



L. I. Sierra Club News

Volume 27 No. 1

www.LISierraClub.org

Spring 2008

THE LONG ISLAND SIERRA CLUB'S ENVIRONMENTALIST OF THE YEAR FOR 2007: CONGRESSMAN STEVE ISRAEL

**To Be Awarded At Huntington's American Legion
Sunday, March 9, 2008 from 12 Noon - 3 PM**

Don't miss this ceremony scheduled to take place in Huntington. We'll be celebrating the Congressman's many environmental achievements, including; the millions he procured for Long Island Sound restoration and stewardship programs, the Next Generation Security Initiative and his work as Co-Chair of the Long Island Sound Caucus. He is also a staunch opponent of Broadwater. Congressman Israel has been a friend to the environment, to Long Island and to the Sierra Club since the early '90's, when he was a Huntington Town Councilman.

Cost of the event: (non-fundraiser) is \$12 per person to be paid at the door.

Lunch will be served, and there will be a cash bar. Please call (631) 243-1127 for more information.

Directions: Take Route 110/New York Ave. up to Mill Dam Road. It's on the corner of Mill Dam Road and Route 110/New York Avenue; Post 360. Mill Dam Park will be on your left.



COMMUNITY MEETINGS FOR APRIL & MAY MEET THE DANCING HUMPBACKS OF TONGA Saturday, April 5th, 2PM - 4PM

Tackapausha Museum & Preserve in Seaford

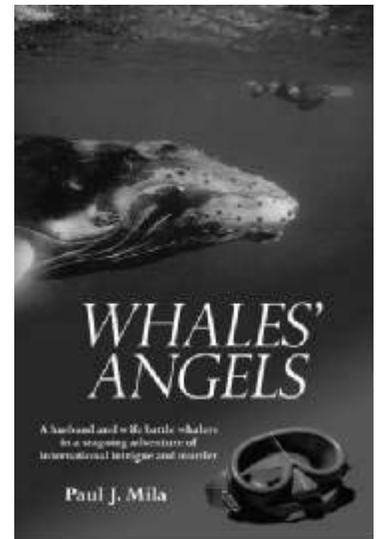
Since his retirement as a Vice-President with MasterCard, Paul Mila has found a second career as an adventurer, diver, whale expert, filmmaker and novelist. While chronicling the lives and habitat of the Humpback Whale, Paul's travels have taken him to Cozumel, The Dominican Republic, and Tonga. Please come to this exceptional video presentation, and read Irene Bagley's article on page 7. Also; check out Paul's books such as "Whale's Angels", which is available @ whalesangels.com or amazon.com. Visit Paul's website at <http://www.cozumelisparadise.com/> Directions on pg. 3

COOL CITIES ON LONG ISLAND

Sunday, May 18th, 1PM - 4PM

Caleb Smith State Park in Smithtown

This will be both an informational and active meeting. Come to learn about what Cool Cities is and how we can use it to reduce CO2 emissions in our area. Afterwards, we hope you will stick around as we break up into groups according to hometown to get into specifics. All levels of involvement are welcome, from just saying you support us to helping lead your town's effort. If you attended the Cool Cities workshop in 2006, there will be plenty of new material for you, too. Contact GERALYN Leccese geralyn62@hotmail.com 631 422-4574, or Jessica Helm helm_jessica@yahoo.com 631 219 6449 with questions. Visit www.coolcities.us to learn more about Cool Cities. Directions on pg. 3



BAREFOOT TRUTH CONCERT APRIL 23rd on back cover!



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

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

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elp120@yahoo.com

*Indicates Ex-Com Member

WANTED

SECRETARY

for the Long Island Sierra Club's Executive
Committee Meetings - 2nd Monday monthly

OUTINGS CHAIR

to lead hikes and to
manage the scheduling of hikes lead by others

For further information: Call (516) 826-0801

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Winners of the Executive Committee election were; Ann Aurelio, Michael Cafaro, Jane Fasullo, Mark Kinnucan, Lauren Piazza, and Gerry Yaw. We welcome our new Treasurer, John Sheaff, and applaud Irene Bagley in her new role as Newsletter Editor, beginning with the next issue. Frank Morris will be replacing Irene as our Fundraising Chair.



