

# PROTECTOR'S OF PINE OAK WOODS



## STATEN ISLAND'S LAND CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION

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**SPRING/SUMMER 2006**

**ENJOY THE SUMMER! FREE NATURE WALKS FOR CHILDREN AND PARENTS!**

**IF YOU'RE READING THIS AS A MEMBER—THANK YOU! IF NOT, CONSIDER JOINING OUR EFFORTS!**

## COMING OF AGE: A SMALL GRASS-ROOTS PARKS ADVOCACY ORGANIZATION MAKES GOOD

**P**ROTECTOR'S OF PINE OAK WOODS WAS FOUNDED SOME 35 YEARS AGO with a clear mission: to preserve an overlooked, sandy corner of Staten Island full of abandoned clay pits but possessing a marvelous ecosystem. With the establishment of Clay Pits Pond State Park Preserve and, later, the Greenbelt, Protector's was well on its way to help Staten Islanders ensure that open space in this borough—comprising wetlands and natural habitats—would be protected in perpetuity in the form of parks and preserves for the benefit of the entire region. And Protector's mission has become its mandate.

As your new President, I am fully aligned with this mandate and seek to carry it out through my tenure.

Protector's Board is made up of talented, committed volunteers who have translated a strong desire to see natural areas preserved into environmental activism. Officers like Ellen Pratt, Dick Buegler and Dominick Durso have worked with the board and our membership to save Mt. Loretto, St. Francis Friary Woodlands, Long Pond Park, Ocean Breeze Park and our numerous Bluebelts, all the while educating our membership and local elected officials. We are proud of our accomplishments.

You might well ask how we come up with the parcels that we target for preservation. Much of it comes from our knowledge of Staten Island's natural habitats and park ecosystems gathered from our field trips and our working with other groups like the Trust for Public Land (TPL). Many of the parcels currently in jeopardy of being lost forever were catalogued in *An Islanded Nature* by Peter P. Blanchard III in collaboration with the TPL and the New York City Audubon Society. These sensitive parcels are on the West Shore—Staten Island's last frontier for rezoning and development.

Protector's is currently monitoring development pressures on the West Shore and its effect on sensitive salt marshes and freshwater wetlands. We are compiling data in several acres of city-owned land along the shoreline in the vicinity of Clay Pits Pond State Park Preserve in an effort to carve out a preserve among the shopping malls and the exclusive senior citizen villages that have been approved and are in the process of being built.

Other projects include assisting in the preservation of Goodhue Woods, advocating for the inclusion of Northern Mt. Loretto Woods into existing parkland, advocating for the rejection of a racetrack on Staten Island in the middle of recovering, productive wetlands and bird habitat, and continuing our role in advocating the expansion of our Bluebelt systems.

Protector's has broadened its education focus by offering weekly nature walks by trained and expert naturalists. Please look at our extensive calendar for walks that appeal to your schedule and preference. I hope to meet many of you in the field.

Protector's is one of the very few organizations that provide value-added services to our members in return for very nominal membership dues. Please, if you haven't yet brought your membership up to date, write out a check and be satisfied in the knowledge that you are supporting an organization that does so much for Staten Islanders like yourself.

### PRESIDENT'S LETTER

### NEW CONTACT INFORMATION

Protector's has a new mailing address.

Send all **organizational mail** to Hillel Lofaso, Protector's of Pine Oak Woods, P.O. Box 140747, S.I., NY 10314-0747.

**Membership mail** should be sent to Elaine Croteau, Membership Secretary, P.O. Box 140661, S.I., NY 10314-0661.

Our new **phone number** is (718) 751-6629. Our **e-mail address** is [ppow@siprotectors.org](mailto:ppow@siprotectors.org). Our **web site** remains [www.siprotectors.org](http://www.siprotectors.org).

—Hillel Lofaso

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# PRESERVING AND PROTECTING NATURE ON STATEN ISLAND—YESTERDAY AND TODAY

by Dick Buegler, President Emeritus

**M**OST OF THE PROTECTORS MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE (close to 80 by sign-in sheet) at our recent annual Spring Membership Meeting at the Staten Island Greenbelt Center on Rockland Avenue, were probably surprised to find a new president, Hillel Lofaso, conducting the meeting. Many members were not aware of this major change although the S. I. Advance reported the change of officers of the organization on Thursday, March 16, 2006, the day after the board members had voted a new slate. That slate moved Hillel Lofaso into the presidency and provided me with a lifetime position of President Emeritus. When later in the meeting, my promotion to President Emeritus was announced, the large group responded with a standing ovation and I was given a treasured print of *Hourglass Pond* (1988), a woodcut by my dear friend Herman Zaage.

Just recently, reporters covering the event, belatedly, seemed most interested in my reaction to loss of the status of president and what a “retired” president might do with all his newly found spare time. It’s hard to explain how “emeritus” is a promotion with its own responsibilities, not a demotion. Protectors had no intent to farm me out, but to broaden the leadership of Staten Island’s oldest, largest and most influential environmental organization and to prepare Protectors of Pine Oak Woods for a new generation of land conservation issues with a stronger slate of officers and new board members.

Protectors of Pine Oak Woods is referred to frequently as an “environmental” organization, but we describe Protectors as a “land conservation” organization. In fact we are Staten Island’s only land conservation group, devoted to increasing the amount of Staten Island’s natural acreage devoted to park and preservation status. Even now, as we labor to protect what was already saved through our efforts, almost 3,000 acres, we work with NYS DEC, the Department of Environmental Conservation, on its New York State Open Space Advisory Committee to identify new targets for preservation.

For the past 10 to 15 years, Protectors has been Staten Island’s only member of this crucial committee, which advised the purchase of the present Mt. Loretto Unique Area tract in 1998, the St. Frances Friary 20-acre Greenbelt addition, as well as numerous other smaller wooded and wetland acquisitions.

Recently, the proposed purchase of an additional 80 Mt. Loretto acres in the northwest corner closer to Amboy Road, for a price of \$14.5 million, was announced in the S. I. Advance. Protectors members on the Advisory Committee were in full support for placing that valuable tract on the 2005 Open Space Plan, much as we had been, prior to 1998, for preservation of the original Mt Loretto waterside tract of close to 149 acres.

