

PROTECTOR'S OF PINE OAK WOODS



**STATEN ISLAND'S
LAND CONSERVATION
ORGANIZATION**

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ONLY ON SI PROTECTOR'S.ORG...

PROTECTOR'S "DAYS AFIELD":

RELIVE THE HIGHLIGHTS
OF PAST WALKS ON OUR
JOURNAL LINK

"AND THAT'S NOT ALL...":

TEENS SHARE THEIR PACK CAMP
EXPERIENCES

LATE WINTER 2004

NY CITY AND STATE ENVIRONMENTAL FUNDS BENEFIT ALL STATEN ISLANDERS

**MESSAGE FROM
THE PRESIDENT**

LAST YEAR, PROTECTOR'S OF PINE OAK WOODS WAS VERY FORTUNATE to receive a grant from the New York City Environmental Fund for a total of \$12,000. This was enough money to help restore our tool and glove supply for our forest restoration projects, and provide light refreshments for our large number of volunteer restoration workers. But more importantly, the grant has allowed us to purchase many hundreds of trees and shrubs to add to the past generous donations of planting materials from the Pinelands Nursery in New Jersey. We all look forward to the 2004 planting season with a large reserve of shrubs and trees which we will plant this year in the Greta Moulton tract at High Rock, in Buck's Hollow and in Southwest Latourette, all in the Greenbelt as well as elsewhere on Staten Island. If you haven't been out with us yet, check Protector's Calendar and come out for the next monthly Forest Restoration Workshop or the months after that.

That same New York City Environmental Fund grant (our first sizable grant ever in 30 years) also provided us with adequate funds to design our own brochure, then print and mail out thousands of copies of the new Protector's brochure which you all recently received and were encouraged to share with interested relatives or friends. That brochure is already bringing us a number of membership renewals, as well as new members who we know will strengthen our already formidable presence on the Staten Island environmental front. Did you know that our membership totals over one thousand memberships, many of them family memberships, which add up to some 2500 members? No other borough has a borough wide land preservation/parks protection organization of such size, importance and impact (despite some attempts to ignore, deny and demean Protector's of Pine Oak Woods' value to the Staten Island Community.)

As announced in the S.I. Advance on January 9, 2004, New York State also has a \$10 million Environmental Protection Fund, of which \$2.2 million will be allocated to New York City in 2004. New York City is receiving close to one fourth of the state's waterfront monies for waterfront revitalization projects. This is impressive

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**OUR
30TH
ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION
CONTINUES!**

**PROTECTOR'S OF PINE OAK WOODS
SPRING MEMBERS MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31 • STATEN ISLAND ZOO
6:30-9:30 PM, ADMISSION FREE**

STATEN ISLAND BLUEBELTS—A NATURAL SUCCESS

6:30: Refreshments (there will also be a 15-min. break during the program)

7:30: Special Program:

- ♦ South Shore Bluebelts: From Conception to Completion
 - ♦ Updates of Current Projects
 - ♦ Conceiving the Mid-Island Bluebelt System
 - ♦ Questions, next steps
- Dana Gumb, NYC Department of Environmental Protection

9:15: Closing remarks and raffle

Call 447-2220 for more information

Also visit <http://www.nyc.gov/html/dep/html/press/03-22pr.html>

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ENVIRONMENTAL FUNDS

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knowing that Staten Island will get more than half the city's allotment or close to \$1.2 million. Both the city and the state obviously recognize Staten Island's waterfront needs and are willing to invest in improving Staten Island's shores. For the moment, at least, we are not the forgotten borough as Staten Islanders so often claim. Nor is the state forgetting New York City. Remember, this great state has, in addition to the vast New York Harbor/Hudson River Estuary complex, two of the Great Lakes, Ontario and Erie and all eleven of the Finger Lakes, four of whom are names of Staten Island streets. In addition New York's great lengthy rivers include the Hudson, the Delaware, the Mohawk and the Susquehanna and their dozens of tributaries along most of which our cities and towns are built. Our Staten Island waterfronts, however, are given their due recognition finally in New York.

