

Natural Resources Protective Association

Coalition Against Water Disposal of Contaminated Sediments

Post Office Box 050328 • Staten Island, NY 10305



In Memory of Edward "Kerry" Sullivan

FALL 2019

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ARE CONCERTS BAD FOR MARINE LIFE?

By Ida Sanoff

If you've been following some of the controversial projects planned for the NY/NJ Bight, you know that there are concerns about the impacts from pile driving and underwater seismic testing and blasting. We know that whales and dolphins communicate and navigate using sound waves and there is evidence that these creatures can become stressed and disoriented by sound. But there are indications that the amount and volume of underwater sound and its impacts are far worse than we thought.

The Natural Resources Defense Council, (NRDC) and the International Fund for Animal Welfare compiled some of the research about marine noise pollution and a few years ago, they produced a report, *Sonic Sea, Impacts of Noise on Marine Mammals*. You can find the report here : https://www.sonicsea.org/sites/default/files/IFAW_OceanNoiseReport_WEB_spreads.pdf

There are noise sources that we don't even think about, such as underwater noise coming from large commercial ships, which can impact the feeding ability of whales. And it impacts their ability to communicate too, they literally can't hear each other over all of the noise. It appears that marine noise also impacts fish and invertebrates, interfering with the ability to feed, breed and avoid predators.

There are physical impacts too. In a 2000 study of whales that had beached in the Bahamas, necropsies showed that trauma from noise had caused brain hemorrhages. Some of this damage was caused when the animals were so stressed from sonic blasts that they had to dive rapidly to escape the noise, to such an extent that the hemorrhaging was caused by "the bends" (decompression sick-

ness).

But what about more mundane stuff, like rock concerts? Can this impact marine life too? Sound from the average subway train is about 90-100 decibels loud, firecrackers are about 140-150 decibels and a rock concert is about 120 decibels, loud enough to cause hearing loss. Should rock concerts be prohibited near areas with marine life?

In 1997, the first Ultra Music Festival was held in Miami Beach. For the first few years, this electronic dance music festival was a rather small event but it quickly grew in popularity and became a multi-day, multistage event. As the event grew, so did the complaints. In downtown Miami, where the event was held, there were many, many complaints from area residents about the sound volume. Even when people closed their thick, hurricane proof windows, the sound still permeated and vibrated through their apartments.

In late 2018, the organizers started to look for a new location for their March 2019 concert, in an area away from humans. They found it an area called Virginia Key. But a rare wildlife sanctuary occupies a large part of this 860-acre island, which provides nesting habitat for endangered sea turtles, birds and crocodiles. In a nearby area, all boats, even kayaks, are banned to protect the seagrass that manatees eat. In addition, the University of Miami has a large research facility on the island, which includes large breeding tanks for rare fish. Since water amplifies sound, an already ear splitting 110 decibel rock concert sound would be amplified to 172 decibels in water, louder than a jet engine and loud enough to break glass! In addition, the concert would be held at the same time that the fish would be breeding, potentially jeopardizing years of research. There were also concerns that the loud music would literally startle the fish to death, making them slam into the sides of tanks or even jump out of the tanks to escape the sound.

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The argument was that if humans, behind their thick windows, were going crazy from the sound, it would be far worse for fish and other animals.

The Festival was ultimately held on Virginia Key with the promise that sound levels would be held within certain levels. But testing right after the concert showed that the sound was still high enough to impact the fish, their stress hormone levels were elevated. On that basis, the concert will have to find a new location in 2020.

More attention needs to be paid to the impacts of sound and noise on fish. In southern Brooklyn, shoreline homeowners frequently complain about the volume of music coming from offshore party boats. If it's loud enough to be heard inside homes a couple of miles away, one can only imagine the impacts on marine life. And how many times have you stood on the shoreline and heard the deep vibrations of a cigarette boat all the way out on the water?

With whales and dolphins showing up closer to our shoreline, we should start thinking about the providing the protection that they deserve.

