

### SCWA Lunch and Learn

December 19, 2018

By John Pavacic, Executive Director

Undoubtedly, the first question you all have is.....

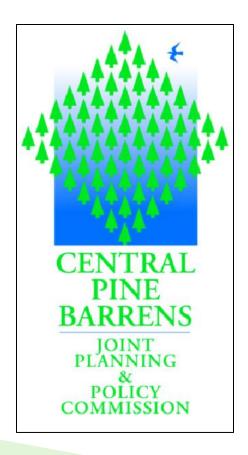
# What is the Central Pine Barrens Commission???



- A five-member, decision-making public entity representing New York State, Suffolk County and the Towns of Brookhaven, Riverhead and Southampton.
- Created in 1993 by New York State law.
- Has combined duties of a state agency, a planning board, and a park commission.
- Has responsibility for:
  - Stewardship and ecological management
  - Developing and implementing comprehensive land use plan
  - Shared land use review and regulation, permitting and enforcement authority, with local municipalities.
  - Establishing and operating a transfer of development rights and conservation easement program.

### The full name is:

Central Pine Barrens Joint Planning and Policy Commission

























"Who are these people, and what do they do?"



Julie Hargrave,
Principal
Environmental Planner



Jerry Tverdyy, Senior Environmental Analyst

### Land Use and Planning

- Reviews and manages hardship waiver (variance) applications;
- Conducts complex environmental and planning analyses;
- Develops and provides reports and recommendations to the Commission on land use and planning matters;
- Responds to interagency coordination, municipal agency referrals and jurisdictional determinations;
- Researches emerging issues pertaining to land use;
- Performs permit compliance reviews of development projects and enforcement support;
- Conducts scenic and cultural resource assessments and preservation initiatives.

### Pine Barrens Credit Program

- Oversees Pine Barrens Transfer of Development Rights program (Pine Barrens Credit Program)
- Conducts analyses for the Credit Clearinghouse, issues Letters of Interpretation and Credit Certificates.
- Review credit trends
- Serves as Commission GIS technician
- Monitors fire weather and prepares fire danger reports
- Maintains fire weather station
- Undertakes conservation easement monitoring and complaint investigations, provides support to the Science and Stewardship division and conducts field work.



Carol Ostrowski, Administrative Assistant

### Office Administration

- Assists with the overall organization and operation of the Commission office.
- Responsible for the procurement of supplies and field equipment and assists staff with their projects and events related to science and stewardship, wildfire management, education and outreach and law enforcement in the Pine Barrens.



Judy Jakobsen, Deputy Director



John Pavacic, Executive Director

### Management and Administration

- Overall protection, preservation and management of the 105,000-acre Central Pine Barrens area
- Overseeing implementation the Central Pine Barrens Comprehensive Land Use Plan,
- Managing Commission staff,
- Defining and guiding the continuing evolution of the Commission.
- Administering overall office operation, finances, preparation of the Commission's budget, land use management plan updates, policy development and legislative initiatives.



Polly Weigand, Science and Stewardship Manager



Shaun Ziegler, Ecologist

### Science and Stewardship

- Conducts and supports monitoring and management of the Central Pine Barrens in order to help maintain the ecological integrity of this globally rare ecosystem.
- Conducts ecological research, protection and restoration;
- Undertakes land use management and land protection activities.
- Develops and implements fire management plans;
- Conducts natural resource and open space protection and management;
- Performs public use and recreational resource planning and management.
- Aids in forest disease and pest response activities including Southern Pine Beetle monitoring, suppression, and education and invasive species mapping and eradication.



Kathy Delligatti, Academy Coordinator

New York Wildfire and Incident Management Academy

- Oversees and plans Commission's New York Wildfire and Incident Management Academy which provides training local firefighters, agency personnel and others in wildland fire response, Incident Command System (ICS) and prescribed fire
- Manages curriculum development, instructor and overhead staffing, student registrations, finance, travel plans, housing accommodations, meal plans and time recording for all staff and instructors.
- Also provides administrative support to the Central Pine Barrens Law Enforcement Council and the Wildfire Task Force and support to other Commission staff.



