

# The Sandpiper

**Great South Bay Audubon Society**  
**P.O. Box 267, Sayville, NY 11782**

## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS AND MONTHLY PROGRAMS

All GSBAS Activities are FREE and open to the public. Join us and bring a friend.

Programs are held at 7:00 pm on the third Thursday of each month, except May, which is our Annual Dinner, and July and August. Meetings are held at Connetquot State Park Preserve.

See page 3 for directions and nature walk details.

### SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER PROGRAMS

#### **September 18, 2014**

##### ***Cape May Fall Flight***

We will be watching a video on the spectacular fall bird migration at Cape May, NJ. After the film long time GSBAS member Joan Elsebough will share her own photographs and adventures bird watching at Cape May, NJ.

#### **October 16, 2014**

##### ***Migration of Monarch Butterflies***

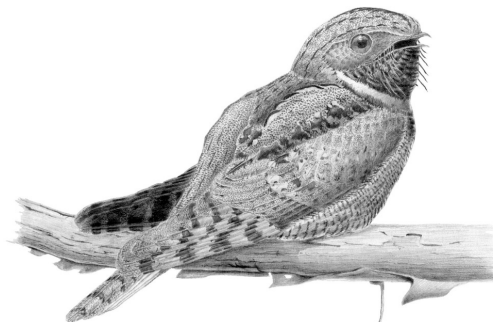
Annie McIntyre will be presenting a program about the beautiful and fragile monarch butterfly that undertakes an arduous journey each fall and spring to and from Mexico. The annual migration cycle of this butterfly has been described as the most spectacular in the insect world. Come learn about this fascinating animal life cycle, habitat requirements, and the challenges they face with the present threats to its breeding, migration and winter habitats. Ms. McIntyre is the L.I. Regional Manager of the Environmental Office of NY State Parks.

Join Team  
**Great South Bay Audubon Society**  
 for  
**Seatuck Environmental Association**  
**1st Annual**

### ***Birding Challenge***

**Saturday, October 4, 2014**  
**5:00am — 5:00pm**

- Teams of 3-5 people. **We will be forming our own GSBAS team!**
- Student Teams (8th grade and under) and High School categories.
- Teams may bird anywhere on Long Island (including NYC boroughs), but checklists must be handed in by 5pm at Seatuck's Suffolk County Environmental Center, Islip NY.
- Barbecue reception for all participants—5 to 8pm.
- Awards for most species tallied in various categories.
- For more information contact Lenora Daniel [pldaniel@optonline.net](mailto:pldaniel@optonline.net) or Trish Manzi [trish@seatuck.org](mailto:trish@seatuck.org).
- Entry fees \$50 per person, \$10 student.
- Proceeds to benefit conservation causes.



***Whip-poor will by Steven D'Amato.***

### Mission Statement

**The** primary mission of the Great South Bay Audubon Society is to advocate for the conservation of habitats for native birds and other native wildlife on Long Island.

### The Sandpiper

Editor: Lenora Daniel

Mailing Chair: Ken Thompson

Illustrator: Steven D'Amato  
(As indicated)

**Thank you to all those who help mail each issue.**

### Editorial Address

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**Deadline for September/October Issue is August 11, 2014**

### VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT

**The** GSBAS is lucky to have gained not one but two very special volunteers. **Phil Uruburu** and **Tim Meyer** joined us at our volunteer open house back in February. Phil has become a Wednesday Brookside County Park tour guide and both men used



their talents to fix the deck and handicapped ramp at the park. Phil and Tim sanded existing boards, replaced many that were rotted, and finished it all with waterproofing. The handicapped ramp is safe once more and the deck is back to being a peaceful spot to sit and watch the birds. ***Thank you Phil and Tim for a job well done!***

***Our beautiful restored deck!***

Brookside County Park, 59 Brook Street, Sayville is open to the public every day from dawn to dusk. GSBAS tour guides are available most Wednesdays and Sundays from 1 pm to 3 pm.



