



L.I. Sierra Club News

Volume 34 No. 1

www.LISierraClub.org

Spring 2014

Environmentalist of the Year Awards Luncheon Honoring Maria Brown and Eileen Gerle

Saturday, March 22nd, 2014, from 1:00-4:00pm
Seatuck's Scully Estate in Islip, NY

Please join us for our 32nd Annual Environmentalist of the Year Awards Luncheon and Ceremony. This year we have two worthy recipients - Maria Brown and Eileen Gerle.

Much could be said about Maria Brown who was recognized in 2006 by the EPA as an environmental achiever. Maria is presently a teacher in Sayville High School. She has worked on projects with her students that helped create the Town of Islip's Draft Watershed Action Plan for Green's Creek and Brown's River. Maria also started the ever popular "Costa Rica Experience" at her school, where AP students travel to Central America for ten days to participate in both ecological investigations and community service projects. Prior to becoming a science teacher, Ms. Brown was a Senior Environmental Scientist from EEA, Inc., where she was responsible for wetland restoration projects in the Long Island region

As for Eileen Gerle she has been employed as a marine educator and naturalist for over twenty years and has worked for various local organizations, including New York Sea Grant, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County, Okeanos Ocean Research Foundation, and the Riverhead Foundation for Marine Research and Preservation. Ms. Gerle was made a ranger at the West Meadow Beach (Brookhaven Township) in order to protect the delicate ecosystem for future generations through education and as a 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week presence to enforce park rules and regulations. She has a master's degree in marine environmental science from Stony Brook University.

The luncheon will be held at the beautiful Scully Estate. From the late 1880's until the early part of the 20th century, the 70-acre estate was part of Windholme Farm, a nearly 300-acre "gentleman's farm" that also included the 200-acre Seatuck National Wildlife Refuge on the east side of South Bay Avenue. Inspired by a French chateau, the house at Scully (which was named Werholme) was built in 1917. All are welcome, with a suggested donation of \$20. Please RSVP by March 8th to Ann Aurelio at SmileyAnn21@Verizon.net or call 631-567-1937. Send checks to PO Box 172 West Sayville, NY 11796-0172

DIRECTIONS TO ENVIRONMENTALIST OF THE YEAR LUNCHEON:

Seatuck Wildlife Refuge Center (Scully Estate), 550 So. Bay Ave., Islip, NY 11751, (631) 581-6908. From Southern State Pkwy Exit 43 south, or Sunrise Hwy. Exit 45 south. Take Islip Ave. (Route 111) south to Montauk Hwy. (Main Street). Turn right at Main St/New York 27A W. (On Main Street you will see The Town of Islip's Town Hall building.) Turn left at So. Bay Ave. Destination is about a mile from Main Street on the right side.

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Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

SIERRA CLUB
LONG ISLAND GROUP
516-826-0801
www.LISierraClub.org

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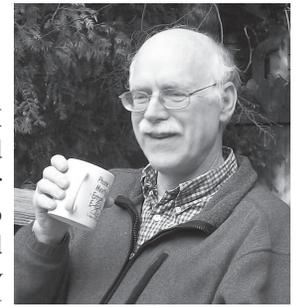
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Letter from the Chair By Mark Kinnucan

Pete Seeger died this week. When I heard the news, I called my wife and told her, "My favorite woodchopper died." I had heard a few months ago that Seeger split his own wood, and that is what he attributed his longevity to. It had pleased me to learn that I had a kindred spirit -- splitting wood is far and away my favorite form of exercise.



The New York Times¹ obituary tells the story of Seeger's life in great detail, enumerating the range of causes he espoused for 70 years through song and activism: unions and labor, civil rights, the women's movement, the peace movement, and of course, the environment.

Why those causes? They are all of course progressive causes -- one could even say they are the standard progressive causes. But when you look at them through a Pete Seeger lens, they take on a particular hue: they all share a communitarian outlook. They involve looking out for folks you don't know, and that may not be at all like you. Listen to what Pete had to say in a 2010 interview [the foe isn't identified in the interview]:

Why do they hate those people so. They are our distant cousins. They love their babies just like we love our babies. It is true; they got killers among them, just like we have killers amongst us. They got drunkards among them just like we got drunkards amongst us. We got insane people as well as they do.²

I like to dwell on the communitarian aspect of environmentalism, and see where that takes me. The first thing that comes to mind is where much of the environmental movement began -- the creation of the national parks. Let's set this land, this natural wonder, this lake, aside so that all may enjoy it. Even folks we don't know.

