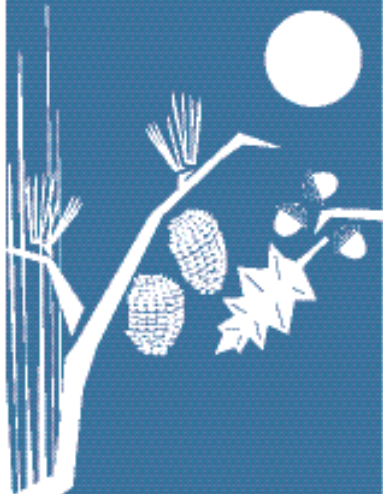


PROTECTORS OF PINE OAK WOODS



**STATEN ISLAND'S
LAND CONSERVATION
ORGANIZATION**

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ENCLOSED: PLEASE MAIL IT BACK
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DON'T HIBERNATE! FREE NATURE WALKS FOR CHILDREN AND PARENTS!

WE WELCOME THE NEW STATEN ISLAND COMMUNITY PRESERVATION CONSERVANCY

OUR ENVIRONMENTAL BOROUGH PRESIDENT?

ON DECEMBER 15, 2006, THE ADVANCE REPORTED THAT BOROUGH PRESIDENT James Molinaro has created a nonprofit conservancy to raise money to buy environmentally sensitive private property slated for development.

Called the Staten Island Community Preservation Conservancy, the nonprofit organization can raise money from public and private funds, and it has already received its first donation of \$200,000 from Staten Island developer, R. Randy Lee, according to the Advance. The donation seems small when you consider that it was donated from proceeds from the \$6.9 million state purchase of 12 acres that Lee and eight other investors owned in Richmond Valley.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Molinaro said that the point of the conservancy is to act like a national trust, preserving land here through creative financing. He assured the Advance that the conservancy was not set up to help builders.

"The clear purpose is to preserve environmentally sensitive land," he said.

In our Fall 2006 Bulletin president emeritus Richard Buegler wrote: "Unlike most other large communities, counties or states throughout the United States, Staten Island does not have a land trust organization of its own. I don't believe it ever had one. Land trust organizations are skilled in encouraging well-to-do residents of the area to dig deeply into their purses and pockets to purchase a valuable natural area that may end up, eventually, in the hands of developers. We have many well-to-do residents, but no one skilled in convincing them that buying land, meadows, forests and streams for the public becomes a permanent memorial to them, often being given their name as a thankful testimonial to their beneficence. In Protectors' efforts to preserve threatened natural open spaces on Staten Island, we have relied upon other not-for-profit organizations to arrange and complete the transfer of private lands to some public body or agency such as New York City Department of Parks, New York State DEC or even the United States Department of the Interior. The Trust for Public Land has most times been the transferring organization for Staten Island, and they know and respect Protectors for our preservation efforts, and have worked closely with us."

(continued on page 8)

**NEW
LOCATION!
GREENBELT
NATURE CENTER**

PROTECTORS OF PINE OAK WOODS

SPRING MEMBERS MEETING

THURSDAY, MARCH 15 ♦ GREENBELT NATURE CENTER

700 ROCKLAND AVENUE (AT BRIELLE AVE),

6:30 P.M.-9 P.M., ADMISSION FREE

**STORIES IN STONE: A GEOLOGIC FORAY
INTO STATEN ISLAND'S PAST**

- 6:30:** Doors open: Refreshments and registration; View the exhibits
- 7:15:** Introductions and Announcements
- 7:30:** Geology Lecture and Field Trips
by renowned geologist and professor:
Dr. Alan Benimoff
- 9:00:** Closing remarks and raffle

Call (718) 751-6629 for more information.

We strongly encourage car-pooling to this event as parking is limited.

WINTER 2007

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17TH ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTALISTS' NEW YEAR'S DAY WALK AT CROOKE'S POINT, GATEWAY

ON A RAINY NEW YEAR'S DAY WITH MORE RAIN FORECAST throughout the day, fourteen environmentalists including one from Brooklyn walked a three mile circuit at Gateway National Recreation Area to welcome in the New Year, celebrate the Staten Island Environment and share holiday refreshments with each other.

At the half-way mark at the tip of Crooke's Point, members of Natural Resources Protective Association, Protectors of Pine Oak Woods, North Shore Waterfront Conservancy of Staten Island, Sweetbay Magnolia Conservancy, Sierra Club and New York City Audubon, all renewed their commitments to the preservation of Staten Island's natural environment. Representatives of the various groups, including Jim Scarcella, Tony Rose and Dick Buegler, spoke to the assembled outdoor enthusiasts. The participants cheered the recent defeat of the Nascar Racetrack proposal and vowed to fight the long-anticipated expansion of the New York Container Terminal into Arlington Marsh on the North Shore.

