

SOUTH SHORE SKIMMER



VOLUME 41, NUMBER 1 — SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER 2010

NEXT MEETING

John Gaglione

DATE: Tuesday, September 14, 2010
TIME: 7:30 P.M.
PLACE: Freeport Memorial Library
144 W. Merrick Rd. (at S. Ocean Ave.)
SPEAKERS: Kathaleen Donnelly & Maxwell Corydon
Wheat, Jr.
TOPIC: Paumanok - Poems and Pictures of
Long Island

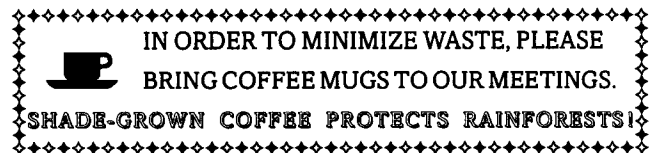
This month's meeting will feature a slide presentation with music. Kathy Donnelly compiled and edited the book *PAUMANOK — Poems and Pictures of Long Island*, which is an anthology of "poetography" — a collection of poems and photographs, married to each other. One of the poets whose work is included in the book will be joining her — long-time SSAS member Max Wheat.

The book's artists live on or are from Long Island. It is a walk through the seasons, each day of the year. It, and tonight's program, are about life on this island, the life we can find if we look hard enough into the secret places all around: through the bramble and thickets of the forest, deep into the pine barrens, in the gardens and flower fields, along the cliffs and rocky shorelines of the Sound, by river edges, near ponds, around lakes, and over the sandy dunes to the ocean. It is about beauty and wonder in our natural world, with us day in and out, just waiting to be explored! Join us!

Information about the book is available at <http://poetographylongisland.com>.

Pre-Meeting Program on Birds. Starting at 7 P.M. most months, Scott Oglesby expands our birding horizons in the room beyond our coffee-break tables. Topic suggestions for future talks are welcome.

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.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Wendy Murbach

Welcome to South Shore Audubon's 2010/2011 season. Since our last issue of the *Skimmer* appeared, SSAS has gone to Central Park for an outstanding birding experience during prime warbler migration. The trip was arranged by Joanne Del Prete and the walk was led by Chris Cooper.

Two teams jostled for the most species of birds seen in a 24-hour span during our Birdathon which was directed by Jim Remsen, who also leads one of the teams. Paul Butkereiit leads the other team during our amazingly active and exciting fund-raising day.

We attended an evening dinner, meeting and greeting the interesting and enthusiastic members of SSAS at the Coral House and honoring our own outstanding member, Betsy Gulotta. At the dinner, two Jerry Bishop Environmental Scholarships were awarded to college students who are majoring in biology or ecologically related studies. The SSAS officers and the members of the Board of Directors were introduced, both those who served during the year past and those that were taking on new roles on the Board for this year.

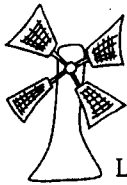
Alice O'Connor and Marilyn Hametz arranged for our Walk in the Woods at Brookside Preserve. It was an experience of being in a small woodsy area, and learning about what might be found there for all those people who went on the walks led by our members that day.

Two community-run day camps were treated to some Long Island nature-related activities, games, and a story reading, plus being visited by or visiting Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary in order to see live animals that they might encounter right here on Long Island.

Bird walks start again on August 15 after giving the nesting birds enough time to have their clutches, nurture the nestlings, and watch them leave the nest. Follow Steve Schellenger to the varied locations to see many species of birds this fall. We will be looking for you as we look for birds.

There are many environmentally important decisions being made this year. Watch out for what is being planned for the Town of Hempstead area called The Hub. Transportation issues are being discussed. A casino run by the Shinnecock Indian tribe is being researched. A new Coliseum is being planned in a matrix of housing, stores, and other developmental options. Your water supply is a factor, as is congestion, air pollution, urbanization, widening of Meadowbrook State Parkway, etc. Let your opinions count.

