



Long Island Lighthouse

Volume 24 No. 1

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

Fall 2004

Future of L.I.'s Drinking Water

Conference - Wednesday, November 17

Huntington Hilton Hotel

Experts from several government agencies will be present, including the USGS (U.S. Geological Survey). Their representatives will present an overview of the changes the L.I. aquifer system has sustained based on 100 years of collected and published data.

One session will include discussion on the pumping caps imposed by NY state on Nassau County and the current SWAP (Source Water Assessment Program).

Another subject will include projections of

sea level rising and global warming, plus how we can plan to improve our prospects for continued clean water for L.I.

The Sierra Club is proud to be one of the many sponsors of this important one-day conference. Registration info can be obtained by checking our website newyork.sierraclub.org/longisland or by sending your name and address to larus2407@aol.com. You may also leave your name and address on our hotline **516-826-0801** and info and a registration form will be mailed to you.

Third Annual Hike

Sunday, Oct. 3rd, 10 am
Muttontown Preserve,
East Norwich

Support the Sierra Club in its efforts to continue to educate and work for a healthier environment on L.I.

The funds earned will be used to continue to address conservation issues; publish the newsletter; sponsor free community meetings; and support our Education Program—our volunteers go into classrooms and speak to children about the environment.

The beautiful Muttontown Preserve in East Norwich has 550 acres of fields, woodlands, conifer stands, kettle ponds and an upland forest.

Registration form: pages 9 & 10.
Driving directions: page 7.

Our Children at Risk

Community Meeting & Hike
Quogue Wildlife Refuge & Nature Center
Sunday, October 17, 1 pm Hike
2 pm Meeting

Today in America, new diagnoses of asthma, developmental disorders and childhood cancers continue their steady upward spiral and show no signs of moderation. What has happened in our environment to put our children at risk? Why are children uniquely vulnerable to environmental toxins? And what can we do about it?

Some increases may be attributed in part to better detection, but scientific evidence suggests that exposure to common chemicals in our environment may play a significant role. Our meeting will feature a 30-minute documentary video which explores the latest scientific research linking environmental toxins to children's health problems.

Based on interviews with leading experts in the field, this video will help parents and educators understand the issues and learn what they can do in their homes, schools and communities to keep our children healthy.

Continued on page 3



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

LONG ISLAND SIERRA CLUB

516-826-0801

newyork.sierraclub.org/longisland

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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*

“The Best Idea America Ever Had”

My adopted second home is the coast of Maine, especially Acadia National Park, which beckons me every summer for a precious few days of hiking, kayaking and looking out over Frenchman’s Bay, imagining the first European explorers dropping anchor in this beautiful place.

Incredibly, much of what became Acadia was at one time owned by rich financiers and industrialists, who understood what a treasure it was and generously donated the land to the American people.

A lot has changed on Mount Desert Island, home to Acadia and Bar Harbor, since those early days. The park is a popular summer destination, which strains the island’s resources and stresses the fragile ecosystem. Unfortunately, Acadia faces a battle with air pollution—much of which originates at Midwestern power plants hundreds of miles away—and with budget cuts from the Federal Government (a problem for all of our wonderful national parks).

The good news is that, like our environmental activism here on Long Island, grass roots efforts by concerned citizens are making a difference, working with the national parks to help protect them. In Bar Harbor, the Friends of Acadia group provides volunteers and financial grants to the park, participates in projects to reduce pollution (such as the free propane-powered shuttle buses that offer visitors an attractive alternative to using their cars during their stay in Acadia) and advocates for the park before Congress and the Maine legislature.

This should provide encouragement to us in our environmental efforts here on Long Island. We certainly can’t leave protection of our beaches, wetlands and parks to the government. Local involvement of “average citizens” —that’s us—is imperative and can be effective. We can make a difference.

