

The Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society
A chapter of the National Audubon Society



killdeer

January – February 2012

Serving Huntington Township and the Neighboring Oyster Bay and Jericho Areas

You're Invited to Members' & Volunteers' Appreciation Night



Members' Night traditionally gives us a chance to get to know one another better as individuals. We invite our members and volunteers to share anything related to Audubon or the love of nature that evening. Come share the camaraderie of like-minded people.

As a special thank you to our loyal members and volunteers, we will be serving pizza, along with other delicious snacks. Join us for this fun, social evening!

Owl Discovery & Craft Program for Kids

Have you ever wondered what an owl eats for dinner? Do you want to know how they find their dinner? Why are they such excellent hunters? Can they really see in the dark? Just how many owls live on and visit Long Island? Join the Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society as we learn the interesting behavior and life-cycle of the several species of owl which frequent our area.



After the interactive program, we will turn crafty and create pine cone owls to take home, as well as dissect a pellet to see just what it is that an owl eats. A special gift goes to the child with the biggest "prize" inside their pellet! Each participant will be provided with material for their pine cone owl, as well as a pellet of their own, which they will be able to dissect and examine.

Hurry to sign up: group size limited to 20! Call 516-695-0763 to register. Program for kids 6 and up presented by Stella Miller, Kelly Simmons, and Amelia Weitman.

When: Saturday, February 4, 2012, 10:30 AM

Where: The Farm at Oyster Bay

Directions: Route 25A to Split Rock Road. (Split Rock Road is just east of Route 106 in East Norwich). Make a right if coming from west, left if coming from east. It's the third driveway on the left.



Wish List

As mentioned in the *Message from the President* (page 3), HOBAS will be stepping up our work in habitat restoration for 2012. In 2011 our efforts included garlic mustard pulls at Shu Swamp and St. John's Pond Preserve, as well as English ivy removal at Shu Swamp. In addition to continuing these initiatives, in 2012 we hope to help restore habitat at Stillwell Preserve, Merrill Meadows, and Underhill Preserve. We have been lucky enough to borrow equipment in the past, but could do so much more if we had our own equipment. We hope to see a huge increase in volunteer numbers and will need to equip all. With this in mind, would you consider donating the following?

- Weed whacker
- Loppers
- Gardening gloves
- Lawn and leaf bags
- Cash donations
- Weed wrench
- Pruning sheers
- Shovels
- Gift card to Home Depot
- Gift card to Lowes

Please write "Habitat Restoration" on the subject line of your check. Your donations will help keep invasive species at bay and trails maintained. Thank you so much for your support! Checks and gift cards can be sent to:

Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society
Attention: Habit Restoration/Stella Miller
P.O. Box 735
Huntington, NY 11743

Membership Meetings

7:00 PM Refreshments
7:30 PM Speaker

January 11, 2012:

Why Sharks Matter
with Jamie Pollack of Shark Angels

February 8, 2012:

Members' and Volunteers'
Appreciation Night and Pizza Party

See page 6 for details.

The mission of the Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society is to increase community awareness about the environment and to encourage others to enjoy and protect birds and other wildlife in their natural habitats.



killdeer

is the newsletter of the

Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society
P.O. Box 735
Huntington, NY 11743-0735

a chapter of the National Audubon Society and is published five times a year.

Officers

President	Stella Miller	516-682-5977
Vice President	Blair Broughton	516-802-5356
Secretary	Ginger Mahoney	516-922-4599
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Newsletter

Editor	Charlotte Miska	516-922-9710
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Important Telephone Numbers

Rare Bird Alert	212-979-3070
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For Distressed Wildlife Call

Volunteers for Wildlife	631-423-0982
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You can find us on the World Wide Web at
www.hobaudubon.org.
e-mail us at has@huntingtonaudubon.org

Brilliant Day for Our Bird Seed Sale

Sharon Brody



Luck was on our side. Our original sale was scheduled for Saturday, October 29. Do you remember what happened on that date; torrential rain, hail, and snow. The rescheduled date of November 12th was a sunny, pleasantly warm day which helped make our sale successful.

