

Central Pine Barrens
Joint Planning and Policy Commission



Pitch Pine tree exuding sap to fight off the Southern Pine Beetle

2015 Report



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REPORT CONTENT

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Compliance and Enforcement Division

Larry Hynes, Compliance & Enforcement Coordinator

Compliance and Enforcement Division Duties and Responsibilities

The four Major Areas of duties and responsibilities for the Compliance and Enforcement (CAE) Division through the CAE Coordinator are:

- Land Use and Natural Resource Incident Investigation and Permit Compliance Inspections.
- Conservation Easement Monitoring.
- Commission Council (LEC, WFTF, PLC) Support.
- Health and Safety Training & Driver Safety Training.

Land Use/Natural Resource Incident Investigation and Permit Compliance Inspections

The CAE Coordinator conducts compliance inspections of Commission-approved permits for land use activities and development projects under the Commission's jurisdiction to ensure that development does not exceed the scope of the permit conditions, and does so in a timely fashion as projects are implemented. Compliance inspections are performed both before and after Commission permits are issued in order to assure full compliance with permit conditions.

A monthly report is prepared by the CAE Coordinator who compiles and analyzes incoming calls to the Pine Barrens Commission office on potential violations that occur in the Central Pine Barrens. For each call an incident report is completed that is given a central complaint number.



ATV Detail Impound - Overton Preserve

A tracking system has been established for following up with the agency that has been assigned to investigate the incident. Every report has a tracking status assigned to it that indicates whether it is "open or closed."

Training is provided to all Commission personnel, with particular emphasis upon administrative and land use personnel, on how to complete an incident report to cap

ture consistent and reliable information since these staff members are typically the first points of contact for incoming callers concerning incidents.

Land use incident investigation is a cooperative effort in conjunction with other agencies having jurisdiction and includes the reporting of any findings and appropriate follow up work.

In the case of verified violations of land use and natural resource laws, notices of violation may be issued as directed by the Commission. These notices of violations lead to corrective action and remedial activities to correct the work. Commission staff work cooperatively with other local, County and State agencies to ensure violations are adequately addressed.

Conservation Easement Monitoring

It is also the responsibility of the CAE Coordinator to conduct regular compliance inspections and prepare field reports, in conjunction with the individual landowners, for conservation easements held by the Commission on privately-owned parcels in the Core Preservation Area, recognizing the individual conditions of each easement. These conservation easements were granted through the Central Pine Barrens Commission's Pine Barrens Credit Program (Transfer of Development Rights).

There are 948 privately-owned parcels that have been protected by the Central Pine Barrens Credit Program. In 2015, the CAE Coordinator and staff completed annual inspections of 17 conservation easement parcels and in 2016 will be inspecting any additional parcels that are new to the Program.

Summary of 2015 CAE Work

At the end of this section is a summary report in tabular form that relates to the four areas of CAE responsibilities. The report provides information on the number of field inspections that were performed by the CAE Coordinator on parcels, which have received permits from the Commission, and on parcels with conservation easements, which are held by the Commission from the beginning of 2007 through the end of 2015. Information on incident reporting, compliance site visits and land use incident statistics are also provided.

Land Use and Natural Resource Incident Investigation and Reporting

The review of incidents reported to the Pine Barrens Commission in 2015 indicated various impacts to the natural environment were occurring due to dirt bikes, ATVs, off road 4x4 trucks, hunting and trespass violators. There was also an in-

crease in reported dumping complaints. The CAE Coordinator continues to work closely with the Town of Brookhaven, Riverhead and Southampton to investigate these dumping incidents to ensure timely clean up. The Law Enforcement Council has put together a task force to step up patrols of these areas and has been successful in numerous enforcement actions as discussed in the Law Enforcement Council section of this report.



Dumping off LIE - Manorville

During 2015, the CAE Coordinator worked closely with the Town of Brookhaven, Town of Southampton and County of Suffolk to identify, investigate, coordinate and help resolve a number of alleged violation cases. These included extensive encroachment and disturbance at two Suffolk County Nature Preserve locations, the operation of an alleged illegal commercial ATV riding facility and alleged clearing violations at several other locations.

Interagency Communication and Support

The CAE staff continues to meet with State, County and Town representatives who have jurisdiction in the Central Pine Barrens. These meetings serve to publicize and answer questions regarding the Compliance and Enforcement Division of the Commission and foster open communication and cooperation among all land use and natural resource enforcement offices.

In 2015, the Commission staff continued these informational meetings with the Town of Brookhaven, Southampton and Riverhead. This included a meeting with the Chief Environmental Analyst of the Town of Brookhaven Division of Environmental Protection and the Town Code Enforcement Director to discuss the role the Town could play in increased enforcement efforts against illegal ATVs on open space properties, especially in the Upper Carmans River Watershed area, and mitigating the use of the many ATV access points in this area. These discussions also prompted the Town's Division of Environmental Protection to post many of the affected Town-owned open space properties and some of those that are jointly owned with the County of Suffolk.

Enforcement Regulations

In 2015, the Compliance and Enforcement Coordinator and Commission staff conducted extensive research and review of existing enforcement regulations and then worked closely with New York State Department of Environmental Conservation law enforcement personnel to develop and draft new enforcement regulations for the Commission. Commission staff is recommending including under Article 57, a section for the Central Pine Barrens Rules and Regulations to be established.

Health and Safety Training

In 2015, the CAE Coordinator and staff continues to take courses to maintain certifications and remain current with health and safety advancements, and was recently added to the New York Wildfire & Incident Management Academy planning meetings as a representative of the Commission. In 2016, through the coordination of the CAE, the Commission staff will receive training in the following health and safety areas:

1. Emergency Situation Management
2. First Aid
3. Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation
4. Automated External Defibrillation
5. Trailer Towing and Handling

Incident Command System

In 2015, the CAE Coordinator continued the Commission's policy and procedure that involves the preparation and use of an Incident Action Plan and the Incident Command System for Commission sponsored events. This plan is used by the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services, County and Town for emergency response situations and to manage large scale events. An Incident Action Plan is a written document that organizes all of the event's details, equipment and personnel necessary to carry out an event and assigns responsibility for specific event-related tasks in a very structured, organized manner. It includes a reporting hierarchy that is represented by a chain of command reporting system for staff and personnel to follow based on their assigned area of responsibility for the event. This system was successfully used in 2015 and in prior years to organize and carry out the Annual Research Forum, Discovery Day, Law Enforcement and Wildfire Task Force events and other Commission-sponsored events.

In August 2015, the CAE Coordinator coordinated interagency education and training pertaining to laws that govern the Central Pine Barrens that help provide officers with the tools necessary to enforce the rules and regulations of the Central Pine Barrens. The Central Pine Barrens Handbook was also updated and an Interagency

Training Manual was developed. In 2016, the Central Pine Barrens Commission plans on offering the same training session for all agencies that have jurisdiction in and around the Central Pine Barrens.

Pine Barrens Watch Program

The Compliance and Enforcement staff is working closely with both the Environmental Education staff and Stewardship staff of the Commission on several aspects of division projects and reaching out to the community to be the eyes and ears to help safe guard the Central Pine Barrens. To help restore the Pine Barrens Watch Program, during 2015 the Suffolk County Sheriff's Office agreed to field and respond to calls received on the 1-877-BARRENS phone line which serves as a hotline that Suffolk residents can use to report any illegal non-emergency activity that threatens the Central Pine Barrens region, including dumping, vandalism and off-road vehicle use. Up until that time, this hotline phone number did not have 24/7 coverage. With its transfer to the Sheriff's Office, that 24/7 coverage has been reinstated through the Sheriff's Office dispatcher.

Enforcement Amendments to NYS ECL Article 57

In 2015, the CAE Coordinator worked with Commission staff and the Law Enforcement Council to research and support the drafting of proposed extensive amendments to the NYS ECL Article 57 regarding enforcement. These amendments include specific provisions to address illegal ATV and ORV operation and dumping. The Law Enforcement Council endorsed these in the fall of 2015 and the Commission subsequently adopted a sense resolution in support of them. These amendments have since been forwarded to the New York State Legislature for consideration.

| DEVELOPMENT PROJECT COMPLIANCE SITE VISITS | | | |
|---|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Reporting Period: 8/21/07 - 12/31/15 | | | |
| Central Pine Barrens | Brookhaven (District 200) | Riverhead (District 600) | Southampton (District 900) |
| Core Preservation Area | 60 | 17 | 20 |
| Compatible Growth Area | 73 | 5 | 9 |

| CONSERVATION EASEMENT MONITORING SITE VISITS | | | | |
|---|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|--------|
| Reporting Period: 8/21/07 - 12/31/15 | | | | |
| Core Preservation Area | Brookhaven (District 200) | Riverhead (District 600) | Southampton (District 900) | Totals |
| Tax Map Sections | | | | |
| Total | 46 | 9 | 55 | 110 |
| Done | 44 | 7 | 52 | 103 |
| Pending | 2 | 2 | 3 | 7 |
| Tax Map Parcels | | | | |
| Total | 493 | 35 | 420 | 948 |
| Done | 485 | 35 | 411 | 931 |
| Pending | 8 | 0 | 9 | 17 |

| COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT INCIDENT REPORTS | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| Reporting Period: All from 1/1/13 - 12/31/15 and Open (i.e., Pending) from 2014 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Year | Brookhaven (District 200) | | Riverhead (District 600) | | Southampton (District 900) | | Other | | Totals | |
| | 2015 All | 2014 Open | 2015 All | 2014 Open | 2015 All | 2014 Open | 2015 All | 2014 Open | 2015 All | 2014 Open |
| Core | 3 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 5 | 1 | | | 11 | 1 |
| CGA | 5 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | 5 | 1 |
| Non-PB | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Totals | 8 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 16 | 2 |

| Incident Statistics - Reporting Period 1/1/07 - 12/31/15 | | | | | | | | | |
|---|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Year | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
| Intake | | | | | | | | | |
| to Commission | 4 | 7 | 8 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Sent by Agency to Commission | 6 | 13 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 3 |
| Discovered by Commission Staff | 3 | 15 | 18 | 7 | 4 | 8 | 8 | 6 | 8 |
| Commission | 16 | 36 | 28 | 30 | 18 | 6 | 8 | 6 | 5 |
| Total Incidents Reported | 29 | 71 | 59 | 42 | 27 | 19 | 20 | 14 | 16 |
| Location of Incident | | | | | | | | | |
| Brookhaven | 19 | 49 | 45 | 27 | 22 | 11 | 14 | 12 | 9 |
| Southampton | 6 | 17 | 13 | 8 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 4 |
| Riverhead | 4 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 3 |
| Occurring on Public Land | 13 | 44 | 42 | 18 | 17 | 8 | 9 | 6 | 7 |
| Occurring on Private Land | 15 | 27 | 17 | 22 | 11 | 12 | 11 | 9 | 10 |
| Occurring on Public & Private Land | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Core | 11 | 41 | 41 | 29 | 15 | 8 | 12 | 7 | 11 |
| CGA | 16 | 26 | 15 | 10 | 12 | 10 | 8 | 6 | 5 |
| Core & CGA | 1 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Outside CPBA | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Nature of Incident* | | | | | | | | | |
| Clearing | 20 | 29 | 16 | 16 | 13 | 12 | 10 | 8 | 10 |
| Structures | 4 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Dumping | 3 | 11 | 20 | 13 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 1 |
| Mining | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Hunting | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| ATV | 3 | 6 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 6 | 1 | 4 |
| Other | 2 | 27 | 15 | 11 | 3 | 5 | 0 | 2 | 1 |
| *note some incidents involve more than one land use issue | | | | | | | | | |
| Referrals* | | | | | | | | | |
| Sent to Town | 12 | 30 | 20 | 18 | 12 | 16 | 9 | 8 | 13 |
| Sent to County | 2 | 27 | 21 | 12 | 5 | 3 | 9 | 4 | 2 |
| Sent to State | 12 | 7 | 18 | 7 | 9 | 6 | 3 | 3 | 2 |
| Commission | 8 | 31 | 4 | 9 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Sent to AG | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other | 5 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| *note some incidents are sent to multiple agencies | | | | | | | | | |
| Status | | | | | | | | | |
| Founded | 22 | 68 | 58 | 41 | 26 | 18 | 19 | 13 | 15 |
| Unfounded | 7 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Open | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 7 |
| Closed | 29 | 71 | 59 | 41 | 25 | 15 | 15 | 6 | 9 |
| Disposition* | | | | | | | | | |
| Fine | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Revegetation | 0 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Land Purchase | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Land Swap | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Pending | | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 7 |
| * Indicates disposition for founded cases closed. | | | | | | | | | |

Environmental Education and Outreach Division

Melissa Griffiths-Parrott, Education & Outreach Coordinator

The Education and Outreach mission statement:

“To promote stewardship through awareness, appreciation and understanding to Long Island residents of all ages on the critical role the Central Pine Barrens serves in maintaining their quality of life. This includes its species, landscapes, natural communities, groundwater protection, cultural and historical resources.”

The Education and Outreach Division develops, coordinates and maintains programming on a regional basis. The service’s the Division provides includes:

- Provides public outreach as a participant in local festivals, conferences and other events.
- Works with all Pine Barrens staff on special Commission projects.
- Provides Pine Barrens Ecology, Long Island Watershed, Long Island Biodiversity, Global Biodiversity, the impacts of Climate Change and “A Day in the Life” educational programming and teacher training opportunities for grades K-12 and higher educational institutions.
- Provides opportunities for engagement in citizen science.
- Creates, organizes and presents Pine Barrens Ecology oriented K-12 educational programs.
- Writes and distributes regular press release and press advisories about newsworthy education and outreach events.
- Directs updates social media accounts.
- Responds to media, telephone and mail inquires pertaining to environmental education and outreach.
- Develops and sustains important partnerships to advance the mission of the Central Pine Barrens Commission.
- Continues to develop new programming to promote educational opportunities.
- Represents the Central Pine Barrens Commission at national and interna-



Barrens To Bay Summer Campers dock scraping for marine life

tional educational, scientific and advocacy conferences and events.

- Grant writing to support new and ongoing programming.

