

ISSUE 3 | JANUARY 2022

Friends of the Ashley Schiff Preserve

2021: The Year in Review



In this issue:

THE 52ST

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Long Island Naturalist & Activist, John Turner joins us for the 52nd celebration of Forever Wild on Stony Brook University Campus

STUDENT

VOLUNTEERS

The Student Volunteers works tirelessly to learn more about the campus environment and beyond.

DEVELOPERS'

MIDNIGHT FANTASY

Annemarie Waugh coordinates her Ashley Schiff Preserve Scholarship Project in the Preserve

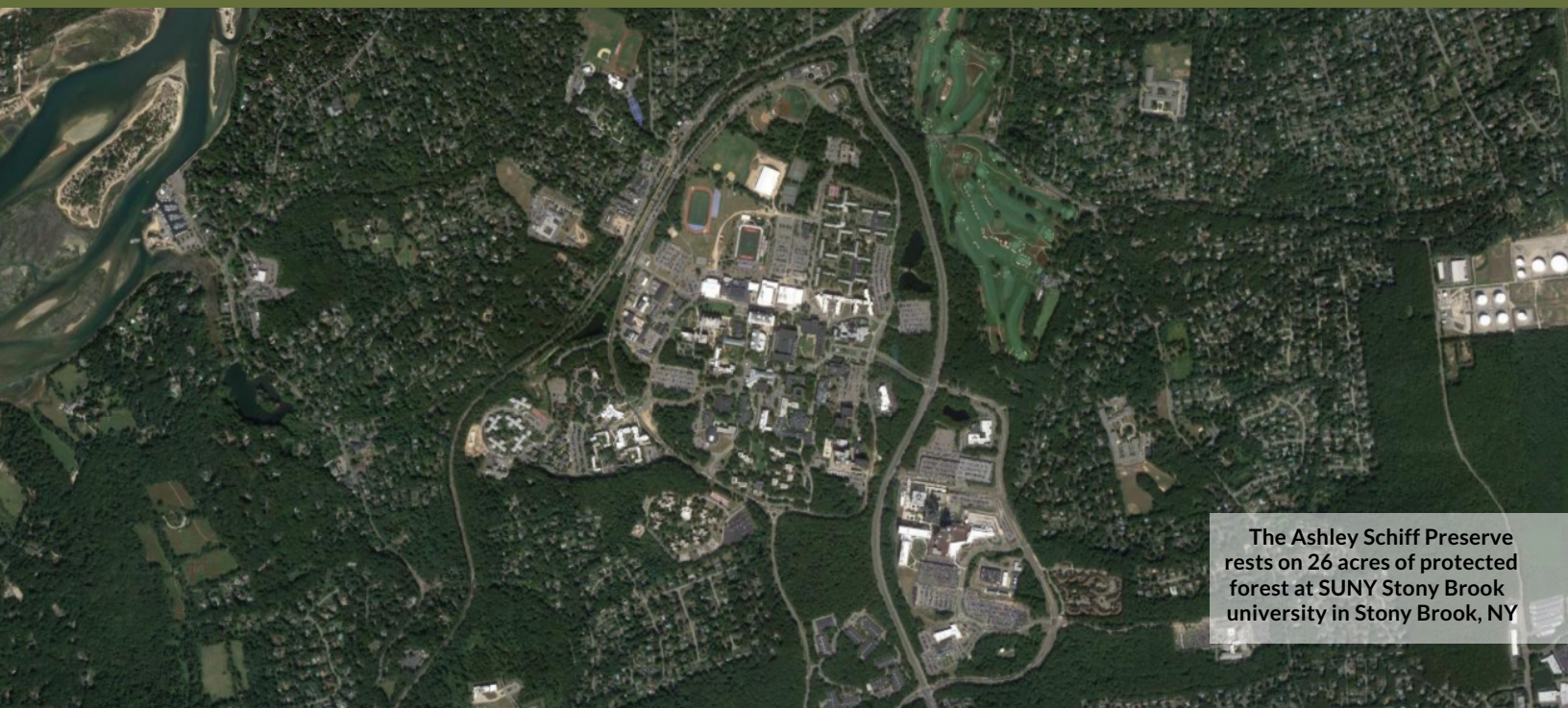
GUARDIAN OF THE GLADE 2021

Evan Joo, the Volunteer Program Manager of the Friends, was awarded the 2021 Guardian of the Glade Award

