

## Griswold Airport Development Subject of PZC Hearing

Leyland Development of New York is proposing a development of the Griswold Airport in Madison. At a Planning and Zoning Commission hearing at the Memorial Town Hall on February 15, company representatives took nearly three hours to present their proposal to the PZC. In the audience were more than 100 concerned citizens who had little opportunity to respond with their comments. Accordingly, the hearing was continued until March 15.

According to a report in the *Shore Line Times*, "Over the past few months, the town land-use office has been overwhelmed by letters from concerned environmentalists urging town officials to reject the project, claiming it would threaten wildlife and natural resources."

One such letter was written by Henry Ferris, MAS president, that stated in part:

We strongly oppose the above application for the following reasons:

- This proposal calls for 260 dwelling units in multiple and single family attached and detached residences plus community and recreational facilities. This is approximately 10 (ten) times the allowable density under current zoning for the site.
- A development of this magnitude and density on only 30 acres of upland within the coastal flood hazard area would require extensive filling and grading with consequent erosion and sedimentation. The airport site shares about 2,800 ft. of common boundary with ecologically fragile salt marshes in the Natural Preserve Area of Hammonasset State Park. The marshes would be negatively affected by the heavy construction activity on their margins. In its letter of December 18, 1997 to the Madison Planning & Zoning Commission regarding another application for this site, the Dept. of Environmental Protection stated: "Although the application includes a soil erosion and sedimentation plan, our experience has shown that even when properly designed, such controls are rarely implemented effectively or properly maintained, resulting in insufficient control of erosion and prevention of sedimentation."
- The airport lies next to sensitive ecological areas. In addition to its boundary with hundreds of acres of highly productive salt marshes at Hammonasset State Park, the site itself has 10 acres of tidal wetlands and about 450 feet of frontage on the Hammonasset River. These biologically rich marshes and adjacent areas are currently used for nesting by several endangered species and are a primary east coast magnet for thousands of migratory birds seeking resting and feeding areas.
- This amendment calls for building coverage of 25 percent/plus. With the addition to this of roads, driveways, and parking areas, the total impervious surface coverage would be unacceptable in any but an urban setting.

(Continued on Page 4.)

### INSIDE...

*Educators Workshop*  
Page 2

•  
*Calendar*  
Page 3

•  
*Guilford Salt Marsh Sanctuary*  
Page 4

•  
*Biodiversity 2000*  
Page 6

•  
*New Members*  
Page 7

•  
*Membership Form*  
Page 7

**MENUNKATUCK  
AUDUBON  
SOCIETY**

is a chapter of National Audubon Society. The newsletter is published bi-monthly by Menunkatuck Audubon Society.

Mailing address:

MENUNKATUCK AUDUBON SOCIETY  
PO BOX 214  
GUILFORD, CT 06437

- President:**.....Henry Ferris  
.....(245-4397)
- Vice-President:** .....Dorothy Holabird
- Treasurer:**.....Brad Garber
- Recording Secretary:** .....Catherine Ferguson
- Corresponding Secretary:** .....Cindi Kobak
- Directors:** .....Dan Cinotti,  
Pauline Garber, David Houston, George Lemieux, Connie Mortensen, Dennis Riordan

- Program:**.....Jerry Connolly
- Wildlife/Conservation:**.....David Houston
- Connecticut Amphibian Monitoring:** .....Gary Cline
- Publicity:** .....Barbara Nugent
- Education:**.....Cindi Kobak  
.....Dorothy Holabird  
.....Dotty Young  
<education@menunkatuck.org>
- Membership:**.....Dennis Riordan  
<membership@menunkatuck.org>

**Town Reps**

- Branford:**.....Lisa Santacroe
- East Haven:** .....Mary Quinlan
- Guilford:**.....Linda Anderson
- Madison:**.....David Houston
- Newsletter:** .....Dennis Riordan  
.....(387-2167)
- Webmaster:**.....Brad Garber

