

Bronx River Sound Shore Audubon Society Newsletter



Chapter of the National Audubon Society serving the communities of Bronxville, Eastchester, Edgemont, Hartsdale, Larchmont, Mamaroneck, Mount Vernon, New Rochelle, Pelham, Scarsdale and Tuckahoe



BRSS Audubon Donates Bird Scope to Sheldrake

Visitors to the newly opened Bird Blind/Wildlife Observation Station overlooking Goodliffe Pond at the Sheldrake Environmental Center, 685 Weaver Street, Larchmont, will now have the benefit of an Alpen Spotting Scope and tripod donated by the BRSS Audubon chapter



(l-r) Doug Bloom, president BRSS Audubon, presents the Alpen Scope to Suzzane Frank, president, Sheldrake Environmental Center, Robert Wirsneck, BRSS and Sheldrake Board, Marie Venezia, Sheldrake executive director and Sam Suharto, BRSS vice president

The Bird Blind/Wildlife Observation Station, converted from an old unused granite gatehouse circa 1876, has been retrofitted with an open window facing Goodliffe Pond. Use of the blind, which is locked when unattended and the

spotting scope is available to the to the public. The key and the scope can be signed out for at the Sheldrake Environmental

Center Office at 85 Weaver St. To ensure the office is open when you arrive, phone 834-1443 in advance.

Dauids Island Cleanup Now Underway

Dauids Island, the former Army base and Native American encampment off New Rochelle, is an untapped jewel in the Long Island Sound. For years dormant and ravaged by weather and vandalism, the island is unfit for public use. Advocacy groups, including your BRSS Audubon Chapter have worked together with legislators to take the steps necessary to turn this gem into a park. As previously reported, Congresswoman

Nita Lowey has worked to secure \$4.1 million, to date, for the U.S. Army Corps to clean up the island and remove the dilapidated and unsafe structures on the island. The Corps – in coordination with New Rochelle, Westchester County, and the NYS Historic Preservation Office – started this summer with preliminary archeological work, and will soon begin demolition of the first 12 buildings. Because cleaning up the island and mak-

ing it safe for public use is an ambitious project, Representative Lowey has worked to have a recent House-passed Defense Appropriations Bill include an additional \$5 million. Ms. Lowey tells the BRSS Newsletter that she intends to push for these funds to be included in the final bill “so that we can keep the momentum going on this project and finally realize the potential of this jewel in the Long Island Sound.”

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In this issue:

<i>BRSS Audubon Donates Scope</i>	1
<i>David's Island Cleanup</i>	1
<i>Call for BRSS Nominations</i>	2
<i>Hudson River Eagle Fest</i>	2
<i>Bronx River Restoration</i>	3
<i>Welcome New Members</i>	3
<i>BRSS Board Meetings</i>	3
<i>Field Trips/Field Trip Reports</i>	4
<i>Member Survey</i>	
<i>Bird Seed Sale Order Form</i>	

Special point of interest:

Thanks to your generous support the Fall BRSS Bird Seed Sale was our largest ever. Birdseed sales are our single largest fundraising source. If you will be buying seed for the remainder of this winter, we hope you will please order using the enclosed form and mail to Doug Bloom by Thursday, Feb 8th. Thank you.

**BRONX RIVER
SOUND SHORE
AUDUBON
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Call for Nominations to the BRSS Board of Directors

BRSS Audubon Society welcomes any member who is interested in becoming involved in the chapter's activities. If you are interested in being a member of the nominating committee or if you know of someone who may be interested in being nominated to become a member of

the BRSS Board of Directors for the three-year term 2006 through 2008, please submit your name or their name(s), by phone or email to either the chairman of the nominating committee, Sam Suharto, SSuharto@aol.com or phone 834-0861 or nomi-

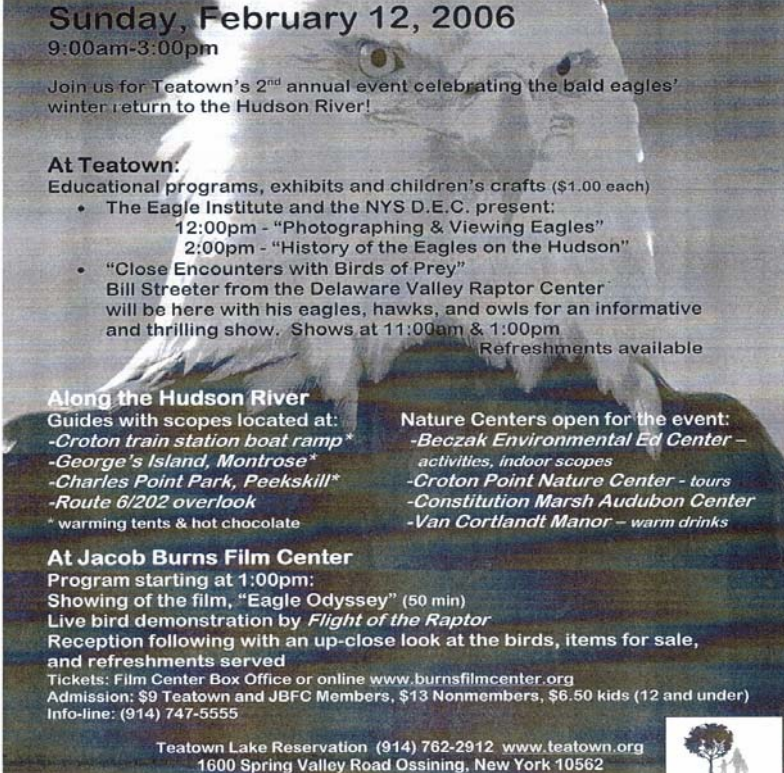
nating committee members Gisela Vaughn gvaughan@optonline.net, or Bob Wick robert.wick@verizon.net by January 19th, 2006 All members of the BRSS Audubon Society chapter are eligible.