"The Ashley Schiff Preserve is a place of wonder and a place of drama"
- John Turner

Ashley Schiff Preserve

STONY BROOK, NEW YORK



The Ashley Schiff Preserve rests on 26 acres of protected forest at SUNY Stony Brook university in Stony Brook, NY

The Ashley Schiff Preserve is dedicated to its namesake, Dr. Ashley Schiff (1932-1969). Dr. Schiff joined Stony Brook University in 1965 as professor of Political Science where he was known for a philosophy of accessibility, open-mindedness and “brutal honesty” with his students.

As master of Cardozo College, Dr. Schiff was renowned for his ceaseless efforts to improve undergraduate life outside of the classroom:

"[He provided] a seemingly unending flow of celebrity guest visitors, with a calendar of educational events unmatched by any of Stony Brook's twenty other residential colleges."

-Statesman, October 3, 1969

Dr. Schiff held a deep care for the students and university. This is demonstrated by his contributions to the campus environment, one of which was his donation of the azaleas which today line Stony Brook's beloved Roth Pond. For his thoughtful commitment to the practice and promotion of integrity, Dr. Schiff remains a popular and deeply respected figure within the university community.

Dr. Schiff's sudden and unexpected passing in 1969 at age 37 shook the entire campus community. The university offered to name a building in his memory, but students demanded a more meaningful memorial.

To honor of Dr. Ashley Schiff's profound impact on the university, President John S. Toll in 1970 pledged the preservation of 26 acres of untouched forest on campus-- the area which is today known as Ashley Schiff Preserve.

In 2019, the University Environmental Committee passed the Ashley Schiff Resolution, securing the timeless preservation of the site's state-recognized vulnerable species. Today, the Preserve is home to over 75 plant species and serves as living lab to university students and scholars.

In 2020 the university community celebrated a significant milestone-- the 50th anniversary of our very own and *Forever Wild* Ashley Schiff Preserve.

The Year in Review



6 The 52nd Anniversary

Long Island Naturalist **John Turner** joined our 52nd Anniversary Celebration event virtually this year as our guest speaker. He shared his 'Forest Stories from the Ashley Schiff Preserve' with the audience.

10 Student Volunteer Program - Spring & Fall 2021

30+ Student Volunteers gathered to learn about the campus ecosystem. Read about their work.

14 Student Highlight

Matthew Stanton, a senior Ecology and Evolution student and a Student Volunteer Program member wrote about what the Ashley Schiff Preserve means to him.

15 Identifying Human-Wildlife Conflict at Stony Brook University

Matt Stanton points out human-wildlife conflict cases on Stony Brook University campus.

Ashley Schiff Preserve
Student Volunteers at the
American Museum of
Natural History, New York
City

ON THE COVER

A scene from Annemarie
Waugh's Project,
*Developer's Midnight
Fantasy*

Friends of the Ashley Schiff
Preserve

AshleySchiff.org

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Volunteer Program Manager and Social Media Manager **Evan Hogueum Joo** was awarded this year's Guardian of the Glade award for his contribution to the Friends.

17 Developer's Midnight Fantasy

Artist and Educator, **Annemarie Waugh** organized this year's Ashley Schiff Preserve Scholarship Project that combines art, music, and activism at the Preserve. Read more about the project and her thoughts.

24 Executive Board 2021

Current and official ledger of Friends of Ashley Schiff Preserve executive board members.

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MISSION STATEMENT

The Purpose of the Organization is...

*To Manage the Ashley Schiff Preserve as a
“living laboratory” and an academic research
site, and to further ensure that it remains a
Forever Wild woodland.*

*The organization strives to promote its
educational and research value with
students, faculty, staff, and the greater
community*

The 52nd Anniversary Celebration

John Turner, renowned naturalist and advocate for open space on Long Island, was our keynote speaker for the 52nd Anniversary Celebration.