Thinking of progressive causes as communitarian does something else for us; it gives them coherence. Let's fast forward to today. The biggest environmental issue facing us now, and the focus of the Sierra Club's largest initiative, the Beyond Coal Campaign, is climate change. There are many ways to think about how to slow global warming, but the one that always makes most sense to me is the one that brings together all of Pete Seeger's causes. Rebecca Solnit summarized it very well. Speaking about the crisis of climate change, she said:

The big tent of subversions and traditions called the left hasn't, in recent times, done a very good job of providing pictures of the possibilities available to us. Still, perhaps the answer to what the political and social alternatives might be will prove very close to what a sustainable world in the face of climate change might look in recent times, done a very good job of providing pictures of the possibilities available to us. Still, perhaps the answer to what the political and social alternatives might be will prove very close to what a sustainable world in the face of climate change might look like:

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Brunch &/or Winery with snacks & live Music

June 8th, 2014

Open to everyone 18 or older – 25 person limit per event



Enjoy an all you can eat **brunch buffet**, including one cocktail and unlimited soft drinks, from the deck or the inside, air conditioned, windowed dining room at Meeting House Creek Inn, overlooking Meeting House Creek and Indian Island County Park in Riverhead.

AND - OR



Sit by the pond on the open lawn or under the tent and listen to live music as you “taste any 4” or drink 1 beer at Pugliese Winery in Cutchogue. Beer, champagnes, and a broad mix of wines are sure to please everyone’s pallet. The winery is open until 6pm. Finger foods are included.

Brunch Buffet: 11:30 am - \$32 pp

Winery: 1:00 pm - “taste any 4” or 1 beer - \$23 pp

Both events - \$50 pp

Prices include all gratuities and taxes

ALL ATTENDEES MUST REGISTER by calling
Jane at 631-689-1568



Outings and Events

Note: For more information on our hikes and other activities, leave a message at 516-826-0801. Someone should get back to you in 24 hrs. For more immediate information and **REGISTRATIONS** (required), call the leader at least 1 hour before the outing starts. Read descriptions carefully and wear clothing / footwear appropriate to the event. Additional events are posted at our website –look there for more things to do: www.LiSierraClub.org. **Remember – YOU PARTICIPATE AT YOUR OWN RISK.**

E – event has an educational component consisting of at least 3 hands-on stops plus information sharing along the way.

Contacts: Jane (631-689-1568), Len (LN56789@gmail.com), Jan (beachtowel1@verizon.net, or cell# 631 327-1268), Paul (631-707-6497), Helen (Helenroussel@gmail.com), Erica (ericarunsamerica@gmail.com).

March 2 - E

HIKE – Louis Clark Sanctuary & James Preserves, Old Brookville 11 am

Join Jane Fasullo of the Sierra Club and Jane Jackson of the North Shore Land Alliance for this joint educational hike in these two beautiful preserves belonging to the NSLA. This event includes walking through fields, woodlands and wetlands of the two otherwise hard to access, nature preserves. A lot of information will be shared about the MANY plant species that live in these places and about their importance as ecosystems in this developed area of L.I. No bathrooms at either preserve. If there is significant snow on the ground, bring your snow shoes or cross country skis. If there is heavy or consistent rain (more than a drizzle) or if the roads have a lot of snow, the event will be cancelled. Directions: Call 516-626-0908.

March 5

HIKE Calverton Ponds Preserve 1 pm

This is a joint hike with L.I. Greenbelt leader Karen Weber and Sierra Club leader Jane Fasullo. We will visit 9 ponds in the Preserve as we walk about 3 plus miles at a moderate pace on mostly level terrain in 2 hours. Karen, a retired HS biology teacher and avid hiker, will be able to answer many of your questions about what you see and Jane, a self-taught field educator, will team with her. Directions: call Jane at 631-689-1568.

