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A copy of the last annual report filed with the New York State Department of Law may be obtained by writing to NYS Attorney General's Charities Bureau, Attn: FOIL Officer, 120 Broadway, New York, NY, 10271 or may be obtained directly from the Long Island Pine Barrens Society, 2042 North Country Rd, Ste 103 Wading River, NY 11792

 Printed on recycled paper.

Credit: Katie Brown



CRANBERRY BOG NATURE PRESERVE: A Pine Barrens treasure that is now a Suffolk County Park.

Pine Barrens TV

The Pine Barrens Society's television program airs on Cablevision/Altice Public Access. October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022.

The program can also be viewed on the Society's YouTube page at www.youtube.com/lipinebarrenssociety.



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Towns of Babylon, Brookhaven, Huntington, Islip, Riverhead, Smithtown, Southampton & Southold Channel 20:

Sundays at 11:00 AM
Mondays at 7:00 PM
Thursdays at 9:00 AM

Town of East Hampton:

Wednesdays at 6:30 PM
Thursdays at 9:00 PM
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**LONG ISLAND
PINE BARRENS
SOCIETY**

Protecting Land & Water



today

PINE BARRENS SOCIETY PRESENTS NEW GOALS Organization Unveils New Preservation Effort

Credit: LIBPBS



LATEST PINE BARRENS PRESERVATION EFFORT: Society kicks off its "Best of the Rest" campaign to preserve another 3,800 acres.

The Long Island Pine Barrens Society has announced a drive to acquire vital lands that have not yet been permanently preserved. The "Best of the Rest" campaign, as coined by John Turner, one of the Society's founders, is designed to secure those parcels that will ensure protected habitat and clean drinking water for Long Island residents.

The Long Island Pine Barrens Society's mission is to combat overdevelopment and preserve precious Pine Barrens. Over 106,460 acres have been preserved thus far – a major accomplishment. Pine Barrens Executive Director Richard Amper and John Turner have identified 3,800 additional acres in the Core Preservation and Compatible Growth areas deserving of protection. These parcels are located in the Towns of Brookhaven, Riverhead and Southampton.

Environmentalists supporting the preservation effort include New York State officials from Long Island, New York State Assemblymembers Steve Englebright and Fred Thiele. Assemblyman Englebright said, "Over 100,000 acres of pine barrens have been protected thanks to the efforts of the Long Island Pine Barrens Society and the enactment of the 1993 Pine Barrens Protection Act. There is still much to be done to permanently protect environmentally sensitive areas that are contiguous to preserved parcels. The 3,800 acres proposed for preservation will

"finish the job" of protecting these lands, essential habitat and Long Island's drinking water. I wholeheartedly support this initiative."

Thiele stated, "The Long Island Pine Barrens Society has been the faithful protector of Long Island's most significant environmental resource, the Central Pine Barrens. Through the efforts of the Society, more than 100,000 acres of land were given special protection by the 1993 Pine Barrens Protection Act. With the announcement of this new initiative, I am deeply grateful that the work and mission of the Society will take another next step to fulfill the intent of the Pine Barrens Act. Generations to come will be the beneficiaries."

"The support from concerned Long Islanders has been terrific. It is critical that we expand what we have protected so that we maintain high quality drinking water and local flora and fauna continue to flourish," Amper said. The "Best of the Rest" are next to protected Pine Barrens lands and have ecological significance. For example, lands to be preserved include (1) the Shoreham Forest, (2) parcels along and adjacent to the Peconic and the Carmans Rivers, (3) acres adjacent to Sears-Bellows Park, (4) acres adjacent to Department of Environmental Conservation in Rocky Point Rocky Point, (5) acres adjacent to the Pine Trail Preserve in Manorville and (6) undisturbed acres at EPCAL.

Pitch Pine: The Namesake Tree of the Pine Barrens

By John L. Turner

Mr. Turner is a Long Island Pine Barrens Society Board Member.

I'll readily admit that with its prickly pinecones, rough bark, sometimes contorted branches, and needles that splay this way and that, the pitch pine (*Pinus rigida*) is an acquired taste. Few would call it stately or noble-looking like its white pine cousin, or beautiful as with flowering dogwoods or tulip trees. But after half a century of looking at pitch pines - in fact having looked hundreds of thousands of pitch pines on many hikes throughout the Pine Barrens - they have a special place in my love for nature and are always a welcome, comforting sight. I have come to deeply appreciate the species; each one looks unique with a slightly to radically different growth form, all of which thrive in conditions that can test the very existence of any plant.