In his talk, "Forest Stories from Ashley Schiff Preserve", John described the preserve as an inviting place of great beauty, with its slightly rolling, glacial topography making it a perfect landscape for natural diversity that contributes to the ecological wealth of SUNY system properties. He enlightened us with some interesting details on the natural history of the preserve, highlighting some of its notable fauna and flora.

John has testified at the New York Assembly on Higher Education for the protection of wild land, such as the Ashley Schiff Preserve, on SUNY campuses. He is proposing that their legal status be formalized by providing a framework for their designation and management. Support for this approach was shown in a discussion following the talk. Attendees sought advice on how to strengthen the preserve's position in reaching this goal. John suggested hiring botanists and zoologists from the New York Natural Heritage Program to conduct a thorough inventory. This survey would bring attention to the ecological significance of the Ashley Schiff Preserve.

- Sue Avery, Secretary,
Friends of the Ashley Schiff Preserve



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A PLACE OF BEAUTY



Family_Laptop VM0_9085.jpg Ashley Schiff Patricia Paladino

Terese Dybvig

Terese Dybvig Mareesh Bai

Sharon Pochron David Taylor

Malcolm Bowman Patricia MP

Dorothy Schiff Shannon Donna Digiovanni


Melissa Cohen pauls

Steve Englebright Jeffrey Leventon

Lauren Donovan jonahschiff

Karen lucibash

Great Crested Flycatcher



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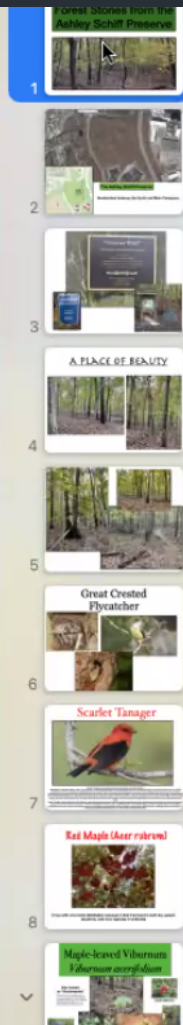
Trailing Arbutus *Epigaea repens*



Family_Laptop VM0_9085.jpg Ashley Schiff Patricia Paladino

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Patricia MP



Forest Stories from the Ashley Schiff Preserve



JOHN TURNER

John Turner is a co-founder of the Long Island Pine Barrens Society. During his long career he has served on several committees dealing with environmental policy for New York State and the Town of Brookhaven.

John has also been a teacher at Stony Brook University, and is currently employed by Seatuck Environmental Association. As Conservation Chair of the Four Harbors Audubon Society, he is leading an initiative to prevent bird strikes against windows of Stony Brook campus buildings.

John engages us with his love for the natural world as a tour leader and a prolific writer. He has written many articles in national magazines and currently has a column in our local newspaper entitled "Nature Matters". This and his book, "Exploring the Other Island, a seasonal guide to nature on Long Island", inspires us to discover the wonders of nature to be found in our local wild areas.

*"The Ashley Schiff Preserve is a place of drama, but also a place of beauty...
...Always look for the meanings behind the (species') names and history, and you'll be able to find more fascinating things about them "*

- John Turner





STUDENT VOLUNTEER PROGRAM REPORT

FALL 2021 AND SPRING 2022

BY EVAN JOO,
VOLUNTEER PROGRAM MANAGER,

STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY CAMPUS BIODIVERSITY PROFILES

ISSUE 1

created by the student volunteers of the **Ashley Schiff Preserve Student Volunteer Program** operated by the **Friends of the Ashley Schiff Preserve**

Total 35 Species - 11 Plant, 11 Fungal, 7 Arthropods, 5 Avian, and 1 Animal Speices

