



LONG ISLAND
PINE BARRENS
SOCIETY

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LONG ISLAND
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.

Credit: Scott Ross



TAKING THE SHOW ON THE ROAD: Pine Barrens Society co-hosts Dick Amper and Kathleen Nasta will take the award winning TV Show to Oheka Castle for coverage of the Society's 37th Anniversary Environmental Awards Gala. The show can be seen throughout November on the Cablevision systems listed below or by clicking on "TV Show" on the PBS website at pinebarrens.org.

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. The air times below are effective from October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015.

Town of East Hampton
Wednesday 6:30 pm
Thursday 9:00 pm
Friday 3:30 pm

Towns of Brookhaven, Smithtown
and portions of Islip
Tuesday 6:30 pm
Thursday 7:30 am
Saturday 11:00 am

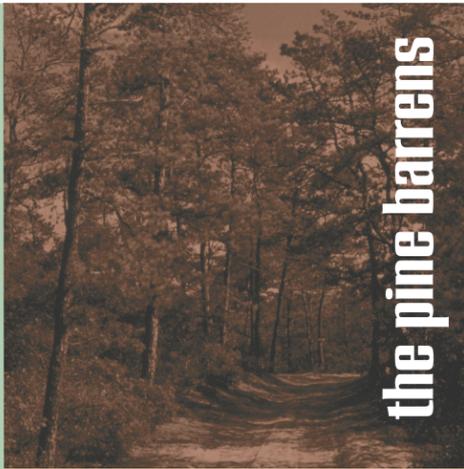
Towns of Riverhead, Southold and
Southampton
Monday 6:00 pm
Monday 7:00 pm
Wednesday 8:00 pm
Towns of Babylon, Huntington,
portions of Islip, and all of Nassau County
Monday 8:00 pm (Channel 115)
Monday 9:00 pm
Tuesday 7:00 pm (Channel 115)

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LONG ISLAND
PINE BARRENS
SOCIETY



the pine barrens

today

PRESERVATION: NOW OR NEVER

ON THE BALLOT

Vote “Yes” to Restore Drinking Water Protection Program

Credit: Nick Baston

The Suffolk County Legislature has voted to put on the November Ballot, Charter Amendments that would restore some \$30 million in funding, previously redirected from the Drinking Water Protection Program (DWPP) and assures that no future changes could be made to the landmark program without a Mandatory Referendum.

If approved by voters on November 4, the Ballot Proposition would end a three year-long battle between the Pine Barrens Society and Suffolk County involving litigation and an Initiative & Referendum campaign that sought the same results. First

enacted in 1987, the Drinking Water Protection Program was designed to preserve land atop the Island’s purest water supplies, stabilize sewer costs and control taxes. The program has generated more than \$1 billion. Funds come from a 1/4 cent sales tax, approved



VOTE “YES” FOR CLEAN WATER: Suffolk County voters will have the opportunity to restore the county’s Drinking Water Protection Program by voting “Yes” on Proposition Five on Election Day, November 4.

by voters five times, by majorities ranging from 64-84 percent.

The controversy erupted in 2011, when discredited Suffolk County Executive Steve Levy raided the Drinking Water Protection Program to plug holes in the county’s budget.

The DWPP money was taken without the required Mandatory Referendum, leading to litigation by the Society, currently pending in the Appellate Division of New York State Supreme Court. In 2013, the Bellone Administration redirected DWPP funds, within the program, also without a Mandatory Referendum. That suit, still pending, would be dropped if the Ballot Proposition is approved by voters on Election Day.

Pine Barrens Society Executive Director Richard Amper said, “It’s high time that this unproductive conflict ended and Long Islanders and their governments worked together to reverse declining water quality — our region’s number one environmental and economic challenge.”

He called on Suffolk County voters to support Ballot Proposition Five on Election Day, Tuesday, November 4.

Society’s 37th Gala Honors Clean Water Champions



Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone



Nassau County Executive Ed Mangano



Stony Brook Professor Dr. Christopher Gobler

The Long Island Pine Barrens Society celebrated its 37th birthday, October 16 with its Annual Environmental Awards Gala, at Oheka Castle in Huntington. More than 200 supporters attended the glitzy event which honored Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone, Nassau County Executive Ed Mangano and Stony Brook University Professor Dr. Christopher Gobler. The three were cited for their leadership in Long Island’s massive effort to reverse declining water quality Island-wide.

Entertainment included a celebration of the

music of singer/songwriter Carole King and featured the music of the Denice Given Band and songstress Gail Storm. A sumptuous, 90-minute cocktail hour was followed by a gourmet dinner and the award ceremony.

