

PROTECTORS OF PINE OAK WOODS



STATEN ISLAND'S LAND CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

WRITE THE MAYOR AND BOROUGH PRESIDENT TODAY!

STATEN ISLAND GREENWAY KILLED BY BP— GREENBELT NOW THREATENED

March 14, 2005—An excerpt from the *Gotham Gazette*:

The (NYC) parks department has quietly shelved a fully funded and planned \$1.2 million Staten Island greenway that local residents have worked for many years to get built. Borough President James P. Molinaro, who wields tremendous political power on the island and whose support Mayor Michael Bloomberg needs for reelection, is blocking the project because of concerns that it would limit future road-building options. The route, which goes through residential neighborhoods, would provide a recreational corridor between the waterfront and the island's wooded interior Greenbelt, and would also link to a greenway system being pieced together in the borough and throughout the city. For the full story go to: <http://www.gothamgazette.com/article/parks/20050315/14/1350>.

IF YOU READ THIS STORY IN THE *GOTHAM GAZETTE* BACK IN MID-MARCH, you only had to wait two weeks to discover, in the *Staten Island Advance*, what it was all about. If you were worried that the BP was throwing good federal funds away, you were wrong. The BP may have found a way to obtain and use those funds to violate and irreparably destroy the Staten Island Greenbelt. His plan would undo the years and decades of planning to fulfill Frederick Law Olmstead's dream of a Staten Island park preserve incorporating most of the hilly, central undeveloped area.

On March 28, the *Staten Island Advance* had a first-page article with the heading, "Bicycle trails to run through the Greenbelt—6 miles of stone paths will be created starting this summer under a 2.5M federal grant." Unfortunately this is Borough President James Molinaro's landscaping design gift to the future residents of Staten Island, even though there is little evidence that that is what they want or need. Former Borough President Guy Molinari also was not a strong proponent of saving vast undeveloped natural areas as public parks in the Olmstead tradition. It means

(continued on page 2)

—Sample Letter—

Dear Mayor Bloomberg

Your Parks Commissioner has decided to use the funding for the Amundsen Trailway Bikeway elsewhere, thus leaving the Willowbrook Parkway without a defined, passive park use.

This leaves the land open to undesirable public works projects in the future, and denies us, our children and our children's children the benefits of a neighborhood amenity and the enjoyment of protected open space.

Please, Mr. Mayor, restore the 20% City funding for the Amundsen Trailway Bikeway; make it a Parks priority; support actions to demap the Willowbrook Parkway and transfer the land to protected park status.

The Amundsen Trailway should be preserved as a woodland bicycle/pedestrian greenway. We do not have enough places where children can simply ride a bike and admire a little of nature.

Please help us to realize that vision.

Name (*Print*):

Signature:

Address:

Contact Information

Borough President James P. Molinaro
120 Borough Hall, Staten Island, NY 10301
E-MAIL:
<http://statenislandusa.com/cfm/contact.cfm>

Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg
City Hall
New York, NY 10007
FAX (212) 788-2460
E-MAIL:
<http://www.nyc.gov/html/mail/html/mayor.html>

SUMMER 2005

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STATEN ISLAND GREENWAY KILLED BY BP *(continued from page 1)*

fewer buildable tracts, less development, less construction, fewer sales, smaller population, lower tax returns, and fewer political campaign contributors.

Instead of wise land banking for future generations of Staten Islanders' needs, Molinari was still in favor of building the Richmond and Willowbrook Parkways, which would bisect the entire Greenbelt into four quadrants with Mt. Moses dead center, as the major cloverleaf interchange for the two superhighways. In 1975, important wetlands legislation was enacted, making the destruction of those wetlands involved impossible. Even so, Molinari persisted in pushing for parkway building during his tenure and long after he left office.

We suspect Molinari passed along his superhighway dream to his successor, James P. Molinaro. Molinaro decided a small section of the end of the proposed Willowbrook Parkway, across the street from the entrance to Gateway National Recreation Area, should be kept as a potential desirable road addition, in effect throwing out the Staten Island Greenway plans for the Amundsen Trailway.

Molinaro certainly doesn't want to "waste" the land on the cross-Island bike pathway that already had \$1.2M in allocated federal funding—a beautiful community amenity that would stretch from Gateway to the Greenbelt. Somehow, Molinaro has managed to transfer those dedicated funds to the 6-mile Greenbelt circular, ground stone, bicycle trail. One cyclist publicly welcomed this crushed stone 6-mile circle—to nowhere—but other cyclists want to retain a more pristine Greenbelt for the wide variety of passive family activities that occur there. As another cyclist put it, he "would prefer natural trails to the planned screened stone trails. They're kind of urbanizing the Greenbelt by putting a paved trail in this tremendous natural resource."

Stick to the Master Plan

A great deal of time, money and effort went into the Greenbelt Master Plan that was accepted when presented to the Staten Island community in the 1960s. That plan has now given us the Staten Island Greenbelt Park. No one in NYC has ever planned a park where pedestrian walkers come into conflict with biking enthusiasts. Biking is not permitted in NYC parks. Central Park, for example, has no bicycle trails or mountain bike trails. On weekends, however, some Central Park roadways are closed down for bicycle, pedestrian and rollerblade usage, much as occurs on weekends on the Silver Lake Road on Staten Island.