The New York Department of State is doing a survey prior to making decisions about siting windmills off the coast of Long Island. If you use the ocean — boat there, fish there, use the shoreline for birding, swimming, etc. —



please contact Jim Brown or me, both of whom have been to a survey workshop and are prepared to gather information and relay it to the Department of State. DOS wants to hear from all who use the ocean that fronts Long Island. Again, make sure that your voice is heard.

Alternative energy generation is a necessity. Positioning the means of generating that energy is important for all the species that inhabit Long Island. DOS is trying very hard to be responsible in this way. Please help them.

Nassau County has been holding a series of meetings with regard to the Muttontown Preserve's Master Plan. Saratoga Associates has been charged with hearing what the various organizations and the public wish to see happen to the preserve, notating it, and then coming up with a plan that incorporates these factors in a manner that is possible and is for the benefit of the environment and the various constituencies in the county. This process is very important, both for Muttontown Preserve itself and for all the other Nassau County preserves. The Muttontown Master Plan is going to be the template for the plans for all the other preserves. We need to get it right the first time so that our preserves are secure, environmentally managed, and able to be utilized as preserves should be used. Your opinion matters. Your taxes fund these preserves.

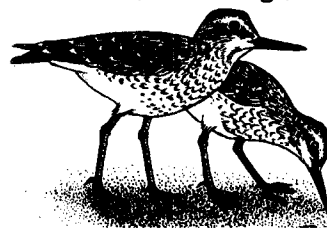
I am looking forward to seeing you all at meetings, bird walks, and in attendance at the various meetings that are periodically held about environmental issues for our local area.

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.

BANDED SHOREBIRDS

Editor's note: Shortly after our last issue went to the printer, in April we received the following from David Mizrahi of New Jersey Audubon Society and Lawrence Niles of Conserve Wildlife Foundation of NJ:

We are writing to announce our new website for reporting the resighting of flagged shorebirds and to enlist your help in recruiting new volunteers. Over the last 15 years, scientists have been banding shorebirds to study epic hemispheric journeys of migratory shorebirds. In recent years, various species have been marked with leg flags bearing three-character codes (for example, ABC, A1C), allowing identification of individuals with spotting scopes. To date, New Jersey and Delaware Divisions of Fish and Wildlife and New Jersey Audubon Society have individually marked over 35,000 Red Knots (pictured), Ruddy Turnstones, Sanderlings, and Semipalmated Sandpipers



with coded leg flags during spring migration stopovers in Delaware Bay. The above organizations, with financial support from Clear into the Future: a DuPont Delaware Estuary Initiative,

and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, developed a web-based relational database (www.bandedbirds.org) to improve reporting and management of resightings, especially data from the birdwatching public.

Although researchers conduct regular resighting efforts for shorebirds, usually at key breeding, migratory, and wintering locations, resightings by recreational birdwatchers can contribute significantly to this effort. More than 7000 resightings have been reported by birdwatchers since last May [2009]. The combination of banding and resighting data allows greater understanding of the habitat uses and needs of shorebirds, many of which are imperiled.

Your resightings count! Go to www.bandedbirds.org to learn resighting techniques, and then click on Report Resighting to enter your data. These reports are added directly to an active database maintained by a consortium of research groups. Obtain immediate feedback about the known journey of the specific bird(s) you have resighted. Whether yours is the first report or one of many for a single individual, each resighting contributes to our ability to conserve these species.

HEMPSTEAD PLAINS WALK SCHEDULED

SSAS's new programs chair, John Gaglione, has booked our own Betsy Gulotta as the speaker for our October 12 meeting. As a sequel to her presentation, they have scheduled a one-hour field trip in the Hempstead Plains for **Saturday, October 23**, starting at 9:30 A.M. 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 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. Check out the special events that are mentioned in this *Skimmer*. Attend them yourself, and bring your family and friends too.

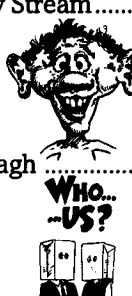
You are warmly invited to be an active participant in this vibrant all-volunteer organization comprised of persons who, like you, care about the earth we live on, about our local environment, and about the creatures that live alongside us.

