

the removal of fanwort, spatterdock, and phragmites in various areas of the pond by application of an approved herbicide; removal of purple loosestrife by hand; dredging of 8085 cubic yards of sediments and organic debris from various areas in the pond with deposition of the dredged material at either an approved lined landfill or a site with a BUD [Beneficial Use Determination]. The final disposition of the dredged material will be based on testing of the material by the contractor prior to dredging and dredging will not commence until the disposal location is approved by NYSDEC, Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste.

State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) Determination. Project is a Type I action and will not have a significant effect on the environment. A coordinated review with other agencies was performed and a Negative Declaration is on file.

In response to the brief opportunity for public comments on the above, Joe Grupp stated the following in a three-page October 14 letter he sent to the DEC:

“South Shore Audubon Society (SSAS) writes this letter of concern in regard to the possible impact on the diversity of waterfowl (using waterfowl in the broadest context to include all birds that would reside, at least part of the time, on the surface of the water) that this project may have.

“SSAS has, under my direction as Research Chair, been conducting an extensive two-part study of the winter population of waterfowl on the local ponds and estuaries for the past 16 years... Analysis of the data collected indicates that the pond at Nassau County Mill Pond Park provides a habitat that attracts the greatest diversity of species of waterfowl of any that we survey as demonstrated in the various tables [that he compiled and enclosed]... It is the concern of SSAS that an adequate evaluation of this project and its effect on the habitat that supports that diversity of waterfowl species be considered before the project is approved, especially as the project will involve the use of herbicides, changing the composition of the flora, and dredging.”

17TH ANNUAL WATERFOWL SURVEY

The dates of the 2004-05 Waterfowl Survey are as follows, rain or shine: **Saturdays, December 11, January 8, February 5, February 26, and March 26.** Volunteers are welcome to participate in the surveys. If you are interested in spending a full or half day visiting up to 28 locations from Valley Stream to Massapequa Park, call Joe Grupp, Research Chairperson, at 481-4208.

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.



SSAS CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY PARTY

Therese Lucas

The annual celebration will take place at Tackapausha Museum & Preserve on Washington Avenue in Seaford on **Saturday, December 18** from 1-3 P.M.

During the first hour, the children can give a gift back to nature by creating feeders made of assorted edibles that will attract birds. Then the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary will present an informative live raptor program that will provide the audience with a close-up view of a number of birds. The program is free, but there is the usual museum admission charge of \$2 for adults and \$1 for children (ages 4 to 14; free for younger children accompanied by an adult).



If you'd like to be one of the volunteers enjoying the company of the children as they make their creations, you can reach me at 631-225-6377.

THANKS TO THE HALLOWEEN AND BIRDSEED VOLUNTEERS!

We'd like to give recognition to the SSAS members who helped out at two of our recent special events.

At the Halloween Party for children at Tackapausha: Kathy Asmus, Alice Blaustein, Helen Buckley, Louise Leonard, Therese Lucas, Wendy Murbach, Christine Schmitt, and Michael Sperling.

At the birdseed sale at Tackapausha: Alice Blaustein; Alexandra, Casi, Joan, and Paul Butkerei; Michele DeCaprio; Dolores and Joe Grupp; Bill Hollweg; Barry and Jeannette Kurek; Therese Lucas; and Michael Sperling.

Birdseed Still Available. As this sentence was being typed (in mid-November), there were still several bags of 20 lb premium mix (\$7.75), 40 lb premium mix (\$15), and 40 lb special mix (\$15.50, with 1/3 black oil sunflower seed and no corn) available, plus many 12 oz suet cakes (\$1.25), 12 oz peanut butter suet cakes (\$1.50), and suet baskets (\$5). If you're interested, please call Paul Butkerei at 593-1994.

Seed - Feeders (516) 694-2180
Houses - Baths
Books - Gifts



WILD BIRD FEED BARN

WILD BIRD CENTER

"NEW YORK'S LARGEST WILD BIRD SPECIALTY STORE"

621 Fulton St. (Rt. 109), Farmingdale, NY 11735

Located between McDonald's & Dunkin' Donuts

AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP STATUS (800) 274-4201

REMEMBER NOT TO ATTEND!

Are you thinking about seeing the Holiday Light Spectacular at Jones Beach? Before you drive past it at night, South Shore Audubon Society urges you to look at it in daylight and to think about its impact on the wildlife, plants, and natural beauty of Jones Beach's West End.

