

A very relaxed "poster" contest will be held. Just bring your poster with you to Pizzeria Uno. The posters will be on display that night and then brought to the next SSAS board meeting, where two winners will be chosen. The winners will be announced at our May 9 general meeting and you can pick up your poster that night. There will be two categories: SSAS membership and birding. The poster can be serious or funny, and can be an 8x10 sheet of paper or as large as an oak tag sheet. Use any writing implement, cutouts, or photos, and put your name and phone number on the back (not front). Let your imagination be your guide; it's all for the fun of it!

The only things you have to remember are to bring your "poster" (not mandatory) and to skip lunch (mandatory). The more you eat, the more we make!!

Directions. Pizzeria Uno (aka Uno Chicago Grill) is located at the west end of Phillips Plaza, 693 Sunrise Highway (opposite Lynbrook's LIRR station, west of White Castle and Broadway, and east of Peninsula Blvd.).

SSAS POST OFFICE STATEMENT

South Shore Skimmer is published monthly from September through December and February through May by South Shore Audubon Society, P.O. Box 31, Freeport, NY 11520-0031.



Explore the coast with the AMERICAN LITTORAL SOCIETY

FIRE ISLAND "SUNKEN FOREST" HIKE (Sat., May 20). Join naturalist Steve Finn for a hike along the boardwalk, maritime forest, dunes & beach. Cost: \$20 incl. round-trip ferry from Sayville & guide. Call Steve 631-821-2160 or Don.

JAMAICA BAY SUNSET CRUISES (Sun., May 28 and Sat., June 3, 5 P.M.). Join us for a special 3-hour narrated tour of the backwater marshes aboard 96' boat "Dorothy B VIII" out of Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn. Learn about the bay's history & ecology and see peregrine falcon, osprey, herons, egrets, ibis, oystercatcher, etc. Cost: \$35 incl. tour, wine & cheese, fruit, snacks. Call Don. Rain dates May 29 & June 4.

MONTAUK SPRING WEEKEND (June 9-11). Explore beaches, bluffs & "Walking Dunes" during peak orchid & heather blossom time. Activities incl. birding, botanizing, seining, tidepooling, star watching. Cost: \$325 incl. 2 nights at luxurious Manor House (heated indoor/outdoor pools, jacuzzi), 5 meals, 5 guided hikes, 2 evening programs, pickup at LIRR station.

CAPE ANN WHALE WATCH (Aug. 17-20). Visit beautiful Gloucester during summertime. Cost: \$345 includes lodging (3 nights), a sunset marsh river cruise, birding at Parker River refuge, Saturday lobster dinner, canoe trip on Ipswich River, and whale watch. Leaders: Mickey Cohen & Don Riepe.

For information and free field trip brochure, call/write Don Riepe, (718) 318-9344, donriep@aol.com, 28 West 9th Road, Broad Channel, NY 11693; www.alsnyc.org.

OUR ENVIRONMENTAL BOND ACT PROPOSALS GAIN APPROVAL

Michael Spelling

Last May's *Skimmer* described the two proposals that SSAS had submitted for the \$50 million Environmental Program Bond Act which had been approved by Nassau County's voters on Election Day in 2004. We've just received very good news — the 11-person Advisory Committee that was established to assist in identifying and prioritizing projects for funding has recommended that both of ours be funded!



Of the 86 properties proposed for open space acquisition, 15 were selected by the Committee, for which they proposed \$38,045,000 (minus \$250,000 for program administration costs in the form of property appraisals and printing). These properties total 186 acres, 4 of which are from the Brooklyn Water Works property that is immediately south of Brookside Preserve. The Committee stated that "although the appraisals of the recommended properties have not been completed at the time of this report, it is unlikely that \$37.8 million for open space acquisition will be sufficient to acquire all of the properties. The actual properties that will be acquired will depend on cost, timing regarding danger of the property being sold for development, environmental and community value, and the ability to secure additional funding from federal, state, and local government and private organizations."

Of the 50 proposed storm water improvement projects, 17 were recommended for funding totaling \$4,424,000. One of those is for Brookside Preserve, where four in-line treatment devices would be installed on streets that end at Brookside, for an estimated cost of \$442,000 from the Bond Act plus \$20,000 of in-kind services from the Village of Freeport.

The rest of the Bond Act money will be spent on brownfield remediation and park improvement projects.

The next step is that the open space recommendations will be given to the Open Space and Parks Advisory Committee (OSPAC, which includes our own George Peters) and the Nassau County Planning Commission. Within 60 days of this (including a public comment period), the Planning Commission, with input from OSPAC, will send its findings to the County Executive, who in turn will "introduce the recommendations to the Legislature for approval to issue bonds to finance property acquisitions." We'll keep you up to date via our e-list, since the *Skimmer* should be on summer break when the Legislature receives the County Executive's request.

