



LONG ISLAND
PINE BARRENS
SOCIETY

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PINE BARRENS
SOCIETY

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A copy of the last annual report filed with the New York State Department of Law may be obtained by writing to NYS Attorney General's Charities Bureau, Attn: FOIL Officer, 120 Broadway, New York, NY, 10271 or may be obtained directly from the Long Island Pine Barrens Society, 547 East Main Street, Riverhead, NY 11901

 Printed on recycled paper.



NOT A TROOPER! The New York State endangered Tiger Salamander resides in vernal ponds on Long Island. Environmentalists do not parachute these critters onto land we want to preserve as some developers half-jokingly suggest. First, state law prohibits the animal's handling. Second, their habitat requirements are very hard to meet. And third, we haven't figured out how to make a parachute harness disconnect mechanism for post-landing egress.

The Pine Barrens Society's television program airs on Cablevision Channel 20 in the following areas. If your region is not listed here, please call our office at 631-369-3300 to find out how you can help us get it aired on your local Cablevision network. The program can also be viewed on the Society's web site, www.pinebarrens.org, by selecting TV Show on the home page.

Town of East Hampton
Mondays 8pm
Tuesdays 10pm
Wednesdays 5pm

Town of Riverhead,
Town of Southold and
Town of Southampton
Sunday 11am
Sunday 2pm
Mondays 8pm

Town of Brookhaven,
Town of Smithtown
and portions of
Town of Islip
Sundays 11am
Sundays 2pm

Town of Babylon,
Town of Huntington, portions of
Town of Islip, and all of
Nassau County
Sundays 10pm
Mondays 8pm



LONG ISLAND
PINE BARRENS
SOCIETY



the pine barrens

today

PRESERVATION: NOW OR NEVER

ON COURSE FOR FAILURE

Society Study calls for “Big Final Push for Preservation”

The Long Island Pine Barrens Society has concluded a six-month study of Long Island’s land preservation efforts and has warned that if the present rate of land acquisition continues the region will “fail by nearly half” to secure 25,000 acres of open space and 10,000 acres of farmland before final build-out of Long Island, projected for 2015.

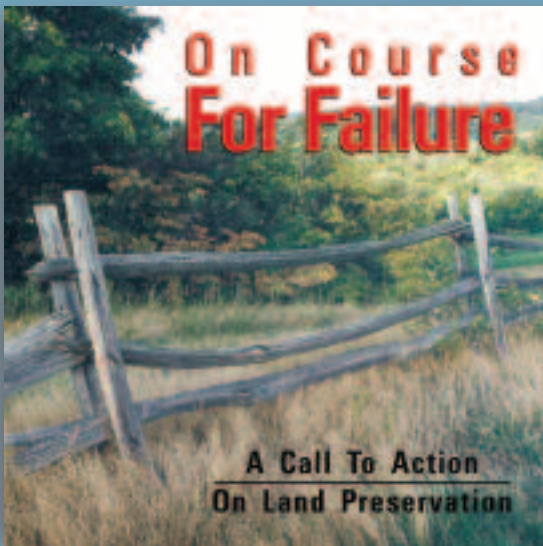
The study chronicled the 50-year history of land preservation on Long Island from creation of the Fire Island National Seashore to the landmark

Farmland Preservation Program to saving the Long Island Pine Barrens. While praising Long Island land preservation efforts as “second to none nationally,” the White Paper, issued in this month, describes the challenge of saving open space and farmland in a region where land prices are high and government programs are fragmented.

Pine Barrens Society President Alan Singer said, “Preservation of the Pine Barrens required an almost ‘Apollo program to the moon.’ While the total expense of Pine Barrens preservation was smaller, the current cost of land and the little time left to accomplish the goal will require a still greater effort,” he said. “Instead of faulting

a most worthy past effort, we must re-double our efforts to obtain the needed funds and streamline processes and procedures,” he added.

The report documented the efforts of federal, state, county and town efforts to purchase open space and the development rights to agricultural lands. It concluded that Long Islanders have committed nearly \$1.2 billion dollars to the effort over half a century, securing nearly 60,000 acres



of open space and farmland. It also concluded that Long Islanders have spent more money on land preservation than the residents of 45 of the 50 states.

The report backed a plan by The Nature Conservancy, embraced last January by more than 100 business, environmental and civic leaders and elected officials. Called “Long Island’s Last Stand,” it identified and prioritized the preservation of 35,000 acres among the 70,000 remaining “up for grabs” before all the land on Long Island is either developed or saved. This milestone is projected by planners for 2015, but some say most of the land use decisions concerning the future fate of

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YES! To Preservation

Continuing a proud tradition of supporting environmental referenda, Long Islanders from Great Neck to Montauk voted yes on ballot initiatives likely to produce a billion dollars to protect drinking water and preserve open space and farmland. Six measures were approved November 7.

