

# FRIENDS OF BLUE HERON PARK, INC.

JOIN US AT THE BLUE HERON NATURE CENTER FOR PROGRAMS, NATURE WALKS, BIRDING, AND MORE.



## BULLETIN ... SPRING 2021

BLUE HERON IS YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD PARK



### Greetings

This has been a very unusual year, first the COVID 19 pandemic and then the snowy winter. Yet we have survived and are looking forward to everyone being vaccinated and spring arriving.

Spring is the time of renewal, both for the Park and for Friends. We are looking forward to new members and renewals from our current members. There is an application in this bulletin and an envelope to make it easier to join and renew.

In an effort to introduce our Park to a broader number of people, Friends of Blue Heron Park is partnering with Protectors of Pine Oak Woods to share our respective bulletins. Members of PPOW will be receiving our bulletin and our members at FBHP will receive a copy of the Protectors bulletin.

During the pandemic we have provided some of our programs via Zoom and continue to provide in-person walks. Ellen Overby conducts a walk in the Park every Wednesday at 2:00 PM. It is a very comfortable way to introduce yourself to the trails. We have also been fortunate to have Don Recklies, a naturalist from Protectors of Pine Oak Woods, do walks in the Park. Ray Matarazzo, retired naturalist from the Staten Island Museum, has also done walks for us in the recent past and we hope that he will do more this spring.

In July we are partnering with the Forest Restoration Group of Protectors of Pine Oak Woods to remove the very invasive mile-a-minute weed (*Persicaria perfoliata*) from our Park. We would like to have a big turnout. Tools, refreshments and for children, Service Credits are available. Please consider joining us. Details can be found on page 6.

It is our intention to have our annual Scarecrow Festival in September 2021. We hope that by then the Park will be open for all.

Sincerely,  
Elaine Croteau

Thank you, Joanne Cimino, Camille Millen, Brianna Assalone & Family,  
Kenneth Manheim, Donna Sabri, Maria Costanzo, Florence Wynne  
and Lourdes J. Cruz for joining FBHP.

### FRIENDS OF BLUE HERON PARK BOARD

**ELAINE CROTEAU**  
PRESIDENT

**CLIFF HAGEN**  
VICE PRESIDENT

**ELLEN OVERBY**  
TREASURER

**SKYE SUTER**  
RECORDING SECRETARY

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**SKYE SUTER**  
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### FBHP...

WEBSITE: [friendsofblueheronpark.org](http://friendsofblueheronpark.org)  
FACEBOOK:  
[@friendsbhp](https://www.facebook.com/friends.of.blue.heron.park)  
ADDRESS: PO Box 131653  
Staten Island, NY 10313  
PHONE: 718-698-6056

### THE PARK...

WEBSITE:  
<https://www.nycgovparks.org/parks/blue-heron-park>  
PHONE: 718-967-3542  
PARK POLICE: 1-800-201-PARK  
ADDRESS: 222 Poillon Ave.  
Staten Island, NY 10312  
PARK HOURS: 6am - dusk  
NATURE CENTER HOURS:  
10am - noon and 1pm - 4pm.



# SPRING WHAT'S GOING ON AT BHP

## A FEW THINGS TO DO AT

# BHP

### WALK THE TRAILS

Blue Heron has numerous, well marked trails for you to explore on your own or with a trail guide.

Look for guided walks in the calendar listings.

### BIRDING WITH FRIENDS OF BLUE HERON

Are you interested in finding and observing birds in our parks and natural areas? Join Howie Fischer in walks that emphasize bird identification of the many species that migrate through the borough. Staten Island has unique natural sites that attract a diversity of birds throughout the seasons. Participants should bring binoculars, wear comfortable shoes, and dress for the weather.

### THE NATURE LIBRARY AT BHP

A collection of nature guidebooks, books, and magazines for all ages are located in the Nature Center Building.

The Nature Center is temporarily closed due to Covid -19 restrictions. We will let you know as soon as it opens back up.

