

BAYWOOD PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 631 East Moriches, New York 11940

Vol. 29 2021 Spring Newsletter No. 1

BALD EAGLES IN BAYWOOD

Just when you think you have seen it all, two bald eagles showed up in Baywood, perched high above in some oak trees. This time of the year it is much easier to spot the birds perched in the trees, since the leaves have not yet bloomed.

The bald eagles shown in the photo are an adult and a juvenile. The adult has the white head and white tail; the juvenile is brownish and it takes about four years to mature, at which time its head will also turn white.

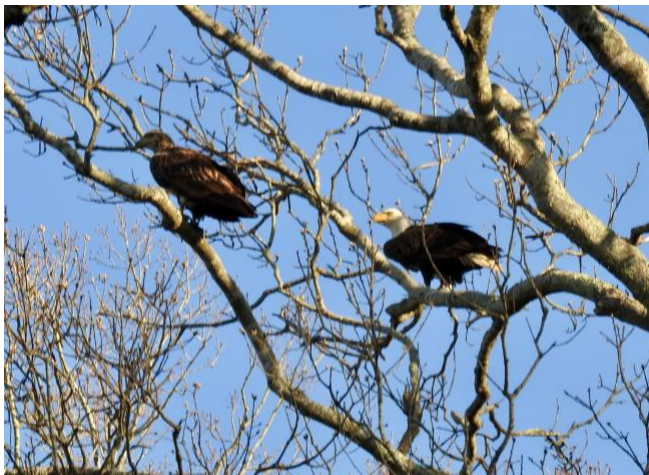


Photo of an adult and juvenile bald eagle, taken in April.

The bald eagles are birds of prey found in North America. Its range includes most of Canada and Alaska, all of the contiguous United States, and northern Mexico. It lives on average for 20 years in the wild, weighs 6 to 14 pounds, with a wing span between 6 and 7.5 feet. In diving for its prey, which includes fish and small mammals, it attains speeds of 75 to 99 MPH.

Once endangered by hunting and pesticides, Bald Eagles have flourished under protection. Bald Eagles are not quite as noble as portrayed, and are not above eating carrion or pirating prey from other birds, such as Osprey. Considering their antics, Benjamin Franklin expressed second thoughts

about making the Bald Eagle the U.S. emblem; he lobbied for the Wild Turkey (which Baywood also has). In any event it is encouraging to see wildlife like the Bald Eagles here in Baywood.

Maintaining natural buffer areas and habitat in Baywood.

The presence of such wildlife is no accident here in Baywood. Since the inception of the Baywood development, the Association has promoted the preservation and creation of natural buffer areas and habitat areas. Our natural environment sets us aside from other areas, which are overdeveloped. Many of us escaped urban areas for the country setting of Baywood. Unfortunately, it seems we are losing the battle to maintain our rural character. Over the years we have seen some residents destroy the natural buffers that provide homes for all types of wildlife, including rabbits, squirrels, turtles, bees, bats, owls, garter snakes, voles, moles, flying squirrels, chipmunks, ants, newts, frogs and birds (too numerous to list).



Photo of a natural buffer area near the entrance to Baywood, managed by the property owner.

(continued)

ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

As required by our By-laws, we will be holding our annual meeting on **Wednesday, May 26^h** at **7:30PM**. Due to the Covid restrictions, the meeting will be virtual. All residents of Baywood are welcome; a link will be sent the week before via email and posted on our website. The agenda will include our budget, election of officers and discussions of other business affecting Baywood.

Welcome New Residents/Members

Over the last year several new residents have moved in and we welcome them to one of the best communities on Long Island.

Steve Sherwood and Meagan Johnson
Nancy and Peter Alamia
Tana Hovland and Benoit Altobelli
Meg and Kent Gubrud

(If we missed anyone, let us know.)

See newsletter in color at our website:
Baywoodassociation.com

OFFICERS

Steve Keegan..... President
Helena Hines..... Vice President
Nathy Yakaitis Treasurer
Royal Reynolds..... Secretary
Bob Hefter..... Assistant Treasurer

All Baywood correspondence, except newsletter material, should be sent to:

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Buffer Areas (continued)

Besides cutting down trees, some property owners have focused on destroying the natural ground cover that gives protection to and provides food for the wildlife. This process of defoliation is known as “environmental sterilization”. There is a myriad of reasons people clear their property. Some are just managing their property as they did back west in Queens or Nassau County and are unaware of the environmental impacts. Others are actually afraid of nature and set out to eliminate animals and those pesky leaves. Ironically, through their actions, they eliminate the very buffers that provided screening and privacy between neighboring properties, which add to property values. In consideration of the recent celebration of Earth Day, it would be nice if we all would take a moment to reflect on what we can do to promote our environment and help out our furry, scaly and feathered friends, right here in Baywood.



Photo of a Cooper's Hawk in Baywood, spotted a week before the bald eagles.

Standing Proud