The silent mist never lifted and visibility was extremely poor. Several times, a kayaker could be seen gliding close along the shore among the floating herring gulls and black backed gulls and he would then disappear in the mist. The group waved and called to him. As we walked round the point, the buoys marking the channel for boats for Great Kills Harbor seemed to be almost within reaching distance, for so much newly deposited sand has brought the land out to the channel edge. Only one sailing vessel was seen as it was returning to land via the harbor channel using its inboard motor for energy to move. Jim noticed fish jumping in the shallow waters of the boat harbor and said that by December 1 in normal years, the moss bunkers or menhaden have all migrated south. Moss bunkers are often used by fishermen as bait for mackerel, cod and tuna. The name menhaden is from a native American word meaning that which enriches the earth and was used by these early natives for fertilizing their plants. Didn't they place a fish head in each group of seeds?

The National Park Ranger, Jackie, who had joined us for the walk, pointed out the abandoned platform nest of the osprey pair that had inhabited it this year and raised three young osprey. Grass was growing out of the nest debris, high on the platform. Jackie thought that a second osprey platform might be erected this year to encourage other ospreys to nest here since there had been competition among the birds for occupancy of that site.

Other water fowl included a few mergansers, while at least four cormorants could be seen on one of the nearby buoys. Bird flight was at a minimum and we noticed very little noise of overhead airplanes. It was truly a peaceful day.

While walking along the sloping foredune of the Great Kills beach, Sandra Mechanic observed that some of the sands seemed black. She was told that it was probably the mineral magnetite, rich in iron that can be separated from other sands using a magnet (if the sand is dry). Ray Matarazzo of the S. I. Museum said that the Tottenville beach sands were very high in magnetite. It was noted that the summer sands often have thicker layers of magnetite that have separated out at the waves' edge, piling up to at least one inch thick. —Dick Buegler

Protectors Business Meetings

Wednesday, February 7, March 7, April 25, June 6

Executive Board Meeting – 7 to 9 p.m.

Wednesday, February 21, March 28, May 9, June 20

Protectors Board Meeting – 7 to 9 p.m., The Art Lab, Snug Harbor. Come see us planning. Important decisions are often made at the meeting. Refreshments served. For more information, phone Hillel Lofaso at (718) 751-6629 or any board member.

FREE NATURE WALKS TO POND AND PARK FOR CHILDREN AND PARENTS

WITH EXPERIENCED NATURALISTS—ALL ON STATEN ISLAND!

NOTE: THE SYMBOL (♦) INDICATES THIS WALK RECEIVED FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM THE NYC ENVIRONMENTAL FUND.**Saturday, February 10, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.**

♦ The Ecology of Mt. Loretto—This winter walk will focus on the ecology of a managed meadow and wetland habitat, and its value to naturalists. Its unique birds and flora make it a favorite site for many citywide. The wide vistas and ocean views are unforgettable. Meet at the Hylan Blvd. parking lot on the shore side. For more information phone Howie at (718) 981-4002 or Dick at (718) 761-7496.

Saturday, February 10, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Protectors of Pine Oak Woods Forest Restoration Workshop—High Rock from Nevada Avenue to Hour Glass Pond. We will check for removal of invasives and plant additional shrubs and trees if available. Gloves, plants, tools and refreshments provided. Bring a friend who likes to work outdoors. Meet in the Nevada Avenue Parking Lot. Call Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496 for more information.

Sunday, February 11, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

♦ Miller Field Beach—Join members of the S.I. Museum's Nature Section for a winter walk along New Dorp Beach in search of waterfowl, and other interesting life in the dunes. We will also discuss the history of Raritan Bay and New Dorp Beach. Dress warmly, and bring binoculars. Meet in the gravel parking lot at the end of New Dorp Lane. For more information call Seth Wollney at (718) 619-5905.

Sunday, February 11, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

♦ Animal Tracks at Clay Pit Ponds State Park Preserve—Most times you won't see an animal, but you will see signs that an animal has passed by. Learn from Sandra Mechanic how to read animal prints and other evidence. We can look for droppings, scratches on tree bark and nibbled growth. We can also search openings of animal dens for prints. Four front toes and five hind toes indicate rodents. Meet at the park entrance at the end of Carlin Avenue off Sharrots Road in Rossville. For more information phone Dick Buegler at (718) 761-7496.