I wish to thank all the volunteers who gave their time and their backs to the sale at Huntington High School. Susan Aidala, Pat Aiken, Rosemary Papayanopoulos, and Bill Reeves worked in the lobby selling books, hand-painted ornaments, HOBAS tee-shirts and canvas tote bags, and helping with order forms. Simone DaRos brought paper goods and coffee for the volunteers' lunch and helped to set up and clean up. The back-breaking work went to the folks who loaded the cars with bird seed: Paul Aidala, Marc Brody, Blair Broughton, Simone DaRos, Dave Papayanopoulos, Marty Wenz, and Vinnie Schiappa. Ginger Mahoney ordered and brought a delicious hero for the volunteers' lunch. A very special thanks goes to Cathy Fitts who spent hours at the computer compiling data and helping with the orders on the day of the sale.

Kudos go to the 230+ people whose purchases made our sale a success. They helped to fund our various education and conservation programs with their purchases.

Editor's note: *Running a bird seed sale is a tremendous amount of work, but Sharon and Marc Brody make it look easy. Many thanks Sharon for all the hours you put in dealing with the supplier, arranging for the sale site, compiling orders, making phone calls, being on site bright and early the day of the sale to receive the order, and so many other details. Your dedication was essential in making this important fundraiser a success. And thank you Marc for your help and support. You and Sharon make a great team!*

Thanks also to Stella Miller who worked with me to coordinate the bird seed sale mailing by obtaining pricing and facilitating the mailing in a timely manner while Sharon and Marc were on vacation. We redesigned the order form for the convenience of our customers so only one copy was needed to be sent to each recipient. This not only saved money but more importantly was gentle to Earth by saving approximately 1,300 sheets of paper.



Sign Up for our
Email List...

by going to www.hobaudubon.org

News from the President

Stella Miller



Happy New Year to all our members and friends, enduring and new!

As we enter the New Year, I want to convey to you how much I appreciate your support and loyalty to Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon. As President, I view each and every member and volunteer as vital to this organization’s success and I thank you for your continued support.

While we truly appreciate your membership, when you sign up to volunteer for a project, we are even more thrilled! In 2011 we saw a dramatic increase in volunteer participation thanks in great part to our habitat restoration projects. From ages 7 to 70, you have stepped up to the plate and helped us as we work to restore our natural areas.

Our efforts this past year have included beach clean ups at Target Rock National Wildlife Refuge, garlic mustard pulls at St. John’s Pond and an English ivy and garlic mustard eradication program at Shu Swamp (please see article by John Turner on page 4 for more information) as well as our monthly highway clean up on Pulaski Road. In the upcoming year we will continue these efforts, as well as coordinate additional restoration projects at Stillwell Woods and other local preserves. This makes our volunteers more valued than ever!

HOBAS has targeted habitat restoration this year as one of our top priorities since invasive species have become a scourge on our local preserves. Common invasives on Long Island include mugwort, garlic mustard, rosa multiflora, porcelain berry, Japanese Honeysuckle, mile-a-minute weed, and autumn olive. These plants, shrubs, and vines all rapidly reproduce, crowding out and choking native species that wildlife depend on for their livelihoods. Porcelain berry, honeysuckle, and mile-a-minute also climb trees, eventually causing the demise of their hosts. An ecosystem smothered by invasive species is an ecosystem which will eventually collapse. There is a small preserve in Oyster Bay that is completely covered in porcelain berry and as a result, it resembles shrouded furniture. What was once a thriving patch of nature is now a monoculture that has essentially become a wasteland.

