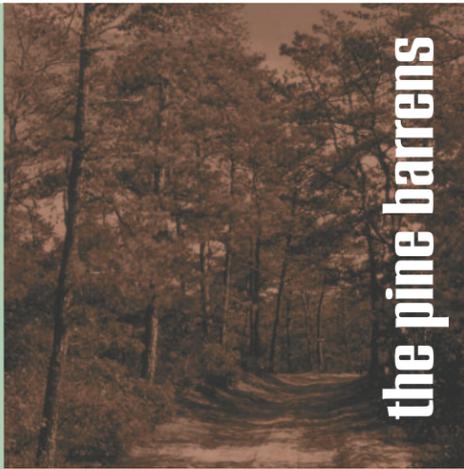




LONG ISLAND
PINE BARRENS
SOCIETY



today

PRESERVATION: NOW OR NEVER

TIME'S RUNNING OUT ON PRESERVATION! Report Warns of Environmental & Economic Repercussions

Credit: Long Island Pine Barrens Society



REVOLTING DEVELOPMENT: New Pine Barrens Society report indicates development will beat preservation despite commitment to save half of what little land is left.

A year after environmentalists warned that Long Island was “On Course for Failure” to meet established land preservation goals, a follow-up report says government is preserving only half of the needed land and warns of dire economic and environmental consequences if the pace is not accelerated.

The Long Island Pine Barrens Society reports that while government preserved 1,270 acres of open space and 730 acres of farmland in 2007 – up 500 acres from 2006—the total was 2,180 acres short of the acquisition rate necessary to save a total of 35,000 acres before final build-out

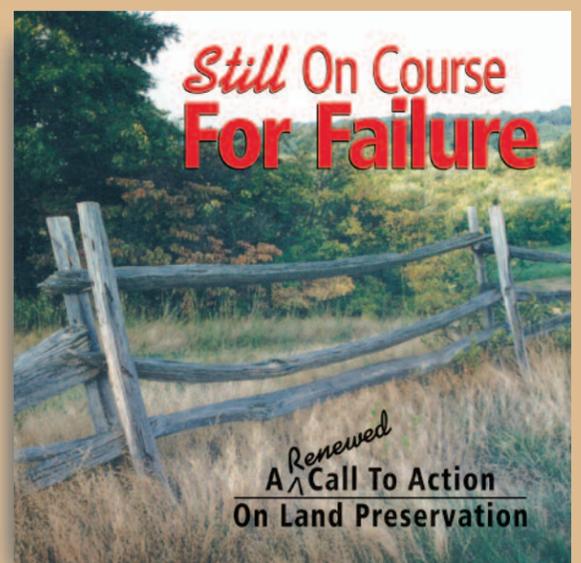
called for an analysis of the economic and environmental consequences to the Long Island region if the preservation goal is not met. “Long Island’s economy could go out-of-business if economic engines which depend on open space and farmland are lost,” said Pine Barrens Society Executive Director, Richard Amper. “Tourism remains the Island’s largest industry at \$4.7 billion annually, and Suffolk is New York’s largest agricultural money-maker,” Amper explained. “Tourists don’t flock to Levittown and farming needs at least 30,000 total acres to remain viable,” he added. Environmental concerns

of Long Island, expected to occur about seven years from now. The report says that if acquisition is not accelerated, only 17,568 acres will be preserved – just half of the goal government and citizens agree must be saved.

The Update said few of the 2007 Report’s recommendations for increased preservation have been implemented and

include air and water quality, increased traffic congestion and habitat loss.

The 2008 report called for increased state funding including a statewide environmental bond act next year, new bonding in Nassau and in Brookhaven, an increased focus on preservation on the North Fork and maximum borrowing from existing revenue streams to buy land at today’s lower prices and before it is lost forever to development. “Long Island has obtained only 10.2 percent of its preservation goal,” Amper concluded, “we must expedite land purchases at once or try to explain later to our children and grandchildren why we failed to act while there was still time.”



2008 WHITE PAPER UPDATE: Still On Course For Failure

Honored for Leadership: Annual Gala is Set for October 7th

A celebration of leadership is set for the Society’s 31st Anniversary Environmental Awards Gala to be held at incredible Oheka Castle, October 7. Honorees will be Stony Brook University President Dr. Shirley Strum Kenny and United States Congressman Tim Bishop.

PBS President Alan Singer said, “When you think about leadership on Long Island, these two extraordinary people immediately come to mind.”

