

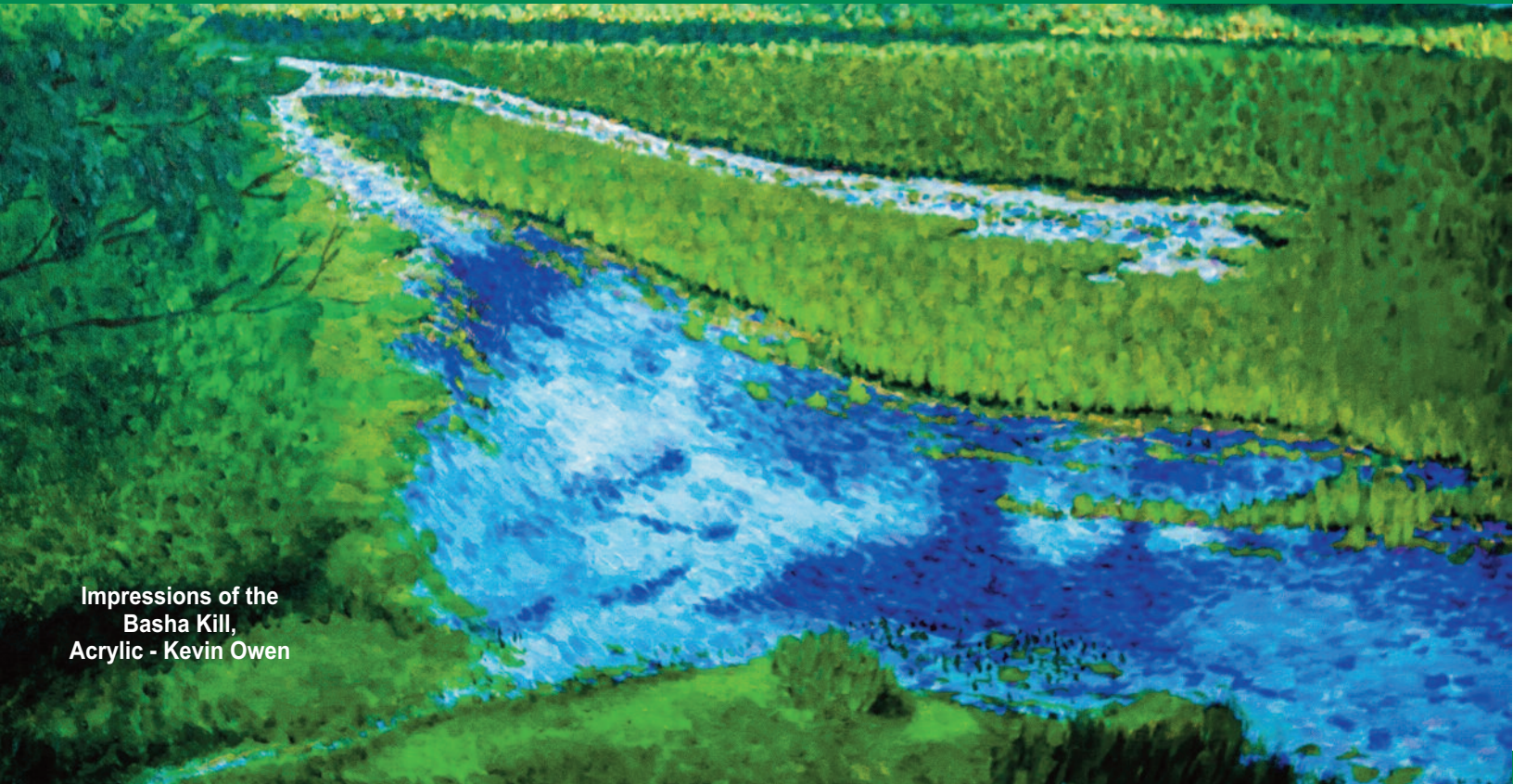


BKAA

GUARDIAN

Volume 32, Number 3

Autumn 2018



Impressions of the
Basha Kill,
Acrylic - Kevin Owen

Basha Kill Inspires Wurtsboro Art Alliance Show



Bridge Over the Bash
Oil - Jim Scott



Bashakill Kayaks
Watercolor - Laura Kohlmann



Basking at the Bashakill
Photograph - John Kocijanski

MAILBAG:

August 3, 2018



BKAA,

Please accept this donation in memory of Barbara Merritt. Thank you for all you do to preserve this most wonderful area.

Best wishes to all,

Al Merritt

June 15, 2018

Dear BCAA,

Once again, John Burroughs Natural History Society is pleased to donate \$100 to BCAA for all the many efforts you undertake to protect your side of the Shawangunk Ridge.

Best,

Lin Fagan,

Treasurer, JBNHS

Dear BCAA,

Just a note to praise your excellent website. I especially appreciate the crisp writing and environmental information provided by Linda Gette. I've been a resident of the greater Delaware River Watershed for over 30 years in Pennsylvania's Northampton, Bucks and Lehigh Counties and, now as I am frequently visiting friends in the area (Westbrookville and Kerhonkson), I look forward to learning more about the region and its history.

Many thanks!

Phyllis Hamilton

**CONTACT THE BCAA**

Paula Medley 845-754-0743, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. email: info@thebashakill.org website: www.thebashakill.org

CONTACT THE DEC

Environmental Conservation Officers (ECO's) & Forest Rangers Covering the Bashakill WMA for the NYS DEC

ECO's: Officer Ricky Wood 845-665-5637 (cell)

Officer Thomas Koepf 845-612-6099 (cell)

Forest Rangers: Matthew Hettenbaugh 845-428-1039 (cell) Richard Franke 845-423-1994 (cell)

Call 24-hour DEC Law Enforcement Dispatch at 1-877-457-5680 if the Officers are not available.

The *Guardian* is published quarterly by the Basha Kill Area Association Inc., PO Box 1121, Wurtsboro, NY 12790.

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Guardian Editor: Paula Medley

Mission Statement: Since our founding in 1972, our mission has been to protect the Basha Kill Wetlands and surrounding area from ecological degradation, to promote education and respect for the environment in general, and to preserve the beauty of the area.

We welcome new members who are interested in protecting the environment. Dues are \$10 per person per year.

BKAA is a not-for-profit corporation and donations are deductible to the extent allowed by law.

website: www.thebashakill.org • e-mail: info@thebashakill.org

2018 BKAA Calendar of Events

All activities free and open to the public!

Saturday, September 29, 10 am

Canoe/Kayak the Basha Kill with Scott Graber and Mike Medley

Join naturalists Scott and Mike for a late season venture on this first day of autumn. Bring your own vessel and binoculars. Meet at the South Road Boat Launch. Call Mike at (845) 754-0743 to register and for more details.

NEW EVENT - Friday, October 12, 7-9 pm

Free Public Star Watch by John Kocijanski of the Catskills Astronomy Club

Bring scopes and/or binoculars. Meet at the South Road Boat Launch, across from Bashakill Vineyards. To register, call John at (845) 798-8087. For event updates, visit Catskills Astronomy Club's Facebook page. Rain date the following day.

Sunday, October 21, 9:30 am

Hike the Shawangunk Ridge with a NY-NJ Trail Conference Trail Maintainer.

Event co-sponsored with Trail Conference. Moderately difficult hike, lasting 4-5 hours. Wear comfortable sturdy shoes and bring water, lunch and binoculars. Meet at the D&H Canal Kiosk at the Pat Moore Memorial Picnic Grove on Sullivan Street in Wurtsboro. Must register by calling Paula at (845) 754-0743.

Sunday, November 4, 9 am

Hike the Minisink Trail at Huckleberry State Forest in the Town of Greenville with Mike Medley

Join Mike on a beautiful 5 mile loop hike on the Shawangunk Ridge. Wear comfortable sturdy shoes and bring water and lunch. Bring binoculars. Carpool or travel in a caravan led by Mike. Meet at South Road fishing platform (Westbrookville end) at 9:00am. **Absolutely must register** for this trip by calling Mike at (845) 754-0743.

Autumn 2018 New Members & Donors

Autumn 2018 New Members

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Laura Reynolds — Mario Salpepi — Rose Sena — Patricia Sterner

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MEMBERS & DONORS continued on page 4

MEMBERS & DONORS continued from page 3

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The Wurtsboro Art Alliance Partners With the BKAA On A Basha Kill Show

Kitty Mitchell, WAA President

During June, the Wurtsboro Art Alliance (Alliance), collaborating with the Basha Kill Area Association (BKAA), featured an exhibit of over 60 art works inspired by the Bashakill Wildlife Management Area's (WMA) unique natural vistas and biodiversity. Displayed were creations in photography, acrylics, oil, and water colors, among other mediums, representing herons, eagles, snakes, country roads, and the Shawangunk Ridge bordering the WMA. Some are portrayed on the cover and page 11 of this publication.

The opening reception was held on June 9 and was well attended by contributing artists, BKAA members, and visitors new to both groups. Throughout the month, many came to the John Neilson Gallery to enjoy the show and be greeted by BKAA President Paula Medley, who answered questions concerning the largest freshwater wetlands in southeastern New York and the value of maintaining this natural area for the future. Ms. Medley also promoted joining the BKAA to continue their Mission of "...preserving the beauty of the area and promoting education and respect for the environment in general." This is the second year the Alliance has dedicated a full month exhibit to the Bashakill and it looks forward to continuing to do so.

Some background...Fifteen years ago, a group of 6 local artists regularly met in a Wurtsboro restaurant to discuss art and review each other's work. In 2005, at John Neilson's initiative, the Wurtsboro Art Alliance was founded.

Due to generous Town and Village Boards, the Alliance initially acquired an 800 ft. gallery space. In 2014, we increased our capacity to over 2000 sq. ft. and we are now housed at the John Neilson Gallery at 73 Sullivan Street in Wurtsboro. In 2018, the Alliance became a non-profit organization and has grown to 50 members. We are a diverse and prolific group of artists, who create in oil, watercolor, acrylic, pastel, collage, photography and block printing. We also include potters, along with textile and jewelry artists. The Alliance is non-judgmental and membership is open to all artists and patrons of Sullivan, Orange, and Ulster Counties. The Alliance's Mission Statement is "to promote participation and provide encouragement to local artists, both established and emerging, by providing gallery space to exhibit their work, to allow members to teach and demonstrate their craft in order to engage with the community in the arts." Consequently, we offer monthly themed exhibits and classes, which are free or at low cost. We partner with the community to furnish the public with dynamic and versatile presentations depicting our surroundings and world at large. The John Neilson Gallery at 73 Sullivan Street, Wurtsboro is open Sat. and Sun., 12-4pm. Information on future shows and classes can be found at our website www.waagallery.org. Inquiries can be sent to info@waagallery.org.

TELL A FRIEND ABOUT THE BASHA KILL AREA ASSOCIATION!

Have your friends fill out this coupon for membership or more information:
P.O. Box 1121, Wurtsboro, NY 12790

Yes, I'm interested in the environment and wish to become a member of Basha Kill Area Association. Enclosed is:

_____ \$10.00 for individual membership _____ Other Donation _____ Please send more information

Please make checks payable to: **Basha Kill Area Association**

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ Email _____
(for action alerts)

Finishing Up the 16th Nature Watch Season

Maryallison Farley

In its 16th year of operation, a dedicated cadre (41 people) of BKAA Nature Watch (NW) volunteers worked as educational ambassadors for the Basha Kill. They recorded observations about behavior of the nesting bald eagle pair at the southern end of the Basha Kill (Nesting Territory # 35 of NYS DEC Region 3), even though the young (we don't know how many) did not survive for some reason after the hatch in early April. Fortunately, even without young to raise, the bald eagle pair remained in their territory and were often seen with each other throughout the NW season. Volunteers and visitors had many opportunities to watch them, along with other adult and immature bald eagles. Ospreys did not build a nest across the Kill from the boat launch this year as they usually do, so that, too, was another challenge for our program. However, we occasionally saw individual ospreys in the area throughout the season.

Overall, these events meant that NW volunteers had to be even more resourceful than usual when they interacted with visitors, emphasizing the great biodiversity of this wetland. Volunteer Lisa Soderblom gets the prize for the most unusual sighting and photograph taken by NW in 2018 as she and volunteers Maureen and Willie Bowers on the June 9th AM shift spotted a young black bear sitting on vegetation out in the water not far from the boat launch! The bear was later seen on the trail leading north from the boat launch.

Because of NW's emphasis on bald eagles, we're happy to report that this year, the newer pair at the northern end of the Basha Kill, successfully built a nest and from it, raised and fledged two young eagles.