American author Wallace Stegner once observed that our National Parks are the best idea America ever had: “Absolutely American, absolutely democratic, they reflect us at our best rather than our worst”. If your next vacation includes a visit to a national park, take a moment to reflect on the foresight and stewardship that made that special place possible. Those same qualities of foresight and stewardship provide a great framework for our environmental work here on our own island.

To Dredge or Not to Dredge

By John Sauer, Chair

To keep harbors open to recreational and commercial boating, the Federal EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) has, for years, permitted dumping dredged material from Connecticut harbors in several designated areas in L.I. Sound. The EPA has recently announced a plan for future such dumping in two areas in the Sound. New York state and local governments have joined forces with numerous environmental groups to try to prevent the new EPA plan from going forward and to discontinue dumping of dredged material in the Sound.

“Never doubt that a small group of concerned citizens can change the world...indeed, it’s the only way that ever has.”

Margaret Mead

The big issue for New York is the quality of the dredged material, which, it is believed, may contain hazardous materials (not surprising, since some Connecticut harbors have long industrial histories). The recent well-documented marine life problems in L.I. Sound (including the devastating lobster die-off) raise the question of what role contaminated dredged material may play.

Connecticut supports the EPA proposal and does not agree that environmental degradation

stating that it has done sufficient testing to confirm that no material degradation is taking place, but New York questions the validity of the testing.

A July 20, 2004 public symposium at SUNY at Farmingdale offered some sensible alternatives to dumping in the Sound, including the transport to and disposal in closed Pennsylvania open pit mines, use of treated dredge material to cap landfills and brown-field sites, and even use as fill for roadways. Proponents of dumping in the Sound argue that dumping is much less expensive than removal to Pennsylvania mine pits or other uses of dredge. Opponents believe that the long term environmental costs of dumping in the Sound far outweigh the short term costs of alternative disposal or use of the dredge material.

Your L.I. Sierra Club opposes continued dumping in the Sound. The Sound is a precious resource for millions of people and efforts to clean it up will be, in our opinion, thwarted by continued dumping of dredged material from Connecticut’s industrial harbors. Please follow this ongoing story in the press and make your own concerns known to our elected officials.

Our Children at Risk

cont’d from page 1

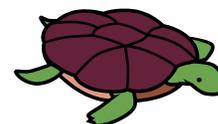
Our featured speaker will be Patricia Wood, founder and Executive Director of Grassroots Environmental Education, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to educating the public about the relationship between environmental exposures and human health risks. Ms. Wood is a visiting scholar at Adelphi University, and an educational consultant for the Audubon Society. In recognition of her work Patti received the L.I. Sierra Club’s 2000 Environmentalist of the Year award. If you want to learn more about Patti’s work, log on to the Grassroots Environmental website: grassrootsinfo.org.

This is one meeting you won’t want to miss. Bring your family and friends—there is no

charge. We guarantee you will come away with a new perspective on how household chemicals and pesticides are insidiously affecting our children’s health and damaging our environment.

Arrive at 1 pm and be treated to a 45-minute interpretive hike through the Wildlife Refuge. The meeting starts at 2 pm.

Directions to Quogue Wildlife Refuge



LIE Exit 70 - take Route 111 south to Route 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..

Check out Quogue’s website: quoguerifuge.com.



Met Jon Vestal, our new Outings Chair. Jon is an avid backpacker, and loves the outdoors. He's an energetic volunteer with a strong desire to make a difference. Check out the hikes that he's leading, including an overnight backpacking trip. Do you have an idea for an interesting hike or trip in which others might enjoy participating? Share it with Jon. He can help you set it up. Contact him at 631-235-2758 or jvlb@earthtones.com.

Outings and Events

SEPTEMBER

SAT 11 CARLL'S RIVER WATERSHED, WYANDANCH, 1PM County Park cleanup. Meet at the corner of Birch St. & Birch St. Extension at 1 pm. (They aren't labeled well & the Hagstrom map is totally inaccurate here.) Go along the side of Wyandanch Park which fronts on Mount Ave. 'til you come to a gate that leads into the football field area. That's where we'll meet. Bring work gloves & clippers. Wear long pants if you are allergic to poison ivy. Contact Laurie at 516-938-6152 or starflex@aol.com.