Melissa Parrott,
Education and
Outreach Coordinator



Timothy Motz, Communications Director

#### **Education and Outreach**

- Oversees Commission's many educational and outreach efforts.
- With BNL and NYSDEC, spearheads renowned "A Day in the Life" student science/research program for various rivers and estuaries on Long Island
- Manages and oversees field research programs for local school students
- Develops, conducts environmental education programs in local schools
- Manages successful Barrens to Bay environmental summer camp
- Coordinates Discovery Day, annual Pine Barrens public education event.
- Helps develop and coordinate annual LI Natural History Conference

#### **Public Information**

- Responsible for all external and internal communications for Commission
- Organizes press conferences, prepares press releases, handles media inquiries, conducts media outreach, prepares speeches and letters, prepares and implements ad campaigns, writes and edits publications
- Mentors staff in responding to media contact and public outreach
- Coordinates overall public information program for Commission



Michael Lewis, Enforcement Officer

James Mazzio, Enforcement Officer

Timothy Huss, Chief Enforcement Officer

### **Compliance and Enforcement**

- Investigates and helps enforce against alleged violations in the Central Pine Barrens, including illegal dumping of solid waste and clearing of vegetation.
- Conducts inspections of Commission-permitted land use activities and development projects, and Commission-held conservation easement
- Helps coordinate the several dozen agencies that have law enforcement, code enforcement and compliance jurisdiction within the Central Pine Barrens region.
- Aids and supports law enforcement in protecting the region from illegal non-land use activities, such as operation of ATVs and illegal dumping of waste.

### **Legal Affairs**

 John Milazzo, Commission Counsel, handles and manages legal matters concerning the Commission including legal opinions, resolutions, litigation, violation complaints, easements, stipulations, etc.

# The Central Pine Barrens - SCWA Connection

- One of the two basic purposes of the Long Island Pine Barrens
  Protection Act was to protect the potable groundwater
  underneath the Central Pine Barrens, allowing the underlying
  aquifer to be tapped for public drinking water in the future.
- Many SCWA employees were involved in helping to craft the law and the resulting Central Pine Barrens Comprehensive Land Use Plan – including personnel from Policy and Planning, Legal, Engineering and IT

## The Central Pine Barrens - SCWA Connection

#### **Suffolk County Water Authority** 1995 Central Pine Barrens Comprehensive Land Use Plan Contributors

#### **Board Members**

Michael A. LoGrande, A.I.C.P., Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Melvin M. Fritz, D.O.M.D. Eric J. Russo, Esq. Matthew B. Kondenar, Secretary James T. B. Tripp, Esq.

#### Principal Staff

#### Raymond P. Corwin, Commission Director

Jamie S. Greene John C. Milazzo, Esq. Timothy J. Hopkins, Esq. Donna J. Plunkett, R.L.A. Judith E. Jakobsen Lorraine A. Trezza

#### Cartographic and Computer Support

Vincent L. Lautato Jeffrey W. Altorfer Kumar Grandhi

#### Support Staff

Nick Mirabile Kenneth Appell Kathy Auleta Julie Neville Johnna Buso Maureen A. Podesta Edward J. Rosavitch, P.E. Jean Caruso Steven Colabufo Albert R. Schneider Richard E. Deal Fred Serterides Nicolo DiBartolo Michael Stevenson Frank Faber Virginia Stone James A. Hartnett James Touchet Lawrence B. Kulick Joseph Vecchio Laura J. Mansi Lucy Vetter

Deborah A. McCahey

# The Central Pine Barrens - SCWA Connection

- Since 1993, when the Central Pine Barrens Commission and the region were first created by the New York State Legislature and the Governor, SCWA has housed the Commission and provided all of its staff.
- All Central Pine Barrens Commission employees are SCWA employees. SCWA also provides back office and administrative functions for Commission operations including procurement, accounting, payroll, IT, human resources and risk management.
- The Commission receives virtually all of its funding from the New York State Environmental Protection Fund but only on a reimbursement basis, so SCWA advances the operational funding to the Commission and gets reimbursed when New York State sends a reimbursement check to the Commission.
- Through a long-term agreement, the Commission reimburses the SCWA for all payroll, office space, utilities and back office and administrative functions and also pays a 10% administrative fee to SCWA.

