

A Guide to the Protectors of Pine Oak Woods Collection

**Archives & Special Collections
College of Staten Island Library, CUNY
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Finding Aid by Antonio Golán

Collection #: SIM-11
Title: The Protectors of Pine Oak Woods Collection
Creator: Protectors of Pine Oak Woods
Dates: 1976-2007
Extent: 1.5 Linear Feet
Abstract: The Protectors of Pine Oak Woods is an environmental conservation advocacy group dedicated to the preservation of Staten Island's natural resources and heritage.

The organization was founded to preserve Pine Oak Woods (now known as the Clay Pit Pond State Park Preserve) on Staten Island's south shore. In the decades since the group has successfully lobbied for the addition of thousand of acres to Staten Island's park system, including Blue Heron Park, Kingfisher Park and the Greenbelt.

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

Protectors of Pine Oak Woods Collection, Archives & Special Collections, Department of the Library, College of Staten Island, CUNY, Staten Island, New York.

Acquisition

This collection was donated to Archives & Special Collections by Protectors of Pine Oak Woods.

Processing Information

Collection processed by Antonio Golán.

Restrictions

Access

Access to this record group is unrestricted.

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Administrative History

The Protectors of Pine Oak Woods is a group devoted to the preservation and conservation of Staten Island parks. In addition, they seek to extend existing park lands and to establish new parks in the borough. They also lead nature walks and tours through both existing and proposed parks and sponsor teenagers at summer conservation camps. Finally, they raise public awareness about parks and development and to influence public opinion in favor of preservation.

The Protectors of Pine Oak Woods was established in 1976 with the general purpose of spreading information about land conservation and the specific purpose of preserving Clay Pit Pond. Although the organization began small, it rapidly grew in membership and influence, and has had many successes, including the establishment of Blue Heron Park, Kingfisher Park, and the Greenbelt. Its membership has also grown considerably, and is at present is in the thousands. It operates primarily through grassroots action and lobbying, and has encouraged its members to contact government officials to petition for preservation. Recently, the group has been vocal in opposing the development and construction of a NASCAR racetrack and in the protection of the South Beach Wetlands.

This group has been praised by many government officials, including Governor Mario Cuomo, Senator Alfonse D'Amato, State Representative Susan Molinari, and both the New York State Senate and Assembly. Richard P. Buegler, the founder and former president of the organization, was a teacher and author, and won many awards for environmental activism, including the EPA Environmental Educator of the Year Award (1979), the Feinstone Environmental Award (1988) and the City Club of New York's "Earthling" Award (1991). He was succeeded by Hillel Lofaso, who has continued the organization's work to protect Staten Island parks.

Scope and Content Note

This collection contains materials ranging from 1976 to 2007, with the bulk of materials from approximately 1989 to 2007. The collection includes meeting minutes of the board of directors and its officers, copies of the organizational newsletter from 1976 to 2002, and subject files dealing with the NASCAR racetrack, the South Beach Wetlands, and plant extinction. Additions to this collection are expected.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into three series. Series 1: Minutes is located in boxes 1 and 2; Series 2: Publications is located in box 3 and Series 3: Subject Files is located in

box 4 through 10. Series 4: Articles and Reports is located in Boxes 11 through 13. Series 5: Committee Material is located in Box 13. The materials in this collection are arranged chronologically.

Index Terms

Protectors of Pine Oak Woods

Environmentalism -- New York (State) -- Richmond County

Richmond County (N.Y.) -- City Planning

Staten Island (New York, N.Y.)

Series Descriptions & Container Listing

[The following box/folder inventory is in the form of a table. If you are visually impaired and using a pdf reader you may need assistance and should contact the Archives at 718-982-4128.]

Series I: Minutes

This series contains minutes from the Protectors of Pine Oak Woods board meetings. It is located in the first three Hollinger boxes. It contains information about the governance of the Protectors, with inclusive dates from 1989 to 2002.