# Educators Workshop Scheduled for May 12 at Hammonasset

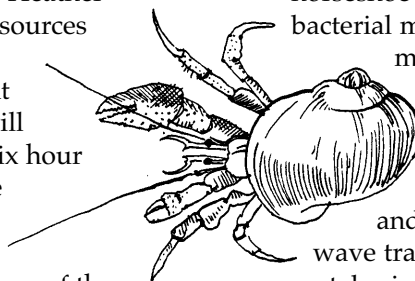
Menunkatuck’s Sixth Annual Educators Workshop will be *Intertidal Exploration – Field Techniques and Tricks of the Trade*. It will be held on Saturday, May 12, 2001 from 8:30 A.M. to 3 P.M.

Teachers, here’s an opportunity to spend a (hopefully) beautiful spring day at Hammonasset Beach State Park, brushing up on the science of Long Island Sound and how to share it with your students. Heather Crawford, Coastal Resources Educator from the Connecticut Sea Grant Extension Program will be leading you on a six hour whirlwind tour of the intertidal zone, covering everything from the benthic infauna of the shallow subtidal to the vegetation patterns and animal inhabitants of the high dune “spray zone.” While the majority of the sampling will be biological, side trips will be made into geology, chemistry, physics and meteorology and ideas for interdisciplinary projects will be discussed. Innovative (and inexpensive) sampling gear will be demonstrated. The basic information covered will be suitable for all grades but most appropriate for upper elementary through middle school (3rd through 8th grades).

We plan to spend the morning

along the beach, tidal creek, marsh and rocky intertidal zones. After a lunch break we will visit the upper marsh and dunes, then study wind, waves and sand transport (or what to do with your class when you misread a tide chart). Bait seines and minnow traps will be demonstrated, as well as shoveling and sieving for clams and worms. Other activities will include horseshoe crab ecology, sulfur bacterial mat exploration, upper marsh insect collection, basic marsh plant identification, rock picking and basic geology, sand sorting and mineral identification, wave tracking and sand transport, basic marine meteorology, vegetation adaptations for dune life, and marsh mud rescues.

To receive more information and a registration form, contact Cindi Kobak at 203-457-1699 or <education@menunkatuck.org>.



**CONGRATULATIONS TO MAS  
EDUCATION CHAIR CINDI  
KOBAK ON HER PROFILE IN  
THE MARCH-APRIL ISSUE OF  
AUDUBON MAGAZINE.**

**Call for Nominations**

Nominations for Officers and Directors should be forwarded to Henry Ferris (245-4397). The election will be held at the May meeting.

Menunkatuck Audubon Society is committed to work locally to preserve our natural ecosystems for the benefit of people and the earth’s biodiversity. Through education and conservation activities within our communities, we raise public awareness of environmental issues and connections to the natural world.

## **Sam Fried to Speak at March Meeting**

Sam Fried returns to Guilford to present *The Yukon, Northwest Territories, and the Dempster Highway* at the MAS meeting on March 14.

Winding like a gravel ribbon for 450 miles through the boreal forest and across the arctic tundra, the Dempster Highway offers unparalleled scenery and opportunities for birding and wildlife viewing. Golden eagles, long-tailed jaeger, and willow and rock ptarmigan are common birds seen from the road. Gyrfalcon and peregrine build their aeries on roadside cliffs, and 25 species of ducks and swans are easily observed. Northern hawk-owls sit atop spruce trees as we pass by. In tundra areas, Smith's and Lapland longspurs breed, while northern-wheatear can be found in the talus slopes. Mammals will not be overshadowed, as we encounter moose, gray wolf, caribou, snowshoe hare, grizzly and black bears and lynx. Truly one of the continent's most exciting drives, the Dempster Highway is the road to adventure!

On April 11, Lise Hanners will present the results of many years of research in a discussion of the Life History of the Worm-eating Warbler.

The June meeting will feature David Houston with a slide presentation about *Biodiversity Day 2000*, held in Madison last September. Some of the 1000 slides taken by members of the Coastal Camera Club will be shown along with a description of the important findings that the scientists made.