Four separate projects are planned. They involve the north, the south, and the west shores of Staten Island. Our frequently visited and well used east shore, including Great Kills Park, South Beach and Midland Beach has already seen major improvements over the years. The Department of the Interior's Gateway National Recreation Area at Great Kills and NYC Parks and Recreation at South and Midland Beaches have been able to keep abreast of public waterfront needs at those sites and have not allowed them to deteriorate as has happened along the other shore fronts on the island. The four sites to divide the \$1.2 million are:

1. The 2,200 acre Fresh Kills undeveloped park, west of New Springville, once the Fresh Kills Garbage Landfill.

2. The three and a half acre salt marsh creek and upland habitat in Main Creek, including Harbor Herons' monitoring near Goethals Bridge and the Home Depot operation.

3. Landscape restoration and erosion control at the Conference House Park in Tottenville.

4. Public amenities for the recently rebuilt 845 foot Fishing Pier #1 in St. George.

Walking Staten Island's Natural Areas is For Everyone

All of Protectors of Pine Oak Woods activities are considered suitable for families with children of all ages, as long as the parents want their children with them

Teens and preteens have joined their parent or parents, over the past three decades, on our thrice annual (spring, fall and winter) ten mile Greenbelt Walk.

Teens, preteens and even toddlers have joined their parents on our monthly sunset-full moonrise half mile walk up Mt Moses in the Greenbelt, to share nibbles, and walk back after sunset and full-moon rise with flashlights along the darkened trail. Once we had several parents with two three year olds, one of whom asked to be carried back out. They were the delight of that walk.

A teacher in a specialized high school brought some of her very bright teenagers who brought their own teen age friends along. The talking and sharing never stopped.

Many parents like to bring their youngsters on our shorter nature walks to a large variety of Staten Island natural parks. Youngsters sometimes are more inquisitive and ask the best questions.

Our adults, single and in couples, have always enjoyed the wide range of ages we attract. We think it artificial to limit to certain age groups. One of my best ten-milers was when the older couple, near the end of the hike (that's what we used to call the ten miler) announced that they were in their eighties, to the applause of those around them.

Finally, we would never label them Parent-child activities, but our local parent magazine pleads for our future listings to enrich family activities for Staten Islanders. Do join us.

—Richard Buegler

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PROTECTORS OF PINE OAK WOODS CALENDAR

Wednesday, March 3

Protectors' Board Meeting, 7:30 to 10 p.m. The Art Lab, Snug Harbor. Come see us planning. Important decisions are often made at this meeting. Refreshments. For more information, phone Dick Buegler or any board member.

Saturday, March 6

Forest Restoration Workshop—Buck's Hollow, Latourette Park, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Meet at the entry road to Eger Nursing Home at intersection of Rockland and Meisner Avenues. Plants, tools and refreshments provided. This will be a wonderful opportunity to do some planting and see how thoroughly NYCDEP plans its Blue Belt Restorations at the new pond and dam at Meisner Ave. Call Dick Buegler for more information at (718) 761-7496

Saturday, March 6

Sunset Moonrise Walk at Mt Moses—5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Sunset is at 5:54 p.m. and moonrise is 12 minutes earlier at 5:42 p.m. It takes another 20 minutes to rise above the hills of High Rock. 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 ten minutes each way. On the way across the intersection see the hundreds of shrubs and trees 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, March 7

The Ancient Forest Trees of Wolfe's Pond Park—1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Meet at the far right corner of the parking lot at the end of Cornelia Avenue, near the rest rooms. In an easy two miles, large numbers of trees, 200 to 300 years old will be examined in Staten Island's most ancient forest. Walk up a short hill and view the broad flood plain forest of this major Bluebelt stream. Call Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496 for more information.

