

## Community Meeting in West Sayville Sunday, March 21st, 2 pm at L.I. Maritime Museum

**J**oin us Sunday afternoon when a representative from the West Sayville Civic Association will tell us about the history of Bluepoint, show a short film, and tell us all about how they are fighting to save this historic and environmentally valuable property. Bluepoint is the only remaining site on L.I. that is situated above wells that supply naturally sand-filtered clams and oysters.

The West Sayville Civic Association took on, and defeated, a developer who was intent on turning the oyster company into an upscale condominium complex for 55+ seniors.

Now they are negotiating with Suffolk County to



purchase the property, and if successful, hope a Center for Estuarine Environmental Studies (CEES) can be established there.

The meeting will be held at the L.I. Maritime Museum, and will start at 2 pm. Light refreshments will be served and everyone is welcome. Afterwards (weather permitting) we may walk around the corner to the Bluepoint site to investigate the grounds.

Two websites we suggest you visit are the LI Maritime Museum: [limaritime.org](http://limaritime.org) and the WSCA: [westsayville.org](http://westsayville.org).

**ARRIVE AT 1PM AND BE TREATED TO A GUIDED TOUR OF THIS FASCINATING MUSEUM.**

*Directions to Museum on back page*

## Update on Water

*By Laurie Farber, Conservation Chair*

**I** recently attended a hearing in Long Beach held by the Assembly Environmental Conservation Committee. Assemblymen Harvey Weisenberg and Tom DiNapoli deserve a big "thank you" for putting this together.

Two major issues were brought to light. The United States Geological Survey has been keeping data on our aquifers for a very long time. For the past 4 years there is a big empty space where most of Nassau is, yet the data are quite clear for Brooklyn, Queens, Suffolk, and the Manhasset Neck area. The way the USGS works is that it needs to have cooperative funding from a local entity and then can match some federal funds in order to do the work. Nassau stopped participating in 1999. It's obvious that Nassau's elected officials haven't been sufficiently educated on the importance of this data for tracking trends and planning for the future.

The second issue is what looks like very strong interest on the part of water purveyors to "revisit" the 20 year-old ban on using the Lloyd Aquifer for anything but certain coastal communities like Long Beach. The Lloyd Aquifer is the deepest, oldest, purest water under Long Island and the recharge to that aquifer is relatively minimal. The Suffolk Water Authority wants to tap into the Lloyd for clean water to blend with polluted

water instead of paying for further treatment for the wells they currently have.

The other part of this problem is a proposal by NYC to pump "excess" water from their upstate reservoirs INTO the Lloyd so that they can extract some later. It was unclear to us whether this would be "raw" (untreated) water probably containing pathogens, or treated chlorinated and fluoridated water. Either way, this could be a very serious compromise of our purest water. If it's already chlorinated & then extracted, those people drinking it would get water that has been chlorinated twice.

Chlorine is a problem already and increased exposure is not a good thing. It will be the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation that will look at the NYC proposal but it may require state legislative approval to lift the ban on using the Lloyd Aquifer.

### Task Team Wanted

**E**ver traveled to a hotel where you're given a choice about whether you want them to wash your sheets and towels? I'd like to put together a task team to implement this water (and money) saving strategy on Long Island. If you're interested, call

**Laurie Farber 516-938-6152**  
**[Larus2407@aol.com](mailto:Larus2407@aol.com)**



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\* Executive Committee member

**LONG ISLAND SIERRA CLUB  
516-826-0801**

**<http://newyork.sierraclub.org/longisland>**

**E-mail us at: [lisierrainquiries@hotmail.com](mailto:lisierrainquiries@hotmail.com)**

**LISTEN**

Long Island Shares The Environmental Network (Various environmental groups, including the Sierra Club, have formed a network to disseminate information that can affect LI.)

For updates and a bulletin board of current issues and events, visit the new website:

**[www.lienvironment.net](http://www.lienvironment.net)**



**View From The  
Chair**

*by John Sauer*

**Y**ou might notice a new name on this column. I'm taking a turn at chairing the Sierra Club Long Island Group for a while, but I'm pleased to reassure everyone that Laurie Farber will continue as Conservation Chair. Her passion and years of experience are invaluable to our environmental work here on Long Island. We're also grateful to Laurie for her past work as Group Chair.

