

PUBLIC NOTICE

In accordance with the Statutes of the State of Illinois and the Ordinances of the City of Highland Park, the next meeting of the Natural Resources Commission of the City of Highland Park is scheduled to be held at the hour of 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 12, 2014 at the City of Highland Park City Hall, 1707 St. Johns Avenue, Highland Park, Illinois, during which it is anticipated there will be a discussion of the following:

CITY OF HIGHLAND PARK  
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2014  
HIGHLAND PARK CITY HALL  
1707 ST. JOHNS AVENUE  
HIGHLAND PARK, ILLINOIS  
6:30 P.M.

**MEETING AGENDA**

**I. Call to Order**

**II. Roll Call**

**III. Approval of Minutes:** December 11, 2013

**IV. Business from the Public**

**V. New Business**

- A. Welcome and Introduction of New Commission Members
- B. Consideration and Approval of a Recommendation to the City Council to Adopt Proposed Text Amendments to Chapter 94 and Article 19 of Chapter 150 of the City Code to Increase the Minimum Fines for Tree Removal Conducted without a Permit
- C. Status Report on the Creation of a Steep Slope Best Management Practices Brochure, Conducted in Partnership with the Park District of Highland Park and Funded Through the Coastal Zone Management Program Grant
- D. Discussion and Recommendation of Priorities in the Sustainability Master Plan for CY2014

**VI. Old Business**

- A. Review of 2014 Commission Work Plan
- B. Status Report on the 2014 Environmental Movie Series Screenings at the Highland Park Library

**VII. Other Business**

- A. Commissioner Comments
- B. Administrative Items

**VIII. Adjournment**

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF  
THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF HIGHLAND  
PARK, ILLINOIS**

**MEETING DATE:** December 11, 2013

**MEETING LOCATION:** Pre-Session Room, Highland Park City Hall, 1707 St. Johns Avenue, Highland Park, Illinois

**CALL TO ORDER**

At 6:32 p.m., Chairman Sultan called the meeting to order and the Staff Liaison called the roll.

**ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Coyle, Matthews, Rheinstrom, Sultan, Stone, Meyer and Facchini

Members Absent: Bogot, Hannick and Ross

The Staff Liaison declared that there was a quorum of the Commission present.

Staff Present: Staff Liaison Barbara Cates

Also Present: Mayor Nancy Rodkin Rotering, Citizen Advisor Mark Nolan Hill and Sustainability Coordinator Bryan Tillman

**MINUTES**

**A. Regular Meeting of the Natural Resources Commission—November 13, 2013**

Commissioner Rheinstrom moved to approve the minutes of a regular meeting held on November 13, 2013 as presented. Commissioner Coyle seconded the motion.

On a voice vote, Chairman Sultan declared that the motion passed unanimously (4-0).

**BUSINESS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Chairman Sultan noted that no members of the public were present to discuss new business.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Presentation of Awards for Meritorious Service to the Highland Park Environment to Highland Park Resident Debbie Bohmbach and Highland Park Business Owner Job Youshaei**

Mayor Rotering reviewed the accomplishments of the two award winners, Debbie

Bohmbach and Job Youshaei, and thanked them for their environmental contributions to the Highland Park community. Councilwoman Stone presented each of the winners with a plaque in recognition of their efforts. Ms. Bohmbach and Mr. Youshaei both thanked the Commission for the acknowledgement.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### A. Brief Status Report Regarding a Resident Request for Amendments to Section 95.001(N) of the City Code Regarding Regulations for the Keeping of Fowl for Referral of a Recommendation to the City Council for Final Determination

Staff Liaison Cates noted that she received recent direction from the Director of Community Development to take the Commission's initial feedback on the topic to the City Council for a status report, at which point the Council will be asked to provide direction on the most appropriate next steps regarding the item. Cates noted that she would continue to keep the Commission updated on the process.

