



LONG ISLAND
PINE BARRENS
SOCIETY

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LONG ISLAND
PINE BARRENS
SOCIETY

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Credit: LIPBS



PRIVATE-PUBLIC PARTNERSHIP: Deputy Suffolk County Executive Peter Scully and Mary Anne Taylor, Vice-President of the engineering firm of CDM-Smith are guests on the June Pine Barrens Society TV show. Co-hosts Richard Amper and Kathleen Nasta interviewed them on water quality improvement efforts. The award-winning program is seen Island-wide on Cablevision as shown below and on the Pine Barrens Society's website at www.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 through October 2016 – September 2017.

Town of East Hampton

Wednesdays at 6:30 PM
Thursdays at 9:00 PM
Fridays at 3:30 PM

Towns of Riverhead, Southold and Southampton

Mondays at 6:00 PM
Mondays at 7:00 PM
Mondays at 8:00 PM

Towns of Brookhaven, Smithtown and portions of Islip

Mondays at 9:30 PM
Thursdays at 6:30 PM
Saturdays at 11:30 AM

Towns of Babylon, Huntington, portions of Islip, and all of Nassau County

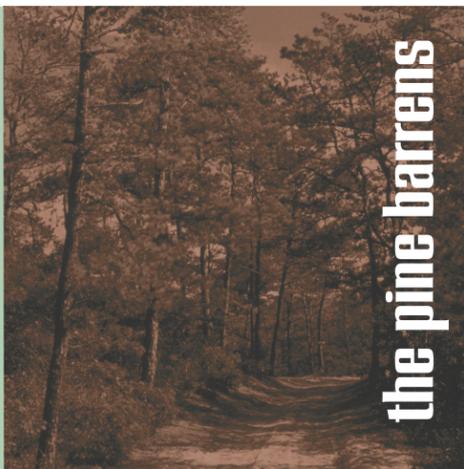
Mondays at 7:00 PM
Wednesdays at 9:00 PM (Channel 115)
Saturdays at 10:30 AM

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LONG ISLAND
PINE BARRENS
SOCIETY



the pine barrens

today

PRESERVATION: NOW OR NEVER

FUNDING FOR WATER QUALITY Governor & State Legislature Act

Credit: Google Images



Governor
Andrew Cuomo



Senate Majority Leader
John Flanagan



State Senator
Ken LaValle



State Senator
Kemp Hannon



State Assemblyman
Steve Englebright



State Assemblyman
Fred Thiele

Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature have approved a new state budget that includes more than \$2.5 billion for water quality infrastructure improvement. It is expected to go a long way toward providing clean drinking water and protecting Long Island's beaches, bays and harbors.

The final New York State budget provides \$2.5 billion in water quality related funding, including \$75 million for septic system and cesspool replacement, \$110 million for protecting water at its source and \$50 million for green infrastructure projects. This funding coupled with a \$300 million Environmental Protection Fund represents an unprecedented investment in New York's vital natural resources that are so

critical for the health and sustainability of Long Island.

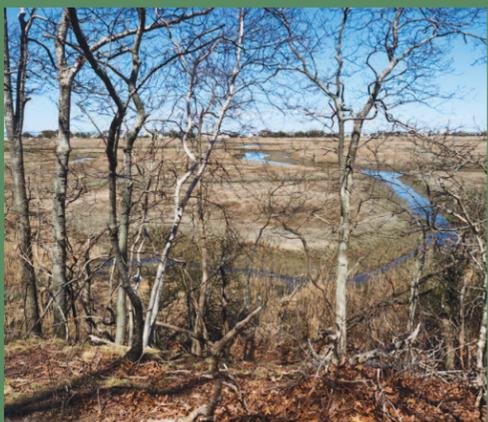
Long Island is facing widespread contamination of its underground water supply that adversely impacts both drinking and surface water. Nitrogen from wastewater and fertilizers are the source of most of the contamination. State, county and town action aims to reduce the pollution and restore water quality, but until now, inadequate funding has plagued the effort.