As it does each year, NW began the 2018 season with the annual Volunteer Training. Scott Rando, local nature photographer and writer, gave an excellent, centerpiece presentation for the Training. He focused on the natural history of the bald eagles, using his own outstanding photos from the Delaware River region. He also included an update on status of the eagles in this area. We especially appreciate that Scott returned to share valuable information with us at our Training for a second time. Special thanks also go to Nathan "Nate" Ermer, NYSDEC Wildlife Biologist who manages the Bashakill Wildlife Management Area, and who attended our Training as a resource person.

With training under their belts, the NW Team then covered week-end shifts at the boat launch from April 21st to June 24th (ten weeks) and logged in approximately 1,288 visitors (down from a total of 1,522 visitors from last year) and 319 boats (down from 425 boats last year). These lower numbers probably reflect having excessive rainy weather

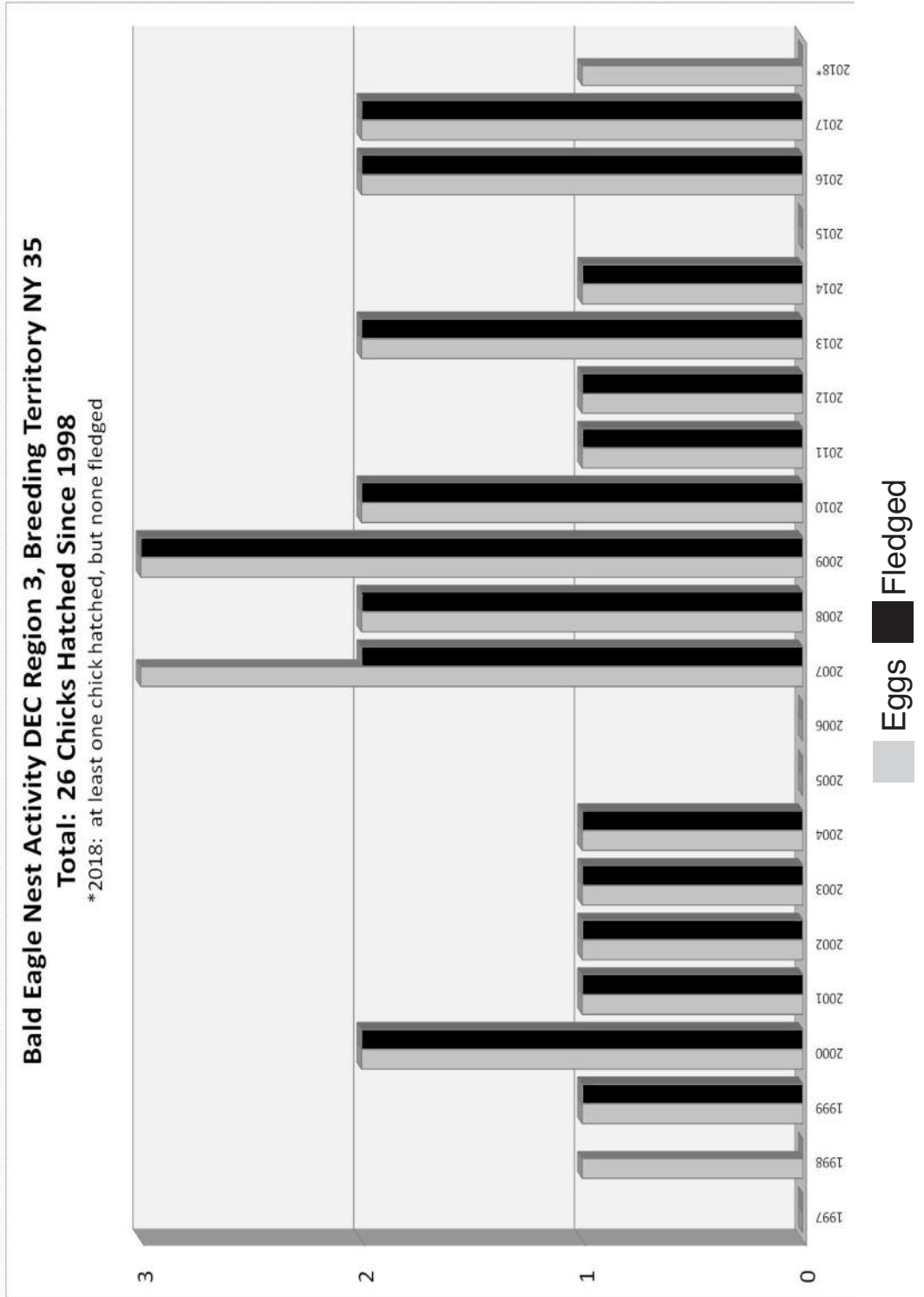
this season which really gave us a run for our money. We had to cancel seven of our three hour shifts because of rain. That means we lost 21 hours of coverage. Five additional shifts were shortened due to weather. In one other case, a car alarm going off endlessly in the boat launch parking lot with no relief in sight drove our volunteers to pack up for the day! We have an amazingly dedicated group of volunteers who stuck with the program in spite of the various difficulties that they faced this year. Finally, at the end of the season, we send the summary of our data and weekly observations to the DEC for their use.

Our volunteers are at the core of this program including Co-Leaders Maryallison Farley, Cathy Liljequist and Kevin Keller. Cath is our admin. expert, handling the data input and summary. Thanks especially to Cath for taking on this job which requires great attention to detail and computer skills! Kevin works hands-on with our volunteers, spending most of his time with them at the boat launch. He is great at helping volunteers communicate with visitors, letting them know what a special resource we have here and the role that the BKAA plays in protecting and advocating for it. Basha Kill birder extraordinaire, John Haas, our key birding resource person, Gary Keeton, long-time Basha Kill naturalist and Cathy Dawkins, creator of our beautiful NW graphs, complete the 2018 Nature Watch Team. Ours is truly a collaborative effort!

Thanks to All of Our 2018 Nature Watch Volunteers:

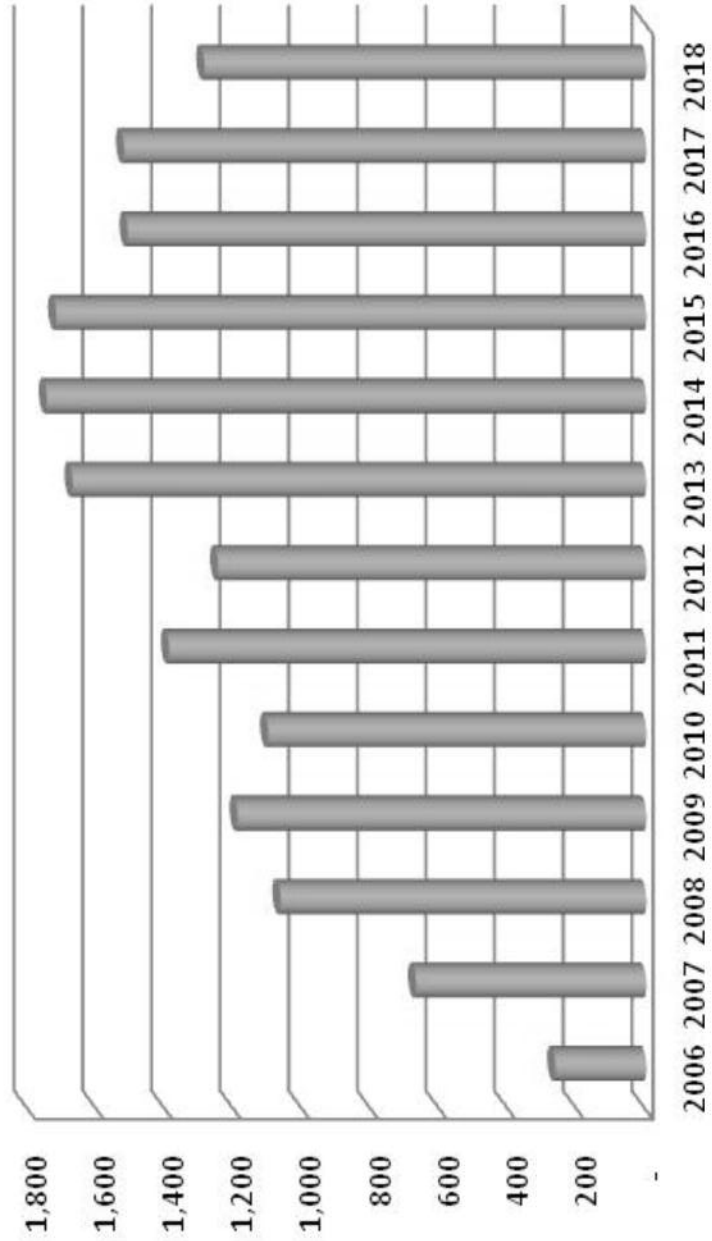
Wilma Amthor	Tracey Kelly
Maureen & Willie Bowers	Don Kenny
Nora Brusinski	Gil Kulick
Ann Cartwright	Eileen Lake
Gef Chumard	Dianna Levine
Frank Coviello	Robin Kukla & Cathy Liljequist
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David Goggins	Lara Sheikh
Mary Ann Geary-Halchak	Nicole Slevin
Barbara & Victor Heitz	Lisa Soderblom
John Kocijanski	
Kevin Keller	

BKAA Nature Watch Summary



BKAA Nature Watch Summary

BKAA South Road Boat Launch Visitors
Recorded by BKAA Nature Watch Teams
April - June 2018



DEC Basha Kill Update

Nathan Ermer, DEC Wildlife Biologist

Overall, it has been a relatively quiet summer at the Bashakill for New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). Most noteworthy was DEC's presence in July at Mamakating's Environmental Education and Interpretive Center on South Road for a presentation to the Basha Kill Nature Club and completion of field inspections for two land acquisitions that DEC is pursuing adjacent to the Bashakill. Also, with fall coming, DEC is again issuing waterfowl hunting and trapping permits and will complete a final round of maintenance activities before end of the growing season.

On July 17, Kevin Clarke, DEC's Region 3 Young Forest Initiative and Furbearer Management Biologist, and I gave a presentation to the Basha Kill Nature Club about the significance of wetlands, the wildlife that inhabits them, and management of the Basha Kill's habitats to benefit that wildlife. The young audience was very attentive and there were numerous good questions. Participant highlights involved listening to sounds of the Young Forest initiative target bird species, such as ruffed grouse and golden-winged warbler and handling pelts of many fur-bearing species found at the wetland, like river otter, beaver, muskrat, and mink.

DEC staff, including me, visited two properties adjacent to the northern part of the Bashakill in late July that New York State hopes to obtain. While neither is particularly large compared to the Bashakill, they will add over 200 acres to the wetland. Both are located on the east side of the

Bashakill, on the Shawangunk Ridge, and will contribute to the Wildlife Management Area's (WMA) watershed and water quality, providing additional opportunities for public recreation. DEC is working with Open Space Institute (OSI) on these acquisitions and OSI has already purchased them on DEC's behalf.

Additionally, DEC is partnering with several volunteer groups on WMA undertakings during the late summer/fall to improve access. Interestingly, these ventures involve construction of bridges over the same Bashakill tributary, immediately south of Haven Road. One will replace the first bridge south of Haven Road on the railroad grade. The current structure is in poor condition and needs replacing. This effort will be executed by a small group of Sierra Club volunteers on a service trip organized by Kerron Barnes, Town of Mamakating's grant writer. The second involves building a completely new bridge on the same stream, about 500' east (upstream) of the other bridge location. This endeavor, managed by John Creighton and his fellow Boy Scouts of Troop 92 as John's Eagle Scout service project, will furnish a connection between the town's Environmental Education Center and the WMA's trail network.

As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to me - Nathan Ermer, Wildlife Biologist and DEC WMA Manager, 845-256-3047, nathan.ermer@dec.ny.gov - with any questions or concerns about the Bashakill.

Poetry Corner:

SUMMER RAIN

Picking peas with no regret.
How much better can it get!
Thunder rumbles overhead.
Lightning brightens garden bed.
Soaking shoulders through to skin.
Stay outside or run within?
Shucking peas, I split the pod.
A single seed: I think of God.
With summer rain so did arrive
A chance to say, "I am alive!"

— Stephen Erny



IN MEMORIAM

With profound sadness,
The BCAA announces
The passing of valued member:
Russell Barnett.

Russell, joining the BCAA in 1982,
was one of our longest serving members
and a valued asset to the organization.
The BCAA sends heartfelt condolences to
Janet, Russell's family and friends.

Introducing Sullivan 180

Sandi Rowland, Executive Director

Sullivan 180 is a new health focused nonprofit in the community. While Sullivan County has consistently ranked 61 out of 62 New York counties in terms of health outcomes, Sullivan 180 is trying to turn that figure around by 180 degrees. Sullivan 180's mission is to build a healthy, vibrant Sullivan County where everyone has a sense of purpose, connection to family and community and access to fresh foods and an active lifestyle.