Indoor meetings are held at the Guilford Community Center on the second Wednesday of each month from September through June. Meetings begin at 7:30 P.M.

Indoor meetings are held at the Guilford Community Center on the second Wednesday of each month from September through June. Meetings begin at 7:30 P.M.

Indoor meetings are held at the Guilford Community Center on the second Wednesday of each month from September through June. Meetings begin at 7:30 P.M.

# 2001 Calendar

March 14, 2001

*The Yukon, Northwest Territories,  
and the Dempster Highway*

*Sam Fried*

April 11, 2001

*Life History of the Worm-eating Warbler*

*Lise Hanners*

May 12, 2001

*Birdathon*

May 12, 2001

*Educators Workshop*

June 13, 2001

*Biodiversity Day 2000 Report*

*David Houston*

**Indoor meetings are at the Nathanael Greene Community Center and begin at 7:30 P.M.**

**Directions to the Nathanael Greene Community Center:  
I-95 to exit 58 in Guilford. South on Route 77 for 8/10 miles.  
The Community Center is on the right between Route 1 and  
the Guilford Green.**

**Refreshments are served.**

## **Saturday Morning Birding at Hammonasset**

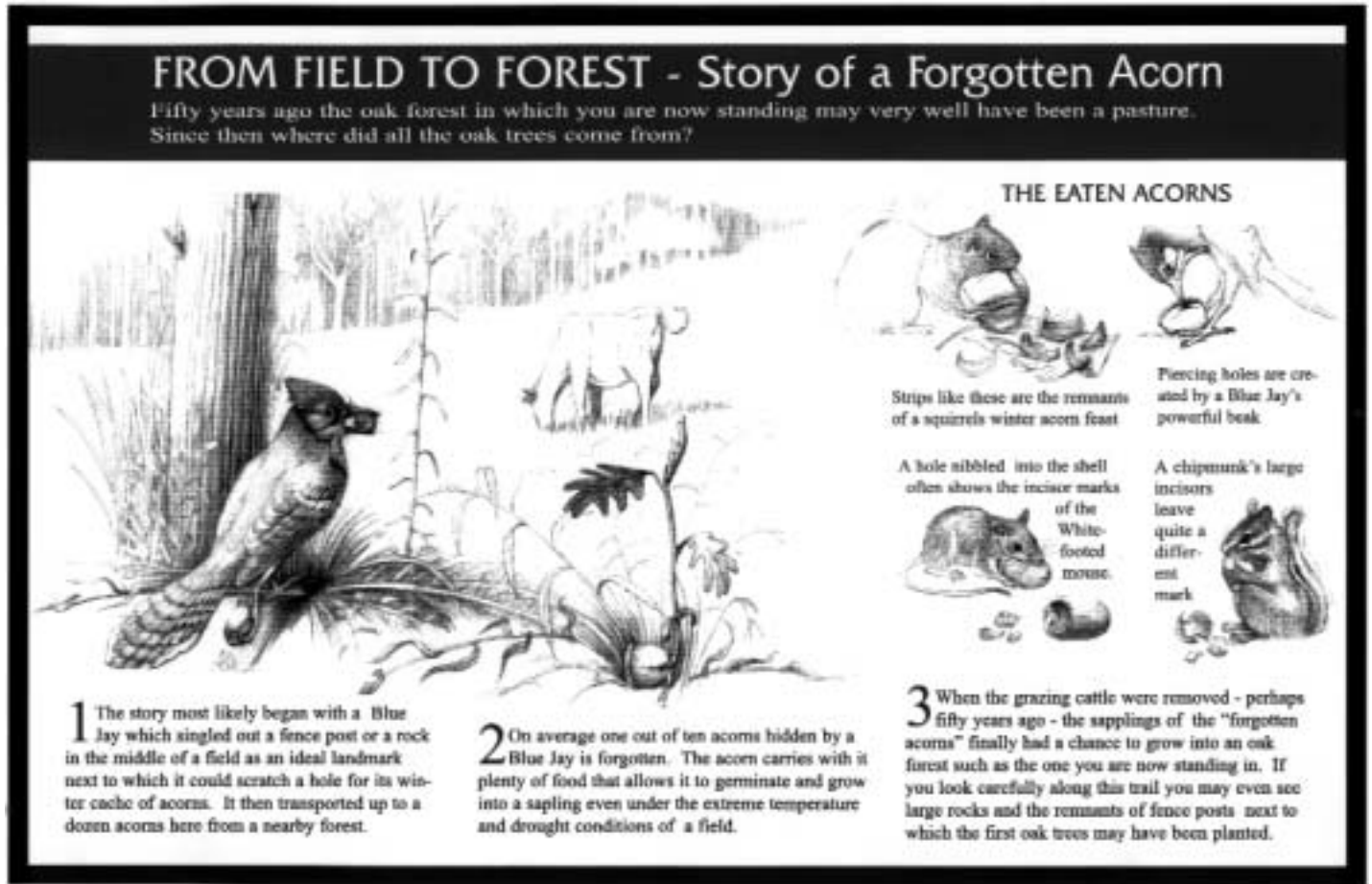
Saturdays, starting April 14  
7:50 a.m.

