

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

Hiroyuki Hamada *Creates a Site-specific Outdoor Sculpture Exhibition at SOFO*

For the 2023 Parrish Road Show, the Parrish Art Museum has invited Hiroyuki Hamada (Japanese, born 1968) to create a site-specific exhibition at the South Fork Natural History Museum and Nature Center (SOFO) in Bridgehampton, NY. The exhibition opens on September 9 and will be on view through October 10.

The Opening Reception will take place on Saturday, September 9 at 3pm, when Hiroyuki will speak about how work exhibited outdoors differs from that created to be seen indoors, the importance of nature in his work, and the thinking and feeling that has enabled him to create this site-specific body of work. Light refreshments will be served.

Join us at SOFO on Saturday, September 16 at 1pm for a free guided tour of the exhibition with the artist. Hiroyuki will walk visitors through the grounds and share his process and the nature of the works on view.

The following is the Artist's Statement. In it, he speaks about how art addresses what it is to be human and the relationship between art and nature.

Matter Collides with Matter in a New Environment

Our presence on the planet is a minuscule phenomenon before countless galaxies and an infinite time span. From such a standpoint, nature is undoubtedly an existential matter to us. We, the artists do operate within the social formation, fully subjected to the imperatives of our time and space, but just as nature often defies human attempts to contain and domesticate, art does reach out beyond the social framework in addressing what it is to be human.

I think there is a parallel between nature and art if we position both in the framework of our social formation. We might not generally regard nature as having much to do with social imperatives com-



Hiroyuki Hamada (Japanese, born 1968)

#89, 2020 Painted resin and wood, 48" x 20 1/2" x 27"

Courtesy of the Artist

pared with the legal codes, political environment, and prevalent beliefs among us. But if we see our species from a larger perspective of the geological timeframe, for example, nature does guide us in essential ways.

And art does have the potential to reflect where we all come from: nature.

I have worked in my studio for the last three decades or so as an artist. My pursuit in two-dimensional surfaces has turned to three-dimensional ones. The materials have shifted from charcoal and paper, paint and panel, plaster, resin and so on and so forth. I've worked with venues of varying sizes and shapes with varying missions in different places. But this is my first attempt in making works intended for an exhibition in an open space with the sky as a ceiling and the ground as a floor. How does the work look under the natural light with the wind, the rain, the smell of soil and plants, the presence of animals, or under the moonlight?

To me, making a work involves intimate observations and intense dialogues with the elements involved. When matter collides with matter, unexpected things happen, and the dialogue becomes a part of the structure. In the process, I strive to capture the mystery and the essence of the unknown in recognizable and meaningful ways. I



Hiroyuki Hamada (Japanese, born 1968)

#96, 2022 Pigmented resin, 65" x 48" x 20"

Courtesy of the Artist

attempt to feel what is in front of me as the material for expressing what is not obvious in our daily routines in the social framework.

Nature operates according to its own rules and the material tendencies and realities of a given environment. It does not follow our beliefs, norms, and values in manifesting what it manifests. In that sense, my practice always has been about finding some sort of connection to the process of nature. This opportunity to work with the open space at SOFO is certainly a relevant one which I approach with seriousness and excitement.

Continued on next page

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*At the Studio, April 2023, Courtesy of the Artist***ARTIST'S BIO:**

Hiroyuki Hamada's exhibition highlights include shows at Gana Art Bowang (Seoul, South Korea); The Arts Center at Duck Creek, East Hampton; Guild Hall of East Hampton; Bookstein Projects, New York City; The List Gallery at Swarthmore College; Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art, Charleston, SC; and OK Harris Works of Art, New York City, where he began his solo exhibition career with wall hanging sculptures.

Hamada's studio practice includes sculpture, painting, and Piezography prints; his visual language and explorations in search of sharing essential qualities of experience have developed moving amongst these mediums. Hamada has been the recipient of a Pollock-Krasner Foundation grant and twice received New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowships in sculpture; in 2018, he was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship, and in 2020, he was named recipient of the Pollock-Krasner Mid-Career Residency at the Provincetown Fine Arts Work Center. Hamada lives and works on the East End of Long Island with his family.

