LI seeing earlier, more active season due to warm weather, experts say.

‘TONS OF TICK BITES’

Experts: Lone star ticks are active in the spring, “aggressive biters.”

ONLY IN NEWSDAY

‘TONS OF TICK BITES’

LI seeing earlier, more active season due to warm weather, experts say.

ROCKING ON THE PORCH

Long Beach’s first ‘porch fest’ brings a dozen bands outdoors this weekend.

The Mutineers, one of the bands that will be performing on Saturday.

PIVOTAL DAY FOR LI SCHOOLS

Voters decide budgets, boards and more today.

SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE PROPOSES TUITION HIKE
Lone Star tick at Suffolk

A2

NEWSDAY, TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2023

Your Newsday subscription supports our

strong local journalism. All subscriptions include the

Newsday app, newsletters, videos, podcasts,

TO PLACE AN AD: 631-843-SOLD

Your Newsday subscription supports our

strong local journalism. All subscriptions include the

Newsday app, newsletters, videos, podcasts,

TO PLACE AN AD: 631-843-SOLD

Your Newsday subscription supports our

strong local journalism. All subscriptions include the

Newsday app, newsletters, videos, podcasts,

TO PLACE AN AD: 631-843-SOLD

Your Newsday subscription supports our

strong local journalism. All subscriptions include the

Newsday app, newsletters, videos, podcasts,

TO PLACE AN AD: 631-843-SOLD

Your Newsday subscription supports our

strong local journalism. All subscriptions include the

Newsday app, newsletters, videos, podcasts,

TO PLACE AN AD: 631-843-SOLD

Your Newsday subscription supports our

strong local journalism. All subscriptions include the

Newsday app, newsletters, videos, podcasts,

TO PLACE AN AD: 631-843-SOLD

Your Newsday subscription supports our

strong local journalism. All subscriptions include the

Newsday app, newsletters, videos, podcasts,

TO PLACE AN AD: 631-843-SOLD

Your Newsday subscription supports our

strong local journalism. All subscriptions include the

Newsday app, newsletters, videos, podcasts,

TO PLACE AN AD: 631-843-SOLD

Your Newsday subscription supports our

strong local journalism. All subscriptions include the

Newsday app, newsletters, videos, podcasts,

TO PLACE AN AD: 631-843-SOLD

Your Newsday subscription supports our

strong local journalism. All subscriptions include the

Newsday app, newsletters, videos, podcasts,

TO PLACE AN AD: 631-843-SOLD

Your Newsday subscription supports our

strong local journalism. All subscriptions include the

Newsday app, newsletters, videos, podcasts,

TO PLACE AN AD: 631-843-SOLD

Your Newsday subscription supports our

strong local journalism. All subscriptions include the

Newsday app, newsletters, videos, podcasts,

TO PLACE AN AD: 631-843-SOLD

Your Newsday subscription supports our

strong local journalism. All subscriptions include the

Newsday app, newsletters, videos, podcasts,

TO PLACE AN AD: 631-843-SOLD

Your Newsday subscription supports our

strong local journalism. All subscriptions include the

Newsday app, newsletters, videos, podcasts,

TO PLACE AN AD: 631-843-SOLD

Your Newsday subscription supports our

strong local journalism. All subscriptions include the

Newsday app, newsletters, videos, podcasts,

TO PLACE AN AD: 631-843-SOLD

Your Newsday subscription supports our

strong local journalism. All subscriptions include the

Newsday app, newsletters, videos, podcasts,

TO PLACE AN AD: 631-843-SOLD

Your Newsday subscription supports our

strong local journalism. All subscriptions include the

Newsday app, newsletters, videos, podcasts,

TO PLACE AN AD: 631-843-SOLD

Your Newsday subscription supports our

strong local journalism. All subscriptions include the

Newsday app, newsletters, videos, podcasts,

TO PLACE AN AD: 631-843-SOLD

Your Newsday subscription supports our

strong local journalism. All subscriptions include the

Newsday app, newsletters, videos, podcasts,

TO PLACE AN AD: 631-843-SOLD

Your Newsday subscription supports our

strong local journalism. All subscriptions include the

Newsday app, newsletters, videos, podcasts,

TO PLACE AN AD: 631-843-SOLD

Your Newsday subscription supports our

strong local journalism. All subscriptions include the

Newsday app, newsletters, videos, podcasts,

TO PLACE AN AD: 631-843-SOLD

Your Newsday subscription supports our

strong local journalism. All subscriptions include the