Actually, I am relatively new to the Sierra Club Executive Committee, although, like most of you, I have been a Sierra Club dues-paying member for a number of years, active mostly to the extent of an annual contribution and reading the Sierra magazine. Although my career and family make significant demands on my time, I have wanted to carve out a little time to participate in some worthwhile volunteer activity.

Recognizing that Long Island is facing a number of serious environmental challenges, from over-development to the degradation of Long Island Sound, I decided I'd take the next step and looked into the Long Island Sierra Club. I began attending some of the Sierra Club community meetings and the newsletter mailing parties. I've learned some interesting stuff at the meetings, and the mailing parties have been a great way to meet new people (and enjoy some great pizza!).

As with most volunteer groups, the Long Island Sierra Club never has enough active members. There are lots of opportunities to get involved. We can always use more articles for our *Long Island Lighthouse* newsletter. Our Political and Conservation work needs interested Long Islanders to keep tabs on our politicians and attend local meetings about environmental and conservation issues. It's grass roots volunteering in its truest form. Check out the date of the next community meeting, come down and find out more. Your Island needs you.

## Sierra Club Picks Worst Bush Administration Environmental Exploits of 2003

**T**ripling allowable levels of mercury pollution, shifting the burden of toxic cleanup from polluters to taxpayers, and undoing rules for cleaning up America's dirtiest power plants topped a laundry list of Bush administration exploits to weaken decades of environmental progress in 2003.

In a survey conducted in December '03 by the Sierra Club to determine the worst-of-the worst decisions affecting public health and the environment, mercury pollution, toxic cleanup and soot and smog registered as the greatest concerns. Some of the major concerns were:

**MERCURY RISING** - Issued public health warnings to pregnant women and children about mercury after announcing policy changes to triple amount of mercury pollution allowed from power plants.

**SUPER DUPED** - Became first administration to support shifting burden of Superfund toxic waste cleanup from polluters to taxpayers.

**SOOTY SANTA** - Dismantled provision of Clean Air Act that required oldest, dirtiest power plants and refineries to curb soot and smog pollution,

**BACK IN BLACKOUT** - Proposed a national Energy Bill that did nothing to reduce dependence on foreign oil, repair or address antiquated electricity grid, or protect special places from oil and gas drilling.

**DRILLING WILDERNESS** - Opened nearly 9 million pristine acres in Northwest Alaska to the oil and gas industry for exploration and drilling.

**CRITICAL CONDITION** - Obliterated the process of critical habitat designation for imperiled wildlife under the Endangered Species Act.

**POLLUTED LOGIC** - Refused to classify industrial carbon emissions, linked to global warming, as an official pollutant under the Clean Air Act.

**ESTATE TOX** - Ended a 25-year ban on the sale of PCB-laden real estate.

For a full list of the Bush administration actions, ranked according to the survey response, visit [www.sierraclub.org/raw](http://www.sierraclub.org/raw)

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## Help Wanted

**T**he Sierra Club is committed to getting pro-environmental candidates elected to office.

We need Sierra Club members to go to the campaign headquarters of candidates we endorse and help get the message out by telephoning and envelope-stuffing. No experience necessary. Contact:

Michael Cafaro, Political Chair  
631-243-1127  
[michaelcafaro@aol.com](mailto:michaelcafaro@aol.com)



# Outings and Events

FOR AN UP-TO-DATE LIST OF OTHER SIERRA CLUB OUTINGS IN THE METROPOLITAN REGION, LOG ON TO: [newyork.sierraclub.org/outings](http://newyork.sierraclub.org/outings)

## MARCH

### **Mon 15 LI Sound Public Meeting, Riverhead, 7 pm**

Everyone invited to learn more about the LI Sound Study's initiative to improve the Sound. Q&A period. For info web: [longislandsoundstudy.net](http://longislandsoundstudy.net) or phone: 888-SAVE-LIS

### **Tues 16 LI Sound Public Meeting, Huntington Town Hall, 7 pm** See paragraph above for details.

### **Sun 21 COMMUNITY MEETING, L.I. MARITIME MUSEUM, WEST SAYVILLE**

Guided Museum tour at 1 pm, meeting at 2 pm. Light refreshments served, all welcome. See page 1 for details.

