

Education and Outreach Division

May 2021 Update

Submitted by Melissa Griffiths Parrott, Education and Outreach Coordinator

1. School Programs

- Virtual and in person outreach programs (Climate Change, Pine Barrens Ecology, Long Island Ecosystems, Biodiversity, Barrens to Bay, and Water Quality assessments)

Schools/Libraries/Groups:

- Moriches Elementary- 120
- Woodhull Elementary-82
- Peconic Community School – 55
- Homeschool Group - 22
- Sayville Library- climate change-25
- Sayville Library- Pine Barrens and Marine Ecology-30
- Save the Great South Bay- 29

2. Barrens to Bay Summer Camp @ Wertheim Wildlife Refuge- In person this year!

- June 28th -August 13th
- Finalizing new Covid-19 appropriate camp plan and schedule
- Continue to registration process
- Working with Wertheim/Friends of Wertheim on progress and needs
- Sessions 90% booked

4. A Day in the Life 2021

- Created a detailed spread sheet to assist with all data uploads in a searchable friendly form
- Re-drafted the ADITL Teacher Manual, currently being translated to Spanish
- Teacher training is scheduled for mid-June to re-train new/existing teachers and new partners
- 2021 dates below, all in person:

Carmans River~ September 24

Greens Creek~ September 24

Gardiner County Park~ September 24

Massapequa Preserve~ October 1

Fire Island~ October 1

Nissequogue River~ October 8

Carlls River~ October 15

Forge River~ October 15

Peconic Estuary~ October 22

Connetquot River~ October 29

Mill River~ November 5

5. Partner programs

- SCWA 70th anniversary celebration coordinator for the Central Pine Barrens.
- Assisting with video content, time capsule content, and other needs.





Science and Stewardship Division Update May 26, 2021

Administrative:

- Last fall, a project proposal was submitted to the United States Forest Service special technology development program was put forth by US Forest Service Durham office, University of Vermont and the Division. We received notification that our project proposal for a \$91,000 funding award, ranked first in the region and was one of five projects in the nation chosen to receive funding. This proposal will fund a graduate student and field research, management, and monitoring to better understand recruitment of pitch pine post-southern pine beetle, thinning, and prescribed fire in order to develop, and improve restoration practices in pine forests after southern pine beetle outbreaks.
- Broderick DeAngelis, Ecological Field Specialist for the division, resigned from his position with the commission. We wished him many congratulations on acquiring a position with the United States Forest Service as a Botany Technician in Southwestern Oregon. Division staff have conducted interviews for a new individual to serve in this capacity. Hiring recommendations have been forwarded to the SCWA Board of Directors for consideration and approval at the upcoming board meeting in May.
- A Protected Lands Council meeting via Zoom has been coordinated and scheduled for June 3, 2021. Please reach out to us if you are interested in participating in this meeting which will include presentations on Forest Health, Prescribed Fire Management, USGS Water Quality Monitoring, Invasive Species, and more.

Commission Prescribed Fire Program:

- **Administration:**
 - Voucher development and annual workplan revisions are ongoing in order to receive reimbursement of general expenses and salary incurred from January through March and to ensure access to the balance of funds for prescribed fire planning and implementation including purchasing of equipment and ensuring staffing following COVID-19 related funding restrictions.
 - Meetings have been ongoing with SCWA and insurance brokers to outline and refine insurance exposure portfolios to solicit bids for overall general liability and rider policies covering prescribed fire operations. Satisfactory rider policy coverage and estimate has been obtained and supporting materials have been sent to insurance underwriters for review. Prescribed fire coverage is anticipated to be secured soon and approval requests for the purchase have been communicated to Commissioners. Active work is ongoing to seek and secure a potential general liability package policy that includes prescribed fire for when the next overall Commission policy expiration occurs in August 2021.
 - A continuity budget is being refined, updated, and communicated to the NYSDEC and partners to ensure fire program continuance after current Contract completion.
- **Planning:**
 - Meetings: The standing bimonthly meeting with NYSDEC Region 1 and Forest Health was deferred this period to accommodate NYSDEC schedules as many representatives are working at Covid-19 test and vaccination sites and the division was actively involved in prescribed fire operations. Current plans are in place to resume the meeting schedule in June, but are subject to change pending NYSDEC staff schedules.

