

SOFO naturalist



Each quarter SOFO features eco-links, written by a member or friend of the Museum. If you wish to submit an article, please contact us.

eco links

What is the Carbon C.R.E.W. Project?

Is a CREW right for you?

by Josephine DeVincenzi

The first celebration of “Earth Day” was on April 22, 1970. It helped raise global awareness of the critical need to address what was happening to our planet.

The New York Times

NEW YORK, THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 1970

Millions Join Earth Day Observances Across the Nation



New York Times covers first Earth Day, 1970

An environmental movement began as the result of annual earth day celebrations. It inspired me to complete a master’s degree in Environmental Science. I have used my knowledge and experiences in my science classroom and beyond to foster in my students, family, and friends the understanding of our personal decisions’ impact on the natural environment and the effects of climate degradation on all living things—including ours! As Chief Seattle said, “Man does not weave this web of life. He is merely a strand of it. Whatever he does to the web, he does to himself.”

Fifty years later, the need is still great. However, for the first time, I am truly optimistic that we have the science-based solutions and strategies to achieve our goal of not only stopping, but also reversing global warming.

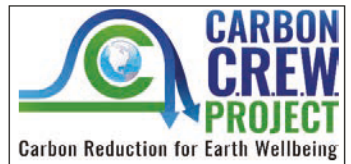
Project Drawdown is the most comprehensive plan ever developed to reduce global warming. As important as this plan is to the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, it is the positive vision of the founder, Paul Hawken, that has been the most helpful to me. I already understood much of the science basis of climate change concerns and the fact that the world was not acting was very depressing and distressing. However, Hawken’s vision is very uplifting and provides me with “an invitation to build, innovate, and effect change, a pathway that awakens creativity, compassion, and genius.”

Two years ago, I was introduced to the work of Hawken by a good friend, Dorothy Reilly, who had heard him speak and was impressed

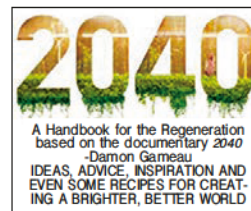
with the research and the positiveness of his message. Her enthusiasm for the work encouraged me to focus once again on what I could do today to make a difference in addressing the most important issue facing our planet and all living things. Dorothy also made an effort to reach your members and visitors when she wrote an article on Project Drawdown for your publication, the *SOFO Naturalist* in Autumn of 2019.

Through the years, Dorothy has done many things to stimulate others to consider their impact on the environment. One of the most important activities she did was to help found Drawdown East End—a grassroots, non-partisan group building local solutions to advance the opportunities identified by Project Drawdown. They have generated a website: drawdowneastend.org that is filled with information, activities, and strategies to achieve drawdown. Please check it out!

During COVID, Dorothy and I along with another friend, Sheila Peiffer used the opportunity of the time spent in quarantining to create a stimulating new way to share Drawdown’s solution and positive message—the Carbon C.R.E.W. Project. We think of it as a book club on a mission. Small groups of climate aware people—CREWs—are guided through a series of five conversations about drawdown solutions that culminate in each participant creating their own Personal Climate Action Plan (PCAP) and ultimately, guiding a new CREW to action. The potential for exponential growth comes when every member of a CREW helps to form a new CREW.



Using the 2040 Handbook, a text based on the documentary film 2040 and the work of Project Drawdown as the basis of each session, we encourage participants to share their reactions to the book and



commitments to new habits that can reduce their carbon footprint to a carbon neutral level by 2040. A recent U.N. Environmental Programme in February 2021 reported that some two thirds of global CO₂ emissions are directly or indirectly linked to households. This surprising realization has affirmed that our

small groups, focused on the neighborhood level, can influence policies of government and industry, and will make an enormous difference!

Built into our CREW project is a support system that fosters cohesion and accountability to the PCAPs that are developed. Again, the work of social science research suggests that by both stating your current goal and reporting on the status of your efforts at a pre-determined target date will increase your likelihood of success from 10% to 95%. And, I would like to add that we also have fun engaging in stimulating conversation about something we are all passionate about.

World famous anthropologist, Margaret Mead’s quote serves as an inspiration that CREWs can significantly impact carbon reduction

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for earth's wellbeing—"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." Will you be one of the thoughtful and committed people to join a CREW?

A complete resource package has also been developed that contains all the necessary materials to participate and guide a CREW. If you are interested, please check out the project on the drawdowneast-end.org website then click on the "Game On" tab. If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at CarbonCREW50@gmail.com.