You would see over a million light bulbs in over 100 displays along two miles of Ocean Drive. You'd see staked guy wires that prevent the 30-foot high, 150-foot wide displays from falling over. You'd see commercial advertising. You'd see power generators along the road. You'd see long power lines on the ground, connecting generators to displays. If you looked closely, you'd find broken light bulbs. You could find signs of the fluids spilled by the over 250,000 slow-moving vehicles that have crawled past the displays since the year 2000.

As reported in the *Skimmer* last year, seven Audubon chapters met with New York State Parks officials from Albany and Long Island in February 2003 and discussed our concerns about the Holiday Light Spectacular. Consequently, restrictions were imposed on how early in autumn the displays could be erected and where the contractor (Clear Channel Entertainment, which has kept almost 90% of the admission fees) could place them. Also, Park employees were instructed to regularly monitor the area for environmental damage, but SSAS found lots of debris left behind months after last year's show was over. We hope that you'll tell a friend to skip this year's show.

WHY YOU SHOULD COME TO THE BROOKSIDE PRESERVE CLEANUPS

Betsy Gulotta

Those of us who hung around by the gate at SSAS-managed Brookside Preserve on Saturday, October 30 after the cleanup were treated to a rare and beautiful sight. A sudden ruffle of tree branches overhead, a sharp screech, and a flurry of feathers startled us all as a Red-tailed Hawk (pictured) dropped out of the treetop above us and landed on the ground in the woods about 15 feet from where we were standing next to the path. He looked at us and we [John Zarudsky, Christine Marzigliano, Pat Buckland (President of Freeport Kiwanis), and myself] looked at him for several seconds before he took off, running down the path with a white-footed mouse in one of his talons. In a flash he was airborne as he vanished into the shrubbery.



After two and one half hours of bending, poking, pulling, and dragging debris from the Preserve, our tired bodies were suddenly revived and renewed as we viewed this marvelous picture of nature in the works. It was a great reminder that even in the busiest and most developed sections of our county, wildlife is evident and continues to play an important role in the balance of nature.

Thank you to all who participated in the fall cleanup, including members of the Freeport Kiwanis Club. We appreciate your support and your commitment to protect and care for Brookside Preserve as one of Long Island's special natural resources.

Editor's sequel: Other cleanup participants included SSAS's Therese Lucas, Heidi Mauricio, George Peters, and Michael Sperling; Hari Farkas of Merrick/Freeport Troop 225, who will be doing his Eagle Scout project at Brookside; and Freeport Kiwanis Club's Greg Abbate and David Sterner. Our next cleanup will be in the spring.

Fossilfly Imports



Importers of the Finest Murano Glass

Charlie Rowan
crowan@fossilfly.com

Jena Costanzo
jcostanzo@fossilfly.com

46 Beechhurst Avenue • Floral Park, NY 11001
(516) 616-1174 • (707) 988-1534 Fax
<http://www.fossilfly.com>

PHONE (516) 541-2531

JERROLD AXINN, D.D.S., F.A.G.D., P.C.

*Member of SSAS since 1997
Special discount for Audubon members*

92 OCEAN AVENUE
MASSAPEQUA, N.Y. 11758

SSAS BACKYARD BIRD SURVEY

Joe Grupp

As many of you know, the Research Committee is conducting a study to document the bird species found in the SSAS geographical area and to make some estimates as to their numbers. We request input from anyone that feeds and/or observes birds in their yard or neighborhood. If you would like to participate, we would greatly appreciate it.

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. At the end of each month, please mail or e-mail your record to me, or hand it to me at our monthly meeting. 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!

Please mail your data to Mr. J. Grupp, Research Chairperson, 660 Edgemere Ave., Uniondale NY 11553 or e-mail Birdstudyjoeg02@aol.com.

NATURE TALES FROM A WANDERER My Tomorrow Bird

Joe Grupp

There is a bird species that over the last few years I have wanted to see. Over the course of the many years now that I have been observing birds, I had periodically come across it in a field guide or in some other way and always thought that it was a pretty neat bird. Most of the time, but not always, I get my birds by chance, by simply being in the right place at the right time and the bird I observed just happened to be there. One reason that this bird is my



tomorrow bird is that it is seldom found on Long Island even during migration. The bird is the Cerulean Warbler and a small breeding population of it exists relatively close to home, in the Bear Mountain/West Point region of our state, only an hour and a half by car from the SSAS area.

