



# On the Wing

April / May 2012

News from Saw Mill River Audubon

Issue 328

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People ♦ Memberships & Donations



Ground nesting birds like the bobolink pictured above are suffering from habitat loss and other stresses in our region. See page 3 for more information about how to help these birds.

## Final Bird Seed Sale of the Season Saturday, April 21

9:30 am–12:30 pm  
Pruyn Sanctuary

**25% OFF SALE**

Weekday sales are available  
Mon/Wed/Fri  
10:30 am–3:30 pm  
Call 914.666.6503 for details

All sales benefit  
Saw Mill River Audubon

## SPRING ADVENTURES

Join us! For more information call 914.666.6503 or visit  
[www.sawmillriveraudubon.org](http://www.sawmillriveraudubon.org)

### Second Saturday Walks at Brinton Brook

Saturday, April 14, 9:00 am ♦ Saturday, May 12, 9:00 am

Spring is the perfect time to join us on our monthly walks at our largest sanctuary: Brinton Brook in Croton-on-Hudson. No pre-registration needed. Ages 6 and up. Held regardless of weather except in cases of severe weather or road closures. Meet at main entrance off Route 9A. Directions at [www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/Brinton.html](http://www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/Brinton.html)



### Hike At Sylvan Glen Nature Preserve

Saturday, April 28 ♦ 1:00 pm

Come explore the trails in this fascinating 342-acre property owned by the Town of Yorktown. Walk leader: Jane Daniels, co-author of *Walkable Westchester*. Pre-registration required by emailing [office@sawmillriveraudubon.org](mailto:office@sawmillriveraudubon.org) or calling 914.666.6503. More details and directions available at [www.nynjtc.org/park/sylvan-glen-park-preserve](http://www.nynjtc.org/park/sylvan-glen-park-preserve)

### Early Morning Birding Adventures on Multiple Dates in May



In May, early morning birding offers sights and sounds from the flood of neotropical migrants pouring through our region. Join us for great birding at key hotspots in the area. Times shown are at the specific location unless otherwise indicated but carpooling from Millwood area is possible for all events. Please contact us to let us know you are coming or to inquire about rides and other details. Phone: 914.666.6503 or email: [office@sawmillriveraudubon.org](mailto:office@sawmillriveraudubon.org)

Saturday, May 5 ♦ 5:30 am (from Millwood) ♦ PROSPECT PARK

Monday, May 7 ♦ 6:00 am ♦ ANGLEFLY PRESERVE, SOMERS

Tuesday, May 8 ♦ 6:30 am ♦ ROCKEFELLER STATE PARK PRESERVE

Saturday, May 12 ♦ 6:00 am ♦ DOODLETOWN and MINE ROAD

Monday, May 14 ♦ 6:30 am ♦ CENTRAL PARK

Wednesday, May 16 ♦ 6:30 am ♦ MIANUS RIVER GORGE

Saturday, May 26 ♦ 6:00 am (from Millwood) ♦ STERLING FOREST

**SEE PAGE 3 FOR MORE AUDUBON PROGRAMS & EVENTS**

## In Memoriam: Midge Arnold



Midge and Bill Arnold display a proclamation from the Westchester County Board of Legislators recognizing their service to Saw Mill River Audubon presented to them at the 2007 SMRA Annual Dinner.

We are saddened to report that long-time Saw Mill River Audubon leader Midge Arnold died on February 10th at the age of 87. Midge, along with her husband Bill, gave generously of her time and talents to Saw Mill River Audubon for over 25 years. She was an active member of the Board of Directors for much of that time. Midge championed the idea of a Butterfly and Hummingbird Garden at Pruyne Sanctuary and was instrumental in its creation.

She also helped design the Arboretum at Pruyne Sanctuary and oversaw the initial planting of perennials and annuals. Our deepest condolences go out to Bill Arnold and to the Arnold family.

## SMRA Helps Make EagleFest a Success

Saw Mill River Audubon was pleased to help support the 2012 Hudson River EagleFest on February 4th. Organized by Teatown Lake Reservation, this year's EagleFest attracted thousands of people to the eagle spotting and exhibit sites. SMRA sponsored and staffed three of the viewing locations. Our thanks to the many volunteers who helped us reach out to a broader public about bald eagles and other conservation issues.