***Black-crowned Night-Heron at Central Park, NY.***

***Photograph Courtesy of Steven D'Amato.***

***For recaps of GSBAS Nature Walks visit  
<http://www.gsbas.org/FieldTripReports.asp>***

## Great South Bay Audubon Society Activities

### General Membership Meetings and Programs

site the Sunrise-Montauk Highway merge. From the west, exit Sunrise Highway (Route 27) at Oakdale-Bohemia Road, cross over Sunrise Highway, merge on to westbound Route 27 and watch for the Park entrance on the right. Meetings are held in the Park building. **Please do not park on grass or in the circle in front of the building. Park near garages in the rear of the building. There is a handicap ramp at this entrance.** Call GSBAS direct at (631)563-7716 for details and updates. **Note:** Join us at 7:00 p.m. for pre-program refreshments and casual conversation. Our bird experts will be on hand to field your questions, discuss equipment and share their favorite birding spots.

Directions to the Connetquot State Park Preserve:  
Approaching from the East the entrance is on the north side of the Sunrise Highway (Route 27), oppo-

### Louis Titus Memorial Tuesday Midweek Walks \*

**Tuesday, Sept. 2nd, 9:30 a.m. Shinnecock Bay.** Sunrise Hwy east to Exit 65s to Montauk Hwy. Go east and follow signs to Ocean Beaches. Cross Ponquogue Bridge and turn left at traffic light. Go to end to parking lot at inlet.

**Tuesday, Sept. 9th, 9:00 a.m. Oceanside Environmental Center and Jones Beach West End.** S.S. Pkwy to Meadowbrook Pkwy Exit M9 to Merrick Rd westbound. Turn left at the first traffic light onto Mill Rd. At the end of Mill Rd. turn left onto South Main St, then turn right at the second traffic light onto Atlantic Ave. Stay on Atlantic for approx 2.5 miles, then bear left onto Waukena Ave. At the first traffic light past the country club entrance, turn left onto Park Ave. Just before the end of Park Ave, turn left onto Golf Drive, then make second right onto Slice Drive and proceed to preserve parking lot.

*Our Weekend and Midweek Walks are the centerpiece of the Great South Bay Audubon Society. Everything we do centers on what's out there to be enjoyed and if need be protected. Please join us on these walks into nature. Our guides will gladly answer your questions.*

**Tuesday, Sept. 16th, 9:30 a.m. Jamaica Bay.** S.S. Pkwy to Belt Pkwy to Exit 17s, Cross Bay Blvd South. Continue south for about 2 miles and look for refuge sign on right. Suggest you bring lunch and change of footwear.

### Weekend Nature Walks \*

**Saturday, September 6th, 8 a.m. Jamaica Bay.** Leaders: John Gluth - 277-9298 and Steve D'Amato - 264-8413. S.S. Pkwy to Belt Pkwy to Cross Bay Blvd. Exit onto Cross Bay Blvd South and go for about 2 miles and look for refuge sign on right. Suggest you bring lunch and change of footwear.

**Saturday, September 13th, Connetquot Breakfast and Birding, 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.** Continental breakfast hosted by Friends of Connetquot. GSBAS walk leaders: Edith and Bob Wilson, Ken Thompson, Helga Merryman. Reservations required - call Connetquot River Park Preserve at 581-1072 to register. Registration fee \$4. plus \$8 parking fee per car - unless you have yearly Empire pass.

**Saturday, September 20th. 7 a.m. Fire Island Hawk Watch and Jones Beach West End.** Leaders: John Gluth - 277-9298, Steve D'Amato - 264-8413, Nicholas Laviola - 678-7866. Meet in Robert Moses Parking Field 5 - northeast corner.

**\*Note: Rain and snow CANCELS Midweek and Weekend Nature Walks.\***

## Young Naturalist Club, by Janet Gremli

On Sunday, May 4, 2014, the members of the Young Naturalists Club enjoyed a lesson on the emerging plants of Spring. Children were introduced to several plants found at Brookside County Park. Through sight, touch and scent, children learned of fiddlehead ferns, violets, skunk cabbage and dandelions. While hiking the trails, children were able to recognize the newly identified plant species. The children were most interested in the pungent odors of skunk cabbage and the protective veil-like shrouds of the fiddlehead ferns. "Nest bags" were crafted by the children using mesh bags stuffed with bits of yarn, dried grasses, twigs, feathers and dandelion stems. The bags will be hung from branches to provide nest-making materials for our busy birds this Spring.

