

L. I. Sierra Club News

Volume 28 No.1 www. LISierraClub.org Spring 2009

COMMUNITY MEETING: April 18, 1:30PM REDUCE YOUR HOME ENERGY COSTS Heritage Center at North Shore Heritage Park, Mt. Sinai

Can't afford to waste money on your energy bills? Then you MUST attend this meeting. This two hour educational program will give you a <u>tour of a very efficient public building</u> and <u>provide ways for you to reduce your home's energy consumption (costs) while making your home more comfortable.</u> In addition, you will <u>learn how to free yourself from paying LIPA for all the electricity you use</u> with no upfront costs and monthly payments less than or equal to your current ones.

Presenters will include a tour guide from the Heritage Center at North Shore Heritage Park, Chuck Schwarz from L.I. Green who will describe home energy audits and how to get one for no or very low cost, and Leah Sontag from Sun Power Systems and Anita from Majestic Son and Sons who will jointly describe the solar systems their companies install (PV and hot water) and explain to you how you can get a system with no out of pocket costs in excess of what you are paying today.

Refreshments will be served. Printed materials will be available of a generic nature as well as specific information from the presenters.

COMMUNITY MEETING: May 16, 2:00-4:00 AROUND THE WORLD WITH EARTHWATCH South Shore Nature Center, 130 Bayview Ave, East Islip

Please come and join us for a lovely presentation by Muriel Horacek, Volunteer Field Rep. for Earthwatch. Muriel travels and documents from her own and other Earthwatcher's experience from such places as Trinidad, Cost Rica and more. Here is just a sample of what you will hear if you join us:

- · monitoring nesting leatherback turtles
- · archaeological dig in Peru
- hummingbird research in Manu National Park, Peru
- cheetah conservation in Namibia
- · monkey research in China

For Directions to Community Meetings, Please See Page 7

SIERRA CLUB **2009 AWARDS CEREMONY** and Member Appreciation Luncheon honoring **Environmentalist** of the Year Babylon Town Supervisor STEVE BELLONE Sat. April 4, 2009 12:00 to 4:00 PM **Babylon Carriage House** 21 Fire Island Avenue **Babylon Village** For tickets and info contact Frank Morris at 516-410-8461 frankmorris@ecologicinvestor.com

LONG ISLAND



Bring your old cell phones and ink/toner cartridges for our recycling program.

Please also bring your own cup to cut back on plastic garbage.

For carpooling info, contact Mark Kinnucan at 631-424-1889 kinnucan@patriot.net.



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

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

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*Indicates Executive Committee Member

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

By Frank Morris

Sierra Club is unique among America's environmental organizations in that we ELECT, by democrat vote, our leadership.



Most environmental organizations are run by staff and major donors.

Sierra Club is different in that any member can get involved and make positive things happen for the environment. Every member has a voice. Every member has a vote.

This newsletter was put together completely by volunteers. So was the Long Island Sierra club website. So were the thousands of hours volunteers employed to protect Long Island's environment.

With approximately 6,500 members, the Long Island Sierra Club is led by an elected executive committee of 11. NYS Sierra Club with about 40,000 members is led by an executive committee of 28. And the 15 member Board of Directors of the National Sierra Club is elected from the approximately 750,000 dues paying Americans that make up the national Sierra Club. Look for a ballot in March to elect members to the National Sierra Club.

Sierra Club's 300 employees are here to help the volunteers move the Club's agenda.

There are actually two entities that share the name Sierra Club. Your annual dues are not tax deductible, because Sierra Club endorses environmental candidates. We are non-partisan. We endorse more Democrats than Republicans because Democrats frequently have a friendlier disposition to our issues than Republicans, but Sierra Club does endorse good environmental Republicans.

There is also the Sierra Club Foundation. The Sierra Club Foundation is in the business of education, and promoting environmental causes through the legal process. Donations to the Sierra Club Foundation are tax deductible.

Sierra Club isn't just about nice calendars or coffee table books. Sierra Club is about 750,000 motivated dues-paying Americans that want a better environment for themselves and their families.