Sunday, February 11, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

♦ Owl Prowl at Willowbrook Park—Meet at the corner of Richmond Avenue and Eton Place near the rear entrance to the Children's Carousel. Join our expert owl prowler, Cliff Hagen. Be dressed warmly to stand around while the birds fly to Cliff as he imitates both the screech owl and the great horned owl to attract them to the trees overhead. The owls become active after dark. Bring flashlight with strong beam. For more information, phone Dick at (718) 761-7496 or Cliff at (718) 227-8839.

Saturday, February 17, 10 a.m. to 12 noon

♦ Winter Tree Identification at Bloomingdale Woods—Come and join Sandra. Be a detective in identifying trees without leaves in the winter. The horse chestnut is

easy to identify by its long, large sticky buds that grow in opposite pairs, except for the single terminal bud at the twig tips. See a true meandering stream. Park at the end of Maguire Avenue where it meets Drumgoole Road West. For more information phone Dick Buegler at (718) 761-7496.

Sunday, February 25, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

♦ Page Avenue Beach: Life in the Intertidal Zone—Four children and six adults joined us in early December 2006, for this family activity. We'll begin by beach-combing the high tide line to see what nature's debris has to tell us. As the tide goes out, we'll move into the intertidal zone to see what living things survive in this challenging but rewarding habitat. A variety of crabs, snails, clams, worms and small fish are likely to be discovered. It's going to be muddy so dress appropriately. Meet at the parking lot at the bottom of Page Avenue below Hylan Blvd. For more information phone Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496 or Clay Wollney at (718) 303-7825

Sunday, February 25, 10 a.m. to 12 noon

♦ Great Kills Park, Crooke's Point Birds—Meet Seth Wollney for a walk out to Crooke's Point. Bring your binoculars, and spotting scopes to search for waterfowl in the Raritan, and Great Kills Bays. Rarities have been known to show up this time of year! Meet in the last parking lot where the bathing house is located. For more information call Seth at (718) 619-5905.

Sunday, February 25, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

♦ Owl Prowl at Blue Heron Park—Meet at the Nature Center on Poillon Avenue. Be dressed warmly to stand around while the birds fly to Cliff as he imitates both the screech owl and the great horned owl to attract them to trees overhead where they can be identified by spotlight. The owls become active after dark. They sleep all day. Bring flashlight with strong beam. For more information, phone Dick at (718) 761-7496 or Cliff at (718) 227-8839.

Saturday March 3, 5:10 p.m. to 6:40 p.m.

Crow or Flowing Sap Full Moon—Sunset Moonrise Walk at Mt Moses—Sunset is at 5:50 p.m. and moonrise is six minutes earlier at 5:44 p.m. But it takes the moon another 20 minutes to rise above the hills of High Rock so we should see moonrise 15 minutes after the sun has set. We have never seen them occur at exactly the same time but we will see that happen on May 1 if the weather is clear. Meet at the entry road to Eger Home at intersection of Rockland and Meisner Avenues. Flashlight is required for each person in your group. Please bring a light refreshment to share with others. Be sure to dress for a cool evening. The walk is barely fifteen minutes each way. On the way past the intersection, see the hundreds of shrubs, trees, grasses and spring wildflowers that DEP planted in the flood control system that has worked well so far in moderately heavy rains. Call Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496 for more information.

Important Disclaimer—While we strive for safety, the activities of Protectors of Pine Oak Woods ("Protectors") have certain uncontrollable hazards which each participant undertakes and for which each participant is responsible. Neither the leader nor the substitute leader is responsible in any way whatsoever for any of these hazards. All participants assume the responsibility and risks of hiking and participating in Protectors events, and release Protectors, its leaders or substitute leaders, from any liability whatsoever for any loss, damage to personal property, or injury, however caused, of any kind, nature, and description.

Sunday, May 6, 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Conference House Park—Spring Migration is on! Join bird watcher Seth Wollney in search of the beautiful little creatures that grace Staten Island this time of year. Bring along your field guides, binoculars, children and ears! Meet at the Visitor Center at the end of Hylan Blvd. For more information call (718) 619-5905.

Sunday, May 6, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

◆ First 2007 Search for the Rare Ragged Fringed Orchid at Mt Loretto—See orchids and other wild flowers at Mt Loretto. Join Sandra and Dick to record the appearance for the third year of this orchid once missing from the records of Staten Island. Will we find the two to three dozen we saw, or maybe fewer or more? Seen first in July of 2005, earlier in June of 2006 and hopefully earlier this May, 2007. Meet at the Hylan Blvd. parking lot on the shore side. For more information phone Dick at (718) 761-7496.

