



On the Wing

February / March 2010

News from Saw Mill River Audubon

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Support Audubon



SPECIAL PULLOUT INSERT!

2010 EagleFest Map

Advance map as courtesy to our members
showing eagle viewing spots!

Winter Seed Sales

Every Third Saturday

9:30 am–12:30 pm

Sat. Feb 20 Sat. Mar 20

At Pruyn Sanctuary

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

SMRA Annual Report

Our 2009 annual report will be available
online after February 1 at:
www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/news/2009
Our thanks to everyone who supported
SMRA with their donations in 2009.

SPECIAL EVENT: Hudson River EagleFest 2010

Saturday, February 6, 9:00 am–4:00 pm

Here's a wonderful opportunity to view and celebrate the majestic bald eagles that overwinter along the Hudson River. Guides with spotting scopes will be located at various river viewing spots (see enclosed map) including the Croton River boat ramp (just beyond the Croton train station). Visit Croton Point Park during the day for more events and exhibits inside large tents set up for this event. EagleFest is organized by Teatown Lake Reservation. **Visit www.teatown.org ASAP to reserve space for special events during the day.** No reservation needed to view eagles! Croton River boat ramp warming tent sponsored by SMRA. SMRA volunteers will be staffing a display table at the main event area inside Croton Point Park and assisting at eagle viewing locations. **Additional SMRA volunteers are needed at all locations during this event. Contact our office if you would like to help.**

Field Trip: Winter Owl Prowl

Saturday, February 13, 9:00 am

Owls are truly unique and fascinating birds. Join us as we try to find these elusive creatures. We expect to visit several different sites depending on where the owls are, including Jones Beach and Pelham Bay.

Meet at the Millwood A&P for carpooling. Call or email us to register and to find out the final itinerary. Suggested donation of \$5/person for adults (over 18) to support the local conservation efforts of Saw Mill River Audubon.



February Sanctuary Work Days

Saturday, February 13, 9:00 am–Noon, Graff Sanctuary, Croton

Saturday, February 27, 9:00 am–Noon, Haas Sanctuary, New Castle

Volunteers needed to help with sanctuary maintenance. More details on page 2.



Public Program: Rescuing Wildlife!

Saturday, March 13, 2:00 pm, Ossining Library

Local author and wildlife rehabilitator Suzie Gilbert will talk about her 2009 book *Flyaway: How a Wild Bird Rehabber Sought Adventure and Found Her Wings*, an account of her adventures rescuing wild birds. Suzie will share many stories along with advice on what to do if you find an injured wild bird. Good for all ages. Voluntary suggested donation of \$5/per person (over 18) to support our local conservation work.

Field Trip: Spring Peepers at Pinecliff Sanctuary

Sunday, March 28, 6:30 pm, Pinecliff Sanctuary, Chappaqua

Join us for our annual tradition of visiting Pinecliff at dusk to listen and look for spring peeper frogs. Pre-registration requested by contacting the SMRA office. All Ages. Bring flashlights. Suggested donation of \$5/person for adults (over 18) to support the local conservation efforts of Saw Mill River Audubon. Leader: Anne Swaim.

The Winter Owl Prowl, Rescuing Wildlife Program, Spring Peeper field trip, and Annual Dinner Speaker are all made possible in part by a grant from Con Edison.

Volunteers Needed

Want to join with us to work on **sanctuary projects**? We will have a series of **sanctuary work days** this winter and early spring with tasks for all energy levels.

To attend any work day, just send an email to office@sawmillriveraudubon.org with your name, weekend phone contact and date of interest so we know to expect you and can alert you to any schedule changes. Come make a difference for the habitats we protect for birds, other wildlife and people. Children and youth welcome (ages 8 and up) if they bring their own adult.

Saturday, February 13, 9:00 am–Noon Vine Cutting at Graff Sanctuary

Join us for a winter hike and vine cutting session at Graff Sanctuary in Croton-on-Hudson. Bring loppers or pruning shears and wear suitable gloves and footwear for the work and weather. Ages 8 and up.