It's hard to imagine that the Borough President, at this late stage of park planning, can get these stone, cycling path plans approved, then acquire the federal transportation funds to destroy a large natural area to install the biking trails and then convince the Staten Island community that their Greenbelt Park needs this solution. Our Borough Parks Commissioner, Thomas Paulo has made no comment about this sudden, Molinaro-created, turn of events.

The Greenbelt Master Plan, which already was paid for with planning funds, provided cyclists with welcome *perimeter* cycling trails which are being developed. Do we sacrifice all this money, work and community involvement to a politician's whim to redesign Staten Island to his own view of what the Island's future needs might be?

Protectors of Pine Oak Woods, Staten Island's two thousand-membership conservation/outdoor organization was never asked to comment. Since Protectors was not consulted, I doubt if the many dozens of walking/hiking groups in the NY Metropolitan area, all members of the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference were ever contacted. These organizations probably represent at least a hundred thousand outdoor enthusiasts who treasure unspoiled, undeveloped natural areas and work towards preservation of more natural areas.

If this 6-mile, crushed stone, circular bicycle trail addition to the Greenbelt is not what you want, let Borough President James P. Molinaro and Mayor Michael Bloomberg know that you want the Staten Island Greenbelt protected. No additional trails. No bicycling paths, no stone pavements, no further destruction of native wildlife or vegetation. Please write, phone and e-mail them today.

—Richard Buegler

PROTECTOR'S VOTES AGAINST NASCAR

THE BOARD OF PROTECTORS of Pine Oak Woods has taken a position against supporting the International Speedway Corporation's (ISC) plans to build a NASCAR track on Staten Island, basing its decision on wetland protection issues and air quality, noise and traffic concerns.

Background

The proposed speedway (and retail center) would be constructed at a 675-acre vacant industrial site near the Goethals Bridge. This area was owned recently by the petroleum industry (GATX and Texas Eastern). The site is designated as Gulfport Marsh and Uplands (Gulfport) in the seminal study *An Islanded Nature—Natural Area Conservation and Restoration in Western Staten Island, including the Harbor Herons Region* (Blanchard, et al, 2001). Gulfport is bounded by the Arthur Kill, south of Old Place Creek and the Goethals Bridge as far as and including the shoreline immediately north of Prall's Island. The southern boundary is roughly Bloomfield Avenue to the junction of the Arthur Kill and Prall's Creek at Merrill's Creek (see map).

Natural Resources

Quoting from *An Islanded Nature*: "The habitats [at Gulfport] range from salt marsh along the Arthur Kill, emergent freshwater marshes, a pond, and vernal pools to meadows, linear (mowed) grasslands, hummocks and woodland pockets. The large scale of contiguous open space at Gulfport is impressive and allows for a full integration of various floral and faunal habitats. The present and potential habitat quality of the site is underscored by the continued nesting here of a New York

State-listed Threatened species: The Northern Harrier or Marsh Hawk."

In addition to the Northern Harrier, birders have documented that yellow-crowned night herons have nested in this area, which is probably the first recorded nesting of this species on the Staten Island mainland. Many years of restoration work of the salt marsh has been done by the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation's Salt Marsh Restoration Team, and their hard work has paid off in restored and expanded habitat.

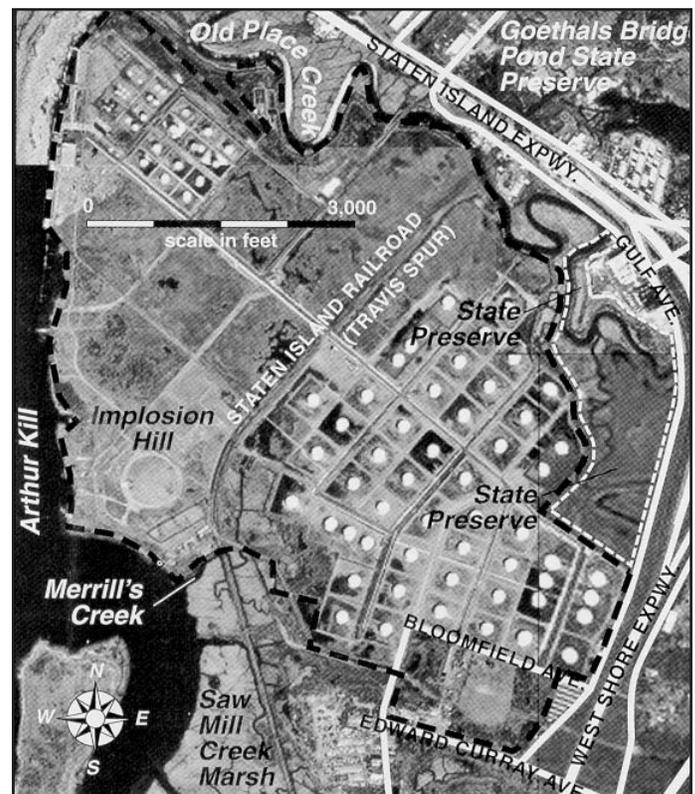
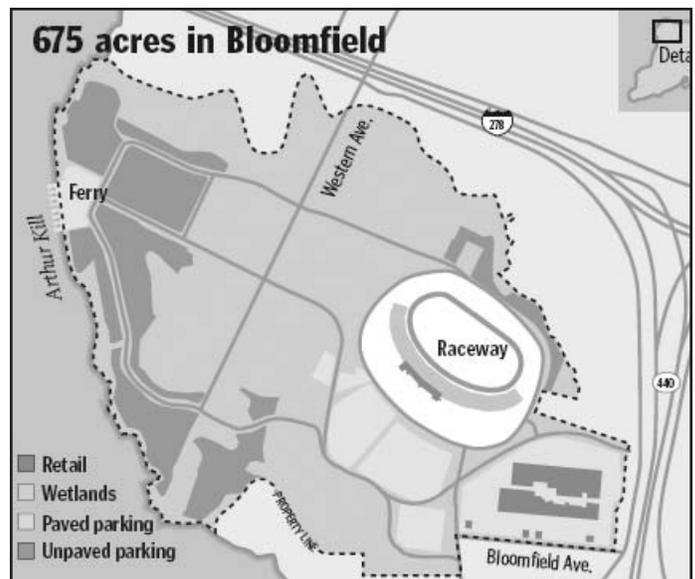
Aside from the ribbon of salt marsh, a 162-acre freshwater marsh dominates the site, including vernal ponds. The area serves as an important "significant foraging site for the Harbor Herons" (U.S. F&WS, 1996), situated offshore at Prall's Island.

