Natural Resources Protective Association
“40 Years of Blue”
Celebration

7:00 PM Tuesday, April 4, 2017
At La Greci’s Staaten
697 Forest Avenue Staten Island, NY 10310

Honoring
James Oddo
Staten Island Borough President
Bluebelt Advocacy Award

Debbie Mans
NY/NJ Baykeeper
Estuary Advocacy Award
PROTECTORS OF PINE OAK WOODS

CONGRATULATES OUR PARTNERS IN PRESERVATION

NATURAL RESOURCES PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION
FOR THEIR 40 YEARS OF SERVICE TO STATEN ISLAND’S ENVIRONMENT

BOROUGH PRESIDENT JAMES ODDO
FOR HIS CONTINUED LEADERSHIP

DEBBIE MANS AND BAYKEEPERS
FOR THEIR CONSTANT VIGILANCE

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Greetings!

Welcome to the Natural Resources Protective Association’s “40 YEARS OF BLUE” celebration. We are proud to say that for forty years, we have fought to protect shorelines, fisheries and open, green spaces.

In order to understand what NRPA is all about, we have to go back to the vision of our founder, the late Lou Figurelli. Lou lived on a houseboat on Staten Island’s Lemon Creek. He loved the water and the birds, fish and animals that called it home. When he saw something that imperiled marine habitat, he didn’t simply seethe in silence, he got involved and did something about it. Lou photographed the dirty deeds of poachers and polluters and made sure that they were held responsible by the proper authorities. He educated himself about shoreline issues and marine projects and did not hesitate to call attention to any flaws.

Perhaps Lou’s finest hour was when he battled the United States Army Corps’ of Engineers plans to dump toxic waste into the nearshore areas called borrow pits. The Corps claimed that these deep areas were dead zones, devoid of marine life. But Lou and his friends knew that the opposite was true: These were the best fishing spots around. So they kept detailed records, hired a lawyer and took the Army Corps to court. Lou and the newly founded NRPA won the case and till this day, we still monitor and protect these areas.

In the ensuing years, other dedicated people, including our late Board Members Jack Latanzia, Jr. and Pete Glissman, stepped up to continue the fight to preserve and protect our marine habitat. Of course, we cannot forget the inimitable Kerry Sullivan, our late Executive Director. Kerry worked with many organizations over the years and always let people know that “These are OUR waterways”.

Today, NRPA is a consortium of conservation groups, civic associations, yacht clubs and concerned citizens who share the common goal of protecting the marine environment. We keep on top of plans that impact wetlands and waterways and review countless documents every year. We stand up and speak up. And we have removed literally hundreds of tons of trash from area shorelines with our beach clean ups.

Tonight we are pleased to honor two people who have made a difference for our marine environment. Staten Island Borough President James Oddo, has advocated for the preservation of wetland areas as Blue Belts. These areas not only absorb storm water to provide flood protection, but they also provide highly productive habitat. Debbie Mans, the Executive Director of NY/NJ Baykeeper, is an attorney who uses her legal expertise to crack down on polluters and clean up contaminated waterways. Both of these wonderful people have really made a difference for our waterways.

Most importantly, we want to thank all of you who have generously supported the efforts of NRPA.

Ida Sanoff, Executive Director, NRPA
ABRIDGED HISTORY OF NRPA

NRPA was founded by Lou Figurelli. Originally from New Jersey, he was a short wave radio and telecommunications expert, as well as an avid fisherman. Around 1977, he was displaced from Captain’s Marina in Great Kills and moved to a donated houseboat in Lemon Creek, Princes Bay, in the shadow of Seguine Mansion. He already had a reputation as an ardent defender of marine life and quickly befriended members of the Princes Bay Boatmen Association (PBBA) and others in the area. The baymen and fishermen told Lou about multiple abuses in the Bay, including poaching, dumping of contaminated soils and the mining and removal of tons of clean sand. Lou, with the help of Pete Glissmann, Steve Gross, Jack Latanzio and attorney Steve Zuntag collected thousands of dollars, one dollar at a time, to file Articles of Incorporation, forming the Natural Resources Protective Association of Staten Island, Inc. Their goal was to educate themselves and other citizens about the hazards which threatened the marine environment.

1978-1982
NRPA joins Groups against Garbage (GAG) along with Clean Ocean Action (COA), to force the NYC Dept. of Sanitation to make a better effort to stop hazardous floatable debris (including medical waste) from entering the Arthur Kill waterway at Fresh Kills dump.

1983-1987
Lou and divers Jim Palucci and Norm Conduit conduct underwater investigations into the locations where the Army Corps of Engineers and the Port Authority of NY/NJ had proposed dumping contaminated dredge spoils into deep, underwater areas called “borrow pits”. The evidence they collected convinced a New York State judge to issue an injunction against dumping the dredge material into the pits. The injunction, requiring all parties to agree on the science of the proposed actions, stands to this day. NRPA also forced NYCDEP to accelerate the construction of sewer connections, to stop the dumping of thousands of gallons of raw sewage into the Bay. Lou and his team worked closely with elected officials including Elizabeth Connelly, Eric Vitaliano, Robert Straniere and Guy Molinari as well as advocates Joel Kupferman Esq., Clean Ocean Action, the Staten Island Register and Protectors of Pine Oak Woods to keep the Bay protected.