Written by : Ryan Silver, Matt Stanton, Kayla Aristizabal, Alanna Chen, Emily DiMaio, Leslie Mejia, Sidney Hennesy, Yuqian Zheng, Lauren Taveira, Mia Dominguez, Kamryn Cardali, Juno Stuelke, and Tania Valenzuela

edited by Hogyeum Evan Joo & Tajrian Sarwar

To learn more, visit our website
www.AshleySchiff.org

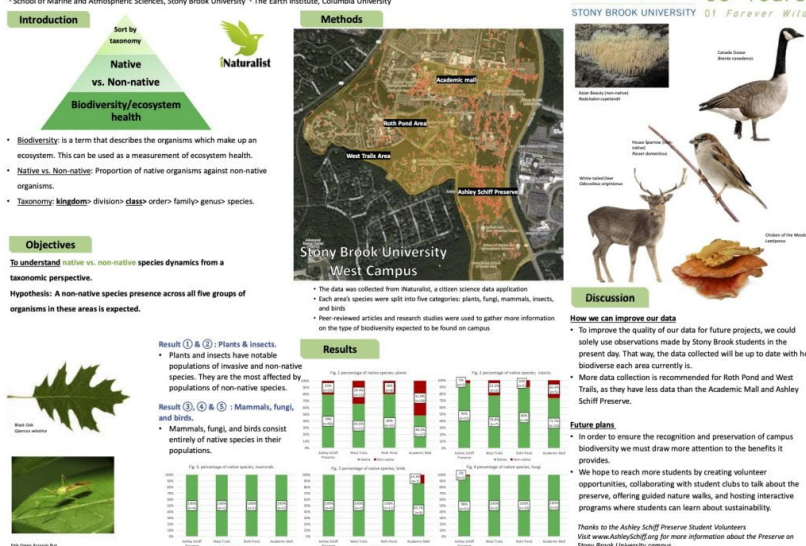


Ilona Khimey*, Sarah Kelly*, Amanda Nuzzo*, Ryan Silver*, Sharon Pochron, PhD*, Hogyeum Evan Joo*
* School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences, Stony Brook University * The Earth Institute, Columbia University



A Closer Look at Stony Brook University's Ecosystem Health: a taxonomic categorization

Amanda Nuzzo*, Ilona Khimey*, Ryan Silver*, Sharon Pochron, PhD*, Hogyeum Evan Joo*
* School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences, Stony Brook University * The Earth Institute, Columbia University



(left):cover image of the first issue of the Campus Biodiversity Profiles

(right) : Two URECA Posters made by student volunteers, advised by Dr. Sharon Pochron & Evan Joo.

We are on year 2 of the global pandemic. Under uncertainty and pressure, the student volunteers worked even harder to learn more about the Ashley Schiff Preserve and it's value within our campus community and ecosystem.

During the Spring of 2021, student volunteers Amanda Nuzzo, Ilona Khimey, Ryan River, and Sarah Kelly presented two research

findings during the 2021 URECA Virtual Poster Exhibition.

Around 20 students continued working hard to identify more species on campus and added their findings to the iNaturalist dataset, and actively participated during the weekly meetings to discuss their experiences and knowledge on natural environment.

In Fall 2021, students, with the help of volunteer program planner, Tajrian Sarwar, met every week to learn about different life forms on campus and their ecological roles



▼ Blog Posts

As an effort to communicate their thoughts, knowledge, and experience, inspired by the Preserve and Dr. Schiff's activist mind, students wrote several blog posts on various topics and shared them on our website. You can access their blog posts by visiting www.AshleySchiff.org.

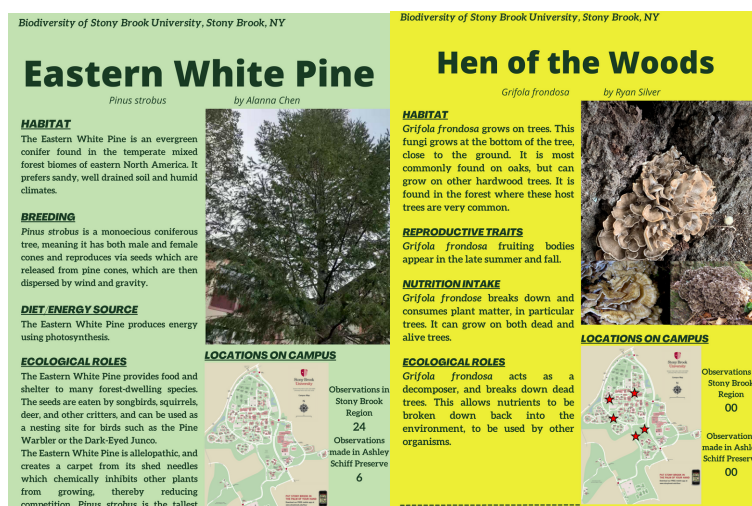


▼ iNaturalist

The Student Volunteers are making endless contribution to improve the iNaturalist Dataset on SBU West Campus. They go beyond the Preserve and record their findings from all over the campus area. Several students were able to use the data for their research and presented at the URECA Virtual Poster Presentation Event.