- Prescribed Fire Management Plan: The final CPB Comprehensive Prescribed Fire Management Plan (CRXFMP) has been posted on the Commission website and a press release announcing plan completion has been issued. Several media outlets, including WSHU, Newsday, Riverhead News-Review, and Suffolk Times, have picked up the story and have press coverage either published or in development. A short video was also developed about the benefits of prescribed fire operations as part of the press release and has been posted to the prescribed fire website.



- MOU/MOA:
 - The Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL) and CPBC MOU is in its final phase of formalization having been signed by Interim Executive Direction and delivered to BNL for signing. advance The MOU will provide a formal understanding of collaborative work and facility use for science and stewardship efforts, the prescribed fire program, NYWIMA and other educational programming.
 - Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation MOA to allow for Commission-led on-the-ground stewardship activities, especially prescribed fire site preparation and operations on County lands, remains under review by Suffolk County Parks Commissioner Jason Smagin and staff.
 - A MOU, or other future understanding and approval mechanism, for CPBC to implement prescribed fire on NYSDEC lands after the contract period is being developed with NYSDEC to ensure prescribed fire program continuity after the expiration of the prescribed fire grant in March 2023. Potential alternatives to MOU enactment enabling Commission work on lands within the CPB are also being discussed and explored. The Division is also seeking a similar MOU with the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation in order to advance management in Brookhaven State Park.

- Burn and Pre-Treatment Plans:
 - The South of Currans Woodlands prescribed burn plan has received final and required approvals at the NYSDEC Region 1 and at the Central Office in Albany. This plan covers 121 acres within the Rocky Point Pine Barrens State Forest, of which 60 acres have been mechanically treated. Prescribed fire is targeted in order to improve protection of public safety from wildfire to nearby subdivisions and for the purposes of forest health improvement especially southern pine beetle resilience
 - Draft burn plan development is complete for the western half of David Sarnoff Pine Barrens State Forest and is currently in internal review, which will be followed by external technical review prior to



being sent to NYSDEC Region 1 and Central office for review and approval.

- Burn plan development has been initiated for the eastern section (east of CR 31) of the Dwarf Pine Barrens.
- The Division continues to collaborate with NYSDEC Region 1, Forest Health and Forest Protection to coordinate activities and efforts on mechanical reductions and fire control line installation for prescribed fire preparation, forest health and public health improvements.

- ***Training and Preparedness:***

- Shaun Ziegler, Polly Weigand, and Bob Panko participated in the first training operation at the Wildfire Drill Zone in the Fresh Ponds Unit of the Otis Pike Management Area. These training operations at the Wildfire Drill Zone are enacted to simulate fire suppression scenarios to improve staff skill and expertise in these areas and to promote development of qualifications necessary to staff and lead prescribed fire operations.

- ***Prescribed Fire Operations:***

- A successful NYSDEC led spring prescribed burn season was recognized with the Commission staff assisting with 6 prescribed fire burning operational days, within 8 units, totaling 200 acres of management treatment. Three woodland units of three acres each were treated with prescribed fire at the Demonstration Forest in Rocky Point. This effort helped to finalize treatments for one set of US Forest Service experimental plots designed to compare and study management techniques designed to improve forest health and resiliency to southern pine beetle.
 - Grassland burns totaling 190 acres were also completed this spring season. Burns occurred at Whiskey and Currans fields in Rocky Point Pine Barrens State Forest, Fresh Ponds and River Road north units of Otis Pike Pine Barrens State Forest in Calverton.



- ***Education and Outreach:***

- The Division has and continues to create new and update past CPBC website content related to prescribed fire operations. Website content will be an important resource for the public as it will be referenced via QR code within all future education and outreach deliverables such as brochures, postcards and pamphlets.
- The first informational video for the prescribed fire program has been created to introduce the public to the CPBC prescribed fire program and has been posted on our website.
- A new Central Pine Barrens Prescribed Fire Management page has also been created to provide additional vehicles for prescribed fire outreach and communications. Check out and like this page at <https://www.facebook.com/CPBCFire>.

- ***Equipment Storage and Purchasing:***

- Division specified equipment and storage for the prescribed fire program are awaiting final insurance procurement in order to move forward with purchasing.

- Several meetings with SCWA have occurred in order to develop a site plan which will provide space for container storage in combination with potential well field pumping capacity increase and parking improvement projects in the planning phases at the Westhampton Beach facility.

