



L. I. Sierra Club News

Volume 28 No.2

[www. LISierraClub.org](http://www.LISierraClub.org)

Summer - 2009

ATLANTIC CHAPTER SIERRA CLUB (NEW YORK STATE) AWARDS DINNER

Saturday, June 6, 2009

Cocktails and Original Art Show to Support Sierra Club 6PM

Awards Dinner 7PM

THE INN AT GREAT NECK

30 Cutter Mill Road

Great Neck, New York (on the Queens-Nassau border)



Honorees include NYS Comptroller Tom DiNapoli, Rev. Tom Goodhue of the Long Island Council of Churches and Long Island Interfaith Environmental Network, student Michaela Gawley, the indomitable Ken Baer, Sierran Bobbie Josepher, and other outstanding environmentalists. Cost is \$75 per person. Please make checks payable to Atlantic Chapter Sierra Club, P.O. Box 886, Syosset, NY 11791-0886. Contact Frank Morris at frankmorris@ecologicinvestor.com (516) 410-8461 for more info and to RSVP.

OTHERS WILL PAY FOR YOUR RESIDENTIAL ENERGY UPGRADES

By Jane Fasullo, Group Outreach, Tabling and Outings Chair

Yes, it's true! There are a number of programs out there right now, and more on the way, which enable you to get **residential energy upgrades** (and in some cases alternative energy equipment) **with NO up front cost and no more cost per month for your energy needs than you are currently paying** (averaged over a one year period). In other words, you can get something for nothing!

Government entities, public-private funding groups, banks, and more are offering money to residents to make their home more energy efficient. Some are even guaranteeing that your monthly energy bills will be as much as 20% less than what you now pay.

Included in what will be paid for are things like a home energy audit, the work that the audit reveals needs doing (including sealing outside air leaks, weather stripping doors and windows, installing storm windows, adding and/or increasing insulation especially on attic hatches, replacing an old furnace, etc.), and even alternative energy production systems. Whether you qualify, how much money you can get (i.e. how much and what kind of work will be funded), and how you get the money varies from program to program.

All of these programs require that you pay back the "loaned" money from the amount you save each month. I repeat - **from the amount you save each month**. You take on no more expense than you currently have, and in some cases have more money in your pocket every month than you have now.

Other benefits:

- a less drafty and therefore more comfortable home
- your energy costs don't go up as much as your neighbors when the price of fuel goes up
- you will know you are helping to prevent runaway global warming and air pollution
- you will know you are helping to cut America's dependence on fossil fuels
- your home, should you decide to move on, will yield a higher selling price

Your Sierra Club Long Island group is offering educational (community) meetings on this subject. Please check the web calendar at www.LISierraClub.org for future dates and for a list of some of the programs currently or about to become available.

KAYAKATHON IN RIVERHEAD ON SAT., JUNE 20TH - SEE PAGES 6-7



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

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

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WHAT IS ECOSYSTEM BASED MANAGEMENT

By Linda Freilich, Coastal Waterways Chair

Our understanding of the oceans, watershed, and waterways has advanced in recent years thanks to studies by the Pew Oceans Commission, the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy, Conference on the Great Lakes and that Region and the subsequent deliberations among policy makers, scientists, and non-governmental organizations. What are the unintentional but serious effects of man on the marine and freshwater ecosystems? Man can alter the food web; he has changed the climate, damaged the habitat, eroded the coastline, introduced invasive species, and polluted the coastal waters. Ecosystem Based Management or EBM is an approach which builds on the STRENGTHS of existing programs, finds the gaps, and fills them in order to protect and restore the marine and freshwater ecosystem.

EBM is in a state of evolution. It is a collaborative effort that involves government, conservation, and community-based cooperation. EBM recognizes science and the need to understand and increase scientific knowledge of habitats and ecosystems and how they function over time. Most critical to the success of implementing EBM in legislating is public support and removing the barriers. EBM requires knowledge and creativity.

I have been following EBM since the initial law. I have found through the process, the necessity of including our fishermen, the people who live around the water, people who visit our waterways, such as kayakers, canoe enthusiasts, and scientists. Local governments will benefit from a partnership with these people in their legislative halls as this way of legislating moves forward.

To see legislative actions, visit <http://www.nyoglecc.org/>, Click on [Read the Draft Ocean and Great Lakes Report](#), see page 57.