▼ Biodiversity Profile Project

Students met every week to learn about different life forms that can be found on Stony Brook University Campus - Birds, Insects, Mammals, Plants, and Fungi. They were educated on the species' ecological roles and characteristics every other week. When they are not learning about campus biodiversity, they shared their knowledge and experiences on the species they found on campus. (the complete Profiles document will be available to public during the Spring 2022 semester)



▼ NYC Nature Field Trip

Students went on a field trip to New York City to learn about the environmental history of New York City. Students visited Central Park, Central Park Zoo, and the American Museum of Natural History, and the Rockefeller Center.



NYC NATURE FIELD TRIP



STUDENT HIGHLIGHT

The Ashley Schiff Preserve has been the most valuable study tool to me at Stony Brook University. As an avid naturalist, I find this wilderness essential in my studies of ecology and evolution at Stony Brook and beyond. My studies include specimen collection, photography, and biodiversity data collection.

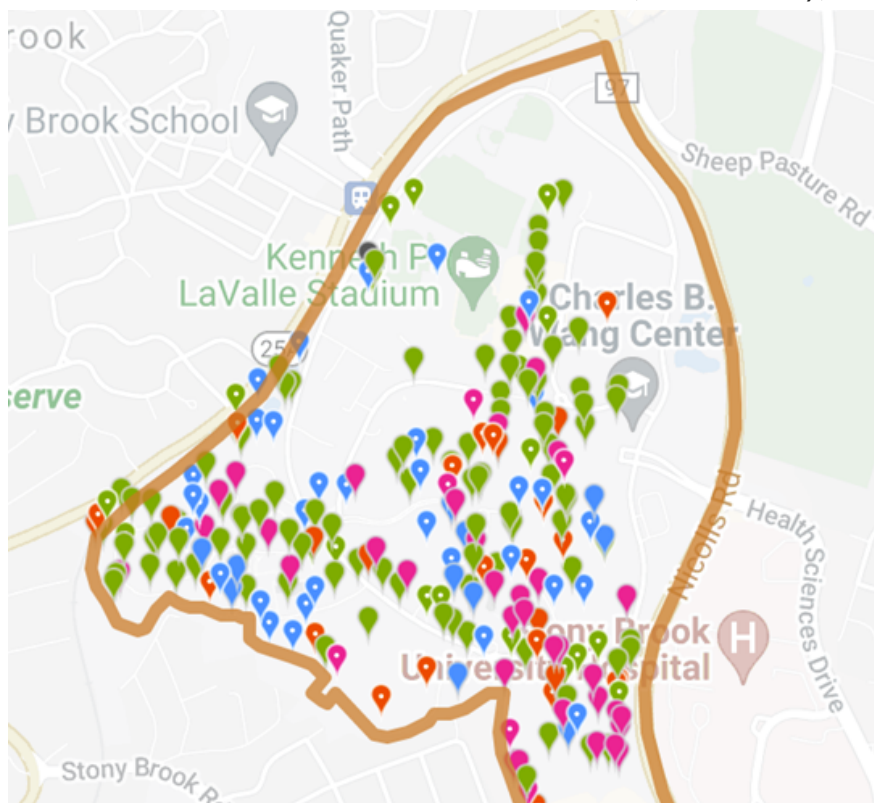
In my time as a student, I have recorded 304 research grade observations of 200 biological species on campus to National Geographic's iNaturalist database. These species have inspired my research and writing as an undergraduate. 23% of these recorded species have been identified on the Ashley Schiff Preserve.

I have also had the privilege of applying this knowledge in a wildlife rehab setting. This way, I am directly contributing to wildlife conservation in based on the knowledge I have gained on campus and at the Ashley Schiff Preserve. This setting has informed my studies tremendously.