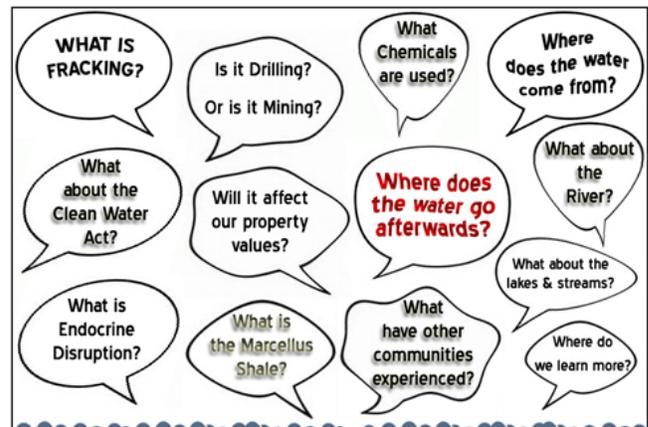
As funding for government agencies dry up, preserves and parks depend on volunteer efforts as never before. That’s why our members and volunteers are so appreciated by us. Your efforts are critical as we work to protect our natural areas and restore them to health. While it may be difficult to eradicate invasives completely, we think that keeping our preserves healthy and thriving for wildlife and the enjoyment of the community is worth the effort. Once again, on behalf of HOBAS thank you! I wish you all a safe, healthy, and prosperous New Year.

PS: While we are on the topic of giving thanks to our loyal supporters, I would like to give a shout out to someone whose public thank you has been long overdue. Charlotte Miska has been editor of the *Killdeer* for over 10 years and has been doing a phenomenal job of it. Her vision and attention to detail has continued to produce one interesting newsletter after another. Thank you Charlotte, for a job well done!

Out on a Limb

Alex McKay

On November 21, a scheduled meeting of the Delaware Basin Commission was abruptly postponed as hundreds of protestors gathered in Trenton, New Jersey and it became evident that Governors Margrett of Delaware and Cuomo of New York would vote against approval of regulations to open the Delaware River Watershed to hydraulic fracturing or “fracking” to extract natural gas from the Marcellus shale formation deep underground. The governors of New Jersey and Pennsylvania favored approval but uncertainty surrounded the position of the Army Corps of Engineers representing President Obama, the fifth member of the commission.



At issue, as it has been in other locations, were concerns about subsurface aquifers, air pollution, wastewater treatment, and even earthquakes. The Delaware aquifer is the main source of water for over 15 million people. On the other hand are the economic benefits of employment, a clean and relatively inexpensive energy source, and, of course, enormous profits for drilling corporations and landowners who lease their property and stand to gain from continued royalties by allowing their land to be developed as well sites.

The Marcellus shale formation, (or shale “play” as the industry calls it) stretches from West Virginia through parts of Ohio and Pennsylvania and into central New York. Thousands of feet below the ground, the Marcellus is the largest and potentially most productive play among more than a dozen across North America. With a nation-wide

Out on a Limb (Continued)

distribution system already in place and an increasing demand for “clean” energy, hydraulic fracturing would seem to be a no-brainer in moving toward energy independence. So, what is the problem?

Simply, fracking is accomplished by drilling thousands of feet into a hydrocarbon formation, injecting a mixture of water, sand, and undefined chemicals under sufficient pressure to fracture the shale and release the trapped gasses which then rise to the surface and are collected, stored, and transported for use. In the process, millions of gallons of water are pumped underground. As a result, large amounts of methane gas may be released and the disposal of wastewater and chemical additives becomes a problem, resulting in air and water pollution and potential health hazards.

In rural areas where the drilling occurs, fracking has been greeted as an economic boon or an environmental blight. The gold rush for natural gas changed rural landscapes in Pennsylvania as drilling rigs and waste water storage pits were installed and incessant truck traffic moved over local roadways, industrializing peaceful kingdoms. Foul smelling air became common and treated frack water loaded with salts polluted the Monongahela River and local water supplies. Pets and livestock and children developed health issues.

A major question involves the nature of the chemicals in the drilling mixture. In 2005, then Vice-President Cheney was successful in amending an energy bill to exempt hydraulic fracturing from the Safe Water Drinking Act. What critics call the “Halliburton loophole” protects companies from disclosing the chemicals that are going into the ground. Underground aquifers are supposedly protected by steel and concrete liners in the pipe as it passes through, but monitoring and testing are at best problematical.

