

Fall 2013
Issue 335

- 1 Audubon Programs & Walks
- 2 Chapter News
Birders U ♦ Monday Morning Walks
NY Birders Conference
- 3 More Programs & Trips
- 4 Contact Us!
People ♦ Memberships & Donations



Photo: C. McCluskey

Master Gardener Donna Lassiter led a summertime tour of SMRA's Butterfly & Hummingbird Garden at Pruyn Sanctuary. Attendees picked up tips on gardening with native plants and how to attract wildlife to their gardens.

Bird Seed Sale Flyer Enclosed

Weekend Sale
October 19th & 20th

Visit our website at:
[sawmillriveraudubon.org/
seedsale](http://sawmillriveraudubon.org/seedsale) to pre-order
online. Deadline for ad-
vance orders: Oct. 4

Each year we buy bulk quantities of high-quality seed and re-sell to our members and friends.

This is an important fundraiser for our local conservation work.

FALL FIELDTRIPS & PROGRAMS

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

Saturday, September 14 ♦ 9:00 am

Second Saturday Walk at Brinton Brook

This month's second Saturday walk will be part of the **Hudson River Valley Ramble** taking place throughout the Hudson Valley on four September weekends starting September 7th. We'll explore the trails of our Brinton Brook Sanctuary in Croton-on-Hudson for 2 hours and then offer the option for a 1.5 hour extension to Croton's highest point on the nearby Highland Trail. **Registration requested as space is limited.** Call 914.666.6503 or email office@sawmillriveraudubon.org. More information on other Hudson River Valley Ramble events is available at hudsonrivervalleyramble.com. A second Saturday walk will also take place at Brinton Brook at 9:00 am on October 12th.



Meadowlands Birding by Boat Sunday, September 15

UPDATE: THIS EVENT IS SOLD OUT! Don't miss out on our popular trips and programs. Be sure to **subscribe to our email notice list** to get advance notice of special events like this. To sign up visit: sawmillriveraudubon.org/list

Monday Bird Walk: Marshlands Conservancy Monday, September 16 ♦ 8:30-10:30 am



On most Monday mornings we feature a free birding walk at a local birding hotspot. For today's walk we'll visit Marshlands Conservancy in Rye. Meet in the main parking area at 8:30. Call or email if you want directions or to borrow a pair of binoculars. **See page 2 for full schedule of our Monday walks.**

Hook Mountain Hawk Watch, Nyack

Tuesday, September 17 ♦ 10:00 am

Hook Mountain's summit offers a 360° view of the Hudson Valley and



eye-level views of migrating hawks, falcons and eagles. Bring binoculars, water and lunch. Wear sturdy shoes for half-hour uphill walk to summit. **Meet at the flagpole at the Rockland Lake State Park executive golf course** at the foot of Hook Mountain where parking and restrooms are available. Please register by Sept. 16



by calling 914.666.6503 or email office@sawmillriveraudubon.org.
Rain date is Wednesday, Sept. 18. Leader: Charlie Roberto

SMRA Offers Birders U

Birders U is our new seasonal series of workshops focusing on birding skills for the season. Each Birders U workshop will be paired with a special small group field trip to try out your new skills.

Cost for Audubon members is \$25 for each seasonal offering, which includes the workshop-fieldtrip pair and a book specific to that workshop. Cost for non-members is \$40 and includes all of the above plus a new membership in Saw Mill River Audubon—a \$30 value!

Membership in any Audubon group—chapter, state or local—entitles you to the member price. Space will be limited so be sure to register by email to office@sawmillriveraudubon.org or by phone at 914.666.6503 no later than the week before each workshop.

Mark your calendars with the 2013–2014 Birders U schedule and sign up ASAP to take advantage of these fun and educational workshops:

Friday, October 4 / Saturday, October 5—Fall Raptors (see p. 3 listing)

Friday, January 3 / Saturday, January 4—Winter Waterfowl

Friday, May 2 / Saturday, May 3—Spring Warblers

Friday, July 18 / Saturday, July 19—Summer Shorebirds

Croton Point Update

Monitoring and meetings continued throughout the summer about the grassland habitat on the reclaimed landfill at Croton Point County Park. Because of the reduced mowing this growing season, we are delighted to report that grasshopper sparrows have once again nested in Westchester County! Bobolinks, meadowlarks, harriers and kestrels have also been observed over the landfill grasses in the last three months. We look forward to seeing which winter raptors may return. However, necessary plans are also underway in the coming months to dig up portions of the landfill to repair the methane collection system. While we recognize that this work is needed for safety reasons, we also continue to advocate for pre- and post-construction planning that protects and improves the high value grassland habitat at Croton Point.