I invite you to get more involved in Sierra Club. Working together, we can do great things. frankmorris@ecologicinvestor.com

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LONG ISLAND SIERRA CLUB 2008 ACHIEVEMENTS

<u>Coastal Waterways and Groundwater:</u> Kayakathon for clean water - funds launched LI Water Sentinels for baseline testing of LI surface waters • Multiple wetlands and beach cleanups • Active in NY State Oceans and Great Lakes Ecosystem Conservation Counsel (NYOGLECC) stakeholders committee and South Shore Estuary Reserve Citizens Advisory Council (SSER CAC) • Helped pass a bill protecting the Lloyd Aquifer

Energy: Cool Cities teams are taking the lead in passing energy legislation and implementing new technologies • Supported LI Green and other home energy efficiency programs • Published a manual for bringing renewable energy to schools • Partnered with town of Oyster Bay to bring more renewable energy and efficiency into schools • Active in LI Energy Roundtable, Repowering Coalition, Clean Energy Leadership Task Force (Neighborhood Network

Recycling: Maintain an electronics recycling database for all towns in Nassau & Suffolk • Working on a Suffolk bill for plastic bag recycling • Working to increase recycling in schools • Continued the collection programs for used cell phones and printer cartridges (ink and toner)

Open Space: Supported open space efforts across Long Island including adding Pilgrim State Hospital land to the Edgewood Preserve, and working to formalize the Greenleaf trail • Led recreational, educational, and service outings throughout the year • Biking, kayaking, hiking, skiing, cleaning up parks, beaches and more • Introduced outings for the whole family

Education: Presentations on Fire Island National Seashore • Smart Growth • Humpback whales • Cool Cities program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions • Organic Lawn Care • Oysters in the Great South Bay • North-South Greenleaf Trail proposal • Greening Transportation • Renewable Schools • Amphibians of Long Island • Maintained Environmental Summer Camp and E-Waste databases • Created database on school districts and energy efficiency, renewable energy, and recycling progress

Support: Submitted comments at public meetings, wrote letters, and attended press conferences about land preservation, energy efficiency for Suffolk's bus fleet, improvements in sewage treatment, affordable and low income housing, energy efficiency for the new Suffolk County police precinct building • Continued the activist alert program to engage activist actions • Reached out to local volunteers asking for their help and support by attending various meetings to become informed about local activities • Reached out to volunteers to make phone calls at the local and state levels for legislative actions • Networked with and participated in local group activities such as the Three Village Community Trust's Harbor Days, the Three Village Community Trust Fund's work on the community visioning, and Brookhaven 2030's plan for the town

Engaging Long Island: Local action groups • Tabling across LI • Appeared in different television and print sources

Works Well With Others: Joined the anti-LNG coalition to fight any new expansion of fossil fuels infrastructures while we try to continue to push for renewable energy sources • Active members of LI Energy Roundtable, LI Green Building Council Board, LI Climate Solutions Network, SSER CAC, OGLECC stakeholders committee • Attend LI Regional Planning Board meetings • Worked with ABCO, Neighborhood Network, CCE, RELI, LIPC, Open Space Council, NYLCV, Green Drinks, North Shore Land Alliance, Peconic Baykeeper, Operation Splash, and more

Keeping the LI Group Running Smoothly: Improved ExCom efficiency • Created 4 newsletters, labeled and mailed them • Created new link <u>LISierraClub.org</u> • NY Atlantic Chapter meetings • Maintained the website • Held fundraising events to keep our outreach and educational efforts up and running • Held monthly ExCom meetings • Held 10 educational Community Meetings

The Atlantic Chapter recommends a vote for Frank Morris and Lane Boldman in the upcoming election for the Sierra Club's Board of Directors.

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SIERRA CLUB

Outings and Events

Note: For additions, cancellations, and more information, please visit our website at <u>www.LISierraClub.org</u> or call Jane Fasullo at 631-689-1568. All Ex Com meetings for the spring will be held at the Huntington Main Library on the 2nd Monday of each month from 7-9 PM. Carpooling is now available: contact Mark Kinnucan at 631-424-1889 or kinnucan@patriot.net. To save trees and cut back on plastic garbage, please bring your own cup.

