

Educational Outreach and Communications Division Update

May 2024

Submitted by Tim Motz, Educational Outreach and Communications Division

Communications

Filming has been completed and editing and other post-filming production aspects are underway for the video we are creating for this year's Cooperators Meeting on June 7. This year's video is a celebration of the 30th anniversary of the commission's Law Enforcement Council specifically and law enforcement within the Central Pine Barrens in general. The video focuses particularly on why the council was created after the establishment of the Long Island Pine Barrens Protection Act, the plan created by early leaders to protect the Central Pine Barrens and the major initiatives that have resulted.

Barrens to Bay Summer Camp

With camp beginning in just six weeks, here's our current status:

- 1. Registration is still underway, but camp is virtually full. I have vacancies for two or three more campers in two sessions, the rest are packed.**
- 2. All paid staff for the camp is fully in place. As was my plan, all paid counselors are former campers and/or former camp counselors.**
- 3. All volunteer counselors—known as counselors-in-training—have been recruited.**
- 4. A Counselors Roundtable for all paid and voluntary counselors has been schedule for June 1 to elicit their input in the program, answer any questions they may have, and set up their specific assignments for camp.**
- 5. Various program enhancements are already underway. My goal is to make the camp both more engaging and fun for the campers and also more educational about the Central Pine Barrens.**

"A Day in the Life" Program

I met recently with our partners in the program from Brookhaven National Laboratory and the NYS Department of Conservation on a wide variety of topics to address before the fall ADITL season begins. Most significant among the topics:

- 1. We are developing a grammar school workbook as part of a "junior" ADITL program, as we've decided that the current workbook, primarily used by high school students, is a bit too challenging and the younger program participants. The expectation is that the workbook will be completed in time to be utilized for this fall's program.**

- 2. Dates have been set for this fall's program, hewing largely to last year's schedule with a few exceptions, mainly due to schools that have reentered the program after dropping out during COVID or joining the program for the first time. We have worked with these districts to find the event and date that works best for them moving forward.**
- 3. We have begun work setting up a data collection system that will be easy for school districts to use and provide a central repository for everyone to see everyone else's results, which we expect will encourage school collaborations. To make sure everyone is familiar with the new system once it is ready, we will incorporate training to use the system into our standard ADITL teacher training session, which will be held in August. We will also add to the training guidance on how teachers can incorporate data collected meaningfully into their curricula.**
- 4. In sizing up equipment needs, we've decided to seek the purchase of items we haven't provided in the past but which would be very helpful to participating schools, such as sample tubes, plastic tablecloths, marking flags, busing trays and plastic ice cube containers, which are handy for the collection of species.**



Science and Stewardship Division Update May 5th, 2024

Administration

- **Planning:** A continuity document was created by the former Science and Stewardship Manager upon her departure. Based on this document, Stewardship and Science staff individual work plans were created and continue to be worked through.

Prescribed Fire Program:

- *Equipment:*
 - The Type 6 Fire Engine has been fully put into in serve and provided operational support for burning operations lead by NYSDEC. Finer outfitting continues as final accessories and equipment is procured as well as through direct operational use. Standard operating procedures continue to be refined for driving, trailering, maintenance and winterization being developed that will be added to the Prescribed Fire operational guidebook for reference and training. The final major up-fit of installing the radio system has been completed. All first aid equipment has been inspected and installed on the engine. Type 7 and cache trailer hitches have been painted in accordance with DEC Rangers color scheme. All engines and equipment have been made ready for use during burn season with any minor repairs or outfitting completed. Additionally, numerous procurement requests for PPE, equipment, and supplies for the field season have been drafted and submitted.
- *Prescribed Burn Plan Development:*
 - USFWS review and approvals of prescribed burn plans have been conducted allowing for operations to commence reflective of documented prescribed fire mitigations implemented to protect the endangered Northern Long-eared Bat, during such management. Updates reflecting USWS approvals are being appended to each burn plan and NYSDEC Region 1 review and approvals for pending burn plans will now once again commence allowing for review of new and approval and implementation of previously approved burn plans.
 - The Dwarf Pine Barrens Prescribed Fire Enhancement Zone (633 acres w/11 burn units) has been finalized by the Commission and is being sent to NYSDEC Region 1 to start the final review and approval process.
 - 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 internal review and will also advance to NYSDEC for final review shortly.
 - SEQRA review will be advancing for Dwarf Pine Barrens, Otis Pike and Rocky Point Pine Barrens State Forest.
- *Prescribed Fire Preparation and Implementation:*
 - Attended NYSDEC sponsored engine workshop to orient Squad Boss and higher leadership staff NYSDEC and CPBC engines and then hosted our own staff training on engine operation and maintenance.
 - Conducted fuel prep, acquired NYWIMA chainsaws for saw work at Eastport, South of Currans and Sarnoff Burn Units.
 - CPBC Staff supported pile, grassland, and woodland burns totaling 335 acres to the date of this report, this number is expected to increase through the month of May.