Event Chairs included Ross Ain of Caithness Long Island, Nancy Douzinas of the Rauch Foundation, Gary Melius, the king of the Castle and Michael Pascucci of Sebonack Holding Corporation. Honorary Chairman was Alec Baldwin.

The event raises funds to support the Society’s

programs of water protection and land preservation. The organization is a leader of the Long Island Clean Water Partnership, which boasts more than 100 member organizations and over 16,000 individual supporters. The goal is to reverse declining drinking and surface water quality on Long Island caused by excess nitrogen from sewage and fertilizers as well as pesticides and toxic chemicals. The Partnership seeks legislation to control the discharge of contaminants into Long Island’s underground aquifers and empower government to protect groundwater.

the thicket

Orchids of the Long Island Pine Barrens

by Eric Lamont, Ph.D.

Dr. Lamont is President of the Long Island Botanical Society and co-author of "Orchids of New England & New York" (2012)

Many nature lovers are surprised to learn that Long Island provides refuge for many species of delicate and secretive orchids. Historically, 36 native orchid species used to call Long Island home. Today, only 27 species still occur, but hey, that's not bad.

Credit: Tom Nelson



Pink Lady's-slipper Orchid

One hundred fifty years ago, Brooklyn and Queens were the orchid hotspots of Long Island. Today, Suffolk County provides healthy habitat for most of the island's surviving orchids, and the Pine Barrens have been home to at least 18 native orchid species (carnivorous plants also live with some of the orchids).

Charles Darwin (1809-1882), the father of modern biology, was especially intrigued with orchids and wrote a book "On the various contrivances by which British and foreign orchids are fertilized by insects." Orchids and insects enter into bizarre physical relationships, all in the name of pollination. Sometimes the orchid flower resembles a female insect in size and shape, and even gives off chemicals that mimic female reproductive hormones. Male insects try to mate with the flower and in frustration transfer pollen (plant sperm) from flower to flower.

One of the most frequently encountered and showy of all orchids in the Pine Barrens is the Pink Lady's-slipper, also known as Moccasin Flower. The name refers to the distinctive lip petal that resembles a pouch-shaped slipper. Large clumps of this attractive orchid can be found in the dry, acidic soil of pitch pine-oak forests throughout the Pine Barrens.

Other native orchids still surviving in the dry, sandy soil of the Pine Barrens include Downy Rattlesnake Plantain, Autumn Coralroot, four species of Ladies'-tresses, and Green Adder's-mouth.

Historically, about 20 different populations of the Adder's-mouth orchid have been found on Long Island, but for more than 50 years local botanists have been able to locate only one population. Until recently, that surviving population, in the Pine Barrens near Manorville, was threat-ened with roadside mowing and only a few depauperate plants were struggling to survive. Three years ago a partnership was formed with local government to protect the orchids and in 2014 the population was showing early signs of recovery.

A second group of Pine Barrens orchids likes to keep their feet wet and can be found tucked away in secretive wetlands throughout the vast pitch pine-oak forest. Among these species are our most beautiful and colorful orchids including Dragon's-mouth, Grass-pink, Rose Pogonia, three species of Twayblade, and four species of Fringed Orchid.

Dragon's-mouth conjures up images of a fiery-red water dragon emerging from the mist of a prehistoric swamp. The last report of this fearsome orchid in the Pine Barrens was in 1985 by Robert McGrath and John Turner, co-founders of the Long Island Pine Barrens Society. Today, Dragon's-mouth is no longer found in the Pine Barrens, the Island's last known colony is holding out in Montauk.

The White-fringed Orchid used to adorn south shore marshes and creeks flowing through the Pine Barrens into bays, but today only a few populations remain on Long Island. Recent conservation efforts in the Pine Barrens at Quogue Wildlife Refuge have saved one of the threatened populations.



Dragon's-mouth Orchid



White-fringed Orchid

Although orchid success stories on Long Island are still being told, the losses have been staggering. Nine species are currently considered extirpated (locally extinct) and other species are down to a single colony or very few individuals. The good news is, relatively large tracts of open space have been preserved on Long Island and provide refuge for orchids and other rare plants and animals.

Can anything be done to help protect our remaining orchids? Orchids provide a tasty meal for white-tailed deer; thus, proper management of deer populations will benefit orchids. All-terrain-vehicles (ATVs) continue to negatively impact orchids in the Pine Barrens and elsewhere on Long Island; enforcement of existing laws prohibiting ATVs on protected lands also will help orchids. Finally, natural succession of open marshes into shrub lands has been responsible for shading-out and killing several sun-loving orchid colonies on Long Island. Active management of these marshes, by carefully removing woody vegetation in the winter, has been shown to reverse declines in orchid populations. Three years after management of a marsh at Quogue Wildlife Refuge, White-fringed Orchids increased from six to more than 200 beautifully flowering individuals.

