



Central Westchester Audubon Society *News*

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

Vol. XXXIV, NO. 4

MAY - JUNE 2011

May Programs co-sponsored with Bronx River - Sound Shore Audubon - Free and open to the public.

DRAGONS AND DAMSELS

Part I - Program

Presenter: Walter Chadwick
Thursday, May 19, 7:30 p.m.
Bronxville Public Library,
201 Pondfield Rd. Bronxville

Directions: Route 22 south to Bronxville. Turn right on
Pondfield Road and go 0.7 mile to 201 Pondfield Road.



Aerial acrobats, flying jewels, dragonflies and damselflies are fearsome predators that have been studied by NASA and the United States Military. Learn about their life cycle, our local species, both common and uncommon, and where to find them. Presenter is Walter Chadwick, an educator for Hudson River Audubon Society.



Part II -Outdoor Field Trip for hands-on learning.

Trip Leader: Walter Chadwick
Sunday, June 12, 10:00 a.m.
Lenoir Preserve, 19 Dudley St., Yonkers

Directions: From the Sawmill Parkway South turn right onto
Executive Blvd. in Yonkers. Turn right onto North Broadway.
Take the first left onto Dudley St. and turn left on Dudley
Lane.

Outdoor field trip to a pond at Lenoir Preserve for an up close and personal look at dragonflies and damselflies. Perfect for the whole family, especially the children.

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

www.centralwestchesteraudubon.org

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Field Trips 2011

Saturday, May 7. CWAS Annual Memorial Walk.

This will be a lovely spring walk for birds and wildflowers in memory of our dedicated members. Location to be announced. Please call Jeanne Alpert at 946-1780 to register.

Annual Birdathon - Saturday, May 14 (Rain date Saturday, May 21). This is our major fund raising event of the year. See opposite page for pledge form. Our first stop will be Forest Park in Queens, followed by a visit to Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. We will search for spectacular warbler sightings and should tally several other migrants and residents. **Meet at 7 AM at Education House for carpooling. Bring lunch and water.**



Doug Bloom, Field Trip Leader for BR/SS invites CWAS members to join these field trips.

Please call Doug Bloom for information on trips at (914)713-0630 days between 10:00 AM and 6:00 PM Tuesday-Saturday, or evenings at (914) 834-5203 until 10:00. Beginners are always welcome

Sunday, May 1-Central Park

Meet at 7:30 AM at Central Park West and 72nd Street at statue across from Museum of Natural History. Spring migrants including warblers, vireos, grosbeaks.

Sunday, May 15-Doodletown Road

Meet at 8:00 AM at Doodletown. Spring migrants including cerulean and other warblers.

Sunday, May 22-Walkkill

Meet at Village Hall in Scarsdale at 7:00 AM. Looking for spring migrants including grasshopper sparrows and bobolinks.

We mourn the passing of Peter da Silva on April 18. Peter served on the CWAS Board on the Conservation Committee, and as Vice President and Co-President. A consummate photographer, he presented slide show programs "Wings over Botswana" on his trip to Kenya, Zimbabwe and Botswana, and "Westchester Wild Life - Close Encounters With Our Natural Neighbors." He resigned from the board at the end of 2004 to concentrate on his photography, but remained a supporter of CWAS. Our condolences to Beth and his extended family.

Message from Our President

David Yarnold, the new president of Audubon wrote in the Annual Report: “Everyone in Audubon shares a passion for birds...I look forward to the many victories we will achieve together, for birds, for other wildlife, and for the habitats that sustain us all.” Central Westchester Audubon, a small chapter with limited resources, nevertheless strives to play a part in these victories in several ways. Here are just a few of them.

By sending eager, young boys and girls to ecology camp, we help to raise the next generation’s protectors of the environment. This year we had to stretch our budget to send 23 youngsters to ecology camp for a week of nature study, but because we are firmly convinced of the value of this camp experience we decided to fund the shortfall from our small reserve account. Your birdathon contribution is more important than ever in helping us continue this program.

We initiate students into the fascinating hobby of bird watching by supporting the feeder watch program. Those of us who work with the children are gratified by their enthusiasm, the sparkle in their eyes when they spot a bird and correctly identify it, and their keen interest when we see a new species they can add to their list. These will be the birders of the future so it is important that we nurture them.

And through our public programs, we educate the community at large about environmental issues as diverse as the importance of native plants in our gardens, the potential dangers of drilling for shale oil by a process called “hydrofracking,” or the ecological advantages of shade grown coffee.

But it costs money to provide these programs that contribute to the victories David Yarnold writes about. We receive a small amount from National Audubon in the form of a dues share, but we must rely on our members for the major part of the funds to run our programs, particularly our scholarship program. So if you have never contributed to the Birdathon in the past, please consider doing so now. And if you are one of our faithful supporters, please think about increasing your donation.

You can use the coupon below to indicate your support. And if you wish to share our passion for birds, think about joining us on May 14th for our Birdathon – it promises to be a great day of birding.

Jeanne Alpert

Central Westchester Audubon 2011 Birdathon Pledge Card

____ I am happy to pledge \$_____ per species in support of the Birdathon
____ My tax deductible gift of \$_____ is enclosed, payable to **Central Westchester Audubon**
____ My employer matches gifts - matching form enclosed

Name

Address

City

State

Zip

(Area code) Telephone

Email

Mail to Central Westchester Audubon, P.O. Box 359, White Plains, NY. 10602

Thank you for supporting our Birdathon. All contributions are tax deductible and will help support the CWAS scholarship fund and the education activities of our chapter.