Native Americans frequented the site and recent *Advance* articles have reported that substantial artifacts have been recovered and the site will have to be secure for further recovery.

Traffic

ISC admits that traffic will be a problem on its race

days, where they expect 80,000 fans to attend. They have used models that project an increased vehicular traffic on our highways on race weekends that will duplicate our weekday rush hour traffic scenario. They have set limits to the plan by allowing only 8,400 cars into the area for parking. Other fans must rely on distant park-and-ride facilities in NJ where they will board buses or fast-ferries.



The above schemata from the *Staten Island Advance* shows the proposed ISC plans for the Staten Island Speedway and the Retail Center in the Gulfport property.

The aerial photo at right from *An Islanded Nature* shows the present configuration of the Gulfport, with its many acres of open space and wetlands.

That leaves upwards of 60,000 people boarding fleets of 1,000 buses and dozens of boats to attend a race.

Upon exiting the race, drivers will be directed towards the Goethals Bridge and Outerbridge Crossing on the highways, but those using the Bayonne Bridge (about 1,800 cars) will be directed to use Richmond Terrace to Morningstar Road. Those roads are in no condition to support that extra load.

Noise

ISC officials claim that noise levels in the nearest communities will approximate the dull roar of living next to the expressway. However, what about noise levels for those on the grounds itself, adjacent to the speedway and those attending the mall on those days? Pictures of fans in the seats during a race show everyone wearing protective ear-wear. Protectors, as an environmental organization, can hardly support a sport in our community that creates harmful levels of noise pollution for bystanders, let alone spectators, even if they purchase tickets for the experience.

Concerns

The plans for the speedway and retail center it seems are sited within the already developed areas. However, the track is adjacent to the Old Place Creek DEC preserve and we are concerned about negative impacts to the wetlands there.

The ISC plans to build an 8,400-car grassy parking lot contiguous to the wetlands they plan on restoring. We know of no engineering design that will prevent pollution runoff from cars, erosion and degradation from occurring to these wetlands in such a plan. And in a plan where the speedway, not the health of the wetlands, is the primary focus, who will be the monitoring agency to make sure that the viability of the wetlands will be maintained?

We have been listening to those NASCAR supporters who write to the *Advance*. It seems that even they are resigned to having to sit in yet another traffic jam on our highways on race days. These NASCAR fans actually expect people to stay home on those days so that the highways might be

PERMITS REQUIRED

Sources have told us that the Staten Island Speedway plan will require a change in the zoning map, a permit for a heliport, and a permit for grading or filling of property.

It also is expected to require:

- a tidal wetlands permit and a freshwater wetlands permit
- a Petroleum Bulk Storage Permit
- a Title V Air Quality Permit
- a Solid Waste Management Permit
- a wastewater discharge permit
- a Highway Work Permit
- a Floating Objects Permit (from the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation)
- a US Army Corps of Engineers permit
- a Federal Highway Administration permit

unencumbered for those wanting to attend a race. Certainly that is a solution, but can it be reasonable?

Staten Island has received a failing grade in air quality for the sixth straight year by the American Lung Association as reported by the *Advance* (4/28/05). This air quality is reported to be from the “factories and refineries in the Midwest,” but you don’t have to be a scientist to intuit that the problem is compounded manyfold by the amount of traffic in our area. Why would our elected officials agree to add to the problem with the 1,000 buses or the 8,400 cars idling in traffic spewing their fumes?

Our proposal

Protectors argues that the Gulfport Marsh and Uplands should become a restored wetlands wildlife sanctuary on the west shore, expanding the habitat of Harbor Herons and Old Place Creek.

