

Education and Outreach Division

July 2023 Update

Submitted by Melissa Griffiths Parrott, Education and Outreach Coordinator

Events:

Preparing for our annual Pine Barrens Discovery Day

- Due to a staff transition, PB Discovery Day may not be held this year.

Partnerships:

2023 Summer Camp @ Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge

- Our six-week camp is booked to capacity.
- CCE comes in weekly for an insect talk/activities.
- Successful Monarch Butterfly rearing and release program.
- Each day different theme: *Pine Barrens Day, Refuge Day, Footprint Day, Animal/Plant Day* and *Carmans River Day*.
- Please see 4-minute video of our week 1 - <https://youtu.be/9e1rmt-zP24>

- ***NY Marine Educators Association- Speaking at their speaker series, July 20th***
- ***Save the Great South Bay teacher training for ADITL- July 5th***

A Day in the Life program

Preparing for our fall events in cooperation with BNL and NYSDEC.

- Flyer included: September – November events every Friday.
- Our Nassau programming is expanding and ESF is partnering with us to host an A Day in the Life in Syracuse this fall and with the Town of Hempstead on Jones Beach.
- August teacher training being organized, location will be Wertheim Wildlife Refuge.



Science and Stewardship Division Update – July 19, 2023

Administration and Training: Interviews have commenced for the Ecologist position with a candidate to be selected shortly that will provide the leadership in bolstering research and monitoring of stewardship and restoration activities. Chris Steigerwald, new Ecological Field Specialist, started with the Commission on May 30 and has rolled right into field work with a focus on southern pine beetle monitoring and UAS 107 Pilot training.

Prescribed Fire Program:

- *Administration:*
 - A notable milestone is the successful competition of the 5-year Central Pine Barrens Prescribed Fire Contract with outstanding success and accomplishment of program development and implementation. A summary of the accomplishments which collectively expanded the Central Pine Barrens Interagency Fire Program and facilitated notable milestone of the highest number of treated acres within the Central Pine Barrens is appended to this update.
 - The seasonal prescribed fire crew finalized their season with high accomplishment in fuels management, invasive species suppression and prescribed fire implementation. This crew of highly skilled fire professionals were key to ensuring needed staff for the fire program which included the inventorying, maintenance and operation of specialized fire equipment; conducting preventative thinning and pile building to prepare units for future prescribed fire treatment as well as the implementation of prescribed fire activities and post fire monitoring.
 - Central Pine Barrens Fire Management program logo has been developed and finalized through use of a graphic designer and will be applied to the engines, clothing, equipment and T-shirts as well as educational materials moving forward.
 - 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.
- *Memoranda of Understanding/Agreement Development:* A Suffolk County Park's Department reviewed draft of the MOU has been provided back to the Commission and is in final Commission review.
- *Equipment:*
 - The Type 6 Fire Engine is in production and final schematics have been signed off on. An October delivery date is expected.
 - The fire crew advanced maintenance of power tools, pumps, and engines to ensure continued operation and condition of these key tools for stewardship.
- *Prescribed Burn Plan Development:*
 - Rocky Point East Burn Plan (1028 acres w/ 19 burn blocks) is in final draft and under review by NYSDEC.
 - 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 final development.
 - After approvals of both the Dwarf Pine Barrens and Otis Pike Burn plan, SEQRA review of these plans will be initiated.



- *Education and Outreach:*
 - A remote presentation on the Central Pine Barrens Interagency Fire Program with a focus on the Dwarf Pine Barrens Prescribed Fire Enhancement zone was presented to the Westhampton library and the larger Long Island library network to further increase the public’s awareness of the pending operations. This presentation will be posted to the Commission’s YouTube Channel and social media to advance further outreach about this integral stewardship program.
 - A prescribed fire program brochure in development and will be finalized with a graphic designer.
 - A professional photographer was able to join the Commission on the BNL burn to obtain high quality photos for use in the media development such as the billboard trailer.
- *Prescribed Fire Preparation and Implementation:*
 - The spring fire season concluded in June with a prescribed fire of 14 acres at Brookhaven National Laboratory bringing the total treated acres to 342 of which 37 were forested acres. The Commission contributed staff to 131 staff days over 20 operations that were conducted over 15 days. Burns on forested lands were limited to Brookhaven National Lab who had received approvals necessary to burn from US Fish and Wildlife Service reflective of Northern Long Eared Bat endangered listing.