SUN 12 SHELTER ISLAND BIKE
Bicycle this gem of L.I. See beautiful vistas, lunch & swim on gorgeous beaches. Pedal approx. 18 miles. There are some tough hills. Don't fear, you can walk them. Helmets required. Bring snack, lunch & water. Meet at the Greenport Ferry parking lot at 11 am. Trip subject to cancellation. Must call to Bruce & Carolyn Kagan 631-929-5621.

WED 15 COFFEEHOUSE GET TOGETHER FOR POLITICAL DISCUSSION, 7:30 PM
Interested in a lively political discussion? Want to know how you can get more involved in this upcoming election and help make a difference? Want to meet other like-minded, intelligent thinkers? Now's your chance. Contact Michael Cafaro 631-243-1127 or michaelcafaro@aol.com for more details.

FRI 17 GARDEN CITY BIRD SANCTUARY, 1-5 PM
A 9 acre Nassau County storm water storage basin being used as a community nature preserve. We will be holding a 1/2 day educational program on dealing with invasive plants & using native plants for landscaping. The course is free, but pre-registration is requested. The program is sponsored by the Nassau County Parks Department, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Nassau, Clark Gardens, the L.I. Nursery/Landscape Association & the Garden City Bird Sanctuary. LIN\LA members can obtain 4 CEU's for participation. For info & directions, contact Rob Alvey, GCBS Pres. at 516-326-1720 or at robalvey@aol.com.

SAT 18 - SUN 19 ANNUAL FAMILY FESTIVAL BY THE SEA, LIDO BEACH
The Sierra Club will have a table at this 24th Annual Family Festival and we need tabling volunteers. There

will be fun for everyone at the Fair, with games, music & food. Contact Marie Pendzich at 516-541-0615 to volunteer.

SAT 18 THE 19TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL BEACH CLEANUP Chances are there is a beach near you that needs help. In 2003, over 10,150 volunteers in NY cleaned 351 beaches and removed 334,421 pounds of trash. Like to dive? There are opportunities to put your skills to work as 11 sites are underwater. For site locations call the hotline 800-449-0790 or contact the American Littoral Society at www.alsnyc.org. To organize a cleanup in an area not covered call Barbara Cohen at 718-471-2166 or e-mail alsbeach@aol.com

SAT 25 ATLANTIS MARINE WORLD, RIVERHEAD
\$14.50 for adults, \$11.50 kids—if enough are interested group rates are available!—Meet in Wendy's parking lot exit 62 LIE 9:30 am. Jon Vestal 631-235-2758
jvlb@earthtones.com

OCTOBER

SUN 3 THIRD ANNUAL HIKE-A-THON, MUTTONTOWN PRESERVE, EAST NORWICH, 10 AM
Get on your hiking shoes for our five mile hike for the environment!! If you can't walk, you can send in a donation or tell your friends about this fun hike. See pledge form and details on pages 9 and 10.

WED 6 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING, 7 PM
Call our hotline 516-826-0801 for location. All members welcome.

SAT 16 COLD SPRING HARBOR FISH HATCHERY FALL FAIR, 10 AM TO 4:30 PM
Annual fall event. There will be games, fishing for kids under 12 & an aquarium. The Sierra Club will have a table at this event—stop by and visit.

