

VOLUME 32, NUMBER 2 — SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

OCTOBER 2001

NEXT TWO MEETINGS

Tom Torma

DATE: Tuesday, October 9, 2001

TIME: 8:00 p.m. ②

PLACE: Freeport Memorial Library

144 W. Merrick Rd. (at 5. Ocean Ave.)

SPEAKER: Pele Warny

TOPIC: Repliles and Amphibians in NYS

Bird-Walching Areas

When we are out bird-watching, we often miss seeing many critters that are all around us. Pete Warny will bring live animals for a "show and tell" program about the reptiles and amphibians that share the fields, woodlands, and wetlands with the birds we love to watch.

Pete is a research associate in zoology at the New York State Museum. He is also a staff herpetologist at the Westmoreland Sanctuary in northeastern Westchester. He is well known for his programs and field trips. This should be a very informative program.

Pre-Meeting Bird Identification Class at 7:30: Arrive early and join Scott Oglesby as he helps us expand our birding horizons.

Bylaws Vote: As detailed in last month's newsletter, four proposed amendments to SSAS's bylaws will be discussed and voted on at the October general meeting.

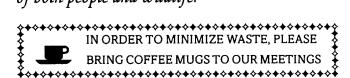
DATE: Tuesday, November 13, 2001

TIME: 8:00 P.M. ②
PLACE: Same as Above
SPEAKER: Mel Springer

TOPIC: Adventures in Fiji and Australia

The tropical paradise of Fiji and Australia's vast wilderness are the subjects of our November meeting. Mel Springer will present a slide show featuring the fauna and flora of these exotic locations.

Mel is the president of the Long Island Shell Club and the author of the book *Sea Shells of Long Island*. Join your fellow members for a photographic adventure to the romantic South Pacific. SSAS Mission Statement — The mission of South Shore Audubon Society is to promote environmental education, and preserve and restore our environment, through responsible activism, for the benefit of both people and wildlife.



BIRDSEED SALE & CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

On **Sunday, October 21**, from 9:30 A.M. until 2:30 P.M., SSAS will be in Tackapausha's parking lot (on Washington Avenue in Seaford) for our annual birdseed sale. Preorders are recommended & appreciated, and are due October 9, so please call Michael Sperling at 541-0805 (evenings) or send e-mail to mssperling@compuserve.com for an order form if you don't have a copy of last month's *Skimmer*. We will be selling black oil and striped sunflower, mixed seeds, cracked corn, sunflower chips (no shells), peanut pieces, safflower, thistle (niger), and suet cakes. Help will be needed and much appreciated on the sale date; no purchase required to volunteer!

Children's Program at 1 P.M. Inside Tackapausha, children will enjoy our special program featuring arts and crafts, and a slide program designed to demonstrate the adaptations that help birds survive. Join us!

Please note: In last month's Skimmer, we announced that volunteers will be needed at SSAS's table at Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge in Shirley during a nine-day celebration of the approaching 100th anniversary of the National Wildlife Refuge System. With the anniversary still two years away, the LI NWR Complex has decided to shorten this year's celebration to just two days, **September 22 and 23**, from 8 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

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STICKS OF INITIALS: A. N. W. R.

© Maxwell Corydon Wheat, Jr.

"And a good place to look is going to be A. N. W. R."

George W. Bush
Looking for Oil

"An-waar" — could be furniture varnish Not great words

"ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE!"
Oilmen do not want people hearing
"ARCTIC"

sharp, articulate diction of polar ice and snow "... continuous, exulting feeling of immensity" writes Robert Marshall in "Arctic Wilderness"

"ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE!"

Oilmen do not want Americans hearing the rousing sounds "NATIONAL"

Reminded, "This is my land."
"America the Beautiful"

from sea to Beaufort Sea

from where Polar Bears clumsily emerge for winter denning

the greatest number of birthing Polar Bears in America nursing on the Refuge's "Coastal Plain."

"ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE!"
Oilmen do not want children, parents hearing
"WILDLIFE"

"Thousands of birds? Mommy?"

"Yes, dear, hundreds of thousands resting, feeding, nesting on the 'Coastal Plain.' Three hundred thousand Snow Geese. Trumpeter Swans from all the way across America."