Sunday, March 14

Explore Heyerdahl Hill in Buck's Hollow—Hillel Lofaso leads a roundtrip walk from High Rock Park to the serpentine barrens of Heyerdahl Hill with a stop at Moses Mountain. Meet at the Nevada Ave. parking lot to High Rock Park, 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. We go in all but extreme weather. Bring beverage and snacks. Call 447-2220 for more information.

Sunday, March 21

Short Walk to Mt Moses and Back—10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. 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 Bartonnia, then the wet meadow where Joe-Pye-Weed, Ironweed, Sensitive Fern and the infrequent Canada Lily flourish, surrounded by wetland shrubs and trees. Then enjoy the great view of 4 square miles of Greenbelt Forest from the top of Mt. Moses. Pack a light lunch and a beverage. Call Elaine Croteau at (718)698-6056 or Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496 for more information.

Saturday, March 27

Clay Pit Ponds State Park/Preserve—Wildflowers, Trees and Wildlife. 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. 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, nothing like our Greenbelt forest. We'll check in the sand and mud for deer prints throughout the park. 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.

Wednesday, March 31—6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Protectors' Spring Semi-annual Members' Meeting—Staten Island Bluebelts, an Environmental Success Story. Come hear Dana Gumb of the NYC Department of Environmental Protection talk about the south shore and new mid-island bluebelts. Staten Island Zoo Auditorium, Broadway entrance. Meet Protectors' Board and many other fellow members and guests. Slide presentation, refreshments and raffle of a treasured Bernard Paul bird wood carving. Call (718) 447-2220 for more details.

Sunday, April 4

Sunset Moonrise Walk at Mt Moses—6:40 p.m. to 8:10 p.m. Sunset is at 7:25 p.m. and moonrise is 43 minutes earlier at 6:42 p.m. It takes another 20 minutes to rise above the hills of High Rock. We might see sunset and moonrise at about the same time for the first time in two years. 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 ten minutes each way. The newly planted shrubs and trees should be beginning to leaf out in the restored wetlands behind the new dam at the Meisner Ave. bridge. Call Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496 for more information.

Saturday, April 10

All Day Botanical Tour of Bloodroot Valley and High Rock Park—10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Meet with Torrey Botanical Society at 10 a.m. on the Passenger Pickup Ramp of S. I. Ferry Terminal or at 10:30 a.m. at Manor Rd. side of S. Wagner High School. This could be the peak of the blooming of hundreds of

native Bloodroot. Lunch and beverage are a must. Call Dick Buegler, (718) 761-7496 to make reservation or arrange car pool.

Wednesday, April 14

Executive Board Meeting—7:30 to 10:00 p.m. 80 Mann Ave.

Saturday, April 17

Forest Restoration Workshop — Greta Moulton at High Rock. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 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 hope to plant additional shrubs and trees as well as remove invasive vegetation. Call Dick Buegler for more information at (718) 761-7496

Sunday, April 18

Northern SeaView Woodlands, site of a proposed Senior Housing Project—10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. See the developers' site for \$2,500/month senior apartments with over 3,000 mature forest trees to be destroyed. Meet at the corner of Walcott and Brielle Avenues, north of SeaView Hospital entrance. This rich mature forest on public property is to be built on by developers with NYC's Economic Development Corporation approval. Call Chuck Perry (718)667-1393 or Glenn Cronick (718)987-9246 for more information.

Sunday, April 25

Celebrate Earth Day with a visit to Bloomingdale Park in Early Spring—10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. See Staten Island's best spring wildflower display in a 2 mile stroll of a mature forest and along a classic meandering stream. Meet at the intersection of Maguire Avenue and Drumgoole Road West. Wear sturdy shoes and bring a light refreshment. For more information call Dick Buegler (718)761-7496.

Wednesday, April 28

Protectors' Board Meeting, 7:30 to 10 p.m. The Art Lab, Snug Harbor. Come see us planning. Important decisions are often made at this meeting. Refreshments. For more information, phone Dick Buegler or any board member.