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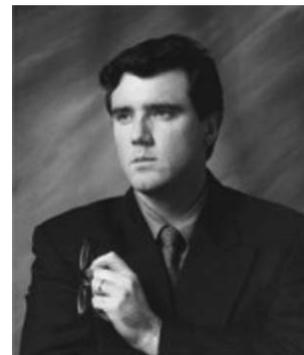
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Environmental Law Insurance Coverage Disputes
Land-Use Planning Public Policy Issues
Real Estate Transactions
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Commercial Litigation Last Will and Testament

Sierra Club Member Since 1973

What is Leadership?

by Frank Morris / Long Island Group Chair



As I write this, the presidential primaries are well under way. Who will be the best candidate for the environment? Who will be the best candidate for America? It's time for America to decide.

NYS Sierra Club has over 40,000 members, over 6,000 of them are on Long Island. Here in NYS, few realize that we as Sierra Club can swing a close election. Add up the members of NYPIRG, League of Conservation Voters, Natural Resources Defense Council, Environmental Defense, Greenpeace, New York Interfaith Power and Light, Republicans for Environmental protection, World Wildlife Fund, the Nature Conservancy, Citizens Environmental Campaign and literally scores of other environmental organizations, and the environmental movement is an untapped political force.

What is Leadership? I think a true leader seizes opportunity on behalf of the organization, and inspires the membership to act for the benefit of the organization. True leadership makes the group stronger. Leaders provide benefits to the membership, and work incessantly to grow the organization. Leaders determine strategy, marshal resources, and create a united presence when confronted with opposition.

We live on a beautiful Earth, and I love the word "Ecology". In ancient greek, "Ecos" means house, and "logos" means "action informed by proper thinking." Logos is the base of the word logic. Taken together, Eco-logic could mean the proper way of thinking, managing, and living in the House of Earth.

I am horrified by the way the Ecology is being presently managed. In the case of global warming, short term gain and the rampant, uncontrolled exploitation of persons and fossil fuel resources are putting our common future at risk. But where there are risks, there are opportunities.

In the movie Lawrence of Arabia, Lawrence enjoys the hospitality of the Bedouin chief Auda Abu Tayeh. Do you remember the scene when Lawrence accuses Auda of serving the enemy? Auda, played by Anthony Quinn responds with great emotion and a clear resonate voice, *"I carry 23 great wounds, all got in battle. 75 men have I killed with my own hands in battle. I scatter, I burn my enemy's tents. I take away the flocks and herds. The enemy pay me a golden treasure yet I am poor, because I am a river to my people!!!"* And Auda's men stand and cheer, and sit quietly again at Auda's direction.

Auda was the best person to lead the Bedouin in that time and place because he was brave, strong, resolute, results orientated, appreciated the bottom line, recognized opportunity and demanded no risk of the members of the organization that he was unwilling to take himself.

What are leaders? Leaders are rivers to their people.

COMMUNITY MEETING DIRECTIONS:

Directions to Tackapausha: From the north (LI Expressway, Northern or Southern State Parkways) – take Seaford-Oyster Bay Expressway (Route 135) south. Exit at Sunrise Highway (Route 27) East. Take Sunrise Highway a short distance and look for a small green & white sign: "Tackapausha Museum Next Right" (Washington Ave); Turn Right and follow Washington Ave. through a residential neighborhood. The Museum entrance is on the left, just north of Merrick Rd.

Directions to Caleb Smith Park:

From Route 25, Jericho Tpke., Middle Country Road, Main St. Route 25 (Jericho Tpke., Middle Country Rd.) west (past Smithaven Mall, through the Town of Smithtown, bear left at Statue Of The Bull, where Rtes. #25 & 25A meet). Stay on Jericho Tpke.(Rte.25) for approx. 1 mile to North side entrance on right and an additional ¼ mile to South side entrance on left. Follow signage. From Route 347, (Pt. Jeff., Miller Place, Shoreham, Wading River, etc.) Route 347 West past Smithaven Mall, to Route #25, Middle Country Road, make right, follow directions listed immediately above.



Outings and Events

Note: For further details on our hikes or events – including Community Meetings – call the L.I. group voicemail at 516-826-0801. For a complete list of outings, or any changes in outings, please check our website at www.LISierraClub.org

February 2008

HIKE EAST FARMS AND AVALON

Stony Brook/Nissaquogue

February 17, Sunday 12:30 pm 2.5 miles (optional to 4 miles) at moderate pace (2.5 mph). Area is hilly. View old stands of trees and open fields in this saunter through a Nature Conservancy property. Due to the hilly nature of this property, snow on ground or rain cancels. Bring liquid. Information: Jane 631-689-1568

March 2008

HIKE EAST FARMS AND AVALON

Stony Brook/Nissaquogue

March 8, Saturday 12:30 pm - See Feb. 17th.

