

PROTECTOR'S OF PINE OAK WOODS



**STATEN ISLAND'S
LAND CONSERVATION
ORGANIZATION**

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SPRING/SUMMER 2007

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PROTECTOR'S SUCCESSES DEPENDS ON ADVOCACY, ACTIVISM AND EDUCATION.

THREE ASPECTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

THE THREE LEGGED STOOL IS UNIQUE in that it has a special design feature. This feature allows the seating object to be supported on an "unleveled" surface. That's why farmers originally used the three-legged stool to milk their cows. The dynamic integrated nature of these three legs form the character and culture of most organizations. All three play an integral part in the performance of an organization. Organizational excellence and performance is based on how well you continuously improve all three legs. And depending on what type of business or industry you're in, one may take priority over the other. Most organizations find themselves struggling with a feeling that one or two of the legs are getting pulled apart or may even collapse.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Protectors of Pine Oak Woods is an organization that has three components: advocacy, activism and education. Ours is an organization that thrives on those three elements, and we seek to have them in balance. Our advocacy initiatives extend to increasing park acreage and open space protection. Our activism is concentrated on creating effective public dialogue with agency heads and elected officials through informed campaigns. Finally, our education goals center around imbuing Staten Islanders of all ages with an appreciation of and a fulfilling relationship with the gift of nature that is for all to enjoy.

It is the duty of our board to further the mission of Protectors to be Staten Island's largest land conservation organization and that means availing ourselves of the tools that these three approaches afford to achieve maximum results. But we are not simply an activist organization or an advocacy organization or an educational organization. To restrict ourselves to any one of these legs of our stool would be self-limiting. Surely there are times when the best course of action requires advocacy, education, or the activist approach. We will not remove the possibility of choosing any path. Those decisions are deliberated on by the board as each case arises and as we learn more about the case, we can better determine what mix of resources to use.

Asian Longhorned Beetle

I hope you share our concern about the discovery of the Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB) on Prall's Island earlier this year. The ALB is a formidable pest, that preys on several of our trees. It has no known biological predators here in the United States and eradication techniques focus on seemingly extreme measures of clearing out the perimeter of the infected tree by clearcutting, wood-chipping and burning. On the Pralls Island site, this amounted to the destruction of nearly 3,000 trees by the Parks Department under the direction of the the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of the US Department of Agriculture. Now the insect was found in three trees in the former GATX site in Bloomfield, prompting the planned destruction of several thousand more.

Richard Lynch, Honorary Board Member and founder of the Sweetbay Magnolia Biosphere Reserve Conservancy, has commented on the ALB crisis and response. In a recent e-mail to Protectors he wrote:

"Unlike Prall's Island (where both Red Maples and Gray Birch were discovered to be infested), on the mainland of Staten Island only three (3) trees were discovered to be infested and all are Silver Maples. Given that the Gray Birch makes up more than 90% of the native cover type in the Old Place Creek basin (with Silver Maple found rarely and remotely from each other), we have to wonder why nearly 8,000 trees have to be destroyed in this area (all potential host trees within 1/2 mile of infested trees). There were numerous discussions with APHIS staff during the field assessment phase of this work, where it was suggested that (since NO exit holes have been dis-

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Chairman & Editor: D. Hillel Lofaso
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Island, NY 10314-0747; (718) 751-6629

e-mail address:
ppow@siprotectors.org
Web site: www.siprotectors.org

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

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covered, indicating that local trees are not presently creating new adult ALB), they might consider reducing the primary quarantine from 1/2 mile to 1/4 mile or even 1/8 mile. This would have saved the lives of thousands of trees that are probably being killed needlessly.

"The greatest obstacle to having a reasonable discussion with APHIS/DEC/DPR is the argument they make that, if we don't control the beetle right now, we will have to take down hundreds of thousands of additional trees when they become infested. By always asserting that we are in an emergency situation relative to ALB, it appears that the agencies are more interested in facilitating their work than having any real dialog with the community and local environmental researchers. We were told that the trees that will be destroyed on Staten Island are a very small price to pay to help save the rest of the world from the ALB. For those of us who have dedicated decades of our life's work to trying to better understand and protect these fragile native plant communities, the loss of OUR natural areas is 100%, not a small part of some greater whole."