Saturday, May 12, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Forest Restoration Workshop—Greta Moulton at High Rock. 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 near Manor Road. Gloves, plants, tools and refreshments provided. We may plant additional shrubs and trees unless we have a dry spell this week. We will check on our old High-bush Cranberry plantings as well as remove all the new or returned invasive vegetation. Bring a friend who likes to work outdoors. Call Dick Buegler for more information at (718) 761-7496.

Sunday, May 13, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

A Mother's Day treat—A Second Visit to Bloomingdale Park in Late Spring. Enjoy a wildflower and woodland display in a 2 mile stroll of a mature forest, along a classic meandering stream. Meet at the intersection of Maguire Avenue and Drumgoole Road West. Wear sturdy shoes and bring a light refreshment. For more information call Dick Buegler (718)761-7496.

Sunday, May 13, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

◆ Page Avenue Beach: Life in the Intertidal Zone—Four children and six adults joined us in early December, 2006 for this family activity. We'll begin by beachcombing the high tide line to see what nature's debris has to tell us. As the tide goes out, we'll move into the intertidal zone to see what living things survive in this challenging but rewarding habitat. A variety of crabs, snails, clams, worms and small fish are likely to be discovered. It's going to be muddy so dress appropriately. Meet at the parking lot at the bottom of Page Avenue below Hylan Blvd. For more information phone Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496 or Clay Wollney at (718) 303-7825.

Sunday, May 20, 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.

◆ Clove Lakes Park, Late Spring Migrants—Join members of the S.I. Museum's Nature Section to look for late spring bird migrants. Clove Lakes is Staten Island premier 'migrant trap' during this time of year, so grab your binoculars, and come on out! Meet at the Martling Ave. Bridge where we will look down on the tree-top visitors and then check the woods and the ponds too. For more information call Seth at (718) 619-5905.

Sunday, May 20, 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

Spring's Wings, an assortment of Butterflies and Dragonflies at Blue Heron Park—Join Cliff Hagen, naturalist/educator at one of his most favored haunts to see the wide variety of winged animals in addition to birds that this park attracts. Meet at the Poillon Ave. parking lot. For more information, phone Dick at (718) 761-7496 or Cliff at (718) 227-8839.

Sunday, May 20, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Spring Trip to Greenbrook Sanctuary, NJ—Join Herman, Sylvia and Dick at the famed Greenbrook Sanctuary, perched 350 feet above the New Jersey Palisades. Morning walk led by Nancy Slowik, Naturalist/Director of the sanctuary and a native Staten Islander who, while successful at the sanctuary, has followed Protectors successes for three decades. Just the views over the Palisades to Yonkers and upper Manhattan are worth the trip. Then there are all the birds and the wildflowers. Nancy loves the sanctuary. She will give you a strong sense of the importance of this cliff top aerie, high above the Hudson River. Bring your cameras, lunch and beverage. \$4 fee. Phone Dick for registration and directions at (718) 761-7496.

Saturday, May 26, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

◆ Second 2007 Search for the Rare Ragged Fringed Orchid—See orchids and other wild flowers at Mt Loretto. Join Sandra and Dick to count and record the appearance for the third year of this orchid once missing from the records of Staten Island. Will we find the two to three dozen we saw, or maybe fewer or happily more? Seen first in July of 2005, earlier in June of 2006 and hopefully earlier this May 2007. Meet at the Hylan Blvd. parking lot on the shore side. For more information phone Dick at (718) 761-7496.

Sunday, May 27, 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Clay Pit Ponds State Park/Preserve: Trees and Wildlife in a mini Pine Barren—Find out why Protectors urged the preservation of this parkland and how we got our name in 1975. It has two rare pine species, two rare southern oak species, fence swift lizards, and a few rather unusual wildflowers, nothing like our Greenbelt forest. One of the few parks on S.I. that have American chestnut trees, one healthy, tall and 8-10 inches in diameter, the other spindly, sick and diseased but always seems to flower and set fruit. 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.

Thursday, May 31, 7:45 p.m. to 9:15 p.m.

A Blue Moon-Full Moon-Sunset Moonrise Walk at Mt Moses—Sunset is at 8:20 p.m. and moonrise is 14 minutes later at 8:34 p.m. It takes the moon another 20 minutes to rise above the hills of High Rock so we should see moonrise half an hour after the sun has set. If weather permitted, we may have seen them occur at exactly the same time on May 1. Meet at the entry road to Eger Home at intersection of Rockland and Meisner Avenues. Flashlight is required for each person in your group. Please bring a light refreshment to share with others while we wait the half hour for the moon rising to occur. Dick or Sandra will explain what a blue moon is and ask someone to sing or hum the tune "Blue Moon". Be sure to dress for a cool evening. The walk is barely fifteen minutes each way. On the way past the intersection, see the hundreds of shrubs, trees, grasses and spring wildflowers that DEP planted in the flood control system that has worked well so far in moderately heavy rains. Many of them have been flowering since our last Sunset/Moonrise walk. Many of them have also grown considerably taller or multiplied. Call Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496 for more information.