March 8 – E

HIKE – Spinney Road to Sears Bellows Park, Flanders Noon

5+/- mi., slightly rolling, moderate pace in an oak forest with 2 or more ponds. Stop a few times to let people in back catch up. Learn about summer ticks & chiggers, the importance of this area to L.I. wildlife and our drinking water, the value of natural fires, and who lives here (plants and animals). During stops, listen for the sounds of nature. We'll pass at least two ponds. Ticks may be present so bring an insect repellent. No bathrooms. Directions: Park at Spinney Rd on the S. side of County Rte. 24, E. of Long Neck Rd. and W. of the police station.

March 9 – E

HIKE – Avalon Park, Stony Brook Noon

This hike is 3 plus, hilly miles. Start this varied hike at the Stony Brook gristmill (restored) and pond. After taking the boardwalk along the pond, walk up stone steps to a small man made pond, a labyrinth, a monument (learn why it's here), and a rhododendron viewing platform. Then take a short gravel path across Rhododendron Lane, transferring into a mix of hilly woodlands, open fields and transition zones where vines, shrubs, and small trees provide the perfect habitat for upland birds because they supply shelter and food (berries and seeds). We'll stop a few times to let people catch up and to discuss some of the animals and plants that call this place home. And we'll stop for a brief moment to see who is on the pond on the way back. There are no bathrooms here. Meet in front of the grist mill on Harbor Rd (off Main Street) at the north end of the mill pond in Stony Brook.

March 19

HIKE – Wildwood State Park, Wading River 1 pm

This is a joint hike with L.I. Greenbelt leader Karen Weber and Sierra Club leader Jane Fasullo. This 600 acre park is composed of undeveloped hardwoods with high bluffs overlooking the L.I. Sound. The park has many miles of looping dirt roads and trails. Starting at the main parking lot for visitors, we will walk the roads and trails covering almost every section of the park. Expect to walk at least 4 miles (closer to 5) on this up and down terrain for 2 hours. The park address is 790 Hulse Landing Road.

March 23

HIKES – Amsterdam Beach St. Pk. & Napeague Beach St. Pk. 10 am

Join leader Paul Ziems for both of these hikes. Public rest rooms are in Montauk Village near the traffic circle and at Theodore Roosevelt County Park (the oldest cattle ranch in America built in 1658) on the north side of Montauk Highway, ¼ mile before you get to Amsterdam Beach parking. Both hikes are on slightly rolling terrain. Bring insect repellent and if you want, a beverage or snack. Amsterdam Beach St. Park is 122 acres, south of Montauk Hwy., and east of Montauk village. The hike is 2 - 3 hours, easy to moderate, and 4-5 miles. Park at the corner of Montauk Highway and Ranch road. From the large sign next to the trail, walk the western loop passing through 'windblown' oak trees to a bluff overlook where we may see seals. Then back track a bit to the east branch of the trail into the Andy Warhol Preserve where we'll walk down along the bluffs to a pond near the ocean beach. Along the way we'll see more 'windblown' oak trees and holly. This Preserve has several ponds and 54 acres of tidal and freshwater wetlands. The trail is usually dry. It was earlier referred to as the "Montauk Moorlands". We'll next travel about 10 miles west on Montauk Hwy. to Napeague Beach St. Park where our easy, 1.5 mile trail loops between the ocean dunes and the highway. Leave 1 hr. for this hike. Rain or snow cancels. Questions about the hikes may be directed to Paul Ziems anytime up to the evening before the hike at 631-707-6497 or www.wpzziems@optonline.net. Reservations not required.

March 30 – E

HIKE – Muttontown Preserve, Muttontown Noon

3 to 4 mi.; rolling & flat; 1.5 to 2 hrs. Cover this 550 acre plot of fields, woodlands, ponds and estate grounds in Nassau County's largest nature preserve and one of the most beautiful settings on Long Island. Hear about the mansion and its ruins and learn about some of the native and non-native plants on the grounds. Ticks are likely so bring a tick repellent and wear clothes that overlap and cover you. Beverage suggested. Bathrooms probably not open at this time of year. Wear layers. If it's been raining, the ground will be wet and slippery so wear appropriate shoes. Steady rain cancels. Directions: At the end of Muttontown Lane, South off 25A in East Norwich west of rte. 106. Meet at the nature center at the second parking lot off the dirt driveway.

