

Environmental Outreach and Communications Division Update

September 2023

Submitted by Tim Motz, Environmental Outreach and Communications Coordinator

Barrens to Bay Summer Camp

- **Our 12th year of coordinating the camp in coordination with Wertheim Wildlife Refuge and Friends of Wertheim was a great success, with all six weeks fully booked. In total, we engaged approximately 120 campers between 6 and 12 years old in a wide range of fun and educational environmental activities.**
- **The bulk of my time was spent learning the ins and outs of running the camp from Melissa Parrott, including all logistical aspects and leading various activities, including several that I created for the campers. Thanks to Melissa, I'm ready to take charge of the camp next summer.**
- **At the end of the camp in August, I introduced a new annual tradition honoring our counselors, the Counselors Cup competition, in which counselors and counselors-in-training (CITs) compete at some of the camp activities they lead all summer to have their names etched onto a large trophy that will be kept at the camp. The inaugural winner was counselor Hannah Reuter, who will be returning next summer as one of our leaders.**
- **I have to date recruited, interviewed and brought on board or retained approximately 15 counselors and CITs for next summer's camp. Next spring, I'll get them all together (with any additional counselors/CITs I sign up between now and then) for a roundtable to assess all camp activities and offer their thoughts on what we should keep, what we should cut and what we should change to make a great camp even better.**

"A Day in the Life" Program

- **The 13th annual "A Day in the Life" program, coordinated in conjunction with Brookhaven National Laboratory and the New York State DEC, begins on Friday, September 22 and will extend through November.**

- **Initial outreach has been conducted for approximately 15 events all over Long Island participated in by nearly 2,000 students, three dozen schools and environmental experts from a wide range of organizations.**
- **One primary goal this year is improving data collection methods to allow better quality control and producing vital information that not only engages students in student-science and prepares them for careers in the environmental sciences but also, ultimately, assists professionals in the assessment of water quality issues in our local waterways.**
- **We're also working to re-institute ADITL programs at locations that had been active prior to the COVID-19 pandemic but have not been since. This effort is already bearing fruit—we've revived ADITL programs on Greens Creek in Sayville, Gardiner County Park in Bay Shore and Mill Creek in Oceanside, among others.**
- **We've also welcomed back schools that formerly participated at existing program locations such as the Peconic Estuary including Westhampton Beach High School, Oysterponds Elementary School in Orient and Southold Elementary School.**
- **We are currently working on a new strategy to reinvigorate media interest in the program and will be expanding outreach to elected officials to visit program sites.**

Communications

- **A release we issued on this year's NYWIMA academy has been covered widely by local media.**
- **We are working with NBC on a story concerning the training of wildfire experts and making arrangements for the reporter to film and conduct interviews at the Academy.**
- **We are preparing an extensive outreach to promote a video we created this year to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Long Island Pine Barrens Protection Act.**



Science and Stewardship Division Update September 20, 2023

Administration and Training: Michael Whittemore has been hired as the new Ecologist for the Commission and he will be starting on October 3rd. Mr. Whittemore holds a Master of Science Degree in Environmental Studies from Ohio University and has served as Stewardship and Restoration Manager for The Nature Conservancy and Research Assistant for Woods Hole Research Center where he has been conducting research and management in Atlantic Coastal Pine Barren ecosystems in Massachusetts for the last seven years. Mike is an outdoor enthusiast, an excellent botanist and avid birder and he shares his knowledge, kindness and passion by volunteering as a “Big Brother” for the Big Brothers Big Sisters program. We look forward to welcoming Mike to the Commission and expanding the research and stewardship initiatives with his energies and expertise.

Ms. Weigand attended the Northeast Midwest Prescribed Fire Science and Management Workshop in Madison, Wisconsin, the 1st program focused on helping to overcome barriers and support prescribed fire management reflective of the cultural, social, economic and ecological constraints/conditions that uniquely occur within this region. Topics particularly relevant to improving wildland fire management was the importance of sourcing more accurate regional fire return intervals and fire history by conducting analysis of fire scars on trees and legacy stumps; the ability to explore alternate insurance for prescribed fire program; understanding current public perceptions of prescribed fire; how to better engage communities in experiential learning through events such as fire festivals; the increased access to progressive tools and technologies for modeling fuels and ecosystem management including the use of UAS, and tips and strategies for advancing communications on prescribed fire management especially operations. Planning has already commenced for a second workshop, tentatively slated to be hosted in Albany and the close proximity serves as an accessible opportunity to engage staff and managers in progressive wildland fire management.