Please join me and Dorothy Reilly on Thursday, July 22 at 7:30 PM for the SOFO Zoom program: 'Introduction to the Carbon C.R.E.W. Project - where small groups gather online to create personal, five-year plans for carbon-footprint-reduction using the Project's strategy.'

We'll share detailed information about the Project and discuss how you can become a member of a Carbon C.R.E.W.

By joining a C.R.E.W. you will prove that indeed "a small group of thoughtful and committed citizens" will "change the world."

Josephine DeVincenzi, Ed.D. Columbia University, is an experienced educator with thirty eight years in secondary school administration and education. She has lived in Sag Harbor since 1986. Now in retirement, she has returned to her life-long commitment to environmental issues focusing on Drawdown solutions.

Footnotes on Nature

On the Other Side of the Fence

by Rachel Speckenbach, SOFO Environmental Educator

In the Hamptons, we count down the days until summer and we flock to the beach on the first warm day of the year. We love our coastline habitats for the wild wonder, beauty, and excitement they possess. When we arrive at our shores, two notable species also settle in for the season—the piping plover and the least tern. These shorebirds generate excitement and criticism alike as conservationists set up miles of protective fencing for nesting along our beloved Long Island shorelines.



Bird nesting sign. Piping Plover, pictured on right, Least Tern on left

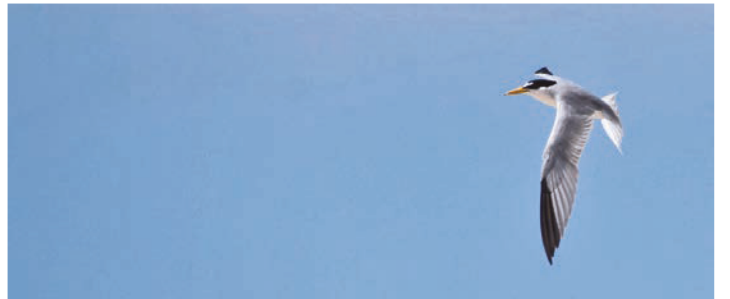
Often confused for other small shorebirds like sandpipers, piping plovers are a small, round bird with a stubby, black-tipped orange bill. The species can be identified by its sandy color with a white underbelly and specific field markings that include a black forehead band and a black neck ring. Plovers nest among large colonies of

least terns, a small grey and white seabird with a black cap and white forehead.



Piping Plover Running -SOFO

Piping plovers and least terns are the primary reasons for the fencing around nesting sites in the spring and summer months. Unlike a typical bird's nest, plovers and terns lay their eggs directly on the beach in "scrapes", or shallow dents they create. Depending on the species, a female will lay two to four camouflaged eggs that will be incubated by both parents for the next four weeks. When the eggs hatch, chicks of both species possess sandy-colored plumage. This was once a great strategy for hiding nests and young but now, with increased beach traffic and predator presence like raccoons, crows, and domesticated cats, it has left them vulnerable to harm.




Least Tern Flying -SOFO

In New York State, the least tern and the piping plover have a conservation listing of threatened and endangered, respectively, and they are protected under the Endangered Species Act.

On the other side of the fence, these birds and other coastal bird species can go about their breeding season less disturbed by beach goers. Chicks are born with fluffy down and plover young will begin to run along the beach and down to the water's edge to forage shortly after hatching. Although it is illegal to go in the fencing or harass these species, this provides an opportunity to observe bird families from an appropriate distance with a scope or binoculars. Plovers and terns hold intrinsic and extrinsic value in the natural environment. Piping plovers are known as ecosystem indicators, meaning they reveal the overall health of the environment, and both species help to keep their prey populations balanced. Fencing and beach closures can be frustrating at times but it is important to acknowledge that other animals also rely on this beautiful habitat to survive and thrive; there is enough beach to share.

On Sunday, July 11, 2021 SOFO Environmental Educator Rachel Speckenbach will lead 'On the Beach-Plovers, Terns & Other Shorebirds' in Southampton. Please call 631-537-9735 for more information and to reserve your spot.

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A full description of each program is listed on the SOFO website:
www.sofa.org/calendar

July, August, & September

DON'T MISS SOFO'S 32nd ANNIVERSARY GALA BENEFIT

The Journey Forward: Reconnecting through Nature

Saturday, July 31, 2021

6-9:30PM

DJ/ENTERTAINMENT/DINNER/DANCING/SPECIAL GUESTS

PLEASE NOTE!

The programs listed in this Calendar of Events will take place either in person or virtually, depending upon the COVID-19 situation. For that information, please look at the calendar listings on the SOFO website at:
www.sofa.org/calendar

For SOFO members: programs are free, unless otherwise stated.