Some programs that Sierra supports and has been lobbying for under EBM are: monitoring bycatch using cameras on board the vessels, the continuation of the clam project by TNC in the Great South Bay. The way fishing is done now is broken. Monitoring bycatch is not meant to punish fishermen, but to change the laws to benefit fishermen. Much of the bycatch they bring in is edible fish but it cannot be used, further, if they do not catch their quota, they have to go out again and that involves more bycatch. We want these laws changed to benefit both fish and fisherman.

Biologists estimate that only 300 to 400 right whales remain due to commercial fishing a century ago and now they are vulnerable to ship collisions and entanglement in fish gear. They run twice a year and nobody paid attention to New York until we monitored this year. The equipment was taken down due to lack of funding. A good study requires three years of data. We support the restoration of funding to complete this study.

TECHNOLOGICAL LIFE – IS IT EVOLUTIONARILY VIABLE?

By Harvey Miller, Webmaster

When I was a kid I received a 60mm wide telescope for my birthday. Heck, I loved to run, yell, and play in nearby Brookville Park just like all the other kids but I had the nerd in me and, even at 12 years old, I wondered about the likelihood of intelligent life out there in the diamond dusted black abyss that I was certain had to harbor technologically advanced beings. I spent countless hours peering through the emptiness, methodically slewing my scope back and forth with the hope that, by some miracle, I'd find a spacecraft from an alien civilization. Now, several decades later, my 280mm telescope is robotic and I'm a lot less sure about the possibility of sustained technological life, the kind that lasts long enough so that kids, looking up at the stars sometime in the future, will be able to routinely see space craft coming in from and going out to other worlds that we humans have populated with life as we proliferate, in an act of survival, through our solar system and, later, our galaxy.

One of the many things that distinguish us from our fellow earthbound life forms is our remarkable use of technology, a word defined as "the practical application of science to commerce or industry". This practical application has been going on for some time but the Industrial Revolution, starting only 250 years ago, marked the point in which large scale technologically driven industry started. That's pretty remarkable, considering that our galaxy, the Milky Way, is over 12 billion years old, the Earth has been around for 4.6 billion years, life on Earth for more than 3 billion of those years and homo sapiens, us humans, for well over 100,000 years. It means that we are rank beginners in the technological department. It also means that if there are any other technologically gifted life forms in our galaxy, the odds are extremely high that they'd be far more advanced than our 250 years.

Considering all those billions of years, it's very probable that, if there was only one other technological civilization in our galaxy besides ourselves, they would be, at least, one million years ahead of us, technologically. One million, as a percentage, is only 1/10th of 1% of one billion and a lot less than that when you add up all the other billions so they'd probably be even more advanced than a mere million years ahead of us. In numerous publications on this subject, the most conservative estimates, all explained with the kind of details that can't fit into this article, state that with a "mere" million years of advancement a technological civilization would have spread sufficiently far that they'd have covered close to half our galaxy by now. Even if they'd spread to only 1/10th that far, how come we haven't seen them? Fact is, we would. But we haven't. Why not?

Only 250 years after the Industrial Revolution our species finds that Earth's resources are limited and the spread of technology, coupled with competition, a trait that, up until now, has helped define evolutionary survival, results in a curious blend of miraculous gifts and the potential to lay waste to our planet in ways that even the great extinctions haven't. Even if population growth ceased, the spread of modern technology, with its energy and resource demands, will soon overwhelm the Earth's ability to sustain biological diversity, life itself, as we've known it. Even if humankind was totally rational and, therefore, able to find ways to balance technological needs with nature, the limits on Earth will force us to seek sustenance elsewhere eventually, at least if we are to survive. And, to do this requires an enormous amount of rational cooperation, first to sustain and, then, finally, to leave our planet.

For the first time in its earthbound history, life's ability to survive will be based on a global wide need to cooperate, as opposed to compete. We are, currently, going through this transitional stage. This goes against the history of evolution to date and that is the problem. Perhaps the reason we haven't seen any evidence of advanced technological life in our galaxy is because there isn't any; they've never been able to survive the transition from competition to worldwide rational cooperation. Perhaps technological civilization isn't, therefore, evolutionarily viable or, if it is, it's unimaginably rare, being found not on the scale of our galaxy but, rather, on the scale of multiple galaxies. And, rare, not because it's inherently rare, at least not when you look at galaxies with over 400 billion stars, like ours is, but rare because it's inherently difficult, almost impossible, to make that competition/rational cooperation jump.