BLUE HERON PARK  
222 POILLON AVE.  
STATEN ISLAND, NY  
10312

## FEEDING THE BIRDS

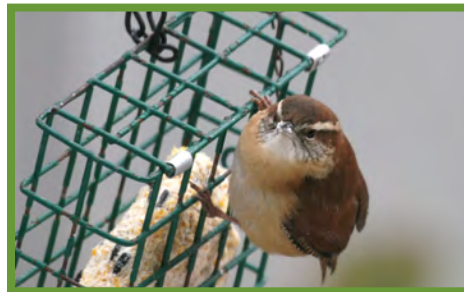


### What time of year is best to start feeding the birds?

It is okay to start feeding the birds any day of the year, but your results may differ from one season to the next because of migration and other factors. Overall, a good time to start feeding is when the seasons change, especially summer to fall, and winter to spring.

### What type of food should you offer the birds?

There are many different types of foods you can offer your feathered friends. Seeds, fruit, suet, nectar and even mealworms. Sunflower seeds will attract the widest variety of birds. White millet, peanuts (in or out of shell), cracked corn and safflower seeds will also attract many different species. Suet is an excellent source of fat and will help birds build up fat reserves for migration or to keep warm during the cold winter months. Nectar is great to attract hummingbirds to your yard from spring till fall.



### Will the birds become addicted to the bird feeders?

Studies have shown that birds do not become addicted to bird feeders. Birds know how to fend for themselves in the wild. However, when the weather turns bad and snow and ice cover up their food sources, supplemental food can help the birds get through difficult times. Studies have also shown that the birds that frequented feeders in the winter had better breeding success the next spring.

- Jeff Stetson

*We would like to welcome Jeff Stetson as our newest Board member at Friends of Blue Heron. You can find Jeff behind the Nature Center feeding the birds at the bird stations several times a week. He will be happy to talk to you about the birds there.*



PHOTOS TOP TO BOTTOM:

- BLUEJAY
- CAROLINA WREN
- RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD
- EASTERN SCREECH OWL

PHOTOS: JEFF STETSON



JUNE



DON'T KNOCK THE WEATHER:  
NINE-TENTHS OF THE PEOPLE COULDN'T  
START A CONVERSATION IF IT DIDN'T  
CHANGE ONCE IN A WHILE.

- KIN HUBBARD

MAY

## INDOOR PROGRAMS

Indoor programs are not available at this time. The Parks Department governs the rules for indoor programming. We look forward to offering you indoor nature programs when the building once more becomes available.

Please contact your Program Provider or the Park Rangers at Blue Heron Park (718-967-3542) for updates and cancellations.

APRIL

## FACEBOOK LIVE

Access Facebook Live events through our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/friendsbhp>.

## ZOOM PROGRAMS

Zoom programs may be viewed off-site, on personal computers, tablets, or phones. Contact the program provider to sign up for Zoom programs.

## WALKING THE TRAILS & OUTDOOR PROGRAMS

Outdoor programs include Birding walks at FBHP, Wednesday Walks, Weekend Guided Naturalist Walks, Walking the Trails and specialty events like Owl Prowl. Outdoor activities are conducted at BHP, unless otherwise indicated in the description.

Protocols for outdoor programs: Wearing masks, social distancing, and hand sanitizing.

## OFF-SITE PROGRAMS

Some outdoor programs take place at locations other than Blue Heron Park. Locations are indicated in program descriptions.



Top: Common snowdrops - found at Blue Heron Park.  
Bottom: Orange-legged furrow bee.  
Photos: Maya Shikhman



# SPRING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

All programs, walks, and events are at **Blue Heron Park**  
222 Poillon Ave.  
Staten Island,  
NY 10312  
unless otherwise indicated in description.

## PROGRAMS

Programs are available for adults, youths, and children.

## CHILDRENS PROGRAMS

Childrens programs are designed for varying age groups. Young children must be accompanied by a caregiver.