"And, deer?"

"Yes, my child. The deer are caribou.

One hundred and twenty-nine thousand caribou.

For three months they journey 400 miles
to the Refuge's 'Coastal Plain,' their nursery."

"Where baby caribou are born?"

"ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE!"
Oilmen do not want the world hearing
"REFUGE"
and its "Coastal Plain"
shore of tundra wetlands
where moments after birth, the caribou calf
stands, back arched, legs bent awkwardly
and puts her small head under her mother's belly

Editor's note: Max Wheat is a long-time active member of SSAS whose nature poems can be found in many environmental newsletters and occasionally heard at our meetings, where earlier this year he memorably recited

"Oilman George W. Bush's Hollow Eye Sockets." Collections of his poems are available at local independent bookshops, nurseries, museums, etc.

Elliatt Kutner

August 19, 2001: We had a bird walk today at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. What we came upon was a glorious visual chorale. It was the romance of daily life — ours and every single thing that shares the universe with us, including water that literally defines our physical makeup and the very air we breathe to survive.

At the first station, we found yellowlegs and dowitchers resting, protected on three sides by walls of breeze-blown phragmites. In the back, skirting in and out, was a young Common Gallinule. It was feeding carefully, staying out of harm's way. Looking up, we saw the view, amongst spectacular views, of the day. To the east, over the pond, was

a Huge Dark Bird, "fingers" extended, wings outspread. It was being harassed by the "Rolls Royce" of flight. There we stood, witness to, yet participants in, the daily details of Life. It was a Bald Eagle (pictured) being worried by a Peregrine Falcon, then joined by an Osprey. The two smaller birds annoyed the Eagle until he left the area, heading southwest. The Peregrine took off to the south towards the ocean and the Osprey

returned home to his platform along the south path.

Someone called out that off to the west end of the pond there was an "Egret Tree." There was. The upper canopy was pure white with Snowy Egrets. The flock included Little Blue and Tricolored Herons. They did a "flyby" and then returned to the "Egret Tree." We picked up a Great Blue Heron feeding on a snake or an eel. Black-crowned and Yellow-crowned Night Herons dotted the pond's shore.

Cormorant, young Black-crown, Mockingbird — all resting in the shelter of the West Pond at Jamaica Bay.

Year after year, migration follows migration, as certain as tomorrow's rising sun. It is the daily miracle that reveals the broad and splendid dimensions of life.

Dear friends in Audubon, the poet said it best: "We have things to do and miles and miles to go before we sleep." I wish you Good Birding! — Elliott

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Foxes Guarding the Henhouse

Tom Torma

When President Bush announced the nomination of Gail Norton for Secretary of Interior, environmentalists were shocked. They warned that Ms. Norton would open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. A warning that proved to be well founded.

At the time of the nomination, President Bush vowed: "We are going to have a balanced policy when it comes to federal lands and she's the right person to lead the Interior Department." Gail Norton also talked about the need for balance between the environment and economic needs. It turns out that balance is definitely lacking in the Bush administration.

A recent story on National Public Radio reported important sub-cabinet posts were filled with lobbyists and businesspeople from the oil and coal industries. Many of them are returnees from the Reagan–Bush administration. The same can be said of Christie Whitman and the Environmental Protection Agency. One of

Ms. Whitman's choices was Linda Fisher, a former vice president at Monsanto, for Deputy Administrator. Her most controversial choice has been Donald Schregardus, the former head of Ohio's

EPA, as enforcement chief at the national EPA. The problem is Ohio has the country's dirtiest air and water. Many environmentalists claim Schregardus is the reason why. His nomination is in trouble; Senate Democrats are blocking his nomination.

These nominations have received little attention in either the media or in the Senate. Their confirmation hearings have been short and uneventful. These foxes will be guarding the environmental henhouse.

SSAS AWARDS COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

Part 1, from Betsy Gulotta: South Shore Audubon Society is delighted to announce the two college students who have been awarded the Jerry Bishop Environmental Scholarship for 2001, Janine Harris and Catherine Mulvey. Thanks to the generosity of Evelyn Bishop, who established the scholarship in memory of her husband, each student received \$750 to help further her education in the area of environmental and/or biological studies.