Penny Harvest

Protectors is thrilled that students at Intermediate School 72 have decided to contribute a portion of their Penny Harvest fundraising project to Protectors of Pine Oak Woods. The Penny Harvest was conceived by the organization Common Cents. "We at Common Cents regard America's billion dollar resource of idle pennies—found in startling quantities in the homes of both the rich and poor—as the philanthropic property of young people," according to Founder and Executive Director Teddy Gross. For this reason, every penny the children collect is theirs to give away in an educational group process.

As children help others in their communities, they express and develop their generosity and moral character, and they learn through practice the skills and responsibilities of democratic participation. These young people demonstrate to themselves and others their value as contributors to the community.

Students conceive and plan their own Neighborhood Service projects—from revitalizing public gardens to teaching English to immigrants—and they often partner with experienced neighborhood groups to learn more about complex community problems and how to work together to solve them.

We applaud the students and their teachers for taking the time to help Protectors help others. Well done!
—Hillel Lofaso

Asian Longhorned Beetle Threat Continues

The Asian Longhorned beetle, native to China, Japan and Korea, is a voracious pest of our nation's deciduous hardwood forests and urban landscape. It deposits eggs into healthy hardwood trees. After hatching, the developing beetle bores into the trees and feeds on living tree tissue during the larval stage. Later, throughout the summer, adult beetles emerge from exit holes and briefly feed on the small twigs and leaves of host trees. The beetle attacks many different hardwood trees including all species of maple, birch, horsechestnut, poplar, willow, elm, ash, mimosa (silk tree), hackberry, London plane, sycamore, and mountain ash. Signs of an infested tree include round pits in tree bark, oozing sap, accumulation of sawdust from larvae boring, and round exit holes. The ALB emerges in early July and becomes dormant in late October.

The New York City Department of Parks & Recreation, New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and United States Department of Agriculture encourage New Yorkers to help in the battle against the Asian Longhorned beetle. The Asian Longhorned Beetle is about 1 to 1.5 inches long, has a shiny, jet-black body with distinctive white spots and long antennae that are banded with black and white. Signs to look for are round exit holes about the size of a dime and coarse sawdust created by beetle larvae as they bore into the main tree stem and branches. There may also be oval pits in the tree bark that are egg-laying niches. Sap may flow from these niches, especially on maple trees, as the larvae feed inside the tree. Residents can also assist in the eradication efforts by allowing project officials access to their property to inspect their trees. To report a sighting of this pest, call 311 or (877) STOP-ALB.

— From New York City Department of Parks and Recreation Website, March 27, 2007

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.

Monday, June 18, 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

◆ Butterflies at Blue Heron Park—Join Cliff Hagen, naturalist and educator, in the wildflower gardens and woodlands throughout the park to see what butterflies are feeding there on the nectar and pollen. There are 700 butterfly species in the US and Canada while there are 8,000 moth species here. Why do we see mostly butterflies? The Monarch butterflies will be building up their populations until September when they begin their migration to their Mexican overwintering home. Meet at the environmental center gardens on Poillon Avenue where you can begin your butterfly watching as you wait for the walk to begin. Return Friday, July 6, 10 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. to see the moth populations. Be sure to bring beverage, cameras, binoculars and field guides. For more information, phone Dick Buegler at (718) 761-7496 or Cliff at (718) 227-8839.

Thursday, June 21, 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

◆ Butterflies at Blue Heron Park—Join Cliff Hagen at the Blue Heron environmental center on Poillon Avenue for more butterflies. See June 18, 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. for more details. Be sure to bring beverage, camera, binoculars and field guides. For more information, phone Dick Buegler at (718) 761-7496 or Cliff at (718) 227-8839.

Saturday, June 23, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

◆ Conference House Beach—Beach Life in the Intertidal Zone. We'll begin by beachcombing the high tide line with naturalist & educator Clay Wollney 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 and viewed in small containers, then returned to their habitat. It's going to be muddy so dress appropriately. Young children, accompanied by adults, are welcome. Meet in the Conference House parking lot at the south end of Hylan Blvd. For more information phone Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496 or Clay Wollney at (718)303-7825.

