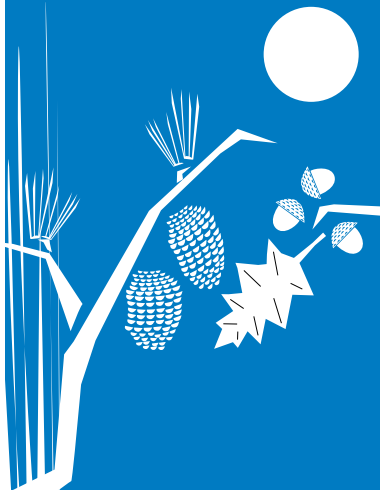


PROTECTORS OF PINE OAK WOODS



STATEN ISLAND'S LAND CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION

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**SPRING MEETING, WED., APRIL 3
6:30 TO 9:30 P.M., S.I. ZOO
NY CITY'S ANCIENT FORESTS
& SI'S HABITAT HOT SPOTS**

WINTER 2002

BLOOMINGDALE PARK PRESERVATION PROGRESS REPORT

ANOTHER DAY IN COURT

by Richard Buegler

OUR MOST RECENT DAY in court, Wednesday, November 27, was the culmination of much preparation, numerous hearings and previous court sessions. Our two issues from prior court sessions were finally heard together. The first was our suit against the N.Y. State Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) Freshwater Wetlands Appeal Board (FWAB) for failing to map the wetlands of eastern Bloomingdale Park. The second was our suit challenging the NY City Department of

Design and Construction's (DDC) Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) on the Recreational Fields Project in Bloomingdale Woods. Board members present included myself, Ellen and George Pratt, Norman Condit, Chuck Perry, Jack Deitch and Elaine Croteau. Protectors member Herman Zaage joined us.

We were all very pleased with our lawyers' presentation, which closely followed the planning devised during a preliminary meeting two days earlier in

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PROTECTORS NEW WEB SITE

PROTECTORS has launched a new internet Web site: www.siprotectors.org.

It is the one place where you can catch updates on our work on environmental issues affecting Staten Island and the latest breaking news. The

homepage has easy-to-follow links that take you to various pages on the site. For instance, you can learn about Protectors mission and history by clicking on the About Protectors button. If you want to learn more about the latest on Bloomingdale Park or Northern SeaView, click on the Current Issues button.

The Events button will take you to a page listing all the meetings, workshops and walks for the next few months. We have added an Archive page that contains our bulletins in pdf format. Simply download the pdf file and access it using the Adobe Acrobat Reader software downloadable free from the Adobe Web site.

We are working on creating a useful resource page of related environmental links that will direct users to other organizations and agencies for more information.

Protectors is committed to updating the Web site by the 15th of each month. That way the content will stay fresh and you will look forward to coming back often. Simply check the What's New button for updates. We hope that you will visit our site often and will begin learning more about Staten Island's largest and oldest continuing environmental organization.

—Hillel Lofaso



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BLOOMINGDALE PARK PRESERVATION PROGRESS REPORT

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Manhattan. Chuck Perry, Norman Condit and I participated in an intense three-hour meeting during which at least six lawyers or advisors prepared arguments based on law and on evidence and comments presented previously to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. We were impressed by the commitment of all participants at the session. We felt reassured that our court case had a chance of succeeding and might result in a ruling favorable to Protectors' interest in preserving the eastern undeveloped portion of Bloomingdale Park.

Those of us in court wished that all our members could have listened to the

arguments presented by Protectors' and the city's lawyers as well as Judge Minardo's cogent questions and challenges to the information provided.

One of the strongest arguments was that the development of recreational fields in the eastern portion of Bloomingdale Park would decrease the interior woodlands (woods that are at least 300 feet from exterior roads or other development). That loss would be about 44% of the interior woodlands, almost half that park's crucial wildlife habitat. That 44% loss is approximately 15% of Staten Island's total park interior woodlands.