Much restoration work has been done and it has become a laboratory of how restoration work can successfully be accomplished in a viable wetland after heavy industrial use. As such, its value serves the community good in the long run as other industrial areas in sensitive wetland areas are turned over to the public.

Please send letters voicing your opposition to NASCAR to the *Staten Island Advance*, the borough president and to your local council member. See our web site www.siprotectors.org for sample letters and addresses.

—Hillel Lofaso

NOT THE IVORY-BILLED WOODPECKER, BUT...

MY FRIEND, EVA, AND I decided to join Dick Buegler and other members of the Protectors of Pine Oak Woods at Mount Loretto early Sunday morning, recently. Halfway in our walk, I heard a cuckoo call. Slowly we approached the tree from where it sang its dove-like song. It was a gentle rendition without the guttural and eerie, “cowdill” sounds at the end. The repeated, low and gentle song complimented the dramatic clouds and lingering rainy mist. Though the cuckoo tried to hide, we were able to get superlative views of its curved and mostly yellow bill, rich rusty primaries, and dramatic black and white undertail. Yes, a YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO is a fabulous bird.

Along the way, we enjoyed the rich plant life as well as the discovery of a very young Eastern Painted Turtle, no bigger than a quarter. After saying our good-byes, Eva and I dashed off to Great Kills where we saw Mama Osprey dutifully sitting on her nest. Then we enjoyed shorebirds foraging in the tidal flats.

—Arleen O’Brien

PROTECTORS BOARD MEETINGS

Wednesday, June 15

Executive Board Mtg. – 7:30 to 10 p.m., 80 Mann Avenue

Wednesday, June 29

Protectors Board Meeting at the Art Lab, Snug Harbor — Come see and hear us planning. Important decisions are often made at these meetings. Refreshments served, 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.. For more information, phone Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496 or any board member.

FREE NATURE WALKS TO POND AND PARK FOR CHILDREN AND PARENTS

WITH EXPERIENCED NATURALISTS—ALL ON STATEN ISLAND!

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

Sunday, June 5, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

♦ **Shore Bird Watch at Great Kills Park**—Come and learn about the migrating shorebirds at the Great Kills Salt Flats and why they congregate there. Be sure to bring your binoculars and spotting scopes. Meet in the first parking lot a mile on your left along the entry road to the park at Great Kills. For more information call Seth Wollney at (718) 619-5905 or Protectors at (718) 761-7496.

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

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

Saturday, June 11, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

♦ **Long Pond, Tottenville's newest pond park**—A one- to two-mile tour of the woodlands, ponds and wetlands in the Long Pond Park area. Take a leisurely two-hour stroll with naturalist, science educator and columnist, Clay Wollney. Share Clay's reminiscences of his childhood roaming this area and learn of its natural history, the seasonal changes and the succession of habitats that has occurred over the years. Meet at PS 6, on Page Avenue, about 3 blocks NW of Hylan Blvd. at 2:00 p.m. Phone Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496 or Clay Wollney at (718) 303-7825.

Sunday June 12, 9 to 11 a.m.

♦ **Lenape Native American Walk, Conference House Park in Tottenville**—Come and learn about the first Staten Islanders, the Lenape Native Americans. Find out how they survived without all the modern conveniences we have. Meet at the Conference House parking lot at the end of Hylan Blvd. For more information call Seth Wollney at (718) 619-5905 or Protectors at (718) 761-7496.

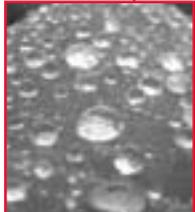
Saturday, June 18, 1 to 3 p.m.

Mount Loretto Unique Area, with Ocean Vistas and Summer Breezes—A pre-Fathers' Day Walk. A two-mile walk through the meadows and along the bluff above the beach. The children will enjoy this site. Meet at the parking lot across from the Mount Loretto CYO on Hylan Blvd. at Kenny Rd. For more information call Dick Buegler at (718) 761-7496.



Sunday, June 19, 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Father's Day Walk through the Threatened Goodhue Woods—Join naturalist, educator, owl and birder Cliff Hagen in a mile or so tour of the extensive fields and woods of the Goodhue Children's center property, threatened by sell off by the Centers' foundation. Come enjoy the wonderful open space and nature that generations of children have enjoyed and thrived on. Meet at the intersection of Clinton and Lafayette. Park on street. For more information phone Cliff at (718) 227-8839, or Protectors at (718) 761-7496.



Sunday, June 19, 12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Hidden Greenbelt: Red Trail Circular—Join naturalist Hillel Lofaso as we discover nature along rarely visited trails through the Greenbelt. The Red Trail surrounds Heyerdahl Hill and offers some beautiful stretches along Latourette Golf Course on its way to Richmondtown. Meet at the Greenbelt Nature Center (Rockland Avenue at Brielle). Bring beverage and snacks. Call (718) 447-2220.

Tuesday, June 21, Rose or Strawberry Full Moon, 8:00 to 9:30 p.m.