Saturday, February 27, 9:00 am–Noon Vine Cutting at Haas Sanctuary

Join us for a winter hike and vine cutting session at Haas Sanctuary in the Town of New Castle (near Mt. Kisco). Bring loppers or pruning shears and wear suitable gloves and footwear for the work and weather. Ages 8 and up.

Date and Time To Be Announced Choate Sanctuary Cleanup

Help us pick up trash and spruce up the trails in our Choate Sanctuary. Choate is located on Rt. 133 in the Town of New Castle (west of Mt. Kisco). Wear suitable gloves and footwear for the work and weather. Ages 8 and up. We'll schedule the date after the snow and ice are gone. Visit our web site at www.sawmillriveraudubon.org to check for the date.

Welcome Members

Briarcliff Manor Raymond K. Martin, Steven and Marilyn Schultz
Chappaqua Madeleine Crummer, Heidi Lange
Cortlandt Manor George Gottlieb, Diane Rabbitt
Croton-on-Hudson Asher Fried, Judith B. Johnson, Corinne Kurie, Delano Landsverk
East Hampton Heidi Dachgruber
Hartsdale Kathleen I. Holmes
Millwood Myra D. Alfreds
Ossining Helen Young
Peeckskill Sharon Aakjar, Fred and Helen Beuchert
Pleasantville Barbara Abeles, Alicia Devincenzo, Stephen M. Halpern
Sleepy Hollow Joan Wylly
Tarrytown Ana E. Alvarez, Beatrice Block-Iaconetti, M. Finnigan, Bruce MacDonald, Connie McKeige
Valhalla Jeffrey Scott McCarley
Verplanck John Vargo

Two New Grants Support Education and Garden

At the end of 2009, SMRA received a major grant from **Turner Construction Company**. The grant creates an endowment for Pruyn Sanctuary and will provide ongoing support for our Butterfly and Hummingbird Garden. We gratefully acknowledge SMRA member **Bill Arnold**, whose advocacy helped us secure this funding.

A generous grant from **Con Edison** will expand our education outreach during 2010. In addition to underwriting three issues of our newsletter, the grant will underwrite a series of print and online articles focusing on the ways we can help reduce our carbon footprint and preserve natural habitat. It will also provide support for the community workshops and field trips that you will read about in this and future issues of our newsletter.

Saw Mill River Audubon is very grateful to these partners who share our commitment to protecting the natural world and educating others about its value.

In Memoriam: Stanley Wecker

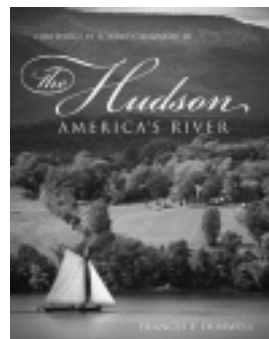
The Board of Directors of Saw Mill River Audubon noted with sadness the passing of long-time Saw Mill River Audubon leader Stanley Wecker on January 7, 2010 at Kendal on Hudson, Sleepy Hollow. We extend our heartfelt sympathies to his wife Rita and their family and friends. A memorial tree planting at Pruyn Arboretum is being planned for the spring.

AUDUBON ANNUAL DINNER

Sunday, April 11, 2010, 6:00 pm

The Travelers Rest, Millwood

Celebrated Speaker!



Frances Dunwell, author of the acclaimed *The Hudson: America's River*, will present an engaging presentation on the Hudson River. With images of Hudson River School paintings, maps and period engravings, she captures the spirit of the river through the eyes of its many admirers. More details will follow by mail in late February or visit our web site for more details:

www.sawmillriveraudubon.org

**Excellent food, good company and a great speaker:
an evening not to be missed!**



On the Wing is sponsored in part by a generous grant from Con Edison, which will help cover printing and distribution and make possible this new column, *Everyday Ways To Help*

A great way to reduce household energy consumption—and save money—is to replace incandescent lightbulbs with compact fluorescent lightbulbs (CFLs). CFLs use up to 75% less energy than regular bulbs and last as much as ten times longer (up to 12,000 hours). The good news is that prices have come down, with some CFLs selling for as little as \$1.50. And achieving savings of \$100 or more per year off your electric bill is possible.

