



# Long Island Lighthouse

Volume 25 No. 4

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

Winter 2006 - 2007

## CROSS COUNTRY SKI TRIP TO JACKSON, NH JANUARY 12 - 15, 2007 MLK WEEKEND

Come join us this year on a cross-country ski adventure in the White Mountains of New Hampshire on January 12, 13, & 14, 2007 (leave 15th) at the Eagle Mountain House in Jackson, New Hampshire. Last date to register is December 1. Don't miss this chance to have a wonderful ski vacation with like-minded Sierrans, at a bargain price!

**See page 4 for details.**

## HOLIDAY PARTY AND VOLUNTEER FAIR SUNDAY, DEC 3<sup>RD</sup> 3 - 6 PM The American Legion Smith-Wever Post 651 23 Foster Ave, Sayville 11782



We invite our members and volunteers to join us at our holiday festivities. Join us for delicious hors d'oeuvres and seasonal drinks, and mingle with other caring environmentalists. Learn about the issues your group has been working on. There will be a raffle to pick up the perfect holiday gift!

**Directions:** 27A Montauk Highway (East Main Street) to Foster Avenue in Sayville, south on Foster Ave about 100 yards. Parking is across the street at Brinkman's Paints. For more information, call our hotline 516-826-0801 or visit our website at <http://newyork.sierraclub.org/longisland>.

If you are attending, please call 631-689-1568 and leave your name and the number of people attending, as space is limited.

## Ex-Com Elections

Read the statements of the candidates for positions on our Executive Committee on page 6, then vote!

The ballot is on page 7.

**PLEASE VOTE!  
YOUR VOICE IS  
IMPORTANT!**

## SIERRA CLUB'S TOWN BASED ACTION TEAMS LAUNCHED!

**By LI Sierra Club Executive Committee**

With 15 towns and two cities on Long Island, LI Sierra Club is taking the unprecedented step of reaching out to members to form town-based environmental action teams. The LI Sierra Club action teams will be organized locally to better serve the environmental needs of Sierra Club members. Local action teams will choose the issues that they want to get involved in. They will also host fundraisers, interview candidates, cultivate public officials and the media, and do the environmental good works (like beach cleanups) that Sierra Club is famous for.

In the Town of Hempstead, Frank Morris of Floral Park will be hosting an action team launch party at his home in the near future. Other Sierrans will be hosting similar events in towns around Long Island.

"The plan," said Patrick McGloin, Long Island Sierra Club chairperson, "is to build local Sierra Club organizations. Everybody is busy, so keeping it local cuts down on drive time. Sierra Club is a great organization, and we want to get more people involved. Going local is the best way to encourage and sustain activism."

Invitations to a Sierra Club action team launch party near you will be forthcoming. Please call Frank Morris at 516-410-8461 for the Town of Hempstead action team, or email [frankmorris@ecologicinvestor.com](mailto:frankmorris@ecologicinvestor.com), or contact Jane Fasullo at 631-689-1568, or email [jfas1@optonline.net](mailto:jfas1@optonline.net). to get involved with Sierra Club's new town-based action teams,



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**SIERRA CLUB  
LONG ISLAND GROUP  
516-826-0801  
[newyork.sierraclub.org/  
longisland](http://newyork.sierraclub.org/longisland)**

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND CHAIRS

##### **Group Chair/Chapter Delegate:**

Patrick McGloin\* 631-223-2164

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[nclenagh@optonline.net](mailto:nclenagh@optonline.net)

**Hospitality:** Open

**Membership/Chapter Delegate:**

Clare Chotiner\* 631-757-5373

[LI-Membership-Chair@NewYork.SierraClub.Or](mailto:LI-Membership-Chair@NewYork.SierraClub.Or)

**Outings/Chapter Delegate:**

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**Political Chair/Chapter Delegate:**

Patrick West\*

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**Fund Raising:** Irene Bagley 516-326-2513

[ib887@yahoo.com](mailto:ib887@yahoo.com)

**Coastal Waterways Chair:** Michael Cafaro\*

[michaelcafaro@aol.com](mailto:michaelcafaro@aol.com)

**Special Projects:** True Hampton 516-883-7850

**Education:** David Gray

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**Newsletter:** Antonia Petrash 516-671-8218