While pitch pine may lack spectacular beauty, it exudes a more subtle beauty. Take the bark. In larger pitch pines, those with an 18 inch or larger diameter, the bark fragments into distinctive plates composed of all sorts of geometric shapes. I've occasionally seen shapes in the

Credit: LIPBS



bark that remind me of the outlines of a few states including Alabama, Mississippi, and Illinois! Their leaves, in the form of needles, are pretty, too, arranged in bundles of three encircling woody branches giving a "bottle brush" appearance to some branches.

If you drive along the stretches of the Long Island Expressway or Sunrise Highway that cut through the Pine Barrens, you'll see continuous diversity in shape and size. Some are forked while most are single-stemmed. Others are thin and elongated while some are rounded and bunched. Yet others are tall and columnar and other pines are contorted and bent. Those in more open areas tend to be rounded and wide, taking advantage of the copious supply of sunlight. Each one has its own unique story to tell about how it started life and the conditions and forces by which it has been shaped.

DWARF PINES PLAINS PRESERVE: Pitch Pines are dominant here.

There's a general correlation between the presence and abundance of pitch pine and the frequency and intensity of wildfire. Pitch pine tends to be found in areas where fire is more frequent or severe as compared to oaks which tend to be more common in places where fire occurs less frequently.

A special dwarf form or ecotype of the pitch pine is found in the 2,500 acre Dwarf Pine Plains of Westhampton, a wonderful and unique, wild bonsai garden! These dwarf trees seem to be the result of an interplay between the very poor soils found here and genetics. One adaptive genetic trait has to do with serotinous (or closed cones); it is a unique trait especially prevalent in dwarf pitch pines. Serotinous cones do not have an open structure which allows for the winged seeds to disperse once mature like with "normal" tree sized pitch pines which produce open cones. Rather, the scales in which the seeds are sandwiched stay closed, sealed by a resin, unless they are burned. When they are burned in a wildfire, the resin melts, the scales flare open, and the seeds are dispersed on the ashy sunlit soil. Cone serotiny is thought to have evolved as a mechanism to prevent the pine seeds from being destroyed, which is the likely outcome given the short-statured trees vulnerability to a fire sweeping through.

Credit: Sandy Richard



PITCH PINE CONE: Beauty often overlooked.

Pitch pine has several other adaptations that enable it to survive in the fire-prone environment in which it lives. The aforementioned bark is very thick which helps to insulate the

ROBIN HOPKINS AMPER ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOLARSHIP IN ITS THIRD YEAR

In April of 2019, Robin Hopkins Amper, a long-time champion of Pine Barrens preservation and wife of Pine Barrens Society Executive Director, Richard Amper, passed away after a four-year battle with metastatic breast cancer. In 2020, the Long Island Pine Barrens Society's Board of Directors established a scholarship in her name, for Long Island residents who are committed to the environment, much the way Robin was.

The Society awarded its first \$5,000 scholarship in 2020, to a deserving student who was headed to Binghamton University to study environmental studies. Our 2021 scholarship was awarded to a student who attends Stony Brook University.

Students entering college in fall 2022 and pursuing an undergraduate degree in environmental studies and sciences, biology, ecology, sustainability, public policy, and land and water protection are eligible to apply for the scholarship. Applicants must be Long Island residents, but may attend any accredited college in the United States. Scholarships will be awarded in the amount of \$5,000.

This year's application deadline is July 29, 2021. Students wishing to apply should visit www.pinebarrens.org/scholarship for more details.

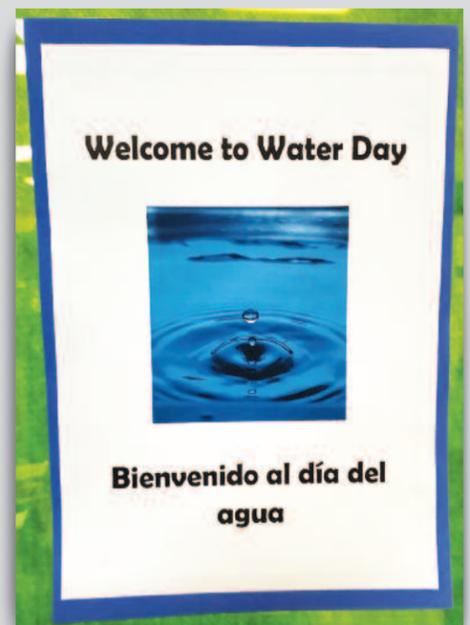
MIDDLE SCHOOL KIDS GO TO COLLEGE!

