

Natural Resources Protective Association

Coalition Against Water Disposal of Contaminated Sediments

Post Office Box 050328 • Staten Island, NY 10305



Established in 1977

In Memory of Edward "Kerry" Sullivan

SUMMER 2020

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COVID, CONSUMER GOODS AND NEW YORK HARBOR

By Ida Sanoff

The idea for this article came to me at the end of February, as I was hunting for a box of gauze pads. What do gauze pads have to do with a shoreline environmental group? More about that later. At any rate, the chain drug store around the corner from me was out of gauze pads. They were out of several other items I needed too, including packing tape. I went to several other places and couldn't find the gauze pads or the other items. The news was already filled with a few stories about this novel Corona Virus that was shutting down most of China. If you wanted to buy a new phone, you were out of luck, because the Asian factories that produced them had been shut down. That's when I realized that the gauze pads and packing tape, I was trying to find were produced in China too, as were numerous other items that we use every day. But we never thought about where they came from or how they got to our local stores.

At any rate, I figured that by the time you got to read this newsletter article, it would be early summer and things would be back to normal. But as I sit here in mid-April and write, I am not sure when things will ever return to normal and what "normal" will now look like.

So, what do gauze pads and packing tape have to do with NRPA?

I've often said that when you get involved with this volunteer stuff, you somehow enter a portal to a parallel universe. You get the opportunity to meet people from all walks of life. You get to see parts of the city that are either not open to the general public or that are so inaccessible that you can't get there

without a boat. You also get the opportunity to attend meetings. Lots and lots and lots of meetings about all sorts of stuff. And some of those meetings are about topics that will shape our city and way of life in unimaginable ways.

In the late 1990's, Kerry Sullivan, who was my predecessor as NRPA's Executive Director assigned me the task of attending the DMMIWG (pronounced "dimmie wig") meetings. The letters stood for Dredged Materials Management Integration Work Group. The purpose of the DMMIWG was basically to figure out what to do with all of the contaminated material that was routinely dredged out of the waterways and berths of New York Harbor. The group was composed of representatives from various NY and NJ agencies, federal agencies, reps from the Harbor Estuary Program, shipping interests, port planners and a rotating cast of Port Authority players. Members of Congress sometimes showed up, the New York City Economic Development Corporation was a regular presence and the group also included stakeholders. That's the category where NRPA fit in. Some of our good friends from New Jersey, including Clean Ocean Action, also attended as well as people from other local shoreline groups.

The meeting was a morning affair that met every month at various locations in lower Manhattan. If you were from one of the stakeholder groups, the meeting was never easily accessible and frequently required a couple of changes of subway lines and a nice walk from the nearest subway station. They didn't make it easy for us regular folks to be there.

Kerry told me to be sure to stay for lunch. They served fancy Manhattan restaurant sandwiches and you also had the opportunity to speak one on one with the other attendees, no matter how high up they were in the peck-

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ing order.

The DMMIWG agenda covered a wide range of economic, environmental, transportation and other issues, that were all related somehow to shipping channels.

That's where we learned about the Harbor Deepening Project and that's where the gauze pads and the packing tape come in.

When I was a kid, my parents drove down what was then the elevated West Side Highway and we marveled at the sight of cruise ships and cargo ships from all over the world. What is now called Tribeca used to be the Washington Market, which was the city's wholesale dairy and produce market. Ships would unload goods in crates and barrels and bags. But as the years went on, shipping became containerized and a large land area was needed for unloading the large containers and placing them onto trucks. So, the Port of New York moved to New Jersey.

Containerized shipping has become very, very successful. And the U.S. evolved from being an industrial power that produced virtually everything that the population needed, to a service and financial economy.

We sat at the DMMIWG meetings and learned about massive new ships being built in Asia that could hold upwards of 400 shipping containers each. But the mammoth ships needed deeper water than was available in the Harbor, so a plan to spend billions to dredge and deepen down to fifty feet was proposed.

Aside from the environmental impacts, many of us stakeholders thought that it was lunacy to outsource all of our industries to nations that were half a world away. After all, one of the reasons that the U.S. was able to succeed in World War II was because we had car factories that could be used to construct jeeps and tanks, we had garment factories that could sew uniforms, our shoe factories could make boots and we had a robust agricultural system that could not only feed our armies, but keep citizens well fed too.

But no one wanted to hear our con-

cerns. Labor was cheap, really cheap in Asia. U.S. manufacturers could use Asian factories, make a sizable profit and the prices of consumer goods would still remain affordable. Plus, Asia had developed a reputation for being ahead of the curve when it came to technology and electronics. The U.S. didn't have to be bothered with factories and industry anymore. We didn't have to make stuff anymore. Our new industry was finance.