[LI-Newsletter-Chair@NewYork.SierraClub.org](mailto:LI-Newsletter-Chair@NewYork.SierraClub.org)

**Outreach/Tabling Chair:** Jane Fasullo 63-689-1568

[LI-Outreach-Chair@NewYork.SierraClub.org](mailto:LI-Outreach-Chair@NewYork.SierraClub.org)

**Advertising:** Laura Eberle [LI-Advertising-Chair@NewYork.SierraClub.org](mailto:LI-Advertising-Chair@NewYork.SierraClub.org)

**Calendar & Card Sales:** Jeanne Sofia 631-643-1434

\*Executive Committee Member

#### **Submissions**

Long Island Lighthouse encourages submission of articles, news briefs, book reviews, comments, photos, and other items. Contact the Newsletter Editor for format and details.

## Cool Cities

By Linda Freilich

This summer I took the bold initiative and stepped out of my comfortable shell to attend the Cool Cities Training at Nassau Community College. Presentations from Gordian Raacke, Executive Director of Renewable Energy for Long Island, and Beth Fiteni from Neighborhood Network gave us the ammunition we needed to approach Town Supervisors and County Executives.

In July 2006, just days after training, Sierra volunteers met with Babylon Town Board Supervisor Steve Bellone's office. On August 15th the Town Board passed the U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement and Supervisor Bellone proudly signed on. On September 28 an impressive news event was held on the town hall steps with Sierra volunteers. He discussed household solutions to reduce CO2 emissions, and outlined how his administration will conduct energy audits and track air emissions for the Town. The town will also help businesses and homes upgrade in order to save money.

Babylon currently has 21 hybrid vehicles, purchases 10% of its energy from wind, has a fuel cell program, partners with U.S. Green Building Council, and is building a zero energy home for public viewing. The Town of Babylon is the first to pass a bill requiring homes to be built to Energy Star standards. Energy Star homes use 30% less energy. The Town of Babylon's 12/12 campaign plans for 12% fewer emissions by 2012!

Other Long Island Sierra Club Cool Cities teams have approached Suffolk County and Brookhaven. Suffolk County is poised to sign on, with Steve Levy likely to have joined by the time you read this, and legislators are interested in sponsoring a resolution. Brookhaven Councilman Steve Fiore-Rosenfeld sponsored a resolution that passed in October endorsing the goals of Cool Cities, and Brookhaven Supervisor Brian Foley is expected to sign on soon. Brookhaven is working on making Town Hall an example in energy and heating efficiency, and is looking into the feasibility of turning the Town's vehicle fleet hybrid as older vehicles are phased out.

**PROBLEMS:** The United States is 4% of world's population and uses 25% of the world's energy. There is 30% more carbon in our atmosphere than 200 years ago. Suffolk County residents and employees alike emit 25 tons of CO2 per person per year. Suffolk's three million people are 1% of the United States' population, but we produce 4% of the United States' greenhouse emissions because we are highly dependent on fossil fuels. <http://www.iclei.org/>

**SOLUTIONS:** Towns can purchase hybrid vehicles, build more efficiently, retrofit existing buildings, replace old lighting with energy efficient street lighting, such as LED (light emitting diodes). Private home owners and businesses can replace their current light bulbs with fluorescent and use 75% less energy than regular bulbs.

Replace one 60-watt with a 13-watt CFL, you prevent 662 pounds of CO2

Replace one 75-watt with a 20-watt CFL, you prevent 762 pounds of CO2

Replace one 100-watt with a 25-watt CFL, you prevent 1,050 pounds of CO2

<http://www.airtrust.org/energy.htm>

# Steve Levy and Suffolk County's Environmentalism

By Ed Berlin

Long Island's Sierra Club has a close ally in Suffolk County Executive Steven Levy. Meeting with club members at the Quogue Wildlife Refuge on September 15, 2006, he demonstrated an impressive grasp of environmental issues and a passionate dedication to the cause. Seated jacketless on a couch and speaking mostly without notes, he addressed the group for fifteen minutes and then fielded questions for more than an hour.