"Clearly, state officials recognize the magnitude of Long Island's water quality challenge and are responding with the capital necessary to get remediation underway," said PBS Executive Director Richard Amper. "We're very appreciative," he added.

Seek Forest Preservation

The Long Island Pine Barrens Society is actively working to preserve hundreds of acres of the Shoreham-Wading River Forest after turning down a \$5 million offer not to oppose a 350-acre solar factory.

Credit: Wayne Cook



GORGEOUS VIEW: Marshlands abutting Long Island Sound as seen from the Shoreham-Wading River Forest. Environmentalists want the 800 acres preserved forever.

Working with New York State Senator Ken LaValle and New York State Assemblymen Steve Englebright and Fred Thiele, the goal is to turn the woodlands into New York's newest State Park or to preserve as much of the 800-acre property as possible by other means.

The land represents the last coastal forest on Long Island. It is owned by National Grid. Environmentalists hope to work out an arrangement such as one successfully concluded in 2002, that saved more than 500 acres of coastal land at Jamesport, owned by KeySpan Energy. It successfully created the Hallock State Park Preserve.

The Society declined an offer by NextEra to support a 72 megawatt solar generating station in exchange for the preservation of 300 acres of the property and accepting a \$5 million "Community Benefits Package."

"We think solar belongs on rooftops, in parking lots and on previously-cleared land," said PBS Executive Director, Richard Amper. "Clear-cutting woodland for solar is like saying we have to destroy the environment to save it," he added, "It's just plain stupid."

"The Hills" Are Still Alive

Three years after "The Hills at Southampton" mega golf resort was first proposed for the Pine Barrens and state-designated Special Groundwater Protection Area, the "biggest and baddest" project on the East End lives on.

Credit: Ron Kass

"The Hills" proposal involves an 18-hole, private golf course with 118 residences and a mammoth clubhouse/catering facility. Scientists have identified the preservation of this site as essential to the protection of drinking and surface waters, in an area that is already seriously jeopardized by groundwater contamination. This pollution produces harmful algae blooms that threaten Weesuck Creek and Shinnecock Bay. The culprit is nitrogen from wastewater and fertilizers. In addition to nitrogen contamination, the project involves the use of large quantities of herbicides, pesticides and fungicides. The 594-acre site is part of a 900-acre assemblage of land that represents Long Island's top target for preservation.



NOT UP THE CREEK: Opponents of "The Hills" Mega Development are pressing to preserve Pine Barrens land which leads into Weesuck Creek in East Quogue.

Now, the Pine Barrens Society and other members of the Southampton Water Protection Alliance are calling on the Town Board to end the years-long review and disapprove "The Hills" this month. The community has offered a Reduced Impact Alternative that would dramatically reduce the size of the proposed project, the nitrogen loading and the use of pesticides on the property. The groups are asking the town to preserve the property, using the recently-extended Community Preservation Fund.

the thicket

Saving the Shoreham-Wading River Forest

by John Turner

Mr. Turner is a co-founder and past president of the Pine Barrens Society.

Collectively, the approximately 820 acres of undeveloped and vegetated land at Shoreham-Wading River constitutes one of the top four unprotected natural areas remaining on all of Long Island. These also include the 400+ Morgan Estate on Eaton's Neck, the 650+ acres of the AVR property situated in the Pine Barrens, and the incomparable 3,300 + acre Gardiner's Island

Credit: Google Earth



NATURAL TREASURE: The Shoreham-Wading River Forest, the last major woodlands on the Long Island Shoreline, has been targeted for development of the largest solar plant in New York State. The Pine Barrens Society argues that "clearing for solar is like destroying the environment in order to save it – stupid!"

property, situated in eastern Peconic Bay. Given its size, location on the shoreline of Long Island Sound, and ecological/environmental attributes, the Shoreham Property strongly merits acquisition as New York's next "Great State Park." To this end, the property is eligible for state acquisition funding, as it has been included in Governor Cuomo's 2016 iteration of the New York State Open Space Conservation Plan.