1988-1992
Lou’s health started to fail. With the help of Ralph Pastore and Kerry Sullivan, along with Dick Manning and the SI Tuna Club they pressured the Army Corps to stop allowing contaminated sediments to be released into the Bay. NRPA, COA and NRDC worked on land based disposal of contaminated sediments. In 1990, the first annual New Year’s Day Beach Walk is held at Great Kills, Gateway National Recreation Area, a tradition that continues every year.

1993-1997
Many people including John Malizia, Jim Scarcella, Tony Rose of SI Sport Divers, Jim Kelly of Save the Bay and NY/NJ Baykeeper are outraged when the Corps suggests building a “Dredge Containment Island” in the center of the Bay. NRPA leads the charge against the destruction of bay habitat and former Congressman Vito Fossella, former NY Governor George Pataki and former Governor Christine Whitman of NJ tell the Corps to find other solutions to dredge spoil disposal.

1998-2002
NRPA continues to stay active, reviewing and documenting marine life, Ida Sanoff joins the fight against the dumping in Jamaica Bay and tracks floatable debris. NRPA becomes involved in the remediation of the old Pennsylvania and Fountain Avenue landfills in Brooklyn. The Coalition Against Water Disposal is formed to unite local groups opposed to dumping dredge spoils in NYC waters. Chuck Perry of Protectors of the Pine Oak Woods works with Kerry, Jim, Tony and Noreen Somma, to document the Bay life in the borrow pits. The North Shore Waterfront Conservancy is formed.

2003-2007
The NRPA is approached about supporting “wind turbines” for Lower NY Bay. After discussions the project is tabled. NRPA continues to do beach clean ups and supports Kayak Staten Island. A “discovery hike” and clean up is held at Graniteville Swamp Forest. Richie Chan joins NRPA and provides much needed organizational support.

2008-2012
The NRPA, with help from then Councilman Andrew Lanza and Councilman Jim Oddo, received grants for cleanups and equipment. Working with PPOW and The Trust for Public Land, Pouch Camp is saved. Partnership for Parks recognizes NRPA as an important partner in keeping parks and beaches clean. Assemblywoman Nicole Maliotakis, Chris Williams and Ellen Pratt of PPOW are recognized for their work to preserve open space.

2013-2017
NRPA continues to be a force, cleaning New Dorp Beach with Dominic Cenatiempo, helping with the Callaloo Patch community garden with Keith Jacobsen, working with NYCDEP on Bluebelts, working with SWIM, PPOW, Bay Terrace Improvement Group, NYC H2O, Baykeeper, COA and our elected officials to make our waters and harbor estuary a better place.
In Loving Memory
of our Friend
Kerry Sullivan

A true inspiration for us
and many others

Ida & Jeff Sanoff
Congratulations
Natural Resources Protective Association
for 40 Years of Blue
and Congratulations to your honorees

Jim Oddo
and
Debbie Mans

From the Chan and Locke families

Richard Chan  Daniel Locke
Louise Chan  Donna Locke
Katherine Chan  Alison Locke
Congratulations

National Resources Protective Association

on

"40 Years of Blue"

JAMES ODDO

Honoring

DEBBIE MANS

Staten Island Borough President
Bluebelt Advocacy Award

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And
Debbie Mans
On 40 Years of Blue!

James and Kathy Lafferty
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FOR 40 YEARS OF PROTECTING
OUR MARINE ENVIRONMENT!

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Best Wishes to the
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on the
“40 Years of Blue”
Celebration
&
To Tonight’s Honorees:

Honorable James Oddo
Debbie Mans

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Congratulations Honorees

Jimmy Oddo &
Debbie Mans

Cousin Frank & Merryl
Borough President James S. Oddo

Bluebelt Advocacy Award

James Oddo was elected Staten Island Borough President in November 2013. Prior to his election, he served as the Council Member representing the 50th Council district (Mid-Island and a small portion of Brooklyn) since 1999. He also served as the City Council's Minority Leader from 2002 to 2013. In that role, he served as a key member of the Council’s leadership team.

Oddo authored 19 local laws and brought back more than $165 million to improve his community in various ways. After working 15 years to make it a reality, in the final days of his tenure in the Council, Oddo joined EDC to announce an exciting redevelopment plan to turn the abandoned Farm Colony site into a senior citizen community. This project, one that took so long due to the global economic crisis, best personifies Oddo's persistence and advocacy on behalf of his community.

As Borough President, Oddo is committed to attaining necessary aid for Staten Islanders impacted by Hurricane Sandy. He recognizes the frustration and havoc the situation has caused in their lives and is an advocate for all awaiting resolution from city, state and federal programs.