That sure makes it a reasonable bird to try to find in season, although not a given just by going there unless you are with someone who knows the location of a breeding pair or you are willing to do some serious exploring on your own. My problem, and it is only my problem (all in my head), is that the bird in season is just far enough away so that going to find it would take a good portion of a day, but close enough so I can put off trying to find it until tomorrow or next week or next year, because it is relatively close to home. At times I have even chosen a much longer trip to Cape May or maybe one an even longer distance away that takes a few days, because "I can always get to the Bear Mountain area tomorrow."

In October of 2001, 28 national and regional conservation organizations filed a petition with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to have the Cerulean Warbler listed as a threatened species, and litigation is currently underway in regards to that petition. The Cerulean Warbler is listed by the NY State Department of Environmental Conservation as a species of special concern in New York State and appears on the National Audubon Society's WatchList in the red category. The WatchList has no legal standing, but is based on a scientific evaluation of the status of bird populations and is instrumental in calling attention to species whose survival may be tenuous. The red category of the WatchList denotes the greatest concern for the future of the species.

Breeding Bird Survey data indicates a decline in population of between 3 and 4 percent per year since 1966, a 70% decline over that time. Complete population data from the historical center of the breeding range is not fully known. The Cornell Lab of Ornithology conducted an extensive study, The Cerulean Warbler Atlas Project, using professional biologists and experienced birders to survey Cerulean Warbler populations throughout their breeding range. The project then published *An Atlas of Cerulean Warbler Populations* and submitted it to the U.S.

Fish and Wildlife Service, as well as making it available to the public in December 2000. The bird's breeding range covers the southeastern area of North America and is very fragmented, as the bird nests in mature moist forest and occasionally in mature forests on dry slopes. Much of the required type of habitat has been lost to logging and development. The atlas covers 28 states and Ontario in Canada, with some locations being more heavily surveyed than others. Regarding NY only, it reports the largest population to be in the Montezuma Wetlands area, which is in the northwestern part of the state and was thoroughly surveyed, resulting in 325 singing males being reported. Among other NY breeding areas and closer to home, a strand of small fragmented sites extends from northern New Jersey across the Hudson Valley through the Bear Mountain/West Point region. The Bear Mountain site reported 33 singing males. The total singing males reported for the state was 1068. An updated atlas will be published in the spring.

The male Cerulean Warbler is blue above and white below, with two white wing bars, a black band across its breast, and black stripes on its sides. The female is dull olive green above and dull white below, with a light blue cap and white eyebrow stripe, and also has two white wing bars. The female lays three to five eggs, which are incubated for nine to ten days. They usually produce only one brood per year. They spend their winters in the forested mountains of Columbia, Venezuela, Peru, and Bolivia. Those forested areas are being exploited by farming that destroys the bird's winter habitat.

Even as the Cerulean Warbler has become my tomorrow bird, its future for tomorrow is cloudy. I will take the positive approach and hope the current attention being paid to its population status will assure its survival for generations to come. Perhaps in the spring I will make tomorrow today and get myself upstate to search for that bird.

A GOOD TIME WAS HAD BY ALL!

Therese Lucas

The first annual South Shore Audubon Society fundraiser at Pizzeria Uno was held on October 21. SSAS will realize a 15% share of the total tab from customers who presented the appropriate certificate. We're looking forward to an even larger turnout next year, once word spreads about the good food, laughs, and camaraderie. If sales top \$1,000, we will then garner a 20% share of the additional total.

The hat contest winners were Jeanne Brennan and Lygia M. DeCastro in the adult category, and Jillian DeJoya in the children's category. Some people made an entrance wearing their birding-related hat; others kept them on while eating. Even a waiter got into the fun; he picked a favorite and waited tables, showing off his new look. There were queries from a number of diners as well.

Special thanks to Rick Huhn and his mom, Kim, for providing the digital camera and copies of the photos. The photos of the entrants and some of the guests were on display at our November general meeting.

Hats were also worn by Nina Consalvo, Joanne Del Prete, Dolores Grupp, Joe Grupp, Chuck Hersh, Therese Lucas, Mary May, Maureen Rube, Paul Rube, Cliff Russell, Mary Jane Russell, Chris Schmitt, and Mike Sperling.