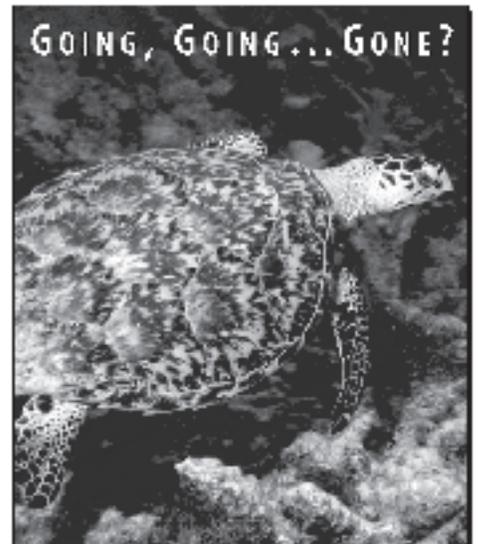
He first thanked the Sierra Club for pressuring elected officials to do right by the environment. In Suffolk County the pressure has been effective and legislators of both major parties usually act together on environmental issues.

Under the aegis of the U. S. Conference of Mayors, he will be signing the Climate Protection Agreement. This is a resolution whereby mayors and county executives nationwide, in response to our nation's refusal to join the 141 signatory nations to the Kyoto Protocol, have agreed to work locally to combat global warming and reduce greenhouse emissions in accordance with the goals spelled out in that Protocol. Embedded in the agreement is the concept of "Think globally and act locally."

Suffolk County has been a pioneer in its Open Space Program, a program designed to limit ground water contamination, to maintain lands devoted to farming, to control and limit commercial land development, and to provide land and park space for this and future generations. The program began in 1986 and was, for many years, compromised by political jockeying and favoritism. It is now run by scientific professionals who base decisions strictly on environmental grounds. To date, the program has spent more than six hundred million dollars, and has set aside an acreage that is three times the size of Central Park.

In the area of alternative energy use, Suffolk has opted into the NY State Solar Incentive, whereby the county portion of sales tax is waived on purchases of solar energy installations in homes and businesses. County buildings are also being brought into compliance with energy conservation standards through retrofitting (currently reducing energy costs by a million dollars annually), and the police and medical examiners' buildings now under construction are being fitted with solar panels. The County vehicle fleet is gradually being replaced with hybrid cars and buses, and the current use of fifty-nine diesel buses has cut emissions by 85%. Programs considering renewable bio-energy sources include the County's collaboration with the Brookhaven National Laboratories to process used commercial cooking oils into diesel fuel, and a project, with a private company, to turn soy products into home heating oil.

Asked about proposals for the water company to tap the Lloyd Aquifer, the deepest, most pristine water source for Long Island, he said he is still studying the issue and is in consultation with his experts. He noted that Nassau County, which has done little to preserve open space for water purity, is pressing for use of the Aquifer. Brooklyn, Queens, and Nassau no longer have any open space. Suffolk is the last frontier and he is determined not to allow its land to be misused to the disadvantage of its residents.



The turtle dates back nearly 60 million years ago and among the Earth's oldest surviving species. Yet the Kemp's Ridley sea turtle is quickly fading away - it's losing its habitat and breeding sites. At the Sierra Club, we've mounted a major campaign to defend the Endangered Species Act and preserve critical and habitat before the inhabitants are gone forever. Please join the Sierra Club today and help protect threatened and endangered animals.

Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!



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<b>REGULAR</b>	1295	247

Contributions to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible, they support our effective, citizen based conservation and advocacy efforts. Your dues include \$2.99 for a subscription to Sierra magazine and \$1.00 for your Club membership.

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# Outings and Events

Note: We have adopted a Coding system to more accurately describe the type of outing offered. The code uses letters to describe the outing type next to the outing name. Several letters indicates outing will contain different elements. H: Hiking W: Walk C: Conservation E: Education T: Trail Work P: Back packing B: Bicycling R: River Touring - \*Indicates a joint outing with another group or organization

**For a complete list of outings, or any changes in outings, please check our websites at <http://newyork.sierraclub.org/longisland>, or <http://www.nhocweb.org/webcalmonth.php>, or phone 516-826-0801.**

## EXCOM MEETS MONTHLY

Meeting dates and places subject to change. Please check our websites listed above, or call our hotline 516-826-0801 for dates and locations.

### December 2006

#### FRIDAY, DEC 1

Last day to sign up for ski trip (see below).

#### HOLIDAY PARTY AND VOLUNTEER FAIR

#### SUNDAY, DEC 3

See page 1 for details.