Prescribed Fire Program:

- *Administration:*
 - Discussions have been initiated with NYSDEC Forest Health about developing a 5 year and long-term stewardship management plan for the Central Pine Barrens to best leverage expertise, resources, and funding while achieving goals of reduced wildfire risk, ecosystem restoration and increased resiliency.
 - All progress reports and vouchers have been submitted, completing the 2018 - 2023 Prescribed Fire Contract and new work plan and budget are being updated as clarifications on contractual periods are being provided by NYSDEC.
 - The significant program development and accomplishments recognized during the 5-year prescribed fire program contract as well as the continuity plan budget for the program have been finalized and are highlighted in appended report.
 - The new budget and workplan for the prescribed fire program is currently in internal review and then will be uploaded to grants gateway once approved by the Forest Health Unit of NYSDEC. Quarterly reports and vouchers are completed and waiting for contract execution.
 - USFS has opened the second round of Community Wildfire Defense Grants and Commission is currently coordinating with partners and drafting two applications to secure needed funding for the development of an additional Community Wildfire Prevention Plan and implementation of projects within the executed Ridge Manorville Calverton CWPP and approved prescribed burn plans within Rocky Point Pine Barrens State Forest.
 - The Division has been helping to support the conceptual focus and development of useful and new innovative fuels modeling and predictive programs for Pine Barrens Systems in New York through a NASA funded program by participating in meetings with Forest Health and engaging fire behavior specialists.

- *Memoranda of Understanding/Agreement Development:* The draft provided by Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation has been reviewed by the Commission and comments are being provided back to the County as the next step in achieving a final MOU draft for execution.
- *Equipment:*
 - The Type 6 Fire Engine is in final months of production and Ms. Weigand and Ranger Bryan Gallagher will be traveling to Wildland Warehouse in New Jersey to conduct the final inspection and deliver the engine to the island in November. The final upfits, once delivered to the Commission, is the installation of a communications radio.
- *Prescribed Burn Plan Development:*
 - Rocky Point East Burn Plan (1028 acres w/ 19 burn blocks) is in final draft and under review by NYSDEC Region 1 Wildlife.
 - The Dwarf Pine Barrens Prescribed Fire Enhancement Zone (633 acres w/11 burn units) remains in technical review, whereafter it advances to final internal review and then NYSDEC review.
 - The Otis Pike/Upton Reserve Burn Unit (4252 acres across 23 burn blocks) in Otis Pike Pine Barrens State Forest (NYSDEC) and Upton Reserve (BNL) is in technical review with NYSDEC with BNL having already provided comments.
 - After approvals of both the Dwarf Pine Barrens and Otis Pike Burn plan, SEQRA review of these plans will be initiated.
- *Education and Outreach:*
 - The Town of Brookhaven and Southampton National Night Out Events were attended and information on prescribed fire program and community wise wildfire mitigation were distributed to the public to help increase awareness of pine barrens ecology, management and wildfire prevention. Smoky Bear made a guest appearance at the Ridge event, and helped to further engage the community and brought smiles and joy to children's faces.



- Educational materials using wildland fire logo and consistent branding are being developed with the expertise of a graphic designer. Materials include a prescribed fire program brochure, display boards, mobile billboard trailers, stickers, t-shirts, notification templates and social media posts.

- Short videos, website updates and social media content is being planned to help bolster a holistic education program that focuses on pine barrens ecology, forest health and management.
- *Prescribed Fire Preparation and Implementation:*
 - A meeting to discuss prescribed fire operations for the fall and winter is being coordinated and guidance on procedures for burn plan review and approval as it pertains to the Northern long eared bat uplisting remain a focal point of discussion.
- *Staff Training:*
 - Division staff will be supporting Mr. Carbone in conducting UAS 107 preparatory licensing training at NYWIMA and are also supporting continued training as requested by other entities such as Suffolk County Parks.

Ecological Research Initiatives:

- In association with LIISMA, the Commission is participating in a Spotted Lantern Fly trapping survey. There are currently two passive traps installed at the Hampton Bays and Westhampton Transfer Stations. As of current, there has been no evidence or presence of spotted lantern fly in these areas. The traps will remain in place through fall. The furthest east known SLF detection was at BNL last week.
- The Division is participating in the Long Island Mammal Survey to provide up to date occurrence of mammal species in the region. Currently, five game cameras have been set up in Sears Bellows, Hubbard, and Birch Creek County Parks and Rocky Point Pine Barrens State Forest and Red Creek Park (TNC). The locations for these cameras have been strategically placed to detect occurrences of less common species and data reviewed and reported and the cameras are maintained on a monthly basis. In the last six weeks there has been a diversity of common mammals including deer, possums and raccoons as well other wildlife including great blue herons and catbirds.
- A new research initiative is being supported as part of the SUNY ESF and BNL MOUs to examine tick species distribution and abundance and the influence of wildland fire on tick populations. Commission is providing staff support in helping collecting ticks from long term forest health monitoring plots with a history of wildland fire. The sampled ticks will be provided to the SUNY ESF Fire Lab for analysis by Sam Gilvard, a PhD candidate under the advisement of Dr. Andrew Vander Yacht.