Forest Health:

- ***Southern Pine Beetle (SPB)***
 - Surveying & Suppression: 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.
 - Rapid Detection and Suppression Response continues to be coordinated by the NYSDEC and Commission to strategically address SPB reflective of COVID and available sawyers. Commission headed up SPB surveying until the field season concluded at the end of December. Plans are in place to continue field efforts in spring.
 - NYSDEC conducted its most recent aerial survey on March 4. The data collected from this flight will reveal SPB infestation spread and hotspot areas that will guide ground surveying efforts in June.
 - Southern Pine Beetle (SPB) Impact Study
 - Historic aerial imagery is being analyzed to identify the initial outbreaks of SPB more accurately and to then track the outbreaks through time and space to quantify degree and extent of impact. This information will help in understanding dynamics of this invasive pest and may help inform land managers on where to expect new infestations to occur in the coming years.
- ***Early Detection Rapid Response Non-native Bark and Ambrosia Beetle Trapping Study***
 - The Division is once again supporting the NYSDEC and US Forest Serviced sponsored Early Detection and Rapid Response Non-native Bark and Ambrosia Beetle monitoring program this spring. This trapping effort helps to protect Central Pine Barrens' forest health as it allows for rapid management response in the event that new detections of harmful non-native bark or ambrosia beetles are detected. Trapping is occurring around transfer stations and areas of high trade and transport where the highest risk of introduction of such non-native insects occurs.
 - CPBC Monitored Trap locations for this season are located within the NYS Otis Pike Preserve and commission staff have been visiting traps to collect insects and refresh pheromone lures every two weeks and sending specimens to NYSDEC. This effort runs through June for the 2021 season.

Invasive Species Management:

- Invasive species management season is gearing up and plans, permits, and permissions are being acquired to survey and manage invasive species.
- Focal species for survey and management this year include buckthorn, viburnum, Chinese silvergrass, caper spurge, and several others.

Encroachment Restoration:

- Division staff continues to provide restoration recommendations, provide documents for discovery and provide technical assistance to the New York State Attorney General's office regarding a violation in Eastport.
- A draft Request for Proposal (RFP) is being developed to solicit, vet and secure contractors for performing restoration work at existing and future encroachment and violation sites.

Prescribed Fire Operations Spring 2021





CAED Highlights 1/1/21 – 05/12/21

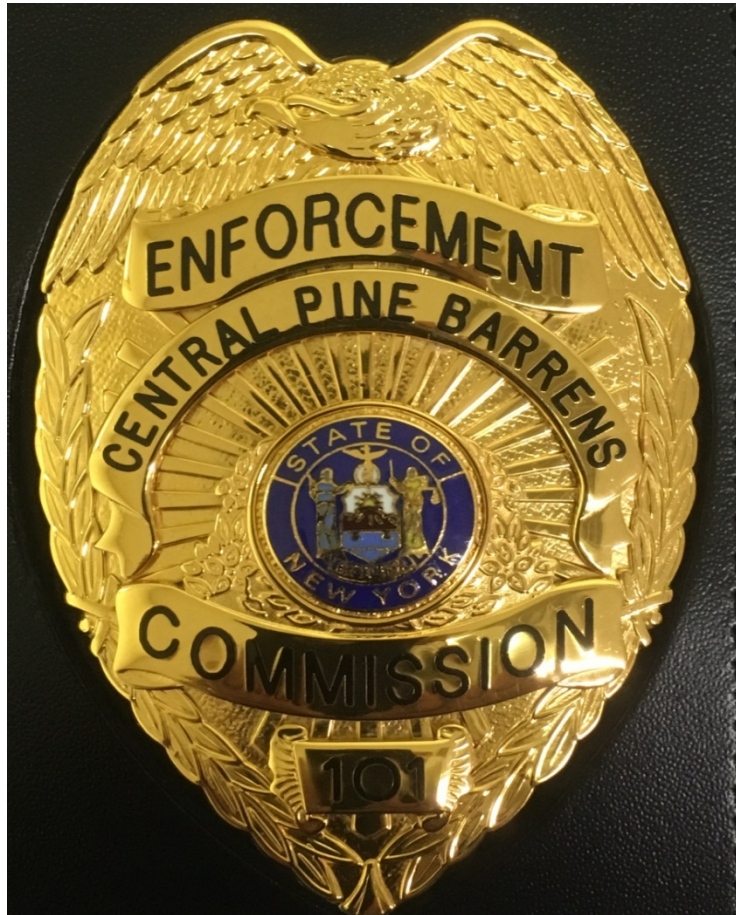
- Nineteen incident reports to date
- Sixteen conservation easement inspections to date
- Continue work with state, county and towns on unpermitted activity
- Enforcement meetings held with SC Parks, NYDEC and the LEC
- Camera surveillance of dump sites; \$12,000 in penalties recovered in April
- Drone training resumed in April; FAA 107 license obtained by Officer Mazzio; currently a total of four licensed pilots