The shipping channels were ultimately blasted and deepened, the mammoth ships came in and everyone could enjoy reasonably priced sneakers and the latest cell phones and live happily ever after. The garment industry, once NYC's largest employer, became a shadow of its former self. Shoes, even those made by name brand U.S. companies, started to come from China. The prescription that your doctor wrote was more than likely filled with medicine that had been manufactured in India or Asia.

And that's why I couldn't find gauze pads. COVID-19 hit and Asia shut down. All of a sudden, you couldn't get many everyday items. Surgical gloves and masks were just plain unavailable. They couldn't be manufactured here because we didn't have the needed materials. We couldn't set up testing programs because chemicals from Asia were needed to make the reagents. We couldn't make face shields because we didn't have factories, we had to depend on a few local folks with 3-D printers to turn them out one at a time. Schools went through dusty closets to dig out clear plastic sheets that were used with obsolete mimeograph machines so that they could

be improvised as face shields. There were promising new treatments that could save people's lives, but since the U.S. no longer manufactured many pharmaceuticals, the medications were hard to get.

You're probably wondering why I'm bringing this up now. After all, the Harbor was deepened several years ago.

Well, a couple of months ago, we heard that there were plans in the works to possibly make the shipping channels even deeper. Much bigger ships were reportedly on the drawing board in Asia.

Is this something that we should be doing? Haven't we learned any lessons from COVID? Why would anyone think that it was a good idea to outsource even more of our manufacturing abilities?

One more thing: When the Harbor Deepening was still in the talking stage, there were concerns that the deeper channels could possibly increase the risk of inundating storm surges. Did it play a role in the damage caused by Superstorm Sandy? We'll never know.

Maybe the additional deepening of Harbor channels is just a rumor. But we will be watching this situation and if it progresses, we will share what we learn.

OAKWOOD BEACH MARSH

By Jim Scarcella

In April 2020, Chuck Perry of NRPA and Protectors of Pine Oak Woods and myself went on a discovery tour of Oakwood Beach Marsh, which is about 150 acres on the Eastern Shore of Staten Island. The marsh is roughly bounded by Guyon Avenue, Tarlton Street, the Wastewater Treatment Control Plant (WTCP) and Cedar Grove Park beach.

According to the "Paleo-ecology of Southeast Island and Natural Resource Economies, 1600's to 1800's", by Michael Scalisi, which appeared in the Protectors of Pine Oaks Bulletin, 18,000 years ago, Staten Island was at the end of an ice sheet with the ocean 60 miles away. Over time, the ice sheet melted, the sea level rose and flooded

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the glacial outwash, forming Raritan Bay and our East Shore with its marshes and creeks. There were two Lenape villages, the Oakwood Village, and the Arrochar Village.

The Oakwood Village was located near Mill Creek pond (around Buffalo Street) which drained into Great Kills. The Native Americans (Lenape Nation) were seafaring people, harvesting oysters, hard clams, scallops, and mussels. Lenape made canoes out of white cedar trees and made nets over 400 feet long. It's not uncommon even today to find a stone that may have been used to weigh a net of made of cultivated hemp. The nets were used to catch vast quantities of fish, probably Herring, Bluefish, and possibly Sea Trout. The most prized were the Striped Bass and Atlantic sturgeon which could be smoked and stored for use during winter months. Menhaden were caught in smaller nets and were used to fertilize crops, especially maize and barley.

Then there was extensive use of the area by European settlers with a lot of farming, fishing, and crabbing for subsistence. A typical farm tract could be anywhere from 70 acres to 100 acres. See William T. Davis, "Days Afield on Staten Island", Staten Island Museum Commemorative Edition, 1992.

Later the area became a place for pleasant summer bungalows, with numerous cottages along Kissam Avenue, a tavern, and a recreational

hotel at the water's edge. Over time, they became year-round residences and the rising sea level prompted authorities to build a timber seawall at the north edge of Great Kills Park, Gateway. During the Roosevelt Administration the area from Gateway to Oakwood all the way up to New Dorp Lane was called "Great Kills Park". The hotel got washed away after various storms, and by 1992, a berm was built to further steer the bay waters away from Oakwood Beach. The overriding fact is that the cottages were below sea level and it was next to impossible to keep the water out.

Hurricane Sandy of October 29, 2012 crushed the area, and 22 Staten Islanders perished. Our elected officials lobbied for NY State to purchase the properties and let them revert back to floodplain, which was its natural state. There were about 120 properties affected by Sandy and about 100 homeowners took the buyout. Other floodplain communities are New Dorp Beach, Midland Beach, and Ocean Breeze.