Southern Pine Beetle

- Statewide SPB Incident Command System staff, coordinated by NYSDEC's Forest Health Unit in support by the Division remain active in monitoring SPB outbreaks and dispersion. Surveying is advanced in core and compatible growth areas of the Central Pine Barrens with the help of DEC Forest Health staff. The use of Near map satellite imagery and known locations of infestations from 2022 have focused efforts on marking and recording the expansion of SPB infestations throughout the summer due to no suppression management from the uplisting of the northern long eared bat.
- Aerial Imagery from Near Map has facilitated early detection and monitoring of the presence of southern pine beetle within the Dwarf Pines on both the east and west side of CR 31 which are the first infestations detected in this globally rare ecosystem. The outbreaks have subsequently been confirmed by field staff who ground truthed the suspect infestations.
- Under the leadership of the USFS Northern and Southern Research Labs, the Commission continues to participate in an SPB early detection lure study to evaluate new lures in attracting SPB's. Trap catch through the season continues to confirm high southern pine beetle activity and extremely effective lure



chemistry for trapping these little but mighty insects. A total of 12 funnel traps have been installed at Ridge Conservation Area, Manorville Hills County Park and Warbler Woods. These traps are checked bi-weekly and rotated each check to evaluate new lures and combinations to increase efficiency of trap catch success and reduce bycatch. Early findings from this study indicate the lures are extremely successful and as a result, traps will be maintained through December. This fall, traps with same lures will be installed in Massachusetts and Maine, to determine the efficacy of these lures.

- Central Pine Barrens staff has been assisting USFWS with coordinating of surveys and training of seasonal USFWS and National Parks Service - Fire Island National Seashore staff on the signs and symptoms of southern pine beetle in Wertheim Wildlife Refuge. These coordinated events have provided great opportunities to build and maintain relationships to support increased interagency collaborations going forward.

Invasive Species Management:

- Noteworthy progress has been made in the eradication of Caper spurge (*Euphorbia lathrus*) at the Town of Hampton Bays Transfer Station and in East Quogue. Populations have been significantly reduced with only a few plants found at both sites. Removing these plants before seed set continues to facilitate eradication by preventing spread and exhausting the seed bank. Monitoring will continue to ensure any additional individuals recruited from the seed bank are removed and that eradication is achieved.
- Stiltgrass, mile-a-minute and miscanthus suppression associated encroachments will continue until the fall.

Encroachment Restoration:

- Restoration at the Eastport encroachment (being represented by the NYS Attorney General's office) is advancing with mowing of cool season grasses, herbicide treatment of knotweed and mugwort, regrading of gullies, sourcing of rye cover crop and woody seed and hydroseeding between September 15 and October 15th. Once seeding commences, monitoring of seed establishment, erosion and invasive species management will commence.
- A draft Request for Proposal (RFP) is in review to solicit, vet and secure contractors for performing restoration work at existing (Middle Island) and future encroachment and violation.
- Surveillance assistance continues to be provided in Hampton Bays/Flanders to help abate the frequent dumping that has been occurring in that location.



CENTRAL PINE BARRENS INTERAGENCY PRESCRIBED FIRE PROGRAM 2018-2023

Program Accomplishments and Investments

The Central Pine Barrens is a globally rare, culturally iconic, fire dependent ecosystem that is experiencing declines in forest health and high wildfire risk due to a lack of fire disturbance and wildfire suppression driven by the continued development of wildland urban interface and lack of forest management. The recent arrival and widespread decimation of pitch pines by the southern pine beetle and loss of homes and businesses that occurred during the 1995 Sunrise fire and the more recent 2012 Crescent Bow fire are striking indicators of the resulting declines in forest health and increases in regional wildfire risk.

Recognizing that prescribed fire management is a vital and cost-effective means of mitigating wildfire risk, protect public safety and address forest health issues within the Central Pine Barrens and across Long Island, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation awarded the Central Pine Barrens Commission a \$1.25 million contract to develop a robustly equipped and staffed prescribed fire program to increase the regional capacity to support and conduct prescribed fire operations within the forests of the Central Pine Barrens.



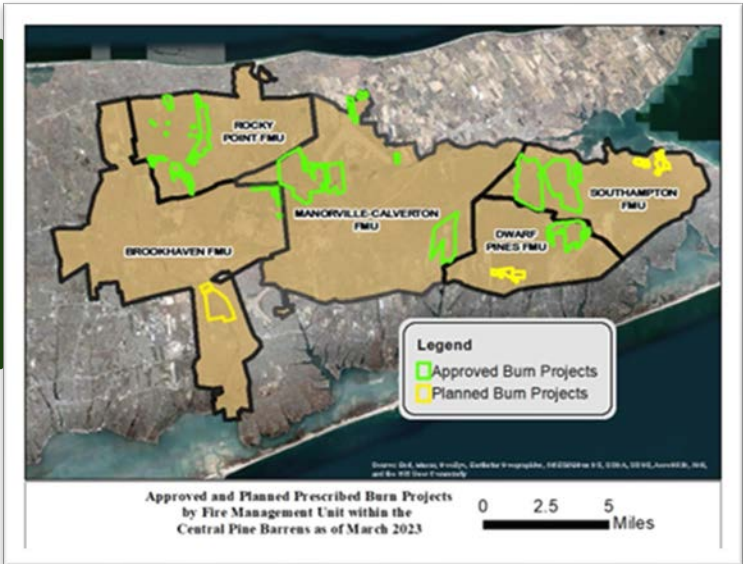
Over the past five years, the Commission has successfully and strategically built the framework, established the leadership capacity, equipped, staffed and conducted prescribed fire, effectively creating a prescribed fire program for the Commission and revitalizing the Central Pine Barrens Interagency Prescribed Fire Program. The numerous accomplishments and milestones including required planning, operational, legal and logistical programmatic components highlighted on the following page.



