

SOUTH SHORE SKIMMER



VOLUME 32, NUMBER 2 — SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

OCTOBER 2001

NEXT TWO MEETINGS

Tom Torma

DATE: Tuesday, October 9, 2001
TIME: 8:00 P.M. ⌚
PLACE: Freeport Memorial Library
144 W. Merrick Rd. (at S. Ocean Ave.)
SPEAKER: Pete Warny
TOPIC: Reptiles and Amphibians in NYS
Bird-Watching Areas

When we are out bird-watching, we often miss seeing many critters that are all around us. Pete Warny will bring live animals for a "show and tell" program about the reptiles and amphibians that share the fields, woodlands, and wetlands with the birds we love to watch.

Pete is a research associate in zoology at the New York State Museum. He is also a staff herpetologist at the Westmoreland Sanctuary in northeastern Westchester. He is well known for his programs and field trips. This should be a very informative program.

Pre-Meeting Bird Identification Class at 7:30: Arrive early and join Scott Oglesby as he helps us expand our birding horizons.

Bylaws Vote: As detailed in last month's newsletter, four proposed amendments to SSAS's bylaws will be discussed and voted on at the October general meeting.

DATE: Tuesday, November 13, 2001
TIME: 8:00 P.M. ⌚
PLACE: Same as Above
SPEAKER: Mel Springer
TOPIC: Adventures in Fiji and Australia

The tropical paradise of Fiji and Australia's vast wilderness are the subjects of our November meeting. Mel Springer will present a slide show featuring the fauna and flora of these exotic locations.

Mel is the president of the Long Island Shell Club and the author of the book *Sea Shells of Long Island*. Join your fellow members for a photographic adventure to the romantic South Pacific.

SSAS Mission Statement — *The mission of South Shore Audubon Society is to promote environmental education, and preserve and restore our environment, through responsible activism, for the benefit of both people and wildlife.*



BIRDSEED SALE & CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

On **Sunday, October 21**, from 9:30 A.M. until 2:30 P.M., SSAS will be in Tackapausha's parking lot (on Washington Avenue in Seaford) for our annual birdseed sale. Preorders are recommended & appreciated, and are due October 9, so please call Michael Sperling at 541-0805 (evenings) or send e-mail to mssperling@compuserve.com for an order form if you don't have a copy of last month's *Skimmer*. We will be selling black oil and striped sunflower, mixed seeds, cracked corn, sunflower chips (no shells), peanut pieces, safflower, thistle (niger), and suet cakes. Help will be needed and much appreciated on the sale date; no purchase required to volunteer!

Children's Program at 1 P.M. Inside Tackapausha, children will enjoy our special program featuring arts and crafts, and a slide program designed to demonstrate the adaptations that help birds survive. Join us!

WERTHEIM DATES CHANGED

Please note: In last month's *Skimmer*, we announced that volunteers will be needed at SSAS's table at Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge in Shirley during a nine-day celebration of the approaching 100th anniversary of the National Wildlife Refuge System. With the anniversary still two years away, the LI NWR Complex has decided to shorten this year's celebration to just two days, **September 22 and 23**, from 8 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

SSAS TO PARTICIPATE IN OYSTER BAY VISION 2020 PLAN

Michael Goldsmith

The Town of Oyster Bay has begun work on the preparation of "Vision 2020," a comprehensive plan that will focus on the current and long-range growth and development of the Town. South Shore Audubon is the only environmental organization to have a representative appointed to the Vision 2020 Plan Advisory Committee.

The Vision 2020 Plan will be a policy document describing a vision for the future of the Town of Oyster Bay over the next 20 years and is intended to be a guide for residents, as well as public and private decision-makers, regarding short- and long-term issues and initiatives.

Issues addressed in the Plan will be quality of life; neighborhood preservation; housing; residential, commercial, office, and industrial development/redevelopment; recreation and parks; environmental protection; community services and facilities; transportation, parking, and pedestrian network/safety; demographics; and the appearance and vitality of the residential and business districts. Upon completion, the Plan will be submitted to the Town Board for adoption.

The Town retained the firm of Frederick P. Clark Associates, Inc., of Rye, New York, to assist in the preparation and adoption of the plan. This is the same firm that compiled the inventory of open spaces for Nassau County for its own land use plan.