SAT 16 NISSEQUOGUE RIVER, CANOE THE GREENBELT
We go thru salt, fresh & intertidal wetlands with numerous waterfowl & other birds. Canoe & kayak rentals available. Easy trip. Suitable for beginners. Accessible by train. Leaders: Don & Lisa Scott, 322 River Rd. St., James NY 11780. Call 631-265-2198 or e-mail donaldscott3rd@hotmail.com

SUN 24 BAYARD CUTTING ARBORETUM, EAST ISLIP

Relaxing stroll through the grounds of the old Cutting estate. View many rare & exotic trees. Natural history museum with extensive collection of mounted birds inside the old residence. \$3 parking fee. Meet at 10am at the Waldbaums parking lot in East Islip just west of the S.S./Hecksher Pkwy. Arboretum 1/4 mile east. Will car pool to help avoid parking fee. *Jon Vestal 631-235-2758 or jvlb@earthtones.com*

SUN 31 HALLOWEEN HIKE! ROCKY POINT PRESERVE, MIDDLE ISLAND, 9 AM

Come explore the spooky trails (just kidding) of this beautiful preserve. Enjoy the Pine Barrens & its unique ecosystem. 10-mile hike through this strange, sandy landscape & its dwarf pitch pines, bear oak, blueberry, huckleberry & sheep laurel. While on the trail keep in mind that below the Pine Barrens lies a large portion of Suffolk County's fresh water supply. Meet at trailhead at 9am, *Jon Vestal 631-235-2758 or jvlb@earthtones.com*

NOVEMBER

WED 3 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING, 7PM

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

SUN 7 BIKE RIDE TO BELLPORT

Approximately 10 miles flat to Bellport. We will stop for lunch after the ride. Meet at 10 am Sunshine Mall, CR-101 & Station Rd. in Medford LIE exit 66S, Sunrise exit 55N. Bike helmets required. Please bring a spare tube & check the air in your tires before coming. Contact leader: *Gordon Howard 631-737-4317 or fortescu@optonline.net*

SAT 13-SUN 14 BACKPACK THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL IN CONNECTICUT—SALISBURY TO BEAR MT.

Hike from the Salisbury trailhead up a few steep hills, across Lionshead with it's beautiful views to the Riga Shelter where we will make camp (approx. 8 miles). Afterwards if group is up to it will hike up Bear Mt. Sunday after waking up to an amazing sunrise—shelter located along ridge overlooking valley below—will hike out back to trailhead. Total approx. 20 miles. While this trip isn't tough it can be physically demanding in spots. Previous backpacking experience a must. Please call to make arrangements *Jon Vestal 631-235-2758*.

DECEMBER

SUN 5 SUNKEN MEADOW PARK HIKE, 10AM

Hike approximately 3 hilly miles on the Greenbelt Trail, Sunken Meadow State Park. Meet 10am Sunken Meadow State Park, Parking Field 3, Sunken Meadow State Parkway North to the end. Please bring water and trail snacks. We will stop at a restaurant for lunch after the hike. Contact leader: *Gordon Howard 631-737-4317 or fortescu@optonline.net*

Our Annual Cross Country Ski Trip

January 14-17, Stowe, Vermont

Celebrate Martin Luther King Weekend by joining our cross-country ski trip. Lessons and rentals are available, as well as alpine skiing. Lodging will be at the Golden Eagle/Alpine Resort—double rooms with private baths, breakfasts, one dinner, wine & cheese party, and much more.

The cost is \$365 which includes bus transportation, lodging, some meals, all taxes and gratuities. Not included are rentals, trail fees, lunches, one dinner and food for the bus trips.

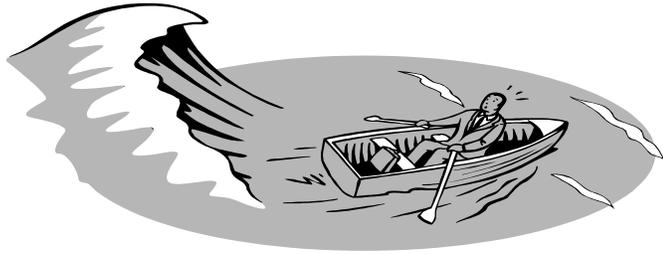
To register, send a check for the full amount payable to the L.I. Sierra Club to **True Hampton, 26 Revere Rd., Pt. Washington, NY 11050**, along with your phone number and a SASE. **Checks must be received by December 15th.** If we do not have 40 participants by that date the trip will be cancelled and checks returned.

Direct any inquiries to co-leaders
*Lucille Mandala 516-249-3255 or
True Hampton 516-883-7850*



Photo courtesy of Gordon Howard

Solarfest 2004 The first of its kind in N.Y. state held in Brentwood on July 24 and 25. It featured two days of music and stage performances on a solar stage, children's theater and puppet shows and numerous tables featuring information on solar and alternate energy sources. The event was so successful, Chris Castro the founder, is already at work on Solarfest 2005. You too can become part of this exciting team, contact Chris at 516-994-5897 or visit nysolarfest.org. l to r Marie Pendzich, Jon Vestal, Jennifer Colleluori and Chris Castro.



Sink or Swim

Marie Pendzich, Energy & Education Chair

We recently received several communications from members of the LI Group who expressed disappointment at the fact that we didn't take a stand on some burning issue developing in their neighborhood. It is very disheartening that our members would take this stance so, I thought that a clarification of the purpose and function of the L.I. Group would be in order.

Folks, those of us that are helping this club to function **are not paid staff, we are all volunteers**. We do not work for Sierra Club in a 9 to 5 position. We are average citizens like you who have regular jobs, families, responsibilities, elderly parents and very little free time. The one thing that we do have however, is a sense that if we don't volunteer some of our time to make a difference, the environment and our health will surely suffer.

Sierra Club is and has always been a grass-roots organization. That means that those people most affected by an injustice in their communities have been instrumental in the fight to stop the assaults. Those of us that are volunteers are but a small core group that must pick and choose our fights. We simply don't have the resources to get involved in every battle in every neighborhood. You the members are responsible for being the watchdogs in your own communities.

Think of it this way. We have over 7,000 members in Nassau and Suffolk and we are all in one lifeboat. Only 30 of us have chosen to row to shore while the rest are complaining that we aren't rowing fast enough. This may sound ridiculous but this is exactly what the disillusioned are really saying. It is so much easier to blame others for not doing enough while you choose to become the weight that we have to carry.

For those of you who would like to take up an oar and pull your own weight, please contact the hotline number and volunteer for whatever time you can give.

Also, there are many assaults to the environment on this Island. We need to mobilize our members to nip disastrous projects in the bud.

In the past, we have put out many appeals to sign up for the **Action Alert ListServ**. This is an e-mail list that alerts our members to emergency situations which could be bad legislation or devastating actions requiring immediate attention. **Under 100** of you have signed up for that alert list.

Just imagine, if every-time a serious situation like the EPA's decision to dump toxic dredge material in the L.I. Sound or NYC's decision to contaminate our purest aquifer, was followed by 7,000 calls from our members. What a tidal wave that would make! Please don't remain apathetic and clueless to the issues. We can't be effective without **your** help!

So, the next time one of you wants to quit Sierra Club because we are not serving your needs, make sure you are looking in the mirror when you point the finger of blame because my friend, YOU, are the Sierra Club.

To Volunteer

Call: 516-826-0801 or any member of our Executive Committee

Sign up ListServ: Send the following e-mail command message

To: **LISTSERV@LISTS.SIERRACLUB.ORG**

Sub: [Ignore this line, leave it blank]

Msg: **SUB ATL-LONGISLAND-ALERTS**

Yourfirstname Yourlastname

Type the message as you see it using the Caps Lock key where indicated and using upper and lower case letters when you type your name.

Any problems signing up for ListServ
Contact *Marje Schnier* 516-922-6725

Ideas for a Healthier & Safer Environment

By Marie Pendzich, Energy & Education Chair

Cell Phone and Other Recycling

Have you upgraded your cell phone recently and want to recycle your old one? Send it to Charitable Recycling, and CHEJ (Center for Health, Environment and Justice) will receive a monetary donation for each phone received. All proceeds will benefit the Green Flag Program that involves young people in instituting policies and programs that will make their schools healthier places to work, learn and play. Cell phones contain many toxins and are very hazardous to our environment when they end up in landfills. Whenever possible, donated phones are refurbished and given to those who are in need of emergency communications. All cell phones and their batteries will be accepted. Just click on this link www.chej.org/cellform.htm and download the donation form, print it out and send it with your cell phone.

To recycle audiocassettes, video tapes, computer diskettes and film stock while funding living centers for the disabled or homeless contact Operation Fast Forward run by ECOMedia in Chester, NY 1800-366-8192. All salvageable materials are magnetically erased, repackaged and resold. Those not salvageable are recycled.

If you have broken CDs, tapes, videocassettes, or computer disks, Green Disk will gladly recycle your old media into new products. They also recycle any related packaging, like jewel cases and plastic video boxes. And yes, they'll accept those annoying promotional CDs that come unsolicited in the mail. Green Disk charges \$.10 per pound, with a minimum charge of \$5. Call 800-305-DISK or visit www.greendisk.com.

Scrap the Zapper

So you bought a bug zapper to take care of this summer's pesky, flying, biting pests. You thought that you were taking the environmentally responsible approach by not using pesticides but, is this the best solution?

Well, in studies done to determine the effectiveness of these traps, it was found that less than 1% of the insects killed were pests. That means that over 98% of those killed were beneficial or harmless insects. Up to 350 billion insects that benefit humans and birds are killed every year with these devices.

Furthermore, there is a health risk posed by this method of annihilation. When the bodies of these insects explode, millions of bacteria are hurled at least 6 ft into the air where they are inhaled. Herbal repellents like Buzz Away, the mosquito magnet, garlic barrier and Avon skin so soft really work.

Repellents containing DEET are not recommended either. DEET is a potent poison which can cause skin or brain damage especially in children. Manufacturers, according to the EPA may no longer claim their products are child safe. Concentrations of as little as 15% have resulted in acute health problems including encephalopathy and death (symptoms: weakness, disorientation, and seizures). As much as 17% of the DEET is absorbed right through the skin.

Directions to Muttontown Preserve East Norwich October 3rd



From LIE, Exit 41N both from East and West. Head North on N. Broadway. Stay in right line for the Oyster Bay Route 106 Exit. Once on Route 106 pass 3 lights (first one may be blinking). After the third light East Woods/Muttontown Rd.) go 2/10 of a mile. Make sharp left turn into the Muttontown Preserve Equestrian entrance.

Hybrid Evolution Car Tour

By Bob Muldoon, National Staff

Congressman Tim Bishop welcomed the Sierra Club's Hybrid Car Tour to Sunken Meadow State Park on June 29th. The tour started in Key West, Florida on Memorial Day and visited communities along the eastern seaboard, ending in Maine in mid-July.

The tour was focused on educating the public on how we can evolve to clean energy solutions—hybrid vehicles, renewable energy, and energy efficiency that can take America towards a cleaner, safer, and more affordable energy future. Also joining the event was the New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG) which is also campaigning for energy efficiency and renewable energy. For more information on the tour, log



l to r Jean Baker (volunteer), Bob Muldoon (Sierra Club national staff), Ben Scott-Killian (volunteer), Bobbie Josepher (Sierra Club Chapter staff) and Marie Pendzich (Sierra Club L.I. Executive Committee member), Congressman Tim Bishop & Eric Bruzaitis from NYPIRG. Kneeling interns Rebecca Van Dam & Stephanie Powell.

The group is standing in front of a Toyota Prius. The Prius has an EPA rating of 60 mpg for city driving and the best EPA ratings for low emissions for a midsize car <http://www.epa.gov/autoemissions/midcar-04.htm>. It has both a gas engine and an electric engine. The batteries for the electric engine do not require special maintenance or plug-in - they are recharged while the car is in motion. It was voted Motor Trend magazine's Car of the year http://www.motortrend.com/roadtests/alternative/112031120_coy/.