Sullivan 180 was established by a coalition of community agencies to work towards improving Sullivan County's health outcomes. Sullivan 180 is a thought leader in the area of community and public health. Sullivan 180 works with stakeholders to leverage assets, to serve as a health improvement ideas incubator, and to magnify countywide efforts at improving health systems and health policies. Sullivan 180 places an emphasis on working in collaboration with partners to improve coordination of efforts and add value to existing initiatives.

One of our inaugural initiatives is training volunteer Community Health Champions (CHCs). Sullivan 180 is training a cadre of local Community Health Champions to serve as healthy living champions and coaches for friends, neighbors and colleagues ready to improve their health. Community Health Champions are trained in health education and health coaching techniques and are familiar with local resources. These peer volunteers work in their own neighborhoods, churches, and civic organizations. They work one on one and with small "wellness circles" offering health education and tips and motivation for people who are taking proactive steps to improve their health. They work on areas such as; smoking cessation, improved diet and exercise regimes or stress reduction. Groups meet regularly to support one another and share experiences as they pursue healthier lifestyles together. This innovative model is a way to help people adopt healthier behaviors that are meaningful and sustainable.

An inaugural group of ten Community Health Champions

have completed their core training and are recruiting and leading wellness circles throughout the county. The wellness circle members themselves set the health topics and the goals, meeting frequency, as well as places, days and times to meet. These wellness circles have the potential to positively impact health for hundreds of county residents and to expand through word of mouth and through their success.

Often the importance of strong social connections is overlooked when we think about health. This is why the Community Health Champions not only encourage individuals to improve their health habits, but they also want foster group efforts for healthier living thereby strengthening our social connections.

Some of the other initiatives we are working on include:

- Promoting year round indoor and outdoor exercise and recreation opportunities
- Increasing access to appropriate health care services which are accessible, affordable, and convenient
- Identifying and securing new resources and grants for community health needs

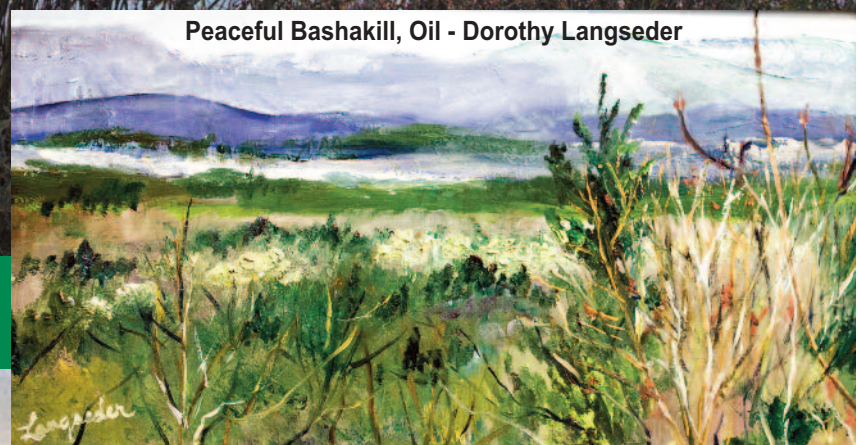
On September 23rd from 11-4, Sullivan 180 will be hosting a Healthy Living Festival at SUNY Sullivan in Loch Sheldrake. It is planned to be a day full of fun for children and adults. There will be a keynote speaker and a variety of workshops on health related topics, cooking demonstrations, healthy food vendors and lots of activities throughout the day. The BKA A will participate.

Collaboration is the key to making this vision of a healthier Sullivan County for all a reality. Sullivan 180 was created through a very deliberate process of dialogue with a variety of community leaders, key institutions and committed individuals. Our goal is to be additive not duplicative, to serve as the place where innovation and creative thinking can be added to efforts at remaking Sullivan County and turning our hearth around. We welcome everyone's participation. If you would like more information, please visit our website: www.sullivan180.org or reach us at info@sullivan180.org or 845-295-2680.

Basha Kill FUN FACTS

The Bashakill Wildlife Management Area: Throughout all of New York, almost 200,000 acres of land have been purchased and are designated as Wildlife Management Areas. These lands are managed by the DEC to provide both quality wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities. Wetlands, including the Bashakill Wildlife Management Area, benefit the people and the environment of New York State. Wetlands contribute to: storm water control; surface and groundwater protection; erosion control; pollution treatment and nutrient cycling; healthy fish and wildlife habitat; and public recreational opportunities including fishing, boating, birdwatching, hunting and hiking. We are fortunate to live near the largest wetland in southeastern New York State as it is vitally important to our environment.

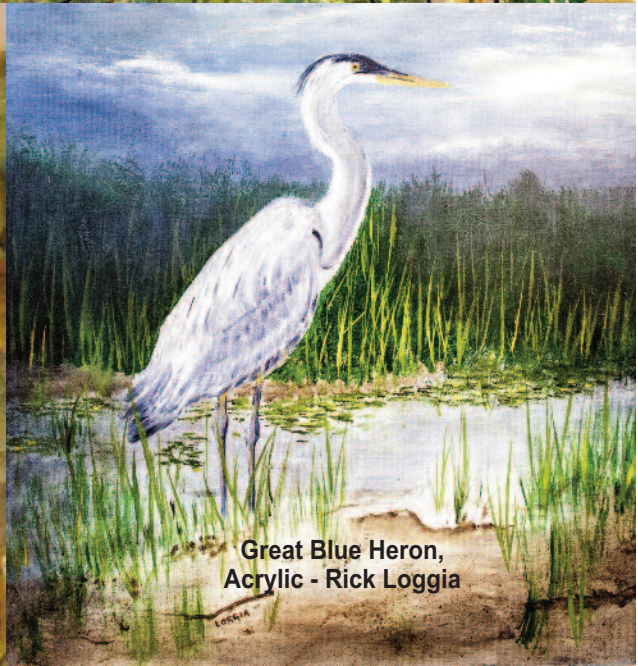
Our Kill, Photograph - Gene Weinstein



Peaceful Bashakill, Oil - Dorothy Langseder

More Basha Kill Art
Art Photographed by Patricio Robayo

View from Melrose Farm, Watercolor - Paula Baldinger



Great Blue Heron,
Acrylic - Rick Loggia

Happy for Herps Walk

Nancy S. Masterson

June 3, 2018

Fourteen of us followed herpetologist Bill Cutler on his Happy For Herps walk in the Bashakill Wildlife Management Area on June 3, 2018, an event jointly sponsored by the Sullivan Audubon Society and the Basha Kill Area Association.

Bill started with a geology overview, enthralling the half-dozen children with his image of an ice sheet that reached the clouds. From there, we looked for the turned-up sand of a turtle's nesting site. As the boys and girls found stray turtle eggs in disturbed nests along the road, they were eager to take some home. Many a dining room table now holds a bag of wet paper towels and a turtle egg, with the daily job of blowing fresh air into it for 2 months. The kids were hooked.

Every plant Bill pointed out had a lesson. From the milkweed we learned how each generation of monarch butterflies travels about a thousand miles, so it's the fourth generation from Mexico that reaches the northeast. The lesson covered insecticides and logging, predation and protection, from a bitter sap to a bitter taste for tempted birds.

An experienced naturalist, Bill engaged all our senses. We heard the "plunk-plunk" of the green frog. We tasted plantain leaves and saw the brilliant colors on a red-spotted purple butterfly. We smelled a sweet fern and learned how the stinkpot turtle got its name. The scents of wormwood, multi-flora rose, and garlic mustard brought lessons of invasive species and how each disrupts the natural environment.

"Half of everything green you see here is an introduced species," Bill told us as we gazed at the expanse of marsh and forest. But happily, he showed us a purple loosestrife chewed by a beetle introduced as a biological control.

Meanwhile, Red-Winged Blackbirds posed on the wires above us. Warbling and Red-Eyed Vireos sang and a pair of Yellow-Throated Vireos was seen holding nesting material. Other species were Grey Catbird, Canada Goose, Tree Swallow, American Crow, Savannah Sparrow, Redstart, Yellow Warbler, White-Breasted Nuthatch and Black Capped Chickadee.

We reached the deep woods to explore a dry streambed and soon found a large female snapping turtle, about fifteen years old. One youngster was thrilled to be asked to pour water on its shell to reveal the colors. After our forest ramble turned up a red eft newt, it was time to turn back. Our final "herp" was a little six-inch stinkpot turtle in the midst of

laying eggs. But Bill had one more surprise for us - a blooming Pink Lady Slipper wildflower with a gentle lesson on conservation.

Happy For Herps was an enlightening walk that ranged beyond reptiles and amphibians with a knowledgeable leader who can turn flattened roadkill into an opportunity to explain anatomy.

To learn more about the ecology of the Bashakill, watch for future walks led by Bill Cutler. As Bill says, "The outdoors is the best classroom there is."



BKAA Sponsored Outing, June 10, 2018:

Examining Early Summer Vegetation and Plants' Relationship to the Bashakill Ecology

Marty Borko, SUNY Orange Professor Emeritus

On this cool, overcast Sunday morning, Marty met with Scott Woolsey, Peggy Johansen (librarian), Alva and Lilith Jones (artist), Nancy Masterson (Texan), Kate Collins (fellow runner), and Brian (former student and herpetologist). We first studied the variety of ferns, beginning with the light yellow-green aromatic hay-scented, the darker spinulose wood fern, and the darkest green Christmas fern. In the wet pools, we identified royal fern and cinnamon fern.

The railroad bed had lots of mosses and reindeer moss (mutualistic algae and fungus). Climbing and standing around them were the twin-flowered partridge berry and shiny leaves/racemes of Canada Mayflower. The large pinnately - compound leaves of the shagbark hickory were examined along with the dominant oaks, red with protruding veins and white with smooth lobes. Two understory shrubs were compared, hazelnut and witch hazel, the latter with an aphid caused gall on its wavy-margined foliage. A twin yellow-flowered plant, went unidentified, but many exotics like barberry, knotweed, and garlic mustard were noted.

Brian collected a garter snake for the group as well as a common woodland millipede. We ended at the best vernal pool, near the parking lot, that serves as a major breeding site for wood frogs and spotted salamanders.

Marty Borko's Plant Walk

Peggy Johansen

Martin Borko, Professor Emeritus of Biology, SUNY Orange, is a font of botanical knowledge. Walking with him was akin to visiting an outdoor classroom. Seven of us were fortunate enough to join Marty on the east side of the Bashakill wetland on June 10 along the old railroad bed. This group was full of questions which Marty's laid-back teaching style easily accommodated.

Identifying plants and shrubs appeared to be the primary motivation for participants and Marty gladly obliged.

Naming plants in the natural world is one of my favorite hobbies. To many it may seem tedious and unnecessary. After all, you don't need to know a plant's name to enjoy its beauty. But in this group of Bashakill botany aficionados, I found myself with kindred spirits. There seemed to be a common perspective that plant identification is important to understanding the natural environment and each organism's relationship to the whole.

Marty was the clear expert on this day. He pointed out witch hazel, hazelnut, and elderberry, several varieties of ferns, the biennial Canada mayflower, the invasive knotweed, barberry and autumn olive, twinflower, also known as partridgeberry, wild lettuce, trumpet honeysuckle, bush clover, horsetail, native mullein, and dogbane among others.

Walking with Marty, you inevitably scan the path's sides. So I did not immediately see the raccoon ahead nose down in the middle of the path.

When we arrived at the spot from which the foraging raccoon had vanished into the undergrowth, torn leathery turtle eggs were sitting at the lip of one of the many holes dug in the railroad bed. Brian Barker, a reptile expert and friend of Marty's who had been searching unobtrusively for snakes and turtles as we walked, explained that turtles dig many false nest holes before laying their eggs. But this raccoon had found a true nest and made a meal of it, demonstrating one of the many predator-prey relationships that make up the Bashakill's ecology.

At the parking lot, just before departing, Marty brought us into the woods to view a broad still, vernal pond, its surface covered with silhouetted leaves, reflecting the perimeter of poplars and pines.

I left the pond, knowing that next time I walk this path, the season will have changed, the pond will have diminished or disappeared, and the many plants identified will have progressed through their life cycles. Knowing June's beauty is fleeting made it particularly joyful to be out learning from Marty Borko and each other on this beautiful day.

Moonlight On The Bashakill

Bill Lucas

June 29, 2018

On a warm and dry evening in late June, Gary Keeton again shepherded a group of game and curious hikers on a moonlit walk along Haven Road and then back and forth north along the old O&W Rail Trail in the Basha Kill.

Gary is a fountain of Basha and natural history know-how and enjoys entertaining with colorful stories and interesting insights from years of naturalist studies and time in the Basha wetland.