2023 Spring CPBC Prescribed Fire Record

#	Burn Name (Code)	Burn Date	Management Type/Complexity	Fuel Type/Mode	Fire Size (In Acre)	Burn Boss	# of CPBC Personnel
1	Fresh Pond Central (NYS-2023-009)	3/20/2023	T4/low	Grass Shrub	27	B. Gallagher RXB2	6
2	Whiskey Field (NYS-2023-0010)	3/21/2023	T4/low	Grass/sparse shrub	32	B. Gallagher RXB2	7
3	Big Field South (NYS-2023-0012)	3/22/2023	T4/low	Grass/sparse shrub	9	B. Gallagher RXB2	7
4	Sarnoff Block G (NYS-2023-0013)	3/23/2023	T4/low	Timber slash piles	1	B. Woffinden RXB2	7
5	Clover (NYS-2023-0014)	3/27/2023	T4/low	Grass	3.3	B. Gallagher RXB2	7
6	Southern Twin (NYS-2023-0015)	3/27/2023	T4/low	Grass	2.3	B. Gallagher RXB2	7
7	Currans Field (NYS-2023-0017)	3/29/2023	T4/low	Grass	81	B. Gallagher RXB2	7
8	Big Field North (NYS-2023-0018)	3/30/2023	T4/low	Grass	12	B. Gallagher RXB2	7
9	Fresh Pond South (NYS-2023-0019)	3/30/2023	T4/low	Heavy grass	55	B. Gallagher RXB2	7
10	Rib Eye (NYS-2023-0020)	4/3/2023	T4/low	Heavy grass	2.1	B. Gallagher RXB2	6
11	The Hub (NYS-2023-0021)	4/3/2023	T4/low	Light grass	1	B. Gallagher RXB2	6
12	Line Road West (NYS-2023-0032)	4/10/2023	T4/low	Grass	15	B. Gallagher RXB2	5
13	Wellhead Pond (NYS-2023-0049)	4/13/2023	T4/low	Grass	16	B. Gallagher RXB2	6
14	Prestons Pond (NYS-2023-0050)	4/13/2023	T4/low	Grass	5.4	B. Gallagher RXB2	6
15	Line Road East (NYS-2023-0085)	4/18/2023	T5/Moderate	Grass	10	B. Gallagher RXB2	7
16	Linus Pond (NYS-2023-0086)	4/18/2023	T5/Moderate	Grass	1.5	B. Gallagher RXB2	7
17	River Road North (NYS-2023-0088)	4/20/2023	T5/Moderate	Grass	27.5	B. Gallagher RXB2	7
18	BNL Firebreak Pile Burn (NYS-2023-0102)	5/8/2023	Low	Slash	4	B. Gallagher RXB2	6
19	BNL Northeast Complex Unit I (NYS-2023-0104)	5/9/2023	Moderate	Brush/Slash	23	B. Gallagher RXB2	7
20	BNL Northeast Complex Saddle East (NYS-2023-0135)	5/24/2023	Moderate	Brush	14	B. Woffinden RXB2	6
20	Number of Operations			Total	342.1	Commission Staff days	131
15	Number of Burn Days						

- *Preventative Thinning and Burn Pile Construction:* When not conducting prescribed fire operations, the seasonal crew has been dedicated to cutting, limbing and piling trees cut as part of preventative thinning within Sarnoff and Rocky Point Pine Barrens State Forest prescribed fire units. The total time

spent in this type of unit preparation has exceeded 60 person days thus far for the season with over 265 piles created to facilitate future pile burning and consumption of residual woody material from thinning activities. This effort will go a long way in making the burn units safer and more manageable in the implementation and mop up of fire and help achieve better overall resource objectives by reducing fuels and organic matter accumulations.



- *Invasive Species Management:* Buckthorn, Autumn olive and knapweed and other invasive species management was initiated at South of Currans Woodland burn units and fire breaks to suppress invasion into management units and lupine population. Funding for this future management is being explored.
- *NYSDEC Wildfire Mop Up Support:* Following the containment of the Swan Lake wildfire at Calverton Ponds, Ms. Acampora, Mr. Steigerwald and Ms. Weigand were called into duty to assist NYSDEC Forest Rangers in assisting with Mop Up. The staff reported for five days until the fire was called out and incurred full days due to the high levels of ground fire persisting in the thick duff layers. Volunteers also provided support to the effort, including Ron Bagan.