### Physical Offices and Facilities of the Central Pine Barrens Commission

Main Office: SCWA Eastern Regional Office

624 Old Riverhead Road,

Westhampton Beach, NY (since October of 2012)

New York Wildfire &

**Incident Management Academy**: SCWA Coram Facility

2045 Route 112

Coram, NY

Wildfire Weather Station: SCWA Gus Guerrera Wellfield and Pump Station

County Road 51

Eastport, NY

Barren and Waste Land: Long Islanders and the Pine Barrens Historical Exhibit:

**SCWA Education Center** 

260 Motor Parkway

Hauppauge, NY

# The Central Pine Barrens - SCWA Connection

### Other Connections Between the Central Pine Barrens and SCWA:

- The Central Pine Barrens Advisory Committee, a body separate from and independent of the Commission, was established in the Pine Barrens Act to advise the Commission, among other duties. Since its inception the Chair of the Advisory Committee has been SCWA's CEO.
- Central Pine Barrens staff also assist SCWA on non-Pine Barrens matters including environmental impact and environmental planning reviews of proposed SCWA project such as new water storage tanks and wellfields. As part of this effort, Central Pine Barrens staff provide support in regard to SEQRA (State Environmental Quality Review Act) reviews, endangered species, revegetation and landscaping, viewshed analyses, vegetation management and cultural resource analyses.
- CPB staff have participated in LICAP subcommittees spearheaded by SCWA and have helped draft specific sections of the LICAP plan.

# The Central Pine Barrens - SCWA Connection

- Central Pine Barrens staff also assist SCWA in the areas of education and outreach. SCWA is a sponsor of "A Day in the Life" of various rivers and water bodies outside the Central Pine Barrens. Through this program, secondary school students and their teachers are introduced to scientific research and monitoring through hands-on activities including water quality sampling and learn about the various forces and factors that affect our environment.
- CPB staff have also assisted in developing and have supported SCWA customer education and outreach in the Strategic Initiatives Water Wise Checkup program.
- Finally, other Central Pine Barrens staff patrol SCWA sites, especially vacant locations (such as future wellfield sites) to prevent and address illegal activities, such as dumping of solid waste, clearing of vegetation and encroachments.

## The Central Pine Barrens Commission – Members

And we all work for a Commission consisting of the supervisors of the three towns....

of Brookhaven, Riverhead and Southampton plus the Suffolk County Executive and a Governor appointee



Edward P. Romaine. **Brookhaven Town Supervisor** 



Laura Jens-Smith, Riverhead Town **Supervisor** 



Carrie Meek-Gallagher, **NYSDEC Regional Director** & Commission Chairwoman



Jay Schneiderman, Southampton Town **Supervisor** 



Steve Bellone, **Suffolk County Executive** 

- So what is it about this land that has gotten so many of us to devote our professional lives to its protection?
- On this topic, we tend to get very passionate. The Central Pine Barrens is Long Island's largest natural area and last remaining wilderness.

The area has a tremendous history. It is believed the region was named by George Washington....

Within it's 105,000 acres, you will find.....

### Broad, Diverse Range of Wildlife Species:

#### **Birds**

Red-eyed Vireo Rufous-sided towhee

Indigo bunting Eastern bluebird Tree swallow

Osprey

Northern harrier

Great blue heron

Warblers (> than 30 species)