Our new members since the last *Skimmer* are:

- Atlantic Beach Eileen Adler
- Baldwin Mary Gierczak
- Bellmore Patricia Conway, Jill Mullen, Rebecca Pine, Diana Rhodes
- Bethpage Joan Delardi, Elizabeth Samartano, Linda Schmitt
- East Meadow Mary Bensen, Phyllis Sperr
- East Rockaway Lois Martucciello
- Elmont Linda Howe
- Farmingdale Diana Buehler, Phyllis Cerbini, Dorothy Conboy, Joyce Cosentino, Erin J. Nolan, Erin Quinn, Joan Ryan
- Floral Park Lisa Huckstadt, Frank Klappert, Maureen Lonergan, Davia Palmeri, Laura Willumstad
- Freeport Pauline Washington
- Garden City Donald Deegan, Neil J. Fogarty, Michael & Francine Gumiela, Deidre Mastaglio, R.J. & Kathleen Muller, Jennifer Ruys, Isabelle Smith
- Glen Oaks M. Kalepu, Steven Wimpfheimer
- Hewlett Julia Brazil, Jane Deriquito, Sally Peretz, Carol Suppa
- Hicksville Edith Berg, Scott Lubitz, Peggy O'Connell, Frank Schmitt, Carol M. Smith, Joseph Wilkonski
- Inwood Doris Green
- Lawrence Patricia M. Emery, Elana Horowitz, Morton & Marilyn Press



- Levittown Pamela Heckhaus, Arlene Meckler, Dominic Visceglia
 - Lido Beach Lea Forelli
 - Long Beach Margaret O'Neill, Robyn Philip-Norton, Samantha Vought, Judy Wiss
 - Lynbrook Dean Blake, Earl Dridge
 - Malverne Rosemary & Mike Butigian, H. Claire Ferguson
 - Massapequa Ellen Bloeth, Arleen Boyle, Robert A. Chinsky, Gladys McCullagh, Beatriz Theofanis
 - Merrick Mary D. Draffen, Lisa Drewes, Michael Krysko, Robert F. Rose, Richard Steigman, Sanford Stevens, Elaine T. Warshaw
 - Oceanside Rachel Kalina
 - Plainview Roberta Boritz, Marjorie Johnson, Marianne Silk
 - Point Lookout Simone Lenczewski
 - Rockville Centre Marlene Agovino, Joyce Damino, Susan Gabel, Anne F. Mead, Susan J. Milano, Jeff Posner
 - Seaford Maryann De Sio, Andrea Digregorio, Barbara Fkiaras, Christine Loomie, Robert Thornell
 - Syosset Lynne Cooper
 - Uniondale D. Meola
 - Valley Stream Victor M. Brucato, Florence Calabro, Linda Giordano, Diana Ihmann, Sally Ludwikowski, Jerry Tennenbaum, Eleanor Truman, Ted Vetere
 - Wantagh Norma Colon, Frank Crispens, Robert Hawd, Barrie Kolstein, John Martin, Norman Mills, Cathey A. Schortemeyer, Laura Thorne
 - West Hempstead Joan Pittman
 - Woodmere Lynn Hoch, George Papini
- Phone: (516) 931-1445
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INSANITY ISLAND UPDATE

Jim Brown

Below are excerpts from a July 26 message from Clean Ocean Action announcing that the Atlantic Sea Island Group LNG project has been officially withdrawn. This is great news, a true victory for all the individuals and groups that have fought hard to keep the South Shore of Long Island free of LNG! Many thanks to all of you who have participated in this campaign during the past few years, lobbying government representatives, writing letters, demonstrating — speaking truth and rationality to power! Nevertheless, two other similar liquefied natural gas projects are still on the table — they have not yet been withdrawn — and we must avoid complacency and remain vigilant to protect our precious marine and coastal environments. However, in defeating the concrete and stone island off our shores that the petroleum industry was seeking to build, we won. We have prevented a dangerous and unnecessary industrialization of our ocean. Congratulations!

Editor's note: We first reported about this proposed 86-acre island, 13.5 miles from Long Beach, in our February 2008 issue.