Nassau County Voters dramatically approved a \$100 million Environmental Bond Act. The margin was 77 percent. Two years ago, the Nassau electorate approved a \$50 million bond act. Both are aimed at saving some of what little open space and farmland remain in Long Island’s first mature suburb. Lisa Ott, Executive Director of the North Shore Land Alliance based in Old Westbury, called the vote “wonderful” and predicted that a committee of environmental and civic leaders would begin new land purchases “immediately.” The 2004 Nassau Bond Act has already preserved 133 acres.

On the East End, voters in five towns extended the wildly-successful Community Preservation Fund through 2030. Even though final build-out of Long Island is projected by 2015, the CPF extension will allow local government to buy now and pay later for land that would otherwise increase in price or be lost forever to development.

The CPF extension was approved in Riverhead and Southampton by 62 percent of the vote. The margin was 67 percent in Southold, 69 percent in East Hampton and a whopping 78 percent on Shelter Island. Since its implementation in 1999, the Community Preservation Fund, which uses a two percent real estate transfer tax on expensive land and home purchases, has generated \$400 million and preserved more than 7500 acres.

Environmentalists say that if the CPF continues to generate funds at recent rates, East End towns will produce nearly \$900 million as a result of the extension. Including the Nassau Bond Act approval, Long Islanders have committed \$1 billion dollars to land preservation as a result of the 2006 election.

PBS President Alan Singer responded enthusiastically. “This is far and away the most successful fundraising mechanism in the nation for preserving open space.” He added, “It should be adopted by every town that hasn’t already been paved over.”

Broadwater Blasted

To no one’s surprise, thousands of Long Islanders turned out and spoke up against the Broadwater Natural Gas factory proposed for Long Island Sound. The occasion was the final public hearings before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, held January 10 and 11. The proceeding was also attended by the New York State Department of State, the agency charged with determining whether Broadwater conforms with state mandates on the protection of the Sound.

The hearings, in Smithtown and Shoreham were preceded by an anti-Broadwater rally, organized by the Anti-Broadwater Coalition of which the Society is a leading member. Federal, state, county and town officials voiced their continuing opposition either in person or by television hook-up. Nearly 200 Broadwater opponents attended the rally and called upon

New York Governor Eliot Spitzer to protect the sound and actively fight Broadwater. Governor Spitzer said he would decide about Broadwater after first reviewing recommendations from state agencies reviewing the proposal.

Pine Barrens Society Executive Director Richard Amper told the FERC and DOS panel, “The people of Long Island have spoken. The people of Long Island don’t want Broadwater.” He added, “Twenty years ago we said ‘No!’ to Shoreham; tonight we’re saying ‘No!’ to Broadwater.”

A strong industry supporter, FERC is expected to review public comments and approve Broadwater this spring. New York State agencies will complete their reviews on a similar schedule while Albany lawmakers seek to pass legislation that would give New York a greater say in the siting of the project. Most analysts say litigation on the matter is inevitable.

Credit: Newsday



VOCAL OPPONENT: PBS Executive Director Richard Amper joins thousands of Long Islanders in articulating his opposition to Broadwater at FERC Public Hearing in January.

Please Turn Out the Lights

by Susan Harder

Susan Harder is a Dark Sky advocate and outdoor lighting consultant, living in East Hampton. www.darksksociety.org

A star filled night sky with a visible Milky Way is inarguably one of the world's greatest natural resources, but due to "light pollution" it can only be seen by a third of the U.S. population. When nighttime lighting is misdirected, unshielded or excessive, it causes unintended consequences including those that are visible: sky glow overhead from upwardly directed light refracted by particulates and moisture; glare from unshielded fixtures; and light trespass extending across property lines where it is not needed or wanted. The

Credit: NOAA/DMSF



less visible effects of night lighting on flora and fauna have only recently been examined and the findings show that the nocturnal habitats of all manner of life depend on a bright day/dark night cycle for the health and survival of the species.

We are well aware that flora is dependent

on daylight for photosynthesis, but all-night lighting can disrupt long term health by affecting growth and flowering cycles, including delaying the cycle of dormancy of deciduous trees, causing severe winter dieback.