ENVIRONMENTALIST OF THE YEAR

CONGRESSMAN STEVE ISRAEL

Sunday, Mar. 9th; Noon - 3PM - see page 1

EXCOM MEETING, MONDAY, MAR. 10TH, 7-9 PM

Huntington Public Library Meeting Room 338 Main Street, Huntington, NY 11743

(On Rt. 25A, three blocks west of Rt. 110)

All members are welcome at all excom meetings. Meeting dates are subject to change for all excom meetings.

CONSERVATION CONFERENCE CALL

March 11, 8-9PM

Contact Jessica helm_jessica@yahoo.com (631) 219-6449 for info on how to call in.

WETLANDS CLEANUP

Saturday, MARCH 15th, 9 AM-1 PM (C) Smith Meadow Island, Freeport

This is our second year- last year was lots of fun, and we took a boatload of stuff away. Rob Weltner of Operation Splash will take us by boat to Smith Meadow Island off Freeport, where we walk the edge of the marsh for washed up debris. We will gather 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 Andi Green: andig50@aol.com 631-589-0276. In case of weather, postpones to **Sunday March 16th**. 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.

NISSAQUOGUE LANDING COUNTY PARK

March 29 Saturday at 12:30PM; Hike a hilly 2 mile moderate pace (3 mph) along the Nissaquogue River through the woods. Meet in the Smithtown Landing Golf Course parking lot at the north east corner. Due to the hills, snow on the ground cancels. Rain also cancels. Bring liquid. Information: Jane 631-689-1568

April 2008

MEET THE DANCING HUMPBACKS OF TONGA

Saturday, April 5th 2-4PM - See Pg. 1

Tackapausha Preserve, Seaford; Directions - Pg. 3

EXCOM MEETING, MONDAY, APR. 14TH, 7-9 PM

see March 10th for location / directions

CATHEDRAL PINES COUNTY PARK

Sat. April 12, 10:30AM Explore Cathedral Pines County Park – 2.5 miles – slow to moderate pace – south of rte. 25 (Middle Country Road). Take Middle Island Rd. South to Bartletts Rd.. Parking on right side of street. Bring liquid. Rain cancels. Information: Jane 631-689-1568.

CONSERVATION CONFERENCE CALL

April 15th 8-9PM - See March 11th

BAREFOOT TRUTH CONCERT

at Acoustic Long Island in Deepwells Mansion

April 23rd 6-10 PM - free concert w/Open Mike Night

Come see this fantastic band of young musicians as they play some of their new material from “Walk Softly”, their latest album. The guys (Will Benoit, Jay Driscoll, Andy Wrba, & Garrett Duffy) will be performing this concert in conjunction with the Long Island Sierra Club, which is co-sponsoring this event. Directions on Pg. 6/ad on 8.

May 2008

EXCOM MEETING, MONDAY, MAY. 12TH, 7-9 PM

see March 10th for location / directions

CONSERVATION CONFERENCE CALL

May 13th 8-9PM - See March 11th

COOL CITIES ON LONG ISLAND

Sunday, May 18th 1-4PM - See Pg. 1

Caleb Smith State Park, Smithtown; Directions - Pg. 3

2007 ACHIEVEMENTS FOR THE LONG ISLAND SIERRA CLUB

By Jessica Helm / Conservation Chair

Coastal Waterways and Groundwater - Purchased and installed stormwater filtration device in Freeport, to reduce non-point source pollution · Wetlands and beach cleanups · Labeled storm drains with DO Not Dump decals in Long Beach · Active in NY State Oceans and Great Lakes Ecosystem Conservation Counsel (NYOGLECC) stakeholders committee · Active in South Shore Estuary Reserve Citizens Advisory Council SSER CAC · Worked for a moratorium on development on the Forge River · Worked with LI Water to protect groundwater · Fought the SCWA Lloyd aquifer drilling- Victory for the Environment! · See Education and Support for more

Energy - Cool Cities - NEW Cool Cities: Southold, Riverhead, Oyster Bay, Nassau County (Cool Counties) - Long Island's Cool Cities are taking the lead in passing energy legislation and implementing new technologies · Repowering- Active in the Repowering Coalition- Attending many meetings - *Researched issues* related to repowering - Gathered supporters for Repowering · Sponsored Energy Film Festivals in Bellport and Abequogue · The Renewable Schools Seminar in Babylon · StepItUP2007 in Riverhead with parades, exhibits and meetings · Active in LI Energy Roundtable · Active in Clean Energy Leadership Task Force (Neighborhood Network) meetings

Recycling - Created an electronics recycling database for all towns in Nassau & Suffolk · Worked to promote the establishment of an e-waste collection in the Town of Islip · Worked to pass the bottle bill BBBB (not yet passed) · See Education and Support for more

Open Space - Worked with FINS and FI Wilderness Committee to protect Fire Island Wilderness Area, National Seashore · Worked to pass Community Preservation Fund in Brookhaven · Worked to pass Open space bond act Oyster Bay · Led recreational, educational, and service outings throughout the year · Biking, kayaking, hiking, skiing, camping, cleaning up parks, beaches and more.