Sunset Moonrise Walk at Mt Moses—Sunset is at 8:31 p.m. and moonrise is 8 minutes later at 8:39 p.m. It takes another 20 minutes to rise above the hills of High Rock so we'll have time to see the moonrise occur after the sunset. Meet at bottom of the entry road to Eger Home at intersection of Rockland and Meisner Avenues. Bring a light refreshment to share with others and a flashlight for each person in your group. Please dress warmly. The walk is barely fifteen minutes each way. On the way to the Rockland Ave. intersection, we will see the flowering of hundreds of shrubs, trees, grasses and wildflowers that NYCDEP planted in the flood control system that has worked well, so far, in heavy rains. Call Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496 for more information.

Saturday, June 25, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

♦ **Beach Life in the Intertidal Zone at Conference House Beach, for your child and the child in you**—We'll begin by beach combing 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, and wear old sneakers. 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, June 26, 9 a.m. to 12 noon

Greenbelt Highlights on a Short Walk to Mt Moses and Back—A total three miles at a gentle pace. Meet near the back entrance to Susan Wagner High School on Manor Road. See the Little Blue Stem grass meadow where the NY State rare Green Milkweed grows, along with the elusive Bartonica, then the wet



meadow where Joe-Pye-Weed, Ironweed, Sensitive Fern and the infrequent Canada Lily flourish, perhaps some in bloom now, surrounded by wetland shrubs and trees. Then enjoy the great view of four square miles of Greenbelt Forest from the top of Mt. Moses. Pack a light lunch and a beverage. Phone Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496 for more information.

Sunday, July 3, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

◆ **Clay Pit Ponds State Park/Preserve: 12,000 B.C.E. to the Present**—Join Seth Wollney for a journey through time and place at Clay Pit Ponds Park. While exploring the swamp, sand dunes, forest, and streams of Clay Pit Ponds, Seth will guide you through the story of how this land has changed over the course of the last 14,000 years. The journey will start with the first Native Americans on the land and bring us to the present day, including the story of how Protectors of Pine Oak Woods was founded to save the Clay Pit Ponds. Meet in the parking lot at end of Carlin Street off Sharrotts Road. For more information call Seth at (718) 619-5905 or Protectors at (718) 761-7496.

Saturday, July 9, 10 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

◆ **Forest Restoration Workshop**—Buck's Hollow, at the Intersection of Blue and White Trails. Gloves, tools plants and refreshments will be provided. Meet at the foot of Light House Hill, at Meisner and Rockland Avenues. This site still needs a lot of exotic removal. We'll also check the BMP 8 (Best Management Plan) Bluebelt restoration at Meisner Ave and plant a few dozen trees and shrubs at this major location as well as where the Norway maples were removed. Tools, as well as shrubs and trees are provided by a grant from the NYCC Environmental Fund. For more information, call Dick Buegler, (718) 761-7496.

Saturday, July 9, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

◆ **Long Pond, Tottenville's newest Pond Park**—A one- to two-mile tour of the woodlands, ponds and wetlands in the Long Pond Park area. Take a leisurely two-hour stroll with naturalist, science educator and columnist, Clay Wollney. Share Clay's reminiscences of his childhood roaming this area and learn of its natural history, the seasonal changes and the succession of habitats that has occurred over the years. Meet at PS 6, on Page Avenue, about 3 blocks NW of Hylan Blvd. at 2:00 p.m. Phone Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496 or phone Clay Wollney at (718) 303-7825.

Sunday, July 10, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

◆ **Breeding Birds of Mount Loretto**—Learn from a young, expert birder, Seth Wollney, about the birds that make their homes at Mount Loretto or pass nearby. Adult butterflies will also be actively feeding on the wild flowers in the field and their young larvae on the leaves. Please bring your children, any field guides you want to use and a pair of binoculars to help you see all the beautiful creatures of the fields. Meet at the parking lot across from the Mt Loretto CYO at Kenny Rd. and Hylan Blvd. For more information call Seth at (718) 619-5905 or Dick Buegler at (718) 761-7496.

Saturday, July 16, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Mount Loretto Unique Area—Two hour tour of Meadows, bluff, beach and woodlands. A two-mile walk with naturalist, author and educator Dick Buegler, retired teacher of science. His knowledge of wildlife and plants is endless. He'll

keep you enthralled with nature. He knows much of Staten Island and what lives and grows here. Be sure to bring the children. Meet at the parking lot across from the Mt Loretto CYO at Kenny Rd. and Hylan Blvd. For more information call Dick Buegler at (718) 761-7496.

Wednesday, July 20, 7:50 p.m. to 9:20 p.m.

The Buck Full Moon: Sunset Moonrise Walk at Mt. Moses—Sunset is at 8:23 p.m. and moonrise is 1 minute earlier at 8:22 p.m. It takes another 20 minutes to rise above the hills of High Rock so we'll have to go promptly up Mt. Moses to see the moonrise occur. Meet at bottom of the entry road to Eger Home at intersection of Rockland and Meisner Avenues. Bring a light refreshment to share with others and a flashlight for each person in your group. Please dress warmly. The walk is barely fifteen minutes each way. On the way to the intersection see the hundreds of fully leafed out shrubs, trees, grasses and wildflowers that DEP planted in the flood control system that has worked well, so far, in heavy rains. Call Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496 for more information.

