

PROTECTOR'S OF PINE OAK WOODS



**STATEN ISLAND'S
LAND CONSERVATION
ORGANIZATION**

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FALL 2003

SEASON OF GIFTS

THE FIRST OF THE GIFTS, A GREENBELT FREE OF PARKWAYS

by Dick Buegler

**MESSAGE FROM
THE PRESIDENT**

IN THE 1960S, CONSTRUCTION OF THE VERRAZANO BRIDGE and its main arterial, the Staten Island Expressway was nearing completion. The projected plans from Robert Moses would then have added a Richmond Parkway extension from the Todt Hill exit to Greenridge as well as a Willowbrook parkway connection from the CSI campus on Victory Boulevard to the entrance to Great Kills Park at Hylan Blvd. These two highways would have each bisected the Greenbelt Park as we now know it into four isolated forest quadrants. In the center would be their interconnecting cloverleaf complex built on Mt Moses. Mt Moses is where Protectors now views the monthly rising of the full moon at sunset surrounded by several square miles of undisturbed Greenbelt forest.

Staten Island Greenbelt Natural Areas League (SIGNAL) then filed a successful Federal suit in the 60s to stop the construction of the Richmond Parkway. All further studies have shown no traffic benefits to the construction of this additional parkway.

In 1975, NY State passed wetlands legislation that would have prevented construction of such a highway through the ponds, streams and wetlands of the Greenbelt. In the 1980s, Protectors sued to stop Mayor Koch from selling some of the Farm Colony properties of Sea View to developers. The Mayor withdrew his sales proposal, and then instituted a Greenbelt study in the office of City Planning. By 1984, after completion of the study by Tom Paulo (our present Parks Commissioner, but then with City Planning), Mayor Koch created the Staten Island Greenbelt Park. The two proposed parkways were now within the boundaries of the Greenbelt Park.

But today, after thirty years of contention, there is finally a bill sitting in the NY State Legislature that would declare forever the park status of the lands that were once mapped for the Richmond and Willowbrook Parkways. That bill, submitted by Staten Island's NY State Assemblyman Robert Straniere, and with wide support from our Staten Island State Senators and Assemblymen, seeks to de-map certain never-built sections of the Richmond and Willowbrook parkways on Staten Island. The bill would turn over the rights of way for these roads to the City of New York Department of Parks and Recreation, and the New York State Department of Environmen-

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PROTECTOR'S OF PINE OAK WOODS FALL MEMBERS MEETING

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6, STATEN ISLAND ZOO

6:30-9:30 PM, ADMISSION FREE

THIRTY YEARS OF GREEN—

COME CELEBRATE OUR 30 YEARS OF PARK ADVOCACY

6:30: Refreshments

7:30: Special Program:

- ♦ Slide Presentation on Highlights of Staten Island Natural Areas
- ♦ Open Discussion on Protectors ongoing role in Environmental Education through
 - ♦ Organized hikes with naturalists
 - ♦ Camp Pack Scholarships
 - ♦ Supporting other organizations and researchers
 - ♦ Promoting activism through various media

9:15: Closing remarks and raffle

Call 447-2220 for more information.

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A SEASON OF GIFTS

(continued from page 1)

tal Conservation, for use as parkland. An additional benefit of this legislation is that it would consolidate unbuilt highway rights-of-way into the Staten Island Greenbelt, a unique natural preserve comprised of the central hills, wetlands and woodlands of Richmond County. The bill will also protect from development nearly 500 acres of land reserved for highway construction that has been deemed unnecessary by three major surface transportation studies in the last twenty years.

We can now trace the creation of the Staten Island Greenbelt to our environmental predecessors in SIGNAL including John Mitchell, Bob Hagenhofer and the late Terence Benbow. We thank them for this Greenbelt gift. Protectors will be asking all of you, come this spring, to phone, write and e-mail your State Legislators to support this most important Greenbelt Park legislation to demap the two parkway rights-of-way.

