



**September 29, 2012      FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

The first Long Island Natural History Conference will take place Friday, November 16, and Saturday, November 17. The Friday session at Berkner auditorium at Brookhaven National Lab in Upton will comprise a dozen presentations by leading Long Island wildlife biologists and naturalists and a keynote presentation by Peter Alden, author of the Audubon Society's regional field guide series.

The conference promises to be the largest regional forum for researchers, natural resource managers, students, and naturalists to present and exchange current information on the varied aspects of applied field biology (freshwater, marine, and terrestrial) and natural history of Long Island. It will serve as a premier venue to identify research and management needs, foster friendships and collegial relationships, and encourage a greater region-wide interest in Long Island's natural history by bringing together people with diverse backgrounds.

The conference is a project of the newly formed Long Island Nature Organization, committed to promoting nature studies on Long Island by sponsoring specific projects, providing opportunities like the Conference to increase communication, and building a web-based clearing house for Long Island Natural History information.

According to one of the organizers, Mike Bottini,

"Long Island is the largest island in the continental U.S. and a unique biogeographical region located at the northern limits of many southern species of flora and fauna and at the southern limits of many northern species. These features contribute to rich species diversity: some of the island's preserved areas contain the highest number of rare species per area in New York State.

"Being an island, having the New York City metropolitan area located on its western end closest to the mainland, and the island's development patterns all pose many challenges for managing and conserving the island's rich natural resources. My interest in organizing this conference is to enlist the support of the many knowledgeable naturalists that reside here in one or more of our many conservation and monitoring research projects."

The Steering Committee for the conference includes Mike Bottini, John Turner, Melissa Griffiths, Don Riepe, Tim Green, and Jody DeMeyere.

Sponsors include: Adirondack Mountain Club Long Island Chapter, American Littoral Society, Brookhaven National Laboratory, East Hampton Trails Preservation Society, Foundation for Ecological Research in the Northeast, Friends of the Bay, Friends of Wertheim, Group for the East End, Harbor Electronic Publishing, The Nature Conservancy, North Fork Audubon, Peconic Bay Keeper, South Fork Natural History Museum

---

## 2012 Long Island Natural History Conference Schedule

[NOTE: sessions 1-6 each have two concurrent presentations.]

8:30 – 9:00 am                      *Registration and Refreshment*

9:15 - 10:00 am                      *Session 1*

A        **Long Island's River Otters**

Mike Bottini

B        **Natural History of Brookhaven National Laboratory**

Tim Green

10:00 - 10:45 am                      *Session 2*

A        **Thirty Years of Marine Mammals and Sea Turtles Around Long Island**

Rob DiGiovanni

B        **Biodiversity and Ecological Potential of Plum Island, NY**

Matt Schlesinger

10:45 - 11:30 am                      *Session 3*

A        **Strange Times for Jamaica Bay Terrapins**

Russell Burke

B        **Horseshoe Crab Monitoring in New York State's Marine District and Interactions with Migratory Shorebirds in Moriches Bay**

Matt Sclafani

11:30 - 12:15 am                      *Keynote Address*

**Changes to Our Flora and Fauna**

Peter Alden

12:15 - 1:30 pm                      *Lunch*

1:30 - 2:15 pm                      *Session 4*

A        **Jamaica Bay: An Urban National Park**

Don Riepe

B        **Bird Migration on Long Island**

Shai Mitra

2:15 - 3:00 pm                      *Session 5*

A **Lifestyles of East Coast Butterflies**

Rich Cech

B **Atlantic White Cedar: Its Historical and Current Status on Long Island**

John Turner

3:00 - 3:30 pm *Break*

3:30 - 4:15 pm *Session 6*

A **The Long Island Alewife: Biology, Ecology and Restoration**

Byron Young

B **A Frog's Tale: The Story of a Long Island Extinction and Its Unexpected Role in the Discovery of a New Species of Leopard Frog (*Anura ranidae*) in the Urban Northeast**

Jeremy Feinberg

4:15 - 5:00 pm *Open Discussion and Closing Remarks*

5:00 pm *Wine & Cheese Reception*

More information about the speakers and their presentations is available at [LongIslandNature.org](http://LongIslandNature.org)

Contact:

James Monaco  
631 725 9513  
[Jim@Peconic.org](mailto:Jim@Peconic.org)

Mike Bottini  
631 267 5228  
[Mike@Peconic.org](mailto:Mike@Peconic.org)