Saturday, May 1

Forest Restoration Workshop — Greta Moulton at High Rock. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 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. If ground is not frozen, we hope to plant additional shrubs and trees. Call Dick Buegler for more information at (718) 761-7496.

Sunday, May 2

Mount Loretto Unique Area—10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. A two mile walk along the bluff above the beach to enjoy the great ocean vista and breezes, the birds in spring song, and the trees in leaf. Meet at the corner of Hylan Blvd and Richard Avenue. Call Dominick Durso, before 8:30 p.m. at (718) 967-0379 for more information.

Tuesday, May 4

Sunset Moonrise Walk at Mt Moses—7:20 p.m. to 8:50 p.m. Sunset is at 7:56 p.m. and moonrise is 8 minutes later at 8:04 p.m. It takes another 20 minutes to rise above the hills of High Rock. 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. Spring evenings can be chilly. The walk is barely ten minutes each way. If you come early, you may see the beautiful wetland plantings in bloom in the newly restored pond of the Richmond Creek Bluebelt, BMP8. Call Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496 for more information.

Saturday, May 8

35th Annual Spring Ten Mile Walk of the SI Greenbelt—9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Ten moderate miles at a comfortable pace. See wonderful vistas and the blooming of the Pinxter Azalea, Highbush Blueberry and Canada Mayflower. Meet at the foot bridge leading to the Clove Lakes Café. Bring lunch, beverage and sturdy walking shoes as well as camera, binoculars and field guides.. We go in all weather but walk shortened if high pollution levels occur. Call Dick Buegler (718)761-7496 or Herman Zaage (718) 727-0772 for more information.

Saturday, May 15

Mariners' Marsh—A Park That Has Grown More Beautiful in Five Years—9:30 a.m. to 12 noon - A spring-time treat. Join Catherine Barron and Dick Buegler of Mariners' Marsh Conservancy and Protectors of Pine Oak Woods, along with other officers and board members of these two cooperating environmental/park organizations in an assessment of what has been accomplished since the park was first founded more than five years ago, even before "Secret Places" was written. Meet at Park entrance on Holland Avenue. For more information, phone Dick Buegler (718)761-7496.

Sunday, May 16

A Second Visit to Bloomingdale Park in Late Spring—10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Enjoy a wildflower and woodland display in a 2 mile stroll of a mature forest, along a classic meandering stream. Meet at the intersection of Maguire Avenue and Drumgoole Road West. Wear sturdy shoes and bring a light refreshment. For more information call Dick Buegler (718)761-7496.

Saturday May 22

Short Walk to Mt Moses and Back—10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. 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 Bartonnia, and the wet meadow where Joe-Pye-Weed, Ironweed, Sensitive Fern and the infrequent Canada Lily flourish, surrounded by wetland shrubs and trees. Then enjoy the great view of 4 square miles of Greenbelt Forest from the top of Mt. Moses. Pack a light lunch and a beverage. Call Elaine Croteau at (718) 698-6056 or Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496 for more information.

Wednesday, May 26

Executive Board Meeting—7:30 to 10:00 p.m. 80 Mann Ave.

Wednesday, June 2

Sunset Moonrise Walk at Mt Moses—7:45 p.m. to 9:15 p.m. Sunset is at 8:22 p.m. and moonrise is 6 minutes earlier at 8:16 p.m. It takes another 20 minutes to rise above the hills of High Rock. 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. Summer evenings can be cool. The walk is barely ten minutes each way. Call Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496 for more information.

Saturday, June 5

The Ancient Forest Trees of Wolfe's Pond Park—9:30 a.m. to 12 noon. Meet at the far right corner of the parking lot at the end of Cornelia Avenue, near the picnic area. In an easy two miles, large numbers of trees, 200 to 300 years old will be examined in Staten Island's most ancient forest. See the rich variety of trees, shrubs, ferns and wildflowers in a mature forest. Walk up a short hill and view the broad flood plain forest of this major Bluebelt stream. Call Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496 for more information.