A Special Gift to Members

After you receive this bulletin, a very special mailing will be going out to members at the Contributing level and higher, including those with Lifetime Memberships. The mailing will be copies of "The Rare Plant Propagation Project" which includes a Propagation Manual of 17 different rare plant species, woody plants and herbs which are all found presently on Staten Island. These plants may also occur in one or more of the other counties of New York City and sometimes existed historically in those other counties. However, it truly is a manual of the rare plants of Staten Island with description of the plant, methods of seed collection and preparation, and propagation methods to ensure viable seedlings. The greatest portion of the Propagation Project was conceived of and produced by Staten Island's own Richard Lynch, professional botanist and discoverer of most of the rare plants known to exist on Staten Island.

This handsome book was produced by The City of New York Parks and Recreation's Natural Resources Group. Though published in 2001, it was given minimal distribution and little press coverage. Protectors hopes that through this distribution it will reach a larger portion of the interested botanists of the NY

metropolitan area, introducing them to the very special nature of the botany of Staten Island. We are most grateful to our friend and author Richard Lynch for introducing us to his very special book and helping us obtain sufficient copies for its distribution. We also thank Richard for his letter to us about a new rare plant discovery. That letter is included in this bulletin mailing.

Our Expanded Calendar of Events—More Gifts from Our Volunteer Leaders

Protectors feels that our members and other Staten Islanders can profit from more outdoor activities with introduction to areas especially those they never visited before, and many of you

Forest Restoration With Tree and Shrub Plantings—A Gift that Keeps Growing

Protectors' Forest Restoration Team has also been giving gifts to the natural areas and parks of Staten Island for at least seven years in its monthly restoration workshops. We are in the middle of a major forest reintroduction to the Mariners' Marsh Park of the once native Atlantic White Cedar, a tree species not seen on Staten Island since the 1930s. Half of our one hundred plants are already established near the edge of Monument Pond. We are looking for volunteers to help us Sunday October 26 at Mariners' Marsh when we plant the second fifty trees we have been given. The Staten Island Parks that have received plantings by Protectors Restoration Team over the years include many areas of the Greenbelt (High Rock, Buck's Hollow, Southwest Latourette), as well as Great Kills Park, Fort Wadsworth, Mount Manresa, Amundsen Trailway, Mount Loretto Unique Area and Conference House Park.

(continued on page 8)

CALENDAR

Saturday, October 25

Annual Fall 10 Mile Walk of the SI Greenbelt —9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Meet at the bridge leading to the Clove Lakes Café. Bring lunch and beverage and sturdy walking shoes. We go in all weather but walk shortened if high pollution levels occur. Come see the fall colors at their peak while there is still some green for contrast. Call Dick Buegler 718 761-7496 for more information.

Sunday, October 26

Mariners' Marsh Reforestation Project – 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Help the Forest Restoration Team plant the second half of the 100 Atlantic White Cedars the Native Plant Center has been holding for us for a few years. The first fifty were planted in a row, 6 feet apart from each other along one side of Monument Pond. They're doing well. The second half will be planted in front of them, closer to the pond. Gloves, tools, plants and plant shields will be provided, along with refreshments. Wear water-proof boots. Meet in front of the park on Holland Avenue, between MacCormack and Benjamin Streets. For more information call Dick Buegler, (718)761-7496

Wednesday, October 29

Executive Board meeting—7:30 to 10:00 p.m. 80 Mann Ave.

Saturday, November 1

Mariner's Marsh Reforestation Project—10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tools, gloves, plants and refreshments provided. Help plant what wasn't finished on October 26. See above.

Thursday, November 6 - 630 to 9:30 p.m.

Protector's' Fall Semi-annual Members' Meeting: 30 Year Anniversary—Take time to reconnect with Protectors on our 30th Anniversary. Reflect on the beauty of our natural areas and recommit to parks preservation and advocacy. Staten Island Zoo Auditorium, Broadway entrance. Meet Protectors Board and many other fellow members and guests. Slide presentation, refreshments and raffle of a Bernard Paul bird carving.