Recently, the U.S. Coast Guard and the Department of Transportation's Maritime Administration formally acknowledged Atlantic Sea Island Group (ASIG)'s withdrawal of their permit application to construct "Safe Harbor Energy," and closed the file on the project which was a massive man-made island in the Atlantic Ocean to import foreign liquefied natural gas (LNG). The federal agencies were responding to a letter sent by ASIG, who chose to withdraw their proposal due to "existing market conditions; the current 'climate' regarding offshore development in the aftermath of the recent Gulf incident; and the prevailing uncertainty with respect to both the U.S. and global economy."

Now that ASIG has officially withdrawn their application, two LNG projects applications off the New York and New Jersey coast remain pending: Excalibur's Liberty Natural Gas off Asbury Park, and ExxonMobil's Blue Ocean Energy, off Sea Girt.

"ASIG is making the right decision and we can't wait for this project to sink," said Cindy Zipf, Executive Director of Clean Ocean Action, the group coordinating the grassroots opposition, a campaign of over 80 organizations, to the LNG island. "It is a great victory for the ocean, our energy independence, and the power of the people. Clean Ocean Action is calling on the other two projects to follow ASIG's lead," Zipf added, "be kind to your investors and the United States of America; withdraw these projects."

"I am proud to be a part of a united coalition among New Jersey, New York City, Nassau and Suffolk who worked tirelessly in defeating this LNG facility," said Claudia Borecky, Co-Chair of Nassau Legislator David Denenberg's Taskforce Against the LNG Island. "Without

their love of our ocean, love of our country, and love of our planet, this island would have been built."

Background: ASIG's Safe Harbor application was announced in August, 2007. Due to its massive size and concept, the proposal was dubbed "Insanity Island" by environmental, fishing, energy independence, and national security groups. Under the Deepwater Port Act, the State of New York was authorized to review the project application and concur with any federal decisions. In 2008, New Jersey requested and received "Adjacent Coastal State" status, a procedural step required in order for New Jersey to be given the same level of input as New York. On Earth Day, New Jersey Governor Christie announced he would oppose all LNG projects and, if licenses were granted under the Deepwater Port Act, he would use his "Adjacent Coastal State" veto authority to stop the projects from moving forward.

SSAS Mission Statement

The mission of South Shore Audubon Society is to promote environmental education; conduct research pertaining to local bird populations, wildlife, and habitat; and preserve and restore our environment, through responsible activism, for the benefit of both people and wildlife.



Explore the coast
with the

AMERICAN LITTORAL SOCIETY

JAMAICA BAY SUNSET CRUISE (Sat., Sept. 25, 4-7 P.M.). Join us aboard the 100 ft. boat the "Golden Sunshine" for a 3-hour narrated cruise into the backwater marshes of the bay. Cost: \$45 incl. wine & cheese, fruit, drinks, snacks. Leaders: Mickey Cohen, Don Riepe. E-mail: donriepe@gmail.com.

NYCA RAPTOR MIGRATION AT JAMAICA BAY (Sun., Oct. 10). Meet 10 A.M. at Bldg. 1, Fort Tilden for a hike along the beach, dunes and woods and visit the hawk watch platform. For info & reservations, e-mail donriepe@gmail.com. Free.

ANNUAL MEETING OF AMERICAN LITTORAL SOCIETY (Montauk, Oct. 21-24). Call ALSHQ for details: (732) 291-0055; e-mail pat@littoralsociety.org.

ASSATEAGUE NATIONAL SEASHORE/CHINCOTEAGUE REFUGE WEEKEND (Nov. 4-7). A great wildlife weekend along the Virginia Coast. See many species of waterfowl, raptors incl. bald eagles, as well as river otter, endangered Delmarva fox squirrel and wild ponies. Best crab cakes anywhere. Cost: \$375 incl. 3 nights at Refuge Inn, morning and afternoon guided hikes around national wildlife refuge and national seashore, bus tour of backwater flats, plus an "all-you-can-eat" seafood buffet. E-mail: driepe@nyc.rr.com.

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.