April 6 – E

HIKE – Rocky Point Preserve

Noon

Approx 3 mi of slightly rolling terrain at a moderate pace. We will return to our start point in 1.5 to 2 hrs. Things that will be pointed out are poison ivy (without leaves), native grape vines (should we encounter some), how and why open fields turn back to woodland, why the land is not flat, native oaks, and Allegheny Mound Ant hills (should any show up along the trail). We will also try to identify any bird and animal tracks we see. Beverage suggested. Wear layers according to the weather. Heavy rain or a snow storm will cancel. Meet at the DEC parking lot on the south side of 25A, west of Rocky Point Road (across from Waldbaums).

April 12 – E

HIKE – Trailview, Woodbury

Noon

This hike is led by Len, a newer Sierra Club leader. Leave 3+ hours for this moderately strenuous, hilly hike on trails in their natural state. The 5 - 6 mile hike is intended only for those in good physical condition. Explore the awesome natural beauty of Trailview State Park on a healthy, positive afternoon with conversation, networking, and mingling. Feel free and good about yourself as you enjoy the exercise and take in what nature has to offer. Sierra Club members and friends will join with people from other groups. Bring water and snacks, and don't forget to bring a positive attitude and YOUR CAMERA. Again, this is a HIKE, not a WALK in the WOODS so be sure you and your guests can handle it before registering. Register by leaving your phone number with Len (see info in header). DIRECTIONS: I-495 E/Long Island expressway, exit 44N to merge onto NY-135 N toward Syosset. Then exit 14E for Rte 25 E - Jericho Turnpike (toward Woodbury). Slight right onto 25 E (Jericho Turnpike). Park in the Trailview Parking Lot next to the Stop and Shop supermarket.

April 26

HIKE – Wertheim's Black Tupelo Trail, Shirley

10:00 am

Enjoy 4 flat miles of upland forests along the Carmans River, parts of which border the marsh. Starting at the new refuge center on Smith Road on the east side of the river, walk the Black Tupelo trail through woods and along the river's edge to the Indian Landing loop, then return to the refuge center and cars. The Refuge Center contains exhibits of the wildlife in Wertheim's 2250 acres and rest rooms. The pace will be moderate with few stops. Leave 2 – 2.5 hrs. Insect repellent for ticks and a beverage are suggested. Rain or snow cancels. Questions about the hikes may be directed to Paul Ziems anytime up to the evening before the hike at 631-707-6497 or www.wpziems@optonline.net. Reservations not required. Directions: From William Floyd Parkway, turn onto Montauk Hwy. heading West. In about ¼ mile, at a traffic light, turn left onto Smith Rd. The park entry is about ½ mile down on the right. If heading east on Montauk Hwy., cross the Carman's River and turn right at the first light (at Smith Rd.). For information about the refuge visit www.fws.gov/northeast/longislandrefuges.

May 4

HIKE – Belmont Lake Loops, bet. N. and W. Babylon

10 am

Join leader Paul Ziems for either or both of 2 "loop" trails. The first loop is a flat, 1 mile walk on dirt and paved paths, around Belmont Lake. It takes about 45 minutes to complete. Before the loop is complete, about ¾ of the way around the lake at the south end, those who wish to only do this loop can leave the group and return to the parking lot by walking across the picnic area. Paul will continue south from here for an additional 4 miles to Southard's Pond and back. This part of the walk is on a flat, unpaved but packed, dirt trail. It will take a bit more than 1.5 hrs. Belmont Lake State Park is a long, 463-acre park, bisected by Carll's Creek and Belmont Lake. The park, established in 1926, had been owned by August Belmont and served as farmland for some of Belmont's equestrian activi-

ties. It's significant natural features include the 26-acre, spring-fed Belmont Lake and a significant wetland complex. The lake provides springtime trout fishing and summer bass fishing, and it is home to permanent and migratory waterfowl populations including Osprey, Northern Shovelers, Mergansers, Teal, Great Blue Heron, and Egrets, to name just a few. Upland birds also frequent this park in large numbers. Bathrooms are next to the parking lot. Entrance Fee: \$8/car may apply or no charge with a NY State Empire Pass. Directions: Exit 38 off Westbound Southern State Parkway. If heading east, get off at exit 39, cross over the parkway to the north side, reenter the parkway, and get off at exit 38. Questions about the hike may be directed to Paul Ziems up to the evening before the hike at 631-707-6497 or www.wpziems@optonline.net. Reservations not required. Steady or heavy rain cancels

