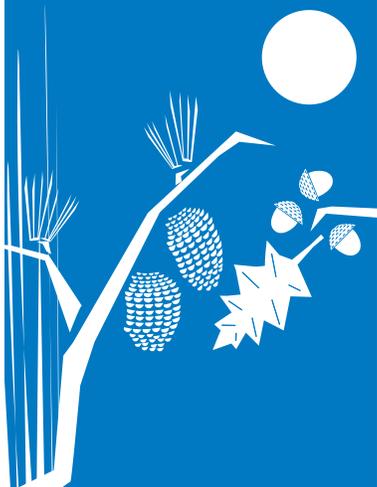


PROTECTORS OF PINE OAK WOODS



STATEN ISLAND'S LAND CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION

INSIDE . . .

PROTECTORS' CALENDAR: SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE 3-6, 8

CLIFF'S BIRDING BONANZA	2
HARBOR IS A SEAL'S PLAYGROUND	2
MEMBERSHIP NEWS	7

FIND OUT MORE AT WWW.SIPROTECTORS.ORG:

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

PROTECTORS' EVENTS FREQUENT UPDATES TO THE CALENDAR

ARCHIVES DOWNLOAD AND READ PAST ISSUES

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A COMMITMENT OF FUNDING IS NEEDED TO COMPLETE THE PURCHASE OF THESE ACRES.

WILL GOODHUE WOODS BE SAVED?

WE HAVE BEEN WAITING, AND WAITING, FOR NEWS that the City Parks Department's purchase of The Childrens Aid Society's property, Goodhue Woods, is going through. Not quite yet, we're told. First, the ULURP Application must pass through Community Board 1, the Borough Board, the City Planning Commission and the City Council. This may take as long as 180 days. The Application will probably reach the Community Board this Spring. You can attend the Community Contact Session and speak up. The rest of the process is likely to proceed without problem.

CONSERVATION NEWS

Money for the acquisition, probably more than \$30 million, will be a problem. Councilman McMahon has dedicated 6 million dollars; Borough President Molinaro has pledged \$780,000. Both can pledge more. The bulk of the money will come, we hope, from Mayor Bloomberg and/or the Department of Parks. Protectors is trying to get some funding from the half-spent \$30 million Port Authority NY-NJ Harbor Stewardship Fund.

Enjoy Goodhue Woods with us for an Owl Prowl on April 5. Listen to Spring birds on April 6; see wildflowers at Goodhue Woods on April 20 (see the calendar).

It is time to write to Mayor Bloomberg to ask him to put some or all of the funding in his fiscal year 2009 Budget. Money is increasingly scarce and many promises and needs will be competing for funding in the Mayor's last Budget in 2010. Write now, and write to the Advance as well. You need to support the City's purchase of this precious North Shore green oasis. To be kept informed of steps you can take in support, register your interest by calling 718-948-2662. —Ellen Pratt

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FREE
ADMISSION
STATEN ISLAND
ZOO

PROTECTORS OF PINE OAK WOODS
SPRING MEMBERS MEETING
THURSDAY, MARCH 13 • STATEN ISLAND ZOO
614 BROADWAY,
6:30 P.M.-9:30 P.M., ADMISSION FREE

I COVER THE WATERFRONT:
THE FOOT-BY-FOOT BATTLE FOR A NATURAL SHORELINE
DEC REGION 2 DIRECTOR SUZANNE MATTEI

- 6:30: Doors open: Refreshments and registration; networking
- 7:15: Introductions and Announcements
- 7:30: Protecting our Natural Shoreline
Suzanne Mattei, Director -- Region 2,
NY State Dept. of Environmental Conservation
- 9:00: Closing remarks and raffle; networking

Call (718) 751-6629 for more information.

WINTER/SPRING 2008

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CLIFF'S AMAZING BIRDING BONANZA

THIS PAST YEAR OF BIRDING, ACTIVELY SEEKING OUT SPECIES OF BIRDS on Staten Island to identify and share with other birders, has been a rewarding experience. Though I spent 250 days and nights afield on Staten Island, I never faltered in racing toward my goal.

My goal was to locate 250 species of birds on Staten Island in the course of one year, my fortieth. I called it The Staten Island Big Year Bird Count. I carefully considered options and outcomes. I reviewed field notes from years past and choreographed a strategy. Some luck and bad weather would guarantee my success. But my luck could not hold out for the weather was too good.