It's no surprise that nature is reclaiming Oakwood Beach Marsh. There are stubborn Canada Geese, wading birds including the Great Blue Heron, Mallards, Muskrats, Racoons, White Tailed Deer, Red-Winged Blackbirds, and Killdeer. The Killdeer are particularly amusing, noisy as they dodge around the upper beach berm, trying to draw you away from their nests. On the marsh side of the berm, there is now a colony of Fence Lizards, mottled brown and green in color, snacking on insects and bits of vegetation on sunny days.

Chuck and I rescued a 10 cubic foot neoprene air-filled cylindrical tugboat fender, we brought it up on the berm from the marsh, and it bounced around on the berm path for about a week. Sadly, someone returned it to the sea. We also cleaned about 20 pounds of debris, but there is a lot more trash and garbage removal to be performed.

Oakwood Beach Marsh is a treasure, please join us to clean the beach at Tarlton Street in October 2020.

Visit us at www.nrpa.com
Like us on [Facebook](#)

THE BEAUTY OF BAYONNE (WHO KNEW?)

By Tony Rose

On a sunny Saturday morning in May, Tony Rose and Jim Scarcella decided to fight cabin fever and whittle down their Quarantine 15 by climbing out of their basements and squinting at the daylight. Dragging their bicycles with them, they embarked on a trip over the newly raised Bayonne Bridge to see what lay on the other side.

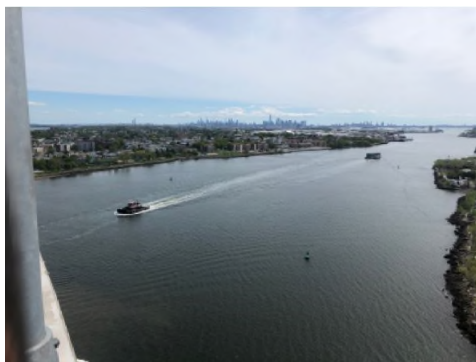
The Kill Van Kull, having been dredged to a depth of 55 feet to accommodate post-Panamax tankers and containerships was found to still be too low for modern ships to pass beneath. Raise the Roadway was an initiative to rebuild the bridge to reflect modern requirements. Design began in 2011 and by 2017 the first large ship passed under the renovated crossing. Part of the design was a widened, cantilevered, combined use walkway for cyclists and pedestrians on the eastern aspect of the bridge. There is a narrower utility walkway on the western side of the bridge.



Access begins at the foot of Trantor Place, a block from where the street ends at Port Richmond High School.

The road seems steep from the car and even steeper when pedaling, but not insurmountable. Little children roll up the walkway on their sidewalk bikes and others with training wheels. Pedestrians and joggers

enjoying the day all nodded at one another, smiles evident beneath their masks. Some enjoyed a cool drink or an ice cream while boats passed below.



Scanning the Staten Island shoreline, one can see the now-shuttered St Mary's church, Edkins Auto Wreckers as well as the 200 plus units of the recent development built in the shadow of the bridge off Morningstar Road.



Pausing to catch their breaths, the cyclists enjoyed the view while each stood in a separate state.

Upon crossing the bridge, riders take a right turn and roll a half dozen blocks to reach the shore. Shops and delis along the way offer the opportunities for a drink or a snack before reaching the shoreline where one finds the Dennis P. Collins Park. The park shows what can be done on former industrial sites. The envi-



ous Islanders strolled through the park and marveled at the amenities and the views. There is a paved walkway that parallels the shore. A viewer wouldn't know where they were until they turned to the right and viewed the bridge.



Along the way, the city of Bayonne has installed exercise equipment,

volleyball courts, a skate park as well as a contained dog training/exercise park with ramps, barrels and jumping bars. A playground with swings resembled a pirate ship complete with sails that fluttered in the breeze. Nature lovers took in the sun and the views while socially distancing and most wore masks. Being out of doors, some carried masks around their necks based on CDC recommendations that require wearing masks for continued exposure to others, being with others in a confined space or entering the 6-foot radius of another's personal space.



The shore is a man-made cinder expanse with a few floatables to be seen. An oyster shell gave hint of the return of life to the clear, cleaner waters of the harbor.

Having thoroughly enjoyed the morning, the tourists returned to their wheels and returned to their



home island. Without much more than a little huffing and puffing, a magnificent trip was brought to a conclusion. The participants looked forward to doing it again.

ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS OF COVID 19

By Jim Scarcella

COVID 19 has completely changed the way we live, interact, and evolve with our environment and the people, places, and things around us. From about March 12, 2020 onward, so much has happened it seems like we are dreaming. Here are some of the changes and effects of COVID 19 that we have experienced.