New York State is in the process of additional environmental review of fracking regulations following a moratorium declared by former governor Patterson. Governor Cuomo is reserving judgment pending completion of the review which has recently been extended after hearings throughout the state attracted over 6,000 proponents and opponents. A Presidential Advisory Board on Natural Gas reported that “adverse environmental impacts need to be prevented, reduced, and, where possible, eliminated.” The committee calls for more oversight, regulation, and transparency “including disclosure of all chemicals in fracturing fluids.” In other words, get tough on fracking.

So, whither fracking? Right now on hold in the Delaware River Basin and New York State, but moving full speed ahead in other parts of the country. Having grown from less than 2% to more than 30% of the nation’s natural gas

supply since 2001, hydraulic fracturing continues despite the environmental risks and uncertainties. Congressman Hinchey of New York in a letter to the *New York Times* states the case: “If shale gas drilling is as safe as the industry would like us to believe, then the drilling companies must be open and honest about the injections they are jamming into the ground and should have no problem complying with basic environmental laws.”

Pulling Invasives

John Turner

As Stella Miller noted in her *President’s Message* in this newsletter, the Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society (HOBAS) has become more active in trying to control some of the various invasive plant species found in the preserves that are located in the Huntington/northern Oyster Bay area. One such preserve where we have begun invasive plant control is at Shu Swamp, a 60-acre property owned by North Shore Wildlife Sanctuary, Inc. (NSWS), with whom HOBAS is partnering.



Ivy Pull at Shu Swamp

photo Beth Platt

Invasive species are species of plants and animals that are introduced to an area outside their natural range and expand dramatically causing a variety of adverse environmental and ecological impacts. Not all non-native species are invasive, in fact most are not, but an increasing number of problematic plant species are becoming established in Long Island’s natural areas, outcompeting the native flora found there.

At Shu Swamp several species of invasive plants have established a foothold and are spreading. Why bother to attempt to control them you might ask. The rationale at Shu Swamp is to protect perhaps the best populations of a group of native wildflowers known as “spring ephemerals”

Pulling Invasives (Continued)

as well as other wildflowers. Spring ephemerals are wildflowers which emerge and bloom in early spring before the tree canopy has leafed out. They die back so that by early summer some show no evidence of having existed earlier in the season; hence the term “ephemeral”. Representative species include yellow-trout lily, dwarf ginseng, wood anemone, various trilliums, among others.

The targeted invasive species are garlic mustard, English ivy, and wisteria which if left unchecked will crowd out the spring ephemeral flowers, likely extirpating them from the Preserve. We will also likely attack the numerous winged euonymus (also known as Burning Bush due to its brilliant red-orange color in the fall which, unfortunately, makes it such a desired landscape shrub) shrubs scattered throughout the western edge of the Preserve sometime in the future. The garlic mustard is scattered throughout the Preserve but is mainly in the northern portion of the property along the trails and adjacent woodlands.

HOBAS has conducted two “garlic mustard pulls” and one “pull” for English ivy, during which we extensively cut back the wisteria growing in and among the ivy. We have targeted garlic mustard because it is proliferating in one of the main areas of the spring wildflowers. We have pulled garlic mustard in mid-April, an ideal time because it has grown enough to make it relatively easy to pull out of the ground, but before the flowers have been pollinated and set seed. It is our hope that by conducting annual mustard pulls we’ll eventually exhaust the supply of garlic mustard seeds found in the soil. We will be conducting a third pull in April 2012.

English Ivy is green all year round and so it can be pulled throughout the year. HOBAS conducted its first “ivy pull” on a pleasant November weekend and made progress in removing several hundred trailing vines encompassing about an eighth of an acre. We also removed it from several tree trunks which highlights another dimension of ivy that makes it a problem plant: not only can its extensive growth on the ground smother wildflowers it easily climbs tree trunks and branches eventually interfering with the trees’ leaves, killing the tree. To make greater progress with the ivy, HOBAS intends to have more frequent “pulls”, perhaps as often as monthly.