Meadowlark

Short-eared owl Grasshopper sparrow

**Mammals** 

White-tailed deer Short-tailed weasel White-footed mouse

Reptiles and Amphibians

Eastern box turtle Snapping turtle

Eastern tiger salamander

Gray treefrog Green frog

Eastern spadefoot toad

*Invertebrates* 

Coastal barrens buckmoth Frosted elfin Pine Barrens Bluet Scarlet tanager

Thrush

Great crested flycatcher

Brown Thrasher

Bald eagle

Turkey

Turkey buzzard

Wood duck

Bobwhite quail

American woodcock Great horned owl

Red fox

Southern flying squirrel Northern long-eared bat

Spotted turtle Eastern hognose snake Marbled Salamander

Bullfrog Wood frog Fowler's toad



\*denotes endangered, threatened, special concern species



Eastern Tiger Salamander



Coastal Barrens Buckmoth



Northern Bobwhite Quail



Osprey

### Broad, diverse range of plant species:



Rose coreopsis



Pitch Pine



**Prickly Pear Cactus** 



Pink Lady's Slipper





Sundew



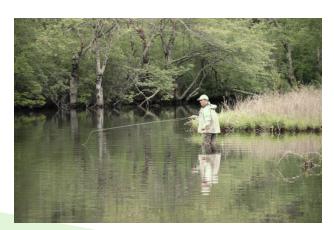
Scrub Oak

#### **Recreational Activities**

- Hiking
- Birdwatching
- Fishing
- Horseback Riding
- Mountain Biking
- Camping
- Kayaking, Canoing and Rowing











- All of these incredible resources, right here in Suffolk, and available for everyone to enjoy.
- But how did it all come about? In 1993, our elected officials and other dedicated citizens....

- ... passed the "Long Island Pine Barrens Protection Act" (the "Act" aka Article 57 of the New York State Environmental Conservation Law), protecting the largest, "central" remaining Long Island Pine Barrens region.
- The act came on the heels of:
  - a lawsuit launched in 1989 by the Long Island Pine Barrens Society against Suffolk County and Brookhaven, Riverhead and Southampton to require a cumulative environmental impact review for the more than 200 development projects proposed in the region.
  - The 1990 adoption of a State law called the Long Island Pine Barrens
     Maritime Reserve Act to protect area encompassing lands and waters east of
     Patchogue-Mt. Sinai Road to include Peconic Estuary.
  - A 1992 NY State Court of Appeals decision on LI Pine Barrens Society litigation recommending State Legislature establish law to create regional plan and protection.

- Principal goals of the Long Island Pine Barrens Protection Act:
- Protection of ground, surface, and drinking water for 1.5 million residents:
  - New York State and Suffolk County recognized a need to protect groundwater quality because it is the sole source of our drinking water. The region defined by this law as the Central Pine Barrens, located at the junction of the Towns of Brookhaven, Riverhead, and Southampton, lies over an underground drinking water aquifer known as a "deep recharge area" which supplies much of our public water supply.
- Protection of a threatened ecosystem and landscape

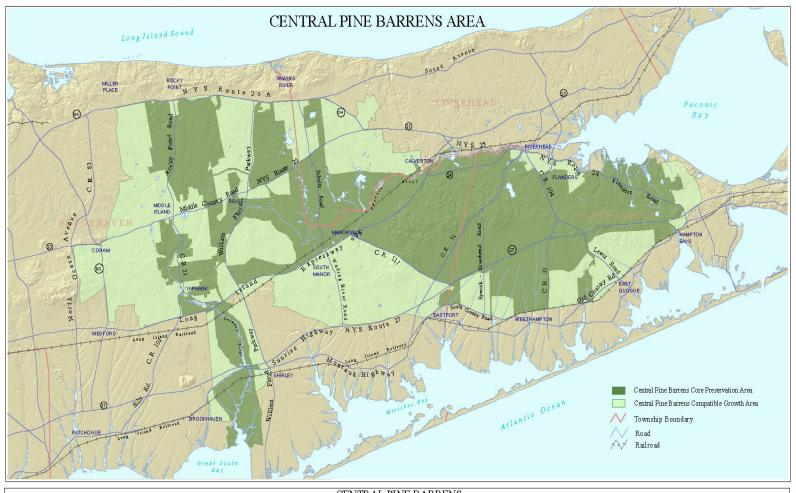
Found in only a few locations in US and contains one of the greatest concentrations of rare, endangered and threatened plants and animals in New York State.

Aerial view of Hubbard County Park in Flanders/Hampton Bays

### What does the LI Pine Barrens Protection Act - NYS ECL Article 57 - do?

- Defines geographic boundaries and divides the 105,000+ acre Central Pine Barrens into 56,747-acre Core Preservation Area (approx.) and 48,665-acre (approx.) Compatible Growth Area
- Creates 5-member Commission representing New York State, Suffolk County and the Towns of Brookhaven, Riverhead and Southampton.
- The Act and the Plan charge the Commission with the combined duties of a state agency, a planning board, and a park commission.
- Establishes Commission stewardship and protected land management and ecological management responsibilities.
- Commission also has joint land use review and regulation, permitting and enforcement authority, along with local municipalities.
- · Law requires a Comprehensive Plan developed and overseen by Commission.
- Requires establishment and operation of a transfer of development rights and conservation easement program, overseen and managed by the Commission.
- Advisory Committee establishes council of several dozen non-governmental organizations, listed by name in Article 57, which advises the Commission and which contains a balanced representation of environmental and builder groups.