First off, deepest sympathy to those who have lost loved ones to this deadly virus, and prayers, hope and gratitude to the health care workers, doctors, nurses' aides, and support staff helping the patients and families. It's an incredible effort...

NRPA postponed our March 28 Oakwood Beach cleanup, our April

membership meeting, and our Earth Day Cleanup with the National Park Service, which was set for April 19 at Fort Wadsworth, Arrochar. If the situation improves, we will try to re-schedule when group activities are again permitted.

There are definitely fewer vehicles on our roads and streets. There are fewer trucks and buses, the air we breathe is measurably clearer, our lungs can breathe easier. Within the first few days of 'stay at home', I was able to get out on the bike, with helmet and precautions, and ride to Fort Wadsworth and Ocean Breeze Park. When I was on Quintard Avenue or Olympia Boulevard, there was less traffic, but of course, awareness is a key aspect of safe cycling. There were some people gathered at the Fort and along the South Beach boardwalk, but in general, they kept their distance from each other, especially by the first week of April 2020.

The backyard at our house became a refuge. With less traffic and a ban on non-essential construction, we were able to see and hear a lot more birds. There was a Downy Woodpecker across the street, and our feeder attracted Red Wing Blackbirds, House Sparrows, Song Sparrows, Juncos, and Cardinals.

At the water's edge, there appears to be less floatable trash, and the water column seems to have less sediment. Of course, this is dependent on the tides, current, rainfall and wind direction.

However, there is definitely a problem with disposable masks and latex and vinyl gloves being discarded after one use, some selfish or unthinking folks are throwing them on the ground and they find their way to the catch basin and then to our waterways.



Please remember to properly dispose of your used gloves and masks!!!

EARTH DAY'S 50th ANNIVERSARY

By Charlie Olsen

In celebration of Earth Day's 50th Anniversary, the Staten Island Museum hosted an event to exhibit some of SI's environmental "How to do environmental things". Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the Museum changed the "hands on" and lecture format to a virtual event.

In case you missed the series, I've listed all of the videos that Tony Rose, Cliff Hagen and myself put together for that event below, along with a separate piece that I did on Ken Gale's Eco-Logic broadcast about the COVID-19 epidemic with a scientist/professor. It includes listener questions and answers.

Just click on the link or go to theenvironmenttv/YouTube.com, read each description and sit back and enjoy. Feel free to make comments, subscribe or to contact us by email: charlieandkathy@aol.com

CLEAN WATER ACT UPHELD BY SUPREME COURT

By Jim Scarcella

On Thursday, April 23, 2020, the United States Supreme Court ruled that sewage treatment plants and other industries seeking to discharge polluted water cannot count on using

the ground as a fully functioning filter, prior to releasing the sewage into a waterbody.

The case originated in Hawaii, about whether a sewage treatment plant needed a federal permit when it sent wastewater deep underground, instead of discharging the treated flow directly into the Pacific Ocean. Studies that injected dye to trace the flow found that more than half the discharged sewage entered the ocean in a narrow area where it damaged a coral reef near a Maui beach. Maui injects 3 million to 5 million gallons a day of treated wastewater into wells underneath the Lahaina Wastewater reclamation facility, one-half mile from the Pacific shoreline.

The Environmental Protection Agency argued that the permit was not required. But Supreme Court Justices ruled by a 6 to 3 vote that 'the statute requires a permit when there is a direct discharge from a point source into navigable waters or when there is the functional equivalent of a direct discharge'.

The environmental group "Earthjustice" argued the case in the Supreme Court and won! Congratulations to "Earthjustice" from all of us who enjoy clean, healthy, fishable, swimmable waters.

DECOMPOSITION RATES FOR COMMON TYPES OF MARINE DEBRIS

By *Richie Chan*

Paper Towel - 2-4 weeks*
 Orange or Banana Peel - 2-5 weeks
 Newspaper - 6 weeks
 Cloth - 1-5 months
 Apple Core - 2 months*
 Cardboard Box - 2 months
 Cotton Shirt - 2-5 months
 Wax Carton - 3 months*
 Plywood - 1-3 years
 Cigarette Butt - 1-5 years
 Wool Socks - 1-5 years
 Plastic Bag - 10-20 years
 Styrofoam - 50 years*
 Tin Can - 50 years*
 Aluminum Can - 80-200 years
 Plastic 6 Pack Ring - 400 years
 Disposable Diaper - 450 years
 Plastic Beverage Bottle - 450 years
 Monofilament Line - 600 years
 Glass Bottle - 1 million years

*Indicates decomposition in saltwa-

ter. Freshwater degradation would take longer.