In 2015, Commission Education and Outreach staff:

Developed, implemented and taught environmental education programs to grades k-12, STEM and STEAM related classes, high school research classes, higher education classes and participated in various outreach events, such as festivals and conferences.



Citation from State Assemblyman Dean Murray for the 7th Annual Pine Barrens Discovery Day

In 2015, the Division focused primarily on direct interaction with students, teachers and environmental professionals through hands on programming, by increasing the number of one to one programs with students and decreasing the number of large outreach events, such as fairs and festivals.

The Education and Outreach division reached approximately 5,600 youth and adults through community outreach events, speaking engagements and school programs. With direct outreach through our hands on, interactive, k-12 school programs, public programs and the “A Day in the Life” events - a total of 4,049 students, 50 school districts, 134 teachers, 45 partner agencies and organizations, 120 natural history experts and over 500 Science teachers at the Suffolk County Science Teachers Association of NY State (STANYS) Conference were reached.



Working with the Longwood Middle School on Pine Barrens Ecology

Also, through outreach events, such as Pine Barrens Discovery Day and speaking engagements, we indirectly reached approximately 1,000 people.

County Water Authority, “A Day in the Life of the Nissequogue River”, “A Day in the Life of the Connetquot River” and “A Day in the Life of the Carlls River”. These one day student science field research and citizen science efforts are in partnership with numerous agencies, organizations, scientists, educators and students. We worked with over 2,000 students, 44 school districts, 119 teachers, 45 partner agencies and organizations, 120 natural history experts collecting water quality data and biodiversity inventories from over 55 sites along the five river ecosystems from the head to the mouth of the estuary.

We continue to secure funding and purchase and update supplies as needed. Some equipment and supplies purchased include; seine nets, Go Pro cameras, water quality test kits, dip nets, photographic tanks, anemometers, sling psychrometers, waders, calculators, soil corers, refractometers and more.

In 2015, we initiated a program with Suffolk County Science Teachers Association of NY State (STANYS) and various “A Day in the Life” teachers to integrate a GIS Desktop program into our “A Day in the Life” programs. The goal is to demonstrate, develop and analyze maps related to water chemistry and biological distribution of organisms collected at varied sampling locations along the 5 different rivers.

For a second year, we partnered with Cold Spring Harbor Lab’s DNA Learning Center and their **Barcode Long Island project**. *Barcode Long Island (BLI)* gives students an understanding of the interaction between humans and the natural environment. Student teams use DNA bar-coding to explore, document, and track the biodiversity on and around Long Island. *BLI* provides students with real and relevant research experience while they contribute to their knowledge of their environment. All submitted proposals designed around the “A Day in the Life”



Seining during “A Day in the Life of the Peconic Estuary”

programs and Pine Barrens species of plants and animals were approved and funded- data and final products will be available in June 2016.

For our 8th successful year, we developed, organized, and directed our

annual “**Barrens to Bay**” summer camp. This camp is in partnership with Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge in Shirley. In 2015, approximately 120 campers enjoyed hands on learning about the Pine Barrens, interpretive hikes, seining, dock scraping, scientific explorations, various activities and other learning opportunities over a 6 week period. This year we integrated a Monarch butterfly conservation program by rearing and releasing this species of decline, as well as planted native Milkweed, their main food source.



Water Quality Citizen Science at our Barrens to Bay Summer Camp

Our 9th annual “**Pine Barrens Discovery Day**” event was a successful educational event. It is designed to educate families, students and other Long Island residents on the natural and cultural history of the Central Pine Barrens. The event was held at Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge in Shirley on Saturday, September 12th. This is the first year we had the event in the fall instead of the spring. The seasonal change proved successful with over 700 people in attendance. In 2015, we had 12 funshops, 3 natural history hikes, 20 exhibitors geared toward hands on interactive learning and musical entertainment.

We continue to participate on the steering committee for the **Long Island Natural History Conference**, and we assisted with the coordinating and planning of the 4th annual conference. We helped secure the venue, arrange for speakers, the poster session, food, registration, press releases and the general organization of the three day event.



Owl pellet dissection at Pine Barrens Discovery Day

Land Use and Planning Division

Julie Hargrave, Principal Environmental Planner

The purpose of the Land Use Division is to ensure the use of land within the Central Pine Barrens area conforms to New York State Environmental Conservation Law (ECL) Article 57 and the Central Pine Barrens Commission's Comprehensive Land Use Plan (the "CLUP") and to guide its development. The Division provides both long range and current planning on a regional basis for the Central Pine Barrens area. Other services the Division provides are:

- Review and processing of Commission permit applications.
- Review of town and other agency land use management plans for conformance to ECL Article 57 and the CLUP.
- Prepare State Environmental Review Act (SEQRA) documents and perform SEQRA coordination with other agencies.
- Research and draft land use policy to guide the Commission.
- Provide recommendations to Commission councils, Advisory Committee, and towns on land use matters and policy under the Commission's purview.
- Support the Compliance and Enforcement Division with the investigation of land use incidents and violations, and the monitoring and review of Commission permit conditions, and conservation easements for conformance.
- Serve as the liaison to the public and government agencies on inquiries related to land use and development in the Central Pine Barrens and jurisdictional inquiries.
- Prepare Comprehensive Land Use Plan amendments.
- Communicate and meet with applicants.
- Prepare materials including staff reports and exhibits for public hearings on hardship waiver applications.
- Follow-up on compliance with the conditions of approval for permits granted by the Commission, filing requirements, and restoration activities.



Site in Compatible Growth Area

- Perform field inspections of project sites and post-construction site inspections.
- Track pending projects, referrals, and litigation.
- Update the Commission website with land use development information, status of applications, and project statistics.

In 2015, Commission Land Use Division Staff:

- Monitored and reviewed development projects in the Central Pine Barrens Area for compliance with ECL Article 57 and the Commission's Comprehensive Land Use Plan by:
 - Providing comments on SEQRA coordination referrals from the three towns in the Central Pine Barrens (Brookhaven, Riverhead, and Southampton), Suffolk County, and State agencies. In 2015, approximately 36 referrals were received.
 - Reviewing town code amendments and land use plans for conformity to NYS ECL Article 57 and the CLUP.
- Assisted with ground surveys to identify Southern Pine Beetle infestations in the Central Pine Barrens region.
- Responded to daily inquiries and requests for information related to land use, planning, and development matters in the Central Pine Barrens.
- Continued work on the Comprehensive Land Use Plan amendments, revising land use development provisions based on Commission input.
- Updated the Commission website with development application information, decisions, and statistics.
- Reviewed Requests for Determination of Jurisdiction for presentation to the Commission. All project sites were in the Core Preservation Area, except as noted:
 - NYSDEC Rocky Point Ball Fields, Rocky Point
 - The Hills at Southampton Mixed Use Planned Development District, East Quogue (Core, CGA, and Critical Resource Area)
 - McDonald's, Ridge
 - Eagan Jolly 35 lot subdivision, Manorville
 - Sachem Central School District, Farmingville (CGA)
 - Henry Dittmer Core Parcels in Yaphank and Ridge
 - Eagan Environmental Solutions, Manorville
- Reviewed applications for hardship waiver exemptions, prepared staff reports, SEQRA documentation, and drafted decisions for the following projects that were under review by the Commission. It should be noted that both of these applications were in the Core Preservation Area:
 - Armand Gustive LLC and Eagan Environmental Solutions LLC
 - Rockwell Collins

The table below depicts the number of decisions made by the Commission on development projects in the Core Preservation Area and Compatible Growth Area from 1993 through 2015. Projects that are reviewed by the Commission must be considered development as defined in NYS Environmental Conservation Law Article 57 (NYS ECL Article 57) and for projects in the Compatible Growth Area, involve either a hardship waiver request from development standards contained in its Comprehensive Land Use Plan or require a decision by the Commission because the project was a development of regional significance, in a critical resource area or the Commission asserted its jurisdiction over the project pursuant to NYS ECL Article 57. Development projects in the Core Preservation Area require a hardship waiver from the Commission either based on extraordinary hardship or compelling public need as identified in NYS ECL Article 57.

| Pine Barrens Commission Development Project Decisions 1993 through 2015 | | | | | | | | | |
|---|------------------------|--------------|-----------|------------------------|--------------|-----------|----------------------|--------------|-----------|
| Year | Core Preservation Area | | | Compatible Growth Area | | | Central Pine Barrens | | |
| | Approvals | Disapprovals | Decisions | Approvals | Disapprovals | Decisions | Approvals | Disapprovals | Decisions |
| 1993 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1994 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 12 | 3 | 15 |
| 1995 | 7 | 4 | 11 | 12 | 2 | 14 | 19 | 6 | 25 |
| 1996 | 7 | 2 | 9 | 9 | 0 | 9 | 16 | 2 | 18 |
| 1997 | 8 | 1 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 1 | 9 |
| 1998 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 7 |
| 1999 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 8 |
| 2000 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| 2001 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 8 | 1 | 9 |
| 2002 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 7 |
| 2003 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 5 |
| 2004 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 5 | 0 | 5 |
| 2005 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 2 | 11 |
| 2006 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 5 | 0 | 5 |
| 2007 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| 2008 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| 2009 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2010 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| 2011 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| 2012 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| 2013 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 2014 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 2015 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Total | 59 | 22 | 81 | 61 | 9 | 70 | 120 | 31 | 151 |

Science and Stewardship Division

Ann Carter, Science & Stewardship Coordinator

The Science and Stewardship Division supports the Commission's mission to protect and restore natural, historic, cultural, water, and scenic resources, and enhance public access and enjoyment, while promoting scientific research across the Pine Barrens region, as envisioned in New York State Environmental Conservation Law (ECL) Article 57 and the Central Pine Barrens Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

The Division works closely with public landowners within the multi-jurisdictional Central Pine Barrens area on stewardship initiatives involving:

- Cultural, historic, and scenic resource protection and restoration
- Ecological research, monitoring, protection and restoration
- Land use management and protection
- Fire management planning
- Natural resource protection and management
- Open space management
- Public use and recreational resource planning and management

In addition the Division:

- Provides overall support to the Protected Lands Council and its stewardship initiatives (the Protected Lands Council is discussed further in a separate section in this report).
- Contributes support to the Law Enforcement Council and other Commission committees.
- Provides cartographic and data information and analysis services for the Commission.
- Provides support to the other Commission Divisions on stewardship matters related to development projects, agency land management plans and land use incident investigations and enforcement actions.
- Manages the purchase and maintenance of field tools and equipment.

Summarized on the following pages are the Division Activities and Programs that occurred in 2015.

Annual Pine Barrens Research Forum

The Division played a lead role in planning and producing the 20th Annual Pine Barrens Research Forum with the Commission's co-sponsors: Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL), Long Island Groundwater Research Institute, and the Foundation for Ecological Research in the Northeast. The event, held at BNL on October 1, 2015, was well received by participants, and featured fascinating scientific and technical presentations, research posters, and exhibits covering a wide range of topics relevant to the Long Island area: climate change impacts, water quality, Southern Pine Beetle and other forest pests, invasive plants, habitat management, pollution impacts, pine barrens ecological communities, unique species, and hydrology. The October 2nd technical field tour of plant communities at BNL was cancelled, due to high winds and foul weather.

Invasive Species Management

The Division represents the Commission on New York State's Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management, which generally meets monthly (webinar meeting) and its local group, the Long Island Invasive Species Management Area (LIISMA) which meets quarterly. LIISMA is a voluntary partnership of over 50 organizations from Richmond, Brooklyn, Kings, Queens, Nassau and Suffolk Counties that includes government agencies, non-profits and private businesses. This group works together to share information and the latest strategies for invasive species management. In 2015, staff:

- During southern pine beetle ground survey operations, scouted for priority invasive plant species that may become established as a result of increased sunlight reaching the forest floor in affected forest stands.
- Participated in LIISMA's quarterly meetings. Some of the topics featured included Southern Pine Beetle, *Ludwigia* in the Peconic River, invasive plant identification, Anovel ecosystems@, emerging invasive species on Long Island and NY State, NY State's updated aquatic invasive species management plan.
- Attended advanced training in the use of NY State's centralized invasive species database and mapping tool "iMapinvasives".
- Hosted the December 10th LIISMA meeting at the Suffolk County Water Authority office in Coram.
- Collected field data on invasive plant infestations.

Forest Health Protection

The Commission works collaboratively with scientists and other professionals to monitor and keep abreast of potential threats to forest health across the pine barrens region, including forest pests and pathogens, and other biotic and abiotic stressors. Forest management planning and restoration assistance are also provided.

Southern Pine Beetle

Significant pitch pine mortality, caused by infestations of Southern Pine Beetle (SPB), the most destructive bark beetle in southeast United States, was discovered on Long Island in 2014. Response efforts continued to be in the forefront of the Commission's work in 2015, and included:

- Multi-party coordination and cooperative work with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and its Forest Health Unit, USDA Forest Service, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Cornell University Research Laboratory & Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County, NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation, Suffolk County Department of Parks, National Park Service, a number of townships, prominent SPB scientists, and others.
- Participation in NYSDEC's SPB Response Incident Command System, serving as the Situation Unit Leader and Liaison Officer.
- Compiling response updates from responding agencies and prepared bi-weekly reports.
- Participation in SPB Incident Command System (ICS) Ground Survey Branch field work as a follow-up to NYS DEC aerial detection surveys. SPB infestations were located, evaluated, and mapped. Data collected were used to guide agency planning efforts and SPB suppression cutting of priority active infestations.
- Participation in cooperative SPB trapping field work, deploying and monitoring SPB pheromone baited funnel traps, collecting and submitting data and samples to the NYS DEC Forest Health Unit and Cornell Horticultural Research Lab for analysis.
- Attended and participation in various meetings:
 - Attended an SPB biology and management workshop in February, presented by leading research scientists, and organized by Cornell Cooperative Extension,
 - Bayard Cutting Arboretum and the LI Arboricultural Association.