Janine Harris will be a senior at Cornell University this fall, majoring in Natural Resources. In addition to excelling academically with a heavy course load in the natural sciences, she is active in extracurricular activities such as breast cancer awareness for students and environmental education for children. She has interned as a wildlife biologist for the National Forest Service in Montana, and was a Piping Plover steward at Jones Beach. She hopes to find a career in teaching or public service.

Catherine Mulvey recently graduated from Siena College near Albany, New York as a Biology major. She also excelled academically with a heavy load of courses in the natural sciences and was active in extracurricular activities. Catherine was a Piping Plover steward at Point Lookout, Lido Beach, and Atlantic Beach, and has traveled to Trinidad to study and collect freshwater fish. She is currently interning for a public radio station and is interested in using her Biology degree to pursue environmental journalism.

SSAS congratulates both of these talented young biologists and wishes them well in their pursuits towards their environmental careers.

Part 2, from Your Editor: In June, SSAS was able to award a \$700 scholarship to a graduating high school student, thanks to support from Sally Popkin and donations made by friends in memory of her late husband, George, who served as SSAS's treasurer from 1991 to 1995. The winner was Baldwin High School's Meredith Leibow, who was presented with the schoolrship by Joan Butkereit at the school's annual awards ceremony. Meredith was awarded for her dedication to environmental activities, including with the school's Blue Marble environmental club. She is now attending Nassau Community College.



All walks start at 9:30 A.M. except for Pelham Bay; no walk if it rains. Directions may be found at our web site. Any questions? Call Elliott at 486-7667.

| Sep. 23 | Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge | |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| Sep. 30 | Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot) | |
| Oct. 7 | Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge | |
| Oct. 14 | Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner | |
| Oct. 21 | Zach's Bay Parking Field #4, N.E. corner | |
| Oct. 28 | Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot) | |
| Nov. 4 | Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner | |
| Nov. 11 | Zach's Bay Parking Field #4, N.E. corner | |
| Nov. 18 | Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot) | |
| Nov. 25 | Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner | |
| Dec. 2 | Pelham Bay for Owls (pull over to street | |
| 5 | on extreme right after going through | |
| T | Throgs Neck Bridge toll; meet at 9 A.M.) | |
| Dec. 9 | Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot) | |
| ****************************** | | |
| RARE BIRD ALERT (212) 979-3070 | | |

On Saturday, **October 27**, SSAS will hold its annual Halloween Party at Tackapausha. This children's party will feature programs and arts & crafts for kids. Details will be in the next *Skimmer*.



"NEW YORK'S LARGEST WILD BIRD SPECIALTY STORE"

621 Fulton St. (Rt. 109), Farmingdale, NY 11735 Located between McDonald's & Dunkin' Donuts

Editor's note: The following, written by Vikki Kratz, is reprinted from the Summer 2001 issue of Capital Eye, published by the Center for Responsive Politics (http://OpenSecrets.org). I added the clip art.

President Bush suffered a few major disappointments trying to push his new energy policy through Congress this summer. First, both the House and Senate banned any new oil or natural gas drilling on federally protected land designated as a national monument. Then, Congress voted to prevent any drilling in the Great Lakes. And when the House voted to delay drilling off the coast of Florida, the president was forced to scale back his plans — from opening nearly 6 million acres to development to opening only 1.5 million — just to win Senate approval.

After this string of resounding defeats, congressional observers were calling the proposal to drill in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge dead on arrival. It wasn't. Some big-time donors to the Republican Party support the Bush energy plan, especially its goal of increasing U.S.-based sources of oil, coal, and natural gas. The oil and gas industry contributed \$26 million to the Republican Party in individual, PAC, and soft money donations during 1999-2000. President Bush himself received \$1.8 million from the industry for his presidential run. But that's chump change compared to the estimated \$400 billion worth of oil the industry believes is buried beneath the caribou migrating grounds in Alaska. With such high stakes involved, it wasn't a surprise when the House passed the first part of Bush's energy plan, including the provision to drill in ANWR. Now the battle moves to the Democraticcontrolled Senate, where passage will be more difficult but not impossible.

