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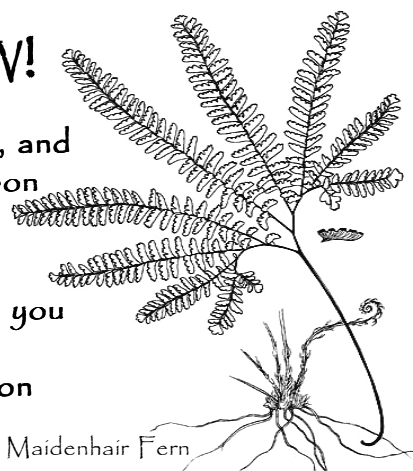
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HELP US GROW!

Just as a plant needs sunlight, water, and soil to thrive, Saw Mill River Audubon needs your support to maintain and expand our programs.

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 ☐ \$20 ☐ \$_____

☐ My employer will match my gift.

I'D LIKE TO JOIN Saw Mill River Audubon!

Basic Chapter Membership:

☐ Enclosed is \$20

☐ Please send me planned giving info

Name(s)

Address

City/State/Zip

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Please make checks payable to:

Saw Mill River Audubon
275 Millwood Road
Chappaqua, NY 10514

**Come see the full moon rise
at Pinecliff Sanctuary!**
Frogs at Full Moon, Sun Jun 11.
Part of our exciting schedule
of free summer events!
Details inside on page one.



Deadline for Next Newsletter: Aug 1

**PERIODICAL POSTAGE
PAID
at Chappaqua, NY
and additional offices**

Sophie Keyes, Editor
Saw Mill River Audubon
275 Millwood Road
Chappaqua, New York 10514



Summer 2006
Issue 299

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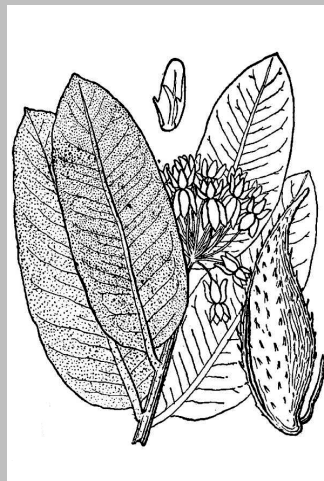
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Do You Know This Plant?

It grows at both Brinton Brook
Sanctuary and Pruyn Sanctuary.
It is a big favorite of butterflies.
(answer below)



Common Milkweed

Got Ideas?

We are beginning to plan
our 2006-2007 calendar of
free public programs & field trips.
What do you want to learn?
Where do you want to go?
Give us a call or send us email.
We want to hear from you!

On the Wing

News from Saw Mill River Audubon

SUMMER EVENTS

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

All of the events below are FREE and open to the public.

Saturday, June 10 ♦ 9:00 to 10:30 am ♦ Pruyn Sanctuary, Chappaqua
Pruyn Sanctuary Walk

Join our monthly series of walks through our Pruyn Sanctuary on the second Saturday of each month. Dress for the weather. Rain or shine. Suitable for ages 4 and up. Leader: Anne Swaim. No pre-registration necessary. Free and open to the general public. Meet during summer at the **Office/Garden Entrance** of Pruyn Sanctuary off Route 133.

Sunday, June 11 ♦ 8:30 to 9:30 pm ♦ Pinecliff Sanctuary, Chappaqua
Frogs at Full Moon

Experience summer dusk in a red maple swamp under the full moon! Sunset is at 8:28 p.m. and full moon rise is at 9:03 p.m. We'll explore the swamp at Pinecliff Sanctuary from the boardwalk and listen and look for wildlife. Leader: Anne Swaim. **Free but limited registration.** Please call or email us to pre-register. Ages 10 and up only.

SPECIAL EVENT

Saturday, June 24 ♦ 10:00 am to Noon ♦ Mickel Farm, Briarcliff Manor
All About Ferns

In the wild, ferns have become an increasingly important component of the understory of forests frequented by deer. At home, ferns are taking their rightful place as an important and beautiful component of the shade garden. John Mickel, Curator of Ferns at The New York Botanical Garden, will increase your ability to identify and understand ferns wherever you see them. He will talk about ferns you might encounter in the wild and those which you might not have thought of including in your horticultural repertoire, with illustrations and discussion of ferns of all sizes, ranging from the small Himalayan maidenhair to evergreen wood ferns and giant ostrich ferns. A tour of the ferns at Mickel Farm is included! **This event is free and open to the public but pre-registration is required** by phone or email to Saw Mill River Audubon. Directions and more details will be provided to registered participants.