Funnel trap baited with Southern Pine Beetle pheromone and terpene, deployed in E. Quogue on April 8, 2015

- Organizing and conducted a pitch pine seed collection event (see the Ecological Restoration section on the next page).
- Assisting USDA Forest Service scientists with field work and data collection to characterize a SPB affected stand at Wertheim Wildlife Refuge.
- Analyzing aerial photographs and produced maps.
- Obtaining permission for access to lands.
- Participating in the development of SPB response plans.
- Providing training to staff from other agencies.
- Analyzing weather station data.
- Led a tour of SPB infested stands for a visiting scientist studying vegetation dynamics in SPB infested stands.
- Assisting with the coordination of a ground survey training session for LI agency staff.

Other Forest Health Activities

- Discovered many declining pitch pines that had no evidence of SPB attack. In response to Commission staff inquiries, a US Forest Service pathologist examined some of these affected trees at various sites in the Pine Barrens and did not find any single causal agent. Some of the stressors found were Armillaria root rot, Lophodermium needle cast, turpentine beetle, and pine needle scale.



Cherry Scallop Shell Moth larvae in rolled up leaf at Rocky Point Pine Barrens Preserve

- During the growing season, Commission staff also discovered significant areas of browning pitch pine needles in the eastern Pine Barrens. The Cornell Horticultural Research Laboratory analyzed samples collected by Commission staff and diagnosed it as an infection of Lophodermium disease.
- Continued to observe many white pines in the region continuing to exhibit symptoms of stress.
- Discovered many yellowing white pines in May near a recharge basin in Shoreham, and recommended to the landowner that they promptly remove old steel guy wires that were girdling the trees.

- Discovered significant infestations of cherry scallop shell moth (a native insect) in Rocky Point, Middle Island, and Yaphank.
- Observed a significant amount of areas that had gypsy moth defoliation and found high populations of female moths laying eggs along Smith Road and other areas in the Pine Barrens, including Middle Island, Ridge, and Manorville.

Ecological Restoration

In early November, the Division coordinated Protected Lands Council efforts to collect seeds from pitch pine trees cut during Southern Pine Beetle suppression activities in the Hampton Bays area. Cones were collected and sent to the NY State nursery in Saratoga Springs, where



Collecting Pitch Pine Cones for Future Restoration Projects

the seeds would be extracted, grown, and eventually dug out as bare-root transplants for future restoration projects on Long Island. In 2016, additional seed collection efforts will be coordinated to help build up supplies of Long Island native genotypes to use in forest and other ecological community restoration projects on lands where natural regeneration is not a viable option.

Aerial Monitoring and Ground Support Program

The Commission has a Memorandum of Understanding with the New York Wing of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) which is a volunteer civilian auxiliary of the United States Air Force and also a member of the Commission's Law Enforcement Council (LEC). The MOU enables CAP to assist the Commission and the LEC by performing aerial missions such as reconnaissance to search for victims, damage assessments, or environmental surveys utilizing visual photographic, digital and video techniques; airborne communications support; and airlifts (subject to certain restrictions identified in the MOU). In addition CAP can provide manual labor (e.g. filling sandbags for flood control); radio communications; and ground teams (typically used in search and rescue missions). The Commission's digital cameras enable the Division to take key aerial photographs during these missions to document existing land conditions, perform smoke spotting, inventory agricultural land use, identify the location of dump sites, abandoned vehicles and ATV damage and perform forest health monitoring. This year the Division processed information collected during a winter aerial reconnaissance mission of ground conditions over parts of the Pine Barrens and eastern Suffolk County with the Civil Air Patrol and NY State Department of Environmental

Conservation. Aerial photos were used by the Commission and other agencies to identify areas damaged by illegal off-road vehicle use, assess Southern Pine Beetle infestations, and to aid in ground monitoring operations, land cover documentation, and land management planning. Aerial photographs taken during the mission were also used in conference presentations.

Ecological Services Project

In 2015, the Commission made significant progress in regard to its Ecological Services project. The Commission advanced the NYS DEC Sarnoff-Suffolk County Pleasure Drive complex project to restore ecological communities and undertake wildfire mitigation measures, including reduction of fuel loads.

In regard to the Sarnoff-Pleasure Drive project, the Commission, with its contractor Land Use Ecological Services and subcontractor Sustainable Solutions, conducted extensive outreach to involved and interested agencies and organizations in 2015, including the Suffolk County Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), Suffolk County Board of Parks Trustees and Flanders-Riverside-Northampton Civic Association (FRNCA). In addition, the Commission conducted meetings with and made presentations to the Flanders Fire Department, Flanders Fire District and the Town of Southampton. The Commission also coordinated a community forum, to which adjacent and nearby residents were invited, to learn about the project and ask questions. Throughout 2015, Commission staff and the Commission contractor provided continual updates to the Commission.

Input received through these processes was used to refine project plans. In addition, the Commission conducted a SEQRA review and after being designated Lead Agency, in the latter part of 2015 issued a Negative Declaration and issued an approval for the first phase of the project which entailed work on the northern portion of the Sarnoff Preserve and two County parkland areas located adjacent to Pleasure Drive in Flanders.

In 2015, the Commission also conducted additional data collection for the proposed Ecological Services projects on the Rocky Point Pine Barrens Preserve and Eastport Grasslands.

In 2016, physical, on-site work is expected to commence on the Sarnoff project and final plans for the Rocky Point Pine Barrens Preserve and Eastport Grasslands are expected to be completed.

Ray Corwin Rocky Point to Yaphank Trail

The Commission is coordinating the development of a regional trail that will travel from Route 25A in Rocky Point to Main Street in Yaphank. The proposed approximately eight mile trail will be named in memory of the first executive director of the Central Pine Barrens Commission, Ray Corwin who passed away in 2010. The conceptual trail route follows existing open paths and woods roads, and includes several spurs and potential future connections to points south for use by hikers and equestrians. Some of the partners involved in the planning process include NY State Department of Environmental Conservation, Suffolk County Department of Parks, Town of Brookhaven, NY State Department of Transportation, the Protected Lands Council, and user groups. Some of this year's work to advance this project included:

- Planning trail connections to NYS DEC's trailhead project on the north side of NYS 25 in Middle Island (the former Lustgarten property). The trailhead project is progressing and an accessible loop trail has been established.
- Conducting research of land ownership records.
- Researching potential designs for barriers to illegal off-road vehicle access.
- Assessing damage caused by the illegal use of off-road vehicles, dumping, and encroachments in the trail corridor.
- Evaluating trail conditions.
- Continuing to work with town and County staff to refine trail plans in the vicinity of the south end of the Longwood greenbelt, historic Smith cart path, and the Long Island Expressway. Topics under consideration include barrier designs to prevent illegal trail uses, survey issues, and coordination with development plans for the Meadows at Yaphank project.

ATV Damage & Dumping Mitigation Program

The Division works with public land managers, the Protected Lands Council and the Law Enforcement Council to mitigate widespread ATV damage and dumping in the Central Pine Barrens area. Erosion of fragile soils, habitat destruction, trail damage, and other negative impacts caused by illegal off-road vehicle use continue to compromise the protection of natural areas across the Central Pine Barrens region. This program primarily involves damage assessments, mitigation planning, installation and ongoing repairs of barriers and signage, monitoring, reporting, and other related work. Work has been focused in a number of areas which include:

Rocky Point to Yaphank Trail Corridor

The Division continued communications with law enforcement officials regarding clearing, vandalism, off-road vehicle and dumping activity, and encroachments within and around the trail corridor. Mitigation of these illegal activities is an essential component

in current regional recreational trail planning efforts, as well as for the protection of sensitive ecological resources in this area.

Flanders/Hampton Bays Area

Public land managers are in the process of implementing ecological restoration projects in this area. Efforts continue to integrate the Division's ongoing ATV/dumping mitigation program into public land managers' ecological restoration project plans.

Cartographic Services

The Division provided cartographic services related to the Central Pine Barrens boundary, as well as cartographic support for compliance work, stewardship projects, and management planning.

Equipment and Supplies

The Division is responsible for managing equipment, supplies, and storage facilities for its operations. This year, staff:

- Identified needs for field equipment, electronics, software, safety gear, and supplies.
- Researched equipment specifications.
- Oversaw purchases.
- Provided technical assistance to staff related to equipment and software.
- Conducted equipment maintenance.
- Provided extensive maintenance of the Commission's equipment shed.

Dwarf Pine Plains Trail

Established by the Commission in 2007, the Dwarf Pine Plains Trail is a 0.6 mile loop trail that begins at the Commission office in Westhampton, and traverses this rare and fascinating ecological community. The trail and trailhead are cooperatively maintained and improved as per the Commission's cooperative stewardship agreement with the landowners, Suffolk County Department of Parks, NYS Department of Environmental



Wild Columbine

Conservation, and Suffolk County Water Authority. Regular maintenance activities include the removal of litter and dumped materials, registration station upkeep, fence repairs, weed control, maintenance of signage, and trail pruning.

This year, staff:

- Coordinated with Suffolk County Parks staff to prune vegetation that had regrown along the trail, and replace deteriorated fencing.
- Pruned and weeded native planting areas, which include pitch pine, columbine, prickly pear cactus, bearberry, reindeer lichen, pine barren golden heather, milkweed, goldenrod, little bluestem, and other native pine barrens plants.
- Maintained registration box at the trailhead. The trail has gained in popularity as evidenced by many positive comments left by hikers.
- Removed debris and litter.

Compliance & Enforcement

Continued to report incidents and provide support, as needed.

Outreach

Responded to inquiries from the public and agencies on a wide variety of topics, including, but certainly not limited to geographic information systems, forest health, trails, parks, and invasive species.

Research Programs

Annual Pine Barrens Research Forum

The Annual Pine Barrens Research Forum is sponsored by the Brookhaven National Laboratory, the Central Pine Barrens Joint Planning and Policy Commission, the Long Island Groundwater Research Institute at Stony Brook University and the Foundation for Ecological Research in the Northeast and is held at Brookhaven National Laboratory in Upton, New York, typically on the first Thursday and Friday in October. The Research Forum features speakers involved in significant research from various key scientific areas from all over the Country and Europe. Each year the Forum provides on its first day intriguing, in depth presentations on the latest scientific research being conducted by noteworthy scientists, informative displays and exhibits from local agencies and not-for-profit environmental research and protection organizations, and a poster session that provides a diverse array of research activities undertaken by students and others involved in the field of scientific research.

The second day of the Forum provides a dynamic realtime student science educational research exchange through a web conference

that is broadcast to schools both locally and abroad. A field trip is also held on the second day of the Forum that include trips to local ecological and research areas of interest on Long Island. Copies of the Research Forum proceedings, which include speaker abstracts, poster session, exhibits and display information, are available on request from the Commission's office.



One of the field trips held during a prior Research Forum

In 2015, there were approximately 150 participants who attended the presentations and poster sessions during the first day of the Research Forum. The diversity of topics can be seen on the Research Forum program agenda that follows this page. A field session was planned for day two of the Forum, but had to be cancelled due to foul weather conditions. This session was to be led by Richard Stalter, Professor of Biology at St. John's University, to examine the flora of seven

ecological communities at Brookhaven National Laboratory, including the unique Gamma Forest, and to discuss his three-year floristic research project that began in 2005.

Southern Pine Beetle Research

For information on the Southern Pine Beetle and current monitoring and suppression work that is underway, please refer to the Science & Stewardship section in this report.

Please register by September 25
 by faxing this form to: (631) 288-1367, or by
 email to: carol.sholl@scwa.com, or by mail to:
 Central Pine Barrens Commission
 624 Old Riverhead Road
 Westhampton Beach, NY 11978
 (631) 288-1079

Please check the applicable box(es):
 I will attend the seminar on October 1
 I would like to attend the field session on October 2

Name: _____

Representing: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

Email: _____

Directions to Brookhaven National Laboratory: Take LI Expressway (Rt. 495) to Exit 68 north (Wm. Floyd Parkway) and drive north approximately 1.7 miles. Turn right into the Laboratory's main entrance. Stop at the booth to check in. Valid photo identification is required. Proceed to the light, turn left onto Upton Road, right onto Brookhaven Ave., and Berkner Hall Auditorium is on the left. Free parking is available adjacent to Berkner Hall.

Central Pine Barrens Joint Planning & Policy Commission
 624 Old Riverhead Road
 Westhampton Beach, New York 11978

Twentieth Annual Pine Barrens Research Forum



Little wood satyr (Megisto cymela)

October 1 & 2, 2015

**Brookhaven National Laboratory
 Berkner Hall
 Upton, New York**

*Sponsored by:
 Brookhaven National Laboratory,
 Central Pine Barrens Commission,
 LI Groundwater Research Institute
 at Stony Brook, and the Foundation for
 Ecological Research in the Northeast*

Twentieth Annual Pine Barrens Research Forum Thursday, October 1

8:30 am Registration & Coffee

9:00 am Welcome

John W. Pavacic, Executive Director,
 Central Pine Barrens Commission

Doon Gibbs, Director,
 Brookhaven National Laboratory

Frank Crescenzo, Manager,
 US Department of Energy, Brookhaven
 Area Office

Chair, Central Pine Barrens Joint
 Planning & Policy Commission

9:30 am **The impacts of rising water temperatures on the survival of eelgrass (*Zostera marina* L.) in natural and transplanted meadows in the Peconic Estuary.**
Chris Pickerell, Director, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County, Marine Program

10:00 am **Pines, fire and plant invasions in the Long Island pine barrens.**
Jessica Gurevitch, Professor, Stony Brook University, Department of Ecology & Evolution

10:30 am Break and Poster Session

11:00 am **Excessive delivery of nitrogen into Long Island's coastal ecosystems: Crisis and opportunity.**
Christopher J. Gobler, Professor, Stony Brook University, School of Marine & Atmospheric Sciences

11:30 am **Forest pests and forest management in the Anthropocene.**
Matthew P. Ayres, Professor of Biological Sciences, Dartmouth College

12:00 pm **Management of Southern Pine Beetle on Long Island and Upstate New York.**
Jessica A. Cancelliere, Research Scientist, NY State Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Lands & Forests, Forest Health

12:30 pm **Lunch** (on your own; cafeteria on-site)

1:30 pm **Measuring storm tide and high-water marks caused by Hurricane Sandy in New York.**
Riley Behrens, Hydrologic Technician, US Geological Survey, New York Water Science Center

2:00 pm **Habitat management for an endangered butterfly benefits Other Species of Great-est Conservation Need in an eastern New York pitch pine - scrub oak barrens.**
Neil A. Gifford, Conservation Director, Albany Pine Bush Preserve

2:30 pm **Lichen Communities of the New Jersey Pinelands.**
Natalie Howe, PhD Candidate, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

Friday, October 2

Field Session
 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

The Gamma forest and additional plant communities at Brookhaven National Laboratory, New York

Richard Stalter, Professor of Biology
 St. John's University,
 Department of Biological Sciences

The flora of Brookhaven National Laboratory was collected and identified by Richard Stalter and Eric Lamont in a three-year study beginning in 2005. During this field trip we will examine the flora of the seven communities described in the study. The most unique is the gamma irradiated forest, the site of Woodwell's Cesium 137 radiation study in the early 1960's. All vegetation at the gamma source where the vegetation was exposed to 63,000 roentgens was killed. Carex pensylvanica, a sedge, survived the radiation treatment approximately twenty-five feet from the source. Professor Stalter will present a brief slide show on his study of the irradiated forest before we visit the site. We will also visit the Laboratory's pine plantations, fields, swamps, woodland and ruderal (disturbed) sites, noting the common plants at each site.