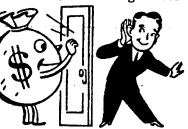
The P.R. Assault on the Public and Congress. After President Bush released his energy plan in May, his job approval ratings — never high with respect to the environment — took a hit. A CBS/New York Times poll in mid-June showed that only 33% of Americans approved of his performance on energy issues, and only 39% approved of his handling of environmental issues. A similar poll by NBC News and the Wall Street Journal showed that 56% of the country agreed with the statement, "Large energy producers and other corporate special interests have too much influence over President Bush's energy policies."

To drum up public support for Bush's energy plan, Vice President Dick Cheney and several cabinet members fanned out across the country. Energy companies and trade associations formed various coalitions to run television, radio, and print ads trumpeting the plan. The most prominent one, the Alliance for Energy and Economic Growth, is reportedly spending \$1 million on its campaign. The group's 400 members include the American Gas Association and the National Mining Association. The group was formed in mid-May to promote Bush's energy plan and to counteract an anti-fossil fuels campaign by environmentalists.

On the day Bush announced his energy plan, Greenpeace dumped a truckload of coal on Dick Cheney's driveway. Save Our Environment, a coalition of about 20 environmental groups, has been running ads nationwide depicting the country's clean natural resources being auctioned off to the highest bidder. The group includes the Sierra Club, the League of Conservation Voters (LCV), and the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC). Save Our Environment refuses to disclose how much it is spending on its ad campaign.

Courting Moderate Democrats on ANWR. Meanwhile, Bush finally won a battle. In August, the House passed part of Bush's energy plan, defeating Democratic attempts to attach an amendment that would ban drilling in ANWR. To help secure the votes it needed, the oil and gas indus-

try courted moderate Democrats, including Reps. Max Sandlin (D-Texas), Cal Dooley (D-Calif.), and freshman Brad Carson (D-Okla.). In 1999–2000, oil and gas companies



gave Sandlin \$78,050 and Dooley \$64,530 in PAC and individual contributions. Carson received \$72,164 from the industry to help him win his first congressional seat. All three voted to open ANWR for drilling.

In total, 36 moderate Democrats sided with Republicans on the decision to drill in Alaska. The average House Democrat received about \$8,400 from the oil and gas industry, but the 36 Democrats who voted for ANWR drilling received an average of about \$17,000—almost on par with the nearly \$20,000 the average House Republican received.

How the bill fares in the Democratic-controlled Senate will depend on moderates such as Jeff Bingaman (D-N.M.) and Mary Landrieu (D-La.). Bingaman received \$136,485 from the oil and gas industry, while Landrieu got \$43,050. The average Senate Democrat received nearly \$40,000.

Big Breaks for Oil, Coal, and Nuclear Power. The House vote on the energy bill also handed Bush a few goodies he wasn't asking for. It exempted oil companies from paying royalties to the government for oil obtained under federal leases in the Gulf of Mexico. Democrats claimed the two-

year exemption would save the oil companies \$7.4 billion. The exemption passed the House Resources Committee on a party-line vote, with all Republicans — joined by Democrats Brad Carson and Eni Faleomavaega (American Samoa) — voting for it.

When the House Ways and Means Committee took a look at Bush's energy bill, it attached numerous tax breaks for "clean coal" technology, as well as for refineries, pipelines, and nuclear power plants. The committee passed a total of \$33 billion in tax breaks, with only \$9 billion tied to conservation. Members of the House Ways and Means Committee received a total of \$769,105 from the oil and gas industry in 1999–2000.

The energy sector has long been a stalwart contributor to the Republican Party. The coal mining industry gave nearly \$3.8 million in PAC, soft money, and individual contributions in the 2000 elections, with 88% going to Republicans. Companies with nuclear power interests gave more than \$13.8 million, with more than two-thirds to Republicans. Over time, the energy sector has increased the amount of money it gives to Republicans relative to Democrats. In 1992, when President Bill Clinton was first elected and Democrats had a majority in both houses of Congress, the Democrats received \$12.8 million in soft and hard money from the energy sector; the Republicans got \$19.6 million. By 2000, when President Bush was elected and Republicans held the majority in both the House and Senate, the Democrats had only netted another \$3 million more than their 1992 take, receiving \$15.8 million from energy companies. The Republicans, in contrast, had more than doubled their total to \$48.5 million from the energy sector.