### B. Status Report on the 2014 Environmental Movie Series Screenings at the Highland Park Library

Staff Liaison Cates presented a promotional flyer illustrating dates of upcoming environmental movie screenings to be held by the Commission, the Park District of Highland Park and the Park District of Skokie in early 2014.

Cates noted that the Commission is scheduled to screen: 1) *Last Call at the Oasis* on January 26<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. with Metropolitan Water Reclamation District Commissioner Debra Shore as the guest speaker; and 2) *The Lost Bird Project* on March 16<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. with Resident and Bird Expert Donnie Dann as the guest speaker. Cates noted that licensing restrictions for *Last Call at the Oasis* prevented the Commission from advertising the film on social networking sites, but the event will be publicized with posters, on the City's website, and in the *Highlander*.

### C. Status Report on the Illinois Green Infrastructure Grant Application Process

Staff Liaison Cates noted that, with help from Commissioner Ross and input from Councilwoman Stone, a grant application to reconstruct the Hazel Avenue public parking lot with permeable pavers and a bioswale had been submitted for consideration by the application deadline. Cates noted that the grant awards are scheduled to be announced in mid 2014, and the Commission will continue to be kept informed.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Councilwoman Stone reported that she had recently met with staff from Waste Management to discuss ways to increase the rate of recycling in multifamily units.

Sustainability Coordinator Tillman announced that promotional efforts are underway for a recycling extravaganza scheduled to be held on Saturday, January 4<sup>th</sup>, and that a promotional poster will be sent to the Commission shortly. Tillman also reminded Commissioners of an upcoming ribbon cutting ceremony for a recently installed electric

vehicle charging station and welcomed members to attend the event.

The Commission thanked Park District Representative Steve Meyer for his many years of outstanding support and Tom Sultan for his year of service as Commission Chair.

It was noted that outgoing Commissioner Bill Bogot would attend the next Commission meeting to say farewell, and Stuart Wagenius will take Bogot's place on the Commission in 2014. Cates noted that Commissioner Coyle will become the Commission Chair in 2014.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Sultan adjourned the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara E. Cates, Secretary

-----  
MINUTES APPROVED BY THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION ON \_\_\_\_\_

- WITH NO CORRECTIONS \_\_\_\_\_
- WITH CORRECTIONS \_\_\_\_\_  
(SEE MINUTES OF [ \_\_\_\_\_ ] MEETING FOR CORRECTIONS)



# Memorandum

To: Members of the Natural Resources Commission

From: Barbara E. Cates, Planner II

Date: February 7, 2014

Re: Agenda Items for the February 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Natural Resources Commission

---

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### A. Welcome and Introduction of New Commission Members

I'm pleased to welcome new Commission member Stuart Wagenius and new Student Representative Dani Lewittes to their first Commission meeting. I know that I speak for us all when I say that we are excited to work with them on the Commission's many environmental initiatives. Welcome to the team, Stuart and Dani!

### B. Consideration and Approval of a Recommendation to the City Council to Adopt Proposed Text Amendments to Chapter 94 and Article 19 of Chapter 150 of the City Code to Increase the Minimum Fines for Tree Removal Conducted without a Permit

The City Council has directed City Forester Joe O'Neill to prepare a set of text amendments to Chapter 94 and Article 19 of Chapter 150 of the City Code pertaining to fines for tree removal conducted without a permit. Joe has prepared the attached document to outline the nature of the proposed changes, and he'll be attending the upcoming meeting to discuss the amendments in detail. Joe is currently reviewing the draft text with the City's Corporation Counsel, and the resulting recommendation will be presented to the Commission for consideration.

→ It is suggested that the Commission discuss the proposed amendments and vote to approve and forward them to the City Council for final determination.

C. Status Report on the Creation of a Steep Slope Best Management Practices Brochure, Conducted in Partnership with the Park District of Highland Park and Funded Through the Coastal Zone Management Program Grant

As a reminder, the City and Park District were recently awarded with a joint grant for the preparation of educational materials regarding best management practices for Steep Slope vegetation. Vice Chair Don Matthews was appointed to serve as the Commission Representative for this project.