2018-2023 Prescribed Fire Program Accomplishments and Investments

As of 2023, the Commission with its partners and volunteers have successfully advanced the active treatment of over 70 acres of woodlands using prescribed fire and facilitated the ability to conduct future prescribed fire operations on 7257 acres of state forests by conducting the following initiatives:

Burn Plan	Acres
South of Currans	123
Wildfire Drill Zone	9
Sarnoff West	1212
Dwarf Pine Barrens Enhancement Zone	633
Rocky Point East	1028
Otis Pike and Upton Reserve	4252
Total Acres Planned	7257



Prescribed Fire Preparation and Implementation:

- (6) Prescribed Fire Burn Plans drafted for the treatment of 7257 acres of state forest.
- (57) Prescribed Fire Operations conducted on 111 acres of state & BNL forest & 1006 acres of state grasslands.
- (17) Woodland Burns were conducted and 95% (15) were conducted with Commission Burn Boss leadership.
- (285) Prescribed Fire Workdays provided by Commission staff.
- (265+) Burn Piles created to reduce heavy fuels.
- (3) Wildfire Mop Up Operations staffed w/ Type 7 engines.
- (24+) Vegetation Monitoring Plots established and sampled.

Planning:

- (1) CPB Comprehensive Fire Management Plan w/SEQRA.
- (3) General Liability, Engine and Workers Comp Insurance.
- (3) Memorandum of Understandings – BNL, SUNY Environmental Science and Forestry, Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.



Fire Cache and Vehicles:

Purchased and outfitted engines, trailers, fire equipment and PPE:

- (1) Type 6 Fire Engine (October 2024 delivery)
- (2) Type 7 UTV Fire Engines w/trailers
- (1) Radio Communication System
- (1) Cargo Trailer Fire Cache
- (1) 300 Gallon Water Trailer
- (2) Rental Storage Facilities



Staff:

Wildland fire professionals have been hired on a seasonal/part-time basis to implement prescribed fire and equipment maintenance.

- (1) Fire Management Specialist develops comprehensive prescribed (RX) fire and burn plans and implements RX fire.
- (5) Person Seasonal Prescribed Fire Squads
 - ❖ Engine Boss – Conducts engine maintenance/supervisor
 - ❖ Squad Boss – Fireline supervision
 - ❖ Prescribed Fire Crew Members - Fireline staff
- (7+) Additional Commission Staff provide planning, outreach, drone missions & security to fire program.
- (20+) Training Classes & Task Book Advancement occurred through NWCG courses and task book advancement provided through NYWIMA, prescribed fire operations, staff exchanges and workshops.

Education and Outreach Campaigns:

- (10) Education and Outreach Media including a program logo, postcards, webpage, social media, press releases infographics were developed and distributed for education, outreach and notification purposes.
- (20) Articles and Videos published in local and regional news outlets including NBC, News 12 and Newsday.
- (40) Presentations, Meetings and Tabling Events facilitated operation coordination and awareness.



Central Pine Barrens Prescribed Fire Continuity Budget and Plan

The Central Pine Barrens Prescribed Fire Program continuance (and its further development into a robust fully staffed and equipped) fuels management program under the leadership of the Commission requires additional and sustained programmatic funding beyond \$250,000 per year NYSDEC allocation in order to cover the annual operational and staffing costs required for prescribed fire implementation and planning; engine and equipment maintenance as well as funding to support pre fire vegetation treatments. While the Commission provides full-time staff, vehicles and workers compensation insurance for the prescribed fire program, it does not have the financial resources within the NYS Environmental Protection Fund general allocation to meet the financial costs to hire the staff necessary for program administration and implementation.

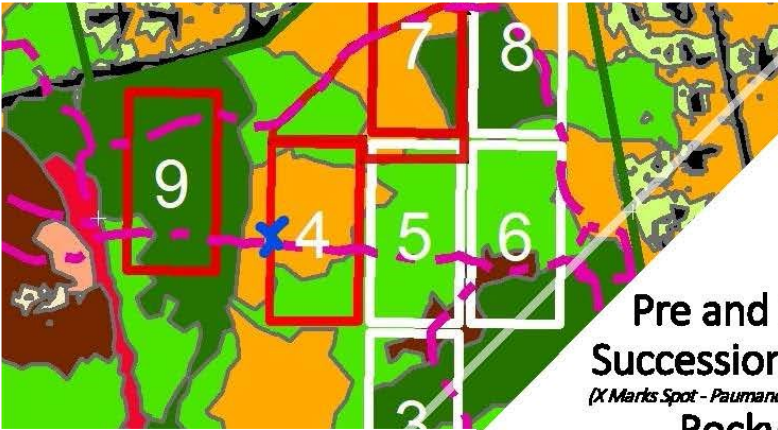
The significant strides, milestones and investments (of well over \$1.25 million) in the Central Pine Barren Interagency prescribed fire program development, land management treatments, burn plan approvals, equipment cache creation, fire engines procurement and staff training for public safety, wildfire risk reduction and ecosystem health improvement will only be recognized with the continued commitment of expanded prescribed fire programmatic funding as detailed below. Pre-fire fuels management budget references such costs beyond staffing/operational needs.

