



CAED Highlights 1/1/20 – 05/13/20

- Twenty-eight incident reports to date
- Four conservation easement inspections
- Continue work with state, county and towns on unpermitted activity
- Enforcement meetings held with SC Parks; LEC
- Camera surveillance of dump sites continues, 7 dumping investigations including four apprehensions by surveillance cams
- Drone training continues, skills portion of training in progress
- Four Commission staff now have FAA 107 licenses
- Restoration of County parcel coordinated with Sci and Stewardship Division and SC Parks
- Significant encroachment of three SCWA sites investigated by CAED, Suffolk Co Sheriff's Office, and NYSDEC
- Retired ECO Gary Enright hired on 4/14/20 to fill Enforcement Officer vacancy
- Hiring process proceeding to fill second CAED vacancy this spring

Carrie Meek Gallagher
Chairwoman

Steven Bellone
Member

Yvette Aguiar
Member

Edward P. Romaine
Member

Jay H. Schneiderman
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DEVELOPMENT PROJECT COMPLIANCE SITE VISITS			
Reporting Period: 01/01/20 – 05/13/20			
Central Pine Barrens	Brookhaven (District 200)	Riverhead (District 600)	Southampton (District 900)
Core Preservation Area	0	0	0
Compatible Growth Area	0	0	0

CONSERVATION EASEMENT MONITORING SITE VISITS				
Reporting Period: 01/01/19 - 06/06/19				
Core Preservation Area	Brookhaven (District 200)	Riverhead (District 600)	Southampton (District 900)	Totals
Total	4	0	0	4

COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT INCIDENT REPORTS								
Reporting Period: All from 1/1/19 - 02/27/19 and Open (i.e., Pending from prior years)								
	Brookhaven (District 200)		Riverhead (District 600)		Southampton (District 900)		Totals	
Year	2020 All	12-19 Open	2020 All	17-19 Open	2020 All	13-19 Open	2020 All	03-19 Open
Core	10	24	1	4	5	14	16	42
CGA	7	15	0	1	1	5	8	21
Totals	17	39	1	5	6	19	* 24	65

*Outside the Pine Barrens in 2020 to date, 4 incident reports, encroachments, criminal mis, dumping

Pine Barrens Credit Program Report for May 20, 2020:

Activities in the Credit Program since January 1, 2020 included review of applications for Letters of Interpretation, Conservation Easement parcel monitoring and CE signs installation, Credit Program and FOIL requests management. Some specific work items include:

- Ten Letters of Interpretations were issued, all in the Town of Brookhaven.
- Nine Conservation Easements are currently in process: Long Island Country Club, Long Island Home Associates Inc. (four parcels), Witteck, Eagan, Broidy, Hansen.
- Letters with updated list of Conservation Easement parcels were sent to the Town of Brookhaven, Riverhead and Southampton Assessor and Planning Departments.
- Letters to the private Conservation Easement parcel owners were sent reminding them of their obligations under the easement, parcels inspections and installing of the CE signs.
- Letter with updated list of Conservation Easement parcels was sent to the Suffolk County Real Property Tax Service Agency.
- Letters to solicit participation in the Credit Program were sent to owners of undeveloped land located in the Town of Southampton, Core Preservation Area.
- Letters to owners of undeveloped land located in the Town of Riverhead, Core Preservation Area, in process.
- Armand Gustave LLC v CPB Commission litigation currently in process.
- Ten Conservation Easement Signs were installed (four in the Town of Brookhaven and six in the Town of Riverhead).



Easement Protected Lands and Pine Barrens Credits As of May 18, 2020									
	Brookhaven	2020	Riverhead	2020	Southampton	2020	Total	2020	2020
Parcels	504	0	36	0	448	0	988	0	0
Acreage	779.91	0	516.60	0	846.71	0	2143.22	0	0
Average parcel size	1.55	0	14.35	0	1.89	0	2.17	0	0
Credits generated	530.57	0	172.39	0	330.94	0	1033.9	0	0
Credits redeemed	338.51	4	130.19	0.9	147.33	0	616.03	0	4.9
Credits not redeemed	192.06	-4	42.2	-0.9	183.61	0	417.87	0	-4.9
Credits sold	553.25	2.63	218.3	0	248.15	1.13	1019.7	0	3.76
Total value of PBC transactions through this date	\$28,994,969	\$251,625	\$7,961,747	0	\$16,539,582	\$90,500	\$53,496,298	\$342,125	
Average Credits value		\$95,675				\$80,088		\$90,991	
Credits owned by the Clearinghouse	10.19		-		-		10.19		
# of Inspected CE Parcels	-	11	-	5	-	12	-	28	
# of Installed CE Signs	24	4	7	6	56	0	87	10	