Interior woodlands are important for

(continued on page 6)

HELP US CORRECT A MISPERCEPTION

PROTECTORS HAS RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING EMAIL. Many of our members will have helpful and convincing responses to this note from a woman who obviously cares about her community. Please send us your feedback and we will forward a selection of them to her. Replies should be by email to SIProtectors@aol.com with a subject heading <Re: Bloomigdale Park note>. It is clear our responses to her must explain that we are for, not against parks, why it is that we oppose the plans to create ball fields on this particular site, and that we have suggested alternate sites that would better serve the people of the community. We must also explain that Protectors cannot fight every fight and that other groups must take the lead in efforts to limit the development of the South Shore.

We look forward to your input.

—David Soifer

Dear Sirs/Ladies:

With all due respect, could you please give up your fight on this one. I don't think you realize how many people are looking forward to this park...for taking a walk and letting the children play. We can't wait.....

We all love Staten Island and its natural beauty but building a park is much wanted and needed. The housing development is what must be stopped, as you are well aware. Please devote your energy to stopping The development of housing on the So. shore. this takes away all our trees too.

Thank you for listening.

CL

CALENDAR

Saturday, January 26

Traditional, Original Annual Winter 10-mile Greenbelt Hike —Walk the length and breadth of the SI Greenbelt beginning and ending at Clove Lakes. Enjoy the winter light and the glimpses of ponds and lakes through the leafless woods. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the parking area near the Lake Cafe off Clove Road by the Fountains Apts. Return by about 4:30 p.m. Bring lunch and beverage; wear sturdy walking shoes. We go in all weather. Phone (718) 727-0772 or (718) 761-7496 for more information.

Saturday, February 9

Restoration Workshop, Buck's Hollow, Latourette Park— Meet at 10 a.m. near the foot of Meisner or on the entrance road for Eger Home off Rockland Avenue. Gloves, tools and refreshments provided. We've started a massive removal of exotics and planted trees and shrubs. Call Dick Buegler at (718) 761-7496 or Chuck Perry at (718) 667-1393 for more information.

Saturday, February 16

Walk Willowbrook Woods, A Winter Wonderland — 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. See a mature forests in healthy condition along infrequently used trails. A 6-mile walk with lots of tree identification. Meet at entrance parking lot of Willowbrook Park (adj. to the College of Staten Island) off Victory Blvd. Bring a lunch and beverage. Call (718) 761-7496.

Wednesday, February 27

Protectors Executive Board Meeting—7:45 p.m.; 80 Mann Avenue; (718) 761-7496,

Saturday, March 9

Restoration Workshop Demo at Clay Pit— 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Join Glenn Cronick for a hands-on demonstration of restoration techniques that Protectors uses in its ongoing Restoration Workshops. Learn how you can do your part in creating more diverse, vibrant woodlands. Meet at Clay Pit Ponds State Park Preserve parking lot. Please bring your own gloves and pruners. Bring snacks and beverage. Call Glen at (718) 987-9246 or Clay Pit at (718) 967-1976 for more information.

Sunday, March 10

Revisit Mt. Loretto in Late Winter — 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. A 2 1/2-hour, 2-mile walk to assess the changing needs of NYC's largest new park. Meet at Richard Avenue and Hylan Blvd. Bring snacks and beverage. Call (718) 761-7496 for more information.

Saturday, March 16

Restoration Workshop, Southwest Latourette—Meet at 10 a.m. in St. Andrews Church parking lot, Richmondtown. Gloves, tools and refreshments provided. Call Dick Buegler at (718) 761-7496 or Chuck Perry at (718) 667-1393 for more information.

Wednesday, March 22

Protectors Full Board Meeting—7:45 p.m.; Art Lab at Snug Harbor; (718) 761-7496.

Sunday, March 31

Get Inspired in Staten Island's Forest Cathedral of Primeval Trees—A perfect walk for Easter. Famous naturalist Bruce Kershner (author of *Secret Places of Staten Island* will lead us into the primeval forest of Wolfe's Pond Park. Stand in awe next to soaring and giant trees nestled in a secluded ravine. Bruce will share the "wisdom of the ancients" next to 200-year-old giant trees. Moderately easy hiking. Bring boots for possible mud. 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Meet at the parking lot of Wolfe's Pond Park, Hylan Blvd. and Cornelia Avenue. Call (718) 447-2220 for more information.