The wheels are already turning for creating ideas for next year's contest.

Many thanks to all who joined us! Besides all of the above, we were joined by Carolyn Allstadt; Gloria Berkowitz; Alice Blaustein; Mary Jane Conlon; Sue DeJoya; Esther & Lynette Eckland; Rich, Sarah, Aly & Ben Huhn; Richard & Marilyn Huhn; Marge Jaeger; Rosemarie & K. T. Kamins; Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Landesburg; Louise Leonard; Carmela Maskulyak; Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Matragrano; Mary May; Joan McGee; Wendy Murbach; Lou Paolillo; Michael & Lisa Soethout; Mr. & Mrs. Ed Sperling; and Louise Zech.

 **BIRD WALKS** 
Elliott Kutner

All walks start at 9:30 A.M. except for Pelham Bay; 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.

- Nov. 28 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- Dec. 5 Pelham Bay *for Owls* [pull over to street on extreme right after going through Throgs Neck Bridge toll (Pennyfield Ave.); meet at 9 A.M.; hiking shoes recommended]
- Dec. 12 Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
- Dec. 19 Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner
- Dec. 26 *Season's Greetings — No Walk*
- Jan. 2 *Happy New Year — No Walk*
- Jan. 9 Zach's Bay Parking Field #4, N.E. corner
- Jan. 16 Hempstead Lake State Park (Exit 18, first lot south of Southern State Parkway, south end of lot)
- Jan. 23 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- Jan. 30 Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
- Feb. 6 Pelham Bay *for Owls* (9 A.M.)
- Feb. 13 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- Feb. 20 Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner
- Feb. 27 Zach's Bay Parking Field #4, N.E. corner
- Mar. 6 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- Mar. 13 Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner

RARE BIRD ALERT (212) 979-3070

NASSAU COUNTY POLLUTION HOTLINE 739-6666

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 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 the last *Skimmer* are:

- Baldwin Ivy Bates
- Bethpage Althea Daly, Kristen Reichling, J. Simonetti
- East Meadow Karen Alster, Miguel Montalvo, Elizabeth Reif
- East Rockaway Anne Delaney
- Farmingdale M. Brodersen
- Floral Park Larry Ginsberg, Thomas Lavin, William Reno
- Franklin Square William Halloran
- Freeport Patricia Schwartz
- Hicksville Paul S. Beeber, Julia M. Brischler, Maryellen Cardillo, Mrs. M. Leogrande, John Lupski
- Holbrook Richie & Sandy Ponzini
- Malverne Bruce Barnes, John Franklin, Kathy Marciniak
- Massapequa Diana Marchini, Angelo L. Marcial, Adele & Peter Portanova, Mrs. Barbara Schiappa, Sharon Schwarz
- Merrick Gary Jorisch
- Mineola Maureen Kelleher
- Oakdale Rick Huhn
- Oceanside D. M. Bruno
- Plainview Harriet Greenberg
- Rockville Centre Carol Eisenberg
- Seaford Toba Hartmann
- Stewart Manor Raymond P. Donnelly
- Valley Stream Marjorie Lindauer, Gail Lindman Tinghitella
- West Hempstead Linda Neyssen, Jean Santoro



VISIT SSAS'S ONLINE NATURE STORE

South Shore Audubon's Web site (www.ssaudubon.org) includes an online store run by WithoutBricks.com. Our chapter receives a portion of all purchases, so please pay our store a visit and look at some of the 7000+ items.

There are over 4500 books about birds, animals, insects, trees, natural history, geology, astronomy, gardening, etc., typically available at a 20% discount. You can also purchase videos, CD-ROMs, software, bird and squirrel feeders, birdseed, discounted nature jewelry, bird-friendly coffee, and more in over 20 departments, including: Animals; Art & Photography; Audio, Video & CDs; Best-Selling Items; Binoculars & Optics; Bird Baths, Clocks, etc.; Bird Books; Bird Feeders; Bird Food; Bird Houses; Bird Songs; Butterflies & Bugs; Children's Books; Clothes; Earth & Space; Environment; Field Guide Series; Gardening; Gifts, Coffee & Toys; Jewelry; Magazines; Natural History; Plants; Recreation Guides; and Wholesale CD-ROMs.