Saturday, March 3, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

◆ Woodcock Sky-Diving walk at Great Kills Park—Cliff has added the spectacular nocturnal courtship display of the secretive American woodcock to his evening, early spring, owl prowl. The male woodcocks strut on the ground, take off singing and circling up and around, then suddenly dive down from high, with a bubbling, warbling sound to meet their mate on the ground. Bring flashlight with strong beam. Meet at the Gateway parking lot at the entrance on Hylan Blvd across from Buffalo St. For more information, phone Dick at (718) 761-7496 or Cliff at (718) 227-8839.

Saturday, March 10, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

◆ Blue Birds Hopefully at Mount Loretto—This walk is for birders to see the early arriving spring migrants which may include Bluebirds. There will be some lingering waterfowl such as Ring necked and Wood Ducks. The wide vistas and ocean views are unforgettable. Binoculars and good walking shoes are a must. Meet at the Hylan Blvd. parking lot on the shore side. For more information phone Howie at (718) 981-4002 or Dick at (718) 761-7496.

Saturday, March 10, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Forest Restoration Workshop—Egbertville Ravine in the Greenbelt. We walk to the entrance of the white trail off London Road to continue our removal of the English Ivy Ground Cover. For those who don't want to pull and uproot, we will have additional plants and shovels for further restoration work. Gloves, plants, tools and refreshments provided. Call Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496 for more information. Meet at the intersection of Meisner and Rockand Aves.

Sunday, March 11, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

◆ Clay Pit Ponds Park Preserve—Join members of the S.I. Museum's Nature Section for a walk through this historic, and bucolic NY State Park. Naturalist Seth Wollney will lead the group in a walk through the past 12,000 year history of this site. For more information call (718) 619-5905.

Sunday, March 11, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

◆ Page Avenue Beach—Life in the Intertidal Zone. Four children and six adults joined us in early December 2006 for this family activity. We'll begin by beach-combing the high tide line to see what nature's debris has to tell us. As the tide goes out, we'll move into the intertidal zone to see what living things survive in this challenging but rewarding habitat. It's going to be muddy so dress appropriately. Meet at the parking lot at the bottom of Page Avenue below Hylan Blvd. For more information phone Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496 or Clay Wollney at (718) 303-7825.

Sunday, March 18, 10 a.m. to 12 noon

◆ Winter Bird Photography at Blue Heron Park—The attraction of birds to feeders can create some wonderful stunning photographic opportunities. Meet Sandra behind the Blue Heron Nature Center on Poillon Avenue, where the bird feeders are located. Bring binoculars, field guides and camera. For more information phone Dick Buegler at (718) 761-7496.

Saturday March 24, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

◆ Springtime in the Greenbelt—Meet in the High Rock parking lot, end of Nevada

Avenue. This walk will focus on the spring migration of birds, Spring Peepers (one inch tree frogs), early plants such as Skunk Cabbage and hopefully, some wildflowers. Trees will be the main focus of attention. Good walking shoes are recommended. Binoculars are a must! The wide vistas and ocean views are unforgettable. For more information phone Howie at (718) 981-4002 or Dick at (718) 761-7496.

Sunday, March 25, 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.

◆ Blue Heron Park—Join naturalist Seth Wollney for a walk through one of his most favorite parks. Seth will discuss & point out some of the special plants growing within the park. Bring along your binoculars to search for early spring birds. We will be walking from the Nature Center out to Seguine Pond, and Raritan Bay. Meet at the Nature Center, 222 Poillon Ave. For more information call (718) 619-5905.

Sunday March 25, 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m.

◆ Salamanders at Blue Heron Park—Join naturalist/educator Cliff Hagen in a spring survey of the kinds of Salamanders in the park. Be prepared to lift up small stones and light branches to find out where they hide. Be sure to replace anything that you have disturbed. Bring your small Golden Field Guide to reptiles and amphibians. Meet at the parking lot on Poillon Ave. For more information, phone Dick at (718) 761-7496 or Cliff at (718) 227-8839.