Sunday June 6

Long Pond Park, Staten Island's Newest—1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Only recently saved from developers, this is Tottenville's favorite skating pond. Vast native woodlands including a majestic old Beech forest, and rich understory. A hill free two mile walk in a pleasant retreat. See the Chinese Empress trees, a new addition to our flora and a tree sold to gardeners that "turns a bare lot into a shaded mini-estate in one season." Meet at the corner of Hylan Blvd and Richard Avenue. Call Dominick Durso, before 8:30 p.m. at (718) 967-0379 for more information.

Wednesday, June 9

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

Saturday, June 12

Mariners' Marsh Reforestation Project—10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Help the Forest Restoration Team plant the second half of the 100 Atlantic White Cedars the Native Plant Center has been holding for us for a few years. The first fifty were planted in a row, 6 feet apart from each other along one side of Monument Pond. They're doing well. The second half will be planted in front of them, closer to the pond. Gloves, tools, plants and plant shields will be provided, along with refreshments. Wear water-proof boots. Meet in front of the park on Holland Avenue, between MacCormack and Benjamin Streets. For more information call Dick Buegler, (718)761-7496.

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Clay Pit Ponds State Park/Preserve—Wildflowers, Trees and Wildlife. 9:00 a.m. to 12 Noon. 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, nothing like our Greenbelt forest. 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, October 2

Great Kills Annual 6 mile Monarch Butterfly Walk—9:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Meet at the auto entrance to Gateway National Park, opposite Buffalo Street where the 78 bus from the ferry stops. Bring lunch and beverage for the day and feel free to leave and return to the starting point as you need. 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.



PROTECTOR'S' BROCHURE SUCCESSFULLY INCREASING OUR MEMBERSHIP!

Last month you all received our new colorful informational brochure. So many of you have already shared it with your friends, and we hope you will continue to help bring in new members. Our growing membership will give us additional strength to accomplish our goals.

And remember, March is the month that we all renew our memberships for the following year!

We Welcome Our New Members:

Sanchie Bobrow, Jacqui Bonavito, John Brady, Lea Marie Cetera, Ciaran & Jean Canavan, Lisbeth DeForest, Rina Desai, Kathleen, Dennis, Lena & Maura Douris, Marie Ettlinger, Mary Ferreras, Kathleen & Michael Fiore, MaryAnn Fitzgerald, Mary Gaudio, Giffords Civic Assoc., Dr. Thomas Gilson, Richard Gorgoglione, Phyllis Gulino, Mary Hammel, Joyce Hyon, Edward Jannetski, Marilyn Keshecki, Carol Laakso, Ralph Lamberti, Ulla Lehman-Jorgensen, Carol Lombardo, Eleanor Magid, Adele McMahon, Bernard McMahon, North Shore Waterfront Greenbelt, Edward Oddo, Paul Pieluszynski, Frank & Dianne Powers, Nicole Sabatini, Dorothy Vaccaro, The Werner Family, Julia Westerinen, Mary Wheeler

What Our Members Think:

Enclosed is our family membership fee. Our daughter, Lena, was very fortunate to have a wonderful experience with the conservation camp. She is in her second year at McGill University in Montreal and is taking courses in Ecology and Plant Biology this semester. Her major is Biology/Zoology.

Thank you and your organization for encouraging a new generation in preserving our environment.

In appreciation,
Kathleen & Dennis Douris

Life Member: Joyce Hyon

Super-Donor: Matthew Miner, Wendy & William Sadler

Donor: Mr. & Mrs. F. Pepper Birchard, James & Nancy Burri, Amanda Humphrey Cheau, Vincent DiTizio, John & Inge Konther, Brian Levine, John Luisi, Jean Roland, Janet & Bart Sharp, Barbara Shelp, Michael Sormani

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Mr. & Mrs. Richard Young, Herman & Sylvia Zaage

Organization: Giffords Civic Assoc., Lighthouse Hill Civic Assoc., North Shore Waterfront Greenbelt, NYC Audubon Soc., Pleasant Plains/Prince's Bay/Richmond Valley CA, Todt Hill Civic Assoc., Westerleigh Improvement Soc.

