



The Fledgling

Newsletter of the Southern Adirondack Audubon Society
www.southernadirondackaudubon.org

Vol. 27 No. 4

June 2010 – August 2010

President's Message

Favorite birding sites...everyone has them. We are fortunate to have so many varied habitats in our area. One of my favorites is the Betar Byway, right in South Glens Falls. A nice, easy walk on a paved path with plenty of opportunities to sit on one of the benches and just enjoy being outdoors. And you never know what you'll catch a glimpse of. Pileated Woodpecker, Red Tail Hawk, Eastern Bluebirds, American Redstart, Purple Finch, Baltimore Orioles, Great Blue Heron, Wood Duck, Bald Eagle just a few of the over 118 species of birds found at the Betar Byway. SAAS has compiled a list of the birds identified on the Betar Byway. This list is available in the kiosk at the First St entrance. We hope you can attend one, or all of our Monthly Birding walks or Birding by Car Trips scheduled from now through October 2010. Please see page 2 or our website for dates and times. For further information or to request a birding trip to *your* favorite birding site, please contact me at Birdladycamper@aol.com or call 518-793-1960

Pat Walters



SAAS Board of Directors Meeting Schedule set

Fri., June 18 - 10:00am-12:00pm

No board meeting July or August
All meetings will be held at Crandall Library and interested members are encouraged to attend.

SAAS Calendar

Our public programs are held at the Crandall Library in City Park, Glens Falls. Enter at the Glen St. entrance, and take the elevator to the lower level; the media room is on the left.

In case of inclement weather please call the library at 792-6508

Public Programs

June 23 6:00 P.M. Meet & Greet Pot Luck– meet and socialize with your Board Members – find out what projects we're currently involved in – Bring a non-perishable treat to share.

June 23 7:00 P.M. Emily Debolt -" Landscaping with Native Plants for Wildlife and Water Quality"

No public programs in July & August

But please join us for our first annual Birds and Brunch Saturday July 17th 8 am – 11 am at the Smith Basin, Lock 9 Hudson Falls. Light brunch provided by SAAS, musical entertainment provided by the birds in their natural habitats. Pre-registration required. Contact Pat Walters at 518-793-1960



Thank you, Claire Hunter

In addition to her many years of service to the Southern Adirondack Audubon Society, Claire Hunter honored us with a final gift – a generous bequest of \$2,000.00 to SAAS to be used for general purposes. We greatly appreciate her generosity and will put the funds to good use.



Field Trips and Events

Monthly Coffee Walks at the Betar Byway

Birding walks led by members of Southern Adirondack Audubon will be held the first Friday of each month through September. Each will last about one and a half hours. Meet 9 A.M. at the Gazebo near the parking lot at the end of First Street in South Glens Falls

We will meet for coffee afterwards at the Peppermill to talk about the birds we see.

Birding By Car

We will meet in the morning, form a carpool, and then drive along the Towpath, a gravel road off Route 196 in Hudson Falls, stopping at times to get closer looks. With its varied habitat, this road supports an excellent variety of birds.

Reservations are required. - contact Pat Walters 518-793-1960. Meeting time & place will be given upon registration.

Saturdays 9 A.M. May through September 2010
May 8, 2010
June 12, 2010
July 3, 2010
August 7, 2010
September 4, 2010



Come visit us at Moreau Family Fun Days

Friday, August 13th and Saturday, August 14th
at the Town of Moreau Recreation Park
(Just off of Route 32.) In addition to all the other activities, SAAS will have a table at this event: make a pine cone birdfeeder, test your bird identification skills, bird gift basket raffle, pick up brochures, free nature magazines, ask questions or just bring your stories to share.

Volunteer Corner

Spend two hours (or more if you prefer) assisting us at our table at Moreau Family Fun Days. You will be paired with a Board member. Hand out brochures, assist with making pine cone bird feeders.

Field Trip Leaders and/or assistant needed. Easy trails – 2 hrs time required.

SAAS has many opportunities for volunteers to share their expertise and knowledge, make new friends and perhaps learn new skills. Please join us and help support and expand our efforts.

Did you know?

You can view this newsletter on line at www.SouthernAdirondackAudubon.org

If you would prefer not to receive a copy of the newsletter in the mail, please contact our membership chair, Pat Fitzgerald.

To those of you who view the newsletter on line, Thank you for your continued \$10.00 annual support!