Ecological Research Initiatives:

- Mr. Whittemore has added in early herbarium records for sandplain grassland species that help explain the origin of characteristic rare species that was previously unknown in the scientific community as part of the scientific paper he is drafting titled “Flora and Distribution of Northern Coastal Atlantic Plain Heathland and Grassland.” Mr. Whittemore is first author in collaboration with leading botanists, researchers and land managers in the region. Mr. Whittemore is preparing the paper to be submitted to a scientific journal. This research will go a long way to describe species composition, conservation importance, origin and regionally range of this globally imperiled system.
- The Division is participating in the Long Island Mammal Survey to provide up to date occurrence of mammal species in the region. Currently, six game cameras have been set up in Sears Bellows and Hubbard; Rocky Point Pine Barrens State Forest and Red Creek Park (TNC). These cameras have been strategically placed to detect occurrences of less common species. Cameras are maintained and data is reviewed and reported monthly. Two cameras have been moved to Eastport to try to capture coyotes who have been spotted in the area.
- Regional researchers and land managers from Albany Pine Bush and BNL were consulted to improve our fire monitoring protocol for efficiency and effectiveness. Vegetation monitoring has continued after burning roughly twenty acres of woodland in Rocky Point Natural Resource Management Area and David A. Sarnoff Preserve.

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 as well as provide any training for interested parties on SPB signs and symptoms. 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.
- Surveying for SPB will be beginning in the next couple weeks as the beetles are beginning to emerge from winter dormancy. Surveys will be focused on previous known infestations from last year and the help of NearMap orthoimagery will identify new infestations throughout the Pine Barrens.

Education and Outreach

- Mr. Whittemore presented at the Long Island Natural History conference on his scientific research titled “Flora and Distribution of Northern Coastal Atlantic Plain Heathland and Grassland.”



2024 Fall New York Wildfire and Incident Management Academy

Planning is underway for the 2024 Fall training session. This Academy will be held at Brookhaven National Laboratory from October 17-27.

Currently the Academy is working with the following agencies in a collaborative effort to plan its curriculum: Colorado Wildland Fire and Incident Management Academy, Brookhaven National Laboratory, FDNY, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, NYS Forest Rangers, NYS Incident Management Team, NYS Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Services Office of Emergency Management, Northeastern Forest Fire Protection Compact, Suffolk County Department of Fire, Rescue & Emergency Services, Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation & Conservation, and USDA Forest Service.

Over the course of the next few months, this team will collectively organize a training schedule based on the needs of the agencies. Some of the courses will include:

Incident Command System Training in coordination with New York State Office of Emergency Management.

Basic Firefighting and Wildfire Behavior

Firefighter Type 1

Portable Pumps and Water Use

Wildland Fire Investigation and Cause Determination

Intermediate Wildland Fire Behavior

Firing Operations

Crew Boss

Engine Boss

Extended Attack Incident Commander

In addition, **Wildfire Powersaws** and **Storm Debris Removal** classes will be held in December.

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



Compliance and Enforcement Division Report January - February 2024 Prepared by CAED Chief Enforcement Officer Frank Carbone

- We received twenty-five complaints this period for dumping, encroachment and clearing. The dumping was consistent being primarily furniture, household trash and landscaping debris.
- Five of these incidents were captured on surveillance cameras. One case was resolved with a total of \$800.00 paid in fines in Southampton Town Court.
- We continue to wait for final setup of our Flock surveillance camera and look forward to utilizing it to catch additional violators throughout the Pine Barrens.
- UAS (Unmanned Aircraft Systems) training has continued. Two of our pilots from Science and Stewardship will be completing the training and will soon be flying missions for the commission.