March 2009

Sun. March 8 HIKE 1:30pm Caumsett Farm - LLoyd Harbor

Family-friendly visit to Caumsett State Park. See the horses, the walled garden and possibly walk to the vernal pond to see the wild birds. Registration required at least four hours ahead. Info and registration: Kathy 631-651-9479 or cinnabuster@yahoo.com

Sat. March 14 HIKE 10:00 am Northwest Woods - E. Hampton

A joint hike with L.I. Greenbelt. 9 miles, moderate pace, varied terrain through woods. Meet on NY Rte. 114 near Daniel Hole Rd. between Sag Harbor and E. Hampton. Information: Karen 631-929-6590 before 8pm. or Jane 631-689-1568

Wed. March 18 WALK 1:00 pm Indian Island - Riverhead

3 miles of easy and flat terrain at an easy pace. This is a joint hike with a Greenbelt leader. This walk will take you through the woods along the Peconic River. Rain cancels. Meet at Indian Island County Park parking lot off C.R. 105. The park entrance is north of the golf course. For information call Jane at 631-689-1568 or ifas 1@optonline.net

April 2009

<u>Sun. April 5</u> FAMILY STROLL 1:30 pm Upland Farm - Cold Spring Harbor

Easy, child-friendly walk through the woods, fields, ponds, hedgerows and buildings of this Nature Conservancy property. Meet in the parking lot. Registration required at least four hours ahead. Info and registration: Kathy 631 651 9479 or cinnabuster@yahoo.com.

Sat. April 18 CLEAN UP 11:00am-1:00pm Woodland Drive - East Islip

Keep Islip Clean is cleaning up the Woodland Drive Woods off Woodland Drive. Dress appropriately for the weather and have long pants and socks to prevent ticks. Hat suggested. Hair must be tied up. Info: Krystal dejmkrys@Hotmail.com or 631-258-9156

CRESLI Seal Walks

CRESLI seal walks will take place between December and May. Please note that weather will play a significant role in determining the seal walk schedule. Please call **CRESLI** at (631) 244-3352 for schedule changes and cancellations. Reservations are required and should be made at:

http://www.cresli.org/cresli/reservations/seal walk reservations.html.

Cost = Suggested donation of \$5 per person

May 2009

Sat. May 9 HIKE 10:00 am Rocky Point Natural Resources Mgt Area Raindate: 5/10 at 10am

Explore the Pine Barrens and enjoy spring flowers and wildlife. Shorter and longer options available. Bring water, light lunch, hiking boots, sunscreen, and hat. **Directions:** Rt. 495 (L.I.E.) To exit 67 north, north on Rt. 216 miles to Whiskey Road, right on Whiskey Road, main entrance to property on left. Information and required registration: Patricia trish mail@yahoo.com or Jane 631-689-1568 or jfas1@optonline.net PLEASE register at least 4 hours ahead of the hike.

Sat. May 16 BIKE 11:00 am Heckscher Park - East Islip

Flat, easy, 8 -10 mi. Must have helmet and own bike. This ride will be followed by a "bring your own" box lunch at the South Shore Nature Center before the Earthwatch presentation from 2 to 4. Meet at JFK Elem. School on Woodland Drive in E. Islip. Must pre-register at least 3 hrs before the ride with Krystal dejmkrys@hotmail.com or 631-258-9156.

Sun. May 17 HIKE 10:30am Caleb Smith State Park - Smithtown

We hope for a beautiful spring day as we explore this preserve. Caleb Smith State Park contains a variety of interesting habitats including upland forests, crystal clear trout streams, and meadows. The hike leader will discuss the interesting plants and animals we're sure to encounter. Bring your binoculars as we hope to see a variety of migrating birds as well. Adults only. There is a parking fee under \$7. The park is on the north side of Route 25 (Jericho Turnpike) between Old Willets Path and "The Bull" at intersection of Route 25 and Smithtown to St. Johnland Road. Register (required) with hike leader Jan Porinchak: beachtowel@earthlink.net or 631-754-3019

Sat. May 23 KAYAK 10:30 am Setauket Harbor and Port Jeff Harbor

No rain date. Meet at Setauket Harbor Canoe and Kayak rental shop on Shore Rd. in Setauket (rentals available there). Kayak to the Old Field peninsula for a leg stretch and a self provided snack then back. Swim if temps permit. Registration required with Jane at jfas1@optonline.net or 631-689-1568.