The big party will feature an appreciation of “Long Island’s Legacy of Land.” There are fewer than 2,500 acres still to be preserved in the Core Preservation Area of the Pine Barrens and some 5,000 acres in



**Stony Brook University President
Shirley Strum Kenny**



**United States Congressman
Tim Bishop**

the Compatible Growth Area. In all, 60,000 acres of land has been permanently preserved on Long Island with 35,000 more targeted to be saved. “What a great gift this will be to future generations,” Mr. Singer said, “land preservation on Long Island will be a source of perpetual pride.”

Gala guests will feast on a gourmet dinner and dance to the music of the Denice Given Band. There will be a special tribute to the honorees and a short but entertaining program. Sponsorship, journal ads, tables and tickets can be obtained by calling Joanne Schmitt at (631) 369-3300 or by e-mail: schmitt@pinebarrens.org.

the thicket

Hunting in a Lilliputian Landscape

by John L. Turner

Mr. Turner is a co-founder of the Pine Barrens Society and Natural Resources Director at Brookhaven Town.

I have long been fascinated by buck moths. They are beautiful insects — orange, black, and white in color — with small, translucent, crescent-moon shaped marks the color of straw yellow on their fore and hind wings. They are so named because they fly during the season hunters pursue buck deer. Stimulated by cooler fall rains, the adults have emerged from their earthen cells, having undergone their miraculous transformation from caterpillar to moth beneath the ground and out of harm's way during the summer months. Harm, in this case, is wildfires, which for millennia has shaped the Dwarf Pine Plains and the larger Long Island Pine Barrens ecosystem, of which it is a part.

Credit: Long Island Pine Barrens Society



Most conspicuous during fall months (although the caterpillars can often be seen when searched for, especially when young and grouped together feeding on scrub oak leaves) the adults have emerged to complete their yearly generational cycle by mating. The females are harder to find, remaining in the vegetation where they hang from scrub oak branches releasing a wind-borne pheromone. It is this diagnostic chemical scent, indicating an available female, that males seek as they zip back and forth over the dwarf pines. After mating, the female will lay several dozen eggs in small corn-cob looking bundles that encircle scrub oak twigs.

Besides providing habitat for buck moths, the Dwarf Pine Plains is a globally rare forest, the rarest of the many natural communities that collectively comprise the Long Island Pine Barrens. Wider than they are tall, the scrub oaks and dwarf pitch pines are Lilliputian forms of their brethren that grow in other parts of the Barrens. The canopy of pine and oak trees stands roughly head-high, and in some places tops-out at the waist. Contorted branches splay this way and that, holding fistfuls of bristly pine cones. With a little imagination one could envision the Pine Plains as a great bonsai garden tended to by a cadre of forest gnomes. Long Island's Dwarf Pine Plains is one of three known dwarf pine areas in the world, joined by those in the New Jersey Pinelands and the Shawangunk Pine Barrens near New Paltz, New York.

On a balmy, mid-October morning I headed into the dwarf forest in Westhampton for a glimpse of the buck moth. A gentle breeze carried over the tops of the trees creating a slight protest among the rustling pine needles and yellow-stained scrub oak leaves. Below the pines, black huckleberry bushes radiated a brilliant scarlet color when backlit by the warmth of the morning sun; each leaf appearing to be internally lit by a tiny bright bulb. Hundreds of stiff asters, their light lavender flowers providing additional shades to the autumnal palette on display, flanked the edges of the trail. I continued past several stands of pines and oaks that during the spring and early summer served as song perches for eastern towhees, brown thrashers, and prairie warblers. I was focused on trying to make real the image I carried in my head, formed from many past experiences — the rapid, zigzag flight movements diagnostic of male buck moths intent on finding a mate.

After an hour of walking and scanning I saw nothing. Growing slightly fatigued from an hour's worth of concentration, I turned a ninety degree bend in the trail and paused. Suddenly to my left, I picked up some motion and they came into focus. Two moths were to the left of the trail, the closer one heading towards me, the further one flying across the trail heading east. The closer moth continued to approach until he was about fifteen feet away and along the right edge of the trail. His flight behavior changed, becoming more fluttery, and then he hovered; a stark contrast to the uni-directional flight from moments before. For ten seconds or so the moth gently probed the scrub oak flanking the right side of the trail, enough time for my 10x binoculars to afford me an intimate view of the beautiful insect. Suddenly, it zoomed off, freeing me to walk to the spot that had commanded the moth's attention, hoping to detect with my eyes the female which the male moth's antennae had failed to perceive. I spent a minute or two looking amidst the interlocking scrub oak branches but had the same luck — no female.