Saturday, June 23, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

◆ Summer in the Greenbelt with Howie Fischer—On this third day of summer, we will explore the Greenbelt including parts of Pouch Camp to observe all the different plants and animals of a unique woodland and its meadows, streams and ponds. Breeding birds will be looked for and recorded. On our early spring walk in March, Howie and the participants found so much to see and discuss, that with summer starting now, there should be even more to observe and enjoy. Be sure to bring beverage, binoculars and field guides. Meet in the Nevada Avenue parking lot of High Rock. Please lock your car. For more information, phone Howie at (718) 981-4002 or Dick Buegler at (718) 761-7496.

Sunday, June 24, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

◆ Mt Loretto Expedition—Join Howie Fischer in his study of Summer Ecology in the fields of Mount Loretto. Enjoy the vastness of the open space, the vistas and the shoreline below. We will focus on the unusual birds and wildflowers found in the fields, wetlands and sky above. This is Staten Island's only \$25 million, N.Y. State Unique Area. We walk past the site of the recently (2005) rediscovered ragged fringed orchid that may be in mid bloom. Howie will count the total of Orchard Orioles so don't be surprised to see quite a few of this slightly smaller relative of the Baltimore oriole. The male has a brick red chest and is black from head to tail. The female is olive green above and yellowish below. This is an uncommon, special, breeding species here on Staten Island. Be sure to bring beverage, binoculars and field guides. Meet in the parking lot just off Hylan Blvd. across from the CYO Bldg. Please lock your car. For more information, phone Howie at (718) 981-4002 or Dick Buegler at (718) 761-7496.

Friday, June 29, 8:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Sunset Moonrise Walk at Mt Moses: Rose or Strawberry Full Moon—Sunset is at 8:32 p.m. and moonrise is 11 minutes earlier at 8:21 p.m. It takes the moon another 20 minutes to rise above the hills of High Rock, so we should see moonrise ten minutes or so after sunset, about 8:40. We have seen them occur at approximately the same time before but not this month. Meet at the entry road to Eger Home at intersection of Rockland and Meisner Avenues. Flashlight required for each person in your group. If you like, bring a light refreshment to share with others. Be sure to dress for a cool evening. The walk is 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. Leader is Sandra Mechanic. Call Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496 for more information.

Sunday, July 1, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

◆ Summer in the Fields of Mount Loretto—Learn meadow ecology from expert science teacher Howie Fischer and the reasons to maintain this unique Staten Island habitat as a managed (annually mowed) meadow. Flora and Fauna, including birds, snakes, Monarch butterflies and the Fringed Orchid will be some goals to find and observe along with two ponds and a stream for water life. Be sure to bring beverage, binoculars and field guides. Meet in the parking lot off Hylan Blvd. across from the CYO Bldg. Please lock your car. For information, phone Howie at (718) 981-4002 or Dick Buegler at (718) 761-7496.

Friday, July 6, 10:00 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.

A Night Moth Walk at Blue Heron Park—Join Cliff Hagen, naturalist and educator, to see if the sugar-water bait that he has placed in the park has attracted these night flyers. There are at least 11 times as many moth species as butterflies north

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.

of Mexico. Butterflies only fly at daytime when most flowers release their scent to attract insects. Meet at the environmental center on Poillon Avenue. Be sure to carry a flashlight but please keep it off until the group moves in the dark. Be sure to bring beverage, binoculars and field guides. For more information, phone Dick Buegler at (718) 761-7496 or Cliff at (718) 227-8839.

Saturday, July 14, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Forest Restoration Workshop: High Rock from Nevada Avenue to Hour Glass Pond—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. Meet in the Nevada Avenue Parking Lot. Call Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496 for more information.

Saturday, July 14, 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

◆ Page Avenue Beach—Beach Life in the Intertidal Zone. We'll begin by beachcombing the high tide line with naturalist & educator Clay Wollney 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 and shown in small containers, then returned to their habitat. It's going to be muddy so dress appropriately. Young children, accompanied by adults, are always welcome. Meet at the parking lot at the bottom of Page Avenue to the left of Hylan Blvd. For more information, phone Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496 or Clay Wollney at (718)303-7825

Sunday, July 15, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

◆ Summer Ecology in High Rock, the Greenbelt—Emphasis again will be on this unique forest community. Be sure to bring beverage, binoculars and field guides. There will be so many trees, shrubs with berries, flowers, birds and more to see. Check calendar for Saturday, June 23 for more. Meet in the High Rock Parking lot, Nevada Avenue. Please lock your car. For more information, phone Howie at (718) 981-4002 or Dick Buegler at (718) 761-7496.