Box 1 – Minutes (1989-1999)

1. Minutes – May 2, 1989
2. Minutes – September 5, 1989
3. Minutes – May 15, 1991
4. Minutes – October 1991
5. Minutes – May 8, 1992
6. Minutes – November 23, 1992
7. Minutes – January 27, 1993
8. Minutes – March 30, 1993
9. Minutes – April 20, 1993
10. Minutes – June 8, 1993
11. Minutes – August 31, 1993
12. Minutes – November 3, 1993
13. Minutes – December 14, 1993
14. Minutes – April 11, 1994
15. Minutes – May 26, 1994
16. Minutes – August 24, 1994
17. Minutes – September 13, 1994
18. Minutes – September 20, 1994
19. Minutes – October 19, 1994
20. Minutes – December 14, 1994
21. Minutes – February 8, 1995
22. Minutes – May 11, 1995
23. Minutes – June 29, 1995
24. Minutes – August 30, 1995
25. Minutes – October 5, 1995
26. Minutes – December 6, 1995

27. Minutes – March 19, 1996
28. Minutes – May 15, 1996
29. Minutes – June 19, 1996
30. Minutes – August 21, 1996
31. Minutes – December 4, 1996
32. Minutes – January 29, 1997
33. Minutes – March 26, 1997
34. Minutes – April 8, 1997
35. Minutes – April 16, 1997
36. Minutes – May 20, 1997
37. Minutes – June 18, 1997
38. Minutes – July 13, 1997
39. Minutes – September 7, 1997
40. Minutes – September 24, 1997
41. Minutes – December 3, 1997
42. Minutes – February 4, 1998
43. Minutes – March 18, 1998
44. Minutes – May 6, 1998
45. Minutes – October 22, 1998
46. Minutes – December 3, 1998
47. Minutes – December 1998
48. Minutes – January 27, 1999
49. Minutes – March 24, 1999
50. Minutes – May 5, 1999
51. Minutes – June 23, 1999
52. Minutes – July 30, 1999
53. Minutes – August 25, 1999
54. Minutes – September 29, 1999
55. Minutes – September 29, 1999
56. Minutes – October 11, 1999
57. Minutes – November 17, 1999

Box 2 – Minutes (2000-2002)

1. Minutes – January 5, 2000
2. Minutes – February 16, 2000
3. Minutes – March 15, 2000
4. Minutes – May 17, 2000
5. Minutes – June 28, 2000
6. Minutes – August 30, 2000
7. Minutes – October 11, 2000
8. Minutes – November 1, 2000
9. Minutes – December 13, 2000
10. Minutes – January 31, 2001
11. Minutes – March 14, 2001
12. Minutes – April 18, 2001
13. Minutes – May 23, 2001

14. Minutes – July 5, 2001
15. Minutes – August 29, 2001
16. Minutes – October 10, 2001
17. Minutes – November 14, 2001
18. Minutes – December 6, 2001
19. Minutes – January 15, 2002
20. Minutes – March 20, 2002
21. Minutes – April 24, 2002
22. Minutes – June 19, 2002
23. Minutes – September 4, 2002
24. Minutes – October 16, 2002
25. Minutes – December 4, 2002

Series II: Publications

This series is comprised mostly of newsletters from the Protectors from 1976 to 2007. It also contains a book titled “Twenty Years of Green,” which highlights the groups history, activism, and programs.

Box 3 – Publications

1. Newsletters – 1976
2. Newsletters – 1977
3. Newsletters – 1978
4. Newsletters – 1979
5. Newsletters – 1980
6. Newsletters – 1981
7. Newsletters – 1982
8. Newsletters – 1983
9. Newsletters – 1984
10. Newsletters – 1985
11. Newsletters – 1986
12. Newsletters – 1987
13. Newsletters – 1988
14. Newsletters – 1989
15. Newsletters – 1990
16. Newsletters – 1991
17. Newsletters – 1992
18. Newsletters – 1993
19. Newsletters – 1994
20. Newsletters – 1995
21. Newsletters – 1996
22. Newsletters – 1997
23. Newsletters – 1998
24. Newsletters – 1999
25. Newsletters – 2000
26. Newsletters – 2001