Sunday, April 1, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

All Day Botanical Tour of Bloodroot Valley and High Rock Park—Meet with Torrey Botanical Society at 10 a.m. in the Passenger Pickup Area of S. I. Ferry Terminal (down a stairway) or at 10:30 a.m. at the Manor Rd. side of S. Wagner High School. This is awfully early for our native Bloodroot but next weekend is too difficult to arrange. Our earliest recorded blooming has been on March 29, just three days before our walk. Let's hope that the inordinately warm December in 2006 will bring early spring blooms. However, we may only see them poking up unopened. Lunch and beverage are a must. Wear foot gear for wet walking. Call Dick Buegler, (718) 761-7496 to make your reservation (attendance limited) or arrange car pool.

Sunday, April 1, 6:45 p.m. to 8:15 p.m.

Grass or Egg Full Moon—Sunset Moonrise Walk at Mt Moses—Sunset is at 7:21 p.m. and moonrise is 44 minutes earlier at 6:37 p.m. It takes the moon 20 minutes to rise above the hills of High Rock so we should see moonrise before the sunset at 6:57 p.m. as we walk to the top. Meet at the entry road to Eger Home at intersection of Rockland and Meisner Avenues. Flashlight is required for each person in your group. Please bring a light refreshment to share with others. Be sure to dress for a cool evening. The walk is barely fifteen minutes each way. On the way past the intersection, see the hundreds of shrubs, trees, grasses and wetland plants getting ready to bloom that DEP planted in the flood control system with new dam that has worked well so far in moderately heavy flood rains. Call Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496 for more information.

Tuesday, April 3, 10 a.m. to 12 noon (week day walk)

◆ Mount Loretto, an early Spring stroll—Join naturalist Seth Wollney to look for signs of Spring around the fields at Mount Loretto. While enjoying the beauty of this site, we will also discuss the history of land use, and what events have shaped this unique area. Meet in the parking lot on Hylan Blvd. across from the C.Y.O. Center. Call (718) 619-5905 for more information.

Saturday, April 14, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Protectors of Pine Oak Woods Forest Restoration Workshop—Gateway, Great Kills Park. Protectors will be coordinating a restoration project of plantings as well as invasive removals. Tools, gloves, plants and refreshments will be provided. Meet in the first large parking lot, to the left of the entrance road near the Ranger Station. We hope to have volunteers from other groups for this large project. Bring a friend who likes to work outdoors. Call Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496 or Chuck Perry (718)-667-1393 for more information.

Sunday, April 15, 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.

◆ Conference House Park Morning Walk—This is a combined walk with the S.I. Museum's Nature Section. Rare birds have been known to visit the Conference House Park this time of year. Naturalist Seth Wollney will also be discussing the Lenape Native American Indians, and the Colonial period at this wonderful south shore park. Meet at the Visitor Center parking lot at the end of Hylan Blvd. For more information call Seth at (718) 619-5905.

Sunday, April 15, 12 noon to 2 p.m.

◆ Page Avenue Beach: Life in the Intertidal Zone—Four children and six adults joined us in early December, 2006, for this family activity. We'll begin by beach-combing the high tide line to see what nature's debris has to tell us. As the tide goes out, we'll move into the intertidal zone to see what living things survive in this challenging but rewarding habitat. A variety of crabs, snails, clams, worms and small fish are likely to be discovered. It's going to be muddy so dress appropriately. Meet at the parking lot at the bottom of Page Avenue below Hylan Blvd. For more information phone Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496 or Clay Wollney at (718) 303-7825.

Saturday, April 21, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Celebrate Pre-Earth Day at Bloomingdale Park in Early Spring—See Staten Island's second best spring wildflower display in a 2 mile stroll of a mature forest and along a classic meandering stream. See masses of spring beauties and trout lily in bloom. A gentle walk along an easy trail. Meet at the intersection of Maguire Avenue and Drumgoole Road West. Wear sturdy shoes and bring a light refreshment. For more information call Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496.

Sunday, April 22, 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Corson's Brook Woods, Staten Island's Greatest Secret—Celebrate Earth Day with a visit to A MAGNIFICENT NATIVE WILDFLOWER DISPLAY. See tens of thousands of white spring beauties, hundreds of trout lily in bloom, plus wild leek, Canada mayflower and skunk cabbage galore. Meet on Forest Hill Road, corner of Jasper St., opposite rear entrance road to CSI. Expect some wet walking and stream crossings. Few places can match this display of tree, shrub, wildflower and fern biodiversity in 21 acres. It also has the rare bladdernut, corn lily, zigzag goldenrod and dwarf ginseng which we rediscovered in 2006. We are determined to relocate the six to eight foot tall False Hellebore or Indian Poke that we found there for years. Please bring cameras. For more information phone Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496.

