



THE GREAT SOUTH BAY AUDUBON SOCIETY

(631) 563-7716 • greatsouthbayaudubon.org

Mission Statement

The 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.

A CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

ISSUE LXII • March 2022 - May 2022



THE SANDPIPER

FEATURE STORY

A Lesson *from* My Grandfather

by Annette Brownell

Photo: Cedar Trees, Cedar Tree Foundation

I spent my growing up years living next door to my grandparent's farm in Terryville, Port Jefferson Station. My grandparents were "truck farmers." I tell people that they planted axels and harvested trucks. Some people believed me. A truck farmer grew crops and then trucked them – to the train; to New York City. During the war, my grandfather took his crops into the city where the government purchased them, picked through what they wanted and sent the rest back. Those little potatoes that everyone pays so much money for now, were rejected by the army.

My grandfather brought the crops back home and put them out for anyone who needed to take. He felt that he had been paid for them once and that was good. My grandfather, a poor Polish immigrant who never learned to read or write anything but his name, was a man of integrity. He wasn't just a man of integrity when it came to business, he was a man of integrity in the way he treated the land. One of the greatest lessons I learned from Pa was his huge respect for and love of trees. This is where I get it and I don't think a Sandpiper issue goes by without my comments on the value of trees.

There was no garbage pickup then. Everything that could be recycled or reused was. There were no plastic containers. Glass jars were reused for buttons or screws or marbles and coffee cans were invaluable. The rest went to the dumps. It was stored in an area we called "the junks" until there was a big enough load to go. We kids set up imaginary homes and shops in this area. My grandfather also has a series of young cedars planted there. He used cedar and white pine for wind breaks. These cedars were spaced just perfectly to form the rooms of our house, including a hallway.

We were forever in there sweeping the dirt. Pa would chase us out and yell at us for undermining the roots of the trees by removing the dirt. Somewhere in my teens, when I was privileged to learn about proper tree pruning (a course that PSEG needs), I began to have an appreciation for what Pa was trying to teach us.

In the last several months there has been some really severe weather in our nation and indeed, on our little island. Where did such terrible flooding come from – and tornados! My first experience with scary strong wind was when I went to Stony Brook University with its poorly thought-out quadrangles that trapped wind in certain areas to the point where you couldn't open the building doors.

So, here we are in 2022, still environmentally ignorant as to what causes weather changes – and I can tell you, it's not carbon emissions. It's the cutting of our mighty 80-foot oaks in order to replace them with 25-foot non-native ornamentals, imperviable parking lots and apartment complexes. Perhaps as people argue about whether or not children should have to wear masks, they should have a few history lessons on "The Dust Bowl" period of severe dust storms that greatly damaged the ecology and agriculture of the American and Canadian prairies during the 1930's. One of the methods the government used to stop the damage was to plant 220 million trees. And, yes, children wore masks to school. We hail the Islip Town Board for their decision to not allow rezoning of the Island Hills Golf Course for an apartment complex.

I have read way too many reports with the coined phrase of "no significant environmental impact." Perhaps no significant environmental impact to the purse of the developer, but plenty of impact to the birds, pollinators, insects, trees – and our own children. Please – when you can - prune, do not remove.

President's Message

from GSBAS President Jody Banaszak



Photo: Yellow-Rumped Warbler, John Faulkner

Hello my little birding friends!! Hope you are all well and are enjoying bird watching. As I write this, it's January and there's snow on the ground. The birds can't get enough of my bird seed. The Mallards flew up for some too. A Cooper's Hawk was enjoying a meal last week. I actually had a few Red Winged Blackbirds at the feeder, which I thought was weird as I thought they weren't here in the winter. The weather has been very strange lately so maybe they didn't realize it was winter!!! Climate change. We have to get rid of it and everyone has to do their part. Audubon sent me an email about Governor Hochul's proposals for restoring and conserving our environment.

On the list were protecting freshwater wetlands, increased funding for clean waters, clean air, the green jobs environmental bond act, and acting on climate and reducing plastic waste. I hope they all pass. I've been reading articles in the newspaper about a lot of good things happening to help with our environment on Long Island and I hope it continues. Many people have made bird feeders with their children and grandchildren using big plastic soda and milk containers. It teaches them to recycle and enjoy watching the birds!

