



Central Westchester Audubon Society News

Central Westchester Audubon Society, A Chapter of National Audubon Society,
serves Elmsford, Greenburgh, Harrison, Purchase, Rye, Rye Brook, Port Chester and White Plains

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MARCH-APRIL, 2009

Programs

Life Between the Tides

Thursday, March 19, 2009

7:30PM

Room 20 at Church St. School
295 Church St., White Plains, NY

Speaker: Mickey Maxwell Cohen



For an informative and fun-filled evening, join Mickey Maxwell Cohen, award-winning naturalist and marine educator, as he takes us on a slide-illustrated, virtual walk along the beaches of Long Island. He'll tell us, among other things, about a defenseless sea creature that steals deadly weapons from other organisms which it can then use for its own protection, about a lowly marine invertebrate that might hold in its genes secrets of the electronic industry of the future, and about an evolutionary ancestor of all backboned animals that still resides, out of sight, in our coastal waters. Bring along your favorite "seashore treasures" for an after-lecture identification session.

Co-sponsored with Bronx River/Sound Shore Audubon.

Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Roger Tory Peterson's Birth

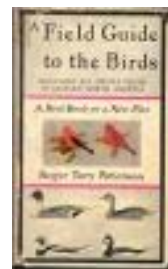


Wednesday, April 22, 2009

7:30PM

Bronxville School
177 Pondfield Rd., Bronxville, NY
(Park in the lot on Midland Ave)

Speaker: James Berry



The President of Roger Tory Peterson Institute of Natural History, James Berry, will talk about Roger Tory Peterson's place in the history of field ornithology in the United States through an illustrated lecture and video from a New York perspective. It will include Roger's early boyhood days in Jamestown and his student days in New York City as a member of the Bronx County Bird Club. Bring for sharing your correspondence, photographs, and other personal memorabilia connected to Roger, as well as anecdotes and well-worn field guides that would do RTP proud.

Co-sponsored with Bronx River/Sound Shore Audubon, Hudson River Audubon, and Greenburgh Nature Center.

CENTRAL WESTCHESTER AUDUBON SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 359, WHITE PLAINS, NY 10602

www.centralwestchesteraudubon.org

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Field Trips

Sunday, March 22nd 8 AM Read Sanctuary . Meet 8 AM at Read. A visit to find early spring migrants. If time permits, we will also visit Marshlands Conservancy. Co-sponsored with Bronx River/Sound Shore Audubon & Hudson River Audubon. Leader: Doug Bloom

Sunday, April 5th, Jamaica Bay, Meet 8:45-9am at Jamaica Bay. Early spring migrants. Co-sponsored by the Wild Bird Center and BR/SS Audubon.

Wednesday Warbler Walks in May (6th, 13th, 20th, 27th, rain or shine) Hosted by Rye Nature Center, co-sponsored by CWAS. The Nature Center will open at 7:45 for coffee and tea. The walks will start promptly at 8 AM and end at 9 AM. Leader: Hank Weber. Loaner binoculars available. Rye Nature Center is a hot spot for warblers and the walk is easy.

Saturday, May 9th, 7 AM, Our Annual Birdathon. Rain Date: May 16th. Meet at Education House for car-pooling. At the height of spring migration, we will visit Forest Park in Queens and the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. Dress in layers and bring water and a lunch. Binoculars are a must; spotting scopes if you have them. Facilities at Jamaica Bay.

Sunday, May 24, 7 AM, Doodletown Rd. Meet 8 AM at Doodletown Rd. If you wish to arrange car-pooling, please call Jeanne Alpert at 946-1780 by Friday, May 22nd. This is a hotspot for migrating songbirds. We should see a variety of warblers, flycatchers, indigo buntings, orioles, and perhaps cuckoos. The trail is a bit steep and rocky at the beginning, so sturdy shoes are a good idea. No facilities. Be sure to bring water. Co-sponsored with Bronx River/Sound Shore Audubon.

Directions to Bronxville School (April Meeting)

Take Route 22/White Plains Post Road traveling South to Pondfield Road. Right turn at light. Continue down hill (3 traffic lights) to Midland Avenue. School is in front of you on the right side. Make right on Midland Avenue for parking.

Program Cancellation

To find out if a program is cancelled because of inclement weather please call 946-1780.

Directions to Church St. School

Take I-287, Cross-Westchester Expressway, to Exit 6, North Broadway. Going west-bound (toward Tarrytown) turn left at end of ramp, and turn left (south) on North Broadway. Going east-bound (toward Rye): turn right (south) at top of ramp on North Broadway. Then take the first right, immediately after expressway ramp, on to Westview. Westview has a sharp left turn into Church Street. The entrance to the school parking lot is on the right, 0.2 miles from Westview.