Thank you!

Saw Mill River Audubon would like to send a big *thank you* to the **Town of Cortlandt's Department of Technical Services** for preparing topographic maps of our Brinton Brook and Graff Sanctuaries. These high-quality, detailed maps show elevation contours at 5-foot intervals. These new maps will be very helpful in managing these properties.

We also extend our thanks and recognition to **Westchester Tree Life, Inc.** for their generous donation of tree removal services helping us to clear away final remaining damage at Pruyin Sanctuary from Hurricane Sandy. Westchester Tree Life has been a consistent supporter of Saw Mill River Audubon sanctuary habitats for many years and also consistently displays a strong environmental ethic in their tree work.

Monday Morning Bird Walks

On most Monday mornings, SMRA hosts a guided walk in which we visit a local birding hotspot. This is a great opportunity for novice and experienced birders alike to see birds and get acquainted with the beautiful parks and preserves in the local area.

We'd love to have you join us

on these fun walks as we celebrate our 60th anniversary.



We will visit each spot monthly on this schedule: 1st Monday: Muscoot Farm County Park in Katonah; 2nd Monday: Rockefeller State Park and Preserve near Sleepy Hollow; 3rd Monday: Marshlands Conservancy in Rye; 4th Monday: Croton Point County Park in Croton-on-Hudson. Check our online calendar for updates if there's any question about weather conditions: bit.ly/SMRA_events

Monday walks will not be held on Sept. 30, October 14 and October 21.

Advance registration is not required but call or email the SMRA office if you'd like to borrow a pair of binoculars or if you need directions. Beginners are encouraged to attend! All walks start at 8:30 am. The upcoming Monday walk schedule includes:

September 9—Rockefeller State Park and Preserve

September 16—Marshlands Conservancy (see page 1 listing)

September 23—Croton Point County Park

October 7—Muscoot Farm County Park

October 28—Croton Point County Park

November 4—Muscoot Farm County Park

November 11—Rockefeller State Park and Preserve

November 18—Marshlands Conservancy

November 25—Croton Point County Park

New York Birders Conference Friday, Nov 1 to Sunday, Nov 3

The New York State Ornithological Association will be holding its 66th Annual Meeting / NY Birders Conference in Uniondale, Long Island from Friday, November 1 to Sunday, November 3. Birders and their guests are welcome to come bird, eat, drink and hear about current research on bird biology and conservation. To register and for more conference details, visit nybirdersconference.org

A group from Saw Mill River Audubon plans to attend this exciting weekend in Long Island to enjoy a great lineup of presentations and field trips, which will take advantage of the fall coastal migration. Are you going? Want to carpool or hang out with us at the conference? Give us a call or send us an email. Hope to see you there!

MORE AUDUBON ADVENTURES (continued from p. 1)

SEPTEMBER

**Sunday, September 22 ♦ 8:30 pm
Connecticut Coast Birding**

Co-sponsored with Bronx River-Sound Shore Audubon. Explore the fall migration along the Connecticut coast with expected stops to include: Milford Point, Hammonasset State Park,



Sherwood Island and Cove Island Park. Meet at Hammonasset at 8:30 am.

With easy walking along trails we'll see migrating shorebirds, herons, raptors and land birds. Bring binoculars, water and snack/lunch. No pre-registration necessary but contact us if you are interested in carpooling. As always, feel free to head home earlier from the field trip as desired.



Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (www.parcplace.org) have declared 2013 as "The Year of the Snake." Come celebrate snakes and other reptiles with us at our September public program! See below

**Thursday, September 26 ♦ 7:00 pm
Free Public Program:
Amazing Reptiles
at Croton Library**

Enjoy an up close look at live reptiles of all shapes and sizes. Bruce Lowder from Animal Encounters will introduce us to a variety of turtles, lizards, snakes, a baby alligator, and even one of his 12-foot plus Burmese pythons! No registration necessary but space will be limited so come promptly by 7:00 pm; doors close at 7:20. Program will be 7:30–8:30 pm.