Protectors' Defense Fund: Grace Alexander, Lois Barth, Mr. & Mrs. John Biggs, John Brady, John Gelles, David Heerwagen, Edward Jannetski, Lighthouse Hill Civic Assoc., Anthony Rose, Mr. & Mrs. John Ross Charles Sachs, Elise Schmaus, Judith Trotsky, Russell Yolland

Special Contributions

We thank Life members Catherine Barron, David Buegler, Dr. Janis D'Angelo, Stephen Petrowicz and Paul Schwartz for their generous special contributions!

From the J.P. Morgan Chase Foundation, we received \$200 from John Healey and a gift of \$1,000 in recognition of the volunteer work of Adriano Chinellato on the Forest Restoration Team.

Bernard Paul has received a LIFE membership because he has generously donated his carved birds for our raffles for at least a decade. These popular sculptures always bring in more than \$100 at our semi-annual meetings.

—Sylvia Zaage

DO YOU HAVE E-MAIL?

If we have your e-mail address you are already a member of Protectors' new e-mail network.

You will be kept informed about exciting events like the Sunset/Full-Moon walks on Moses Mountain, as well as fast breaking news concerning Protectors Persuaders, and much more!

If you're not in the Network yet, just send me your name and e-mail address at sylhz@earthlink.net.

THE LATEST ON NORTHERN SEAVIEW

IN OUR LAST EPISODE OF THE saga of Northern SeaView representatives of The NYC Council on Jewish Poverty, developer of 515 senior housing units, were to join Protectors for a tour of areas proposed for development. Assembly members Michael Cusick and John Lavelle helped arrange the meeting.

Although they promised to consider our objections to the demolition of six acres of Greenbelt quality woodland and siting buildings in a key migratory bird take off and landing area, the Council has apparently decided not to redesign or re-site the project. The final EIS, has apparently been accepted by City Planning and City Parks to our great disappointment.

But, to everyone's delight the Council, has recognized the site's unique character and extraordinary environmental sensitivity, and will donate 36 (or 27) acres of Northern SeaView, including the serpentine barrens, to NYC Parks, to become part of the Greenbelt Park.

Our current situation is that it is virtually impossible to successfully challenge an EIS in court. The judge considers whether the EIS process has been followed, that's all. An EIS can be full of deceptive, deliberately wrong information. An EIS can pretend to weigh the facts in deciding the most environmen-

tally responsible project site, and choose an environmentally destructive site, AND STILL meet court standards for an acceptable EIS. The truth is that N.Y. State's Environmental Impact legislation is weak, and court decisions have made it even weaker.

—Ellen Pratt

Teens and The Environment: It's a Neat Fit

People clamor for the opportunity to keep teenagers active and safe during the summer months. Parents want to know that their teens are out of trouble, making friends, having fun. The Protectors of Pine Oak Woods is offering each of you with a teenager at home that opportunity and more.

For years, PPOW has been sending a select group of Staten Island teenagers, aged 15 to 17 to the Adirondacks for a week-long camp experience. The experience, hiking, canoeing, games and friendships all contribute to fostering an appreciation for the environment. The camp, Camp Pack Forest, established and maintained by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, is geared toward sharing the natural world with teenagers so that we might protect the future of our environment today.

The costs for the camp are minimal. All you need to do is transport your teen. PPOW will cover the actual cost of the camp, \$225 per person. Bus service from Port Authority is also available if the five-hour car ride seems too daunting.