KEEP THOSE CIGARETTE BUTTS OFF OF OUR STREETS AND BEACHES

By *Ida Sanoff*

You're walking along the shoreline. It's a beautiful sunny day and the waves are gently rolling in. Then you glance down to admire the frothy surf and you see it: Cigarette butts, loads of them. Scattered all along the surf line.

An article in August 1, 2019 edition of The Wall Street Journal, "The World's Most Littered Item Comes Under Fire" mentioned a study done by the *Keep America Beautiful* non-profit, which found that 65% of cigarette butts become litter.

Just walk down any sidewalk and you are sure to see loads of butts. And every time it rains, all of them are washed into storm drains and out into our local waterways. And it's not just people who discard their butts on the street. Go to any beach and you will surely see piles of butts dis-



carded by beach goers who thoughtlessly use the sand as an ashtray. The NYC Parks Department forbids smoking in city parks and on public beaches, but these thoughtless people don't care.

Filters were added to cigarettes about fifty years ago, supposedly to reduce the toxic chemicals that are inhaled with the smoke. But if you know a former smoker who has lung cancer or chronic obstructive pulmo-



nary disease (COPD) you know that this probably wasn't very effective.

Cigarette filters are very problematic in the marine environment. They are partially composed from a type of plastic and we all know that plastic takes so long to decompose that it's practically forever. But remember that tobacco is sprayed with all sorts of pesticides. There are government regulations that oversee pesticide residues on food, but this does not apply to tobacco. Plus, there are all sorts of additives in the cigarettes themselves.



Many studies were done that showed that the chemicals present in filters were toxic to bacteria and invertebrates such as the clams and worms, etc. that are at the bottom of the marine food chain. But in 2011, a study was done that showed that the butts were toxic to small fish such as minnows and smelts too, "Toxicity of Cigarette Butts and Their Chemical Components Marine and Freshwater Fish". These little fish of course, are a food source for larger fish. They exposed fish to filters from unsmoked cigarettes, filters from smoked cigarettes and smoked cigarette butts that had the filter and some tobacco still attached, the type you are most likely to see on the sidewalk. They found that all of these were toxic to the fish and the smoked cigarette butts were the most toxic of all. As little as one cigarette butt had adverse impacts on the fish. You can find the study here: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3088407/>

The Wall Street Journal article indicated that smokers didn't think twice about throwing their butts into the street. The behavior was automatic. It reported that in some countries, they were testing the use of portable ashtrays, but people were concerned about loose ash escaping, or odors. Wouldn't it be nice if they were as concerned about the harm to the marine environment that they were causing?

The article concluded that the use of portable ashtrays would be more acceptable, if it became fashionable". I guess if some Instagram influencer started carrying one around, everyone would follow suit.

GRANITEVILLE SWAMP FOREST THREATENED

By *Jim Scarcella*

The following is a synopsis of comments that were sent to the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) regarding the proposed destruction of the Graniteville Swamp Forest. There are plans to fill this property, raise it and build a commercial strip and big box store.

Graniteville Swamp is a unique natural area with 45 acres of salt marsh and upland swamp forest. Like all

wetlands, it provides irreplaceable habitat for many species of plants and animals and prevents flooding in areas nearby where people live. It connects to other drainage corridors that preserve and protect the West Shore of Staten Island, from the Outerbridge shoreline to the Kill Van Kull.

DEC classifies freshwater wetlands according to a complex formula. The higher the classification, the more valuable the wetland is considered to be. With the Graniteville project, there are indications that it should receive a higher classification than what was issued.

So called "mitigation" has been proposed, but it will do virtually nothing to compensate for the habitat destruction and residential flooding that will result from this development. There are also concerns about how the proposed mitigation measures will be maintained.

Re: South Avenue Retail, Freshwater Wetlands, Water Quality Certificate

Dear People:

Please note that I (we) are vehemently opposed to the consideration of issuing permits for work related to the proposed project.