Saturday, November 8

Forest Restoration Workshop—Buck's Hollow, Latourette Park, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Meet at the entry road to Eger Nursing Home at intersection of Rockland and Meisner Avenues. Plants, tools and refreshments provided. Call Dick Buegler for more information at (718) 761-7496

Saturday, November 8

Sunset/Moonrise Walk to Mt Moses—4:15 pm to 6:15 pm. Sunset is at 4:46 p.m. and moonrise is six minutes earlier at 4:40 p.m. Meet at the entry road to Eger Home at intersec-

tion of Rockland and Meisner Avenues. Bring a light refreshment to share with others and a flashlight for each person in your group. The walk is barely ten minutes each way. Call Dick Buegler at (718)761-7496 for more information.

Sunday, November 9

Late Fall Bird Migrations—Miller Field to Midland Beach. 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. A leisurely two mile stroll of forest, meadow, beach and shore for a wide variety of birds. Meet at the rangers' building/community garden parking lot at Miller Field. For more information call Cliff Hagen. (718) 227-8839

Wednesday November 12

Protectors' Board Meeting—7:30 to 10 p.m. The Art Lab, Snug Harbor. Come see us planning. Important decisions are often made at this meeting. Refreshments. For more information, phone Dick Buegler or any board member.

Saturday, November 15

Ancient European/Native American Spirit Talk and Walk—Clay Pit Ponds Park and Preserve, 10am - 12 noon. Meet at the Clay Pit Ponds visitor's center on 83 Nielsen Ave. Call the park for more information at 967-1976 or Glenn Cronick at 987-9246.

Sunday, November 16

Long Pond Park—Staten Island's Newest, 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Only recently saved from developers, this is Tottenville's favorite skating pond. Vast native woodlands including a majestic old Beech forest, and rich understory. A hill free two mile walk in a pleasant retreat. See the Chinese Empress trees, a new addition to our flora. Meet at the corner of Hylan Blvd and Richard Avenue. Call Dominick Durso, before 8:30 p.m. at (718) 967-0379 for more Information.

Saturday, November 22

Wild Field Flower Walk—at Clay Pit Ponds Park and Preserve. 10am - 12noon. Meet at the Clay Pit Ponds visitor's center on 83 Nielsen Ave. Call the park for more information at 967-1976 or Glenn Cronick at 987-9246.

Sunday, November 23

Mariners' Marsh—A Park That Has Grown Beautiful in Five Years. 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Join Catherine Barron and Dick Buegler of Mariners' Marsh Conservancy and Protectors of Pine Oak Woods, along with other officers and board members of these two cooperating environmental/park organizations in an assessment of what has been accomplished since the park was first founded more than five years ago, before "Secret Places" was written. For more information, phone Dick Buegler (718)761-7496.

Saturday, December 6

Mount Loretto Unique Area—10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. A two mile walk along the bluff above the beach to enjoy the great ocean vista, the winter birds, trees and weeds. Meet at the corner of Hylan Blvd and Richard Avenue. Call Dominick Durso, before 8:30 p.m. at (718) 967-0379 for more information.

Saturday, December 6

Winter Tree Identification Walk—at Clay Pit Ponds Park and Preserve. 10am - 12noon. Meet at the Clay Pit Ponds visitor's center at 83 Nielsen Ave. Call the park for more information at 967-1976 or Glenn Cronick at 987-9246

Sunday December 7

The Ancient Forest Trees of Wolfe's Pond Park—1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Meet at the far right corner of the parking lot at the end of Cornelia Avenue, near the rest rooms. In an easy two miles, large numbers of trees, 200 to 300 years old will be examined in Staten Island's most ancient forest. Walk up a short hill and view the broad flood plain forest of this major Bluebelt stream Call Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496 for more information.