I've continued to look at the stars in wonder and, though my imagination still leaps to other advanced civilizations, it does so only when I view far off galaxies. I scroll them from one side to the other, marveling at their shape, squinting to observe the dark dusty lanes made from organic materials born in the bowels of innumerable star explosions, destined to form life somewhere on the surface of some hidden planet between the wings of spiral arms and my hope that, somehow, they got it right and that, someday, we can be they.



Outings and Events

Note: For further details on our hikes or events – including Ex Com 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

June 2009

Sun, June 14 BICYCLE 10:30
West Hampton, 11 mi, slow. Paved roads with little traffic. Beginner friendly. 2 hrs. plus time for a stop in town toward the end of the ride. **Helmet required.** Bring beverage & sun protection. Rain cancels. Meet at the Middle school, west side of ONeck La., south of the intersection with Mill Road. Contact: Jane Fasullo 631-689-1568 or jfas1@optonline.net.

Sat, June 14 FAMILY WALK 1:30
Caumsett State Park, Lloyd Harbor. Visit the barns and walled garden with a possible walk down to see the horses in the paddock. Please note a state parks permit is required or you will have to pay a parking fee. RSVP to Kathy by June 12, 631-651- 9479 or cinnabuster@yahoo.com

Thurs, June 18 HIKE 10:30
David Weld Preserve, Nissequoque, off Boney Lane. 3 mi. Hilly. Stop at L.I. Sound beach, a pond, fields, woods, a kettle hole and a large glacial erratic (i.e. a BIG rock). Beverage suggested. Dirt parking area on right side of Boney Lane. Rain cancels. Contact: Jane Fasullo, 631-689-1568 or jfas1@optonline.net.

Fri, June 19 HIKE joint w L.I. Greenbelt 9:00
Pine Barrens, Manorville. 4 miles easy to moderate on flat terrain. Start at the Trails Information Center in Manorville (1/4 mile north of LIE Exit 70 on the right side). Walk to Wading River-Manor Road and back. Bring water. Rain cancels. Contact: Jane Fasullo, 631-689-1568 or jfas1@optonline.net.

Sat, June 20 KAYAKATHON
Details on pages 6 & 7

Sun, June 21 HIKE joint w. L.I. Greenbelt 1:30
Lakeland County Park and north section of Connetquot State Park. 3 mi., easy, flat. Good for beginners. Rain cancels. Meet at Lakeland County Park (L.I.E. Exit 58, south on Old Nichols Rd to Johnson Ave, left to park OR L.I.E. exit 59 south on Ocean Ave to Johnson, right to park). Contact: Jane Fasullo, 631-689-1568 or jfas1@optonline.net.

July 2009

Thurs, July 2 HIKE 10:00
Avalon and East Farm, Stony Brook. 4 mi. HILLY. through tall oaks, shorter woodlands, shrubs and vines, fields, and along the mill pond. Roots and stone steps in the path. Bring a beverage. Park on the west side of Shep Jones Rd at the north end – it's a dirt road here. Rain cancels. Contact: Jane Fasullo, 631-689-1568 or jfas1@optonline.net.

Sun, July 5 KAYAK 10:45
Nissequoque River, Smithtown. 2½ hr. paddle downstream. End at a beach area near the Sound. **Life jacket required.** Bring a beverage, snack or lunch, sunscreen, leg cover, visor or brimmed hat, sun glasses, long sleeved shirt, and bug lotion. Rentals on your own. Suggest Nissequoque River Canoe Rentals (631-979-8244) as they will bring kayaks to and from the river and provide free transportation back to our cars. Mention you are with the Sierra Club group. Park in the lot just east and south of the Smithtown bull off 25A. Rain cancels. **Registration required.** Contact: Jane Fasullo 631-689-1568, jfas1@optonline.net.

Sat, July 11 HIKE 10:30 – 12:45
Stump Pond, Blydenburgh Suffolk County Park - 5+ miles around the pond – varied terrain is mostly flat – moderate pace. The hike leader, a naturalist, will interpret some of the plants and animals encountered. Adults only. **Registration required.** Enter Blydenburgh off Veterans Memorial Highway. Meet at the boat house, in the 2nd parking lot on the left, after the park police booth. Entry fee: \$3 per car. Rain cancels. Contact: Jan Porinchak, 631-754-3019 or beachtowel@earthlink.net

Sat, July 18 BICYCLE 10:30 to ?
East Islip, 10 mi, flat. Good for children and beginners. Bike on back roads of Great River and E. Islip. Pack food for a break at the South Shore Nature Center. **Helmets Required.** Meet at the Timber Point Elementary school parking lot on Timber Point Road. **Registration Required.** Rain cancels. Contact: Jane Fasullo at 631-689-1568 or jfas1@optonline.net

July 2009

Sun, July 19 BICYCLE 10:00 to ~ 1:00
12 mi. ride on bike trail between Massapequa LIRR station and picnic area at Bethpage State Pk. One steep hill. No rentals. Bring beverage and food. Small children not advised. **Helmet required.** Meet at the easternmost end of the north parking lot of the Massapequa LIRR station off Southern State Pkwy, next to the entrance to the preserve. No fee or permit required to park. **Registration required.** Rain cancels. Contact: Jim, 516-359-2313.