- **Staff Training:**

- Under the mentorship of Mr. Frank Carbone and Ms. Acampora, a drone training class was conducted for Chris Steigerwald, Marty Steiger and Taylor Kern. The next steps are formal licensure by passing an FAA test, mastering drone operation and passing the Commission requisites to be a certified pilot. Once completely certified, the Commission will have five drone pilots, to conduct monitoring and inventories for Ecosystem health, compliance and enforcement and management activities.

Ecological Research Initiatives:

- Sharon Pepenella, of the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory; John Turner Town of Brookhaven/Seatuck; Massapequa High School and the Division are collectively advancing a new student research project on DNA barcoding of rare Atlantic white cedar populations within the Central Pine Barrens region. On April 6th, Ms. Acampora attended a Barcode Symposium at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory. Based on the student's research, it was concluded that there is no genetic difference between "short-statured" cedars and "normal" – sized cedars. Based on the data collected, environmental stressors are the lead cause of the different sizes of Atlantic White Cedars in Sears Bellows.
- The Early Detection Rapid Response Non-native Bark Beetle Monitoring has concluded for this season and the traps have been taken down. The catches will be sent out to USFS for identification with a report to follow. It has been noted that all alpha pinene trap had SPB catches with the first flight of the season detected in the first week of April.
- The Division conducted field support for Kathleen Stutzman, graduate student at UVM, at Hubbard County Park effectively completing her Long Island data collection for US Forest Service Special Technology Development Program pitch pine regeneration study. This is the second year of data collection for this master's thesis study that will help identify if pitch pine is naturally regenerating, how SPB infestation is influencing recruitment and if there are differences to recruitment with management type.

Southern Pine Beetle

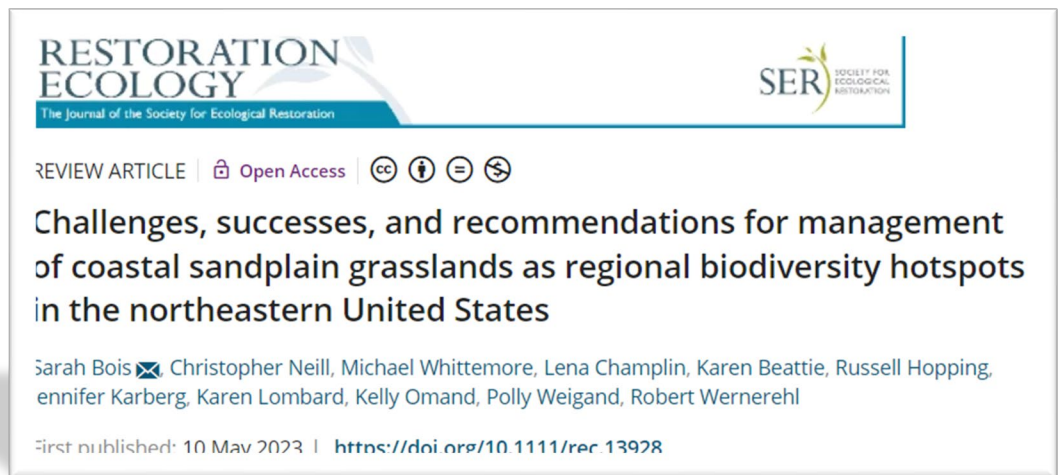
- Statewide SPB Incident Command System staff, coordinated by NYSDEC's Forest Health Unit in support by the Division are active in monitoring SPB outbreaks and dispersion. Surveying is advanced in core and compatible growth areas of the Central Pine Barrens with the help of DEC Forest Health staff. The 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.

- Under the leadership of the USFS Northern and Southern Research Labs, the Commission is participating in an SPB early detection lure study to evaluate new lures in attracting SPB's. 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 in an attempt to increase efficiency of trap catch success and reduction of 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, where detections but no infestations have been detected, to determine the efficacy of these lures.

Sandplain Grassland Network:

- Last month the Network which Ms. Weigand is a member, achieved a significant milestone with an Article on Sandplain Grassland Management in the Northeast published in the Journal of Restoration Ecology. This article provides insight on how to focus management



reflective of 40 years of past and current research and management; new stressors related to climate change (woody encroachment, altered storm regimens) and how to best restore and then facilitate maintenance management thereafter. This is extremely exciting news and a huge accomplishment that the Network members have been working on for five years and which included Ms. Weigand's master's thesis work on grassland management. This is a desperately needed report, as we are losing more grasslands than any other ecosystem to succession, invasive species encroachment, climate change, sea level rise and species extirpation. The article can be viewed: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/rec.13928>

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. At the start of the growing season, only a couple of plants were found at Hampton Bays Transfer Station and none at East Quogue. Monitoring will continue to ensure any additional individuals recruited from the seed bank are removed and that eradication is achieved.
- With the field season underway, stiltgrass suppression on encroached land will continue until the fall.