Monday July 23, 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

◆ Butterflies at Northern SeaView Meadow—The upland meadows and woods of SeaView may support butterflies not found at Blue Heron. It's not a very hilly walk at all. Be sure to bring beverage, camera, binoculars and field guides. Meet Cliff Hagen, naturalist and educator, at the corner of Walcott and Brielle Avenues, opposite SeaView Hospital. Find parking along Walcott Avenue. For more information, phone Dick Buegler at (718) 761-7496 or Cliff at (718) 227-8839.

Sunday, July 29, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

◆ Buck's Hollow, a Lowland Wet Forest—If you know the upland Greenbelt forest, come learn the differences of this wetter, lowland forest from Howie Fischer who lived in High Rock for several years. It has a wealth of plants and animals to look for and discuss. Even the trees differ. There are red maple, shagbark hickory, white ash and sassafras. We may even pass the few trees damaged by the Pileated woodpecker this spring as it carved its low oval feeding holes in live sassafras trees. We pass drying up spring peeper ponds and several groves of dozens of native persimmon trees that may be forming fruit. Examine the site where a nineteenth century early settler, Heyerdahl, attempted a vineyard in magnesium toxic serpentine soils.

See the young forest replacing the grassy meadows where the early Greenbelters of the 1950's served their wine and bagels to hundreds of supporters. Be sure to bring beverage, binoculars and field guides. Park near the left turn for Eger Nursing home, at intersection of Meisner and Rockland Ave. Meet on the bridge overpass. For more information, phone Howie at (718) 981-4002 or Dick Buegler at (718) 761-7496.

Sunday, July 29, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

◆ Long Pond, Tottenville's newest 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 Advance nature 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. Young children, accompanied by adults, are always welcome. It's a favorite ice skating pond for locals. 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.

Sunday, July 29, 7:45 p.m. to 9:15 p.m.

Sunset Moonrise Walk at Mt Moses: Buffalo or Buck Full Moon—Sunset is at 8:15 p.m. and moonrise is 9 minutes later at 8:24 p.m. It takes the moon another 20 minutes to rise above the hills of High Rock so we should see moonrise just 30 minutes after sunset, about 8:45. Meet at the entry road to Eger Home at intersection of Rockland and Meisner Avenues. Flashlight is required for each person in your group. You may bring a light refreshment to share with others. Be sure to dress for a cool evening. The walk is 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. The pond is now surrounded by a healthy growing forest. Leader is Sandra Mechanic. Call Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496 for more information.

Monday, August 6, 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

◆ Butterflies at Northern SeaView Meadow—The upland meadows and woods of SeaView may support butterflies not found at Blue Heron. It's not a very hilly walk at all. Be sure to bring beverage, camera, binoculars and field guides. Meet Cliff Hagen at the corner of Walcott and Brielle Avenues, opposite SeaView Hospital. Find parking along Walcott Avenue. For more information, phone Dick Buegler at (718) 761-7496 or Cliff at (718) 227-8839.

Saturday August 11, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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

Saturday, August 11, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

◆ Conference House Beach—Beach Life in the Intertidal Zone. We'll begin by beachcombing the high tide line with naturalist & educator Clay Wollney 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 and viewed in small containers, then returned to their habitat. It's going to be muddy so dress appropriately. Young children, accompanied by adults, are most welcome. Meet in the Conference House parking lot at the south end of Hylan Blvd. For more information, phone Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496 or Clay Wolney at (718) 303-7825

Saturday, August 11, 3:00 p.m. to 5 p.m.

◆ Summer Afternoon at Mt Loretto Unique area—An afternoon slow jaunt with naturalist Howie Fischer through this multi-million dollar nature preserve. Stroll through the meadows where we know deer might graze, past the ponds where waterfowl feed, including pairs of green herons, and dozens of geese. Walk up the slopes where the pale lavender, smooth aster will bloom in another month or so. Reach the glorious overlook view of the lower bay and distant New Jersey where sailboats, freighters and liners are often seen. Overhead, we may see hawks, harriers, kestrels, osprey and great blue herons flying, while the shrubs may be concealing red wing blackbirds and cedar waxwings. The astounding view back over Staten Island reassures us that most of this has been saved. Meet in the parking lot just off of Hylan Blvd across from the CYO Bldg. Please lock your car. For more information, phone Howie at (718) 981-4002 or Dick Buegler at (718) 761-7496