(516) 594-0300, Ext 11

Fax: (516) 594-0801

ARTHUR C. SNOW Certified Public Accountant

41 Front Street, Suite 5 (Second Floor)

Rockville Centre, New York 11570

e-mail: mrblizrd@ix.netcom.com

SOUTHERN NASSAU CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Michael Sperling

National Audubon's Web site (<http://cbc.audubon.org>) includes data from the annual Southern Nassau County Christmas Bird Count from as far back as 1931. SSAS was founded in 1970 and, despite our repeated efforts to play a role in our area's CBC, we've consistently been discouraged by its compilers (i.e., the local organizers) from even publicizing the count in the *Skimmer*. That situation has improved somewhat this year, thanks to a reply I received from one of the compilers who took over the count a year ago.

CBCs nationwide can take place on any day between December 14 and January 5; the Southern Nassau CBC will be on Sunday, January 2. It costs \$5 to participate and the count runs all day regardless of the weather (unless there's a blizzard), typically beginning at 6 A.M. The ten teams cover specific areas and generally consist of two or three members. Good birding skills, plenty of stamina, and a willingness to follow the team leader's instructions are expected.

If you're interested in participating, call me soon at 541-0805 (evenings) or e-mail mssperling@compuserve.com.



Explore the coast with the AMERICAN LITTORAL SOCIETY

HOLIDAY PARTY (Sat., Dec. 4, 5-10 P.M.). Annual fun event at Floyd Bennett Field. Hike @ 3 P.M. Donation \$35 incl. all food & drink, "Ugly Auction," great door prizes, flamenco dancing.

NEW YEAR'S DAY BEACHWALK. Meet 11 A.M. at Jones Beach West End 2 parking lot. Leader: Jeff Gottlieb. Free.

MONTAUK WINTER WEEKEND (Jan. 7-9). Our 20th year! Enjoy 2 nights at luxurious Montauk Manor, 5 meals, 5 hikes, 2 evening programs. Cost: \$325.

FLORIDA EVERGLADES (Jan. 29 to Feb. 6). Tour by van the best birding & wildlife areas of Everglades National Park & southern Florida.

JAMAICA BAY WILDLIFE REFUGE: SNOWBIRDS WALK (Sun., Feb. 20). Meet at the visitor center parking lot at 11 A.M. for a hike around the refuge to look for wintering songbirds, hawks & owls. Leader: Don Riepe. Free.

COSTA RICA (March 3-12). Visit LaSelva, Poas Volcano, Monteverde Cloud Forest, Carara Biological Reserve, Manuel Antonio National Park. Leader: Don Riepe.

GALAPAGOS ISLANDS (April 1-11). Join Mickey Maxwell Cohen on an 11-day adventure in the Galapagos. Call Mickey for details: (718) 471-2166.

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

MASSAPEQUA PRESERVE UPDATE

Michael Sperling

Back in May 2003, the *Skimmer* reported the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the proposed Massapequa Preserve Streamflow Augmentation and Pond Restoration.

According to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's weekly Environmental Notice Bulletin (<http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/enb/index.html>) of November 3, "The Nassau County Legislature, as lead agency, has accepted a Final Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Massapequa Preserve Streamflow Augmentation and Pond Restoration. Nassau County is proposing to augment streamflow by better management of stormwater, making improvements to the streams and ponds, and adding flow from shallow wells. Nassau County anticipates that the proposed improvements will restore the wetlands and open water environments of the Preserve for passive as well as active recreation, and improve the eventual overflow discharge to the Great South Bay.

"As part of the restoration initiation, the U.S. EPA, NYSDEC, Nassau County Department of Public Works, and the Town of Oyster Bay are committed to working together to determine the disposal location for contaminated sediments dredged from the streams and ponds to

the Preserve. The Massapequa Preserve extends approximately 4 miles south from Boundary Road north of the Southern State to Merrick Road and is immediately west of Lake Shore Drive, Massapequa, Nassau County, NY.”

Copies of the Draft and Final EIS are available in the Massapequa and Farmingdale libraries, and SSAS’s copy is currently in my possession. As you can see in the Final EIS, I commented on the draft using waterfowl data provided by Joe Grupp. I live less than a block from the Preserve and am a founding director of Friends of Massapequa Preserve.

