

SOUTH SHORE SKIMMER



VOLUME 37, NUMBER 6 — SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

MARCH 2007

NEXT MEETING

Enid Klein

DATE: Tuesday, March 13, 2007
TIME: 7:30 P.M.
PLACE: Freeport Memorial Library
144 W. Merrick Rd. (at S. Ocean Ave.)
SPEAKER: Al Gore in *An Inconvenient Truth*

Roger Ebert wrote the following in the Chicago Sun-Times: "In 39 years, I have never written these words in a movie review, but here they are. You owe it to yourself to see this film." The DVD's package says: "Former Vice



President Al Gore presents an eye-opening and compelling view of the future of our planet — and our civilization — in the MUST SEE documentary of the year. This is a wake-up call that cuts through myths and misconceptions to deliver the message that global warming is a real and present danger... Each and every one of us can make changes in the way in which we live our lives and BECOME PART OF THE SOLUTION."

Other local Audubon chapters are screening this acclaimed and sometimes humorous film too. Join us!

Pre-Meeting Program on Birds. Starting at 7 P.M. each month, Scott Oglesby and sometimes Jim Remsen expand our birding horizons in the room beyond our coffee-break tables. Topic suggestions for future talks are welcome.

Parking Lots. In addition to the parking lot adjacent to the library, there's a lightly used, well-lit, and fairly close municipal lot on the east side of S. Ocean Ave., on the near (south) side of the Gulf station that borders Sunrise Highway. Also, SSAS has a verbal pledge from neighboring Citibank that cars will no longer be towed from their lot during our meetings, but we can't guarantee this.

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◆◆◆◆◆ IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE WASTE, PLEASE
◆◆◆◆◆ BRING COFFEE MUGS TO OUR MEETINGS.
◆◆◆◆◆ SHADE-GROWN COFFEE PROTECTS RAINFORESTS!
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TAKE A PEEK; IT'S JUST AROUND THE CORNER...

Therese Lucas

Spring! And setting the stage for its arrival is the Hicks Horticultural Fair at Hicks Nurseries, Jericho Turnpike in Westbury, on Saturday and Sunday, **March 17 & 18** from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. Admission is free. SSAS and other environmental organizations are invited to participate. Incredible gardens are on display as well. Come and delight at the sights. Perhaps you'll come away enlightened by the information gathered from the presentations and perhaps you'll come away with something to lure more birds to your yard.

Care to volunteer some time at the SSAS table? Contact me at tklwings@optonline.net or 221-3921.

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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 wild-life.

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STUFF NEEDED FOR OUR GARAGE SALE!

SSAS is planning a garage sale on **June 2** (rain date June 3) at the Franklin Square home of two of our members. We need stuff to sell, of course, and what you donate can be claimed as a tax deduction. So, please keep us in mind if you have items that you no longer need. If you're unable to bring your donation to the sale, we'll make arrangements to get it from you beforehand. Details to come in future *Skimmers*.

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E-LIST http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ssas_list
WEB SITE (incl. online store) www.ssaudubon.org

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"OLD PLAINVIEW" HEARING RESCHEDULED

Shortly after last month's *Skimmer* went to press, the primary applicant seeking zoning changes and waivers of covenants and restrictions for 165 acres along Old Country Road in the Plainview–Old Bethpage area requested a postponement of the hearing, which has been rescheduled by the Town of Oyster Bay for **Tuesday, March 6**. The daytime meeting will be at Town Hall, 54 Audrey Ave., Oyster Bay, starting at 10 A.M. The nighttime meeting will be at the Plainview–Old Bethpage Middle School on Central Park Road in Plainview, starting at 7 P.M.

According to the Executive Summary of the recently released Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), the proposed development of the land, which is owned by Charles Wang, would result in the changes mentioned in the next two paragraphs.

The 143.2-acre southern parcel, which would have an entrance from Round Swamp Road opposite the one for Old Bethpage Village Restoration, would have meadow/brushland increased from 17.38 acres (12.14%) to 32.75 acres (22.96%); forest/woodland decreased from 94.84 acres (66.21%) to 6.09 acres (4.25%); a pond and waterfall added to 0.88 acres (0.61%); roads, buildings, and other paved surfaces increased from 11.37 acres (7.93%) to 51.47 acres (35.93%); turf grasses and landscape area increased from 17.65 acres (12.32%) to 46.44 acres (32.42%); 2.01 acres (1.40%) of low-maintenance vegetation removed; native plant species added to 3.09 acres (2.16%); and a recharge basin added to 2.53 acres (1.77%).



The 21.73-acre northern parcel (540 feet east of Newtown Road) currently contains 1.41 acres (6.49%) of forest/woodland, with the rest being roads, buildings, and other paved surfaces. The proposal would eliminate the forest/woodland while adding meadow or brushland (1.04 acres), turf grasses and landscaping (5.02 acres), and native plant species (0.26 acres).

South Shore Audubon's Board of Directors is opposed to the zoning changes and waivers sought by the developer, whose "smart-growth" plan would, according to the DEIS, leave only 27.11% of the site in its "natural and undisturbed condition" and virtually obliterate its forest.

The southern parcel is adjacent to the very narrow Trailside State Park, which is one of our Research Committee's bird data-collection sites.