NEW SSAS EDUCATION PROGRAM

Marilyn Hameiz

South Shore Audubon promoted conservation and provided education and fun with nature for 120 children in pilot programs this summer. Their success is indicated in the following quote: "On behalf of the Freeport Recreation Center, I would like to thank ... the South Shore Audubon program for the wonderful presentation you brought to us on July 27 and July 29. It was certainly a highlighted event for the children. I have received numerous praises and compliments from both the recreation staff present and parents of children who heard about this wonderful event... The props and of course the animals were thoroughly enjoyed. I was amazed at how well-behaved and interested all the children were. Everyone, including myself, learned something new. Thank you again for such a wonderful treat. Your kindness and generosity is very much appreciated." This is part of the thank-you note from Victoria Dinielli, manager of the Freeport Recreation Center.

The program had two parts. The first, presented to the children in small groups, was developed by SSAS volunteers. In this Introduction to Nature, habitat and interrelationships among living things were discussed with the use of a flannel board of habitats and animals, and a web game. The children also had the chance to investigate living things which showed the interdependence and the role of some of the smaller creatures in ecosystems. Sow bugs, snails, larvae, inchworms, and other insects were examined with magnifiers. Larry Gumbs, Margaret Hallden, Barbara Levine, Wendy Murbach, Alice O'Connor, and I, who developed and presented the program, thoroughly enjoyed the project.



The second part was a Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary and Audubon Center program, L.I. Wildlife, which South Shore Audubon sponsored. In this program, the children got to learn about and see close-up a box turtle, a rabbit, an owl, and a red-tailed hawk.

The children were in the Freeport Recreation Center's Summer Youth Program and The Hagedorn Family Resource Center Summer Camp in Hempstead (a program of Family and Children's Association) — summer programs that had no other nature component. They were given a list of free sites they could visit with their families.

Help Needed to Expand Programs. We hope to further refine the programs and include many more children next summer and possibly during the school year. To volunteer to help conduct programs, please contact me at 799-7189 or marilynexpl@yahoo.com.

OUR E-LIST http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ssas_list
OUR WEB SITE (incl. online store) www.ssaudubon.org

BROOKSIDE CLEANUP THANKS

SSAS thanks the following people for participating in our annual spring cleanup last April 25 at Brookside Preserve: the members of Baldwin High School's Blue Marble and Key Clubs (Pamela Arbelaez, Fatima Cadet-Diaby, Melvin De La Cruz, Mary Fallica, Valerie Giovanelli, Rebecca Levy, Ethan Lusterman, Joseph Marchese-Schmitt, Karen Markert, Nicole Pennycooke, Margaret Randall, Gabrielle Stephan, and Marisa Sweeney); Marie Brown; Joan, Paul, Casi, and Alexandra Butkereit; Kerry Da Silva; Doug Green; Charlie Kiefer; Alice O'Connor; David Stolarz; Don Temple; Bill Youngfert; and John Zarudsky.

We especially thank Rory and Geoffrey O'Connor for clearing our trail by sawing the trees that had fallen across it during March's hurricane-force storm.

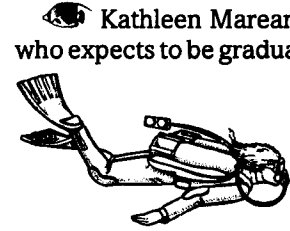
COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Marilyn Hameiz

SSAS congratulates this year's winners of our Jerry Bishop Environmental Scholarships:

Andrew Allstadt, a Ph.D. candidate of the University at Albany, who expects to graduate in December. His dissertation research is on invasive plant species, in which he combines mathematical computation and field studies to show patterns and rates of ecological invasion. He will use his scholarship to help with his field studies equipment.

Kathleen Marean, a junior at Cornell University, who expects to be graduating in May. Her major is natural resources, with a concentration in applied ecology. Her area of interest is fish; she is looking to pursue a Ph.D. in fisheries management or fisheries science. She will use her scholarship to take scuba diving lessons, to become a certified scuba diver.