Robert T. Calarco
Chairman

Timothy C. Hubbard
Member

Maria Z. Moore
Member

Daniel J. Panico
Member

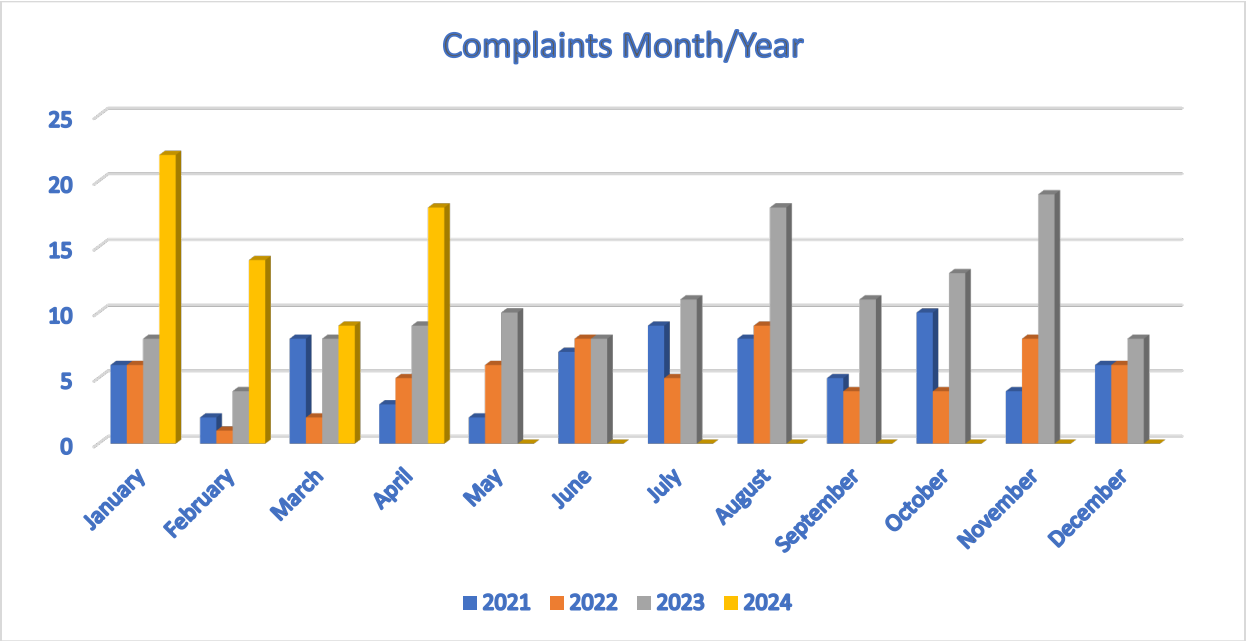
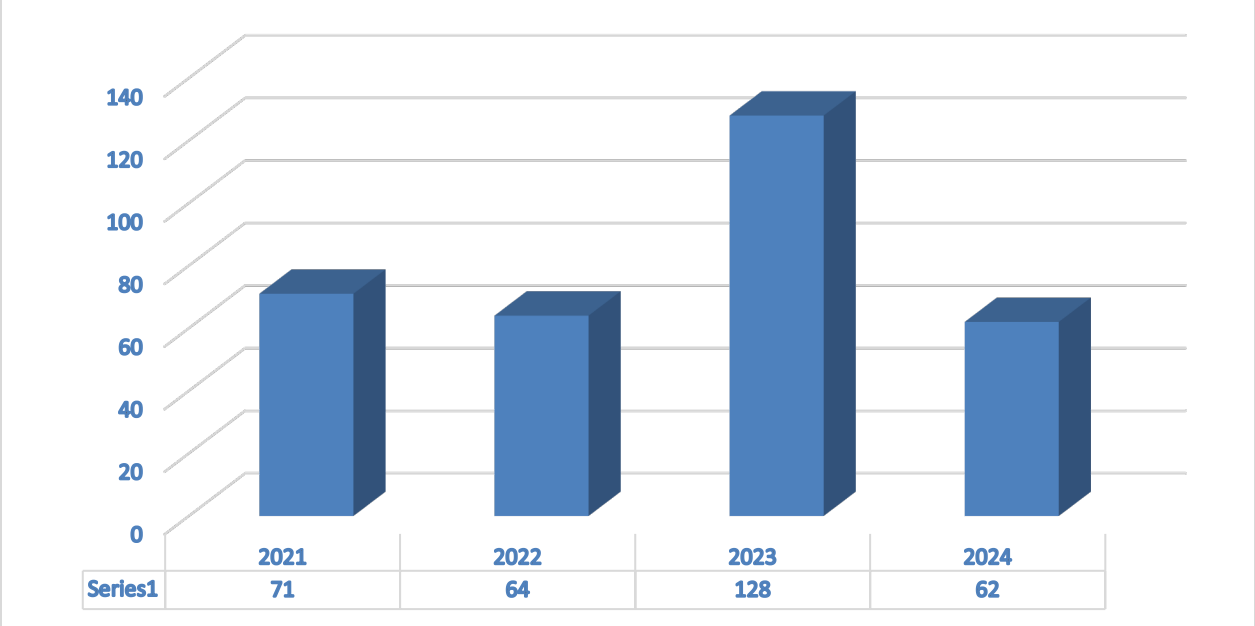
Edward P. Romaine
Member