Central Pine Barrens Prescribed Fire Annual Staffing and Operating Budget w/ Prefire Fuels Management

Qualified Prescribed Fire Personnel	Commission Staffing Status	Cost	Sub-totals	Totals
Science and Stewardship Program Manager (FFT2)	1 -Salary Paid by General Contract	\$0.00		
Ecologist (FFT2)	1 -Salary Paid by General Contract	\$0.00		
Ecological Field Specialists (FFT2)	2 -Salary Paid by General Contract	\$0.00		
Fire Management Specialist (RBX2) Full Time	Proposed Hire - Planning, Burn Boss, Training	\$105,000.00		
Engine Boss (ENGB) Full time	Proposed for Engine Maintenance - Mechanical Treatments	\$85,000.00		
Fringe for RBX2 and ENGB		\$114,000.00		
Seasonal Firefighter Squad (Full Time Temporary)	Seasonal Hire (March - May) Ensure Staffing of Operations	\$85,000.00		
		Total Staffing	\$389,000.00	
Operational Costs	Type	Cost		
Insurance	General Liability	\$48,000.00		
	Fire Engine	\$25,000.00		
	Workers Comp * \$20,000 Paid from General Contract	\$0.00		
Storage Rental	2 Units	\$13,000.00		
Supplies, Personal Protective Equipment	Fuel, Nomex, Hoses	\$10,000.00		
Equipment Maintenance	Saws, Pumps, Fleet, Trailers	\$10,000.00		
Education and Outreach	Graphic Design and Material Development	\$3,000.00		
Travel/Training	Workshops, Qualifications	\$5,000.00		
Housing for Seasonal Staff	Required to Secure Out of Area Qualified Staff	\$6,000.00		
Total Non-personnel Program Overhead			\$120,000.00	
			Sub Total Annual	\$509,000.00
			SCWA 10% Subtotal	\$50,900.00
Total Annual RX Programmatic Cost				\$559,900.00
Pre Fire Fuels Management	Use	Cost	Sub-totals	
F150 Truck for RX fire staff & equipment hauling	Paid by the Commission General Contract	\$0.00		
Contractor \$3000/acre	Preventative thinning, shelter belts and reducing crown fire	\$150,000.00		
Equipment Rental/Contractual	Mastication equipment rental for fuels rearrangement	\$50,000.00		
		Fuels Management	\$200,000.00	
Estimated Costs to Initiate Pres Fire Fuels Management			SCWA 10% Subtotal	\$20,000.00
				\$220,000.00

- **General Liability, Engine and Workers Compensation Insurance:** Required for prescribed fire operations.
- **Prescribed Fire Implementation:** A total of 7000+ acres of state forests have received necessary burn plan approvals.
- **Wildland Fire Qualified and Experienced Staffing:** Implementation of fully staffed prescribed fire (RX) operations requires: a qualified burn boss to lead operations; a dedicated prescribed fire squad as operations require six to 12 qualified individuals (dependent on unit size and complexity) to meet the minimum daily staffing operation requirements for a particular burn day and at least one experienced engine boss to ensure operation and maintenance of the Type 6 and 7 fire engines and fire cache. This staffing regimen will help ensure program coordination, planning, implementation, environmental compliance, public education and equipment maintenance. A pickup truck will be additional fleet necessary to haul additional staff and equipment for the fire program and will be provided by the Commission. On off season, this staff would also be dedicated to advancing forest inventories and assisting with mechanical treatments and conducting pile burning as well as other work as needed.
- **Pre-Fire Vegetation Treatment Equipment:** To ensure that prescribed fires are implemented in a safe and controlled manner requires pre-fire vegetation treatments (i.e.; thinning, mastication, fuel breaks). This can be achieved by using rental or NYSDEC equipment and/or contractors reflective of available trained staff and/or funding.
- **Prescribed Fire Burn Plan Development:** Continued development of additional burn plans with environmental compliance for prioritized management units, ensuring continued program growth, prescribed fire treatment and improved ecosystem health.
- **Education and Outreach:** As one of the most highly developed wildland urban interface in the state and nation, education and outreach is the most important component to inform the public of goals and management in order to establish program support.
- **Supplies, Personal Protective Equipment and Fuel:** Expendables that regularly need to be replenished.
- **Equipment Storage & Maintenance:** Necessary to secure and maintain operation of specialized equipment and vehicles.
- **Suffolk County Water Authority (SCWA) Administrative Fee –** All Commission contracts incur a 10% administration fee.

Demonstration Forest I
Prescribed Fires
Block 4, 7 & 9 (9 acres)
May 2022



Pre and Post Fire
Succession of Block 4
(X Marks Spot - Paumanok Path looking Northeast)
Rocky Point
Pine Barrens State Forest
Demo Forest I
Unit



May 24, 2022

May 24, 2022

August 15, 2022



2023 Fall New York Wildfire and Incident Management Academy

This Academy will be held at Brookhaven National Laboratory over a 10-day time frame. Currently we have 15 instructors and over 75 students registered representing 28 federal, state and local agencies.