Birdathon 2009

As I sit at my desk on a cold day in January looking out the window at the wintry mix of snow, sleet and freezing rain, my thoughts turn to that warm day in Spring, May 9th, when we will hold our annual Birdathon the major fund-raising event of the year. May 9th will be a day of so many possibilities: for the experienced birders among us, this is a day to re-acquaint ourselves with those lively warblers in breeding plumage and to pass on our knowledge to those less experienced; for those of us with more modest skills, there's the hope that we will be able to identify that bird that we saw for the first time last year; and for the beginners almost every sighting will be a new and exciting experience. For all of us, there is the chance of spotting some rare and unusual species such as the Red-necked Phalarope of last year or the Gull-billed Tern of the year before. Spring birding is a sensory feast for our ears and our eyes. As we walk along the paths, we are serenaded by a chorus of bird songs, which will help us with species identification. And who can resist the black and red velvet finery of the Scarlet Tanager, the flaming orange throat of the Blackburnian Warbler, the bright plumage patterns of the Black-throated Blue, Chestnut-sided, and Magnolia Warblers? While we make no promises, we should see all of these and many more—most likely a total of around 100 species.

The best part of the Birdathon is that while we are having an amazing experience we are also raising funds for our scholarship program to send elementary students to the Ecology camps run by Westchester County. These children are the future protectors of our environment and deserve our support. The camp applications have already gone out and we expect to have a bumper crop of applicants this year. So we need the support of as many members as possible. We have a dedicated corps of members who make a contribution to the Birdathon every year and we are so grateful for their support. We would like to increase the number of contributors to our fund drive, so if you have never pledged before, please consider doing so this year. Remember that we welcome **all** contributions in whatever amount you feel you can give. Please fill out the coupon below to pledge either an amount per species or a flat amount or respond positively when a board member calls to ask for a pledge. The more species we see, the more money we raise from those who pledge a per-species amount. As a guideline for those donors, we usually tally about 100 species.

The routine for the Birdathon on May 9th (rain date May 16th) is as follows: early birders will begin at 5:30 am at Read Sanctuary in order to give us a head start on our count; the rest of us will meet at Education House at 7:00 am for car-pooling, first to Forest Park in Queens and then to Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge where we will have lunch and then go on to bird the refuge. We will end up at about 4 pm to tally the species and then head for home, birding along the way.

In order to maximize our species potential we need birders. You do not have to be expert to join in the fun. Beginners are welcomed and those with experience are more than willing to share their expertise to make sure that you see as many species as possible. I hope to see you on May 9th—it should be a great day for birding.

If you have any questions, please call Jeanne Alpert at 946-1780 or e-mail to jsalpert@optonline.net.

CENTRAL WESTCHESTER AUDUBON BIRDATHON PLEDGE CARD

I am happy to pledge \$ _____ per species in support of your Birdathon My tax deductible gift of \$ _____ is enclosed, payable to: Chapter: CENTRAL WESTCHESTER AUDUBON Birdathoner: CWAS TEAM Address: P.O. BOX 359 WHITE PLAINS, NY 10602	FROM _____ Name _____ Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ _____ (Area Code) Telephone No. _____
Matching form enclosed: My employer matches gifts	

**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR BIRDATHON
EVERY DOLLAR YOU GIVE WILL HELP SUPPORT THE CWAS SCHOLARSHIP FUND
AND THE EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF OUR CHAPTER
ALL CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE**

Central Westchester Audubon Society
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Garden News

On a day in late fall the Courtyard Scientists found an enormous mushroom in the lower garden. It was multi-colored and hardened, but I was easily able to remove it from the grass. A friend of mine, who has knowledge of fungi, identified it as *Ganoderma Lucidem*, one of several species of polypore mushrooms. When the group met about a week later in the science lab, they were able to examine parts of the mushroom under a microscope and readily saw its tiny pores and tubes. The students made drawings of their findings and are now using those drawings as the basis for an art project supervised by art teacher, Wendy Podell.

Now that it is winter, the plants in the garden are dormant and at this writing the ground is covered in snow. However, the courtyard is a lively place with dozens of birds at the feeders. The day I was there the predominant species seemed to be goldfinches, followed by juncos and house finches. The birds also enjoy the bird bath, which is cleaned daily by students in Joan Conca's 4th grade class.

As the winter days ebb, we will be looking for early signs of spring and evidence of nesting activity. As a by-product of cleaning out the nest boxes, we plan to have the Courtyard Scientists do a study of the nests that are removed to make way for the new tenants. We hope to get our compost program going again and, if we have the funds, to purchase some native perennial plants. We could use help from someone who could remove the nest boxes so we can clean them out; we need a replacement for a nest box that broke; and we would appreciate small donations so we can add to the garden's plantings. If you wish to help with the Courtyard Garden project, please call me at 946-1780 or e-mail me at jsalpert@optonline.net.

Jeanne Alpert