Monday, December 8

Sunset Moonrise Walk at Mt Moses—4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sunset is at 4:29 p.m. and moonrise is 14 minutes earlier at 4:15 p.m. Meet at the entry road to Eger Home at intersection of Rockland and Meisner Avenues. Bring a light refreshment to share with others and a flashlight for each person in your group. This exciting walk is barely ten minutes each way. Call Dick Buegler at (718)761-7496 for more information.

Saturday, December 13

Forest Restoration Workshop—South West Latourette, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Meet at St. Andrews Parking Lot at foot of Snake Hill. Gloves, plants, tools and refreshments provided. Call Dick Buegler for more information at (718)761-7496.

Saturday December 20

Annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count—Dawn to Dusk. Contribute to our knowledge of our avian species. To participate, phone Ed Johnson at SIAS (718) 727-1135.

Thursday, January 1, 2004

Annual Environmentalists Walk—Great Kills Beach to Crooke's Point. 12 noon to 2:00 p.m. All environmental groups are encouraged to join and share in their successes and goals for the new year. Many like to bring a treat to share with others. Meet at the main entrance parking area off Hylan Blvd. across from Buffalo Street. We drive to the last beach house to start our walk. For more information phone Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496.

Wednesday, January 7, 2004

Sunset Moonrise Walk at Mt Moses—4:15 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. Sunset is at 4:45 p.m. and moonrise is 7 minutes earlier at 4:38 p.m. Meet at the entry road to Eger Home at intersection of Rockland and Meisner Avenues. Bring a light refreshment to share with others and a flashlight for each person in your group. Please dress warmly. Call Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496 for more information. The walk is barely ten minutes each way.

Wednesday, January 7, 2004

Executive Board meeting— 7:30 to 10:00 p.m. 80 Mann Ave.

Saturday, January 10, 2004

Forest Restoration Workshop—Greta Moulton at High Rock. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Meet in the Nevada Avenue Parking lot at High Rock If you are late, walk to the first bend of the entry road and follow the yellow trail to the green trail to our working location. Gloves, plants, tools and refreshments provided. Call Dick Buegler for more information at (718) 761-7496

Sunday, January 18, 2004

Clay Pit Ponds State Park/Preserve—Wildflowers, Trees and Wildlife. 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Find out why Protectors urged the preservation of this parkland and how we got our name in 1975. It has Pine Barrens, rare southern oak trees, fence swift lizards, and a few rather unusual wildflowers, nothing like our Greenbelt forest. If there's snow, there will be deer prints throughout the park. Meet at the park office at the end of Carlin Avenue, off Sharrotts Road in Rossville. Call Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496 for more information.

Wednesday, January 21, 2004

Protectors' Board Meeting—7:30 to 10 p.m. The Art Lab, Snug Harbor. Come listen to us thinking. Important decisions are often made at this meeting. Refreshments. For more information, phone Dick Buegler or any board member.

Saturday, January 24, 2004

Annual Winter Ten Mile Walk of the SI Greenbelt—9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Meet at the bridge leading to the Clove Lakes Café. Bring lunch and beverage and sturdy walking shoes. We go in all weather but walk shortened if high pollution levels occur. Come see what the winter woodland has to offer; winter birds, bare forest trees, and possibly some snow cover to detect deer visits and always beautiful vistas. Call Dick Buegler (718)761-7496 for more information.

Friday, February 6

Sunset Moonrise Walk at Mt Moses—4:45 to 6:45 p.m.. Meet at the intersection of Rockland and Meisner Avenues.

NORTHERN SEAVIEW: WHERE WE STAND

by EllenPratt

Six and a half acres of priceless forested Greenbelt – a mature oak woodland dominated by black oak and pinxter azalea will become wood chips if the location of senior housing at Northern SeaView is not changed.

Protectors could not and cannot live with the ecological destruction and damaging impacts of this current plan! Our lawsuit to force EDC, rather than the developer, to prepare the EIS did succeed. The Bloomberg Administration withdrew from the lawsuit, and now seems determined that City Parks and City Planning take a strong advisory role in the EIS, much to our delight. The Draft EIS is being revised, to be released in 2004.