CFLs are now available for a variety of lamps and fixtures, including bathroom globes, dimmable switches, chandeliers, track lights, and three-way lamps. Make sure the label says that the bulb is usable in your lamp or fixture. For example, don't use a CFL with a dimmer switch unless the label indicates the bulb is dimmable.

When choosing a CFL, look for the Energy Star label. These bulbs must meet standards for warm-up time, brightness, color, energy consumption, and lifespan. Recent tests by *Consumer Reports* found that Energy Star CFLs outperformed non-Energy Star bulbs.

Unlike traditional incandescent bulbs, CFLs have a warm-up time of up to 3 minutes to reach full brightness. Thus, while CFLs may be used in many lighting applications, they are not recommended for situations where instantaneous light is required, like illuminating a staircase.

The packaging on a CFL will tell you the amount of energy the bulb consumes in watts, the amount of light output (measured in lumens), and color (measured by temperature in kelvins). Manufacturers recommend using a CFL with one-quarter of the energy consumption of the incandescent bulb you're replacing. Thus, you would install a 15 watt CFL in place of a 60 watt incandescent. If you feel that you need more brightness, a one-to-three ratio may work better, which would mean using a 20 watt CFL to replace the old 60 watt bulb. Try to match the number of lumens on the old and new bulbs.

CFLs have come a long way in producing a pleasing light with color similar to incandescent bulbs. To match the color of a soft-white incandescent, use a CFL with a 2700 kelvin (K) rating. For reading, try 5000 to 6500 K, which approximates

daylight; 3500 to 4100 K bulbs work well in kitchens and work spaces.

Real Simple magazine staffers tested 30 CFLs in various fixtures. Their findings will help you save energy beautifully. To see the ratings, visit www.realsimple.com and search on "The Best Compact Fluorescent Bulbs." Another good source is *Consumer Reports* magazine, which had an extensive report on CFLs with ratings in the October 2009 issue.

For a number of helpful tips on how to save energy when lighting your home, visit Con Edison's web site: www.coned.com/thepowerofgreen/tips/052.asp



It's important to note that CFLs contain small amounts of mercury. This means that they must be disposed of properly. Do not throw them out with your regular trash. Home Depot in the Cortlandt Town Center is accepting used CFLs for recycling.

Was this article informative? Did you learn something new about CFLs? Email us with your feedback and suggestions for future articles. Or visit www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/cfl for more info on CFLs and fill out the feedback form there.

Join the Annual Great Backyard Bird Count

This February, join thousands of people throughout the U.S. and Canada in the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC). You can count the birds you see in your backyard, off your balcony, at your local park, or from your window—anywhere you can spot birds!

People of all ages and all level of bird-watching experience are invited to take part. It's a great way to learn more about the birds in your neighborhood. It's also a fun activity for kids and a great way to connect with nature. The GBBC is an ideal way for more accomplished birders to introduce their friends and family members to the wonderful world of birds.

In 2010 the GBBC will take place over the Presidents' Day weekend, February 12-15. Visit www.birdcount.org for easy to follow instructions. Participants are also invited to submit digital images of birds or birders doing the GBBC.

Saw Mill River Audubon

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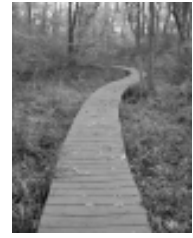
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MAKE A DIFFERENCE

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."
Margaret Mead

Your gift to Saw Mill River Audubon helps us encourage more people to enjoy the natural world and care about its protection.

You may also join, give a membership gift, create a special tribute gift or a memorial donation online!



SMRA's Pruyn Sanctuary preserves a rich wetland habitat.

I WISH TO DONATE

Enclosed is:

- \$500 \$250 \$100
 \$50 \$25 \$____
 My employer will match my gift.

I'D LIKE TO JOIN Saw Mill River Audubon!

Basic Chapter Membership:

- Enclosed is \$25
 Please send me information about planned giving opportunities

Name(s)

Address

City/State/Zip

Phone/Email

You can also join or donate at our web site!

Please make checks payable to
Saw Mill River Audubon
275 Millwood Road
Chappaqua, NY 10514

Deadline for Next Newsletter: March 1

SAVE THE DATE!
Saw Mill River Audubon's Annual Meeting & Dinner
Sunday, April 11. Details on page 2.

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