### January 2007

#### CROSS COUNTRY SKI TRIP TO JACKSON, NH JANUARY 12 - 15, 2007

Come join us this year on a cross-country ski adventure in the White Mountains of New Hampshire on January 12, 13, & 14, 2007 (return the 15th) at the Eagle Mountain House in Jackson, New Hampshire. One of the few remaining icons of a golden era in New England, the Eagle Mountain House offers breathtaking mountain views, deluxe rooms and delicious country cuisine.

Step out onto Jackson's 149KM of groomed trails that connect to local inns, pubs, restaurants, and the White Mountain National Forest. The fitness center, large indoor hot tub, and cedar-lined saunas offer special enticements after a tough day on the trails. A large game room features billiards, ping-pong, video games, TV, and card tables - something for everyone! Downhill skiing, snowshoeing, ice skating and sleigh rides add to the fun. And don't forget the tax-free shopping outlets in nearby North Conway! Included in the price of \$380.00 is bus transportation, lodging, three breakfasts, two dinners, two ski passes, and all taxes and gratuities.

To register, send a check for the full amount of \$380, payable to Sierra Club Long Island Group, to True Hampton, 26 Revere Rd., Port Washington, NY 11050 by December 1, 2006. **Be sure to include a SASE with your phone number.** No refund for cancellation after Dec. 1, unless a replacement can be found. If we do not have 40 participants by December 1 the trip will be cancelled and all checks will be returned.

Your non-tax-deductible gift will help fund LI Group activities. Any inquiries please contact co-leaders Lucille Mandala (516-249-3255) or True Hampton (516-883-7850).

### February 2007

#### RIVERHEAD FOUNDATION TOUR SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2007 2PM

Fun for the family: behind the scenes tour of the Riverhead Foundation's sea turtle and marine mammal rescue center in Riverhead. See sea turtles, seals, and maybe a dolphin at this wild animal hospital! Tour is led by the Foundation biologists, and lasts about 1/2 hour. Suggested donation of \$5 person to the Riverhead Foundation. RSVP about possible group rates for a morning visit to the on-site Atlantis Marine World aquarium. Hospital is quarantined from aquarium, so visitors wanting to visit the aquarium should go there first. *Maximum of 25 people (though there is a possibility of additional tours), so RSVP to Jessica Helm: 631 849-5373, helm\_jessica@yahoo.com*  
Riverhead Foundation: 631 369-9840



#### LI Sierra Club September 24 Annual Wine Tasting Fundraiser A Great Success By Jane Fasullo

And a Good Time was had by all at the Garden of Eve Farm and Martha Clara Winery in Riverhead. Our thanks go to: **Don Cunniff** for the music; **Golden Pear, Lynda's Eat Well and Be Well, Lessing's Caterers**, for the food; **Trader Joes, Jessica Helm, Cliff's Elbow Room, Buoy One, Touch of Venice, Cooperage Inn, Andrew's by the Pond, Medford Pastaria**, for the auction items, and event manager, **Laura Eberle** for a great day.

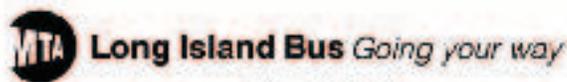


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## Coastal Waterways and the Stormwater Issue by Michael Cafaro

I was in attendance at this year's Stormwater Treatment Technology Workshop held at Bethpage State Park's Carlyle on the Green, on October 25, 2006. Incredibly informative, it was of great assistance to me as I begin my tenure dealing with coastal conservation efforts.

There was an impressive array of speakers at the workshop. From Dr. Thomas Ballesterio of the University of New Hampshire to Rob Weltner, SPLASH President and winner of the South Shore Estuary Reserve's Stewardship Award for 2006, all spelled out the necessity for a renewed emphasis on protecting the bays and rivers of Long Island.

I left my former position as Political Chair, a position I've held for nearly five years, in early October. My new gig with the Sierra Club, Coastal Waterways Chair, is something that I've been dying to do for ages. Actually, I've been the Sierra Club's delegate to the South Shore Estuary Reserve's Citizen's Advisory committee even longer than I was Political Chair, so this is really nothing new for me.

We are an island community, and it behooves each and every one of us to become more engaged in the process of protecting the oceanic and estuarine ecosystems that set us apart from other regions in this nation (and State). If, as environmental activists, we do not set coastal waterways as one of our major priorities, then we cannot complain as we witness their further degradation.