Sunday, August 12, 11 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

◆ Summer Coastal Plant Dune Walk at Gateway-Join Sandra Mechanic, naturalist and photographer, to explore the unique challenging beach habitats of both dry and salty conditions for plants. We will find Winged Pigweed, Common Lambs quarters, Prickly Pear Cactus (native to Staten Island), Seaside Goldenrod, Sickie leafed Golden Asters, Sea Rocket, Dune grass, Salt marsh grass, the evergreen False Heather, Jointed Coastweed, Earth Stars (a kind of puff ball) and loads of Pinweeds that few recognize. The Asters and Coastweed may be in bloom. We should see Monarch Butterflies and some camouflaged, sand colored grasshoppers as well as many shore birds. Meet at the Hylan Blvd parking lot to Great Kills Park, Gateway, opposite Buffalo St, a stop on the #78 bus line. Drivers pick up passengers there at 11:00 a.m. then drive into the park about a mile to the first parking lot and park at the beach side in the first near corner to your left. If time permits, we will walk over to the educational building in front of which the Ranger Jackie Duhon and Protectors planted a Wildflower Garden with several hundred plants of 9 wildflower species, 4/14/07, the day before the eight inch rain storm. Bring water, large hat and sunscreen. For more information phone Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496.

Monday, August 13, 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

◆ Butterflies at Blue Heron Park—Join Cliff Hagen, naturalist and educator, in the wildflower gardens and woodlands throughout the park to see what butterflies are feeding there. There are 700 butterfly species in the US and Canada while there are 8,000 moth species here. Why do we see mostly butterflies? The Monarch butterflies will be building up their populations until September when they begin their migration to their Mexican overwintering home. Meet at the environmental center on Poillon Avenue where you can begin your butterfly watching as you wait for the walk to begin. Be sure to bring beverage, binoculars and field guides. For more information, phone Dick Buegler at (718) 761-7496 or Cliff at (718) 227-8839.

Sunday, August 19, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

◆ High Rock on a Late Summer Morning—Birds are no longer singing, however

there is already early fall bird migratory movement and late blooming wildflowers, including asters and goldenrods, to see. Though at a slow pace, Howie Fischer will visit many different habitats with you. We'll circle the ponds and check the swamps for out bloomed skunk cabbage and the tall yellow iris. Try to be alert to deer damage to young shrub foliage and tree bark. Be sure to bring beverage, binoculars, and your camera and field guides. For more information, phone Howie at (718) 981-4002 or Dick Buegler at (718) 761-7496.

Sunday August 19, 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

◆ Clay Pit Ponds State Park/Preserve: Wildlife, Wildflowers and Trees—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'll look for a healthy American Chestnut as well as the heavily blighted specimen we never miss. We'll 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 three years ago with us and now we are finding them in the Buck's Hollow portion of the Greenbelt, as well. Meet at the park office at the end of Carlin Avenue, off Sharrott's Road in Rossville. Leaders Sandra Mechanic and Dick Buegler. Call Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496 for more information.

Sunday, August 26, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

◆ Mt. Loretto's Beautiful Meadows, Woods and Shore—Late summer can be a fine time to see migrating shorebirds and thousands of swallows with Howie Fischer, if we are lucky. The blooming goldenrods may have large numbers of Monarch Butterflies and several very large swallowtail butterfly species feeding on their nectar. There could be huge flocks of eastern Kingbirds in the meadows, heading for South America. Meet in the parking lot just off Hylan Blvd across from the CYO Bldg. Please lock your car. Be sure to bring beverage, binoculars and field guides. For more information, phone Howie at (718) 981-4002 or Dick Buegler at (718) 761-7496.

