

# **Educational Outreach and Communications Division Update**

**August 2024**

**Submitted by Tim Motz, Educational Outreach and Communications Coordinator**

## **Barrens to Bay Summer Camp**

- **Our recently completed summer camp at Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge was a big success. In total, we engaged approximately 120 campers between 6 and 12 years old over the course of six sessions in a wide range of fun and educational environmental activities.**
- **The focus this year was on building upon the successful foundation created by my predecessor, Melissa Parrott, and we did so, adding plant-centered trail walks conducted by a Stony Brook University professor, new interactive presentations that were both educational and fun, new games and activities, and a couple of video projects, one of which I will be showing at the commission meeting.**
- **We ended camp with the second edition of the Counselors Cup, a new annual tradition honoring our counselors 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 is kept at the camp. This year's winner was Layla Hamill, who will be returning next summer as one of our top counselors.**
- **Looking to next year, one of the primary issues I will be looking at is whether to keep the current 3/3 split between camps for 6-9 and 10-12 year olds or change to 4/2 split with one additional camp for the 6-9 year olds. This year, there was far more demand for camp for the younger kids, so it may be worth considering the change.**

## **"A Day in the Life" Program**

- **The 14<sup>th</sup> annual "A Day in the Life" program, coordinated in conjunction with Brookhaven National Laboratory and the New York State DEC, has been scheduled and will occur over fall Fridays from mid-September into November. As with past years, the program will include dozens of schools and thousands of schools from all over Long Island.**
- **This year, though, we will be achieving a goal set out last year to add our student science initiative to more sites within the Central Pine Barrens by bringing into the**

**program several new classes from the Eastport/South Manor School district, which will test at new locations along the Peconic River. Additionally, we will be adding several new classes to our Connetquot River program.**

- **Also this year, we have created and are adding to the program a new workbook designed for elementary school students. This workbook will be far more accessible for students of elementary school age and will help them get more out of the day.**
- **Our first training session for teachers and experts will be held on Tuesday, August 27 at Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge and we are in the process of preparing to lead this session.**

### **Social Media**

- **Another primary current focus of the division is the creation of a comprehensive blueprint for the commission's social media efforts. This underway project includes creating a more efficient system of password/username access; establishing division-by-division protocols for social media content creation; creating a multi-month schedule of posts to ensure we have a constant presence on social media that covers all aspects of our work; and evaluating ways to boost our social media numbers.**

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## 2024 Fall New York Wildfire and Incident Management Academy

Planning is underway for the **2024 Fall New York Wildfire and Incident Management Academy**. This Academy will be held at Brookhaven National Laboratory from October 17-27. 19 classes are planned to help train firefighters and first responders.

*The Academy is offering three free training courses to Suffolk and Nassau County firefighters*

**Firefighting Training/Intro to Wildland Fire Behavior ( 5-day or 2 Day)-** Introductory course designed to train entry-level firefighters, Fire-fighter Type 2 (FFT2). Course covers basic incident management organization, firefighting techniques, suppression equipment, safety, strategy/tactics along with fire behavior. Field exercises will be performed for valuable hands-on training.

**Fire Operations in the Wildland/ Urban Interface -** This course is designed to assist initial attack incident commanders and company officers in confronting wildland fires that threaten life, property and improvements. Course is also suitable for volunteer firefighters who have leadership roles in fire companies that respond to wildland fires.

*The Academy is proud to offer along with the NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services five free classes.*

**Intermediate ICS:** Course is designed to enable personnel to operate efficiently using the Incident Command System (ICS) in supervisory roles on expanding or Type 3 incidents.

**Refresher: Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents** This course is a refresher for individuals who have previously completed ICS-300 Intermediate Incident Command System (ICS) for the Expanding Incident.

**Advanced ICS** Course is designed to enable personnel to operate efficiently in the advanced application of the Incident Command System in a complex incident environment.

**Incident Command System/Emergency Operations Center Interface** This course reviews ICS and EOC responsibilities and functions and depends heavily on exercises and group discussions to formulate the interface. The course provides an opportunity for participants to begin developing an interface between an Incident Management Team and EOC personnel.