**Suffolk County Comptroller's Office
The Pine Barrens Credit Program**

Balance as of December 31st, 2019	\$2,544,578.33
Additional Deposits	0.00
Interest (see below for details)	2,706.35
Disbursements	0.00
Balance as of April 30th, 2020	\$2,547,284.68

**Interest Earnings & Disbursements
For the Months of January - December 2020**

Interest Earnings

Municipal Insured Public Funds NOW Account

January	1,080.80
February	976.60
March	334.92
April	314.03
May	0.00
June	0.00
July	0.00
August	0.00
September	0.00
October	0.00
November	0.00
December	0.00
	<u>\$2,706.35</u>

<u>Interest Period</u>	<u>APR</u>
01/01/20- 01/31/20	0.500%
02/01/20- 02/29/20	0.500%
03/01/20- 03/31/20	0.150%
04/01/20- 04/30/20	0.150%
05/01/20- 05/31/20	0.000%
06/01/20- 06/30/20	0.000%
07/01/20- 07/31/20	0.000%
08/01/20- 08/31/20	0.000%
09/01/20- 09/30/20	0.000%
10/01/20- 10/31/20	0.000%
11/01/20- 11/30/20	0.000%
12/01/20- 12/31/20	0.000%

Disbursements

None	<u>\$ -</u>
	<u><u>\$ -</u></u>

Education and Outreach Division

May 2020 Update

Submitted by Melissa Griffiths Parrott, Education and Outreach Coordinator

1. *Virtual Outreach Programs (Climate Change, Pine Barrens Ecology, Long Island Biodiversity)– 320 individuals reached*

Due to the virtual programming, pre and post materials are also developed and sent, including video's, articles, activities pertaining to topics, etc.

Schools/Libraries:

- Longwood HS – 55
- Pat/Med HS – 75
- Center Moriches HS – 20
- Connetquot HS – 55
- Sayville HS- 25
- Ms. Halls school in MA – 45
- Kings Park HS – 20
- Pat/Med Library - 25

2. *Barrens to Bay Summer Camp- CANCELLED* 😞

- Our 9th year partnering with Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge and Friends of Wertheim unfortunately is cancelled due to COVID 19.
- Waiting for final confirmation from USFWS.
- A virtual experience is being developed for participants.

3. *Long Island Natural History Conference- CANCELLED*

- Our March Conference to be held at BNL was cancelled due to COVID 19

4. *A Day in the Life 2020*

- 2020 dates are confirmed below. Invitation extended to visit any event date.
- Virtual trainings have been taking place with teachers
- New partner, Save the Great South Bay has requested several trainings and will include smaller creeks in the broader ADITL testing- dates TBD.

Carmans River~ September 25

Carlls River~ October 16

Greens Creek~ September 25

Forge River~ October 16

Gardiner County Park~ September 25

Peconic Estuary~ October 23

Massapequa Preserve~ October 2

Connetquot River~ October 30

Fire Island~ October 2

Mill River~ November 6

Nissequogue River~ October 16

5. *2020 EPA Region 2 Citizen Science Equipment Loan Program*

- Equipment includes a water quality set- a YSI Pro Plus Unit, Turbidity Tube and a Microplastic Trawl for the Great South Bay
- There is a personal property loan agreement if approved by the Commission
- We would need to complete a Quality Assurance Project Plan, monthly reports, a final report and share our data.
- The date of sign out to transfer the equipment would be after July 1st. Due to COVID 19, that date can change. If they need to cancel for this year, we can use this equipment loan grant in 2021.