Meanwhile, the designated developer, the Metro Council on Jewish Poverty, has now recognized the unique environmental ecosystems which interface at Northern SeaView. The Council is considering donating a conservation easement over all but 15 of Northern SeaView's 51 acres to NYSDEC. Truly, the conservation easement will be a miracle...**if** the 36 most environmentally significant acres, including the serpentine barrens and Greenbelt forest, become permanently protected.

Protectors has been working with preservation groups, the Municipal Art Society(MAS), DEC and Assemblymembers Cusick and Lavelle. MAS has transmitted our concerns and data supporting the site move to The Council. Assemblyman Michael Cusick has arranged a site visit with The Council, so we can prove why the 500-unit senior housing project should be moved to a badly disturbed area midway down the north-facing hillside, which, with a conservation easement in place, will prove the best outcome for all concerned.

KEEP UP-TO-DATE!

VISIT WWW.SIPROTECTORS.ORG

CAMP PACK FOREST

by Cliff Hagen

The summer of 2003 was exceptional for seven Staten Island teenagers attending New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's Camp Pack Forest in upstate New York. Sponsored by Protectors of Pine Oak Woods the seven teens traveled north to learn and live in the woods, the fields, the open spaces near the shores of Lake George.

Surrounded by pine, oak and sassafras, the high school students each spent a full week immersed in the natural world while exploring the wonders of nature. They investigated environmental relationships, the cause and effect connectedness implicit in a rich, diverse habitat.

The Camp Pack Forest programs are designed not only for the environmental education of young adults, but also for the creation of memories that teens will forever recollect, friendships they will always treasure. The program, a collection of lectures, games, hands-on activities and life experiences is structured like any other camp. Quick showers and bland food are rounded out by the fun of song and dance, the teachings of naturalists and the grandeur of nature.

Each Staten Island participant left home with anxious wonder. Each returned with an excited enthusiasm. Each participant returned from Camp Pack Forest with a newer, stronger appreciation for the protection, preservation and conservation of open space here on Staten Island and anywhere habitat loss is a concern.

The following letter of thanks was written by an attendee, Elsi DeForest, when she returned home from camp.

Dear Protectors of Pine Oak Woods,

Thank you for sponsoring my trip to Camp Pack Forest. I had a great time. I learned so many interesting things about the environment and the world we live in (like Styrofoam never breaks down and number 7 plastics can't be recycled).

During the day, at camp we split into different groups to go on lessons with the counselors. I was in the Moose group. We learned a lot about recycling and how to cut down on waste by buying products that use less packaging. Other lessons we had were about the effect of acid rain on the White Pine. Most of New York State's forests are made up of White Pine which is something I never knew until I went to camp.

We also learned about geology. One of the counselors showed us a rock that could have been a billion years old.

During meal times we had to eat all the food we took. Anything we left on our plates was called ORT. We only had "No ORT" once!

I made so many great new friends and met so many interesting people. I still talk to a lot of kids from camp online and I hope to continue my friendship with them.

By far, my favorite part of camp was the overnight. My group canoed down the Hudson River. We brought all of our luggage in the canoes with us. I got nervous about tipping and having no dry clothes. My overnight group was awesome! We all got along so well. We were canoeing, we sang songs and took pictures of all the different sights. Where we had no bathrooms where we stayed overnight, so that was something new for me.

At camp we didn't only learn about the environment. We learned to trust each other and how to tolerate and learn to get along with people we never would have met at home. Thank you again for giving me such a great experience.

—Elsi DeForest

IT'S NEVER HAPPENED ON S.I. BEFORE....

but it hasn't happened YET !

'City panel won't OK 93 houses,' the Advance headline stated last June 10th....that's 93 2- and 3-family houses designed by Sweetwater Estates for 8-acres of flood plain in Great Kills Harbor! Developers never get 'NO' answers, and developers 'never say die,' so the battle to save Great Kills Harbor and hundreds of neighboring homes from flooding goes on.