Leader: Jerry Connolly

Meet at the Audubon Shop, Madison

Every Saturday morning through June, Jerry will lead birders through Hammonasset to see returning sea birds, shore birds, birds of prey, and song birds. There is a \$2.00 fee.

## Guilford Salt Meadow Sanctuary Trail Signs Are Coming



Artist Edward Henry, working with Menunkatuck Audubon and the Connecticut Office of National Audubon, is drawing signs that will be placed along the trail at the Guilford Salt Marsh Sanctuary. At the February Board meeting, Edward showed the proposed format for the signs.

## Griswold Airport Hearing is Continued Until March 15

*(Continued on Page 4.)*

In this ecologically sensitive area it would be disastrous. The runoff from impervious surface coverage plus fertilizer and pesticide contamination from lawns and gardens would degrade the productivity of the surrounding marshes and waterways and seriously reduce their attractiveness to wildlife.

- The provisions for maximum building heights are unsuitable for other than urban areas, and completely out of place in Madison. Also, the spires, cupolas, widows walks, etc. would create a Disney World atmosphere that would detract from the character of Madison and degrade the visual effect of this area

from the Boston Post Road and Hammonasset State Park.

The PZC hearing will continue on Thursday, March 15, at 8:00 p.m., at the Memorial Town Hall. All Menunkatuck members, whether residents of Madison or not, have a stake in the outcome of the hearing. Development of the airport property will adversely impact Hammonasset, which belongs to all of us. We urge you to attend the hearing and speak of your concerns. The Memorial Town Hall is right off the Post Road at the east end of the Green.

# *New Solid Waste Plan Needs You to Reach Its Goal*

Where will your garbage go in 2015, 2017 and 2020? The DEP's "Proposed Solid Waste Management Plan: Minimizing Disposal in the 21st Century" can provide some of the answers to this question. The Plan's emphasis is on encouraging citizens and businesses to use source reduction, recycling and composting so there is no need to construct new waste-to-energy facilities or expand our current facilities.

If you run a grocery store or restaurant, the Plan recommends that you consider separating and composting your organic waste. If you work in a school or business, DEP wants you to increase efforts to recycle corrugated cardboard and white office paper. At home, your town may begin charging for waste collection and disposal based on the amount of solid waste you generate. This will encourage people to reduce the waste they generate and to recycle as much as possible.

The Proposed Plan will further protect you and your family from metals in the environment. Some efforts are already underway to reduce mercury in the waste stream. Other programs that encourage the separation and recycling or proper disposal of wastes that contribute to toxicity, such as electronic appliances, batteries, fluorescent light

bulbs and thermostats will be promoted.

For the last decade, the DEP has worked closely with the public, municipalities and the waste industry to develop innovative programs that educate and foster source reduction and recycling. As a result, the State's Recycling rate has increased every year since 1992. However, because Connecticut's municipal solid waste landfills are mostly closed and there is limited capacity at the state's six waste-to-energy facilities, the State needs to do even more source reduction and recycling as its population increases.

