

Trip Report, League of Naturalists

8/31/03 Unofficial LON trip to Grassy Point Marsh

Led by: No official leader.

Participants: Jack Focht, Diane Gruskin, Carol Weiss, Alan & Della Wells.

Location: Due to a misunderstanding, Della, Carol and Alan launched from the Stony Point boat ramp while Jack and Diane launched from the new Haverstraw canoe launch. Left at 11 AM with expected high tide at 2 PM. Hudson River launch, then proceeded up Cedar Pond Brook as far as possible. After a brief walk-about, we then paddled down Cedar Pond Brook and up the north channel of the marsh. Returned to our respective launch sites about 2:45 PM.

Weather: Perfect! Some scattered clouds and a very light breeze. Air temperature 76°F at 11 AM.

Highlights: The whole trip, especially lower Cedar Pond Brook!! A very beautiful spot. It really doesn't get any better than this! (*Except maybe for a few bad dock puns.*) Watching the young striped bass cruising the small pool in Cedar Pond Brook. The Wild Rice and the close approach to Snowy and Great Egrets. The chattering marsh wren. Poison Ivy leaves beginning to turn red. Where are the Woodcreepers and Antbirds? The difference in water temperature: 80.2°F at the Hudson River boat ramp, 75.7°F near the discharge pipe, 67.6°F at the mouth of Cedar Pond Brook, and 64.0°F well up Cedar Pond Brook.

(High resolution photos available upon request.)



Photo 1. Sneezeweed, *Helenium autumnale*.

Photo 2. Diane and Della along Cedar Pond Brook.



Photo 3. Asiatic Dayflower, *Commelina communis*.



Photo 4. Jack and Diane examining Wild Rice.

Odonata

- UNID Damselflies (Common, several species)
- Common Green Darner (Common)
- Prince Baskettail (1)
- Common Whitetail (1)
- Twelve-spotted Skimmer (1)
- Sympetrum* sp. (White-faced/Cherry-faced/Ruby) complex (on Della's leg)



Photo 5. Mallard.



Photo 6. Swamp Rose Mallow, *Hibiscus palustris*.

Butterflies

Cabbage White (common)
Broad-winged Skipper

Fish

Fallfish
Creek Chub
Black-nosed Dace
White Sucker
Striped Bass
White Perch
Tessellated Darter
Red-breast Sunfish

Birds (30 species)

Double-crested Cormorant
Canada Goose
Mallard
Snowy Egret
Great Blue Heron
Great Egret
Green Heron
Turkey Vulture
Red-tailed Hawk
Spotted Sandpiper
Least Sandpiper
Killdeer
Ring-billed Gull
Rock Dove
Mourning Dove

Belted Kingfisher
Downy Woodpecker
Blue Jay
American Crow
Gray Catbird
White-breasted Nuthatch
Marsh Wren
Carolina Wren
Barn Swallow
Black-capped Chickadee
American Goldfinch
Song Sparrow
Baltimore Oriole
Red-winged Blackbird
Brown-headed Cowbird



Photo 7. Great Egret.

Photo 8. Bye-Bye!

Plants

<i>Toxicodendron radicans</i>	Poison Ivy
<i>Verbena hastate</i>	Blue Vervain
<i>Acorus americanus</i>	Sweetflag
<i>Scirpus spp.</i>	Sedges
<i>Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani</i>	Soft-stem Bulrush
<i>Microstegium vimineum</i>	Japanese Stiltgrass
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Common Reed
<i>Helenium autumnale</i>	Sneezeweed
<i>Commelina communis</i>	Asiatic Dayflower
<i>Sium suave</i>	Water Parsnip
<i>Pluchea purpurascens</i>	Saltmarsh Fleabane
<i>Typha angustifolia, latifolia, + hybrid</i>	Cattails
<i>Zizania palustris.</i>	Wild Rice
<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>	Eurasian Milfoil
<i>Acer negundo</i>	Box-elder
<i>Polygonum arifolium</i>	Halberd-leaved Tearthumb
<i>Hibiscus palustris</i>	Swamp Rose Mallow
<i>Ipomoea purpurea</i>	Common Morning Glory
<i>Pontederia cordata</i>	Pickerel Weed
<i>Sagittaria sp.</i>	Arrowhead
<i>Rumex sp.</i>	Dock
<i>Polygonum spp.</i>	Smartweeds
<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	Button Bush
<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	Cardinal Flower
<i>Amaranthus sp.</i>	Amaranth
<i>Impatiens capensis</i>	Spotted Touch-Me-Not, Jewelweed
<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	Purple Loosestrife



Photo 9. Snowy Egret.



Photo 10. Returning to Civilization (?).