

GARAGE SALE ITEMS WANTED!

As mentioned last month, SSAS has scheduled a garage sale on **Saturday, June 2** (rain date June 3) at the Franklin Square home of two of our members. We need stuff to sell; what you donate can be claimed as a tax deduction. So, please keep us in mind if you have items that you no longer need. If you're unable to bring your donation to the sale, we'll make arrangements to get it from you beforehand. Details to come in next month's *Skimmer*.

BIRD WALKS

Elliott Kulner

All walks start at 9:30 A.M.; 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 ssaadubon.org.

- Mar. 25 Jones Beach Fishing Piers (Field #10)
- Apr. 1 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- Apr. 8 Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
- Apr. 15 Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
- Apr. 22 & 29 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

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"OLD PLAINVIEW" UPDATE

As you may already know, early in the evening of March 6, the "Old Plainview" proposal to develop 165 acres was withdrawn by Charles Wang, at the beginning of the standing-room-only second part of the day's hearing. In last month's *Skimmer* and in a letter sent to the Town of Oyster Bay's politicians that would have been read at the hearing, we voiced our opposition to the proposal.

It was reported that Mr. Wang and his partners will now seek to build two office buildings totaling 650,000 square feet and 45 single-family houses, which would not require any zoning changes but would still require approval from Tobay, starting the process all over again. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement prepared for "Old Plainview" compared it to alternatives, one of which was this scenario. The 143-acre southern parcel, which contains 95 acres of forest (the northern parcel is completely developed), would get all of the houses (at least an acre per property) plus 420,000 square feet of the office space. 58.11% of the southern parcel would become impervious (5.64% covered by pavement plus 52.47% covered by buildings), which is 6.04% less than for "Old Plainview." SSAS is advocating that the southern parcel, which was formerly owned by Nassau County, be preserved.

MORTON REMINDER

As mentioned in last month's *Skimmer*, on **Saturday, March 31**, we will meet at 10 A.M. at Morton National Wildlife Refuge, located on the peninsula of Jessups Neck in Noyack, which is just west of Sag Harbor. Bring or share sunflower seeds or shelled peanuts if you want to experience having Black-capped Chickadees, White-breasted Nuthatches, Tufted Titmice, and maybe Northern Cardinals land on your outstretched hand a few minutes after you get out of your car and enter the main trail. We should see many other bird species too at this scenic spot.

Directions to Morton: Sunrise Highway (Route 27) eastbound (from LI Expressway take exit 70, County Road 111 and follow signs to Rt. 27 east; from Southern State Parkway, take exit 44 for Sunrise Highway). Route 27 will change from a highway to a local roadway. A few miles past the Stony Brook Southampton campus (and 17.1 miles from County Road 111), make a left at the County Road 52 intersection (the sign points left for North Sea and Noyack). Proceed 0.9 miles and turn left at a traffic light onto County Road 38. Go 1.4 miles and turn right onto Noyack Road (look for a sign on the right side of the road, "Morton Refuge 5 Miles"). The refuge entrance is on the left.

The parking fee is \$4 per vehicle, payable by inserting a check or cash in an envelope. Any questions? Call Wendy Murbach at 546-6303. Heavy rain cancels.



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AMERICAN LITTORAL SOCIETY

NEW YORK AQUARIUM "BEHIND-THE-SCENES" TOUR (Sat., March 31). Meet at aquarium entrance at 10 A.M. sharp for a 2-1/2 hour tour led by marine educator Bob Cummings. See sea otters, penguins, sharks, walrus, sea turtles, local & tropical fishes. Cost: \$25 (kids \$15). Contact Don to reserve.

EARTH DAY EVENT: Plumb Beach Restoration — Cleanup & Planting, Jamaica Bay (Sun., April 22). Meet at the Plumb Beach parking lot on the Belt Parkway near Knapp St (Exit 9). This project will continue through April 27. Groups welcome.

JAMAICA BAY SUNSET CRUISES (Sat., June 2 & 16). Join us at 5 P.M. for a special 3-hour cruise along the backwater marshes of the bay aboard the 96' boat "Dorothy B VIII" out of Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn. Learn about the history & ecology of the refuge and see nesting peregrine falcon, osprey, oystercatcher, egrets, ibis, and many other species. Cost: \$45 includes narrated tour, wine & cheese, fruit, snacks.

MONTAUK SPRING WEEKEND (June 8-10). Enjoy a weekend at Montauk during peak orchid, beach rose, and heather blossom time. Cost: \$345 incl. 2 nights at luxurious Manor House, 5 meals, 5 hikes, 2 evening lectures, star watch, and free pickup at LIRR station. Activities incl. birding, botany, geology, tidepools, seining, optional whale watch.

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

SSAS BIRDATHON 2007 IS COMING!

This year, SSAS will conduct its 20th 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 height. Due to the decision by National Audubon



to sharply decrease the amount of financial support given to chapters, the Birdathon has become one of our major sources of income. Many of you have been very generous with your time and pledges in recent years; we hope you will continue and increase your gift of either time or pledges this year. Birding expertise and big pledges are not necessary; anyone can join one of SSAS's teams and help us find species, or you can do your own Birdathon anywhere.

Mark the dates on your calendar — **Friday, May 11** from 5:00 P.M. until **Saturday, May 12** at 5:00 P.M. The rain dates are one week later at the same time. Team details will be in the next *Skimmer*.

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 (September through May) 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.

Editor's Note: National Audubon Society recently switched to a paperless and currently very imperfect system of informing chapters about new members, renewals, address changes, etc. As far as we can determine, our brand-new members to welcome (plus two spelling corrections; oops) are:

- Atlantic Beach Ms. Phyllis J. B. Jonas
- Baldwin Ms. Helga F. Pacella
- Bellmore Ms. Nina Fatta, Mr. John Nicolosi

- Bethpage Sandy Kimball
 - East Meadow Ms. Amanda Lev
 - Hempstead Mr. Walter J. Madden
 - Hicksville Deepak K. Arora
 - Island Park Mr. Billy Barton
 - Lawrence Ms. Lynne Moloney
 - Levittown Mrs. R. A. McGlinchey
 - Long Beach Mr. Brian Frazee
 - Lynbrook Mr. Timothy Healy
 - Massapequa Ms. Rosemary Lankenau, Joanna Meyers
 - Massapequa Park Andrea Barrett, Ms. Linda Czyzak
 - Merrick Ms. Nancy Comer
 - Oceanside Ms. Lora Tryon
 - Plainview Mr. David Lyon, Carol & Lance Meschkow
 - Valley Stream Ms. Jane O'Connor, Mrs. Constance Oro
 - Woodmere Ms. Eileen Amdur, L. Satler
- *****
 (516) 887-1541 Fax: (516) 887-1553



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BECOME A MEMBER OF SSAS
Think Globally, but Join Locally!

Option 1. You can join SSAS for a year by sending \$15 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 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 \$0 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; \$15 for students and seniors.

➔ **Renewing?** Please send NAS renewals directly to NAS (we now get \$0 for all NAS renewals).

Donations to SSAS are always welcome!



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

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NO.: _____

E-MAIL: _____

Chapter Code R15 7XCH (South Shore Audubon Society)

