

PLUM ISLAND

Continued from previous page

Over the last several months, the coalition has begun to make the case for dedicating a substantial majority of the island as a National Wildlife Refuge and its cause is gaining ground. This refuge designation would protect rare and vulnerable species, incorporate preservation of the site's existing historic structures, and significantly limit the amount of future development by any new owner.

The coalition has already earned the endorsement of *Newsday*, which noted that that substantial protection of the island "makes more sense than selling the island outright for development."

To be sure, achieving an environmental goal of this significance will require an exceptional level of outreach, advocacy, stamina, and vision to alter what is fast becoming a major financial priority for DHS.

However, having spent the last 25 years engaged in what has become a perpetual and largely successful campaign to protect the integrity of Eastern Long Island's environment for the enjoyment of all Long Islanders, I am extremely hopeful that this great idea has a real chance, but public support will be critical.

For the moment, the most important actions that individuals can take would be joining the Preserve Plum Island Coalition, and letting their federal representatives know that they support the creation of a major federal wildlife refuge on Plum Island. Unfortunately, with sale preparations now well underway, if we don't act now, we will not get a second chance.

For more information or to join the Preserve Plum Island Coalition or Group for the East End, contact Bob DeLuca at bdeluca@eastendenvironment.org ■

Federal Approval of First U.S. Offshore Wind Project

Kevin Law, president and CEO of LIPA commended U.S. Interior Secretary Ken Salazar and the Obama administration for their commitment to wind power as demonstrated by approving plans to move forward with the first offshore wind farm in the country. The ground breaking decision is consistent with ongoing discussions with federal and state agencies and the collaboration between LIPA, Con Edison and NYPA and will have positive ramifications in moving forward with the LI-NYC Offshore Wind Project. This project should create smoother sails for the off shore wind industry, help to secure our energy future and pave the way for a cleaner and greener nation while helping to stimulate the economy with high quality clean energy jobs.

LIPA, a non-profit municipal electric provider, owns the retail electric Transmission and Distribution System on Long Island and provides electric service to more than 1.1 million customers in Nassau and Suffolk counties and the Rockaway Peninsula in Queens. LIPA is the 2nd largest municipal electric utility in the nation in terms of electric revenues, 3rd largest in terms of customers served and the 7th largest in terms of electricity delivered. In 2008, LIPA outperformed all other overhead electric utilities in New York State for frequency of service interruptions, and ranked second for duration of service interruptions. LIPA does not provide natural gas service or own any on-island generating assets. More information about LIPA can be found online at: <http://www.lipower.org> ■

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Governor Paterson Signs Child Safe Playing Fields Act

Governor Paterson signed the Child Safe Playing Fields Act into law, eliminating the use of toxic pesticides on playing fields and green spaces at our children's schools. With bipartisan support this bill passed both the Senate and Assembly. This law will be in effect in one year, giving schools time to train groundskeepers.

Poisoning our children's play grounds is coming to an end in New York State, enabling a generation of healthier, safer children.

Assembly member Steven Englebright stated that it was a historic day for New York State, that their hard work has paid off after nine years of efforts.

Over 8,000 letters have been sent and over 18,000 signatures have been collected in favor of this common sense legislation that protects children where they spend the most time – at school. Studies show that after the first two years, schools save 7 percent to 25 percent annually by not purchasing toxic chemicals.

Each year, millions of pounds of pesticides and synthetic fertilizers are used on schools and lawns across the state and nation, creating one of the largest sources of pollution runoff and causing the death of over 7 million birds annually. ■

GREEN THOUGHTS

COMPILED BY
SALLY GILHOOLEY



The United States Green Building Council has partnered with *The Princeton Review* to produce the first Guide to Green Colleges, *The Princeton Review's Guide to 286 Green Colleges*. 68% of high school students are looking for a green campus. Visit www.usgbc.org

Green Depot offers many interesting eco-friendly products. A recent visit showed a \$300 solar tube which can be affixed to a roof to absorb and redirect sunlight. Recycled cotton insulation costs 92 cents per foot. Visit greendepot.com

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act offers tax incentives to individuals who invest in energy-efficient products for their homes and vehicles. Changes made this year may result in tax savings for 2011. Visit www.irs.gov/newsroom.