## WALKING THE TRAILS

Walk the Trails at Blue Heron Park with guest naturalists. This newly instituted series pairs visiting attendees with experienced naturalists, conservationists, and environmentalists to discover the wonders of our fantastic Neighborhood Park. See program listings for availability.

## WEDNESDAY WALKS

Come for a trail walk with Ellen Overby and Bill Tellefsen on Wednesday afternoons to explore the trails at Your Neighborhood Park!

Meet Wednesdays in the Blue Heron Parking lot at 2:00 pm for trail walks.

## BIRDING WITH FBHP

Join Howie Fisher at various parks for birding walks. Participants need binoculars, comfortable shoes, and to dress for the weather. Rain or snowy conditions cancel a walk.



Depthford Pink.  
Photo: Maya Shikhman.

# APRIL

EVERY SPRING IS THE ONLY SPRING  
- A PERPETUAL ASTONISHMENT.

- ELLIS PETERS

## WALKING THE TRAILS - OUTDOOR PROGRAMS AT BHP

### WEDNESDAY WALKS

with Ellen Overby

MEET IN BHP PARKING LOT: 2:00 pm

Wednesday, April 7

Wednesday, April 14

Wednesday, April 21

Wednesday, April 28

### KIDS N KRITTERS

### WILDFLOWER HIKE

Saturday, April 24

11:00 am - 12:30 pm

Let's make friends with our Blue Heron wildflowers. Recommended for children accompanied by caregiver.

Limited to 10 - 12 participants. Masks are a must. Registration required. Email Nancy Zawada at [dapplegrey41@yahoo.com](mailto:dapplegrey41@yahoo.com).

## ON-LINE ZOOM PROGRAMS & OFF SITE PROGRAMS

### ZOOM PROGRAM YOGA

Thursday, April 15

Thursday, April 29

10:15 - 11:45 pm

Lift your spirits, calm your mind, and serenely flex your muscles. Join Terry Seaman for a relaxing yoga session.

Registration: Terry Seaman at 718-356-0106.

### ZOOM PROGRAM KRAFTY KIDS APRIL FLOWERS

Saturday, April 17 12:00 - 1:30 pm

Join me for a flower craft to beautify your surroundings. Craft supplies to be announced with Zoom link. Program recommended for ages 5 and up.

Registration is required to receive the Zoom link. Email Nancy Zawada at [dapplegrey41@yahoo.com](mailto:dapplegrey41@yahoo.com).

### ZOOM PRESENTATION A SPRING TONIC

Friday, April 23 2:00 - 3:30 pm

What's better than a SPRING TONIC after a long winter? Find out what "spring greens" are available at this time of year to make delicious green drinks and yummy green foods. Join Skye Suter to learn how to make invigorating consumables for the season.

Email Skye Suter at [skyesuter@gmail.com](mailto:skyesuter@gmail.com) to receive the link for this Zoom presentation.

### ZOOM PRESENTATION FIVE FLOWERING HERBS TO CULTIVATE

Saturday, April 24 11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Herbs are typically green leaves, but sometimes the flowers are used in the kitchen, boudoir, and apothecary too. Whether you grow them in containers or in the ground, flowering herbs like calendula, echinacea and roses offer color, flavor, and scent plus attract pollinators. Join herbalist Gert Coleman to learn what these herbal flowers can do for you.

Required: Email Gert Coleman at [gert.coleman@verizon.net](mailto:gert.coleman@verizon.net) to receive the link for this Zoom presentation.

### OFF-SITE PROGRAMS BIRDING WITH FBHP

Sunday, April 18 9:00 - 11:00 am

Led by Howie Fischer at Clove Lakes Park.

Sunday, April 25 9:00 - 11:00 am

Led by Howie Fischer.

Program at Clove Lakes Park.

Meet on Royal Oak Road close to the intersection of Rice Avenue.

Walks sponsored by the Friends of Blue Heron Inc.

Join Howie Fischer at Clove Lakes Park for two birding programs.

The walks will focus on migrating birds. Clove Lakes is one of the top birding sites in the borough for finding and observing birds during spring migration. Expect warblers, orioles, thrushes, vireos and any surprises that may appear.