OUR E-LIST http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ssas_list

OUR WEB SITE (incl. online store) www.ssaudubon.org

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Wendy Murbach

One of the wonderful perks that you get from an Audubon membership is the chance to be a part of your local Audubon chapter, South Shore Audubon Society.

You are automatically a valued member of this active and friendly chapter, so please come out to the next meeting at the Freeport Library from 7:30–9:30 P.M. on the second Tuesday of the month (September through May) to hear what you can do to help preserve your local environment’s health and viability, to hear about local issues that you can help to solve, and to see an interesting program.

Whether you are a beginning birder or someone with a large life list, you will enjoy our weekly Sunday bird walks, usually led by Elliott Kutner, birder extraordinaire. Check out the special events that are mentioned in this *Skimmer*. Attend them yourself, and bring your family and friends too.

You are warmly invited to be an active participant in this vibrant all-volunteer organization comprised of persons who, like you, care about the earth we live on, about our local environment, and about the creatures that live alongside us.

Our new members since the last *Skimmer* are:

- Baldwin..... Richard Carbonaro
- Bellmore Michelle Bello, John Ellison & Family, Ms. Olga L. Re
- East Rockaway Mrs. Connie LaMastro
- Farmingdale Ms. Nicole Dauenhauer, William Laky
- Floral Park Mr. Henry T. Dudek, Mr. Leonard Hecht, Maureen Lorenz
- Garden City Ellen Gleason, Mr. William J. Kelly
- Levittown Maureen Cusati, Ms. Augusta Furino
- Long Beach Ms. Virginia M. Baratta
- Lynbrook William Woods
- Malverne Sharyn S. James
- Massapequa Mrs. F. Fagioli, Patricia Pelkowski
- Massapequa Park Joseph W. Gibbons
- Merrick Lisa Bilello
- Oceanside Glenn Silverstein
- Plainview Thomas Kelly
- Rockville Centre Mr. Walter Anthony, Sean Crowley, Mr. Elva Passalacqua
- Seaford Nancy Black
- Valley Stream Mr. Robert Machalow
- Wantagh John Collins, Julius Goldin
- West Hempstead Mr. Art Staudinger



AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP STATUS (800) 274-4201

SSAS Mission Statement—The mission of South Shore Audubon Society is to promote environmental education; conduct research pertaining to local bird populations, wildlife, and habitat; and preserve and restore our environment, through responsible activism, for the benefit of both people and wildlife.

 (516) 594-0300, Ext 11 Fax: (516) 594-0801

ARTHUR C. SNOW
 Certified Public Accountant

41 Front Street, Suite 5 (Second Floor)
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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. Directions and summaries may be found at ssaudubon.org.

- Mar. 26 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- Apr. 2 Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
- Apr. 9 Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner
- Apr. 16 Norman J. Levy Park and Preserve
- Apr. 23 Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
- Apr. 30 Hempstead Lake State Park (Exit 18, first lot south of Southern State Parkway, south end of lot)
- May 7 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

SSAS BIRDATHON 2006 IS COMING!

Jim Remsen

This year, SSAS will conduct its nineteenth annual Birdathon! SSAS raises funds through the Birdathon by having members get cash pledges for each species of bird identified during a 24-hour period in May, when the spring migration is at its height. Due to the decision by National Audubon to sharply decrease the amount of financial support given to chapters, the Birdathon is now one of our major sources of income. Many of you have been very generous with your time and pledges in recent years; we hope you will continue and increase your gift of either time or pledges this year.

Mark the dates on your calendar — **Friday, May 12** from 5:00 P.M. until **Saturday, May 13** at 5:00 P.M. The rain dates are one week later at the same time. Full details will be in the next *Skimmer*.

SSAS'S 35TH ANNUAL DINNER

Therese Lucas

After last year's delightful experience, we are returning to the Coral House, 70 Milburn Avenue, Baldwin on **Tuesday, June 13** for our annual dinner. Tickets are \$35 each, which includes a cocktail hour with hot hors d'oeuvres, choice of entree, dessert, etc. Vegetarian meals are available upon request. The dinner registration form will be in your May *Skimmer*. There are no sales at the door; reservations must be made in advance.



This year there will be a Chinese auction (\$1 each or 6 for \$5), special raffle (\$5 each or 3 for \$10), and a 50/50 drawing for all dinner guests. There will also be a Birdathon drawing for all those who participate in that fund-raiser.