UPDATE:

Killian's View Subdivision

The draft Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has recently been submitted for the Killian's View Subdivision. This 352-lot subdivision, located in the center of the Ft. Edward Grasslands Important Bird Area (IBA), will destroy or fragment hundreds of acres of habitat used by the endangered Short-eared Owl, threatened Northern Harrier, and many other at-risk grassland species. This latest revision of the EIS attempts to respond to the 100+ comments voicing numerous concerns that were received during the public comment period last spring.

SAAS and Audubon New York have raised multiple issues with the inadequacies of this EIS, including its failure to provide adequate mitigation measures, respond to substantial public comments, or address cumulative impacts. In addition, the Town of Ft. Edward's own lawyer and engineer have written letters raising many of the same issues that we have. In the end, the Ft. Edward Planning Board must adopt this EIS as its own document, and is responsible for its content. SAAS is monitoring this issue closely, not only because of the huge impact it will have on grassland birds, but also because it could set a precedent for future developments within the IBA. To find out how you can help, please contact Jason Goldsmith at adk_wild_jay@yahoo.com

Jason Goldsmith
Conservation Chair



Town of Moreau Takes a Stand Against Invasive Plant Species

Most of us are aware of the threats posed by planting alien invasive species. We know that they continue to be sold in our area nurseries, and that they continue to be planted, thus putting at risk the diversity in the local plant community. The Town of Moreau Conservation Advisory Council (MCAC) has taken the first steps to change that.



Moreau continues to be the target for residential development, and the MCAC is concerned about the threats to the town's biodiversity caused by the widespread use of invasive plant species, such as the ever-popular Burning Bush and the ubiquitous Bradford Pear. To help stop the spread of these plants, the MCAC developed a list suggesting native alternatives for each of twelve commonly used invasive plants. The action was endorsed by the town board, and passed to the planning board with the suggestion that it be implemented in the planning of future developments. The handout is available at the Moreau Town Hall and other educational materials are being prepared which will be available to town residents and developers alike.

SAAS members Pat Walters and Mona Bearor are members of the MCAC. The "Dirty Dozen" list is printed on page 5 for your use. Please help spread the word!

Mona Bearor

Plant and They Will Come! *Hummingbirds – the Crowning Glory of Your Garden*



Ruby-throated Hummingbird By Gordie Ellmers

There is only one sight lovelier than a hummingbird sipping nectar from a feeder—the beauty of a hummingbird feeding from a natural bloom in your garden. Not all gardeners are bird watchers; however, when one of these tiny creatures visits the garden, it is hard to resist pausing from garden chores long enough to admire this summer guest as it moves from bloom to bloom, sampling flower nectar, or dining on miniscule insects.

Except for the occasional rarity, the Ruby-throated Hummingbird is the only species found in the northeast. Weighing only 1/8th of an ounce and measuring about 3 ½ inches, this bird is a triumph of flight engineering! With a heart rate of 1200 beats per minute, and wing beats averaging 50 per second when feeding, it is easy to see why these little creatures need to feed often. Lucky for us that they do – it is a pleasure to observe them as they make frequent trips to nectar sources, whether natural or artificial. Ruby-throats are very inquisitive, adapting quickly to human presence, so enticing them to visit your garden is not difficult.

There are many plants which will grow well in our area that are beneficial to hummingbirds. The following is a sampling of native perennials that will enhance your garden and attract hummingbirds:

- Wild Bergamot or Bee Balm - *Monarda fistulosa* is a plant Ruby-throats love so much it is sometimes referred to as the “hummingbird flower!” This plant is native to New York and is a member of the mint family and will bring both butterflies and bees to your garden.
- Eastern Red Columbine is delicate looking, but very hardy. *Aquilegia canadensis*, is a lovely red and yellow wildflower found in our rocky

woods and along country roads. It is a reliable hummingbird magnet, because it blooms during May, June, and July when hummingbirds return to our area and are breeding and feeding young, and therefore most in need of a special diet.

- This plant will add interest to perennial beds and borders along watergardens, and if there is enough ambient light, it can grow well in a shade garden.
- Cardinal Flower, *Lobelia cardinalis*, is a member of the Bellflower family that will provide nectar from late July to September when many others have finished their bloom cycle. The brilliant red 2-3' flower spikes are irresistible to hummingbirds. This plant will thrive in a moist soil and does not like hot afternoon sun.
- Fringed Bleeding Heart, *Dicentra eximia*, forms an attractive clump of gray-green foliage with rose-pink heart shaped flowers. This will be a valuable addition to your garden as well as a target for hummingbirds since it has a long bloom time if spent flowers are removed promptly.
- Canada Lily, *Lilium canadense*, is a spectacular lily that thrives in a slightly acid or neutral soil in wet meadows. It can easily adapt to your garden. Flowers are borne in mid-summer on stalks that reach 4-6 feet tall, and are usually yellow, but may be may be red or orange.

