



On the Wing

Summer 2012

News from Saw Mill River Audubon

Issue 329

1 Summer Trips & Programs

2 Chapter News

New Board Member ♦ Help Us Plan Annual Dinner ♦ Birds Mean Business

3 Texas Trip

Boreal Birds Workshop

4 Contact Us!

People ♦ Memberships & Donations



Christine McCluskey photographed this western willet at Crystal Beach on SMRA's birding trip to Texas in April. See more of Christine's photos from the Texas trip on page 3.

Special Seed Sale!

Save 25% on All

Varieties of Seed

Limited Time Only!

We're reducing the price of all our remaining seed. (Not all types available.) Sale ends end of July.

Seed is available for sale
Mon/Wed/Fri
10:30 am-3:30 pm at
Pruyn Sanctuary
Call 914.666.6503
for details

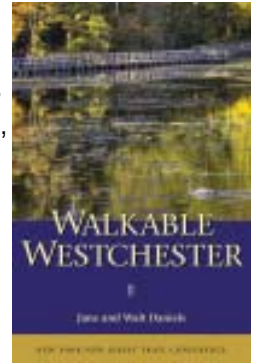
SUMMER EVENTS

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

Wednesday, June 20 ♦ 7:00 pm

Walkable Westchester at the Ossining Library

Jane Daniels, co-author of *Walkable Westchester*, will discuss the wealth of information in this book, which 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. This is a must-have resource for all Westchester residents.



Saturday, July 14 ♦ 9:00 am

Second Saturday Walk at Brinton Brook

Our monthly walks at Brinton Brook Sanctuary in Croton-on-Hudson continue through the summer months! 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

Sunday, August 5 ♦ 12:00 noon-5:00 pm ♦ Van Cortlandt Manor, Croton
River Day at Van Cortlandt Manor

River Day is a celebration of the Hudson River and its tributaries. Take a boat-ride and experience the river as it was in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Bring the family and participate in hands-on activities like fishing, hearth cooking, and brick making. Visitors can enjoy boating, music, picnicing, and storytelling. In addition, current-day environmental groups, including Saw Mill River Audubon, will have exhibits. Stop by and visit us! Food and beverages available for purchase.



For more details, visit *Historic Hudson Valley* at www.hhv.org.

Saturday, August 11 ♦ 9:00 am

Second Saturday Walk at Brinton Brook

Our monthly walks at Brinton Brook Sanctuary in Croton-on-Hudson continue through the summer months! 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

Good Times at SMRA's Annual Dinner

SMRA held its 2012 Annual Meeting and Dinner in April at the Travelers Rest restaurant in Millwood. It was a friendly gathering where long-time members and volunteers got to meet new members and celebrate another year of SMRA's environmental stewardship.

The highlight of the event was a slide show by SMRA Larry Light Scholarship winner Lewis Lolya, who described his visit to Audubon Camp on Hog Island, Maine.

Lewis shared his excitement at seeing many species of pelagic birds for the first time and described the important conservation initiatives taking place on the Maine coast. Topping off the evening, Charlie Roberto entertained attendees by showing an assortment of his beautiful photographs of butterflies. Charlie provided valuable tips on how to find and observe butterflies, whether in your backyard or above the timberline in the mountains.



SMRA scholarship winner Lewis Lolya talked about the diverse birdlife at Audubon Camp, Hog Island, Maine

Planning Ahead

We will be planning our public program and field trip calendar for September 2012 through August 2013 in the coming weeks. Do you have an idea for a speaker or presentation we should offer? Do you have a suggested field trip location, either a half or full day trip in our region or a weekend trip farther afield? Our annual week-long trip is also being considered. In past years, we have visited Trinidad, Arizona, Costa Rica and (this past spring, see page 3) the Texas Coast and Hill Country. This major trip is also a fundraiser for Saw Mill River Audubon including a donation to support our local conservation work.

Your ideas are invited! Contact our office through email at office@sawmillriveraudubon.org or by phone at 914.666.6503 to share your trip or program ideas.

New Board Member

New SMRA board member **Brian Kluepfel** is a graduate of the University of San Francisco's Master of Arts in Writing program and has worked as travel writer throughout South America, where he added the hoatzin, jaiburu stork and two species of flamingos to his life list. After 16 years on the Left Coast he returned to his native Hudson Valley as surely as a swallow would to Capistrano, and now leads the life of a country gentleman in Pleasantville, where he scatters birdseed on his windowsill and observes the chickadees and sparrows. Brian is looking forward to his service on the board. He plans to use his communication skills to spread the word about Saw Mill River Audubon.