My mission was complete; the day's sole objective had been accomplished. I turned around and through the beautiful autumn afternoon began the two-mile walk back to the car, basking in the glow of success. One more year in which I was privileged to witness the autumnal mating flight of the Pine Barrens buck moth.

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS NOTES

That Sinking Feeling



Elected officials, environmentalists and civic leaders celebrated the defeat of the Broadwater Liquefied Natural Gas factory proposed for Long Island Sound at a Pine Barrens Society party, July 11. Governor David Paterson and the New York State Department of State disapproved the project in April.

A project of Shell Oil and TransCanada Energy, Broadwater is appealing the decision to the U.S. Secretary of Commerce, but members of the Anti-Broadwater Coalition, of which the Society was a part, do not expect the decision to be reversed. The Coalition mounted a massive grassroots opposition effort aimed at protecting the Sound from environmental degradation and industrialization. "Big oil thought they could have their way with Long Island Sound," said PBS Executive Director Richard Amper, "but Long Islanders won a major victory for both the environment and democracy."

Credit: Bob Strovink



THRILL OF VICTORY: Elected officials celebrated the defeat of Broadwater at a party July 11. They are Brookhaven Councilman Keith Romaine, Riverhead Councilwoman Barbara Blass, Wading River Civic President Sid Bail, PBS Executive Director Richard Amper, Citizens Campaign for the Environment Executive Director Adrienne Esposito, Brookhaven Supervisor Brian X. Foley, Legislator John Kennedy and former Brookhaven Councilman Kevin McCarrick.

Environmental Newspeak

For the second year in a row, the Suffolk County Legislature's Budget Review Office has released a report falsely criticizing Suffolk's land preservation programs. The Budget Review Office was soundly criticized a year ago for its error-filled report on Suffolk's vaunted land programs. Using incorrect information which it was required to retract and amend, BRO concluded last year that there were "competing goals of land preservation and keeping taxes under control."

Of course, over-development is responsible for the high taxes Long Islanders pay because new government services cost more than the tax income new development produces. "Preservation controls taxes," PBS's Richard Amper explained, "if only because deer don't go to school!"

In this year's report, BRO concludes, "The proliferation of land preservation programs and the expansion of affordable housing programs may be mutually exclusive. This is because land is finite and essential to both programs." In fact, this is a false choice. Government has not acquired for preservation, a single acre of land which would otherwise have been used for affordable housing. And among the 252 sites Suffolk has identified for affordable housing, not one of them is on any preservation list. The reason Long Island has little affordable housing is that developers make more money building unaffordable housing. Ending land preservation would do nothing to produce affordable housing.

The BRO report concludes with the observation that "the level of resources allocated to acquire land may be beyond our means." Amper rebutted, "Apart from the need to protect water and preserve habitat, the economic engines of tourism, farming, fishing and the second-home industry depend on attractive open space for literally billions of dollars of income needed for a healthy economy on Long Island. So, we can't afford NOT to complete the Island's land preservation programs."



The President's Point of View

By Alan Singer

Oh Kenny, we thought we knew ye!

When you've been disappointed by elected officials as often as we have, it's hard to be either surprised or devastated by a collapse of character and betrayal of conviction of the sort we encountered this summer.



Everybody has been following the "EPCAL Epic" — the long and painful effort to re-develop the former U.S. Navy-owned and Grumman-leased

airfield at Calverton, known as Enterprise Park at Calverton, thus EPCAL. The long history of ambitious, but fanciful proposed projects make for a true tragi-comedy. The land lies in the Compatible Growth Area of the Pine Barrens and in a state-designated Special Groundwater Protection Area. It is home to incredible grasslands and rare coastal plain ponds and endangered, threatened and special concern species.

The bumbling Town of Riverhead, which for a decade has been unable to get out of its own way and re-develop the Calverton property, has recently embraced several proposed projects, all of which pale in incredulity to the 755-acre Riverhead Resorts project involving a mega-resort rivaling Orlando, complete with eight resorts, 2,000 hotel rooms 3,500 timeshares, a 90-acre artificial lake and (I'm not kidding) a 350-foot indoor ski mountain. How's that for a carbon footprint? We can't even imagine the traffic impact.

Eager to conduct the environmental review of this massive development with the least possible input from agencies charged with protecting the environment — the New York State Pine Barrens Commission

and the Department of Environmental Conservation — Riverhead's town fathers and mother have fought the D.E.C. and sued the Pine Barrens Commission. What's worse, the town is winning!