Level of membership indicates the number of people entitled to a free program.

For SOFO non-members: there is a fee.

Please contact us at: info@sofo.org for fee information or refer to the SOFO website at: www.sofa.org

If you are not already a member we invite you to join the museum.

Find out about membership levels at www.sofa.org/membership

For full information on the South Fork Natural History Museum (SOFO), including entrance fees and hours of operation, please refer to the website: www.sofa.org

SOFO Mission

The mission of the South Fork Natural History Museum (SOFO) is to stimulate interest in, advance knowledge of, and foster appreciation for the natural world with special emphasis on the unique natural environment of Long Island's South Fork.

Calendar Highlights—Zoom Presentations
Find full program descriptions at: www.sofo.org/calendar
All Zoom presentations are free



Dog Tick -Gary Alpert

Tuesday, July 6, 7PM Zoom —
Don't Be a Part of the Tick Parade: AA

Monday, July 12, 6:30PM, Zoom —
Check out our Chelonians (Turtles & Tortoises) with
Jungle Bob: AA



*Jungle Bob with
Alligator Snapping
Turtle*



Dr. Judith Weis

Thursday, July 15, 7:30PM, Zoom —
Microplastics: They're Everywhere...
What Does that Mean? with Dr. Judith Weis, Professor Emerita
of Biological Sciences at Rutgers University, Newark: A/T/C10+

Thursday, July 22, 7:30PM, Zoom —
Introduction to the "Carbon C.R.E.W. Project"
(Carbon Reduction for Earth Wellbeing): A/T/C10+



*Nancy Grace Roman
space telescope, named in
honor of NASA's first
chief astronomer -NASA*

Tuesday, August 10, 7PM, Zoom —Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope—
NASA's Next Flagship-class Space Observatory,
Cosponsored by the Hamptons Observatory: A/T/C8+

Thursday, September 9, 7PM, Zoom —
Sustainable Southampton Envisions 2030:
Decarbonize our Community for a Sustainable Future:
A/T/C10+



Installation View

Saturday, September 25 7:30PM, Zoom —
Cities as Shared Habitats for Birds & Humans—
Imagining a Desired Future Through Art: A/T/C10+

Calendar At A Glance

Key: A—Adults T—Teens C—Children F—Family AA—All Ages

A full description of each program is listed on the SOFO website at www.sofo.org/calendar.

Advance reservations are required for all programs.

All Zoom Presentations are free

July

- Saturday, July 3, 10AM**, Make Your Own Fish-Print T-shirt & Learn About Local Fishes: F
- Saturday, July 3, 1PM**, Dragonfly & Damselfly Walk & Identification: A/T/C8+
- Tuesday, July 6, 7PM Zoom** Don't Be a Part of the Tick Parade: AA
- Saturday, July 10, 8AM**, SOFO Cleans the Beach – Help Needed: AA
- Sunday, July 11, 9AM**, On the Beach—Plovers, Terns, & Other Shorebirds: A/T/C8+
- Monday, July 12, 6:30PM, Zoom** Check out our Chelonians (Turtles & Tortoises) with Jungle Bob: AA
- Tuesday, July 13, 5:30PM**, Sunset Nature Tour of North Sea Harbor by Kayak or Paddle Board - BYOK/PB or rent from East End Explorer: A/T
- Thursday, July 15, 9:30AM – 2:30PM**, SOFO Whale Watching Cruise Onboard the *R/V Paumanok*: A/T/C10+
- Thursday, July 15 7:30PM, Zoom** Microplastics: They're Everywhere... What Does that Mean? with Dr. Judith Weis, Professor Emerita of Biological Sciences at Rutgers University, Newark: A/T/C10+
- Saturday, July 17, 10AM**, Secret Life of the Pond: AA
- Sunday, July 18, 10AM**, SOFO's Young Birders Club: Ages 8 – 18
- Sunday, July 18, 10:30AM**, Exploring the Pond with an Underwater Drone: C8+
- Thursday, July 22, 7:30PM, Zoom** Introduction to the "Carbon C.R.E.W. Project" (Carbon Reduction for Earth Wellbeing): A/T/C10+
- Friday, July 23, 8:30PM**, Full Buck Moon Hike with the Friends of the Long Pond Greenbelt AA
- Saturday, July 24, 10AM**, Beach Walk & Some Seining at Northwest Landing: A/T/C6+
- Sunday, July 25 10:30AM**, Exploring the Pond with an Underwater Drone: C8+
- Saturday, July 31**, SOFO's 32nd ANNIVERSARY GALA BENEFIT—THE JOURNEY FORWARD: RECONNECTING THROUGH NATURE
- Saturday, July 31, 10AM**, SOFO's Young Environmentalists Society (YES!) for Ages 10 – 160.