Newsday app, newsletters, videos, podcasts,

TO PLACE AN AD: 631-843-SOLD

Your Newsday subscription supports our

strong local journalism. All subscriptions include the

Newsday app, newsletters, videos, podcasts,

TO PLACE AN AD: 631-843-SOLD

Your Newsday subscription supports our

strong local journalism. All subscriptions include the

Newsday app, newsletters, videos, podcasts,

TO PLACE AN AD: 631-843-SOLD

Your Newsday subscription supports our

strong local journalism. All subscriptions include the

Newsday app, newsletters, videos, podcasts,

TO PLACE AN AD: 631-843-SOLD

Your Newsday subscription supports our

strong local journalism. All subscriptions include the

Newsday app, newsletters, videos, podcasts,

TO PLACE AN AD: 631-843-SOLD

Your Newsday subscription supports our

strong local journalism. All subscriptions include the

Newsday app, newsletters, videos, podcasts,

TO PLACE AN AD: 631-843-SOLD

Your Newsday subscription supports our

strong local journalism. All subscriptions include the

Newsday app, newsletters, videos, podcasts,

TO PLACE AN AD: 631-843-SOLD

Your Newsday subscription supports our

strong local journalism. All subscriptions include the

Newsday app, newsletters, videos, podcasts,

TO PLACE AN AD: 631-843-SOLD

Your Newsday subscription supports our

strong local journalism. All subscriptions include the

Newsday app, newsletters, videos, podcasts,

TO PLACE AN AD: 631-843-SOLD

Your Newsday subscription supports our

strong local journalism. All subscriptions include the

Newsday app, newsletters, videos, podcasts,

TO PLACE AN AD: 631-843-SOLD

Your Newsday subscription supports our

strong local journalism. All subscriptions include the

Newsday app, newsletters, videos, podcasts,

TO PLACE AN AD: 631-843-SOLD

Your Newsday subscription supports our

strong local journalism. All subscriptions include the

Newsday app, newsletters, videos, podcasts,

TO PLACE AN AD: 631-843-SOLD

Your Newsday subscription supports our

strong local journalism. All subscriptions include the

Newsday app, newsletters, videos, podcasts,

TO PLACE AN AD: 631-843-SOLD

Your Newsday subscription supports our

strong local journalism. All subscriptions include the

Newsday app, newsletters, videos, podcasts,

TO PLACE AN AD: 631-843-SOLD

Your Newsday subscription supports our

strong local journalism. All subscriptions include the

Newsday app, newsletters, videos, podcasts,

TO PLACE AN AD: 631-843-SOLD

Your Newsday subscription supports our

strong local journalism. All subscriptions include the

Newsday app, newsletters, videos, podcasts,

TO PLACE AN AD: 631-843-SOLD

Your Newsday subscription supports our

strong local journalism. All subscriptions include the

Newsday app, newsletters, videos, podcasts,

TO PLACE AN AD: 631-843-SOLD

Your Newsday subscription supports our

strong local journalism. All subscriptions include the

Newsday app, newsletters, videos, podcasts,

TO PLACE AN AD: 631-843-SOLD

Your Newsday subscription supports our

strong local journalism. All subscriptions include the

Newsday app, newsletters, videos, podcasts,

TO PLACE AN AD: 631-843-SOLD

Your Newsday subscription supports our

strong local journalism. All subscriptions include the

Newsday app, newsletters, videos, podcasts,

TO PLACE AN AD: 631-843-SOLD

Your Newsday subscription supports our

strong local journalism. All subscriptions include the

Newsday app, newsletters, videos, podcasts,

TO PLACE AN AD: 631-843-SOLD

Your Newsday subscription supports our

strong local journalism. All subscriptions include the

Newsday app, newsletters, videos, podcasts,

TO PLACE AN AD: 631-843-SOLD

Your Newsday subscription supports our

strong local journalism. All subscriptions include the

Newsday app, newsletters, videos, podcasts,
BITTEN EARLY NOW MORE LIKELY

Dr. Andrew Handel, left, and Dr. Luis Marcos inspect deer tick specimens at Stony Brook on May 5.

WHAT TO KNOW

- Experts say the threat of being bitten by a tick and possibly contracting a tick-borne disease can happen all year long due to warmer weather and other factors.
- The lone star tick appears to be more plentiful in Suffolk County, edging out deer ticks.
- While lone star ticks don't carry the bacteria that cause Lyme disease, being bitten by one can cause an itchy rash and other, more serious health issues.