Central Pine Barrens Joint Planning and Policy Commission
Land Use Division Bi-Monthly Update for the Meeting of May 20, 2020

Action	Central Pine Barrens Location		
Municipality	Town of Brookhaven	Town of Riverhead	Town of Southampton
<p>Applications and Requests for Determination of Jurisdiction</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7-Eleven Ridge Core Hardship, expansion of parking lot for retail use on 1.25 acres, 200-351-2-6.1 and 20 (Core). Request to withdraw application. • Kogel Brothers Core Hardship, Middle Island, single-family residence on 5.3 acres, 200-499-3-4 (Core). Request to extend to 11/30/20. • Silver Corporate Park CGA-DRS and Hardship Waiver, 550,000 square feet, 12 lot industrial subdivision on 71 acres, 200-662-2-5.16, Yaphank (CGA). Decision deadline 6/17/20. 	<p align="center">None</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Army Corps of Engineers Munitions Removal Project Request for Determination (Core). • Lewis Road PRD Subdivision Assertion of Jurisdiction, East Quogue, residential and golf course development on 588 acres, 178 parcels. (CGA, Core, CRA). Assertion of Jurisdiction (5/15/19). Request to extend to 7/15/20.
<p>SEQRA Coordination, Referrals, Inquiries, and Other Information on Projects in the Central Pine Barrens</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Middle Island Apartments referral, 96 multi-family units on 13 acres, 200-378-1-8, 12.4, 13. Sent response 4/22/20. • Verizon at Suffolk County STP referral, 120-foot monopole on cleared area of STP site, 200-242-1-1.2 & 4, Ridge (CGA). Sent response 4/22/20. 	<p align="center">None</p>	<p align="center">None</p>
<p>Other Regional Project Participation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Empire State Trail/Suffolk County Hike Bike Master Plan – County presentation to come • Peconic Estuary Partnership – participate in Technical Advisory Committee • USGS-Commission Water Resources Monitoring Program – quarterly meeting 6/12/20 		
<p>Other Activity, Review, and Participation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hardship applications, SEQRA Coordination, referrals, inquiries, and other information requests: review, analyze, and respond to submissions, referrals of site plans, subdivisions, and mixed-use projects, Developments of Regional Significance, and other materials. • Development project site inspections in pre- and post-development phases. • Requests for Determination of Jurisdiction: Research and prepare materials for the Commission. • Draft Generic EIS for the Central Pine Barrens Comprehensive Land Use Plan Amendments. • FOIL Requests: Research and assist with FOIL requests and litigation involving development projects. • Support other Commission divisions as needed including matters of clearing and encroachments related to land use development, incidents, and conservation easements. • Website updates with agenda materials and land use items; setting up remote Commission meeting, 		



*Lewis Road Subdivision
Planned Residential Development
(CGA, Core, CRA)*



Dwarf Pine Plains (Core)



*Silver Corporate Park CGA-DRS and
Hardship Waiver
(CGA)*



Science and Stewardship Division Update

May 20, 2020

Administrative:

- Daily check in and weekly staff meetings have been initiated to facilitate coordination and preparedness for the diversity of programming being undertaken by the Division.

COVID 19 Response:

- Bob Panko and Shaun Zeigler of the SS Division along with John Pavacic, each having Incident Command System training and experience, provided initial and critical guidance in setting up the NYS COVID 19 Stony Brook Testing Facility. Shaun, then continued to provide staffing assistance by serving as the Planning Section Chief at Stony Brook Testing Facility, where he was integral in creating and establishing the Planning Section. Shaun served in that capacity from March 18 through the end of April where he conducted excellent and tireless work and demonstrated extraordinary efforts in supporting the Covid-19 mission.

Commission Prescribed Fire Program:

- **Administration:**
 - The 3rd voucher has been submitted to NYSDEC for reimbursement for costs incurred from January – March 2020 for general expenses and from October 2019- March 2020 for salary.
- **Planning:**
 - Standing bimonthly meeting with NYSDEC Region 1 and Forest Health was held in May to coordinate the Prescribed Fire Program and operations on State lands.
 - Final revisions are being made to the Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation draft MOU to allow for Commission-led on-the-ground prescribed fire site preparation and operations on County lands. Commission is also initiating discussions with NYS OPRHP and Town of Brookhaven for development of MOU/MOA. Final drafts will be presented to the Commission for review and approval.
 - Work continued with the Central Pine Barrens Fire History documentation. The database that documents fire history was updated to bring it up to 2020. For the first time all prescribed fire history is also being added to the database.
 - A draft CPB prescribed fire management plan has been developed and is undergoing internal CPBC review. This plan identifies eleven high priority areas for CPB forest area prescribed burning in the next ten years and will enable SEQRA compliance.
 - One prescribed burn plan was written and has been sent to NYSDEC for review and approval. This plan designates a 9-acre forested zone in the Otis Pike Preserve that will be used to conduct live wildfire suppression drills for training and practical exercise purposes for all CPB wildland fire management departments.
 - A prescribed burn plan is being written for 121 forested acres in Rocky Point State Preserve consisting of 60 NYSDEC mechanically treated and 61 non-treated acres designated for firing to improve protection to nearby subdivisions and forest health improvement.
 - Commission is working with NYSDEC Forest Health and Forest Protection to coordinate activities on mechanical reduction for southern pine beetle, forest health and public health.
 - A Site Priorities Tracking Worksheet continues to be updated and utilized to track and coordinate ecosystem management activities between agencies and best ensure prescribed fire operations are coordinated to strategically meet ecological goals with available resources.
 - Site visits have been conducted for prioritization and development of burn plans.

