

TRACS Adjusting For A Promising Future

By Marilyn England

The Theodore Roosevelt Audubon Center and Sanctuary (TRACS) has recently undergone a series of changes. This fall Karl Brummert joined staff as the new director of education. Karl brings a wealth of experience from the New York Botanical Garden, where he served as the program director. Karl will continue the work begun by former education director Jay Teyan and program coordinator Sue Napodano including revamping the sanctuary's educational programs to meet national and state science standards, and developing new curricula. Although Sue and Jay have left Audubon, their legacy of excellence will endure far into the future. Joining Karl's team as program coordinator is the former TRACS volunteer coordinator, Theresa Perez who jumped into her new position with

both feet during summer camp. After such an auspicious start, it's assured she'll be able to handle anything that comes along!

Staff changes aren't the only thing new at TRACS. Over the spring and summer, the sanctuary's grounds have undergone a makeover to improve habitat for birds and other wildlife. To accomplish this daunting task, staff, interns, and volunteers have been removing non-native plants (such as the ubiquitous English ivy) and replacing them with Long Island natives. Research coordinator Trish Pelkowski has directed this work and has overseen the management of native grasslands that the sanctuary established at The Hoffman Center, a privately owned nature preserve. Though only a year old, the grassland has been valuable for the study of Long Island's birds—over 300 were banded at the Hoffman banding station this summer including a Long Island rarity, the Yellow-breasted Chat. Plans are underway to link our education and

public outreach programs with The Hoffman Center project using the restored grassland to illustrate key ecological and conservation concepts.

Perhaps the biggest change is the sanctuary's reintegration with Audubon New York. After a 25-year hiatus in which the sanctuary was separately incorporated and managed by three local Audubon chapters namely North Shore Audubon, South Shore Audubon, and Huntington Audubon, the sanctuary has rejoined the Audubon New York family. The three previously managing chapters will join members of the community to work with the sanctuary through an advisory board. The merger will expand the sanctuary's educational and research opportunities calling upon Audubon New York's expertise in these areas. Theodore Roosevelt Audubon Center and Sanctuary is very excited to have returned home, and looks forward to future success.



KIMBERLEY L. RAY

On May 19 volunteers – both large and small – cheerfully took part in Theodore Roosevelt's Canon Cleanup Day and were treated to lunch and birding workshop by Theodore Roosevelt's staff.



KIMBERLEY L. RAY

The statue entitled "Youth in Nature" marks the entrance of the Theodore Roosevelt Audubon Center and Sanctuary.

Making the Grade at Prospect Park

Staff Report

It's back to school time for the staff of the Prospect Park Audubon Center and Boathouse. The center's Teacher Advisory Group, comprised of eight science mentors and classroom teachers from Community School District #17, met with the staff throughout the summer to develop the new school programs.

The teachers toured the Prospect Park Boathouse, a historic structure currently undergoing a major renovation which will house the new Audubon Center. They also viewed a scale model of the future Boathouse, prepared by the design firm, May & Watkins, that features exhibit components. Teachers offered their feedback and suggestions for the new interactive exhibits, which include opportunities for students to "see like a bird," practice their listening and sight bird identification skills, and participate in citizen science activities.

Discussion topics ranged from content to logistics to creating marketing strategies aimed at classroom teachers. "It's great to be able to bring teachers into the planning process," says Cheryl Bartholow, director of the Prospect Park Audubon Center. "We want the Center to be a place that teachers view as essential to their student's learning process, and that the resources we develop are ones that will be useful to teachers."

This fall the group will review plans developed by Glenn Phillips, the Center's new director of education. School classes will pilot the programs during the winter months. Programs will be evaluated, refined and revised before the Center's official opening in April 2002.

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What A Day! Prun Celebration Draws 250 People

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It was a perfect summer day—sunny, bright, blue skies, puffy clouds and mid -70s temperatures—and the perfect day for the Prun Celebration!

More than 250 people visited Prun Sanctuary on July 7 to celebrate the official opening of the Arboretum, Butterfly & Hummingbird Garden, and Interpretive Trail. Forty people joined education director Anne Swaim on each of two scheduled walks through the sanctuary along the interpretive trail.

Saw Mill River Audubon president Richard Saravay hosted the opening ceremony and welcomed special guests and speakers including New Castle Town Supervisor Marion Sinek, Village of Mount Kisco Mayor Pat Reilly, New Castle Town board member John Diaconis, and chair of the Mount Kisco Beautification Committee Carol Welch. A ribbon cutting culminated the ceremony and was followed by lemonade and cookies for all.

To the delight of all, the garden was in full bloom and a variety of butterflies, bees, and even a hummingbird fed there throughout the day. Visitors enjoyed strolling through the Arboretum and identifying its collection of trees and shrubs with the help of a new, detailed map.

Come enjoy the garden all summer and the Arboretum and Interpretive Trail throughout the year!

Thanks again to the Prun Celebration Committee, garden and arboretum volunteers, The Norcross Wildlife Foundation, and the Mount Kisco Beautification Committee for making these new features at Prun Sanctuary and this celebration possible.

For more information call (914) 666-6503.



CHRISTINE NYKWEST/SMRAS
A Great-spangled Fritillary (butterfly) briefly lands on a Globe Thistle.