



# Bronx River Sound Shore Audubon Society Newsletter



Serving the communities of Bronxville, Eastchester, Edgemont, Hartsdale, Larchmont, Mamaroneck, Mount Vernon, New Rochelle, Pelham, Scarsdale and Tuckahoe

## BRSS Annual Meeting Set for June 8<sup>th</sup>

*Honorees: State Senator Suzie Oppenheimer and William Lawyer, Executive Director, Greenburgh Nature Center*

Thursday, June 8<sup>th</sup>  
6 to 8 p.m.  
Five Islands Park

Thanks again to the very generous hospitality of the New Rochelle Department of Parks and Recreation, our Annual Meeting will be held at the indoor pavilion at Five Islands Park, located on Long Island Sound in New Rochelle. The setting is beautiful. A short bird walk begins at 5:30. As is customary, the meeting will be kept short and the social time long. It's a great opportunity to meet

and chat with other members. Refreshments will be served.

### Election of Officers and Board Members

At the Annual Meeting, BRSS membership will be asked to vote approval of the following slate of officers for the coming two years. The nominees who have graciously offered to serve two-year\* terms are: Doug Bloom, president; Sandra Morrissey, vice-president; Jeff Zuckerman, treasurer and Cece Fabbro, secretary.

In addition, the board asks the members for an affirmative vote for the slate of

directors for the class of 2009; Sheema Bhattacharya, Claire Gorman, Neil Powell, Robert Wirsneck and Jeff Zuckerman.

\*This past year the BRSS board of directors voted to change the length of the officers' terms from one year to two years. The board felt that a two-year term is more appropriate for the needs of BRSS, necessitating a change in the by-laws, which passed unanimously.

All members are encouraged to attend our Annual Meeting.

## May is Warbler Month

May is often the best time for seeing warblers, some of the most beautiful birds in our area. To help make the most of this annual spring-time event, we've scheduled three field trips focused on warbler viewing. At this time of year, these tiny, brightly colored, insect-eating birds begin to return to their North American breeding grounds from Central and South America where they spent the winter. Their journeys may involve non-stop flights covering more than a thousand miles at a time, so when they finally touch down they have expended much of their en-

ergy and must feed constantly to refuel.

One of the prime viewing stops is Manhattan's Central Park, where we've scheduled a field trip on **Sunday, May 7**. Warblers fly in flocks—sometimes called "waves"—of several species, and their arrival creates a spectacle of brilliant colors. In addition, many male warblers sing high-pitched songs during migration, making them even more conspicuous. So grab your binoculars and join BRSS field trip leader Doug Bloom, one of the best and friendliest birders

we know, and let him show you some really beautiful warblers.

Later in the month, **Sunday, May 21**, Doug will lead a trip looking for warblers in Bear Mountain Park—a good habitat for Cerulean warblers (a species currently being evaluated for addition to the "Threatened Species" list). And on the first weekend in **June**, join us on a trip to the Adirondacks for warblers and other species in their nesting grounds. For more information, see the field trip schedule, page 4.

**Volume No. 62  
Spring, 2006**

### In this issue:

<i>Annual Meeting</i>	1
<i>May is Warbler Month</i>	1
<i>Puffin Restoration Program</i>	2
<i>Environmental Policy Alerts</i>	2
<i>A Meadow in a Window Box</i>	3
<i>New Members</i>	3
<i>Stan Miller Remembered</i>	3
<i>Field Trips</i>	4
<i>Field Trip Report</i>	4
<i>Native Plant Sale</i>	4

### Special point of interest:

Thanks to all who purchased birdseed or made donations during our February seed sale. With your support, we raised a total of \$2,307.15. \$1,453.65 was profit from your seed purchases and \$853.50 from your kind donations. The addition of this money will benefit our environmental education and advocacy programs.

**BRONX RIVER  
SOUND SHORE  
AUDUBON  
OFFICERS**

**PRESIDENT**

Doug Bloom 834-5203

**VICE PRESIDENT**

Sam Suharto 834-0861

**TREASURER**

Jeff Zuckerman 395-3083

**SECRETARY**

Cece Fabro 472-6596

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS****MEMBERSHIP**

Clare Gorman 395-3083

**FIELD TRIPS**

Doug Bloom 834-5203  
Andrew Block 337-1229  
Neil Powell 777-2206

**CONSERVATION**

Karen Shultz 946-1271  
Sandra Morrissey 949-2531  
Sam Suharto 834-0861

**NEWSLETTER**

Bob Wick 723-1809  
Sheema Bhattacharya 725-9177

**PROGRAMS**

Michael Bryson 337-0333

**PUBLICITY**

Henry May 667-6144  
Roz Wood 698-3568

**HOSPITALITY**

Diane Morrison 725-7351

**AT LARGE**

Carolyn Weyant 762-6134  
Adrienne Alicia 232-2009  
Robert Wirsneck 834-1409  
Margaret Phelan 212-332-2183  
Gisela Vaughan 779-5609

**WEBMASTER**

Stephen Sherman

**WEB:** <http://brssaudubon.org>

## Restoring Puffins and Terns to the Maine Coast

*An evening program on Thursday, May 11*

A presentation on "Restoring Puffins and Terns to the Maine Coast" will be offered Thursday, May 11, 7:30 p.m. at the Bronxville Public Library. A social period begins at 7 p.m. The presenter, Pete Salmansohn, Audubon's Seabird Restoration Program Education Coordinator, and Environmental Educator at the Constitution Marsh Audubon Center and Sanctuary, Cold Spring, New York will provide us with a progress up-date for these beautiful and clown like faced sea-birds.



