

ENVIRONMENTAL PROPOSITIONS

Michael Sperling

There are six statewide propositions on this year's ballot, two of which concern many acres in the Adirondacks. According to the League of Women Voters of New York State's Proposition Guide (posted at www.lwvny.org, with pros and cons), they read as follows:

Election Day

Proposal Number Four: An Amendment. The proposed amendment to section 1 of article 14 of the Constitution would authorize the Legislature to settle long-standing disputes between the State and private entities over certain parcels of land within the forest preserve in the town of Long Lake, Hamilton County. In exchange for giving up its claim to disputed parcels, the State would get land to be incorporated into the forest preserves that would benefit the forest preserve more than the disputed parcels currently do. Shall the proposed amendment be approved?

Proposal Number Five: An Amendment. The proposed amendment to section 1 of article 14 of the Constitution would authorize the Legislature to convey forest preserve land located in the town of Lewis, Essex County, to NYCO Minerals, a private company that plans on mining the land. In exchange, NYCO Minerals would give the State at least the same amount of land of at least the same value, with a minimum assessed value of \$1 million, to be added to the forest preserve. When NYCO Minerals finishes mining, it would restore the condition of the land and return it to the forest preserve. Shall the proposed amendment be approved?

Proposition #4 is supported by the NY League of Conservation Voters, Open Space Institute, Adirondack Council, Adirondack Mountain Club, Protect the Adirondacks!, and Adirondack Wild.

The Atlantic Chapter of the Sierra Club (the chapter for all of NY), Adirondack Wild, and Protect the Adirondacks! oppose Proposition #5, which would set a precedent by revising the Forever Wild clause in NY's Constitution solely for the benefit of a corporation (see <http://saveforeverwild.org>); the Adirondack Council and Adirondack Mountain Club, however, support the proposition, which gives NYCO Minerals access to approximately 200 acres of parkland.

TACKAPAUSHA HOLIDAY PARTY

Marilyn Hametz

Our Tackapausha Holiday Party for children will be on **Saturday, December 14**. To help with this enjoyable afternoon, please contact me at 799-7189 or Marilynexpl@yahoo.com.

NASSAU COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL HOTLINE 571-6306

BROOKSIDE PRESERVE FALL CLEANUP AND INVASIVES REMOVAL

On **Sunday, November 17**, starting at 1 P.M., SSAS will have its fall cleanup at Brookside Preserve, rain or shine. The focus of this cleanup, unless significant rain breaks our drought and provides a fresh supply of litter down Milburn Creek, will be the curtailment of invasive plants. 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 being added to it. PDF files of our trail guide and freshwater wetland guide for children can be downloaded from 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 pruning shears if possible and work gloves.

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The best way to get an idea of how much the children gained from their experience is to let them speak for themselves. Below are a few essays the children wrote both before and after they attended camp. I think you will find them extremely endearing and gratifying; at the same time, some of them are simply hilarious. Evidently s'mores was a life-changing experience for many of them. We look forward to offering this opportunity to a new group of children next summer.

Why I want to go to The Summer Sanctuary at the Audubon Center

Hello. My name is [redacted] I am in Mrs. [redacted]'s fourth grade class and I am going to tell you the reasons why I would like to go to the Summer Sanctuary at the Audubon center.

One reason I would like to go to the Summer Sanctuary is because I think birds are very interesting. My favorite bird is the Northern Cardinal because I think the birds crest is divine. I also think that when the bird spreads its wings it is very exhilarating because it looks so beautiful when it gets ready to soar into the sky.

Another reason I would like to go to the Summer Sanctuary is that I would like to study birds more in order to find out how does these intelligent birds use its natural resources by its habitat in order to live. I think people should spread awareness about how hurting the environment can lead to hurting birds severely or could lead to taking a birds life away.

Another reason why I would like to go to the Summer Sanctuary is because I think a week in the wilderness can lead to a healthier life and can encourage other kids to go out in nature and play. Kids should also have a nature walk once in a while or a bird watch .