We are scheduling a series of public walks to this newest property, to see the wonderful old beech forest and other woodlands and wetlands to be acquired. We would like you to join us on a tour of the northwest Mt. Loretto tract in September and October of this year. Our first planned Northwest Mt. Loretto walk will be on Sunday, September 10, from 12 noon to 2 p.m., with Vice President Dominick Durso. We look forward to winter and spring walks there as well. I hope to see many of you there on one of those future walks, if not this one.

The prestigious national award I received last October was from a convention of hundreds of land trust groups. That recognition was for all of the lands Protectors of Pine Oak Woods had helped preserve in the prior three decades. Land trust organizations nationwide are preserving additional acreages of farmland, pastures, forests, mountains and water bodies throughout the nation.

(continued on page 12)

## 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, June 10, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Forest Restoration Workshop—High Rock from Nevada Avenue to Hour Glass Pond—Meet in the Nevada Avenue parking lot of High Rock. We will check for removal of invasives and plant additional shrubs and trees if available. Gloves, plants, tools and refreshments provided. Bring a friend who likes to work outdoors. Call Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496 for more information.

### ♦ Saturday, June 10, 7:45 p.m. to 9:15 p.m.

Sunset Moonrise Walk at Mt Moses—Rose or Strawberry Full Moon—Sunset is at 8:27 p.m. and moonrise is 32 minutes earlier at 7:55 p.m. It takes the moon another 20 minutes to rise above the hills of High Rock so we should see moonrise just 10 to 15 minutes before sunset, about 8:10 or 8:15. We have never seen them occur at approximately the same time before. Meet at the entry road to Eger Home at intersection of Rockland and Meisner Avenues. Flashlight required for each person in your group and 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 to the intersection, see the hundreds of shrubs and trees that flowered already and have leafed out. DEP planted them along with grasses and wildflowers in the flood control system that has worked well so far in moderately heavy rains. Call Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496. for more information.

### ♦ Sunday, June 11, 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, June 11, 12 noon to 2 p.m.

Conference House Park Beach Walk—Join Seth Wollney for an exploration of the beaches where he discovered sea life as a child. Also included in this walk will be a discussion of the history of fisheries on the Raritan Bay starting 8,000 years ago with the Lenape Indians through the present day clam fishery. Meet in the parking lot at the end of Hylan Blvd. For more information call Seth at (718) 619-5905.

### ♦ Saturday, June 17, 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Breeding Birds at High Rock—Join Howie Fischer, scientist, educator and expert birder in a tour of the park where he once lived for years. We'll discover which

birds are rearing this year's young. Among the breeding birds in this High Rock highlight walk may be brown thrashers, the wood thrush with the beautiful flute like song and 4 or 5 woodpecker species including the now increasing red bellied. For more information, phone Howie at (718) 981-4002.

### ♦ Saturday, June 17, 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

Moravian Cemetery Nature and History 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, juxtaposed against its melancholic funerary architecture and statuary. The walk explores most of the cemetery and eventually culminates at the grave of noted naturalist William T. Davis where Mike will read some of his most cherished passages from W.T.Davis' *Days Afield*. Meet in front of the Moravian Church near Todt Hill Rd. entrance to the cemetery. For more information, phone Mike at (917) 753-7155.



### ♦ Saturday, June 24, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Mt Loretto Summer Wildflower, Bird Walk—Join Sandra Mechanic, avid wildflower and insect photographer in an exciting full tour (1½ miles) of the meadows, bluff, stream and ponds of this NY State Unique Area saved by Protectors members' numerous letters. She will share some of her fantastic photos that were on display at Blue Heron Park nature center earlier this spring. The view of the Lower Bay from the bluff alone makes the visit worth while. Dick Buegler will be assisting. Meet at the parking lot opposite the Mt Loretto CYO in Pleasant Plains. For more information phone Protectors at (718) 761-7496 or Sandra at (718) 967-6685

### ♦ Saturday, June 24, 12 noon to 2 pm

Conference House Beach with Clay Wollney—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 Conference House parking lot. 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, June 24, 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m.**

Blue Heron Park Day Walk—Winged creatures fly by day (birds & butterflies) and by night (moths and birds). Their differences are apparent, their similarities are few. Compare and contrast the diurnal and nocturnal wildlife of Blue Heron Park with Cliff Hagen. Meet outside the Visitors' Center on Poillon Ave. For more information phone Cliff at (718) 227-8839.



◆ **Sunday, June 25, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.**

Conference House Park Breeding Birds Walk—Discover the birds, with Seth Wollney, that make the South Shore's largest park their home. While walking along the trails and road we will learn about the resident birds, and maybe even find a rare nesting species or two! Meet in the parking lot at the south end of Hylan Blvd. For more information call Seth at (718) 619-5905.

**Sunday, June 25, 12 noon to 2 p.m.**

Graniteville Quarry Walk with renowned geologist Dr. Alan Benimoff—Come learn about Staten Island's geologic history and why this site is world-famous among geologists and students of geology. Meet at Van Name Avenue and Forest Avenue. For more information, call Alan at (718) 477-1974.

◆ **Monday, June 26, 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.**

Blue Heron Park Night Walk—Winged creatures fly by day (birds & butterflies) and by night (moths and birds). Their differences are apparent, their similarities are few. Compare and contrast the diurnal and nocturnal wildlife of Blue Heron Park with Cliff Hagen. Meet outside the Visitors' Center on Poillon Ave. For more information phone Cliff at (718) 227-8839.

◆ **Sunday, July 2, 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.**

Page Ave—Beach and Savannah—Come and explore this little-visited section of Conference House Park with naturalist Seth Wollney. Along with discovering this section of Staten Island's beach, we will be walking through the savannah (coarse grasses and scattered trees) in search of black racers (snakes), and Fowler's toads. Captured specimens will be returned to nature. Meet at the new parking lot at the SE end of Page Ave. For more information call Seth at (718) 619-5905.

◆ **Sunday, July 2, 12 noon to 2 p.m.**

Summer 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 barrier beach, woodlands, and everything else in between. The point is an important site for many types of birds and butterflies, so bring binoculars. Mike will discuss the history of the point and how its character has changed drastically over time. Meet near the restrooms at the last paved public parking lot before Crooke's Point entrance. Don't drive onto the dirt road. It could cost you a \$50 federal ticket. For more information, phone Mike at (917) 753-7155.