The applicant and his professional consultants have failed to demonstrate the need and justification for this project. The Graniteville Swamp Forest, Block 1605, Lots 1 and 5, are too valuable to be destroyed for stores and parking lots. The existing wetlands function as a buffer against flooding the neighborhood adjacent to Lots 1 and 5. The applicant proposes destroying 1800 mature trees and each tree processes and filters 700 gallons of stormwater per year. Therefore, if DEC permits the action, an additional 560,000 gallons of water will permeate the neighborhood. Furthermore, DEC has issued 30 Air Quality Alerts in the span of 14 months, yet the DEC is willing to allow the removal of mature trees, which filter toxins from the air. DEC and City Planning will be responsible for the future respiratory problems of local citizens if the permit to allow this destruction goes through.



We are unilaterally opposed to filling 0.39 acres of wetlands. The applicant's proposed mitigation is insufficient and inadequate vis a vis the wetlands destruction. Also, did the developers inform you that the wetlands to be destroyed are the aquifer for the State-owned Goethals Bridge pond parcels, already undergoing secession that will be accelerated by the proposed actions? Where is the analysis of removing the water flow to NY STATE property? The rampant destruction of wetlands, estuarine waters and forest, is not justified by the proposed activity.

We question DEC's assertions that the wetlands are Type 2, on the basis of DEC's own parameters: Plants, groundwater recharge, wildlife habitat, storm water absorption, and scenic view. If they were adequately evaluated, these parcels would be valued beyond the applicant's intended use.

We have calculated the expected flow of stormwater thru the site. The applicant's calculations do not include sedimentation rates and cleaning, the removal of sediment is not included in the application, and where is the Bond to assure that Josef A LLC will maintain the constructed drainage? Also, where is the Bond/guarantee that Treemco will maintain the "Mitigation Pond" that DEC is giving its blessing to?



Have you been to the site to view the mitigation DEC approved in 1984 for the storage facility and the 1992 movie theater? The unmaintained mitigation becomes an impediment to natural/wetlands/forest function.

We are also requesting a copy of the protocol that was used for the search for the Eastern Mud Turtle. According to a Herpetologist, the search was not conducted in the correct season. And what of the salamanders, the ground squirrels, the woodland's hawks? These species did not receive proper consideration.

DEC has not considered all of the facts and consequences of the proposed application. We are requesting a 60-day extension of time for comments and a public hearing where all of the facts can be presented. This action is not consistent with Governor Cuomo's and DEC's own goals of having a more resilient New York State.

The courtesy of an acknowledgment is appreciated.

Thank you,

Jim Scarcella, President
Natural Resources Protective Association

A VISIT TO ROMER SHOALS

By Jim Scarcella

In late August, some intrepid friends and I decided to have a 'Day on the Bay', mostly Raritan Bay and Sandy Hook Bay. We (myself and Joe Burtner) boarded Mike Aquino's 24' Grady-White out of Atlantis Marina in Great Kills Harbor, and started to head east-south east towards the U.S. Munitions Station in Earle, N.J.

On our way across the bay, we saw about 20 schools of Menhaden (moss bunker) and we were overjoyed when we saw a humpback whale breach about 300 feet from the boat.

The water was very calm and flat as we motored into Sandy Hook Bay. We slowed down going across a quarter mile 'No Wake' zone. Mike gave the Mercury engines a good run, then slowed as we approached Sandy Hook Bay Catamaran Club (SHBCC). The Bay is especially vi-

brant thanks to our NRPA Associates, Clean Ocean Action and Baykeeper. We have a treasure of a bay; we don't want or need the dangerous NESE Transco Williams Gas Pipeline!

Our Jersey friend, Clay Halvorsen, paddled out to meet us by kayak. We brought Clay into the boat and headed back out on the bay. The water was flat and we arrived adjacent to Romer Shoals Lighthouse fairly quick. Mike expertly maneuvered the vessel to a spot about 100' away, and we dropped anchor while Clay refreshed his scuba gear. When scuba diving, you need to place some saliva on the inside and exterior of the mask glass to prevent fogging. Clay had his suit, mask, flippers and belt weight and he tumbled into the estuarine waters. The current was idle, between the outgoing and incoming tides.

