



# SMRA

SAW MILL RIVER AUDUBON

## Spring 2017



Hooded Merganser. Photo: Sue O'Rourke

### Upcoming Events

Visit our Google calendar at [www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/calendar](http://www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/calendar) for event details. Be sure to subscribe to our free, private email list to get additional details and early notice of new trips and events. Visit [www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/list](http://www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/list) to subscribe.

**Every Monday, Start Times Below**  
**Guided Birding at Area Hotspots**  
**March & April: 8:30 am; May: 7:30 am;**  
**June through August: 6:30 am**

Meet in main parking area for all walks.

- 1st Mon: Muscoot Farm
- 2nd Mon: Rockefeller State Park
- 3rd Mon: Teatown Lake Reservation
- 4th Mon: Croton Point County Park
- 5th Mon: Location varies.

**Every Second Saturday, 9:00 am**  
**Guided Hike at Brinton Brook**  
 Rain, snow or shine. Meet at main parking lot off Route 9A. No registration needed. Best for adults and youth age 6 and up.

**Every Saturday & Sunday, 9:00 am–11:00 am**  
**Project FeederWatch at Croton Point Nature Center**  
 Join SMRA volunteers at the Croton Point Nature Center every weekend morning from now until early April as we identify and count birds visiting the bird feeding station there. We watch from inside the Nature Center. Beginners encouraged. Great opportunity for bird photography as well.

### Upcoming Public Programs

See Page 3 for other upcoming events

**Thursday, March 16, 7:00 pm**  
**Field Guide to Birds of New York**  
**Chappaqua Library**

Speaker: Corey Finger, author of American Birding Association's *Field Guide to Birds of New York*. Tips on finding and IDing birds in New York. Book sales & signing follow. Co-sponsored by Chappaqua Library.

**Sunday April 2, 6:00 pm**  
**Welcome to Spring Program**  
**New Castle Community Center**

Our annual gathering! Enjoy an evening of good food and company, and interesting programs. See insert.

**Thursday, May 18, 7:30 pm**  
**Close-Up Insects: Macro Pictures**  
**Teatown Lake Reservation**

Explore the world of macro and insect photography with Charlie Roberto and Jeff Seneca as they discuss tips and techniques for capturing the smaller organisms of the natural world. Co-sponsored with Teatown.

**Wednesday, June 28, 7:00 pm**  
**Nighttime Jewels: The Moths**  
**Chappaqua Library**

Meet the beautiful, fascinating, and underappreciated cousins of the butterflies: moths! Photos taken by author John Himmelman illustrate this enlightening and often humorous talk. Book sales & signing follow.



Peregrine Falcons draw a crowd at Croton Point. Photo: Christine McCluskey



Croton Point Eagle Walk. Photo: Anne Swaim



Minnesota Birding Trip participants gather at Sax-Zim Bog. Photo: Frank Nicoletti

## Connecting with Youth

For 2017, Saw Mill River Audubon is focused on three outreach efforts for youth: Connect Kids to Parks, our Young Birders series and Schoolyard Birding. Perhaps you have contacts to help SMRA promote these efforts?

**Connect Kids to Parks** is a grant program from NY State Parks that can fully fund classroom field trips to Rockefeller State Park

Preserve for students in grades K to 12 from Title 1 schools or schools with Title 1 targeted assistance. We are excited to be hosting field trips for PS#204 from the Bronx to Rockefeller SPP this spring. There are many eligible Westchester schools as well. Can you help us encourage a local school to connect with this program?

Our **Young Birder** series offers monthly guided birding experiences for youth age 8 to 16 including one adult family/friend chaperone per youth. More info and online registration at [www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/youngbirders](http://www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/youngbirders)

Our **Schoolyard Birding** outreach offers schools a guided birding experience on their school property along with binoculars for every student to use. Only a few dates remain for this school year. Book now for next year!

*Anne Swaim*

## Conservation Connections

The Hudson to Housatonic Conservation Initiative (H2H) began as a two-year U.S. Forest Service grant-funded effort. During that period, SMRA led the River Towns Focal Area in a program on birding habitat, native plants, invasive species, and trees and forestry for 25 key landowners. Our team of experts also led a number of woods walks with owners of key forested properties.

H2H has now evolved into the H2H Regional Conservation Partnership (H2HRCP.org), including members like Westchester Land Trust, Friends of the

Great Swamp, Yale, and SMRA. This informal group of 37 organizations will continue to “work across CT and NY to promote conservation and sound stewardship for the health of people, plants, and wildlife,” including birds!