Sat, July 25 RIVER ECOLOGY TOUR 1:00
Connetquot River State Park, Oakdale. 3.7 mi, 2.5 hr educational walk. Sierra Club L.I.'s conservation chair, an environmental scientist, will give extensive information about this river and its surrounding lands and wildlife. Hands-on explorations. For adults and very interested older children. Bring weather appropriate clothes, a beverage, sun gear, and bug repellent (for ticks and mosquitoes). Camera and notebook suggested. \$6/car parking fee. Meet in the parking lot to the left of the park entrance. Rain cancels. Contact: Sheri Jewhurst, GoSheriLyn@gmail.com

August 2009

Sat, Aug 1 KAYAK 11:00
Oyster Pond, north of Tuckahoe in Southampton Town. 6 mi, 3 to 4 hrs. One of L.I.'s best kept secrets. **Life jacket required.** Bring a beverage. Stop at a beach. Bring food, sun protection and bug repellent. Rentals on your own. None in area. We suggest Kayaken 631-467-5163 as he will transport kayaks to and from the beach. Tell him you are with the Sierra Club. Directions: Sunrise Hwy to Tuckahoe Rd. on left after Southampton College. Go through the golf course to a four way intersection (Tuckahoe Rd, Tuckahoe La, N Hwy Rd/Sebonac Rd, and Barkers Island Rd). Follow Barkers Island Road straight onto the dirt section. Park at the end. **Registration required.** Rain cancels. Contact: Jane Fasullo 631-689-1568 or jfas1@optonline.net

Sun, Aug 16 HIKE 10:00 to ~ 1:30
From the Massapequa LIRR station off Southern State Pkwy, hike south on the Greenbelt trail to Merrick Rd and back. Optionally, go north of the station for an extended hike. Beverage strongly suggested. Bathrooms available in the park. No parking fee at the LIRR station. **Registration required.** Rain cancels. Contact: Jim at 516-359-2313

Sat, Aug 22 BICYCLE 10:30 to ?
Manorville, rolling, 13 mi, 2+ hours. Good for beginners. Loop from and back to the King Kullen at CR111 and Chapman Blvd. (just south of L.I.E. exit 70). Route takes us north through Pine Barrens land. Bring a beverage. **Helmet and registration required.** Snack suggested. There is a McDonald's at the King Kullen plaza. Rain cancels. Contact: Jane Fasullo 631-689-1568 or jfas1@optonline.net

Sat, Aug 29 BICYCLE 10:30 to ?
Moderately hilly 10 mile ride from the Smithtown Middle School on Edgewood Ave in Smithtown to Short Beach in Nissequogue. Bring a snack for our stop at Short Beach. If the weather permits we can stay for a swim before returning. **Helmets and registration required.** Rain cancels. Contact: Krystal DeJesus at 631-258-9156.

SPECIAL EVENTS TO BENEFIT SIERRA CLUB LONG ISLAND WATER SENTINELS PROGRAM

ZORBA THE GREEK RESTAURANT

Sierra Club Long Island Water Sentinels invite you to meet LI artists while having lunch at Zorba the Greek on Sunday, June 28 from 12:00-3:30, Jefferson Plaza, Port Jefferson Station. \$20.00 includes tax, gratuity, and glass of wine.

MARTHA CLARA VINEYARD

Sierra Club Long Island Water Sentinels invite you to join us at Martha Clara Vineyard on Sunday, August 16 from 12:00-4:00 to taste wine and meet LI artists at Martha Clara Vineyards. Light lunch, wine, artists, good company. Cost: \$25.00.

For both events, RSVP: Linda Freilich, Coastal Waterways Chair, turton@optonline.net or Sally Anne Keller at sawatercolor@optonline.net. Send checks to: Linda Freilich, 370 Third Ave., Bayport NY 11705 or pay at door. Come have fun!