The Academy will hold the following classes:

S-130/ 190 – Introduction to Wildland Firefighter Training (5 day & 2 day course)

S-131 - Firefighter Type 1

S-211 - Portable Pumps and Water Use

S-212 - Wildfire Power Saws

S-215 - Fire Operations in the Wildland/ Urban Interface

S-219 - Firing Operations

UTV – Off Highway Vehicle Basic Driver Course

UAS - Intro to Unmanned Aircraft Systems

UAS - FAA 107 Prep

New Classes Added to the Academy:

Introduction to Unmanned Aircraft Systems - This course provides first responders and other government officials with a tool to enhance their planning and operational situational awareness. This workshop is designed for attendees who are considering the development of a UAS (Drone) program for their agency or would like a better understanding of what a UAS program can provide. Topics to be covered include: overview of UAS operations, regulations, program administration, law enforcement encounters, and counter-UAS issues. This workshop will also feature a UAS demonstration.

Unmanned Aircraft Systems FAA Prep Course - This course will help first responders to prepare for the FAA Part 107 Exam required when flying UAS (Drones) for nonrecreational purposes. The course along with an additional 10-15 hours of self-study will prepare the student for successful completion of the FAA Part 107 exam. Students are encouraged to schedule their exam as soon possible upon completion of this course. Topics include the 12 knowledge areas included on the Part 107 exam: FAA regulations, airspace, weather, weight and loading, emergency procedures, crew resource management, radio communications, performance of small UAS, physiological effects of drugs and alcohol, decision-making and judgement, airport operations, maintenance, and pre-flight inspection procedures.

We have also reintroduced **Incident Command System Training** in coordination with New York Office of Emergency Management by offering IS 300 and IS 400. These 2 classes have 60 students registered and a waiting list for spots.

We are looking forward to a cooperative effort with many agencies to make this Academy a success.

In addition, Linda Gaudino from NBC news has expressed interest in attending the Academy as part of a project she is working on that would cover local rescue teams, particularly those who handle devastating wildfires and flash flooding. Her interest is also in specially trained New York teams that are experienced in reacting to wildfires or forest fires and have travelled or are travelling to assist in the Canada or Western wildfires.



Robert Calarco
Chair

Yvette Aguiar
Member

Steven Bellone
Member

Edward P. Romaine
Member

Jay H. Schneiderman
Member

Compliance and Enforcement Division Report July - August 2023 **Prepared by CAED Chief Enforcement Officer Frank Carbone**

