



## 2017 Summer Sanctuary Adventures

Fun for 5-12 year olds!

**July 5-August 31, 2017**

Mon—Thurs 9 am—3 pm

**For brochure and registration information visit:**

<http://ny.audubon.org/TRSanctuary>



**CAMP UPDATE:** We had awesome Winter and Spring Sanctuary Adventures this year in February and April. The kids had an amazing time tracking animals, building shelters, doing science experiments, and learning about our resident animals. Sign up early next year for these great vacation weeks. We are now gearing up for our best **SUMMER SANCTUARY ADVENTURES** yet! Our summer sessions are almost completely sold out. We are looking forward to having Aquatic Adventures, helping kids become survivors with Kid vs. Wild, and becoming outdoor engineers with Nature Builders. We look forward to some great outdoor adventures with the kids this summer, including Wonderland tree climbing, fishing and seine netting, obstacle courses, learning survivor skills, and our family style campfires Thursday afternoons. It's going to be a great summer!

### Directions to the Sanctuary:

#### By L. I. E.:

Take Exit 41 North, Route 106. Take 106 North to the village of Oyster Bay. Make a right onto East Main Street. Go 1 1/2 miles up East Main Street and you will see signs for the T. R. Sanctuary parking lot. The parking lot is on your right.

#### By 25A:

Take 25A to Cove Road. Go 2 miles north on Cove Road. You will see a sign on your right pointing to the T. R. Sanctuary parking lot on your left.

### Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary &

#### Audubon Center

134 Cove Rd.

Oyster Bay, NY 11771

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Spring 2017

# trailside

Newsletter of the nation's first Audubon songbird sanctuary  
established 1923

## Reimagining the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary and Audubon Center

The Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary and Audubon Center (TRSAC), located in Oyster Bay, New York, was established in 1923 as the nation's first Audubon songbird sanctuary. The property was generously donated by Roosevelt family members in memory of Theodore Roosevelt, the 26th President of the United States. The TRSAC was founded with the mission of providing a protected environment for songbirds whose populations were in decline. We have reimagined the TRSAC as a cornerstone of our conservation, science, policy, and environmental education across Long Island. Long Island's ecosystem is globally



significant for the survival of migrating shorebirds and waterbirds of the Atlantic Flyway. We are currently working to make TRSAC a state-of-the-art facility that will offer the community opportunities to enjoy the wonders of nature, learn about the importance of the Long Island ecosystem to birds of the Atlantic Flyway, engage in the protection of Long Island, and offer innovative environmental education programs for all ages.

### The Challenge

While the TRSAC serves as the base for our Long Island work and offers wonderful environmental education programs, the facilities and grounds are in need of improvement.

### What We're Doing

Audubon New York has developed a Master Plan for the TRSAC that reimagines the Sanctuary grounds and facilities as a gateway to outdoor exploration and a pathway to long-term environmental stewardship. Audubon New York is planning to undertake a series of improvement projects to better align our work and to enhance visitor experience. The total funding required for these critical upgrades is approximately \$1 million.

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### Sanctuary Hours:

**Monday—Friday 9-4**

The Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary & Audubon Center is open weekdays 9am-4pm

Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary & Audubon Center • 134 Cove Road, Oyster Bay, NY 11771 • T (516) 922-3200 • [trsac@audubon.org](mailto:trsac@audubon.org)



Volunteer Spotlight: Barbara Mallon

By: Kathryn D’Amico

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We could not fulfill Audubon’s mission without our dedicated and amazing volunteers. Each volunteer brings a unique background and skill set, and they all make a difference in their own way. We are very fortunate at Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary & Audubon Center (TRSAC) to have so many devoted volunteers that help us to reach the community – children and adults alike. Each helps us spread the word that **Birds Matter!**

When I think of our volunteers at the sanctuary, one person comes immediately to mind - Barbara Mallon. Barbara has been volunteering with TRSAC since September 2011! That’s almost six years of teaching

children, leading trail walks, helping plant gardens, showing children how to use binoculars, and supporting the sanctuary staff in many other ways. Barbara began volunteering with TRSAC after taking a nature walk with one of our Teacher/ Naturalists. She visited the sanctuary to get some volunteer information and six years later, she is still volunteering on a regular basis.

When I asked Barbara what keeps her returning to volunteer at TRSAC, she said she especially likes working with children and leading the trail walks. She also enjoys being in the classroom doing programs with the children and she says, getting them “turned on” to birds, animals, gardens, and nature is very gratifying. She is patient, informative, and connects with the kids by introducing them to the natural world around them.

Barbara’s favorite thing about the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary & Audubon Center is “the quiet, quaintness of the sanctuary property itself.” I think she sums it up perfectly, “it’s very invigorating in a peaceful way in that the ambiance renews your spirit!” Well said Barbara, well said!

Volunteer and Help Make the Sanctuary a Better Place!