**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 non-recreational purposes.

*Additional Courses offered include:*

Portable Pumps and Water Use

Fire Operations in the Wildland Urban Interface

Engine Boss

Crew Boss

Followership to Leadership

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

We are looking forward to another cooperative effort to make this Academy a success.



## Compliance and Enforcement Division Report May - July 2024 Prepared by CAED Chief Enforcement Officer Frank Carbone

- We received thirty-nine complaints this period for dumping, encroachment, clearing and one graffiti complaint that may be gang related which was referred to the NYS Police. The dumping was consistent being primarily furniture, household trash and landscaping debris.
- Eighteen of these incidents were captured on surveillance cameras. Unfortunately, cameras were unable to capture three license plates due to the plates being intentionally covered. This could potentially become an issue which has been brought to the Law Enforcement Council. One case was resolved with a total of \$400.00 paid in fines in Southampton Town Court.
- Our Flock surveillance camera has been setup, and we are integrated into the shared cameras with the outside partner agencies. This has enabled us to identify multiple license plates which were previously unidentifiable.
- UAS (Unmanned Aircraft Systems) training has continued. Our EO will be taking the FAA 107 test in the near future.

Timothy C. Hubbard  
*Member*

Maria Z. Moore  
*Member*

Daniel J. Panico  
*Member*

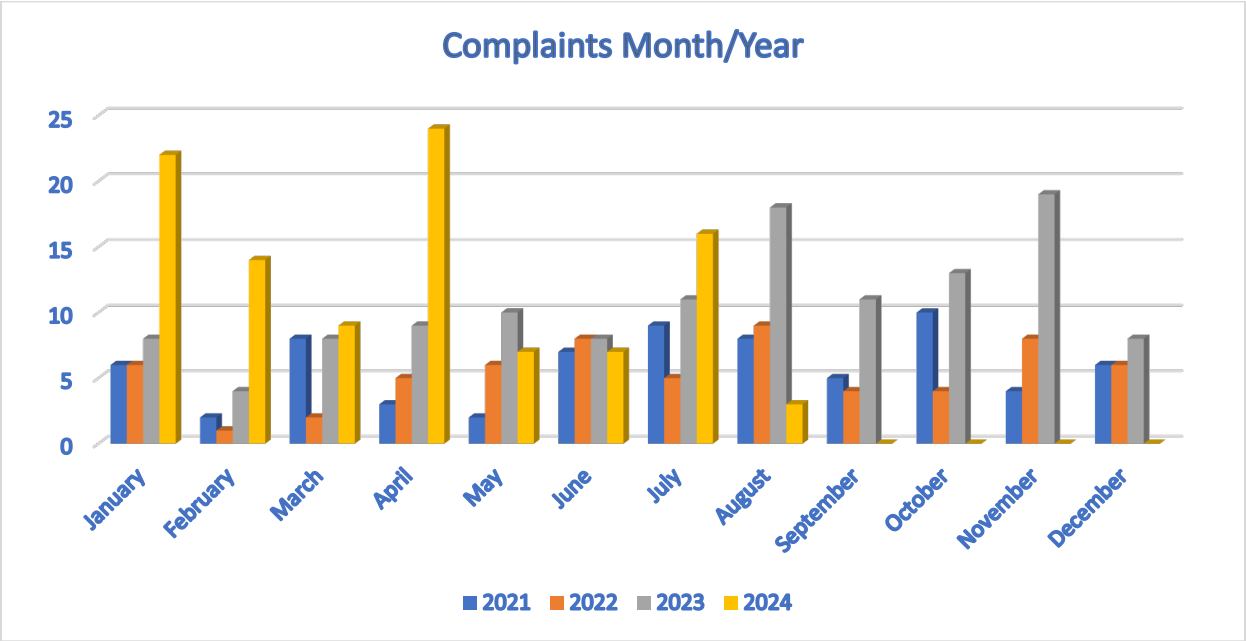
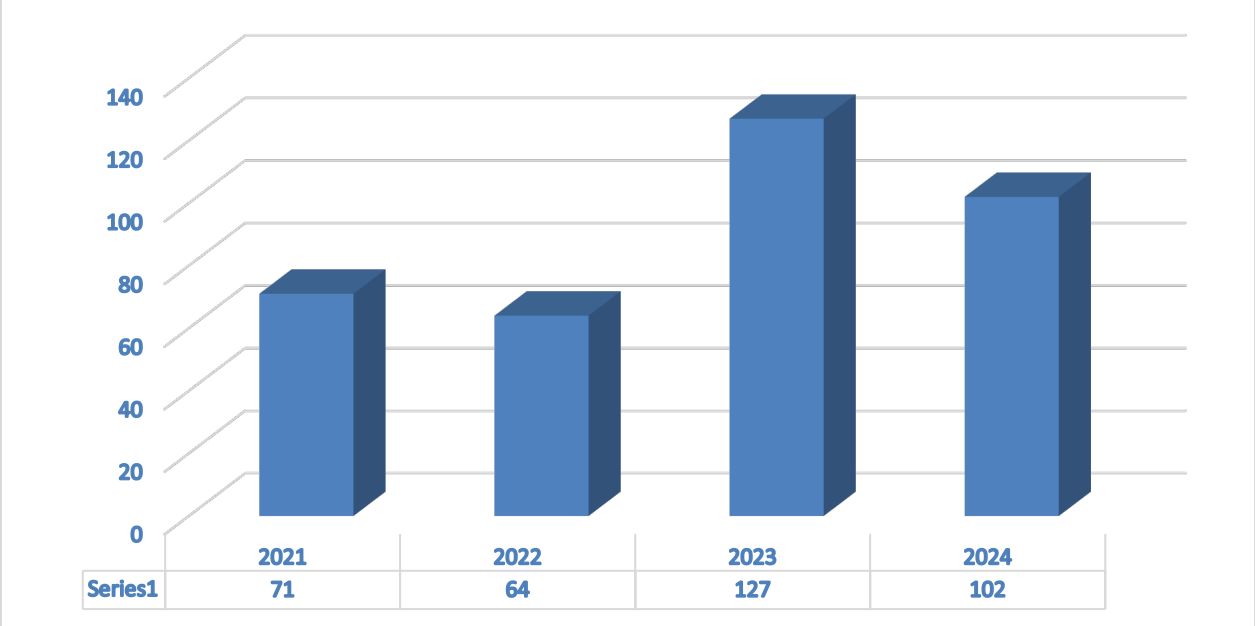
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<b>Incident Statistics - Reporting Period 2021 - 2024</b>				
