

Educational Outreach and Communications Division Update

August 2025

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 number of campers this year represented a 20% increase over previous years, an increase caused by increased demand. By allowing more campers to register, we were able to accommodate more families wishing to send their kids to the camp. And we also increased the number of volunteer counselors to ensure a more than adequate counselor-to-camper ratio.
- This summer, we fulfilled a goal by introducing approximately 10 new activities into the program, including new games, arts and crafts, educational presentations and various other engaging activities. A few examples include teaching the importance of recycling through the creation of some pretty clever songs; a game teaching water conservation in which campers navigate various threats to conservation such as excessive water users; a mystery the campers solve that teaches campers about insects and the importance of all life; a scavenger hunt in which campers seek to find things in nature representing every color of the rainbow; and a recurring activity that encourages kindness between campers with the kindest camper of the week receiving a special reward at the end of the week.

“A Day in the Life” Program

- The 15th 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 late-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, we are looking to add multiple new school districts to the program. I will provide more details on any additions in my next update in October.

- Our first training session for teachers and experts has been scheduled for Monday, August 25 at Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge and we are in the process of preparing to lead this session.
- We are also in the process of scheduling a remote meeting with teachers to serve as a forum for them to refresh their skills to better conduct their field work, go over all their logistics and take any questions they have about the program. The first edition of this online forum was a big success last year.
- We are also designing a new and thorough brochure explaining the program that we will use to encourage new schools to join. The brochure will be ready for use in time for the fall season.
- We are seeking to bolster our in-person trainings by recording comprehensive short videos on the program and all aspects of field work. This will provide an invaluable tool for those looking to refresh their skills but cannot make an in-person training.



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CPBC's Conservation Management Action Plan

At the end of July Science & Stewardship provided the first draft outline of the *Central Pine Barrens Commission's Conservation Management Action Plan* (working title) to the Commission's administration for review. We met to discuss, and I described the overall approach of the document, the environmental issues described within, and provided specific examples of the types of conservation actions to address the environmental challenges within the Central Pine Barrens.

Briefly, the outline of the Conservation Management Action Plan (CMAP) provides a holistic look at the environmental issues impacting the Central Pine Barrens ecosystem and the communities and businesses that lie within its boundaries. CMAP is intended to not only identify the conservation actions the Commission will be taking but highlights the actions of our partners and tries to leverage these efforts towards a more comprehensive and collaborative management philosophy. With a better understanding of the roles and responsibilities of every partner within the Central Pine Barrens, each individual organization's strengths can be better applied towards finding solutions which benefit everyone.

CMAP is however still in its earliest version and there is still plenty to discuss and edits that will follow. Future internal discussions and conversations with external stakeholders will continue to take place in the coming weeks and months. The results of these meetings will lead to further edits that will hopefully make the final version of the Commission's CMAP better and more useful to all.

S&S Division's Future Conservation Focus

Science and Stewardship continues to explore remote sensing technologies to help define its role in monitoring the Central Pine Barrens ecosystem. The two primary avenues of exploration are LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) and Bioacoustic sampling techniques.

S&S reached out to SCWA's IT staff, and we held a meeting (end of June) to discuss remote sensing technology and how to incorporate it into our workflow. With IT's advice in hand, S&S has been continuing to research these new tools and identifying the equipment and software that can meet our future needs.



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Affatato Restoration Update



Affatato Site in 2013



Affatato Site in 2024



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Affatato Site Map – Other Vegetation prepared by GEI 2024

An update on the Affatato restoration will be provided by GEI to the CPBC in the next few days. If the update comes prior to the Commission Board meeting S&S will update the board as to the current site conditions and the progress made to date.

Fire and Fuels Research

S&S has been participating in monthly calls with local partners including Suffolk County FRES, Suffolk County Parks, and New York State Parks and the Department of Environmental Conservation to discuss various efforts or projects that are focused on wildfire and prescribed fire in the Central Pine Barrens and Suffolk County. These calls have been serving to ensure information and updates are being communicated through to all the stakeholders and improving interagency communication.

Additionally, S&S has been partnering with SUNY ESF and assisting in research efforts being conducted through a DEC, ESF, and CPBC collaboration on the use of air curtain burners



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to assist in reducing fuel loads in certain areas of the Central Pine Barrens (primarily on State owned lands).