You're not likely to find orchids in the Pine Barrens by simply taking a leisurely stroll along a park path. Orchids play hard to get. They need to be courted, sometimes on hands and knees, in the sanctuary of their secret hideouts, off the beaten path.

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS NOTES

Heading for "The Hills"

The Pine Barrens Society has strenuously opposed development at a 438-acre parcel in East Quogue where plans for the largest development on the East End are moving through the approval process in the Town of Southampton.

Credit: LIPBS

Called "The Hills," the project calls for construction of a 188-home golf resort, complete with a 54,000 square foot Club House. The property straddles the line separating the Core Preservation Area of the Pine Barrens Preserve from the Compatible Growth Area. It lies amidst a sensitive watershed and includes drinking water wells for the surrounding community.



IT'S ABOUT THE WATER, STUPID: The Pine Barrens Society is opposing the largest development project proposed for the East End in one of the most water-sensitive areas of the Pine Barrens.

Scientists say the project will adversely impact Weesuck Creek, a waterway declared "impaired" by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Western Shinnecock Bay is one of four places in New York State that experiences Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning, caused by saxitoxin. Increased nitrogen from sewage and fertilizers would dramatically increase the decline of this watershed.

PBS Executive Director, Richard Amper, spoke to the Southampton Town Board on September 23, in opposition to the proposed project, which does not conform to local zoning, recently made more restrictive in the interest of water protection. "Nobody who pretends to support improved water quality could possibly support this proposed project," said Amper. The Southampton Town Board is under no requirement to approve this project and should waste no time in dispatching it, forthwith," he added.

Here Comes the Sun

Credit: J Clark



LOOKING SKYWARD: As solar energy becomes more popular and affordable, environmentalists are grappling with the question, "where should they be sited?"

The Board of Directors of the Pine Barrens Society has commenced a policy examination concerning the siting of solar panels on Long Island. The issue has arisen as the result of proposals to clear pine barrens land for the installation of solar panels. A committee of the board is expected to review the practice and consider the larger issue of where solar energy collectors should properly be arrayed.

"Most people support solar power and other renewable energy sources, including wind, and the Society is no exception," said Pine Barrens Society President, Alan Singer. "However, clearing forests for this type of installation is in conflict with the protection of a natural resource, which does much more than sequester carbon," he added.

Recommendations for siting of solar energy arrays is expected by the next meeting of the Society's Board of Directors, December 7.

Car 54 Where Are You?

Credit: J Clark

The Suffolk County Legislature and the New York State Legislature have approved legislation that would transfer responsibility for patrolling county parks to the Suffolk County Police Department from the existing Parks Police. It is unclear whether or not this transfer will produce a cost savings as county government suggests and Suffolk County Police do not at present patrol the five East End towns which have their own town and village police forces.



ENDANGERED SPECIES: The Suffolk County Parks Police are being replaced by the Suffolk County Police. The Society intends to work with state, county and town officials to ensure effective, park-specific law enforcement in all of Suffolk County's parks.

Moreover, there has been no collective bargaining agreement reached yet, between the county and the police union which defines the scope and deployment of police personnel. The Society and others are working with New York State Assemblyman Steven Englebright and Suffolk County on strategies for ensuring improved park protection under the new arrangement.

Suggestions include a separate Park Police Unit, within the SCPD, similar to existing specialized units such as Emergency Services, K-9, Aviation, and Marine Bureau. An alternative would create a Parks sub-unit within each precinct, similar to existing COPE (Community-Oriented Police Enforcement) personnel. A third proposal would create a special Park Patrol within the Suffolk County Sheriff's Office.



The Executive Director's Point of View

WANTED: POLITICIANS WHO ANSWER TO US We Need Less Obstruction and More Actual Votes on Crucial Bills

by Richard Amper

This Opinion Article appeared in Newsday recently.

The scandal in Albany is not about what's illegal; it's about what's legal. Consider these two outrageous actions in the legislative session that wrapped up recently:

■ A bill introduced that would reduce contamination of Long Island's water, which studies show is becoming gravely polluted. Public comments to legislators on the bill ran overwhelmingly in favor, and the Assembly passed it by a 112-24 vote. The Senate killed the bill when its leaders allowed neither debate nor vote.

■ A bill introduced that would require the identification of hazardous materials in products used by children had 40 sponsors in the Senate (a 63 percent majority). But it, too, was killed without a hearing.

Pundits call this business as usual. But we should call it what it is: a cozy little game that allows politicians to serve special interests while dodging the consequences at the polls. It's a nasty game that not only endangers children and threatens our water, but also strikes at the heart of the democratic process.

The way it's supposed to be, all sides of an issue are aired in public debate. Legislators vote and the side with the most votes wins. Folks who don't like the outcome have recourse via the voting booth.