Monday, August 27, 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Sturgeon or Grain Full Moon: Sunset Moonrise Walk at Mt Moses—Sunset is at 7:37 p.m. and moonrise is 15 minutes earlier at 7:22 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 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. You may bring a light refreshment to share with others. Be sure to dress for a cool evening. The walk is fifteen minutes each way. On the way past the intersection, see the hundreds of shrubs, trees, grasses and wildflowers that NYC 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, September 1, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

◆ The Woods of Clove Lakes Park—An afternoon in this wooded park with Howie Fischer who will tour the upland forest trails and circle the ponded area with you. It is an ideal opportunity to study the varied habitats of this favorite park. We should find some of the fall migratory birds passing through as well as the many resident bird species of Staten Island including many kinds of woodpeckers. Be sure to bring

beverage, binoculars and field guides. Meet at the Martling Avenue bridge, the best canopy overlook for native birds where you are above the tree tops, looking down. So come early and hang out above the birds. For more information, phone Howie at (718) 981-4002 or Dick Buegler at (718) 761-7496.

Saturday, September 8, 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 High-bush 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.

Saturday, September 8, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

♦ An afternoon with Howie Fischer in Mt. Loretto—You'll stroll through Staten Island's largest meadows, up the slope to the outstanding view of Lower New York Bay, New Jersey's Atlantic Highlands and Sandy Hook. Emphasis will be on migrating birds, Monarch and swallow tail butterflies and the late flowering plants, goldenrods and asters. If you have never been there, you will learn why so many naturalists of SI enjoy this site frequently throughout all seasons of the year. PLEASE BRING THE CHILDREN. Be sure to bring beverage, binoculars and field guides. Meet in the parking lot just off Hylan Blvd across from the CYO Bldg. Be sure to lock your car. For more information, phone Howie at (718) 981-4002 or Dick Buegler at (718) 761-7496.

Saturday, September 15, 9 a.m. to 12 noon

Staten Island Beach Cleanup at Sharrott Ave. & Mt Loretto Beaches—For its third year, Protectors of Pine Oak Woods has volunteered again to participate in the INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEANUP 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. The first year (2005) we removed over 400 pounds of beach litter. We thought it would be less of a chore in 2006. But last year we collected 864 lbs in a 1/2 mile of beach with 32 helpers, mostly Girl Scouts and moms. The clean-up is funded by the American Littoral Society and the NY Environmental Fund. We have the full support of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, 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 15, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

♦ "Fall Migrant" birding in Clove Lakes Park—Enjoy a morning in this wooded park with Howie Fischer who will tour the upland forest trails and circle the ponded area with you. It is an ideal opportunity to study the varied habitats of his favorite park and the different birds they support. We should find some of the fall migratory birds passing through as well as many species of woodpeckers. Meet at the Martling Ave. Bridge, the best canopy overlook for native birds where you are above the tree tops, looking down. So come early and hang out above the birds. Be sure to bring beverage, binoculars and field guides. For more information, phone Howie at (718) 981-4002 or Dick Buegler at (718) 761-7496.

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

♦ Dragonflies at Blue Heron Park—Meet Cliff Hagen at the environmental center on Poillon Avenue. We will study the pond and stream areas mostly. Like mosquitoes which breed in ponds, puddles and rain-filled containers in our yards, dragonflies and damselflies, their close relatives, have a larval stage called a nymph which develops from an egg laid in the water. Only when they metamorphose into winged insects will they emerge from the water as they shed their skins. Dragonflies rest with wings outstretched while the smaller, more delicate damsel flies rest with wings folded. Be sure to bring beverage, camera, binoculars and field guides. For more information, phone Dick Buegler at (718) 761-7496 or Cliff at (718) 227-8839.

Saturday, September 22, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m.

♦ Page Avenue Beach—Beach Life in the Intertidal Zone. We'll begin by beachcombing the high tide line with naturalist & educator Clay Wollney 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 and shown in small containers, then returned to their habitat. It's going to be muddy so dress appropriately. Young children, accompanied by adults, are welcome. Meet at the parking lot at the bottom of Page Avenue to the left of Hylan Blvd. For more information, phone Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496 or Clay Wollney at (718)303-7825

Sunday, September 23, 10 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.

♦ All Things With Wings at Blue Heron Park—Meet Cliff Hagen at the environmental center on Poillon Avenue for all sorts of butterflies, dragonflies and other insects and birds on the wing. Migrating Monarch Butterflies may be in large numbers. Some of the dragonflies also migrate. They are carnivorous, eating smaller insects on the wing as do swallows, which we may see over water. Be sure to bring beverage, camera, binoculars and field guides. For more information, phone Dick Buegler at (718) 761-7496 or Cliff at (718) 227-8839.