Wednesday, April 3

Protectors Semi-Annual Spring Meeting—6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., Staten Island Zoo Auditorium. See box below.

(Continued on page 4)

SAVE THE DATE!

**PROTECTOR'S OF PINE OAK WOODS
SPRING MEMBERS MEETING
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3 • 6:30-9:30 P.M.
STATEN ISLAND ZOO • ADMISSION FREE**

- REGISTRATION AND REFRESHMENTS
- OPENING REMARKS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, UPDATES, PROTECTOR'S ISSUES
- BRUCE KERSHNER, AUTHOR OF "SECRET PLACES OF STATEN ISLAND," RETURNS FOR A TALK ABOUT THE LAST ANCIENT FORESTS OF NYC
- PETER BLANCHARD, III, GIVES A TALK/SLIDE SHOW ABOUT STATEN ISLAND'S MOST CRITICALLY IMPORTANT NATURAL HABITATS FROM "ISLANDED NATURE".

CALL 727-1326 FOR MORE INFORMATION

Saturday, April 13

Blood Root Valley Walk—Meet at 10 a.m. at the passenger pickup ramp of the Staten Island Ferry Terminal, St. George. Join Dick Buegler and the Torrey Botanical Society for a tour of Blood Root Valley in the Greenbelt. There is a good possibility of seeing the Blood Root in bloom. Other wildflowers include doll's eye, solomon's seal, trout lily, blue cohosh and early saxifrage. Walk through woods of sugar maple, black walnut, shadbush and slippery elm. Bring lunch and a beverage. Wear sturdy, waterproof boots. Trip limited by number of drivers for carpooling. Registration required: Call Dick Buegler at (718) 761-7496.

Saturday, April 20

S.I. Naturalists training—with Lenore Miller at Blue Heron Park, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call the Urban Park Rangers at 718-967-3542 (11-4 daily).

Sunday, April 28

Northern SeaView Ecology Tour—Join Cliff Hagen for birding and plant identification in this unique and endangered habitat. Meet at 8 a.m. at Susan Wagner High School on Brielle, 1 block north of Bradley Avenue. Sponsored by the SIAS

Sunday, May 5

Greenbrook Sanctuary in Early Spring—8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Meet on Staten Island to carpool to this over-50-year-old nature preserve to walk the forest with naturalist Nancy Slowik and take in the Hudson River views. Easy walking and suitable for children. Registration \$4.00, children free. Call Dick Buegler at (718) 761-7496 or Herman Zaage at (718) 727-0772 for more details.

Saturday, May 11

Traditional, Original Annual Spring 10-mile Greenbelt Hike —Walk the length and breadth of the SI Greenbelt beginning and ending at Clove Lakes. Enjoy the blooming pinxter azalea, our official flower. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the parking area near the Lake Cafe off Clove Road by the Fountains Apts. Return by about 4:30 p.m. Bring lunch and beverage; wear sturdy walking shoes. We go in all weather. Phone (718) 727-0772 or (718) 761-7496 for more information.

Sunday, May 12

Matilde Weingartner Memorial Walk—Meet at 9 a.m. at the Martlings Avenue Waterfall at Clove Lakes. Join Cliff Hagen for a birding walk to spot spring migrants. Sponsored by the SIAS Nature Section.

550 TREES DONATED TO PROTECTORS FOR RESTORATION WORKSHOP

A DONATION OF 550 TREES by the Pinelands Nursery of Columbus, New Jersey, will enable the Protectors Restoration Team to upgrade many natural areas on Staten Island with plantings of trees from 2-6 feet in height.

Glenn Cronick, who has gotten donations from Pinelands in the past, was able to solicit this \$4000+ donation. Our total haul of trees included 50 (2') Virginia Pines, 100 (6') White Ashes, 100 (5') Green Ashes, 100 (5') River Birches, 100 (3') Bayberries and 100 (2') Beach Plums. We owe a deep debt of gratitude to Pinelands Nursery for their most generous donation.