Friday, April 27, 10:30 p.m. to midnight.

◆ The Rails' Tales—River Road at Saw Mill Creek Park. Rails are secretive birds, more often heard than seen with low pitched voices that carry well through the

dense vegetation of the swamps in which they dwell. There's no room for a male's flashy display to attract a mate. Meet at the corner of Chelsea Road and Edward Curry Blvd. Bring flashlight with strong beam. Dress for a cool evening. For more information, phone Dick at (718) 761-7496 or Cliff at (718) 227-8839.

Saturday, April 28, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

◆ Mount Loretto, Spring Awakening—Spring in the surrounding meadows and ponds of this unique and natural area can turn up some animal and plants, that are typical of open fields and marshy habitats. Mammals, amphibians, reptiles, insects and of course birds will be our goal to find and observe. Comfortable shoes and binoculars are a must. Meet at the Hylan Blvd. parking lot on the shore side. For more information phone Howie at (718) 981-4002 or Dick at (718) 761-7496.

Sunday, April 29, 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

◆ Greenbelt Butterflies—Join naturalist/educator Cliff Hagen for a study of the butterflies attracted to Greenbelt wildflowers. Meet at the Greenbelt Nature Center on Rockland Ave. at the end of Brielle Ave. Bring your small Golden Field Guide to moths and butterflies. For more information, phone Dick at (718) 761-7496 or Cliff at (718) 227-8839.

Tuesday, May 1, 7:15 p.m. to 8:45 p.m.

Milk or Planting Full Moon—Sunset Moonrise Walk at Mt. Moses—Sunset is at 7:52 p.m. and moonrise is 20 minutes earlier at 7:32 p.m. Since it takes the moon 20 minutes to rise above the hills of High Rock, we should see moonrise at about the same time as the sunset. We have never seen them occur at the same time before. Meet at the entry road to Eger Home at intersection of Rockland and Meisner Avenues. Flashlight is required for each person in your group. Please bring a light refreshment to share with others. Be sure to dress for a cool evening. The walk is barely fifteen minutes each way. On the way past the intersection, see the hundreds of shrubs, trees, grasses and wetland plants turning green leafing out and some even in their spring flowering mode and getting ready to bloom. DEP planted all of them in the flood control system with new dam that has worked well so far in moderately heavy flood rains. Call Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496 for more information.

Friday, May 4, 10:30 p.m. to midnight

◆ The Rails' Tales, River Road at Saw Mill Creek Park—See April 27 for description and directions. For more information, phone Dick at (718) 761-7496 or Cliff at (718) 227-8839.

Saturday, May 5, 9:45 a.m. to 4 p.m.

38th Annual Spring Ten Mile Walk of the SI Greenbelt—Ten moderate miles at a comfortable pace. See wonderful vistas, beautiful woodlands and the blooming of the Pinxter Azalea, Highbush Blueberry and Canada Mayflower. Meet at our new meeting place where the parking is easier: the beginning of the blue trail, at the end of Staten Island Blvd. (the road right above Petrides School which intersects Ocean Terrace). Bring lunch, beverage and sturdy walking shoes as well as camera, binoculars and field guides. We go in all weather but walk shortened if high pollution levels occur. Call Dick Buegler (718) 761-7496, Herman Zaage (718) 727-0772 or Chuck Perry (718) 667-1393 for more information.



Dear Members:

We thank all of you have renewed your memberships this past year. As you may have noticed, your membership card states that your renewal goes to March of the following year, regardless of what month you sent your dues. If your mailing label has the date March, 2007, or a previous year, please take the time to renew.

We need your support to continue our work!

New Members: Eric Bro, Dorothy Mitchell, Eliana Garcia, Hazel Twelker, Joann Nelsen and Kathleen Kelly

Donor: Monica Platt, Westerleigh Improvement Society, Inc., Ronald & Jean Bourque, Daniel C. Sblendorio, Dr. & Mrs. Albert B. Siewers

Patron: Fred & Christine Baumann, Mr. &

Mrs. Louis J. Dujmich and Karen McKernan
Contributing: Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Brech, Barbara Owens, Judy Thurmond, Dr. Steven Goldstein, Ms. Jane Kaczorowski, Mary F. Wheeler, Mr. Henry J. Bardel, Jerry Muldoon, Richard Lefkowitz, David I. Herschfeld and Kenneth Baer

Organizations: Richmondtown & Clarke Avenue Civic Association

Special Donations: Catherine Barron, Paul Schwartz, and Bruce Gillam

Remember, if your mailing label has the date March 2007, or a previous year, please take the time to renew. March 2007 on your label means that your membership ends in March.