The variety of prizes grows and changes each year. Circle your calendar for 6/13 and start dreaming about engaging conversation, good food, and what you might win . . .

SSAS FLEA MARKET

Betty Borowsky & Maureen Rube

Join us at the northwest corner of Sunrise Highway and Brookside Avenue, which is across from Freeport High School and near the Baldwin border, on **Saturday, June 3** (or, in the event of rain, Sunday, June 4) for the best flea market ever!

Bring your contributions beginning at 10 A.M. that day; the sale will run from 11 A.M. to 4 P.M. We ask that you bring your items directly to the site of the sale and help us set a value on your donation. If you can stay and help us sell, please do! If you have donations which you cannot hold until then, please call one of us, and we might be able to arrange storage until June 3. Tax-exempt receipts will be available.

We plan to either discard or donate to another organization anything we fail to sell that day. So, if you only wish to donate something for SSAS's benefit, come back in the evening and pick up your item if it hasn't been sold. All proceeds will go toward SSAS programs; especially needed is money for our annual Day Camp Scholarship Program for financially disadvantaged children in our area. We hope to fund a week of day camp at the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary in Oyster Bay for 25 youngsters this summer.

What should you bring? Books, CDs, videos, cameras, toys, dishes, glasses, kitchen utensils, pots and pans, artwork, costume jewelry; basically, anything you can carry that you feel has value. If you are a baker, bring cakes, cookies, etc. If you create crafts, bring those — for example, birdhouses and pot holders. If you have extra house plants, bring those. Whatever you can contribute will be very welcome. However, please do NOT bring old computers or parts, or



any appliances. If you are not sure, just call one of the co-chairs. Also, if you are not sure about the weather, call one of us:

Betty Borowsky 764-3596

Maureen Rube 352-4327

On the day of the sale we will need help to set up, to sell, and to clean up afterwards; we will also need some folding tables to hold our sales items. If you would like to work with us (we're fun people), give us a call; we'd love to have you.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY — AND
LET'S HAVE FUN!**

SEE YOU ON JUNE 3!

APPLY FOR A COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP!

Thanks to the continuing generosity of Evelyn Bishop, South Shore Audubon Society will be awarding two \$750 Jerry Bishop Environmental Scholarships to students who are college juniors, seniors, or graduate students and who are continuing their studies toward a degree in an area of biological or environmental science, such as wildlife management, forestry, animal behavior, ecology, marine biology, oceanography, mammalogy, or ornithology. For information, call Betsy Gulotta at 546-8841 or e-mail gulotte@ncc.edu (yes, that's spelled correctly). Applications are due by **April 30** and we typically receive very few, so apply!



SPRING FESTIVALS GALORE!

Therese Lucas

South Shore Audubon Society will be participating in these great festivals that celebrate Spring, Earth Day, and Arbor Day. We hope to see you at one!

April 15, Saturday, 1–3 P.M.

Tackapausha Spring Festival

Tackapausha Museum & Preserve,

Washington Avenue, Seaford

Family nature walks, crafts, live exhibits, and environmental organizations' table displays

April 22 & 23, Saturday and Sunday, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.

Heckscher Spring Festival

Heckscher State Park, East Islip, Fields 1 & 4

Environmental organizations' displays and crafts,
wildlife exhibits

April 22 & 23, Saturday and Sunday, 10 A.M. to 5 P.M.

Arbor Day Festival

Planting Fields Arboretum State Historic Park,

Oyster Bay

Children's performances, adult lectures, plant sales, crafts,
and environmental organizations' table displays

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

A CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
Americans Committed to Conservation

WWW.SSAUDUBON.ORG



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 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**

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- Dolores Rogers, Welcoming 599-1224
- Mary Jane Russell, *Armchair Activist* & Hospitality ... 766-7397

BECOME A MEMBER OF SSAS
Think Globally, but Join Locally!

Option 1. You can join SSAS for a year by sending \$15 payable to **South Shore Audubon Society** using the form below. Our address is P.O. Box 31, Freeport, NY 11520-0031.

Option 2. To join NAS and your all-volunteer local chapter, you can help SSAS survive NAS's major dues-share cutbacks by joining Audubon through us for the same price that it costs if you join through NAS (we get \$0 unless you join through us). Mail the form below and your check payable to **National Audubon Society** to SSAS at the address above. The special rate for the first year is \$20 per household; \$15 for students and seniors.

Renewing? Please send NAS renewals directly to NAS (we now get \$0 for all NAS renewals).

Donations to SSAS are always welcome!



Yes, I'd like to join: SSAS only National Audubon too

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NO.: _____

E-MAIL: _____

Chapter Code R15 7XCH (South Shore Audubon Society)