◆ **Saturday, July 8, 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.**

Breeding Birds at Mt Loretto—Join Howie Fisher, educator, scientist and expert birder, for a tour of the park the birds love to breed in, including the bubbling black, white and yellow bobolink, orioles, the yellow billed cuckoo that was discovered breeding there last year by the late Arleen O'Brien, the willow flycatcher and up to three kinds of swallows. There should be a great deal of bird activity in this artificially maintained huge meadow. Meet in the parking lot off Hylan Blvd opposite Mt. Loretto's CYO. For more information, phone Howie at (718) 981-4002.

◆ **Saturday, July 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. Phone Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496 or phone Clay Wollney at (718) 303-7825.

**Saturday, July 8, 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. Meet at the entry road to Eger Nursing Home at intersection of Rockland and Meisner Avenues. Call Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496 for more information.

◆ **Sunday, July 9, 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.**

Long Pond Park, with S.I. Museum's Nature Section—Join Seth Wollney for a walk through the woods where it all started. As a child Seth would explore, and discover the wonders of this area with his father, Clay. Meet at P.S. 6 on Page Ave. Call Seth at (718) 619-5905 for details.

◆ **Sunday, July 9, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.**

Search for Rare Orchids at Mt Loretto Unique Area—In July 2005, the Ragged Fringed Orchid was rediscovered in several sites along and off the trails by Wilma, Sandra and Dick. We revisit to see if the orchids are blooming and propagating again this year. Meet at the Mt Loretto parking lot on Hylan Blvd. opposite the CYO Center. This could be a photographic session with Sandra and Dick. For more information phone Dick at (718) 761-7496.

◆ **Sunday, July 9, 10 a.m. to 12 noon**

Breeding Birds of Blue Heron Park—Join Mike Shanley at Blue Heron Park in search of breeding birds. Many species of birds breed in the park, including Yellow and Black-billed Cuckoo, Common Yellowthroat, Green Heron, Wood Thrush and Baltimore Oriole. The walk will also include a discussion of the Bluebelt Projects on Staten Island as we visit the park's many Bluebelt ponds and wetland plantings. Meet outside the Nature Center. For more information, phone Mike at (917) 753-7155.

◆ **Sunday, July 9, 7:45 p.m. to 9:15 p.m.**

Buffalo or Buck Full Moon—Sunset Moonrise Walk at Mt Moses. Sunset is at 8:29 p.m. and moonrise is 40 minutes earlier at 7:49 p.m. It takes the moon another 20 minutes to rise above the hills of High Rock, so we should see moonrise just 10 to 15 minutes before sunset, about 8:10 or 8:15. We have never seen them occur at approximately the same time before. Meet at the entry road to Eger Home at intersection of Rockland and Meisner Avenues. Flashlight required for each person in your group and 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 to the intersection, see the hundreds of shrubs, trees, grasses and flowers 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, July 15, 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.**

More Breeding Birds at Mt Loretto—Join Howie Fischer again for an exciting bird adventure. We will continue looking for the bobolinks, the orioles, the flycatchers, the cuckoos and the swallows. The meadow is beginning to flower and can easily support a large generation of Monarch butterfly caterpillars and the larvae of other winged insects. Check the sky often to catch the raptors soaring. Don't be surprised to find a few flowering orchids that started blooming last week. Meet in the parking lot off Hylan Blvd opposite Mt. Loretto's CYO. For more information, phone Howie at (718) 981-4002.

◆ **Sunday, July 16, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.**

Search for Rare Orchids at Mt Loretto—Last year was the rediscovery of the Ragged Fringed Orchid (not seen on Staten Island for many years) in several sites along and off the Mt. Loretto trails by Wilma, Sandra and Dick of Protectors of Pine Oak Woods. We revisit this year to see if the orchids are on the same time schedule and perhaps propagating. With over 100 acres of hillside meadow, much of which is wet and boggy, Mt. Loretto Unique Area offers this spectacular orchid a great chance for proliferation. And who knows what else we may find. (Torrey Botanical Society members will join us at 10 a.m.) Meet in Parking lot of Mt Loretto Unique Area on Hylan Blvd. opposite the CYO center in Pleasant Plains. Also have a good sunscreen with a high number rating and a large broad brimmed hat. It probably will be sunny and hot. For more information phone Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496.

**Sunday, July 16, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.**

Kingfisher Pond Park Revisited—Join Hillel Lofaso on a visit back to Kingfisher Pond Park, Staten Island's first Bluebelt. Marvel at the birdlife and perhaps we'll even spot a snapping turtle that sometimes frequents the pond. Learn about the way bluebelts help channel stormwater into natural habitats. Meet at Greaves and Fairfield, opposite P.S. 32. Call Hillel at (718) 751-6629 for more information.

◆ **Tuesday, July 18, 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m.**

Blue Heron Park Day Walk—Winged creatures fly by day (birds & butterflies) and by night (moths and birds). Their differences are apparent, their similarities are few. Compare and contrast the diurnal and nocturnal wildlife of Blue Heron Park with Cliff Hagen. Meet outside the Visitors' Center on Poillon Ave. For more information phone Cliff at (718) 227-8839.

◆ **Thursday, July 20, 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.**

Blue Heron Park Night Walk—Winged creatures fly by day (birds & butterflies) and by night (moths and birds). Their differences are apparent, their similarities are few. Compare and contrast the diurnal and nocturnal wildlife of Blue Heron Park with Cliff Hagen. Meet outside the Visitors' Center on Poillon Ave. For more information phone Cliff at (718) 227-8839.

◆ **Saturday, July 22, 12 noon to 2 p.m.**

Conference House Beach with Clay Wollney —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 Conference House parking lot at the end of Hylan Blvd. For more information phone Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496 or Clay Wollney at (718) 303-7825.

**Sunday, July 30, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.**

The Best of the Greenbelt—Enjoy a four-mile cool summer 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 beverage and 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) 751-6629.

◆ **Saturday, August 5, 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**

Ancient 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. We will practice guessing their age using many clues. 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 climax forest near the crest. Call Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496 for more information.

