

Of Interest

Enclosed in a semi-circle of wooded hills nearly 200 feet high, the Wading River Marsh lies like an emerald along an otherwise unbroken coast of high bluffs. The majority of the area is tidal marsh, much of which floods only during spring tides (once every 14 days) or storm surges. A portion is intertidal, subject to flooding twice a day. All animals in the marsh, and a surprising number outside the marsh, are in some way dependent on the marsh's major food producers: the *Spartina* grasses and algae that live on the surface of the mud.

Trails are located in the preserve's southeastern portion. This area contains deciduous trees such as oak, hickory, and tupelo; planted pines and spruce; shrubs such as marsh elder, groundsel bush, and chokeberry; the tall grass, phragmites; and a brackish pond. More than 100 species of birds have been observed at the marsh, including osprey (see cover illustration). Immediately to the west stands the Shoreham Nuclear Plant.

Reppa Pond, a two-acre freshwater wetlands just to the east of the marsh, features a variety of plants and animals, including red maple, sweet pepperbush, buttonbush, and wood frogs.

History

Wading River has attracted humans for thousands of years. Archeological digs have yielded evidence of hunting and shellfishing by early Native Americans as early as 3,500 BC. At that time, the area was an open bay. Erosion and sedimentation filled in the bay, and by 1,500 BC the expanding marsh had all but eliminated the shellfish flats. Land good for farming, a stream suitable for a grist mill, and an ample supply of salt hay attracted European settlement in the late 17th century.

Alarmed by the loss of wetlands on Long Island, The Nature Conservancy set about protecting the area in 1968. Dorothy C. Kempf donated 75 acres between 1971 and 1980. Most of the remaining acreage was donated by 12 other individuals.

Visitation

Marked trails are open for hiking and observing nature daily from dawn to dusk. No other uses are permitted. Trails are maintained for foot travel only. Please do not disturb plants or wildlife. No pets are allowed. Groups are limited to 25 persons and should call for reservations. Call 631-367-3225 for parking info (parking area may be locked).

DIRECTIONS from the Long Island Expressway:
At Exit 68 North, follow the William Floyd Parkway north for 8.1 miles to its end at Rte. 25A. Bear right (east) onto Rte. 25A. Proceed for about 1.8 miles and turn left onto Wading River--Manorville Road. Proceed .5 mile and bear left onto North Country Road. Go .5 mile and bear right onto Sound Road. Go .3 mile and turn left into a driveway marked by the Conservancy's oak leaf and the name "Bartow" written on a boulder. Proceed .1 mile to the parking lot and kiosk on the right.

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY is an international, non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the plants, animals, and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive. Since 1951, the Conservancy has protected more than 92,000,000 acres of land in the U.S., Canada, Caribbean, Central and South America, and Pacific region.

The Nature Conservancy manages 63 nature preserves on Long Island. In partnership with government and other organizations, the Conservancy has helped protect more than 40,000 acres on Long Island. In 1991, the Conservancy named eastern Long Island one of a dozen "Last Great Places" in the western hemisphere.

YOU CAN HELP -For more information about membership, please contact: The Nature Conservancy, 250 Lawrence Hill Road, Cold Spring Harbor, New York 11724
Phone: (631) 367-3225.
Visit our web site at www.nature.org

