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## MAKE A GIFT TO WILDLIFE

Your gift to Saw Mill River Audubon helps us encourage more people to enjoy the natural world and care about the protection of birds and other wildlife and their habitats.

When you give to our annual appeal, you can be confident that 100% of your donation supports our local education and conservation efforts.

### I WISH TO DONATE

Enclosed is:

☐ \$500 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$100

☐ \$50 ☐ \$25 ☐ \$ \_\_\_\_

☐ My employer will match my gift.

Name(s)

Address

City/State/Zip

Phone

Email

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

Basic Chapter Membership:

☐ Enclosed is \$20

☐ Please send me information about  
planned giving opportunities

Please make checks payable to:

Saw Mill River Audubon  
275 Millwood Road  
Chappaqua, NY 10514

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December 2005 /  
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Issue 296

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Get outside this winter  
with Audubon!

Details on page 3 inside

**Saturday, Dec 10 • 9:00 am**  
**Pruyn Sanctuary Walk**

Third in a series of monthly walks  
on second Saturdays at Pruyn!  
Free and suitable for all ages.

**Saturday, Jan 14 • 9:00 am**  
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Fourth in a series of monthly walks  
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Free and suitable for all ages.

**Saturday, Jan 21 • 9:00 am**  
**Croton Point Eagle Walk**

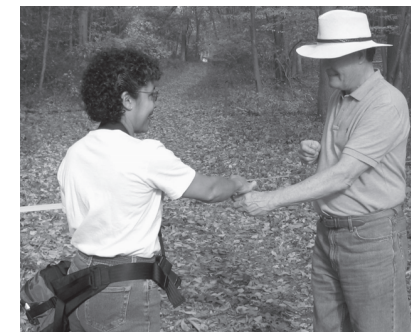
Our most popular field trip! Led by  
Charlie Roberto. Free and suitable  
for all ages.

# On the Wing

News from Saw Mill River Audubon

## New Trail Signs at Brinton Brook

Saw Mill River Audubon has installed 20 handsome fiberglass-sealed interpretive signs along a one-mile trail at its 156-acre Brinton Brook Sanctuary in Croton-on-Hudson. The new signs highlight notable natural features of a rich mixture of habitats, each with its own characteristic animal and plant life.



Sanctuaries Chair Jeanne Romeu and SMRA President Robert McCrillis cut the ribbon opening the new interpretive trail.



Robert McCrillis views one of twenty new signs.

The trail, part of more than three miles of trails in the sanctuary, passes through a red maple swamp, upland deciduous forest, open meadow, fields, young forests, and along vernal ponds and a brook.

On Saturday November 5, board members gathered to cut a ribbon for the new trail and walk the one-mile Pond Loop trail to view the new signs. The signs were made possible by a grant from The New York City Environmental Fund, administered through the Hudson River Foundation.

## TrailWalkers & Neighbors Protect Sanctuaries

TrailWalkers and neighbors alerted us to possible evidence of illegal hunting in November in Brinton Brook and Graff Sanctuaries. We contacted the New York Department of Environmental Conservation. Surveillance at Brinton Brook Sanctuary in mid November resulted in a hunter being charged with trespass and other offenses on the Amberlands border. Surveillance will be continuing this fall and winter. We remain strongly committed to maintaining our sanctuaries as no-hunting areas.

Also in November, workers on a property adjacent to Pinecliff Sanctuary disrupted the swamp water flow and released a flow of sediment-laden water downstream to the headwaters of the Saw Mill River. Neighbors called us and we called the Town of New Castle. A town representative responded promptly and stopped the workers. We are continuing to monitor this situation.

Contact our office and we'll tell you more about our volunteer TrailWalker program and how you also can help to protect our sanctuaries.