Currently there are 4 hybrid models on the market: the Toyota Prius, the Honda Civic, the Honda Insight and the Ford Escape hybrid SUV. The Honda Accord hybrid is scheduled to come out later this year. The Lexus RX400h (SUV) and the Toyota Highlander SUV are scheduled to come out as hybrids in early 2005.

For more information on Sierra Club's hybrid campaigns, contact Bob Muldoon at Bob.Muldoon@sierraclub.org or 212-791-3600, x32.

The BBBB

By Marie Pendzich, Education & Energy Chair

No, this is not a typo for the Better Business Bureau. It stands for the "Bigger Better Bottle Bill" (**A3922/S1696**) sponsored by DiNapoli and LaValle. The bill passed through the Codes and Environmental Committees in 2003. It was reintroduced again in 2004 and must go through the same committees before it enters the Ways and Means Committee, and before a full floor vote.

Since the original Bottle Bill (Returnable Container Act) was enacted in 1982, more than 75 billion bottles and cans have been returned for the deposit and thus recycled in NY. This action diverted 5.2 million tons of plastic, glass and aluminum containers from the waste stream, saved taxpayers \$300 million in disposal fees and created 5,000 new jobs.

Recycling these materials instead of trashing them has reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 4 million tons and saved enough energy to fill 25 million barrels of oil, enough to run NYC's electric needs for a year!

So, why do we need to expand on this seemingly perfect law? Well, for one thing, non-carbonated beverages like tea, water, and sports drinks were not included. When the first Bottle Bill passed, these drinks were not popular but now they make up 22% of the beverages sold in NY and account for 62% of the bottles and cans littering our parks, streets and shores. Expanding the Bottle Bill will divert 2.5 billion more bottles and cans annually from the waste stream, would save 328,000 barrels of oil, and avoid 60,000 tons of greenhouse gases a year, while creating thousands more jobs.

Right now, bottlers and distributors keep the nickels from unreturned bottles. That windfall profit of consumer's money is estimated at up to \$140 million a year. By expanding the Bottle Bill and earmarking the unclaimed deposits to support recycling projects and the Environmental Protection Fund, present deficits in these programs, would see \$180 million annually added to their budget. All of this money is acquired without increasing taxes while decreasing injury, property damage and cleanup costs of discarded containers.

Michigan and Massachusetts have already implemented this system and California and Maine have already included non-carbonated beverages. What is taking NY so long to decide on this no-brainer? The major obstacle seems to be the lack of support from Assembly Leader Sheldon Silver, Majority Leader Joseph Bruno and Senator Carl Marcellino, as well as Gov. Pataki's refusal to include unclaimed deposits as a revenue source in the state budget. Would the Governor rather raise taxes again to run important environmental programs? It makes you wonder how strong the beverage lobby is and why our elected officials are catering to them instead of doing what's good for New Yorkers.

Hike/Walk-a-thon Registration Form

Participants Name (Print) _____ Date _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Mail Registration Form(s) with checks to:
Sierra Club LI Group • PO Box 210 • Syosset, NY 11791-0210

Funds raised through this event will help support your Sierra Club's continued initiatives in its fight for a healthier NYS environment. Please help us keep administrative costs down. Checks are best! You and your sponsors should make checks payable to the Sierra Club. The canceled check serves as a receipt. Cash will only be accepted the day of the event.

- * I am unable to attend, but here is my contribution of \$ _____
- * Attached is my suggested registration fee of \$10.00 \$ _____
- * Attached is my sponsor list including checks totaling \$ _____

Contributions to the Sierra Club are not tax-deductible. They support our effective citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts.

