

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

The Moon Birds

by John Turner

In the early evening of a mid-June day eleven intrepid participants hiked through the globally rare Dwarf Pine Plains, a unique forest



Dwarf Pine Plains, credit: Long Island Pine Barrens Society

of pygmy pines found in the Long Island Pine Barrens. Their mission? To hear the night-time calls of the “moonbirds”—Whip-poor-wills and Chuck-will’s-widows (or “whips” and “chucks” in birding vernacular), ringing out over the pygmy pines; for these nocturnal birds, the central Pine Barrens is their Long Island stronghold.



Eastern Whip-poor-will, credit: Dominick Fenech, Cornell Lab of Ornithology

We know for the Whip-poor-will, and suspect for the Chuck-will’s-widow, their reproductive cycle is tied to the phases of the moon. “Whips” typically mate shortly after the full moon in May and the

young (typically two) hatch about 10 days before the next full moon in June. As the moon moves through its waxing phase and its reflected light gains strength, whip-poor-wills can see better at night enabling them to hunt more efficiently for the moths and large beetles they feed their young. During this active time both species vocalize, their onomatopoeiac calls repeated often - one student reported a whip-poor-will calling 1,088 times consecutively! No wonder their common names were derived from the calls they make!

While their calls were very much welcomed by the night’s participants, it hasn’t always been the case that their calls were welcome sounds. Superstition and meaning abound. A popular belief claimed that whoever hears a whip-poor-will will soon die or at least portends a death of someone the listener knows. A whip-poor-will calling outside a house meant the death of an inhabitant, and perhaps, allowing the bird to grab their soul as it departed their body, which if they did would lead to further calling by the bird. If the bird failed in capturing the soul it would fall silent. Other legends imparted only bad luck but not death to the hearer of a whip-poor-will.

Another legend has it that a person with back ailments who does somersaults in cadence with the whip-poor-will’s call will see their back problems soon cured (makes you wonder, though, if a person could do somersaults every two to three seconds then maybe their back wasn’t in such bad shape to begin with?). Another “first of the year call” legend meant good luck—if you made a wish upon hearing your first call then that wish would come true. In Louisiana gardeners would use the date of the first call of the whip-poor-will as a guide to planting garden peas.

According to folklore legend whip-poor-wills had importance to single women. If an unhitched woman heard her first whip-poor-will call of the year but the bird then went immediately silent, she would stay single all year long; but if she was quick enough to wish to be married upon hearing the call she would soon be so. Still another legend notes that if a single woman hears a whip-poor-will call before morning light and another whip-poor-will responds, then her “future man” will think of her that day.

Native Americans were also intrigued by whip-poor-wills. The Iro-



Pink Lady’s Slippers, credit: University of New Hampshire

quois, for example, believed that moccasin flowers (pink lady’s slippers) were the shoes of whip-poor-wills while Utes believed whip-poor-wills were gods of the night. Henry David Thoreau had a different, more basic, take on a whip-poor-will’s call: “It could mean many things, according to the wealth of myth

Continued on next page

Continued from page 1

surrounding this night flyer. The note of the whippoorwill borne over the fields is the voice with which the woods and moonlight woo me” he said.

“Whips” and “Chucks” belong to a group of birds known as “goat-suckers”, a name derived centuries ago from the mistaken belief that they use their large, supple, flesh-lined mouths to suck on the teats of goats. They were even accused of blinding or killing livestock once they latched on! This perception of “goat-sucking” isn’t totally off-base since the goatsucker name developed in Europe where residents often observed European nightjars flying around goat pens. They weren’t there to latch onto goat teats but rather were attracted to the insects stirred up by the goats frequenting pens and field. Even the family of birds these species belong to - the Caprimulgidae - underscore this mistaken connection. Capra means goat in Latin and mulgare means “to milk”, hence the birds in this family “milk goats”, even though, as we just mentioned, they can’t and don’t. Even a very wise person, Aristotle, apparently believed the bird-goat connection, noting: “Flying to the udders of she-goats, it sucks them and so it gets its name”.