Board Gathers for Vision Casting



New and veteran board members for Saw Mill River Audubon gathered at Van Cortlandt Manor on Saturday, October 29 to plan for the future. Pictured above are: (seated L to R) Robert McCrillis, Stan Wecker, Rita Wecker; (standing L to R) Cori Cumming, Stan Rosenthal, George Shakespear, Ponie Sheehan, Margo Peters, Jim Anderson, Joan Coffey, Jeanne Romeu, Sophie Keyes and Burton Leiser. Participants not pictured: Barbara Campbell, Meredith Smith, Anne Swaim. Photo courtesy of Sophie Keyes.

Seed Sale Thanks!

Thanks to our returning and new customers and especially to our amazing volunteers—your time and energy made the sale possible: Jim Anderson, Cori Cumming, Ellen and Phil Heidelberger, Burton Leiser, Ken Novenstern & family, Margo Peters, Jeff and Ryan Pinerio, Rick Renz, Neal, David, and Brandon Roberts, Jeanne Romeu, Mary Jo Sanguily, Meredith Smith, Anne Swaim, Stan Wecker, and Karen Wells. Our thanks to Dr. Charles Keller for the cookies!

Special thanks to ★ **Pizza Station** ★ in Chappaqua for donating pizza to feed our volunteers. Special thanks to ★ **Starbucks** ★ in Chappaqua for the coffee!



Welcome Members

**Briarcliff Manor** Richard C. Bentzen, Wilma Day, Frank C. Rizzo, The Spetter Family  
**Chappaqua** Charles Caulkins, Gretchen Reison,Susan H. Thorson **Cortlandt Manor** Shawn and Anna Healey **Croton-on-Hudson** M.B. Bell, James E. Coughlan, Norma Goldstein, Helen Lauro, David F. Ryan, Susan Salzberg, John Shanahan **Hawthorne** Tom D'Auria, Diane L. Scumaci, **Maryknoll** Virginia Farrell **Mohegan Lake** Maura Gregory **Montrose** Daryl R. Stiloski, Jr. **Ossining** Ira Barouch, Dave Corley, Karen Coughlin, Mrs. Tom Curly, Maureen M. Morgan, **Peekskill** George Bogren, Carol Eagen, Sylvia Saltzman **Pleasantville** Thomas S. Levine, Malcolm Netburn, Jeff Seneca, Ann Tamlyn, Gregory Woodruff, **Sleepy Hollow** Josephine Blanchett, Nicholas Cicchetti, Jean Heyl, Clara Loomanitz, Charlotte Menaker, John Price, Eva Schulz, Dr. Norman J. Sissman **Tarrytown** M. A. Bosshart, Glenn Carney, Theresa Everett, Theresa Miele, Sally C. Morgan, Nick and Vianney Remple, Riverkeeper, The Marcon Group, Ltd. **Valhalla** Louis Wiener **Verplanck** Patricia Korn **Yorktown Heights** Ms. Terri Guglielmo

Make a Gift to Wildlife

Spread the holiday cheer to the natural world this year with a tax-deductible donation to Saw Mill River Audubon. Donations help protect critical habitat in our eight sanctuaries. They bring you free community education programs like those you’ve been reading about in this issue of “On the Wing.” And they help us launch new initiatives like Audubon at Home, which highlights “backyard beauty” and the ways each person can protect our natural resources. Plus, every dollar you donate makes a difference right here in our community.

**Membership dues cover only 10% of the costs of our programs.** So please consider making a special gift today! Just fill out the form on the back of the newsletter and send it in to our office.If you’d prefer to make a credit card donation, visit [www.sawmillriveraudubon.org](http://www.sawmillriveraudubon.org). Thank you for your support and best wishes for a happy, healthy holiday season.

United States Postal Service

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I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).

WINTER ADVENTURES

For more details: 914.666.6503 or [www.sawmillriveraudubon.org](http://www.sawmillriveraudubon.org).