The grant allowed for assistance to be provided by a third party consultant and we will primarily be working with Conservation Land Stewardship to draft the copy for the brochure. Lake Forest Openlands received a similar grant, and we have simultaneously been meeting with them to ensure that our efforts and the overriding message correspond.

A tentative timeline for the project is attached, and Joe O'Neill and I will be touching base with the Park District and consultant prior to the upcoming Commission meeting to ensure that we're on track as outlined. We'll then provide a brief status report on the project, and discuss the Commission's role in its completion.

D. Discussion and Recommendation of Priorities in the Sustainability Strategic Plan for CY2014

The City recently engaged a consultant to assist with the implementation of the City's Sustainability Strategic Plan. At the upcoming meeting, we'd like to discuss some of the Plan's objectives and receive Commission input on the recommended priorities for 2014.

I'll be receiving further direction on this item prior to the meeting, and I'll forward any relevant materials via email. In the meantime, please feel free to re-familiarize yourself with the Sustainability Strategic Plan, posted at:

<http://www.cityhpil.com/documents/21/sustainabilityplan.PDF>

**OLD BUSINESS:**

A. Review of 2014 Commission Work Plan

As a reminder, the Commission reviewed its Council-approved 2014 Work Plan during the November meeting and tentatively assigned roles and responsibilities. The resulting document is attached.

As always, I'll continue to keep this document updated and use it as a guide to plan future meetings. As it's our first meeting of the year, we thought it would be helpful to provide it as a reminder of the tasks that remain ahead of us in 2014.

B. Status Report on the 2014 Environmental Movie Series Screenings at the Highland Park Library

*Last Call at the Oasis* successfully screened on January 26<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m., with Metropolitan Water Reclamation District Commissioner Debra Shore as the guest speaker. Members who attended will be invited to share their recollections of the event.

Also, as a reminder, the Commission is scheduled to screen *The Lost Bird Project* on March 16<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m., with Highland Park Resident and Bird Conservationist Donnie Dann as the guest speaker. Attached please see an example of the posters that will be placed in the community to publicize the film. I'll bring a few extra copies in case any of you would like to help distribute. Information will also be published in the *Highlander* and on the Commission's Facebook page and the City's website.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- Proposed Tree Fine Text Amendment Overview
- Tentative Timeline for Brochure Creation
- 2014 Commission Work Plan (Working Document)
- Lost Bird Poster

## Proposed Changes to Sec 94 and Article 19 of City Code

Chapter 94 is the portion of City code that deals with tree preservation in general. It includes provisions for diseased trees, heritage, key and protected trees along with preservation during construction. Article 19 deals with protection of steep slopes. Within this article is a section specific to tree preservation on steep slopes.

### Chapter 94 Heritage Trees

The current code does not have a separate provision for fines levied with regard to heritage trees. If a heritage tree were to be illegally removed the penalty would be no more that of a protected or key tree. The revision calls for a minimum fine for the removal of a heritage tree of \$4000. If appropriate the judge also has the ability to levy this fine on a per day basis.

### Chapter 94 Key And Protected Trees

The current code specifies a range of \$50 to \$1000 for the illegal removal of a key or protected tree. The revision would bring the fine to a flat rate of \$1000. This will make fines more consistent and reflect the maximum of the previous range. The drawback is that it does take away the judges ability to adjust fines with respect to the testimony presented.

### Section 150 Article 19

The current code specifies a range of \$50 to \$1000 for the illegal removal of trees within the steep slope. The revision would bring the fine to a flat rate of \$1000. This will make fines more consistent and reflect the maximum of the previous range. The drawback is that it does take away the judges ability to adjust fines with respect to the testimony presented.