In addition to Whip-poor-will’s and Chuck-will-widow’s there are six other members belonging to this family in North America - Buff-collared Nighthawk, Common Poorwill, Common Pauraque and Common, Lesser, and Antillean Nighthawks - and three occur here - “whips”, “chucks” and Common Nighthawks. This latter species is a very rare breeder on Long Island, if at all, but passes through in fall migration in the low thousands, as evidenced by the recent annual totals at the “Nighthawk Watch” conducted at the Stone Bridge in Frank Melville Park in Setauket by the Four Harbors Audubon Society. These North American goatsuckers can be grouped into two categories: nightjars and nighthawks. “Whips” and “chucks” are nightjars - they have more rounded wings and plumper bodies than their nighthawk brethren, and also have large rictal bristles lining each side of their mouths, similar to cat whiskers, that assist them in catching larger prey; nighthawks lack these bristles which are actually highly modified feathers.

While nighthawks like the Common Nighthawk generally feed on small aerial insects as they zip around - gnats, midges, mosquitoes, and the like - nightjars feed on larger insects - bigger moths and beetles mostly, flying up from the ground or from a perch. Chuck-will’s-widows are also known to eat birds and lizards. When viewed in a picture the birds appear to possess small mouths because of small bills. But looks can be deceiving as their mouths are enormous. In fact, the genus *Antrostomus* means “cavern mouth”.

One of the distinctive features of both “whips” and “chucks” are their cryptic coloration. They blend in remarkably well with the leaf litter on the forest floor, a good thing since they are ground nesting



Eastern Whip-poor-will nest, credit: Cornell Lab of Ornithology

birds and they and their eggs (typically two) and chicks are more vulnerable to predation. There is available on the Internet one photograph of a whip-poor-will on the forest floor and it is simply indistinguishable, in another closer photo the bird can just be made out; it’s not until a second, even closer photo that the bird’s face and elongated body can be clearly seen.

This ground nesting habit is one reason why both species have declined. As Long Island becomes more developed and natural areas get fragmented by development, animals associated with that development - namely dogs, feral and free ranging pet cats, and wild animals such as raccoons attracted to easier food in suburban areas - frequent wild areas adjacent to the homes preying on a variety of vulnerable species including these species. A reduction in the abundance of their insect prey appears to be a contributing cause. From 1980-1985 New York conducted its first statewide breeding bird survey; it replicated the effort in 2000-2005. In the first survey Whip-poor-wills were detected in 564 quadrangles (one square mile of land); in the latter survey the species was detected in only 241 quadrangles, a reduction of 57%. A similar trend occurred with the Chuck-will’s-widow, with a 62% reduction. A third bird survey began in 2020 and will be completed in 2025; at that time we’ll have an up-to-date picture on the status of these two nightjars. Contrast this with John James Audubon’s 1838 account: “Hundreds are often heard at the same time in different parts of the woods, each trying to out-do the others; and when you are told that the notes of this bird may be heard at the distance of several hundred yards, you may form an idea of the pleasure which every lover of nature must feel during the time when this chorus is continued. Description is incapable of conveying to your mind any accurate idea of the notes of this bird, much less of the feelings which they excite”

As I was walking back to the car, ruminating about the experience of the “moonbirds” calling beneath the Strawberry Moon, some close enough to cause excitement in an effort to see the birds making these nearby voices, a random thought popped into mind - how human experience can be so enriched when we connect with other forms of life we allow to flourish. May whip-poor-wills and chuck-will’s-widows call under full moons for many decades to come.

About John Turner

John is a SOFO Board Member, Senior Conservation Policy Advocate for the Seatuck Environmental Association, and Conservation Chair for the Four Harbors Audubon Society. He is the author of the popular Long Island nature guide *Exploring the Other Island: A Seasonal Nature Guide to Long Island* and a children’s book *Waylon’s Wandering Waterdrop*. John is the President and Founder of Alula Birding and Natural History Tours, a small, Long Island based tour company, catering to the birder and naturalist who enjoys small and intimate group tours.