Saturday, July 8 ♦ 9:00 to 10:30 am ♦ Pruyn Sanctuary, Chappaqua
Pruyn Sanctuary Walk

See description under Saturday, June 10. Regular second Saturday walk at Pruyn.

Sunday, July 9 ♦ 10:00 am to Noon ♦ Brinton Brook Sanctuary, Croton
Brinton Brook Butterflies & Dragonflies

Meet at 10 am in main parking area for an exploration of resident butterflies and dragonflies. Bring binoculars but please do not bring nets. We have learned that it is better not to handle these fragile creatures. Come learn more about the other winged wildlife that grace our local habitats! Leader: Trudy Battaly.

Saturday, August 12 ♦ 9:00 to 10:30 am ♦ Pruyn Sanctuary, Chappaqua
Pruyn Sanctuary Walk

See description under Saturday, June 10. Regular second Saturday walk at Pruyn.

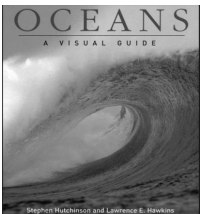
Weckers Celebrated at Annual Dinner

Saw Mill River Audubon celebrated a combined 75 years of service by Stan and Rita Wecker at our annual dinner on Sunday, April 9 at the Travelers Rest in Millwood. Members and friends, including several past board members, gathered for a special evening that included our annual meeting and election, digital images of the Arctic by Greeley High School teacher Bob Oddo, guitar music by Mike Byrnes, and several special recognitions of the Weckers upon their retirement from the SMRA board. Retiring board member Jim Anderson was also presented with a framed photograph taken by Burton Leiser in recognition of Jim's outstanding service. Among the presentations to the Weckers were signed proclamations from Audubon New York, Westchester County, the New York State Assembly and the US House of Representatives. In reply, Stan offered one of his famous limericks to the great entertainment of all. It was an evening to remember! The 2007 Annual Audubon Dinner is scheduled for Sunday, April 1, 2007. We look forward to seeing you there!

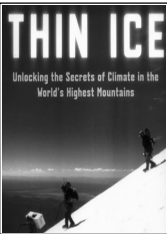


Rita and Stan Wecker at the 2006 Annual Audubon Dinner

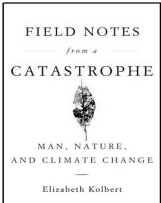
Book Notes



Oceans: A Visual Guide, by Stephen Hutchinson and Lawrence E. Hawkins
A fascinating book. A page or two about anything you want to know about the ocean: ships, fishing, atolls, squids, dugongs, mollusks, whales, crustaceans, and more. Lavishly illustrated with both photographs and drawings, this is a book that's hard to put down once it is opened.



Thin Ice by Mark Bowen
Tales of adventure and climate science above 20,000 feet. Author/physicist/mountaineer Mark Bowen joined groups measuring and taking ice cores from glaciers and ice caps near the tops of the low-latitude world.



Field Notes from a Catastrophe by Elizabeth Kolbert
The other top. Kolbert writes for the *New Yorker* and reports her personal observations and experiences of climate changes during travels in the Arctic.

– Bob Keyes

Passages



Barbara Appel
We note with sadness the passing of Barbara Appel in February at the home of her daughter in Vermont. Barbara was a long time resident of Pleasantville and an active member of SMRA. She will be remembered for her numerous original drawings created for our newsletter for more than ten years. (Two of her drawings are featured here.) Barbara had a great interest in nature and the environment and expressed this in her art. Barbara was also very active with the Monday Walkers of Saw Mill River Audubon. Her husband Tom was one of the founding Directors of SMRA. Our organization owes much to their skills and loyalty.



Irene Panko
We extend our sympathies to Drew Panko and his family on the passing of Drew's wife, Irene, in early May. We acknowledge, with appreciation, the family's desire to direct gifts in lieu of flowers to Saw Mill River Audubon to be used for the purchase of binoculars for our field trips. Drew Panko, a former SMRA board member, has coordinated the Fire Island Hawk Watch for more than 20 years.