Education - Hosted invited speakers on clean water, LEED and Green Buildings, Nature of Fire Island, global warming · Presented educational lectures : Renewable Schools Seminar in Babylon, Recycling presentation, many Global Warming presentations · Created Environmental Summer Camps, Recycling and E-Waste databases.

Support - Submitted comments at public meetings, wrote letters, and attended press conferences about: Energy Star Homes · Green Building Codes (Babylon) · LEED standards for big box (Brookhaven) · 1/4 cent tax Suffolk · Moving Montauk Lighthouse · BBBB · Broadwater · Protecting Nassau Parks · Improved plans/siting for Edgewood freight transfer station Brookhaven CPF · Forge River Moratorium · East end CPFs · Invasive Species Legislation · Broadwater · Protect coastal waterways · Dredging at Fire Island · Interviewed candidates for political endorsements · Endorsed 6 candidates, and each candidate was elected · and many more...

Engaging Long Island - Local action groups · Tabling across LI · Family picnic at Eisenhower Park · Concert for the environment · Organic wine tasting · Christmas Party · Holiday gift wrapping at Walt Whitman mall · Appeared in different television and print sources · Participated in Global Warming Summit

Works well with others - Active members of LI Energy Roundtable, LI Green Building Council board, LI Climate Solutions Network, Fire Island Wilderness Committee, SSER CAC, OGLECC stakeholders committee · Attend L I 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 · New link LISierraClub.org · NY Atlantic chapter meetings · Maintained the website · Fundraised · Held monthly excom meetings · Held 6 Community Meetings

WHAT IS NYOGLECC

By Linda Freilich/ Coastal Waterways Chair

New York is bordered by 1,850 miles of tidal shoreline; there are hundreds of beaches and rich coastal environments. There is a commercial fishing industry that brings in 32.6 pounds of fish and shellfish worth 57 million dollars while the Long Island Sound contributes 8.5 billion a year from boating, fishing, swimming, and sight seeing.

New York is being over fished - 8 of NY's top commercially prized fish have fallen by 83% since 1950. By catch, unintended fish caught while fishing, is also a serious problem. Stricter management plans should put an end to over fishing and by catch abuses immediately. The state should set a goal of by catch to nearly zero via a by catch management program, and should take action against bottom trawling in marine habitats known to be sensitive to disturbance. Science should decide where the sensitive areas are.

Aquaculture is an industry that could take off in NY waters in the future, and might allow native populations to recover while keeping the industry viable.

More than 40% of NY estuarine and bay waters are impaired or threatened. The problems include storm water runoff and sewage treatment plants. Algae blooms result and water is depleted of oxygen. In 2006, there were 1200 beach closings. Global warming predicts sea level rise by 2100, and increasingly flooded marshes cannot filter pollutants. These problems are particularly severe in the Western Bays.

Oceans and Great Lakes Ecosystem Conservation Council

The New York Oceans and Great Lakes Ecosystem Conservation Act was enacted in August 2006 to restore, maintain and restore the states coastal ecosystems to a healthy, productive and resilient state. One unique perspective of this act is that it states that "decisions are informed by good science".

The Act established a Conservation Council with representatives from nine state agencies responsible for managing human activities in the coastal zone. DEC Conservation Commissioner Pete Grannis chairs the Council. The Nature Conservancy was selected to draft a Great South Bay Ecosystem Based Management Plan as a basis for discussion. Local environmental groups, including the Sierra Club, have been engaged with the DOS and DEC as an auxiliary to the Council. There are two projects currently in the works, one in the Great Lakes and one here on the Great South Bay. Coming online soon is ATLAS, a site that will bring Long Island Coastal Mapping to us.

You can follow our work at <http://www.nyoglecc.org/>. Questions? Want to help? Contact Linda Freilich at turton@optonline.net.

Directions to Acoustic Long Island (at Deepwells Mansion):
Take the Long Island Expressway to Exit 56N (Route 111) to
Smithtown crossing over Middle Country Road. Route 111
becomes Rt. 25A. Continue straight to St. James. Deepwells is
on the left, just before the Moriches Road intersection.