May 17 – E

Walk/Hike Bayard Cutting Arboretum, Great River

9:30am

Approx. 3-4 miles, flat, easy to moderate pace, approx.. 2 hrs. Donna Squires, the hike leader, will start at the Great River RR station off Connetquot Ave. at 9:30, then walk through a parcel of mixed hardwoods and pine to the main gate. Once inside the park, she'll take the paved driveway to the bathrooms and main house/cafe/teraria where those who parking on the grounds (\$8) can meet us. From here we'll walk the grounds, walk along the river, see the gardens, then return to the main house before returning to the parking lot. Since we will not take time to stop in the cafe/teraria, bring your own snacks and beverage. Those who wish to follow the walk of the grounds with a stop at the cafe will have to find their own way back to the cars. The grounds are beautiful with many labeled trees and shrubs, so bring your camera! RAIN CANCELS. Note: Ticks are possible, so wear long pants, long socks, and bring insect repellent. <http://www.bayardcuttingarboretum.com/>

May 18 – E

Bicycle – WestHampton Beach

10 am

Approx 15 mi at 7-11 mph. Paved roads with little traffic. Beginner friendly. Bicycle onto the barrier island where you'll see the rebuilt section of beach taken out by a storm and now filled with homes. You'll hear when and how the storm removed the land. And you'll get a view of the bay and the ocean from a raised viewing platform crossing the dune at a park / beach stop along the way. A brief overview of the way the water formed the barrier island and its back bays, and the importance of the bay to early and current inhabitants will be given. Helmet required. Bring a beverage and sun protection. We will be out about 2 hrs. There is a planned stop in town, about a mile from the end of the ride. Restaurants are open if you choose to stay a while. Rain cancels. Meet in the parking lot of the Middle school on the west side of O'Neck La. just south of the intersection with Mill Road.

May 24 – E

Walk with the ranger, West Meadow Beach

1 pm

Interpretive, 2 mi.; flat; 2 hrs. Hike along the beach and on a hike/bike path on the wetlands side of the West Meadow peninsula with Brookhaven Town's West Meadow Beach Park Ranger and environmental educator, Eileen Gerle. Learn about this beach's wildlife (birds, crabs, turtles, mammals, etc.), habitats, ecology, and more, and find out what it's like to live on the beach year round. Be prepared to walk in sand along the waters edge. Bathrooms available. A charge might apply to park. Directions – LIE to Nichols Rd N., ex 2. Left at end of Nichols onto 25A. Right at first traffic light onto Quaker Path. At stop sign after Christian Ave, stay left onto Mount Gray Rd. At W. Meadow Beach Rd. turn left and at the end, right into the parking lot. Meet at the far left side of the lot.

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LI Sierra Club Program April 2014 Native Plants

What: Landscapes for the Future – Planting with Natives
Where: Commack Library, corner of Commack & Hauppauge Rds., 631-499-0888
When: Thu. April 10, 6:30pm (refreshments, save paper bring your own mug)

Presenter: Ora Berman, principal & sole-owner, Site Insights. Ora grew up on a Kibbutz in Israel at the foothills of the Galilee Mountains where community life and cultivating and protecting the natural landscape was, and still is, an integral part of her education and traditions.

At Site Insights, she applies years of designing public parks, trails and open spaces to changing the perception surrounding playgrounds, schoolyards and suburban public spaces. Ora is a member of the International School Ground Alliance and is associated with a global movement and network of professionals that believe that the well-being of children and the ecological diversity of their learning landscapes are intrinsically linked.

Ora is a Registered Landscape Architect (RLA) licensed in the State of New York with a Master's degree in Community Design and Planning from SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Syracuse.

Directions:

From the west: Take the LI Expressway to exit 52 Commack Rd. Go north on Commack Rd. for 1 mile. Turn left on Hauppauge Rd. to entrance on right.

From the east: Take the LI Expressway to exit 53. Stay on the service road until you come to the Commack Rd. exit and see above.

From Sagtikos/Sunken Meadow Pkwy.: Take exit SM1W Northern SP west 1/2 mi. to first exit 43 Commack Rd. and go north 1/2 mile.

Call us for Environmental Education!