ABOUT PARRISH ROAD SHOW

Now in its twelfth year, Parrish Road Show is the Museum's off-site project designed to encourage engagement and interaction between artists and the communities outside the Museum's walls. Each year, selected artists work with the Parrish and partner venues to create new work and to provide unique opportunities for visitors to see and experience art in unexpected places, from public parks and highways to historical sites and community centers.

Join us at SOFO,

Saturday, September 16 at 1pm,

for a free guided tour of the exhibition with the artist.

Hiroyuki will walk visitors through the grounds and share about his process and the works on view.

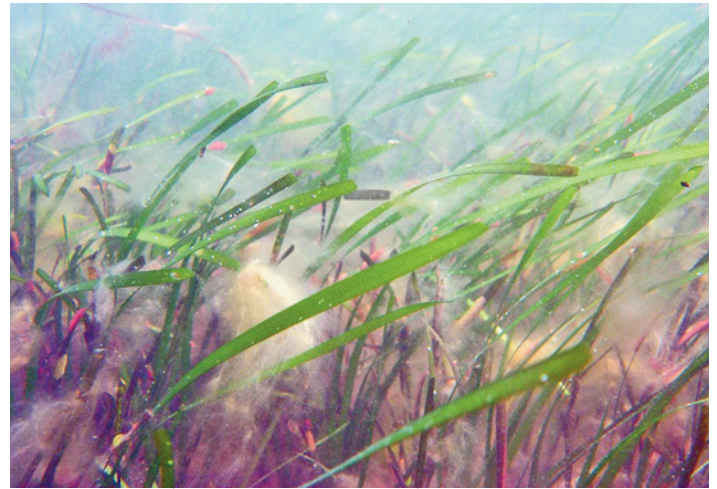
On Friday, September 29 at 6PM,

Hiroyuki Hamada will speak about his work at the Parrish Art Museum.

If you wish to attend, please RSVP to the Parrish Art Museum.

*A Canary in a Coal Mine:***The Decline of Eelgrass in Long Island Waters***by Nikole Holowat, SOFO Environmental Educator*

Long Island waters are home to a diverse range of unique species, including seahorses, pipefish, puffer fish, sea stars, and spider crabs. However, in recent years, the biodiversity of our local waters has become threatened. A major cause for this environmental issue is the decline in the critical and productive habitat of marine eelgrass meadows. From 1930 to today, it is estimated that 90% of New York's eelgrass meadows have vanished. This decline is a clear indicator of the state of our water's quality, like a canary in a coal mine.

*Marine eelgrass meadow, credit: Bradley Peterson*

Eelgrass (*Zostera marina*) is a foundational species that plays a crucial role in the health of our coastal ecosystems. Eelgrass beds create underwater meadows that serve as essential habitat, shelter, and food sources for countless marine species, including fish, shellfish, and birds. These underwater meadows also contribute to improved water quality by filtering out pollutants, trapping sediments, and absorbing excess nutrients. Unfortunately, eelgrass populations have been dwindling rapidly in recent years, posing a significant risk to the health of our marine ecosystems.

One of the primary factors contributing to the decline of eelgrass beds is decreased water quality. Excess nutrients from agricultural runoff, wastewater discharge, and stormwater can lead to algal blooms that block sunlight and reduce oxygen levels, making it difficult for eelgrass to grow. These nutrients also limit the light penetration that these grasses need in order to carry out photosynthesis. Climate change exacerbates the issue by raising water temperatures, something eelgrass is particularly susceptible to.

As eelgrass beds decline, their ability to filter water and support diverse marine life is diminished, leading to further declines in water quality and biodiversity loss. The loss of eelgrass beds means a reduction in oxygen production, excess nutrient absorption, as well as greenhouse gas storage associated with these aquatic plants. Additionally, any commercially and ecologically important species, such as bay scallops, rely on eelgrass beds for spawning and nursery grounds. Without these essential habitats, their populations are at risk of decline, which can have cascading effects throughout the entire marine food web.

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377 Bridgehampton/Sag Harbor Turnpike
P.O. Box 455
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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

July, August, & September

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.

Celebrate Shark Week!

Tuesday July 11, through Tuesday, July 18

With the South Fork Natural History Museum (SOFO)

FREE admission to the Museum for Children ages 12 and under during Shark Week



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.

