

Offer Poetry Writing Workshop on Hempstead Plains, May 14

The Hempstead Plains, Long Island's prairie habitat, might soon become the subject of poems by the Island's increasing number of poets. A poetry writing workshop, designed for practicing poets (however, it is open to any interested person) is being given among the Bird's-foot Violets and other spring flowers in the 19-acre preserve of what was once 60,000 acres of prairie, 9:30 A.M.-2 P.M., Sat., May 14, by the Friends of Hempstead Plains at Nassau Community College on Charles Lindberg Blvd in Garden City. Poets also can find prairie language that they could use for fresh and interesting language in writing poetry about the human condition. That is how poets produce the new language that is making American poetry so pleasurable and powerful - they go to diverse sources, especially nature, for this language. What better than the names of Long Island's 150 prairie species: prairie Loosestrife, Hyssop, Wild Indigo, Blue Vervain, Purple-headed Sneezeweed, Broom Sedge, Prairie Beard Grass and phrases like those used by Alonzo Gibbs in his novel about the Plains, "The Fields Breathe Sweet" (1963) - like a "world the old Celtic monks cast themselves adrift to find: a place for meditation, for self-discovery." Participants will be guided by Betsy Gulotta, Prof of Biology (ret.), Nassau Community College and Conservation Project Manager of the Friends, and poets Edgar Carlson, a landscaper, and Maxwell C. Wheat, Jr. Fee is \$10. For information, phone 516-572-7570 or e-mail info@friendsofhp.org. Maxwell C. Wheat, Jr.