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"WHO KILLED THE ELECTRIC CAR"

Now Showing at the Huntington Cinema Arts Centre Tues., March 10th, 7:30 PM



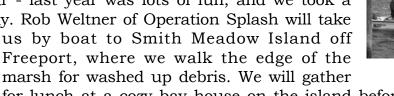
http://www.cinemaartscentre.org/reel_to_reel.html#car.

"Who Killed The Electric Car" is the story of the nefarious conspiracy to end fuel choice for America's automobile fleet. \$9 Cinema Arts Center members, \$12 general public.

WETLANDS CLEANUP

Sat., March 14th, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Smith Meadow Island, Freeport

This is our third year - last year was lots of fun, and we took a boatload of stuff away. Rob Weltner of Operation Splash will take





for lunch at a cozy bay house on the island before returning to the mainland. Bring boots and gloves. Park and meet at the south (water) end of Woodcleft Canal (The Nautical Mile) in Freeport. RSVP to Jessica Helm, (631) 219-6449 helm jessica@yahoo.com

In case of weather, postpones to Sunday March 15th.

Directions: Take the Meadowbrook south to exit M9W, Merrick Rd west. From Merrick, turn Left at Mill Rd, Left at Main St, Right at Atlantic Ave, Left on Guy Lombardo Ave, Right at Front St, and Left at Woodcleft Ave.

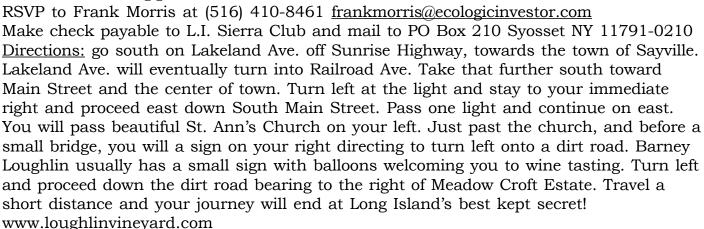
JOIN US FOR A WINE TASTING AT LOUGHLIN VINEYARD

South Main Street, Savville

Date and Time: Sat. May 30th from 1:00 - 4:30PM

(Raindate Sun. May 31st)

Wine, Appetizers, Green People. What Could Be Better? Cost \$25 to support L.I. Sierra Club



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HOW TO SAVE ON YOUR HOME ENERGY COSTS

By Chuck Schwartz, LI Green

Want to make your single largest personal contribution to reducing global warming while at the same time stimulating the Long Island region and enhancing job growth? Implement your own **Personal Infrastructure Stimulus Plan** by making your home more energy efficient. LI Green, a local not for profit environmental group affiliated with the Suffolk County Energy Alliance, Stony Brook Advanced Energy Center, Bethpage Federal Credit Union and the Suffolk County Executive's office will help you achieve this important goal.

LI Green offers any Long Island homeowner a <u>Free</u> Home Energy Audit. Trained energy professionals will visit your home and meet one on one to study your home's energy challenges. Following this meeting an individualized <u>Home Energy Action Plan</u> is generated, specific to your residence's needs. The goal is very attainable. Expect to see at least a 25 to 30% reduction in your home's energy bills and greenhouse gas emissions for a very modest investment at the same time your home becomes toasty warm.

LI Green then gives you the tools to implement this plan. Want to hire a contractor to get this work done? LI Green can refer you to a team of qualified certified contractors. We then follow the process to make sure that the work gets done right. Prefer to be a self-installer and take care of the energy efficiency remediation work yourself? LI Green will provide free technical assistance to ensure that it's done properly and safely. Need financing? Working with Bethpage Federal Credit Union we have created the LI Green Loans program where all repayment costs are paid out of the energy savings that you get.

To sign up for your Free Home Energy Audit visit http://www.ligreen.com/sierrali or call 631-721-1908.

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Sierra Club Member Since 1973



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It's time for America to get smart about energy and be less dependent on dwindling oil reserves. We need to increase our use of clean, renewable energy sources like wind and solar power. Let your voice be heard.

Add your voice to protect the planet. Join Sierra Club.