"Unfortunately, many schools and businesses have been slow to adopt and implement recycling programs," said Kim Trella, of DEP's Waste Planning and Standards Division. "With their assistance, Connecticut can make greater progress toward recycling goals."

Copies of the plan are available at municipal libraries and town halls throughout the state. The public can also obtain copies of DEP's Proposed Solid Waste Management Plan by contacting the DEP at (860) 424-3022 or view the executive summary on DEP's web site: <<http://dep.state.ct.us>>.

From *P2 View*, State of Connecticut DEP, Winter 2000-01



## SAVE ON YOUR TAXES!

Use your state income tax refund to help save Connecticut's wildlife and plants. Their future is on the line – the "Endangered Species/Wildlife" Fund line on your tax return. Just check the box to make a donation and show your support. Your gift is deductible from next year's federal income tax.

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

<http://dep.state.ct.us>

# Biodiversity 2000

## Know your natural neighbors



### *American Eels Are Common in Local Waters*

The American eel (*Anguilla rostrata*) is a very common fish in our local waters. It can be found in rivers, streams, lakes and ponds. It can be found in brackish waters. On occasion it can even be found traveling over land on rainy nights as it heads to a new body of water.

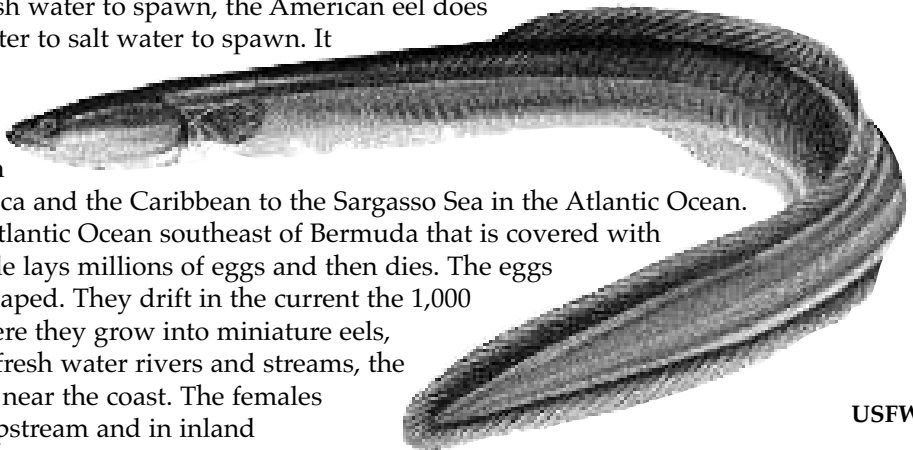
The American eel is long, growing to about five feet in length, which is why some people believe it is a snake. But eels, being fish, breathe through gills and have fins. The American eel's lower jaw protrudes slightly and its small scales are deeply embedded in its skin. Its coloration can vary, from gray-brown to yellowish-brown, with a pale belly.

#### **BIO BITS**

American eels lead very interesting lives. Unlike salmon and shad (anadromous fish), which migrate from salt water to fresh water to spawn, the American eel does the reverse, migrating from fresh water to salt water to spawn. It is a "catadromous" fish.

It is believed that once adult eels reach full maturity (in an average of ten years) they swim from their fresh water homes in eastern North America and the Caribbean to the Sargasso Sea in the Atlantic Ocean. (The Sargasso Sea is an area in the Atlantic Ocean southeast of Bermuda that is covered with the seaweed, sargassum.) Each female lays millions of eggs and then dies. The eggs hatch into tiny larvae that are leaf-shaped. They drift in the current the 1,000 miles or so to our coastal waters where they grow into miniature eels, known as "elvers." The elvers enter fresh water rivers and streams, the males staying in the brackish waters near the coast. The females are usually the ones found further upstream and in inland ponds. An amazing feat to say the least!