Cub Scouts Build and Install Bird Houses at the Church Street School

On March 19th the Cub Scouts from Pack 5, Wolf Den 2, under the leadership of den leaders Chris McGuire and George Psaras, installed around the Church Street School 10 bird houses (nest boxes) they had built. Three boxes were installed in the courtyard garden, and 7 boxes on the surrounding school property, including 4 in the playground area and 1 in the field behind the school. The cub scouts hope there will be some very happy occupants for the boxes and that the students will be able to watch the nesting and fledging activities of some of our local bird species, particularly the black-capped chickadee.

A big thank you to all the scouts for helping the birds and for enhancing the courtyard and the land around the school. Those participating in the project were: Wolf Scouts: Christopher McGuire, Julian Tabb, Thomas Cassidy, Colin Walsh, Elijah Lopez, Mac Rommel, Liam Hoare, Nicholas Psaras; and future scouts Luke Psaras and Cooper Rommel.

CWAS was instrumental in pointing out reliable sources for nest box plans and suggesting their placement around the school.

CWAS Participates in the Church Street School Carnival

On Saturday, April 9th, CWAS manned a table at the Church Street School Carnival sponsored by the PTA. We presented 2 challenges to the kids: identification of objects from nature by touch and a backyard bird quiz. For the touch ID, the kids inserted their hands through 2 holes in a carton and were handed the items, one by one, from an opening in the back. The items for identification were: bird's nest, a cap from an acorn, feather, pine needles, some berries, and tree bark. For the bird quiz, the kids had to match the number of the bird in the photo with its name on a list. Both challenges were enthusiastically received and we adults had a lot of fun interacting with the students.

Governor Cuomo's 2011-2012 Budget Maintains EPF Funding at \$134 Million

This article has been excerpted from a February 2011 press release by Audubon New York and the website listed below.

Albert E. Caccese, Executive Director of Audubon New York, in a statement to the Governor, praised him for “maintaining funding for the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) at \$134 million and ensuring that this critical funding is used for its intended purposes.”

“Environmental Protection Fund investments in Westchester County enhance our economy and protect our open spaces. Here are some of the ways the EPF has benefited our county and towns. It has provided more than \$1 billion since 1993 to support critical programs that protect our clean water, open spaces and public health. Our local economy and good quality jobs have been enhanced and supported thanks to the EPF, which has pumped more than \$59 million into our local economy. Below are a few examples of how the EPF has paid off for Westchester County:

- Over \$1.9 million has been dedicated to protecting and improving the natural and scenic areas in communities near the Hudson River. Projects have improved public access, established plans for sustainable environmental management of the River, and created public education materials.
- More than \$6 million has been provided to support municipal recycling programs in 16 communities. This funding reduces taxpayer costs for Westchester’s mandatory recycling program, which allowed 61% of solid waste to be recycled in 2009.
- More than \$36 million from the EPF has been invested in protecting Westchester County’s land and water. Funding has also protected open space and parks in 25 Westchester communities, supporting economically important tourism and improving our quality of life.”

Audubon New York has joined together with several of New York’s environmental organizations to vigorously advocate for maintaining the funding for the EPF. Log on to www.keepprotectingny.org for more information about the EPF and for ways you can “support these important programs in your district and protect what we love most about Westchester County.”

Bronx River—Sound Shore Audubon Society Youth Birding Club

Join other young birders as we search for birds around Westchester.

Suggested for ages 2nd through 7th grade. All children must be accompanied by an adult

Schedule of Events - All begin at 9:00 a.m.

May 14 Kensico Cemetery, 273 Lakeview Ave., Valhalla
Meet in Office parking lot.
Target species – nesting Eastern Bluebirds

June 11 Marshlands Conservancy, 220 Boston Post Rd., Rye
Target species – woodland and shore birds

BRSS Audubon Contact Information

brssaudubon@gmail.com or Sandy Morrissey, 914-391-3695. Website: www.brssaudubon.org

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Volunteers Requested for New Courtyard Project

This spring, courtesy of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, we will be participating in the School Seedling Program. This entitles the Church Street School to 10 seedlings each of 3 native shrubs, all free of charge. The idea behind the program is to provide the students the experience of planting and caring for the shrubs and to foster an awareness of the value of the shrubs as an important source of food and shelter to wildlife. The 3 plants are Dwarf Sand Cherry, Red Osier Dogwood, and Highbush Cranberry. We already have a good start in making the courtyard a desirable environment for wildlife with the original plantings of native shrubs in 2006, the perennials we planted last spring and the bird seed feeders, but there are plenty of spaces to fill in and most of the students now in the school did not participate in the earlier planting. While we expect the students to do the actual planting, we need adults to prepare the soil in advance. The plants are to be shipped on May 17 and the planting will take place some time during the week of May 23-27. Please let me know if you can help with the task of preparing the soil some time during the week of May 16 to ready the beds prior to the planting. You can reach me by e-mail: jsalpert@optonline.net; or by telephone: 914-946-1780.

Jeanne Alpert