Sunday, September 23, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

♦ An Early Fall Afternoon in Buck's Hollow—With Howie Fischer we will see the changes that this season brings to the wet woods, and explore Buttonbush Swamp to find a variety of animals and plants. Behind you as you look at the buttonbush is one of the groves of dozens of native Persimmon trees with an unmistakable bark. Persimmon prefers a rich, moist soil. See Sunday, July 29 for more. Park near the left turn for Eger Nursing home at the intersection of Meisner and Rockland Ave. Meet on the bridge dam-overpass. Be sure to bring beverage, binoculars and field guides. For more information, phone Howie at (718) 981-4002 or Dick Buegler at (718) 761-7496.

Wednesday, September 26, 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

Fruit or Harvest Full Moon: Sunset Moonrise Walk at Mt Moses—Sunset is at 6:48 p.m. and moonrise is 12 minutes earlier at 6:36 p.m. It takes the moon another 20 minutes to rise above the hills of High Rock so we should see moonrise 10 minutes after the sun has set. They only occur at about the same time on the night of the monthly full moon. Meet at the entry road to Eger Home at intersection of Rockland and Meisner Avenues. Flashlight is required for each person in your group. You may bring a light refreshment to share with others. Be sure to dress for a cool evening. The walk is fifteen minutes each way. The fall colors are about to appear. On the way past the intersection, see the hundreds of shrubs, trees, grasses and fall wildflowers in bloom that NYC DEP planted in the flood control system that has worked well so far

(continued on page 8)



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.

We need your support to continue our work!

LIFE: Mr. & Mrs. Robert T. Schweikert

New Members: Peter Zaage and Joseph Santora, Nancy Tanchajja, Joan Sims, Mitchel Major, Dr. Ann Merlino, Irv Robbins, Mateo Prendergast, Gary Panarello, Bohdan Markow, Barbara Buzza, Maria Zakoturia, Brooke Skelly, Kathryn Cortez, The Snyder Family

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Organizations: Richmond Ever-Green Garden Club, Serpentine Art & Nature Com., North Shore Waterfront Conservancy, NRPA, Richmondtown & Clarke Avenue Civic Association, Greenbelt Conservancy, Pleasant Plains, Princes Bay & Richmond Valley Civic Association

Special Donations: David Buegler; JP Morgan grant from Adriano Chinellato in recognition of Adriano's work in forest restoration

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)

CLIP AND MAIL

PROTECTORS OF PINE OAK WOODS



STATEN ISLAND'S LAND CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION

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

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

in moderately heavy rains. Leader is Sandra Mechanic. Call Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496 for more information.

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

◆ **Migrating birds in Clove Lakes Park**—This walk was designed by Howie Fischer to find fall-migratory birds—emphasis is on the birds. You'll also see other interesting upland areas of the park as well as the waterfall forest below. See Saturday, September 15 for more. Meet at 9 a.m. at the Marling Avenue bridge. Be sure to bring beverage, binoculars and field guides. For more information, phone Howie at (718) 981-4002 or Dick Buegler at (718) 761-7496.

Sunday, September 30, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

◆ **Long Pond, Tottenville's newest 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 Advance nature 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. Young children, accompanied by adults, are always welcome. It's a favorite ice skating pond for locals. 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.

A BIRDING WINDFALL — UPDATE

CLIFF 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 reached the halfway mark. 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. Visit www.siprotectors.org for a progress report.

Congratulations to our new DEC Regional Director

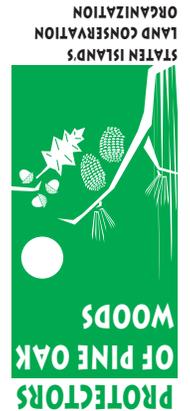
Attorney Suzanne Mattei, formerly the executive director of the Sierra Club's national office in New York City, has been appointed by Governor Spitzer to be Director of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, Region 2, which includes New York City. Under her leadership, Protectors joined the Sierra Club to successfully oppose the NASCAR racetrack on Staten Island.

Suzanne has 26 years of environmental advocacy and has worked in city government, first as an adviser to ex-Comptroller Elizabeth Holtzman, then as a deputy under former Public Advocate Mark Green. We wish her well in her new endeavor as head of the agency charged with protecting our environment. Congratulations!
— Hillel Lofaso

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