◆ **Tuesday, August 8, 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.**

Sturgeon Full Moon, Sunset Moonrise Walk at Mt Moses—Sunset is at 8:04 p.m. and moonrise is 4 minutes earlier at 8:00 p.m. It takes the moon another 20 minutes to rise above the hills of High Rock. So as the sunset is slowly fading into twilight, the full moon will sneak up over the eastern horizon. We've never had the two occur at about the same time before. 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 cool evening. The walk is barely fifteen minutes each way. On the way past the intersection, see the hundreds of shrubs, trees, grasses and wildflowers that DEP planted in the Bluebelt flood control system that has worked well so far in moderately heavy rains. Call Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496 for more information.

◆ **Saturday August 12, 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. Phone Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496 or phone Clay Wollney at (718) 303-7825.

### **Saturday, August 12, 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, August 13, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.**

Explore Miller Field Beach and edge habitat with museum naturalist Seth Wollney—With luck and endurance we shall find early fall migrating birds. Park and meet at the end of New Dorp Lane. For more information call Seth at (718) 619-5905.

### **Tuesday, August 15, 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m.**

Blue Heron Park Day Walk—Winged creatures fly by day (birds & butterflies) and by night (moths and birds). Their differences are apparent, their similarities are few. Compare and contrast the diurnal and nocturnal wildlife of Blue Heron Park with Cliff Hagen. Meet outside the Visitors' Center on Poillon Ave. For more information phone Cliff at (718) 227-8839.

### **Thursday, August 17, 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.**

Blue Heron Park Night Walk—Winged creatures fly by day (birds & butterflies) and by night (moths and birds). Their differences are apparent, their similarities are few. Compare and contrast the diurnal and nocturnal wildlife of Blue Heron Park with Cliff Hagen. Meet outside the Visitors' Center on Poillon Ave. For more information phone Cliff at (718) 227-8839.

### **Sunday, August 20, 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.**

Early Fall Migration at Mt Loretto—Join Howie Fischer at his favorite birding location. There may be a few eastern kingbirds, the black and white flycatcher that perches on wires and treetops to catch passing insects and migrates now to S. America. Also tree swallows in large numbers, heading for the Gulf coast and for the Caribbean; also yellow legs, sandpipers even green herons that bred here in our pond. Meet in the parking lot off Hylan Blvd Opposite Mt. Loretto's CYO. For more information, phone Howie at (718) 981-4002.

### **Sunday August 20, 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 swift lizards, and a few rather unusual wildflowers, nothing like our Greenbelt forest. With a permit, we will enter the restricted area where few have trod. We will check in the sand and mud for deer prints throughout the park. They say there are several dozen on S.I. A member's young daughter spotted one deer two years ago with

us. 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.

### **Saturday, August 26, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.**

Conference House Beach—Beach Life in the Intertidal Zone with Clay Wollney—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 (718) 761-7496 or Clay Wollney at (718) 303-7825.

### **Saturday, August 26, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.**

Shorebird Migration at Great Kills Park—Spend your afternoon on the mudflats of Great Kills Park with naturalist Mike Shanley as he searches for migrating shorebirds at low tide. This time of year can be very productive for shorebirds, and one can expect to see many kinds of sandpipers and plovers dotting the shoreline. Mike will discuss the lives of these amazing little creatures as we try to identify them without the aid of their distinctive spring plumages. Meet at the water fountain, in the first parking lot, almost a mile in from Hylan Blvd.. For more information, phone Mike at (917) 753-7155.

### **Sunday, August 27, 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.**

Clove Lakes Park, Fall Migrating Birds—Discover the early fall migrants on a pleasant walk down the stream side at Clove Lakes Park. Seth will assist novice birders in identifying those confusing fall warblers. Meet at the Martlings Ave. Bridge. Bring your binoculars and any field guides. For more information, call Seth at (718) 619-5905.

### **Saturday, September 2, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.**

Early Fall Migration at Clove Lakes Park—Join Howie Fischer, scientist, educator and expert birder in a tour of many of the habitats of Clove Lakes Park. We will look for Baltimore orioles, the nesting red tailed hawks, the vireos, the willow flycatcher and many of the neo tropical migrating warblers. We will also tour wooded areas to see cat birds and other residents. Then we'll check the pond to see what ducks, grebes and geese are diving for food or raising a clutch. Meet at the dam overlook on Martling's Ave, where we look down onto the treetops to see "what is up there when we are down below". For more information, phone Howie at (718) 981-4002.

### **Wednesday, Sept 6, 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.**

Fruit or Harvest Full Moon—Sunset Moonrise Walk at Mt Moses. Sunset is at 7:21 p.m. and moonrise is 22 minutes earlier at 6:59 p.m. It takes the moon another 20 minutes to rise above the hills of High Rock so we should see moonrise just as the sun is setting. We have never seen them occur at exactly the same time before. 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 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, September 9, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.**

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Early Fall Migration at Clove Lakes Park—Meet at the dam overlook on Martling's Ave. More warblers, orioles, vireos, flycatchers and perhaps the resident red tailed hawk pair. Get there early and look down over the trees to see how many different species are there and find the resident bright yellow goldfinch. He may go south or hang around all winter at your feeder. Howie will then tour the woods, pond and streams with you for a wide variety of additional birds. For more information, phone Howie at (718) 981-4002.

◆ **Saturday September 9, 10 a.m. to 12 noon**

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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. Phone Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496 or phone Clay Wollney at (718) 303-7825.

**Saturday, September 9, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

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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 plant additional shrubs and trees and check on our 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.

◆ **Tuesday, September 12, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.**

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Mt. Moses Hawk Watch # 1—Join Mike Shanley atop Moses Mountain as you survey the skies with him for migrating hawks and other raptors. Moses Mountain came about as a result of destructive highway development and today offers visitors unparalleled views of the surrounding S.I. Greenbelt and beyond to New Jersey and the lower NY Bay! Mike will also touch on the life of urban planner Robert Moses and discuss how his vision has shaped NYC and its environs. Meet at the base of the entry road for Eger Home, near Meisner and Rockland Avenues. Park on the downhill side. If you have an extra spotting scope, bring it along! For more information, phone Mike at (917) 753-7155.