Hooray for Mayor Mike Bloomberg's City Planning Commission, which "threw out Sweetwater Estates" application to raise the flood plain's topography 4 to 10 feet. "Too high," they said...design it lower. But NYCDEP – the sanitary and storm sewer specialists – said the project had to be 11 feet above sea level to meet Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) REGULATIONS.

Instead, the vague plans for Sweetwater Estates' townhouses WERE

LOWER THAN 11 feet above sea level. Consulting engineer Leonard Jackson, called in by PPOW and The Coalition for Great Kills Harbor Park, reported that Sweetwater's plans were not in compliance with FEMA, and, therefore, not legal.

It's NEVER HAPPENED on S.I. before, that a development project has been stopped right in its tracks...and the Savo's are having trouble believing it. So they're planning other ways to get the project done...a combo of commercial and residential; perhaps downsizing... Nothing can be built unless basements begin at 11 feet above sea level (the 100-year flood elevation for the Harbor)!

Mr. Jackson, our expert consultant, will continue to work with us, so the next plan presented by Savo and/or Bay Properties to "steal OUR ONLY HARBOR from us and flood all neighbors, to boot" won't get anywhere unless it complies with Federal flood protection regulations. By the way, The Trust for Public Land is offering to buy Sweetwater Estates and Bay Properties parcel, too...it's just the price that's the problem...the Port Authority Harbor Stewardship Funds are there!

—Ellen Pratt

The Most Important of Gifts— Our Continuing Gifts of Scholarships to Staten Island Youth

This year seven youngsters received their scholarship from Protectors for a week at Camp Pack Environmental Camp for Teens in the Adirondacks. The letters of thanks we have received from them in the past, gifts to us, make it worth the effort and expense of introducing our Staten Island youth to the dedicated staff and superb facilities at this very special environmental/ecology camp. Over the past sixteen years, we have sent many dozens of youngsters, in fact over one hundred by now, to what has become for some of them the most important environmentally crystallizing event of their lives. We will be inviting a few of them to our Semiannual Meeting at the Zoo on November 6 and hope to introduce a few of them to you. It is your contributions that have allowed us to continue making these gifts to Staten Island youths.

COMING SOON, MAYBE.... THREE EAST SHORE BLUEBELTS

"Consolidate parcels into public ownership....transfer public parcels to manage for maximum wetland benefits....develop management plan to maximize wetland (e.g. stormwater control) benefits...institute site specific enhancement activities (e.g. erosion control, water control measures)." These are the management recommendations for our Island's East Shore wetlands... those which flow into Lower New York Bay.

NYSDEC, the State agency which mapped our wetlands, and which holds responsibility for their well-being under the federal Clean Water Act, prepared a document Final Generic EIS on Staten Island Freshwater Wetland Programs 9/92, to guide governments and citizens for responsible use of our Island's great wealth of freshwater wetlands, some 2,000 acres.

Look again at DEC's recommendations (above) for NA-7, the 90-acre South Beach watershed which drains Brady's and Cameron's Ponds in Grasmere. DEC recommends the same intense amount of government ownership/involvement for the recently named "NEW CREEK BLUEBELT," including the NA-9, 118-acre, Dongan Hills watershed and its 15-acre feeder pond, Last Chance Pond (NA-8) which drains the Island's central hills, Todt Hill and Dongan Hills.

This NEW CREEK BLUEBELT is the City's first; a long-awaited project. Work on the East Shore Bluebelts was delayed because DEP was working on the 20+ South Shore bluebelts, many still underway. On the East Shore it was hoped that wetland property owners would stop paying taxes so their land would come to the City free. Also, it was decided that development of undesignated stream corridors (now culverted into pipes) could be maximized, to benefit landowners, developers and add to the City's taxes.