Matthew Stanton
Senior, Ecology & Evolution Major
Stony Brook University



Stanton with an injured Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*),
Volunteers for Wildlife, Locust Valley, NY





Rose-breasted Grosbeak

(Pheucticus ludovicianus)



Northern Waterthrush

(Parkesia noveboracensis)

Suspected Window Collisions by Passerines, Melville Library, Stony Brook University

Identifying Human-Wildlife Conflict at Stony Brook University

Words by

MATTHEW STANTON

Wildlife rehabilitation allows us to give a second chance to injured and orphaned animals. Working in a wildlife rehab setting has been highly informative and has opened my eyes to many biological phenomena. Human-wildlife conflicts can be observed daily across Long Island, including on campus at Stony Brook University. In preserving Dr. Schiff's legacy, we must acknowledge our mistakes to improve our relationship with wildlife.

WINDOW COLLISIONS

Passeriformes, or songbirds, represent over half of earth's extant bird species. They are also one of the most threatened taxa at Stony Brook University, with 12% of observed songbirds found deceased next to tall buildings, according to iNaturalist.

These birds are enticed by window surfaces as they reflect neighboring foliage and branches. UV reflective decals and window feeders have been found effective in preventing window collisions.

ANGEL WING

Angel wing is a condition observed in Anseriformes (waterfowl) and is caused by improper nutrition during early development. This deficiency causes primary feathers to grow outward, preventing flight. For this reason, it is best to avoid feeding the waterfowl when visiting the pond. One of the main causes of angelwing is the consumption of bread.



Canada Goose with Angelwing, Roth Pond, Stony Brook University

GUARDIAN OF THE GLADE AWARD 2021



***Evan Joo, Volunteer Program Manager & Social Media Manager,
Friends of the Ashley Schiff Preserve***

Guardian of the Glade Award recognizes those individuals who have provided exceptional service to the Friends of the Ashley Schiff Preserve and the Preserve itself. This year, The Award was given to Evan Hogleum Joo, the Volunteer Program Manager and the Social Media Manager for his efforts in organizing the Student Volunteer Program and engagement opportunities on campus, and re-building the official website (ashleyschiff.org), and communicating with the public using social media platforms.

Evan is a winner of the Ashley Schiff Preserve Scholarship Program (2019), and an alumnus of Stony Brook University (Ecosystems and Human Impact, Class of 2019). He's currently a PhD Student at Rutgers University studying urban ecology.



DEVELOPER'S MIDNIGHT FANTASY

ART MEETS NATURE

AN INTERVIEW WITH

Annemarie Waugh

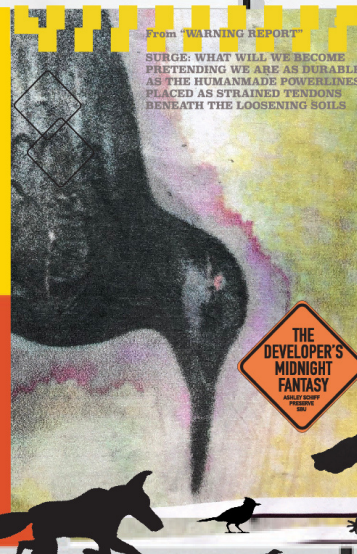
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THE DEVELOPER'S MIDNIGHT FANTASY

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Annemarie Waugh

Annemarie Waugh, this year's Ashley Schiff Preserve Scholarship Program winner is an artist, educator, and an environmental activist. She successfully coordinated one of the most historic event at the Preserve this year by combining her love for the Preserve and the environment, activism, and various forms of arts. Annemarie generously shared her experience and thoughts through this written interview with us.

(Right : Annemarie Waugh's self-portrait)





CAN YOU INTRODUCE YOURSELF FOR THE READERS?

Annemarie Waugh is a visual artist, poet, and educator. She was born in England, received a BA (Hons) from Central St. Martins and an M.F.A. from Stony Brook University. Waugh works in painting and installation and her themes explore environmental and social concerns using playful, punning, fragmented language and visuals. Using humor and open-ended storylines to provoke environmental questions, she sees the work as a thought-provoking call to action in an aesthetically appealing female landscape depicted in painting and poetry. The interplay between language, drawing, painting, sculpture, and moving image and all the glitchy moments in each drives the work. You can see view her work at annemariewaugh.art

HOW DID YOU GET TO KNOW ABOUT THE ASHLEY SCHIFF PRESERVE ON CAMPUS? AND WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO YOU?