We've had great bird walks this winter thanks to our leaders. I've seen a lot of winter ducks in ponds along Montauk Hwy too. The winter ducks are so beautiful. I was watching a wildlife show about animals in Alaska. The Great Gray Owl was flying over about a foot of snow getting food for her young. She pounces down and comes up with a vole!! How did she know it was there? And why wasn't the vole frozen!?! Another wildlife show was about Harris Hawks. They hunt in dry desert environments of cacti and grasses in North America. One hawk searches for prey, usually a Jack Rabbit. When he spots one he sends out a signal to the rest of them to move into hunting position to attack the prey. Wildlife is incredible. This newsletter will be getting to you in March so enough about winter! With the weather the way it is, it will probably be 80 degrees!! A lot of you will be hoping for that. We are planning for our May dinner and hope all goes well for it. Covid has messed everything up. I even read in the paper that deer are getting Covid! Someone who had Covid threw their half eaten apple out the window of their car, a deer ate it and got Covid. Do we have to be afraid of what we eat now? I know a lot of people don't eat deer meat but some do. What about chickens and cows? Can they get it from people too?

We have new ring cameras at Brookside that keep an eye on things, especially our little perpetrators who like to destroy things. They go off on my phone every time someone goes by them. There's been so many people hiking there which is great. Some with children. It is a nice place to go with ducks in the pond and stream, birds at our feeders, owls in the trees and even a Cooper's Hawk. I've even seen an occasional turkey and deer too! The spring and summer bring flowering plants and bushes along with different birds and butterflies in our butterfly garden. A few boy and girl scouts have even made their projects there. And everyone loves our outdoor program in June. So get planting your perennials and fill your birdbaths for the birds and butterflies. With these stressful times it would be nice to just sit and watch them with a smile on your face!!
Happy birding and stay safe!

All Hands on Deck!

by Annette Brownell

May 2nd will be here before we know it. As Dinner Chairman, I am looking for volunteers to help make the evening a success. This is not a huge time commitment, but we do need people to help. If you would be willing to stuff envelopes and help mail out invitations, help with set up and break down the day of the dinner, work at the greeter table, help with the raffles and prizes, please email Annette at nettiesbaskets2@optonline.net.

Another very important task is helping make up the prize "baskets." If you can make bows or have a flare for that sort of thing, there is plenty to do. It is always a nice prize to win a dinner out. If you regularly frequent a restaurant or two and would be able to ask for gift certificates, that would be terrific. All prize donations must be received by *April 15*.

Harriers

by Steve D'Amato

During Audubon's time all the way until the mid-twentieth century, it was considered a separate species (Marsh Hawk - *Circus Hudsonius*) from the similar harrier found throughout Eurasia (the Hen Harrier - *Circus cyaneus*). Then sometime between the 1930's and the 1950's, its species became considered conspecific with the Hen Harrier - *Circus cyaneus*, but we still called it the Marsh Hawk. In 1982, the American Ornithologists Union decided to change its common name to match the rest of the birds in the genus *Circus**. So they renamed it Northern Harrier.

A genetic study in 2015 showed that the Northern Harrier in America was actually more closely related to the Cinereous Harrier (*Circus cinereus* - whose range is in South America just south of the southernmost winter range of the Northern Harrier) than the Hen Harrier of Eurasia. So that is why the A.O.U. removed the Northern Harrier from *Circus cyaneus* and returned it to its original species *Circus hudsonius*. However, they still want to keep the name Northern Harrier. The common name of the *Circus cyaneus* harrier in Eurasia is returned to Hen Harrier.



TUESDAY WALKS

- March 22, 9:30 Sunken Meadow SP** • Meet in the main parking lot in front of the main pavilion near the traffic circle.
- March 29, 9:30 Heckscher SP** • Meet in Field 5 western end.
- Apr 5, 9:30 Jones Beach WE SP** • Meet in the parking lot at the Marina near the Coast Guard Station.
- April 12, 9:30 Robert Moses SP** • Meet in Field 5 at the northeast corner.
- April 19, 9:00 Norman Levy & Jones Beach WE** • Southern State Pkwy. to Meadowbrook Pkwy. south to Merrick Road (27A). Go east on Merrick Road approximately 1/8 mile and turn right into the Norman J. Levy Park.
- April 26, 9:00 St Joseph Brentwood Campus** • Take Sunrise Highway to Brentwood Rd. north. It is approximately 2.5 miles. Look for the main entrance. Meet in front of building 4.
- May 3, 9:30 Belmont SP** • Exit 38 off the Southern State

May 10, 9:00 Hempstead SP Southern State Pkwy. to Exit 18 (Eagle Ave.) and proceed south to the second parking lot. Turn right and then left into parking lot 3.