The process would not suit those special-interest groups with private stakes in an issue that runs against the public good. In a debate and vote, these groups can lose. In the child-safety issue, this would be the manufacturers. In the case of the water bill, it's the development and

farming lobbies, which together forked over tens of thousands of dollars for the coffers of Long Island's seven state senators just in the past two elections.

Killing bills instead of voting on them suits these

Credit: LIPBS



NYS SENATE CHAMBER: When nobody is voting.

senators, too. It enables politicians to take special-interest groups' cash, and do their bidding while simultaneously claiming to be on the public's side.

When I complained to one Long Island senator about his inaction on the water legislation, his defense was, "I would have voted for it" — that is, if he only had the chance. Presumably, the 40 sponsors of the spiked child-safety bill would have voted for it, too.

And that's exactly the point. A vote would have compelled lawmakers to do right by the

public. By killing the bill, Senate Majority Co-Leader Dean Skelos (R-Rockville Centre) saved them from that fate.

It doesn't have to be this way. One remedy is to reform the legislature's "motion to discharge," which allows Assembly and Senate members to demand that a bill be brought to a vote. New York's procedure involving limited sponsorship and onerous timelines is known as one of the most restrictive in the country.

Even if we had a functioning procedure, we would need legislators with the integrity to use it. The spectacle of a clear majority declining to stand up for a child-safety measure they themselves sponsored shows how far they have drifted from a proper understanding of their obligations. Like children testing their boundaries, lawmakers need us to set clear expectations.

An elected official's job is not just to say the right thing, but do it. It's a simple message, and we can communicate it in a way they will understand.

If politicians who fail to get a vote on issues critical to Long Island were turned out of office by Long Island voters, you can bet your water supply their replacements would get the job done.

Sneaky government prevails only if citizens permit it. For too long we've been complaining about our politicians, yet enabling them. Let's stop doing that, and start getting a government that answers to us.

The President's Point of View



HUGE DRINKING WATER VICTORY What it Means and Why it's Important

by Alan Singer

As voters head to the polls, November 4, there will be nothing on the ballot that looms larger for Long Island's future, than Proposition Five.

That's the referendum on the back the ballot that would restore the Suffolk County Drinking Water Protection Program (DWPP) to its former luster. Passage would ensure more money to reverse declining drinking and surface water quality and assure that any future changes to this landmark legislation could only be accomplished by a Mandatory Referendum, approved by Suffolk voters.

The DWPP was enacted in 1987, when voters approved the use of a 1/4 cent in sales tax money to preserve land above Long Island's purest underground water supplies — especially in the Long Island Pine Barrens. It also provided for stabilization of sewer tax rates and provided for tax relief. The referendum that created the DWPP won by 84%, with the assurance that the program could not be altered in any way without a Mandatory Referendum.

The DWPP was approved five times subsequently to extend and improve it. Then, in 2011, discredited County Executive Steve Levy, with the support of the Suffolk Legislature, raided the fund to plug holes in the bloated county budget. Levy and lawmakers ignored the requirement for a referendum. The Pine Barrens Society sued in New York State Supreme Court — a case currently before the Appellate Division. The Society sued again in 2014 when the legislature approved borrowing from the drinking water fund, again, without a referendum.

Then, earlier this year, the Society, aided by the Group for the East

Credit: Suffolk County



A RESOLUTION: Actually a few. Members of the Suffolk County Legislature have approved three measures intended to restore the county's Drinking Water Protection Program. Settlement of dispute, resulting from a raid of the fund in 2011 must be approved by voters through a Ballot Proposition, on Election Day, November 4.

End, launched an Initiative and Referendum petition campaign to force the return of some \$30 million taken from the DWPP and prevent future changes without a Mandatory Referendum.

That's when Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone sought settlement of the dispute, including return of the funds redirected, an end to borrowing and the repayment of any money borrowed and a Chapter Amendment which would alter the county's constitution to mandate a referendum for any alteration of the DWPP in the future.

This is a major victory for three reasons:

First, it rights a wrong by refunding much needed money for water quality improvement.

Second, it will restore public confidence in investing in clean water at a time when Long Island badly needs it. And third, it demonstrates that groups and individuals with the commitment to confront government when it goes astray, can reverse wrong doing and restore popular programs that benefit things like health, the environment and the regional economy.

Of course, the final chapter of this inspiring story has yet to be written. To complete the saga, Suffolk County voters must ratify the settlement by voting "Yes" on Proposition Five on Election Day, Tuesday, November 4.

The Society thanks the countless Long Islanders who carried petitions, supported the litigation and wrote their elected officials demanding restoration of the Drinking Water Protection Program. Please complete your part in this historic accomplishment by voting "Yes" on November 4.