Throughout the 1990s Protectors fought for the East Shore Bluebelts – against the State's sale of the former C.S.I. property, for which the Cuomo Administration asked \$24 million. Thanks to DEC and Governor Pataki those 110-acres have become Ocean Breeze Park, a wetland resource with some recreational acreage. We watched as our political leaders gave land speculators and developers full sway in the '90's in South and Midland Beaches, and Oakwood Beach, as well.

Now, to the politicians' credit (which they will certainly take), they see every new house creating worse drainage for every existing house, even those which have depended on these level creeks to contain groundwater and rainwater for decades.

The outcry for Bluebelts has swollen to a roar, and political leaders, ignoring the outcries of the past, now nobly rush forward to champion East Shore bluebelts...New Creek first. Probably South Beach second (because it's smaller and better organized) and then, after all possible houses are crammed in, NA-10, the 240-acre Oakwood Beach watershed will become a stormwater management mecca. Bravo!

—Ellen Pratt

MEMBERSHIP



Welcome to our New Members!

Judy Brown, Nicholas & Cecilia Corrado, Donna Dimino & Joseph Smith, Carolyn Geremia, Daniel Kramer, Jean Maltz, Mary McGonigle, Margarita Olmos, Maria Romano, Sharon Seitz, Renato Serrano, Bob & Peg Viggiano

Many thanks to our generous contributors:

Patron: Dorothy Andrews, Allen & Emily Cohen

Contributing: Judy Brown, Carolyn Geremia, Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Goldstein, Daniel Kramer, Karen McKernan, Maureen Meloy

Protectors Defense Fund: Mildred Broderidge, Judy Brown, Robin Carey, Janis D'Angelo, Gloria Gibbons

Special Contributions:

Thanks to Hillel Lofaso for donating the hosting fee for our website,

SIProtectors.org

Thanks to Dick Buegler for contributing his fee for his all-day tour of Staten Island from the American Museum of Natural History

Matching Fund:

Deutsche Bank: for Daniel Sblendorio.
United Way/J.P.Morgan: for John J. Healey, Jr.

A MESSAGE TO ALL OF OUR FRIENDS WHO HAVE NOT YET RENEWED:

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT TO CONTINUE WITH OUR WORK. IF YOUR MAILING LABEL DOES NOT SAY 2004, 2005 OR LIFE, PLEASE SEND IN YOUR DUES TODAY! THANK YOU! —Sylvia Zaage

The Gift of Discussion and Listening

Protectors has also been on the receiving end of kindnesses from many of our legislative officials who have, over the years, agreed to meet with us in order to help us further legislation that would protect open space and parklands. We have had meetings with Councilmen Andrew Lanza, James Oddo and Michael McMahon, and Assemblymen Robert Stranieri, Michael Cusick and John Lavelle. We have also met with Leonard Garcia-Duran of the Staten Island Office of City Planning as well as with Borough Parks Commissioner Tom Paulo. We celebrated a first however with two representatives of NY State Senator David Paterson, the Minority Leader from Brooklyn. They contacted us to find out what issues we had and how they could be of assistance to us in the future. In the past, Protectors has always had to initiate such meetings. They made a point of coming to Staten Island to meet with us. We were greatly flattered. Thank you Senator Paterson for opening doors to us.

DO YOU HAVE E-MAIL?

If we have your e-mail address you are already a member of Protectors' new e-mail network.

You will be kept informed about exciting events like the Sunset/Full-Moon walks on Moses Mountain, as well as fast breaking news concerning Protectors Persuaders, and much more!

If you're not in the Network yet, just send me your name and e-mail address at sylhz@earthlink.net

—Sylvia Zaage

CLIP AND MAIL

PROTECTORS OF PINE OAK WOODS



STATEN ISLAND'S LAND CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION

ARE YOU A MEMBER? HAVE YOU RENEWED?

YES, I WANT TO HELP STATEN ISLAND'S FINEST REMAINING NATURAL AREAS AND SEE THE GREENBELT PROTECTED.