Glenn and I made the 55 mile drive to the Pinelands Nursery in a rented 24' panel truck. We spent the better part of the morning loading the truck with the help of 3 Pineland employees under the capable supervision of manager Susan Noval. Upon our return I unloaded and placed almost all the trees in my backyard. My wife made sure the trees formed a pleasing geometric pattern while not impacting any of her garden area.

The Protectors Restoration Team went right to work on December 8 planting 15 Virginia Pines and 20 Beach Plums on the hillside off Old Mill Road in Latourette Park.

We will continue our workshops every month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.:

January 12

February 9

March 16

April 13

May 4

Planting will take place as long as the ground is workable. In any event we have plenty of work cutting invasive species such as Honeysuckle, Oriental Bittersweet and Wisteria that cover and strangle native species.

Please try to set aside some time to come out and help with this enormous restoration. You will be rewarded with plenty of fresh air, pleasant camaraderie and maybe even some chocolate covered creamed filled donuts.

—Chuck Perry

THE LAST ANCIENT FORESTS OF NYC TOPIC OF MEETING

FAMOUS NATURALIST and national old-growth forest authority Bruce Kershner will present an inspiring slide show tour of the old-growth forests he has discovered in the New York City metro area at Protectors Semi-annual Spring Meeting on Wednesday, April 3.

See behemoth trees up to 600 years old, the tallest and largest living things, and bizarre trees that grow upside down, gnarled beyond belief. Even Manhattan harbors an ancient forest. This is a show you will never forget. Bruce will autograph copies of his guide book to Ancient Forests.

The meeting runs from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at the Staten Island Zoo Auditorium and is open to the public. Admission is free.

—Hillel Lofaso



NEW: Doris Bossert, Matthew Goldstein, Jeff Messina, Anthony Modafferi, Robert & Beverly Mulligan, Allen Pratt, Cathy & Richard Santoriello, Eileen Zanelli, Naomi Zurcher

DONOR: Elda Bardsley, Eric Goldstein (NRDC), Inge Konther, John & Alison Mitchell, Gillian Rosenfeld, Mr. & Mrs. Frank Russo

PATRON PLUS: William & Barbara Chinitz

PATRON: Howie Fischer, Lila Levey & Stephen Glasser, Stephanie McCullough, Dan Pettigrew, Ruth Scott, Dr. Margaret Zaborskis

CONTRIBUTING: Alan Benimoff, Phillip Brown, David Drinnan, Tony Emmerich, Helen Hauber, William & Marian Hewitt, Mr. & Mrs. Frank Jewett, Anna Marchini, Anne Pannone, Dr.

George Robinson, Mike Stoffo, Mary-Lou Terranova, Claudia Toback, Ann Verderber, Mr. & Mrs. John Vokral, Eileen Zanelli

ORGANIZATIONS: Greater NY Council-Boy Scouts of America, Pleasant Plains, Prince's Bay, Richmond Valley C.A., Trust for Public Land

SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION: Galante Home Improvement, Inc., at the request of Mr. & Mrs. Louis Marino

PROTECTOR'S DEFENSE FUND: AARP, Dongan Hills Chapter, Dr. & Mrs. Joel Berger, Family Bocchicchio, Kevin Cronick, Elaine Croteau, Dr. Janis D'Angelo, Charles Dodd, Louis & Mary Djumich, Adele Eines, Stephanie McCullough, Helen Ohlbach, Stephen Petrowicz, Susan Phelan, Monica Platt, Eleanor Pripadcheff, Marlene Rosenberg, Vincent Santapaga, Mike Stoffo, Ann Verderber

—Sylvia Zaage

MATILDE WEINGARTNER'S BIOGRAPHY PLANNED

Protectors' member Eileen Monreale has a grant from the Council on the Arts and Humanities of Staten Island to do a 100-page biography of Matilde Weingartner, past science curator of the Staten Island Institute of Arts and Sciences. Eileen is looking for people who knew her over the year to give their stories about her.