In addition, Oddo is excited to see the waterfront development project for the North Shore become a reality. The project includes the highest observation wheel in the world, outlet shopping, a boutique hotel and residential communities that will transform the former Stapleton homeport and St. George community.

Oddo is also keenly aware of other issues facing Staten Islanders every day. He wants to meet the challenges of island living by maximizing waterfront real estate with a fast ferry, reducing commute time for many residents. He also recognizes the need for infrastructure changes to meet the needs of the Island's 500,000 residents.

Jim Oddo has been a staunch supporter and driving force of DEP's Bluebelt Program, which is a series of storm water management and filtration in the wetlands and creeks of the Bluebelt that protect the water quality of our NY/NJ Harbor Estuary.
Deborah A. Mans
Baykeeper & Executive Director
NY/NJ Baykeeper

Estuary Advocacy Award

Debbie Mans has been Baykeeper and Executive Director of NY/NJ Baykeeper since April, 2008. NY/NJ Baykeeper is the citizen guardian of the NY-NJ Harbor Estuary. Since 1989, NY/NJ Baykeeper has worked to protect, preserve, and restore the environment of one of the most urban estuaries on Earth – benefiting its natural and human communities.

While at NY/NJ Baykeeper, Debbie has worked with her fantastic colleagues to successfully sue the NJ Department of Environmental Protection to upgrade its Combined Sewer Outfall permit and overturn restrictive public access requirements; restored millions of oysters to local waterways and build the first living shoreline project in Raritan Bay; helped preserve and restore more than forty properties that total more than 2,500 acres of urban open space, including a new county park; run two pump out boats that have prevented thousands of gallons of waste from being discharge overboard; conducted the first trawl for micro-plastics in NY Harbor and pushed for legislation to reduce plastic pollution in our local waterways; and co-chaired the Passaic River Superfund Community Advisory Group (CAG), which recently celebrated the announcement by US Environmental Protection Agency on a comprehensive clean-up of the lower eight miles of the Passaic River – one of the largest clean-ups in the country.

Prior to joining NY/NJ Baykeeper, Debbie was the Environmental and Energy Policy Advisor for New Jersey Governor Jon S. Corzine. Debbie’s work included advising on environmental and energy policies, regulations and initiatives. She was also appointed by Governor Corzine to the New Jersey State Planning Commission, a state-wide appointed board that oversees the implementation of the State Development and Redevelopment Act.

Prior to working for the Governor’s Office, Debbie was the Policy Director at NY/NJ Baykeeper, a position she held from 2002 through 2006. There she developed legal and environmental policies and programs to promote NY/NJ Baykeeper’s mission and goals.

Debbie is a graduate of The University of Michigan and holds a J.D. from Vermont Law School. Debbie is the Chair of the New Jersey League of Conservation Voters and the Treasurer of the New Jersey League of Conservation Voters Education Fund.
Congratulations to
NATURAL RESOURCES PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION
“40 YEARS OF BLUE”
CELEBRATION

Assemblyman William Colton
155 Kings Highway
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And to your honorees
Borough President Jim Oddo
And
NY/NJ Baykeeper Debbie Mans

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Richie Chan                    David Hicks                 Ed Rogers
Danny DeSantis                 Rad Johnston               Bob Rupp
Gene DiGiacomo                 Richie Lauer               Jim Stroud
The Friends of Blue Heron Park
congratulates
Natural Resources Protective Association
and their 40 years of service,
Borough President James Oddo
and
Debbie Mans & NY/NJ Baykeepers

www.friendsofblueheronpark.org
or visit us on Facebook
Congratulations to Jimmy Oddo and Debbie Mans for your dedication and perseverance.

NRPA, Thank you for 40 Years of Blue. We can see the difference your efforts have made.

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40TH ANNIVERSARY
serving the waterfront environment
in the greater New York area.

NRPA’s group of thoughtful, committed citizens
are an inspiration to us all. We wish you much
success in your next forty years of service.

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful,
committed citizens can change the world;
indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has. -- Margaret Mead
We are proud to support the National Resources Protective Association “40 Years of Blue” Celebration

Congratulations to honorees

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Waves of thanks for all you do!
Congratulations and Thanks!

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to preserving our marine environment.

thank you
NRPA
FOR 40 years of activism
in protecting the seas.

www.sisportdivers.org
Congratulations to the NRPA for our 40 years.

I am proud that I have been involved with NRPA some 20 years.

Keep up the good work.

John & Lucille Malizia

Congratulations and Best of Luck To NRPA

Danny & Marie Ingellis & Family
Jimmy,

Thank you for all you do for family and for the environment. You are dedicated and hard working. And, congratulations to you and the NRPA for 40 years of advocacy and leadership.

Margaret and Chris Scarcella

SHBCC salutes the work of Jim Oddo Baykeeper Debbie Mans And NRPA on 40 years of keeping our waters clean!
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Thank you for your support!

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