Most recent H2HRCP efforts have been focused on defining the new organization’s structure, vision, mission, and goals, through which the partners can tap each others’ strengths and experiences, and synergistically work together on projects and programs. *Tom Ruth*

### Saw Mill River Audubon

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Visit us online: [www.sawmillriveraudubon.org](http://www.sawmillriveraudubon.org)

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## *Spring Events*

**Saturday, March 11: Muscoot Farm , 6:00 pm**

**Sunday, March 12: Croton Point Park, 7:00 pm**

**Field Trip: Flight of the Woodcock**

Gather with us at dusk for the seasonal courtship display of American Woodcock. Meeting place & details upon registration. Registration required by calling or emailing our office. Space limited. For adults and youth 10 & up.

**Thursday, March 16, 7:00 pm**

**Public Program: *Field Guide to Birds of New York Chappaqua Library*** See details page 1.

**Saturday, March 25, 9:00 am**

**Sanctuary Work Day: Haas Sanctuary**

Come help us improve the trails and habitats at our sanctuaries. We'll be cutting invasive vines and improving wildlife habitat. Bring clippers, wear work gloves (we have extras to loan), dress for the weather. Youth age 10 and up are welcome with one accompanying adult per youth. Register: [office@sawmillriveraudubon.org](mailto:office@sawmillriveraudubon.org) Check our Google calendar before coming in case of inclement weather. Carpool if possible. Meet at the Sheather Road entrance.

**Sunday, April 2, 6:00–8:30 pm**

**Welcome to Spring Program & Potluck!**

Come and enjoy this evening with us! See insert.

**Saturday, April 8, 7:15 pm**

**Field Trip: Spring Peeper Prowl**

Come enjoy the dusk concert of spring peepers with us at our Pinecliff Sanctuary. Bring a flashlight and walk on the swamp boardwalk as we listen and look for these tiny frogs with big spring voices. Space will be limited and registration required by phone, 914-666-6503 or to by emailing our office. Adults & youth 6 & up.

**Sunday, April 23, 8:00 am**

**Field Trip: Celery Farm (NJ)**

A special birding trip to the famed Celery Farm in Allendale, New Jersey, a 107-acre freshwater wetland with trails and viewing platforms maintained by the Fyke Nature Association. ([www.fykenature.org](http://www.fykenature.org)) Meet us 8:00 am at the Celery Farm parking lot on Franklin Turnpike, Allendale, NJ. Look for waterfowl and very early spring migrants. Register by calling/emailing SMRA office.

**(Very) Early Morning Bird Walk Series: 5:30 am**

Timed to catch the early morning bird chorus during height of the season. No registration needed. Meet at the main parking area for each location at 5:30 am. Binocular loans available.

**Thursday, May 11: Croton Point Park**

**Thursday, May 18: Rockefeller State Park Preserve**

**Thursday, May 25: Teatown Lake Reservation**

**Thursday, June 1: Rockefeller State Park Preserve**

**Thursday, June 8: Croton Point Park**

**Saturday, May 13, All Day**

**Westchester Birdathon/Global eBirding Day**

We will be birding Friday 7:00 pm to Saturday 7:00 pm to count as many species as possible & to raise funds for SMRA & Rockefeller State Park Preserve projects. Visit: [www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/birdathon](http://www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/birdathon)

**Thursday, May 18, 7:30 pm**

**Public Program: Close-Up on Insects**

**Teatown.** See details on Page 1

**Saturday, May 20, 5:30 am**

**Field Trip: Doodletown & Iona Island Birding**

A SMRA tradition: visiting Doodletown and Iona Island for spring migration. Meet at parking area on Rt. 9W just north of Iona Island. No registration needed.

**Sunday, May 28, 6:00 am–12:30 pm**

**Field Trip: Sterling Forest**

Join us on a birding field trip to Sterling Forest in Orange County. Target species include Golden-winged Warbler and other specialties. We are arriving 6:00 am at Sterling Forest. Email us for details and to register.

**Looking Ahead...**

**Saturday, June 24, 9:00 am**

**Sanctuary Work Day: Choate Sanctuary**

See web site calendar for details & registration

**Wednesday, June 28, 7:00 pm**

**Public Program: Night Jewels—The Moths**

**Chappaqua Library.** See page 1 for details.

**Third Saturday Bird Seed Sales**

**Mar 18 and Apr 15, 9:30 am–12:30 pm**

Our volunteers will be on hand to help you select seed and load your car.

Visit: [www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/seed](http://www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/seed)



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*Peregrine Falcon at Croton Point Park.  
Photo: Steve Rappaport*

**Connecting People and Nature since 1953**

## ***SMRA Welcome to Spring Program: Sunday, April 2***

Saw Mill River Audubon invites you to our annual spring program, **Sunday, April 2, 6:00 pm at the New Castle Community Center.**

Open to all, this is a relaxed and fun evening to mingle with fellow birders and outdoor lovers and celebrate the arrival of spring.