To hear the call of the Eastern Whip-poor-will join John
Wednesday, June 7, at 6PM in Westhampton
for his Whip-poor-will walk

with the Four Harbors Audubon Society.

For further information and to make a reservation
contact SOFO at (631) 537-9735 or info@sofo.org

If you can’t make the walk and want to hear the call
of the Eastern Whip-poor-will go to the Cornell Lab of
Ornithology’s “All About Birds” website - www.allaboutbirds.org,
type in Eastern Whip-poor-will and click on sounds.

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www.sofa.org • email: info@sofo.org.

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

April, May, & June

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.

**Saturday, April 22,
SOFO FREE Earth Day Open House 10AM-4PM**

SOFO Nature Photography Workshop for Beginners

With Fish Guy Photos—Chris Paparo

Wednesdays, May 3, 10, 17—6PM-8PM

SOFO Members \$100 for all three sessions

Non-members \$150 for all three sessions

This workshop is for adults

You MUST register for all three sessions

Bring your own camera – from smartphone cameras on up

Enrollment limited

About your instructor

Born and raised on Long Island (New York), Chris Paparo has been exploring the wilds of the Island for over 30 years.

As a wildlife photographer, writer and lecturer, he enjoys bringing public awareness to the diverse wildlife that calls the Island home.

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.sofa.org/calendar.

Advance reservations are required for all programs.

April

Saturday, April 1, 9:30AM: FREE, Alewife Walk With Peconic Baykeeper, Peter Topping: A/T/C5+

Sunday, April 2, 1PM-3:30PM: The Day in the Life of a SOFO Pond—A Pop-up Exhibit: AA

Sunday, April 2, 7PM: In Search of the American Woodcock: A/T

Tuesday, April 4, 7PM, FREE, Zoom Program: What's Up in the Spring Sky? Presented by the
Hamptons Observatory: A/T/C10

Thursday, April 6, 8PM: FREE, Full "Pink Moon" Hike With Friends of the
Long Pond Greenbelt: AA

Spring School Break FREE Outdoor Nature Programs 10:30AM – 11:30AM

For Children of All Ages

Led by SOFO Environmental Educators

Monday, April 10—Exploring With our Five Senses

Tuesday, April 11—Springtime Plant Scavenger Hunt, Native and Non-Native

Thursday, April 13—Spring Scavenger Hunt

Friday, April 14—Birds of Vineyard Field

Saturday, April 15, 10AM: FREE, Young Birders Club Meeting: Ages 8-18

Sunday, April 16, 10AM: FREE, Scoy Pond Trail Walk Through the Grace Estate & Grassy Hollow
Preserve with Dai Dayton: A/T/C10+

SOFO FREE Earth Day Open House

**Saturday, April 22,
10AM-4PM**

10AM-12PM: Meet Dogs and Cats from the Southampton Animal Shelter
Meet the Animal Rescue Fund of the Hamptons! Learn about their mission and
programs, and the grand re-opening of their renovated East Hampton Adoption
Center later this spring.

2PM-3PM: Animal Show With Jungle Bob: Unloved, Unusual, and Unknown:
Reptiles, Amphibians, and Invertebrate Animals

7PM-9PM: Family Nature Trivia Night, Light Refreshments – BYO beverage

Sunday, April 23, 11AM: FREE, YES! Presents – Seed Planting for SOFO's Yes! Garden and to Take
Home for Your Garden! F

Saturday, April 29, 8AM: Spring Migration Bird Walk With Joe Giunta: A

Saturday, April 29, 10AM: FREE, Young Environmentalist Society (YES!) Meeting: Ages 10-16

Sunday, April 30, 10:30AM: 3D Topographic Map Making: C5-10

May

Wednesday May 3, 6PM-8PM: Nature Photography Workshop for Beginners: A

Friday, May 5, 8:30PM:FREE, Full “Flower Moon” Hike With Friends of the Long Pond Greenbelt: A

Saturday, May 6, — 3PM-6PM, A/T
FREE, Tick-Borne Disease Panel Discussion
With Experts in the Field and Q&A