Hudson River Eagle Fest, February 12

Bald eagle viewing during the winter months, from a safe distance and at planned observation sites, offers an exhilarating and memorable experience. About 25 years ago eagles were near extinction in New York State. More recently thanks to aggressive restoration programs, the Hudson River,

especially the stretch from Kingston to Croton, has become increasingly popular with bald eagles searching for fish in the open waters of the lower Hudson. The BRSS Audubon chapter is co-sponsoring the Hudson River Eagle Fest, Sunday, February 12th. At four of the best eagle viewing loca-

tions along the Hudson, guides with scopes will be available from 9 am to 3 pm. At three of the locations there will be warming tents and hot chocolate. Below are more details and all the day's events.



Sunday, February 12, 2006
9:00am-3:00pm

Join us for Teatown's 2nd annual event celebrating the bald eagles' winter return to the Hudson River!

At Teatown:
Educational programs, exhibits and children's crafts (\$1.00 each)

- The Eagle Institute and the NYS D.E.C. present:
12:00pm - "Photographing & Viewing Eagles"
2:00pm - "History of the Eagles on the Hudson"
- "Close Encounters with Birds of Prey"
Bill Streeter from the Delaware Valley Raptor Center will be here with his eagles, hawks, and owls for an informative and thrilling show. Shows at 11:00am & 1:00pm
Refreshments available

Along the Hudson River
Guides with scopes located at:

- Croton train station boat ramp*
- George's Island, Montrose*
- Charles Point Park, Peekskill*
- Route 6/202 overlook

*warming tents & hot chocolate

Nature Centers open for the event:

- Beczak Environmental Ed Center - activities, indoor scopes
- Croton Point Nature Center - tours
- Constitution Marsh Audubon Center
- Van Cortlandt Manor - warm drinks

At Jacob Burns Film Center
Program starting at 1:00pm:
Showing of the film, "Eagle Odyssey" (50 min)
Live bird demonstration by *Flight of the Raptor*
Reception following with an up-close look at the birds, items for sale, and refreshments served

Tickets: Film Center Box Office or online www.burnsfilcenter.org
Admission: \$9 Teatown and JBFC Members, \$13 Nonmembers, \$6.50 kids (12 and under)
Info-line: (914) 747-5555

Teatown Lake Reservation (914) 762-2912 www.teatown.org
1600 Spring Valley Road Ossining, New York 10562

Bronx River Ecosystem Restoration Moves Ahead

The Bronx River has long suffered environmental degradation. Erosion from heavy rainfall, flooding, and loss of habitat are just some of the problems that have plagued the entire length of the Bronx River, from North Castle to the East River. Representatives Nita Lowey, Jose Serrano and Joe Crowley, have supported an ecosystem restoration study along the Bronx River spearheaded by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. In partnership with both Westchester and Bronx Counties, the Corps' project will include environmental sampling, GIS mapping, and hydraulic modeling. This study will help highlight

opportunities for even more restoration projects as well as furthering the inventory of ongoing projects. This year at the urging of local House Representatives there is \$375,000 for the Corps to continue this project. What makes this project so exciting is that these federal resources are matched, dollar-for-dollar, by local funds creating a truly collaborative report. According to Congresswoman Lowey, "while this is certainly not a silver bullet for the Bronx River, it is a step in the right direction and it is a step that can be built upon with future projects."



