



surveys continue at our feeders and in areas along the South Shore. We are sponsoring a birding trip to Central Park in May to see its rich population of migrating warblers. Spring also brings the annual Birdathon, where we spend an evening and a day birding practically nonstop. SSAS members can volunteer to protect Piping Plovers and Least Terns along our beaches. We are also sponsoring a two-part birdbanding program at Tackapausha, with actual banding demonstrated on Saturday, April 20. Our April membership meeting will feature a timely presentation on hydrofracking.

Everyone is urged to participate in all our activities as we enjoy the gifts of springtime. Nature's gifts at this time of year are prodigious and wonderful. Hopefully, this spring we will joyfully and gratefully experience nature in the activities we pursue, and be able to offer our own gifts to nature in the environmental goals we realize.

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**BOOKS FOR BIRDERS**

R. U. Abyrdar II

This month I'm reviewing *Of a Feather* by Scott Weidensaul. In this book the author skillfully traces the colorful history of North American birding; not an easy task, to be sure! We travel with the frontier ornithologists who collected eggs between border skirmishes and we meet the society matrons who organized the first effective conservation movement. We discover the luminaries with questionable pasts, such as convicted blackmailer Alexander Wilson and the endlessly self-mythologizing John James Audubon, and we chart the progress of an awkward schoolteacher named Roger Tory Peterson as he creates *A Field Guide to the Birds* in 1934, thus prompting the fantastic and explosive growth of modern-day birding.

This book is feisty and spirited, as well as compulsively readable. It celebrates the passions and achievements of many birders, from the fledgling ornithologists of yesteryear to the millions, yes millions, of Americans who have changed a once eccentric (still?) occupation into one of our most cherished pursuits. Mr. Weidensaul keeps things racing along with fantastic stories of personalities who crisscrossed America chasing birds, as well as birding information, politics, and human relations. All of his tales are thoroughly inspiring and fun to read. His manner is engaging and his knowledge of the birding "world" couldn't be greater! This book provides an excellent historical context, and will delight us all and encourage others to join our passion for birds. Read it ... and enjoy!



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**SSAS Post Office Statement** — *South Shore Skimmer* is published monthly from September through November and January through May by South Shore Audubon Society, P.O. Box 31, Freeport, NY 11520-0031.



**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 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. 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:

- Atlantic Beach ..... Janet Jordan, Andrew Schlossberg
- Baldwin ..... Rebecca Belvedere
- Bellmore ..... Heidi Lockett
- East Rockaway ..... Arthur Parrinello, Robert Summers
- Floral Park ..... Richard Cantale, John Devine
- Freeport ..... Christopher Wilson
- Hempstead ..... Janet Churik, Ida Rowe
- Hewlett ..... Arthur Mintz
- Hicksville ..... Jean Doolittle
- Island Park ..... Daniel T. Telford
- Levittown ..... Karen Molinet
- Long Beach ..... Joel Berger, Marie Ventre
- Lynbrook ..... Joan Hoffman, Colleen Piazza
- Malverne ..... Mary J. Meyran
- Massapequa ..... Mary Castonguay
- Merrick ..... Marilyn Gaeta
- Seaford ..... Debra Benson
- Valley Stream ..... Mary Borkowska, James Minor
- West Hempstead ..... Helen Duryea, Phyllis Thaler
- Woodmere ..... Michael Morgenstern



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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 wildlife.*

**BROOKSIDE PRESERVE SPRING CLEANUP AND  
INVASIVES REMOVAL**

On **Sunday, April 14**, starting at 1 P.M., SSAS will have its spring cleanup at Brookside Preserve, rain or shine. Brookside is a 20-acre freshwater wetland, woodland, and upland area owned by Nassau County that was rescued from oblivion and is managed by SSAS; the adjacent Brooklyn Water Works property, which was purchased by the County last year, is in the process of being formally added to it. PDF files of the trail guide and freshwater wetland guide for children that we published can be downloaded from [ssaudubon.org](http://ssaudubon.org).



The Preserve is located on the Freeport-Baldwin border, along Milburn Creek; park at the main entrance on Brookside Avenue just north of Sunrise Highway (turn north at the traffic light that's just east of Freeport High School). Please bring gloves, rakes or clippers if possible, and friends of all ages.

**SSAS BIRDATHON 2013 IS COMING!**

This year, SSAS will conduct its 26th 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 peak. Birding expertise and big pledges are not necessary; anyone can join one of SSAS's teams locally for all or part of the time, sponsor themselves, and have fun while helping us find species, or you can do your own Birdathon anywhere.

Mark the dates on your calendar — **Friday, May 10** from 5:00 P.M. until **Saturday, May 11** at 5:00 P.M. The rain dates are one week later at the same time. Team details will be in the next *Skimmer*.

**JOIN SSAS DURING SCREEN-FREE WEEK**

*Marilyn Hametz*

Screen-Free Week, taking place this year from April 29 through May 5, is a national celebration with activities for children to reduce screen-based entertainment and reconnect to the outdoors and nature. South Shore Audubon will be participating with special activity for children on our **May 5** bird walk at Jones Beach's West End. For further information and to participate, please contact me at 799-7189 or [Marilynexpl@yahoo.com](mailto:Marilynexpl@yahoo.com).

*Editor's note:* Formerly known as TV-Turnoff Week and Digital Detox Week, Screen-Free Week ([www.screenfree.org](http://www.screenfree.org)) is a program of the Campaign for a Commercial-Free Childhood.

VOLUNTEERS FOR WILDLIFE (516) 674-0982

NAT'L AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP STATUS (800) 274-4201

**EARTH DAY & ARBOR DAY AT TACKAPAUSHA**

On **Sunday, April 28**, starting at 1 P.M., SSAS will join Friends of Tackapausha in celebrating Earth and Arbor Days with live wildlife programs, trail walks, and crafts. County-owned Tackapausha Museum and Preserve, which due to budget cuts has no full-time staff, is located at 2225 Washington Ave. in Seaford, just north of Merrick Rd.

Phone: (516) 931-1445  
Fax: (516) 931-1467  
E-Mail: [lgk1cpa@aol.com](mailto:lgk1cpa@aol.com)

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*Explore the coast  
with the*

**AMERICAN  
LITTORAL SOCIETY**

**EARLY SPRING MIGRANTS AT JAMAICA BAY** (Sat., March 30, 10 A.M. to 1 P.M.). Hike around East and West Ponds and gardens to look for osprey, ibis, egrets, oystercatchers, phoebes, other migrants. Contact Don to register. Free.

**SPRING MIGRATION WORKSHOP AT JAMAICA BAY** (Sun., April 28, 10 A.M. to 1 P.M.). Guides: Don Riepe, Tod Winston. Meet at Refuge Visitor Center for slide presentation on spring migration, followed by hike around ponds and uplands. Contact Don to register. Limited to 25. Free.

**STERLING FOREST WARBLERS, NY** (Sat., May 4, 9 A.M. to 5 P.M.). Guides: Don & Tod. Explore woodland & pond habitat of 20,000-acre preserve. Look for nesting warblers (incl. golden-winged, cerulean, hooded, prairie, and blue-winged), wildflowers, reptiles & amphibians. Transport by van/ carpool. Limited to 16. Cost: \$70. Call NYC Audubon, (212) 691-7483.

**JAMAICA BAY SUNSET CRUISES** (Sat., May 25 and Sun., June 23, 5-8 P.M.). Meet at Pier 2 in Sheepshead Bay. Enjoy narrated cruise aboard 100-foot "Golden Sunshine." Visit backwater marshes near JFK Airport & learn about 13,000-acre Wildlife Refuge. See nesting peregrine falcons, ospreys, egrets, shorebirds & waterfowl. Cost: \$55 incl. refreshments.

**MONTAUK SPRING WEEKEND** (June 7-9). Cost: \$385.

For information and free field trip brochure, call/write Don Riepe, (917) 371-8577, [donriep@gmail.com](mailto:donriep@gmail.com), 28 West 9th Road, Broad Channel, NY 11693; [www.alsnyc.org](http://www.alsnyc.org).



## SSAS COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

Betsy Gulotta

Thanks again to the much-appreciated support of long-time member Evelyn Bishop, South Shore Audubon Society is offering 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. Our annual college scholarship program began in 1994 and was named in memory of Jerry two years later. For information, call Betsy Gulotta at 546-8841 or send e-mail to [betsy.gulotta@ncc.edu](mailto:betsy.gulotta@ncc.edu). Applications are due by April 30. Please help us spread the word.