Meet at Brookhaven National Laboratory, Berkner Hall lobby at 8:45 am. Bring drinking water and tick protection. Heavy rain cancels. Limited to the first 25 registrants.



Narrowleaf blue-eyed grass (Sisyrinchium angustifolium)
 Photo Credit: Vern Wilkins

Central Pine Barrens Advisory Committee

Jeffrey W. Szabo, Chief Executive Officer, Suffolk County Water Authority, Chair
Richard L. Amper, Executive Director, Long Island Pine Barrens Society, Vice Chair

The Pine Barrens Advisory Committee (AC) was established in New York State Environmental Conservation Law Article 57 (“Pine Barrens Law”) which specifically named the 24 member organizations and authorized up to 28 members. The committee membership is represented by a balance of environmental, civic and builder groups whose purpose is to actively assist and advise the Central Pine Barrens Joint Planning and Policy Commission (“the Commission”) in the implementation and revision of the Central Pine Barrens Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

During 2015, the Advisory Committee did not meet nor engage in any other activities but individual member organizations did continue to provide input to the Commission on a variety of matters, including the Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

Pine Barrens Credit Clearinghouse

James T.B. Tripp, Esq., Senior Counsel, Environmental Defense Fund, Chair
Andrew Freleng, Chief Planner, Suffolk County Division of Planning &
Environment, Vice Chair

The Long Island Pine Barrens Protection Act specified the need for land use protection mechanisms to protect the Core Preservation Area that included the purchase of development rights that later came to fruition when the 1995 *Central Pine Barrens Comprehensive Land Use Plan* (the “Plan”) was completed and the Pine Barrens Credit Program, a transfer of development rights program, was created. Chapter 6 of the *Plan* outlines the overall Credit Program that defines sending and receiving areas, specifies operating procedures and tracking requirements, and includes Credit allocation formulas. The *Plan* specified a five member Clearinghouse Board of Advisors to oversee the operation and implementation of the Credit Program and is comprised of representatives for the State of New York, the County of Suffolk, and the Towns of Brookhaven, Riverhead and Southampton who are appointed by these entities and serve without compensation.

Owners and purchasers of Pine Barrens Credits (Credits) transact business in an open market, with all Credits and transactions tracked by the Clearinghouse from “cradle to grave”. The Clearinghouse can choose to actively assist the market by offering to purchase Credits as it has done in prior years. Information on prior Clearinghouse initiatives to purchase Credits is available on the Commission’s website at: http://www.pb.state.ny.us/chart_pbc_main_page.htm#Current_and_prior_initiatives)

The Clearinghouse also publishes a monthly *Registry* which lists potential buyers and sellers of Credits that is available on the Commission’s website at: http://www.pb.state.ny.us/chart_pbc_main_page.htm#Registry.

Except where noted, all statistics in the report that follows represents the totals from the three participating Towns, Brookhaven, Riverhead and Southampton. Overall program statistics that include Town level breakdowns and information for 2015 is presented in the Program Summary table at the end of this section.

2015 Pine Barrens Credit Clearinghouse Year End Report

Jerry Tverdyy, Environmental Analyst

This report provides a statistical compilation of the Credit Clearinghouse Program's (the Program's) transactions and Core parcels that have been preserved since the inception of the Program in 1995 and highlights the Program's activity specific to 2015. Except where noted, all of the statistics reflect the Program's activity across the three participating towns, Brookhaven, Riverhead and Southampton. Individual town level breakdowns referenced in this report are available at the end of this report section (see Tables 1-4), and on the Pine Barrens Credit Program main web page at: http://www.pb.state.ny.us/chart_pbc_main_page.htm.

Acreage Enrolled

As of 1/1/16, there are 948 parcels enrolled in the Program, which are now protected from future development or for partially developed parcels, from further development since they have conservation easements placed on them. The development potential has been removed from these parcels and translated into Pine Barrens Credits in a certificate form. The owner may either use them directly to develop outside of the Pine Barrens Core Area or can sell to a developer who may need Credits to satisfy town zoning code requirements for extra development density or Suffolk County Department of Health Services sanitary requirements. The total acreage that has been encumbered by conservation easements is approximately 1,983 acres, with an average parcel size of 2.09 acres. From the larger Pine Barrens preservation perspective, these easement protected lands comprise approximately 3.6 % of the statutorily defined 55,000 acre Core Preservation Area. Additional parcel in



Preserved land in Flanders area

formation can be found in Table 1 at the end of this report section.

Credits Issued, Redeemed and In Circulation

Since the start of the Program in 1995 (the first Credits were actually issued in 1996), 987.68 Credits have been issued. Of these, 481.29 have been redeemed (49% of the issued Credits), while the remaining 506.39 Credits remain "outstanding" (i.e., issued but still in private hands and unredeemed). The Pine Barrens Credit Clearinghouse owns 10.19 Credits at this time that were purchased in 2011 through an offer made by the Clearinghouse to spend up to \$1 million to purchase Credits from Credit owners located in the Town of Brookhaven.

During 2015, 9.17 Credits were redeemed. Since 51.75 Credits were generated in 2015, the net inventory level of the outstanding Credits went up by 42.58 Credits, which slightly pushed the ratio up on the side of unredeemed credits. Additional information on Credit transactions can be found in Table 2 at the end of this report section.

Credit Sales and Prices Recorded

There were 28.99 Credits sold during 2015, which represents a decrease of 21.29 Credits when compared to the prior year, 2014. The average "per Credit" sales price was \$60,000 (with the range from \$55,000 up to \$85,000 "per Credit"), which is a little less than the overall 2014 average unit Credit price.

To place this in a historical perspective, this 2015 average unit price is close to the 2010 year level. Finally, from the program's inception to 1/1/16, the PBC Program has recorded a grand total of almost \$41 million in private sales.

The complete history of Credit sale prices by year and by Town is available at the end of this report section in Table 4.

Intermunicipal and Intertown Flows of Credits

As of 1/1/16, a total of 77.4 Credits have crossed a municipal boundary (town or village) from their sending parcel to their receiving parcel, representing approximately 16% of all redeemed Credits, or approximately 1 in every 6 redeemed Credits (see Table 2 at the end of this report section).

From a strictly intertown perspective, 53.5 of these 75 credits crossed a Town boundary, representing 11% of all redeemed Credits, or approximately 1 in every 9 redeemed Credits (see Table 3 at the end of this report section).

In 2015, 1.8 Credits were redeemed to the Town of Brookhaven, and the remaining, 7.37 Credits (out of the 9.17 Credits total), were redeemed to the Suffolk County Department of Health Services for sewage flow intensity increases.

Clearinghouse Funds

The Clearinghouse currently has approximately \$2.5 million in available funds which are administered by the Suffolk County Treasurer's Office. There were no new deposits or disbursements during 2015. An end of year accounting of those funds is available at: http://www.pb.state.ny.us/pbc/sc_treasurers_report.pdf.

Easement Compliance and Enforcement (CAE) Activity

The Commission's CAE Coordinator, working with our Land Use Division, has completed onsite inspections and baseline documentation reports for 931 of the 948 parcels enrolled in the Program, or approximately 98% of the parcels. In 2015 numerous field conditions either unrelated to the easement provisions or affecting nearby parcels or road right of ways have been documented and addressed through the CAE Division's Incident Reporting (IR) System.

These formal Incident Reports are then tracked until the field condition is resolved, usually in close coordination with public lands managers, highway departments, parks departments, environmental conservation police, or other agencies. Typical conditions include clearing, dumping, off road vehicle violations, vandalism or public property damage, etc.

Policy Initiatives

In 2015, the Central Pine Barrens Commission completed a transaction under which almost 45 acres of land (136 individual lots) in the Carmans River watershed in Yaphank will be permanently preserved. In exchange, the property's owner, Enchanted Forest II LLC, received more than 51 Pine Barrens Credits, which can be sold or used for a variety of development purposes outside of the Central Pine Barrens Core Preservation Area.

Enchanted Forest was the first Credit Program transaction within the newly expanded Core Preservation Area that was the result of the New York State Legislature's amendment to the Long Island Pine Barrens Protection Act to include the River's watershed area in an effort to better protect the river's hydrological and ecological resources. This implemented one of the recommendations of the Carmans River Watershed Protection Plan that was prepared by the Town of Brookhaven to address the concerns related to deterioration of water quality of the river in recent years.

At its October 19, 2015 meeting, the Pine Barrens Credit Clearinghouse Board (the “Clearinghouse”) authorized the sending of a letter to the Town of Southampton concerning The Hills at Southampton Mixed Use Planned Development District Project. Since this development may have potentially significant impacts on natural resources in the Central Pine Barrens area of the Town of Southampton, the Clearinghouse strongly recommended that the Town and the developer consider the redemption of Pine Barrens Credits, in addition to the proposed transfer of development yield from the Core Area, as a primary public benefit for the project.

At the same meeting the Clearinghouse made a decision to make the 10.19 Pine Barrens Credits, that the Clearinghouse had purchased through a Credit purchase offer they had made to Credit owners in the Town of Brookhaven, available to developers who might need them for redemption purposes, such as additional sanitary flow or increased number of residential units.

| | Brookhaven | Riverhead | Southampton | Total | 2015 |
|---|--------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| Parcels | 493 | 35 | 420 | 948 | 139 |
| Acreage | 771.27 | 516.51 | 695.33 | 1983.10 | 45.71 |
| Average parcel size | 1.56 | 14.76 | 1.66 | 2.09 | 0.33 |
| Credits generated | 520.32 | 172.29 | 295.07 | 987.68 | 51.75 |
| Credits redeemed | 271.49 | 87.43 | 122.37 | 481.29 | 9.17 |
| Credits not re-deemed | 248.83 | 84.86 | 172.7 | 506.39 | 42.58 |
| Credits sold | 437.24 | 207.88 | 223.53 | 868.65 | 28.99 |
| Total value of PBC transactions through this date | \$19,373,144 | \$7,188,847 | \$14,464,580 | \$41,026,571 | \$1,707,838 |
| Credits owned by the Clearinghouse | 10.19 | – | – | 10.19 | |

| Destinations | Originating from | | | Totals |
|---|------------------|-----------|-------------|--------|
| | Brookhaven | Riverhead | Southampton | |
| Babylon (District 100) | | 2.71 | | 2.71 |
| Brookhaven Unincorporated (District 200) | | 0.35 | 13.64 | 13.99 |
| South Country Village (202) | 0.54 | | | 0.54 |
| Patchogue Village (204) | 0.2 | | | 0.2 |
| East Hampton Village (302) | | | 2.75 | 2.75 |
| Huntington Unincorporated (400) | | 1 | | 1 |
| Islip Unincorporated (500) | 10.72 | 11.49 | 7.13 | 29.34 |
| Riverhead Unincorporated (District 600) | 3.05 | | 0.16 | 3.21 |
| Smithtown Unincorporated (800) | | | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| Southampton Unincorporated (District 900) | 0.46 | | | 0.46 |
| Quogue Village (902) | | | 0.37 | 0.37 |
| Southampton Village (904) | | | 15.15 | 15.15 |
| Westhampton Beach Village (905) | | | 7.55 | 7.55 |
| Totals | 14.97 | 15.55 | 46.85 | 77.37 |

| Table 3: Intertown Flows of Pine Barrens Credits as of 1/1/2016 | | | | |
|---|------------------|-----------|-------------|--------|
| Destinations | Originating from | | | Totals |
| | Brookhaven | Riverhead | Southampton | |
| Babylon (District 100) | | 2.71 | | 2.71 |
| Brookhaven (District 200) | | 0.35 | 13.64 | 13.99 |
| East Hampton Village (302) | | | 2.75 | 2.75 |
| Huntington (District 400) | | 1 | | 1 |
| Islip (District 500) | 10.72 | 11.49 | 7.13 | 29.34 |
| Riverhead (District 600) | 3.05 | | 0.16 | 3.21 |
| Smithtown (District 800) | | | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| Southampton (District 900) | 0.46 | | | 0.46 |
| Totals | 14.23 | 15.55 | 23.78 | 53.56 |