July

Saturday, July 1, 9AM: Observing Ospreys: A/T/C8+

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

Monday, July 3, 10:30AM: Meet the Martins—the Purple Martins, with John Shemilt: AA

Monday, July 3, 9PM, FREE: Full Buck Super Moon Hike with Friends of the Long Pond Greenbelt: AA

Thursday, July 6, 4:30-5:30PM: Zenergy Outdoor Movement Class with Karen Meyers: A

Saturday, July 8, 10AM-12PM, FREE: Young Environmentalists Society (YES!) Presents, A Sculpty Clay Class, Featuring Animals, with Ruby Jackson: C5+

Saturday, July 8, 3PM: La Oruga Muy Hambrienta: Cuentos y Actividad Artística: Niños y niñas Edades, en Español: C3-6

Sunday, July 9, 10:30 AM: Make a Fish, Take a Fish: C6+

Monday, July 10, 4:30-5:30PM: Zenergy Outdoor Movement Class with Karen Meyers: A

Celebrate Shark Week!

Tuesday July 11, through Tuesday, July 18

With the South Fork Natural History Museum (SOFO)

FREE admission to the Museum for Children ages 12 and under during Shark Week



Wednesday, July 12, 10AM, FREE: A Visit to a Working, Traditional, Wooden-Boat Shop: A/C10+

Thursday, July 13, 4:30-5:30PM: Zenergy Outdoor Movement Class with Karen Meyers: A

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

Saturday, July 15, 11AM-1PM: Shinnecock Bay Seine-Netting for Exotic Fish from the Gulf Stream Current: AA

Sunday, July 16: 11AM: Paleontology Playground: Creating and Learning About Fossils: C8+

Monday, July 17, 4:30-5:30PM: Zenergy Outdoor Movement Class with Karen Meyers: A

Wednesday, July 19, 1PM: East End Outdoor Nature Education Program with Crystal at the Elizabeth Morton National Wildlife Refuge in Sag Harbor, \$4 parking fee per car : C3-7

Thursday, July 20, 4:30-5:30PM: Zenergy Outdoor Movement Class with Karen Meyers: A

Saturday, July 22, 8-10AM, FREE: Nature Hike Through the Long Pond Greenbelt to the Truman Capote Stone with Dai Dayton: AA

Sunday, July 23, 4-6PM, Poetry: Open-mic Readings About Nature, Summer, and our Local Landscape with Jennifer Senft: A

Monday, July 24, 4:30-5:30PM: Zenergy Outdoor Movement Class with Karen Meyers: A

Tuesday, July 25, 10AM: Appreciating and Understanding our Salt Marsh: A/T/C10+

Friday, July 28, 9:45-1PM Shinnecock Bay Nature & Birdwatching Cruise Aboard the RV Peconic: A/T/C10+

Saturday, July 29, 10AM, FREE: Young Environmentalists Society, (YES!) Meeting: Ages 10 -15

Saturday, July 29, 6-10PM: SOFO's 34th Annual Summer Gala
"The Nurturing Power of Nature"