August

- Tuesday, August 3, 3PM**, The Unloved, Unusual, & Unknown—An Introduction to Reptiles, Amphibians, and Invertebrates with Jungle Bob: AA
- Saturday, August 7, 10AM**, Birding with Frank – Shorebirds at Shinnecock: A/T/C8+
- Sunday, August 8, 8AM**, SOFO Cleans the Beach – Help Needed: AA
- Monday, August 9, 9:45AM – 1PM**, SOFO Nature & Bird Watching Cruise Onboard the *R/V Pecomic*: A/T/C10+
- Tuesday, August 10 3:30PM** Nature Tour & Seining by Kayak or Paddle Board with East End Explorer - BYOK/PB or rent from East End Explorer: A/A
- Tuesday, August 10, 7PM, Zoom** Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope— NASA's Next Flagship-class Space Observatory, Cosponsored by the Hamptons Observatory: A/T/C8+
- Saturday, August 14, 10AM**, How to Harvest Your Own Sea Salt with Shelly Sells Sea Salt: AA
- Sunday, August 15, 10AM**, SOFO's Young Birders Club: Ages 8 – 18
- Wednesday, August 18, 4PM**, Shark Research & Education 2021 Field Work Update: AA
- Saturday, August 21, 9:30AM – 12PM**, Kayak Exploration of the Estuaries of North Sea Harbor with SOFO & The Southampton Trails Preservation Society (STPS). (BYOK, no kayak rentals available): A/T/C10+
- Saturday, August 21, 10AM**, Nature Hike at The Nature Conservancy's Mashomack Preserve: A/T
- Sunday, August 22, 10:30AM**, Observe the Animals of Vineyard Field— Like a Scientist C6-10
- Sunday, August 22, 8:30PM**, Full Sturgeon Moon Hike with Friends of the Long Pond Greenbelt: AA
- Saturday, August 28, 10AM**, SOFO's Young Environmentalists Society (YES!) for Ages 10 – 16
- Saturday, August 28, 1PM**, Diggin' in the Dirt: An Introduction to Soil Science: C7+
- Sunday, August 29, 10AM**, Clam Island Family Nature Walk: AA
- Tuesday, August 31, 3:30PM**, Nature Tour by Kayak or Paddle Board—BYOK/PB or rent from East End Explorer: AA

September

- Saturday, September 4, 10AM**, Snapping Turtles: Andy's Annual Prehistoric Monster Hunt: F
Tuesday, September 7, 4PM, Birding with Frank – Celebrate World Shorebirds Day at Shinnecock Bay: A/T/C8+
- Thursday, September 9, 7PM, Zoom** Sustainable Southampton Envisions 2030: Decarbonize our Community for a Sustainable Future: A/T/C10+
- Saturday, September 11, 7PM**,
The SOFO Young Environmentalists Society Presents an Outdoor, Community Screening of the New Day Films' Documentary "Bag It": AA
- Sunday, September 12, 8AM**, SOFO Cleans the Beach— Help Needed: AA
- Sunday, September 12, 10:30AM**, Summer Flowers & Insects — Outdoor Storytime for Ages 2 – 5: F
- Saturday, September 18, 9AM**, SOFO to Mashashimuet & Back— Trail Walk: A/T
- Saturday, September 18, 9AM**, Birding with Frank – Fall Migration: A/T/C8+
- Sunday, September 19, 10AM**, SOFO's Young Birders Club: Ages 8 – 18
- Monday, September 20, 7:30PM**, Full Harvest Moon Hike with Friends of the Long Pond Greenbelt: AA
- Saturday, September 25, 9:45AM – 1PM**, SOFO Nature & Bird Watching Cruise Onboard the *R/V Peconic*: A/T/C10+
- Saturday, September 25, 10AM**, SOFO's Young Environmentalists Society (YES!) for Ages 10 – 16
- Saturday, September 25, 10:30AM**, Late Summer Beetles, Bees, & Butterflies of Vineyard Field: AA
- Saturday, September 25, 7:30PM, Zoom** Cities as Shared Habitats for Birds & Humans—Imagining a Desired Future Through Art: A/T/C10+

Dear SOFO Members

Let us know what you would like to see included in future SOFO nature/environmental programming. We know what we can offer, but we don't know what you would like us to include.

Send your nature/environmental program ideas, suggestions, and your contact information to sofoedcomdir@optonline.net. We will make every effort to follow through on your ideas and suggestions. If we can't fulfill your requests we'll try to find an organization or an individual who can.