With a vibrant volunteer program in place, the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary and Audubon Center staff are expanding volunteer opportunities. In addition to Volunteer Naturalist/Educator, Volunteer Wildlife Care Assistant, Volunteer Groundskeeper, and Volunteer Special Events Attendant, the TRSAC volunteer program now hosts educational field trips, seasonal stewardship activities, social gatherings, outreach opportunities, research, and more! To learn more about the volunteer program contact Kathryn D’Amico, Volunteer Coordinator 516-922-3200 or email [kdamico@audubon.org](mailto:kdamico@audubon.org).

Thank you!

The Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary and Audubon Center staff would like to express our gratitude for your recent contributions and responses to our annual appeal. Your continued support of the Sanctuary is greatly appreciated!

Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary & Audubon Center 2017 Benefit  
Saturday, March 25th, 2017  
Thank you to our Benefit Supporters

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Sanctuary Wishlist

Donations are always welcome, but if you would like to make a non-monetary donation here are some items that would aide in our advancement of nature center operations. We also have a wish list on Amazon.

Kayaks  
Acorn Naturalist Gift Card  
Eco-Friendly Cleaning Supplies  
Dip Nets for Programs and Camps  
Folding Canopy  
Battery Powered Entrance Counter  
Digital Blue QX5 Digital Microscope  
Generator  
IPad for programs/pledge signing  
Spotting Scopes

AED  
Digital Camera  
Portable LCD Projector  
Portable Projection Screen  
Personal Floatation Devices/Life Jackets  
Microscope for Center Display  
Water Quality Testing Kits  
Folding Chairs for Events  
Art & Crafts Supplies– markers, crayons, paper, etc.



# The Sanctuary's New Bee Hives

By: Christopher Gunder

The Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary & Audubon Center has two new bee hives! Bees are very important because flowering plants and crops rely upon bees to pollinate them. Without bees, a third of the world's supply of fruits and vegetables could vanish. The Sanctuary is embarking on a major renovation that includes many new native plants and native demonstration gardens. These bees play a vital role in the health of the ecosystem at the sanctuary.

Our new resident bees came from North Carolina and are Italian honey bees. The two most popular strains of bees are the Italian honey bees and Russian bees. This is because the Italian honey bees have a good temperament and the Russian bees are very resilient.

When it comes to insects, bees are the only ones that produce food that humans can eat. Much of the honey that bees produce in their hives are used by the bees themselves as food, although beehives do produce extra honey that is used for human consumption. In some cases a single beehive can produce over a hundred extra pounds of honey!

Everyone at the Sanctuary is very excited to start this new adventure and learn more about the bees. They are also a great teaching tool, as well.



# Gardeners of the Sound at Sagamore Hill NHS

By: Julie Nelsen

Gardeners of the Sound was funded by the National Fish and Wildlife Futures Fund and was designed to expose and inspire youth from an underserved community to understand and appreciate the economic, recreational and cultural value of the Long Island Sound (LIS) and for the students to take part in a significant stewardship project. Fifth grade students from Washington Rose School, located in Roosevelt, participated in a series of in-class workshops that focused on the significance of the LIS, watershed management, the effects of pesticides and pollutants and the importance of salt marshes and native plants.

The culminating project was the planting of a native demonstration garden at Sagamore Hill National Historical Site. Students gained a deeper understanding about native pollinators, their habitat needs and how to design a garden. They learned that spaces created specifically for native pollinators can help struggling plant populations. These observations were applied in making informed decisions in planning the design of Sagamore Hill's garden.

In all, 150 plants were planted with 16 different species represented (Winterberry, Low Bush Blueberry, Little Bluestem, Switchgrass, Joe Pyeweed, New England Aster, Swamp Milkweed, Purple Coneflower, Cardinal Flower, Bee Balm, Wild Columbine, Seaside Golden Rod, Black Eyed Susan, Butterfly Weed, Wild Geranium, Blue False Indigo). Plaques mark each species and serve as tools during tours to inform and educate the public on sustainable gardening and how to create native gardens in their own backyards. The students, educators and volunteers were truly proud to have the opportunity to take part in such a meaningful stewardship project for visitors to Sagamore Hill to enjoy and to learn about.



*The mission of the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary & Audubon Center is to connect people with nature while promoting a sense of environmental stewardship through natural science educational programs.*

THEODORE ROOSEVELT  
SANCTUARY & Audubon  
CENTER

## Help Us Welcome the Goats!

Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary & Audubon Center is hosting about a dozen goats this summer as they are brought in to control invasive plants on the Sanctuary grounds, primarily English Ivy. Audubon New York has received a grant from the US Fish & Wildlife Service to aid in controlling the ivy on the Sanctuary grounds. The ivy is so thick on parts of the property that hand-pulling and traditional mechanical controls aren't feasible and goats have proven to be an effective means to eradicate invasive plants without the use of herbicides.



Photo credit: [www.green-goats.com](http://www.green-goats.com)

The goats and fencing have been provided by Green Goats of Rhinebeck, NY, the same company that provided goats for the Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society and NYSDEC project at Underhill Preserve, as well as the North Shore Land Alliance project at the Humes Property, both last year.