DECOMPOSITION RATES FOR COMMON TYPES OF GARBAGE ON LAND

By *Richie Chan*

Orange Peel - 2-5 weeks
 Cardboard Box - 4 weeks
 Cotton Rag - 1-5 months
 Paper - 2-5 months
 Rope - 3-14 months
 Wool Clothing - 1-5 years
 Milk Cartons (plastic coated) - 5 years
 Plastic Coated Paper - 5 years
 Cigarette Butt - up to 10 years
 Lumber - 10-15 years
 Painted Wooden Stake - 13 years
 Plastic Film Container - 20-30 years
 Nylon Fabric - 30-40 years
 Leather - up to 50 years
 Rubber Boot sole - 50-80 years
 Tin Cans - 50-100 years
 Batteries - 100 years
 Aluminum Can - 200-500 years
 Plastic 6 pack cover - 450 years
 Plastic Bag - up to 500 years
 Disposable Diapers - 500-600 years
 Fishing Line - 600 years
 Sanitary Pads - 500-800 years
 Plastic Soda Bottles - 400-1,000 years
 Styrofoam - More than 5,000 years
 Glass Bottle - 1 Million years
 Tin Foil It does not biodegrade

BARD AVENUE CLEANUP

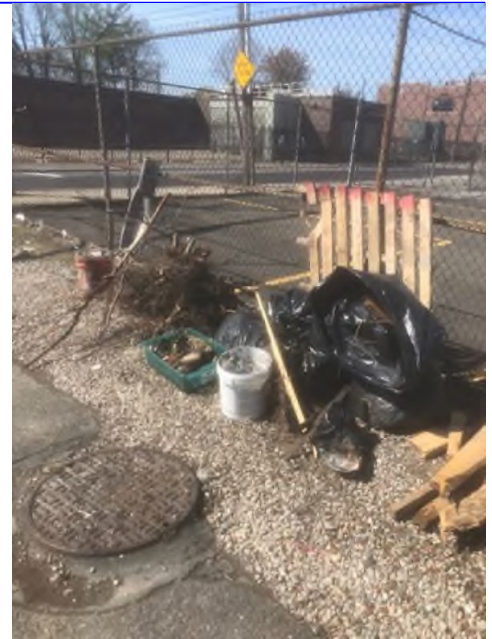
By *Jim Scarcella*

In late April, Tony Rose of NRPA and myself performed an unofficial "Earth Day" cleanup of the West Brighton waterfront at Bard Avenue. It was a beautiful day, sunny with a gentle breeze.

The Bard Avenue street end is at Richmond Terrace, next to the Getty gas station.

There were a couple of people fishing the Kill Van Kull River from the Con Edison coal port structures. This was the location of the first power plant on Staten Island, going back to the turn of the twentieth century.

Over the years, North Shore Waterfront Conservancy (NSWC) and NRPA have cleaned here about a dozen times. NSWC initiated the 'Blue Streets' program to provide safe waterfront access here. Unfortu-



nately, the street-end has been abused as a dumping ground for landscaping debris and household garbage. Add in careless individuals, and it's a mess. We were able to remove the discarded tree roots, five-gallon buckets of terrazzo mix, busted shipping pallets, "Dunkin Donuts" packaging, cigarette packaging, beer and beverage bottles and cans, discarded food, coffee cups, car parts, bags of leaves, and more. New to the garbage, you guessed it, were disposable gloves. In all, we removed about 240 pounds and recycled another 5 pounds of glass and aluminum.

Illegal dumping continues because these uncaring people know they can get away with it. If you see illegal dumping, please call 311 to report it.

Please join or renew with NRPA so we can continue to clean our waterfront and beaches.

WE DID IT! WE STOPPED THE WILLIAMS PIPELINE!



Note: - The Williams/Transco Northeast Supply Enhancement Pipeline was proposed to carry fracked gas through a 23-mile offshore pipeline

through Raritan Bay and into Lower New York Bay. The construction of this environmental nightmare included air polluting compressor stations in New Jersey, would have released almost 700,000 gallons of chemicals into our waterways and the dispersal and dumping of almost 750,000 cubic yards of toxic sediment. The damage to fisheries and habitat would have been unthinkable. Not only that, but the so called “demand” for the gas was questionable. Many people in New York and New Jersey banded together and ultimately defeated this proposal.

From Action Network May 15, 2020

Today, the Department of Environmental Conservation made a final determination to reject the 401 Water Quality permit for the pipeline, which means that Williams cannot reapply.

This is a huge grassroots victory for the climate movement that would not have happened without you!