Thanks so much. We look forward to hearing from you.

Carol Crasson

SOFO Education and Communications Director

Email: sofoedcomdir@optonline.net



SOFO's 32nd Anniversary Gala Benefit Saturday, July 31, 2021



After a challenging year for all of us, living with the global pandemic that minimized social contact and precluded our hosting our 2020 Annual Summer Gala Benefit, I am happy to invite you to celebrate 2021 at SOFO's 32nd Anniversary Gala Benefit "The Journey Forward: Reconnecting through Nature" at the museum in Bridgehampton on Saturday, July 31.

We are excited to honor the wonderful people that we could not honor last year: Indy Burke, an ecosystem ecologist and the Carl W. Knobloch, Jr. Dean at the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies; Michael Gerrard, Andrew Sabin Professor of Professional Practice and Director of the Sabin Center for Climate Change Law at Columbia Law School; Kerry Heffernan, Chef at Grand Banks in Manhattan, a seafood sustainability and conservation leader who serves on the City Harvest Food Council; and environmentalists and long-time SOFO friends Kim and Greg Lippmann (SOFO Board Trustee) and their family.

Our benefit will feature a seated dinner, entertainment, live music, a special guest appearance by representatives of our native wildlife, tours of our museum and grounds, a live auction, and Honoree presentation. More information is available on our website at <https://sofo.org/summer-gala/>. Our plans are subject to change to keep in line with State COVID-19 protocol.

To ensure the safety and well-being of our guests and staff, we will of course follow all State COVID-19 guidelines. Our guests will be asked to provide proof of vaccination status and/or a document showing a recent negative virus test. We look forward to creating a safe, enjoyable experience for everyone.

Please contact Diana Aceti at 631.903.7217, daceti@sofo.org to reserve your tables/tickets. We have limited availability this year.

Frontiers in Marine Science Publishes Shark Research Paper

The South Fork Natural History Museum Shark Research and Education Program is happy to announce a second published scientific research paper, *Three-Dimensional Movements and Habitat Selection of Young White Sharks (Carcharodon carcharias) Across a Temperate Continental Shelf Ecosystem*, led by Florida Atlantic University's Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute, in collaboration with NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service; OCEARCH; the South Fork Natural History Museum (SOFO) and the Wildlife Conservation Society. The research was published in the journal *Frontiers in Marine*

Science March issue of this year.

The study, using cutting edge satellite technology, provided a unique look into how young white sharks in the North Atlantic Ocean travel and use their habitats. The study is the first to provide a fine-scale analysis of vertical movement behavior in young-of-year (one to two years) and juvenile white sharks (*Carcharodon carcharias*) in the New York Bight, which is the only confirmed white shark nursery area in the entire North Atlantic Ocean.

Data from the study simultaneously addresses many questions on the ecology, behavior, and conservation of a highly mobile marine species that has been a challenge to explore and will inform ongoing preser-

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the Nature clubhouse



Andre Aponte

Student Designs Logo for the SOFO Shark Research and Education Program

Andre Aponte might not be looking to pursue graphic design in college next year but he sure loves to do it for fun. He started to tinker with various programs only about three years ago, designing

mostly shirts for family and friends. Now, the SOFO Shark Research and Education Program is the latest benefactor of Andre's talent, as we are excited to finally have an official logo for our Shark Program.

The opportunity was presented to Andre by Greg Metzger, who teaches marine science at Southampton High School and is the Chief Field Coordinator for the Shark Program. Greg mentioned to his classes that the program was in need of a logo and stated that if a student's logo was chosen they would see their work showcased through the Shark Program's outreach. Andre went right to work and, within just a few days, put together several renditions of a logo. When we received the renditions, we sent the logos out to the research team for suggestions. After only a few iterations, we are happy to have our logo in print!



Continued from page 7

vation strategies for this vulnerable white shark population.

Study co-authors are Rachel Shaw, FAU Harbor Branch; Tobey H. Curtis, Ph.D., NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service, Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Management Division; Gregory Metzger, SOFO Shark Research and Education Program; Michael P. McCallister, MSc, FEC Laboratory, FAU Harbor Branch; Alisa Newton, Ph.D., Wildlife Conservation Society; G. Christopher Fischer, OCEARCH; and Matthew Ajemian, FAU Harbor Branch.

Funding and support for the research were provided by the Andrew Sabin Family Foundation; The South Fork Natural History Museum (SOFO); OCEARCH; Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute Foundation; Florida Atlantic University Foundation; NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service, Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Management Division; Southampton Public Schools; Lotek Wireless; and a number of private donors.

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