<b>Year</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
<b>Intake</b>				
Sent by Agency to Commission	11	14	17	3
Discovered by Commission Staff	48	41	104	91
Called in by Individual to Commission	12	8	6	8
Total Incidents Reported	71	63	127	102
<b>Location of Incident</b>				
Brookhaven	54	46	69	57
Southampton	10	17	50	40
Riverhead	6	0	8	5
Occurring on Public Land	26	21	79	86
Occurring on Private Land	35	22	23	16
Occurring on Public & Private Land	10	20	25	0
Core	35	38	78	79
Compatible Growth Area (CGA)	18	13	39	17
Core & CGA	0	1	1	0
Outside CPBA	18	12	9	6
<b>Nature of Incident*</b>				
Clearing/Encroachment	24	24	20	16
Structures	0	1	2	1
Dumping	35	35	103	82
Mining	1	0	0	1
Hunting	1	0	1	0
ATV	2	1	0	0
Other	8	4	1	2
<i>*Note-some incidents involve more than one land use issue</i>				
<b>Referrals*</b>				
Sent to Town	17	20	6	2
Sent to County	17	12	36	22
Sent to State	16	22	33	7
Commission	21	15	8	1
Sent to AG	0	1	0	0
Other	0	5	37	15
<i>*Note-some incidents are sent to multiple agencies</i>				
<b>Status</b>				
Founded	60	50	125	101
Unfounded	11	13	2	1
Open	39	18	52	54
Closed	32	45	75	48
<b>Inspections</b>				
Conservation Easement Inspections		1	0	3
Development project inspections		2	0	0





***Item 3.b. Pine Barrens Credit Program Report for August 21, 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: 36 LOIs were issued and five parcels were inspected. Staff is following up on past LOIs for interest in the Program.
- Conservation Easements: Review and Monitoring
  - Five easements were recorded, which generated 2.82 credits.
  - Six easements are currently in progress.
  - 60 easement properties with road access were inspected.