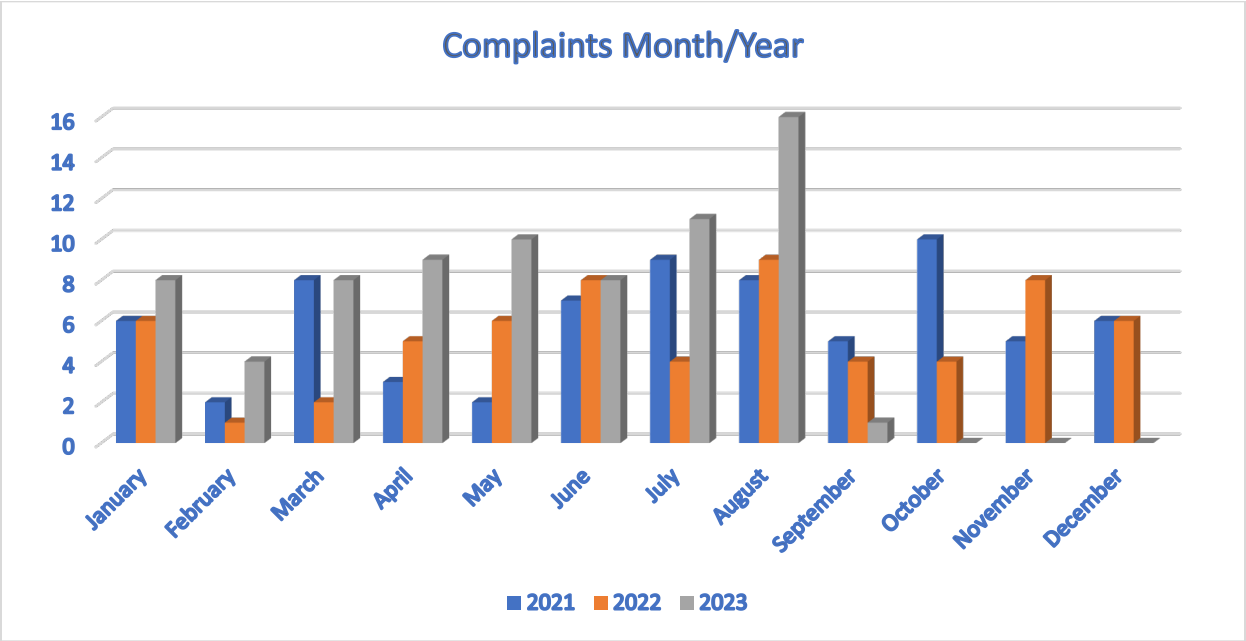
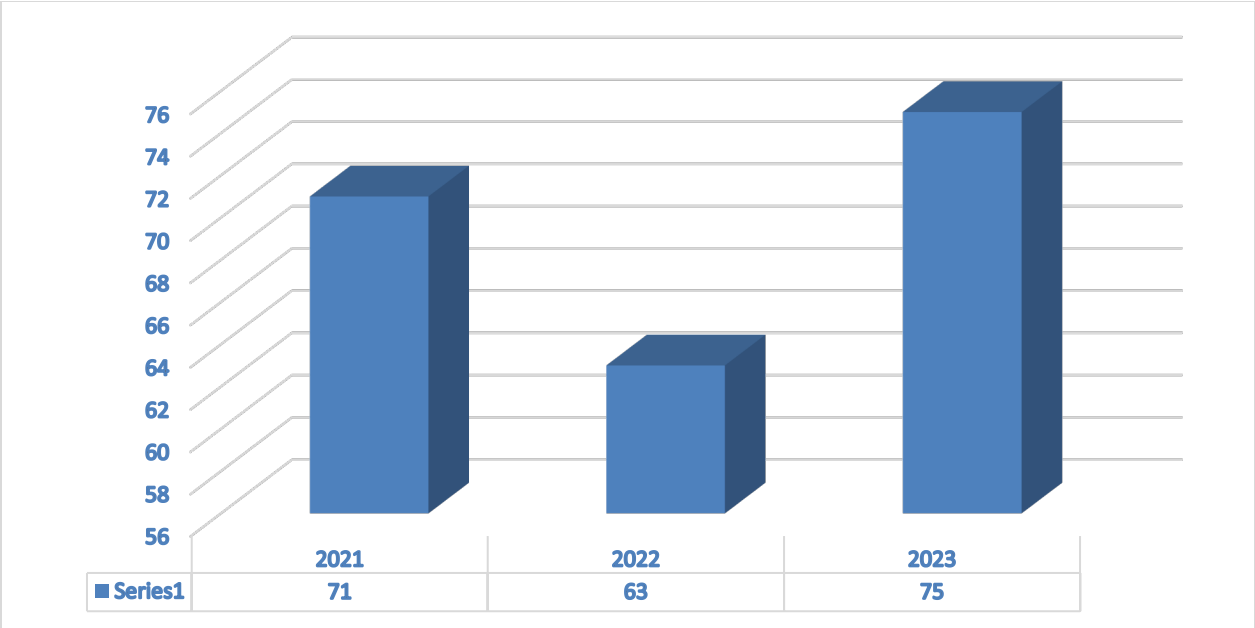
- We received twenty-seven (27) complaints this period for primarily clearing and dumping.
- Fifteen confirmed dumping violations documented on surveillance cameras. Dispositions totaling four thousand three hundred and fifty dollars were paid for five recent cases which were all cleaned by the violators.
- A Westhampton sand mine has been referred to Southampton Town for clearing and erecting a new building. A Ridge site is under investigation for clearing to extend a parking lot and is planning to erect a new building.
- Continuing to use the GIS complaint tracking system. We worked with SCWA IT staff to make improvements to the system and to correct some errors which were identified during our latest reconciling of the data.
- UAS (Unmanned Aircraft Systems) Part 107 training will be provided in two classes in October for NYWIMA. One consisting of an overview of UAS and the other will be a FAA 107 prep course. We plan to start the hands-on portion of our training for the three staff members, two members from Science and Stewardship and one from Compliance and Enforcement, shortly. The two new drones were delivered recently.



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Westhampton Beach, NY
11978

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Incident Statistics - Reporting Period 2021 - 08/31/23			
Year	2021	2022	2023
Intake			
Sent by Agency to Commission	11	14	13
Discovered by Commission Staff	48	41	57
Called in by Individual to Commission	12	8	5
Total Incidents Reported	71	63	75
Location of Incident			
Brookhaven	54	46	47
Southampton	10	17	27
Riverhead	6	0	1
Occurring on Public Land	26	21	38
Occurring on Private Land	35	22	12
Occurring on Public & Private Land	10	20	25
Core	35	38	44
Compatible Growth Area (CGA)	18	13	24
Core & CGA	0	1	1
Outside CPBA	18	12	6
Nature of Incident*			
Clearing/Encroachment	24	24	15
Structures	0	1	2
Dumping	35	35	59
Mining	1	0	0
Hunting	1	0	1
ATV	2	1	0
Other	8	4	2
<i>*Note-some incidents involve more than one land use issue</i>			
Referrals*			
Sent to Town	17	20	6
Sent to County	17	12	29
Sent to State	16	22	26
Commission	21	15	8
Sent to AG	0	1	0
Other	0	5	6
<i>*Note-some incidents are sent to multiple agencies</i>			
Status			
Founded	60	50	73
Unfounded	11	13	2
Open	39	18	37
Closed	32	45	38
Inspections			
Conservation Easement Inspections		1	1
Development project inspections		2	1



Central Pine Barrens Joint Planning and Policy Commission

Land Use Division Bi-Monthly Update for the Meeting of Wednesday, September 20, 2023