Snow blankets restoration work recently begun on the Bronx River path north of Hitchcock Pond in Scarsdale

Welcome New Members

We hope that you will join in the BRSS field trips and programs

Bronxville - Heather Borjes, Sharon Brand, Christopher Doody, Mary Gagliotti, Annette Hastings, Chase O'Neill, John Ohlandt, Richard Szypula, Donna Trott; **Eastchester** - Jacqueline Bruskin, Joan Senno; **Hartsdale** - Cindy Ehrich, William Morrissey, Mrs. Kirk Richardson, Diana White, John Williams; **Larchmont** - Carol Corcoran, Eileen Dinolfo, Patrick Donnelly, John Hanway, Matthew McMillan, Judith Myers, Jonathan Siegal, Robert Stackpole, Irene Wielgus, Arthur Winard; **Mamaroneck** - Karen Cahn, Deborah Cann, Josephine Moore, Howard Weinberg, Carroll Wetzel; **Mount Vernon** - Joan Archer, Mario Cassieri, Dr. Tristan DaCunha, Joan

Driscoll, Tyler Fernandez, Mary Harrington, Ruth Lembeck, Patricia Martin, Aron McNight, Amita Ness, Nancy Olli, Shirley Phillips, Eugenia Raymond, John Roque, Leonard Simmons; **New Rochelle** - Ruby Axelrod, Darline Bacon, Elizabeth Behunek, Madelyne Berry, Lucille Blackwood, Jay Cooke, Betsy Figatner, David Goldsmith, Mary Haid, Mr. & Mrs. Ricahrd Holt, Rita Kriesberg, Paul Reggio, Gary Rothbart, Paul Sonyi; **Pelham** - Karen Garbarini, Rita Rizzo, Peter Wyer; **Tuckahoe** - John Dalessandro, David & Isabelle Fuller, Elisse Scheiner; **Scarsdale** - Nancy

Abbe, Isabelita Balmaceda, Suzanne Behr, C.L. Billinghamurst, Melissa Claman, Simon Cohen, Stephanie Cohen, Joseph Colombo, Stephen Gottlieb, Eddie Halfyou, Jana Icaliaw, Jacquie Janssen, Samuel Krinsky, Lika Levi, Elliot Levy, Corinne McCron, Nancy Morales, Anne Naughton, Herbert Newman, Linda Peretz, Heather Rosenstein, Patricia Ross, Pauline Schildkraut, Kenneth Shortlidge, Jon Silverman, Stella Sklias, Allison Solin, Madeleine Train.

BRSS Board Meetings: You are Invited

BRSS Chapter members are invited to attend Chapter Board meetings, which are held monthly on the last Thursday of each month (January through May) 7:30 p.m.

at the Sheldrake Environmental Center, 685 Weaver Street, Larchmont. If you plan to attend, kindly notify Doug Bloom either by e-mail

larchowl@aol.com or phone 834-5203 to help us ensure adequate accommodations.

Bronx River Sound Shore Audubon Society

(formerly Scarsdale Audubon Society)
P. O. Box 1108
Scarsdale, NY 10583

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Field Trips 2006

Below is a list of upcoming trips that are free for all members. If you're interested in participating, please contact either Andrew Block at 337-1229 or Doug Bloom at 834-5203 (evening) or 713-0630 (day). It's important to please call in advance so that trip leaders can ensure adequate transportation and for overnight trips to reserve accommodations.

January 8, Montauk Point: Meet at Scarsdale Village Hall 6:30 a.m. Alcids and other wintering sea birds that come in closer. Also seals.

January 29, Pelham Bay: Cosponsored with Central Westchester Audubon and the Wild Bird Center. Meet 8:00 a.m. in Orchard Beach Parking lot, far left end. The focus will be on owls.

February 11, Croton Point Park: Meet at Wild Bird Center, 400 Central Park Ave., Scarsdale at 8:00 a.m. Look-

ing for Bald Eagles and possibly a Golden.

March 5, South Jersey: Early migrants and on the way back maybe eagles, owls and Sandhill cranes.

May 7, Central Park, NYC: Meet at corner of 79th and Central Park West at 7:30 a.m. focus is on migrating warblers.

May 21, Doodletown Road, Bear Mountain Park: Co-sponsored with Central Westchester Audubon. Good Cerulean warbler habitat.

June 2-4, Adirondack Weekend Trip: Looking for nesting warblers and other songbirds.

June 24, Butterfly Walk at Pound Ridge Reservation: We meet at 8:00 a.m. Co-sponsored with the Hudson River and Central Westchester Audubon chapters. Led by Mike Bochnik. E-mail: BochnikM@cs.com

Jamaica Bay field trip (Sept. 18th)

On a beautiful sunny fall day we had a flock of Cedar Waxwings out at the end of branches, so we got a very good look at them. Some of the other species seen included: Semilamated Sandpipers, Least Sandpipers, Green-winged Teal, Pintail, Shoveler, Blue-winged Teal, Wood Duck. The warblers included Tennessee, Yellow, Yellow-rumped, and Common Yellowthroat.

Hook Mountain field trip (Nov. 20th)

On a late fall day six participants saw 36 species of birds including Red-tailed Hawk, Cooper's Hawk and several Turkey Vultures as well as Ravens, Coots, and also some Eastern Bluebirds. There was also a late Phoebe and some Snow Buntings at the top of the mountain.

Field Trip Reports:

