

2005 1st Annual LI Sierra members energy savings contest

We are looking for the LI Sierra member who can reduce their energy consumption the most in 2005. To qualify you must be a member and have lived in the same residence at least one year (for comparison purposes). To enter, send in a copy of any LIPA bill from June through December 2005 that shows the comparison from last year's use to this year's use in that time period. Include a description of how you reduced your energy use for that period. The member that shows the greatest percent of change and the best way of accomplishing it will be our winner—to be announced in next spring's newsletter. Your submission MUST be postmarked by January 30, 2006 and mailed to LI Sierra Energy Contest, PO Box 210, Syosset NY 11791. The winner will receive a prize provided by LIPA. Bert Cunningham of LIPA will be on hand at our community meeting March 11 to kick off this contest and provide some energy-saving tips.

Anyone who would like to be on a committee to work on energy issues—particularly to put together an energy savings contest for local businesses and colleges, please contact Marie Pendzich at: 516-625-9787.



John Muir, the Sierra Club and Preserving Open Space

“Looking at our continent as scenery when it was all wild, lying between beautiful seas, the starry sky above it, the starry rocks beneath it, to compare its sides, the East and the West, would be like comparing the sides of a rainbow.” –John Muir, “Wild Parks of the West” first published 1898¹

John Muir is best known now for the time he spent in Yosemite and for his writings. He was a reluctant author, finally persuaded by friends to submit articles for publication. They were big hits in the leading publications of the time. He described the places and adventures he had and discoursed about glacial history, the

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Climate Change and Solutions: what it is and what we can do about it locally

Community Meeting

Half Hollow Hills Community Library
Friday March 11, 7 pm

Come see a compelling presentation by Beth Fiteni of the LI Neighborhood Network on this important topic that affects us all. Learn what global warming is, what the effects are, and what the viable solutions are. Walk away well-informed about what is going on at the government level and encouraged about what we can do in our own homes and towns! Plus we'll be kicking off our first members energy savings contest and honoring our 25-year members.

Directions to the Half Hollow Hills Community Library, 55 Vanderbilt Parkway, Dix Hills from:

Southern State Pkwy: Exit 39 north. Proceed north on Deer Park Ave (Rt 231) about 5 miles to the Vanderbilt Parkway (traffic light). Make a left turn onto Vanderbilt Parkway. Proceed approximately one mile to the library (on your right).

LIE: Exit 51 north. Proceed north on Deer Park Ave (Rt 231) about 1 mile to Vanderbilt Parkway (traffic light). Make a left turn onto Vanderbilt Parkway. Proceed approximately one mile to the library (on your right).

Northern State Pkwy: Exit 42 south. Proceed south on Deer Park Ave (Rt 231) about 1 mile to Vanderbilt Parkway (traffic light). Make a right turn onto Vanderbilt Parkway. Proceed approximately one mile to the library (on your right).



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

LONG ISLAND SIERRA CLUB
516-826-0801
newyork.sierraclub.org/longisland

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*Executive Committee Member

Submissions

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



View From The Chair

by John Sauer

“Making Choices About Energy”

If your life is anything like mine, I suspect your list of “To Do” items is long and, at times, overwhelming – the laundry, housecleaning, reading that growing pile of magazines, exercising, plus all those house projects that never seem to get done. A lot of us have too many demands on our time to enable us to accomplish everything we’d like to.

So it is with your Long Island Sierra Club. Our own “To Do” list of environmental issues – air pollution, water pollution, preservation of open space, global warming, wetlands, energy conservation, development of alternative renewable energy sources, etc. – looks pretty overwhelming. And we don’t have the resources (volunteers, primarily) to address all, or even many, of these pressing problems.

Your Executive Committee recently made a decision to identify one important issue – energy/energy conservation – and focus on that issue this year. This isn’t to suggest that the Sierra Club considers this the most important issue – it’s hard to strictly rank a number of critical environmental challenges – but energy is clearly a major issue here on Long Island.

The recent announcement about the planned liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal in Long Island Sound has elevated the discussion about Long Island’s current and future energy needs and how best to address them. One of our major concerns about adding new sources of fossil fuel, such as the LNG terminal, is that it may distract Long Island from focusing on reducing energy waste and developing viable renewable alternatives, such as wind or solar power. Your Long Island Sierra Club hopes to use our major means of outreach – this newsletter, our community meetings, our information tables at various events during the year – together with a few new ideas, such as our home energy contest - to talk about eliminating wasteful use of energy and developing alternate renewable sources of energy, both of which act to reduce the need for more natural gas or crude oil.

The message about energy conservation isn’t that we have to become prehistoric cave dwellers to reduce our use of fossil fuels. The use of technology, coupled with awareness and commitment from all of us to reduce waste, may enable us to have access to the energy we need. But we all will have to focus on how we use energy and understand the real costs of fossil fuel. Look around your home or business for opportunities to save energy. We’re all in this together.

Betty Blake, Member and Maker of Environmental History

We were sorry to hear that Betty Blake passed away recently. Betty was one of those who made history in this movement. She was an activist from way back working on the successful campaigns against opening a nuclear power plant at Jamesport and closing and dismantling the one at Shoreham. She helped preserve a small freshwater wetland area in her community but is best known for being one of the first targets of a SLAPP suit (strategic lawsuit against public participation). Businesses used these lawsuits to tie up citizen activists with expensive court battles and to deter others from getting involved. NY State became one of the first states to enact measures to control this tactic.

Betty's case became well-known around the world after it was referenced in an often-quoted study (see excerpt from a book at right). Most local folks involved in the environmental movement on Long Island in the late 1980's knew Betty. In 1992 we named Betty one of our environmentalists of the year for her efforts with the Wantagh Woods Neighborhood Association against Terra Homes. Betty was a long-time Sierra Club member and, though dealing with both the aftermath of a stroke and fighting melanoma, she attended last June's Community Meeting at the Solar Café in Brentwood. We will miss her greatly.

A tribute gathering where people can share remembrances of Betty is being planned. For information, call Susan Blake at 631-798-0778

--Laurie Farber

Betty Jane Blake opposed a developer, Terra Homes Inc, that wanted to cut down some trees in her street. She put up signs saying, "This neighborhood will not be Terraized" and tied red ribbons around the tree trunks. She was hit with a \$6.6 million dollar law suit for defamation, interference in business and trespassing. The company also sued all the residents who attended a meeting at the Town Hall to discuss the development. The company eventually dropped the suit, but not before residents had one by one signed affidavits swearing that they had not taken part in putting up signs and ribbons, and dropped out of the campaign from fear.

--reprinted with permission from **Global Spin: The Corporate Assault on Environmentalism** by Sharon Beder, Chelsea Green Publishing, 800-639-4099

Long Island Sierra

AUTUMN 1992 VOL. 12, NO. 1

Environmentalists-of-the-Year Fred Thiele & Betty Blake

Fred Thiele, a Republican, was elected Southampton Town Supervisor in 1991. Prior to his current position, he served in the Suffolk County Legislature. He has been a proponent of environmental issues, and an outspoken opponent of the proposed Calverton Jetport. Recently, he withdrew Southampton from appealing the decision on the Pine Barrens lawsuit. He addressed the Sierra Club at our last Shelter Island Weekend.

Betty Blake of the Wantagh Woods Neighborhood Association has been an advocate of preserving the suburban lifestyle in the face of development pressures. She has been actively involved in opposing two-home development on single-home lots in her neighborhood. As a result, she has been the target of "SLAPP" suits by developers. This provided the key impetus for recently passed New York State legislation that would protect citizen organizations from lawsuits intended to intimidate them and exhaust their resources. The law requires that plaintiffs prove that the citizens or group knowingly made false statements or made them with a reckless regard for the truth. ✽

Environmentalist of the Year



Chris Castro is the most exuberant visionary that anyone could have the pleasure to meet. Born in the Dominican Republic, his father brought the family to the US in 1966 to escape a dictatorship. Chris went to Utica College of Syracuse from 1980-84 and graduated with a B.S. in Construction Engineering. After 17 years in construction, he

started a solar installation company called "**Solymar**" in 1992.

Living in Brentwood, he often passed the dilapidated LIRR station ticket office abandoned in 1988. This historic structure, built in 1904, was succumbing to a sad ending as vandals and drug users occupied its once antique charm.

Chris got the idea to transform the station office to the first of its kind "**Solar Café.**" The Town of Islip loved the idea and added financial support to an existing restoration grant. After 5 years in the works, the café will be completed this spring.

Capable of 50 guests dining inside and 50 outside, the café will serve organic, health conscious

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Outings and Events

In order for us to try and give the most informative outing description possible, we will now be using a Coding system, that will more accurately describe what type of outing will be offered. The code will be using letters to describe the outing type next to the outing name. You might see several letters in the same outing, indicating that the outing will contain different elements. For last minute changes, please check our website: <http://newyork.sierraclub.org/longisland>

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

MARCH

WED 2 EXCOM COMMITTEE MEETING 7 PM

Call our hotline 516-826-0801 for location. All members are welcome. Meeting date subject to change.

FRI 18, RARE NATIVE PLANTS SEMINAR 7 PM E

Join botanist Steven Glenn, and the staff from The Quogue Wildlife Refuge to learn about some of the rare native plants of Long Island, the pros and cons of native plant gardening, and the threat of invasive plant species. Adults and Families welcome. Directions: From the LIE Exit 70 - take rte. 111 south to Rte. 27 - Sunrise Hwy. East. From Sunrise East take exit 64S. Go south two miles on CR 104 to Old Country Road. Turn right and go .7 miles to entrance on right. **Reservations requested.** 631-653-4771

SUN 20, *SIGNS OF SPRING HIKE AT WELWYN PRESERVE 10:00 AM E, H

10:00 am till approx. noon. Look for signs on the first day of spring. Join Naturalist Joanne Tow on a moderately paced hike through this beautiful preserve. We will wind our way along the nature trails, which parallel a stream valley, pass by a woodland swamp dominated by huge tulip trees, a salt marsh, and a sandy beach. For further info, and reservations call Seatuck at 631-581-6908, <http://www.seatuck.org> Leader Joanne Tow Cell # 516-503-3069. Call only if lost.

FRI 25 OUTDOOR LEADER TRAINING E

Learn the basics of leading a Sierra club outing. In this course, we will cover such topics as managing groups, policies, and procedures, basic first aid requirements, the seven steps to planning an outing, and touch on topics such as how and why it's so important to incorporate an environmental, or conservation minded message, or lesson into your outings, leave-no-trace camping/hiking, etc. This is great chance, to share your love of the outdoors, with others. If you love to hike, bike, view wildlife in its natural setting, or spend a day walking around Fire Island, and would like to share your knowledge, and experience with other people, this course is for you. This course will be followed by a Basic First Aid Class, with a certified instructor. After this class, you will know basic first aid techniques, and what to do in case of an emergency, and be certified, which will be good for

two years. Space is limited, so reserve your spot. Contact Jon Vestal 631-235-2758, or jvlb@earthtones.com

APRIL

SUN 3 QUOGUE WILDLIFE REFUGE FORESTRY HIKE 9:30 AM E, H, C

Easy 5 miles. Join us on a guided tour of this beautiful Refuge. As we hike and enjoy these beautiful surroundings, we'll be given a brief history of the area, and taught to identify the many different species of plants and wildlife that call this refuge home. If time allows, we will also visit The **Charles Banks Belt Nature Center**. This nature center was built on the Old Ice Pond in Quogue in 1970 and serves the Wildlife Refuge as a classroom, exhibit museum, and meeting hall for numerous programs and activities throughout the year. We will also try to visit the **Distressed Wildlife Complex** that houses permanently non-releasable animals; creatures that survived surgery or injury but are deemed incapable of surviving in the wild. SEE MARCH 18 for directions. Contact Jon Vestal 631-235-2758, jvlb@earthtones.com or the Quogue wildlife refuge at 631-653-4771

WED 6 EXCOM COMMITTEE MEETING 7 PM

Call our hotline 516-826-0801 for location. All members are welcome. Meeting date subject to change.

SAT 16 *BETHPAGE TO JONES BEACH BIKE RIDE 9:00 AM E, B

30 miles. Flat. 5 hours. Most of the ride is on a bike path. Be prepared for sudden stops as the path has many turns that limit visibility ahead, and is often used by small children who may act unpredictably. Bring a lock - sometimes the bikes must be left at the end of the bike path, while we walk to the beach. A concession stand and rest rooms are available at the beach and at Cedar Creek Park, which we pass at the 10- and 20-mile mark on the ride. We will discuss steps that we can take to help protect this beautiful marine environment. From Bethpage State park, LIE to exit 44S. Rt.135 to exit 8. Left on Powell Avenue, and cross over Rt.135. Turn left into Bethpage State Park entrance. Follow this road to the end in the parking lot. Arrive by 9:00 am Ride at 9:30 am. 30 miles. This is a joint outing with the Bike Around LI Bike Group. Contact Leaders Jon Vestal 631-235-2758, or jvlb@earthtones.com, or George Waldbusser

631-499-3953 or at gjwbiker@optonline.net or go to www.members.aol.com/gjwbiker

SUN 17 SEAL HAUL OUT TRAIL 9:30 AM E, H

In late winter and spring harbor seals frequent the rocky shoreline east of Oyster Pond. They haul themselves out of the water onto these rocks to sunbathe. The maritime woods surrounding it are beautiful and filled with wildlife. This is a fascinating and educational hike on the end of LI's South Fork. Directions: The entrance to this trail is on the shoulder of Montauk Highway, past Teddy Roosevelt Park, and the Montauk Point East Overlook (also known as the Oyster Pond Overlook). It is on the north side of the road. Continue a short distance Past Trail Head, to Camp Hero Road, turn right and park by the entrance of the Point Woods Trail. Contact Jon Vestal 631-235-2758, or jvlb@earthtones.com

MAY

WED 4 EXCOM COMMITTEE MEETING 7 PM

Call our hotline 516-826-0801 for location. All members are welcome. Meeting date subject to change.

FRI 6 SHORT NATURE WALKS SERIES, CONETQUOT STATE PARK 9:30 AM E, H

Inspired by the book, *Short Nature Walks on Long Island*, this is part of a series to cover LI from Queens to Montauk. This time, we will enjoy the scenic beauty of one of the true jewels of the south shore: we will hike along the LI Green Belt Trail, stopping off to visit the trout hatchery, where we will be taught how important it is to save this beautiful species of fish, and discuss what we can do to help protect these fish, and how we can leave less of a "footprint" on their environment. 5 miles, moderate. Meet at Great River Train Sta. Contact Jon Vestal 631-235-2758, or jvlb@earthtones.com

FRI 6, 20 BACKPACKING CLASSES E, H, P

A three part class designed to help people who are interested in backpacking or full day hikes, but do not know where to begin. This will be a hands-on class to go over what gear is needed, the different styles of backpacks, sleeping bags, and clothing as well as cooking, drinking water, basic map and compass skills, Basic First Aid, and leave-no-trace camping. We will have two class sessions, followed by a backpack trip to let you try out your new skills. There will be a wide variety of gear for you to try on and get a feel for. After this course, you will have enough know-how and essential skills to go out with friends of similar or even more experience on your next backpacking adventure. Contact Jon Vestal 631-235-2758, or jvlb@earthtones.com Space is limited so call before class dates, to reserve a space. **Outing date will be in the 2005 summer newsletter.**

SAT 14 CALVERTON PONDS PRESERVE 9:30 AM E, H, C

This 350-acre assemblage of Pine Barrens and Coastal Plain Ponds contain one of the highest concentrations of

rare and endangered species in New York State, with more than 30 rare plants, including three that are globally threatened. The preserve is located within the Long Island Central Pine Barrens Region, which consists of a complex mosaic of Pitch Pine woodlands, pine-oak forests, Coastal Plain Ponds, swamps, marshes, bogs, and streams. While hiking we will also discuss the fate of LI's Drinking water, much of which lies directly below, and the little things we can do to help protect our water supply. **Directions:** From the Long Island Expressway: Take Exit 70, Manorville-Eastport (CR 111). At the end of the off-ramp, go north. (YOU WILL PASS THE MANORVILLE TRAIL INFORMATION CENTER ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE ROAD. VISIT THIS PLACE) Travel 0.25 miles to Ryerson Ave. (The Manorville Post Office is on the corner.) Go right on Ryerson, crossing railroad tracks, 0.2 miles to North St. Go right on North St. for 0.2 miles. Road curves to the left, becoming Wading River Manor Rd. Follow Wading River Manor Rd. north 0.8 miles to Old River Rd. (Not River Road). Go right on Old River Rd. 0.4 miles to the small parking area on the left (with the wooden gate) Contact Jon Vestal 631-235-2758, or jvlb@earthtones.com

SAT 21 *SAG HARBOR BIKE RIDE 10:00 AM E, B

Arrive by 10:00 am, ride at 10:30 am. 13 miles. Hilly. 2 hours. Learn about this little community, and the steps they've taken to ensure a sound future, both economically, and environmentally. Afterwards, we may walk around Sag Harbor, and/or visit a South Fork winery. Directions: LIE exit 70. South to Route 27 (Sunrise Highway). East, through Southampton and Watermill to Bridgehampton. Go north on Route 79 to Sag Harbor. Park in the municipal parking lot on the left side at spring and Main Streets. Distance from Commack is 60 miles; driving time is 90 minutes This is a joint trip with Bike Around Long Island Bike group. Contact George Waldbusser 631-499-3953 or at gjwbiker@optonline.net or go to <http://www.members.aol.com/gjwbiker>

JUNE

WED 1 EXCOM COMMITTEE MEETING 7 PM

Call our hotline 516-826-0801 for location. All members are welcome. Meeting date subject to change.

SAT JUN 25 PECONIC RIVER E, R

Explore this beautiful river in a canoe or kayak. We will paddle about 8 miles at a relaxed pace and enjoy the scenery with naturalist Lenore Swenson pointing out the wildlife. It is recommended that you are in good physical condition and have some prior paddling experience in order to maneuver through poison ivy infested narrow turns and avoid waterfalls. Significant portaging and paddling through a tunnel is required. Canoe but no kayak rentals are available. No public transportation. Write to leader, including a phone number and SASE (or email in lieu of SASE). You will not receive a response if you do not provide a phone number. Write to: Eric Girolamo, 1 Birchwood Ct #4C, Mineola NY 11501.

Explosive Proposal

By Marie Pendzich, Energy Chair

Just think, it wasn't long ago that people were arguing about the aesthetics of the off shore wind project. Well what are the alternatives?

If Broadwater has its way, we will be siting here with a potential bomb capable of going off at any time in the LI Sound by 2010. Broadwater is a Riverhead-based power supplier working for Shell Oil and Trans Canada that are trying to anchor a huge FSRU (Floating Storage Regasification Unit) towering 100 ft. above the water. The size of the Queen Mary II, it will be located 9 miles from our shores and 11 miles from CT. In addition, a 25 mile pipeline would be dug to connect to the existing Iroquois pipeline. This would be the first floating LNG (liquefied natural gas) project in the US, thus we would be the test case.

The Sound is a federally designated estuary worthy of preservation and a lot of federal money (\$7 million in 2004) has been given to restore the sound which has not quite recovered from hypoxia and the die-off of lobsters and crabs. A recreational body of water, the Sound brings \$5.5 billion a year to the local economy through tourism and fishing. All of these benign uses would be forbidden for miles around the barge for safety reasons.

The environment would be compromised in many ways:

- The digging of the extended 25-mile pipeline would loosen sediment and organic matter causing more hypoxia. CT. DEP denied Islander East for the same reasons.
- Tankers making deliveries 2-3 times a week and the process of converting the gas to liquid and visa versa would use fossil fuel thus reducing the efficiency of the LNG.
- This continued dependence on fossil fuels would be counterproductive to Gov. Pataki's RPS (Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard) which requires NYS to develop 25% of our energy needs from renewable sources.
- Although cleaner burning than oil, the drilling for gas not only releases methane which is 21 times more potent than CO2 as a greenhouse gas, but also damages the environment in many other ways.
- Biocides used to kill gas-eating bacteria will be placed in the pipeline. Some of it will leak into the Sound's waters.
- Threatened or endangered species are found in the Sound from May to November.
- Ship's ballast water can suck in and kill many fish and other organisms.
- The whole area will be heavily lighted thus causing light pollution.

Safety is another serious issue but Broadwater assures us that security will be tight. Just remember that we were also told the Titanic would never sink! If gas

leaks, it can explode in a "pool fire" which will burn hotter than oil or gasoline, spread for 2 ½ miles and, since it can't be extinguished, must burn itself out (what a waste of precious fuel). Flammable vapor clouds can travel many miles until they reach an ignition source. Then there's asphyxiation and severe cryogenic burns.

Now the cast of characters! Guess who's watching the chicken coop? **Right**, Ex Mayor Giuliani's security firm. You remember him. He's the guy that sprayed malathion on the whole city of NY saying it was safe, in violation of Federal Law. He's also the guy who had a bunker (that exploded) filled with kerosene located on the 23rd floor of tower 7 on 9/11.

Then there's Shell Oil, the company cited with numerous human rights abuses and environmental devastation in Nigeria all in the interest of corporate profit in the search for oil.

Since 1944 there have been 13 serious LNG accidents responsible for killing hundreds of people and causing millions in property damage. If the storage facility is damaged, think of the economic chaos caused by cutting the mainline of our energy supply. If a tanker traveling near shore or worse, near Connecticut's Millstone Nuclear Reactor or Plum Island, becomes a terrorist target, damage will be incalculable.

Broadwater argues that they are providing a 30 year bridge to alternative energy. **Renewables are ready today**; they are proven technology heavily instituted in European countries. Chief scientists including those at the Pentagon tell us that we need to address global warming **immediately** and with full force in order to slow down the present destruction that it is now causing. We can't wait another 30 years! And here's the real kicker: most of the natural gas will go to NYC and CT not LI! Know the price tag on this project? A neat \$700 million. How many LI homes and businesses could have solar installed for that amount of money?

They also hope to entice Riverhead with millions of dollars in tax revenue. I call that proposition bribery! What they are not telling you is that it costs \$80,000 to safely escort each LNG tanker into Massachusetts and the local and state government picked up 47% of the cost. In the event of an accident who pays for the repairs, cleanup, and loss of life and property?

Folks, this is a potential disaster of the highest devious ingenuity but it's not hard to understand how it happened. With a federal government encouraging and subsidizing the use of fossil fuels and cutting funding to renewables we are seeing the picture unfold. Sneaking a clause into the Omnibus Appropriations Bill this year, Congress gave the federal government under FERC (Fed Energy Regulatory Comm) exclusive control to permit and site LNG facilities. Oh, what a surprise!

Kind of pales by comparison to LIPAs' small, clean, cheap and non-polluting wind project doesn't it? If you are as enraged as many Long Islanders are, please call our hotline (516) 826-0801 and volunteer some of your time.

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“hooved locusts” (sheep), and plants and animals he met. He drew from the journals he kept. His descriptions of America’s wild places resonated with his readers. “To the civilized unfortunates he served as press agent for the mountains.”³

Following his marriage, Muir settled in Martinez CA and didn’t spend much time in his beloved wilderness. As he finally ventured back out, he found many changes—trees were being cut and civilization was approaching faster and faster. Meeting up with the editor of a prominent magazine was somewhat of a turning point—Muir started writing again but also started saying more about the need for forest protection. After a trip into Yosemite, Muir and Robert Underwood Johnson, editor of *Century*, planned a campaign to create a Yosemite National Park. Muir’s first-hand knowledge of the wilderness became a tool in Johnson’s crusade and it was Muir who first sketched out the boundaries of what became Yosemite National Park.