Early studies on fauna reveal behaviors (attraction and repulsion, fixation, orientation, biological rhythms, foraging, mating, movement, predator-prey relationships, nesting) are negatively impacted by light at night ("LAN"). Preliminary studies have begun on: bats, sea turtle hatchlings, frogs, salamanders, western long-nosed snakes, insects, birds, moths, fish, and marine birds. Migrating birds, which primarily fly at low altitudes at night and are thought to partially navigate by the stars, have been extensively studied. The US Fish & Wildlife Service estimates over 100 million bird-kills per year because birds are susceptible to collisions with lit towers and buildings, and inexplicably circle them to exhaustion during inclement weather. Most alarming have been new human breast cancer studies which show increased tumor growth in the presence of LAN.

Efforts to address artificial night lighting and its many effects on the environment was begun twenty years ago by astronomers in Tucson, Arizona when they noticed that their telescopes, while increasing in magnifying power, were losing visibility of the stars due to increasing sky glow. The astronomers formed the International Dark Sky Association and prevailed upon the city council to enact outdoor lighting regulations to require the use of shielded fixtures to minimize light pollution. The astronomers served as our "canaries in the coal mine" and have been joined by those with concerns about the total effects of light pollution. Dark sky advocates educate the public and lobby for legislation by focusing attention on the loss of our connection with the star filled night sky and the nocturnal environment. Unlike cleaning up other pollutants, clearing our skies of light pollution can be accomplished in our lifetimes and without sacrifice, including estimated savings of at least \$4.5 billion yearly in the U.S. from electricity generated primarily by burning fossil fuels. Simply turning off unnecessary outdoor lights or closing shades in empty rooms can reduce bird deaths by 75% or more, according to the National Wildlife Federation.

While the core of the Pine Barrens is inherently dark at night, as it has been for millions of years, it is surrounded by towns throughout Long Island, lit for human activities. The stewards of the Pine Barrens have taken steps to protect the area at night, as well as day, from intrusive artificial lighting:

- The Suffolk County Water Authority retrofitted the unshielded floodlights at their facility on the edge of the PB,
- The Pine Barrens Society hosted a public television segment to increase awareness,
- The Pine Barrens Commission presented research from two scientists at its Annual Conference on the effects of night lighting on salamanders,
- The Pine Barrens Commission invited dark sky advocates to speak on the reasons to control light pollution,
- The Land Use Plan of the Central Pine Barrens Commission's Update includes recommendations for lighting controls,
- Long Island environmental groups support dark sky efforts,
- LIPA changed all their own lighting and the offerings to customers
- Suffolk County and the Towns of Brookhaven, Riverhead, East Hampton Town and Village, and Huntington have passed comprehensive outdoor lighting legislation.

Light pollution will be fully addressed when: Environmental Impact Statement forms include it as an environmental stressor; all State, Federal, and local laws regulate night lighting; environmental education includes the subject; in-depth research is conducted; manufacturers exclusively offer "dark sky friendly" fixtures; a clear night sky is considered our rightful heritage to be preserved and protected; "dark sky" preserves are set aside for astronomical observations; night sky brightness is measurably reduced; and no one remembers "light pollution" and everyone has the opportunity to enjoy a star filled night sky, devoid of sky glow.

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS NOTES

Huge Pine Barrens Acquisition

Once targeted as the northernmost section of a mini-city proposed by developer Wilbur Breslin, dubbed "Willy World" by detractors, 400 acres of Pine Barrens have been acquired by New York State, Suffolk County and Brookhaven Town.

Located in Ridge, the sprawling site lies near the headwaters of the Peconic River, the largest groundwater-fed river in New York State. The Peconic River corridor boasts the greatest diversity of plants and animals in the state. The property also sits in a state-designated Special Groundwater Protection Area containing some of the purest drinking water left on Long Island.

The acquisition is the most expensive ever in the history of the Pine Barrens Preservation Initiative. The \$51 million price will be borne by the state, county and town, using funds from three different land preservation programs. "This is a real good reason why voters should continue to approve all the land preservation referenda," said PBS President Alan Singer. "That way, multi-level partnerships can allow government to secure some of the largest and most expensive tracts."

Located in the Compatible Growth Area of the Pine Barrens, the land lies north of Longwood Road and south of Middle Country Road in Ridge. It is east of Smith Road.

"This is huge," said PBS Executive Director Richard Amper. "It is a major 'missing link' in a north-south wildlife corridor that connects north to the 5000-acre Rocky Point Preserve and south all the way to Great South Bay," he added.

In another significant acquisition, Governor George Pataki announced shortly before leaving office, preservation of nearly 50 acres in the globally-rare Dwarf Pine Plains in Westhampton Beach. The property is located between County Roads 31 and 104, both north and south of Sunrise Highway, just north of Suffolk County's Gabreski Airport. It is contiguous with the recently-preserved WJF property, expanding a land assemblage, long-sought by the Society and other environmental groups.

