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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE. . .

The third Annual Long Island Natural History Conference will take place Friday and Saturday, March 20-21, at Brookhaven National Laboratory, with an additional day of field trips and classes scheduled for Sunday, March 22.

Sixteen leading naturalists will give presentations during the two-day conference on a wide variety of topics from Long Island's lichens to seals, to the deer problem to recent changes in Long Island's bird communities to aquifer protection. A focus this year will be on the arrival of coyotes on the island. In addition, many of the more than thirty local sponsoring organizations will be manning booths with useful information for attendees, and a number of independent naturalists will be offering poster sessions.

"Natural history covers a vast array of subjects, and it is impossible to schedule a presentation on every conceivable topic. However, I think we have provided something of interest for everyone," noted Mike Bottini, a leading Long Island naturalist and author, and a founder of the Conference. "We were really gratified by the energetic response to the first two conferences, so we've had to expand to a two-day format," he added.

Veteran Long Island author and naturalist (and an organizer of the Conference) John Turner has written of "The Other Island" — that natural world that still exists beyond the malls, developments, and highways that are home to seven million people. "We still enjoy a remarkable variety of eco-systems," he says, "and interest is growing every year in preserving and experiencing what's left. It's encouraging to see the enthusiastic response to the annual Natural History Conference."

The Conference is a project of the recently formed Long Island Nature Organization, a 501(c)3 charitable corporation whose aim is to support research and education in natural history on Long Island. LINO has planned an ambitious series of publications, the first of which will debut at the Conference. Clarence Hickey's memoir of the 1970s, "On the East End: The Last, Best Times of a Long Island Fishing Community," provides a striking portrait of the vibrant industry, central to Long Island's history, that existed until 35 years ago.

A major project of LINO is to provide a public clearing house for Long Island Natural History information. A conference presentation on "Establishing phenology monitoring sites" begins that effort.

General Admission to the Conference is \$30 per day, \$40 for both days (with discounts for members of LINO). Field trips are priced separately.

The full schedule and information on how to register are available at longislandnature.org

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