**This dinner is one of our favorite events of the year.** We hope you will enjoy it with us!

After our brief annual meeting, we will have a presentation from our 2016 Larry Light Youth Scholarship recipient, and two short programs about our recent trips: Southwest Canyons and Minnesota Birding. Our evening concludes with our “Owl Flight” quilt raffle and “2016 Faces & Places,” an overview of our past year’s events. Will you be in the picture?

**You are invited!** For details and online reservations, visit: [www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/dinner](http://www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/dinner)

### **Special Inserts in this Issue!**

For all members of Saw Mill River Audubon, please find enclosed your **2017 proxy ballot** for our April 2017 annual election of board members and officers. Or you can vote your proxy ballot online: [sawmillriveraudubon.org/proxy](http://sawmillriveraudubon.org/proxy)  
Also enclosed for everyone is our **2017 Annual Dinner invitation.** Save the date and plan to join us for this fun community gathering on **Sunday, April 2nd!**



### **Owl Flight Quilt Raffle!**

Jean Sparacin has designed and created a beautiful custom quilt to benefit Saw Mill River Audubon. Enter our raffle for a chance to win it. Drawing will be at our April 2nd Spring Program.

**See the quilt colors and size & buy raffle tickets online:**  
[www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/quilt](http://www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/quilt)

*Saw Mill River Audubon*  
*presents*

# **Welcome to Spring Program & Potluck Supper**

**Sunday, April 2, 2017 – 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm**

**New Castle Community Center**  
10 Senter Street  
Chappaqua, New York

*featuring*

**Community Potluck Supper**

**Annual Meeting and Board Election for 2017**

**2016 Larry Light Youth Scholarship Presentation**

**SMRA Visits the Southwest and Minnesota**

**Audubon Quilt Raffle**

visit [www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/quilt](http://www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/quilt) for details

**Multimedia Finale ~ Saw Mill River Audubon Places & Faces**

*Images from our 2016 events – will you be in the picture?*

**OPEN TO ALL & INVITE A FRIEND!**

Suggested donation of \$10/person at the door  
to support our local conservation work

**RSVP by phone to Jean Sparacin 914-941-8422**  
**or online at [www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/dinner](http://www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/dinner)**

*Please tell us how many seats to reserve & which supper item you wish to bring:  
entrée for 8, vegetarian entrée for 8, salad for 8, dessert for 8, bread for 8 OR beverages for 8.*



## Saw Mill River Audubon “Owl Flight” Quilt Raffle

Another extraordinary, custom-designed quilt has been created for Saw Mill River Audubon. This year's quilt was made by Jean Sparacin.

Don't miss your opportunity to purchase raffle tickets for this beautiful quilt and help support our local conservation work.

Raffle tickets are \$10 each or three for \$25. All proceeds benefit Saw Mill River Audubon.

**View a full-color picture of the quilt and buy tickets online:** [www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/quilt](http://www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/quilt)

**Raffle drawing held at our April 2 Spring Program.** You need not be present to win.

## More About Saw Mill River Audubon Larry Light Youth Scholarships

The Larry Light Memorial Scholarship Fund for Youth was established by the Light family and their friends in 1981 and has been strengthened over the years with additional gifts from our members and friends.

Our youth scholarships are for youth age 13 to 17 for a summer camp, class or workshop with an emphasis on the environment. Examples funded in the past include: National Audubon youth birding camps, American Birding Association youth birding camps, an environmental study trip, high school science research trips, New York Department of Environmental Conservation wildlife camps, and Westchester County camps.

The maximum amount awarded for our youth scholarship varies based on funds available. Selection is not based on financial need but on level of interest in the environment demonstrated by school work and extracurricular volunteer activities.

**Application forms and more details:** [www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/scholarships](http://www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/scholarships)

### Recent Larry Light Youth Scholarship Awards

- 2017: Max Kogut, National Audubon Youth Birding Camp, Maine
- 2016: Mack Meller, National Audubon Youth Birding Camp, Maine
- 2015: Eamon Freiburger, National Audubon Youth Birding Camp, Maine
- 2015: Josiah Wiedenheft, New York Department of Environmental Conservation Wildlife Camp
- 2014: Alex Chin, New York Department of Environmental Conservation Wildlife Camp
- 2013: Anna Roberto, Minnesota Owl Banding Research Trip
- 2011: Lewis Lolya, National Audubon Youth Birding Camp
- 2010: Benjamin Van Doren, American Birding Association Youth Birding Camp
- 2010: Sophia West, Fiji Marine Biology Study Trip
- 2009: Kyle Bardwell, Costa Rica SMRA Birding Trip



Students at Audubon Youth Birding Camp in Maine.  
Photo: SMRA/Lewis Lolya.