OCTOBER

**Friday, October 4 ♦ 7:30 pm
Birders U Workshop:
Raptors for Rookies**

SMRA Executive Director Anne Swaim will be presenting the first workshop in our seasonal Birders U series: "Raptors for Rookies: Identifying Local Eagles, Hawks and Falcons." The program will be held at the Nature Center in Croton Point County Park; a field trip to Hook Mountain will follow on the next day (see following listing). Also, see the article on page 2 at left for details. Call or email to register.



**Saturday, October 5 ♦ 10:00 am
Birders U Field Trip:
Hawks at Hook Mountain**

This fieldtrip to Hook Mountain in Nyack is for **Birders U fall workshop participants only** (see listing for Oct. 4 above). Where to meet, directions, and other details will be provided at the Oct. 4 workshop.

**Thursday, October 24 ♦ 7:00 pm
Public Program:
Film at Croton Free Library
Queen of the Sun**

What are the bees telling us? Take a journey through the catastrophic disappearance of bees and the mysterious world of the beehive. This engaging film weaves an unusual and ultimately uplifting story of the heartfelt struggle of beekeepers, scientists and philosophers, including Michael Pollan, Gunther Hauk and Vandana Shiva. View the film's trailer at queenofthesun.com/about/trailer/

OCTOBER

**Monday, October 14 ♦ 2:00–5:00 pm
Special Event: River Cruise**

Celebrate our 60th Anniversary with a 3-hour **Hudson River Cruise** from Cold Spring on the "River Rose." We will be joined by Hudson River Naturalist Tom Lake. Enjoy hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. Space is limited and filling fast! Reservations and more details online at sawmillriveraudubon.org/cruise

**Saturday & Sunday, October 19 & 20
9:00 am–2:00 pm both days
Annual Seed Sale Weekend**

We renew our inventory of high-quality seed each fall and offer a convenient pickup at the parking lot behind New Castle Town Hall in Chappaqua. See enclosed flyer or our website for details.

**Saturday, October 19 ♦ 9:00 am
Tree Walk at Lasdon**

Join arborist John Grant on a fall walk to explore native trees. Learn the value of native trees and how to identify them. Meet in the mansion/garden parking area at Lasdon Park & Arboretum, Route 35, Somers. Walk intended for adults and children 10+ interested in trees. No pre-registration necessary.

NOVEMBER

Check our Google calendar for details about these and other upcoming late fall and winter events.

**Thu. Nov. 14: Free Public Program:
Geocaching=Nature + Technology,
Croton Free Library, 7:00 pm** Learn about this exciting sport that uses GPS to find family-friendly hidden caches in local parks and hiking trails and hear from local geocachers.

**Sat. Nov. 16: Geocaching Walk at
Pruyn Sanctuary, 9:00 am** A personal, hands-on introduction to geocaching.

**Sun. Nov. 17: Birding at Jamaica
Bay Wildlife Refuge, Queens, 9:00
am**

**Fri. Nov. 29: Turkey Mtn. Hike,
Yorktown, 9:00am** Walk off your Thanksgiving meal and enjoy great views!

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

PERIODICAL POSTAGE
PAID
at Chappaqua, NY
and additional offices

60th Anniversary Hudson River Cruise
Monday, October 14: Sign up now!
www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/Cruise/html

Deadline for next newsletter: **Nov. 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, Christine McCluskey
Chairman of the Board, Richard Saravay
Secretary, Brian Kluepfel
Treasurer, Tom McEnerney
Bulletin Editor, William Kellner
Circulation Director, Jean Sparacin


STAFF
Executive Director, Anne Swaim
Office Manager, Ellen Heidelberger
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 10514. **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

PRESERVING HABITAT

"That environment is maintained best which is juggled least."
Pete Dunne

Our sanctuaries provide critical habitat for birds and other wildlife. Your gift to Saw Mill River Audubon helps us to encourage people to celebrate and protect these natural places!



Thank you!

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