The Seabird Restoration Program (SRP) of the National Audubon Society is an internationally recognized program that restores seabirds to historic nesting islands through the use of innovative techniques based on seabird behavior and ecology. For 30 years, the program has restored populations of rare and endangered seabirds to islands in the Gulf of Maine using techniques such as models, mirrors, sound recordings, translocation of young seabirds and habitat management. The National Audubon Society started Project Puffin in 1973 in an effort to learn how to restore Atlantic puffins to historic nesting islands in the Gulf of Maine. At that time, literally all the puffin eggs in Maine could be placed in two baskets.

 A black and white photograph of an owl with its wings fully spread, perched on a branch. The owl's face is prominent, with large eyes and a detailed feather pattern.
 

**Sign up  
and stay  
a step ahead.**

Sign up for the Audubon Advisory and E-Alerts and you will get the latest in environmental public policy news sent to your email. Stay abreast of the news from DC and stay in the know. Its free, its fast, and its meant for busy folks like you. Get signed up!

<http://takeaction.audubon.org>

 The Audubon Society logo, featuring a stylized bird in flight above the word "Audubon" in a serif font.
 

**Audubon**

## A Meadow in a Window Box

By Sandy Morrissey

A fritillary floats by. The ruby-throated hummingbird helicopters in for a sip of *salvia*. The bees are busy on the *rubebeckia*. I enjoy this whirl of activity outside my kitchen window as I pour my own nectar – a glass of diet Coke. Last summer I removed a bed of overgrown evergreens and replaced them with plants that I knew – after years of wildlife gardening - would attract birds and butterflies. My new kitchen garden has been such a delight. In a space that is only 15 feet by 6 feet, I created a meadow. Below are the top ten best plants in my garden in Hartsdale for luring wildlife of the winged variety. All these plants do well in my “part-shade” property. Plan to add these plants to your garden in the spring. You, too, can enjoy this gorgeous fauna flitting amongst your beautiful flora.

*Salvia guaranitica*. My #1 hummingbird plant.

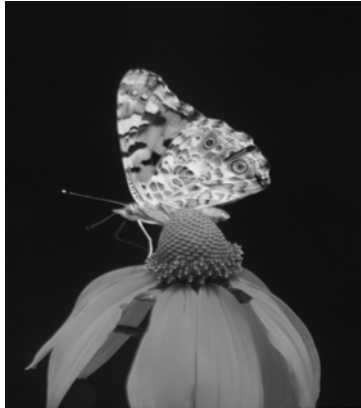
*Monarda* (beebalm). Top performing variety is ‘Raspberry Wine.’

*Lonicera sempervirens*, ‘magnifica.’ A native trumpet honeysuckle.

*Buddleia davidii* (butterfly bush). Best butterfly plant.

*Verbena bonariensis*. Great for both hummingbirds and butterflies.

*Enchinacea purpurea* (purple coneflower) Birds, especially goldfinches, love its seeds  
*Phlox paniculata* (garden phlox). Fragrant. ‘Robert Poore’ and ‘Bright Eyes’ great choices.



Painted Lady on *Rudebeckia*

*Nepeta faassinii* (catmint). Both butterflies and hummingbirds visit often.

*Rudebeckia nitida* ‘Herbstsonne.’ Attracts butterflies, bees and other flying insects. Birds like its seeds.  
*Liatris* (gay feather). A native that attracts the most species of butterflies.

Honorable mention: Hummingbirds also nectar at *Hosta*, *Heuchera*, *Lobelia cardinalis*, *Lantana*, *Zinnia*, and *Impatiens*. Butterflies visit my *Asclepias tuberosa* (butterfly weed), *asters*, *sedum* ‘autumn joy’ and *Eupatorium purpureum* (Joe-Pye Weed) – all important late-summer and fall-blooming perennials.

For more information on plant culture or questions, email Sandy Morrissey at [sandym@cloud9.net](mailto:sandym@cloud9.net).

## Remembering Stan Miller

Stan Miller, BRSS board member, died at age 75. Stan, loved to talk about the birds that visited his back yard and maintained a long-time interest in BRSS Audubon. A self-taught artist, he enjoyed drawing birds and worked on an appropriate logo featuring two birds, a Cardinal and a Great Blue Heron, for our Audubon Chapter. On cold early morning Christmas Bird Counts, Stan was eager to participate and learn more about the wintering ducks and hearty holdouts that did not migrate when the weather turned cold. He would peer through the spotting scope and mention details on the birds that we might have overlooked, curious about feather patterns and coloring and questioned how some birds got their names. Stan loved being outdoors with nature, and we will miss Stan at our board meetings.