Please understand; the birders of Staten Island were out in full force sharing all they discovered in this instantaneous age. I chased down text messages of a Kentucky Warbler in Snug Harbor and a Saw-whet Owl on my birthday at Conference House Park. (I found the owl.) Redhead Duck and Eurasian Wigeon, Lapland Longspur and Whip-poor-will were all reported, but not all were identified.

In the end, the totals were impressive. The time spent, the miles traveled, the species identified. Still, around the next bend, along the next beach, deep in the wood ahead lies the one species, the illusive bird that chose not to show itself to me this year.

—Cliff Hagen

STATEN ISLANDERS DELIGHT IN PROTECTOR'S HARBOR SEAL WALK

ON A DREARY, SUNLESS WINTER AFTERNOON AT MT LORETTO when the sun momentarily broke through at the conclusion of a successful walk yesterday, twenty Protectors and friends, including two youths, were able to see two harbor seals from the bluff at Mt Loretto. The harbor seals' habitat is shallow waters in bays, rivers, estuaries and seashores where they find a rich source of fish, crustaceans and shellfish. The seals are native to our local waters during winter, returning later in the year to arctic and subarctic waters.

During Protectors entire two hour visit, one of the adult seals, most likely a female or young animal, rested on a large exposed glacial rock in Princes Bay while another adult seal swam around the rock in large lazy circles. We had not promised the seals would be there. We thought they only left the water to bask in the sun's warmth but obviously they enjoy just leaving the water, and their feeding on fish and shellfish, even on sunless days to laze about. The seal on the rock moved about, lifting its side flippers or raising its tail to show the tail flippers. Since low tide was at 4 pm and the seals were observed from 3 to 5 pm, we estimate that they are able to remain out of the water for four hours or more while the rocks remain exposed at low tide. The harbor seals were constantly observed by the walkers with binoculars or without since they were relatively close.

We will hold two more seal walks on Sunday, March 16 and Saturday, March 22, hopefully in sunny conditions. Please see the calendar for more details. The walks will be led again by Sandra Mechanic. For more information and to register for the walks, phone Dick Buegler, 718-761-7496 or Sandra Mechanic at 718-698-2036.

—Sandra Mechanic &
Richard Buegler



Photo: Sandra Mechanic

the corner of Chelsea and River Roads in Bloomfield near the Goethal's Bridge. Bring flashlight with a strong beam. Dress for a cool evening. They saw one last year on the rail's walk. For more information, phone Dick at (718) 761-7496 or Cliff at (718) 227-8839.

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

39th Annual Spring Ten Mile Walk of the SI Greenbelt — Ten moderate miles at a comfortable pace. See wonderful vistas, beautiful woodlands and the blooming of the Pinxter Azalea, Highbush Blueberry and Canada Mayflower throughout our Greenbelt. Meet at our new meeting place where the parking is easier: the beginning of the blue line trail, at the end of Staten Island Blvd. (at the end of the road right above Petrides School which intersects Ocean Terrace). Bring lunch, beverage and sturdy walking shoes as well as camera, binoculars and field guides. We go in all weather but walk is shortened if high pollution levels occur. For more information call Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496, Herman Zaage (718) 727-0772 or Chuck Perry (718) 667-1393 for more information.

Saturday May 3, 12 noon to 2 p.m.

Page Avenue Beach Woodlands — Explore the woodlands above the beach at the bottom of Page Avenue. Besides the wildlife we'll be looking for old foundations and evidence of human occupation in the past few centuries. Dress sturdily, with water-proof footwear and warm clothes. For more information phone Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496 or Clay Wollney at (718) 303-7825.

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

Clove Lakes Park Bird Migration — Clove Lakes is Staten Island's premier 'migrant bird trap' during this time of year, so grab your binoculars and come on out! Meet Howie Fischer at the Martling Ave. Bridge over Clove Lakes Dam where we will look down on the numerous tree top visitors who will be various spring bird migrants. Then we will check the woods and the ponds above and below for more migrants as well as resident birds such as jays and many kinds of woodpeckers. For more information call Howie at (718) 981-4002 or Dick at (718) 761-7496.

Sunday, May 4, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

First 2008 Search for the Rare Ragged Fringed Orchid. — See orchids and other wild flowers at Mt Loretto. Join Sandra and Dick to record the appearance for the third year of this once missing orchid from the records of Staten Island. Will we find the two to three dozen we saw, or maybe fewer or more? They were seen first in July of 2005, earlier in June of 2006, late in July 2007 and perhaps this May. Meet at the Hylan Blvd. parking lot on the shore side opposite the CYO. For more information phone Dick at (718) 761-7496.