Preliminary surveys, conducted by ESF, on forest structure and soil composition were completed by early August. The CPBC sponsored two of the interns that performed these surveys. Data collection concluded at the end of July. This research is only beginning, however, and the next stages of the project are already underway.

In mid-July, Executive Director Jakobsen and S&S attended an evening meeting at the Westhampton Pines residential community to support Suffolk County FRES, and the other monthly call partners identified above during an emergency preparedness educational session. This community was at risk during the Westhampton Pines fire that took place in March of this year, and residents were able to ask questions directly to the first responders on what they can do to protect their community during emergencies.

Lastly, regarding fire in the CPB, at the end of June, S&S accompanied Jerry Tverdyy out to the CPBC's weather station and S&S was instructed on how to maintain and swap out the sensors recording the weather data. S&S will receive further instructions later in the year on fire weather forecasting and assigning the daily fire risk ranking.

CPBC's Nature Center

S&S continues to participate in the planning meetings and visiting the potential sites for the Commission's future Nature Center. While most of these meetings have been virtual, MARVEL and DBI joined the Commission at the end of July for an evening public information session at Wertheim.

While attendance was not as high as anticipated, those members of the public that did turn out participated whole-heartedly and the feedback that they provided was insightful and informative.

S&S looks forward to continuing to assist in the planning efforts and the potential of the Nature Center including exhibits, features, and the types of services and programming it can provide its visitors.



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Barrens to Bays

Lastly, S&S has joined CPBC's Education and Outreach staff during their Barrens to Bays summer programming at Wertheim. S&S has been visiting once a week to provide an educational and entertaining look at prescribed fire in the Central Pine Barrens for the children attending the camp. S&S is happy to help introduce prescribed fire to the kids and hope they enjoy the presentation.

2025 Fall New York Wildfire and Incident Management Academy

Planning is underway for the 2025 Fall New York Wildfire and Incident Management Academy (NYWIMA). NYWIMA offers a robust, nationally recognized curriculum designed for both new and experienced personnel involved in wildfire and all-hazards incident management. The Academy will be held at Brookhaven National Laboratory from October 18–24, 2025, with sixteen classes scheduled to help train firefighters and first responders.

NYWIMA provides all-hazards, wildfire, and incident-management training aligned with NIMS and NWCG standards, ideal for:

- First responders, firefighters, incident managers
- Public safety personnel and emergency services workers
- Trainees from local, state, and federal agencies

Wildland Firefighting & Fire Behavior Course Offerings

- S-130/S-190 (5-day or blended 2-day field sessions) – Intro to wildland firefighting and fire behavior, for FFT2 qualification (includes online L-180)
- S-200 – Incident Commander Type 4 via classroom and practical exercises.
- S-211 Portable Pumps and Water Use – Practical training on portable pumps, foam, and water deployment in field scenarios.
- S-215 Fire Operations in the Wildland Urban Interface – Covers tactics and policy relevant to interface fires.

Leadership & Advanced Roles

- S-230 Crew Boss (Single Resource) – Training for CRWB role: crew oversight, fireline duties, safety, coordination.
- S-219 Firing Operations – Role of FIRB in planning and executing ignition strategies, safety, and risk assessment.
- S-270/271 Basic Air Ops / Helicopter Crewmember – Classroom/field introduction to tactical/logistical air operations.
- S-290 Anticipating Wildland Fire Behavior – Blended course for intermediate-level fire behavior understanding.

Specialty Courses

- FI-210 – Wildland Fire Origin & Cause Determination: standardized investigator training.
- RX-300 Prescribed Fire Burn Boss – Training to plan and implement prescribed burns per NWCG PMS-484 standards.
- M-410 Facilitative Instructor – Instructor development training emphasizing adult learning and delivery effectiveness.
- G-191 ICS / EOC Interface – Roles and coordination between Incident Command System and Emergency Operations Centers.
- G-2300 Intermediate EOC Functions – Operational management within Multi-Agency Coordination Systems.

Additional courses, including Wildland Fire Chainsaws, will be offered in December.

The full brochure is available on the Central Pine Barrens Commission website.



