

Speaking of chapters, SSAS's 25th Anniversary dinner isn't too far off. *Everyone* is more than welcome to join us. Twenty dollars gets you an evening of great food, sensational door prizes, a fantastic display of photographs from SSAS activities, and a chance to see a fun slide show about SSAS over the past 25 years. Who knows, you might see your own picture. Mark your calendar (June 13th) and look in future *Skimmers* for the reservation form; sign up for a casual dress-up evening of pure fun and enjoyment, with everyone taking home a gift, at the site of our traditional annual dinners, Pompei Restaurant in West Hempstead.

I've only shared the fringes of SSAS past and SSAS future, so stay tuned — there is much, much more to come, including a college scholarship, the Birdathon, the 25th anniversary of Earth Day in April, and cleanups and walks at Cow Meadow and Brookside Preserves.

P.S.: Thanks again to Marge, Diane, Judy, Kari Sioux, Roger, Evelyn, Jenn, Connie, Jonathan, Caroline, Alice, Betty, Dick, and Betsy for making the Tackapausha Holiday Party such a great success. Every year just gets better and better! Kids of all ages used up more than 20 pounds of peanut butter mix and birdseed to cover pine cones for our feathered and furry friends. Cranberries and popcorn were strung, games were played, and our friends at T.R. Sanctuary provided us with two terrific educational programs about birds. The volunteers from Tackapausha and SSAS truly deserve a standing ovation. Without them, this event never would have happened. See you out there on the bird walks.

ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEY RESULTS

Last spring, 1005 adults were surveyed by phone (with a 3% margin of error) by Roper Starch Worldwide in the third annual National Environmental Forum Survey commissioned by Times Mirror Magazines. Five of the results, printed below, appeared in the December 1994 issue of *Audubon Activist*, an 8-page free newspaper published nine times per year by National Audubon Society. To subscribe, send your membership number (from your *Audubon* magazine mailing label) and a pledge to write two letters and make two phone calls a year on behalf of the environment to *Audubon Activist*, 700 Broadway, New York, NY 10003.

Can environmental protection and economic development go hand in hand? 66% said yes, 25% no, and 10% didn't know.

How far have environmental laws and regulations gone? 53% chose not far enough, 23% chose right balance, and 16% chose too far.

Federal spending should be shifted to environmental programs from other areas. 63% agreed, 30% disagreed.

How do you classify yourself in terms of environmentalism? 79% chose active or sympathetic, 16% chose neutral, and 2% chose unsympathetic.

How much do personal efforts to benefit the environment make a difference? 90% chose make a difference (large or small), 8% chose no difference, and 2% didn't know.

ENDANGERED SPECIES COALITION MEDICINE BOTTLE CAMPAIGN

The Endangered Species Act keeps us healthy by safeguarding many of the species we rely upon to fight life-threatening diseases.

Now, we can voice our concern for the health of ourselves and the environment. Join people everywhere who are sending empty prescription bottles to their elected officials. Each bottle carries the message that we want the Endangered Species Act strengthened to safeguard the plants and other species that protect the health of ourselves and our children.

The Facts. Many of today's most important medicines, as well as the foundation for research into future cures, come from a full range of species from the forests to the oceans. Nearly one quarter of the prescriptions distributed in the U.S. are based on substances derived from nature. The chemical treasury of nature is literally disappearing before we have the opportunity to assess it. If we protect nature, nature will protect us.

How it Works. Free preprinted stickers and directions are available via SSAS (see p. 1) from the Endangered Species Coalition. After adding the name of your Congressman, either Senator, or President Clinton to the message on the sticker, affix it to an empty medicine bottle and give the bottles to SSAS for mailing, or mail them yourself to the Coalition (for bulk delivery to Clinton), House, or Senate.

BRONX ZOO TRIP

On Saturday, April 1st, SSAS will once again be visiting the Bronx Zoo, thanks to arrangements made by Diane Singer and Evelyn Blume. Because the zoo is nearby, we decided to use a school bus for transportation, which reduces the cost to \$9 per person — less than the cost of tolls and parking if you go alone. The zoo has agreed to charge us a reduced entrance fee of \$2.50 per person (\$1 for seniors).