May 17, 9:00 Oceanside & Jones Beach • Southern State Pkwy. to Meadowbrook Pkwy. South to Merrick Road (27A). Go west on Merrick Road a short distance and turn left on Mill Road and bear left (on Main Street) turn right on Atlantic Avenue to Waukena Ave. left to Park Avenue to Golf Drive (brown signs from Atlantic to Oceanside Marine EC)

May 24, 9:30 Shinnecock • Sunrise Hwy. East to Exit 65 South to Montauk Highway. Go east and follow signs to Ocean Beaches. Cross Ponquogue Bridge and turn left at the traffic light. Go to end of road to parking lot at inlet. We meet at the ocean overlook parking area south of the road.

May 31, 9:00 Suffolk County Farm Take Sunrise Highway to exit 57N, Horseblock Rd. Bear right onto County Road 21, Yaphank Ave. Travel approximately one mile to the Cornell Cooperative Extension on left. Turn left onto the entrance road. Take your first right and follow down and meet at the visitors parking area on your left.

SPEAKERS

Presenter Dr. Tom Ward, Assistant Dean at Farmingdale State College • March 17, 2022 Zoom meeting @ 7 p.m.

Dr. Ward has had a long history of community involvement in the environmental field having belonged to many environmental associations. He is presently Chair of the LI branch of the Sierra Club. The presentation will focus on the Sierra Club both on a national and local level and how people can get involved to assist in conservation and environmental issues.

Amanda Furcall, Landscape Ecologist for the Sisters of St. Joseph • April 21, 2022 7 p.m. @ Seatuck in Islip

Amanda's career has focused on land trusts to preserve and protect wild places. Landscape ecology focuses on forest and meadow stewardship and woodland restoration. Her presentation will highlight the conservation value of small garden style habitats and the diversity of life they can foster.

WEEKEND WALKS

Sunday March 12, 8:30am, Bob Laskowski Memorial Walk
Leader: Bob Grover (516-318-8536)
 Meet at Brookwood Hall, Islip Town Park in East Islip on Irish Lane between Montauk Hwy and Union Blvd.

Saturday April 16 8:30am, Connetquot River SPP
Leaders: Bob Grover (516-318-8536) Ken Thompson (631-612-8028, John Gluth (631-827-0120)
 Meet in parking field. Entrance is on the westbound side of Sunrise Highway (Rte. 27) west of Pond Road. If coming from west to east, Take exit 47A and go to the next overpass, Oakdale Bohemia Rd. to cross over bridge, then head westbound and stay in right lane to entrance.

Saturday April 23, 8:00 am, Valley Stream SP & Jones Beach
Leaders John Gluth (631-827-0120), Bob Grover (516-318-8536) Southern State Parkway to exit 15S, North Corona Ave. No Corona Ave to Hendrickson Ave (.07 mi) turn right at Hendrickson Ave. Hendrickson Ave. to Fletcher Ave (.3 mi) turn right on Fletcher Ave. Fletcher Ave N to Valley Stream State Park entrance on right (.2 mi). Park at far end of lot.

Sunday May 1, 7:00 am, Central Park

Leaders John Gluth (631-827-0120), Ken Thompson (631-612-8028) Meet at 7 a.m. on Central Park West at 77th Street (opposite the Museum of Natural History). One of the best trips for our club!

Saturday May 7, 7:00 am, Alley Pond Park

Leaders Mike Cooper (516-523-2369) Bob Grover (516-318-8536) Northern State Pkwy to Exit 23, which reads: Cross Island Parkway, Union Turnpike and Alley Pond Park. Go to Union Turnpike (NOT Alley Pond Park). At the signal light, turn right onto Union Turnpike. Proceed to the next signal light which is Springfield Blvd and turn right. Go about 4 blocks to 76th Ave. Turn right onto 76th Ave. and proceed to Alley Pond Parking lot on your left.

