

February / March 2013
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ONGOING WALKS & EVENTS

In addition to the many programs and trips in this newsletter, visit our website to learn about regularly scheduled walks and events, including weekend Project FeederWatch counting, Monday morning walks at local birding hotspots and Thursday afternoon (Feb. only)



SMRA volunteer Rudy Fasciani checks a bluebird house he built at our Brinton Brook Sanctuary. Explore our largest sanctuary with us on our Second Saturday walks! See page 3.

Winter Seed Sales

Every Third Saturday

9:30 am–12:30 pm

Sat. Feb 16 Sat. Mar 16

At Prun Sanctuary

We still have an assortment of high-quality seed!

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

AUDUBON PROGRAMS

Join us! For more information call 914.666.6503 or visit www.sawmillriveraudubon.org

Hudson River EagleFest 2013

Saturday, February 9 ♦ 9:00 am–4:00 pm (Snow date: Feb. 10)

Don't miss this day-long celebration of the wintering bald eagles on the Hudson River. Eagle viewing locations include the Croton River boat ramp, George's Island Park, Croton Dam, and Peekskill Riverfront Green. SMRA is sponsoring warming tents at the first two locations, leading birds walks from the main event area in Croton Point Park and offering our "Raptors for Rookies" program in the morning inside the main tent at Croton Point. Visit www.teatown.org/eaglefest for more details.



The Atlantic Flyway Connection

(La Conexión vía Migratoria del Atlántico)

Wednesday, February 13 ♦ 7:00 pm ♦ Katonah Village Library

Lecture co-sponsored with Bedford Audubon in honor of their 100th Anniversary and SMRA's 60th Anniversary. Political boundaries mean nothing to migratory birds, many of which travel thousands of miles over forest, grasslands, and ocean between their winter and breeding grounds. John Beavers, National Audubon's Vice President for International Alliances, will describe the unbreakable bond between northern Westchester County and Central America, and how we can unite to conserve critical habitat throughout our flyway. Sponsored by TogetherGreen.

Visions: Earth's Elements in Bird and Nature

Photography by Kevin Karlson

Thursday, March 21 ♦ 7:00 pm ♦ Croton Free Library

We are honored to have Kevin Karlson, accomplished birder, professional tour leader, wildlife photographer and author, present his latest collection of photographs from his new nature photography book. In describing this evening's event, he says, "Everyone has visions, and some of these have the power to transform our lives. This visual and musical program contains an exciting collection of bird and nature images that reflect the personal visions of nature as perceived through the camera lens of 11 of the finest action and behavioral photographers. The images are themed to the elements of the planet: earth, fire, air and water."



Karlson is a former photo editor for *North American Birds*. He currently writes the Birder's ID column for *Wild Bird* magazine and has created several birding apps. He is co-author of *The Shorebird Guide*, *The Birds of Cape May*, and is completing a new book for the Roger Tory Peterson Reference series called

Birding by Impression. This promises to be a fascinating evening!

SEE PAGE 3 FOR OUR LIST OF EXCITING FIELD TRIPS

Apply for a Youth Scholarship

Saw Mill River Audubon is seeking qualified young people to apply for one of our environmental education scholarships. The deadline for 2013 scholarships has been extended to February 28th. The **Larry Light Memorial Scholarship Fund for Youth** was established to assist young people ages 13 to 17 to attend a summer camp, class or workshop with an emphasis on the environment. For more information or to download an application visit: www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/Scholarships.html

AUDUBON ANNUAL DINNER

Saturday, April 13, 2013, 6:00 pm

New Castle Community Center
10 Senter Street, Chappaqua

Join us at our 2013 Annual Dinner. We'll celebrate another year of Audubon activities and environmental stewardship with a community potluck supper.

There will be great food and informative presentations. Don't miss this fun and friendly gathering!

Check our website in late February for additional information. And watch for special email alerts about the exciting program we'll be presenting.



Welcome Members

Briarcliff Manor L. Delitta, Doris Knopf, Kate Permut **Chappaqua** Dennis Charney, Alexandre Eigenberger, Rita Kenny, Scott Levin, John Sadik-Khan, John & Lynn Salmon **Cortlandt Manor** Gloria Chase, Anchal Kanjia, Laura Myerson **Croton-on-Hudson** Margaret Cea, Eva Donahue, Tom & Brigid Faranda, Bob & Ann Reibel **Oceanport, NJ** The Kogut-Loquet Family **Ossining** Carmen Gonzalez, Mary Schreiber, Richard Slingerland **Peekskill** S. Evans-Sterling, Meghan Sheldon **Pleasantville** J. W. Brown, Julie Greco, Nicole Miano, Joanna Ross **Sleepy Hollow** Michael Staples **Thornwood** Gregg Sidoti **Washington, DC** Linda Tuxen

Celebrating 60 Years!

2013 marks Saw Mill River Audubon's sixtieth year of service. And we've got a lot to celebrate!

- In 1962, we acquired our first sanctuary. Today, we own and maintain more than 300 acres in eight sanctuaries.
- In 1966, we held our first bird seed sale, selling 400 pounds of seed. In 2013, we'll hold our 47th. Sales now top 26 tons annually.
- Our formal advocacy efforts began with the 1970 Earth Day Fair and our work on the gypsy moth controversy. Since then, we have lobbied for the adoption of local wetlands and tree ordinances, supported measures to promote environmentally sound land use planning, offered numerous community education programs, and drafted the New York Audubon policy statement on mosquito control and the environmental impact of pesticide application.
- We have presented more than 10,000 classroom programs for children at 90 local schools, provided dozens of environmental education scholarships to area teachers, and—through the generous support of Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Light—awarded over 30 youth scholarships.
- Our citizen science programs have involved hundreds of volunteers. Others help maintain our Butterfly and Hummingbird Garden and our sanctuaries.
- Over 1,000 lectures and workshops have been presented on local wildlife and habitat, while our many field trips have taken participants to dozens of regional, national, and international parks and sanctuaries.