All Donations to Federal Candidates and Parties During the 2000 Election, According to Data Released by the Federal Election Commission as of June 1, 2001:

Top Oil & Gas Contributors

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#1: Enron Corp. — $2,387,848 (72% to Republicans)
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#2: Exxon Mobil Corp. — \$1,374,200 (89% to Repubs.)

#3: BP Amoco Corp. — \$1,288,192 (69% to Repubs.)

#4: El Paso Corp. — \$1,116,495 (83% to Republicans)

#5: Chevron Corp. — \$1,082,827 (72% to Republicans)

#6: Koch Industries — \$1,080,956 (90% to Republicans)

#7: USX Corp. — \$795,517 (83% to Republicans)

#8: American Gas Assn. — \$630,025 (55% to Repubs.)

#9: Reliant Energy — \$584,406 (87% to Republicans)

#10: Occidental Petroleum — \$555,876 (60% to Repubs.)

Top Environmental Contributors

#1: Sierra Club — \$383,314 (97% to Democrats)

#2: LCV — \$276,881 (87% to Democrats)

#3: Global Green USA — \$190,000 (99% to Democrats)

#4: NRDC --- \$134,400 (88% to Democrats)

#5: Friends of the Earth — \$49,952 (99% to Democrats)

#6: Environmental Defense — \$23,560 (100% to Dems.)

#7: Nature Conservancy — \$11,450 (55% to Democrats)

#8: Bat Conservation Intl. — \$6,000 (100% to Repubs.)

#9: Envtl. Campaign Fund — \$5,000 (100% to Dems.)

★★ 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 8–10 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 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 last month's Skimmer are:

Baldwin Judy A. Steinberg

East Meadow C. H. Bedford, Joanna Gazzola,

Michael Lisa

East Rockaway P. Hanratty
Floral Park Karin A. Wolf
Freeport Anthony Senise
Garden City ? Gregg ?

Hempstead Judith Smith
Hewlett Mrs. John S. Lawrence

Island Park Veronica Schliemann Long Beach Thomas M. Cahn

Massapequa Mr. Edward Furstman, Lee

Hurwitz

Massapequa Park Elaine Friedman

Merrick Mrs. Christine Kosky, Robert
Martinez, Anthony Merlo

Oceanside Rosemarie Dalessandro

Plainview Carol Meyeroff

Rockville Centre...... Johannes Laursen, Dolores

Sigelakis

Uniondale Mrs. Helen M. Thiele

Valley Stream Barbara Baeyens, Janet Halatyn

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31, Freeport, NY 11520-0031.

SSAS TO PARTICIPATE IN CYSTER BAY VISION 2020 PLAN

Michael Goldsmith

The Town of Oyster Bay has begun work on the preparation of "Vision 2020," a comprehensive plan that will focus on the current and long-range growth and development of the Town. South Shore Audubon is the only environmental organization to have a representative appointed to the Vision 2020 Plan Advisory Committee.

The Vision 2020 Plan will be a policy document describing a vision for the future of the Town of Oyster Bay over the next 20 years and is intended to be a guide for residents, as well as public and private decision-makers, regarding short- and long-term issues and initiatives.

Issues addressed in the Plan will be quality of life; neighborhood preservation; housing; residential, commercial, office, and industrial development/redevelopment; recreation and parks; environmental protection; community services and facilities; transportation, parking, and pedestrian network/safety; demographics; and the appearance and vitality of the residential and business districts. Upon completion, the Plan will be submitted to the Town Board for adoption.

The Town retained the firm of Frederick P. Clark Associates, Inc., of Rye, New York, to assist in the preparation and adoption of the plan. This is the same firm that compiled the inventory of open spaces for Nassau County for its own land use plan.