My other reason why I want to go to the Summer Sanctuary is because I want to learn how do birds eat, live, play and give birth to their offspring. I think these topics will be fun to learn about in the future because I love to learn about birds characteristics and I like to learn about the things that inhabit the earth.

My next reason why I would like to go to the camp-out because I think the activities included at the sanctuary such as canoeing, hiking, bird watching and cooking over a campfire are very fun and exhilarating because I like taking time off from watching TV and playing video games to enjoy nature.

This is why I would to the Summer Sanctuary at the Audubon Center. I hope you like my essay and drawing .

There are many reasons why it would be exciting for me to participate in the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary and Audubon Center. There are so many different birds that I have not seen before, like the Pacific Loon or the Horned Grebe. When I grow up I want to be a veterinarian. I have always wanted unusual pets; when I was four I even asked my parents for a giraffe but they did not think that it would be a good idea to have a giraffe as a pet.

It would be exciting to see all of the birds at the center. I will learn about their habitats and inherited traits. I also want to visit the sanctuary because it is home to many endangered birds and to some of the rarest birds in the world. It would be a great experience for me to learn what happens at the center around the clock. I understand birds need to be protected so they can survive, going on this trip I will learn what I could do to help protect animals from becoming extinct.

At the center I hope to learn about rare birds. I am also looking forward to learning how to take care of animals, which will help me achieve my dream of becoming a veterinarian. These are the reasons why I want to participate at the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary and Audubon center.

Dear South Shore Audubon,

Thank you for choosing me to go on this camping trip. The things I enjoyed were swimming in the lakes and playing games in the lake. In the lake I also liked paddling the paddle boats and steering it. I liked going to the General Store and getting candy. I liked doing archery and hitting the target 2 times. I liked fishing for fish. Even though I didn't catch a fish. I liked roasting the marshmallows and making smores and eating them. I like making my tent and sleeping in the tent. I liked taking a shower after going swimming at the lake. I liked washing my dishes after we ate food. I also like getting some lanyard and making a chinese stair case.

Dear South Shore Audubon Society,
Thank you for letting me come to the trip again. It was very fun and very educating. I liked setting up the tents. We slept in the T.O.R. That was fun. I like eating the hot dogs. I liked going swimming in the lake. I liked paddleboating in the lake because we had a water fight with the life guard. Also [redacted] was scaring them around and getting scared. We went fishing at night. I almost caught a fish. We had cereal for breakfast. I went to archery and also I hit four bullseyes. I enjoyed coming here it was really fun. We also played capture the flag but we lost. We had fun in the tents. Also we wrote these letters. I had a really fun time here. Again thank you for letting me come.

SSAS BACKYARD BIRD SURVEY

For several years, SSAS's Research Committee has been conducting a study to document the bird species found in the SSAS area and to estimate their numbers. We greatly appreciate input from anyone that feeds and/or observes birds in their yard or neighborhood.

To participate, simply record the birds that you see in your yard, neighborhood, or at your feeder; the date, time, and the number or approximate number of each species; and fill in the table provided below. If you have more recordings than lines in the table, please attach an additional piece of paper to the table and submit the additional recordings in the same manner. At the end of each month, please mail or e-mail your record to me at the appropriate address listed below, or hand it to me at our monthly meeting. Additional survey sheets are available at SSAS events.

Please do not hesitate to submit your observations, even if you have been able to make only very few. **WE NEED YOUR INPUT!**

<i>Dates:</i> From _____ to _____							
Date	Time	Species	No.	Date	Time	Species	No.
				Submitted by: _____			
				Address: _____			
				Phone number: _____			
				Please send to: Mr. J. Grupp, Research Chairperson 660 Edgemere Ave., Uniondale NY 11553 or E-mail: Birdstudyjoeg02@aol.com			

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A CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
Americans Committed to Conservation



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Think Globally, but Join Locally!

Option 1. You can join SSAS for a year by sending \$20 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 by joining Audubon through us for the same price that it costs if you join through NAS (we get \$0 from these dues 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.



Renewing? Please send NAS renewals directly to NAS (the approx. \$3/year we get per member is not based on renewals).



Donations to SSAS are always welcome! \$_____

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

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

_____(Zip+4)

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