Earlier this year, State Supreme Court Justice Paul J. Baisley, Jr. ruled that the Pine Barrens Commission had no jurisdiction over EPCAL and, incredibly (though maybe accidentally), went on to say that development is a "public benefit" and also not under jurisdiction of the Commission anywhere in the Pine Barrens. Surely

"... the measure was unilaterally killed by its Senate sponsor Kenneth P. LaValle — the original Senate sponsor of the Pine Barrens Act!"

nobody really believes that landmark state legislation, the Pine Barrens Protection Act of 1993 which was designed to control development in Long Island's premier ecosystem, exempted development from the law's jurisdiction. Huh?

Anyway, concerned about the judge's decision, the Society proposed a clarifying amendment to the Pine Barrens Act even as the Society and the State Attorney General appealed the Baisley decision.

The Society quickly crafted language for the amendment which said a "public benefit"

exempt from the Pine Barrens Act and the Commission's jurisdiction could only be an act of government necessary for "public health and safety." The amendment was immediately drafted by the New York State Assembly and State Senate. It seemed assured to be signed into law by the governor as previous amendments have been.

Incredibly, just two days later, the measure was unilaterally killed by its Senate sponsor Kenneth P. LaValle — the original Senate sponsor of the Pine Barrens Act! This heinous act ended any possible passage.

LaValle said the amendment would threaten Riverhead's capacity to exclude Commission review of the mega-development projects at EPCAL. So, not only did he undermine the Commission he created, he left a loophole in our Pine Barrens law big enough to drive 100 bulldozers through, and jeopardized the very drinking water protection and habitat preservation objectives the state legislature unanimously passed the Pine Barrens Act to protect!

Environmentalists and government officials everywhere are now scrambling to fix the crisis Riverhead Town created, the Baisley court compounded and Senator LaValle ensured will continue with profound environmental repercussions for the Pine Barrens and beyond.

Unless the appeals court reverses the lower court ruling or Senator LaValle comes to his senses, the Pine Barrens law we all depend on for the environmental and economic health of the region will be lost to the incompetent flailing of a town with a dubious development project, a clueless judge and a spineless politician who sold out more in a single action than the entire state legislature has been able to undermine in the past 15 years. Oh, Kenny, we thought we knew ye!

Credit: Long Island Pine Barrens Society



SMART: Gala Co-chair Paul Brennan shows new "Smart" car to PBS Executive Director Richard Amper and PBS Television Show co-host Kathleen Nasta before taping of the August show.

Credit: John Callis



LAW BREAKERS? Pine Barrens Society co-founder Robert McGrath and fellow bird enthusiasts were cited by Riverhead Police for watching short-eared owls at town-owned property in Calverton!



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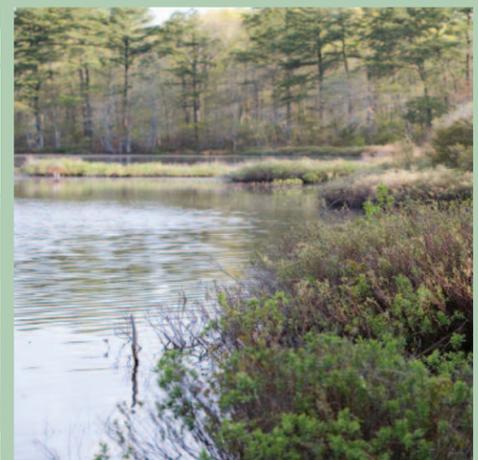
A copy of the last annual report filed with the New York State Department of Law may be obtained by writing to NYS Attorney General's Charities Bureau, Attn: FOIL Officer, 120 Broadway, New York, NY, 10271 or may be obtained directly from the Long Island Pine Barrens Society, 547 East Main Street, Riverhead,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

Printed on recycled paper.

Credit: Stephen Bojanowski



Credit: Photography Art of Granville Fairchild



THEY DON'T EVEN SPEAK THE SAME LANGUAGE: Developers call photo at left "improved property" and photo at right "unimproved property." Say what?

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
Wednesdays 6:00pm
Thursdays 9:00pm
Fridays 3:30pm

Town of Riverhead, Town of Southold
and Town of Southampton
Mondays 8:00pm
Tuesdays 8:00pm

Town of Brookhaven, Town of Smithtown
and portions of Town of Islip
Wednesdays 8:00pm
Saturdays 11:00am

Town of Babylon, Town of Huntington,
portions of Town of Islip, and
all of Nassau County
Mondays 5:30am
Tuesdays 4:30pm