Education is a key component of protecting our environment for today and for the future. Raising the awareness of young people as to what they and their parents can do to protect and appreciate the world around us is a goal of the Sierra Club. To this end, the Sierra Club does school presentations for grades K-12 on topics including climate change, recycling, and protecting the Long Island Sound. If you would like to schedule a presentation for your school or organization, or want more information, please contact Sue Watins, Education Chair, 516-921-7150 or sueeduc@verizon.net.

Rare Forest in Nassau Subject of Struggle with Village and Developers

By Richard Brummel

1/25/14- North Hills, NY -- Along the Northern State Parkway and the Long Island Expressway in North Hills, about 3 miles from the Queens border, there is a 95-acre wooded area that was designated by the New York State Natural Heritage Program as rare, special example of an "Oak-Tulip" forest. It is the only one so designated in Nassau County, but it has been destroyed piece-by-piece in the last 20 years. Now an effort is underway to protect the last pieces of it in private hands.

About two-thirds of the forest is private land that had been protected by an easement, and one-third is state-owned "right of way" that borders the Northern State. A small piece was owned by the Manhasset-Lakeville Water District, but was sold to a developer. Despite some efforts in the early 2000's by the North Shore Land Alliance to fight off development plans, about 30 acres was levelled and built over under a program that gave the Village of North Hills millions of dollars in "incentive zoning" payments in exchange. Tens of millions more are now at stake.

The last two parcels of the central forest -- which is known as the "Grace Forest" for its prior owner -- were approved for development in 1997 and 2006, but until now the projects were on hold. When the larger parcel came up for a revised zoning permit last October, the Sierra Club Long Island Group, the Green Party of Nassau County, and Long Island Orchestrating for Nature (LION) came together to speak up for preserving the woods and the wildlife that live there.

The Sierra Club and LION participated in a press conference televised by New12 at the forest, and the groups requested and received a letter of support from North Hempstead Supervisor-elect Judi Bosworth. Research done by LION and Richard Brummel, showed that 16 species of animals listed by NY State as "Species of Greatest Conservation Need" and five species listed as "Species of Special Concern" were listed by the developer's own analysis as likely to use or inhabit the forest -- yet had been largely omitted or ignored in the developer's and the Village's environmental review.

Despite the testimony, and that of activist certified-arborist Richard Oberlander, the Village of North Hills re-approved the application to completely level the forest.

That project is an opulent 10-building condominium project to be built by one of Long Island's largest developers, RXR of Uniondale, a firm owned by NY-NJ Port Authority Vice Chairman Scott Rechler.

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May 25 - E

Kayak – Carman's River, W. Shirley

Noon

Travel down the river and into a section of Bellport Bay then beach on the east side of the bay for a short respite before the return trip. We will talk a bit about the condition of the river, some of the plants we encounter, search for sea life, find and ID shells, and identify as many birds as we can. As we move from the fresh to the salt water, differences between the life forms will be pointed out. The Carmans River Canoe and Kayak Company rents kayaks and is located at the start point at 2979 Montauk Hwy (on the north side) just west of the river crossing. To rent a kayak, call them at 631-803-8496 and mention you are with the Sierra Club. Non-Brookhaven residents using their own equipment may be charged a \$5 "put in" fee. Therefore Brookhaven Town residents are advised to bring ID showing their address. A floatation device must be worn while in your boat. Rain or lightning cancels. Montauk Hwy is south of Sunrise Hwy and 2979 is west of William Floyd Pkwy. If you are not from the area, use LIE exit 68 S (William Floyd) or Sunrise exit 58 S and turn west (right) onto Montauk Hwy at the traffic light immediately south of Sunrise Hwy.

May 31 - E

HIKE – Stump Pond at Blydenburgh Park

Noon

This relatively flat 5 ½ to 6 mile hike goes around "stump" mill pond. The hike takes 2.5 hours at a moderate pace. You will be in mostly upland woods but along the south west side there is a boardwalk to bring you over the beautiful and interesting swamp. Beverage suggested though not essential at this time of year. Find out why this is called stump pond, why it was created, where the water comes from and where it goes, and learn about the skunk cabbage and other fresh water plants. Leave from the north entrance to the park at the west end of New Mill Rd. There may be a parking fee of \$8.