## Welcome New Members

**Bronxville:** Frank Bellino, Betsy Ellis, S. Gagner, Bonnie Grant, Marilyn McCormick, Maureen Prochasles, Vivian Ruschmeyer. **Eastchester:** Willard Groth.

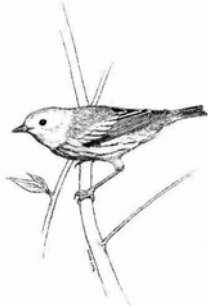
**Hartsdale:** Vincent Episcopia, Cynthia Gewirtz, Carol Majdanski, Andrew Paul, Doris Schlitt, Seth Solomon. **Larchmont:** Douglas Fais, John O’Gorman, Joan Sobel. **Mamaroneck:** Fred Bartels, Laura Berstein, Howard Deutsch, Elaine Lamb, Seth Neubardt, Jonathan Sands. **Mount**

**Vernon:** Mary Matthews, Joyce Newland. **New Rochelle:** Pat Ehresmann, John Haley, Jerome Lebowitz, Katherine Lockwood, Linda Rozenfeld, Susan

Seiler, Fran & Bill Sworsky, Joseph Warren, Eliza Weiss, Patricia Wild, Nora Wolloch. **Pelham:** Ronan Cooke, Anton Dengler, Amy Dunkin, John Gassler, Fred Gervat, Keith Kemmerezell, Thomas Reza, Mark Strauss, Katherine Struby, **Scarsdale:** Sally Castillo, Walter Gutman, Gloria Markuson, Gloria & John Mezzacappa, Jo Pease, Phyllis Pessolano, Peter Ross, Joseph & Laurine Rut, Terry Singer, Doris Stamm, Jennet Walker. **Tuckahoe:** Eve Bucca, Linda & Geoffrey Council.

## Bronx River Sound Shore Audubon Society

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



Yellow Warbler

### Save precious resources!

Ask to receive this newsletter  
in full color by e-mail.  
Send your e-mail address to:  
robert.wick@verizon.net

Non-Profit  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 513  
White Plains,  
NY

---

### Field Trips: May & June

**May 7, Central Park:** A Sunday morning walk in the park looking for migrating warblers, meets at corner of 79<sup>th</sup> and Central Park West, 7:30 a.m. For carpool info, call Doug Bloom 713-0630 (day) or 834-5203 (evening).

**May 21, Bear Mountain:** Warblers and other species. Good Cerulean warbler habitat. Meet 7a.m. Scarsdale Village Hall. Please call Doug Bloom 713-0630 (day) or 834-5203 (evening) to reserve space.

**June 2-4, Adirondack Weekend Trip:** Looking for nesting warblers and other songbirds. To reserve a place, please call Doug Bloom by May 20 at either 713-0630 (day) or 834-5203 (evening) or Andrew Block 337-1229.

**June 24, Butterfly Walk at Ward Pound Ridge Reservation:** Meet 8:00 a.m. at Ward Pound Ridge. Check for exact spot call trip leader Mike Bochnik 237-9331 or e-mail: BochnikM@cs.com

### Field Trip Report

by Doug Bloom

**Pelham Bay Park-Owls,** Jan. 29th  
Co-sponsored with CWAS and the Wild Bird Center, the owl prowl drew 45 participants that we split into four groups. A Saw-whet and a Great Horned were seen along with about two-dozen other species of birds.

**Croton Point Park-Eagles,** Feb. 11th  
Co-sponsored with the Wild Bird Center, 25 participants had good looks at seven Bald Eagles. On a cloudy, seasonably cool day we turned up 31 other bird species including a small flock of Pine Siskins that flew over our heads in the parking lot.

**Cape Ann, Mass,** Feb. 17-20  
On a clear and very cold weekend trip with wind gusts to 40mph, four participants saw 73 species of birds.. We had eight different species of gulls-- Black-headed, Bonaparte's, Mew, Ring-billed, Herring, Iceland, Glaucous, and Great-blacked. Other highlights included Snowy and Short-eared Owls and King and Common Eiders.

### Native Plant Sale at WCC

#### Saturday, April 29 - Wildflower & Native Plant Sale

10 a.m. - 1 p.m. - Admission Free & Open to the Public  
Rain or Shine - Tent Coverage Provided. Sale Opposite Parking Lot # 1. The Native Plant Center at Westchester Community College (WCC) is dedicated to educating people about the importance of wildflowers and native plants of the Northeast. They are located at Westchester Community College, 75 Grasslands Road, Valhalla, NY, 10595.

We may schedule a mid-September one- to two-hour **canoe trip through Constitution Marsh Audubon Sanctuary**, a fragile wetland in the Hudson River estuary (<http://ny.audubon.org/cmac.htm>). If you would be interested in this trip, please call Doug Bloom at 834-5203 by mid-May.