My first-year studio at Nassau Hall was opposite the Ashley Schiff Preserve, often my view was blocked by a large white van but if the van wasn't there I could see the trees. Unfortunately, there is no sign and it took me a while to discover the path, once I did I would walk in regularly. It's a wonderful magical place to walk and think, and some of my best ideas come from walking especially in nature. Walking is always the best part of my day, when I am walking I can think clearly.

Walking safely is important to me and I founded the organization Sidewalks for Safety (SFS) with some fellow walkers and we became a 501 c3 this year. Unfortunately, Stony Brook and Setauket are not very pedestrian-friendly and drivers are speeding, texting, and distracted. Also, trucks and cars seem to be getting bigger. We feel we need more sidewalks on the main connector roads, and it's not many roads.

SFS is working to bring awareness to the community to improve the lives of everyone in the area. You can learn more at: sidewalksforsafety.org

We just had a poetry contest with Ward Melville High Schools and students were asked to write a poem that used the word Sidewalks or Walking and the judges were Stony Brook University English professors, Michelle Whittaker and Sarah Azzara, I am currently working on a chapbook of the winning poems to hand out at the awards ceremony in February.

During my MFA I taught art classes to undergraduates at SBU and I would bring many of my classes into the Ashley Schiff Preserve. It was always interesting how none of them knew about it and even though there are signs they are not very visible. And for some reason, the maps/signs on campus are not really visually friendly. My students always enjoyed having a class in the woods watching deer, discovering mushrooms, uncovering spiders and worms, noticing berries, talking about mosses, trees, flowers, and insects always brought them all joy and wonder.

WHAT GOT YOU INTERESTED IN DOING ART THAT INVOLVES ENVIRONMENTAL MESSAGES?

I have noticed all the dead fish washing up on the beaches, especially the horseshoe crabs, all the plastic trash, and many discussing objects ruining the beaches and it seems to be increasing and it makes me very concerned. After witnessing the last few wooded lots being cut down in my neighborhood, new buildings, car parks sprouting everywhere and it seems like never-ending urban sprawl and ubiquitous big box stores and coffee shops taking over the world. I wanted to make art about the forest because Forests play a role in regulating the climate of the earth. The more hard land surfaces there are, the more heat will be radiated back into the atmosphere.

Trees consume carbon dioxide so the preservation of forests is a necessary component to combat global warming. Trees store CO₂ in their fibers helping to clean the air and reduce the negative effects of CO₂ on the environment. According to the Arbor Day Foundation, in one year a mature tree will absorb more than 48 pounds of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and release oxygen in exchange. In 2010, New York had 8.54M ha of natural forest, extending over 63% of its land area. In 2020, it lost 10.4k ha of natural forest, equivalent to 3.83Mt of CO₂ of emissions. (Source: globalforestwatch.org)

Artists can open up a dialog about climate change and inspire new perspectives, elicit an emotional response, and encourage people to change their behaviors toward a more sustainable future.

Artists can effect real changes in the world such as in the work of LaToya Ruby Frazier, "A Creative Solution for the Water Crisis in Flint, Michigan" where she was able to provide 120 thousand gallons of free clean water to the residents of Flint and Mel Chin's "Revival Field" where he used plants to soak up toxic chemicals. Artists can show us the beauty of nature as Agnes Denes did in her "Wheatfield project" which referred to land mismanagement, waste, hunger, and environmental concerns, and as Wolfgang Laib presents in his powerful "Pollen" sculptures. I believe in the creativity and power of art and hope one day I can effect real change.



WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO ACHIEVE BY CREATING ART ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE?

People hearing about global warming and the never-ending news of the deteriorating global environment can become immune, tune it out and art is a way of reinvigorating and drawing people into environmental issues. Art can re-envision the actions necessary to solve the problems. Art can connect people to issues in a deeper way. Art can leave you with a message and change your actions. As an artist, I try to use humor to re-establish a connection to nature that has been lost in the modern age.