June 8 - E

Dine / Wine – Riverhead and Cutchogue

11:15 am and 1:15 pm

This relatively flat 5 ½ to 6 mile hike goes around "stump" mill pond. The hike takes 2.5 hours at a moderate pace. You will be in mostly upland woods but along the south west side there is a boardwalk to bring you over the beautiful and interesting swamp. Beverage suggested though not essential at this time of year. Find out why this is called stump pond, why it was created, where the water comes from and where it goes, and learn about the skunk cabbage and other fresh water plants. Leave from the north entrance to the park at the west end of New Mill Rd.

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

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*small, local, smart, flexible economies and technologies, democracy as direct as possible, an elimination of excess wealth as part of a leveling that might also eliminate dire poverty.*³

As Pete Seeger understood, you can accomplish a lot by caring about folks you don't know.

¹www.nytimes.com/2014/01/29/arts/music/pete-seeger-songwriter-and-champion-of-folk-music-dies-at-94.html

²realitysandwich.com/54979/conversation_pete_seeger/

³www.tomdispatch.com/post/175168/tomgram%3A__rebecca_solnit_writing_history_in_the_streets/

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LEGAL SERVICES PROVIDED:

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Commercial Litigation

Land Use

Last Will and Testament

General Legal Advice

Sierra Club Member Since 1973

Rare Forest in Nassau

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The neighboring site, with 10 acres along New Hyde Park Road, is also approved for being completely levelled, for office buildings, by a company called X-Cell Realty, of Manhasset. A lawsuit initiated in January by Richard Brummel, who lives 10 minutes away in East Hills, is currently pending in State Supreme Court, Nassau, to challenge the two developments based on alleged violations of the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA).

A delay in filing the lawsuit led to all the trees and vegetation being bulldozed on the 17 acre RXR site in a rapid action between January 1st and January 3rd. And a temporary restraining order on further demolition was lifted by the judge assigned to the case, Justice Michele M. Woodard.

However, Mr. Brummel is appealing the initial ruling and persevering to protect both the 10 acre X-Cell site and to prevent any further degradation of the RXR site, on which fertile soil, root systems, and some patches of wetland remained intact after the initial clearing. The case is scheduled to be continued in February. Mr. Brummel welcomes support of any kind, and may be reached at rbrummel@att.net.

OUR NEED TO KNOW By Richard Manning

I recently did a presentation representing the USGBC-LI chapter for the Sierra Club in Commack. They are two very good organizations that share the same philosophy of caring about our environment.

The subject I presented was our need to know what we can do to help our next generation learn how to ensure our environment stays healthy and resilient. The subject was on the RESNET policy Proposal "Introducing Transparency and Rationality into the Home Buying Process"

RESNET is an independent, non-profit membership corporation that is recognized as the national standards-making body for building energy efficiency rating and certification systems in the United States. They developed the software for newly built Energy Star Homes, which is a rating system that provides a score that informs the public how energy efficient the home is compared to a house built to current code.

The policy that RESNET puts forth is due to the lack of available information to consumers that don't know or understand what an Energy Star house is, or how it helps us all in conserving energy and protecting our environment for the following generations. RESNET supports a mandatory requirement for a Home Energy Rating System (HERS) Index Score for all new and existing homes financed through a federal mortgage program, such as Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, the FHA and the VA, leading to greater transparency to homeowners and mortgage financiers to include energy efficiency as part of the mortgage process

There is now bipartisan legislation in the Senate that will help the home buying public get something for their money, namely adding value to their homes for energy upgrades and some relief in purchasing an energy efficient home. If it passes, it will make available changes in the underwriting of mortgages to include energy efficient upgrades in calculating mortgages that will help customers to buy a home they can afford to maintain.

This idea also hits close to my heart. My son is currently serving in the Army. I would like nothing better than for him to be protecting our environment that the interest of Multi-National corporations. Our job at USGBC-LI as well as the Sierra Club is to get the message out to all citizens on how to protect our environment and nothing does it better than education.

Once the public understands the benefits of conserving energy to protect our environment, which is the shared objective of USGBC and the Sierra Club; I think they will better understand the necessity of our mutual perspective towards our common goal.

**Brunch Fundraiser inside on Page 3 - Big
Event, Lots of Fun!!! Meeting House Creek Inn
in Riverhead on June 8th at 11:15 am!**

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