The plan would fulfill a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency requirement that Massapequa Preserve’s stream, ponds, reservoir, and lake withstand the drying effects that were correctly anticipated when sewers were allowed to be installed in the surrounding neighborhoods several decades ago. The “contaminated sediments” referred to above are in the northern end of the Preserve; they primarily consist of cadmium and chromium from the soon-to-be-cleaned-up Liberty Industrial Finishing Superfund site that is a half mile away.

* * * * *

According to the Final EIS, the “proposed improvements” are:

Stormwater Treatment. Preserve the ecology of the stream and open water bodies of the Preserve, and the receiving waters of the South Shore Estuary, by treating stormwater for floatables, sediments, and other contaminants. Install sedimentation basins, end-of-pipe treatment units, and catch basins. Cut back several stormwater pipes and install grassed swales.

Pond Improvements. Construct stream channels by constructing berms in Ponds 2 and 3 [Pond 3 is where SSAS walks typically spend the most time, north of Clark Boulevard] to isolate streamflow from stormwater and pond water. Dredge approximately one-third of Ponds 2 and 3 to restore their aesthetic and ecological values, and reduce their impact on stream temperatures.

Reservoir and Lake Improvements. Dredge a channel through the northeastern corner of the Massapequa Reservoir [north of the LIRR tracks] to provide a deeper and therefore cooler passageway and potential breeding area for trout. Plant vegetation along the eastern shore of the Reservoir to reduce the activity of geese and introduction of their waste products into the Reservoir.



Construct a marsh along the southern edge of Massapequa Lake [north of Merrick Road] to improve water quality and aquatic habitat. Extend the marsh approximately twenty to forty feet from the shore. Introduce native, noninvasive wetland plants.

Install fish ladders from the intertidal (saltwater) canals into Massapequa Lake at the two spillways to allow the passage of fish such as alewives, shad, sea run trout, and others that breed in fresh water and return to the sea as juveniles. Install an additional fish ladder at the Massapequa

Reservoir spillway to allow fish passage to the Reservoir, northern stream channel, and ponds.

Irrigation of the Red Maple Swamp. Preserve the moist environment of the Red Maple Swamp with diverted stormwater. Construct grassed swales with weirs from Ponds 2 and 3 into the swamp south of each pond to direct stormwater into the swamp rather than into the Creek channel. Protect cooler stream temperatures, allow treatment and recharge of the stormwater, and irrigate the Red Maple Swamp by diverting stormwater.

Stream Channel Improvements. Improve the stream channel to prevent erosion and loss of wetland vegetation, and to restore its suitability for trout habitat. Create pool and riffle areas with various rock structures to protect fish from predators, provide cooler temperatures, and serve as potential breeding areas. Alter the flow pattern in certain sections of the channel to protect the banks and path. Install new check dams at the head of Ponds 1, 2, and 3 to divert stormwater flow into the ponds and retain base flow in the stream channel. Install a “base flow notch” into existing check dams to concentrate streamflow, maintain temperatures, and allow fish passage.

Streamflow Augmentation. Augment streamflow by adding up to 1100 gallons per minute (gpm) of flow to the stream channel downstream of Linden Street [south of the Southern State Parkway]. Utilize shallow well water from beneath Massapequa Reservoir. Discharge most of the water south of the Walker Street culverts [five blocks south of Linden] and some just south of Linden Street. Pump the water from the shallow well through a buried pipe along the eastern shore of the Reservoir and adjacent to the paved path along the stream channel. Utilize the treated discharge from the Liberty site “pump and treat” groundwater remediation if it becomes available.

Educational and Recreational Improvements. Install location markers in the asphalt path. Install benches around the ponds and the Lake. Install a self-guiding nature trail around Pond 3. Construct a walkway around the southern end of Massapequa Lake and from Brady Park to the Massapequa Reservoir spillway.

* * * * *

According to an October 5 press release from Nassau County Legislator Peter J. Schmitt of Massapequa, “The Capital Project planned for the Preserve is intended to improve the flow of the Massapequa Creek, which is the lifeblood of the Preserve... The \$3.3 million project will be sent to the Nassau County Planning Department for review. The Planning Department will then issue a findings statement that will be voted on by the Legislature. Once it has passed the Legislature, the engineering plans and the permit for the project will be sent to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation in March of 2005. If approved, the DEC will be issuing work permits for the commencement of the project sometime in 2006.”

SSAS is paying attention as these plans unfold. We’ll keep you posted.