When Nassau County sold the southern parcel in the late 1990s with the intent that it be developed, the Town of Oyster Bay approved using 45.92 acres for office space, 40.11 acres for parkland and recreation, and 61.16 acres for government purposes. The current proposal would erect 133 townhouses, 318 condominiums, 48 units of Next Generation and Senior housing, 160 luxury rentals (on the northern parcel), 8 office buildings, a restaurant, shops (both parcels), a 300-room luxury hotel, and a 30-room lodge.

Concerned Citizens of the Plainview–Old Bethpage Community, Inc., provided the following ways to contact Tobay's government to demand that the current zoning, covenants, and restrictions be maintained: Send letters to Supervisor John Venditto via the Town's website at www.oysterbaytown.com or call him at 624-6350. E-mail the Town Board's members @oysterbay-ny.gov: adelligatti, jmuscarella, amacagnone, ccoschignano, rmwalker, and efaughanan (first names are Angelo, Joseph, Anthony, Chris, Rose Marie, and Elizabeth) or leave messages for them at 624-6300. Sign the petition at www.petitionspot.com/petitions/notooldplainview.



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.



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AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP STATUS (800) 274-4201
VOLUNTEERS FOR WILDLIFE (631) 423-0982

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BIRD WALKS
Elliott Kulner

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.

- Feb. 25 Zach's Bay Parking Field #4, N.E. corner
- Mar. 4 Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner
- Mar. 11 Hempstead Lake State Park (Exit 18, first lot south of Southern State Parkway, south end of lot)
- Mar. 18 Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
- Mar. 25 Jones Beach Fishing Piers (Field #10)
- Apr. 1 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- Apr. 8 Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
- Apr. 15 Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
- Apr. 22 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- Apr. 29 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

HAND-FEED MORTON'S SONGBIRDS WITH SSAS!

On **Saturday, March 31**, we will meet at 10 A.M. at Morton National Wildlife Refuge, located on the peninsula of Jessups Neck in Noyack, which is just west of Sag Harbor. Bring or share sunflower seeds or shelled peanuts if you want to experience having Black-capped Chickadees, White-breasted Nuthatches, Tufted Titmice, and maybe Northern Cardinals land on your outstretched hand a few minutes after you get out of your car and enter the main trail. We should see many other bird species too.



Established in 1954 through a donation by the Morton family, the 187-acre Elizabeth A. Morton National Wildlife Refuge (according to its website) "boasts exceptionally diverse habitats, including bay beach, a brackish pond, a freshwater pond, kettle holes, tidal flats, salt marsh, freshwater marsh, shrub, grasslands, maritime oak forest, and red cedar."

Directions to Morton: Sunrise Highway (Route 27) eastbound (from LI Expressway take exit 70, County Road 111 and follow signs to Rt. 27 east; from Southern State Parkway, take exit 44 for Sunrise Highway). Route 27 will change from a highway to a local roadway. A few miles past the Stony Brook Southampton campus (and 17.1 miles from County Road 111), make a left at the County Road 52 intersection (the sign points left for North Sea and Noyack). Proceed 0.9 miles and turn left at a traffic light onto County Road 38. Go 1.4 miles and turn right onto Noyack Road (look for a sign on the right side of the road, "Morton Refuge 5 Miles"). The refuge entrance is on the left.

The parking fee is \$4 per vehicle, payable by inserting a check or cash in an envelope. Any questions? Call Wendy Murbach at 546-6303. Heavy rain cancels.

APPLY FOR A COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP!


Thanks to the continuing generous support of long-time member Evelyn Bishop, South Shore Audubon Society will again be awarding two \$750 Jerry Bishop Environmental Scholarships this spring to college juniors, seniors, or graduate students 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. Applications are due by April 30 and we typically receive only a few, so apply!

NASSAU COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL HOTLINE 571-6306

(516) 887-1541 Fax: (516) 887-1553

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NEW YORK AQUARIUM "BEHIND-THE-SCENES" TOUR (Sat., March 31). Meet at aquarium entrance at 10 A.M. sharp for a 2-1/2 hour tour led by marine educator Bob Cummings. See sea otters, penguins, sharks, walrus, sea turtles, local & tropical fishes. Cost: \$25 (kids \$15). Contact Don to reserve.

EARTH DAY EVENT: Plumb Beach Restoration — Cleanup & Planting, Jamaica Bay (Sun., April 22). Meet at the Plumb Beach parking lot on the Belt Parkway near Knapp St (Exit 9). This project will continue through April 27. Groups welcome.

JAMAICA BAY SUNSET CRUISES (Sat., June 2 & 16). Join us at 5 P.M. for a special 3-hour cruise along the backwater marshes of the bay aboard the 96' boat "Dorothy B VIII" out of Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn. Learn about the history & ecology of the refuge and see nesting peregrine falcon, osprey, oystercatcher, egrets, ibis, and many other species. Cost: \$45 includes narrated tour, wine & cheese, fruit, snacks.

MONTAUK SPRING WEEKEND (June 8-10). Enjoy a weekend at Montauk during peak orchid, beach rose, and heather blossom time. Cost: \$345 incl. 2 nights at luxurious Manor House, 5 meals, 5 hikes, 2 evening lectures, star watch, and free pickup at LIRR station. Activities incl. birding, botany, geology, tidepools, seining, optional whale watch.

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

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

A CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
Americans Committed to Conservation

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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: _____

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PHONE NO.: _____

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