- 27. Newsletters – 2002
- 28. Newsletters – 2003
- 29. Newsletters – 2004
- 30. Newsletters – 2005
- 31. Newsletters – 2006
- 32. Newsletters – 2007
- 33. Twenty Years of Green

Box	Folder	Title
3.1	1	Newsletters- 2016
3.1	2	Newsletters- 2017
3.1	3	Membership Pamphlet

Series III: Subject Files

The final series contains materials pertaining to subjects of interest to the Protectors of Pine Oak Woods, including research for a number of projects spearheaded by the Protectors. This series is arranged alphabetically.

Box	Folder	Title
4	1	Alpert, Joseph (retail mall construction), 1995-1996
4	2	Arbutus Creek, Lemon Creek, and Blue Heron Drainage Plans (Bluebelt), 1993-1998
4	3	Arthur Kill Deepening, 2000-2002
4	4	Arthur Kill Deepening, n.d.
4	5	Bloomingdale Woods, 1997-2003
4	6	Bridge Creek, 1992, n.d.
4	7	B/T Nautilus, 1994
4	8	Endangered Plants
4	9	Endangered Plants
5	1	Exxon Oil Spill, 1990-1991
5	2	Exxon Oil Spill, 1995
5	3	Exxon Oil Spill, 1996
5	4	Exxon Oil Spill, 1997
5	5	Exxon Oil Spill: Acquisition of land, 1991-1992
5	7	Exxon Oil Spill: Salt Marsh Restoration, 1991
5	8	Exxon Oil Spill: Salt Marsh Restoration, 1992
6	1	Exxon Oil Spill: Salt Marsh Restoration, 1993-1999
6	2	Exxon Oil Spill: Salt Marsh Restoration: Master Plan, 1992
6	3	Fresh Kills Landfill, 1990-1995, n.d.
6	4	Freshwater Wetlands Assessment, 1984, n.d.
6	5	Goethals Bridge Modernization, 1993-1997
6	6	Goethals Bridge Pond, 1987-1994, n.d.

6	7	Graniteville Swamp: City Land Committee Application, 1991-1994
7	1	Graniteville Swamp: Corbo Development, 1998
7	2	Graniteville Swamp: Maps, 1987-1991
7	3	Graniteville: Photos, n.d.
7	4	Graniteville Swamp: Reports and Correspondence, 1988-1994
7	5	Graniteville Swamp Woods, 2003-2004
7	6	Gulfport, 1990, n.d.
7	7	Harbor Estuary Program: Acquisitions & Restoration, 1999-2000
7	8	Harbor Herons: Articles, 1989-1996, n.d.
7	9	Harbor Herons: Base Maps, n.d.
7	10	Harbor Herons: Notes and Correspondence, 1990-1993, n.d.
7	11	Harbor Herons: Reports, 1992-1993, n.d.
8	1	Harbor Herons: Uniform Land Use Review Procedure-Memos and Forms, 1993
8	2	Isle of Meadows, n.d.
8	3	Kill van Kull, 1980, 1989-1993, n.d.
8	4	Mariner's Harbor, 1987-1993, n.d.
8	5	Long Pond, 1992-1996
8	6	Mariner's Marsh, 1992-1993
8	7	Marrow Street Associates, 1990-1993
9	1	Mohlenhoff and Sons, 1989-1992, n.d.
9	2	Neck Creek, 1980, 1992, 1999, n.d.
9	3	New York Department of Environmental Conservation: Applications and Comments, 1999-2001
9	4	Old Place Creek, 1987-1992
9	5	Old Place Creek Marsh Shoreline Condition, 1924-2002
9	6	Paw Paw Woods, n.d.
9	7	Plant Extinction/Invasion
9	8	Racetrack – Correspondence
9	9	Racetrack –Environmental Impact Report
9	10	Racetrack – Environmental Impact Information
9	11	Racetrack – Report on the Breeding and Productivity of Avian Species
10	1	Racetrack –Report
10	2	Racetrack – NYC Department of City Planning
10	3	Racetrack – Sierra Club Report