# Lakefront Interpretive Center Illinois Coastal Management Program Grant Timetable

## CITY-SPECIFIC BROCHURE-RELATED TASKS

TASK	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	ANTICIPATED ACTION DATE
Ensure that No Additional Letters of Agreement with the Park District are Required	PW	November - December 2013
Identify Budget Source for Matching Funds	PW	January 2014
Brochure Kick-Off Meeting	PW/CD/PDHP	Early January 2014
Refine Scope & Table of Contents	CLS/Rebecca/Joe O'Neill	January 22, 2014
Meet with Lake Forest Openlands to Collaborate	Joe O'Neill	February 3, 2014
Overview of Project and Timeline with the NRC	PW/CD/Don Matthews	February 12, 2014
Overview of Project and Timeline in Weekly Report for City Council	PW/CD	Within first few weeks of March
Continue Collaboration with Lake Forest Openlands	Joe O'Neill and Barbara Cates	Ongoing
Brochure Copy Development/Identification of Code Changes that May be Necessary to Accommodate Recommended BMPs/Ensure that Proposed Amendments Will Not Necessitate a Public Hearing with the Plan Commission	PW/CD/Don Matthews	January – March 2014
Review of Preliminary Copy & Layout/Discussion of Recommended Amendments to Chapter 94 and Chapter 150, Article 19 with the NRC as Directed by Council	PW/CD/Don Matthews	February 19, 2014 - March 19, 2014
Committee of the Whole Update on Recommended Code Changes to Support the BMPs Within the Brochure	PW/CD/Don Matthews	March 24, 2014
Status Report on Progress to the NRC	CD/Don Matthews	April 9, 2014
Consideration of Proposed Amendments to the Code	City Council	April 14, 2014
Adoption of An Ordinance Approving the Amendments	City Council	April 28, 2014
Final Review of Brochure with NRC	PW/CD/Don Matthews	May 14, 2014
Creation of Cover Memorandum from NRC	CD/Don Matthews	May 14, 2014
Brochure Finalization & Printing	Third Party	May - June 2014
Brochure Mailing	Third Party	June 30, 2014
Hold Mandatory Information Session for Licensed Landscapers	PW/CD	Summer 2014