- The law also divided the Central Pine Barrens into two main areas, the Core Preservation Area and the Compatible Growth Area:
- Core Preservation Area Comprised mostly of publicly-owned, protected and preserved open space and parkland owned by New York State, Suffolk County and the three Towns. This subregion is primarily vegetated and contains significant wildlife habitat. Non-routine physical activities, such as construction and development and clearing of trees, are prohibited for the most part in this area.
- Compatible Growth Area Comprised of a mix of developed areas, private undeveloped land and some publicly-owned parkland and open space. Development and other forms of non-routine, non-maintenance activities are allowed to occur in this area but only if in conformance with Central Pine Barrens standards and guidelines contained in the Central Pine Barrens Comprehensive Land Use Plan.





More: This map is introduced for general missence only and it no tree to used for compaying he glint maps into no function all boundaries, or other pantle proposes. Information the wave in this map map combin dislates armos, and/or mission to. Seafer in NYS ECLA ratio A 74-107 (10), (11), and (12) for the official description of the C mattel Rine Barners boundaries. Papared by the massion foul (14), January 13, 1014.

#### CENTRAL PINE BARRENS JOINT PLANNING AND POLICY COMMISSION

Carrie Meek Gallagher, Chairwoman Steven Bellone, Member Edward P. Romaine, Member Jay H. Schneiderman, Member Laura Jens-Smith, Member



With the management of such an immense and diverse area a tremendous challenge, several councils were created to tackle specific aspects.

### Law Enforcement Council (LEC)

- Organization of several dozen Federal, State and local law enforcement and code enforcement agencies which have jurisdiction in the Central Pine Barrens.
- Coordinates, assists and supports agency actions to combat illegal activities in the Central Pine Barrens. Facilitates and fosters sharing of information and intelligence.
- Promotes interagency cooperation and uniformity and consistency in procedures.
- Develops field guides, handbooks and educational material for members. Also, conducts training in specialized areas.
- Established and coordinates
   Task Forces including special
   operations such as ATV
   enforcement details.
- Helps draft and advocate for enactment of statutory and regulatory amendments to strengthen enforcement.



#### Protected Land Council

- Organization of public land-owning and land-managing agencies, advocacy groups, stewardship organizations and user groups.
- Share common interest in advancing 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.
- Promotes regional cooperation and sharing of resources and information with respect to protected public lands within the Central Pine Barrens.
- The PLC's stewardship work includes habitat protection; ecological preservation, restoration of historic structures; trail creation; recreation use oversight, signage development; invasive species management; park planning; mitigating and preventing All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) and Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) damage; and dumping mitigation.

### Wildfire Task Force

- Created after the 1995 wildfires and consists of representatives from 41 agencies that have land management, firefighting or emergency services responsibilities within the Central Pine Barrens.
- Mission is to conduct pre-fire planning for wildfire suppression in the Central Pine Barrens and facilitating achievement of the following goals:
  - Goal 1: Develop a Fire Management Plan for the Core Preservation Area of the Central Pine Barrens region.
  - Goal 2: Develop a standard and acceptable Incident Command System (ICS) for response to wildfire incidents, consistent with the Suffolk County ICS Plan.
  - Goal 3: Establish a fire information program on the activities of the Wildfire Task Force to inform and solicit the support of local fire commissioners and fire chiefs for the work of this Wildfire Task Force.
  - Goal 4: Establish an appropriate training program on wildfire-urban interface suppression for all Suffolk County volunteer firefighters.
  - Goal 5: Provide public education on wildfire awareness, safety and prevention, as well as urban interface wildfire prevention and safety.
- To accomplish these goals, in 1999 the Wildfire Task Force created a Fire Management Plan, which details how these goal will be accomplished.
- Task Force meets several times a year and is currently updating the plan.
- Also, has subcommittees that focus on specialized areas including Fire Weather and Fire Danger Levels, Firewise and Wildfire Prevention, Prescribed Fire and Training and Equipment.