Liberty the bald eagle entertained and educated visitors to the 2012 EagleFest.

Photo: Peter H. Oden

## Young Birder Is Intel Finalist

Along with the other four Audubon chapters in Westchester County with whom he has worked, Saw Mill River Audubon offers our congratulations to White Plains High School senior Benjamin Van Doren, who was one of 40 high school students nationwide recognized as a finalist in the 2012 Intel Science Talent Search. On March 13, the Intel Corporation announced that Benjamin received the fifth place prize and a \$30,000 award. The Intel Science Talent Search, a program of the Society for Science and the Public, is the country's oldest and most prestigious pre-college science competition.



Benjamin explored the purpose of morning flight, a poorly understood behavior of nocturnal migratory birds. Benjamin combined topographical and weather data to determine that autumn morning flight is important for accurately orienting during long migrations and is affected by environmental conditions and manmade structures. He demonstrated that morning flights tend to orient into the wind. This may have negative implications for migrants because of the expansion of urbanized areas and industrial-scale wind power generation.

Saw Mill River Audubon was pleased to support Benjamin with a Larry Light Scholarship last summer to attend the American Birding Association youth birding camp in Colorado.

Those wishing to learn more about Benjamin's research may attend a Hudson River Audubon Society program at the Lenoir Preserve in Yonkers on Wednesday, April 25th at 7:00 pm. In this presentation, entitled *Witness the Invisible: Tuning into Night Migration*, Benjamin will discuss how science is unlocking the secrets of the nighttime travels of migratory birds. Program details at [www.hras.org](http://www.hras.org)

## Welcome Members

**Briarcliff Manor** Wilhelma Bauer, Helene Cenci, Keith R. Emrich, Mark Wood  
**Chappaqua** Gail Maniscalco, The Soohoo Family **Cortlandt Manor** Richard Furnari, Jo Ann McGinness, Kathleen Nowinski, Elaine Paris, Takaharu Tanaka, John Trotta, Frank Verdi **Croton-on-Hudson** Erik and Eva Andersen, Karen S. Drotzer **Millwood** Christine Fox **Ossining** Virginia Molea, Lynne Schultz **Peekskill** Terri Cuddy, Carrie Harper, Tim Lorch, Patricia Viggiano **Pleasantville** Joshua Bordin, John E. Parauda, David Villa **Sleepy Hollow** Joan Oltman, Michael Povman, Cynthia Sammis **Tarrytown** Barbara Clevenger, Meg Greenberg, Sally C. Morgan **Thornwood** Gordon Girvin, Craig Schiller **Valhalla** Alice Marcus **Yorktown Heights** Shirl Kaplan

CITIZEN SCIENCE

MORE SPRING EVENTS



## Stop the Emerald Ash Borer

The emerald ash borer (EAB), a beetle native to Asia, has been spreading across North America and is now reaching our area. This invader infests ash trees; millions have already been killed by the EAB. Our local woodlands could be seriously impacted.

The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) is asking birders and others for help in alerting authorities to the presence of the EAB. Woodpeckers dig into infested trees to attack EAB larvae.



Woodpecker damage to an ash tree infested by the emerald ash borer

Woodpecker holes (see photo above) are larger and easier to see than the D-shaped exit holes left by the EAB. Several infestations have been discovered because birders noticed woodpecker damage on ash trees.

If you think you have seen the EAB, call the USDA at 1.866.322.4512. More information at: [www.emeraldashborer.info](http://www.emeraldashborer.info)

## Help Ground Nesting Birds

Grassland habitat has been declining for over 100 years in the northeast. This has taken a toll on ground nesters like the bobolink and eastern meadowlark. Land owners who maintain grasslands and meadows can help slow this decline. To learn more about how to help, visit [www.massaudubon.org/Birds\\_and\\_Birding/grassland/](http://www.massaudubon.org/Birds_and_Birding/grassland/)



Photo: J. Dingel, PGC

Eastern meadowlark

### APRIL

**Tuesday, April 24 ♦ 7:00 pm**  
**Invasive Plants: What To Do**  
 Program by the Croton Conservation Advisory Council at the Croton Library featuring Meredith Taylor, invasive plant expert. Learn about the top invasives and get management tips for your garden. This program is free.