American eel populations have been in decline for almost twenty years. Migratory eels demonstrate how important water quality and aquatic habitat protection are, both locally and globally.



USFWS

## PBS to Air Report on Chemical Industry

On Monday night, March 26, your local public television station will air a groundbreaking investigative report on the chemical industry.

In *Trade Secrets: A Moyers Report*, correspondent Bill Moyers and producer Sherry Jones uncover how our health and safety have been put at risk and why powerful forces don't want the truth to be known. This investigative report, accompanied by a PBS.org Web site, is based on a massive archive of secret industry documents as shocking as the "tobacco papers."

*Trade Secrets* provides everyone working on toxic chemicals and environmental health issues a tremendous education and outreach opportunity. To help maximize that opportunity,

the Environmental Health Fund, the Environmental Working Group, the Center for Health, Environment and Justice and Women's Voices For the Earth are launching Coming Clean, a project aimed at cleaning up the chemical industry's contamination of our food, our bodies and our environment.

Coming Clean is working with groups across the country to organize local *Trade Secrets* viewing events. For more information about how you can organize a viewing event in your community, please contact Ann Long at [annlong@shentel.net](mailto:annlong@shentel.net), Charlotte Brody at [cbrody@chej.org](mailto:cbrody@chej.org), Bryony Schwan at [swan@wildrockies.org](mailto:swan@wildrockies.org) or Monica Rohde at [mrohde@chej.org](mailto:mrohde@chej.org).

## Menunkatuck Welcomes New Members

Menunkatuck Audubon Society welcomes the following new members:

**Branford:** Carolyn Butler, Ms Pamela L Daddio, Scott Fonicello, Susan Hayes, William Horne, Diane Mc Quire, Eleanor Powell, Nancy Rusatsky, Nancy Ryan, Nancy Sands, Mary Schwartz

**East Haven:** Wendell Chaffee, Ginny Dayharsh

**Guilford:** F H Callahan, Emily

Howard, Richard Larock, Ms Sara Nelson, L Loveday Robinson

**Madison:** Arthur P Anderson Jr, Ken Balakrishnan, Ann Brettingen, Ms E F Eadie, Lynne Mc Peake, Dolores Neuhausen, Sr Barbara Wood

**New Haven:** Frances Brody, Sandy Chan, Christina Colby, Howard Gall, Barbara Guzowski, Joseph Hoffman, I George Miller Jr, Eric Palkovacs

**West Haven:** Lori Blank, Frances Owyer, Jack & Rosemary Pickering



### Chapter Membership Application

**Yes, I'd like to join.**

Please enroll me as a member of the National Audubon Society and of my local chapter. Please send AUDUBON magazine and my membership card to the address below.

My check for \$20 is enclosed.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY: \_\_\_\_\_  
STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please make all checks payable to the National Audubon Society.*

Send this application and your check to:

National Audubon Society  
700 Broadway  
New York, NY 10003

### LOCAL CHAPTER

Menunkatuck Audubon Society

D63/7XCH

**Connecticut  
Rare Bird Alerts**  
(203)254-3665  
(860)599-5195

**Menunkatuck on the Web:**

[www.menunkatuck.org](http://www.menunkatuck.org)

Menunkatuck Audubon Society  
PO Box 214  
Guilford, CT 06437

Non-Profit Org  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
Guilford, CT  
Permit No. 22

**MENUNKATUCK  
MARCH 15  
AIRPORT HEARING - March 15**  
See Page 1.



**PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER**

# **NEXT MEETING**

## **SAM FRIED THE YUKON, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES AND THE DEMPSTER HIGHWAY**

*Wednesday, March 14, 2001*

*7:30 PM*

*Guilford Community Center*

*Route 77*

*Guilford*

*Are you on our mailing list?  
If not, send in this form with \$10.00 to cover  
costs to be sure that you are informed about  
our activities.*

Please add me to your mailing list.  
Enclosed is \$10.00 to cover the costs of the  
newsletter for one year.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to:

Menunkatuck Audubon Society

PO Box 214

Guilford, CT 06437