



April/May 2010
Issue 318

On the Wing

News from Saw Mill River Audubon

1 Spring Programs

2 Chapter News

Scholarship Winners ♦ Prugn Bird Winter Birding Trip ♦ Stan Wecker

3 Everyday Ways to Help

Recycling Your Small Electronics

4 Contact Us!

People ♦ Memberships & Donations

Friday, May 21 to Sunday May 23 Special Event: Spring Weekend Birding Trip

Following the success of our winter birding weekend to the Adirondacks (see page 2), we will enjoy a group trip to Cape May for NJ Audubon's Spring Weekend. Enjoy 3 days of expert-led field trips and birding programs. We've reserved a limited number of hotel rooms for our group. Carpooling from Millwood will be available. Call or email us if you want to join us. Separate registration required with the Cape May Bird Observatory: www.cmbo.org

Last of our Bird Seed Sales for Spring! Saturday April 17

9:30 am-12:30 pm
Bird Seed Shed, Rt. 133
Prugn Sanctuary

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

Sunday, April 11 ♦ 6:00 pm ♦ Travelers Rest, Millwood

Annual Dinner—Hudson River Program

Author and conservationist Frances F. Dunwell will be the featured speaker at our 2010 Annual Dinner. Last minute reservations may be possible by calling our office or online: www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/Dinner where there are further program details.

Saturday, May 1 ♦ 9:00 am ♦ Choate Sanctuary

Choate Sanctuary Work Day



Come join us as we work to remove the invasive barberry at Choate Sanctuary and prepare space for new native trees and shrubs to be planted (see May 15 event below). Call us at 914.666.6503 for details and registration.

Saturday, May 1 ♦ 9:00 am ♦ Prugn Sanctuary, Office/Garden Entrance

Bird Banding Demonstration at Prugn Sanctuary

Come and watch up close as spring migrants are briefly caught, banded and released by licensed bird bander Trudy Battaly. Great photo opportunity! **Pre-registration required** by emailing or calling our office. Space limited. \$5/donation requested.

Mid-Week Birding in May

Friday, May 7 ♦ 7:00 am ♦ Central Park

Meet 7:00 am at Central Park West & 77th Street or carpool from Teatown at 6:00 am. Leader: Charlie Roberto

Wednesday, May 12 ♦ 7:30 am ♦ Rockefeller State Park Preserve

Leaders: Richard Nelson and Anne Swaim

Monday, May 17 ♦ 7:00 am ♦ Muscoot Farm County Park, Somers

Leader: Anne Swaim

Saturday, May 15 ♦ 6:00 am ♦ Bear Mountain State Park

Spring Birding at Doodletown & Iona Island

Doodletown is a rich habitat just south of Bear Mountain Park famed for its concentration of spring migrants including Hooded and Cerulean Warblers. Meet at the trailhead at 6am. Call our office to register and for directions. \$5/donation per person.

Saturday, May 15 ♦ 9:00 am ♦ Choate Sanctuary

Trees for Tree Tribes Planting



Join us to plant native trees and shrubs at Choate Sanctuary as part of New York State's "Trees for Tributaries" habitat improvement and water quality program. To sign up, email us at office@sawmillriveraudubon.org or call: 914.666.6503.

Saturday, June 5 ♦ 9:30 am ♦ Lasdon Arboretum

Tree Discovery Walk

Join Cornell Cooperative Extension specialist Rick Harper on discovery walk among the diversity of trees at Lasdon Arboretum. Meet in the main parking area. Space limited. Pre-register by phone or email to our office. See above for contact info.

CHAPTER NEWS

Scholarship Winners

Saw Mill River Audubon awarded two Larry Light Youth Environmental Scholarships this spring. With our chapter's financial support, **Sophia West** from Ossining, a Junior at Emma Willard School, will be spending the first part of June in Fiji on an environmental service trip and **Benjamin Van Doren**, a sophomore at White Plains High School, will be attending the American Birding Association's Camp Colorado youth birding camp in late June. Congratulations to both of our 2010 Larry Light Youth Scholarship winners!

Special Guest at Pruyn



Photo: Gail Benson

A rare (in these parts) yellow-headed blackbird, visited Pruyn Sanctuary ifor two months this winter attracting many visting birders. For more images (in color) and more details, visit www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/YHBL

Winter Birding Weekend



An intrepid group of birders from Saw Mill River Audubon visited the Adirondacks in January for some great winter birding. The group is seen here in the Fort Edwards grasslands watching rough-legged hawks and short-eared owls.