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

Wildflower Planting Workshop — Gateway Great Kills at the Field Station. Gloves, tools, plants and refreshments will be provided. Meet along the road to the Field Station. We will check on the wildflowers planted last year. We will clear the site of weeds, prepare the soil and plant new wildflowers from the Native Plant Center. This workshop is planned to celebrate National Wildflower Week. For more information contact Chuck Perry at 347 254-3911

Sunday, May 11, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Geology 03

Conference House Park Beach, Terminal Moraine — Join Staten Island geologist, Dr. Alan Benimoff of the Department of Engineering Science and Physics of the College of Staten Island, for his third Staten Island geology walk in a tour along the terminal moraine left by the departing 90,000 year old Wisconsin glacier as it retreated some 22,000 years ago. It left a legacy of glacial deposits that cross Staten Island, stretching from New Jersey into Brooklyn and Long Island to Cape Cod. That included glacial moraines, kames and kettles, the last of which are found in our Greenbelt as kettlehole ponds. Meet in the parking lot at the very end of Hylan Boulevard. Find parking near the visitors' center & rest rooms building to your left. For more information, phone Alan at (718) 477-1974 or Dick at (718) 761-7496.

Saturday, May 17, 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Ancient Trees of Wolfe's Pond Park: Annual Bruce Kershner Spring Memorial Walk — In an easy two miles, large numbers of ancient trees, 200 to 300 years old will be examined in Staten Island's most ancient forest. Even with their leaves on, their wide girth and great height will be obvious. We'll practice guessing their age using many clues. Our printed guide to ancient trees was prepared by the late Bruce Kershner, the northeast's ancient tree expert. Walk up a short hill and view the broad flood plain forest of this major Bluebelt stream below us and discover an old, rare beech tree climax forest near the crest. We'll have a few copies of his book for those who wish to purchase it. Meet at the far right corner of the parking lot at the end of Cornelia Avenue, near the rest rooms. Call Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496.

Monday, May 19, 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Milk or Planting Full Moon: Sunset Moonrise Walk at Mt Moses — Sunset is at 8:11 p.m. and moonrise is 7 minutes later at 8:18 p.m. Since it takes the moon 20 minutes to rise above the hills of High Rock, we should see the full moon rise half an hour or so after sunset. But it should be a pleasant evening and mosquitoes shouldn't be out in swarms as yet. Meet at the base of the entry road to Eger Home at intersection of Rockland and Meisner Avenues. Flashlight is required for each person in your group. You may bring a light refreshment to share with others. Be sure to dress for a cool evening. The walk is barely fifteen minutes each way. On the way past the intersection, see the hundreds of shrubs, trees, grasses and wetland plants turning green, leafing out and some even in their spring flowering mode and getting ready to bloom. DEP planted all of them in the flood control system with the new dam that has worked well so far in even very heavy flood rains. Call Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496 for more information, or if you get my machine, call Sandra at (718) 698-2036.

Saturday, May 24, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Mount Loretto: Early Breeding Birds and Late Migrants — Last year with Howie Fischer we were treated to several breeding bird species including a family of orchard orioles that was very secretive with their two youngsters as we followed them around the grounds of Mt Loretto. Among other birds that could be breeding here at this time are robins and Baltimore orioles. We all agreed that our searching out a breeding bird family was even more rewarding than just finding and identifying birds, for the whole purpose of bird migration, bird calls and their unusual spring plumage is to guarantee the continuation of their particular species. Comfortable shoes and binoculars are a must. Meet at the Hylan Blvd. parking lot on the shore side, opposite the CYO. For more information phone Howie at (718) 981-4002 or Dick at (718) 761-7496.

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, March 9, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Page Avenue Beach at low tide — We'll begin with a look at the local geology then move to examining the flotsam and jetsam accumulated at the high tide lines to see what nature's debris has to tell us. As the water recedes with the tide we'll move into the intertidal zone to find out what sorts of living things survive in this challenging environment. A variety of crabs, snails, clams, worms and small fish are likely to be discovered. It's going to be muddy so dress appropriately. Meet at the parking lot at the bottom of Page Avenue below Hylan Blvd. For more information phone Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496 or Clay Wollney at (718) 303-7825.

♦ Thursday, March 13, 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Protectors Semi-Annual Spring Meeting—Join us from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Staten Island Zoo as DEC Region 2 Director Suzanne Mattei discusses the strengths and limitations of state laws governing coastal development, including the Protection of Waters Act, the Tidal Wetlands Act, and others. She will describe the gradual "hardening" of our shorelines and the implications for Staten Island.