◆ **Saturday, September 16, 9 a.m. to 12 noon**

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Staten Island Beach Cleanup at Sharrott & Mt Loretto Beaches—Protectors of Pine Oak Woods has volunteered again to participate in this nationwide coastal clean up effort by assuming responsibility for the beach below the Mt Loretto bluff from Sharrott Avenue south to the bluff. Gloves, tools, bags and light refreshments will be provided. Last year we removed over 400 pounds of beach litter. It should be less of a chore this year. The clean-up is funded by the NY Environmental Fund. We have the full support of New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), purchaser of the Mt Loretto properties. Meet at the NYC beach parking lot at the end of Sharrott Ave. For more information, phone Dick Buegler at (718) 761-7496 or Dominick Durso at (718) 967-0379.

◆ **Saturday, September 16, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.**

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Early Fall Migration at Conference House Park—Howie Fischer calls this site the Cape May of S. I., where all the birds migrating are funneled south into the tip end before heading over the waters to NJ. Look for kestrels, all sorts of common perching (passerine) birds which are frequently migratory, including robins, thrashers, warblers, vireos, even cuckoos, buntings and many more (see 9/30/06). It should be an exciting time for new observations and discovery. Meet in the parking lot at the very end of Hylan Blvd. For more information, phone Howie at (718) 981-4002.

◆ **Sunday, September 17, 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.**

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Conference House Park Fall Bird Migration Walk—Explore the southern tip of New York State with birder, and naturalist Seth Wollney. This unique area acts like a funnel as birds migrate from the north, and move south through Staten Island. Anything is possible this time of year, so bring your binoculars and get ready for some action! Meet at the parking lot at the end of Hylan Blvd. Call Seth at (718) 619-5905 for more information.

◆ **Sunday, September 17, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.**

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Mt Loretto Fall Wildflower & Monarch Butterfly Walk—Join Dick Buegler, along with Sandra Mechanic, avid wildflower and insect photographer, in an exciting full tour (1½ miles) of the meadows, woods, bluff, stream and ponds of this NY State Unique Area saved by Protectors members' numerous letters. She will share some of her fantastic photos that were on display at Blue Heron Park nature center earlier this spring. We may even spot a harbor seal or two which frequent Staten Island beaches. Meet at the parking lot opposite the Mt Loretto CYO in Pleasant Plains. For more information phone Dick Buegler at (718) 761-7496 or Sandra at (718) 967-6685.

◆ **Saturday, September 23, 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m.**

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Blue Heron Park Day Walk—Winged creatures fly by day (birds & butterflies) and by night (moths and birds). Their differences are apparent, their similarities are few. Compare and contrast the diurnal and nocturnal wildlife of Blue Heron Park with Cliff Hagen. Meet outside the Visitors' Center on Poillon Ave. For more information phone Cliff at (718) 227-8839.

◆ **Saturday, Sept 23, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.**

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Conference House Beach—Beach Life in the Intertidal Zone with Clay Wollney. 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 (718) 761-7496 or Clay Wollney at (718) 303-7825.

◆ **Sunday, September 24, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.**

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Clove Lakes Park Fall Migration Walk—Join Seth Wollney for an exciting birding adventure while we try and sort out the different neo-tropical migrants that can be found among the many resident bird species in the park. Bring your field guides and binoculars. Meet at the Martlings Ave Bridge. For more details call Seth at (718) 619-5905.

♦ **Sunday, September 24, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.**

Mt. Moses Hawk Watch # 11—Join Mike Shanley atop Moses Mountain as you survey the skies with him for migrating hawks and other raptors. Moses Mountain came about as a result of destructive highway development and today offers visitors unparalleled views of the surrounding S.I. Greenbelt and beyond to New Jersey and the lower NY Bay! Mike will also touch on the life of urban planner Robert Moses and discuss how his vision has shaped NYC and its environs. Meet at the base of the entry road for Eger Home, near Meisner and Rockland Avenues. Park on the downhill side. If you have an extra spotting scope, bring it along! For more information, phone Mike at (917) 753-7155.

♦ **Monday, September 25, 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.**

Blue Heron Park Night Walk—Winged creatures fly by day (birds & butterflies) and by night (moths and birds). Their differences are apparent, their similarities are few. Compare and contrast the diurnal and nocturnal wildlife of Blue Heron Park with Cliff Hagen. Meet outside the Visitors' Center on Poillon Ave. For more information phone Cliff at (718) 227-8839.

♦ **Saturday, September 30, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.**

Fall Migration at Conference House Park—Howie Fischer will again help us find more of the migrating passerine birds, funneling down into Tottenville before heading to NJ and much further south to the tropics. To the migrating bird list of 9/16/06 above add Merlins (a falcon), sparrows, ospreys, kestrels, peregrine falcons and sharp shinned hawks. It's almost a lifetime of birds in one fell swoop. Meet in the lot at the end of Hylan Blvd. For more information, phone Howie at (718) 981-4002.

♦ **Sunday, October 1, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

Mt Loretto Unique Area & Clay Pit Ponds—An all day botanical walk of both parks for Torrey Botanical Society. Meet at 10 a.m. in parking lot of Mt Loretto Unique Area on Hylan Blvd. opposite the CYO center in Pleasant Plains. At Mt. Loretto, we'll look for the summer's orchids in seed and the smooth aster that feeds the Monarchs. At Clay Pit we'll check out the cranberries, and the two rare oak and pine species growing there. We will eat our own bag lunch at Clay Pit at 12:30 p.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, phone Dick Buegler at (718) 761-7496.

♦ **Friday, October 6, 5:45 p.m. to 7:15 p.m.**

Big Wind or Hunters' Full Moon—Sunset Moonrise Walk at Mt Moses—Sunset is at 6:31 p.m. and moonrise is 17 minutes earlier at 6:14 p.m. It takes the moon another 20 minutes to rise above the hills of High Rock so we should see moonrise just as the sun is setting. We have never seen them occur at exactly the same time before. 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 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, October 7, 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 wildflowers. Enjoy your own 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 among the asters, goldenrods and butterflies, looking out on Great Kills Harbor, Sandy Hook and the NY Lower Bay looking for harbor seals, then walk the length of Crooke's Point. Call Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496 for more information.

♦ **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.