Saturday, July 23, 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.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 oak trees, fence swift lizards, and a few rather unusual wildflowers and ferns, nothing like our Greenbelt forest. There will be deer prints throughout the park. We will have a permit to enter the restricted northern park area. Meet at the park office at the end of Carlin Avenue, off Sharrotts Road in Rossville. Call Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496 for more information.

Saturday July 23, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

◆ **Beach Life in the Intertidal Zone, Conference House Beach, for your child and the child in you**—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 and wear old sneakers. 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 24, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

◆ **Tottenville Beach Walk.**—Come and join Seth Wollney for a wonderful exploration of our local beach life. Meet in the new parking lot off Hylan Blvd at the end of Page Ave in Tottenville. Wear old shoes or sneakers. For more information call Seth at the S I Museum, (718) 727-1135 or Protectors at (718) 761-7496.

Saturday, August 6, 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon

Butterfly Walk at Blue Heron Park—a one-mile stroll from the Blue Heron Nature Center to its newly designed Butterfly Pond led by expert naturalist Cliff Hagen. This begins the late summer study of butterfly populations and migration of the Monarch Butterfly and other migrating insects. We will look for the larva or caterpillar stage of any of the insects which are reproducing here on Staten Island. The population counts obtained for each species on August 6 will be compared to

that for August 13 and September 17. We hope students will produce charts of their observations to serve as annual records of these species at the park. Meet at the visitors' center on Poillon Avenue. We will also evaluate the effectiveness of the wetland management efforts of NYC DEP. For more information phone Cliff at (718) 227-8839 or Protectors at (718) 761-7496.

Saturday, Aug 6, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Long Pond

◆ **Tottenville's newest pond park**—A one- to two-mile tour of the woodlands, ponds and wetlands in the Long Pond Park area. Take a leisurely two-hour stroll with naturalist, science educator and columnist, Clay Wollney. Share Clay's reminiscences of his childhood roaming this area and learn of its natural history, the seasonal changes and the succession of habitats that has occurred over the years. Meet at PS 6, on Page Avenue, about 3 blocks NW of Hylan Blvd. at 2:00 p.m. Phone Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496 or phone Clay Wollney at (718) 303-7825.

Sunday, August 7, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

◆ **Beach Life in the Intertidal Zone: Conference House Beach, for your child and the child in you**—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 and wear old sneakers. 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.

Saturday, August 13, 10 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Forest Restoration Workshop—South West Latourette. Meet at St. Andrews Parking Lot at foot of Richmond Hill Road in Richmondtown. We will continue removing invasive vines and weedy trees. We will also plant at least several dozen trees or shrubs. Gloves, plants, tools and refreshments will be provided. Tools are provided by a grant from the NYC Environmental Fund. Call Dick Buegler for more information at (718) 761-7496.

Saturday, August 13, 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon

Butterfly Walk at Blue Heron Park—a one-mile stroll from the Blue Heron Nature Center to its newly designed Butterfly Pond led by expert naturalist Cliff Hagen. This continues the late summer study of butterfly populations and migration of the Monarch Butterfly and other migrating insects. We will look for the larva or caterpillar stage of any of the insects which are reproducing here on Staten Island. The population counts obtained for each species on August 6 will be compared to that for August 13 and September 17. We hope students will produce charts of their observations to serve as annual records of these species at the park. Meet at the visitors' center on Poillon Avenue. We will also evaluate the effectiveness of the wetland management efforts of NYC DEP. For more information phone Cliff at (718) 227-8839 or Protectors at (718) 761-7496.

Sunday, August 14, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

◆ **Seth Wollney at his Best: Explore Blue Heron Pond Park**—Join Seth Wollney, naturalist, for a walk through Blue Heron Pond Park. Seth worked as a nature guide at this park from 1998 to 2002. Learn about the history of the land,

the wildlife, and trees. Migrating birds will be around, and birds crowd their feeders, so bring your binoculars. Meet at Nature Center on Poillon Ave. Arrive early to look at exhibits. For more information call Seth at the S I Museum, (718) 727-1135 or Protectors at (718) 761-7496.

Thursday, August 18, 7:10 p.m. to 9:40 p.m.

The Sturgeon Full Moon: Sunset Moonrise Walk at Mt. Moses—Sunset is at 7:50 p.m. and moonrise is 11 minute earlier at 7:39 p.m. It takes another 20 minutes to rise above the hills of High Rock so we'll have to go promptly up Mt. Moses to see the moonrise occur. Meet at the entry road to Eger Home at intersection of Rockland and Meisner Avenues. Bring a light refreshment to share with others and a flashlight for each person in your group. Please dress warmly. The walk is barely fifteen minutes each way. On the way to the intersection see the hundreds of fully leafed out shrubs, trees, grasses and wildflowers that DEP planted in the flood control system that has worked well, so far, in heavy rains. Call Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496 for more information.

Sunday, August 28, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

◆ **Shore Bird Migration Watch at Great Kills Park**—Learn about shorebirds as they make their way back south for the winter. Bring along binoculars and spotting scopes! Meet at the first parking lot along entry road to Great Kills Park. This placid bay attracts a wide variety of bird species. For more information call Seth at the museum, (718) 727-1135 or Protectors at (718) 761-7496.