Binoculars are necessary for viewing well. Rain will cancel any walk. Information: Howie Fischer at 347-279-2819 or



# SPRING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

## MAY

NOW EVERY FIELD IS CLOTHED WITH GRASS, AND EVERY TREE WITH LEAVES; NOW THE WOODS PUT FORTH THEIR BLOSSOMS, AND THE YEAR ASSUMES ITS GAY ATTIRE.

- VIRGIL



Photo Maya Shikhman.

### WALKING THE TRAILS - OUTDOOR PROGRAMS AT BHP

**WEDNESDAY WALKS**  
with Ellen Overby

MEET IN BHP  
PARKING LOT:  
2:00 pm

Wednesday, May 5  
Wednesday, May 12  
Wednesday, May 19  
Wednesday, May 26

#### KIDS N KRITTERS MOTHER'S DAY BIRD HIKE

Saturday, May 8  
11:00 am - 12:30 pm

Mother's Day Bird Hike - Grab your Mom or another person special to you and enjoy a hike! We will be on the lookout for our returning feathered friends..

Limited to 10 - 12 participants. Masks are a must. Registration required. Email Nancy Zawada at [dapplegrey41@yahoo.com](mailto:dapplegrey41@yahoo.com).

#### WALKING THE TRAILS A WALK IN THE WOODS AT BLUE HERON PARK

Sunday, May 9 12:00 - 1:00 pm

Join Don Recklies for a woods walk to see what spring has brought us. We'll meet at the Blue Heron Nature Center then walk around Spring Pond and the Arbutus Woods Trail loop to the west. (Heavy rain or inclement weather will cancel; should earlier spring rains have made the Orange trail impassible, we'll choose another route.)

Masks are required. Meet in front of the Nature Center, 222 Poillon Avenue. For information call Don Recklies at 718-768-9036. (Heavy rain or inclement weather will cancel.)

### ON-LINE ZOOM

#### A MOTHER'S DAY TUSSIE-MUSSIE

Saturday, May 8  
3:00 - 4:30 pm

Join Skye Suter to learn about the secret language of flowers and create a beautiful hand-held flower bouquet for Mother's Day.

This program will be held outside on the grounds of the park if weather is good. If not, it will be held via Zoom. Registration is required for this program. Email [skyesuter@gmail.com](mailto:skyesuter@gmail.com) to register and for materials instructions.

#### ZOOM PROGRAM YOGA

Thursday, May 13 10:15 - 11:45 pm  
Thursday, May 27 10:15 - 11:45 pm

Lift your spirits, calm your mind, and serenely flex your muscles. Join Terry Seaman for a relaxing yoga session.

Registration: Terry Seaman at 718-356-0106.

#### ZOOM PROGRAM - KRAFTY KIDS BIRD CRAFT

Saturday, May 15 12:00 - 1:30 pm

Materials to be announced with Zoom link.

Registration is required to receive the Zoom link.  
Email Nancy Zawada at [dapplegrey41@yahoo.com](mailto:dapplegrey41@yahoo.com).

#### OFF-SITE PROGRAMS BIRDING WITH FBHP

Sunday, May 2 9:00 - 11:00 am  
Led by Howie Fischer at [Clove Lakes Park](#)

#### MOTHER'S DAY WALK

Sunday, May 9 9:00 - 11:00 am  
Led by Howie Fischer. Program at [Clove Lakes Park](#).

Meet on Royal Oak Road close to the intersection of Rice Avenue.

Walks sponsored by the Friends of Blue Heron Inc.

Join Howie Fischer at [Clove Lakes Park](#) for two birding programs.

The walks will focus on migrating birds. Clove Lakes is one of the top birding sites in the borough for finding and observing birds during spring migration. Expect warblers, orioles, thrushes, vireos and any surprises that may appear.

Binoculars are necessary for viewing well. Rain will cancel any walk. Information: Howie Fischer at 347-279-2819 or [cotingas51@gmail.com](mailto:cotingas51@gmail.com).