Sunday, May 7, 1PM-3:30PM: The Day in the Life of a SOFO Pond—A Pop-up Exhibit: AA

Wednesday, May 10, 6PM-8PM: Nature Photography Workshop for Beginners: A

Saturday, May 13, 6AM: Day Trip to Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge to Observe Spring Bird Migration With Frank & to Celebrate World Migratory Bird Day: A/T

Saturday, May 13, 9AM: Searching for Lead-backed Salamanders: A/T/C5+

Sunday, May 14, 11AM: Feeding Time at the Museum: C3-5

Wednesday, May 17, 6PM-8PM: Nature Photography Workshop for Beginners: A

Friday, May 19, 9AM: FREE, Andy Sabin Nature Walk at the Andrew Sabin Nature Preserve in Riverhead With the Peconic Land Trust: AA

Friday, May 19, 9PM: FREE, Citizen Science Program—Horseshoe Crab Survey & Tagging With Cornell Cooperative Extension: A/T/C8+

Saturday, May 20, 9AM: Black Racer Snake Walk &Talk with Jake: A/T/C5+

Saturday, May 20, 10AM: FREE, Young Birders Club Meeting: Ages 8-18

Sunday, May 21, 10AM: FREE, Atlantic Gully Trail Walk (hilly terrain) With Dai Dayton: AA

Saturday, May 27, 8AM: Spring Migration - Birding at Hither Hills With Wayne Whitmore: A/T16+

Saturday, May 27, 9:30AM: Black Racer Search With Andy Sabin: AA

Saturday, May 27, 10AM: Salamander Seining and Some Frogs Too, With Andy Sabin: AA

Saturday, May 27, 10AM: FREE, Young Environmentalist Society (YES!) Meeting: Ages 10-16

Saturday, May 27, 2PM: SOFO Shark Research & Education Team Panel Discussion and Q&A: AA

Sunday, May 28, 11AM: Box Turtle at Long Pond – Storytime & Craft: C3-6

June

Saturday, June 3, 9PM:FREE, Full “Strawberry Super Moon” Hike With Friends of the Long Pond Greenbelt: AA

Sunday, June 4, 11AM: Feeding Time at the Museum: C6+

Sunday, June 4, 1PM-3:30PM: The Day in the Life of a SOFO Pond—A Pop-up Exhibit: AA

Tuesday, June 6, 8AM: Breeding Warblers of Long Island With Joe Giunta: A

Wednesday, June 7, 6PM:FREE, Whip-poor-will Walk With John Turner and Four Harbors Audubon Society: A/T

Saturday, June 10, 10AM-1PM: FREE, National Dragonfly Day Celebration With Friends of the Long Pond Greenbelt: AA

Sunday, June 11, 10:30AM: Beach Memory Jars: C3-8

Saturday, June 17, 8:30AM:FREE, Birds of the Meadow and Woods—Eric Salzman Memorial Bird Walk With Eastern Long Island Audubon Society: A/T/C8+

Saturday, June 17, 10AM: FREE, Town of Esst Hampton Shellfish Hatchery Tour; Oysters, Clams, & Scallops, and How they Grow: A/T/C10=

Saturday, June 17, 10AM: FREE, Young Birders Club Meeting: Ages 8-18

Sunday, June 18, 9AM: FREE, From Sagaponack to the Atlantic Ocean—Trail Walk With Dai Dayton: AA

Saturday, June 24, 10AM: FREE, Town of East Hampton Shellfish Nursery Tour; Land Based & Floating Nursery, Hands-on Visit to the Public Oyster Garden, Learn About the Oyster Gardening Program: A/T/C10+

Saturday, June 24, 10AM: FREE, Young Environmentalist Society (YES!) Meeting: Ages 10-16

Saturday, June 24, 1PM: Learn about Diamondback Terrapins With a Walk Through the Salt Marsh: A/T/C8+

Saturday, June 24, 5:30PM: Sunset Nature Tour of North Sea Harbor by Kayak or Paddle Board, BYO K/PB or rent from East End Explorer: AA