EDWARD J. & DOROTHY C. KEMPF

PRESERVE

AND

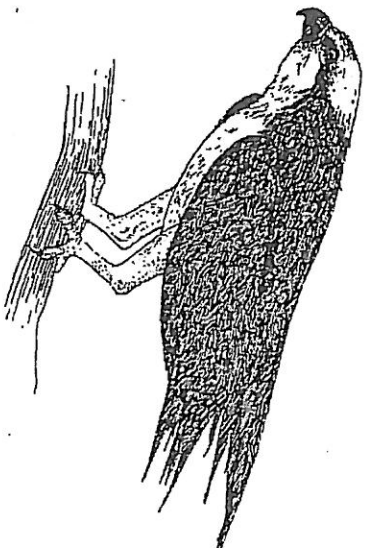
HENRY REPPA POND PRESERVE

AT WADING RIVER MARSH

*Wading River
Suffolk County*

104 Acres

Salt Marsh, Freshwater Wetlands, and Woods

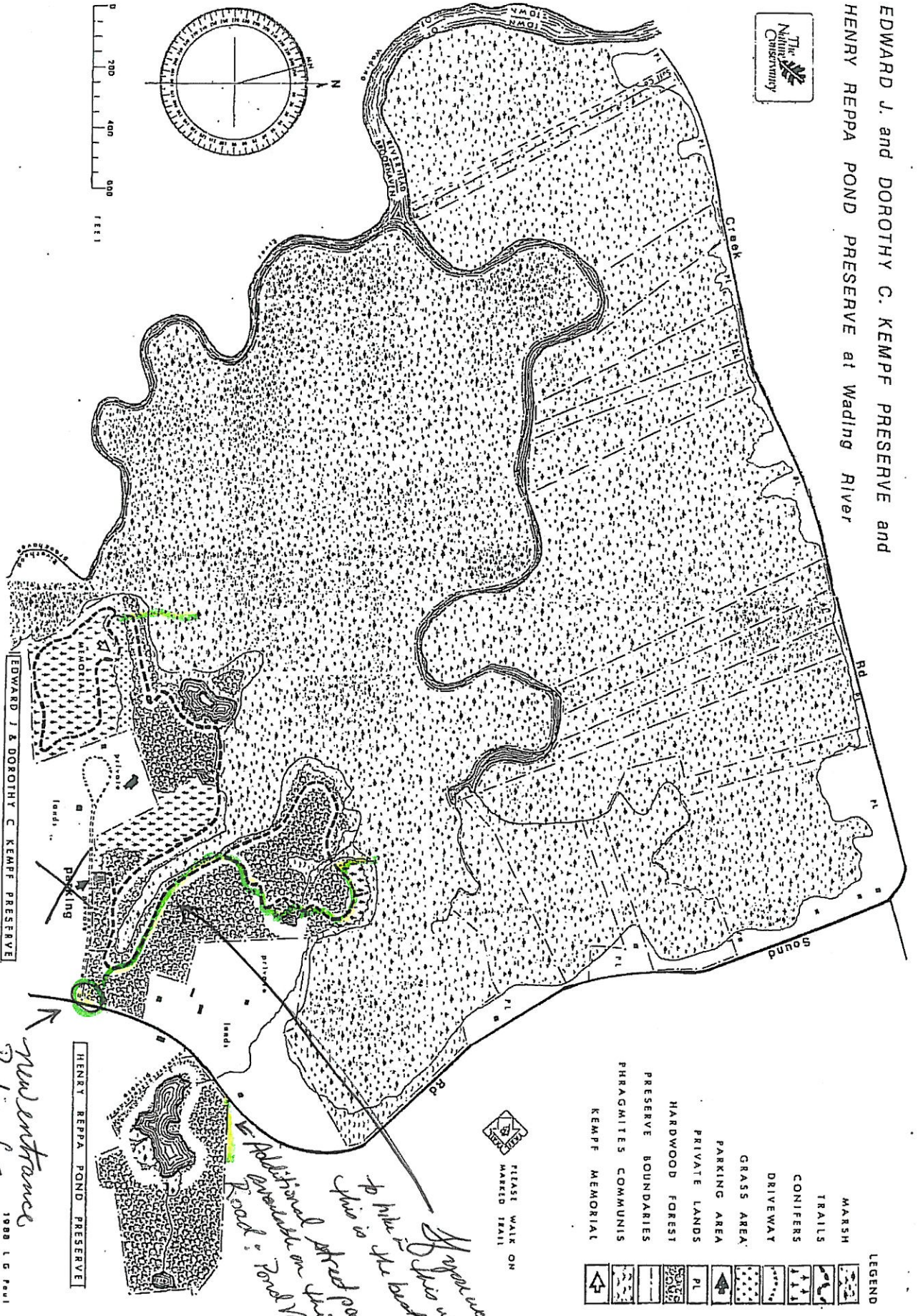
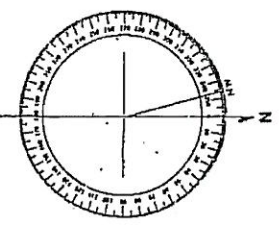
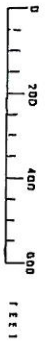


**The
Nature
Conservancy**

Long Island Chapter



EDWARD J. and DOROTHY C. KEMPF PRESERVE and HENRY REPPA POND PRESERVE at Wading River



- LEGEND
- MARSH
 - TRAILS
 - CONIFERS
 - DRIVEWAY
 - GRASS AREA
 - PARKING AREA
 - PRIVATE LANDS
 - HARDWOOD FOREST
 - PRESERVE BOUNDARIES
 - PHRAGMITES COMMUNITIES
 - KEMPF MEMORIAL



If you want to hike the best trail, this is the best trail. Additional street parking provided on this Pond New Drive Road.

In woods note lack of understory - due to deer browse!

main entrance Parking for 1980 1 G Paul 1980

HENRY REPPA POND PRESERVE

EDWARD J. and DOROTHY C. KEMPF PRESERVE