Welcome Members

Briarcliff Manor Greg Dow family, Wendy Gottlieb, Suzanne Whitmore **Chappaqua** Bob Breen, Susan Cosden, Irene Hecht, Clara Labianca, Mary Rohde, Clare Weber **Cortlandt Manor** Dawn Boyle, Susan Broat, Michael Colman, Bernice Myers **Croton-on-Hudson** J. A. Angulo, Kathleen Corcoran, Linda Gangloff, Lisabeth Geiser, Alex Harrison, Roy Harvey, Jane Lee, Michael Oliva, William J. Strong **Lincolndale** Collette Cannon **Mohegan Lake** Isabelle De Munnick, Sarah Shapiro **Montrose** Debrah Ruffell **New York** Noah Graj **Ossining** Rosemarie B. Bartzick, Bill Burdick, Scott Edmonds, Jeanne Farrell, Jonathan Gold, Christine Herzog **Peekskill** Victor Decicco, Susi Dugaw, Erich Paulsen **Pleasantville** Suzanne Raffalli, Judith Smith **Sleepy Hollow** David and Lois Hinman, Karin Lane **Tarrytown** Melvin Adelson, Marcia Case, Jim Keely **Valhalla** Regina Miranda **Verplanck** Rose Mason **Warwick** Alice V. Henshaw **Yonkers** Victoria Rivera

Remembering Stan Wecker

In the previous issue of *On the Wing* we reported the sad news that long-time Saw Mill River Audubon leader Stanley Wecker died on January 7, 2010. It is impossible to overstate how important Stan was to the success of this organization. He created and led, along with his wife Rita, numerous education programs and field trips, helping to make SMRA a force in the community for environmental education.

A memorial tree planting to honor Stan is being planned for our Pruyn Arboretum this spring. Our Board of Directors is also encouraging gifts in memory of Stan Wecker to support our environmental scholarship program for adults. Online gifts may be made at: www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/Donate.

Rita and Stan Wecker



Recycling Small Electronics



On the Wing is sponsored in part by a generous grant from Con Edison, which will help cover printing and distribution as well as making possible this column on Everyday Ways to Help the Environment.

You just switched cell phone carriers and received a brand new smart phone. Your old phone is now a useless paperweight. What to do? Or maybe you've upgraded to a new iPod and your old one is sitting in your desk drawer, probably never to be used again. Many people take these outdated devices and throw them in the trash. The resulting "e-waste" is becoming a serious environmental problem. Toxic products that these electronics contain may leach into landfills, contaminating our water. Or they may end up being incinerated with our kitchen garbage, releasing dangerous toxins into the air we breathe.

In her widely viewed internet video, the *Story of Stuff*, (www.storyofstuff.com) Annie Leonard describes the common desire to replace perfectly good products with the latest gadget. She calls this "perceived obsolescence." One simple way to reduce e-waste, then, is to extend the life of your things by resisting this temptation. When the time does come to discard your small electronic device, there are a number of environmentally responsible methods to see that they are recycled or reused.

Our local municipal and county governments have made great strides in recent years in increasing recycling in our communities. Those of us who live in the Town of New Castle can take advantage of its innovative recycling program. Cell phones may be left at the town's Recycling Center, 210 Hunts Lane, Chappaqua. For a list of other items that are accepted, visit the recycling page under DPW in the Town Government tab on the town website: www.town.new-castle.ny.us

Westchester County schedules a number of days throughout the year when various types of hazardous household waste may be dropped off at designated sites around the county. Cell phones and other small electronic devices are accepted at these times for recycling. Visit the county web site for details of dates and places: <http://environment.westchestergov.com>

A number of local businesses will also accept cell phones for

recycling. These include Mrs. Greens Natural Markets in Yorktown and Briarcliff Manor. Staples office supply stores will recycle cell phones and certain, small computer peripherals. There may be a charge for dropping off larger devices or computers—call your local store or visit: www.staples.com/sbd/cre/marketing/ecoeasy/

Finally, a number of web sites will actually buy your retired cell phone, MP3 player, or digital camera. It works like this—you log on to the site and input information about the model number and condition of your device. Based on the information provided, you are given a price quote for the item. If you accept this price, you are given a postage-paid mailing label to print out.

When the device is received, its condition is verified and a check is mailed to the sender. In those rare instances when there is a discrepancy between the reported and actual condition, the product is returned to the sender without charge. These sites walk you through the process, providing pictures of various models and clear guides to determine condition. Products received are resold. When no buyer can be found, the item is recycled in a responsible way. In either case, the seller receives the price initially quoted.

Web sites that will buy your used cell phones, MP3 players, and other small electronics such as digital cameras include: www.nextworth.com and www.buymytronics.com

Recycling is an important part of maintaining environmental quality. As the Town of New Castle *Guide to Solid Waste Management* states, "Waste is an inevitable consequence of life. However, waste materials generated by today's human activity often are not biodegradable, or are toxically hazardous to the health of humans in particular and the environment in general. Responsible solid waste management, therefore, should include not only careful disposal of toxic materials, but **reduced** consumption, **reuse** of all usable products and the **recycling** of as many materials as possible."



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EXPERIENCE NATURE

"There are no words that can tell the hidden spirit of the wilderness, that can reveal its mystery, its melancholy, and its charm.."
Theodore Roosevelt

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.

You may also join, give a gift membership, or make a memorial donation online.

Find the beautiful Trout Lily at Prugn and Brinton.



I WISH TO DONATE

Enclosed is:

- \$500 \$250 \$100
 \$50 \$20 \$_____

My employer will match my gift.

I'D LIKE TO JOIN Saw Mill River Audubon!

Basic Chapter Membership:

- Enclosed is \$25
 Please send me planned giving info

Name(s)

Address

City/State/Zip

Phone/Email

Please make checks payable to:

Saw Mill River Audubon
275 Millwood Road
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Deadline for Next Newsletter: May 1

LAST CALL!
Saw Mill River Audubon's Annual Meeting & Dinner
Sunday, April 11th at Travelers Rest, Millwood
See page 1 for details.

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