Sunday, June 25, 9:30AM: Observing Long Island’s Roadside Wildflowers: A/T



Northern quahog, *Mercenaria mercenaria*, Bay scallop, *Argopecten irradians*, American oyster, *Crassostrea virginica*

The Biology of Bivalves

by Emily Zabusky, SOFO Environmental Educator

Did you know that some of our local shellfish go dormant during the cold, winter months? In January, February, and March the water temperatures in our bays and harbors can drop below 40 degrees Fahrenheit. At this temperature shellfish, such as clams, oysters, and bay scallops, become inactive, which means they slow down their metabolism and become dormant. To prepare for this harsh, cold environment shellfish will filter feed plankton. They filter feed enough plankton in the fall to store energy in the form of glycogen, a type of glucose used as energy storage to survive during the winter months. Once spring arrives, and the weather begins to warm, the water temperatures increase, and the shellfish will then begin to feed on plankton again. They will slowly condition and ripen their reproductive organ (gonad) and begin to produce sperm and egg for spawning purposes. When the summer season comes around, and water temperatures reach 70 degrees and above, spawning will begin. At this time the shellfish will release millions of sperm and eggs into the water column with the hopes that sperm and egg meet, fertilization occurs, and the next generation is established.

The East Hampton Town Shellfish Hatchery, led by Barley Dunne, the Hatchery Director, has been re-stocking clams, oysters, and scallops since 1989 (after the 1985 brown tide that devastated our shellfish population). The shellfish Hatchery also seeds and grows shellfish to reduce excess nitrogen in our water.

Our local shellfish such as clams, oysters, and scallops act as our natural water filtration system. These shellfish are super important to our local waters because they help remove excess nitrogen. While, yes, nitrogen is essential for plants and animals, too much nitrogen in our waters can cause a depletion of oxygen and harmful algal blooms. One oyster in our waters can filter 50 gallons of water each and every day.

Join SOFO for two free tours to learn first-hand how the Town of East Hampton grows and raises Oysters, Clams, and Scallops

Saturday, June 17, 10AM, Montauk

Shellfish Hatchery, Free Tour: Oysters, Clams, & Scallops, and

How They are Grown.

This program is for adults, teens, and children ages 10 and older.

Saturday, June 24, 10AM, East Hampton

Shellfish Nursery, Free Tour: Land Based & Floating Nursery, Hands-on Visit of Public Oyster Garden, Learn About Public Oyster Gardening Program

This program is for adults, teens, and children ages 10 and older.

SOFO's After-School Outreach Expands in 2023



Participant builds a combination car-boat vehicle

SOFO's Young Environmentalists Society (YES!) will expand our programming to include the Bridgehampton Child Care and Recreation Center (BHCCRC). YES! is a youth group founded by SOFO and dedicated to researching and engaging in local environmental issues through hands-on workshops, field trips, interviews with environmentalists, and the group's online book club led by a NOAA scientist. YES! will present quarterly programs for BHCCRC students both at the

Center and at the Museum. In December 2022 and January 2023, YES! group leader Mare Dianora and Melanie Meade, SOFO Education and Outreach Coordinator, presented Rising Seas LEGO Architecture Workshops at BHCCRC's After School Program. The students used LEGO bricks to design and build buildings and vehicles for use in a future world where coastal communities would benefit from architecture and vehicles adapted to rising sea levels.

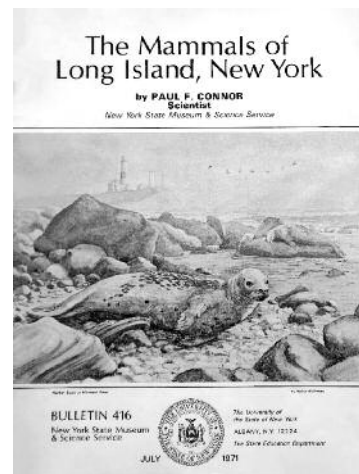
In the spring, SOFO will invite BHCCRC students to participate in YES! seed planting workshops. Students in this workshop will learn about seed germination and seedling care through planting seed starter trays of vegetables, some to be observed at the Childcare Center and some to take home.