♦ Saturday March 15, 9 a.m. to 11 am

Springtime in the Greenbelt: High Rock Park—Departing Wintering Birds and Very Early Migrants — Meet Howie Fischer in the High Rock parking lot, end of Nevada Avenue. This walk will focus on the early spring migration of birds, such as the rusty blackbird. We'll find Spring Peepers (one inch tree frogs), early emerging plants such as Skunk Cabbage and hopefully some early wildflowers like the mustards. The wetlands and ponds should have a few ducks as well. Trees will also be a focus of attention. Good walking shoes are recommended. Binoculars are a must! Phone Howie at (718) 981-4002 or Dick at (718) 761-7496.

♦ Saturday, March 15, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Forest Restoration Workshop: High Rock from Nevada Avenue to Hour Glass Pond — We will continue removal of invasives and plant additional shrubs and trees if available. Gloves, plants, tools and refreshments provided. Help us check to see if any of our almost 200 recently planted black walnuts are germinating. Bring a friend who likes to work outdoors. Meet in the Nevada Avenue Parking Lot. Call Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496 for more information.

♦ Sunday, March 16, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Mt Loretto Harbor Seal Watch below the Bluff— Low tide will be at about 10 a.m. so we should have a good opportunity to watch the harbor seals from the bluff and then from the beach below. Dress warmly and please bring your cameras and binoculars to see this magnificent sea mammal and have a photo to treasure and exhibit. Be sure to bring binoculars for close up views. We will meet at 9 a.m. in the Mt Loretto parking lot on Hylan Blvd. opposite the CYO building across Hylan Blvd.

For more information, phone Dick Buegler at 718-761-7496 or Sandra at 718-698-2036

♦ Friday, March 21, 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Flowing Sap or Crow Full Moon: Sunset Moonrise Walk at Mt Moses — Sunset is at 7:10 p.m. and moonrise is 13 minutes later at 7:23 p.m. It takes the moon another 15 to 20 minutes to rise above the hills of High Rock so we should see moonrise after a half hour wait. If we see the sky and clouds color up beautifully, that may occupy our interest for 30 minutes and we should be able to see the stars slowly appear preceded by the evening planets. Meet at the base of the entry road to Eger Home at intersection of Rockland and Meisner Avenues. Flashlight is required for each person in your group. You may bring a light refreshment or nibble to share with others. Be sure to dress for a cold evening. Have proper footwear. The walk is barely fifteen minutes each way but it could be very wet or muddy. On the way past the intersection by Meisner Pond, see how tall the hundreds of shrubs, trees and wildflowers are that DEP planted in the flood control system that has worked well so far even in very heavy rains. We will be looking for signs of spring; the skunk cabbage in the swamps should already be in bloom with its purple-brown, hooded spathe flower structure. Leader is Sandra Mechanic, naturalist. Call Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496 for more information or, if you get my machine, Sandra at (718) 698-2036.

♦ Saturday, March, 22, 10 a.m. to 12 noon

Early Spring Coastal Plant Dune Walk at Gateway — Join Sandra Mechanic, naturalist and photographer, to explore the unique challenging beach habitats of both dry and salty conditions for plants. We will find mostly last year's dried plants including Winged Pigweed, Common Lambs quarters, evergreen Prickly Pear Cactus (native to Staten Island), Seaside Goldenrod, Sickle leafed Golden Asters, Dune grass, Salt marsh grass, the evergreen False Heather, Earth Stars (a kind of puff ball) and loads of sprouting Pinweeds that few recognize even when they are mature and flowering, but they are all over this area. We may see some winter bird visitors such as the snow buntings and horned larks on the open lawns along with our typical residents and many shore birds if the tide is low. Meet at the Hylan Blvd parking lot to Great Kills Park, Gateway, opposite Buffalo St, a stop on the #78 bus line. Drivers pick up passengers there at 10 a.m. then drive into the park about a mile to the first parking lot and park at the beach side in the first near corner to your left. If time permits, we will walk over to the educational building in front of which the Ranger Jackie Duhon and Protectors planted a Wildflower Garden with several hundred plants of 9 wildflower species, 4/14/07, the day before the eight inch rain storm. Bring water and a light snack. For more information phone Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496 or Sandra at (718) 698 2036.