End Mosquito and Tick Control. “They don’t seem to be as temperature sensitive,” Kelly said. “We are finding them in the middle of the lawn or crawling on a hot driveway or on pool furniture. Deer ticks stay on the edge of the woods. You aren’t going to find them in the middle of the lawn.”

‘Newcomer to the block’

Asian longhorned ticks were first found in the United States in 2017 and have been found on pets, livestock, wildlife and people, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. They have made their way to Long Island.

“The newcomer to the block is the Asian longhorned tick,” Campbell said. “They appear to be expanding in range throughout [Suffolk] County, as well as in number.”

Campbell said their impact on public health is still unknown.

In other countries, the Asian longhorned tick has been known to carry diseases that can sicken or kill animals and livestock. And the CDC said one laboratory study showed it can spread the bacteria that cause Rocky Mountain spotted fever, but those germs have not been found in ticks in nature.

“They do have some pathogens, but don’t appear to be aggressive biters of humans and have the ability to transmit those pathogens,” he said. “Right now, we’re just watching those.”

Lyme threat continues

Lone star ticks may be gaining ground, but doctors and scientists agree that Lyme disease carried by deer ticks is still very much a concern on Long Island.

Handel said he believes incidences of tick-borne diseases and Lyme disease in particular have been rising over the years. The CDC has said tracking cases is difficult because of underreporting, and there is no way to know exactly how many people get infected.

About 30,000 cases of Lyme are reported to the agency by state health departments each year, but some estimates show more than 450,000 people could be contracting Lyme disease annually.

The majority of cases are found among children between the ages of 5 and 10, followed by adults around 50 to 60, Handel said. Symptoms of Lyme disease include fever, chills, headaches, fatigue, muscle and joint aches. Some people infected with Lyme disease may develop the distinctive bull’s-eye rash at the area of the bite.

“Patients with these flu-like symptoms in the spring or summer have to be assessed for a tick-borne disease,” Stony Brook Medicine’s Marcos said. “Sometimes I see patients who have gone to three doctors with fever and night sweats, and nobody runs the test for Lyme.”

Handel said they are seeing cases of arthritis, which is a manifestation of Lyme disease contracted during the fall, noting it takes about six months for the joint swelling to develop.

Stony Brook is looking for volunteers between the age of 5 and 17 to participate in a clinical trial for a new Lyme disease vaccine.

“Children are at greater risk of being exposed to ticks and contracting Lyme disease,” he said. “Having a vaccine to prevent that would be phenomenal.”

About 10% to 30% of people who get Lyme disease have recurring, long-term symptoms, sometimes for years after the original infection. Marcos said more studies are needed to learn more about this syndrome and how to treat it. Current research into long COVID may help.

“There is most likely a change in the immune system that is causing these symptoms,” he said. “I believe long COVID may give us some insights about chronic Lyme.”

PROTECTION FROM TICKS

- Wear long sleeves and long pants when venturing into wooded areas. Make sure shirts are tucked in and pants are tucked into socks.
- Consider using insect repellent with permethrin on clothing and repellent with DEET on skin. Read all directions before using repellent.
- Shower and inspect yourself for ticks when you return from outdoors. Important areas include the hairline, ears, behind the knees, belly button and any skin folds. Young children may need help doing this.
- Place all clothing in a dryer on high heat. Do not place clothing in a washing machine first. Ticks will survive the washing machine but not the dry heat.

WHAT IF I’M BITTEN?

- Take a clear, focused photo of the tick with your phone to help identify it later.
- Remove as soon as possible by using tweezers close to the skin and trying to grab the tick’s neck.
- Disinfect the bite area with rubbing alcohol, iodine or soap and water. Wash your hands.
- You may want to save the tick in a baggie or pill bottle containing alcohol. Write the date the tick was removed and the location of the bite.
- Monitor your health symptoms for a few weeks. See a doctor if you develop symptoms, including rash, fever, fatigue, muscle aches and swollen joints.

For information about participating in the Lyme vaccine clinical trial at Stony Brook, call 631-638-2684 or email SBM.LymeVaccine_Study@stonybrookmedicine.edu

SOURCE: Regional Tick-Blome Disease Resource Center at Stony Brook Southampton Hospital