624 Old Riverhead Road
Westhampton Beach, NY
11978

Phone (631) 288-1079
Fax (631) 288-1367
www.pb.state.ny.us

Incident Statistics - Reporting Period 2021 - 2024				
Year	2021	2022	2023	2024
Intake				
Sent by Agency to Commission	11	14	17	0
Discovered by Commission Staff	48	41	104	59
Called in by Individual to Commission	12	8	6	3
Total Incidents Reported	71	63	127	62
Location of Incident				
Brookhaven	54	46	69	31
Southampton	10	17	50	27
Riverhead	6	0	8	4
Occurring on Public Land	26	21	79	52
Occurring on Private Land	35	22	23	10
Occurring on Public & Private Land	10	20	25	0
Core	35	38	78	49
Compatible Growth Area (CGA)	18	13	39	11
Core & CGA	0	1	1	0
Outside CPBA	18	12	9	2
Nature of Incident*				
Clearing/Encroachment	24	24	20	11
Structures	0	1	2	1
Dumping	35	35	103	49
Mining	1	0	0	1
Hunting	1	0	1	0
ATV	2	1	0	0
Other	8	4	1	0
<i>*Note-some incidents involve more than one land use issue</i>				
Referrals*				
Sent to Town	17	20	6	2
Sent to County	17	12	36	6
Sent to State	16	22	33	2
Commission	21	15	8	1
Sent to AG	0	1	0	0
Other	0	5	37	14
<i>*Note-some incidents are sent to multiple agencies</i>				
Status				
Founded	60	50	125	61
Unfounded	11	13	2	0
Open	39	18	52	30
Closed	32	45	75	32
Inspections				
Conservation Easement Inspections		1	0	3
Development project inspections		2	0	0



Central Pine Barrens Joint Planning and Policy Commission
 Land Use Division Bi-Monthly Update for the Meeting of Wednesday, May 15, 2024