## PINELANDS NURSERY OF NJ CONTINUES TO CONTRIBUTE TO PROTECTORS' FOREST RESTORATION EFFORTS

**E**ARLY THIS SPRING, Protectors received a donation of over 400 trees from the Pinelands Nursery and Supply in Columbus, NJ (less than 40 miles from Staten Island). It was delivered to Glenn Cronick, board member, who made the arrangements for us. Most were in gallon pots and seemed to be at least 4 to 5 years old. They were healthy, vigorous stock, many of which have already been planted by restoration team members in High Rock Park, in the Greta Moulton tract, at the base of Mt Moses, in Egbertville Ravine, along the white trail in Latourette Park and at an old homesite in Latourette Park that had been devastated by a Norway maple invasion that we eradicated without use of herbicides.

Some of the species donated by Pinelands included silver maple, American basswood, red oak, river birch and some rare hybrid Bartram oak. This is not the first tree donation from Pinelands. Three years ago Pinelands Nursery donated to us over 500 trees and shrubs including 400 highbush cranberry, a low viburnum shrub much like our maple leafed viburnum but with a wider, showier flower and a large red edible fruit. It is known in the Comparative Flora of Staten Island only from the 1981 flora, and then it was considered not common. We personally know of a few flowering specimens just inside the Nevada Avenue entrance of High Rock Park.

We in Protectors are most grateful to Pinelands Nursery for their present and past contributions.

—Dick Buegler

## NASCAR TRACK, SHOPPING MALL WILL TIE UP TRAFFIC REGULARLY

I WAS DISMAYED WHILE READING articles regarding Staten Island's traffic woes that no mention was made of the proposed NASCAR facility. Any Staten Island resident who has a traffic complaint now should be showing up at every hearing to protest this boondoggle.

The NASCAR proponents' assertion that the races are "only three weekends per year" is a scam at best. A NASCAR "weekend" is Thursday through Sunday. At this rate, we have 12 days per year that traffic will be snarled beyond comprehension for at least five hours surrounding the race.

Now consider that these races are held during prime beach-going season when the traffic across Staten Island is already heavy.

In addition to these days, consider all the other weekends when the developers of this site are planning other "events." These may not fill the 82,500-seat stadium, but they will certainly tie up traffic to some extent, not to mention the estimated 15,000 people who will flock to the shopping center on a typical Saturday.

This burden on our already jammed roadways is incomprehensible, yet the list of headaches goes on and on: an estimated 30 helicopter trips over our heads on a typical race day; the destruction of 15 acres of wetlands where several species of marsh birds are known to live; the possible flooding when runoff area is removed; the leaded gasoline fumes spewed out by race cars; and the noise. —Lisa Pillarella

## FIELD NOTES: CLAY PIT PONDS STATE PARK PRESERVE

SEVEN MEMBERS OF PROTECTORS OF Pine Oak Woods led by President Hillel Lofaso and President Emeritus Dick Buegler enjoyed a three-hour tour of Clay Pit Ponds State Park Preserve, the first natural area Protectors had successfully worked to preserve in the early 1970s. We all agreed that some thirty years later, the park is healthier and more beautiful than ever under the watchful care of New York State Office of Parks and Recreation.

With a special permit to visit the restricted area of the park, the unique lands that make Clay Pit so special, we were able to verify the status of some of the rare tree species there, including the Pitch and Virginia Pines as well as the Black Jack and Post Oak species. We were unable to reach a healthy, non-diseased American Chestnut tree of 8 inches in diameter in the Blue Factory Bog area because of wetlands nearby.

Nevertheless, the recent dry spell has taken a temporary toll on the mosses, for the ground was powdery and dry. Cinnamon ferns, many in wetland areas, were growing well and their reproductive fronds were producing a good supply of spores for production of new plants. We were pleased to find so many more plants of the rare Ebony Splenwort Fern along the old Clay Pit Roadside. The two stands of Reindeer Moss, a whitish lichen, often collected for model railroad layouts, were doing well and will grow larger with each successive rain.

But the rifle range bog was so dry that the patch of large cranberry looked withered and dying. We were not unhappy to find little evidence of the several dozen white tailed deer known to inhabit the park and nearby woodlands, for we know they do great damage to the young trees, shrubs and wildflower populations. But we saw none of the Eastern Fence Swift, Sceloporous, which in past years has thrived on the hot sandy soils there, ever since being released by a zoo curator in the 1940s. We could watch them throw out their tongues to catch insects for hours.

—Dick Buegler

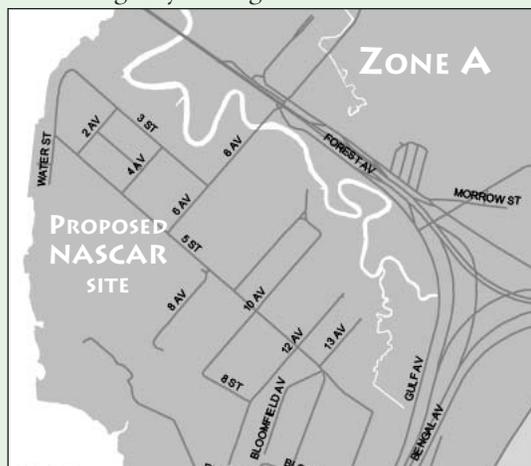
## HURRICANE WARNING FOR NASCAR SITE

PROTECTORS REMAINS COMMITTED IN ITS OPPOSITION to developing the site known as Gulfport Marsh and Uplands for the ISC Speedway. Our board member, Dr. Alan Benimoff, has recently added to the mounting reasons for abandoning this project by introducing the latest hurricane data from the New York City Office of Emergency Management.

The proposed NASCAR site is directly in Hurricane Evacuation Zone A. Residents in this zone face the highest risk of life-threatening storm surge inundation in ANY hurricane. Coastal Evacuation route signs have been placed on routes leading away from the proposed NASCAR site to the nearest coastal evacuation center.

Coastal storms, which include nor'easters, tropical storms and hurricanes, can cause severe damage and hazardous conditions in the City, especially in low-lying areas where flooding is more likely to occur. Keep in mind that if you live within 10 blocks of a coastal area, it is more likely that you will be directed to evacuate before a severe coastal storm or hurricane ([http://nyc.gov/html/oem/html/readyny/hazard\\_hurricane\\_evaczones.html](http://nyc.gov/html/oem/html/readyny/hazard_hurricane_evaczones.html)).