Over the past three years, New Yorkers have submitted tens of thousands of public comments and petition signatures calling on Governor Cuomo to stop this fracked gas disaster. We held dozens of protests and hundreds of us marched across the Brooklyn Bridge.



We did everything we could to protect our communities and together we stopped the Williams Pipeline!

We suspect Williams will file a lawsuit to have this decision overturned and we know that if National Grid doesn't get their way with the pipeline, they'll push to expand their Greenpoint LNG facility and other fracked gas infrastructure.

So, we still need to be vigilant and show up for other communities fighting fracked gas, but for now take this moment to look at all we've accomplished, all the power we've built and let's celebrate!

We are so honored and grateful to have stood beside so many of you over the last three years. We hope this victory can be a shining light during dark times and a reminder that people power can win.

Stop the Williams Pipeline NY (NESE Pipeline) Campaign organized by 350BK, Surfrider NYC Chapter, Sane Energy Project, Food & Water Action, New York Communities for Change, 350, and Rockaway Beach Civic Association.

RICHMOND CREEK

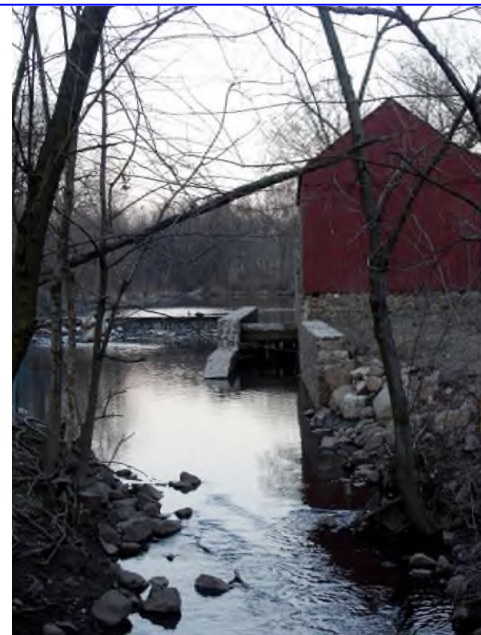
By Jim Scarcella

Continuing with our series about Staten Island waterways we have Richmond Creek, near Southwest LaTourette in the Greenbelt, where the deciduous tree leaves fall and decompose, leaving an acidic trace. This is contrasted by the 27 parts per million saline waters that flow in from the Arthur Kill River. The combination leads to a tremendous amount of biota. trees, birds, mammals, flowers, fish, and eels all reside on or near the creek.



Richmond Creek was once a center of shipping commerce about 200 years ago, when it wandered into what was named “Cokklestown” (named for the hard clam, the cockle). The area is now known as Richmond Town. Sloops and skiffs would take passengers right to the wharfs just south of St. Andrew’s Church. From there, there were horse-drawn carriages to take people and goods along Richmond Hill Road into New Dorp (aka New Town).

Richmond Creek is home to anadromous fish like the American Eel, which were caught in wooden traps baited with crushed up horseshoe crabs and menhaden. Menhaden (mossbunker) were also buried next to a stalk of maize (corn). Old Mill



Road is here, just east of St. Andrew’s Church). The road is named for the mill on the west bank of the creek, that provided power for an engine to pump water for crops, farms, and livestock on the hills of LaTourette, maybe all the way to Heyderhal Hill in the Greenbelt

At one time, the foundation of the Old Mill was accessible from a path nearby. When I recently visited Old Mill Road, the wildflowers were blooming, but truthfully the vines seemed to be overtaking (overwhelming) some of the oak trees. There was a chipmunk scurrying along the overgrowth, and white-tailed deer. To regenerate the forest, there are areas of the forest enclosed with 8’ high chain link fencing.

Richmond Creek was severely damaged when the Fresh Kills (Brookfield) Landfill operated, the toxic leachate caused the water to turn orange and murky putrid-green. Fortunately, the late Lou Figurelli of NRPA teamed up with Staten Island Citizens for Clean Air (Barbara Warren Chinitz and Helen Bialer, repre-



sented by Matt Paris and Warren Van Den Houten) and our elected officials, to spur the closure of the Landfill. The water quality has improved dramatically. At one point, Staten Island Friends of Clearwater and NRPA member Aubrey Combs lived in a cabin in Brookfield, hunting, fishing, and trapping like the early settlers did. Now the property where Aubrey lived is part of the park.

Richmond Creek is a treasure, try to visit there sometime.

POCKET GARDEN

By Tony Rose



Many people would like to garden, but don't have the space, or are afraid they won't have the time or energy to traipse around their yard watering and weeding. There are other options.

