_ \$ 3.50...Lapel Pin, mailed to me

\_\_\_\_ 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: \_\_\_\_\_

ENCLOSED is my tax deductible check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ made payable to PROTECTORS OF PINE OAK WOODS, INC.

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

## CARLTON BEIL REMEMBERED

**W**E REMEMBER FONDLY the life of Carlton Beil, a member of our honorary board who died this past fall.

“Carlton is kind of a repository of the natural history of Staten Island,” said Borough Parks Commissioner Thomas A. Paulo in a 1994 article about Carlton from the New York Times. “We’re hoping that little bits and pieces of Carlton now exist in lots of people who were tutored by him.”

The article said: “The accomplishment Mr. Beil most treasures is his part in preserving a 2,500-acre slice of forests, swamps and meadows called the Greenbelt, where great blue herons nest, raccoons roam and 16 species of dragonfly flit about. About 1,800 acres of this is city parkland, with other land-use ordinances protecting the rest.”

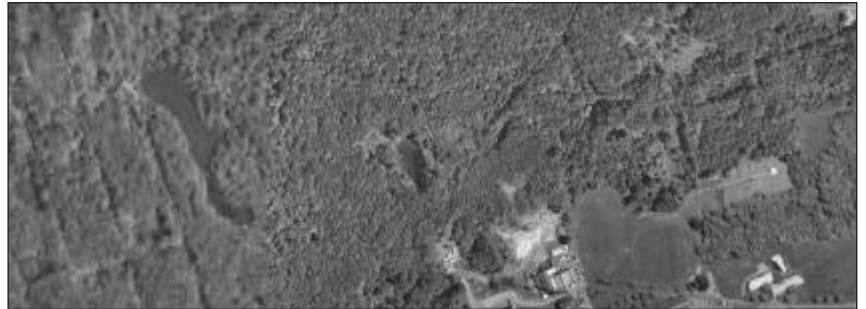
We are sure that little bits and pieces of Carlton do indeed exist in the many people who were fortunate to spend time with him. He will be missed, but his legacy will live on.

—Hillel Lofaso

## A BIRDING WINDFALL — LAST CALL!

**C**LIFF HAGEN HAS OFFERED TO CONTRIBUTE TO PROTECTORS all his donation pledges from Staten Islanders for his year-long attempt to identify at least 250 bird species on the island by year’s end. As of this date, Cliff has almost reached his target. Protectors appreciates Cliff’s efforts to raise funds for preservation of more open space and natural areas and for further education of Staten Islanders about the wealth of nature on Staten Island. If you would like to pledge a nickel, dime or dollar per species, and help Protectors’ mission, please call Cliff at (718) 313-8591 or (718) 227-8839.

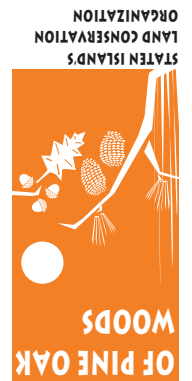
It’s not too late to pledge—in any amount. As an added incentive, Protectors will give a lifetime membership to anyone who pledges \$500 or more. A full list of birds and a field report will appear in the Winter 2008 bulletin.



North Mount Loretto Woods with Long Pond at left. — See pg. 2.

**MEMBERS, PLEASE CHECK THE MAILING LABEL.  
IF YOU DON'T SEE 2008 OR LIFE, YOUR MEMBERSHIP  
HAS EXPIRED. PLEASE, RENEW TODAY!**

**IF YOU VALUE NATURE ON STATEN ISLAND,  
JOIN PROTECTORS OF PINE OAK WOODS**



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