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## JAMAICA BAY EXPECTED TO GET SANDY FUNDING

Rich Kopsco and Paul Stessel represented SSAS at the well-attended January 29 meeting of the Jamaica Bay Task Force, its first meeting since Hurricane Sandy. The guest speakers included NYC Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Carter Strickland regarding wastewater treatment plant repairs, Gateway National Recreation Area Superintendent Linda Canzanelli regarding the future of Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge's West Pond and other issues, Len Houston and Dan Falt of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regarding the previous restoration projects faring well and future beach replenishment, and NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Regional Director Venetia Lannon regarding water and air pollution caused by Sandy. It was announced that some funding from the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act that Congress had just passed would be used for repairs to the breached West Pond and beach replenishment. The meeting's presentations can be found at <http://jamaicabayecowatchers.org>.

## NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2013-2014 SSAS BOARD

South Shore Audubon Society's officers are elected each year. Directors are elected for 3-year terms. The SSAS nominating committee (chaired by Wendy Murbach) will provide a list of recommended candidates in next month's *Skimmer*. Suggestions may be submitted to the committee by any SSAS member.

At South Shore Audubon Society's general meeting on May 14, officers and directors will be elected for our next fiscal year, which begins July 1. All members attending that meeting may nominate candidates from the floor and vote. Officers and new directors will be installed at the annual dinner on June 11.

## OUR THIRTEENTH ANNUAL CENTRAL PARK WALK

On **Saturday, May 4**, SSAS is planning to be in Central Park for our annual (weather permitting) early May morning bird walk, organized as usual by Joanne Del Prete (433-0739) and led as usual by Chris Cooper (who was featured in last year's HBO documentary, *Birders: The Central Park Effect*). In previous years we've recorded 45 to 70-plus species in under three hours (48 last year, including 9 warblers). Save the date and check next month's *Skimmer*, our Facebook page, our Yahoo! Group's e-mail, and/or [ssaudubon.org](http://ssaudubon.org) for details.

## I LOVE MY PARK DAY AT HEMPSTEAD LAKE

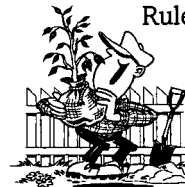
Paul Stessel

On **Saturday, May 4** (also our Central Park date), South Shore Audubon will be working to beautify Hempstead Lake State Park, one of our favorite birding "patches." We will be helping nature in the park. We will meet at 10 o'clock in Field #3 (the parking lot where our bird walks begin) and move on from there. Bring work gloves; a rake would be helpful. All children must be supervised by a parent or guardian. School and scout groups are welcome, as well as other community organizations. Please call the park office at 786-1029 if you or your organization will be able to help, and ask for a Volunteer Service Agreement form. We bird this park on a frequent basis and it should be our responsibility to keep it as nature intended. Remember: "When hiking or birding, leave nothing but footprints and take away only memories."



## JAMAICA BAY SPRING MARSH PLANTING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The salt marsh, shorelines, and upland areas in Jamaica Bay are disappearing at an estimated rate of 40 to 50 acres per year. Everyone is invited to join the American Littoral Society's Northeast Chapter for planting on Black Wall and Rulers Bar marsh islands. In addition to improving water quality and protecting the salt marsh, the Marsh Restoration Initiative preserves migratory stopover and breeding grounds for over 330 species of birds, preserves estuarine nursery and habitat for over 100 species of finfish, and improves the recreational environment.



Volunteers are needed in the planting of several acres of marshland in April and May. A solid starting date has yet to be determined; a notification will be sent out as soon as the information is available to those who register at <http://restoremарshes.eventbrite.com>.

NASSAU COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL HOTLINE 571-6306



South Shore Audubon Society's  
41<sup>st</sup> Annual Dinner  
Tuesday, June 11, 2013

At

Pompei Restaurant and Caterers  
401 Hempstead Avenue  
West Hempstead, NY 11552  
(516) 485-8620

Cocktail Hour 6:30 PM

Dinner 7:30 PM

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Conservation and Scholarship Awards, Raffles and 50/50 Raffle

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Dinner price \$38.00; deadline June 1

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Hot and cold hors d'oeuvres during cocktail hour. Wine and soda, salad, penne alla vodka,  
Entrees: chicken, fish, beef or eggplant rollatini, dessert, coffee and tea. Cash bar.

Mail your dinner registration and check payable to South Shore Audubon Society,  
to South Shore Audubon Society, P.O. Box 31, Freeport, NY 11520.

Directions: Southern State Parkway to exit 17N, north on Hempstead Ave. (1 ½ miles).



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Dinner Registration Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Number of people \_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_