Yvette Aguiar
Member

Steven Bellone
Member

Edward P. Romaine
Member

Jay H. Schneiderman
Member



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DEVELOPMENT PROJECT COMPLIANCE SITE VISITS			
Reporting Period: 01/01/21 – 05/12/21			
Central Pine Barrens	Brookhaven (District 200)	Riverhead (District 600)	Southampton (District 900)
Core Preservation Area	2	0	1
Compatible Growth Area	3	1	0

CONSERVATION EASEMENT MONITORING SITE VISITS				
Reporting Period: 01/01/19 - 05/12/21				
Core Preservation Area	Brookhaven (District 200)	Riverhead (District 600)	Southampton (District 900)	Totals
Total	16	0	0	16

COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT INCIDENT REPORTS								
Reporting Period: All from 1/1/21 - 05/12/21 and Open (i.e., Pending from 2013 - 2020)								
	Brookhaven (District 200)		Riverhead (District 600)		Southampton (District 900)		Totals	
Year	2021 All	12-20 Open	2021 All	17-20 Open	2021 All	13-20 Open	2021 All	03-20 Open
Core	2	27	1	4	1	17	4	48
CGA	3	19	0	1	0	6	3	23
Totals	5	46	1	5	1	23	*7	71

*Outside the Pine Barrens in 2021 to date, 0 incident reports, encroachments, criminal mis, dumping for total of 7 incidents in 2021

Central Pine Barrens Joint Planning and Policy Commission
 Land Use Division Bi-Monthly Update for the Meeting of May 26, 2021

Action	Central Pine Barrens Location			
	Municipality	Town of Brookhaven	Town of Riverhead	Town of Southampton
Applications and Requests for Determination of Jurisdiction		Kogel Brothers Core Hardship, Middle Island, single-family residence on 5.3 acres, 200-499-3-4 (Core). Application withdrawn, NYS acquisition.	None	None
SEQRA Coordination, Referrals, Inquiries and Review of Other Information on Projects in the Central Pine Barrens		Eversource/Sunrise Wind, offshore wind farm with onshore cable in the Town of Brookhaven, expecting Core Hardship Application (Core).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calverton Solar 22.9 MW solar facility on 198 acres, 600-136-1-2, 600-137-1-2.1 (CGA). • NYSDEC referral for EBDK at Calverton, increase irrigation capacity for three wells to 4.5 million gallons per year, 600-135-1-7.56 (CGA). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town of Southampton ZBA referral nighttime lighting at Hampton West Park, 900-308-4-1.3 (Core). • Upper Mills Dam Fish Passage on Peconic River at LIPA Riverhead Substation, temporary access road request (Core).
Participation in Other Regional Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peconic Estuary Partnership. Participation in technical committees. • USGS-Commission Water Resources Monitoring Program, 2018 through 2022. Project management. 			
Division Activity and Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applications for hardship waivers, SEQRA Coordination, interagency referrals, information requests and inquiries. Review, research, analyze and prepare material and responses for Commission review of development project activities. Projects include commercial/industrial site plans, commercial and residential subdivisions, mixed-use projects, Developments of Regional Significance, Assertions of Jurisdiction, code amendments, zone changes and other actions. • Cooperation and collaboration with other Commission divisions as needed. • Development project site inspections pre- and post-construction. • Draft Supplemental GEIS for the Central Pine Barrens Comprehensive Land Use Plan Amendments. • FOIL Requests. Research and assist with FOIL requests and litigation on development projects. • Manage Credit Program staff and activities. • Monitor consent order progress and restoration activities on land use related incidents and violations. • Requests for Determination of Jurisdiction. Research and prepare materials for Commission review. • Responsible for assignments and supervision of a summer intern. • Technical support to the Compliance and Enforcement Division on land use matters including property information research on unauthorized development, clearing activities, encroachments on credit program conservation easements and other incidents. 			