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

◆ **Beach Life in the Intertidal Zone at Conference House Beach, for your child and the child in you**—We'll begin by beach combing 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 and wear old sneakers. 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, September 4, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

◆ **Fall Migration Walk at Conference House Park**—Join Seth Wollney in a search for the elusive Connecticut Warbler and other migrating song birds as they travel to their wintering grounds. Meet at the parking lot at the Tottenville end of Hylan Blvd. For more information call Seth at the S I Museum, (718) 727-1135 or Protectors at (718) 761-7496.

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

◆ **Forest Restoration Workshop**—Greta Moulton and Old Homesite at High Rock. Meet in the Nevada Avenue Parking lot at High Rock. If you are late, walk to the first bend of the entry road and follow the yellow trail to the green trail to our working location. Gloves, plants, tools and refreshments provided. We may plant additional shrubs and trees, check on our Highbush Cranberry plantings as well as remove all the new invasive vegetation. Tools, as well as shrubs and trees are provided by a grant from the NYC Environmental Fund. Call Dick Buegler for more information at (718) 761-7496.



Saturday, September 10, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

◆ **Long Pond, Tottenville's newest pond park**—A one- to two-mile tour of the woodlands, ponds and wetlands in the Long Pond Park area. Take a leisurely two-hour stroll with naturalist, science educator and columnist, Clay Wollney. Share Clay's reminiscences of his childhood roaming this area and learn of its natural history, the seasonal changes and the succession of habitats that has occurred over the years. Meet at PS 6, on Page Avenue, about 3 blocks NW of Hylan Blvd. at 2:00 p.m. Phone Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496 or phone Clay at (718) 303-7825.

Sunday, September 11, 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.

◆ **Clove Lakes Park: Bird Walk with Warbler Confusion!**—Come early at eight and learn the secrets of identifying those ever confusing young and fall plumage warblers as they head to Central and South America to spend the winter. Meet at Marling Ave. Bridge. For more information call Seth at (718) 619-5905.

Saturday, September 17, 9 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Staten Island Beach Cleanup Day at Mount Loretto Beach, Pleasant Plains—Protectors of Pine Oak Woods has volunteered to participate in this nationwide beach clean up effort by assuming responsibility for the beach below the Mt Loretto bluff from Sharrott Avenue south to below the Mt Loretto bluff. Gloves, tools, bags and light refreshments will be provided. Funded by NYC Environmental Fund. We have the full support of New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), purchaser of the properties. Meet at the parking lot across from the Mount Loretto CYO on Hylan Blvd. at Kenny Rd. For more information, phone Dick Buegler at (718) 761-7496.

Saturday, September 17, 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon

Butterfly Walk at Blue Heron Park—A one-mile stroll from the Blue Heron Nature Center to its newly designed Butterfly Pond led by expert naturalist Cliff Hagen. This continues the late summer study of butterfly populations and migration of the Monarch Butterfly and other migrating insects. We will look for the larva or caterpillar stage of any of the insects which are reproducing here on Staten Island. The population counts obtained for each species on August 6 will be compared to that for August 13 and September 17. We hope students will produce charts of their observations to serve as annual records of these species at the park. Meet at the visitors' center on Poillon Avenue. We will also evaluate the effectiveness of the wetland management efforts of NYC DEP. For more information phone Cliff at (718) 227-8839 or Protectors at (718) 761-7496.

Saturday, September 17, 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The Harvest Full Moon: Sunset Moonrise Walk at Mt Moses—Sunset is at 7:02 p.m. and moonrise is one minute later at 7:03 p.m. It takes another 20 minutes to rise above the hills of High Rock so we'll have time to see the moonrise occur after we've watched the sunset. Meet at the entry road to Eger Home at intersection of Rockland and Meisner Avenues. Bring a light refreshment to share with others and a flashlight for each person in your group. Please dress warmly. The walk is barely fifteen minutes each way. On the way to the Rockland Ave. intersection see the healthy growth of hundreds of shrubs, trees, grasses and wildflowers that DEP planted in the flood control system that has

worked well, so far, in heavy rains. Call Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496 for more information.

Sunday, September 18, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

◆ **Fall Migration Walk at Clove Lakes Park**—Learn to identify those confusing fall warblers at Clove Lakes Park. Meet at Marlings Ave Bridge. For more information call Seth Wollney at the SI Museum, (718) 727-1135 or Protectors at (718) 761-7496.

Sunday, September 18, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Annual 1-mile Butterfly Walk at Mt Loretto Unique Area—Bring camera and binoculars in hopes of a modest display of numbers of this Mexico migrating beauty. Butterflies will find lots of yellow Goldenrods and light purple Smooth Asters in bloom to feed upon. Last year's butterfly numbers were still decreasing. This year, hopefully, should be better. We will also find other fall wild flowers in bloom. Meet at the parking lot across from the Mount Loretto CYO on Hylan Blvd. at Kenny Rd. For more information call Dick Buegler at (718) 761-7496.

Saturday, September 24, 1:00 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 oak trees, fence swift lizards, and a few rather unusual wildflowers and ferns, nothing like our Greenbelt forest. There will be deer prints throughout the park. We will have a permit to enter the restricted northern park area. Meet at the park office at the end of Carlin Avenue, off Sharrotts Road in Rossville. Call Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496 for more information.