HOBAS would like to thank the dozen volunteers who participated in the November 13, 2011 ivy pull. They include Miranda Figueras, Amelia Weitman, Richard Cheshire, the Platts (Beth, Andrew, and Jerry), HOBAS Board members Stella Miller and Simone DaRos, Kelly Simmons, and Raymond and Carol Boslet. It was a success with more than 18 large, heavy-duty leaf bags of ivy being carted from the Preserve. On a follow-up December 4th pull, volunteers worked for 1.5 hours and filled eight bags. Thanks go to Deborah Alperin, Richard



English ivy in Shu Swamp

photo Beth Platt

Cheshire, Tom Rocchio, Simone DaRos, and Stella Miller. HOBAS also thanks Tom Hornosky, NSWS Preserve Manager, for his assistance in both efforts.

We will be conducting another **ivy pull on March 18 at Shu Swamp**. We welcome your participation in helping HOBAS maintain the ecological integrity of this flagship preserve. Check out **Field Trips and Activities** (page 7) to learn the details of the March pull!



HOBAS Membership Application

For \$20 a year you can be a member of Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society. Your membership will help support conservation efforts, and educational and youth programs. As a member you will receive our newsletter, an open invitation to our monthly guest lectures, field trips, and events, along with special member’s only discounts and events.

**Make your check payable to:
Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

e-Mail _____

**Send your check and application to:
Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society
P.O. Box 735,
Huntington, NY 11743-0735**

Chapter No. RO2



MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Membership meetings and most activities of the Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society are free to members and nonmembers. Meetings are held the second Wednesday of the month at the **Cold Spring Harbor Library** except for the months of July and August. Our refreshments will be set up and ready for you at 6:45 PM so that you will have ample time for socializing, meeting Board members, and perusing the printed materials available. The program starts promptly at 7:30.

January 2012

Wednesday, January 11, 7:00 PM – Membership meeting at the Cold Spring Harbor Library. *Sharks – Why They Matter* with Jamie Pollack of Shark Angels. The very word “shark” evokes a visceral reaction in many people. Graceful, deadly, powerful, and beautiful, sharks are admired by some, but feared by more. Tonight Jamie will take us behind the myths and discover the truth about these remarkable top predators of the deep. Join us as we learn the natural history of sharks, why they are a necessary and vital component of our oceans, and the very real threats that they are facing today.

Wednesday, January 18, 7:15 PM – Meeting of the Board of Directors at the Cold Spring Harbor Library.

Saturday, January 28, 2:00 PM – *Creatures of the Sea – from the Wacky to the Wonderful* with Todd Gardner at the Cold Spring Harbor Library. Why don't fish get crushed under the pressure of the deep sea? How can whales hold their breath for so long? If corals have been around for more than 300 million years, why are they in such grave danger over a small increase in global temperature? Why do sharks really attack people? In which species does the male become pregnant and carry the babies? What does a marine biologist fear most in the water? These and many other questions will be answered as we spotlight some well known, as well as some underappreciated marine creatures and their remarkable adaptations that make them so fascinating to us. Todd Gardner is a biologist at the Long Island Aquarium in Riverhead, NY and a professor of Biology at Suffolk County Community College.

February 2012

Saturday, February 4, 2012, 10:30 AM – Owl Discovery and Craft Program for Kids. *See article on page 1.*

Monday, February 6 – Deadline for March-April Killdeer.

Wednesday, February 8, 7:00 PM – Membership meeting at the Cold Spring Harbor Library. *Members' and Volunteers' Appreciation Night.* All members and volunteers are invited to this special appreciation night. Members' Night traditionally gives us a chance to get to know one another better as individuals. Come and share the camaraderie of like-minded people. Participate in whatever way makes you comfortable. As a special thank

you to our loyal members and volunteers, we will be serving pizza along with other delicious snacks. Please join us for this fun, social evening.

Wednesday, February 15, 7:15 PM – Meeting of the Board of Directors at the Cold Spring Harbor Library.

Birders' Box

October 15, Brigantine. On a windy day Sharon, Marc, and Pat persevered at Edwin B. Forsythe NWR – Brigantine Division, NJ. They saw some of the early arrivals waterfowl such as Black Duck, Northern Pintail, Bufflehead, Brant, and Green-winged Teal. Many waders such as Great Egret, Great Blue Heron, and Snowy Egret were seen. Some others seen were Osprey, Peregrine, Pine and Yellow-rumped Warbler.