A green wedding can be made even greener through the I Do Foundation which offers a range of non-profit registries including the option to donate 10% of purchases, create your own charity registry and offset your wedding's carbon footprint. www.emagazine.com

An interesting newspaper source via *The New York Times* is their Dot Earth. It notes by about 2050 the world population will reach nine billion which equates to adding the population of two Chinas to the earth's inhabitants. Dot Earth addresses efforts to balance the needs of such a burgeoning population with the planet's available resources examining trends, ideas and solutions from experts and readers.

Bad news for our beautiful Atlantic blue fin tuna. Studies indicate current levels of fishing will lead to the extinction of their western population within 10 years and a decline of the eastern population by 2011 of possibly 75%. Monaco has proposed to list the Atlantic blue fin tuna on the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Read how the US can help or hurt this initiative at the Natural Resources Defense Council site, switchboard.nrdc.org

Scientists at Princeton University using a method of geological record suggest the ocean will rise about 59 centimeters over the next 80 years meaning the grandchildren of those born now may never see low-lying areas like the Florida Keys. The study was published in *Nature*. Go to www.ecofactory.com ■

National Wildlife Day is September 4

June Green Calendar

2 Wednesday

The Gala for Energy Independence honors R. James Woolsey and Dr. Yacov Shamash. Fresh Meadow Country Club. 6:30 pm. Business attire. 516-942-2651.

4 Friday

Sustainable Long Island 4th Annual Sustainability Conference. Interactive workshops by leaders in green economy. 8 am. Carlyle on the Green. www.sustainablelongisland.org

11-13 Friday - Sunday

Grow Your Eco-Friendly Business Today. Atlanta, Georgia. Keynote speakers Ed Begley Jr. and wife Rachelle Carson. www.GoGreenExpo.com

12 - 26 Saturday - Saturday

Dowling College Long Island Horseshoe Crab Network. Track horseshoe crabs on 64 beaches listed on the survey. 631-244-3394 or visit www.hscli.org.

17 Thursday

LI Green Homes. Town of Babylon representative will conduct workshop explaining residential home financing program for energy efficiency improvements. 7 pm. Deer Park Public Library. 631-586-3000.

19 Saturday

Group for the East End Green Gala. Wolfer Estate Vineyard, Sagaponack. 6 pm cocktails. \$450. 631-537-1400 x 215 or 216 or visit EastEndGala.org.

26 Saturday

The Nature Conservancy, LI chapter 10 year anniversary Beaches and Bays Gala. The Nature Conservancy's Center for Conservation, East Hampton. For tickets call Connie Dunham at 631-329-3981 x 11.

Sustainable Furnishings Council.

GREENleaders certification program. Providing manufacturers, retailers, reps and designers with the knowledge and accreditation to differentiate themselves as experts in sustainability. Los Angeles, CA - 6/26/10, Las Vegas, NV - 8/5/10, Charlotte, NC - 8/17/10, Key West, FL - 9/24/10 Or take course as webinar series: Begins June 3rd. Webinar on June 10th, 17, 24, July 1, 8. admin@sustainablefurnishings.org

July

12 - 26 Saturday - Saturday

Dowling College Long Island Horseshoe Crab Network. Track horseshoe crabs on 64 beaches listed on the survey. 631-244-3394 or visit www.hscli.org

September

21 Tuesday

Rouge Tomato, member of the Green Restaurant Association, dedicated to pro-actively addressing social and environmental issues. Rouge Tomato NYC, 5th Ave at 60th St. 212-655-4505 x 223 or email BRand@RandLuxury.com ■