It doesn't make sense to pursue any development of any kind in these wetland parcels faced with the knowledge that most of this land will be underwater and homes and businesses sited there will incur heavy damage. —Dr. Alan I. Benimoff



## PROTECTOR'S OFFERS TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF FUNDING FOR LONG POND/BUTLER WOODS PRESERVATION

*Editor's note:* The following testimony was submitted on April 19 to the Subcommittee on Commerce Justice and Science of the US Senate Appropriations Committee.

**P**ROTECTOR'S OF PINE OAK WOODS, a conservation organization representing over 2000 environmentally conscious Staten Islanders, appreciates this opportunity to testify in support of appropriating \$3 million from National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program for the preservation of Long Pond/Butler Woods in New York.

The southern coast of Staten Island, facing the open waters of the Atlantic Ocean and Sandy Hook in New Jersey southeast over the Raritan Bay, is an important natural and recreational resource for the residents of the metropolitan New York City Area. To conserve this shoreland, hundreds of acres have been protected as federal, state, and local government parks such as Gateway National Recreational Area in New York and New Jersey, Mount Loretto Unique Area, Wolfe's Pond Park, and Conference House Park. These parks lie on the northern shore of Raritan Bay, a significant estuary between New York and New Jersey.

New York/New Jersey's Raritan Bay, with Staten Island to the north and Middlesex and Monmouth counties to the south, is the largest component of the Hudson River-Raritan Estuary system. It is part of the New York-New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program, one of 28 federally recognized estuaries of national importance. Raritan Bay was historically one of the richest fisheries in the nation prior to over-fishing and a reduction of water quality due to silt and other pollution which have impacted fish stocks in recent decades. The harbor, where commerce, industry, and nature confront one another, has, considering its overlying urban/industrial matrix, large amounts of upland and wetland open space and an unexpectedly high degree of biological diversity. The wetlands, marshes, flats, and coastal and riparian corridors in both New York and New Jersey serve as prime habitats for fish, terrapin, amphibians, and shorebirds, while migratory birds

use these same areas for habitat and stopovers to replenish the energies needed to continue their journeys. In this part of Raritan Bay land conservation has been used as a primary tool for wildlife protection and to improve water control and quality; it is the site of extensive habitat and storm water management Bluebelts established by The New York City Department of Environmental Protection.

Two parcels totaling 80 acres near the Princes Bay section of Staten Island are available for acquisition in Fiscal Year 2007. These are collectively referred to as Long Pond/Butler Woods. The largest parcel, known as the North Mount Loretto Woods, comprises 75 acres of forest and wetlands lying between Hylan Boulevard and the Pleasant Plains station of the Staten Island Railway. This property contains wetlands that provide flood protection, stormwater control, wildlife habitat, and open space for residents. More than half of the property contains wetlands within the Mill Creek watershed and provides watershed protection. The smaller parcel, known as the Camp St. Edward property, is a five-acre triangular property on the shore of Raritan Bay. Currently undeveloped, it extends south of Hylan Boulevard along 800 feet of shoreland, and is adjacent to the only natural red clay bluffs in the New York City area.

Both of these properties have been identified as high priority conservation projects in the New York State Open Space Conservation Plan of 2005, a plan which includes the New York-New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program and the state plans for the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program. Together the properties offer opportunities to conserve important recreation and open space for residents and other users. Enhancing their value are several existing conserved

properties that surround the parcels, including the Mill Creek Bluebelt site immediately to the north of the North Mount Loretto Woods parcel; Long Pond Park Natural Area which contains forest, swamp, and freshwater ponds; Lemon Creek on the Bay itself; Bloesser's Pond; Arden Heights Woods; and the Mount Loretto Unique Area, an adjacent 145-acre tract of grasslands and bluff fronting the Bay that was conserved in 1998.

In order to conserve the Long Pond/Butler Woods parcels, an appropriation of \$3 million from the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program is needed in Fiscal Year 2007. A federal contribution would be matched by \$11.5 million in non-federal funds, very nearly a one-to-four ratio. Once conserved, the properties would be managed by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Both properties are highly vulnerable for development given their location in the metropolitan area, and other parcels in the immediate area have been purchased and developed for residential use within the past year.

Conservation of these two properties will ensure the protection of important coastal wetlands and the availability of open space, recreational opportunity, and public access to the shore of Raritan Bay. Therefore Protector's of Pine Oak Woods urges the inclusion of funding for this project in the Fiscal Year 2007 Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations Bill. We thank the Subcommittee for this opportunity to present testimony, and for consideration of this important request.

—Donald Recklies and  
Ellen O'Flaherty Pratt  
Conservation Committee Co-Chairs



North Mount Loretto Woods with Long Pond at left.



**NEW:** Edward Addaman, Shaun Wynn Boudier, Loretta Burkley, Mr. & Mrs. John Cascio, Kathleen Daly, Lisa DeFrancesco & David Diamond, Jackie Duhon, Fran Edwards, Jay & Jeanne Fontanarosa, Joe Gindoff, Anthony Iesu, David Jordet, Edith Lauber, Bridgette

Marten, Elizabeth McFadden, Joan & Tom Naples, Sharon Pritchett, Richmond Evergreen Garden Club, Frank Schulz, Arleen Siemietkowski, Emily Sims, Lenore Swenson, Dorothea Torchiano, Jack Van Pelt, Mr. & Mrs. Eric Vitaliano, Linda Wadas, Lorraine Windsor

**NEW LIFE MEMBER:** Grace Murphy

**PROTECTOR:** Kevin J. Fallis

**DONOR:** Vincent DiTizio; Eric Goldstein (NRDC), Gail Hamilton, Odette Janavel, Abraham & Rose Levy, Alison & John Mitchell, Mr. & Mrs. Bart Sharp, Barbara Shelp, William & Norma Siebenheller, Barbara Straube, Cathy Zelonis

**PATRON:** Marilyn Aronson, Clare Beckhardt, Charles & Marianne Beisser, Warrick Bell & Catherine Lavender, Oran & Jean Brown, Richard Detmar, Brian & Gladys Diran, Ted Doerzbacher, Mary Ann Fitzgerald, Ruth Fressola, Tom Goodwin, Cliff & Ethel Holtermann, David Jordet, Edith Lauber, Lila Levey & Stephen Glasser, Robert & Naomi Lonergan, Anne Lutkenhouse, Evelyn Otten MacDonald, Janet McAuliffe, Joseph Nielson, Mr. & Mrs. Michael Petosa, Joan Rendell, Joan Russo, Mike & Peggy Sormani, Marith Tellefsen, Mr. & Mrs. Eric Vitaliano, Mr. & Jack Volkral, Kathleen & Jeffrey Wachtel