One is a "Pocket Garden." Using a shoe organizer available at a home store or dollar store, you can easily put a large number of plants in a small space. It's easy to make and simple to maintain. A garden hack website said, 'Buy it, Hang it and Off you go!'

I believe if you want to make it through the season, you need a little more effort.

The first issue is that if you just shovel dirt into a cloth pocket, it will certainly dry out quickly. In order to protect the plants, save time and water I recycled the little plastic bags that turn up every morning wrapped around the daily newspapers. I use them for small piles of trash, dog poop and storage. They were just the right size for this project. If you don't subscribe to newspapers, just ask your neighbors. There are lots of bags headed for the landfill.



I held each bag in the palm of my hand, filled it halfway and took the plant from its little rigid plastic six-pack. Filling the space around it with more potting soil, I placed each package in its little pocket. Leave some space in the rear of the pocket so liquid won't just run off when you water.

The next issue is weight. These cheaply made organizers were made for shoes, sandals and flip-flops.

**ALL DUES HAVE EXPIRED ON
DECEMBER 31st.**

**PLEASE SEND IN YOUR
MEMBERSHIP DUES IF YOU
HAVE NOT DONE SO.**

RENEWAL FORM ON PAGE 10

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
SUPPORT!**

Your plant in soil weighs more than your slippers. The device has three little metal hooks to drape it over a closet door. The grommet protecting each hole will tear out quickly if unsupported. Take some wire twist 'ems from your bread bags or shoelaces to help support the garden. Poke some small holes to spread the weight out and drape the wire or lace over the hook which can be placed on a fence or garage wall. You can make a goalpost like arrangement with two-by-fours to put the display anywhere that gets at least 3-4 hours of direct sunlight and good daylight the rest of the day.



The other attempt to help support weight is using some light rope under a few rows. I ran cord from the pipe that supports the display and ran it under a row halfway down and back up the other side. I did that for two rows and it seems to have done the job. You can't even see the rope unless you are right on top of it.

If you only have partial sun, that will determine the plants you use. I have Coleus, Daisies, lettuce, beets (which are doing better than the ones planted in the ground), Pansies and Viola, a pretty lavender cover plant.

This is a very attractive item and a conversation starter. You now have no excuse not to have fresh basil, parsley or lettuce for the dinner table. You can use this to do serial

planting. Dedicate it to your radishes. Plant seeds in the first row this week. Plant the second-row next week. You can keep pulling radishes and replant the rows throughout the growing season.



Here is the pocket garden when I planted it a month ago and how it looks now.



There are an unlimited number of garden tips available on YouTube. I

have posted instructions on how to make this space saving and entertaining planter.



You can go to YouTube.com and type 'dancing flowerpots' into the search bar. I have posted videos about rain barrels, Instant Greenhouse and creating more productive gardens by using "double dug" beds.

If you go to [youtube.com/user/SIMuseum/videos](https://www.youtube.com/user/SIMuseum/videos), you can view a number of 'how-to' videos posted by the Staten Island Museum for their 50th Earth Day celebration.

If you have questions about this, contact me at cprwithtonyrose@gmail.com.

NYC STORMWATER AND CSO MANAGEMENT

By Jim Scarcella

How much stormwater flows into the sewers, streams, creeks and rivers of NYC each year? By some estimates, its over twenty billion gallons per year.

This is a tremendous amount of water. Some of it lands in our yards, roofs, driveways, and gardens, if you're fortunate enough to have them. The rain that falls on roadways takes auto and diesel truck emissions and fuel with it as it flows down the sewer grate, where it courses by gravity flow to our rivers, bays and oceans. NY Harbor is adversely affected by Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) when sanitary sewage is mixed in with the stormwater rainfall.

Excess bacteria and pathogens are discharged, along with leaves and curbside and sidewalk trash. This is a potentially dangerous mix for fishermen, swimmers, boaters and kayakers.

Members of Swimmable NYC, the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) and NRPA participated in a NYCDEP webinar on May 21, 2020, where we learned that there are 79 unpermitted facilities discharging directly into our waters. DEP is trying to get a handle on the pollutants and volume of these discharges and to require that the discharges get a permit. After the presentation of the MS 4 plan, Mikelle Agate of DEP fielded questions from stakeholders. The website for information is Storm Water Infrastructure Matters (SWIM), at swimmablenyc.org.

One acre of bioswales will hopefully be able to handle up to 15,000 to 20,000 gallons of polluted runoff, filter it and recharge our groundwater and trees. Each tree is valuable for water storage in its roots, preventing an overflow into our harbor and bays.