## APRIL

### **Wed 7 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING, 7 PM**

Call our hotline 516-826-0801 for location. All members welcome.

### **Sat 17 CARLL'S RIVER WATERSHED, WYANDANCH, 1PM**

County park cleanup (rain date Sunday April 18). Meet near the parking area along Birch St. for Wyandanch Park (Mount Ave, off of Straight Path). Bring work gloves & clippers. This lovely little park runs along the creek that flows south into Belmont Lake State Park. Nice wetlands & a pond. Call *Laurie* for more detailed directions: 516-938-6152

### **SUN 18 MUTTONTOWN PRESERVE, EAST NORWICH, 12-2 PM**

Join us for a family hike in the largest preserve in Nassau County. This two hour hike will include time to learn & play some nature games. Hopefully we can search for animal tracks. A great hike for families. joint with Appalachian Mountain Club. Leader *Dan Kriesberg* 516-628-1798, call before 9 pm to confirm.

### **Sat 24 COMMACK, SUNKEN MEADOW BIKE**

Hilly, 12 miles, 2 hours approx. Joint ride with Trail Boss Bike Club. Meet at 9:30 am at leader's house. Helmet mandatory, rain cancels. For more info check website <http://hometown.aol.com/gjwbiker/index.htm> or e-mail [gjwbiker@optonline.net](mailto:gjwbiker@optonline.net). Call *George Waldbusser* 631-499-3953 only as a last resort.

## MAY

### **Sun 2 BIRDING AND BOATING ON THE LOWER RAMAPO RIVER (NJ)**

Join us for ten miles of class 1 paddling from Mahwah to Oakland NJ. In addition to enjoying

the paddling we will also be looking for aviary-fauna of the area. (No boat rentals available locally.) Leaders: *Ira* (201) 599-0099; e-mail: [wbupar@aol.com](mailto:wbupar@aol.com).

### **Wed 5 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING, 7 PM**

Call our hotline 5116-826-0801 for location. All members welcome.

### **SAT 8 WADING RIVER WILDWOOD STATE PARK BIKE/PICNIC**

Flat & hilly, 18 miles, approx. 3 hrs. Picnic lunch in beautiful Wildwood following the ride. Joint with Trail Boss Bike Club. Helmets required. Meet in Wildwood parking lot at 9:30 for a 10am start. Parking fee. For more info check website <http://hometown.aol.com/gjwbiker/index.htm> or e-mail [gjwbiker@optonline.net](mailto:gjwbiker@optonline.net). Call *George Waldbusser* 631-499-3953 only as a last resort.

## JUNE

### **Wed 2 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING, 7 PM**

Call our hotline 5116-826-0801 for location. All members welcome.

### **Sun 6 CEDAR CREEK (NJ)**

Gentle stream in NJ Pine Barrens. Nice scenery. Excellent for new & experienced paddlers. Canoe rentals available. Car pooling available. Respond by May 24. Please send SASE or e-mail to Leader: *Norman Blumenstein*, 23 Wellington Court, Sayreville NJ 08872, 732-613-4668 before 10 PM. E-mail [normanb@bellatlantic.net](mailto:normanb@bellatlantic.net)

### **SAT 19 NISSEQUOGUE RIVER, CANOE THE GREENBELT**

We go thru salt, fresh, & intertidal wetlands with numerous waterfowl & other birds. Canoe and kayak rentals available. Easy trip. Suitable for beginners. Accessible by train. Leaders: *Don & Lisa Scott*, 322 River Road, St. James NY 11780. Call 631-265-2198 or e-mail [donaldscott3rd@hotmail.com](mailto:donaldscott3rd@hotmail.com)

### **Sat 26 PECONIC RIVER**

Explore this beautiful L.I. river in a canoe or kayak. We will be paddling approximately 8 miles at a relaxed pace & enjoying the wonderful scenery. It is recommended that you be in good physical condition & have some prior experience paddling before coming on this trip. Must be able to maneuver through poison ivy infested narrow turns & avoid waterfalls. Significant portaging & paddling through a long tunnel is required. Canoe rentals available. There is no public transportation. Write, including a phone number (you will not receive a response without a phone number) or SASE, to Leader: *Eric Girolamo*, 1 Birchwood Ct #4C, Mineola NY 11501.