Sunday May 8, Connetquot River SPP, 8:30 am

Leaders Edith Wilson, Ken Thompson Helga Merryman, Jack Carlson Reservations required - call Connetquot River Park Preserve at 581-1072 to register. Registration fee, plus parking fee per car - unless you have yearly Empire pass.

In Memoriam

During my time with Great South Bay Audubon, I have had the honor of meeting really wonderful people. Based on their dedication and time commitments, as well as their willingness to pass on what they have learned, I think they are the last generation of true volunteers. Too often in the last year or so, we are noting the passing of another member who is a piece of our legacy. We want to honor them for the persons they were while they graced the Earth, but also to inspire those who may not have known them with the quality of human relationships we have the opportunity to develop in an organization like this.

I didn't know Harry Anderson very well as he was retiring from a very long tenure on our board around the time I was joining. I didn't know Ken Ward at all but have heard of him often. Some of our other members who did know them have been good enough to share a little insight. - **Annette Brownell**

HARRY ANDERSON

Longtime member, Sandpiper editor, contributor to Sandpiper etc.

He was a very good writer and I looked forward to his pithy style and sense of humor. I would occasionally bump into him at the diner in Bay Shore and we would talk books. He taught English at the local high school and I learned a lot from him through his articles on conservation and environmental issues. A thoroughly enjoyable fellow to spend time with. I will miss him and thank him for his service to the Audubon Society. - **Jack Finkenberg**



BOB WILSON

Bob Wilson, together with his lovely wife Edith joined GSBAS in the early 1980s, and became involved in numerous projects, only a few of which are listed here, installing and monitoring Tree Swallow nest boxes at Gardiner Park, monitoring Piping Plovers, Birding and Breakfast at Connetquot, installing a Bluebird trail at Connetquot, and volunteering for numerous events with GSBAS.

KEN WARD

Long Time member, Past president of GSBAS promoted restoration and preservation of the Orowoc Creek Preserve in Islip 1988.

I was very sad to hear today of the passing of another of Great South Bay Audubon's colorful and memorable past presidents. Ken Ward was one of many established birders who helped me in my early years with the club. Ken was a regular on club field trips with Harold Wellander and Fran File, but he was also one of the few birders I knew who traveled extensively back in those days, and could talk with first-hand knowledge of the near mythical sites in Arizona or Texas or California that I wouldn't see for many years.

Ken was always a gentleman and a pleasure to be around. He and his wife Patty, were always ready to help out with the Captree Christmas Count, both in the field and in the kitchen, contributing food as well as support at the compilation dinners. I have fond memories of get togethers at Hawk Mountain, where Ken would bring the Yukon Jack or Southern Comfort and Larry Merryman would bring a book of Robert W. Service poems, and we would all stay up far later than birders should listening to the stories of Dan McGrew and Bessie's Boil! Good times, old boy - I'm glad I was there to share them. - **Mike Cooper**



