

# LONG ISLAND SOUTHERN PINE BEETLE APRIL-JUNE QUARTERLY UPDATE



Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation

Crews from New York State's Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and partner agencies continue to battle the southern pine beetle (SPB) to help save pine trees on Long Island. For background information on SPB, please visit: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/99331.html>.

## SPB infestations are being mapped using aerial and ground surveys

- Aerial surveys were conducted in May and June over the Central Pine Barrens, with another flight planned for August.
- January, May, and June 2016 aerial flights mapped more than 25,000 acres of potentially infested trees.
- Interns from DEC and the Pine Barrens Commission are conducting ground surveys to verify infested areas.
- More than 6,000 acres have been ground surveyed for SPB in Suffolk County.



DEC's Molly Hassett maps infested trees during an aerial survey

## Summer SPB Suppression

- More than 500 infested and buffer trees in verified infested areas have been cut since early June 2016 to lower the population of SPB.
  - 472 trees were cut at Henry's Hollow Pine Barrens State Forest.
  - 26 trees were cut at Sears Bellows County Park.
  - 11 trees were cut at David A. Sarnoff Preserve.

## Research continues to be conducted to develop management strategies

- DEC is conducting research on SPB mortality and the SPB's life cycle throughout the summer to help develop the most effective management strategies.
- Pitch pine regeneration data will be collected in July to help inform replanting efforts by describing factors such as light and soil cover that affect pitch pine regeneration.



DEC intern Allison Brady cuts an infested tree to lower SPB populations

## SPB was trapped to monitor populations

- DEC interns monitored 13 SPB traps from April to July in the Long Island Pine Barrens.
- This summer, there was a high number of predatory clerid beetles caught in traps.
- Traps were placed at:
  - Linda Gronlund Memorial Nature Preserve at Barcelona Neck
  - Henry's Hollow Pine Barrens State Forest
  - Sears Bellows County Park
  - David A. Sarnoff Preserve
  - Otis Pike Preserve
  - Southaven County Park
  - Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge
  - Mannorville Hills County Park
  - Fire Island



*DEC's Tom Schmeelk checks a trap to monitor beetle populations*

## Connetquot River State Park Restoration

- More than 600 pitch pine and white pine trees were planted in Connetquot River State Park to replace trees that were killed by SPB.



*DEC's Sarah Walsh shows volunteers proper planting techniques for I Love My Park Day at Connetquot River State Park*