Due to a hard drive failure we lost most of our original listing of members wishing to save us mailing costs while helping the environment by receiving their newsletter via email instead of paper. Please, again, send your name and membership number (on the mailing label) to hmiller@optonline.net.

Note that our backup data is being stored on secure web servers.



“2nd Annual Long Island Kayakathon” Registration Form

On Saturday, June 20th, join ActivEntrepreneur, Clubhouse of Suffolk, Sierra Club of Long Island, Peconic Baykeeper, & Riverhead Foundation for Marine Research & Preservation at the 2nd Annual Long Island Kayakathon. Participate in a 5 mile paddle on the Peconic River or take a guided paddling experience through the Peconic Wetlands. Join us and ‘Paddle to a Healthier World!’

Description:

- 5 Mile Paddle beginning at the west side of Atlantis Marine World Aquarium on the Peconic River, Riverhead, NY. The 5 mile kayakathon continues down the Peconic to Iron Point and loops back
- Guided paddling experience through the Peconic Wetlands. You will be provided with safety equipment and instruction and guided through the Peconic Wetlands. We have some double kayaks and canoes available for families who would like to participate and paddle together.

Date: Saturday, June 20, 2009; Raindate: Sunday, June 21, 2009 (if the raindate occurs, it will be posted at www.activentrepreneur.com & www.clubhouseofsuffolk.org)

Registration Time: Begins at 8AM

Starting Times:

- 5 Mile Kayakathon: 9:00AM
- Guided Paddling Experience: 45 minutes before assigned session; 4 sessions beginning at 9:00AM.

Start Location: Peconic River, Riverhead; Town of Riverhead Waterfront, West Side of Atlantis Marine World Aquarium (see attached map page 2)

Entry Fee: \$35 per entry for 5 mile paddle/\$45 per adult for guided paddling experience

Entry Fee Includes:

- 5 mile paddle or guided paddling experience
- Guided paddling includes kayak, canoe or double kayak, safety equipment and lesson/5 and 10 mile paddles do not include kayak rental
- Snacks, Beverages, T-Shirt, Education

Kayak Rentals: Participants in the 5 mile paddle who do not have a kayak will need to rent a kayak to participate. We will supply you with rental information upon request.

Upon receipt of your registration form and check, we will confirm receipt via email or phone. Additional event information will be provided prior to the event. Retain these details for your records. Call 516-343-6247 with any questions. Thank you for paddling to a healthier world!

Please visit www.activentrepreneur.com (under events) or www.clubhouseofsuffolk.org if you need additional information, registration forms, and area maps.



“2nd Annual Long Island Kayakathon” Registration Form

Each participant must complete a registration form. Mail the registration form with a check to: Clubhouse of Suffolk, 939 Johnson Avenue, PO Box 373, Ronkonkoma, NY 11779. **Checks are made payable to Clubhouse of Suffolk, Inc.** and all net proceeds will be distributed to Peconic Baykeeper, Sierra Club of Long Island, The Riverhead Foundation for Marine Research & Preservation, and Clubhouse of Suffolk. *Waivers must be completed and signed during registration on June 20th.*

Each participant must complete their own registration form

Select ONE:

5 Mile Paddle

Guided Paddling Experience (select session below)

Select Session for Guided Paddling Experience:

Session 1: Arrive at 9:00AM; start at 9:30AM – 10:30AM

Session 2: Arrive at 10:00AM; start at 10:45AM – 11:45AM

Session 3: Arrive at 11:15AM; start at 12:00PM – 1:00PM

Session 4: Arrive at 12:30PM; start at 1:15PM – 2:15PM

Please check if you prefer a double kayak

Please Print...

Name _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Address _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Total \$ amount enclosed: \$ _____ Check # _____
(CHECKS MADE PAYABLE TO: Clubhouse of Suffolk, Inc.)

Please visit www.activentrepreneur.com (under events) or www.clubhouseofsuffolk.org if you need additional information, registration forms, and area maps.

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Store Hours: M-F: 11-7, S-S: 11-6

Hundreds of Greener Products are Available Online at our Web Store
www.greenercountry.com

 **516-470-1881**

SIERRA ART SHOWCASE

Throughout the month of May, Sierra Club member and well known artist Sally Ann Keller will have her work on display at the new Southampton Rogers Memorial Library. She and artist JoAnne Corretti will donate 15% of the profits from art sales to the Sierra Club Long Island Group. Support your fellow Sierran's creativity and our LI group - and take home a piece of original art while you're at it!

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FOUNDED 1892
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