Important Disclaimer—While we strive for safety, the activities of Protectors of Pine Oak Woods ("Protectors") have certain uncontrollable hazards which each participant undertakes and for which each participant is responsible. Neither the leader nor the substitute leader is responsible in any way whatsoever for any of these hazards. All participants assume the responsibility and risks of hiking and participating in Protectors events, and release Protectors, its leaders or substitute leaders, from any liability whatsoever for any loss, damage to personal property, or injury, however caused, of any kind, nature, and description.

♦ **Saturday, March 22, 12 noon to 2 p.m.**

Page Avenue Beach Woodlands — Explore the woodlands above the beach at the bottom of Page Avenue. Besides the wildlife we'll be looking for old foundations and evidence of human occupation in the past few centuries. Dress sturdily, with water-proof footwear and warm clothes. For more information phone Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496 or Clay Wollney at (718) 303-7825.

♦ **Saturday, March 22, 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

Mt Loretto Harbor Seal Watch below the Bluff — Dress warmly and please bring your cameras and binoculars to see this magnificent sea mammal and have a photo to treasure and exhibit. Be sure to bring binoculars for close up views. We will meet at 1:30 p.m. in the Mt Loretto parking lot on Hylan Blvd. opposite the CYO building across Hylan Blvd. For more information, phone Dick Buegler at 718-761-7496 or Sandra at 718-698-2036

♦ **Saturday, March 29, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.**

Conference House Park Early Spring Migrants — Howie Fischer's focus will be on arriving spring migrant birds. These are our southernmost woodlands that welcome birds migrating north to Staten Island and beyond. These will be some of the earliest arrivals, including eastern phoebes, both ruby and golden crowned kinglets, yellow pine warblers and possibly hawks. Bring along your field guides, binoculars, children, friends and listening ears! We never know quite what to expect so expect some surprises. Meet at the Visitors Center at the end of Hylan Blvd. For more information call Howie at (718) 981-4002 or Dick at (718) 761-7496.

Sunday, March 30, 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Geology 01

Serpentinite in the S. I. Expressway Road Cut. — The First of Five Geology Walks on Staten Island, through the summer with renowned S. I. Geologist and Protectors Board Member, Dr. Alan Benimoff of the College of Staten Island. We all know, from small samples we often find on our trails, the greenish serpentine rock that forms the backbone of the central high hills of Staten Island. Few of us know of its ancient sub oceanic origin as a huge piece of the earth's mantle that broke off when the ancient North American continent collided with an island arc system of volcanoes some 430 million years ago. It is now the oldest bedrock unit of Staten Island, namely the Serpentinite. This light green rock is visible at the I-278 Sunnyside road cut and at other elevated areas in the Greenbelt that we pass on the ten mile Greenbelt walk. We will meet at the eastern end of Lightner Avenue, up the block from Todt Hill Road. For more information, phone Alan at (718) 477-1974 or Dick at (718) 761-7496.

Saturday, April 5, 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

Morning Botanical Tour of Bloodroot Valley — Our earliest blooming of the native bloodroot has been on March 29, only seven days before this walk. Last year we saw them poking up, white, but unopened on April 1. Last year was a cold spring. We might as well give it a try a few days later for a more rewarding experience. Wear sturdy shoes. It's steep, wet and rocky walking. Call Dick Buegler, (718) 761-7496 to make your reservation (attendance limited) and for meeting place. The walk will be repeated Sunday April 13, to follow the blooming just a week later in the season.

♦ **Saturday April 5, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.**

Conference House Beach: Life in the Intertidal Zone — Past and present blend in the Conference House park where history stretches back thousands of years with the seasonal occupation of the Lenape and hundreds of years with the habitation of the Dutch and English. In addition to the local history we'll observe the geology of the area and look for what the debris at the high tide line has to reveal. As the tide goes out we'll move into the intertidal zone to find out what sorts of living things survive in this challenging environment. It's going to be muddy so dress appropriately. Meet at the parking lot at the end of Hylan Blvd. on the left. For more information phone Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496 or Clay Wollney at (718) 303-7825.

♦ **Saturday, April 5, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.**

Owl Prowl at Allison Pond, Goodhue Woods — Our first visit to Allison's Pond but Cliff Hagen finds owls all over Staten Island. His technique is to mimic the call of a screech or other owl to attract local owls. They may home in on Cliff's call and perch above us. They may also return his call. If you have a bird call record, you could use it to practice your call. Meet at the intersection of Prospect and Brentwood Aves, a block south of Henderson Avenue. For more information, phone Dick at (718) 761-7496 or Cliff at (718) 227-8839.