#### ZOOM PROGRAM THE INSECTS OF STATEN ISLAND

Saturday, May 16 12:00 - 1:30 pm

Discover the colorful butterflies, moths and beetles that call Staten Island home and learn how to document the amazing biodiversity in your own backyard..

Registration is required to receive the Zoom link.

Email Maya Shikhman at [maya.shikhman@gmail.com](mailto:maya.shikhman@gmail.com).

#### ZOOM PRESENTATION SEVEN KITCHEN HERBS TO KNOW AND GROW

Saturday, May 22 11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Want to start an herb garden but don't know where to start? Parsley, basil, thyme, dill, and other culinary herbs grow well in containers, garden corners, and on your windowsill. "Kitchen herbs" can do a lot more than simply flavor your food. Join herbalist Gert Coleman to learn how to grow, harvest and use herbs in both the kitchen and beyond.

Required: Email Gert Coleman at [gert.coleman@verizon.net](mailto:gert.coleman@verizon.net) to receive the link for this Zoom presentation.



# SPRING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

## JUNE

### WALKING THE TRAILS OUTDOOR PROGRAMS AT BHP



Genus rhododendron. Photo Maya Shikhman.

#### WEDNESDAY WALKS

with Ellen Overby

MEET IN BHP PARKING LOT: 2:00 pm

Wednesday, June 2

Wednesday, June 9

Wednesday, June 16

Wednesday, June 23

Wednesday, June 30

#### WALKING THE TRAILS KIDS N KRITTERS POND HIKE

Saturday, June 12

11:00 am - 12:30 pm

Join us for a short hike and let's take a dip to see who is living in the pond!

Limited to 10 - 12 participants. Masks are a must. Registration required. Email Nancy Zawada at [dapplegrey41@yahoo.com](mailto:dapplegrey41@yahoo.com).

### ON-LINE ZOOM PROGRAMS & OFF SITE PROGRAMS

#### ZOOM PROGRAM YOGA

Thursday, June 3

Thursday, June 17

10:15 - 11:45 pm

Lift your spirits, calm your mind, and serenely flex your muscles. Join Terry Seaman for a relaxing yoga session.

Registration: Terry Seaman at 718-356-0106.

#### ZOOM PROGRAM - KRAFTY KIDS DRAGONFLIES

Saturday, June 26 12:00 - 1:30 pm

Join us for a fun Dragonfly craft. Materials will be announced with Zoom link.

Registration is required to receive the Zoom link. Email Nancy Zawada at [dapplegrey41@yahoo.com](mailto:dapplegrey41@yahoo.com).

#### OFF-SITE PROGRAM THE COLONIAL HERB GARDEN

Saturday, June 19 1:00 - 2:30 pm

The Staten Island Herb Society maintains an amazing herb garden on the grounds of the Conference House Park. Join herbalist Skye Suter for a tour of the Colonial Herb Garden and find out about some of the herbs used by earlier generations.

Meet at the Colonial Herb Garden - adjacent to the Conference House. Email Skye Suter at [skyesuter@gmail.com](mailto:skyesuter@gmail.com) to register.

## SUMMER

#### WEDNESDAY WALKS

with Ellen Overby

MEET IN BHP PARKING LOT:

2:00 pm

Wednesday, July 7

Wednesday, July 14

Wednesday, July 21

Wednesday, July 28

Wednesday, August 4

Wednesday, August 11

Wednesday, August 18

Wednesday, August 25



#### PROTECTORS OF PINE OAK WOODS RESTORATION WORKSHOP MILE-A-MINUTE INVASIVE PLANT REMOVAL Saturday, July 17, 2021 - 10:00 AM - 2:00PM

Join Protectors of Pine Oak Woods at Blue Heron Park (located at 222 Poillon Avenue) for a Restoration Workshop. PPOW will be joined by the Urban Park Rangers and other volunteers to eradicate the Mile-A-Minute plant where it has become most invasive, in the vicinity of the red trail. BHP has recently been added to the PPOW Restoration Workshop project, which has been in effect for over 25 years.