On June, 21, 2001, Oyster Bay Town Supervisor John Venditto announced his appointments to the Vision 2020 Plan Advisory Committee. The Committee is to serve as the "eyes and ears" of the Town Board by meeting with the public and helping to identify issues, objectives, and recommendations, as well as assisting in formulating drafts of the Plan.

The appointees are as follows: Carol Meshkow, president of the Concerned Citizens of the Plainview-Old Bethpage Community, Inc.; Glen Head civic activist Miles Sibell; Emil Coppola, president of the Joint Council of Civics of the Massapequas, Inc.; Ramon Reyes, Executive Director of the Grenville Baker Boys and Girls Club of Locust Valley; Nick Brigandi, Commissioner of the Hicksville Water District; David McDonough, President of the Nassau County Council of Chambers of Commerce; Gloria Wallack, Executive Director of the Child Care Council of Nassau, Inc.; yours truly, Michael Goldsmith, Esq., Vice President of SSAS; Alan Parente, commissioner of the Nassau County Office of Housing and Intergovernmental Affairs; and Dave Rettig, Regional Planning and Program Manager for the New York State Department of Transportation. Also on the Committee are Gary Pappas, Deputy Commissioner of the Town's Department of Planning and Development; Karen Underwood, Deputy Town Attorney; and Karl Leupold, Commissioner of the Town's Public Works Department.

The initial meeting was conducted by Bridget Duggin of Frederick P. Clark Associates, Inc. I had worked with Bridget previously on the Nassau County Open Space Inventory. I always found her to be possessed of the "three P's." She is professional, pleasant, and comPetent. (Well, all right, that's really the 2-1/2 P's, but you have to work with me.)

To start off the meeting, Supervisor Venditto said that the Town has changed drastically since he was a boy. Originally, there were two houses on his block when he was growing up. Twenty years later, there were about 40. Now there are 60, and there could be 61 by the time he finished talking. He continued to say that it was time that the people of the Town develop a plan to address the changes and development that are taking place, and to say how we want the town to look 20 years from now. He also said that the plan would have immediate practical effect, as it would serve to prevent growth and development not desired by the Town, and would also be important in defending lawsuits brought by developers who were denied building permits.

Bridget explained to us the function of the Committee and provided details as to the methodology to be used in drafting the Plan. The first task is to take an inventory and analysis of existing conditions, issues, and trends. Then we proceed to have meetings with various public organi-



zations in an attempt to get the input of the public. This will be an ongoing process. The third task is to draft the goals and objectives we have identified. Next comes the drafting of implementation strategies, followed by another round of outreach meetings with community and civic groups for their suggestions and comments. We will then draft the Vision 2020 Plan and have a set of public work-

shops to get public feedback. Finally, the Plan will be submitted to the Town Board for approval and submitted to the public for comments in a final round of public hearings.

Bridget then announced that there were to be three introductory public meetings in July that members of the Committee were invited to attend. Our function would be to observe and listen.

The first public meeting took place on July 24 at Marjorie R. Post Community Park Center in Massapequa. I brought along my 6 year old daughter Alexandra and sat up front facing the audience with the other Committee members. Supervisor Venditto made his introductory remarks and mentioned that we wanted to hear what is on the minds of the citizens of the Town. He said it was not that he had anything against Burger King, but it was up to the Town's residents to decide if they want a Burger King on every corner. At that point, I sheepishly pointed to the Burger King cups that Alexandra and I were drinking from, and drew a few smiles from the crowd of about 50 people. As

it would turn out, that would be the only light moment of the evening.

Bridget conducted the meeting. The evening was hot and humid. The room had no air conditioning. Maybe that partially explained what was to unfold. To put it diplomatically, the Massapequans in attendance were not a happy bunch. They proceeded, and with a fair amount of vitriol, to express a whole litany of complaints in areas such as trash collection, illegal apartments, and miscellaneous quality of life issues. They felt that Massapequa was the forgotten village of Oyster Bay.

Bridget's 2-1/2 P's were put to the test. Most of the concerns expressed were really about enforcing existing laws and regulations. Little was discussed about the future growth of the town. Still, Bridget handled it very professionally. Walking to my car at the end of the meeting, I heard Lesley Gore, who was giving a concert in nearby John J. Burns Town Park, sing "It's My Party" ("and I'll cry if I want to..."). I thought to myself, "What could be more appropriate?"