The bus will leave from the Merrick Road Park Golf Course parking lot in Merrick at 8:30 A.M. and leave the zoo at 3:15 P.M. We will be led on morning and afternoon tours by docents. Bring lunch with you or buy fast-food zoo cuisine.

Checks for \$9 made out to *South Shore Audubon Society* should be received before March 1, 1995 (in the unlikely event that we don't have enough people signed up by then, the trip will be canceled, since SSAS doesn't subsidize bus trips). Please send checks to Diane Singer, 118 Kent Road, Valley Stream, NY 11580 and include the following form:

NAME: _____
 ADDRESS: _____

 PHONE NUMBER: _____
 NUMBER OF PEOPLE: _____
 AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____

AUDUBON CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS

Michael Sperling

SSAS once again will be awarding two full scholarships, one to an adult and one to a child age 10-14, to attend an Audubon camp. Applicants or their parents should be members in good standing and be interested in sharing their camp experiences with fellow members, the community, and/or schools. Financial need is not a basis for receiving a scholarship; the winners must provide their own transportation.

The Youth Ecology Camp in Maine takes place on Hog Island, which also hosts the Ecology Workshop described in this *Skimmer* by last year's adult winner, Jonathan Staller. The camper-instructor ratio is 5 to 1, with an enrollment of 48. Campers dredge the ocean floor for marine creatures, search for organisms in tide pools, and learn about seabirds, seals, and other wildlife. The evenings are filled with night hikes, stargazing, special guests, and songfests. The Youth Camp will be offered August 2-12 and August 15-25.

This year, our adult scholarship is for the Audubon Ecology Workshop at NAS's 485-acre nature sanctuary in Greenwich, Connecticut. SSAS enjoyed a hawk watch bus trip to this sanctuary in September 1992. Subtitled "Introductory Field Ecology for Educators," this workshop includes bird identification (nearly 100 species could be seen); on-site hikes through forests, meadows, lakes, ponds, and streams; a visit to Long Island Sound; lecture and lab work; and more. Rustic facilities include a library, auditorium, and double-occupancy rooms furnished with private baths. The Workshop will be offered July 2-8, 9-15, 16-22, and 23-29; July 30-August 5; and August 6-12 and 13-19.

For copies of National Audubon's Ecology Camps and Workshops brochure and for a scholarship application (due **March 7th**), call SSAS Education Chairperson Suzanne Lancer at 536-6574 between 7 and 9 P.M. or send SSAS a postcard. We can usually count the number of scholarship applicants on our fingers, so by all means, apply!

THEODORE ROOSEVELT SANCTUARY

134 Cove Road
Oyster Bay, NY 11771
(516) 922-3200

Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Bird Sanctuary is owned by National Audubon and operated by the Community and three local chapters, including SSAS. The following programs are open to the public. Space is limited and registration is required. Program fees are required at registration time.

Wednesday, February 8th (8 P.M. to 9 P.M.) — *Trinidad and Tobago*. Discover the tropical wildlife of these islands and find out more about our affordable trip there. Program is free; trip will be April 14-22 and costs \$1600, including airfare.

Saturday, February 11th (1 P.M. to 3 P.M., all ages) — *Rainforests*. Through live animals, activities, and a nature walk, find out more about these imperiled habitats. Our

naturalist will let you know what's going on and what you can do. TRS members \$3, nonmembers \$5.

Sunday, February 19th (2 P.M. to 3:30 P.M., ages 6 to 10) — *The World of Birds*. This program is one of the most popular for schools who visit the Sanctuary. We use costumes, games, specimens, live birds, and a walk to teach children the value of birds. TRS members \$3, nonmembers \$5.

Sunday, February 26th (1 P.M. to 2:30 P.M., all ages) — *Maple Sugaring*. Sit by a roaring fire and find out where maple sugar comes from. We'll tap a tree and boil down the sweet, delicious sap. You can try some on a corn cake. We'll also have a tree walk. TRS members \$3, nonmembers \$5.

February Recess Nature Camp. TRS will be offering day camp for children grades PK-4 during winter vacation, February 20-23, from 9 A.M. to 1 P.M. The focus is on winter ecology and wildlife. TRS members \$85, nonmembers \$95.