On June, 21, 2001, Oyster Bay Town Supervisor John Venditto announced his appointments to the Vision 2020 Plan Advisory Committee. The Committee is to serve as the "eyes and ears" of the Town Board by meeting with the public and helping to identify issues, objectives, and recommendations, as well as assisting in formulating drafts of the Plan.

The appointees are as follows: Carol Meshkow, president of the Concerned Citizens of the Plainview–Old Bethpage Community, Inc.; Glen Head civic activist Miles Sibell; Emil Coppola, president of the Joint Council of Civics of the Massapequas, Inc.; Ramon Reyes, Executive Director of the Grenville Baker Boys and Girls Club of Locust Valley; Nick Brigandi, Commissioner of the Hicksville Water District; David McDonough, President of the Nassau County Council of Chambers of Commerce; Gloria Wallack, Executive Director of the Child Care Council of Nassau, Inc.; yours truly, Michael Goldsmith, Esq., Vice President of SSAS; Alan Parente, commissioner of the Nassau County Office of Housing and Intergovernmental Affairs; and Dave Rettig, Regional Planning and Program Manager for the New York State Department of Transportation. Also on the Committee are Gary Pappas, Deputy Commissioner of the Town's Department of Planning and Development; Karen Underwood, Deputy Town Attorney; and Karl Leupold, Commissioner of the Town's Public Works Department.

The initial meeting was conducted by Bridget Duggin of Frederick P. Clark Associates, Inc. I had worked with Bridget previously on the Nassau County Open Space Inventory. I always found her to be possessed of the "three P's." She is professional, pleasant, and competent. (Well, all right, that's really the 2-1/2 P's, but you have to work with me.)

To start off the meeting, Supervisor Venditto said that the Town has changed drastically since he was a boy. Originally, there were two houses on his block when he was growing up. Twenty years later, there were about 40. Now there are 60, and there could be 61 by the time he finished talking. He continued to say that it was time that the people of the Town develop a plan to address the changes and development that are taking place, and to say how we want the town to look 20 years from now. He also said that the plan would have immediate practical effect, as it would serve to prevent growth and development not desired by the Town, and would also be important in defending lawsuits brought by developers who were denied building permits.

Bridget explained to us the function of the Committee and provided details as to the methodology to be used in drafting the Plan. The first task is to take an inventory and analysis of existing conditions, issues, and trends. Then we proceed to have meetings with various public organizations in an attempt to get the input of the public. This will be an ongoing process. The third task is to draft the goals and objectives we have identified. Next comes the drafting of implementation strategies, followed by another round of outreach meetings with community and civic groups for their suggestions and comments. We will then draft the Vision 2020 Plan and have a set of public workshops to get public feedback. Finally, the Plan will be submitted to the Town Board for approval and submitted to the public for comments in a final round of public hearings.

Bridget then announced that there were to be three introductory public meetings in July that members of the Committee were invited to attend. Our function would be to observe and listen.

The first public meeting took place on July 24 at Marjorie R. Post Community Park Center in Massapequa. I brought along my 6 year old daughter Alexandra and sat up front facing the audience with the other Committee members. Supervisor Venditto made his introductory remarks and mentioned that we wanted to hear what is on the minds of the citizens of the Town. He said it was not that he had anything against Burger King, but it was up to the Town's residents to decide if they want a Burger King on every corner. At that point, I sheepishly pointed to the Burger King cups that Alexandra and I were drinking from, and drew a few smiles from the crowd of about 50 people. As

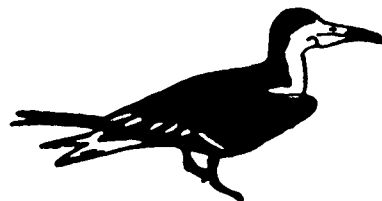


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James Remsen, Jr., Birdathon Co-Chairperson (pager number)	517-7538
Dolores Rogers, Welcoming Committee Chairperson	599-1224
Mary Jane Russell, <i>Armchair Activist</i> Chairperson	766-7397
Christine Schmitt, Education Chairperson	887-7713
Diane Singer, Publicity (5 to 8 P.M.)	561-6118
Michael Sperling, <i>Skimmer</i> Editor	541-0805
Jonathan Staller, Hospitality Chairperson	482-7963

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A CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
Americans Committed to Conservation



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