Action	Central Pine Barrens Location		
	Municipality	Brookhaven Town	Riverhead Town
<p style="text-align: center;">Pending Applications, Requests for Determination of Jurisdiction, SEQRA Coordination, other inquiries, proposals, and activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clancy Street Food Court Core hardship, decision deadline 6/26/24 (Core) • Referral: Granny Road Manor. Zone change and development of 54 unit Planned Retirement community on 9 acres (CGA) • Referral: Toyota subdivision and site plan, 8 acres, Medford (CGA). • The Meadows at Yaphank, SPB dead trees in Conservation Easement areas, Yaphank (CGA). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hirsch Residence request for determination of jurisdiction, 135 Old River Road, Calverton, 600-146-2-8.2 (Core). • Venezia Square CGA Development of Regional Significance, Wading River. Development of 37,000 square feet of commercial uses on 6.34 acres. Extend decision deadline to 8/21/24 (CGA). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CVE Solar Core Hardship Waiver at Westhampton Property Associates. Lease and develop 50 acre solar facility on 91 acre sand mine on 115 acres, and request to modify a conservation easement. Decision deadline 6/26/24. • Lewis Road Planned Residential Development Assertion, East Quogue. Conservation Management Plan (CGA, Core). • Ralph Schenk Core Hardship Application, CR 31, Westhampton. Suspended, enforcement incident. • Riverside Sewage Treatment Plant CGA Hardship Waiver. 800,000 gpd community wastewater treatment plant for Riverside. Decision deadline 5/15/24.
<p style="text-align: center;">Monitoring revegetation and other conditions of decisions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 Old Country Road LLC, 76 Summit Blvd, modified NYSDEC Consent Order (Core). 	None	None
<p style="text-align: center;">Division Activity, Regional Projects and Participation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy and Planning Manager, staff management, budget, voucher and related responsibilities. • Review of land use development projects including Core and CGA Hardship waivers, SEQRA Coordination, interagency referrals, information requests, inquiries, requests for determination of jurisdiction and research. Applications include land use development involving commercial and industrial uses, mixed uses and other site plans, residential and non-residential subdivisions, applications for Developments of Regional Significance, Assertions of Jurisdiction, zone changes and other development activities. • Monitoring prior hardships and other applications for compliance with conditions • Development project land use surveys, inspections, monitoring sites with conditional decisions. • Technical support on FOIL requests, compliance and enforcement violations and consent orders on development projects, Credit Program items, communications on land use matters, unauthorized development, clearing, encroachments in protected areas and regulated habitats. • Collaborate and coordinate with other Commission divisions. • Annual report contributions and participation in planning the annual cooperators meeting. • Pine Barrens Interpretive Center research, feasibility study and business plan RFP. • USGS two year contract to monitor surface and groundwater resources, 2024-2026. 		



Item 3.c. Pine Barrens Credit Program Report for May 15, 2024:

Activities in the Credit Program for 2024 included review of applications for Letters of Interpretation, Conservation Easements, Credit Program and FOIL requests management. Some specific work items include:

- Letters of Interpretation: 11 LOIs were issued and three parcels were inspected. Staff is following up on past LOIs for interest in the Program.
- Conservation Easements: Review and Monitoring
 - One easement was recorded, which generated 0.58 credits.
 - Eight easements are currently in progress.
 - 52 easement properties with road access were inspected.



- Pine Barrens Credits
 - Redeemed: 0.5 Credits have been used for a commercial project in the Town of Southampton.
 - Conveyed: 2.98 Credits have been sold in the Towns of Brookhaven and Southampton.
 - The average price is \$106,711 per credit.
- Credit Clearinghouse Program Fund Account balance: \$3,403,789.

Pine Barrens Credit Program Statistics Table: represents figures for the total and annual summary of 2024.

Easement Protected Lands and Pine Barrens Credits As of May 3, 2024								
	Brookhaven	2024	Riverhead	2024	Southampton	2024	Total	2024
Parcels	527	-	37	-	471	1	1035	1
Acreage	831.69	-	516.78	-	889.51	3.59	2237.98	3.59
Average parcel size	1.58	-	13.97	-	1.89	3.59	2.16	3.59
Credits generated	550.26	-	173.39	-	340.26	0.58	1063.91	0.58
Credits redeemed	423.67	-	145.13	-	190.26	0.5	759.06	0.5
Credits not redeemed	126.59	-	28.26	-	150	0.08	304.85	0.08
Credits sold		0.33		-		2.65		2.98
Total value of PBC transactions		50,000.00		-		\$268,000		\$318,000
Average Credits value		\$151,515		-		\$101,132		\$106,711
Credits owned by the Clearinghouse	1.19		-		-		1.19	
# of Inspected CE Parcels	-	30	-	1	-	21	-	52
# of Installed CE Signs	139	3	15	-	91	-	245	3