**PW= Public Works**  
**CD= Community Development**  
**CLS= Conservation Land Stewardship**

**NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION ACTION PLAN 2014**

Action #	ACTION ITEM	TASK	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	First Quarter 2014	Second Quarter 2014	Third Quarter 2014	Fourth Quarter 2014
<b>2014 WORK PLAN PROPOSED FOR CITY COUNCIL CONSIDERATION</b>							
1	Evaluate Tree Regulations/Removal Fees per the Direction of the City Council	Recommend Amendments for City Council Consideration	Joe O'Neill	√			
2	Provide Input on the Creation of a Best Practices Brochure	Oversee the Copy and Layout of the Brochure	Don Matthews, Joe O'Neill & Barbara Cates	√	√		
		Recommend Amendments to the Steep Slope Regulations as Necessary to Support the Recommended Practices	Don Matthews, Joe O'Neill & Barbara Cates	√	√		
3	Evaluate Exterior Lighting Standards for All Zoning Districts and Determine if Regulations Should be Implemented	Evaluate "Night Sky" Movement, Neighboring Community Ordinances & Make Recommendations As Necessary	Brent Ross, Ann Coyle, Citizen Advisor Bill Bogot & Staff			√	√
4	Host a Booth at the Taste of HP Event	Reserve Booth & Put Together Educational Materials	Tom Sultan, Renee Facchini and Staff			√	
5	Help Publicize the LMWEP Ravine Standards Guide	Work with the Alliance for the Great Lakes to Promote Guidelines	Nancy Hannick, Tom Sultan & Brent Ross		√		
6	Continue to Outreach on Plastic Bag Recycling Receptacle Requirements	Continue to Work with Business Owners to Track Data and Ensure Compliance	Staff	√			
7	Apply for an Illinois Green Infrastructure Grant	Evaluate the City's projects and prepare an application for the IGIG Grant, and/or the 319 Grant as applicable	Brent Ross & Staff				√
8	Grant Award for Meritorious Service to the Highland Park Environment	Accept & Consider Nominations and Grant Award	Entire Commission & Staff			√	√
9	Seasonally Update the Educational Displays in the Kiosks at Rosewood and Millard Parks	Work with the Park District to Create & Display Spring Posters	Citizen Advisor Hill & Staff	√			
		Work with the Park District to Create & Display Summer Posters	Citizen Advisor Hill & Staff		√		
		Work with the Park District to Create & Display Fall Posters	Citizen Advisor Hill & Staff			√	
10	Participate in Beach, River & Ravine Cleanup Events	Look into Sponsorship Opportunities for the Alliance for the Great Lakes Adopt-a-Beach Event	Don Matthews			√	
		Look into Sponsorship Opportunities for the Friends of the Chicago River Cleanup Event	Don Matthews		√		
		Secure Dumpster for Collection	Staff		√		
		Promote & Assist the Park District with Cleanup Events	Entire Commission		√	√	
11	Draft Articles for the <i>Highlander</i>	"Green Corner" TOPIC TO BE DETERMINED	Staff	√			
		"Green Corner" TOPIC TO BE DETERMINED	Staff		√		
		"Green Corner" TOPIC TO BE DETERMINED	Staff			√	
		"Green Corner" TOPIC TO BE DETERMINED	Staff				√
12	Organize & Host Environmental Movie Series	Contact Library to Establish Event Dates	Staff			√	
		Acquire License to Screen Film	Staff			√	
		Promote Film Screenings	Ann Coyle & Staff	√			
13	Participate in Project Citizen	Assist Students with Project & Keep Commission Updated on Efforts	Mark Hill	ONGOING BASIS			
14	Participate in North Shore Environmental Commissioners Group	Attend Meetings & Give Input	Commission Chair	ONGOING BASIS			
15	Assist in the Accomplishment of Sustainability Plan Initiatives	Establish Implementation Plan	Entire Commission & Staff	ONGOING BASIS			
16	Review & Recommend on Variations and Beach Structure Permit Applications	Forward Findings of Fact to ZBA & City Council	Entire Commission & Staff	ONGOING BASIS			
Pink Highlighted Cell = Task Accomplished							

# THE LOST BIRD PROJECT

*The Lost Bird Project*, a film about five bird species driven to extinction in modern times and sculptor Todd McGrain's project to memorialize them, will be airing on Earth Day, April 22, 2013.

The film will be carried on more than 200 public television stations across the nation in April, 2013.



## PRESS KIT

### **Media Availability & Contact Information**

Sculptor Todd McGrain and Director Deborah Dickson are available for phone/skype interviews.

For more information, please contact:  
Fran Laks or Scott Anger  
[info@lostbirdproject.org](mailto:info@lostbirdproject.org)

212.213.8747  
[@lostbirdproject](https://www.instagram.com/lostbirdproject) [lostbirdfilm.org](http://lostbirdfilm.org)

# AWARDS & REVIEWS



"....a stunning and evocative work about art, nature and our imperilled planet." - *Montreal Mirror*

"Watching it...I was crying." - *Martha's Vineyard Times*

"The stories are told with such power, one will likely be surprised at how strongly they empathize for the Great Auk or the Carolina Parakeet." - *303 Magazine*

"Entertaining, whimsical....and certainly very moving." - *Montreal Gazette*

## CREDITS

Executive Producer  
Andrew Stern

Composer  
Christopher Tin

Co-Producer  
Cinematographer  
Scott Anger

Producer  
Muffie Meyer

Director  
Deborah Dickson

Narrator: Christopher Cokinos  
Editor: Deborah Dickson  
Line Producer: Deborah Dickson  
Sound: Roger Phenix



Distributed to public television  
stations by  
American Public Television



Produced by Middlemarch Films



Fiscal Sponsorship by  
Women Make Movies

Post Production Supervisor: Jaclyn Lee  
Additional Photography: Rick Siegal  
Title Design: Craig Lowy Design  
Archival Research: Lewanne Jones  
Associate Producer: Julia Morrison

Sound Design: Deborah Wallach  
Sound Re-recording: Ed Campbell  
On-Line Facility: Postworks  
Colorist: Scott Oliver  
Transcription: Pat Casteel & Steve Wylie, Marci Juett

# FILM SYNOPSIS

New York, NY -- Gone and nearly forgotten, the Labrador Duck, Great Auk, Heath Hen, Carolina Parakeet and Passenger Pigeon have left a hole in the American landscape and in our collective memory. Moved by their stories, sculptor Todd McGrain set out to bring their vanished forms back into the world by permanently placing his elegant, evocative bronze memorials at the location of each bird's demise.