Sunday, April 6, 8:00 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Spring Birds at Allison pond, Goodhue Woods — Remember Protectors recently helped to preserve these woodlands. Birds have begun migration back and through Staten Island since as early as mid March when Howie was looking for early migrants. The migration continues into May when more of the later warblers appear. Meet at the intersection of Prospect and Brentwood Aves., a block south of Henderson Avenue. For more information, phone Dick at (718) 761-7496 or Cliff at (718) 227-8839.

Sunday, April 6, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Spring Trip to Greenbrook Sanctuary, NJ — Join Herman and Sylvia Zaage, Sandra and Dick at the famed Greenbrook Sanctuary, perched 350 feet above the New Jersey Palisades. Morning walk led by Nancy Slowik, Naturalist/Director of the sanctuary and a native Staten Islander who, while successful at the sanctuary, has followed Protectors successes on Staten Island for three decades. Just the views over the Palisades to Yonkers and upper Manhattan are worth the trip. Then there are all the birds, trees and wildflowers. The highlight will be the wood frogs and the salamanders who leave their large egg masses with developing embryos in their bog pond. Nancy loves the sanctuary and wants to share it all with us. She will give you a strong sense of the importance of this cliff top aerie, high above the Hudson River. Bring your binoculars, your cameras for the outstanding views, and your lunch and beverage. \$5 fee. We leave Staten Island at 9 a.m. and return by 3 p.m. Phone Dick for registration, shared transportation and directions at (718) 761-7496.

Sunday, April 6, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., Geology 02

Graniteville Quarry Walk with Renowned Geologist, Dr. Alan Benimoff — Come learn from Dr. Benimoff about Staten Island's geologic history and why this site is world famous among geologists and students of geology. It has a very specially formed kind of rock called Trondhjemite, some 200 million years old that lies in the midst of the same kind of rock that makes up the New Jersey Palisades. The underlying Palisades diabase rock also shows evidence of glacial polishing and scouring

from the last continental glacier that melted off Staten Island 22,000 years ago. Protectors was instrumental in having this geologic treasure preserved as this small community park. Find parking adjacent to the park on Forest Avenue at the end of Van Name Avenue or take the Forest Avenue bus to Simonson Avenue and walk one block west. For more information, phone Alan at (718) 477-1974 or Dick at (718) 761-7496.

Saturday, April 12, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Forest Restoration Workshop: Egbertville Ravine in the Greenbelt — Meet near the intersection of Rockland and Meisner Avenues, at the foot of the entry road to Eger Home. We walk to the entrance of the white trail off London Road to continue our removal of the English Ivy Ground Cover. There is a new patch a couple of hundred feet west of the original site that needs eradication. We could also do a hunt for the young seedlings of the black walnuts we planted last year to see if any of them survived the squirrels and germinated in pairs as we planted them. We may have gotten some black walnut potted seedlings. Gloves, plants, tools and refreshments provided. Bring a friend who likes to work outdoors. Call Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496 for more information.

♦ Sunday, April 13, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Afternoon Botanical Tour of Bloodroot Valley — Our earliest blooming of the native bloodroot has been on March 29, two weeks before this walk. Last year we saw them poking up unopened on April 1. We may see them in full bloom this time. We will see other wild flowers including the true and false Solomon's seal, and sweet cicely. Wear sturdy shoes. It's steep, wet and rocky walking. Call Dick Buegler, (718) 761-7496 to make your reservation (attendance limited) and for meeting place.

♦ Saturday, April 19, 9 a.m. to 11 am

Mount Loretto, Spring Awakening — Spring in the surrounding meadows and ponds of this unique natural area can turn up some animals and plants that are typical of open fields and marshy habitats. Mammals, amphibians, reptiles, insects and of course birds will be our goal to find and observe with Howie Fischer. Comfortable shoes and binoculars are a must. Meet at the Hylan Blvd. parking lot on the shore side, opposite the CYO. For more information phone Howie at (718) 981-4002 or Dick at (718) 761-7496.

♦ Saturday, April 19, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Celebrate Pre-Earth Day at Bloomingdale Park in early Spring — See Staten Island's second best spring wildflower display in a 2 mile stroll of a mature forest along a truly meandering stream. This is Staten Island's best classical meandering stream with oxbows to boot. You will want to return yourself in a week to see how spring progresses. See masses of spring beauties and trout lily in bloom. A gentle walk along an easy trail. Meet at the intersection of Maguire Avenue and Drumgoole Road West. Wear sturdy shoes and bring a light refreshment. Leader will be Sandra Mechanic. For more information call Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496 or Sandra at (718) 698-2036.