Detailed field work by botanists from the New York Natural Heritage Program, have documented the exceptional ecological diversity existing at Shoreham-Wading River. Twenty-five different forest, wetland, and shoreline ecological communities have been delineated on the property. The most abundant forest type in the property is the oak-heath woodland community with more than 500 acres. Several of these communities are among the finest examples of these community types in the state.

In addition to the plant community diversity, there are a number of rare plant species, including a few that are very rare in New York State containing less than five occurrences. The salt marsh in the northeastern corner of the property is especially rich in rare species. A total of 13 rare species have been documented on the entire property.

Credit: Wayne Cook



PRESERVATION CAMPAIGN BEGINS: Pine Barrens Society Executive Director Richard Amper and Co-Founder John Turner introduce state, county and local officials to the Shoreham-Wading River Forest which they hope will become a new state park or part of the Long Island Pine Barrens Preserve.

A number of mammals, reptiles, and amphibians occur here given the size, intactness, and contiguity of the natural areas. A detailed faunal inventory is warranted for the property.

The Shoreham-Wading River property is situated on the Roanoke Terminal Moraine. As is often the case on terminal moraines, the end points of glacial advance, large boulders, known as glacial erratics are scattered throughout the property. These boulders were carried in the glacier and deposited in their present location when the glacial front stalled. These large boulders add an interesting landscape feature to the beach and forests. They were likely plucked from the bedrock underlying Long Island Sound and are estimated to be about 425-450 million years old.

Given its position along the coast and diversity of habitats, the property is likely rich in archeological remains.

Although positioned along the coast and situated within the shallow-flow recharge zone, the Shoreham-Wading River property has significant watershed and water supply potential. It is estimated that 465 million gallons of clean water recharge through the undeveloped portions of the site on an annual basis. Thus, the undeveloped watershed here helps to maintain water quality in the adjacent coastal waters of Long Island Sound as well as provide a significant real and potential water supply source for adjacent residential communities.

The property has very high recreational potential. Its preservation would enable the realization of a contiguous "shore-to-core-to-shore" hiking trail tying the Long Island Sound coastline with the pine barrens forests in the interior of the island to the Great South Bay shoreline on the south shore. A number of hiking trails lace throughout the woodlands here, allowing for abundant hiking opportunities. And the mile-long beach-front could provide great opportunities for surf casting fisherman, beachcombers, and, if the state thought appropriate, abundant swimming opportunities.

For all the above reasons the Shoreham-Wading River Property should not be destroyed but preserved, treasured, and enjoyed as a wonderful part of Long Island's irreplaceable natural history heritage for the benefit of the island's 2.6 million residents.

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS NOTES

Beetle Battle Conference

The New York State Pine Barrens Commission and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation teamed up to produce an ambitious forum on managing the Southern Pine Beetle which has infested the Long Island Pine Barrens and other pine areas.

The March 8th and 9th program featured presentations on Southern Pine Beetle management practices and suppression methods. Leading research scientists and land managers from the southern and northeastern United States and locally, highlighted the natural history and regional range expansion of the beetle, which scientists say cannot be extirpated.

Credit: LIPBS



BEETLE BATTLERS: Pine Barrens Commission Executive Director John Pavacic and Ecologist Polly Weigand prepare for the start of the successful Southern Pine Beetle in the Northeast Research & Management Forum at Brookhaven National Lab, in March.

Held at Brookhaven National Laboratory, the forum presented advancing research on forest susceptibility, impact assessments and integrated pest management strategies to help guide and inform southern pine beetle management in the northeast. The forum closed with a field visit to sites of pine beetle infestation and areas targeted for thinning and use of controlled fire to manage the beetle, even if they cannot be eradicated.

The Pine Barrens Society is seeking state funding aimed specifically at beetle control.

The PINE Club is Formed

An environmental group Protecting our Island through Nature-based Education ("The PINE Club") has been created to connect home-schooled children to nature-based education and advocacy. The group will expose young people to the natural world around them to instill an appreciation and commitment to environmental protection.