10	4	Sawmill Creek Marsh and Merrill's Creek, 1987-1996, 2001
10	5	Septic Systems—Environmental Issues, 1990
10	6	Shooter's Island Easement, 1990-1993
10	7	South Beach Wetlands – Initial Overview of the Site and its Natural Resources
10	8	South Beach Wetlands – Hydrologic Reconnaissance
10	9	South Beach Wetlands – Photographs
10	10	South Beach Wetlands – Photographs and Negatives (1999)
10	11	South Richmond Storm Water Plan, 1995
10	12	Staten Island Corporate Park/Teleport, 1987-1990, n.d.
10	13	USGS Staten Island Aquifer Study 1988
10	14	Wetland Watchers Project, 1993
10	15	Wolfe's Pond Park, n.d.

Series IV: Articles and Reports

This series contains articles and reports collected by the Protectors of Pine Oak Woods during the 1990s and 2000s as a way to enrich their arguments against the development of wetlands on Staten Island.

Box 11

1. Alternatives Analysis/Habitat Mitigation Letter Report: Shooters Island Reach, 1996
2. Aquatic Birds of the Arthur Kill: Short-term Damage Assessment Following a Major Oil Spill, 1990-1994
3. Assessment of Impacts on Avian Food Resources, 1991
4. Chemical Residues in Cormorants from New York Harbor and Control Location, 2003
5. Differences in Flight Patterns among Nesting Ibises and Egrets, 1988
6. Effects of an Oil Spill on the Prey Population and Foraging Behavior of Breeding Wading Birds, 1995
7. Egret Feeding Behavior and Prey Ecology in the Lower Hudson River Estuary, 1989
8. An Evaluation of Shallow Water Drift Material in the Arthur Kill and Kill van Kull, 1996
9. Factors Affecting the Use of Foraging Habitats by Breeding Egrets and Ibises, n.d.
10. First Breeding Record of Double-crested Cormorant in New Jersey, [1990s]
11. Fish and Shrimp Populations in the Arthur Kill, [1990s]
12. Foraging Patterns by Wading Birds and Nesting Patterns by Herring Gulls on Prall's Island in 1990: An Interim Report, 1990

Box 12

1. Freshwater Wetlands on Staten Island, New York: Assessment and Management Recommendations, Volume 1, 1989

2. Freshwater Wetlands on Staten Island, New York: Assessment and Management Recommendations, Volume 2, 1989
3. Harbor Herons Project: 2003 Nesting Survey, 2003
4. Harbor Herons Project: Interpretive Report, 1987
5. Harbor Herons Report, 1987
6. Immediate Effects of an Oil Spill on Behavior of Fiddler Crabs, 1991
7. Implementation Plan for the Piping Plover to Compensate for Losses from the B.T. Nautilus Oil Spill, 1994
8. Information on Study of Seabirds Killed by *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill, 1991
9. Nest Site Selection by Herring Gulls in an Urban Estuary, 1993
10. Records of New Jersey Birds, 1991
11. Reopening a Hudson River Striped Bass Commercial Fishery, 1999
12. Report of the NOAA Panel on Contingent Valuation, 1993
13. Special Hillside Preservation District: Findings and Recommendations, 1998

Box 13

1. Staten Island Freshwater Wetlands Program, 1991
2. Staten Island Freshwater Wetlands Preservation, 1991
3. Staten Island Growth Management Task Force, 2003
4. Staten Island Greenways Master Plan, 2003
5. A Study of Colonial Waterbirds in the New York-New Jersey Estuary, 1990
6. Wildlife Habitats on Shooters Island, New York Harbor: Characterization Study and Management Recommendations, 1994

Series V: Committee Material

This series currently contains material pertaining to the operations of the Open Space Advisory Committee.

7. Open Space Advisory Committee: Prioritization Form, n.d.
8. Open Space Advisory Committee: Questionnaire, n.d.