Long-Sought Victory?

Preservation doesn't come easily or quickly, but when it is finally accomplished, it is sweet. When the former Kings Park Psychiatric Center closed a decade ago, environmentalists eyed the more than 600 acres for a new state park.

Alas, environmental contamination including the bulldozing and burying of dozens of structures at the site, made preservation or redevelopment of the property very expensive. Several high-density development proposals were rejected by an active citizenry, supported by the Town of Smithtown.

In its 1998 campaign to "Keep the Park in Kings Park," the Society worked with environmental and civic organizations to limit development and encourage preservation. In 1999, Governor George Pataki carved out 153 acres on Long Island Sound to become the Nissequogue River State Park. He also pledged to allow development on only 25 percent of the remaining acreage.

Last year, State Senator John Flanagan obtained a commitment of \$25 million in state funding to clean up the site in the interest of reducing the costs of potential development. Additionally, in the week before her departure as State Parks Commissioner, Bernadette Castro secured an agreement to add 368 acres to the State Park and oversee more limited development on an already disturbed 90 acres.

Commissioner Castro had made no secret of her desire to transfer most of the remaining property to Nissequogue River State Park. As she and Governor Pataki departed their recent posts, both were delighted by the outcome. Senator Flanagan is continuing to try to expand the open space further by swapping adjacent undeveloped property owned by the Saint Johnland senior care facility for previously-developed property owned by the state.

However, newly-appointed Parks Commissioner, Carol Ash, said in January that the Spitzer Administration was reconsidering the land transfer to Parks. Stay tuned!



The President's Point of View Two Projects

By Alan Singer

Here's the inside story on two projects making environmental news at the start of 2007.

BROADWATER

There's no need to reiterate everything that's wrong with the liquid gas factory proposed for Long Island Sound. It's bad. It's the Shoreham of the decade. Ordinarily, the society focuses on drinking water protection and open space preservation. We leave energy stuff to groups with expertise on that. But Broadwater is such a huge threat, our Board of Directors decided we couldn't sit this out any more than a responsible environmental group could have sat out Shoreham.

It's good that we're part of the Anti-Broadwater Coalition. The Society pulled out all the stops when it came to the Public Hearings on Broadwater conducted by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the New York State Department of State. We made the signs, the buttons, the postcards; helped turn-out 1000 opponents for each of the two hearings; organized the pre-hearing rally and news conference; and worked with the press on extensive coverage.

We had three goals. First, to draw Governor Spitzer into the issue — he has avoided Broadwater, but now is square at center stage on the issue. Then, we debunked Broadwater's two, related lies—one, that an average household would save \$300 on energy costs and two, that two-thirds of Long Islanders support the scheme. Newsday and News 12 confronted the claims

head-on, effectively destroying Broadwater's effort to pretend that there's any support for their boondoggle. Acknowledging that the FERC project review process is stacked in favor of approval, Broadwater got the stuffing kicked out of them throughout January. Of course, ABC will continue to fight the project in Albany and Washington as the approval process moves ahead.

While complimenting past success, the report demonstrates that government at every level must literally re-double its efforts if Long Island is to achieve the goal of preserving half of the 70,000 acres still up for grabs before final built-out in 2015.

OPEN SPACE

In a project which I believe will be the most significant since organizing the Pine Barrens Preservation Initiative in the early 1990's, the Society has just released a comprehensive assessment of the state of the Island's land preservation programs. While complimenting past success, the report demonstrates that government at every level must literally re-double its efforts

if Long Island is to achieve the goal of preserving half of the 70,000 acres still up for grabs before final built-out in 2015. Incredibly, information on the \$1.2 billion, nearly 60,000 acres land saving effort has never been assembled in one binding, nor the dozen-and-a-half individual preservation programs examined and evaluated.

Sadly, we think it unlikely that government will not respond defensively to the report, "On Course for Failure: A Call to Action on Open Space." Condemnation is not our purpose and the White Paper doesn't do that. Instead, it praises past accomplishments and sets out a road map for accelerating acquisitions and finishing the job. Still, we expect to be attacked as the messenger bearing the news that continuing preservation at current rates will fail to obtain Long Island's 35,000-acre goal.

So, despite the Herculean effort required to produce the report, we've got our work cut out for us, trying to implement our recommendations, enhancing every conservation effort and winning the needed funding. On that last matter, the continuing support of environmental funding on the part of Long Islanders from Great Neck to Montauk, gives us great hope that continued funding at necessary levels will prove to be no problem. Now, we just have to get the money quickly and properly spent.