Brush Trucks - Chief Apparatus Used by Wildfire Task Force Members in Combating Wildfires and Brushfires

- And we've even expanded our scope to manage, for instance, one of the finest training academies for firefighters and emergency personnel in the country.
- The New York Wildfire and Incident Management Academy was started in 1997 and every year trains hundreds of volunteer firefighters and public agency personnel in learning such vital skills as....



Wildfire Response



Wildfire Response



Prescribed Fire Implementation



Wildfire Response



Prescribed Fire Implementation

### The Central Pine Barrens

Commission



Operation of Portable Pumps and Fire Hose Operation



Personal Protective Equipment and Safety



**Incident Command System** 



**Chainsaw Operation** 

#### Current Challenges: Ecological /Forest Management

- · Highly fragmented and isolated habitats
- · Invasive plants and animals
  - > Phragmites
  - > Caper spurge
  - > Japanese knotweed
  - ➤ Mile-a-Minute
  - > Japanese stiltgrass
  - ➤ Black swallow-wort
  - > Southern Pine Beetle
  - > Oak Wilt
  - > Spotted Lanternfly
- Lack of active management (e.g. prescribed fire, mechanical)
- Deer overpopulation and herbivory
- Multiple owners, jurisdictions, missions and constraints
  - > Much preserved land owned predominantly by New York State and Suffolk County.
- Degradation and attrition of rare habitats
- Rare, endangered, threatened, special concern greatest conservation need species.
- Climate Change -Local & Regional Effects of Temperature Increase and Sea Level Rise
  - > Southern Pine Beetle
  - > Wildlife Impacts
  - > Eel Grass Loss
  - Saltwater intrusion

#### Current Challenges: Wildfire Response, Management & Prevention

- 100 years of suppression
- More than 100 volunteer fire departments in Suffolk County (16 cover the Core Preservation Area)
- No single wildfire authority individual fire chiefs have ultimate authority in their fire districts
- New York State does not mandate wildfire training and brush truck training for volunteer firefighters
- Extensive Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI)
- Potential conflict between Firewise defensible space and natural vegetation preservation standards
- Encouraging volunteers to take training via NYWIMA

Current Challenges: *Deer Herbivory* 

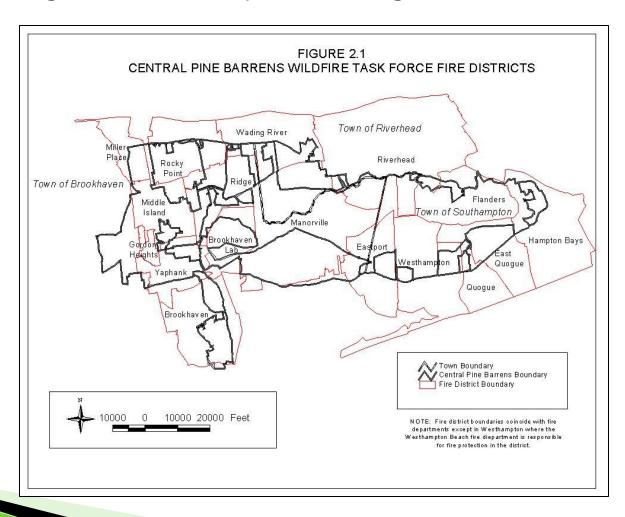


Deer Exclosure at Mashomack Preserve on Shelter Island – no deer in area to right of fence



Deer Exclosure at Mashomack Preserve on Shelter Island – no deer in area to right of fence