In addition, there are many annuals that will attract hummingbirds to your garden; a few choices are: Salvia, Nasturtium, Impatiens, Snapdragon, Lantana, Phlox and Verbena. Potting a few and placing them on your deck or in window boxes will attract hummingbirds to your property and add enjoyment to your summer hours.

If you add a few of these plants to your property, you'll be rewarded with the jewel-like flash and the loud buzzing of the hummingbird's wings as you work in your garden this summer.

-Mona Bearor

The Dirty Dozen

In an effort to slow the spread of invasive plant species in the Town of Moreau, we offer the following alternatives for use in the place of commonly planted invasive species

Please DO NOT PLANT these INVASIVE species:	Instead, please DO PLANT these NATIVE species:
<i>Acer platanoides</i> - Norway Maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i> - Red Maple <i>Acer saccharum</i> - Sugar Maple <i>Nyssa sylvatica</i> - Black Gum (good for wet sites)
<i>Berberis thunbergii</i> - Japanese Barberry	<i>Vaccinium angustifolium</i> - Lowbush Blueberry <i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i> - Common Ninebark “Diablo” <i>Viburnum trilobum</i> - Cranberry Viburnum <i>Weigela florida</i> - Old-fashioned Weigela <i>Diervilla lonicera</i> - Bush Honeysuckle
<i>Euonymus alatus</i> - Burning Bush	<i>Viburnum nudum</i> - Witherod Viburnum <i>Viburnum lentago</i> - Nannyberry <i>Fothergilla gardenia</i> - Witch-alder, <i>Hydrangea quercifolia</i> - Oak-leaf hydrangea
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i> - English Holly	<i>Ilex verticillata</i> - Winterberry <i>Ilex glabra</i> - Inkberry holly
<i>Rosa rugosa</i> - Rugosa Rose	<i>Rosa Carolina</i> - Carolina Rose <i>Rosa virginiana</i> - Virginia Rose
<i>Vinca minor</i> - Periwinkle	<i>Heuchera Americana</i> - American Arumroot or Coral Bells <i>Waldsteinia fragarioides</i> - Barren Strawberry
<i>Hedera helix</i> - English Ivy	<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i> - Virginia Creeper <i>Xanthorhiza simplicissima</i> - Yellowroot
<i>Spiraea japonica</i> - Japanese Spirea	<i>Spiraea tomentosa</i> - Steeplechase <i>Ceanothus americanus</i> - New Jersey Tea
<i>Eleagnus angustifolius</i> - Russian Olive <i>Eleagnus umbellata</i> - Autumn Olive	<i>Lindera benzoin</i> Spicebush <i>Hamamelis virginiana</i> - Witch hazel <i>Viburnum dentatum</i> - Arrowwood
<i>Coronilla varia</i> - Crown Vetch	<i>Phlox subulata</i> - Creeping phlox <i>Waldsteinia fragarioides</i> - Barren Strawberry <i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i> - Little bluestem <i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i> - Prairie dropseed
<i>Buddleia davidii</i> - Butterfly Bush	<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i> – Buttonbush <i>Clethra alnifolia</i> – Summersweet <i>Asclepias tuberosa</i> - Butterfly weed
<i>Pyrus calleryana</i> - Callery (Bradford) Pear	<i>Halesia Carolina</i> - Carolina Silverbell <i>Chionanthus virginicus</i> - White Fringetree <i>Crataegus phaenopyrum</i> - Washington Hawthorn <i>Cercis Canadensis</i> - Eastern Redbud <i>Amelanchier Canadensis</i> – Shad

**This informational handout was prepared by the
Town of Moreau Conservation Advisory Council
and endorsed by the Moreau Town Council**

Earth Day Lobby Day

By Mona Bearor

On Tuesday, April 21, I attended Earth Day Lobby Day in Albany. Although this was the 20th anniversary of this important day for conservation organizations, it was my first experience, and I found it an informative and educational one, as well as an enjoyable day with other environmental advocates who share my passion for protecting the environment.

The morning session was held in a hall located near the Capital. Opening remarks were presented by Rob Moore and Laura Haight, representatives of Environmental Advocates and New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG), respectively. We then heard from representatives of other groups who summarized the five hot topics we would discuss with our Senators and Assembly representatives later in the day.