VOLUNTEERS FOR WILDLIFE (631) 423-0982

NASSAU COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL HOTLINE 571-6306

Enid R. Klein

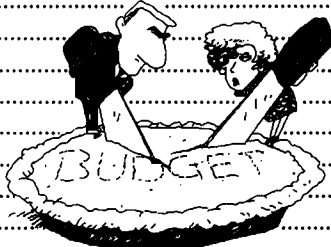
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BUDGET 2010-2011

Bank Fees	\$100
Brookside Preserve	\$1,000
College Scholarships	\$1,500
Conferences	\$1,600
Conservation	\$200
Donations	\$200
Education	\$3,000
Festivals	\$500
Greening of Long Island	\$2,700
High School Scholarships	\$1,000
Insurance	\$2,100
Library	\$1,200
Membership	\$300
Miscellaneous	\$200
Office Expenses	\$500
Publicity	\$100
Refreshments	\$450
Skimmer	\$5,500
Speakers	\$1,800
TR Camp Scholarships/Bus	\$3,000
Total	\$26,950



SECOND ANNUAL WALK IN THE WOODS AT BROOKSIDE

Marilyn Hametz

On Sunday, June 27, South Shore Audubon held the second annual Walk in the Woods, to help the community learn about and explore Brookside Preserve, a nature treasure on the Baldwin-Freeport Border managed by SSAS. More than 50 adults and children participated.

The event included guided walks and a children's "unnature" hunt (fun for adults also, looking for unknown items one of us placed near the trail). There was iced tea, punch, water, cookies, and pretzels for guests and crew.

Many thanks to all who helped at the event: John Gaglione, Doug Green, Betsy Gulotta, Joe Landesberg, Therese Lucas, Alice O'Connor, Dolores Rogers, Michael Sperling, Don Temple, and John Zarudsky.

One special compliment was from a visitor who arrived with her children late in the event. Her sister-in law had been there earlier and telephoned to tell her not to miss it.

BIRDSEED SALE

Although SSAS discontinued its birdseed sales when suppliers eliminated the availability of truck trailers, Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society still sells seed, using pallets delivered to Huntington High School. A limited supply of extra seed will be available on Saturday, October 30 from 9 A.M. to 2 P.M. (unless the sale is canceled due to increasing wheat prices); to request an order form for preordering, call Sharon Brody at 516-433-5590.

BIRD WALKS
Steve Schellenger

All walks start at 9:30 A.M.; no walk if it's raining. Any questions? Call Steve at 987-8103. Directions and summaries may be found at ssaudubon.org.

- Aug. 22 Marine Nature Study Area, Oceanside
- Aug. 29 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- Sep. 5 *No Walk — Labor Day Weekend*
- Sep. 12 Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner*
- Sep. 19 Point Lookout Town Park, S.E. corner (and Lido Preserve afterwards)
- Sep. 26 Hempstead Lake State Park (Southern State Parkway Exit 18 south, Field #3)
- Oct. 3 Mill Pond Park (Wantagh/Bellmore, north side of Merrick Rd.)
- Oct. 10 Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
- Oct. 17 Norman J. Levy Park and Preserve
- Oct. 24 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- Oct. 31 Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner*

*Note: State budget cuts have closed Jones Beach West End #2 except for birding and fishing. Show your binoculars and/or field guide at the booth for access.

PLUM ISLAND UPDATE

John L. Turner

Editor's note: Our March issue contained our first Plum Island article from John Turner, who is the conservation chair of Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society (HOBAS).

Located less than a mile from Orient Point, the tip of Long Island's North Fork, lies the 843-acre, pork-chop-shaped Plum Island. Most famously, the island houses the Plum Island Animal Disease Center. What is less known is that the approximately 90% of Plum Island that is undeveloped not only holds significant ecological and scenic sites — it also holds nationally significant artifacts and historic buildings. Plum Island's scenic value, ecological resources, and historic sites offer tremendous potential for recreation and public education, and make it an ideal candidate for permanent preservation.

Plum Island's wildlife habitat is in danger of being sold to developers. In 2008, Congress approved sale of the island to a private party, with plans to move the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility to another state.

The U.S. government recognized the ecological importance of Plum Island when it declared the Peconic Estuary, where the island is located, one of 28 "Estuaries of National Significance." Hundreds of thousands of federal dollars have been spent on protecting this estuary and the hundreds of wildlife species that it supports. Development of Plum Island would run counter to the long-standing effort to protect this federally recognized body of water. Well-respected private agencies have also recog-