Table 4: Pine Barrens Credit Sales 1996 through 2015

| Year | Brookhaven Town | | | Riverhead Town | | | Southampton Town | | | Totals | | |
|--------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|--------|---------------|---------------|
| | # PBCs | Sales Value | Avg PBC Value | # PBCs | Sales Value | Avg PBC Value | # PBCs | Sales Value | Avg PBC Value | # PBCs | Sales Value | Avg PBC Value |
| 1996 | 1.00 | 7,500.00 | 7,500.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1.00 | 7,500.00 | 7,500.00 |
| 1997 | 31.18 | 383,140.00 | 12,288.01 | 56.17 | 561,700.00 | 10,000.00 | 4.52 | 48,814.00 | 10,799.56 | 91.87 | 993,654.00 | 10,815.87 |
| 1998 | 67.88 | 1,016,760.00 | 14,978.79 | 0.10 | 500.00 | 5,000.00 | 5.84 | 57,500.00 | 9,845.89 | 73.82 | 1,074,760.00 | 14,559.20 |
| 1999 | 54.95 | 1,445,902.00 | 26,313.05 | 18.19 | 245,600.00 | 13,501.92 | 0.72 | 8,050.00 | 11,180.56 | 73.86 | 1,699,552.00 | 23,010.45 |
| 2000 | 36.29 | 1,280,211.00 | 35,277.24 | 6.00 | 102,000.00 | 17,000.00 | 9.71 | 194,200.00 | 20,000.00 | 52.00 | 1,576,411.00 | 30,315.60 |
| 2001 | 29.04 | 1,142,000.00 | 39,325.07 | 7.00 | 118,000.00 | 16,857.14 | 0.89 | 19,900.00 | 22,359.55 | 36.93 | 1,279,900.00 | 34,657.46 |
| 2002 | 49.56 | 1,973,400.00 | 39,818.40 | 26.98 | 485,640.00 | 18,000.00 | 1.77 | 53,800.00 | 30,395.48 | 78.31 | 2,512,840.00 | 32,088.37 |
| 2003 | 60.02 | 2,920,350.00 | 48,656.28 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 2.84 | 173,450.00 | 61,073.94 | 62.86 | 3,093,800.00 | 49,217.31 |
| 2004 | 16.85 | 1,209,550.00 | 71,783.38 | 6.00 | 288,000.00 | 48,000.00 | 10.59 | 912,700.00 | 86,185.08 | 33.44 | 2,410,250.00 | 72,076.85 |
| 2005 | 2.00 | 232,500.00 | 116,250.00 | 2.15 | 146,000.00 | 67,906.98 | 38.89 | 2,877,900.00 | 74,001.03 | 43.04 | 3,256,400.00 | 75,659.85 |
| 2006 | 7.50 | 830,000.00 | 110,666.67 | 1.00 | 70,000.00 | 70,000.00 | 53.80 | 3,779,750.00 | 70,255.58 | 62.30 | 4,679,750.00 | 75,116.37 |
| 2007 | 13.68 | 1,353,000.00 | 98,903.51 | 2.10 | 208,000.00 | 99,047.62 | 16.55 | 1,488,350.00 | 89,930.51 | 32.33 | 3,049,350.00 | 94,319.52 |
| 2008 | 5.50 | 456,000.00 | 82,909.09 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 9.85 | 795,450.00 | 80,756.35 | 15.35 | 1,251,450.00 | 81,527.69 |
| 2009 | 13.24 | 1,060,650.00 | 80,109.52 | 1.64 | 123,000.00 | 75,000.00 | 3.84 | 299,786.00 | 78,069.27 | 18.72 | 1,483,436.00 | 79,243.38 |
| 2010 | 3.11 | 251,622.49 | 80,907.55 | 0.40 | 26,000.00 | 65,000.00 | 47.57 | 2,607,030.00 | 54,804.08 | 51.08 | 2,884,652.49 | 56,473.23 |
| 2011 | 26.32 | 2,316,926.41 | 88,029.12 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 3.02 | 195,000.27 | 64,569.63 | 29.34 | 2,511,926.68 | 85,614.41 |
| 2012 | 6.55 | 486,000.00 | 74,198.47 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 8.20 | 602,000.00 | 73,414.63 | 14.75 | 1,088,000.00 | 73,762.71 |
| 2013 | 5.99 | 439,620.00 | 73,392.32 | 9.24 | 541,450.00 | 58,598.48 | 3.15 | 210,500.00 | 66,825.40 | 18.38 | 1,191,570.00 | 64,829.71 |
| 2014 | 5.59 | 488,562.50 | 87,399.37 | 43.91 | 2,729,570.00 | 62,162.83 | 0.78 | 55,400.00 | 71,025.64 | 50.28 | 3,273,532.50 | 65,106.06 |
| 2015 | 0.99 | 79,450.00 | 80,252.53 | 27.00 | 1,543,387.50 | 57,162.50 | 1.00 | 85,000.00 | 85,000.00 | 28.99 | 1,707,837.50 | 58,911.26 |
| Totals | 437.24 | 19,373,144.40 | 44,307.80 | 207.88 | 7,188,847.50 | 34,581.72 | 223.53 | 14,464,580.27 | 64,709.79 | 868.65 | 41,026,572.17 | 47,230.27 |



Pine Barrens Law Enforcement Council

Capt. Dallas Bengel, NYS EnCon Police, Chair
Lt. Michael Smith, Suffolk County Sheriff's Office, Vice Chair
Arthur Pendzick, Deputy Director, Suffolk County Park Rangers, Vice Chair

There are more than two dozen different law enforcement, public safety, and environmental agencies that have enforcement jurisdiction or responsibilities within the Central Pine Barrens. In 1995, the Pine Barrens Law Enforcement Council (PBLEC) was created which brought all these agencies together and has since then been the primary means for them to communicate, exchange ideas and work together to better protect and safeguard the Central Pine Barrens. Through various means of law enforcement and inter-agency cooperation, illegal All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) and off-road vehicle (ORV) use, dumping, encroachment, illegal land clearing, hunting violations, homeless encampments and many other problems are successfully addressed every year.

As needed, creative ideas are utilized to address unique issues. For example, a multi-agency task force was created to combat illegal ATV and off road activity as well as other problems which plague the environmentally sensitive lands of the Central Pine Barrens. Monthly meetings are held to discuss, critique and plan on how to effectively continue to combat environmental crimes in the Central Pine Barrens.

The Law Enforcement Council Report for 2015 is provided on the pages that follow.

**Central Pine Barrens
Law Enforcement Council**



2015 Annual Report
Capt. Dallas Bengel, Chair
Assistant Director Arthur Pendzick, Vice Chair
Lt. Michael Smith, Vice Chair

The Central Pine Barrens Law Enforcement Council

The Pine Barrens Law Enforcement Council was created in 1994 when members from several law enforcement agencies met to discuss the unique issues relating to the enforcement of existing laws that preserve and protect Long Island's Pine Barrens. Laws and regulations from New York State, Suffolk County and the various towns that apply to the Central Pine Barrens are used to protect this valuable resource, but coordination was needed for the officers to have all the tools necessary in pursuing this mission. The sharing of these many laws and regulations, distribution of pertinent information and the use of multi-agency details have helped towards the successful apprehension and prosecution of violators and protection of these pristine lands. To that end, the Pine Barrens Law Enforcement Council was created, growing to more than two dozen member agencies which include police departments, code enforcement, military, and other law enforcement, regulatory and security agencies that encompass the Central Pine Barrens. Of course, the many civilian attendees of these meetings, from local civic associations, user groups including mountain bike and hiking organizations and the people and/or other user groups that care about the Central Pine Barrens, are the eyes and ears for law enforcement. The Pine Barrens Law Enforcement Council could not survive if it were not for the diligence of our civilian counterparts.

The Pine Barrens Law Enforcement Council chair position is currently held by Capt. Dallas Bengel of the New York State Environmental Conservation Police. The Council's Co-Vice Chairs are Deputy Director Art Pendzick of the Suffolk County Park Rangers and Lt. Michael Smith of the Suffolk County Sheriff's Office. The Council is very lucky to have John Pavacic, the Executive Director of the Central Pine Barrens Commission, Compliance and Enforcement Coordinator Larry Hynes and Assistant Administrative and Academy Specialist Kathy Delligatti to support, assist, guide and record all the activities of the Law Enforcement Council.

When the Suffolk County Park Police was absorbed by the Suffolk County Police in October of 2014, the Pine Barrens Law Enforcement Council's main complaint call in number, 1-877-BARRENS, became non-functional. In June of 2015, the Suffolk County Sheriff's Office agreed to take over the responsibility of this valuable public resource. By October of 2015, the phone number had been transferred to the Sheriff's Office and it was up and running again to receive and act upon complaints and information.

The Pine Barrens Law Enforcement Council recognized a need for a law enforcement part of the general meetings, as there were confidential issues and information that needed to be discussed. As such, the PBLEC went to a separate law enforcement and public meetings format for 2015, with the first part of the meeting devoted to law enforcement matters only and the second part open to the public. This was

revamped again for 2016 as there are now 4 law enforcement only meetings with 4 public meetings on a rotating schedule.

The PBLEC also adopted by-laws, which the Council never had before. Also, the PBLEC Handbook was updated with the most current information for representative agency member contact numbers, plus other pertinent updated information.

The Environmental Benefit Fund

The Pine Barrens Law Enforcement Council's Environmental Benefit Fund (EBF) at the start of 2015 contained \$47,216.02. With an annual spending cap of \$15,000, the fund could possibly be almost empty by the end of 2017. The Council has been very frugal again in spending this money, staying at least several thousand dollars below the cap for the last several years. This past year has been no exception, as our total spending in 2015 was \$9,850.97. Among the bigger purchases that were made this past year were a Polaris 500 ATV for Suffolk County Police 5th Pct, totaling \$5898.66, a trailer for the Suffolk County Park Rangers totaling \$3,600.00, \$247.00 for ATV batteries and \$39.95 for a battery tender, for the Suffolk County Sheriff's Office. The total amount remaining in the EBF at the end of 2015 is \$37,365.05.

Pine Barrens Law Enforcement Council Activities for 2015

Enforcement

With ATV activity extremely high this year, the Pine Barrens Law Enforcement Council responded with 11 multi-agency ATV details for 2015, the most details held in many years. The stalwarts in these details were the Suffolk County Sheriff's Office, the Suffolk County Park Rangers, the New York State Forest Rangers and the New York State Encon Police. Other agencies that participated consistently were the New York State Troopers and Brookhaven Town Code Enforcement. Besides the ATV activity, off road 4x4 truck activity seems to increase each year. The 4x4 trucks create more damage than the ATVs, as those operators like to plow through mud and mud puddles, making areas impassable to authorized vehicles. The details netted 25 4x4s, with 25 summonses issued.

In 2015, 52 ATVs were impounded, with 149 ATV related summonses issued. During the December 13th detail alone, 76 ATV summonses were issued, which eclipsed the high of 70 summonses that were issued during the November 6, 2005 detail. Overall statistics of the PBLEC Multi-Agency ATV Task Force details over the past years showed an increase to 1,070 illegal ATVs having been impounded with 2,697 ATV

related summonses having been issued. Special thanks go out to Suffolk County Park Rangers Deputy Director Art Pendzick for organizing and running these details as, without his vast knowledge, experience and leadership, the Law Enforcement Council would not be nearly as effective in combating this scourge to our Pine Barrens.

Suffolk County Sheriff's Office Lt. Michael Smith coordinates an average of 2 commercial vehicle inspection details each month, weather permitting, within the Core Preservation Area of the Central Pine Barrens. One special detail, held on May 18th, was a joint enforcement effort for the Pine Barrens Law Enforcement Council and included the Suffolk County Sheriff's Office, New York State Department of Transportation, New York State Encon Police, New York State Forest Rangers, New York State Troopers, New York State Taxation and Finance and the Suffolk County Park Rangers.

A total of 35 trucks were inspected, resulting in 12 being placed out of service for safety issues, and 63 summonses being issued. The total statistics to date for the Sheriff's Office details are 533 trucks inspected with 195 trucks placed out of service, 4 arrests and 528 summonses issued. These details have a direct impact upon our Long Island Pine Barrens, because the discovered safety issues can affect the safety of our resources' users, and faulty equipment can and does affect our ground waters and air quality, not to mention the plants and animals that inhabit Long Island's remaining wilderness areas.



Multi-Agency ATV Enforcement Detail December 13, 2015



Multi-Agency Commercial Motor Vehicle Detail May 18, 2015

The aforementioned enforcement details only highlight two of the many other enforcement details undertaken by PBLEC members in 2015. There were many smaller ATV and 4x4 details conducted by a single or a few agencies to address local/current issues. Also, there were several fish and wildlife details conducted, at times utilizing undercover officers and at other times using an animal decoy. Plus, the Suffolk County Sheriff's Office has dedicated enforcement teams to patrol the Pine Barrens.



Dumping near Warbler Woods

Dumping is always an issue in the Central Pine Barrens. Despite the many ways to dispose of waste and solid waste, some feel the need to dump their trash or waste in the

Pine Barrens. More often than not, the material consists of construction and demolition debris, followed by household garbage and then defunct vessels. Officers go to great lengths to apprehend these violators, often sifting through household garbage, tracking down receipts or running hull numbers, many times with positive results.

Below are the total statistics for the Pine Barrens Law Enforcement Council's enforcement efforts.

PBLEC ENFORCEMENT STATISTICS for 2015

Total for all reporting Agencies:

- 45 - Total # ATV complaints received
- 182 - Total # ATV related summonses
- 62 - Total # ATVs impounded
- 1 - Total # ATV related injuries
- 0 - Stolen ATVs recovered
- 5 - Stolen vehicles recovered
- 60 - Illegal off road/4x4summonses/incidents
- 0 - Arson/fire incidents
- 54 - Illegal dumping summonses/arrests/incidents
- 60 - Fish and Wildlife summonses/arrests
- 5 - Firearms & other weapons incidents
- 118 - All other ECL summonses/arrests

- 44 - Trespass summonses/arrests
- 0 - Encroachments/ other property incidents
- 0 - Illegal wood cutting summonses/arrests/incidents
- 5 - Homeless summonses/arrests/incidents
- 9 - Illegal drug summonses/arrests/incidents
- 0 - Penal law misdemeanors
- 0 - Penal law felonies

Incidents/events of special interest: Suffolk County Sheriff’s Office/New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Division of Law Enforcement/New York State Department of Transportation - Commercial motor vehicle inspections-533 trucks inspected, 528 related summonses issued, 195 trucks placed out of service, 5 drug arrests and 4 warrant arrests.

Training, Mitigation, Aviation, Projects, etc

The Suffolk County Sheriff’s Office has continued to provide certified ATV training to members of the PBLEC, and volunteers such as local fire and ambulance department personnel. This training is conducted at Gabreski Airport.

The PBLEC continues to work with the Protected Land Council to implement various ideas and projects in an attempt to reduce the negative impacts of violators to the Central Pine Barrens.



NYS Forest Ranger combating Southern Pine Beetle infestation.

NYS Encon Police again gave fish and wildlife enforcement training to the PBLEC members.

The PBLEC supported amendments to Article 57 of the Environmental Conservation Law, which would address enforcement issues directly related to Long Island’s Central Pine Barrens.