Credit: LIPBS



GREEN MOTHER: Nadia Brako and daughter Morgan attend the first event of the new PINE club (Protecting our Island through Nature-based Education) in the Pine Barrens at Quogue Wildlife Center with PBS Executive Director, Richard Amper.

"I want to instill a deep love and respect for our local natural environment," said Nadia Brako who created The PINE Club. "In doing so, the seeds of advocacy will inevitably be planted as PINE Club members become aware of the threats to our most sensitive environment and the pristine water which lies beneath the protected Pine Barrens," she added.

The PINE Club had its first field trip on March 30th, to the Quogue Wildlife Preserve. More than two dozen children and their parents participated in a tour and hike, led by Preserve President Tom Casey, who is also a Board member of the Long Island Pine Barrens Society. Pine Barrens Society Executive Director, Richard Amper, also participated in the group's inaugural event.

The PINE Club will also work with Long Island Moms for Clean Water to educate Long Island families about what they can do at home to reverse declining water quality. The Pine Barrens Society has recorded television Public Service Announcements to this end, working with the Long Island Clean Water Partnership.

Natural History Conference

Long Island naturalists gathered for their fifth annual Natural History Conference March 24 through 26, at Brookhaven National Laboratory. The forum featured presentations from a variety of experts — focusing on both Long Island's land and water.

Attendees heard presentations on Long Island's rare Dwarf Pine Plains ecosystem, reptiles and amphibians that call the Island home and the biologically-rich Plum Island.

Credit: LIPBS



NATURAL LEADERS: Tim Green, Mellissa Griffiths Parrot, Mike Bottini and John Turner get ready for the Fifth Annual Nature Forum at Brookhaven National Lab in March. All are members of the Steering Committee of Long Island Nature Organization.

Many presentations covered Long Island's waters, including, horseshoe crab conservation efforts, freshwater fishes, tributary restoration efforts, vernal ponds and Long Island's role in the comeback of the Great White Shark.

In addition to the presentations, environmental groups across the Island set up table displays, explaining their important work to attendees. On the last day of the conference, some participants went on a guided hike to explore a Long Island vernal pond.

"This is a fun opportunity for naturalists who work in their own special fields most of the time, to come together to learn what others are doing to advance nature on Long Island," said Michael Bottini, the founder of the Long Island Nature Organization who is also one of the organizers of the conference.

FOUR DECADES OF PRESERVATION

The Pine Barrens Society Turns 40 — a Retrospective

by Robert McGrath

Mr. McGrath is a co-founder and past president of the Pine Barrens Society. He currently serves as Vice President of the board.

It's a familiar question, one that environmental advocates are often asked by frustrated citizens to whom they have just delivered yet another less than positive lecture about the precariousness of life on our ever more crowded, depleted, and degraded planet:

"What can I do?"

It's a question that my friends and I almost unequivocally would receive after we had just delivered one of countless lectures on the ecology of the Long Island Pine Barrens. The timeframe was the late nineteen seventies. I had just graduated high school, and along with my two good friends, John Cryan and John Turner, we three determined "bushwackers" took it upon ourselves to start the Long Island Pine Barrens Society. It was a time when few, if anybody, knew just what the Long Island Pine Barrens actually was. Back then we couldn't even get the press to refer to the Pine Barrens by name. To them, it was just "scrubland," with no value other than property to be built upon. But to us, it was a wonderful haven, home to some of the most endangered species and habitats anywhere in North America.

It seems like only yesterday when the three of us were "bushwacking" around the Pine Barrens. Long days in the field collecting Buck Moth caterpillars and looking for those ever elusive orchid populations that Long Island naturalist, Roy Latham, first discovered some 60 years, earlier. Alas, that was 40 years ago! During a time when our only concerns were — did we have enough film for our cameras, and gasoline in the tank. I often reflect on that time in our lives as a time when I learned respect for the natural world in which we live. It was a time when I learned the true value of the natural resources that surround us and why people so desperately needed to understand that we are as much a part of them as the Tiger Salamander or Prairie Warbler.