November 20, Pelham Bay Park. Blair Broughton led a small group during this beautiful fall day. No owls were spotted but other good birds seen were Horned Grebe, Brandt, Green-winged Teal, Bufflehead, Peregrine Falcon, and Belted Kingfisher. Monk Parakeets were heard but not seen.

December 3, Morton's Point. A group of 15 participants enjoyed a sunny day. While this was more of a general nature stroll, the common winter birds seen were Chickadees, Tufted Titmice, Red-bellied and Downy Woodpeckers, Song and White-throated Sparrows, White-breasted Nuthatch, and splendid views of a perched Red-tailed Hawk being mobbed by American Crows. A special treat was the very fast approach of two wild turkeys, who comically ran towards us as if greeting their long lost cousins.

December 4, Montauk and the South Fork. Sharon Brody led a group of 7 birders on a lovely day trip to Montauk and the South Fork. Some of the 47 species they saw included all the Scoters, Common Loon, Pied-billed and Horned Grebes, Northern Gannet, Bonaparte's Gull, Great Blue Heron, Common Eider, various ducks, and American Coot. Great uncommon sightings were the Razorbill and Icelandic Gull.

Species seen on 2011 HOBAS trips: 183



FIELD TRIPS AND ACTIVITIES

Field trips are free, unless otherwise specified, and open to the public. Newcomers are welcome. Binoculars are advised. Carpooling is possible, gas and tolls are shared. The trip leader is not responsible for arranging carpools, but will provide names of others who are interested in carpooling. Registration is necessary. Call the trip leader by 9:00 PM Thursday for a Saturday trip and by 9:00 PM Friday for a Sunday trip. You may participate if you didn't register, but we will not be able to notify you of any changes or cancellations without your phone number. Call the leader if in doubt about the weather. For the comfort and safety of all participants, there is no smoking on field trips.

Winter Waterfowl Walk

Saturday, January 14, 10:00 AM. Join us for a fun day to see as many of species as possible. We will start at Sunken Meadow State Park and head west, visiting Tung Ting Pond, St. John's Pond, Mill Pond, Bayville and other hotspots searching for waterfowl. **Leader:** Stella Miller. Call 516-695-0763 to register.

Directions: Meet at Sunken Meadow Field Three. Take Sunken Meadow Parkway to the park. Travel to the farthest parking lot, to the corner closest to the bridge.

Wildlife Tracking Trip at Blydenburg County Park

Saturday, January 21, 9:30 AM. We will search for wildlife tracks, or in the case of no snow, wildlife sign, including that of the elusive river otter, while learning about the amazing diversity of wildlife that inhabit Long Island's natural areas. **Leader:** Biologist Mike Bottini. Call Stella Miller, 516 695 0763, to register.

Directions: The main (southern) entrance to the park is on the north side of Veterans Memorial Highway, opposite the H. Lee Dennison County Center in Smithtown. Take Northern State east until it turns into Route 347 and follow to park entrance (left turn), which is after Old Willets Path.

Montauk and South Fork Waterfowl Hot Spots

Saturday, February 11, 9:30 AM. All day trip. Winter waterfowl abound including scoters, eiders, loons, gannets, and numerous pond ducks. **Leader:** John Turner. Call 516-695-1490 to register.

Directions: LIE to exit 70, Manorville. Go south on Route 111 to Route 27. Take Route 27 east all the way to Montauk Point Lighthouse. There may be a parking fee. Meet by the restaurant opposite the parking lot.

Point Lookout

Sunday, February 12, 9:00 AM. Look for loons, grebes, and Harlequin Ducks which are usually seen on Long Island only at Point Lookout. **Leader:** Blair Broughton. Call 516-802-5356 to register.

Directions: Take Meadowbrook Pkwy to Loop Pkwy. At the end of Loop Pkwy, turn left. Go to the end of the road. Park anywhere near the entrance to the Park. Meet by the gate to the Park.