# Offshore Energy and Public Processes

by Michael J. D'Amico

**E**very day actions are proposed or undertaken that affect our coastal marine areas. The American public has an important role to play in balancing the conservation of our fish and wildlife that utilize these areas and their associated habitats while meeting our daily human needs.

Examples of such projects for us here on Long Island are the proposed placements of two separate but similar industrial scale energy facilities (wind and hydrogen) off of our southern coastline for the purposes of generating electricity. Both of these proposals are controversial with some people citing aesthetics, the need for alternative sources of energy, and effects on fish and avian populations as areas of concerns. All of these interests have merit according to our national laws. It is these laws that provide a public forum to make certain our viewpoints are made part of the official record.

Although sometimes difficult to understand or seemingly complicated, public participation opportunities are an integral component of this process. It's also important to note that no matter if one is for or against a project everyone has an equal say.

Access to this regulatory process for the public begins in the form of a Public Notice (PN) followed by a comment period.

The US Army Corps of Engineers- New York District (ACOE), who is the lead federal agency for these projects, will administer the PN processes under Section 10 of the River & Harbors Act (RHA) and, if warranted, under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA).

Section 10 of the RHA applies because it requires approval to the accomplishment of any work in or over navigable waters of the United States, or which affects the course, location, condition or capacity of such waters. Section 404 of the CWA may be used if the projects in question show they will discharge dredge and fill materials into the waters of the United States including wetlands.

Citizens can make a request to receive public notices for permit applications by contacting the ACOE and formally requesting to be put on the PN mailing list.

The comment period for these proposals will be 30 days but can be more if an extension is called for with good reason. The public's role here is to submit written comments as well as call for a public hearing should it be deemed necessary.

For the purpose of soliciting comments from the public, a PN must describe the proposed action and identify its purpose and need. Furthermore, a PN must include an evaluation of the action's probable impact (including secondary and cumulative) on the public interest based on specific factors and it must reflect concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. Some examples of these factors are conservation, economics, aesthetics, fish and wildlife values, land use, navigation, recreation, energy needs, safety, and welfare of the people. It must also take into account whether the proposed projects impacts may affect threatened or endangered species as well as consider the impacts to essential fish habitat. Other applicable federal laws such as the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Fish & Wildlife Coordination Act will also come into play during this process.

This information is gathered by the ACOE and used in the decision making process. Their charge is to determine whether or not the project will result in significant impacts on the human environment. If it will not significantly impact the human environment the ACOE will issue a Finding of No Significant Impact. If it will significantly impact the human environment the ACOE will move toward a more detailed process such as an environmental impact statement and concluding this exercise will issue a final determination.

At the issuance of the final determination any citizen that is not satisfied with the decision can seek judicial review in Federal Court starting at the District Court level and possibly going as far as the Supreme Court.

I would encourage everyone to engage the process by taking the time to carefully consider and provide input on these and other upcoming issues. This type of engagement works to ensure that we here on Long Island, and the wildlife we share it with, continue to have a healthy and sustainable environment to live in.

*Michael J. D'Amico is a strategic planning consultant residing in Massapequa and can be reached at [MJDSPC@hotmail.com](mailto:MJDSPC@hotmail.com)*

# Is This “Smart Growth?”

By Jerry Hannon

In 2002, the Town of Huntington rejected a proposal for a project called “Orchard Park.” The applicant was asking for a rezoning of about 34 acres of his property (along Jericho Turnpike and stretching back from the “sand dunes”) from R-40, in order to build a massive mixed use complex.

The project would have stripped 29 forested acres, next to Berkeley Jackson County Park, in order to build 264,000 sq. ft. of retail space, 60,000 sq. ft. of office space, and 360 apartments, with parking for over 1,800 cars on the 35 acre site. All next to a 101 acre county park.