DECEMBER

Saturday, December 10 ♦ 9:00 am  
Pruyn Sanctuary Walk

Join us for the third of a new monthly series of walks through our Pruyn Sanctuary to be held the second Saturday of each month. Dress for the weather. Rain or shine. Suitable for ages 4 and up. Leader: Anne Swaim

Saturday, December 17  
♦ 9:30 to 12 noon

Bird Seed Sale & Pickup

If you missed our annual bulk birdseed sale or need to order more, stop by Pruyn Sanctuary on this day! Audubon volunteers will be available to help load your car.

Sales are available throughout the winter during office hours on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, from 10:30 am to 3:30 pm. Please call ahead, 914.666.6503, for weekday sales. Available seed types and prices are online at our web site [www.sawmillriveraudubon.org](http://www.sawmillriveraudubon.org).

MONDAY WALKS  
Explore a new site each Monday, weather permitting. Bring lunch. Contact Joan Coffey at 747.4763



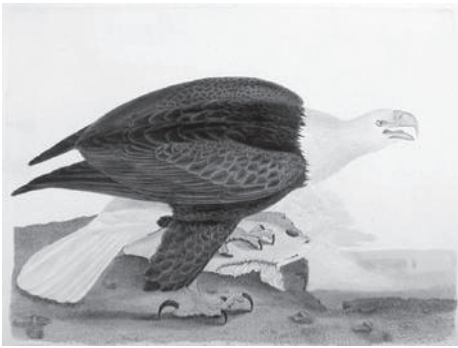
What's with the Hands? It's a Grandparent Alert!

We've added a new symbol to our event calendar to alert you to hands-on events especially good for children, parents AND grandparents! This idea came from board member Cori Cumming. She said, "Three generations from my family took a hike with Audubon last winter." Among other delights, they found evidence of owls. Cori's grandson said, "That was fun, Nana, and I'd like to do it again, maybe we can find some owl pellets again too!" Cori notes that, "The Audubon walks are not difficult and there are trained birders to help sight and identify. It can be a learning experience, a link to treasured memories and an open door to becoming part of the Audubon family."

JANUARY

Saturday, January 14 ♦ 9:00 am  
Pruyn Sanctuary Walk

See December 10 listing for details.



Saturday, January 21  
♦ 9:00 am

Croton Point: Eagles & More!

Don't miss our most popular field trip! There's a very good chance of seeing overwintering bald eagles and other interesting birds. Dress very warmly and bring binoculars if you have them. Spotting scopes will be shared. Trip Leader: Charlie Roberto.

**Directions:** Drive into the parking area for the Croton train station and continue past the station down the gravel road to the edge of the river by the boat ramp. After observing from this area, we'll drive into Croton Point County Park up to the parking lot adjacent to the landfill hill and explore this area on foot.

FEBRUARY

Saturday, February 11 ♦ 9:00 am  
Pruyn Sanctuary Walk

See December 10 listing for details.



Sunday, February 12  
♦ ALL DAY

Hudson River Eagle Fest!

Last year's premiere of this exciting all day event was a huge success! Viewing stations on the Hudson River in Westchester will feature volunteer guides to help you spot eagles along with warming tents with hot cocoa and more information about the return of the bald eagle to the Hudson River. Additional activities will be offered all day at Teatown Lake Reservation. This event is organized by Teatown Lake Reservation and cosponsored by Saw Mill River Audubon. More details will follow in local media and our February-March newsletter. Save the date!

Advance Notice  
\* \* SAVE THE DATES \* \*

MARCH

Saturday, March 11 ♦ 9:00 am  
Pruyn Sanctuary Walk

See December 10 listing for details.

Tuesday, March 14 & 28 ♦ 7:30 pm  
Birding for Beginners Returns!

We will offer our popular "Birding 101" class again in March. Details to follow.



Saturday, March 18  
♦ 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Bird Builders & Box Workshop

A short and lively multimedia presentation about birds that nest in boxes will be followed by a bird box building workshop. Details to follow in our next newsletter.