August

- Tuesday, August 1, 8:30PM, FREE:** Full Sturgeon Super Moon Hike with Friends of the Long Pond Greenbelt: AA
- Thursday, August 3, 4:30-5:30PM:** Zenergy Outdoor Movement Class with Karen Meyers: A
- Saturday, August 5, 8:30-10AM, FREE:** Hike from Vineyard Field to Poxabogue County Park with Dai Dayton: AA
- Saturday, August 5, 10AM:** Ocean Dunes and Beach Walk, Spanish Interpretation Available, Cosponsored with East Hampton Historical Society and the Amagansett U.S. Life-Saving & Coast Guard Station: A/T/C8+
- Sunday, August 6, 1PM-3:30PM:** A Day in the Life of a SOFO Pond—A Pop-up Exhibit: AA
- Monday, August 7, 4:30-5:30PM:** Zenergy Outdoor Movement Class with Karen Meyers: A
- Thursday, August 10, 4:30-5:30PM:** Zenergy Outdoor Movement Class with Karen Meyers: A
- Saturday, August 12, 11AM:** Birding with Frank—Shorebirds at Shinnecock: A/T/C/8+
- Saturday, August 12, 6-7:30PM, FREE:** Befriending Bugs with Entomologist Jeffry Petracca: A/T/C4+
- Monday, August 14, 4:30-5:30PM:** Zenergy Outdoor Movement Class with Karen Meyers: A
- Wednesday, August 16, 1PM:** SOFO's East End Outdoor Nature Education Program with Crystal at Inlet Pond County Park, Greenport: C3-7
- Wednesday, August 16, 2PM, FREE:** 2023 Annual Panel Discussion with the SOFO Shark Research and Education Team: A/T
- Thursday, August 17, 4:30-5:30PM:** Zenergy Outdoor Movement Class with Karen Meyers: A
- Friday, August 18, 9:45-1PM:** Shinnecock Bay Nature & Birdwatching Cruise Aboard the RV Peconic: A/T/C10+
- Saturday, August 19, 10AM, FREE:** Young Birders Club Meeting: Ages 8-18
- Saturday, August 19, 10:30AM:** Seining with SOFO: AA
- Monday, August 21, 4:30-5:30PM:** Zenergy Outdoor Movement Class with Karen Meyers: A
- Thursday, August 24, 4:30-5:30PM:** Zenergy Outdoor Movement Class with Karen Meyers: A
- Saturday, August 26, 10AM:** Make Your Own Fish Print T-Shirt & Learn About Local Fishes with Al and Sue Daniels: A/T/C5+with adult companion.
- Monday, August 28, 4:30-5:30PM:** Zenergy Outdoor Movement Class with Karen Meyers: A
- Wednesday, August 30, 8:30PM, FREE:** Full Blue Super Moon Hike with Friends of the Long Pond Greenbelt: AA
- Thursday, August 31, 4:30-5:30PM:** Zenergy Outdoor Movement Class with Karen Meyers: A
-

September

- Saturday, September 2, 10AM:** Snapping Turtles—Andy Sabin's Annual Prehistoric Monster Hunt: AA
- Sunday, September 3, 1PM-3:30PM:** A Day in the Life of a SOFO Pond—A Pop-up Exhibit: AA
- Thursday, September 7, 8AM:** Birding with Frank—Celebrate World Shorebirds Day: A/T/C8+
- Thursday, September 7, 4:30-5:30PM:** Zenergy Outdoor Movement Class with Karen Meyers: A
- Saturday, September 9, 3PM:** Parrish Art Museum 2023 Road Show—Outdoor Sculpture by Hiroyuki Hamada: AA
- Monday, September 11, 4:30-5:30PM:** Zenergy Outdoor Movement Class with Karen Meyers: A
- Thursday, September 14, 4:30-5:30PM:** Zenergy Outdoor Movement Class with Karen Meyers: A
- Saturday, September 16, 10AM, FREE:** Young Birders Club Meeting: Ages 8-18
- Saturday, September 16, 8:30-10AM, FREE:** Nature Hike Along a Section of the Paumanok Path with Dai Dayton: AA
- Saturday, September 16, 1PM, FREE:** Guided Outdoor Tour with 2023 Parrish Road Show Artist, Hiroyuki Hamada: AA
- Sunday, September 17, 10:30AM:** Beach Memory Jars: C3-8
- Monday, September 18, 4:30-5:30PM:** Zenergy Outdoor Movement Class with Karen Meyers: A
- Wednesday, September 20, 1PM:** SOFO's East End Outdoor Nature Education Program with Crystal at the Ponquogue Bridge, Hampton Bays: C3-7
- Thursday, September 21, 4:30-5:30PM:** Zenergy Outdoor Movement Class with Karen Meyers: A
- Saturday, September 23, 9AM – 5PM, FREE:** Citizen Science DNA Barcoding Workshop: A/T13+
- Sunday, September 24, 10:30AM:** Exploring the Geology of Montauk with Frank: A/T
- Sunday, September 24, 11AM:** Nature Walk Art: Creating Sun Prints with Leaves and Flowers: C6+
- Monday, September 25, 4:30-5:30PM:** Zenergy Outdoor Movement Class with Karen Meyers: A
- Thursday, September 28, 4:30-5:30PM:** Zenergy Outdoor Movement Class with Karen Meyers: A
- Friday, September 29, 6PM:** Parrish Road Show, Artist Talk—Hiroyuki Hamada, RSVP to Parrish Art Museum: AA
- Saturday, September 30, 10:30AM:** What's in our Water: A/T14+
- Saturday, September 30, 7:30PM, FREE:** Full Harvest Super Moon Hike with Friends of the Long Pond Greenbelt: AA