Acknowledgment of Outing Member Responsibility, Express Assumption of Risk, and Release of Liability

I understand that during my participation in this Sierra Club Outing, I may be exposed to a variety of hazards and risks, foreseen or unforeseen, which are inherent in each Outing and cannot be eliminated without destroying the unique character of the Outing. These inherent risks include, but are not limited to, the dangers of serious personal injury, property damage, and death ("Injuries and Damages") from exposure to the hazards of travel and the Sierra Club has not tried to contradict or minimize my understanding of these risks. I know that Injuries and Damages can occur by natural causes or activities of other persons, animals, trip members, trip leaders and assistants or third parties, either as a result of negligence or because of other reasons. I understand that risks of such Injuries and Damages are involved in adventure travel such as Sierra Club Outings and I appreciate that I may have to exercise extra care for my own person and for others around me in the face of such hazards. I further understand that on this Outing there may not be rescue or medical facilities or expertise necessary to deal with the Injuries and Damages to which I may be exposed.

In consideration for my acceptance as a participant on this Outing, and the services and amenities to be provided by the Sierra Club in connection with the Outing, I confirm my understanding that:

- I have read any rules and conditions applicable to the Outing made available to me; I will pay any costs and fees for the Outing; and I acknowledge my participation is at the discretion of the leader.
- The Outing begins and ends at the location where the Outing officially commences with leader and participants in attendance, as designated by the Sierra Club ("Trailhead"). The Outing does not include carpooling, transportation, or transit to and from the Trailhead, and I am personally responsible for all risks associated with this travel. This does not apply to transportation provided by the Sierra Club after the commencement and before the end of the Outing.
- If I decide to leave early and not to complete the Outing as planned, I assume all risks inherent in my decision to leave and waive all liability against the Sierra Club arising from that decision. Likewise, if the leader has concluded the Outing, and I decide to go forward without the leader, I assume all risks inherent in my decision to go forward and waive all liability against the Sierra Club arising from that decision.
- This Agreement is intended to be as broad and inclusive as is permitted by law. If any provision or any part of any provision of this Agreement is held to be invalid or legally unenforceable for any reason, the remainder of this Agreement shall not be affected thereby and shall remain valid and fully enforceable.
- To the fullest extent allowed by law, I agree to WAIVE, DISCHARGE CLAIMS, AND RELEASE FROM LIABILITY, and to INDEMNIFY AND HOLD HARMLESS the Sierra Club, its officers, directors, employees, agents, and leaders from any and all liability on account of, or in any way resulting from Injuries and Damages, even if caused by negligence of the Sierra Club its officers, directors, employees, agents, and leaders, in any way connected with this Outing. I understand and intend that this assumption of risk and release is binding upon my heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, and includes any minors accompanying me on the Outing.
- I have read this document in its entirety and I freely and voluntarily assume all risks of such Injuries and Damages and notwithstanding such risks, I agree to participate in the Outing.

Participant or Guardian Signature

KENNETH L. ROBINSON, ESQ.

Attorney and Legal Advisor and
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Here's Your Opportunity To Make A Difference

Nominations are now being accepted for a two-year term to the L.I. Sierra Club Executive Committee.

Join with other volunteers who meet once a month, working with an agenda of environmental, political and internal business issues.

Interested? Send an e-mail or phone Harvey Miller, Chairman of the Nominating Committee for details. Or simply e-mail your statement of no more than 125 words describing your passion and determination to make a difference.

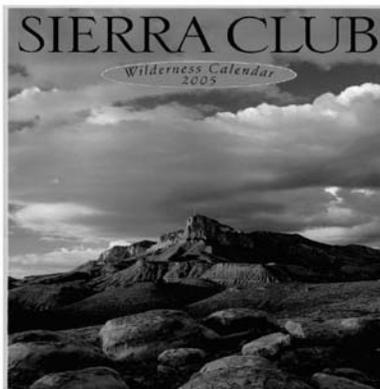
Remember: No experience necessary, just a strong desire to help save the environment. Your statement should be in Harvey's hands no later than **October 31st**. Harvey can be reached at hmiller@optonline.net or 516-794-7059.

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Enclose check and mail to: **Sierra Club,**
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In 1879, when John Muir visited southeast Alaska, he was struck by the beauty of the Tongass. Since 1964, the Forest Service's plan for the Tongass has called for clear-cutting 95% of the ancient forest as soon as possible.

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