It was a time when if we were to stand any chance of preserving the Pine Barrens, we had to stand up for our convictions and what was correct, regardless of the views of the media, politicians, or development interests. So when the ever expected question was posed "What can I do?" — our answer was simply, get involved, even if only by supporting the Society in its efforts to help increase awareness for the importance of the Pine Barrens. And so it was for the three "bushwackers." Back in the beginning our victories were singular in nature, but they helped lay the groundwork in an incremental way for the Society's crowning achievement, the Pine Barrens Preservation Initiative in 1989. It began

with the acquisition of the Radio Corporation of America's properties in Rocky Point and Riverhead in 1978. It spread to the halting of illegal golf courses in Manorville in 1979. Next came the successful relocation of a proposed free trade zone in the Dwarf Pine Plains and the multi-town property in the Oak Brush Plains at Edgewood in 1979. From 1978 through the early 1980's, the Society successfully pressed for acquisition of the Edgewood Preserve, Bishop Tract, Maple Swamp, and Hampton Hills, all priority acquisitions at the time. The Society was at the heart of every key Pine Barrens victory!

During its first dozen years, the Long Island Pine Barrens Society fought endlessly for the preservation of key properties. It was these battles that led us along the road to the threshold of

were the media covering the event that the first question one of them asked was "Who paid for all this?"

That eventful day led to a ruling handed down by the Appellate Court in March, 1992 that required cumulative impact studies of development on the integrity of the Pine Barrens before any further development could continue. Although the ruling was eventually overturned the following November, it set in motion a series of events that culminated with the Long Island Pine Barrens Preservation Act being passed by the New York State Legislature in the spring of 1993. The road to that historic victory started with the "Why Can't Long Island?" campaign on April 12, 1993, and progressed to a meeting of the minds at the Long Island Association on April 25th, where the now historic preservation map was first introduced. Within ten weeks the dream was realized and today we can all look back and be grateful.

Credit: LIPBS



THE FOUNDERS: John Turner, Robert McGrath and John Cryan at Gala 20 with Governor George Pataki.

changing environmental policy in New York State. It was the same threshold that gave this organization its conviction, integrity, and soul. The date was November 21, 1989 and it marked the beginning of new era for Long Island, its rare and endangered wildlife, and perhaps most importantly, the people who call it home. On that day, a little known environmental group brought the largest lawsuit of its kind in the nation against local government in an effort to safeguard our environment and its natural resources from future degradation.

To say it caught the media, local government, and the development community completely off guard is an understatement. "Who are these people?" I heard many reporters asking as they milled about waiting for the press conference to begin. No environmental group could possibly be this well organized, they mumbled amongst themselves. We had a three dimensional map showing the properties of most critical concern, a podium emblazoned with our logo, and yes, we even served danish and coffee! So befuddled

developers, trade associations, and especially the agencies of government. We simply would no longer tolerate these factions' unresponsiveness to the needs or values of the people.

Yes, through its Pine Barrens Preservation Initiative, the Society demonstrated that by answering the simple question — "What can I do?" — 100 local environmental and civic groups found they could launch a movement that would forever ensure the preservation of Long Island's premiere ecosystem and the vitality of Long Island's freshwater resources for generations to come.

Today the battle lines have shifted somewhat as groundwater degradation has become the critical issue many predicted it would become when the "War of the Woods" was being fought. As we work to seek answers to an even more perplexing series of questions and issues, one can hope that we learn to rely once again on the efforts demonstrated so effectively by informed and purposeful individuals, when they organized into an active coalition and multiplied their influence.

Credit: LIPBS



COMMITTED: Pine Barrens Society Executive Director Richard Amper announces Pine Barrens Preservation Initiative in November 1989, aimed at protecting 100,000 acres of Pine Barrens land.



Credit: LIPBS



COMPLETED: New York Governor Mario Cuomo signs the Pine Barrens Protection Act of 1993 in July of that year. Unanimously approved by the State Legislature, the law protects 100,000 acres of Pine Barrens land.