Teenagers in the past have loved Camp Pack Forest. Many return for repeat sessions until they reach the age limit of 17 years old. And though the teens learn a lot about the natural sciences: hydrology, ecology, biology and some chemistry, astronomy and botany, it is taught in a way that incites excitement and wonder. They study the night sky after a long day's hike. They build a quick fire after an evening canoe trip. All of this while they play games, learn songs and make meaningful, lasting friendships.

PPOW is proud to offer Island teens this terrific opportunity. We have openings for either the week of July 11–17 or July 25–31. Applications are available to anyone interested. To receive your application package, contact Cliff Hagen at (718) 227-8839.

—Cliff Hagen

CLIP AND MAIL

**PROTECTORS
OF PINE OAK
WOODS**



STATEN ISLAND'S
LAND CONSERVATION
ORGANIZATION

ARE YOU A MEMBER? HAVE YOU RENEWED?

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

Please enroll me as a member in the following category:

- NEW RENEWAL
 \$ 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
 *Please help us defray costs. Check here *only* if you would like to receive lapel pins.

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

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

Protectors' Defense Fund (\$500 or more earns lifetime membership)

Other (specify) _____

CAN YOUR EMPLOYER OFFER MATCHING GRANTS?

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

ADDRESS _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE () _____ E-mail address _____

Phone me. I want to volunteer my help: _____

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

ENVIRONMENTAL FUNDS

(continued from page 2)

New York City Planning will receive \$350,000 to complete the master plan for the former garbage dump at Fresh Kills, providing for public input and for an environmental impact statement (EIS). Protectors' member Richard Lynch has been working with one of the consultants to guarantee as much native planting as possible at the site.

Three and a half acres of salt marsh will be restored in Main Creek where the land filling process had destroyed that crucial habitat. A boardwalk and a canoe launch site will be provided there for public use. Some of those monies will be used to monitor and protect the Harbor Heron sites near the Goethal's Bridge and the Home Depot Wetland observation site. This work, done by Parks and Recreation, will receive \$350,000. Next time you are at Home Depot, stop at the west side of the parking lot and view the wetland, and the

variety and large number of long legged wading birds, from the observation walkway that Home Depot built there as part of their wetland damage mitigation role.

Many separate projects will improve Conference House Park, our most southerly NY State Park. Funds totaling \$225,000 will restore the native Hackberry Forest there, remove large amounts of invasive vegetation, alleviate an erosion problem at this rare site, and develop sensitive walkways through the fragile environmental area. A recent scientific report was written for this area by Protectors' member Dr. Andrew Greller, botanist of Long Island and Queens College. Greller's published report probably generated the state's interest in the restoration project of the Hackberry forest, a rare habitat in NY State. Greller is familiar with many of Staten Island's other natural areas

Another \$250,000 will be used for Pier 1 amenities in St George for this popular striped bass fishing spot. Those

amenities include benches, interpretive signage and access to and infrastructure support for the historic Lightship Nan-tucket which is berthed there. Two large residential communities, St. George and Tompkinsville, adjoin this facility which will provide all Staten Islanders with a waterfront recreational facility that had not been easily accessible before.

All these improvements, along with the North Shore Waterfront Park at the Kill van Kull in West Brighton that Protectors has long advocated and endorsed, will slowly change the lives of so many of us, including youngsters whose lives will be greatly enriched during their very formative years. None of us ever want to be far from our waters. We are slowly getting them back. We can now return to them more easily and more pleasantly. Thank you Governor George Pataki, Mayor Michael Bloomberg, Borough President James Molinaro and your environmental staffs.

—Richard Buegler

MEMBERS, PLEASE CHECK THE MAILING LABEL. IF YOU DON'T SEE 2005 OR LIFE, YOUR MEMBERSHIP HAS EXPIRED. PLEASE, RENEW TODAY!

**PROTECTORS SEMI-ANNUAL SPRING MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31,
6:30-9:30 P.M., S.I. ZOO**



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