***Please join us!***

***The Young Naturalist Club meets the first Sunday of the month at Brookside County Park, Sayville NY, at 1:15 pm . Registration is not required but recommended. Please call (631)563-7716, email: [info@gsbas.org](mailto:info@gsbas.org) or visit [www.gsbas.org](http://www.gsbas.org) for more information.***

***Program is free but donations or becoming a member of the GSBAS is strongly encouraged.***

## Garden Club Report, by Janet Gremli, Chair

On Saturday, May 10, 2014, the Brookside Butterfly Garden Club spent the morning pulling weeds and transplanting daisies. Luckily the early morning showers left the ground soft and easy to work. Many of the perennials previously planted are beginning to appear as the weather warms. Beautiful butter-yellow primrose were very showy along with the tiny blue floral blooms of the catmint. Ox-eye daisies were placed in the garden under the front windows of the main building. Brightly colored marigolds and other annuals donated by garden club members were placed along the garden path. Planters were spruced with perennials including the sedum Autumn Joy. Helga Merryman, with her sharp eyes and ears, kept the gardeners alert to the calls and visits of the catbird, blue jay, hairy woodpecker, American goldfinch, Eastern Kingbird and Redstart ! The goldfinch seemed to be most interested in the thistle and Nyjer seed in the feeders. It was a great day to be in the garden and we all enjoyed the peace and attractiveness of our surroundings.



***Garden club members pause from their hard work for a photograph.  
Photograph Janet Gremli.***

## Annual May Dinner, by Annette Brownell

**H**ello everyone out there in GSBAS bird land! This letter comes to you post May dinner that was held at Captain Bill's in Bay Shore on May 5<sup>th</sup>. After months of preparation by our faithful volunteers of the past and some new people that have jumped on board, the evening was wonderful.

Although I head the dinner committee, I am just a small part of what makes this event happen. We have wonderful support from the general membership and local businesses in the way of donations. People acquire, get donations of and sometimes part with terrific pieces of art – photos, prints, sketches, paintings, carvings – along with many other fun prizes to win – everything from art and birding books to birding and gardening type gifts to pleasantries like candles or sweet smelling lotions. All year long the dinner committee discusses and mills over ideas and plans. Some new volunteers that jumped on board, like Camile and Rich Chernis and Tracey Hayworth, aided the faithful team of the Merrymans, the Wilsons and Judy Davis this year. When it comes time to organize the prizes and make up baskets, some of the board members pitched in also. Then there is keeping track of all the reservations and seating arrangements – thank you Peggy Marsh! The night of the dinner a great group arrived early to set up all the wonderful prizes. Thank you to Steve D'Amato, Judy and Patrick Davis, Lorraine Fogarty, Helga Merryman and Bob and Edith Wilson. Things ran smoothly upon arrival thanks to Gen Lee, Mary Plant, Camile and Rich Chernis, Vera Capgona, Johnna Vullo, Anne Gibbone and John Vullo who manned the entrance and raffle tables.

We tried a few new ideas this year. Steve D'Amato graciously agreed to paint a picture of an American Goldfinch for a special raffle, which was available to everyone, not just dinner attendees. Mike Devaney was the fortunate winner of Steve's painting. For those of you who come to the general meeting each month, you know I had quite a blast with the advertising of this painting. We also eliminated the silent auction and extended the Chinese Auction, giving everyone a better chance to win a prize.

As in years past, we presented the Fran File Award to that special person. This year's recipient was Bill Redshaw. Bill is a fantastic man who is kind hearted and very happy to share his knowledge of birding, nature and flowers with everyone. Harry Anderson received the Bob Laskowski Memorial Conservation Award for his many years of service to our Society as Editor in Chief of the Sandpiper, sharing his knowledge and supplying us with a wealth of insight, conservation facts and thoughts to ponder. I was the winner of the President's Award. Judy called me the Energizer Bunny, but I have to tell you it has been a pleasure to work with Judy Davis as President and it is easy to come along side someone who is passionate to get a job done right.

Dr. Ivan Rothman was our presenter this year. His photographic program "I'm Alive" was truly stunning. The photos were dynamic and the music was inspiring. A standing ovation hardly seemed enough. It seemed we should have been doing jumping jacks. Great program!