- **Training and Preparedness:**
 - Staff continues to participate in the NYSDEC UAS training program in order to become Commission and NYSDEC certified pilots.
 - Wildfire Refreshers (RT130) were cancelled due to coronavirus concerns. The National Wildfire Coordinating Group has exempted firefighters nationally from this refresher training in 2020. Ecological Field Specialists completed the classroom portion of s130/190 but have not been able to complete the field portion due to cancelling of the spring academy.
 - Division staff attended an online training for FFI, the federal fire monitoring database and analysis program, which will aid in our efforts to store, analyze, and share data from monitoring management locations pre- and post-thinning, and pre- and post-prescribed burning in order to better inform further land management activities.

- **Education and Outreach:**

- On April 16, 2020 a wildfire ignited on BNL property and burned within the Crescent Bow fire scar. Most of the fire occurred within the boundaries of BNL with approximately 75 acres burned on BNL property and approximately 20 acres burned on Robert Cushman Murphy County Park lands. On April 28, the Division staff scouted the area burned by the Paumanok Wildfire outside of BNL property to better



- understand the fire behavior and to document the event. Photo monitoring has been established to document vegetation succession after this fire and the Crescent Bow fire and to be used to show the public the natural cycle of vegetation resurgence after fire.
- Products documenting the fire history of Long Island developed to serve fire program planning will also serve as valuable education and outreach materials communicating how integral fire is and has been over time in the Pine Barrens landscape and how important fire management is to reduce wildfire risk and improve ecological health.

- **Equipment Storage and Purchasing:**

- Division continues to explore options for equipment and vehicle storage for the prescribed fire program. Storage containers for the program have been specified for purchase. Potential siting for containers at the SCWA Gus Guerrero is being explored and discussed with SCWA.
- F-550 chassis which will be used to build the Commission Type 5 Fire Engine has been specified and bid through the NY State vehicle procurement marketplace system.
- A list of prescribed fire equipment to outfit program has been specified and drafted and is being reviewed.
- Resolution drafting has been initiated for procuring the larger specialized tools, equipment, and vehicles necessary for the safe and effective implementation of prescribed fire.

Forest Health:

- **Southern Pine Beetle (SPB):**

- Statewide SPB Incident Command System continues to be coordinated by NYSDEC's

Forest Health Unit. Operations include aerial and ground surveys, suppression, restoration, research, and forest management.

- A coordination meeting and a field training were recently held to facilitate upcoming SPB operations and to train the Division's new Ecological Field Specialists on SPB and surveying. This year, state SPB and Oak wilt monitoring programs will be combined and conducted by two NYSDEC Forest Health staff, Chris Steigerwald and a summer intern due to reduced SPB outbreaks and funding limitations related to the COVID-19 outbreak.
 - January aerial flights revealed sustained low abundance of SPB occurring in the Central Pine Barrens, however there is a large rapidly spreading outbreak in North Sea, within the Town of Southampton. Focus on surveying in Robert Cushman Murphy County Park, an area identified as having higher SPB activity, will be the initial focal area for CPBC monitoring. In the fall, rapid response cut and leave suppression activities will be coordinated with NYSDEC and will utilize agency, Commission, and contract sawyers for suppression cutting.
 - The Division was successful in advancing the collection of two bushels of pine cones from pines cut as part of the forest health improvement activities which will in turn be used for restoration activities.
 - An SPB Trapping Study report is being developed which examines the emergence, reproductive and dormancy cycles as influenced by weather to help guide future trapping and management efforts. In addition, data from the Pitch pine establishment and deer browse study is being analyzed to determine the success of the restoration planting of Pitch pine seedlings following SPB suppression; the degree of deer browse on these young seedlings and how installing deer guards may ensure establishment success.
- **Oak Wilt:**
 - NYSDEC staff will be continue surveying for Oak wilt this summer.
 - **Early Detection Rapid Response Non-native Ambrosia and Bark Beetle Monitoring Study:**
 - The Division in partnership with the NYSDEC and US Forest Service is assisting in a Statewide six-week trapping study to facilitate early detection of non-native ambrosia and bark beetles around high risk transportation and trade hubs.
 - Traps have been installed at 12 locations from Brooklyn to Suffolk County on Long Island and the Division is monitoring the traps installed in Henry's Hollow State Forest and Southaven County Park and Town of Brookhaven lands off River Road on a biweekly basis till July.
 - The information collected from this trapping will help both NYSDEC and USFS rapidly respond to any new non-native pest detected which may threat regional forest health.