Thanks to sponsorship from National Grid, the Society worked with middle school teachers from the Patchogue-Medford School District and, for the first time, the Smithtown School District, to advance lessons about Long Island's water quality in their classrooms. Following initial classroom instruction, students met with Dr. Christopher Gobler of Stony Brook University via Zoom on May 17, 2022. Dr. Gobler, a world-renowned scientist,

Credit: Andrew Wong

explained the many serious water quality threats that Long Island faces, including nitrogen pollution and climate change. He also described scientific approaches to improving water quality, including novel home septic systems and the use of kelp to improve surface water.

Students then independently researched Long Island's waters and create solutions to address the many issues plaguing Long Island's waters. On June 7 and 8, Society representatives were treated to 38 amazing presentations from 64 middle school students from the Patchogue-Medford



WATER DAY FLYER: Announcing Water Day presentations at Patchogue-Medford's South Ocean Middle School.

School District. Six students from the Smithtown School District submitted their projects in PowerPoint format to us. Students researched Long Island's water quality, identified problems and developed creative solutions to the problems they discovered. It was clear that many students were inspired by Dr. Gobler's talk. Twelve projects were selected for special recognition. Students will be honored by the Pine Barrens Society, the National Grid Foundation and local elected officials in July at a virtual awards ceremony.

"The continuing challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic did not prevent these students from developing innovative solutions to Long Island's water problems. Their knowledge and passion are commendable." said Richard Amper, Executive Director of the Long Island Pine Barrens Society.

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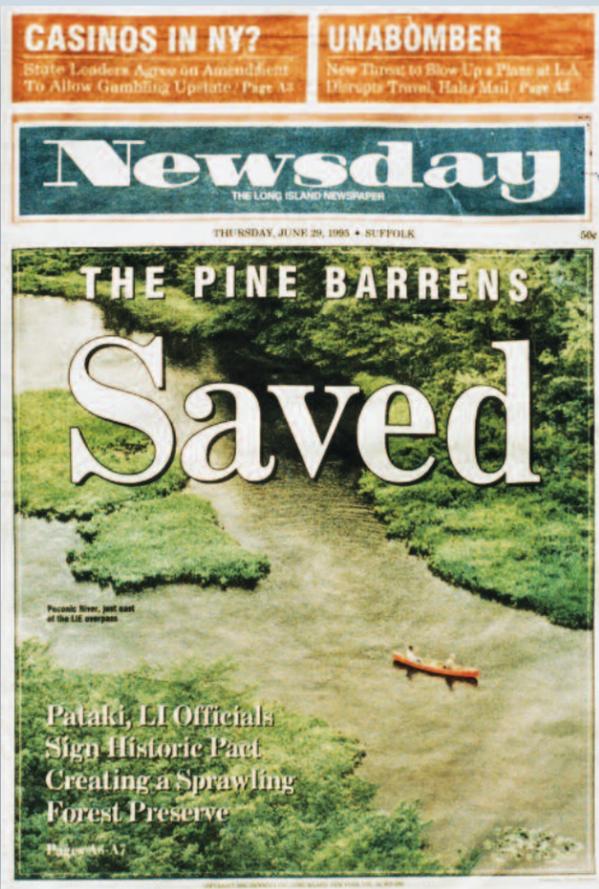
PINE BARRENS PRESERVATION NEWS

200-Page Preservation Story

By Tom Casey

Mr. Casey is a board member of the Long Island Pine Barrens Society.

Credit: Newsday



PINE BARRENS PRESERVED: Long Island newspaper covers the preservation of Long Island's premier ecosystem in June 1993

The Long Island Pine Barrens Society has released a 200-page summary of the 50-year campaign to save Long Island's premier ecosystem.

In 1988, rampant development on Long Island threaten to destroy the rare ecosystem at the region's core: the Pine Barrens. Then a small band of local nature lovers stepped in to stop them. *Saving Long Island* tells the exciting story of the bare-knuckled battle that followed — by the man at the center of the ring. You'll see the stormy public meetings, the backroom brinkmanship, the media brawls.

Meet the arrogant millionaire developers, the oily politicians and the unforgettable characters who stood up to them. An inspiring story in the tradition of "Erin Brockovich" and "Norma Rae," *Saving Long Island* also presents an irreverent, real-life guide to winning tactics for grassroots activists.

The Pine Barrens preservation was led by Pine Barrens Society executive director Richard Amper of eastern Long Island. Amper's journey as an environmentalist began in 1986 when one of his neighbors alerted him to a local development project that threatened Lake Panamoka and the habitat of the Eastern Tiger Salamander. The fight to preserve the natural space led to his involvement with the Society's founders, thus commencing a multi-decade battle to preserve the Pine Barrens.