**CONTRIBUTING:** Yvonne ben Aaman, Lois & Jack Baird, Dr. Alan Benimoff, Mary & Charles Bianco, Christine Bliss & Tim Moran, The Bouwmans Family, John Brady, Sylvia Breitberg, Phillip Brown & Family, Nancy & Jim Burri, Mr. & Mrs. John Cascio, Anna Connors, Kathleen Daly, Diane Darconte, Dr. Anthony DeFina, Jack Deitch, Henry Derrenbacher, Mary Jane DeSantis, Grace Merrill Dunkley, James Falkenberg, John Fallis, Louis Faro, Terri Fedele, Howard Fischer, Mr. & Mrs. Harry Forlenza, Mary & George Fulks, Paul Gallant, Jack Goldwasser, Richard & Vincent Gorgoglione, Mary Jo Grillo, Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Hally, Laura Henry, David Hermanns, Norma Herz, Jeanne & Bill Hogan, Amelia Howland, Amanda Humphrey, Don Icolari, Anthony Iesu, David & Sally Jones; Elizabeth Karsa, Daniel & Richenda Kramer, Harriet & George Kurlander, Frances Lowney, Elizabeth McFadden, James Mulvaney, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Murphy, Richard Norberg, Edward Oddo, Elizabeth & Thomas O'Keefe, Lillian Orrok, Jacquie Perine, Mr. & Mrs. Richard Persichetty, Carolyn Pinto, David & Theresa Raftery, Don Recklies, Patricia Salmon, Mickey Schaffner, Jeffrey Sinclair, Thomas Sloan, Meg Smith, Rick Spanier, Mr. & Mrs. M. Philip Stern, Lawrence & Norma Sullivan, Gaile Tucker, James Ulrich, Erin Urban, Michael & Penny Varriano, Karen Weismuller, Lorraine Windsor, Herman & Sylvia Zaage

**ORGANIZATIONS:** Great Kills Garden Club, Lighthouse Hill Civ. Assn., New York City Audubon, Pleasant Plains/Princes Bay/Richmond Valley Civic Assn., Richmond Evergreen Garden Club, Serpentine Art & Nature Commons, Inc.

**SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS:** Barbara Bacolini, Cristina Bambina,

Catherine Barron (Life member), Jean Beck, The Bouwmans Family, Elaine R. Cohen, Mr. & Mrs. John Dabbene, Marguerite DeCoursey, Gladys DeSantis, Elvira DiVuolo, Louis & Mary Dujmich (Life members), Galante Home Improvement Co., Jean Gallo, George Garis, John Gelles, Betty Harrington, Joan Hartman, John J. Healey, Jr., Bob Hegler, I.B.M. Matching Grant (through L.J. Dujmich), Brian Levine, Esq., Mona Levine, John & Rosalie Lipsett, Frances Lowney, Evelyn MacDonald, Alice Robinson, William Romaine, John Ross, Susan & Ralph Santiago, Martin Satloff, Fay Schiff, Elise Schmaus, Anne Sellitto, Barbara Shelp, Arleen Siemietkowski, Meg Smith, Jerry Sorgente, Elva Testa

We thank the J.P. Morgan/Chase Foundation for their donation of \$1,000 in recognition of the volunteer work done by Adriano Chinellato.

— Sylvia Zaage, Assistant Membership Secretary

**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 \[szaage@siprotectors.org\]\(mailto:szaage@siprotectors.org\)](mailto:szaage@siprotectors.org) and put "Subscribe to PPOW" in the subject line. Not a member? — Join today!

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Phone me. I want to volunteer my help: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**PRESERVING AND PROTECTING NATURE ON STATEN ISLAND** (continued from page 2)

Unlike most other large communities, counties or states throughout the United States, Staten Island does not have a land trust organization of its own. I don't believe it ever had one. Land trust organizations are skilled in encouraging well-to-do residents of the area to dig deeply into their purses and pockets to purchase a valuable natural area that may end up, eventually, in the hands of developers. We have many well-to-do residents, but no one skilled in convincing them that buying land, meadows, forests and streams for the public becomes a permanent memorial to them, often being given their name as a thankful testimonial to their beneficence.

In Protectors' efforts to preserve threatened natural open spaces on Staten Island, we have relied upon other not-for-profit organizations to arrange and complete the transfer of private lands to some public body or agency such as New York City

Department of Parks, New York State DEC or even the United States Department of the Interior (which counts Gateway National Recreation Area as one of its larger most active recreational parks involving two states, at least four counties and many local communities). The Trust for Public Land has most times been the transferring organization for Staten Island and they know and respect Protectors for our preservation efforts and have worked closely with us.

In the last 30-plus years, Protectors has shown the Staten Island community the way precious open space can be saved. President Hillel Lofaso has been one of our lead officers during most of those past acquisitions as a very effective vice president. He will have my full support and encouragement to continue this proud tradition of valuable land acquisition by Protectors. If you wonder if there

is any more land to save, we just recently discovered that there are hundreds of acres of mostly marshland, at not much more than sea level elevation at the NASCAR site, just waiting to be placed in protected status as a barrier against future hurricane flood damage to our built community. South of NASCAR, along the west shore, there are other similar sea level wetland areas to be preserved, one of which we call the Sharrotts Road Shoreline, just a stone's throw from Arthur Kill Road. Members of our board have already made several joint visits to assess the site and are planning more visits for the membership.

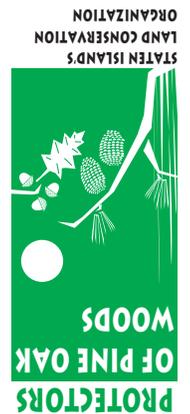
Protectors has a preservation course to follow and a capable, confident and experienced new president and supporting officers to steer that course.

That is what our over 2000 members expect of Protectors.

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**READ ABOUT CHANGES TO PROTECTORS INSIDE!**

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IF YOU DON'T SEE 2007 OR LIFE, YOUR MEMBERSHIP  
HAS EXPIRED. PLEASE, RENEW TODAY!**