Encroachment Restoration:

- Restoration at the Eastport encroachment (being represented by the NYS Attorney General's office) has advanced up to the seeding stage which has paused for the summer season. The rough grading, fence and boundary markers have been installed and herbicide applications have been applied to the Japanese knotweed, a contaminant of the spread topsoil. Invasive species monitoring and management will continue through the growing season to eradicate this highly persistent species. Once temperatures cool, seeding with herbaceous and woody species along with the Flexera materials will advance.
- 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.
- Assistance continues in surveillance Hampton Bays/Flanders to help abate the frequent dumping that has been occurring in that location.



Compliance and Enforcement Division Report May - June 2023
Prepared by CAED Chief Enforcement Officer Frank Carbone

- We have shared access of the two cellular LPC (License Plate Capture) surveillance cameras with our partner law enforcement agencies.
- We received eighteen complaints this period for clearing and dumping.
- We had four Birch Creek Rd violations documented with the camera program. The violators paid \$2,500 and the area was cleaned up.
- Fifteen confirmed dumping violations documented on surveillance cameras, dispositions are pending.
- Continuing to use the GIS complaint tracking system and exported data to insure proper documentation of violation and inspections.
- UAS (Unmanned Aircraft Systems) Part 107 training was provided to three staff members, two members from Science and Stewardship and one from Compliance and Enforcement. We expect they will take the FAA UAS exam shortly.