The campaign included protection of Long Island's underground drinking water supply and the rare plants and animals that are part of the treasured Pine Barrens ecosystem. More than 100,000 acres have been protected with more than 3,800 acres still to be protected under the latest preservation campaign.

An active campaign will be promoted including new outreach efforts by environmental advocates led by environmental leader John Turner. The outreach is expected to protect remaining Pine Barrens treasures at 22 locations.

Parcels sought for protection include (1) the Shoreham Forest, recently added to the Core Preservation Area; (2) parcels along and adjacent to the Peconic River, such as those owned by the Schmelzer Trust on the south side of the river and sandwiched between NYSDEC properties and the Swan Lake Golf Course; (3) Hogan and CCP LLC properties in Hampton Bays, adjacent to Sears-Bellows and Hubbard County Parks; (4) acres adjacent to New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Rocky Point Natural Resource Management Area; (5) acres adjacent to the Pine Trail Preserve in Manorville; (6) undisturbed, ecologically significant grasslands and forest at EPCAL; (7) approximately 700 acres of Rose-Breslin properties; (8) properties along the Carmans River such as the Szuster farm; (8) acres embedded within and adjacent to the "Camp Olympia Open Space" complex; (9) Ehler Real Estate Holdings, wooded pine barrens adjacent to New York

State Department of Environmental Conservation Middle Island Conservation Area; (10) Spinney Hills, forested pine barrens properties adjacent to Town of Southampton-owned land (it includes The Hills); (11) SM Lizem LLC property, densely wooded acres property adjacent to NYSDEC property in Calverton; (12) acres of grassland and forest located along the eastern edge of Calverton Cemetery property; (13)) CR 111 extension additions of forested pine barrens properties; and (14) Properties located in Old File Residential Subdivision Maps scattered through the Pine Barrens at Warbler Woods (Brookhaven), Ashton Road (Brookhaven), Manorville Hills (Brookhaven), Twin Ponds (Brookhaven), Calverton Ponds (Riverhead) the southwest and northwest quadrants (Southampton) of the Dwarf Pine Plains; and at Spinney Hills (Southampton).

Credit: Ted Curry Photography



PINE BARRENS PRESERVATION: Society founders John Turner, Robert McGrath and John Cryan with New York Governor George Pataki supporting Pine Barrens preservation.



WINNERS ONE AND ALL: New York Governor Mario Cuomo signs the Pine Barrens Preservation Act, flanked by Long Island leaders.

Pitch Pine: The Namesake Tree of the Pine Barrens

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sensitive living cambium layer beneath. Located between the plates of the bark are special buds known as epicormic (i.e., upon the skin) buds. They respond to a fire so if a wildfire seeps through a stand of pine, and burn off all the branches, the buds are stimulated, and the pitch pine grows new needles so that photosynthesis can occur. Smaller pines have another special bud called a basal crook bud which is located at the base of the young tree. When this young pine is burned by the fire, the bud begins to grow and becomes the new main trunk of the tree. Pretty impressive adaptations that enable pitch pine to thrive in such a fire-prone environment!

Pitch pine does very well at seeding both after a fire or some other disturbance. It especially likes to establish on mineral soils where the organic layer has been scraped away. If you want clear evidence of pitch pine's propensity for prospering in poor soils, take a look at an aerial photograph of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's David Sarnoff Preserve or Rocky Point Natural Resource Management Area. Both sites were extensively cleared for past radio communications. But when these cleared areas no longer needed to be maintained, pitch pine quickly seeded in.

What were once light-colored sandy breaks in the vegetation are now dark green from the proliferation of pitch pines.

There are large pitch pines scattered throughout the Pine Barrens. Some big trees, 55 to 60 feet around, with two-foot diameters, are found at Cranberry Bog County Nature Preserve. Generally, larger pines grow where the water table is near the surface so the pines never want for water.

The southern pine beetle has had a devastating effect on pitch pine. A relatively new insect, thought to have moved north as the climate warmed, infests trees, killing the weaker ones. Almost all the pitch pines at Connetquot River State Park Preserve have already succumbed. Ecologists and natural resource managers have deployed several strategies to help pitch pine survive including thinning forests to allow for less competition between trees. We'll have to see how this insect impacts pitch pine abundance in the decades ahead and its affect on the landscape character and flavor of this most important inhabitant of the Long Island ecosystem.