Saturday, April 19, 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Grass or Egg Full Moon: Sunset Moonrise Walk at Mt Moses — Sunset is at 7:41 p.m. and moonrise is 23 minutes earlier at 7:18 p.m. It takes the moon 20 minutes to rise

above the hills of High Rock so we should see moonrise before the sunset just as we get to the top. Meet at the base of entry road to Eger Home at intersection of Rockland and Meisner Avenues. Flashlight is required for each person in your group. You may bring a light refreshment to share with others. Be sure to dress for a cool evening. The walk is barely fifteen minutes each way though the trail may be wet and muddy. Wildflowers are sprouting and the trees and shrubs are budding. American Dogwood may already be in bloom. Call Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496 for more information or, if you get my machine, Sandra at (718) 698-2036.

Sunday, April 20, 9:00 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Early Spring Flowers in Goodhue Woods — This is the weekend when wildflowers are at their best elsewhere on S. I. Help Protectors evaluate the richness of wildflowers at Goodhue. Investigate with Cliff Hagen what there may be in this wonderful woodland. Cliff will certainly point out the usual and unusual birds there. Some of the flowers to be expected would be trout lily, skunk cabbage, spring beauties, and early white and yellow flowering mustards called whitlow grass, rock cress and bittercress. Also we'll look for the pointed sprouts of may-apple and the pale small yellow blooms of the ever present woodland spice bush. Meet at the intersection of Prospect and Brentwood Avenues., a block south of Henderson Avenue. Bring your field guides and binoculars. For more information, phone Dick at (718) 761-7496 or Cliff at (718) 227-8839.

Sunday, April 20, 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Corson's Brook Woods, Staten Island's Greatest Secret — Celebrate Pre-Earth Day (April 22) with a visit to a magnificent native wildflower display. People drive hours to see wildflower displays like this yet few Staten Islanders know we have it in our own backyard. See tens of thousands of white spring beauties, hundreds of trout lilies in bloom, plus hundreds of wild leek plants, Canada mayflowers, false hellebores and skunk cabbages galore. Meet on Forest Hill Road, corner of Jasper St., opposite rear entrance road to CSI. Expect some wet walking and stream crossings. Few places can match this display of tree, shrub, wildflower and fern biodiversity. This is the only native Staten Island site for the rare shrub, the American bladder-nut, which blooms with drooping clusters of white flowers in April to May, although the Native Greenbelt Plant center is propagating the species and Protectors has planted some of them elsewhere that we have since found in bloom, soooo pretty! For more information call Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496 or Sandra at (718) 698-2036.

Saturday, April 26, 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m.

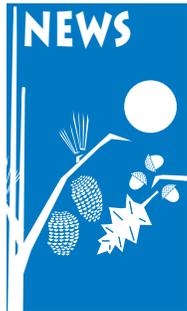
Long Pond, Tottenville's newest Pond Park — A one to two mile tour of the woodlands, ponds and wetlands in the Long Pond Park area. Take a leisurely two-hour stroll with naturalist, science educator and columnist, Clay Wollney. Evidence of animal life and the adaptations of plants will be observed as we walk through the park. Meet at PS 6, on Page Avenue and Academy Avenue about 3 blocks NW of Hylan Blvd. For more information phone Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496 or Clay Wollney at (718) 303-7825.

Friday, May 2, 10:30 p.m. to midnight

The Rails' Tails at Sawmill Creek — Rails are compact, rather hen shaped secretive birds, more often heard than seen with low pitched voices that carry well through the dense vegetation of the swamps in which they dwell. No room for a male's flashy display to attract a mate. Many regular birders have not seen a rail. Meet at

MEMBERSHIP

NEWS



Dear Members:

We thank all of you have renewed your memberships this past year. As you may have noticed, your membership card states that your renewal goes to March of the following year, regardless of what month you sent your dues. If your mailing label has the date March, 2008, or a previous year, please take the time to renew.

We need your support to continue our work!