Robert Calarco
Chair

Yvette Aguiar
Member

Steven Bellone
Member

Edward P. Romaine
Member

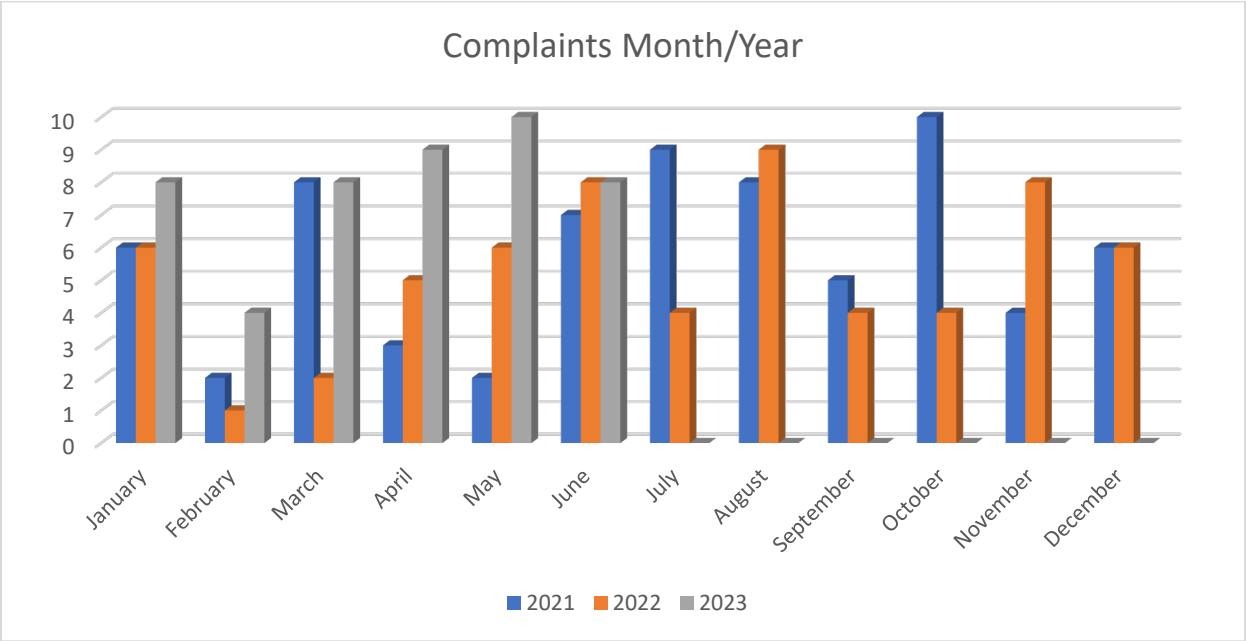
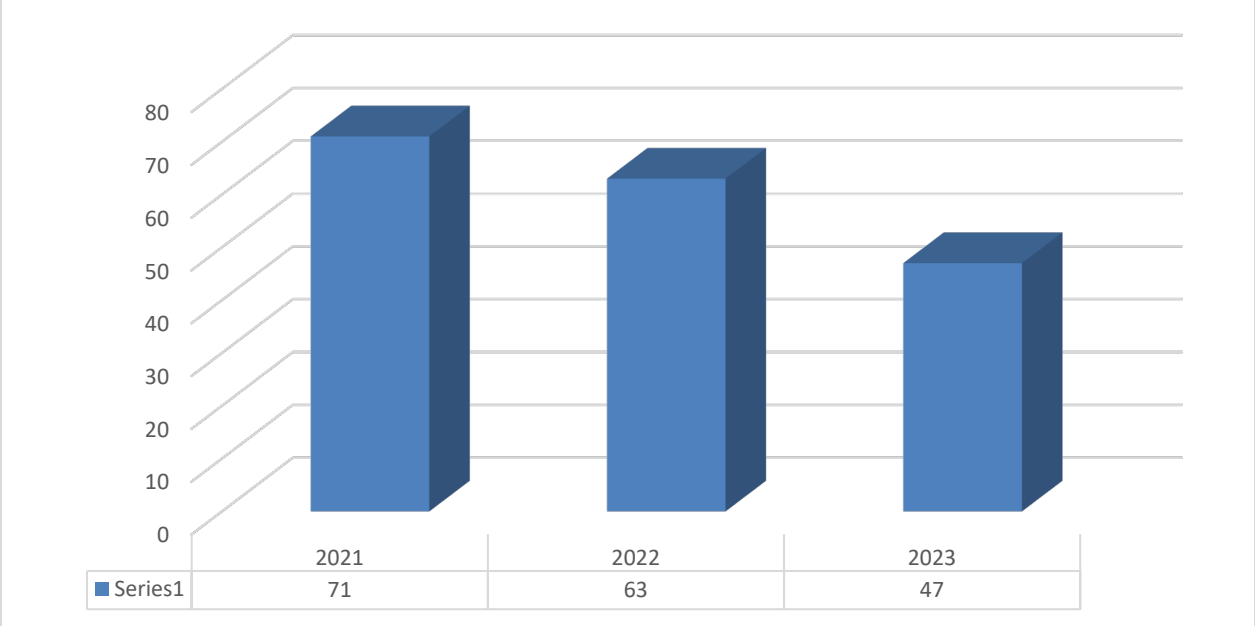
Jay H. Schneiderman
Member



624 Old Riverhead Road
Westhampton Beach, NY
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Incident Statistics - Reporting Period 2021 - 07/5/23			
Year	2021	2022	2023
Intake			
Sent by Agency to Commission	11	14	13
Discovered by Commission Staff	48	41	30
Called in by Individual to Commission	12	8	4
Total Incidents Reported	71	63	47
Location of Incident			
Brookhaven	54	46	30
Southampton	10	17	17
Riverhead	6	0	0
Occurring on Public Land	26	21	26
Occurring on Private Land	35	22	7
Occurring on Public & Private Land	10	20	14
Core	35	38	29
Compatible Growth Area (CGA)	18	13	15
Core & CGA	0	1	1
Outside CPBA	18	12	2
Nature of Incident*			
Clearing/Encroachment	24	24	8
Structures	0	1	1
Dumping	35	35	38
Mining	1	0	0
Hunting	1	0	0
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	7
Sent to County	17	12	6
Sent to State	16	22	14
Commission	21	15	7
Sent to AG	0	1	0
Other	0	5	1
<i>*Note-some incidents are sent to multiple agencies</i>			
Status			
Founded	60	50	46
Unfounded	11	13	0
Open	39	18	23
Closed	32	45	24
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, July 19, 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>	<p>NY Cancer & Blood Specialists Core Hardship Waiver Application, Ridge. Expand parking lot for commercial use. Extension to 12/20/23. Taco Bell Core hardship, CR 111.</p>	<p>Venezia Square CGA Development of Regional Significance, Wading River, 600-73-1-1.4 et al. Development of commercial center including 37,000 square feet of commercial buildings (retail, restaurants, bank) on 6.3 acres. Extension to 8/16/23.</p>	<p>Huser determination, Flanders Road, Hampton Bays. Single-family residence on 10 acres in a subdivision approved prior to the Act (Core).</p>
<p>SEQRA Coordination, referrals, inquiries and activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 Eleven Shirley material on DRS classification. • PSEG-LI, Ridge, utility pole replacements (CGA). 	<p align="center">---</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NYSDEC referral / 49 Old Westhampton Road (Gosselin), Wildwood Lake, single-family residence, demolish cottages (Core) • Schenk site plan inquiry regarding development/ expansion of use (Core). • SEQRA Coordination Speonk Riverhead Road. 10,000 sq ft industrial building on 1.6 acres (CGA). • Westhampton Property Associates sand mine redevelopment for solar.
<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. • Development project review, Core and CGA hardship waivers, SEQRA Coordination, interagency referrals, information requests, inquiries, requests for determination of jurisdiction review and research. Projects include site plans (commercial/industrial, mixed use), 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 July 19, 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:

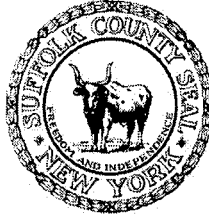
- Letters of Interpretation: 17 LOIs were issued and one parcel was inspected in the Town of Riverhead. Staff is following up on past LOIs for interest in the Program.
- Conservation Easements: Review and Monitoring
 - Five easements were recently recorded, which generated 2.8 credits.
 - Eight easements are currently in progress.
 - Research and review of activities on three easement properties for consistency with easement terms including reserved rights and covenants.
 - 27 easement properties were recently inspected, including the Nassau County Boy Scouts property in the Town of Riverhead.



- Pine Barrens Credits
 - Redeemed: 5.86 Credits have been redeemed in the Town of Brookhaven and Southampton.
 - Conveyed: 12.35 Credits have been conveyed in the in the Towns of Brookhaven, Riverhead and Southampton, the average price is \$102,721 per credit.
- Pine Barrens Credits Auction update: The mailing to LOI and Credit holders has been completed on June 23, 2023. The transmittal form return date is August 4, 2023.

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 July 11, 2023								
	Brookhaven	2023	Riverhead	2023	Southampton	2023	Total	2023
Parcels	517	2	37	-	461	3	1015	5
Acreage	828.27	1.56	516.78	-	880.71	3.93	2225.76	5.49
Average parcel size	1.60	0.78	13.97	-	1.91	1.98	2.19	1.10
Credits generated	547.46	2	172.39	-	338.97	0.80	1058.82	2.8
Credits redeemed	418.65	0.29	142.25	-	185.39	5.57	746.29	5.86
Credits not redeemed	128.81	1.71	30.14	-	153.58	-4.77	312.53	-3.06
Credits sold	597.04	2.05	238.29	0.20	293.11	10.1	1128.44	12.35
Total value of PBC transactions through this date	\$33,307,519	\$225,000	\$9,251,447	\$17,300	\$20,949,382	\$1,026,300	\$63,508,348	\$1,268,600
Average Credits value		\$109,756		\$86,500		\$101,614		\$102,721
Credits owned by the Clearinghouse	0.54		-		-		0.54	
# of Inspected CE Parcel	-	21	-	1	-	5	-	27
# of Installed CE Signs	134	-	18	-	92	-	244	0



SUFFOLK COUNTY COMPTROLLER

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

Telephone: (631) 852-1501 FAX (631) 852-1507

JOHN M. KENNEDY, JR.
COUNTY COMPTROLLER

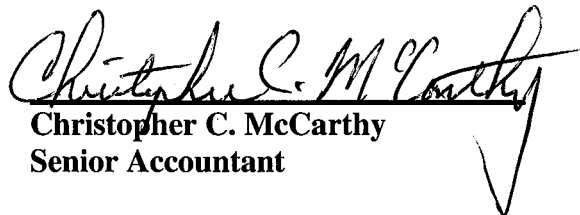
July 12th, 2023

**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 June 2023. Thank you.**

Respectfully submitted,


Christopher C. McCarthy
Senior Accountant

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)	1,274.09
Disbursements	0.00
Balance as of June 30th, 2023	\$2,555,820.14

**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	0.00
August	0.00
September	0.00
October	0.00
November	0.00
December	0.00
	<u>\$1,274.09</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	0.0000%
08/01/23- 08/31/23	0.0000%
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>