The walk was at an easy conversational pace over the well maintained trail with one or two small flashlights to light the way and reveal areas of interest.

The old O&W (New York, Ontario and Western Railroad) operated a rail spur from Port Jervis to Kingston through the east side of the Bashakill. The O&W functioned there from the 1800's through its gradual decline in the 1940's and eventual liquidation in 1957. Local stations were in Wurtsboro, Summitville and Ellenville (the Wurtsboro station remains in good condition on Sullivan Street across from O'Tooles Harley Davidson). The current trail is free of old railroad ties and mostly smooth for easy and scenic walking. It runs north all the way to South Road just above the one lane bridge over the Basha Kill in Wurtsboro and is worth a trip.

Gary pointed out interesting flora, such as black birch bushes that give off a root beer like scent when split. Along the way, Gary also shared general birding (over 200 birds either nest or migrate through the Basha) and fishing information (some 26 different fish types including the rare Bowfin and Blue-spotted Sunfish call the Basha home). We also discussed various experiences many had with snapping turtles, which are common to the Basha.

Interesting, was Gary's knowledge of the Basha's glacier lake beginnings and evidence of ice age impacts and early Paleolithic immigrants and their stone age existence as hunter-gatherers. Good hunting sustained them as demonstrated by remains of mastodons, woolly mammoths, giant sloths and beavers the size of black bears. Early hunter-gatherers also found springs, and many seasonal "travelers wells" that exist in the Basha may have originated in that era and were commonly known and used throughout early development there. Gary indicated one such "well" just off the rail trail in the kill.

As usual, there were friendly night fishermen families on Haven Road Bridge.

As advertised, Gary delivered a proper, if somewhat hazy, moonrise over the eastern Shawangunk Ridge just after 10PM in its full moon phase and to a full-throated frog serenade accompaniment.

Thanks to Gary for another entertaining Basha experience.

Walk in Wonder: Gary Keeton's History of the D&H Canal

Lilith Jones

Eleven of us gathered in Westbrookville this past July 7th to attend Gary Keeton's History of the D&H Canal walk. Our towpath walk would be flat and the distance covered relatively small. Our experience, however, would prove to be the opposite: In our 3 hours together, Gary swooped us back and forth through the vastness of time, first setting the stage by explaining the geological dramas that created and shaped The Basha Kill Wetlands and its surroundings, then describing the colorful tapestry of human drama that has played out upon it over the past centuries.

In keeping with his introductory, guiding premise that "the Landscape tells the story," Gary presented his historic narrative organically, taking his cues from the evocative natural and manmade features that we encountered as we walked the towpath in its woodland setting - features such as thick-trunked white oaks whose wide span evinced the open-fields of their younger days or the stonework of the canal and impressively steep pitch of the still-intact banks of the towpath, which together offer mute testament to the engineering prowess and finesse of those responsible for their design and construction.

With equal enthusiasm and knowledge, lifelong naturalist Gary easily shifted focus to the present moment to share appreciative observations and to answer questions regarding the varied plants and animal species that graced our way.

Topics that arose included edible plants, mastodon trails, the leaps of fledgling Wood Ducks from their nests, predator-prey dynamics in the Kill, native Lenape pottery and settlement patterns, confounded farmers, orphan child labor, maneuverings of unwieldy boats, coal fights, stinkpots, canal pranks, legal injustices, toll-gate policies and unsolved masonry mysteries to name a few.

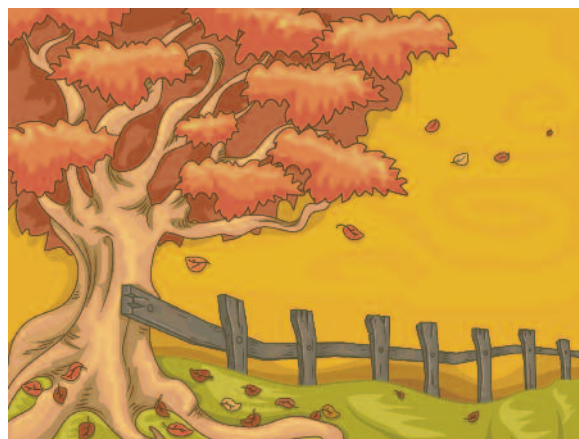
For me, the experience felt like a walk with time rather than through it, a walk in which Gary conjured the plants, animals, manmade elements and people of varying periods of the past with such detailed care and genuine regard that it invited them all to emerge from the rich and dappled setting and, as vividly present and alive as they were, to linger and co-mingle with each other in our midst as we ambled. Even now, I picture them there as I visit the trail; and I look at the wider surroundings with enlivened curiosity about who came before...

Be sure to sign up for Gary Keeton's next History of the D&H Canal walk if you wish to wander in wonder with Gary and fellow BKAA members on the beautiful towpath in the company of mastodons, Basha the medicine woman and a host of farmers, laborers, engineers, boat captains, orphaned boys and plodding mules...

BKAA Natural History Hike

Jack Austin

An inquisitive group of 11 nature lovers, mostly BKAA members with a few guests, joined in a leisurely walk on June 16, along the railroad trail on this early summer morning. Bird songs were subdued, but we saw the usual catbird, veery, redstart, yellow warbler, red-eyed vireo, and heard a swamp sparrow. Turtle egg shells were strewn about the ground, where predators had dug them up for a meal. We observed horsetail (equisetum), ground pine, partridge berry in bloom, and blueberry bushes developing their fruit. We smelled wild roses, sassafras root and skunk cabbage, and compared a variety of vines. Sharing knowledge among group members is always a fun experience, and enables us to develop friendships with like-minded environmentalists. We ended our 2 hour walk with a climb up an observation tower to enjoy the panoramic view of the wetlands, and watched a great blue heron spear a sunfish and juggle it down its throat. A few of us stopped at the Mamakating Environmental Center nearby, and appreciated the hospitality provided by curator, Carol Covington.



BKAA Action and Information Alerts

are sent from the following email address:

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Searching for Turtle Eggs.
Photos by Gary Cormier



Large-Toothed Aspen Leaves on a Vernal Pool Near Haven Road, Seen on Marty Borko Amble
Photo by Scott Woolsey



Bill Cutler 'Waxes Eloquent' About Herps

BKAA Educational Outings



Marty Borko Educating Plant Walk Participants.
Photo by Liliith Jones



Gary Keeton - Moonlight Ramble
Photo by Bill Lucas

More BKAA Educational Jaunts

Gary Keeton - D&H Canal Outing
Photo by Frank Coviello



BKAA Natural History Trip With Jack Austin
Photo by Carolyn Kessinger



Photo by Frank Coviello

Lyme Disease Transmission and Climate Change

Margaret Perkins

In the Summer 2018 issue of the BKAA Guardian, Justina Burton gave an excellent description of how we can protect ourselves against being infected with Lyme Disease. Lyme Disease is caused by the spirochete bacterium *Borrelia burgdorferi* transmitted in eastern US states by the black legged tick *Ixodes Scapularis*, also known as the deer tick.

What we all know from personal experience is that incidences of Lyme Disease have increased dramatically both locally and throughout New York State. As recently as 10 years ago, although Lyme had been identified in southern New York and Long Island, it was almost unheard of in Sullivan County. Epidemiological mapping confirms the western and northern spread of Lyme Disease from southern New York and New Jersey to New England from 2001 to 2016 - <https://www.cdc.gov/lyme/transmission/index.html>. Disease incidence is directly related to abundance of infected ticks, which can vary from year to year, but exhibits an upward trend overall. It is now the most common vector-borne (tick and mosquito transmitted) disease in the United States, including as far north as Maine.

So the question arises, why is the geographic range of infected ticks carrying *B. burgdorferi* expanding so rapidly in the northeastern states? Like all vectors that transmit disease, the *Ixodes* has a very complex life cycle <https://cdc.gov/lyme/transmission/index.html>. The tick has four stages; eggs, (spring, year one), larva (summer), nymph (spring, year 2) and adults (summer/fall year 2). Larval stages bite and infect mice and birds but nymph and adults bite and infect large mammals, including deer and humans. The nymph stage poses the highest risk for human infection because nymphs are so small and difficult to detect. About 50% of nymphs and adults in the northeast

are infected with Lyme bacteria.

The tick's ability to successfully transmit Lyme bacteria is dependent on numerous interdependent elements; ecosystem factors, such as proximity to and size of infected intermediate hosts (deer and mice) are considered to be of primary importance.

But northern and western expansion of Lyme in New England has provoked the idea amongst infectious disease epidemiologists that small climate changes in the northeast, such as warmer winters and earlier springs (based on average daily temperature), have enhanced tick transmission. Several studies have shown that both temperature and humidity (precipitation) influence number of adult ticks and timing of host-seeking activity. Life-cycle timing will accelerate in warmer temperatures. Earlier host seeking activity in an early spring increases the time period that ticks have to bite and transmit *B. burgdorferi* to humans and other hosts. But there is also an apparent caveat since, while some studies have shown a link between minimum winter temperatures and tick numbers, this is not apparent for infected larval numbers, suggesting other factors are involved in nymph survival and infection rates. It is possible that less severe winters can also increase survival of intermediate hosts such as mice, which harbor the larval stages. Further research is needed to answer these questions. But temperature increase due to climate change is projected to accelerate expansion of *B. burgdorferi* infected ticks' range further north and west into New England in upcoming years.

See <https://health2016.globalchange.gov>

Margaret Perkins, MPH, PhD has done research and teaching on vector born diseases.

2018 BKAA Campers

(Editor's Note: This year, campers attended Camp DeBruce in the Catskills, Camp Colby at Saranac Lake and Pack Forest in the southern Adirondacks. While there, they encountered adventures that enhanced their self-confidence and environmental awareness. Here are their stories. Photos on pages 20 & 21).

LIAM BURNS

First, I would like to thank the Basha Kill Area Association for sponsoring me at Camp DeBruce in Livingston Manor, New York. Some activities that I really enjoyed were completing the hunter safety course and learning how to tie flies.

I liked the hunter safety course because I learned how to handle a firearm safely. Once I practiced handling the firearm, I was able to shoot it. I was excited when I hit the bullseye during practice. I'm happy I completed the course because now I can go for my hunting license someday.

I also enjoyed learning how to tie flies because now I can make my own instead of buying them at the store. I can make customized flies which will hopefully allow me to catch more fish. This was a new experience for me and one that I'm happy I was able to try.

CAMPERS continued from page 17

Camp DeBruce was a fun camp that taught me many things, like how to shoot a firearm with more accuracy and how to tie flies. It gave me new experiences that I will hold onto forever.

MARY CLARK

Thank you so much for being my sponsor. I would like to share that I got the naturalist award and here are some of my highlights in a list for you.

- I tried archery and I love it!
- tried new trails. I've been on all the trails near me, so it was fun to try new ones.
- I actually learned some survival skills that I will pass to my sister.
- I also made new friends and helped people get out of their shell.
- I saw lots of different animals like newts and frogs.
- I learned so much! How to start a fire, how to set up a tent, and more!

All these are a few of the many experiences that happened to me because of you. I'll never forget my experiences at Camp DeBruce.

MARISSA CROSBY

In the week I attended camp for free, sponsored by BCAA, I had a "stellar" time! Some of my favorite things about camp were the activities. We played games from the Name Game to Revenge! They were all interesting and fun to play if you listened to the counselors' instructions.

If you haven't gone to camp yet, and don't know what to expect, I have some tips for you! First, make sure that all your shorts end at least at the tip of your middle finger. Also, this might seem extreme, but pack AT LEAST 4-5 pairs of socks. Pack more than this if you plan on doing the optional morning choices (because of morning dew).

The most memorable part of the trip was the overnight outing. We hiked for over an hour and saw amazing scenery, such as a ginormous waterfall, one of the highest peaks and the great outdoors! (Obviously) I chose to go on the Karst field hike. We set up the tents, made s'mores, watched the stars, and learned how to go to the bathroom in the woods! (What an experience!) Thank you, BCAA.

ADAM FURMAN

My name is Adam Furman and I went to Camp DeBruce. I had a lot of good learning experiences there and had lots of fun playing recreational games that helped campers learn about ecological succession and animal habitats. I have to say that my favorite recreational game was one called "Oh Deer!!" What happens is the counselors make two lines, one for the deer and one for resources that the deer need. There are three resources that the deer need, and they are shelter, food, and water. The two lines turn around so they're not facing

each other, and each line picks a resource. Then one of the counselors says, "Oh Deer!" and the two lines turn around and the deer go and find the resources that they picked and bring them back to be in the deer line. If you can't get a resource though, you die and go to the resource line. It seems pretty easy, right? Believe me, it's not! The counselors made droughts so the only resource is water and the deer that need the other resources are out. In the beginning, there ends up being way too many deer and there aren't enough resources. Then at the end, there ends up being a disease in the resources and everyone dies. This taught me about how overpopulation can affect the deer and what happens if a disease swipes through an area of deer.