"These birds are not commonly known and they ought to be, because forgetting is another kind of extinction," McGrain said. "It's such a thorough erasing."

The film tells the story of how these birds came to meet their fates and the journey that leads McGrain from the swamps of Florida, the final roosting ground of the Carolina Parakeet, to a tiny island off the coast of Newfoundland, where some of the last Great Auks made their nests and where the local townspeople still mourn their absence 150 years later.

The Lost Bird Project, directed by Deborah Dickson and produced by Muffie Meyer, is a film about public art, extinction and memory. It is an elegy to five extinct North American birds and a thoughtful, moving, sometimes humorous look at the artist and his mission.

*The Montreal Mirror* called the film, "a stunning and evocative work about art, nature and our imperiled planet," while *The Montreal Gazette* described it as "entertaining, whimsical ... and certainly very moving." *The Martha's Vineyard Times* spoke of the emotion, "Watching it ... I was crying."

The film is an elegy to the five birds and a thoughtful and sometimes humorous look at the artist and his mission. *The Lost Bird Project* is a "buddy movie" about public art, extinction and memory.



*"These birds are not commonly known and they ought to be, because forgetting is another kind of extinction. It's such a thorough erasing."*  
- Todd McGrain

# ABOUT THE BIRDS

Discover more about the lost birds, including short films and illustrations by Todd McGrain, on our website.



CAROLINA PARAKEET  
1918

The Carolina Parakeet's habitat once extended south to the Gulf of Mexico, east to the Ohio Valley. It was commonly seen by early settlers ornamenting bare winter trees as far west as Colorado and as far north as lower Michigan. Arriving with great chatter, vibrant flocks of tens to hundreds flitted about the forests and swamps, ate cockleburrs and nuts, and roosted together in hollow trees.

Feather hunters and trappers, who captured the birds and sold them as caged pets, further diminished flagging populations. Competition from European honeybees for the hollow trees in which the Carolina Parakeet roosted also contributed to the species decline.



THE GREAT AUK  
1888

Swift and agile swimmers, able to dive to great depths, the Great Auk lived most of its life at sea. In the spring, auks came with their life-long partners to mate on the isolated rock islands of the North Atlantic. Flightless and awkward on land, the Great Auk was extremely vulnerable out of the sea. Although it had been hunted for thousands of years and was an important fresh meat source for early explorers, its numbers began to decline significantly in the 1500's as it was overexploited for sale in the fish markets of Europe. In the 1770's, its numbers were decimated as men corralled the birds by the thousands, and, using some of the birds bodies as fuel, boiled the auks to harvest their black feathers for blankets and clothing.



HEATH HEN  
1932

Strutting through the brush, male Heath Hens boomed and pounded the earth to attract a mate. Each year, returning to their breeding grounds, they engaged in spectacular displays of bravado and strength, jumping and spinning in the air, thrusting their chests against one another, as they competed for the right to propagate their species.

When European settlers arrived on the east coast, they hunted the bird so extensively that servants bargained not to be fed Heath Hen more than two or three times a week. The Heath Hen's habitat stretched along the coast of New England from Maine to Virginia. But by 1870, due to overexploitation, the Heath Hen population on the mainland of the east coast had vanished.