On Staten Island, certain parts of the north shore (above I-278, Staten Island Expressway) have a combined sanitary and storm sewer. Two particular CSO outfalls are very problematic. The outfalls are identified by a number and letters which indicate the water treatment facility associated with them, in this case, Port Richmond. Port Richmond (PR) 29 is located at Nickols Avenue, and PR 31 at Broad Street in Stapleton. Between them, approx. 300 million gallons of sewerage is discharged into the Arthur Kill and Lower NY Bay. Disgusting and dangerous.

A great resource for tracking the sewage is "Open Sewer Atlas NYC", a tool to advocate for open data on sewer infrastructure. The web address is openseweratlas.tumblr.com.

Special thanks to NRDC, Riverkeeper, Swimmable NYC, NYC H2O and NYC Soil & Water Conservation District for continuing to press DEP and our elected officials for water quality improvements. We hope that further improvements will be possible in the future.

Schedule of Events:

NRPA MEETING LOCATION is at the **Regina M. McGinn, MD Medical Education Center** at Staten Island University Hospital 2nd floor, 475 Seaview Ave, Staten Island, NY 10305 [click here for directions](#)

NRPA Calendar Summer/Autumn 2020, All events are **TENATIVE** due to COVID-19, please call to confirm

Tuesday, August 4, 2020 - Natural Resources Protective Association monthly meeting at 7:30 PM at the Regina M. McGinn, MD Medical Education Center at Staten Island University Hospital. Info: Jim Scarcella, 718-873-4291

Tuesday, September 1, 2020 - Natural Resources Protective Association monthly meeting at 7:30 PM at the Regina M. McGinn, MD Medical Education Center at Staten Island University Hospital. Info: Jim Scarcella, 718-873-4291

Saturday, September 19, 2020 - NRPA beach cleanup from 9 AM - 12 noon at Lemon Creek Park, Sharrott Avenue (Dorothy Fitzgerald) Pier beach cleanup, as part of International Beach Clean-up day. Join NRPA and Protectors of Pine Oak Woods for the annual clean up. We use data sheets to attempt to source the debris, recycle and remove trash. Gloves, bags, refreshments provided, community service hours certified. Info: Jim Scarcella, 718-873-4291. [click here for directions](#)

Saturday, October 3, 2020 – NRPA beach cleanup from 10 AM – 1 PM sponsored by Councilman Borelli and NYC H2O. Meet at the bottom of Seguire Avenue and Johnston Terrace, Princes Bay. Join us for estuary ecology awareness, debris removal, recycling, and a seine net discovery of the marine critters that call Raritan Bay home. Gloves, bags, refreshments provided, community service certified. Info: Jim Scarcella, 718-873-4291, Matt Malina, 917-656-2984. [click here for directions](#)

Tuesday, October 6, 2020 - Natural Resources Protective Association monthly meeting at 7:30 PM at the Regina M. McGinn, MD Medical Education Center at Staten Island University Hospital. Info: Jim Scarcella, 718-873-4291

Saturday, October 10, 2020 - NRPA/ Baykeeper Arthur Kill Salt March cleanup from 9 AM - 12 noon at Blazing Star Marsh, Arthur Kill Road and Rossville Avenue, Rossville. Join us as we remove garbage and debris left by careless individuals and polluters. Recycling encouraged, Gloves, bags, and refreshments provided. Info: Jim Scarcella, 718-873-4291, Tony Rose, 917- 604 5581 [click here for directions](#)

Thursday, October 22, 2020 - Student Summit from 8:30 AM to 11:30 AM at Great Kills Park, Gateway. Sponsored by NRPA/NPS, S.I. Borough President, and Northfield Bank. A half day, educational forum for middle schoolers and their teachers, covering beach ecology, plastic reduction, fishing, marine ecology, kayaking and more. Students will have workbooks and receive classroom credit. Volunteers are needed, this is a great learning experience for the students and adults too. Very rewarding! Info: Tony Rose, 917-604-5581, Jim Scarcella, 718-873-4291. [click here for directions](#)

Dedicated to preserving the marine environment, the Natural Resources Protective Association is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization. All contributions are tax deductible.

All memberships expire on December 31, so please renew NOW!

(All memberships paid after October 1 will also receive credit for the upcoming year)

Are You A Member? Have You Renewed? Please Join Us NOW!

\$15.00 Individual

\$25.00 Organization

\$500.00 Lifetime Member

\$20.00 Family

\$100.00 Sponsor (after 5 payments you become Lifetime member)

YES! I/We want to join the fight!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Mail to: Natural Resources Protective Association
C/O Richard Chan, Treasurer
Post Office Box 050328
Staten Island, NY 10305

Join NRPA today