Another fun part of DEC camp was the overnight. We took a hike to a nice place in the forest to set up camp. We learned about the different types of trees and how to tell them apart. We learned how to set up a tent and we looked at the stars at night and the constellations.

But the best activity that we did at Camp DeBruce was fishing. Though I caught none myself, I still had the best time casting out in the water, waiting for my bobber and watching all of my friends catch fish. Thank you SO much for giving me the pleasure to go to a NYSDEC camp and do all of the fun activities and learn. Because of you, all this was made possible.

CHASE MCFARLAND

I would like to say thank you for sponsoring me. I did a lot of things but I am only going to say a few. The best thing I did was trail running in the morning. The worst thing was the overnight because the food I had was burned and it got rained out so we couldn't do anything. We played games like soccer, kick ball, camouflage and my favorite was revenge. To wrap all that up I got camper of the week. This is what I did at camp. Thanks again.

DYLAN MCINTYRE

Hi, my name is Dylan and I would like to thank the Basha Kill Area Association for sponsoring me to go to camp. I went to Pack Forest DEC camp the week of June 24-June 29. I had a very good time. We had some days of rain, but we were still able to do a lot. We went on two hikes and a canoe trip. I went fishing and didn't catch anything. My favorite game was ZAP. On the Thursday I was there, I did my Hunter Safety Course. It was all day. It was a rainy day so that was good. We were still able to shoot, though. I passed and got my certificate. I also made some friends. We keep in touch on Instagram. Thank you again for helping me go to camp.

AARON MINTON

Hi, my name is Aaron. I got to go to DEC camp at DeBruce last week. Thank you so much for giving me the chance to go to camp. I had a really great time. It rained every day I was there, but I still had stuff to do. The first morning I went fishing.

CAMPERS continued from page 18

I caught a big fish, but it was so big that I couldn't pull it in even when some other kids helped me. The line broke and the fish got away. I feel bad because he still has the hook in him. I got to go on a hike to waterfalls. They were so beautiful. I really liked going to the waterfalls. It is something I will always remember. I got to try new foods. My mom says I'm a picky eater and that I was going to have to try new things even if I didn't like them and I did. I ate pancakes. I never eat pancakes. They were pretty good. I also had a lot of peanut butter and jelly. The camp had the best peanut butter and jelly.

I went on hikes, too. One time I found woodpecker bark. That's bark that a woodpecker pecked holes in. I took two pieces, one for my mom and one for my brother. We also sang songs. I like singing. My favorite song was Shooting Star. It is about the friends we made at camp. I made a lot of new friends. I also got to practice archery. I like archery. I have a bow at home and practice in my yard. I was glad the rain stopped long enough for us to do archery. Even though it rained a lot and my clothes were wet and muddy I had a really great time and I want to go back again next year. The counselors were a lot of fun and super nice. Thanks a lot for helping me go to this camp this year!

JACKSON MITCHELL*My Camp DeBruce Experience*

My week at Camp DeBruce can be chalked up as an awesome experience. Although the weather was not ideal, we still did most of the activities on our schedule. During camp, I learned many new things about nature and the world around me. I met many new friends that I will be staying in touch with, hopefully for a long time. The counselors were funny and you could tell they honestly had a commitment and love for the environment. People from all over came to sing songs around the campfire, play games, and learn about nature. During my time at camp, I also earned my bowhunters permit and passed my test in bowhunting safety. Now I am able to get my bowhunting license. During camp, we were given options to do things like archery, frisbee golf, and ping-pong which were all very fun. Besides doing this, we went into the woods and talked a lot about the ecosystems around us and how to protect them for future generations. We played many fun nature-based games that, besides being entertaining, taught us about our environment. The guiding message of the program is that nature should be enjoyed as well as protected. In free time, we played basketball and cards which helped us make friends and not get homesick. Overall, the camp was a great experience. I strongly encourage those who are seeking an awesome adventure to go.

LUKAS REDZIMSKI

Dear Basha Kill Area Association,

Thank you for sending me to Adventure Week at Camp Pack Forest this year; it was a blast! This week was different from

any ordinary week at camp. It was filled with adventurous activities. At camp I was able to go fishing with the people from I Fish NY, who taught us about the fish you'll find in New York State, the types of fishing knots and the regulations. I was also able to go swimming and canoeing at the conveniently located lake at Pack Forest. I also went on a Night Hike and we weren't able to use any lights in the pitch-black forest, except for a candle which I dropped on the ground by accident. We played games and talked about what we liked about the dark and what we disliked about it. One thing the counselors enjoyed making us do was singing, and lots of it. One of their favorites was Country Roads. We even brought it upon ourselves to sing in the showers. A few SUNY colleges also came to visit and showed us what they each had to offer, and there are lots of opportunities when it comes to my education. I met some interesting friends that I was able to share memories with. The food at camp never disappointed and left me wanting seconds and thirds, especially for the pancakes. Sadly, due to the weather, we weren't able to go on the overnight, but thankfully we went on a day trip the very next day. I also enjoyed and learned a few good card games. Again, thank you for sending me to Camp Pack Forest at Warrensburg, NY.

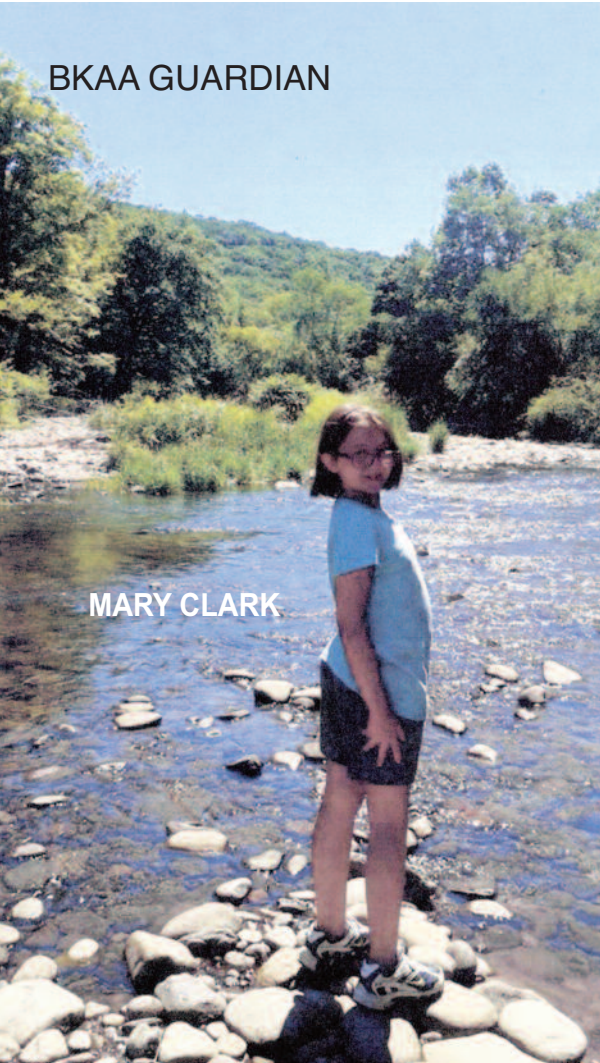
Coming Full Circle: From BKA A Camper to DEC Camp Counselor*Becca Budrock*

Five years ago, I was one of the lucky few to receive a camp sponsorship from the Basha Kill Area Association. This provided one free week at DEC Camp Pack Forest, where I learned about the environment and experienced the beautiful Adirondack Mountains. Five years later, during the summer of 2018, I had an opportunity to step into the role of camp counselor - environmental educator, and will admit that I did not experience what I had expected from this position.

Assuming the role of environmental educator, I anticipated being the one doing all the educating during my tree identification lessons and to have campers listen and absorb the information that I taught. This was hardly the case, as I quickly realized that, while campers were engaged and learning during lessons, I was also learning just as much from them as they were from my co-workers and me. Every new group brought a unique energy to camp and each camper taught me something special every day.

Throughout the summer, I found myself growing as a person, noticing little changes in me that I had never seen before. I was put into leadership positions that I had never been in and found myself becoming a more confident and carefree person. The job also came with its challenges and those allowed me to become an adaptable employee.