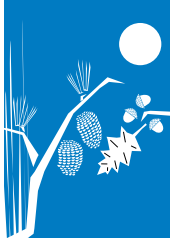
Please contact Eileen at 984-9840 if you would like to share your memories of this dynamic and dedicated Staten Island naturalist.

—Hillel Lofaso

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE DUE IN MARCH 2002. PLEASE HELP US SAVE TIME AND MONEY AND SEND IN YOUR RENEWALS TODAY. THANK YOU!

CLIP AND MAIL

PROTECTOR'S OF PINE OAK WOODS



STATEN ISLAND'S LAND CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION

ARE YOU A MEMBER? HAVE YOU RENEWED?

YES, I WANT TO HELP STATEN ISLAND'S FINEST REMAINING NATURAL AREAS AND SEE THE GREENBELT PROTECTED.

Please enroll me as a member in the following category:

- NEW RENEWAL
- \$ 5.00...Student
 - \$ 5.00...Senior Citizen
 - \$ 10.00...Individual
 - \$ 15.00...Family
 - \$ 25.00...Organizational
 - \$ 25.00...Contributing (includes free lapel pin)*
 - \$ 50.00...Patron (includes 2 lapel pins)*
 - \$100.00...Donor (includes 2 lapel pins)*
 - \$100.00 & Up...Corporate (includes 2 lapel pins)*
 - \$250 & Up...Protector
 - \$500 & Up...Lifetime member
 - \$ 3.50...Lapel Pin, mailed to me

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

Enclosed is an additional donation of \$ _____ to defray special expenses for

Protectors' Defense Fund (\$500 or more earns lifetime membership and a print by mezzotint artist Herman Zaage. Limited supply.)

Other (specify) _____

CAN YOUR EMPLOYER OFFER MATCHING GRANTS? _____

* Please help us defray costs. Check here only if you would like to receive lapel pins in return for your donation.

NAME(Mr./Mrs./Ms.) _____

ADDRESS _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE () _____ E-mail address _____

Phone me. I want to volunteer my help: _____

ENCLOSED is my tax deductible check for \$ _____ made payable to PROTECTOR'S OF PINE OAK WOODS, INC.

Mail to: Sylvia Zaage 160 Simonson Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10303

BLOOMINGDALE PARK PRESERVATION PROGRESS REPORT

continued from page 2

the survival of bird, mammal, amphibian and reptile species that are native to our area. An interior woodland is bordered on all sides by 300 feet of woodlands, buffering the interior from harmful intrusions such as roads, disturbing noises, domestic pets and non-native plant species. These can all impinge on the interior woodlands.

You may have seen the proliferation of "FOREVER WILD" signs at the edges of many of our important woodlands, North Shore and South. These signs indicate there are significant interior woodlands further along paths so labeled. A statement was made that "If you take a little here and a little there, eventually it could all be gone." A question posed in court that astounded Protectors was, "When does it stop? When is it too late?" The question was never answered, but in a capsule, it summa-

rized Protectors' concerns and the reason behind our bringing the issue to court.

This is being written shortly before the new year. Since we have had no response from the court as yet, we might expect a decision shortly after the first of the year. If the decision is in our favor either to modify the Final Environmental Impact Statement or even to prevent the city from developing a portion of eastern Bloomingdale Park, we assume that the city would appeal that ruling. If the ruling were to favor the city's plan to develop, Protectors hopes that it can appeal that decision to still work towards saving the woodlands and wetlands. No plans for our next move can be made at this time until a court decision is handed down.

Even if the court should rule in favor of the city, there are financial restraints

that could possibly be imposed in terms of the severe budgetary problems caused by the September 11 terrorist destruction of the World Trade Center. New school construction is being delayed and monies for cultural institutions are being cut back. Would the city or the borough pursue questionable expenses for a challenged project under these circumstances?

VISIT OUR WEB SITE:
WWW.SIPROTECTORS.ORG
FOR THE LATEST NEWS AND EVENTS

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