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"> • NY Cancer & Blood Specialists Core Hardship Waiver Application, Ridge. Expand parking lot for commercial use. Extension to 12/20/23 (Core) • PSEG Medford facility CGA Hardship Waiver, public hearing 10/18/23. (CGA) • Taco Bell Core Hardship Waiver, CR 111. Hearing adjourned from 7/19/23. Request for extension. (Core) 	<p>Venezia Square CGA Development of Regional Significance, Wading River. Request for extension of decision deadline for the Town to complete SEQRA. (CGA)</p>	<p>CVE Solar Core Hardship Waiver at Westhampton Property Associates. Lease 25 acres of a 91 acre sand mine to develop solar facility. Public hearing 9/20/23. (Core)</p>
<p>SEQRA Coordination, referrals, inquiries and activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town Referral: Suffolk Muslim Cemetery at Spadaro Airport, Eastport (CGA). Development of a cemetery on 27 acres, part of the sis in the CGA, part is not in the Central Pine Barrens • Wildflower (Expressway Drive North) monument sign amendment. (CGA) 	<p>Inquiries on abandoned office building for sale on Grumman Boulevard and potential development (Core).</p>	<p>4 Old Country Road LLC. Part 360 Permit was recently amended since the May 2023 DEC referral, may receive amended application referral. (Core)</p>
<p>Division Activity, Regional Projects and Participation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy and Planning Manager involving staff management, budget, voucher and related responsibilities. • Land use development project review, Core and CGA Hardship waivers, SEQRA Coordination, interagency referrals, information requests, inquiries, requests for determination of jurisdiction review and research. Project applications include commercial/industrial and mixed use site plans, residential and non-residential subdivisions, Developments of Regional Significance, Assertions of Jurisdiction, zone changes and other land use development activity. • Site inspections. • Technical support including FOIL requests, compliance and enforcement, communications involving land use related matters, unauthorized development, clearing, encroachments in protected areas. • Collaborate and coordinate with other Commission divisions. 		



Item 3.c. Pine Barrens Credit Program Report for September 20, 2023:

Activities in the Credit Program for 2023 included review of applications for Letters of Interpretation, Conservation Easements, Credit Program and FOIL requests management. Some specific work items include:

- Letters of Interpretation: 28 LOIs were issued and one parcel was inspected in the Town of Riverhead. Staff is following up on past LOIs for interest in the Program.
- Conservation Easements: Review and Monitoring
 - 13 easements were recently recorded, which generated 4.96 credits.
 - Four easements are currently in progress.
 - Research and review of activities on three easement properties for consistency with easement terms including reserved rights and covenants.
 - 44 easement properties were recently inspected, including the Warner property in the Town of Riverhead.



- Pine Barrens Credits
 - Redeemed: 7.88 Credits have been redeemed in the Town of Brookhaven, Riverhead and Southampton.
 - Conveyed: 23.66 Credits have been conveyed in the in the Towns of Brookhaven, Riverhead and Southampton, the average price is \$104,603 per credit.
- Pine Barrens Credits Auction update: Staff is following up with Credits Sellers.

Pine Barrens Credit Program Statistics Table: represents figures for the total and annual summary of 2023.

Easement Protected Lands and Pine Barrens Credits As of September 14, 2023								
	Brookhaven	2023	Riverhead	2023	Southampton	2023	Total	2023
Parcels	527	9	37	-	465	7	1029	16
Acreage	831.69	3.32	516.78	-	883.06	6.28	2231.53	9.6
Average parcel size	1.58	0.37	13.97	-	1.90	1.98	2.17	0.60
Credits generated	550.26	3.60	173.39	-	339.53	1.36	1063.18	4.96
Credits redeemed	417.76	1.11	143.05	0.80	187.01	5.97	747.82	7.88
Credits not redeemed	132.5	2.49	30.34	-	152.52	-4.61	315.36	-2.92
Credits sold	602.24	7.25	238.29	0.20	299.22	16.21	1139.75	23.66
Total value of PBC transactions through this date	\$33,992,519	\$910,000	\$9,251,447	\$17,300	\$22,395,368	\$1,547,600	\$65,639,334	\$2,474,900
Average Credits value		\$125,517		\$86,500		\$95,472		\$104,603
Credits owned by the Clearinghouse	0.54		-		-		0.54	
# of Inspected CE Parcels	-	22	-	3	-	19	-	44
# of Installed CE Signs	134	-	18	-	92	-	244	0

Suffolk County Comptroller's Office The Pine Barrens Credit Program	
Balance as of December 31st, 2022	\$2,554,546.05
Additional Deposits	0.00
Interest (see below for details)	1,708.27
Disbursements	0.00
Balance as of August 31st, 2023	\$2,556,254.32

**Interest Earnings & Disbursements
For the Months of January - December 2023**

Interest Earnings

Premier MMA - Public Fund

January	223.97
February	195.99
March	217.01
April	196.02
May	231.04
June	210.06
July	217.08
August	217.10
September	0.00
October	0.00
November	0.00
December	0.00
	<u>\$1,708.27</u>

<u>Interest Period</u>	<u>APR</u>
01/01/23- 01/31/23	0.1000%
02/01/23- 02/28/23	0.1000%
03/01/23- 03/31/23	0.1000%
04/01/23- 04/30/23	0.1000%
05/01/23- 05/31/23	0.1000%
06/01/23- 06/30/23	0.1000%
07/01/23- 07/31/23	0.1000%
08/01/23- 08/31/23	0.1000%
09/01/23- 09/30/23	0.0000%
10/01/23- 10/31/23	0.0000%
11/01/23- 11/30/23	0.0000%
12/01/23- 12/31/23	0.0000%

Disbursements

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