2018 BKAA Campers



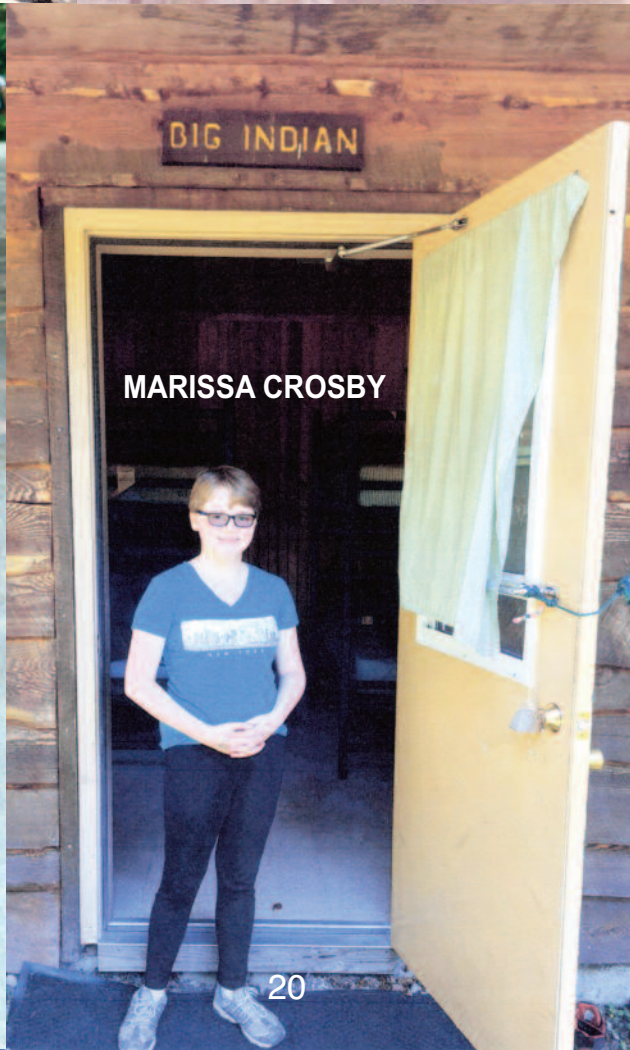
MARY CLARK



ADAM FURMAN



CHASE MCFARLAND



MARISSA CROSBY



LIAM BURNS

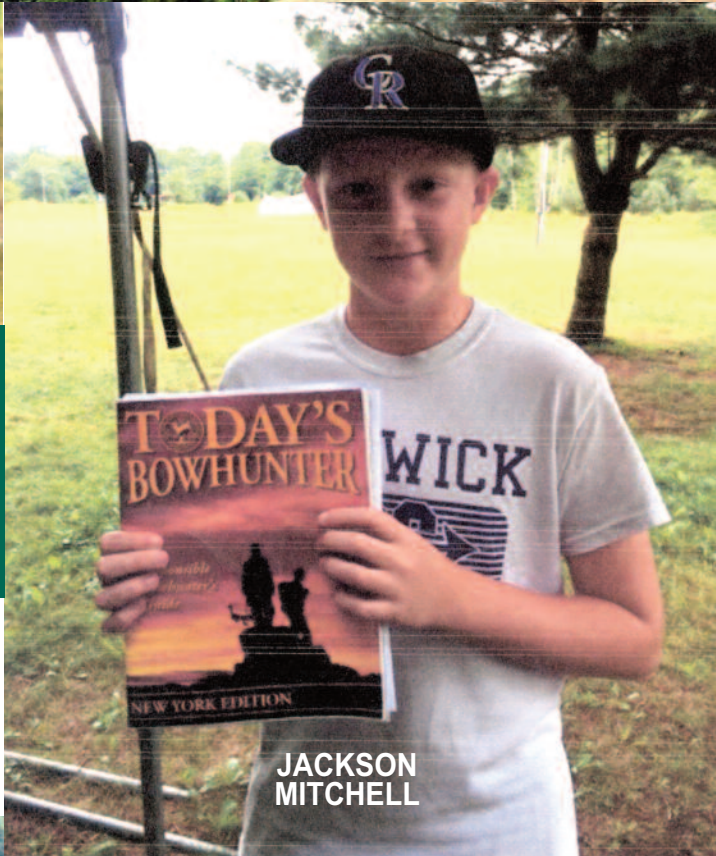


DYLAN MCINTYRE

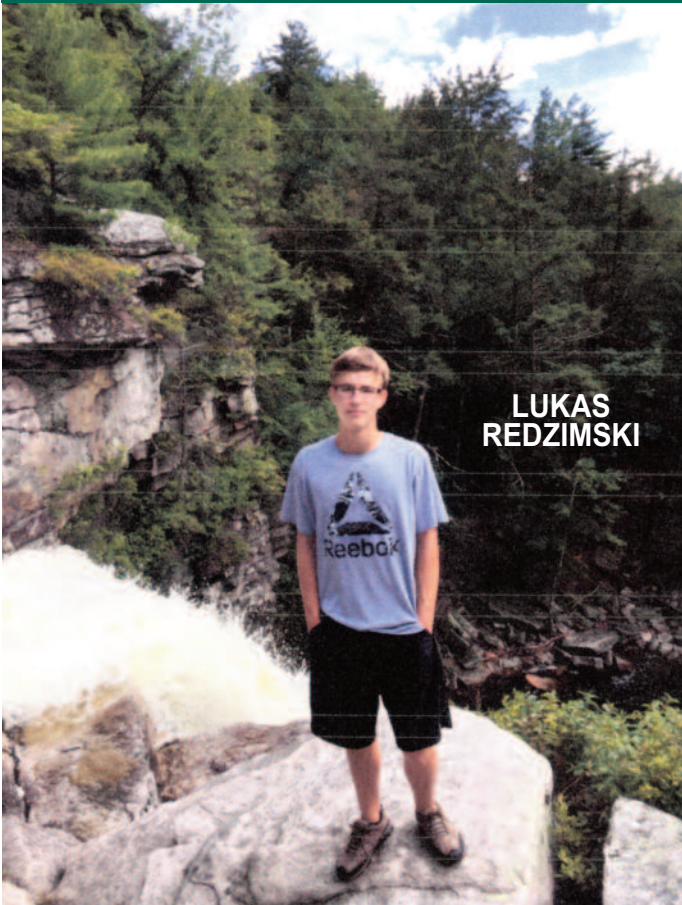


DEC COUNSELOR BECCA BUDROCK AT PACK FOREST

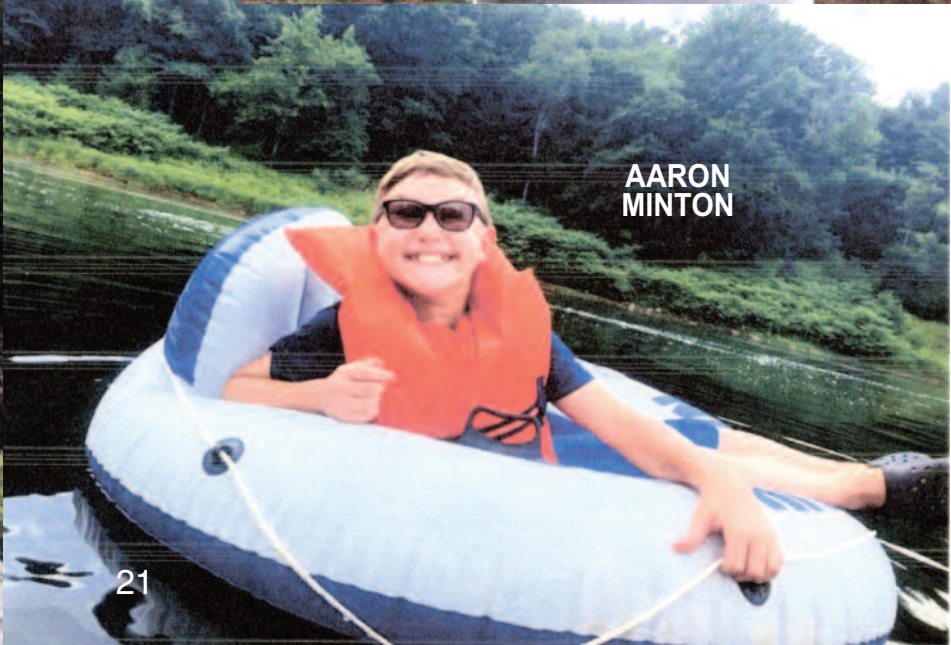
More BKAA Campers and A DEC Camp Counselor



JACKSON MITCHELL



LUKAS REDZIMSKI



AARON MINTON

Highlighting An Invaluable BKAA Partner: Sullivan County Audubon Society

Birds of a Feather – Sullivan County Audubon Society and the Basha Kill Area Association

Maura Muller

There are a number of organizations in Sullivan County who sometimes partner together, whether to foil a potentially dangerous development, or to further eco-friendly tourism and interest in our county's wonderful natural resources. Every group can benefit from partnering with like-minded others. One long standing supporter of the BKAA is Sullivan County Audubon Society, (SCAS), and many, me included, are members of both organizations. Their missions are similar and the BKAA's roots actually can be traced back to the efforts, concerns and activism of a few early SCAS members.

Audubon's mission is to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their

habitats for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity. There are more than 2,500 Audubon-designated Important Bird Areas and the Basha Kill Wildlife Management Area (WMA) is one of them.

Sullivan County Audubon Society was organized in April 1951 with 11 members to start. According to records kept by then Secretary, Norma Niven, membership doubled by 1952. In an early issue of their newsletter, *Warblings*, (with logo hand drawn by Arlene Borko, see page 23) Norma recaps their first 2 years: window displays in Liberty & Monticello in honor of Bird Day (April), a display at the Little World's Fair in Grahamsville, talks to civic and service clubs, schools and scouting groups, taught Bird ID classes at Monticello High Night School, participated in the Lunar and Hawk Migration Studies and the Christmas Bird Count, sent a boy to DEC Conservation camp and erected 10 Wood Duck houses throughout Sullivan County. Not bad for a fledgling organization!

AUDUBON SOCIETY continued on page 23

NEWS BRIEFS:

Paula Medley

Amos Decker's Basha Kill Projects Culminate in Eagle Scout Induction

On June 25, Amos Decker of Wurtsboro Scout Troop 92, was inducted as an Eagle Scout in a Court of Honor ceremony held at Wurtsboro's American Legion (See photos on page 26).

To achieve this honor, Amos completed several projects at the Basha Kill Wildlife Management Area, including constructing 6 oak benches sited throughout the wetland and an informational kiosk at DEC's Haven Road parking lot. These ventures had to demonstrate leadership and organizational skills later evaluated by an Eagle Scout Board of Review.

In remarks at the June 25 observance, BKAA President Paula Medley congratulated Amos on his exemplary achievement and highlighted the collaboration between the scouts, DEC, and BKAA, which facilitated it. She likewise acknowledged opportunities for peaceful interludes provided by the benches as well as the kiosk's educational value.

The induction was a poignant event, illustrating that partnerships can achieve formidable results.

BKAA Hosts Monticello Middle Schoolers At the Basha Kill

On Friday, June 22, (last day of school), the BKAA sponsored a Basha Kill outing for 35 sixth-graders from Monticello's Robert J. Kaiser Middle School (See photos on page 26).

Upon arrival, students were welcomed by Paula Medley and apprised of the morning's agenda. Subsequently, naturalist Gary Keeton, who earlier had filled an aquarium with wetland "critters" and vegetation, explained tank contents along with other exhibits meant to pique youngsters' interest.

Afterwards, Gary and Mike Medley led groups north and south on the railroad path, aka the Long Path, and Shawangunk Ridge Trail. While walking, both leaders extolled the wetland ecosystem's importance and need for protection to interested, enthusiastic participants, many of whom had never visited the Wildlife Management Area. On Mike's trip, students encountered a large water snake, which was an adrenaline pumper and activity highlight.

Throughout, Nature Watch co-leader Kevin Keller answered questions about the Basha Kill's habitat and explained views from the spotting scope he positioned on-site.

Happily, the day's events furnished ample opportunities to educate young people about an indispensable resource, a critical mandate of the BKAA's Mission.

AUDUBON SOCIETY continued from page 22

Valerie Freer, past President, and longtime member was kind enough to speak with me and loan me all 67 years of Warblings so I could properly gather my information. I thought I would just skim these issues, but I loved reading all the columns from early nature journal entries and entertaining stories of wildlife observations from members to the current "Green Column" written by Bill Cutler and Kathy Scullion. The newsletters were fascinating. Below, are a few highlights.

1959 - Notes \$4 was spent to have the leg of a Great Blue Heron set by a veterinarian. It was injured by shotgun pellets. Thoughtful essay by first SCAS President, Ken Niven, urging members to learn all they can about the proposed Northway, a super highway through the Adirondacks and its potential effects on wildlife.

1965 - January - first mention of Wurtsboro. The May issue notes "as we see and hear about the wanton destruction of woods and marshes at Mamakating". Also mentioned is the very first "Break a Hundred Day" with the team of Arlene and Marty Borko and Ed McBride, who headed to Wurtsboro and the "Basherkill".

1966 - SCAS was granted a branch charter by National Audubon in June. (There are currently 29 NYS Audubon chapters, though Audubon New York was not established until 1996, to support National Audubon Society activities in NY State.)

1968 - Member Geraldine Fink recounts a visit to her home from 2 men representing the NYSDEC, asking for her signature to allow airplane spraying against Gypsy Moths. She told them "no" because in 63, when they sprayed without asking, her pheasants, bees and birds disappeared. They assured her they were not going to use DDT, only Sevin. (!)

1971 - President, Jerome Kerner, notes "the changing national mood" regarding environmental conservation and the "long, hard battles" against the sale or use of DDT and other chlorinated hydrocarbons. DDT would finally be banned in 1972.

1972 - Martin Borko is elected President. In May he leads a field trip to the Bashakill and notes that 49 species were seen. In June he leads a SCAS canoe trip on the Bashakill. That issue of *Warblings* closes with a passionate editorial by Mr. Borko explaining the crucial importance of the Bashakill, "this rich, diverse and delicate area consisting of approximately 3,000 acres is presently threatened by gradual development, lack of zoning, and a history of

general apathy".

He appeals to all to do two things to "insure the Bashakill's protection"; vote for the upcoming November \$1 billion plus Environmental Bond Issue which will allocate monies to wetland and unique areas. Write to Governor Rockefeller, Senator Anderson and Assemblyman Edwyn Mason and ask that they acquire the Bashakill under the provisions of the bond issue. "If you do your part, the Bashakill will be here for future generations of canoists, fisherman, hunters and birdwatchers".

I was 8 years old when Martin Borko wrote that letter to the members of SCAS. I lived in a crowded apartment building in Queens with 29 other families. Even then, I loved when my family would take a road trip out of the city. We would all completely relax once we passed the Red Apple Rest

on old Route 17 on our way to 'the country'. I confess to getting teary-eyed as I read Martin's letter. I am so very grateful to all those 1972 SCAS members and concerned Sullivan County citizens. Their forethought has preserved our amazing Bashakill for future generations. 1972 was the year that the Basha Kill Area Association was founded.

by Arlene Borko

1973 - SCAS hosts the annual meeting of the NYS Federation of Bird Clubs at Frost Valley YMCA. Pat Walker, a commercial art student at SCCC designs the new logo for *Warblings*. SCAS & Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) cooperate on a Sullivan County Bald Eagle Survey that goes through July.

1974 - Notes Whooping Cranes in trouble - only 46 remain wild in the world. A review of a February field trip to the Rio & Mongaup Reservoirs states "the gas shortage was overcome by judicious carpooling". At May meeting a film called "Bashakill, Nature's Rain Barrel" is shown.

1976 - SCAS conducts its first ever Breeding Bird Survey. 76 species. Three routes of 50 stops for 3 minutes each. Celebrated their 25th anniversary with a dinner @ Kings in Livingston Manor for \$8 per person.

1977 - October meeting features Peter Nye of the DEC presenting "The Bald Eagle in NYS". November - a field trip to Galeville airport to look for Short-eared owls.

1978 - The DEC requests help with Marsh Hawk Surveys (now called Northern Harrier) to determine their status in NYS.

1979 - First ever Bald Eagle Survey in US sponsored by the National Wildlife Federation and conducted by the Raptor Information Center. The DEC Endangered Species unit asks for help counting Bluebirds and Loggerhead Shrikes. SCAS begins 5 year long Breeding Bird Atlas.



AUDUBON SOCIETY continued from page 23

1980 - Reports a 2nd active Bald eagle nest near Montezuma Wildlife Refuge. Only 1 other active nest in NYS since 1965!

1981- NYS considering a study of Mourning Doves to determine if they should be a game bird. SCAS President, Lou Pugliani, urges all members to sign a petition requesting removal of then Secretary of the Interior, James Watt, because he "has been taking actions that undermine decades of laws enacted to safeguard our natural resources". "His list of environmental offenses are too long to list." (Sound familiar?)