Art & Photography

VIEW OUR FULL GALLERY AT OUR WEBSITE, WWW.GREATSOUTHBAYAUDUBON.ORG

Bob Glasser, Spotted Sandpiper



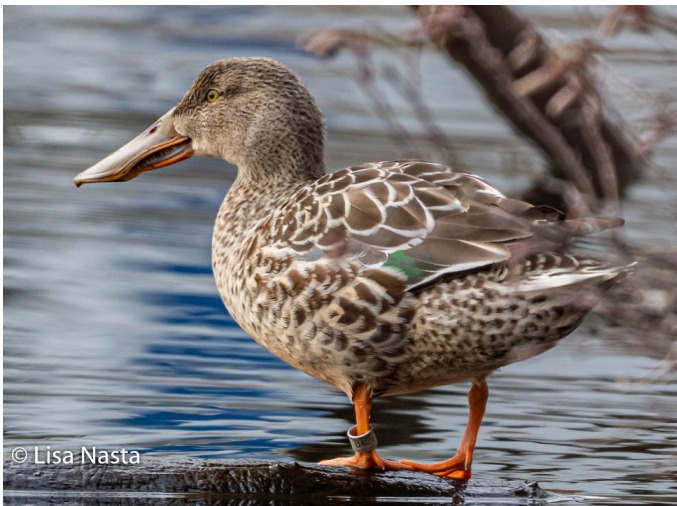
Andrew Di Lapi, Cardinal



John Faulkner, Ruby Crowned Kinglet



Thomas Sarc, Swan



© Lisa Nasta

Lisa Nasta, Northern Shoveler banded from Nova Scotia



Jacquine Perazzo, Downy Woodpecker

Lights Out

by Annette Brownell

It is often mentioned in our articles that Great South Bay Audubon Society is very fortunate to have been appointed stewards of Brookside County Park. We are fortunate to have a space that is ours to use for public programs, classes, board meetings and storage. The County has indeed been generous to us in that the requirement for us is to maintain the grounds and trails and to host educational programs.

I want to take the opportunity to “bring to light” the fact that the legislature also acts in other ways to protect our environment, our own health and the natural world that we love and value. In October a bill was introduced to the legislature by Legislators Fleming and Anker to amend the County’s light pollution law. Taking into consideration the advances in lighting technology, the proposal was introduced requiring all County departments, when necessary to purchase or replace lamps for luminaires, to replace them with lamps “having a correlated color temperature no higher than 2200 Kelvin.” This is a reduction from 3000 Kelvin. Legislator Bridget Fleming of the 2nd District on the South Fork, pointed out that “advances in technology have created more opportunity to reduce light pollution at no cost to taxpayers. Excessive light pollution has the potential to harm nocturnal wildlife, add to carbon dioxide emission, and pose safety concerns for people with cataracts or an astigmatism, as well as interfere with enjoyment of the night sky.” Happily the bill was passed in December.



Photo: Baltimore Oriole, Bridget Fleming

Opportunities In A Financially Challenging Time

by Annette Brownell



Photo: Grey Kingbird, Lisa Nasta

This last nearly 2 years has been a challenge for Great South Bay Audubon Society. Along with social distancing has come mental distancing. It has been difficult to keep the momentum of involvement going. Thanks to Legislator Anthony Piccirillo, we have received a generous grant 3 years in a row that has enabled us to maintain and improve our newsletters, web page and social media as well as to purchase a Zoom account and host quality educational programs during the months we don’t meet in person. We have also explored some other opportunities. We have applied for an Audubon Works grant, that, if we are awarded it, will be used for a project to create a rain garden at the County Offices in Hauppauge. This educational outreach will also serve the environment well, given that the building is across the street from Blydenburgh County Park, which already is host to many bird species.

We are also exploring the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation grant, with the mission to improve historic heritage. Since Brookside County Park is the historic site of what remains for the Isaac Green Estate, we would be able to use the funds to reproduce some of the historic photographs of the family and estate as well as offer gardening classes at the park during the planting season. These classes would include education on native plants, shrubs and trees, pollinator plants and garden design. Funding could possibly be used to improve the frontage appearance of the park.

All these plans will take more than a handful of people. We would be enthusiastically grateful for you to consider volunteering for some of these projects. There will be a variety of things to do for all different skill levels, from someone with managerial skills to people who can use power tools to writers to the hospitality people to provide the sustenance.

Feeder Survey: Spring 2022

compiled by Helga Merryman

Recently, Wild Turkeys have become a more common sight on Long Island, you see them walking on the grass alongside highways and at Morton's Wildlife Refuge, also visiting the Horman's backyard in November. Turkeys were first domesticated in Central America around 800 BC For their meat Indigenous North Americans began using turkey feathers in robes and blankets around 200 B.C. Most of us are familiar with the common turkey, but there's another kind in Central America, the Ocelated Turkey, smaller with a bright blue head and flashes of iridescent, peacock-like feathers. Wild Turkeys were driven to the point of extinction in the early 1900's with only about 200,000 left in the wild due to overhunting and loss of habitat. Luckily in the 1940s, restoration efforts were successful and with the cooperation of hunters and naturalists. The population has grown to over 6 million wild birds in the US today. The only U.S. state without any Wild Turkeys is Alaska. About the turkey, Benjamin Franklin wrote that in comparison to the bald eagle, the turkey is "a much more respectable bird, and withal a true original Native of America...He is besides, though a little vain & silly, a "bird of courage." The name turkey became known as such in the English language because turkeys and their close relatives, guinea fowl, were initially brought into Europe by turkish merchants. Turkeys follow a strict pecking order and are known to attack birds and even people they feel are inferior, this occurs mostly during the spring mating season. It is recommended not to look the birds in the eye, so as not to provoke an attack. Town officials in Brookline, Massachusetts encourage residents to clang pots, yell, spray the turkeys with hoses and swat them away with brooms to avoid unwanted confrontations. Now we can add ducking aggressive Turkeys to our list of everything else we have to avoid.