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Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
Special Offer	□ \$25	
Standard	□ \$39	□ \$47
Supporting	□ \$75	□ \$100
Contributing	□ \$150	□ \$175
Life	□ \$1000	□ \$1250
Senior	□ \$24	□ \$32
Student/Limited Income	□ \$24	□ \$32

Contributions, gifts and dues to Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to Sierra magazine and \$1 for your Chapter newsletters.

Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968 or visit our website www.sierraclub.org

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ENVIRONMENTALIST OF THE YEAR BABYLON TOWN SUPERVISOR STEVE BELLONE

The Long Island Sierra Club is proud to honor Babylon Town Supervisor Steve Bellone as its Environmentalist of the Year.

Innovative measures on environment and energy deployed by Supervisor Bellone have lead the way on Long Island while attracting regional and national attention. In 2006, the Town adopted one of the most comprehensive green building codes in the nation, requiring all new commercial and industrial construction over 4,000sf to be LEED-certified. Municipalities from Atlanta to Flagstaff to Vancouver requested copies of the code in crafting their own. That same year Babylon and Brookhaven required Energy Star standards for new home construction; eleven of thirteen Long Island municipalities have followed suit.

Considering that existing building stock constituted the vast majority of Babylon's carbon footprint (residential-38%, commercial-26%), Supervisor Bellone crafted the Long Island Green Homes program which has already performed energy efficiency retrofits on over 57 (as of 2/1/09) houses. To finance the \$2 million pilot, the Town expanded the definition of solid waste to include energy waste by dint of its carbon component thus enabling it to draw on the garbage reserve fund for the program. The Supervisor has been invited to speak about Green Homes at the Regional Planning Association in New York City and, most recently, at the Good Jobs/Green Jobs National conference in Washington, DC where he was also queried about the distinct operational aspects of the program by senior energy committee staffers in both the Senate and House.

Supervisor Bellone kicked off Babylon's pledge to the Sierra-club sponsored Mayors' Climate Initiative by pledging to reduce its carbon footprint 12% by 2012. To this end Babylon has been purchasing 10% of its energy from wind and made of all of its passenger vehicles hybrids since 2005. The Town has also greatly expanded its parks program and transit-oriented design in its downtowns. The wholesale redevelopment of Wyandanch promises to bring comprehensive sustainability and social equity to one of the most economically challenged hamlets on Long Island.

Directions to Heritage Center at North Shore Heritage Park, Mt. Sinai

Take Patchogue-Mt. Sinai Rd (Rt. 83) north to the street just before the end. Turn left there onto Mt. Sinai-Coram Rd. The center will be on your right. If you miss the turn onto Mt. Sinai Coram Rd., go to the traffic light at the end of Rt. 83 and turn left onto 25A. At the very next (almost immediate) traffic light turn left onto Mt. Sinai-Coram Rd. The center is the first building on the left at the end of the open field.

Directions to South Shore Nature Center, 130 Bayview Ave., East Islip

FROM THE EAST: Sunrise Hwy/Route 27 to Exit 46 Connetquot Ave/Carleton Ave. At Carleton Ave. head south to Montauk Hwy (27A/Main St.) Make a right going west one block, then left onto Bay View Ave. FROM THE WEST: Sunrise Hwy Exit 46 toward Carleton Ave/East Isliphead south to Montauk Hwy (27A/Main St) make a right going west one block and then a left onto Bay View Ave. It's in an old mansion.

CONGRATULATIONS
TO OUR OWN
FRANK MORRIS AND
JESSICA HELM!

FRANK WAS ELECTED VICE CHAIR OF THE SIERRA CLUB ATLANTIC CHAPTER.

JESSICA WAS
APPOINTED
CONSERVATION CHAIR
OF THE ATLANTIC
CHAPTER.

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SAVE THE DATE! MARCH 6th IS LOBBY DAY

Friday, March 6th will be the Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter's first ever statewide district office lobby day. Visit your Legislator without coming to Albany! Federal stimulus monies are coming to NYS. Let's make sure Legislators spend it wisely, on projects that not only create jobs, but that lower carbon emissions and protect our air, land, and water! We won't see an opportunity like this again for a long time - there's a LOT of money at stake! Volunteers needed to help organize local Sierrans to visit their State Legislators at their local district offices. Let's get hundreds of Sierrans out all on March 6th! Interested? Contact: Norreida.Reyes@sierraclub.org

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