SOFO's After School Enrichment Program is adding a new partnership with Project Most at Springs and John M. Marshall Elementary Schools for the 2023 school year. SOFO's after-school enrichment teacher, Rob Gelling, and SOFO Environmental Educators will present hands-on environmental education-themed activities to Project Most students. Students will learn about local habitats and wildlife through a series of activities, including "Make a Mini Composter", "Make a Water Filter", "Tree Cookies", "SOFO's Live Native Reptiles and Amphibians", and "Pond Life".

A New Conservation

Campaign: the Long Island Mammal Survey

by Mike Bottini, Wildlife Biologist Seatuck Environmental Association



Cover of the 1971 Mammals of Long Island, New York

Have you ever seen a Gray Fox here on Long Island? How about a Long-tailed Weasel or a Mink? These three species are among several mammals whose status and distribution on Long Island are currently unknown. The last extensive mammals survey on the Island was done during the years 1960 - 1963. Led by Paul Connor, a scientist with the New York State Museum and Science Service, it culminated in the excellent 1971 publication, "The Mammals of Long Island, New York."

To update and fill in the six-decade-long data gap, SOFO

is collaborating with the NYSDEC, Seatuck Environmental Association, Friends of the Long Pond Greenbelt, the Central Pine Barrens Commission and other conservation groups and volunteers on a three-year campaign to map the distribution of some 27 terrestrial and semi-aquatic wild mammals thought to exist on the island. SOFO's specific role in the project is to set out remote trail cameras to document and map the distribution of our medium-sized (squirrel) to large mammals (deer).

Updating "The Mammals of Long Island, New York" is a community science project. There are many ways for you to participate in this project, as an individual, as a group, as an institution, or as a community organization.

If you are interested in taking part in the project, please contact Mike Bottini at: mbottini@seatuck.org

May is Lyme Disease Awareness Month

Last year SOFO hosted a panel discussion with experts in the field of Tick-Borne Disease. This informative panel discussion can be viewed on YouTube at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ux3i5kxhj6k>.

Join us on May 6, 2023, from 3-6PM as SOFO once again brings you up-to-the-minute information on tick-borne disease with experts in the field. Please check our website (www.sofo.org) for information on this year's stellar panel of experts.

Build it and they Will Come

by Frank Quevedo

In 1970, the eastern bluebird (*Sialia sialis*) was officially chosen as New York State's bird because of its longtime symbol of happiness, good health, and hope. The sad decline of their population began back in the late 1800s, after the European starling and English house sparrow were introduced in the United States.

Like the bluebird, starlings and house sparrows are cavity nesters. The competition for nesting sites, along with an increasing loss of habitat, led to such low numbers that most people couldn't say they had ever seen a bluebird. In 1989 the South Fork Natural History Society began a bluebird nesting box monitoring program. Led by



Setting out the wood pieces



Attaching the front with an appropriate bluebird sized hole

members and volunteers, bluebird boxes were built and placed in areas that were suitable for nesting bluebirds. What started out as a small monitoring program with 15 boxes in 1989 has grown today to 150 boxes throughout the South Fork. And today, each spring our



Adding the bottom piece

current bluebird box monitor, Joe Giunta, inspects, cleans, and repairs each box before the bluebirds arrive to build their nests.

On Sunday, January 29, 2023, children, teens, and adults volunteered their time to help build 25 new bluebird boxes for the upcoming season. The program was organized by Melanie Meade, SOFO's Education and Outreach Coordinator. The materials were generously donated by Riverhead Building Supply and wooden pieces were cut to the proper dimensions by SOFO staff member, Paul King.

SOFO thanks everyone who participated in this citizen science community program, as it is essential in the conservation of eastern bluebird populations.