LABRADOR DUCK  
1878

On December 12, 1878, a boy left his home in the rural southern tier of New York State in the hope of returning with wild game for the family table. At a place on the Chemung River called the Buttonwoods in Elmira, New York, he shot an unfamiliar duck: unfamiliar because it was far from its native habitat, blown inland by a storm that pounded the Atlantic coast. The bird he shot is thought to have been the last Labrador Duck ever seen.



PASSENGER PIGEON  
1914

At the time of European arrival, Passenger Pigeons accounted for up to forty per cent of the land birds of North America. They flew in vast flocks, numbering in the millions, sometimes eclipsing the sun from noon until nightfall. Flying sixty miles an hour, they migrated across their geographic range, which stretched from the northeastern and mid-western states and into Canada to the southern states.

In the 19th century as America's urban population grew and the demand for wild meat increased, thousands of men became full-time pigeon hunters. With nesting sites holding unimaginable numbers, hunters slaughtered the birds with great efficiency. It was inconceivable that in less than fifty years, the Passenger Pigeon would be nearly extinct.



# FILMMAKER BIOS



## Deborah Dickson, Director and Editor

Deborah Dickson, three-time Academy Award nominee, is an independent filmmaker whose films have shown at major film festivals and been broadcast on HBO and PBS. Dickson produced the acclaimed CARRIER series, and directed ANOTHER DAY IN PARADISE, the companion feature documentary about life aboard an aircraft carrier in the Persian Gulf. WITNESSES TO A SECRET WAR, which Dickson produced and directed, tells the history of America's clandestine war in Laos. THE EDUCATION OF GORE VIDAL premiered at Sundance in 2002 and was broadcast as part of the award winning series, American Masters on PBS. RUTHIE AND CONNIE: EVERY ROOM IN THE HOUSE, premiered at the Berlin Film Festival in 2001 and won over 12 awards at festivals worldwide was broadcast on Cinemax. Her film, FRANCES

STELOFF: MEMOIRS OF A BOOKSELLER premiered at Sundance and Berlin and was nominated for an Academy Award. SUZANNE FARRELL: ELUSIVE MUSE (co-directed with Anne Belle) premiered at the New York Film Festival and was nominated for an Academy Award. Dickson collaborated with Susan Froemke and Maysles Films, Inc on eight award-winning films—from OZAWA to LALEE'S KIN, which premiered at Sundance in 2000. LALEE'S KIN was nominated for a Spirit Award and an Academy Award and won an Alfred I. DuPont Award for Excellence in Journalism. It was broadcast on HBO. In addition to producing and directing, Dickson teaches directing at the Masters program in Social Documentary at the School of Visual Arts.



## Muffie Meyer, Producer

Muffie Meyer has over 30 years of film/video production experience. She is well-known for directing the original documentary, Grey Gardens (with the Maysles & Ellen Hovde), upon which both the musical and the HBO film were based. She has worked extensively for PBS, where her credits as director and producer include: Alexander Hamilton, The New Medicine; Liberty! The American Revolution (a 6-part mini-series); Benjamin Franklin (a 3-part mini-series); American Photography: A Century of Images (a 3-part mini-series); Saving the National Treasures, a NOVA special about the National Archives' restoration of the Declaration of Independence; an episode of the series, Discovering Women; An Empire of Reason, the story of the ratification of the U. S. Constitution in New York State; Behind the Scenes, a ten-part series about the arts;

and Dolley Madison. In addition, she directed (with Ellen Hovde) the feature film Enormous Changes at the Last Minute (Virginia's Story) starring Ellen Barkin and David Strathairn. Her productions have won most of the major awards including Emmys, the George Foster Peabody Award, the Columbia DuPont Journalism award, the Japan Prize, and many, many others. She has lectured and given master classes at Harvard, Princeton, NYU, The New School, Grinnell College, York University (Canada) and many other institutions.