“The campaign for Yosemite set a pattern to be repeated many times in future public quarrels over the environment. At stake: a piece of the natural world. On one side: its defenders, spearheaded by amateurs with no economic stake in the outcome, who took time from other jobs to volunteer time and money for the good fight...”³

The birth of the Sierra Club came at a critical time. Muir had been encouraged and prodded to take a prominent role in an organization “for preserving California’s monuments and natural wonders”³ and was president to the end of his life. The first fight was to defeat a proposal to vastly reduce the size of

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foods. Presently, the solar panels yield 50% of its electric needs with plans to expand to 100%. There is also a solar shed which produces its own electricity to run the machinery and a hot water system for the kitchen. An organic garden is planned.

Chris also brainstormed the “**Solar Community**” which is a kind of Habitat for Humanity in the solar world. Financially eligible families that want solar installed, agree to help with the installation of another family’s system and then others help them.

As if all of this isn’t enough to handle, Chris envisioned a Solar Festival for NY happening right here on LI and in the summer of 2004 his dream became a reality. With no budget and a lot of volunteers, the **Solar Festival** took place last July on the grounds of St. Joseph’s Academy in Brentwood. The 2nd annual festival is now being planned for July 23-24, 2005. If anyone wants to be part of the magic please visit www.nysolarfest.org and help make it another success.

--Marie Pendzich

Yosemite National Park. The Sierra Club was “credited with an important role [in this fight]... and thus established itself almost from the start as a potent force in shaping U.S. conservation policies.”⁴ John Muir and the fledgling Sierra Club kept toiling to protect Yosemite and to create and enlarge more parks and forest reserves.

This is our legacy. The east coast of our country was settled early and even one of the earliest descriptions of Long Island (1670) refers to English cattle and grasses being already established. We have little wilderness left here. This is our last chance. Two of our towns are on their second open space bond act (Huntington and Oyster Bay), and Brookhaven and both counties are on board now. The next step is planning to keep the wilderness as wild lands and to create a larger vision to connect it all together in a way that will maintain healthy ecosystems for the long term. Planning and stewardship will be what we’ll need to address next. Join the fight.

--Laurie Farber

Sources:

1. **Our National Parks** by John Muir, 1981 edition from The University of Wisconsin Press
2. **John Muir: To Yosemite and Beyond** edited by Robert Engberg & Donald Wessling, 1980 The University of Wisconsin Press
3. **John Muir and his Legacy** by Stephen Fox, 1981, Little, Brown and Company
4. **The Life and Adventures of John Muir** by J.M. Clarke, 1979, The Word Shop

KENNETH L. ROBINSON, ESQ.

*Attorney and Legal Advisor and
Sierra Club Member for over 25 years*

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Energy Conservation Tips

For those who are income-eligible, there are some great programs to help you decrease your energy consumption. LIPA's REAP (Residential Energy Affordability Partnership) program includes sending someone to your home to do a survey of ways you could lower your energy bills and you may receive FREE energy savings items like light bulbs or a new refrigerator to replace an old inefficient one. If you qualify for REAP, you'll also qualify for NY's Assisted Home Performance program which will help you with additional energy-savings measures. NY State will pay half of the cost up to \$5000 and improvements could include a new oil burner, new windows, insulation, new dishwasher, new gas dryer and other repairs or items that will decrease your energy use. You must be a LIPA customer, but the income eligibility includes income only, not the value of any assets or other resources. Some parts of these programs ARE available to renters. Many seniors on fixed incomes will probably qualify. For more information and an application, see: <http://www.lipower.org/cei/reap.html> or call 1-800-263-6786 or 631-471-1215 ext. 179.



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