

# SOUTH SHORE SKIMMER



## NEXT MEETING

*Paul Stessel*



**DATE:** Tuesday, October 4, 2016  
**REASON:** Yom Kippur Begins on the 11th  
**TIME:** 7:30 P.M.  
**PLACE:** Freeport Memorial Library  
 144 W. Merrick Rd. (at S. Ocean Ave.)  
**SPEAKERS:** Isabel Fernandes & Dennis Fleury  
**TOPIC:** An Evening With Wildlife

At our next meeting, we'll be presenting the speakers before the coffee break, so that children who need to go home before our typical 9:30 quitting time can join us.

Isabel and Dennis, the co-directors of Tackapausha Museum and Preserve, will be bringing an assortment of animals (including birds of prey) for us to view and learn about.

Isabel holds a B.A. in wildlife management from Cobleskill University; is a state-licensed wildlife rehabilitator and falconer; is the wildlife care coordinator at Sweetbriar Nature Center; has rescued, rehabilitated, and released more wildlife than most have ever seen; and is an arachnophile with an international collection of over 30 spider specimens. Dennis holds a B.A. in education from Cortland State University, is a state-licensed wildlife rehabilitator and veterinary assistant, and has been rescuing animals since early childhood. Both once worked for Audubon NY at the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary, and both received SSAS's Elliott Kutner Conservation Award at our annual dinner last June. Join us!

**Pre-Meeting Book Discussion.** Arrive a half-hour early to participate in a discussion led by R. U. Abyrdar II (aka Paul Stessel) of the book that he and Sy Schiff reviewed in the previous *Skimmer*. This meeting's book is *Falcons Return: Restoring an Endangered Species* by John Kaufmann and Heinz Meng.

**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 gas station that borders Sunrise Highway.

**NOVEMBER MEETING.** Because the library is closed on the 8th for Election Day, we'll be meeting on the 15th.

• • • • •  
 •  IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE WASTE, PLEASE  
 • BRING COFFEE MUGS TO OUR MEETINGS. •  
 • **SHADE-GROWN COFFEE PROTECTS RAINFORESTS!** •  
 • • • • •

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Cats!

*Betty Barowsky*

Let me begin by saying that I love cats — both in general and individually. Cats have grace and beauty, are wonderfully entertaining to watch, and if they decide you'll do, can become affectionate companions.

Many years ago I adopted a kitten. I had heard an odd, loud, persistent crying in the hall where I was working, and went out to investigate. And there was this tiny little kitten meowing louder than I thought could be possible (it wasn't the meow that cats make when they merely want to call your attention to something; if you know cats, you know that special distress cry). When I picked her up, she looked deeply into my eyes, then curled up in my arms and turned on her purring machine (and if you know cats, you know there's a difference between purrs — this was the one that's so strong it shakes their bodies). Really, it was love at first sight, for both of us.

So we decided to live together. I would let her out during the day, and she would follow me back to the house at night. To the consternation of my landlady, I even took her with me when the family spent a year in Europe. Believe me, she had plenty of food, attention, toys; everything.

BUT she caught birds. I know this because for some reason she brought them to me. She brought one home about once every other week; and of course it's entirely possible that she caught many more that she never told me about. This was very distressing to me, especially because so many were still alive when she brought them home. As far as I know she never ate them; and if I had







## MASSAPEQUA CREEK AND THE GRUMMAN PLUME

Michael Sperling

While this *Skimmer* is at the printer, the 30-day public comment period will be ending for a report whose three recommended remedial options include, as the cheapest (costing \$268 million instead of over \$500 million for the others), using Massapequa Creek to dispose of the treated waste from the groundwater contamination (chlorinated volatile organic compounds) whose southward spread from Grumman's site in Bethpage to a five-square-mile area up to 800 feet deep has been in the news for quite a few years. The proposal would quadruple the flow



of water in the Creek for possibly more than 200 years, sent there from a one-acre treatment plant to be built in the northern end of Massapequa Preserve that would be fed by 16 wells to be dug along the Southern State Parkway. The other two remedial options involve upgrading the Cedar Creek Water Pollution Control Plant and sending the contamination there via a new 12,000-foot sewer pipe.