TELL US ABOUT THE WORK YOU DID AT THE PRESERVE IN 2021

The Developer's Midnight Fantasy is an art installation and performance that invites visitors to imagine a clear-cutting of the Ashley Schiff Preserve to construct more buildings, parking lots, or other paved surfaces. Ashley Schiff is one of the few remaining native forests on the Northshore of Long Island; the ongoing destruction of these remaining forests is an under-recognized problem. This project seeks to make us think about development not just in the abstract but right here in our own 'backyard.'

I was very fortunate to work with so many amazing creative people from different departments and was really pleased with how this project all came together.

The Developers Midnight Fantasy fostered inclusive cross-campus collaboration. The art installation featured life-size paintings of construction machinery displayed amongst the trees. Two live performances in the Ashley Schiff forest will featured music composed by Tommy Wu (SBU Music) & Daniel Cohen and performed by the Stony Brook Music Ensemble. The Student Dance Ensemble performed the 'Animals of the Forest Dance' directed by Amy Yopp Sullivan (SBU Center for Dance). The dancer's fantasy costumes were designed by Marta Baumiller (MFA Studio Art alumni, SBU).

Poetry by Michelle Whittaker (SBU Writing & Rhetoric) was experienced through the preserve's trees. Forests have healing qualities. In collaboration with Arianna Maffei (SBU Neuroscience & Behavior), the project examined the powerful effects forests have on our senses, memories, & moods.

Here is a link to the 3-minute video documentation about the project <https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/649334684>

WHY DID YOU TITLE THIS PROJECT 'DEVELOPERS' MIDNIGHT FANTASY?'

It seems like the world is full of sneaky developer's who bulldoze nature seemingly overnight. One day there's a beautiful forest and the very next day it's gone and a parking lot or building is going up. I have noticed many of the wooded lots in the area are coming down and buildings seem to be rising all around and this makes me very sad. I liked the idea of doing an art hoax that the Preserve was being cut down and yet another car park or building was going up to bring attention to it. Many people said they thought the machines I painted looked real. I see the value in forests for everything from air, water, animals, and creativity it's all connected and we humans are ruining the world as we continue to chainsaw nature away.

THIS MUST BE VERY HARD TO CHOOSE, BUT WHICH PART OF THE PROJECT IS THE MOST PERSONALLY MEANINGFUL ONE TO YOU, AND WHY?

Tommy Wu the composer, composed the most wonderful chainsaw piece of music for trombone and cello and this really moved me and was so powerful.

Marta Baumiller designed so many colorful fantasy animal costumes that really brought the animal dancers to life.



DO YOU HAVE ANY MEMORABLE MOMENTS PREPARING THIS PROJECT THAT YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE?

It was wonderful to spend the whole summer painting the huge machinery on my porch and a fun part was painting the porta-potty (I am sure my neighbors thought me strange). I would love to do this project again in another forest and I would create all the sides of the porta-potty and have motion-activated sensors near the machines that play the beautiful music pieces Tommy Wu and Daniel Cohen composed.

It was also interesting to read each day all the comments on the community board, about how magical the Ashley Schiff Preserve is, and that it's the best study tool on campus. During the last few days someone probably a maintenance worker would write "time to clean up now" I would remove this card and the next day they would write and put up another "time to clean up" I guess they didn't like the fake bollards and porta-potty.

HOW DID IT FEEL WHEN YOU SAW THE REACTIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE?

I was really really pleased with how the audience reacted, I don't think I've ever had so many compliments for anything I've done, it was a very magical, and positive event for everyone. All the musicians and dancers were absolutely terrific, everyone involved was amazing.



DO YOU HAVE ANY MESSAGE THAT YOU WANT TO SHARE WITH THE PEOPLE IN THE STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY?

Walk as often as you can in this beautiful Preserve as well as in Clara's woods they are the best places for creativity on campus. The university needs to protect these two wild places for future generations, please support all moves to protect them. ANNEMARIE WAUGH

Friends of the Ashley Schiff Preserve 2021

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Stay connected through our social media pages and learn more about the fun facts, history, and events related to the Friends of the Ashley Schiff Preserve and Local Environmental Activism.