Croton Point Park

Sunday, February 26, 9:00 AM. Bald Eagles can be found

here easily in winter as well as many hawks. We will also be looking for Short-eared Owls. Waterfowl in Croton Bay include Scaup, Common Merganser, Common Goldeneye, and Bufflehead. **Leader:** Blair Broughton. Call 516-802-5356 to register. Blair can be reached on his cell on day of trip: 631-885-1881.

Directions: Take Route 9 to Croton Point Avenue exit; follow signs.

Massapequa Preserve and South Shore Ponds

Saturday, March 3, 9:00 AM. We will bird the ponds at Massapequa Preserve, then head east in search of variety of wintering ducks and land birds. **Leader:** Sharon Brody. Call 516-433-5590 to register.

Directions: Meet at the Massapequa Preserve entrance at Pittsburgh Avenue and Parkside Blvd.

Target Rock NWR

Sunday, March 11, 9:00 AM. Within the 80 acres are various habitats with a 1-mile trail that goes from the forest to the beach at Huntington Bay. We should see birds that spend the winter in various habitats. **Leader:** Blair Broughton. Call 516-802-5356 to register.

Directions: From Route 25A in Huntington Village go north on West Neck road towards Caumsett State Park. Continue past the Park and the road bends to the left (north) until you reach Target Rock. There is a modest fee to enter the Refuge.

English Ivy Pull at Shu Swamp

Sunday, March 18, 10:00 AM. Join us in helping to restore one of the finest preserves on Long Island. Come to the swamp for this fun and worthwhile effort! Snacks will be provided to the volunteers. Bring garden gloves if you have them, as well as clothes and shoes you don't mind getting muddy. **Coordinator:** Stella Miller. Call 516-695-0763 to register.

Directions: From Route 25A in East Norwich, take Route 106 north to Oyster Bay. Make left on to Lexington Ave then another left on to West Shore Road. At the Mill Pond (on the left), bear to the right as if to go to Bayville. At first traffic light (water will be on your right) make a left onto Cleft Road. Take Cleft Road to Frost Mill Road, make a left. (If you wind up on the causeway going over Beaver Dam, you have gone too far.) Shu Swamp will be on your right after you go under the train trestle.



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Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society
P.O. Box 735
Huntington, NY 11743-0735

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Organization
U.S. Postage
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Huntington, NY
Permit No. 546

January – February 2012



Printed on recycled paper.



A Cornerstone of Conservation – The Federal Duck Stamp Program

John Turner

Like many conservationists, I'm occasionally asked "What can I do to protect the environment?" That is a question that has so many answers that an adequate response could take half an hour to complete. But one part of the answer always on the tip of my tongue: "Buy a Duck Stamp." Why you ask? Well it's one of the best kept secrets in conservation but the federal Duck Stamp program has been a remarkable success story in advancing conservation of wildlife.

Since its inception in 1934, when Congress passed and President Roosevelt signed the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act, the sale of duck stamps has generated nearly \$750 million in revenue that has resulted in the preservation of more than 5.3 million acres. Yes, that's million! Many of the nation's National Wildlife Refuges were purchased using duck stamp proceeds. For example, on Long Island 188 acres of the wonderful Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge, which straddles the picturesque Carmans River in Shirley, were acquired using duck stamp proceeds. A little further afield more than 38,000 acres were acquired in the Edwin Forsythe NWR in coastal New Jersey and more than 15,000 acres purchased at Bombay Hook NWR in Delaware from stamp revenue. And 344,000

acres of swampland in the famous Okefenokee NWR in Georgia have been preserved from this funding source.

One design is selected each year and the annual contest to select the artist rendition that will appear on the stamp has



become a very popular event. In some years there are hundreds of entries vying for the coveted prize of being selected as the official Duck Stamp that year. The 2011-2012 design

features a pair of Greater White-fronted Geese while the 2012-2013 winner displays a single male Wood Duck.

Duck stamps cost \$15 (with about \$14.75 going for the purchase of land and the tiny remainder for administrative purposes) and can be purchased at any Post Office and many National Wildlife Refuges, including the newly opened Visitor Center at Wertheim.

Please make it a priority to buy a federal Duck Stamp every year! Better yet, buy a few as birthday and holiday gifts!