I was unable to attend the second meeting at Bethpage Public Library (which I heard was very positive), but made it to the final meeting on July 30 at the Oyster Bay Town Board Hearing Room. Bridget smiled at me when I arrived holding Alexandra's hand with one hand and holding in the other a pink plastic Cinderella bag filled with crayons and paper. She gave me the benefit of the doubt and assumed the bag was Alexandra's.

The meeting turned out to be a somewhat mellower, air-conditioned version of the Massapequa meeting. It was dominated by Hicksville residents complaining mostly about the "Hicksville Hub," the area around Old Country Road near the Broadway Mall. The Hicksvillagers felt that they were the forgotten village of Oyster Bay. I was going to volunteer that, in fact, it was Massapequa that was the forgotten municipality, but thought the better of it.

What did I learn from these two meetings? It seems that the people who reside in the more commercial and developed areas of Oyster Bay (like Hicksville and Massapequa) have concerns stemming from overdevelopment. While both places are still nice places to live, the residents who attended the meetings were troubled by issues related to the amount and quality of residential and commercial growth in their communities.

As the only representative of an environmental organization on the Committee, I believe my role is to try to make the ultimate Plan as sensitive to environmental issues as possible. I will use what I learn at these and future public meetings to make recommendations that we preserve open spaces and allow only growth that does not detract from the environment and our quality of life.

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| OUR E-LIST http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ssas_list |
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| OUR WEB PAGE www.ssaudubon.org |
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BECOME A MEMBER OF 55A5 Think Globally, but Join Locally!

Option 1. 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 a first-year bonus for recruiting you). If you'd like to become a member of National Audubon and your all-volunteer local chapter, please mail the following form and your check payable to **National Audubon Society** to us at South Shore Audubon Society, P.O. Box 31, Freeport, NY 11520-0031. The special rate for the first year is \$20 per household; \$15 for students and seniors.

Option 2. You can subscribe to the Skimmer for a year by sending \$10 payable to South Shore Audubon Society to us at the address above.

| ********** | ****** |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| NAME: | |
| ADDRESS: | |
| | |
| PHONE NO.: | |
| E-MAIL: | |
| Chapter Code R15 7XCH (South Sh | ore Audubon Society) |
| ~^^^ | |



Explore the coast with the

AMERICAN LITTORAL SOCIETY

FIRE ISLAND HIKE (Saturday, October 6). Join naturalist Steve Finn for a fall migration walk in the Sunken Forest. Cost: \$20 includes ferry, guide, and Sayville LIRR pickup. Bring lunch. Call Steve to reserve: (631) 821-2160.

JAMAICA BAY SUNSET CRUISE (Sat., October 27, 4-7 P.M.). Learn about the history & ecology of the 9,000 acre wildlife refuge. See egrets, herons, oystercatcher, peregrine falcon, and the big marshes near JFK Airport. Cost: \$35 includes guides, wine & cheese, snacks. Contact Don.

NEW YORK AQUARIUM (Sat., Nov. 3). Join us at 10 A.M. for a 2-1/2 hour "Behind-the-Scenes" tour and see beluga whales, sea otters, walrus, penguins, sharks, sea turtles, stingrays, tropical & local fish, plus "Squirt" the wonder clam. Cost: \$15 (\$10 for kids under 12). Contact Don.

ASSATEAGUE FALL WEEKEND (Nov. 8-11). Visit Chincoteague Refuge and see lots of waterfowl, shorebirds, and raptors including snow geese (thousands) and bald eagle, as well as sika deer, wild ponies, river otter, red fox, etc. Cost: \$280 includes 3 nights at Refuge Motor Inn, marsh boat tour, safari bus tour, guides, and seafood buffet.

VENEZUELA BIRDS & WILDLIFE (1/24-2/4). Contact Don.

For information and free field trip brochure, call/write Don Riepe, (718) 634-6467, donriepe@aol.com, 28 West 9th Road, Broad Channel, NY 11693

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

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