Those presenting and their issues were:

- Ross Gould of Environmental Advocates - Global Warming Pollution Cap; bills pending to reduce greenhouse gases as recommended by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
- Bobbi Chase Wilding of Clean New York - E-waste recycling; bills pending to require manufacturers of electronics to take their products back, recycle as much as possible, and dispose of the rest in a responsible manner.
- Wes Gillingham of Catskill Mountainkeeper - Natural Gas drilling; New York needs better protection and more stringent regulations as the controversial horizontal hydraulic fracturing – or “hydrofracking” comes to our state. In other areas this process has caused contaminated water, polluted air, and other negative health effects.
- Dick Amper of the Long Island Pine Barrens Society - SEQRA Standing; bills are pending that would enforce the public’s right to enforce the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) as was the original legislative intent.
- Sean Mahar of Audubon New York - Environmental Funding; a \$69 million dollar cut to NY’s Environmental Protection Fund, reduction of resources for the Department of Environmental Conservation of 34%, and a 20% reduction in funding for the Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation, and the proposed closure of 41 state parks.

Speakers of note during the morning session included Assemblyman Robert Sweeney, Chair of the Assembly Committee on Environmental Conservation; Senator Antoine Thompson, Chair of the Senate’s Environmental Conservation Committee; NYS Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli; and Governor David A. Paterson.

Paterson was applauded as the only Governor ever to attend Earth Day Lobby Day; however, his defense of the deep cuts to state environmental funding fell far short. Audubon New York’s Sean Mahar, Director of Government Relations & Communications, refuted Paterson’s remarks, and was cheered as he pointed out the disparities in the budget.

After a short lunch break we formed smaller groups, each led by a seasoned lobbyist, and we marched to the Legislative Office Building. The balance of the afternoon was spent visiting Senators and Assemblypersons and discussing the topics mentioned above. Presenting my views in person to a member of the state legislature was a new experience for me. My group leader, Scott Lorey, Legislative Director for the Adirondack Council, put me at ease and proved to be informative in all things relating to state government. When our scheduled meetings were concluded, he was gracious enough to treat me to a tour of the Capital building.

I learned a great deal by participating in this event, and look forward to the 21st annual Earth Day Lobby Day in 2011.

IT'S IN THE BAG!

The Problem: Americans throw away 100 billion plastic bags every year. 14 million trees are cut down each year to produce paper grocery bags. Both cause significant pollution and neither decomposes quickly once in a landfill.

The Solution: The SAAS Reusable tote!



The ivory bag with green bottom and handles has a handy outside pocket for keys, glasses, or notepad, and is imprinted with the SAAS logo.
18"L x 5"W x 12"H

Our bags hold twice as much as standard grocery bags, and the wide handles make carrying easier!

\$15.00 plus \$3.00 S&H

Available for sale at monthly programs or by using the mail-in form below

I'd like to reduce waste and pollution by purchasing an environmentally friendly tote bag.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State & Zip _____

I am enclosing \$ _____ for the purchase of _____ SAAS tote(s).

Please send form and payment to :

**Nan Polunci
55 Lambert Dr.,
Queensbury, NY 12804**

Make checks payable to SAAS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

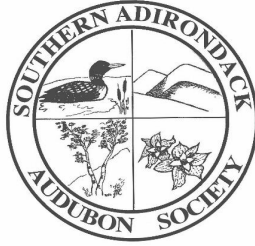
The Fundraising Committee would like to thank everyone for supporting our raffle baskets by purchasing tickets at our programs and events. Proceeds support important chapter activities, such as sponsoring a child to DEC's Camp Colby, and providing Audubon Adventures programs to homeschoolers in the area. Special thanks to the following businesses/individuals for donations of gift certificates or products:

:

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Scoville Jewelers, Glens Falls
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APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

National membership in the Audubon Society includes the magazine, *Audubon*, and the SAAS newsletter, *The Fledgling*.

The cost is \$20 annually for regular membership and \$15 for seniors and students. Make checks payable to "National Audubon Society," and send with name, address, and phone number to the address listed below. Membership as a

"Chapter Supporter" is \$10 annually and includes *The Fledgling* and all chapter activities. Make check payable to

"Southern Adirondack Audubon Society" and send with name, address, and phone number to:

Pat Fitzgerald, 79 Laurel Ln., Queensbury, NY 12804

Newsletter Submission Policy: We welcome submissions to The Fledgling. Please email your articles to the editor if possible, and *include your name and contact information*. We reserve the right to edit as necessary. If you cannot email, please contact Pat Walters at 518-793-1960.