Current Challenges: Wildfire Response, Management & Prevention



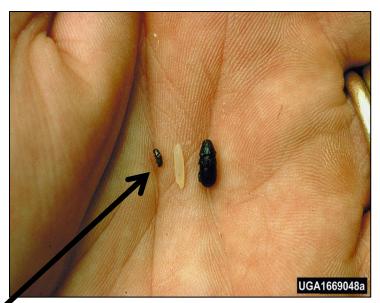
#### **Current Challenges:**

- Southern Pine Beetle Response and Management
  - Multiple jurisdictions
  - Most public land-owners do not have sufficient funding and resources, including trained personnel
  - > Private lands
- Oak Wilt Response and Management
  - > Developing issue
  - > Difficult to confirm
- Gypsy Moth Response and Management
  - > Continuing outbreaks that, coupled with oak wilt and other oak impacts, cause additional threat
- Spotted Lanternfly
  - New insect pest expected to reach Long Island soon attacks native plants as well as commercially-valuable plants such as grapes, hops, apple and other fruit trees
- Overall Increase in Tick Populations

Current Challenges: Southern Pine Beetle



Adult southern pine beetle (from US Forest Service Forest Insect & Disease Leaflet 49 of April 2009.)



Southern Pine Beetles are very small, 1-3 millimeters in length which is similar in size to a chocolate sprinkle (and smaller than an uncooked grain of rice).

Current Challenges: Southern Pine Beetle



Approximately 200 acres of infestation at Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge, primarily on east side of Carmans River. Photo from early 2015 showing trees in foreground starting to turn yellow and red

Current Challenges: Southern Pine Beetle

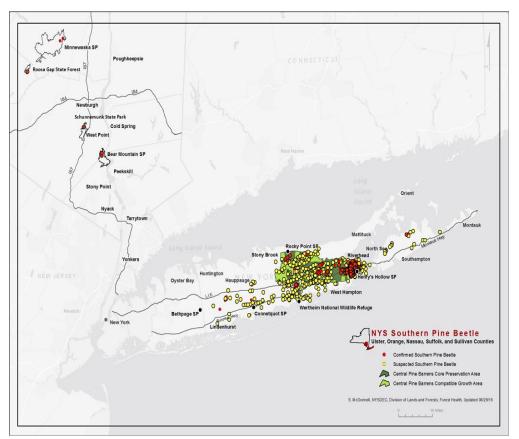


SPB Infestation viewed from the ground - dying trees turning yellow and red



SPB Infestation viewed from the ground - dying trees turning yellow and red

Current Challenges: Southern Pine Beetle



Map showing extent of infestation focused on Long Island.

#### **Current Challenges: Spotted Lanternfly**



Adult spotted lanternfly
(Lawrence Barringer, Pennsylvania Department of
Agriculture, Bugwood.org)



Adult spotted lanternfly
(Lawrence Barringer, Pennsylvania Department of
Agriculture, Bugwood.org)



New egg masses (Kenneth R. Law, USDA APHIS PPQ, Bugwood.org)





Old egg masses (Kenneth R. Law, USDA APHIS PPQ, Bugwood.org)

#### Swarm of lanternflies on a tree

Lawrence Barringer, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Bugwood.org

#### Violations and Enforcement

- All-Terrain Vehicle Use (e.g. quads, dirt bikes) and Off-Road Vehicles (e.g. 4WDs) rampant
  - Habitat destruction loss of vegetation and soil compaction, fragmentation, erosion, rutting, disturbance to and displacement of wildlife, direct injury or death to wildlife, noise
- Illegal dumping of solid waste, rubbish, construction and demolition debris, land-clearing debris and yard waste and other materials
- > Illegal clearing of vegetation
- Encroachment onto public lands
- > Arson and vandalism
- Poaching





























**Illegal Dumping** 













Vandalism, Illegal Clearing and Combination of Both



#### **Future Initiatives**

- Prescribed Fire Management NYS Grant
- Comprehensive Land Use Plan Update
- Core Preservation Area Expansion
  - > Shoreham
  - Mastic Woods



Shoreham Core Expansion Area



Mastic Woods Core Expansion Area

### Thank You!

### Central Pine Barrens Joint Planning and Policy Commission

624 Old Riverhead Road

Westhampton Beach, NY 11978

(in Suffolk County Water Authority Eastern Regional Office)

**Voice:** 631-288-1079

**Fax:** 631-288-1367

**Hours:** Mon - Fri, 8:30 am to 5:00 pm

Pine Barrens Reference Library open to public (non

lending!)

**Web:** http://.pb.state.ny.us

E-mail: info@pb.state.ny.us