The New York State Forest Rangers, along with personnel from the State and County levels, were heavily involved in efforts to slow the spread of the Southern Pine Beetle infestation within our Pine Barrens.

2015 10TH ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

The following officers were recognized by the PBLEC and the Commission for their significant efforts in 2015 to address illegal activities in the Central Pine Barrens:

Suffolk County Park Ranger Daniel Rudek
for Significant Contribution to Environmental Enforcement Efforts

Suffolk County Deputy Sheriff Christopher DiCarlo
for continuous significant environmental enforcement activity

Suffolk County Police Officer Michael Aulivola
for continuous significant environmental enforcement activity

New York State Police Trooper Fabio Daino
for continuous significant environmental enforcement activity

New York State Forest Ranger David Nally
for environmental actions exemplary in nature

New York State Encon Police Officer Mark Simmons
for continuous significant environmental enforcement activity

Council nominee - Suffolk County Sheriff's Office Sgt Edward Rogers
for continuous significant environmental enforcement activity

In Closing

The partnership this Council affords its members has time and time again proven to be extremely effective in combating the persons responsible for desecrating the Central Pine Barrens. An extremely high level of commitment is necessary from the participating members in which to create the high level of success that the Council has experienced in apprehending these violators. This success would not be possible if it were not for these partnerships, not just between the law enforcement agencies but also with our civilian counterparts who attend these meetings. They are the eyes and ears of law enforcement and an extremely high percentage of our cases come from their tips and information.

Then there is the partnership of our support personnel, namely Executive Director of the Central Pine Barrens Commission John Pavacic, Compliance and Enforcement Coordinator Larry Hynes, Assistant Administrative and Academy Specialist Kathy Delligatti and Administrative Assistant Carol Ostrowski. Without their assistance and direction to the PBLEC, the Council would enjoy much less success, and its success would go unnoticed.

Special thanks go to Suffolk County Parks Superintendent Tony Trotta, for his mechanical expertise and for administering the impounds of the apprehended ATVs during our enforcement details.

Also, none of this would be possible without the support and direction of the Central Pine Barrens Commission. Without their support, the PBLEC would not have the necessary equipment or the administrative help that is required to run a successful campaign. Without their support, the Council would be severely limited in acquiring the tools necessary in apprehending and prosecuting these violators.

Every one of these partnerships are necessary for the success of the Pine Barrens Law Enforcement Council. We have accomplished much, but there is still much work to do. The Council is up to the challenge.

Protected Lands Council

Tom Casey, Long Island Greenbelt Trail Conference, Chair
John Wernet, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, Vice Chair

The Protected Lands Council (PLC) is an association of agencies, organizations, and individuals who share a common interest in advancing the protection, preservation, and restoration of natural, cultural, and scenic resources in the Central Pine Barrens region, while promoting compatible public use and enjoyment of protected lands in a manner that is consistent with ensuring that the resource's essential values and integrity are preserved for the public trust, present and future.

Under the direction of the Commission, the PLC's stewardship work is focused on well over 60,000 acres of public lands in the Central Pine Barrens, and covers a broad array of topics, including, but not limited to habitat protection, ecology, restoration of historic structures, trails, recreational uses such as hiking, bird watching, hunting, signage, invasive species, park planning, damage caused by illegal ATV use, and dumping.

Since its establishment by the Central Pine Barrens Comprehensive Land Use Plan, the PLC's focus, meeting frequency, and structure have evolved. The PLC holds periodic meetings during the year at various locations across the Central Pine Barrens, with additional field work sessions scheduled, as needed.



Dwarf Pine Plains one month after brush fire in 2015

The PLC's Chair and Vice Chair are appointed by the Commission and PLC work is supported by the Commission's Science and Stewardship Division. Meeting agendas include a roundtable session that serves as a forum where land managers, public lands user groups, environmental groups, and others provide updates and exchange ideas on topics of mutual interest.

In 2015, the PLC met on April 3, June 2, and December 1. Topics of discussion included, but were not limited to, off-road vehicle damage, unauthorized

clearing, dumping, and other illegal activities that continue to plague the Pine Barrens, Southern Pine Beetle impacts and management, regional trail improvements, ecological protection and restoration, enforcement and park ranger staffing issues, acquisitions for land preservation, natural area uses, and fire management.

In December 2015, the Commission reappointed Tom Casey as the Protected Lands Council Chair and John Wernet of the NYS DEC as the Vice Chair who will serve in 2016.

Wildfire Task Force

Chip Bancroft, Chair

Captain Timothy Byrnes, NYSDEC Forest Rangers and Edward Schneyer, Director
SCFRES Emergency Preparedness; Co-Vice Chairs

The Wildfire Task Force (WTF) is one of the Commission's larger Councils with 43 members comprised of public and private agencies and local fire departments. The breakdown of the organizations represented on the Task Force is presented in Table WF-1. The WTF was created after the 1995 wildfires to bring all fire service-related entities together to provide for pre-wildfire suppression planning and response in the Central Pine Barrens and to address wildfire prevention planning provisions called for by the Long Island Pine Barrens Protection Act. The Task Force accomplished this goal through the preparation of a Central Pine Barrens Fire Management Plan which was completed in 1999, which led to the creation of several subcommittees to carry out the Plan. A copy of the Fire Management Plan is available on the Commission website at:

http://pb.state.ny.us/chart_stewardship_main_page.htm#WTF

The Wildfire Task Force meets approximately 4 times a year on a weekday evening, with the locations varying among fire houses and agency offices. Specialized committees also exist, which meet on schedules that are established separately from the Task Force. The current meeting schedule and copies of meeting minutes are available online at:

http://pb.state.ny.us/chart_stewardship_main_page.htm#WTF

The Task Force has the following standing subcommittees:

- Firewise and Wildfire Prevention Subcommittee
- Fire Weather Subcommittee
- Prescribed Fire Subcommittee
- Training Subcommittee
- Water Supply Subcommittee (temporary)
- New York Wildfire and Incident Management Academy

Wildfire in the Central Pine Barrens

Wildfire is a natural process in the fire-adapted Pine Barrens. However, due to a community's close proximity to this fire-prone ecosystem, wildfires can pose a risk to area residents and property. The abundance of fire-dependent vegetation, extensive wildland urban interface and significant wildfire history, have led the New York State Firewise Council to declare the eastern portion of Long Island, which is dominated by the Central Pine Barrens Area, to be the number one community in the state at risk for damage to and loss of property due to wildfire. Over 800 brush fires typically occur

Table WF-1

Central Pine Barrens Wildfire Task Force

Copies of the Commission resolution that established the Wildfire Task Force and its mission statement are available online at http://www.pb.state.ny.us/wtf/wtf_resn.htm

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|----------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| <p>Federal Organizations (6)</p> | <p>Brookhaven National Laboratory Fire Rescue Group (<i>p/o of Emergency Services Division</i>) National Weather Service New York Air National Guard 106th Rescue Wing New York Army National Guard Aviation Support Facility #1 United States Fish and Wildlife Service (<i>Long Island Refuge Complex</i>) United States Forest Service</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>State Organizations (5)</p> | <p>New York State Department of Environmental Conservation New York State Emergency Management Office New York State Office of Fire Prevention and Control New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation Suffolk County Water Authority</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>County Organizations (5)</p> | <p>Suffolk County Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services Suffolk County Fire Academy Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation Suffolk County Police Department Arson Squad Suffolk County Arson Task Force</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>Town Organizations (3)</p> | <p>Brookhaven Town Fire Marshal (<i>Dept. of Public Safety, Div. of Fire Prevention</i>) Riverhead Town Fire Marshal (<i>part of Building Department</i>) Southampton Town Fire Marshal (<i>part of Public Safety Department</i>)</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>Fire Departments (15)</p> | <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Brookhaven Fire Department</td> <td>Quogue Fire Department</td> </tr> <tr> <td>East Quogue Fire Department</td> <td>Ridge Fire Department</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Eastport Fire Department</td> <td>Riverhead Fire Department</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Flanders Fire Department</td> <td>Rocky Point Fire Department</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gordon Heights Fire Department</td> <td>Wading River Fire Department</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hampton Bays Fire Department</td> <td>Westhampton Beach Fire Department</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Manorville Fire Department</td> <td>Yaphank Fire Department</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Middle Island Fire Department</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> | Brookhaven Fire Department | Quogue Fire Department | East Quogue Fire Department | Ridge Fire Department | Eastport Fire Department | Riverhead Fire Department | Flanders Fire Department | Rocky Point Fire Department | Gordon Heights Fire Department | Wading River Fire Department | Hampton Bays Fire Department | Westhampton Beach Fire Department | Manorville Fire Department | Yaphank Fire Department | Middle Island Fire Department | |
| Brookhaven Fire Department | Quogue Fire Department | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| East Quogue Fire Department | Ridge Fire Department | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Eastport Fire Department | Riverhead Fire Department | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Flanders Fire Department | Rocky Point Fire Department | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gordon Heights Fire Department | Wading River Fire Department | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hampton Bays Fire Department | Westhampton Beach Fire Department | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Manorville Fire Department | Yaphank Fire Department | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Middle Island Fire Department | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>Fire Councils (5)</p> | <p>Brookhaven Town Fire Chiefs Council Fire Chiefs Council of Suffolk County NY Riverhead Town Fire Chiefs Council Southampton Town Fire Chiefs Council Suffolk County Fire District Officers' Association</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>Commission Councils (3)</p> | <p>Law Enforcement Council Protected Lands Council New York Wildfire and Incident Management Academy</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>Private Organization (1)</p> | <p>The Nature Conservancy (Long Island Chapter)</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>Executive Board</p> | <p>Chair & two Co Vice Chairs</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

every year during the spring and summer in Suffolk County.

In 1995, the Rocky Point and Sunrise Fires burned over 5,000 acres and continued to burn for several days.

These wildfires resulted in extensive evacuations, property loss and damage, the closure of major transportation routes in the area and significant economic impacts to local businesses, tourism and residents.



Brush fire in the globally rare Dwarf Pine Plains on August 10, 2015

In April, 2012, the Crescent Bow wildfires in the Ridge and Manorville areas burned over 1,200 acres which again resulted in evacuations of homes and significant damage to property and natural resources.

In the wake of the April 2012 Crescent Bow Fire, the Commission developed a multi-pronged strategy to deal with the on-going wildfire threat which the Commission continued to strive to carry out in 2015. The strategy includes:

- Providing increased and enhanced training for volunteer firefighters and first responders via the Commission's Wildfire and Incident Management Academy;
- Expanding the use of prescribed fire to reduce wildfire fuel loads;
- Reinvigorating the Central Pine Barrens Fire Management Plan and its implementation;
- Expanding the establishment of Firewise Communities programs; and
- Supporting enhancing water supply resources for wildfire fighting efforts.

On August 10, 2015 a brush fire occurred in the Dwarf Pine Plains area on the west side of Old Riverhead Road (CR 31) in Westhampton Beach that burned approximately 5 acres. This led to the road being closed for approximately 4 hours. There were 10 to 12 brush trucks, 8 to 10 tankers and several engines on hand at the scene.

2015 Summary of Wildfire Task Force Activities

During 2015, the Wildfire Task Force met once on April 30, 2015. Topics discussed included an update on the Commission's Ecological Services Contract work

proposed in the Flanders area of Southampton Town; the Southern Pine Beetle Infestation; fire weather and standard operating procedures for interagency fire awareness; the spring 2015 fire season; a review of wildfire prevention programs including Firewise and Ready, Set, Go; the Community Wildfire Protection Plan for the hamlets of Ridge, Manorville and Calverton; the Draft Central Pine Barrens Comprehensive Land Use Plan Wildfire Hazard Mitigation Amendment, the New York Wildfire and Incident Management Academy for 2015 and spring prescribed fires.

In addition, the Task Force discussed and voted on a recommendation for the appointment of a new member to the board of directors of the New York Wildfire and Incident Management Academy to fill a vacancy.

Firewise and Wildfire Prevention

Firewise and the Firewise Communities program offers residents in the fire-prone Central Pine Barrens a unique opportunity to implement practices which will help prepare a home for a wildfire *before* it occurs. Homeowners can significantly increase the ability of their homes to survive a wildfire by implementing Firewise measures on their property. These can include measures such as removing dead leaves and dead brush, cleaning out gutters, moving wood piles away from the house and other similar, basic, good property maintenance measures. Homes and communities which have adopted the Firewise approach allow firefighters to concentrate on fighting the wildfire, which ultimately saves more residences and lives. The Firewise program draws on a community's spirit and its willingness to take some of the responsibility for reducing wildfire risks and can be tailored to a community's specific needs.

Information on the Firewise and Firewise Communities USA program is available on the Firewise website at <http://firewise.org>. The Commission has included outreach to local communities located in wildland urban

interface areas in the Central Pine Barrens on Firewise and Firewise Communities program as part of its multi-prong strategy to deal with the on-going wildfire threat.

To further advance Firewise principles and also due to the devastating April 2012 Crescent Bow Wildfire, in 2014, the Commission commenced the process of



Initial CWPP stakeholder meeting held 12/3/14

developing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) in the hamlets of Ridge and Manorville which are located within the Towns of Brookhaven and Riverhead. The CWPP makes recommendations to public land managers and local residents on strategies for reducing the area's wildfire risk, including wildfire mitigation measures to be implemented on large wooded or natural public lands that are within the Wildland Urban Interface area (locations where development is adjacent to wooded areas in the Pine Barrens) to provide protection for residents and businesses that are adjacent to these areas. In addition, the CWPP provides information on how to reduce risks to public safety and property and will contain an area-specific community level risk assessment that includes a wildfire hazard risk assessment and identifies measures to reduce structure flammability and hazardous fuels (vegetation), in addition to community preparedness through public outreach. The CWPP also provides public outreach strategies to educate Ridge and Manorville residents on how to create a "survivable or defensible" space around their homes to reduce damage and loss from wildfire.