Sunday, September 25, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

◆ **Mount Loretto Unique Area: Field Migrants and Wild Flowers**—Join Seth Wollney for a lovely morning walk along the country roads and paths at Mount Loretto. Bring your binoculars to see some of the birds that are resting in the fields on their trip to southern wintering grounds. Learn about some of the beautiful wild flowers that grace the 110 acres of field habitat. Meet at Mt Loretto to the parking lot at Kenny Road and Hylan Blvd across from the CYO Bldg. For more information call Seth at (718) 619-5905

Saturday, October 1, 9:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Monarch Butterfly Walk, Great Kills: Annual 6-mile walk to Crooke's Point—Meet at the auto entrance to Gateway National Park, opposite Buffalo Street and Hylan Blvd. where the 78 bus from the ferry stops. Count butterflies feeding on the goldenrod and meet the Nancy Lincoln killer plant. Bring lunch and beverage for the day and feel free to leave and return to the starting point when you wish. We will lunch sitting on the sandy beach looking out on Great Kills Harbor, Sandy Hook and the NY Lower Bay. Call Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496 for more information.

A \$10 INVESTMENT IN PROTECTORS YIELDS LOTS OF GREEN

DO YOU REALIZE THAT MEMBERSHIP IN Protectors of Pine Oak Woods is still the best bargain around? A yearly membership rate of \$10 for individuals—\$5.00 for seniors and students—is less than the price of a certain George Lucas summer blockbuster movie and popcorn. And while that may be a gratifying experience, with your \$10 investment in Protectors you can

- meet and work with others who care about conserving our natural resources,
- help protect and preserve Staten Island's remaining natural areas,
- show your concern about the overdevelopment that is ruining our Island's heritage and future,
- see and enjoy our Island's beauty on Protectors' sponsored walks and hikes,
- learn how you can help from bulletins, meetings, and e-mail alerts, and
- support efforts to protect and enlarge parks.

You also benefit from knowing that you are part of a growing, effective community of Staten Islanders concerned about preserving our natural resources. Join or renew today! See the brochure and the convenient return response envelope. — *Hillel Lofaso*



NEW MEMBERS: Mr. Charles & Mari-Anne Beisser, Sheldon Blackman, Gerard Bouwmans, Ron & Connie Cerrachio, Richard Detmar, George & Joann Gentsch, Barbara Marcello, Mary Martucci, Frank Ninivaggi, JoAnne Bunny Pavia, Shari Serxner, Gennaro Sorrentino, Mi Young Kim-Vogel

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SPECIAL DONATION: By the family of Peter & Camille Mancuso, in memory of Anthony Granito (The Mancuso family are Life members.); By Robert and Janet Adamski, in memory of Mrs. Helen Vokral
Thanks to Christopher Stiles, Mary Ann Stiles' brother, for his special contribution

— Sylvia Zaage (sylhz@earthlink.net)

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

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GOODHUE WOODS

KEY PARCEL IN A NORTH SHORE GREENBELT

IT'S THE ONLY SIZEABLE NATURAL area on the entire North Shore – the only woodland left between St. George and Mariners Harbor. It's Goodhue, the Children's Aid Society's 32-acre mature woodland, with steep slopes, a wooded ravine, streams and boat pond at the mouth of a valley. It's up for sale and could be developed as housing.

For the past hundred years Goodhue's campers have known it as 'the woods,' the place to learn about and enjoy nature for thousands of campers at Goodhue.

Goodhue pond feeds Allison and Snug Harbor ponds as it drains to the Kill van Kull. This spring-fed pond,

with its salamanders, turtles and fish has been a special teaching site for inner-city campers, allowing them to become acquainted with pond and wetland habitats, often for the first time.

Now The Children's Aid Society plans to sell most of the woods to finance new facilities at Goodhue Center. The Society hopes the woods will be purchased as parkland, for public access and a continuing natural area where Goodhue campers can greet and study nature. The alternative: demolish the woods and add dozens of new houses.

Our political leaders have about three years to piece together the yet undisclosed purchase price to save these wooded acres. They are the missing link in a potential Greenbelt for the North Shore. Greenbelt trails would extend from Cottage Hill through just purchased Jones Woods into Goodhue, past the boat pond to Allison Pond Park, across Henderson Avenue to Snug Harbor Woods

and Snug Harbor Pond, the S.I. Botanical Garden, the Healing Garden and World Trade Center Tribute Building and the Chinese Scholar's Garden.

Protectors invites you for a walk at Goodhue Woods on June 19, 10:00 am to 11:30 a.m. It will help you write letters of support.

It's apparent there's already impressive political support for saving the woodland, beginning with Councilman Michael McMahon and including Senator John Marchi, Congressman Vito Fossella, Borough President James Molinaro, Assemblyman John Lavelle and Robert Helbock.

It won't be easy to raise the many millions of dollars needed to save Goodhue Woods. Your help is needed, too. Just as we wrote to save Mount Loretto, letters of support to political leaders and the newspapers are needed to save Goodhue Woods. Let's go to it!

—Ellen Pratt

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IF YOU DON'T SEE 2005 OR LIFE, YOUR MEMBERSHIP
HAS EXPIRED. PLEASE, RENEW TODAY!**