Free Workshops. TRS is presenting a group of workshops intended to empower educators to lead their own field trips. We encourage elementary and secondary educators, education students, scout leaders, etc., to attend these free workshops. For each topic, participants receive a curriculum guide composed of background information, preparatory material, field trip suggestions and activities, resources, follow-up material, reading lists, and more. The L.I. groundwater workshop is scheduled for the first three Saturdays of February, starting at 9 A.M. and ending at 12, 5 (trip day), and 1 P.M. Call for a brochure and to register.

BIRD SEED SAVINGS DAY REMINDER

Our second and last BSSD is/was Sunday, January 29th, from 9:30 A.M. to 2:30 P.M. at Tackapausha Museum, on Washington Avenue in Seaford (between Merrick Road and Sunrise Highway). Although it's too late to preorder, bird feeders and extras of all types of seed will be available. Proceeds benefit Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary. **Help is needed** to take orders and carry seed around the parking lot. To volunteer, call Paul Butkerei late evenings at 623-0843 or just show up! Please join your editor for an hour or five.

Seed - Feeders
Houses - Baths
Books - Gifts

(516) 694-2180



WILD BIRD CENTER

"NEW YORK'S LARGEST WILD BIRD SPECIALTY STORE"

621 Fulton St. (Rt. 109), Farmingdale, NY 11735
Located between McDonald's & Dunkin' Donuts

RARE BIRD ALERT (212) 979-3070

WILDLIFE POISONING HOTLINE (800) 356-0560

 **BIRD WALKS** 
Elliott Kutner

All walks start at 9:30 A.M.; no walk if it rains or snows or temperature is below 25°F. Any questions? Call Elliott at 486-7667.

- Jan. 29 Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
- Feb. 5 Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner
- Feb. 12 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- Feb. 19 Zach's Bay Parking Field #4, N.E. corner
- Feb. 26 Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
- Mar. 5 Cedar Beach [head east on Ocean Parkway until you're about 5 miles into Suffolk County; use first entrance on right]
- Mar. 12 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- Mar. 19 Zach's Bay Parking Field #4, N.E. corner
- Mar. 26 Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner
- Apr. 2 Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
- Apr. 9 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- Apr. 16 Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner
- Apr. 23 Hempstead Lake State Park (Penin. Blvd.)
- Apr. 30 Zach's Bay Parking Field #4, N.E. corner

GREENS OUTGUNNED

[Editor's Note: The following is reprinted with permission from the December 15, 1994 issue of *Capital Eye: A Close-Up Look at Money in Politics*, an eight-page free bimonthly newsletter published by the Washington, D.C.-based Center for Responsive Politics. The goal of *Capital Eye* is "to educate our readers and to encourage them to examine the role of money in the U.S. political system and explore its effect on the workings of our democracy." The Center "does not take sides on the substance of any particular bill or policy debate."]

The article "Greens Outgunned" by Mark Dowie is subtitled "Failed Legislation Underlines Futility of Environmental Contributions." Accompanying this article were the results of a November 1994 CBS News / The New York Times poll that asked: "Do you think that most members of Congress are more interested in serving the people they represent, or more interested in serving special-interest groups?" 16% answered people they represent, 78% answered special-interest groups, and 6% didn't know or didn't answer.]

Lobbying Washington for a better environment has become an almost futile endeavor. If the 103rd Congress didn't prove the point to movement leadership, the 104th surely will.

When did national enviros ever have it better than with the 103rd Congress — a Democratic House, a Democratic Senate, and, if campaign rhetoric was to be believed, the most environmentally committed administration in recent history? Yet in two years, only one piece of environmental legislation was signed into law — a weak and severely compromised bill protecting part of a desert in California — while the administration that had greens staining the inaugural ballroom floor with tears of joy broke all records in

environmental betrayal. It was enough to depress the most hardened veteran of Beltway politics.

In terms of talent, experience, and resources, the environmental lobby has never been stronger. Numbering over 100 seasoned advocates, representing scores of organizations and millions of voters, they are pound-for-pound the most impressive lobby on the Hill. But pounds don't count in Washington, dollars do. **And in dollars, almost any way you measure it, greens are outgunned ten-or-more-to-one by any lobby they face** [SSAS's emphasis].

"When I visit a congressional rep. on a toxics issue, I can offer him or her ten thousand dollars max, five for the primary, five for the general election," laments Sierra Club lobbyist Dan Becker, one of the few national environmentalists with a PAC [political action committee] behind him. "The next visitor could easily be representing the Chemical Manufacturers Association — over a hundred members, each of which has a PAC that can offer ten thousand to the next campaign. Even with the facts on my side, I am likely to be ignored."