In 2015, the Commission hired a contractor through a competitive RFP process and commenced an ambitious CWPP development effort. During the course of the year, stakeholder meetings, attended by public land management agencies, agencies with fire protection responsibilities and local fire departments, were conducted in September and December. During the July 2015 meeting stakeholders received an overview and background on the project and then discussed goals and objectives for the CWPP, existing data, risk assessment methodologies, definitions of Wildland Urban Interface (WUI), public outreach and community involvement, project schedules and logistics. During the December 2015 meeting, stakeholder attendees discussed and reviewed WUI delineations, a draft risk assessment and community assessments and provided input in regard to recommendations for fuel reduction projects and measures to reduce structural ignitability, fire fighting response and public education and outreach. Stakeholders also considered a compendium of Community Values at Risk and reviewed public outreach efforts and surveys. The draft CWPP is expected to be released in the first quarter of 2016 and the final plan completed during the summer of 2016. Once the CWPP is completed and implemented it will make the study area eligible for federal funding to help implement mitigation measures identified in the plan.

In a similar vein, during 2015 Commission staff continued working on and refining the draft Wildfire Hazard Mitigation Standard that would ultimately be proposed as a formal amendment to be incorporated into the Commission's Comprehensive Land Use Plan. The Hazard Mitigation Standard is based on the International Code Council's Wildland-Urban Interface code which has been adopted widely by a number of states and communities across the United States but has never been adopted at either the State, county or local level in New York State. The proposed standards, when implemented, would apply only to certain types of new development in specified areas, namely those areas identified jointly by the Commission and the Towns of Brookhaven, Riverhead and Southampton, as being within the Wildland-Urban Interface and would help to incorpo-

rate building design, layout and landscape criteria into such development that would reduce and mitigate the effects caused by wildfires.

Fire Weather

The Commission continues to operate a fire weather station located in Eastport at a Suffolk County Water Authority wellfield that is located on County Route 51 in Eastport.

Data from this weather station is used to determine the daily fire danger rating for the Central Pine Barrens. The fire danger rating translates weather and vegetation conditions (fuels) into how difficult a wildfire would be to control should a fire start occur. This data is sent daily from the Commission staff to Suffolk County Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services (SCFRES) which in turn dispatches this information to the local fire service community.

In addition, Commission staff sends this report by email and fax to over 50 recipients comprised of local fire departments, public land managers and other interested individuals. The local fire service community uses this information for pre-planning fire suppression resources during dry weather and vegetation conditions when vegetation can more readily ignite and spread into a large wildfire.

This information is also placed on four Smokey Bear fire danger signs located near the entrances to Sears Bellows County Park and Southaven County Park, along CR 46 near the entrance to Brookhaven National Laboratory, and on CR 31 in front of the Commission's office, to inform the public.

The fire danger rating reports are based largely on the statistical evaluation of historic fire weather data and its relationship to historic fire occurrence data that is compared to the daily fire weather data readings, the current National Weather



Smokey Bear Fire Danger Sign



Eastport Fire Weather Station

Service fire weather forecast, the number of days since the last significant rain event and the current live fuel (vegetation) conditions, along with other factors. Grass conditions are monitored in the Spring since this is typically where a significant number of fire starts occur in the Spring. In May, the potential for brush fires diminishes as the trees, brush and other vegetation green up or leaf out. During the summer, brush conditions are monitored and fire danger reports are issued based on this fuel type.

The local fire service and public land managers may, based on this fire danger information, decide to increase patrols in certain areas, pre-stage equipment or even close or limit access to public land.

In 2015, the Commission continued to successfully operate the fire weather system and continued to provide fire weather forecasts to the Long Island fire service and other interested agencies. (The fire danger ratings for 2015 are provided in Table WF-2 at the end of this report section) Brush fires occurrences had a somewhat unusual and early start in 2015 with a number these fires occurring in March, not long after the end of a very snowy and cold winter which it was thought would dampen the ground and hinder brush fire ignitions. From mid-April through the end of May, there were a number of periods of both Moderate and High fire danger levels. This was exacerbated by the moderate drought conditions that the National Weather Service had indicated were in play for Long Island during this time period. However, as leaf out of the trees and brush was completed by early June, the fire danger remained Low for all of June and most of July. Late July through early August and late August to late September saw a return of a number of periods of Moderate and High fire danger levels. In mid to late October, there was again a return of a period of days with Moderate and High fire danger levels.

Prescribed Fire Subcommittee

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation is currently the sole agency that performs prescribed fires on Long Island. These prescribed fires help maintain the ecological health of natural areas, are used for ecological restoration, and assist with reducing the amount of vegetative fuel build up in an area which in turn will reduce the potential



Prescribed fire on Line Road to maintain grassland.

Table WF-2: Daily Fire Danger Rating for 2015

| Week | Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-------------|-----|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 11/22-11/28 | | Moderate | Low | Low | | | |
| 11/15-11/21 | | Low | Low | Low | Low | Low | Low |
| 11/8-11/14 | | Low | Low | Low | Low | Moderate | Moderate |
| 11/1-11/7 | | Low | Low | Low | Low | Low | Low |
| 10/25-10/31 | | Moderate | Moderate | Low | Low | Low | Low |
| 10/18-10/24 | | Moderate | High | Low | Moderate | High | Low |
| 10/11-10/17 | | | Low | Low | Low | Moderate | High |
| 10/4-10/10 | | Low | Low | Low | Low | Low | Low |
| 9/7-10/3 | | Low | Low | Low | Low | Low | Low |
| 9/20-9/26 | | High | Moderate | Moderate | Moderate | Moderate | Moderate |
| 9/13-9/19 | | Moderate | Low | Low | Low | Low | Low |
| 9/6-9/12 | | High | High | High | Low | Low | Low |
| 8/30-9/5 | | Moderate | Moderate | Moderate | Moderate | Moderate | High |
| 8/23-8/29 | | Low | Low | Moderate | Moderate | Moderate | Moderate |
| 8/16-8/22 | | Low | Low | Low | Low | Low | Low |
| 8/9-8/15 | | Moderate | Low | Low | Low | Low | Low |
| 8/2-8/8 | | Moderate | Moderate | Moderate | Moderate | Moderate | Moderate |
| 7/26-8/1 | | Low | Low | Low | Low | Moderate | High |
| 7/19-7/25 | | Low | Low | Moderate | Moderate | Moderate | Moderate |
| 7/12-7/18 | | Low | Low | Low | Low | Low | Low |
| 7/5-7/11 | | Low | Low | Low | Low | Low | Low |
| 6/28-7/4 | | Low | Low | Low | Low | Low | Low |
| 6/21-6/27 | | Low | Low | Low | Low | Low | Low |
| 6/14-6/20 | | Low | Low | Low | Low | Low | Low |
| 6/7-6/13 | | Low | Low | Low | Low | Low | Low |
| 5/31-6/6 | | Low | Low | Low | Low | Low | Low |
| 5/24-5/30 | | | Moderate | Low | Low | Low | Low |
| 5/17-5/23 | | Low | Low | Moderate | Low | High | High |
| 5/10-5/16 | | Low | High | High | High | Moderate | Low |
| 5/3-5/9 | | High | Moderate | Moderate | Moderate | Moderate | Low |
| 4/26-5/2 | | | High | Moderate | Low | Low | Moderate |
| 4/19-4/25 | | Low | Low | Moderate | High | High | Moderate |
| 4/12-4/18 | | Low | Low | High | Moderate | Low | High |
| 4/5-4/11 | | Moderate | Low | Low | Low | Low | Moderate |
| 3/29-4/4 | | | | Low | Moderate | Low | |

fire intensity in an area should a wildfire occur. Only one prescribed fire was performed in 2015 due to primarily the weather conditions not being conducive to control. The prescribe fire was performed on October 27, 2015 during NYWIMA's fall academy on NYSDEC's Line Road East property in Calverton which was for maintaining grasslands and totaled 9 acres treated.

Training Subcommittee

The primary focus of this subcommittee is to provide wildfire firefighting training with the New York Army National Guard and the New York Air National Guard using helicopters equipped with water buckets. The training includes the local fire departments and agencies which are members of the Wildfire Task Force and the Law Enforcement Council which learn about the protocols that must be followed in order to obtain a helicopter with a water bucket to a scene during a wildfire. Attempts are made to provide this training every one to two years depending on the availability of the National Guard. The training helps the Guard obtain specific qualification training they need. During 2015 no helicopter water bucket training exercises were conducted due to the lack of availability of the Guard.



Helicopter Water Bucker firefighting training exercise in 2014



New York Wildfire and Incident Management Academy

William Fonda, NYSDEC, Regional Citizen Participation Specialist,
Academy Coordinator

Kathy Delligatti, Central Pine Barrens Commission, Assistant Academy &
Administrative Specialist

The New York Wildfire and Incident Management Academy (NYWIMA) was established in 1998 with the following goal:

“The Academy’s goal is to provide for a safe learning environment for Wildland Firefighters and Incident Managers and to foster greater networking opportunities and partnerships between participants from federal, state, and local agencies.”

To aid in achieving this objective, NYWIMA is managed to mirror an actual incident utilizing the Incident Command System (ICS) under the direction of an Incident Management Team (IMT). The IMT reflects the interagency and cooperative nature of today’s incident management philosophy with team members participating from federal, state, and local agencies.

Academy Objectives

- Train students to National Wildfire Coordinating Group Standards (NWCG).
- Develop qualified trainers and instructors for Wildfire and Incident Management Courses.
- Develop awareness of fire management and fire fighting safety among fire fighting organizations and public officials.
- Encourage interagency cooperation, coordination, exchange of experience, education and technology transfer from all levels of government.
- Develop a group of interagency leaders to build upon the first four objectives in the metropolitan New York and Northeast Region.

The Central Pine Barrens Commission’s Wildfire Task Force operates the Academy with a consortium of federal, state and county agencies including:

- *Federal:* Brookhaven National Lab, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, United States Coast Guard, United States Forest Service, United States Fish and Wildlife Service;
- *State:* Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management, New Jersey Forest Fire Service, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services

(DHSES), New York State Office of Fire Prevention and Control, and Stony Brook Southampton College and

- *City, County and Other Organizations:* Dowling College, Fire Department of New York (FDNY), Suffolk County Department of Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Services, and the Colorado Wildfire Academy.

For course and registration information for the current year, interested persons can visit the Academy web site at <http://www.nywima.com>, or contact the Academy Coordinator by phone at 631-769-1556 or by e-mail at nywima@pb.state.ny.us

2015 NY Wildfire and Incident Management Academy

In 2015, the Academy offered the following training opportunities:

- March - Brush Truck Training and S-130/190 Basic Wildland Firefighting and Wildfire Behavior
- October – Annual 10-day training period

The statistics for these training events includes the number of instructors and students and is provided on the next page along with a listing of the courses that were held during the annual October 2015 Academy.

March 2015 Classes

On March 25, 2015, NYWIMA conducted an S-130/190 Field Day. This course was designed to provide hand-on training for students who had successfully completed the online (internet-based) S-130/190



S 130/190 field class

course which is Basic Wildland Firefighting and Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior. Students attended from:

- Hurley Fire Department in Hurley, NY
- Eden Fire Department in Eden, NY
- W. Sayville Fire Department in West Sayville, NY
- N. Massapequa Fire Dept. in North Massapequa, NY
- Newton Fire Dept. in Newton, Massachusetts

The field day was conducted at the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's facility in Ridge, Town of Brookhaven and was taught by a veteran, NWCG-certified teacher.

2015 October Academy

NYWIMA conducted its fall academy from October 22 through November 1, 2015 and concluded its eighteenth year of operation which has now provided training to more than 7,000 firefighters and emergency response personnel over its existence. NYWIMA utilized and integrated more local and regional personnel into the overhead and command staff positions in 2015 instead of relying more on such resources from the western U.S. and other, more remote areas. The Academy continued to draw students from outside the United States including Canada.



IMT briefing during Academy op-

Personnel from the Fire Department of the City of New York (FDNY) conducted an All-Hazard Field Reconnaissance class that addressed the needs of mapping and developing situational awareness on all-hazard incidents. The class had good attendance and received good ratings from attendees.

The 2015 fall academy also featured 3 All-Hazard Incident Command System classes which the Academy offered in conjunction with the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES). Course offerings were:

- (L-969) Communication Unit Leader
- (L-958) Operations Section Chief
- (L-962) Planning Section Chief

Attendees and participants included 27 instructors, 33 staff, 296 students and 30 trainees with a total attendance of 386. Classes conducted included the following:

- ATV - All-Terrain Vehicle Intro/Rider Course
- Brush Truck Training for the Volunteer Fire Service
- Basic Wildland Search Skills

I-300 - Intermediate Incident Command System
I-400 - Advanced Incident Command System
S130/190 - Basic Firefighting & Wildfire Behavior
S130/190 - Basic Firefighting & Wildfire Behavior - Field Day class only
S-131 - Firefighter Type 1
S-211 - Portable Pumps & Water Use
S-212 - Wildfire Power Saws
S-215 - Fire Operations in the Wildland/Urban Interface
S-219 - Firing Operations
S-230 - Single Resource Boss (crew boss)
S-231 - Single Resource Boss (engine boss)
S-236 - Heavy Equipment Boss
S-336 - Tactical Decision Making in Wildland Fire
S-390 - Intro. To Fire Behavior Calculations
RX-310 - Intro. To Fire Effects
RX-341 - Prescribed Fire Plan Preparation
D-110 - Expanded Dispatch Recorder
L-969 - Communication Leader
L-958 - Operations Section Chief
L-962 - Planning Section Chief

Trainee positions were provided to allow participants to gain real-world, hands-on experience in carrying out particular ICS duties. Training positions were provided for the following:

Base Camp Manager Trainee
Communications Unit Leader Trainee
Division/Group Supervisor Trainee
Equipment Manage Trainee
Facilities Unit Leader Trainee
Ground Support Unit Leader
Incident Commander Trainee
Liaison Officer Trainee
Logistics Section Chief Trainee

Medical Unit Leader Trainee
Ordering Manager Trainee
Operations Section Chief Trainee
Plans Section Chief Trainee
Public Information Officer
Receiving/Distribution Leader
Resource Unit Leader Trainee
Safety Officer Trainee
Situation Unit Leader
Supply Unit Trainee

Prior to the fall Academy, the Commission entered into and executed an agreement with the County of Suffolk to co-sponsor a permanent, dedicated Brush Truck Training facility located adjacent to the County's Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services Department and the Suffolk County Fire Academy in Yaphank. (Brush trucks are the primary apparatus used on Long Island for attacking wildfires and brush fires.) A challenging course was designed and laid out in the field on the site which is completely wooded, offering a genuine brush truck driving experience. The course was utilized for the first time by a number of local fire departments whose attendees universally praised the course and the driving experience. Specific details remain to be developed but the Commission, through its New York Wildfire and Incident Management Academy, would operate the facility on land owned by the County. This facility would be the first of its kind on Long Island and would greatly enhance training and experience for local volunteer fire department members who either drive or serve as crews on brush trucks.