Birds Mean Business

Audubon New York has initiated a program to demonstrate to local communities that birders and other ecotourists have a significant economic impact. A series of business cards has been produced by the Birds Mean Business campaign for birders to give to the local merchants that they patronize on their birding trips. The goal is to generate support for environmental conservation and open space preservation by showing the positive impacts on local businesses. For more information, visit ny.audubon.org/ecotourism. Birds Mean Business is supported by the TogetherGreen program.



Welcome Members

Bethel, CT Tia Murphy **Briarcliff Manor** Nancy Stricker
Chappaqua Laura Fox **Cortlandt Manor** Barbara J. Dwyer, Nancy Jenks, Raymond P. Lutomski, Raymond Olyha, Donna Trinkoff **Croton-on-Hudson** Margaret Chin, Joseph Forte, Janet E. Hillis **Hawthorne** Hazel Gianazza, Rosemary Uzzo
New Fairfield, CT Carolyn McShane **Norwalk, CT** Valerie Johnson **Ossining** Eric Feinstein, Mark Friedman, David McKenna, Betty C. Nichols **Pleasantville** Don Altman
Sleepy Hollow Jane Creel, Ann Holloway **Thornwood** Janet R. Dick **Valhalla** Hugh Fish

SMRA Texas Trip

In April, SMRA sponsored a birding trip to the Texas Gulf Coast. We also took a side trip to the Texas Hill Country and visited the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. The following photographs, all of which were taken by Christine McCluskey, provide a small sampling of the incredible variety of birdlife that we saw.



Little blue heron eating a crayfish at
Brazos Bend Nature Center



Roseate spoonbill at High Island



Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in Comfort, Texas

Sat & Sun, July 7-8, 2012

Boreal Bird Workshop & Trip

The New York State Ornithological Association is offering a boreal bird workshop and field trip in Wilmington, New York on the weekend of July 7-8, 2012.

On Saturday, Adirondack bird experts John and Pat Thaxton will give a presentation entitled *The Usual Suspects: A Rogue's Gallery of Adirondack Boreal Specialties*. (Read more about the work of John Thaxton at www.johnthaxton.com.)

The workshop, which is free and open to the public, will take place at the Adirondack Wildlife Refuge and Rehabilitation Center, 977 Springfield Road, Wilmington, New York 12297. Owners Wendy and Steve Hall will give a presentation and tour of the facility as a part of the late afternoon activities, which begin at 3:00 pm on Saturday, July 7th.

To learn more about the Center go to: www.adirondackwildlife.org.

John and Pat will lead the Sunday morning field trip to Whiteface beginning at 7:30 am. The field trip is open to individual, student, family and life members of NYSOA but limited to 20 participants. Field trip attendees must preregister by calling Kathy Schneider at (518) 799-3457. The field trip to Whiteface will likely conclude around noon, allowing participants time to visit other Adirondack birding sites if interested.

**FOUND INJURED
BIRDS or OTHER WILDLIFE?**

**Call this hotline number to
connect with area volunteer
wildlife rehabilitators
1-866-945-3331**

Saw Mill River Audubon

275 Millwood Road
Chappaqua, New York 10514

PERIODICAL POSTAGE
PAID
at Chappaqua, NY
and additional offices

Deadline for Next Newsletter: Aug. 1

Saw Mill River Audubon

275 Millwood Road
Chappaqua, New York 10514
914.666.6503
office@sawmillriveraudubon.org
www.sawmillriveraudubon.org

OFFICERS

President, Robert McCrillis
Vice-President, William Kellner
Chairman of the Board, Richard Saravay
Secretary, Donna Lee Ubertalli
Treasurer, Tom McEnerney
Bulletin Editor, William Kellner
Circulation Director, Jean Sparacin

STAFF

Executive Director, Anne Swaim
Office Manager, Ellen Heidelberg
Marketing & Fundraising, Barbara Campbell
Educator, Patricia Mutolo
Sanctuary Maintenance, Danny Ferguson

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 15014. 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

EXPERIENCE NATURE

“For observing nature, the best pace is a snail's pace.”
Edwin Way Teale

Visit one of Saw Mill River Audubon's sanctuaries and experience the natural world. Your gift helps us to preserve and protect these special places close to home.



The eastern box turtle finds a home in our sanctuaries.

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

Please make checks payable to:

Saw Mill River Audubon
275 Millwood Road
Chappaqua, NY 10514