Becker doesn't even mention the fact that each of those chemical manufacturers has at least one law or lobbying firm in Washington able to contribute additional support to the same candidate. And many do so.

From January 1991 to June 1994, covering the preelection period and one-and-a-half sessions of the 103rd Congress, the entire environmental movement, through their 14 existing PACs, contributed \$1.7 million to congressional candidates, including roughly \$500,000 for the 1994 elections. During the same period, chemical industry PACs donated \$3.8 million to federal candidates; agriculture PACs, \$22.7 million; energy and natural resources PACs, \$21.7 million; transportation (including automotive), \$20.9 million; construction, \$7.8 million; timber, \$2.3 million; mining, \$1.9 million; and the waste management industry, \$1.4 million.

The consequence of all the generosity showed in the sad fate of environmental legislation during the first two years of the Clinton-Gore administration. [Nine detailed examples are omitted from this *Skimmer* for space reasons.]

What's Next? By the close of the 103rd Congress, it became patently clear that the best strategy for the Washington environmental lobby was to leave existing statutes alone and work against aggressive anti-environmental initiatives such as the takings, risk assessment, and unfunded mandate bills that are now lined up for the 104th Congress. That should leave considerable talent and energy to fight the real fight that has to be fought in Washington before environmentalism or any other social movement can make headway in America — campaign finance reform.

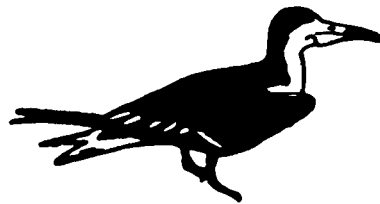
All of the 25 largest environmental organizations in the country have substantial offices in Washington. If they were to assign half their lobby to join forces with a coalition of other progressive movements and fight a concerted battle for campaign reform, the playing field could be leveled considerably for the 105th Congress, or maybe the 106th — whatever the party in power. [Meanwhile, write those letters!]

1994-1995 OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Carole A. Adams, President	731-4425
Betty Borowsky, Vice President & Conservation Legislation Chairperson	764-3596
George Popkin, Treasurer (8 to 9 PM)	378-4467
Louise Hillen, Recording Secretary	546-6147
Doris Pirodsky, Corresponding Secretary & Historian	378-1790
Suzanne Lancer, Director (6/97) & Education Chairperson (7 to 9 P.M.)	536-6574
Jonathan Staller, Director (6/97) & Environmental Festivals Coordinator	822-5957
Lisa Borbee, Director (6/96)	897-9589
Steven Goldberg, Director (6/96)	798-0335
Paul Devendittis, Director (6/95)	489-0547
Bruno Leporati, Director (6/95)	735-4904
Sandy Brenner, Program Chairperson	249-4919
Paul Butkereiit, Bird Seed Savings Day	623-0843
Joseph Grupp, Duck Survey	481-4208
Betsy Gulotta, Brookside Preserve Committee Chairperson	546-8841
Marge Jaeger, Fund-raising Chairperson	536-9166
Elliott Kutner, Birding / Field Trips Chairperson	486-7667
Joseph Lancer, Binocular / Book Sales (7 to 9 P.M.)	536-6574
Amanda Neet, Special Events On-Site Coordinator	798-0335
Richard Packert, Special Projects	437-9683
Doreen Remsen, Birdathon Co-Chairperson	472-6830
James Remsen, Jr., Past President & Birdathon Co-Chairperson	764-5168
Dolores Rogers, Welcoming Committee Chairperson	599-1224
Mary Jane Russell, Hospitality Chairperson	766-7397
Diane Singer, Publicity	561-6118
Porgy Smith, Environmental Information Chairperson	887-2054
Michael Sperling, <i>Skimmer</i> Editor	541-0805
Marion Yavarkovsky, Membership Chairperson	379-2090

South Shore Audubon Society
P.O. Box 31
Freeport, NY 11520-0031

A CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
Americans Committed to Conservation



U.S. POSTAGE PAID Permit No. 1181 NONPROFIT Freeport, NY
--

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

 PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

DATED MATERIAL