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Marine eelgrass meadow and Bay Scallops Credit: Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County

Restoring and protecting eelgrass beds is vital for the long-term health of our marine ecosystems. In order to conserve eelgrass meadows, improving water quality is certainly a top priority. Additionally, we must also consider rising water temperatures. There is no one “silver bullet” solution, but with proper scientific research, conservation efforts, and remediation strategies, these important habitats can be protected and sustained. Although eelgrass beds are out of sight, they should not be out of mind.

SOFO news

SOFO welcomes two new Environmental Educators

Ian Robinson

Environmental Educator

Hello, my name is Ian Robinson. I pursued a bachelor's degree in marine science at Stony Brook University. My passion for this field was sparked



by my good fortune to have grown up on Long Island. In the Southampton School District, I'm thankful to have been taught by my professor Greg Metzger, director of the SOFO shark program. Through his teaching, my interests were guided into pursuing a career in this field. Currently, I work with the Goble laboratory, doing research on algal species to further my goal of working in coastal conservation. I hope to use my education and experiences to spark passion

in those who are interested in or have yet to witness our natural world.

Nikole Holowat

Environmental Educator

Hi! My name is Nikole Holowat. I joined SOFO as an Environmental Educator this January after graduating from Stony Brook University, where I received a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies with a



concentration in Marine Science. I started my journey with SOFO as a volunteer while being a part of in Stony Brook Southampton's Semester by the Sea program. Throughout my college career, I participated in field work studying water quality in the Long Island Sound, giving me a vast knowledge and appreciation for our local waters and the organisms that call it home. Additionally, I

have worked in education for over three years, including two years in outdoor environmental education. I am a passionate educator focused on establishing the vital connection between children and the natural world in order to promote the preservation of our environment for future generations.

SOFO welcomes a new Community Outreach Coordinator

Melissa Peña

Community Outreach Coordinator

Hola, I'm Melissa Peña. I joined the SOFO staff in March of 2023 as a



Community Outreach Coordinator. I was born and raised in Montauk, NY. I am also a first-generation Colombian-American immigrant and Spanish speaker. My interest in the natural world has grown in me since childhood. Early life experiences spent around Gosman's dock, at the beach (Terrace!), walking the trails, and admiring the local wildlife in my hometown shaped my life forever.

With an increasing curiosity to explore the natural world and more specifically interrelationships between Earth species and systems, a decision to pursue a dual B.A. degree in Environmental Studies and Political Science was... natural. I continued my post-graduate studies at the State University of New York at Buffalo to attain a master's degree in social work. I am now a licensed Master of Social Work in New York State. I want my work to help fuse and inspire the environmental and social work fields to work collaboratively. I see that fierce advocates are needed for both people and the planet. As a naturalist, artist, and professional, I dedicate myself to passion-driven work that will advance local and global solutions for sustainable and equitable living, while at the same time helping to protect ecosystems and biodiversity.

SOFO Launches Nature Trivia Nights

Congratulations to the Mayer Family for winning SOFO's first Nature Trivia Night on April 22, 2023! First prize was a one-year extension of their membership. We had over 20 people who were divided into four teams. Fifty-six questions were posed, drawn from SOFO's winter programs and winter facts about the animals and plants featured in our museum exhibits. Here's an example of one of the questions posed on the first Nature Trivia Night: “Winter storms dredge up and drop unusual finds on the beach. Identify this item.” Then a photo of the item in question was revealed:



The answer was: A shark or skate egg case, colloquially known as a mermaid's purse.

Our next Trivia Night is scheduled for September 30, 2023. and questions will be based on our summer calendar programs and summer facts about what's featured in our museum exhibits. Questions will also include the identification of plants, animals, and animal signs. We look forward to seeing you at our programs and at our Nature Trivia Nights!