PPOW will provide tools and refreshments, and **service credits** for students. This project is good for all ages. For additional information, contact Brian Smith at 917-842-6585 or Don Recklies at 718-768-9036.

# SPRING FEATURED PHOTOS



**MEMBERSHIP**  
BECOME A MEMBER OR RENEW  
YOUR MEMBERSHIP



PHOTO : SPRING PEEPERS BY MAYA SHIKHMAN

## URBAN PARK RANGER CORNER... VERNAL POOLS AND SPRING PEEPERS

As days become longer, the air becomes warmer, and trees begin to bloom, many animals who have spent the winter months conserving energy begin to emerge to search for food and a mate.

Rain falls, nourishing the forests, and forming vernal, or 'of spring' pools. Vernal pools are water bodies that form in the springtime from melting snow and rain, creating a vital habitat for many species of animals, such as frogs. These amphibians will head to vernal pools to mate and lay their eggs, where the tadpoles will then grow and develop without the threat of being eaten by fish. As summer creeps in and the pools dry up, watch for young frogs hopping with their new legs from the vernal pools to the larger, year-round ponds!



Urban Park Rangers

**WEDNESDAY WALK  
TRAIL GUIDE, ELLEN  
OVERBY, SURVEYING A  
VERNAL POND THAT  
OVERTOOK ONE OF  
THE TRAILS.**

PHOTO: SKYE SUTER

I support environmental education at  
Blue Heron Park.  
Please enroll me as a member, so I can receive  
advance notice of programs and events.

### MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

- \$5 \_\_\_ Senior Citizen
- \$5 \_\_\_ Student
- \$10 \_\_\_ Individual
- \$15 \_\_\_ Family
- \$25 \_\_\_ Contributor
- \$50 \_\_\_ Organization (Spring Pond Society)
- \$100 \_\_\_ Sponsor (Turks Cap Lily Society)
- \$200 \_\_\_ Donation (Blue Heron Society)

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to make a special donation in honor of

\_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

or I wish to make a donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Membership checks, made out to Friends of  
Blue Heron Park, should be mailed to:  
Friends of Blue Heron Park, PO box 131653  
Staten Island. NY.10313

## SPECIAL THANKS TO FRIENDS OF BLUE HERON PARK SPONSORS



THE HONORABLE  
JOSEPH BORELLI  
COUNCIL MEMBER



Let's see your favorite nature photos in the bulletin. Submit nature photos that relate to the park - and we will see about placing it in a future bulletin. Submit photos to [skyesuter@gmail.com](mailto:skyesuter@gmail.com).

A copy of our latest annual report may be obtained upon request from the Office of the Attorney General, Charities Bureau, New York, NY 10271.



FRIENDS OF BLUE HERON PARK, INC.  
 PO BOX 131653  
 STATEN ISLAND, NY, 10313

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT ORG.  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
 PERMIT 405  
 S.I. N.Y. 10304



## WEDNESDAY WALKS

JOIN US FOR A TRAIL WALK AT BLUE HERON PARK TO EXPLORE ONE OF THE HIDDEN GEMS ON STATEN ISLAND.

MEET IN THE PARKING LOT AT 2 PM ON ANY GIVEN WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON FOR A GUIDED TREK THROUGH YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD PARK!

222 POILLON AVE.  
 STATEN ISLAND, NY 10312

## SAVE SOME DATES!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS TO MAKE SURE AND JOIN US ON A FEW OF OUR UPCOMING EVENTS.



Make sure to check inside the bulletin for an application and envelope - making it easier to join and renew at Your Neighborhood Park.

## MILE-A-MINUTE INVASIVE PLANT REMOVAL

SATURDAY, JULY 17, 2021  
 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

JOIN US IN JULY TO HELP RID SOME TRAILS OF THIS INVASIVE PLANT. DETAILS IN SIDE.



SCARECROW FESTIVAL  
 SATURDAY,  
 SEPTEMBER 25, 2021