We deeply appreciate your continued support of the activities of Protectors of Pine Oak Woods.

—Elaine B. Croteau, Membership Secretary
(Ecroteau@siprotectors.org)

A BIRDING WINDFALL FOR PROTECTORS

A FRONT-PAGE ARTICLE IN THE JANUARY 28, 2007 S. I. Advance, "Empty Nest," by reporter Glenn Nyback, gave good information on the impact of the West Nile virus epidemic in 1999 and the closing of the Fresh Kills landfill in March 2001 on Staten Island's bird populations. The total bird count is not as important as the total species count observed in a community. The more species an area hosts, the more diverse and healthy that natural community is.

The article is accompanied by Nyback's separate article about board member Cliff Hagen's offer to contribute to Protectors, all his donation pledges from Staten Islanders for his year-long attempt to identify at least 250 bird species on the island by year's end. The Christmas Bird Count generally hovers around the 100 mark. Cliff will need the year to reach his goal of 250 species. Protectors appreciates Cliff's efforts to raise funds for preservation of more open space and natural areas and for further education of Staten Islanders about the wealth of nature on Staten Island. If you would like to pledge a nickel, dime or dollar per species, and help Protectors' mission, please call Cliff at (718) 313-8591.

We will keep you posted on Cliff's current species total on our website. He will be leading various walks this spring, summer and fall for Blue Heron Park and Protectors of Pine Oak Woods, so you might care to join him from time to time as he gets closer to his final total.

—Dick Buegler

We are now accepting Summer 2007 applications for teens between 15 and 17 years old to attend the DEC Teen Camp and Pack Forest. Starting this year, we are also accepting applications for youngsters 12 to 14 years old. Please contact Cliff Hagen at (718) 313-8591 for more information.

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 LIFE

- \$ 10.00...Student
- \$ 10.00...Senior Citizen
- \$ 15.00...Individual
- \$ 20.00...Family
- \$ 35.00...Contributor
- \$ 50.00...Organization
- \$ 50.00...Donor
- \$100.00...Supporter
- \$250.00...Patron
- \$500.00...Life Member
- \$ 3.50...Lapel Pin, mailed to me

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: _____

ENCLOSED is my tax deductible check for \$ _____ made payable to PROTECTORS OF PINE OAK WOODS, INC.

Mail to: Elaine Croteau, Membership Secretary, P.O. Box 140661, Staten Island, NY 10314-0661

We hope that the formation of the Staten Island Community Preservation Conservancy engenders in our elected officials an enlightened awareness of the dwindling natural resources on Staten Island and the need for preservation before our natural areas are developed out of existence.

Our Bombastic Press

The press continues to hammer away at Protectors every chance it gets, however. In a January 2, 2007 editorial on the Borough President's desire to build an ornate bridge in Bloomingdale Park, the Advance excoriated Protectors for its past failed attempt to halt the development of Bloomingdale Park. "Environmentalists like Protectors went nuts" the paper said (this particular editorial writer loves to wallow in negative hyperbole). The editorial goes on to relate how Protectors (joined by the respected Manhattan law firm Sullivan and Cromwell), sued the city for its failure to exercise

proper oversight of our natural resources, wetland and woodlands, resources that if protected, increase the public good, as do properly sited ballfields. The editorial attacked the Parks Department as well, calling the agency "environmental zealots" for being opposed to this elaborate bridge on the grounds that it is unnecessary and not in keeping with the plans for the park.

Let's be clear: We see the disparagement of Protectors as a gratuitous snub of a venerable organization. Protectors is not involved in this issue. In fact, once we lost the lawsuit, we moved on to other projects.

As members, you know that we represent a sizeable segment of Staten Island's population who are tired and angry about the ongoing chipping away at our parkland and woodlands. No one in Protectors acts alone. We work hard at coming up with consensus after careful discussion and deliberation of the facts and our options. Contrast this with our Bor-

ough President, who feels he can act unilaterally and demand that his projects be carried out, and if an agency acting in a stewardship capacity opposes his idea, he threatens to take back the taxpayers' money he has earmarked for that particular agency.

Protectors receives grant

Protectors has received generous funding from the New York City Environmental Fund to continue our series of walks through Staten Island's parks. Our naturalist-led walks are geared to a variety of tastes and skill levels and can be enjoyed by people of all ages. We are grateful for the continued funding by the New York City Environmental Fund that enables us to provide New York City with this service. For a list of our walks, please consult the calendar on page 3.

—Hillel Lofaso

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HAS EXPIRED. PLEASE, RENEW TODAY!