Anyone interested in joining my committee, please call me at (631) 243-1127.

### WE STILL NEED YOUR HELP!

Help us save on printing and mailing costs by accepting your newsletter in PDF format. For more information, contact Harvey Miller at [WebMaster@NewYork.SierraClub.Org](mailto:WebMaster@NewYork.SierraClub.Org)  
Become a true conservationist - go electronic!

## LI Sierra Club Executive Committee Candidates Ballot on page 7. Please vote!

### Clare Chotiner

Thank you for considering my nomination to the Long Island Sierra Club's Executive Committee. I have been your Membership Chair since the beginning of 2005 and appreciate the time I have spent on the issues most pertinent to Long Island's environment, supporting the various positions we have taken as a group, as well as the people who carry out our intentions.

Currently, I serve as one of Long Island's three group delegates to the Atlantic Chapter Executive Committee which meets quarterly throughout the State. Additionally, I have traveled to San Francisco in May of this year for the Membership Conference held at the Club's National Headquarters. I feel honored to be Chair and fortunate to play a small role in making our members' voices heard. Thank you for your membership and support.

### Jessica Helm

Environmentalism and the Long Island Sierra Club are a major part of my life. In January of 2006 I was appointed to fill a vacant seat on the Executive Committee. I worked to invigorate the club's environmental activities, and focused on global warming. This summer I became Conservation Chair, and am now working with our dedicated volunteers to generate activity in critical conservation areas like groundwater, coastal waterways, and recycling. We have held the first two conservation meetings in years, and more will follow as we gain momentum. Thanks go to our volunteers for successful beach clean-up and trail maintenance hikes; look for more conservation outings coming up. We still need more volunteers, so join us! Contact us, and ask about a local action group near you!

### Patrick West

I am the Political Chair of the Sierra Club, Long Island Group, an ExCom member since September, and am now running for a full two-year term to bring forth the commitments and core values of the organization to Long Island communities. I will bring accountability back into the political realm for the preservation of our natural resources to insure sustainability for future generations. I will hold elected officials, regardless of political affiliation, accountable for their commitments and will stand for the preservation of our environment, beginning here on Long Island. An environmental engineer, a life coach and motivational speaker, I believe I possess the qualities which represent and support the commitments Sierra Club has for the environment.

### Harvey Miller

I've been maintaining the LI Sierra Club website for the last few years. I respond quickly to the needs of our members, and with the increased time I will soon be able to devote to this task, know that our website will be even more attuned to our members' needs. I will increase the links to other LI based environmentally oriented information centers and groups and will add more educational content.

### Charles A. Hersh

I'm a retired electrical engineer in favor of using technology to combat fuel shortages as well as global warming. This includes repowering Keyspan's electrical generation equipment greatly reducing fuel use and CO2 emissions. I'm also for the peaceful use of atomic energy, (nuclear fission) which means maintaining our existing nuclear power plants, but they need to start recycling their nuclear waste and switching to MOX fuels. Furthermore, the explosive material in our vast inventory of atomic bombs can and should be converted into nuclear reactor fuel to produce electricity. Greater use of natural gas in replacing other fossil fuels is also beneficial. Wind and solar energy should be de-emphasized since they are expensive and just don't work very well. Hobbies are hiking, fishing, travel, science, as well as writing thoughts and ideas. We can slow down global warming without jeopardizing our standard of living.

### Frank Morris

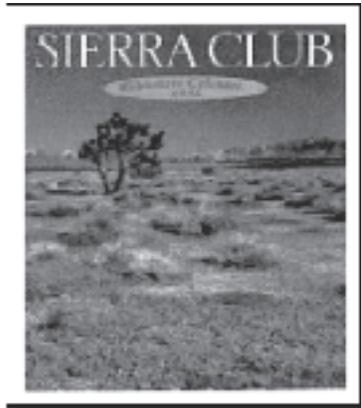
My name is Frank Morris, and I'd like your vote for the Executive Committee of Long Island Sierra Club. I've been Long Island Sierra Club Chairperson, and NYC Sierra Club Vice Chairperson. Presently, I'm chair of Long Island Sierra Club's Energy committee. I'm also Vice President of NY Interfaith Power and Light, an organization involved with bringing the environmental perspective to the Faith community. Professionally, I'm principal of Ecologic Advisors, an investment advisory that specializes in environmentally sustainable investing. I've created and trademarked the Earth Index of public companies that provide solutions to environmental pollution. I'm married to Florence and have a two year old daughter named Faith. Going forward, I'd like to get more Long Islanders involved with Sierra Club by creating town based Sierra Club organizations. Contact me at [frankmorris@ecologicinvestor.com](mailto:frankmorris@ecologicinvestor.com) or 516 410-8461.