All in all, it was a great success. I thank – we thank – everyone for supporting this event, whether by coming each year, buying raffle tickets, getting donations or by sending in the raffle books though they can't make the dinner. Thank you! Thank you!



*Photograph Patrick Davis*  
Mike Devaney (L) receiving goldfinch painting from Steven D'Amato (R).

## Hyacinth Legacy, by Harry Anderson

*... say there's beauty with no soul at all —  
(I never saw it — put the case the same — )  
If you get simple beauty and naught else,  
You get about the best thing God invents ...  
- "Fra Lippo Lippi," Robert Browning*

**P**redictably, the Grape Hyacinths popped up all over the yard in late April. Some appeared where they have for years, but others introduced themselves in totally new locations. These beautifully simple little flowers come unplanted and unbidden. They are a pure gift that asks for nothing.

They are a perennial bulbous plant that makes a spring appearance. The multiple flowers cluster around the top of a central stalk. One distinct advantage of Grape Hyacinths is that they multiply quickly and require little feeding or water, surviving in sun or shade. They are the ideal evanescent beauty.

There is a scientific explanation for their migration around the yard, but "magic" has its appeal. Actually, they naturalize (spread) by both bulb offsets and seeds. A cluster will pop up some years 30 yards from any other one. In general, seeded ones will not produce flowers the first year. Some see them as invasive. Sad. If left alone, they can grow into large, thick patches. Once the flowers go, the green leaves actually recharge energy for the next season's flowering.

They are non-toxic and seen by some as edible, particularly the flowers. Maybe. The calcium oxalate raw-hides on the leaves can cause skin irritation. Stick with lettuce and cabbage.

Myth has it that the Greek hero Hyacinth was a beautiful youth and lover of Apollo. While trying to catch a discus Apollo had thrown, it hit Hyacinth in the head and killed him. Grief stricken, Apollo made our flower from Hyacinth's blood. The blossoms surrounded his dead body. Today they still give us "simple beauty and naught else." Who needs more.

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## Conservation Corner, by Bob Grover

### **H**ere We Go Again

In past issues of The Sandpiper, we have discussed climate change and sea level rise extensively, some might say excessively. Apparently we have been wrong the whole time. Pat Sajak, the nationally renowned climate scientist...wait, strike that...talk show host, has weighted in. He said recently that people who believe the earth is warming up are "morons". So, I must apologize to all of our readers for misleading them all these years.

*(Continued next page)*

Now, back to real science. You may have read recently about a dangerous instability in the West Antarctic Ice Sheet (WAIS). Three prominent talk show hosts...wait, strike that...scientists, from the University of Washington have been studying the various glaciers that comprise the WAIS, and have identified one, in particular, the Thwaites Glacier, that is in the early stages of collapse. This collapse appears inevitable, and even if we could stop global warming immediately, it would be too late. Granted, total collapse will take somewhere between 100 and 1000 years, but this is the blink of an eye in glacier time. Moreover, the low end of this time scale would permit many of our grandchildren the "privilege" of witnessing the havoc we have wrought, including the associated ten feet of rise in global sea level. If you are planning to leave your house to your grandchildren, it would be wise to consult a topographic map. A ten foot rise in sea level would permanently inundate the south shore of Long Island with several more feet of seawater than were experienced temporarily during Hurricane Sandy.

There is more bad news, as well. First of all, glaciers are melting all over the world, in spite of Pat Sajak, and the additional contribution of the dozens of other glaciers, not included in the Thwaites study, needs to be considered. Prior to the Thwaites Glacier analysis being published, the high-end predictions have sea level rising 6 to 7 feet by 2100. To make matters worse, the various WAIS glaciers are locked together very much like the bricks in a brick arch. When one falls out, the entire structure usually collapses, and the WAIS holds enough ice to raise sea level well in excess of 20 feet.