LIFE: Paul Schwartz (add'l \$200 donation), Donald Recklies

New Members: Diane Nicoletti, Laura Barlament, Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Fitzgerald, Eve B. Rose

Donor: Edith Lauber, Fred Bauman, Joan Russo

Supporter: Brian Levine, Esq., Mr. & Mrs. Robert Lonergan, Mr. & Mrs. Bart Sharp, Eve B. Rose

Patron: John & Inger Konther

Contributor: Honorable & Mrs. Eric Vitaliano, Yvonne Ben Aaman, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Miraldi, Laura Barlament, Norma B. Herz, Mrs. Mary Jane DeSantis

Organizations: Acorn Graphics, Lighthouse Hill Civic Association

Special Donations: Henry J. Stern, Mr. & Mrs. Peter Mancuso (donation in memory of Lt. Victor J. Navarra (Ret)), Judith & Joel Berger

— Elaine B. Croteau (Ecroteau@siprotectors.org)

Thank you, Celia!

Celia Polomany, a Protectors member since 1983, who passed away recently, made a bequest of \$10,000 to Protectors. A Manhattan resident, Celia had a wide range of scientific interests and a love of our Island's open spaces. Celia was a member of the Nature Study Group at the Staten Island Institute of Arts and Sciences from the 1970s through the 1990s. Her special interest was dowsing, the ancient art of detecting underground streams and rivers. We thank you Celia for caring about Protectors' work defending Staten Island natural heritage.

FOR MEMBERS ONLY

MISSING OUT?

We prepare a fascinating field report on what we come across on our walks, and we'll e-mail it to you for your reading pleasure. Just send your e-mail address to Sylvia Zaage at szaage@siprotectors.org and put "Subscribe to PPOW" in the subject line. Not a member? — Join today!

MARCH IS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL MONTH!

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**SPRINGE SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING
THURSDAY, MARCH 13,
S.I. ZOO. SEE PAGE 1.**

MEMBERS, PLEASE CHECK THE MAILING LABEL.

**IF YOU DON'T SEE 2008 OR LIFE, YOUR MEMBERSHIP
HAS EXPIRED. PLEASE, RENEW TODAY!**

Saturday, May 24, 12:00 noon to 2:00 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 S.I. Advance columnist, Clay Wollney. Evidence of animal life and the adaptations of plants will be observed as we take an unhurried one and a half mile stroll through the park. Meet at PS 6, on Page Avenue and Academy Avenue about 3 blocks NW of Hylan Blvd. For more information phone Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496 or Clay Wollney at (718) 303-7825.

Sunday, May 25, 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Clay Pit Ponds State Park/Preserve: Trees and Wildlife in a mini Pine Barren — Find out why Protectors urged the preservation of this parkland and how we got our name in 1975. It has two rare pine species, two rare southern oak species, fence swift lizards, and a few rather unusual wildflowers, nothing like our Greenbelt forest. It's one of the few parks on S.I. that have American chestnut trees, one healthy, tall and 8-10 inches in diameter and just recently found, a second, though younger large tree. The third is a spindly, sick, multi-trunk and diseased tree with the chestnut blight but always seems to flower and set fruit. This is the only park known to have many deer with footprints galore and nibbled native wildflowers and shrubs. Leader will be Sandra Mechanic. We have a permit to enter the restricted natural area with Clay Pit Pond on the other side of Clay Pit Road. Meet at the park office at

the end of Carlin Avenue, off Sharrott's Road in Rossville. Call Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496 or Sandra at (718) 698-2036 for more information.

Monday, May 26, 10 a.m. to 12 noon

Memorial Day—Coastal Plant Dune Walk at Gateway — Join Sandra Mechanic, naturalist and photographer, to explore the unique challenging beach habitats of both dry and salty conditions for plants. We will find Winged Pigweed, Common Lambs quarters, Prickly Pear Cactus (native to Staten Island), Seaside Goldenrod, Sickle leafed Golden Asters, Sea Rocket, Dune grass, Salt marsh grass, the evergreen False Heather, Jointed Coastweed, Earth Stars (a kind of puff ball) and loads of Pinweeds that few recognize. The Asters and Coastweed will not be in bloom. We could see early Monarch Butterflies and some camouflaged, sand colored grasshoppers as well as many shore birds if the tide is low. Meet at the Hylan Blvd parking lot to Great Kills Park, Gateway, opposite Buffalo St, a stop on the #78 bus line. Drivers pick up passengers there at 10:00 a.m. then drive into the park about a mile to the first parking lot and park at the beach side in the first near corner to your left. If time permits, we will walk over to the educational building in front of which Parks Ranger Jackie Duhon and Protectors planted a Wildflower Garden with several hundred plants of 9 wildflower species, 4/14/07, the day before last year's eight inch rain storm. Bring water, large hat and sunscreen. For more information phone Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496.