Welcome Members

Briarcliff Manor Sandra M. Halter, John Novomesky, Jr. **Chappaqua** Barbara A. Castrataro and Tom Howard, Ms. Sheila Crespi, Ms. Catherine A. Gassman, Shirley A. Griggs, Sara Kelly, Mrs. Florence A. Smith **Cortlandt Manor** Steve Badger, Hugh K. Gaines, Carroll Hall **Croton-on-Hudson** Robert Armanini, Rosemary Dowling **Millwood** Robert and Marie Donnelly **Mohegan Lake** Kathleen Zsiday **Ossining** Adrienne Birecree, David and Ann Loretan, Ms. Jo Miller, Ms. Toni Miloto, Mr. Chris Scanduzia, Ms. Patricia Wilson **Peekskill** Deborah Beck, John E. Burns, Mrs. M. Kenneson-St John, Ms. Barbara J. Lipp **Pleasantville** Mrs. Barbara S. Bailey, Margaret M. Fashena, Brian Kluepfel, Janice M. Moore, Jacqueline Rossow, Albin G. Steinmuller, Ms. Karen Sullivan **Sleepy Hollow** Ms. Dorothy Van Kirk **Tarrytown** Joseph Castellano, Hilary Lynch **Valhalla** Julie Ellis **Yorktown Heights** Ms. Isabel Calvo

SANCTUARY NEWS

Brinton Brook Re-Posted

Every so often, our sanctuaries need boundary reposting due to fallen trees or signs. Many thanks to those who came out on two different Saturdays this spring to walk and re-post the boundaries at Brinton Brook Sanctuary: Ed Bezursik, Bill Kellner, Bob Keyes, Michael Madias Jr., Greg Madias, Jeanne Romeu, George Shakespear, Meredith Smith, and Anne Swaim.

In the coming months, we will continue our boundary walks at our other sanctuaries. Pruyun Sanctuary is scheduled next in early June with Graff Sanctuary to follow in mid-summer.



Photo: Greg Madias

Some boundary posters at work! (Meredith Smith and daughter Livesey, Michael Madias, Jr.)

This is through-the-woods walking on sometimes steep, swampy or otherwise precarious footing because we follow our boundaries and are not on marked trails. Sound like fun to you? Want to help? Give a call to our office for more information.

– Jeanne Romeu

Thanks for the Boulders!

Our heartfelt thanks go out to the Village of Croton-on-Hudson's Department of Public Works for their work in donating and placing boulders at Brinton Brook Sanctuary this spring to better define our trail entrances at the main parking area. – J. Romeu



Photo: Laura Rossi-Ortiz

Choate Clean Up Day

Pictured above are students from the youth group of St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Mount Kisco who picked up litter at Choate Sanctuary on Sunday, May 7. SMRA Naturalist Anne Swaim (top left) walked with the students. SMRA's 2006 summer scholarship recipient Harper Pack (top right) ventured along the challenging edges of busy Route 133 to retrieve debris. Thank you St. Mark's Youth Group! Thanks, Harper! Thanks also to adult chaperones: Meredith Smith, Laura Rossi-Ortiz, and Stacia Jesner.

New Road Signs

We now have two beautiful signs marking the entrances of our two largest sanctuaries: Brinton Brook Sanctuary on Route 9A in Croton-on-Hudson and Pruyun Sanctuary on Route 133 outside Millwood. We offer thanks and congratulations to Jeff Pinerio for seeing this project from vision to reality in just over six months! We hope these signs will help the public become more aware that our protected wildlife sanctuaries are open to the public for walking and enjoyment of nature. We also hope these signs will increase awareness of Audubon in our communities. Our desire is to upgrade the entrance signs at six other sanctuary locations. We are currently seeking additional grants and donations to make this possible. Our signs were designed and constructed by C&M Sign Company of Bedford Hills. Color images of both of the new signs are online at: www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/signs

– Jeanne Romeu



Photo: Anne Swaim

The new road sign along Route 9a north of Croton-on-Hudson.

Field Trip Notes

The **Constitution Marsh Canoe trip on Saturday, April 29** was enjoyed by 15 people under a bright blue, windy, spring sky. Among the birds seen or heard were: Wood Duck, Mallard, Greater Yellow-leg, Northern Harrier, Turkey Vulture, Tree Swallow, Marsh Wren, Eastern Phoebe, Red-winged Blackbird, Louisiana Waterthrush, and American Goldfinch.

– Joan Coffey

The **May 13 second Saturday walk at Pruyun Sanctuary** featured the sights and sounds of spring birds including: Black-throated Green Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, American Redstart, Black and White Warbler, Parula Warbler, Blue-winged Warbler, Solitary Vireo, Swamp Sparrow and more. We spotted a Mourning Dove nest and a Wood Thrush nest, both with a bird atop, presumably incubating eggs. Second Saturday Walks at Pruyun will continue through 2007. During the coming summer months, we'll meet 9:00 a.m. at the office/garden entrance to look for butterflies and hummingbirds.

– Anne Swaim