Looking more short term, we could be in for an interesting weather ride for the next several years. By now, most everyone is familiar to some degree with the phenomenon known as El Niño. During most years, the prevailing westerlies push warm tropical Pacific waters towards Asia. This causes cooler, nutrient rich deep water to upwell along the coast of South America, which replace the warm water blown west. This process fuels a thriving fishing industry. On occasion, there is a measurable weakening of the westerlies, and that allows that warm pool of water pushed up against Southeast Asia to slosh back east across the tropical Pacific. This is known as the Southern Oscillation. This return flow suppresses the deep water upwelling, and the fisheries go into a collapse mode. Tropical guano producing birds suffer, as well, from the reduced supply of fish, and their populations decline dramatically.

El Niño has serious consequences for weather around the world, as well, as the sloshing warm water redistributes heat around much of the globe, which can be tied to weather changes as far away as North Africa. As a result, in addition to the economic consequences of fishery collapse, the Pacific basin experiences more tropical cyclones and stormy weather. When you consider the devastating impacts of recent tropical Pacific typhoons in recent non-El Niño years, the prospect of even more powerful and more frequent storms in upcoming seasons is truly frightening. Here in the Northeast, we can expect warmer than normal weather with a general suppression of Atlantic tropical storms and hurricanes but an increase in overall non-tropical storminess. Fewer hurricanes may sound nice, but that can easily be made up for with more frequent and more intense Nor'easters. Based on the most recent satellite data, it appears that waves of tropical water are already travelling east, signaling the onset of El Niño. In addition, it appears to be an unusually strong El Niño, which means that, except for Atlantic hurricanes, we could be in for some extreme weather events for the next several years. And, of course, don't let your hurricane guard down. Fewer does not mean none, and as we learned from Sandy, it only takes one hurricane to wreak havoc in any particular location.



**Great South Bay Audubon Society**

**Call Direct: 631-563-7716**

**Officers**

Term 2012-2014

President (Position Pending)

Term 2012-2014

Vice-president: (Position Pending)

Treasurer: Annette Brownell  
(665-4405)

Corresponding Secretary:

Genevieve Lee (581-2470)

Recording Secretary

Arlene Rawls (516-712-9514)

**Board of Directors**

Term 2013-2016

Arlene Rawls

Jack Isaacs (567-7631), Nicholas Laviola  
(678-7866), Vera Capogna (563-4969)

Term 2011-2014

Steve D'Amato (264-8413 )

Open Seat

Term 2012-2015

Juliane Wohler (581-1731)

Open Seat

Editor, *The Sandpiper*, Lenora Daniel  
(647-5297)

The editor is also on the board.

**Committee Chairs**

Hospitality: Mary Plant (284-3713)

Conservation: Lenora Daniel

Membership: Arlene Rawls

Publicity: Helga Merryman (669-6473)

Beach Clean Up: Carol Jansh (567-4965)

Education: Juliane Wohler, Janet Greml, Jack Finkenberg

Audubon Activist: Open

Nature Walks: Larry Merryman (669-6473)

Programs: Peter O'Connor (466-4360)

Librarian: Vera Capogna

Annual Dinner Chair:

Annette Brownell

*Sandpiper* Mailing: Ken Thompson

Email responder: Vera Capogna

Answering the GSBAS Direct Phone:

Steve D'Amato

**For wildlife in need of rescue  
please call The STAR Foundation  
(631)736-8207**

**Email us: [info@gsbas.org](mailto:info@gsbas.org)**

**Great South Bay Audubon Society Membership**

Become a member of Great South Bay Audubon Society.

Your contribution will support GSBAS conservation efforts, educational programs and our stewardship at Brookside County Park. Please make checks payable to

“Great South Bay Audubon Society” and mail to

GSBAS, P.O. Box 267, Sayville NY 11782

New Membership or Renewal \$20

Senior (62+) Membership or Renewal \$15

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

- We would like to welcome all new members to our Chapter and those coming into GSBAS from another chapter.
- Guided tours of Brookside are given every Wednesday and Sunday from 1 to 3 p.m. See our facility, walk the nature trails and become acquainted with the history of the property. We are located 59 Brook Street, Sayville. It's diagonally across from Sayville High School.
- Please submit articles, poems, essays or backyard research for our newsletter. Deadline for next newsletter is August 11, 2014
- Call (631)563-7716 If you have any *Sandpiper* questions. Leave a message.

Great South Bay Audubon Society  
P.O. Box 267, Sayville, NY 11782  
A Chapter of National Audubon

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