The GSBAS Feeder Survey has been run for many years. The reward of the survey is to bring awareness of nature to our doorstep and share our observations with others. Visit greatsouthbayaudubon.org to learn more about how the survey works.

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2021

Red-tailed Hawk 1/1	European Starling 146//50
Sharp-shinned Hawk 1/1	Fox Sparrow 0/3
Cooper's Hawk 2/2	Song Sparrow 4/10
Rock Pigeon 5/8	White-throated Sparrow 31/40
Mourning Dove 98/136	Dark-eyed Junco 34/32
Monk Parakeet 11/0	Northern Cardinal 26/28
Red-bellied Woodpecker 8/9	Red-winged Blackbird 30/16
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 0/2	Common Grackle 231/6
Downy Woodpecker 10/11	Brown-headed Cowbird 9/2
Hairy Woodpecker 4/4	House Finch 43/66
Northern Flicker 3/4	American Goldfinch 10/0
Blue Jay 47/43	House Sparrow 60/80
American Crow 15/14	
Black-capped Chickadee 25/26	OTHER SPECIES
Tufted Titmouse 12/13	Wild Turkey 9/0
Red-breasted Nuthatch 0/0	Red-Eyed Vireo 1/0
White-breasted Nuthatch 4/5	Brown Creeper 1/1
Carolina Wren 7/13	Golden-Crowned Kinglet 1/0
American Robin 58/3	Common Raven 3 /4
Northern Mockingbird 3/5	Pine Siskin 0/1

Become a member!

As 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 \$20 Renewal \$20

New Membership Senior (62+) \$15

Renewal Senior (62+) \$15

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

PRESIDENT

Jody Banaszak (631) 278-4059

VICE PRESIDENT (INTERIM)

Jack Carlson (631) 988-6808

TREASURER

Annette Brownell (631) 260-8089

RECORDING SECRETARY

Steve D'Amato (631) 264-8413

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Arlene Rawls (516) 712-9514

Jack Carlson (631) 988-6808

Karen Esposito (631) 960-1741

Steve D'Amato (631) 264-8413

Steven Steinbaum (631) 994-6970

Vera Capogna (516) 639-5430

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

AUDUBON ACTIVIST (Open)

BROOKSIDE COORDINATOR

Steven Steinbaum (631) 994-6970

HOSPITALITY (Open)

LIBRARIAN

Vera Capogna (631) 563-4969

NEWSLETTER / MARKETING

Spirit of Huntington (631) 470-9620

NATURE WALKS

Ken Thompson (631) 612-8028

PROGRAMS

Karen Esposito (631) 960-1741

PUBLICITY

Helga Merryman (631) 669-6473

STAR FOUNDATION (SAVE THE ANIMALS RESCUE)

(631) 736-8207



Great South Bay Audubon Society
PO Box 267, Sayville, NY 11782
A Chapter of National Audubon



NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
SAYVILLE, NY 11782
PERMIT NO. 108

Or Current Resident
Dated Material: Please Do Not Delay



GSBAS Direct Phone Number
(631) 563-7716

GSBAS Website

greatsouthbayaudubon.org

GSBAS Email Address

greatsouthbayaudubon@gmail.com



THE SANDPIPER

Remembering some of our members who have passed away last year.

Bob Wilson, Long time member, volunteer, Brookside, Hawk watch Bluebird trail etc.

Harry Anderson, Long time member, Sandpiper editor, contributor to Sandpiper etc.

Astrid Otero, Long Time member, GSBAS Historian, poet Sandpiper contributor

Ken Ward, Long Time member, Past president of GSBAS promoted restoration and preservation of the Orowoc creek preserve in Islip 1988.



Photo: Black & White Warbler, Karen Esposito