To quote the DEC: "In response to Chapter 543 of the Laws of 2014, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC) tasked one of its Engineering Consultants (HDR, Inc.) with developing and evaluating options to achieve hydraulic containment of the groundwater contamination associated with the Grumman Aerospace — Bethpage Facility in Bethpage, New York. The report, called the "Remedial Options Report for the Grumman Aerospace — Bethpage Facility," was recently completed and submitted to NYS DEC. The report includes estimates of the cost, scope, and timetable for three alternatives to contain the plume. The report is available at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8431.html>."

The report includes a table of "Massapequa Creek Stream Flow Statistics" based on 68 years of data from the U.S. Geological Survey. The median and mean stream flows are 6.2 cfs (cubic feet per second) and 8.4 cfs, respectively, with a range from 0.83 cfs (in 1995) to 57 cfs (in 1959). The proposed project would add approximately 31 cfs of treated water, for a new mean flow of 39.4 cfs.

The report provides five "pros" and four "cons" to the Massapequa Creek option:

- ① Construction using proven, standard construction methods
- ② Land available along Southern State Parkway
- ③ Water main(s) can be excavated in land along SSP, and directional drilling can be used to pass beneath roads and highways
- ④ Minimal disruption to surrounding residential and commercial area
- ⑤ Improve water quality and flow in Massapequa Creek
- ❶ Disruption to Massapequa Preserve during construction of treatment plant and discharge infrastructure

② Massapequa Creek may need improvements to effectively convey an additional 19 mgd (million gallons per day)

③ 19 mgd of fresh water from a sole-source aquifer will be discharged to Ocean. Over the projected 200-year period of performance of this remedy, that equates to over 730 billion gallons of fresh water extracted from a sole-source aquifer that would be discharged to Ocean.

④ Potential permanent changes to Massapequa Creek, such as measurable differences in water temperature [colder] and salinity [lower], reduced ability to convey stormwater, and possible alterations to the current creek biota.

According to the report, there's an alternative to its three remedial options: "Direct reuse of the water after wellhead treatment has been proven to be an effective approach to achieve the Remedial Action Objectives and protect the health and welfare of the public and the environment. The treatment of this water would be no different than what has been done by many water purveyors in Nassau County for many decades. This approach would be safe and effective but would require considerable planning and cooperation between stakeholders and water providers to implement. The primary advantage of this option would be the elimination of the need to 'dispose' of the treated water that after treatment would be suitable for drinking. This option, although not within Chapter 543 of the Laws of 2014, would provide a long-term manageable solution, reduce the overall costs, and not result in a loss of Nassau County's precious water resources." SSAS is urging the DEC to pursue this option.



### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Wendy Murbach

Our new members since the last *Skimmer* are:

- Baldwin ..... Carmen Litwack, Doris Reichert, Ellen Miller-Scully
- Bedford..... Patricia T. Mutolo
- Bellmore..... Jeanette Byrnes, Celeste Schaffren
- Farmingdale ..... Correen A Bieler, Diane Krieger, Wren Wilson
- Floral Park ..... Autumn Bradley, John Goodman, Robert Poncel
- Franklin Square..... Florence J. Reiss
- Garden City ..... Mane Ramos
- Garden City Park ..... Johnda Ferrari
- Hempstead ..... Marianne Baker
- Hicksville ..... Henry Skorupski
- Massapequa..... Geoffrey Alster, Dorothy Barritt, Margaret Del Re, Joan Dukich, Diane Gleave
- Massapequa Park..... Vincent J. Muscarnera, Geraldine Pike
- Merrick..... Marsha Grossberg, Susanna Inge
- Seaford ..... Eloise Dimino, Barbara Martorana
- Valley Stream..... Robert Sinram
- Wantagh..... Barbara Kitay, Donna Matson, Carmela Murphy