Bluebird Box building workshop crew



**Please Join us at SOFO's 34th Annual Summer Gala
July 29, 2023. 6-10pm
6pm VIP Cocktail Reception
7-10pm Honoree Presentation, Auction, Seated Dinner, Dancing**

The South Fork Natural History Museum (SOFO) is happy to invite you to our "THE NURTURING POWER OF NATURE" Gala Benefit, benefiting SOFO's Environmental and Educational Programs & Initiatives, which will be held this summer on Saturday, July 29 at the museum. As our Board President, Andy Sabin says, "Conservation is a Cause That We Must Pass on to Future Generations." We hope that you will join us for a very important and entertaining evening that includes a VIP Cocktail Reception with a special Chefs tasting menu, a Seated Dinner, an Honoree Presentation, Silent & Live Auctions, Surprise Guests, and Dancing. Our caterer is Elegant Affairs, and Flowers will be provided by Mark Masone.

This year we are thrilled to Celebrate the Power of Our Natural World and Extraordinary Visionaries Who Protect It: Yvon Chouinard & Family, Patagonia, and Dan Emmett & Family, as their lives and conservation work exemplify generous and soulful acts of philanthropy dedicated to protecting our planet. They share our commitment to "talking the talk and walking the walk" as we work together to conserve our natural world and help redefine the future of our environment for our people of all ages around the world.

*For VIP Tables & Tickets, General Admission Tickets, and sponsorships, please contact Diana Aceti
dianaaceti@gmail.com, 631.903.7217, 631.537.9735; sofo.org/Summer-Gala*

We send a special thanks to Andy Sabin and The Andrew Sabin Family Foundation.



"SOFO Summer Gala 2022 – Credit Rob Rich/SocietyAllure.com ©2022"

SOFO is very happy to announce our Spring Business Champion Congratulations to Summerhill Landscapes



In our ongoing initiative to support our sponsors and other sustainable businesses, SOFO is pleased to announce our Spring Business Champion, Summerhill Landscapes, located in Sag Harbor, NY, which was founded on the East End by owner Declan Blackmore in 1993.

“We are delighted to honor Summerhill Landscapes as our Spring Business Champion,” says SOFO Executive Director Frank Quevedo. “We thank them for their commitment to the natural world, and for their spirit of community.” Adds Diana Aceti, SOFO Director of Development, “Summerhill has long been a friend of SOFO, and they are leaders in their commitment to sustainability. Inspired by the great landscape tradition of Blackmore’s native Ireland, the Summerhill team continually strives to be stewards of the land, utilizing sound horticultural practices and organic principles to build and maintain fine landscapes aligned with the natural environment.”



“We are proud to be recognized by SOFO as its Spring Business Champion,” stated Declan Blackmore, President, Summerhill Landscapes. “This year marks Summerhill Landscapes’ 30th Anniversary and while we have grown since our inception in 1993, we remain humbled by the beauty of our region. SOFO’s Award speaks to the tenets of responsible stewardship, preservation, education, and respect for our natural environment that SOFO and Summerhill share.”



Team – Summerhill Landscapes

The Summerhill Landscapes team shares the mission of a never-ending pursuit of knowing, understanding, and practicing fine horticulture. From the interns who arrive seeking to apply the lessons they have learned in the classroom, to the Blackmore Family scholarship established for students heading off to college planning a career in horticulture and related disciplines, to a Summerhill management group that constantly evaluates and refines our processes, their work supports this mission across the South Fork, and the broader region.

**Summerhill Landscapes, 6 Shaw Road, Sag Harbor, NY 11963
631.725.7005**

Summerhill Landscapes projects and collaborations span the East End and beyond. Operations facilities in East Hampton and Sag Harbor. Offices in Sag Harbor and Westhampton Beach. Nurseries in Amagansett, Southampton, Riverhead, and Water Mill. <https://summerhilllandscapes.com>

Please join SOFO as we Support our Sponsors, which you can explore on our website at <https://sofo.org/business-champion>. We will be featuring a new business each quarter throughout the year. To become a Business Supporter, please contact Diana Aceti at daceti@sofo.org. More details are available at <https://sofo.org/membership/>



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.

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