Riverhead Substation LIPA Right of Way (Core)



Upper Mills Dam Fish Passage, Peconic River (Core)



Pine Barrens Credit Program Report for May 26, 2021:

Activities in the Credit Program since January 1, 2021 included review of applications for Letters of Interpretation, Conservation Easements, Credit Program and FOIL requests management. Some specific work items include:

- 24 Letters of Interpretations were issued, 5 in the Town of Brookhaven, 2 in the Town of Riverhead and 17 in the Town of Southampton.
- 8 Conservation Easements are currently in process: Long Island Country Club, Equine Facility LLC, Porter-Bell, Samuels Catering Corp., Graf, Kazel, Taylor, Peter D. Baron and Genesis Investors LLC
- As of May 18, 2021, 22 parcels were inspected, and 25 signs were installed.
- At the Commission meeting of April 21, 2021, the Board Members adopted a resolution on eligibility of overlap parcels to receive Pine Barrens Credits (PBC).
- The Commission received a number of inquiries on availability for sale of 10.19 PBC, still owned by the Clearinghouse.

Easement Protected Lands and Pine Barrens Credits As of May 18, 2021								
	Brookhaven	2021	Riverhead	2021	Southampton	2021	Total	2021
Parcels	509	-	36	-	452	4	997	4
Acreage	781.96	-	516.60	-	848.86	2.15	2147.42	2.15
Average parcel size	1.54	-	14.35	-	1.88	0.54	2.15	0.54
Credits generated	532.91	-	172.39	-	331.52	0.58	1036.82	0.58
Credits redeemed	387.2	43.23	131.16	-	157.07	1.07	675.43	44.3
Credits not redeemed	145.71	-	41.23	-	174.45	-0.49	361.39	-43.72
Credits sold	561.28	3.25	219.3	1	255.92	2.81	1036.5	7.06
Total value of PBC transactions through this date	\$29,703,569	\$273,750	\$8,022,247	\$60,500	\$17,176,802	\$262,220	\$54,902,618	\$596,470
Average Credits value		\$84,231		\$60,500		\$93,317		\$84,486
Credits owned by the Clearinghouse	10.19		-		-		10.19	
# of Inspected CE Parcels	-	22	-	-	-	-	-	22
# of Installed CE Signs	94	25	7	-	76	-	177	25



SUFFOLK COUNTY COMPTROLLER

330 CENTER DRIVE RIVERHEAD, N.Y. 11901-3311

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JOHN M. KENNEDY, JR.
COUNTY COMPTROLLER

May 10th, 2021

**Central Pine Barrens Joint Planning and
Policy Commission
P.O. Box 587
Great River, N.Y. 11739-0587**

**Dear Pine Barrens Credit Clearinghouse
Board of Advisors:**

**Attached please find our financial report on the Pine Barrens Credit Program for the
month of April 2021. Thank you.**

Respectfully submitted,

Christina M. Withers

**Christina M. Withers, CIA, CPFO
Executive Director of Finance & Taxation**

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

Balance as of December 31st, 2020	\$2,549,449.05
Additional Deposits	0.00
Interest (see below for details)	838.31
Disbursements	0.00
Balance as of April 30th, 2021	\$2,550,287.36

**Interest Earnings & Disbursements
For the Months of January - December 2021**

Interest Earnings

Premier MMA - Public Fund

January	202.57
February	195.60
March	230.54
April	209.60
May	0.00
June	0.00
July	0.00
August	0.00
September	0.00
October	0.00
November	0.00
December	0.00
	\$838.31

<u>Interest Period</u>	<u>APR</u>
01/01/21- 01/31/21	0.1000%
02/01/21- 02/28/21	0.1000%
03/01/21- 03/31/21	0.1000%
04/01/21- 04/30/21	0.1000%
05/01/21- 05/31/21	0.0000%
06/01/21- 06/30/21	0.0000%
07/01/21- 07/31/21	0.0000%
08/01/21- 08/31/21	0.0000%
09/01/21- 09/30/21	0.0000%
10/01/21- 10/31/21	0.0000%
11/01/21- 11/30/21	0.0000%
12/01/21- 12/31/21	0.0000%

Disbursements

None	\$ -
	\$ -