Compliance and Enforcement Division Report July – August 2025

Prepared by CAED Chief Enforcement Officer Alena Lawston

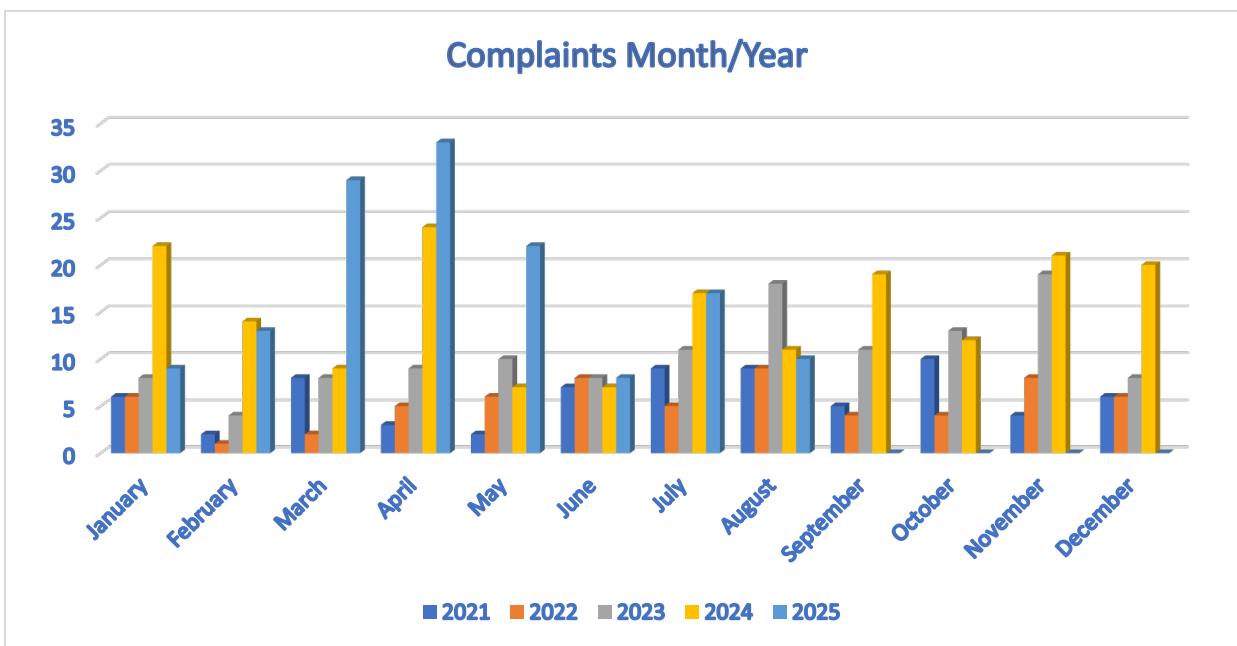
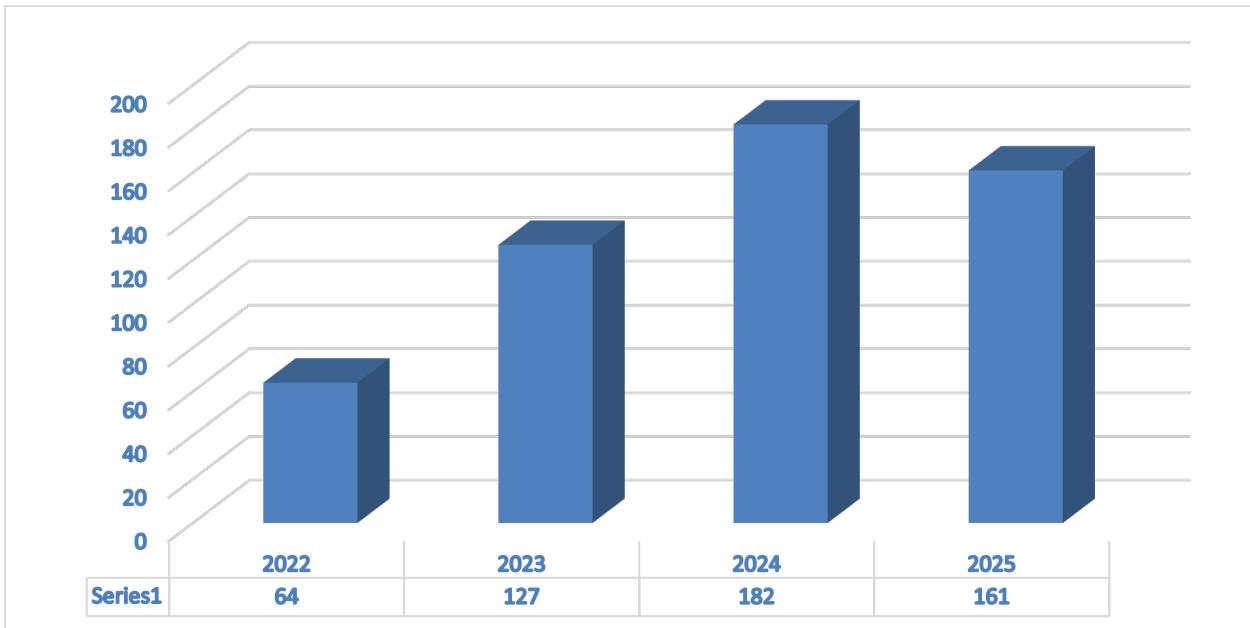
- We received twenty-seven complaints this period for dumping, encroachment and clearing. The dumping was consistent being primarily landscaping debris, furniture, household trash, as well as construction and demolition debris.
- Five of these incidents were captured on surveillance cameras and referred to our law enforcement partner agencies. Two of these incidents involved the same individual dumping several piles of sod and landscaping debris in various locations on Suffolk County land in the core preservation area. This individual was referred to NYSP in April for a similar dumping incident in the same location. The investigation is pending for all three instances. Another subject was observed on surveillance dumping an A/C Unit as well as C&D in several garbage bags. That investigation is pending with the Suffolk County Sheriff's office.
- We have installed three surveillance cameras in three different areas of higher dumping activity. One of which was directed to us through social media.
- For this period, we have recorded a total of \$750 in fines with multiple cases pending.
- We continue to utilize the Flock Safety surveillance camera and all integrated shared cameras with the outside partner agencies. This type of surveillance enables our division to provide multiple leads to law enforcement for dumping within the Pine Barrens.
- UAS Part 107 training continues with our GLEIM testing platform. We will be joining with Science & Stewardship's Jason Smith to continue our training with the SEMA drones at the Ridge Fire Department.