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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.
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Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
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Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
Student/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32

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F94Q **W0811** 1

PAUL J. MILA - SWIMMING WITH WHALES

by Irene Bagley / Fundraising Chair

The slap of a fluke on the water, a sudden spout, and a graceful arcing dive - this is what Paul J. Mila lives for. Specifically, his passion is whales, humpback whales, and learning about them, swimming with them, and working for their survival has become his mission in life.

Paul is a retired corporate executive who has devoted his retirement to writing, scuba diving, and underwater photography, particularly of whales. He first became aware of the plight of the whales when he read The Whale War by David Day, a Sierra Club book published in 1987. After reading the book, he met a woman who told him about her experiences swimming with whales in the Dominican Republic. He took a trip there to try it, and the experience changed his life. While swimming next to a full-grown humpback, the whale held its fluke up as it passed by to avoid harming him. Another whale came near, and as it passed held its pectoral fin away so as not to strike him with it. When he finally came eye to eye with the whale, he saw an intelligence and respect for humans he had never encountered before.

This is all the more astonishing considering the history of man's interaction with whales. According to Mr. Mila, between 1900 and the 1980s an estimated 200,000 humpbacks were killed in the southern ocean alone. Worldwide estimates range between 20,000 and 30,000 whales today.

He states that historically, whales were used for many things. Corsets were made from baleen; perfume was made with ambergris. Blubber was used for oil lamps. Today, plastics and petroleum products have replaced whale products, and there is no longer a need to hunt whales.

In 1946 the International Whaling Commission was established by whaling nations in an effort to conduct sustainable whaling. However, it was unsuccessful and whale numbers continued to decline. Non-whaling countries began to join the commission and press for a moratorium on whaling. The U.S. took a leading role in the fight against whaling. In 1986 a moratorium went into effect, banning all whaling except by certain indigenous peoples and for scientific purposes.

Mr. Mila tells us that today three nations, Japan, Norway and Iceland, continue to conduct whaling. According to Mr. Mila, Japan is the greatest offender, hunting the most whales, ostensibly for scientific purposes. However, most of the whale meat ends up on supermarket shelves in Japan. He states the scientific purpose is a ruse. Unfortunately, third world nations on the International Whaling Commission are being pressured by Japan to vote in favor of whaling with promises of investment and financial aid for their countries.

Whales face other threats to their survival besides whaling. Global warming is one. Paul explains that whales winter in warm waters where they mate and bear their young, but there is no food in the clear warm waters. Whales do not eat for the four months they spend there. They migrate in summer to the cold northern waters that teem with food, plankton and krill. Scientists are concerned that if glaciers continue to melt and fresh water melts into the ocean, the decreased salinity will have an effect on these microscopic creatures, which could decrease or even eliminate the whales' food supply, leading to their starvation.

Other threats to whales include pollution, overfishing, ozone depletion, sonar weapons, and ship strikes.

Paul's presentation on April 5 is a video of his experiences swimming with humpback whales in Tonga, near Fiji in the South Pacific. This population was hunted almost to extinction but is slowly recovering. This breathtaking footage shows whales interacting with humans and each other in amazing ways. He filmed mother whales teaching their calves to tail lob, breach, and slap their pectoral fins. It also demonstrates whales swimming towards and with people in what appears to be a real effort to reach out and make contact with them. It is unbelievably beautiful and moving.

Paul's goal in making this presentation is to get people involved in the fight to save the whales from extinction. Greenpeace and Sea Shepherd have anti-whaling campaigns in which they launch boats against the whaling vessels to stop the hunt. He also urges people to write, e-mail and phone their senators and congressmen expressing support for whales and laws to protect them. Currently the Bush administration overruled a federal judge who said the Navy must not conduct sonar tests where whales are present. There is also an ongoing battle to stop whale strikes in the shipping lanes by either moving the shipping lanes out of the path of migrating whales, or requiring ships to travel at slower speeds so they can avoid killing whales in their path.

Paul's message is this: we cannot allow these beautiful, intelligent, and simpatico mammals to be driven to extinction. After seeing his presentation, I think you will agree.



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BAREFOOT TRUTH

at **ACOUSTIC LONG ISLAND**
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23RD

from 6-10 PM, Free Concert - w/Open Mike Night
CO-SPONSORED BY THE
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"Barefoot Truth is one of the more promising young roots rock bands on the indie circuit these days" -ThisIsModern.net

See Page Six for Directions to Deepwells Mansion

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