1982 - Begin collecting Feeder Count information.

1984 - A wintering Sullivan County Bald eagle transmitter is picked up by a scientist studying caribou movements in Northern Quebec. Our eagle was summering 900 miles north of us!

1987 - Salutes sister organization **The Basha Kill Area Association** on their 15th Anniversary noting some of their accomplishments: they worked to stop pollution from the Otisville Prison, prevented a trailer park on Route 209 from damaging Bluebird fields, conducted an annual clean up and brought education programs to elementary schools including field trips. Tucked inside this issue of *Warblings* is a BKAA membership brochure noting that the NYS DEC began acquiring the wetlands to establish a WMA in 1973. On the back flap of the brochure, it reads, "Indeed! I am anxious to become affiliated with this most deserving of enterprises." Membership dues of only \$3. This issue also notes a Whooping Crane update - population increased to 150 Whooping Cranes!

1987 - Notes SCAS & BKAA banding together to protect the wintering Bald eagles at Swinging Bridge Reservoir from proposed development.

1991 - Notes Herman Bressler has now donated 1200+ Bluebird houses to SC residents, asking only for bird reports in return.

1993 - Two dates for public to learn about butterflies and then the 1st ever SCAS Butterfly Count.

1994 - SCAS member applied for & received \$800 grant to install benches in the WMA. First ever sighting of a Sandhill Crane in Sullivan County near Forestburgh.

1995 - Gov. Pataki proposes gutting the NYS Endangered Species Act and firing all the biologists working in the program. All members are urged to write letters to protest this action. September notes a Bashakill Osprey platform in which the nest, "The only one between the Adirondacks and Long Island", produced 4 young Osprey. First Wood Duck count on Haven Road in the Bashakill. SCAS participates in the Adopt-a-Road program and chose Haven Road through the Bashakill to concentrate their clean up efforts.

1996 - February - "Kill the Bill, Not the Doves", reads the lead article in *Warblings*. Members invited to speak out against proposed bill written by Assemblyman Jacob Gunther to allow hunting of doves in NYS. Due to letters, calls and petitions, the April issue notes that the bill was dropped! June - Valerie Freer does a Cliff Swallow survey with her students at SCCC and finds 667 nests in 31 colonies in Sullivan County.

July issue explains National Audubon's *Important Bird Area* initiative and asks members to submit suggestions. The Basha Kill WMA is an Important Bird Area and also designated a *Bird Conservation Area* by NYS.

1997 - The DEC asks for help identifying any remaining Chestnut trees that were devastated by a fungus beginning in the 1920's. DEC wants to collect seeds for genetic research.

1998 - Members invited to speak out to save the Galeville Airport from development and to propose that it be turned into a National Wildlife Refuge. (Now known as Shawangunk Grasslands NWR.)

1999 - Herman Bressler of SCAS and Ray Briggs are honored by Gov. Pataki for restoring and protecting the Eastern Bluebird. Herman made bluebird boxes to supply to Mr. Briggs, who placed them all across NYS on Route 20. Herman built more than 22,000 nest boxes, along with 12,000 bird feeders, wren houses, wood duck houses and other bird related items. (I believe I have one of his wren houses. When I chose it at an Audubon dinner raffle a few years ago, someone told me that the man that made it was famous!)

2001 - SCAS turns 50. Bashakill WMA & Mongaup Valley WMA are designated *Bird Conservation Areas* by Governor George Pataki.

2002 - Valerie Freer, John Haas, and others confirm the extremely rare sighting of the Slaty-backed gull, a Japanese/Siberian visitor rarely seen in the US and almost never in the east. John Haas leads a walk through the Bashakill for night birds and their sounds. Scott Graber and Rich Anderson try their hand at a Bashakill 100. They began at 4pm on a Saturday, and concluded 24 hours later with 102 species. October - John Haas discovers a Purple Gallinule at the Bashakill.

2004 - June issue notes Eagle Watch at the Bashakill weekends through June 27th.

2005 - Fall issue notes the serious threat of the Maitake Mushroom Plant to the Bashakill and urges all members to send a check to help fight as the BKAA is suing the Mamakating Town Planning Board.

2006 - Notes a new map of the Bashakill available on the SCAS website, thanks to coordinates collected by members. Through DEC's Adopt a Natural Resource Program, SCAS is named steward for the Summitville Fire

Rachael Broder - Truth Muller: Where Are They Now?

(Editor's Note: Rachael Broder and Truth Muller are long-time BKAA Volunteers)

Opportunities To Grow and Learn

Rachael Broder

My name is Rachael Broder and I have been involved with the BKAA since elementary school, volunteering at the annual clean up, Nature Watch, and writing articles for The Guardian. Two years ago, I began my studies at Lafayette College in Easton, Pennsylvania, where I am pursuing a degree in biology with a minor in anthropology and sociology with the ultimate goal of becoming a physician. Since then, I have had many amazing opportunities to grow and learn.

During my first year at Lafayette, I participated in a year-long microbiology and genetics research project. I isolated and discovered a virus from a soil sample, extracted its DNA, and annotated the virus genome. I then presented my findings at a national research conference at Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Janelia Research Campus. I also was hired by the college's Department of Sports Medicine as a student athletic trainer my first semester on campus and have been employed there ever since. As a student trainer, I assist staff trainers with first aid and injury wrapping as well as field coverage and set up. I work mostly with the football team and have had the chance to travel with them to different colleges and universities.

The summer after my first year, I obtained my EMT

certification. Becoming an EMT has been a long-time goal of mine. As someone who is pursuing a career in medicine, being able to gain experience in the field and start helping people early in my career is truly invaluable. Having my EMT certification has allowed me to take on more responsibility as a student trainer. I have also established an EMS squad at Lafayette. This coming year will be our first where we will respond to calls as a branch of Easton's EMS squad, both on and off campus.

My sophomore year I was hired as a resident advisor (RA) for first year students on a newly established gender-neutral floor. As an RA I have learned to deal with difficult

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AUDUBON SOCIETY continued from page 24

Tower. (Hawkwatch).

2007 - SCAS member and BKAA member John Haas publishes, "A Birding Guide to Sullivan County". SCAS donates a Purple Martin house to the Bashakill with "apartments".

2008 - *The Basha Kill Wetlands: A Field Guide* is published.

2009 - John Haas, Arlene Borko and three State troopers assist in rescuing a Pied-billed Grebe from the frozen channel by Haven Road. Heroic rescue on a day where the temperature was 10 degrees below zero! Fifth edition of *Birds of Sullivan County* checklist published.

2013 - Redpoll invasion (150+) and 3 Hoary Redpolls noted at Scott Baldinger's house near the Bashakill. 20th Annual Butterfly Count. Winter 2013/14 issue holds first mention of proposed China City development.

2015 - 20th anniversary of the Wood Duck Count at the Bashakill. 30,789 ducks counted over the years.

2018 - 25th annual **Sullivan County Butterfly Count**

There are many more highlights and hundreds of excellent stories. If you are not already a member, consider joining us. You don't have to be an expert birder, just curious. Check out the website, www.sullivanaudubon.org

I'll close with this quote from past President, Jerome Kerner. It is still relevant today for both organizations. "Now more than ever, our membership and participation is so important, both to keep abreast of the trouble spots and to help inform those in the community in a position of power. Let each of us not hesitate to speak up and express our opinion on local or national issues. Silence is interpreted as acquiescence, whereas, dissent based on logic and experience must be considered."

COUNSELOR continued from page 19

I feel like the luckiest person alive to have had the chance to do what I am passionate about at such a young age. All summer, my friends called me crazy, because not many my age would want to spend eleven weeks away from home with little connection to the outside world. What I tried to explain is that there is something so special about DEC camps that I would have worked there all year long. At the end of each week, I was able to breathe a sigh of relief knowing my co-workers and I had just handed fifty young adults the tools they needed to begin to make changes to the world. Every Friday, each camper went home with the power to leave a lasting impact on the planet and that is what makes these camps notable.

For 7 years of my life, I have been part of a community of environmental stewards and educators who make significant, long-lasting impacts on the wide range of children that they teach. I am so proud to say that I have joined this group.

BKAA Hosts Robert J. Kaiser 6th Graders at the Basha Kill



Water Snake on Trail

Amos Decker Eagle Scout Induction



Amos Decker with parents at his induction ceremony.



Receiving his scarf.

BRODER & MULLER continued from page 25
situations and act as a resource and leader for other students. I will be starting my second year as an RA for first year students and look forward to growing even more through this experience.

During winter break, I shadowed at two different hospitals. Through Lafayette's Career Services Externship Program, I was matched with a Lafayette alumnus who is an emergency medicine physician at Abington-Lansdale Hospital in Lansdale, Pennsylvania. I shadowed her and her colleagues and experienced what it is like to function in a rural community emergency department. I also shadowed a trauma surgeon at Orange Regional Medical Center in Middletown, NY who allowed me to observe multiple surgeries and trauma assessments.

During spring break, I traveled to Texas for a service trip focusing on mass incarceration and restorative justice. We worked with victims of crime, incarcerated individuals, and their families. We volunteered at a facility supporting victims of sex trafficking, minimum and maximum security prisons, and a facility that provides free housing for families visiting their incarcerated loved ones. When we returned, we shared what was learned with fellow peers through a documentary screening and Q&A session. This coming year, I will participate in this trip again, but then, as a leader where it will be my responsibility to organize the event and educate participants about mass incarceration and restorative justice.

This past summer, I was hired as a Summer Research Scholar at Lehigh Valley Health Network. There, I was matched with a mentor in the Office of Emergency Management with whom I collaborated on two research projects. The first looked at the physiological impact that different levels of protective equipment have on paramedics as they treat patients. This is a long-term effort that I helped kickstart by writing a review of existing literature on the subject. I have been invited to continue with this in the fall when we have final approval from the hospital. The second I worked on independently, examining ambulance transport data from hospital sites and making suggestions to improve patient discharge and transportation. Additionally, I shadowed emergency medicine physicians, trauma physicians, general surgeons, MedEvac ambulance crews, and event medical staff at Pocono Raceway during a major NASCAR event.

The experiences I've had so far have been truly life changing and I look forward to taking advantage of opportunities to come as a student at Lafayette College.

2017-18 - A College Odyssey

Truth Muller

Another great name for College of the Atlantic (COA) in Bar Harbor, Maine would be "the College of Adventure," because almost every day of my freshman year there has taken me to places I never imagined. I've had a *Marine Biology* class on the bottom of the Atlantic, as we snorkeled off the college pier catching lobsters and sea cucumbers to sketch in our field journals. *Ecology: Natural History* took us all over Acadia National Park and taught us how to read sand dunes, forests, and even lawns like historical records; of fire, storms, glaciers, the ebb and flow of animals, and human impacts. The *Human Ecology* core course was an adventure of the mind as we explored the college's central philosophy through an assortment of fields—art, science, philosophy, economics, agriculture, psychology, and film. Among my favorite moments in that class was exploring rural Hancock County with our economics professor. We experienced firsthand what an economic recession looks and feels like.

Winter brought classes indoors, and to our heavy workload was added the challenge of maintaining morale in the face of minimal sunlight, brutal storms, and temperatures well below freezing. In a class called *Curiosity and Wonder*, I designed an interpretive display for the National Park Service, and designed, built and installed a museum exhibit on the history of taxonomy for the college's Dorr Natural History Museum. I enjoyed this work so much that I became a member of COA's Museum Steering Committee.

In my GIS (Global Information Systems) class I combined exciting new mapping software and my love of bats to undertake a study of bat's ability to control disease in Brazil. The results are currently top secret, stay-tuned! My favorite class that term was *History of the American Conservation Movement*, in which we traced the roots of environmentalism from the religious, anti-environmental fervor of the 1600's to our uncertain future in the face of climate change.

This past spring, *Oceanography* (the study of tides, waves, and currents) transported me up the Union River to examine its estuary, 25 miles out to sea to the college's research station on Mount Desert Rock, and finally over the border to northern New Brunswick and the Bay of Fundy. A rigorous class called *Communicating Science* tested my

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Updates

Paula Medley

Mamakating's Draft Comprehensive Plan (Plan)

We continue to await actual scheduling of the Plan's final public hearing, which will consider modifications proposed by the Town Board following their special workshop with Plan steering committee members on May 8.

Meanwhile, town planners, attorney, and municipal boards are developing zoning amendments to guarantee Plan enforcement.

Breaking News - A public hearing on both the Plan and amendments may be conducted mid-October.

As always, we will apprise members of major benchmarks and need for intervention.

Thompson Education Center (TEC)

TEC has not appeared before Thompson's planning board since April 12, 2017. However, developers can "jump start" their project's environmental review at any point.