- Pine Barrens Credits
  - Redeemed: 1.15 Credits have been used for a commercial project in the Town of Southampton.
  - Conveyed: 5.23 Credits have been sold in the Towns of Brookhaven and Southampton.
  - The average price is \$110,611 per credit.
- Credit Clearinghouse Program Fund Account balance: \$3,403,789.

- In April, 2024 the Commission had received a ‘Best of the Rest’ list of properties from Pine Barrens Society. The lists was reviewed and organized into Core and CGA and solicitation letters were sent to core owners. It resulted in 14 new LOIs and 11 renewals. There are 92 letters that were sent for which no response was received. We are addressing how to move forward with interest from these owners.
- In July, 2024 the Commission had received a final Restoration Monitoring Report for Peconic River Sportsmen Club property. The required minimum survival rate for this restoration plan is 85% and the current revegetation success rate is 98.5%. The large number of native species recruitments of planted and natural inclusions have a complete cover of all 7 revegetation locations meeting the goal of PRSC and the Commission. Therefore the restoration has been successful and can conclude additional monitoring.

***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 August 12, 2024								
	Brookhaven	2024	Riverhead	2024	Southampton	2024	Total	2024
Parcels	531	4	37	-	471	1	1039	5
Acreage	833.44	1.75	516.78	-	889.51	3.59	2239.73	5.34
Average parcel size	1.57	0.44	13.97	-	1.89	3.59	2.16	1.07
Credits generated	550.26	2.24	173.39	-	340.26	0.58	1063.91	2.82
Credits redeemed	423.67	-	145.13	-	190.91	1.15	759.71	1.15
Credits not redeemed	126.59	-	28.26	-	149.35	-0.57	304.2	1.67
Credits sold		2.57		-		2.66		5.23
Total value of PBC transactions		308,997		-		\$269,500		\$578,497
Average Credits value		\$120,232		-		\$101,316		\$110,611
Credits owned by the Clearinghouse	2.19		-		-		2.19	
# of Inspected CE Parcels	-	36	-	2	-	22	-	60
# of Installed CE Signs	139	3	15	-	91	-	245	3

**Central Pine Barrens Joint Planning and Policy Commission**  
 Land Use Division Bi-Monthly Update for the Meeting of Wednesday, August 21, 2024

Action	Central Pine Barrens Location		
Municipality	Brookhaven Town	Riverhead Town	Southampton Town
<b>Pending Applications, Requests for Determination of Jurisdiction, SEQRA Coordination, inquiries, proposals and other activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Granny Road referral, zone change and 54 PRC units on 9 acres, Medford, CGA.</li> <li>• Solar on rooftops at Expressway Drive North, Yaphank, CGA.</li> <li>• Vineyards at Coram referral, zone change and 74 PRC units on 12 acres, CGA.</li> </ul>	Venezia Square Development of Regional Significance, Wading River, 37,000 square feet of commercial uses on 6.34 acres. Extend decision deadline to 10/16/24, CGA.	Ralph Schenk Core Hardship Application to expand building on 1.2 acres, Westhampton, Core. Suspended, enforcement incident.
<b>Monitoring revegetation and other conditions of decisions</b>	7 Eleven Middle Island, restoration complete, monitoring for 3 years.	None	None
<b>Division Activity, Regional Projects and Participation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental 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.</li> <li>• Monitor prior hardships and other applications for compliance with conditions of approval.</li> <li>• Site inspections and land use surveys for applications, monitoring and conformance with decisions.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Collaborate and coordinate with other Commission divisions.</li> <li>• USGS two-year contract to monitor surface and groundwater resources, 2024 to 2026. Planning for coastal plain pond water resources study.</li> <li>• Website updates on land use and planning matters, natural, scenic, historic and cultural resources.</li> </ul>		