Sandplain Grassland Network:

- The Network submitted a full grant proposal to Northeast Climate Science and Adaptation Center grant which proposes the develop management and mitigation measures in the face of climate change.
- The Network is also drafting a manuscript in order to publish the management guidebook within a scientific journal and investigating grant opportunities with the USDA-NRCS.

ESF Cooperative Research Program:

- The draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and Contract with SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry (ESF), to facilitate future collaborative research by ESF students and staff, is currently being reviewed by ESF. The MOU and Contract will be presented to the Commission for review and approval.
- Planning for 2020 Forest Health Monitoring Study is underway with proposed programmatic adjustments to work towards the second and final year of data collection proceeding. Since BNL

has cancelled the SULI program, the Commission is considering hiring interns to conduct the field data collection for the monitoring program and the Commission is helping to identify housing for the Doctoral student leading this research. We remain positive that all the required needs allowing for this very important field study to advance this summer will be resolved.

Empire State Pollinator Survey and Manufactured Soil and Pollinator Study

- CPBC will participate in the final year of the NY Empire State Pollinator Survey project. Hand netting and bee bowl trapping are utilized to capture pollinators as a survey of the biodiversity of pollinators throughout New York State. Surveying will be done within several sites on Long Island in order to understand the diversity of pollinators in meadows, forests, wetlands, and roadsides and in response to management activities. The Commission coordinated and hosted a training on this study which drew over 50 attendees including member of the Manufactured Soil and Pollinator study described below and members of Long Island Grassland Managers group. Broderick and Jade have undergone training in the protocols and methodologies of this program to begin assisting with implementation.
- CPBC is assisting with a NYSDOT funded project conducted by Cornell University which is examining the relationship between surveyed soils, vegetation, and pollinators to develop best practices for remediating and restoring disturbances caused through road and right of way maintenance and construction activities.

Invasive Species Management:

- Surveying and suppression pulling of both Caper spurge (*Euphorbia lathyris*) and Chinese silvergrass (*Miscanthus sinensis*) continues to be conducted in sites known to have been invaded. Over 30 individual plants were dug from Calverton National Cemetery grasslands and five from Eastport Conservation Area. Maps of invasion sites are being created and updated.
- Invasive species monitoring has begun for the season at current restoration sites and in the CPB area at large.

Encroachment Restoration:

- A draft Request for Proposal has been developed to solicit, vet and secure contractors for performing restoration work at existing and future encroachment and violation sites.
- **Middle Island:** Site visits were conducted to examine the extent of erosion occurring and to refit deer guards installed on the planted vegetation. An RFP is in the process of development to facilitate the restoration of both sites in Middle Island.
- **Eastport:** Division staff continues to provide restoration recommendations to the New York State Attorney General's office regarding a violation.

Protected Lands Council

- *Identifying Menaces to Forest Health – An Early Detection, Rapid Response and Emerging Species Workshop for Land Managers* has been coordinated and was hosted on May 14, 2020 by Long Island Invasive Species Management Area, NYSDEC, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County and the Commission's Protected Lands Council. This progressive workshop highlighted new species of concern that we should be on the watch such as winter moth and brown tailed moth and also provided updates on established species such as SPB, and Oak wilt.
- *A Tick Identification and Tick-Borne Disease Awareness Workshop* by given by Dr. Tamson Yeh of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County and also hosted by the Protected Lands Council to prepare staff for the field season.