Long Island is nearly done with its nationally-recognized land preservation programs. There is no higher priority here at PBS than ending them well.

ON COURSE FOR FAILURE

(continued from page 1)

this acreage will be made in the next three to five years.

"Most Long Islanders embrace this worthy goal, vote in record numbers to fund it and commend government for our progress to date," said PBS Executive Director Richard Amper.

"However, what worked in past decades cannot succeed in the current one, absent a significant increase in funding levels and expanded and expedited processes for saving the land."

Entitled, "On Course for Failure: A Call to Action on Open Space," the report listed more than two dozen recommendations for accelerating the purchase of open space and development

rights on farmland. The Society called on Long Island leaders to review the assessment; then press for accelerated acquisition. "Environmentally, drinking water and habitat are at stake; Economically, tourism, farming and housing our workforce can afford are all at stake; and in terms of quality-of-life, everything is on the line," Amper concluded.

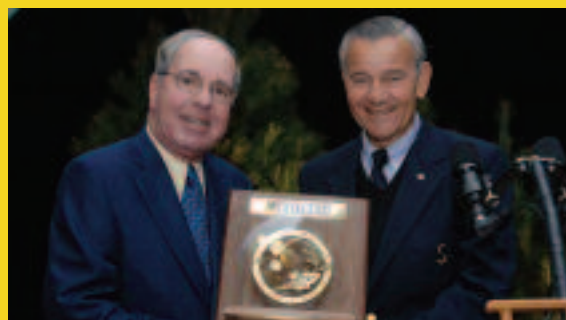
Record Gala!

The Society's 29th Anniversary Environmental Awards Gala was the biggest and best ever! PBS's top award for "Outstanding Contribution to Long Island's Environment" went to WLNY-TV 55 for its coverage and support of the environment. Chairman, Michael Pascucci accepted the award for TV 55. Adrienne Esposito of Citizens Campaign for the Environment won the Society's Environmental Achievement Award.

More than 275 people attended the October 19 event at Carlyle on the Green in Bethpage State Park. Long Island Power Authority Chairman Richard Kessel was Chairman of the event which raised a record \$300,000.

The theme, "Beyond Preservation" focused on the Society's new emphasis on stewardship and education, now that most of the Pine Barrens targeted for preservation has been saved. Fewer than 2500 acres in the Core Preservation Area and an equal amount in the Compatible Growth Area are still in private hands.

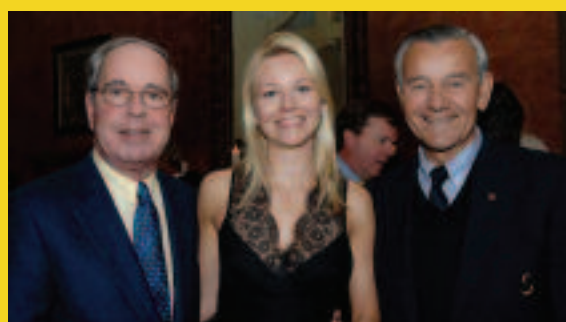
Guests dined and drank and danced to the music of the Denice Given Band. Society Executive Director Richard Amper concluded, "2007 will mark our 30th anniversary — this year's event will be tough to top, but count on us to try!"



TOP HONOR: WLNY-TV 55 Chairman Michael Pascucci accepts the 2006 award for "Outstanding Contribution to Long Island's Environment" from the Pine Barrens Society Executive Director, Richard Amper, October 19.



COLLEAGUE RECOGNIZED: Adrienne Esposito, Executive Director of Citizens Campaign for the Environment receives PBS's Environmental Achievement Award from Amper and Board Member Adriana Niazi.



RESPECTED REPORTER: WLNY-TV 55 Environmental Correspondent Anastasia Coleman is flanked by Amper and Pascucci. Her reports on TV 55's feature series "Our Environment" helped make TV 55 a winner.



ACTIVE COMMITTEE WOMAN: Kathy Giamo of the Giamo Group worked actively with 35 colleagues to raise \$300,000 for the Society's programs of education and advocacy, through sponsorship, ticket sales and journal ads.



WHODDA THUNK IT? David Feinblatt, President of TV 55 and Paul Fleishman, Vice President of Marketing & Public Relations of Newsday show their environmental colors by hugging a pine tree at the 2006 event.



HAIL TO THE CHIEF: Long Island Power Authority Chairman Richie Kessel chaired Gala 29. A record setter, the Society's event was held October 19 at Carlyle on the Green in Bethpage State Park.

Credit: All Gala photos by Nancy Epstein