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Incident Statistics - Reporting Period 2021 - 2024				
Year	2022	2023	2024	2025
Intake				
Sent by Agency to Commission	14	17	9	3
Discovered by Commission Staff	41	104	163	153
Called in by Individual to Commission	8	6	10	5
Total Incidents Reported	63	127	182	161
Location of Incident				
Brookhaven	46	69	102	97
Southampton	17	50	75	55
Riverhead	0	8	5	9
Occurring on Public Land	21	79	158	140
Occurring on Private Land	22	23	22	20
Occurring on Public & Private Land	20	25	0	1
Core	38	78	140	132
Compatible Growth Area (CGA)	13	39	30	18
Core & CGA	1	1	0	1
Outside CPBA	12	9	10	10
Nature of Incident*				
Clearing/Encroachment	24	20	21	25
Structures	1	2	1	0
Dumping	35	103	153	133
Mining	0	0	1	0
Hunting	0	1	0	0
ATV	1	0	0	0
Other	4	1	2	2
Referrals*				
Sent to Town	20	6	4	3
Sent to County	12	36	31	17
Sent to State	22	33	17	7
Commission	15	8	1	0
Sent to AG	1	0	0	0
Other	5	37	16	11
Status				
Founded	50	125	179	161
Unfounded	13	2	1	0
Open	18	52	51	52
Closed	45	75	131	109
Inspections				
Conservation Easement Inspections	1	0	0	0
Development project inspections	2	0	0	0



Central Pine Barrens Joint Planning and Policy Commission
 Land Use Division Bi-Monthly Update for the Meeting of Wednesday, August 20, 2025