We have all sorts of special programs planned this year. From "Raptors Uncorked: An Evening of Wine and Wildlife" to a cruise along the Hudson to enjoy the fall foliage. Plus a new logo for our organization and a new look for our newsletter.

Look for the special events card coming in the mail that will list some of the highlights. Check our Website for new additions. Join the celebration! It's a great time to be a member of SMRA. Thanks for helping us thrive and grow!



Binocular Basics

Many beginning birders want to know which binoculars to buy. It's an issue that can be best addressed by answering three questions: How far do you want to see, how much do you want to spend, and how much weight do you want around your neck or in your backpack?

Binoculars are measured by a two-number formula. For example, 8 x 42 means that distance objects (vireos, for example) will be magnified to eight times their size, and that the width of the objective or outer lens is 42 millimeters (that second number will give you an indication of light-gathering capacity). Generally, 7 x 35 or 8 x 42 magnification is fine for regular birding; higher power is wonderful if you can hold binoculars still; otherwise slight trembles are also magnified. Bigger objective lenses can be heavier, too. If you're going high-magnification you might want to consider a spotting scope and tripod.

What can you expect to spend on binoculars? Do you want to spend a day's pay, a week's, or a month's? You can get a decent pair for about \$100; the more ambitious you get, the closer you get to the four-figure total. Consider how much time you plan to spend birding this year, and in coming years, and make a decision based on that. Like a nice watch or musical instrument, you may be happy years from now if you make a wise and quality choice. A number of websites can help you choose binoculars. A good place to start is eagleoptics.com.

One great way to gauge binoculars is to go birding with a group. A field test is a true test. We birders are generally friendly folk: ask people what they have, where they bought it, are they willing to let you try it out?

--Brian Kluepfel

FEBRUARY

Saturday, Feb. 2 ♦ 9:00 am Meadowland Birding

Travel with us to visit the rich habitats of northeastern New Jersey to find wintering waterfowl and more. Our leader will be Meadowlands Commission Naturalist Michael Newhouse. Meet at 9:00 am at DeKorte Park visitor center or 7:30 am from Millwood A&P. Call or email to pre-register and for carpooling options.

Saturday, Feb. 9 ♦ 9:00 am Second Saturday Walk at Brinton Brook Sanctuary

Our monthly walks will continue year-round on second Saturdays at our largest sanctuary: Brinton Brook in Croton-on-Hudson. Good for ages 6 and up. No pre-registration necessary. Held regardless of weather except in cases of severe weather or road closures. Meet at main parking area off Route 9A.

Sat. Feb. 16 ♦ 10:00 am (from Millwood) Winter Raptors in Orange & Ulster Counties

Join us for a day trip to the grassland habitats in Orange and Ulster Counties to view winter raptors. Possibilities include rough-legged hawk and daytime hunting short-eared owls. Locations will depend on reports. Call or email to pre-register and for carpooling options.

MARCH

Saturday, Mar. 9 ♦ 9:00 am Second Saturday Walk at Brinton Brook Sanctuary

See Feb. 9 above for details.



MARCH (cont.)

Saturday, Mar. 16 ♦ 6:30 pm Flight of the Woodcock at Westmoreland Sanctuary

In the spring, woodcock have a wild and wonderful aerial courtship flight at dusk.



Experience this beautiful seasonal event with us. Meet at Westmoreland Sanctuary parking lot. Bring flashlights and dress for the weather including warm and waterproof footwear. Good for ages 6 and up.

Sunday, Mar. 17 ♦ 7:00 pm Peeper Prowl at Pinecliff

Come experience another special spring event as we listen and look for spring peepers and wood frogs at Pinecliff Sanctuary at dusk. Every year is different



but the peepers are usually peeping by this time. Too low temperatures

lead to quiet frogs and mean that we will cancel this walk so be sure to pre-register by email or phone so we can update you if plans change.

Saturday, Mar. 23 ♦ 9:00 am Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

Explore this birding habitat jewel in New York City with Don Riepe, Jamaica Bay Guardian. This is a good time of year for early migrants such as osprey, egrets, oystercatchers, phoebes, killdeer, yellow-legs and some winter birds and waterfowl. Meet 9:00 am at the National Wildlife Refuge Visitors Center or carpool from Millwood A&P at 7:30 am. Call or email for free registration and for carpooling options.

Saw Mill River Audubon

275 Millwood Road
Chappaqua, New York 10514

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Save the Date!
SMRA Annual Dinner
Saturday, April 13, 2013. Details on page 2.

Deadline for next newsletter: **Apr. 1**

Saw Mill River Audubon

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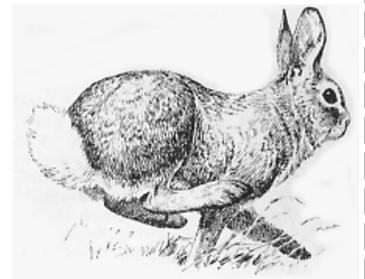
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MAKE A GIFT TO WILDLIFE

“The greatest crime is to do nothing because we can only do a little.” *Old French Aphorism*

SMRA’s eight sanctuaries are special places for wildlife and people right in our backyard in northern Westchester.



Your gift is critical to preserve and maintain them. Thank you!

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

Please make checks payable to:

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