Brush truck training at Suffolk County facility in

Northeast Forest Fire Protection Compact

New York State is a member of the Northeast Forest Fire Protection Compact, a Congressionally-chartered entity comprised of New York, the New England States and 6 Canadian Provinces in which all members agree to provide mutual aid to one another in actual wildfire responses and cooperate in various wildfire prevention, mitigation and training efforts. As a result of these efforts, the Academy is exploring additional training programs with a number of individual members.

Additional Activities

During 2015, NYWIMA provided separate, stand-alone training via the S-212 Powersaws w/ Storm Debris Removal course to the New York Air National Guard at Gabreski Airport in Westhampton Beach from March 2nd through 6th of 2015. A total of 25 Air National Guard personnel were trained.

Training was provided by five NYSDEC Forest Rangers and two NYWIMA staff instructors. The course was very well received and received very good feedback from the students.



S-211 - Portable Pumps & Water Use

Wildfire Task Force Goals for 2016

- Conduct a review to determine whether or not there is a need for additional fire danger signs at appropriate sites in the Central Pine Barrens, and identify possible new locations, such as near Cathedral Pines County Park.
- Identify new goals and objectives for the Wildfire Task Force, including developing additional means of increasing the participation of local fire departments.
- Continue to work with the New York Army National Guard and New York Air National Guard in providing wildfire training sessions, particularly water bucket suppression activities, on an annual basis based on the availability of these National Guard units.
- Re-examine the Central Pine Barrens Fire Management Plan and determine with the Wildfire Task Force executive board if the entire plan or specific portions should be updated and if different means of delivering its content to local firefighters should be explored, particularly social media and other more current technology.
- Continue to provide enhanced training and expanded instruction

for volunteer firefighters and other first responders via the Commission's New York Wildfire and Incident Management Academy.

- Continue to explore ways in which the application of prescribed fire can be expanded across the Central Pine Barrens to reduce wildfire fuel loads.
- Continue and complete the Community Wildfire Protection Plan process for the hamlets of Ridge, Manorville and Calverton and implement the plan.
- Continue to advance the Wildfire Hazard Mitigation Standard toward final form and consideration for adoption by the Commission.

Litigation Involving the Pine Barrens Commission

April 21, 2016; listed by filing date.

| Sequence Number | Subject | Plaintiff(s) | Defendant(s) | Court and Index Number | Date Filed | Date Decided |
|-----------------|--|--|---|--|------------|---|
| 1 | Nondevelopment decision of 2/9/94 re Longwood Youth Sports Association proposal at Firemen's Park, Ridge, Brookhaven | LI Pine Barrens Society, Richard Amper, North Fork Environmental Council, Long Island Group of the Sierra Club, Open Space Council, Act Now!, Desiree Passantino, Joseph Colao | Commission | Supreme Court, Suffolk County 94-5363 | 3/11/94 | 4/28/98 <i>(decision)</i> |
| 2 | Parcel inventory and property owner notification | W.J.F. Realty Corp., Reed Rubin | Commission | Supreme Court, Suffolk County 94-8132 | 4/8/94 | 11/17/94 <i>(decision)</i> |
| 3 | Statutory challenge to Pine Barrens Protection Act | W.J.F. Realty Corp., Reed Rubin | Commission, State of New York, Langdon Marsh, NYS DEC, Suffolk County | Supreme Court, Suffolk County 94-22784 | 9/19/94 | 4/22/98 <i>(decision)</i> |
| 4 | Economic analysis | LI Builders Institute | Commission | Supreme Court, Suffolk County 95-11218 | 5/12/95 | 5/22/95 <i>(decision)</i> |
| 5 | Parcel inventory | Siegel Fenchel & Peddy | Commission, Raymond Corwin | Supreme Court, Suffolk County 95-29078 | 12/6/95 | 4/18/97 <i>(decision)</i> |
| 6 | Statutory challenge to Pine Barrens Protection Act | Henry Dittmer, et al. | Commission, Suffolk County, Brookhaven Town, Riverhead Town | US District Court for Eastern District of NY 96-2206 | 5/3/96 | 2/21/02 <i>(decision)</i> <i>(Also see 2/28/03 2nd Circuit Summary Order)</i> |
| 7 | Commission approval of 8/26/96 re Marando (Manorville) Nurseries project, Brookhaven | LI Pine Barrens Society, Richard Amper, Peter Maniscalco, John Scully, Leslie Hannelin | Commission | Supreme Court, Suffolk County 96-24091 | 9/18/96 | 2/10/98 <i>(decision)</i> |
| 8 | 6/24/98 Pine Barrens Credit allocation to parcels in Manorville and Middle Island, Brookhaven | Robert I. Toussie | Commission | Supreme Court, Suffolk County 98-17135 | 7/22/98 | 5/26/1999 <i>(decision)</i> |
| 9 | Nondevelopment decision of 5/10/00 re horse arena in Core, Manorville, Brookhaven | LI Pine Barrens Society, Richard Amper, Katherine Forster Screven, Frank P. Foster, John Trocchio, Richard and Pamela Gatz, Anna Marie Forster Czarnecki, Pamela Todaro | Commission, Carolyn Jolly d/b/a Hidden Pond Stables | Supreme Court, Suffolk County 00-14222 | 8/8/00 | 3/19/01 <i>(decision)</i> Entered 11/20/01 |
| 10 | Nondevelopment decision of 7/12/00 re horse arena in Core, Manorville, Brookhaven | LI Pine Barrens Society, Richard Amper, Kenneth and Irene Kneski, Stanley and Genevieve Horton | Commission, Sloane Marcus, Maria Hickey | Supreme Court, Suffolk County 00-19896 | 8/9/00 | 3/20/01 <i>(decision)</i> Entered 6/11/01 |
| 11 | Statutory challenge to Pine Barrens Protection Act | Walter Olsen, et al. | NYS DEC, et al. | Supreme Court, Albany County 01-3600 | 6/22/01 | 5/7/02 <i>(decision)</i> <i>(Also see 7/24/03 3rd Department Decision)</i> |

| | | | | | | |
|----|---|---|--|--|---------|--|
| 12 | Statutory challenge to Pine Barrens Protection Act | Gladys Gherardi et al. | State of NY, et al. | US District Court for Northern District of NY; 01-1066 | 6/28/01 | 12/11/03 (decision) (Also see 12/22/05 2nd Circuit Summary Order) |
| 13 | 7/10/02 Firemen's Park Core hardship permit, Ridge, Brookhaven | LI Pine Barrens Society, Richard Amper, Carole Jones, Paul J. Decker, Eric Burke, Yolanda Susi, Joseph P. Walsh, Kim Darrow | Commission, Brookhaven Town Parks Department, Joseph Callari, Frank Vigliarolo | Supreme Court, Suffolk County 02-20643 | 8/7/02 | 2/26/03 (amended decision) (decision) |
| 14 | Assertion of jurisdiction of 3/20/02 re Spring Meadow subdivision, Wading River, Brookhaven | Spring Meadow Enterprises | Commission | Supreme Court, Suffolk County 02-20765 | 8/9/02 | 2/11/03 (decision) |
| 15 | Field Day Music Concert, Calverton, Riverhead | LI Pine Barrens Society, Richard Amper, Neighborhood Network Research Center, Neil Lewis, North Fork Audubon Society, Mary Mulcahy, North Fork Environmental Council, Howard Meinke, North Shore Audubon Society, Jennifer Wilson Pines, Open Space Now, Alex Wipf, Wayne Rambo, Scott Neary, Margaret Caputo, Robert and Joyce Moss, Louis Fastore | Riverhead Town, Riverhead Town Community Development Agency, Suffolk County Health Department, Commission, New York Music Festival, Andrew Dreskin, Andrew Dreskin Investments | Supreme Court, Suffolk County 03-13625 | 5/27/03 | 5/30/03 (decision) |
| 16 | Development decision of 6/21/06 re clearing for agriculture in Core for Manorville Estates Winery, Brookhaven | Gladys Gherardi | Commission | Supreme Court, Suffolk County 06-17693 | 7/19/06 | 8/1/07 (decision) |
| 17 | Southaven County Park trap and skeet range, Yaphank, Brookhaven | LI Pine Barrens Society, Richard Amper, South Yaphank Civic Association, Johan McConnell, John Del Buono, Howard Carpluk Sue Davis, Douglas Steigerwald | Commission, Suffolk County, Hunter Sports Shooting Grounds | Supreme Court, Suffolk County 06-22354 | 8/11/06 | 5/2/07 (decision) (Also see 10/7/08 2nd Department decision) |
| 18 | Assertion of jurisdiction of 7/19/06 re Island Water Park, Calverton, Riverhead | Island Water Park Corp., Eric Scott | Commission, Town of Riverhead | Supreme Court, Suffolk County 06-21016 | 8/17/06 | 4/3/07 (decision) |
| 19 | Assertion of jurisdiction of 4/18/07 re Riverhead Town Recreational Facility, Calverton, Riverhead | Riverhead Town, Riverhead Community Development Agency | Commission | Supreme Court, Suffolk County 07-14186 | 5/3/07 | 1/30/08 (decision and 3/31/08 judgment) (Also see 3/2/10 2nd Department decision) |
| 20 | Pine Barrens Credit allocation to parcel in Southampton | Edwin Tuccio, Patricia Tuccio | Commission, Clearing-house | Supreme Court, Suffolk County 07-21497 | 7/19/07 | 1/16/08 (decision) (Also see 11/4/09 2nd Department decision) |

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|----|---|---|--|--|----------|---|
| 21 | Pine Barrens Credit allocations to parcels in Manorville (Brookhaven) | Ringhoff Family LLC #1 | Commission | Supreme Court, Suffolk County 08-26991 | 7/17/08 | 4/8/09 (decision) |
| 22 | Commission jurisdiction re development proposal | Robert Liere, John Liere, and Lorraine Liere | Commission | Supreme Court, Suffolk County 09-5910 | 3/12/09 | 10/13/10 (decision) |
| 23 | Article 78 | County of Suffolk | Commission | Supreme Court, Suffolk County 21807/2010 | 6/16/10 | 4/28/11 (decision) |
| 24 | American Physical Society hardship permit, Ridge, Brookhaven | LI Pine Barrens Society, Richard Amper | Commission | Supreme Court, Suffolk County 29130/2010 | 7/21/10 | 9/26/11 (decision) |
| 25 | Article 78 | Edwin Fishel Tuccio, Patricia Tuccio | Commission | Supreme Court, Suffolk County 28576/2010 | 9/20/10 | 1/12/12 (decision) (Also see 1/15/14 2nd Department decision) |
| 26 | Failure to process plaintiff's as of right subdivision application | Brush Development LLC | Town of Brookhaven, Commission | US District Court for Eastern District of NY CV-113297 | 7/8/11 | Pending |
| 27 | JCJC Holding Company hardship permit, Hampton Bays, Southampton | LI Pine Barrens Society, Richard Amper | Commission | Supreme Court, Suffolk County 22619/2011 | 2/16/12 | 3/22/12 (decision) (Also see 1/29/14 2nd Department decision) |
| 28 | Article 78 | Wainscott Properties Inc. | New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Commission | Supreme Court, Suffolk County 12-27600 | 9/6/12 | 11/13/13 (decision) |
| 29 | Westhampton Property Associates hardship permit, Speonk, Southampton | LI Pine Barrens Society, Richard Amper, Robert McGrath, Thomas Casey as members of the Board of Directors | Commission | Supreme Court, Suffolk County 12-34735 | 12/31/12 | 2/27/14 (decision) (Also see 4/20/16 2nd Department decision) |
| 30 | Pine Barrens Credit Program | Pluralis, LLC | Commission, Town of Brookhaven | Supreme Court, Suffolk County 13-15979 | 6/19/13 | 11/4/14 (decision) |
| 31 | Equine Facility, LLC | Carolyn Jolly, and James P. Eagan | Commission, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, State of New York | Supreme County, Suffolk County 16-01258 | 2/4/16 | pending |
| 33 | Article 78 | Henry R. Dittmer | Commission | Supreme County, Suffolk County 16-02657 | 3/11/16 | pending |

Central Pine Barrens Commission Staff & Areas of Responsibility

| | |
|---|---|
| Administration | John W. Pavacic, Executive Director Judy Jakobsen, Policy & Planning Manager Carol Sholl-Ostrowski, Administrative Assistant Kathy Delligatti, Academy & Administrative Assistant Specialist |
| Compliance & Enforcement Law Enforcement Council | Larry Hynes, Compliance & Enforcement Coordinator |
| Education & Outreach | Melissa Griffiths Parrott, Environmental Education & Outreach Coordinator |
| Land Use & Planning Advisory Committee | Julie Hargrave, Principal Environmental Planner |
| Legal | John Milazzo, Esq., Attorney |
| New York Wildfire & Incident Management Academy | Kathy Delligatti, Academy & Administrative Assistant Specialist John W. Pavacic, Executive Director |
| Pine Barrens Credit Program | Jerry Tverdy, Environmental Analyst |
| Science & Stewardship Protected Lands Council | Ann Carter, Science & Stewardship Coordinator |
| Wildfire Task Force | Kathy Delligatti, Academy & Administrative Assistant Specialist Judy Jakobsen, Policy & Planning Manager Larry Hynes, Compliance & Enforcement Coordinator |

Office Location & Contact Information



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Fax: 631-288-1367

Office & Library Hours
Monday– Friday 8:30 am to 5:00 pm

Ray Corwin Pine Barrens Reference Library
(open to public by appointment, non-lending)
www.pb.state.ny.us info@pb.state.ny.us