Action	Central Pine Barrens Location		
Municipality	Brookhaven Town	Riverhead Town	Southampton Town
Pending Applications, Requests for Determination of Jurisdiction, SEQRA Coordination, inquiries, proposals, items and other activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compatible Growth Area Hardship: East End Flower Farm, development of 5 acre site, Manorville, CGA. Core Hardship: Klein, 608 Middle Country Road, Middle Island, expansion of building and parking lot on 0.45 acres, Core. Request: 425 North Street, Manorville, residence and accessory uses, Core. Request: PSEG-LI request to replace 87 timber poles, CGA. TDR by Design letter regarding credits for Town-approved multi-family development project in the CGA. 	SEQRA Coordination: Duffy Motorcross, River Road, site plan to mine and develop 15 acre site with outdoor motorcross track and facilities. Calverton, CGA.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compelling Public Need Core Hardship: Homeland Towers, 150 foot monopole on 6.17 acres with a junkyard. Flanders, Core. Request: Hampton West Park development of town park facilities including parking and tennis/pickleball courts, Westhampton, Core. NYSDEC Notice: Signature Flight Support, LLC, stormwater discharge at Gabreski Airport, CGA.
Division Activity, Regional Projects and Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and analysis of land use development projects applications for Core Preservation Area and Compatible Growth Area Hardship waivers, SEQRA Coordination, interagency referrals, information requests, property inquiries, requests for determination of jurisdiction and conformance reviews. Development applications involve residential and commercial, industrial and mixed uses, zone changes, site plans, subdivisions, Developments of Regional Significance, Assertions of Jurisdiction, Critical Resource Areas and other development activities. Monitor sites for compliance with decisions and conditions of approval. Site inspections and land use surveys for applications. Technical support on FOIL requests, compliance and enforcement violations, consent orders, Credit Program items, communications on land use matters, unauthorized development and clearing activities and encroachments in protected areas and regulated habitats. Collaborate and coordinate activities with other Commission divisions and interagency partners. USGS two-year water resources study continues, 2024-2026, including groundwater sampling and monitoring in Peconic River and Carmans River. Website management and updates on land use and planning items and seasonal changes, natural, scenic, historic and cultural resources. Central Pine Barrens Nature Center Feasibility Study progressing with review of elements including programming, funding and site selection; the first public engagement session occurred on July 29 and planning is underway for the second session in late October. 		



Item 2.f. Pine Barrens Credit Program Report for August 20, 2025:

Activities in the Credit Program for 2025 included review of applications for Letters of Interpretation, Conservation Easements, Credit Program and FOIL requests management. Some specific work items include:

- Letters of Interpretation: 25 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 are currently in progress.
 - 48 easement properties with road access were inspected.



- Pine Barrens Credits
 - Redeemed: 2.31 Credits have been used for commercial and residential projects in the Town of Southampton.
 - Conveyed: 1.75 Credits have been sold in the Town of Brookhaven, Riverhead and Southampton.
 - The average price is \$120,138 per credit.
- Credit Clearinghouse Program Fund Account
 - The Commission purchased 0.10 credits.
 - Balance: \$3,296,992.
- In January, 2025 the Commission sent 380 letters to core land owners soliciting their participation in the Credit Program. It resulted in 25 LOI applications.

Pine Barrens Credit Program Statistics Table: represents figures for the total and annual summary of 2025.

Easement Protected Lands and Pine Barrens Credits As of August 12, 2025								
	Brookhaven	2025	Riverhead	2025	Southampton	2025	Total	2025
Parcels	532	1	37	-	471	-	1040	1
Acreage	833.67	0.23	516.78	-	889.51	-	2239.96	0.23
Average parcel size	1.57	0.23	13.97	-	1.89	-	2.15	0.23
Credits generated	550.26	0.10	173.39	-	340.26	-	1063.91	0.10
Credits redeemed	428.77	-	145.13	-	193.36	2.31	767.26	2.31
Credits not redeemed	121.49	-	28.26	-	146.9	-	296.65	-
Credits sold		0.60		0.50		0.65		1.75
Total value of PBC transactions		\$88,180		\$55,411		\$66,650		\$210,241
Average Credits value		\$146,967		\$110,822		\$102,538		\$120,138
Credits owned by the Clearinghouse	2.29		-		-		2.29	
# of Inspected CE Parcels	-	30	-	5	-	13	-	48
# of Installed CE Signs	141	2	15	-	91	-	247	2