### MAY

**Saturday, May 12 ♦ 9:00 am**  
**Second Saturday Walk at Brinton Brook Sanctuary**  
 See page 1 for details.

**Tuesday, May 22 ♦ 9:00 am**  
**Our Woodlands Under Siege**  
 Program by the Croton Conservation Advisory Council at the Croton Library featuring Brendan Murphy, forester for the Watershed Agricultural Council. Brendan will discuss the many threats to our local woodlands and what we can do to maintain healthy forests. This program is free.

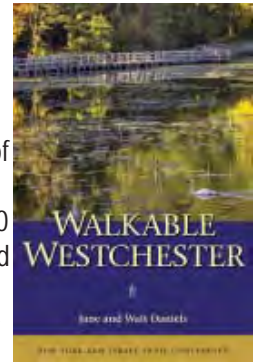
### JUNE

**Saturday, June 16 ♦ 6:00 am**  
**(from Millwood)**  
**Basha Kill Birding**  
 The Basha Kill River valley, with over 3,000 acres of freshwater wetlands, lies between the Shawangunks and Catskills and offers great birding in early summer. Call or email us to register and check in about carpooling or caravanning.

### JUNE

**Wednesday, June 20 ♦ 7:00 pm**  
**Walkable Westchester at the Ossining Library**

Jane Daniels, co-author of the book *Walkable Westchester*, will discuss the wealth of information in this book that covers 180 parks, preserves and sanctuaries in Westchester County with 600 miles of walking trails. Come get inspired to explore new places nearby! Free and open to the public. Co-sponsored by Ossining Library. Copies of *Walkable Westchester* will be available for sale.



**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
**Information for All Field Trips**  
**Suggested donation of \$5/person.**  
 (Youth & children under 18 are free.)

We ask you to call 914.666.6503 OR email [office@sawmillriveraudubon.org](mailto:office@sawmillriveraudubon.org) before the trip so we know to expect you. Most trips run rain or shine. If we do need to cancel a trip we will call or email (your preference) to all who are registered and we will also put a notice on our website and our office answering machine.



**CATS INDOORS!**  
 THE CAMPAIGN FOR SAFER BIRDS & CATS

The American Bird Conservancy has launched a citizen education and action campaign to end the massive loss of birds and other wildlife to predation by domestic cats. Scientists estimate that free-roaming cats (owned, stray, and feral) kill hundreds of millions of birds in the US each year. And indoor cats are healthier and live longer. Do the birds and your cats a favor—keep your cats inside. Information at: [web4.audubon.org/bird/cat/](http://web4.audubon.org/bird/cat/)



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275 Millwood Road  
Chappaqua, New York 10514

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Deadline for Next Newsletter: **May 1**

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*ON THE WING* is published five (5) times a year (Sept/Oct/Nov, Dec/Jan, Feb/Mar, Apr/May, and June/July/Aug) for \$7.50 a year by Saw Mill River Audubon, 275 Millwood Road, Chappaqua, NY 10514. **Periodical Postage #013281** at Chappaqua, NY 10514. **ISSN: 1545-5254** at Chappaqua, NY and additional mailing offices. **POSTMASTER:** Address changes to: **Saw Mill River Audubon**, 275 Millwood Road, Chappaqua, NY 10514

**EXPLORE NATURE**

“Nature uses only the longest threads to weave her patterns, so that each small piece of her fabric reveals the organization of the entire tapestry.”

*Richard P. Feynman*



See the beautiful trout lily at Pruyn Sanctuary.

Visit one of our sanctuaries and explore nature. Your gift helps us to preserve and protect these special places close to home. You may also join, give a gift membership, or make a memorial donation online.

**I WISH TO DONATE**

Enclosed is:

- \$500    \$250    \$100
- \$50    \$30    \$\_\_\_\_\_

My employer will match my gift.

**I'D LIKE TO JOIN Saw Mill River Audubon!**

Basic Chapter Membership:

- Enclosed is \$30
- Please send me planned giving info

Name(s)

Address

City/State/Zip

Telephone

Please make checks payable to:

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