Please enroll me as a member in the following category:

- NEW RENEWAL
- \$ 5.00...Student
- \$ 5.00...Senior Citizen
- \$ 10.00...Individual
- \$ 15.00...Family
- \$ 25.00...Organizational
- \$ 25.00...Contributing (includes free lapel pin)*
- \$ 50.00...Patron (includes 2 lapel pins)*
- \$100.00...Donor (includes 2 lapel pins)*
- \$100.00 & Up...Corporate (includes 2 lapel pins)*
- \$250 & Up...Protector
- \$500 & Up...Lifetime member
- \$ 3.50...Lapel Pin, mailed to me
- *Please help us defray costs. Check here *only* if you would like to receive lapel pins.

Already a member? Please use this form to continue to generously support Protectors' Defense Fund or other projects.

Enclosed is an additional donation of \$ _____ to defray special expenses for

Protectors' Defense Fund (\$500 or more earns lifetime membership)

Other (specify) _____

CAN YOUR EMPLOYER OFFER MATCHING GRANTS?

NAME(Mr./Mrs./Ms.) _____

ADDRESS _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE () _____ E-mail address _____

Phone me. I want to volunteer my help: _____

Mail to: Sylvia Zaage 160 Simonson Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10303

A SEASON OF GIFTS
(continued from page 2)

seem to love to rejoin us at your favorite outdoor site.

So the last several bulletins have included two full pages of walks and other programs such that almost every weekend, there is a Protectors event and sometimes two. Our Sunset/Moonrise walks, more often during the week rather than weekend, continue to bring out new members and old for a pleasant family evening activity. If you haven't been on one yet, look forward to a relatively brief walk from the parking area to the top of Mt Moses, anticipation of the sun setting with dramatic colors and clouds, and then the rising full moon in the east over the hills of High Rock. Guests have often brought snacks to share (even fresh Staten Island grown figs from their own fig trees). We hope to repeat last winter's Owl walks with Cliff Hagen for you this year. His two owl walks last year were most memorable in the cold and snow. The owls actually hear and respond to him by

alighting overhead for us to view. Many of Glenn Cronicks interesting walks and workshops at Clay Pit are also in our listings. Glenn is on Protectors Board and deeply involved in restoration projects.

Our Gift Brings a Gift in Return

One recent calendar event you may have noticed was an American Museum of Natural History tour of several park areas on Staten Island, with five board members (Elaine, Cliff, Chuck, Dominick and me) serving as hosts to the mixed group of metropolitan and nearby New Jersey and Connecticut residents. The AMNH was kind enough to forward a contribution to Protectors for providing their members greater insight into the natural history of Staten Island, particularly of Mount Loretto Unique Area and Clay

**Protectors' New Brochure—
A Gift from New York City**

Another gift to each of you, made possible by a grant from the New York City Environmental Fund is a full-color Protectors brochure, introducing readers to the role of Protectors of Pine Oak Woods in preserving so many natural areas of Staten Island from Clay Pit Ponds in the 1970s to the very recent additions of Mount Loretto Unique Area and Long Pond Park. Every member will receive two copies of that new brochure, along with the request that you serve as a Protectors' advocate and recruit a new member for Protectors. Some of you have seen black and white copies of the first version distributed at recent walks and other programs. The brochure was the brainchild of board member and Treasurer, Norman Condit who was pleased with the full board's grateful acceptance of his gift. Norman is already contemplating future brochures for Protectors. Would you like to help?

Pit Ponds State Park/Preserve. The message of community involvement in preserving and protecting natural resources was very well delivered and greatly appreciated.

**PLEASE CHECK THE MAILING LABEL. IF YOU DON'T
SEE 2004, 2005 OR LIFE, YOUR MEMBERSHIP
HAS EXPIRED. RENEW TODAY!**

**PROTECTORS SEMI-ANNUAL FALL MEETING
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6,
6:30-9:30 P.M., S.I. ZOO**



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