

Long Island Nature Organization

FALL 2014 FIELD NATURALIST COURSES

Long Island Nature Organization will offer one-day and two-day **Reading Wildlife Track and Sign** certification courses, and a **History and Ecology of the Walking Dunes of Napeague** course this fall. All courses are designed to increase participants' knowledge of Long Island's natural history as well as improve nature observation skills.

ONLINE REGISTRATION IS AT www.longislandnature.org

Details on each are listed below.

The History and Ecology of the Walking Dunes of Napeague

Saturday & Sunday, October 25-26 9 am–4 pm

Instructor: Mike Bottini www.mikebottini.com

Location: Hither Hills State Park

This two-day course taught by Mike Bottini, author of *The Walking Dunes: East Hampton's Hidden Treasure*, will cover the formation, history, plant communities and fauna of the spectacular 300-acre Walking Dunes landscape. Mike has been leading guided walks in this area since 1988, and designed the two trails systems found there. We will visit and study all three parabolic dunes, pitch pine and oak-hickory forests, the dune heath and freshwater swamp communities, and cranberry bog. Topics covered include ecological succession, adaptation, symbiosis, and an introduction to animal tracks.



Fee: \$190 (\$171 for LINO members)

NOTE: contact Mike if you need accommodations for the weekend (see below).

Reading Wildlife Track and Sign

Friday November 7 8:30 am–4:30 pm

Saturday & Sunday November 8-9 8:30 am–4:30 pm

Instructor: George Leoniak www.leoniaktracking.com

Location: The Oyster Bay–Cold Spring Harbor area.

These courses are taught by George Leoniak, one of the six CyberTracker evaluators in North America, and provide participants the opportunity to pursue Track and Sign Certification from CyberTracker Conservation, a globally recognized non-profit that established the international standard for assessing wildlife tracking and sign skills. Participants in the one-day course will have the opportunity to test for Level I certification; those in the two-day can test for Level I through Level IV.



In wildlife research and monitoring, natural sign surveys are an effective means of collecting data on the presence, range, and distribution of animal species. However, there are concerns about the integrity of the data from these types of surveys. In response to these concerns, the CyberTracker Conservation Evaluation System was designed to establish reliable, standardized tracking skills.

These workshops are open to naturalists, environmental and outdoor educators, amateur trackers and citizen scientists, professional biologists, and students (minimum age of 16) seeking to increase their wildlife tracking and observation skills, and sign knowledge. Over 50 naturalists took this popular program on Long Island last spring.

Fee: \$120 for Friday; \$220 for Saturday & Sunday (\$108 and \$198 for LINO members).

For more information or questions contact Mike Bottini at mike@mikebottini.com or 631-267-5228.