Although TEC CEO Sherry Li received conditional approval from Fallsburg's ZBA in April for foundation work on her supposed 9,000+ sq. ft. single family residence on property adjoining Renner Road in Fallsburg, there has been no activity to date at this site. Nevertheless, "word on the street" indicates a contractor has been hired and construction may begin imminently.

Close monitoring of this scenario continues. Stay tuned!

Dragon Springs (DS)

(Editor's Note: The following contains excerpts from an article by Susan Erny originally printed in the Shawangunk Watch)

Unfortunately, DS maintains its pattern of disregarding town regulations, which then negatively impacts stormwater runoff and wastewater treatment into the Basher Kill, two major BKAA concerns. During the last week of June, 2018, yet another sediment plume spilled from DS' work site into pristine waters that feed the Basher Kill and Neversink. This is the fifth incident reported by local watchdog group, Deerpark Rural Alliance, since January. Though DS has been issued multiple violations of the Clean Water Act by DEC and were summoned to DEC's White Plains office and General Counsel for settlement, the only reported outcome is that DEC mandated DS to install a flow meter, measuring accurate wastewater flow. While this requirement entails reporting flow and furnishing information monthly to DEC, officials

were unaware of subsequent submissions from DS, nor were any fines levied as of June.

The BKAA continues monitoring environmental review of DS' cumulative building consequences since the year 2000. BKAA consulting engineer Andy Willingham commented on the draft Scope's water matters and will provide additional testimony when the draft Environmental Impact Statement is available.

Hopper Hill (HH)

Although Hopper Hill's proposed mining operation cannot be built in the Light Industry Office Zoning District next to Wurtsboro Airport, due to local law passed in June, DEC's HH environmental review apparently continues. However, there has been no activity on this front since Scoping.

The BKAA will remain vigilant on this matter.

BRODER & MULLER continued from page 27

writing skills and my nerves as I learned to write technical reports and scientific papers under a hard-as-nails professor. *Popular Psychology* introduced me to a field I've never delved into before through such diverse texts as Dale Carnegie's *How to Win Friends and Influence People* and Viktor Frankl's *Man's Search for Meaning*. On top of that, I worked with the Museum Committee to unveil a new exhibition, *The History of Natural History*, and was teacher's assistant to my mentor, friend, and aptly named ornithology professor, Scott Swann.

While school may be out for summer, my work continues 500 miles south of COA, as a fellow for the Alliance for Watershed Education at the Pocono Environmental Education Center (PEEC). There, I am an educator and PR man for the Delaware River Watershed, leading interpretive hikes on our trails, guiding visitors on ten-mile paddles down the Delaware, and teaching classes, including forest ecology, macroinvertebrate studies, and ornithology. Some weeks will see 200 people pass through PEEC, and every day, including weekends, I'm there to meet them.

I'm looking forward to this upcoming fall term, the start of a new year at College of the Atlantic. I'll be dusting off my math skills as I undertake statistics, a key prerequisite for more advanced marine science. I'll delve even further into my research of bats and disease, using a unique COA tool, the self-directed independent study. Last but not least, I'll be taking biology under one of COA's toughest professors, the first in a year-long set of classes in biology and ecology. It will be a hard term, but I'm ready for another round of COA adventure.

Welcome to the Basha Kill Nature Club

This week, August 7, Mike Medley from the Basha Kill Area Association, showed us different kinds of birds that are at the Basha Kill and showed us signs of wildlife like a mouse-chewed antler and a beaver stick!

We then beat a storm by heading out to walk the trail at the Basha Kill in search of some of the wildlife Mike showed us!

While the birds might have been hiding from the rain, we saw signs of wildlife on our walk.

The Basha Kill Nature Club (BKNC) is held in collaboration with the Town of Mamakating and the Basha Kill Area Association and with support from Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther.

Funding for this project was made possible in part from a Healthy Communities Initiative grant from Sullivan Renaissance.





Photos on right by Karen Miller - June 20, 2018

BEAR SIGHTINGS AT THE BASHA KILL - JUNE 2018



Photos on left by Dewey Lee - June 9, 2018





Fallsburg's Future Update: Fallsburg Adopts 2018 Comprehensive Plan Let's Be Sure It Gets Implemented!

July 24, 2018

On June 11, the Fallsburg Town Board adopted its 2018 Comprehensive Plan Update (CPU) and the recommended changes to the Zoning Code, following a review process that took place over the past year and a half. The newly adopted Plan and Code will guide the Town's growth and development for the next ten years or so. With construction of over 3,000 new homes now in the pipeline for Fallsburg, the CPU is a necessary and welcome milestone. Now we need to ensure that these recommendations are implemented by town authorities.

Generally, a Comprehensive Plan is a policy document that sets forth the town's vision, goals and principles for growth and development. The Zoning Code includes the actual regulations that must be followed. During the review process, numerous issues were identified as requiring special attention. Opportunities were also determined to address potential areas of need, benefit and focus.

On the whole, the CPU is a substantial and valuable document. Many stated goals preserve the natural environment by protecting undeveloped areas and are needed to lessen impacts of new construction. Numerous elements of the CPU have already been translated into the Zoning Code. They will help control development patterns so they are consistent with existing municipal infrastructure. A new Neversink River overlay zone will also help protect certain lands along the river from overuse.

As mentioned above, the updated Plan also includes an extensive list of implementation goals and objectives related to land use, economic development, protection of natural resources, transportation and town-wide communication. The CPU specifically recommends

establishing an Implementation Committee to track these items. We hope to see the Committee formed by year's end and perhaps participate in its formation.

Some recommendations we feel are most important: 1. Assess cumulative impacts of large-scale developments on the town's water, sewer and transportation infrastructure to ensure that capacity is available to accommodate new users, 2. Create an Environmental Management Council to oversee establishment of a Town Open Space Plan. 3. Produce a program where developers pay their fair share of costs to expand and improve local road and street networks to accommodate higher traffic volumes.

We're all aware of the growth and changes happening in our town. Sometimes these changes happen fast and can be unsettling. We at Fallsburg's Future encourage residents to stay informed and involved in local activities as our town

officials steer their way through these challenging times.

The 2018 CPU and Zoning Code can be viewed and downloaded from the town website (www.townoffallsburg.com). We hope all will become more familiar with the Plan and issues we face.

Fallsburg's Future, an activist group of Fallsburg residents, is here to answer your questions, and to be a voice in the community for responsible and sustainable residential development.

Please sign up to receive our Updates and Alerts by going to our website: fallsburgsfuture.org and our Facebook page. Let us know if you want to participate in our activities and subcommittees. Forward this Update to your friends and neighbors.



BKAA Interviewed for this Article Mentioning Thompson Education Center in The Economist, dated May 19, 2018

(Editor's Note: The following appeared in the Special Report Section of The Economist, May 19, 2018 edition, under the headline "Citizens of the World." The entire report on CHINA IN THE WORLD was entitled "Opening the Gates").

A STRAIGHT TRACK through a wood, and a guard hut at the end of it, is all there is to "China City of America". A sign

on a flimsy barrier says, "Do not enter". It is hard to imagine that if the developer, a Chinese emigre, has her way, this rural nook in the Catskill Mountains of upstate New York might one day become a sprawling complex of residential properties, China-themed entertainments, a casino, shops, restaurants, offices, an exhibition hall and educational facilities covering hundreds of acres. That, at any rate, was

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Sherry Li's original plan, unveiled in 2013. Her aim was to attract 1.5m visitors annually to a "Chinese-concept Disney" that would transform the struggling economy of this sleepy area about two hours' drive north-west of New York City.

Crucially, it would also attract Chinese investors. The project, Ms. Li hoped, would be approved under the American government's "EB-5" scheme, which offers permanent residency in the United States to foreigners who put at least \$500,000 into rural projects that create at least ten American jobs; or who invest \$1m into other developments. In effect, this means you can buy the right to live in America. The greatest demand is from China. About 75% of those who qualify for the scheme are Chinese.

The desolate track is evidence that Ms. Li has made little progress with her project. It has encountered stiff resistance from local environmentalists, who fear it would threaten protected wetlands. She has scaled back her plans. The current aim is to build a private college offering vocational courses in subjects including nursing, cooking and business, as well as accommodation for some 2,500 students and more than 270 staff—still big, but not quite such a potential crowd-puller. The funding plan remains the same, however. The Thompson Education Centre, as it is known, aims to become an EB-5 project. It is looking for money from rich Chinese.

Catering to the visa needs of would-be wealthy emigres is big business in China. Several Chinese companies promote Ms. Li's still non-existent centre on their websites. Remarkably, a flattering article about it is even displayed in Chinese on the government's main news portal, China.com.cn. Investors in the scheme, it gushes, will find emigrating to America "so easy". Those two words are written in English.

There seems to be plenty of potential demand. America has an annual quota of 10,000 visas for EB-5 investors. In November the number of applicants on the waiting list stood at more than 30,000, nearly 90% of whom were from China. Canada had a similar scheme, but scrapped it in 2014 after it became heavily oversubscribed by wealthy Chinese. The American one has come under growing scrutiny since it emerged that Nicole Meyer, the sister of President Donald Trump's influential son-in-law, Jared Kushner, had touted her connections with the Trump family when trying to attract investors to an EB-5 project during a trip to China last May.

In 2017 more than 46% of Chinese with fortunes between 10m and 200m yuan (\$1.3m-26.3m) were thinking of emigrating, according to a survey by Hurun, the research company in Shanghai. In a joint survey with Visas Consulting Group, a Canadian firm, more than three-quarters of respondents mentioned their children's education as a reason. Nearly one in six pointed to the

political environment in China, and almost one in five said they were hoping to protect their assets.

The rise of the ethnoburb

The insecurity of wealthy Chinese, and their craving for Western education for their children, is evident in the rapid growth of whole communities of them in the suburbs of big Australian, American and Canadian cities. Hurstville in Sydney, Box Hill in Melbourne and Richmond in San Francisco, as well as Richmond in Vancouver, are places for which 20 years ago Wei Li, an academic now at Arizona State University, coined the word "ethnoburb": prosperous city districts where recent migrants from China form a large share of the population.

Such places also point to a contradiction in the story of China's own development. Despite more opportunities at home, growing numbers of those who can afford it seem to want to leave. Even China's state-owned media admit this. "The passion shown by China's super-rich for settling down abroad and obtaining overseas passports has reached a record high," said China Daily, an official English-language newspaper, in 2014.

The lecture halls of Australian universities provide more visible evidence. In subjects that score highly in the Australian government's points-based system for acquiring permanent residency, such as accountancy and information technology, the share of students from China is always much larger than in subjects that do not. The number of Chinese students in Australia increased by 17% last year, to 140,000. Apart from the quality of the education, and less fierce competition for places than at China's best universities, there is another powerful draw: the relative ease with which foreigners who have graduated in Australia can become residents there.

In Sydney, Monika Tu, the founder of Black Diamondz Property Concierge, specializes in selling expensive houses to rich Chinese. She says she sees little impact from China's recent clampdown on the movement of capital abroad, or from the government's efforts to stop corrupt officials from fleeing the country with their wealth. Growing numbers of her clients are young Chinese who have made their fortunes in the country's booming tech industries. They see bargains to be had in what is often jokingly referred to as *tu Ao* (coarse Australia). Beijing and Shanghai are "much more expensive than Sydney", says Ms. Tu.

Many poorer Chinese, too, are attracted by life abroad. The country's economy may be booming, but for people from rural China, settling and prospering in a big Chinese city can often be as hard as going to work in a foreign country, sometimes even harder. Internal migrants in China are often treated as second-class citizens. Too tough in Ningbo? Try Namibia.

SAVE THE DATE

46TH BKAA ANNUAL MEETING

John Haas and Gary Keeton 2018 Honorees

**“Birds of the Bashakill” Powerpoint
Presentation**

by Lance Verderame and John Haas

Celebrate this year’s notable achievements and hear latest updates at our Annual Meeting on Saturday, October 20, 2018 at Phillipsport Community Center, 657 Red Hill Road, Phillipsport, New York, 12769, several miles north of Wurtsboro off Route 209. Registration commences at 9:30 am, when dues may be paid, with only solvent members receiving a ballot. Light refreshments will be available then, also. Call to order occurs promptly at 10 a.m. Participants will be treated to a special powerpoint offering by birders extraordinaire Lance Verderame and John Haas. Additionally, there will be an informative, interactive discussion of 2017 - 2018 highlights, election of officers and board members, along with awards. As usual, the finale will be a drawing for intriguing door prizes (all donated). BKAA merchandise, like Basha Kill field guides, John Haas birding publications, tees, sweatshirts, and mugs will be on sale. See you there!

Questions? Contact Paula Medley directly at (845) 754-0743 or email info@thebashakill.org.

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