The fencing was erected on May 20<sup>th</sup> and the goats arrived a few days later for an expected 12-14 week stay. In addition to being safe for the ecosystem, the goats are quiet, clean and contained with state-of-the-art fencing. If you'd like to see them, visit TRSAC during regular operating hours, Monday-Friday 9 am - 4 pm..

**Volunteer Opportunities:** Volunteers are needed to help check on the goats and provide clean water for the goats daily during the summer. If you are interested in volunteering for this project please contact Kathryn D'Amico at 516-922-3200 or [kdamico@audubon.org](mailto:kdamico@audubon.org)

Audubon NEW YORK

Green Goats  
of Rhinebeck, NY



# Naturalist's Notebook

## Overview of the Long Island Bird Conservation Program

By: Amanda Pachomski



(Photo Credit: Seren Bagcilar)

The Long Island Bird Conservation program is part of an international conservation effort to stabilize and increase populations of coastal birds and reduce threats to their survival. Long Island's coast provides critical stopover habitat for migrating shorebirds like the Red Knot as well as breeding habitat for beach-nesting birds, including the Piping Plover, American Oystercatcher, Black Skimmer, and Roseate, Common, and Least Terns. Working closely with the seven Long Island Audubon Chapters, partners and volunteers, we strive to conserve these priority bird species through stewardship, monitoring, outreach, and community engagement. Each year, Audubon New York staff, volunteers, and partners steward and monitor the

productivity of nesting birds on Long Island's north and south shore beaches while educating families and engaging local communities in conservation.

In 2016, we saw an increase in the number of Piping Plover pairs at our six stewardship sites, with 14 breeding pairs (up from nine pairs in 2015). However, due to high predation pressure at a site, our productivity dropped down to 1.43 chicks fledged/pair from 2.33 chicks fledged/pair in 2015. While our average productivity was lower than the Piping Plover Recovery Plan goal of 1.5, Piping Plovers on Long Island overall had a highly successful breeding season in 2016. 381 pairs nested on Long Island, up from 303 pairs in 2015, with an average productivity of 1.73 chicks fledges/pair. The goal for the NY-NJ recovery unit of the Atlantic Coast Piping Plover recovery plan is 575 pairs. NJ had approximately 115 plover pairs in 2016, so that brings the unit's 2016 population to 496. So, we still have work to do, but we're making great progress!

To learn more about our coastal program, visit [ny.audubon.org](http://ny.audubon.org).



(Photo Credit: Seren Bagcilar)



(Photo Credit: Hillary Cresko)

## "Be a Good Egg" Teaching LI Beachgoers to Share The Shore With Nesting Birds

By: Amanda Pachomski

Audubon's "Be a Good Egg" Outreach Initiative (BGE) strives to reduce human disturbance threats to beach-nesting birds, including the Piping Plover (federally threatened; NY endangered), by increasing the public's awareness of and appreciation for beach-nesting birds. Our goal is to create a culture of coastal conservation to ensure that beaches are a safe place for both birds and people. To reach as broad and diverse an audience as possible, we work with schools, communities, and local and regional partners.

Through education, engagement, and social marketing, Audubon staff, volunteers, chapters, and partners encourage beachgoers to take simple steps to share the shore with nesting birds. We work with local elementary schools to create beach-nesting bird signs using children's artwork. Students learn about beach-nesting bird species, their habitats, and conservation needs and then participate in a "share the shore" sign design contest. Staff select a subset of the students' designs to create weather-resistant signs to install at local beaches to alert beach-goers of nesting areas and encourage people to avoid disturbing the birds. Also, we host "on the beach" outreach events on weekends in June and July, during which we table at the entrances of priority Long Island beaches and talk to as many beachgoers as possible about beach nesting birds. We provide visitors with pamphlets and brochures about beach-nesting bird biology, our conservation work, and information on how to reduce disturbances to birds. Then, we ask visitors to sign our "Be a Good Egg" pledge and therefore agree to stay out of fenced-off nesting areas, keep trash off the beach, and not bring dogs to nesting beaches. Through this, individual beach-goers can collectively create a safer place for beach-nesting birds to raise their young.



Thanks to the hard work of our volunteers, partners, and the Long Island Audubon chapters, this program has grown each year since its inception. To date, over 6,500 people have signed our pledge to respectfully share the shore with beach-nesting birds. With your continued support, we can make 2017 our best year yet by getting 3,000 new pledges.

If you're interested in helping out with this exciting outreach initiative, please email Kaley Donovan at ([kdonovan@audubon.org](mailto:kdonovan@audubon.org)) for more information and to sign up to volunteer. Events will occur in June and July; please stay tuned for specific dates and locations. To see photos from our fieldwork and outreach events, check out our Good Egg Facebook at [fb.me/AudubonGoodEgg](https://fb.me/AudubonGoodEgg). Also, if you haven't yet signed our pledge and aren't able to attend our outreach events, you can now take the pledge on our Audubon New York website: [www.ny.audubon.org/BGE](http://www.ny.audubon.org/BGE)

We would like to thank PSEG Long Island and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for supporting this program.