The developer of that property, Mark Mediavilla, is gearing up to present a revised version of “Orchard Park,” and is even asking citizens to sign up as “Friends of Orchard Park,” without details of the revision.

Mr. Mediavilla likes to call his project “Smart Growth,” because it would contain a mix of residential and retail, but true Smart Growth converts underutilized existing properties rather than destroying plots of undeveloped land, particularly when that adjoins a county park that provides wildlife habitat of nesting owls, hawks, and other species.

In a 6/21/01 Town Memorandum, they noted the original plan projected peak traffic of 1,516 cars

per hour. Even if the project were reduced by 1/3, that would be over 1,000 cars per hour in an area that is often past the saturation point for traffic.

Anyone driving along Jericho Turnpike in the Town of Huntington understands that the area is not lacking for retail stores, and the Town has precious little forested territory that could be preserved for future generations. Although the property appears on the Town’s Protection Priority List, Mr. Mediavilla is not yet a willing seller, and seems to prefer seeking approval for a change in zoning to permit his project.

Residents of Huntington in particular, and Suffolk County in general, should watch this issue carefully and not sign on as a supporter for an unrevealed development, and also be prepared to indicate to the Town and County, their own concerns about environmental damage to the forested private property, and the public park adjacent to it. Anyone with questions could contact Jerry Hannon at [GKHannon@aol.com](mailto:GKHannon@aol.com).

*Jerry Hannon is a member of eight environmental & wildlife protection organizations. He currently serves as a director of the Huntington Audubon Society and Chairs their Conservation Committee.*

## Sierra’s 30th Birthday Celebration



Legislator Judy Jacobs presenting a citation to the Sierra Club for their environmental work on the occasion of its 30th birthday. The party was held on November 13th at the Fox Hollow Inn. Some of the members of the Executive Committee: 1 to r Marie Pendzich, Mary Donovan, Bobbie Josepher, Judy Jacobs, Laurie Farber, Rea Schnittman. Second row: Ray Andreasen, Marje Schnier, Ed Hyshiver.

## Long Island’s First Solar Festival

The NY Solar Festival will take place the weekend of **July 24-25, 2004** on Long Island, and is dedicated to promoting a holistic, sustainable and renewable way of living. There will be a solar stage for music, vendors and exhibits, educational institutions, children’s activities and food.

Committees are now being organized to handle the various tasks associated with this mega event. Please come and be part of the magic and make this event a success.

Contact Chris Castro at 516-994-5897 for additional details or check out their website:

[www.nysolarfest.org](http://www.nysolarfest.org)

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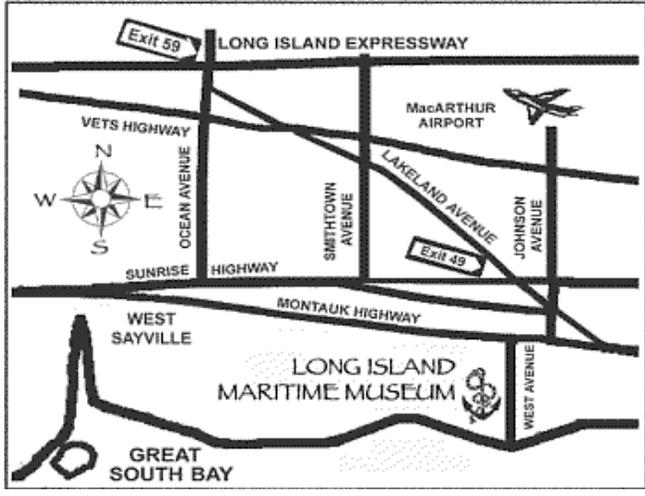
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[www.sunlightelectric.com](http://www.sunlightelectric.com)



## Directions to Maritime Museum for March 21st Meeting

**Museum Tour 1 pm - Meeting at 2 pm**

The L.I. Maritime Museum (631—HISTORY) is located south of Montauk Hwy. 27A in West Sayville, adjacent to the County Golf Course on West Ave.



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