Alzheimer's Association Partners with SOFO

On Saturday, October 14, Alzheimer's Association will hold its first "Walk to End Alzheimer's" in the Hamptons, in partnership with SOFO. Each year, the Walk takes place in communities across the country and is the world's largest event to raise funds for Alzheimer's care, support, and research. This new Walk in Bridgehampton will be one of four held across Long Island this fall. The first is in Yaphank on September 23, followed by East Meadow on October 1, and North Babylon on October 22. Each Walk includes an inspiring ceremony in which everyone holds flowers that represent their personal connection to Alzheimer's.



Douglas Davidson, Executive Director of the Long Island Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association, says: "We are grateful to partner with SOFO to bring this event to communities in the Hamptons and fight Alzheimer's disease together." More than 6.7 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's disease, including over 410,000 people in New York. With the dollars raised, the Alzheimer's Association provides care and support to families while also advancing critical research toward methods of treatment and prevention. To register for the October 14 Walk at SOFO and learn more about all of this year's Walks to End Alzheimer's, please contact Judy Wichter at jwichter@alz.org or (631) 315-6494.

East End Outdoor Nature Education Program

by Crystal Possehl-Oakes, SOFO Environmental Outdoor Education Specialist

SOFO is now offering a new monthly program that will take place on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 1PM for children ages 3 to 7 years. The SOFO Outdoor Nature Education Program is geared toward homeschooling families, but all families are welcome to take part. All nature experiences will include a variety of activities to strengthen language development, literacy, math, and science.

Programs will take place at various locations on the Twin Forks of Eastern Long Island.

We will launch our adventures on Wednesday, July 19, at the Elizabeth Alexandra Morton National Wildlife Refuge. For this program there will be a US Fish and Wildlife Service parking fee of \$4, paid at the Refuge's kiosk. There will not be a SOFO fee for this initial program. For subsequent programs, there will be a fee of \$5 per child.

The fee includes the participating adult. Enrollment is limited for each program.

- **July 19 – Elizabeth Alexandra Morton National Wildlife Refuge, Southampton/Sag Harbor**
- **August 16 – Inlet Pond County Park, Greenport**
- **September 20 – "Old" Ponquogue Bridge Marine Park, Hampton Bays**
- **October 18 – Montauk Point State Park, Montauk**
- **November 15 – Hallock State Park Preserve, Riverhead**
- **December 20 – Sagg Swamp Preserve, Sagaponack**

Crystal Possehl-Oakes, the program leader, has been an Environmental Educator at SOFO since 2005, and has worked part-time since 2019, after her son Wyatt was born.



"We look forward to learning with you!"

WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S

ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION
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SAT., OCT. 14



South Fork
Natural History Museum

9:30 a.m.
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THE END OF ALZHEIMER'S
STARTS
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Contact
Judy Wichter
jwichter@alz.org
631.315.6494

SOFO'S SPRING JAZZ CELEBRATION

SAT . JUNE 24 . 2023



FEATURING THE JAZZY SOUNDS OF:

CARL SAFINA & THE NATURAL CAUSES BAND

CARL SAFINA - DRUMS • DOUGLAS BALDWIN - GUITAR • CHARLES BUONASERA - BASS
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PERFORMANCE AT
SOUTH FORK NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM (SOFO)
HORS D'OEUVRES & REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED

**THE NURTURING
POWER OF NATURE
SOFO'S 34TH ANNUAL
SUMMER GALA
JULY 29, 2023 6-10PM**

"CONSERVATION IS A CAUSE
THAT WE MUST PASS ON
TO FUTURE GENERATIONS."
—ANDY SABIN



HONORING ACCLAIMED CONSERVATIONISTS

**YVON CHOUINARD & FAMILY,
DAN & RAE EMMETT & FAMILY, PATAGONIA,
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ANNETTE SABIN
Animal Advocate
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7-10PM HONOREE PRESENTATION, SEATED DINNER & DANCING WITH DJ EPIC

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The South Fork Natural History Museum (SOFO) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit nature education organization chartered by the New York State Department of Education.

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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South Fork
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Museum (SOFO)

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