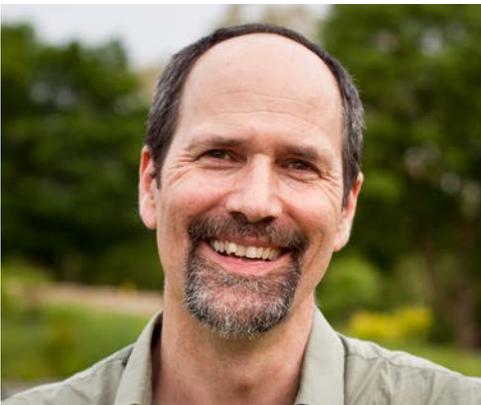
## **Andy Stern, Executive Producer**

Andy Stern is an Associate Professor of Neurology at The University of Rochester but now devotes himself fully to raising awareness about the environment through activities of *The Lost Bird Project*. Andy is a Zen Buddhist practitioner and author of numerous essays on a range of topics including the environment, memory and the nature of knowing, mostly from a Zen perspective. An art lover and amateur sculptor, he is married to Todd McGrain's sister Melissa.



## **Scott Anger, Co-producer and Cinematographer**

For more than 25 years, Scott has worked as an independent journalist and award-winning documentary filmmaker. He is the founder and creative director at Pandau, an interactive company that uses narrative storytelling to build campaigns around projects in the digital space. Scott's film credits include seven films for the flagship documentary program FRONTLINE (PBS) along with Home Front (Showtime), Witness to a Secret War (PBS), Life in Limbo and Greensboro: Closer to the Truth. He has also directed, produced, shot and edited non-fiction work for clients such as The International Rescue Committee, Starbucks Coffee and the Open Society Foundations.



## **Todd McGrain**

Todd McGrain has been a sculptor for over 25 years. During this time he has received a number of grants and awards including the Guggenheim Memorial Fellowship. McGrain has permanent sculpture installations at the Memorial Art Gallery, Rochester, New York; St. Paul Sculpture Park, St. Paul, Minnesota; Kissimmee Prairie Preserve, Okeechobee, Florida; Brand Park, Elmira, New York; Grange Audubon Center, Columbus Ohio; Kohler Art Center, Kohler, Wisconsin; Museum Civico Zoologia, Rome Italy. For the past ten years, McGrain has been directing his strengths as a sculptor toward *The Lost Bird Project*. He is on the faculty at Cornell University.

### **FILM CLIPS:**

On the Passenger Pigeon (:40)  
<https://vimeo.com/39361568>

The Demise of the Great Auk, Fogo Island (:45)  
<https://vimeo.com/39363903>

# PRODUCTION STILLS



The bronze memorial to the Carolina Parakeet near the headquarters of Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park near Okeechobee, Florida. (Todd McGrain/Lost Bird Project)



Artist Todd McGrain works on a clay sculpture of a Passenger Pigeon in his studio near Ovid, New York. The clay bird will be one of the molds used to make bronze sculptures as part of *The Lost Bird Project*. (Lost Bird Project)



A fishing boat passes by the bronze sculpture of the Great Auk on Joe Batt's Point on Fogo Island, Newfoundland. (Todd McGrain/Lost Bird Project)

All press images and credits available for download on [lostbirdfilm.org/press](http://lostbirdfilm.org/press).

### **Media Availability & Contact Information**

Sculptor Todd McGrain and Director Deborah Dickson are available for phone/skype interviews.

For more information, please contact:  
Fran Laks or Scott Anger  
[info@lostbirdproject.org](mailto:info@lostbirdproject.org)

212.213.8747  
[@lostbirdproject](https://www.instagram.com/lostbirdproject) [lostbirdfilm.org](http://lostbirdfilm.org)



# THE LOST BIRD PROJECT

for more information visit [lostbirdfilm.org](http://lostbirdfilm.org)

You Are Invited to Attend a Special Environmental Film Screening:

**SUNDAY, MARCH 16<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m.**  
**Highland Park Library, 494 Laurel Avenue**

This Event is FREE & Open to the Public!

Following the Screening, HP Resident & Bird Conservationist Donnie Dann will Lead a Discussion of the Film & Its Local Implications

This Event is Co-Sponsored by the City of Highland Park's Natural Resources & Cultural Arts Commissions