# SIERRA CLUB 2007 CALENDARS



**Sierra Club 2007 Wilderness Wall Calendar** - Spiral bound month-by-month format, featuring 12 majestic North American landscapes.

**Sierra Club 2007 Engagement Calendar** - Week by week format, featuring 57 spectacular photographs and "wire-o" binding.



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**Wheatley Heights, NY**  
**11798**

## Long Island Sierra Club Executive Committee Ballot

### Mailing Instructions

Vote for up to 5 candidates by placing an "X" or a check mark in the circle under Ballot 1. Ballot 2 is to be used for a joint membership. Each member should cast a vote. Your address label with your name and address crossed out should remain to verify that the ballot is being submitted by a Sierra Club member. PDF subscribers must list membership number on ballot. *If unsure of number, contact Clare Chotiner, 631-757-5373.*

Mail the ballot to:

**Sierra Club**  
**c/o ExCom Election**  
**P.O. Box 210**  
**Syosset, NY 11791-0210**

### Ballot 1

Clare Chotiner

Jessica Helm

Charles A. Hersh

Harvey Miller

Frank Morris

Patrick West

### Ballot 2

Clare Chotiner

Jessica Helm

Charles A. Hersh

Harvey Miller

Frank Morris

Patrick West

Any member of the Group is permitted to appear on the ballot if he or she submits a valid nominating position.

Important: Single membership use one ballot. Joint membership use both ballots.

**Ballot must be received by December 31, 2006**

**Planning for the Fire Island National Seashore and the Otis Pike Wilderness Area**  
**By Joe Zysman**

The Otis Pike Wilderness Area in the Fire Island National Seashore (FINS) contains a rich variety of flora and fauna, a large expanse of salt marsh, and the highest ocean fronting dunes on the Atlantic Coast. It is the only Federal Wilderness Area in New York State and the smallest managed by the Park Service. Remarkably, virtually the entire area is less than 60 miles from Times Square. The National Park Service has recently begun the process of revising its General Management Plan (GMP) for the Seashore. Part of the process will include planning for the Wilderness Area. The period for public scoping comments is open until January 12, 2007, and we are urging members to send comments based on some of the following issues and concerns:

- The General Management Plan (GMP) now being developed should include a full revision of the Wilderness Management Plan (WMP). Otherwise, FINS should keep the existing plan in place until a full WMP can be developed.
- The wilderness area has been soundly managed since its creation in 1980. As FINS creates a new GMP and WMP, it must continue its management of the area in accor-

dance with the letter and spirit of the Wilderness Act, with the primary goal of preserving the wilderness character of the area.

- Because of the tiny size of the area- a mere 1400 acres- any activity taking place in it or any installation placed in it, however small, will have a much greater impact on the character of the area than it would in a larger wilderness.
- With the ocean on one side and the bay on the other, it is virtually impossible to get lost in the area. For that reason, no permanent signs have been necessary in the past, and are not needed now.

Over the years, FINS has been gradually removing evidence of previous human activity in the area, but scattered minor objects— building debris, utility markers, etc.— still remain. FINS should give priority to removing as many of these as possible.

Send your comments to: Fire Island National Seashore, 120 Laurel St. Patchogue, NY 11772 Att: Planning Team, or by e-mail at: [fire\\_island\\_gmp.nps.gov](mailto:fire_island_gmp.nps.gov) and send copies to:

Senator Charles Schumer 145 Pinelawn Road, Melville, NY 11747 fax: (631) 753-0997

Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton 155 Pinelawn Road, Melville, NY 11747, fax: (631) 249-2847

If you live in his district: Congressman Tim Bishop 3680 Route 112 Coram, NY 11727, fax: (631) 696-452

We will keep you posted on further developments in the GMP revision process.



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