Before long, Clay was at the cove of Romer Shoals. The aged, busted, rip rap forms a quarter moon on the south east portion of the shoals. A shoal is an area where the bay bottom is elevated with respect to the surrounding area. The shoal's cove contained a variety of flora and fauna, rock crabs, stone crabs, Atlantic lobster, periwinkle, Atlantic whelk, Red Beard Sponge, bladder wrack, brown and green algae, and more. There were a number of anchors scattered about the cove, cut loose by anxious captains.

I tried my hand at scuba and I'm not sure what happened, but I gulped in a couple of ounces of seawater and decided that swimming was sufficient. The current switched to incoming tide and the water was brilliantly refreshing, because the air temperature was 93 degrees Fahrenheit. Soon, almost all of the crew was in for a cooling, calming swim.

After re-boarding and retrieving our own anchor, we set course back to Sandy Hook Bay for kayaking. Along the way, we again saw several schools of Menhaden, perhaps a thousand fish each. At one point we threw a line with a treble hook into the school to snag a couple of bun-
kers.

We decided to tow the empty kayaks behind the Grady White and this re-

quired a steady hand. The kayaks had to be emptied periodically when the wake wash entered the vessels. Before long we entered the Shrewsbury River and anchored about 300 feet from the bridge. Clay and Joey put on their life vests, secured the paddles and entered the kayak, with a net and bucket each. Pretty soon, they had collected about a dozen crabs each. Meanwhile, Mike and I were fishing from the boat without much success. After a while we jumped into the salt river waters. It



was good, but not as refreshing as the water off Romer Shoals. Eventually Joe and Clay returned to the mothership, and we washed and packed away the equipment for the ride home.

We could see a storm cell forming over Keansburg/Middletown, and sure enough, it did transect with our course back past Romer Shoal, what's left of Old Orchard Lighthouse, and our beloved 'Buglight', with its resident cormorants. Fortunately, the Captain and vessel were very safe and capable.

Special thanks to Mike, Clay, Joe and all of you who support NRPA, so we can continue to enjoy our waters and their treasure for years to come.

Thank You!

THE STATEN ISLAND ENVIRONMENTAL FAIR

By Tony Rose

There are a lot of environmental and social justice organizations on Staten Island and many Islanders who are interested in being involved with improving the borough as well as the planet. How to bring them all together?

An opportunity arose last spring when the Coalition for Wetlands and Forests found *Paris to Pittsburgh*, a climate change film produced by Bloomberg Philanthropies. The Coalition had been struggling to gain traction in its battle to save the Graniteville Swamp. Outreach to online and print media had little effect. Elected officials ranged from non-committal to non-responsive. A direct approach to the public was viewed as an opportunity to spread the message about the imminent destruction of a natural area on the North Shore to make way for a strip mall and mega-gas station.

With a number of overlapping members working with the Natural Resources Protective Association, we were afforded an opportunity to use their combined contacts and energy to produce a joint venture that could propel environmental activism on Staten Island.

The proposed environmental fair would bring a diverse crowd to the Regina McGinn Educational Center at Staten Island University Hospital to meet with environmental activists. The goal would be that participants could be educated about current issues, meet the people who are already engaged in conservation, advocacy and activism and find out about opportunities to take part in the movement.

Anticipating that any day the Graniteville developer would apply for a state construction permit, time was of the essence. In six weeks, the site for the fair was secured, use of the film was arranged and outreach begun to organizations across the Island and beyond.

Along with the usual suspects we routinely work with, like the Parks Department and the Protectors of the Pine Oak Woods, national organizations like the Sierra Club and Oceana came out to play. Tony Rose served as the emcee for the event.

Taking part in a beach cleanup is one way to keep the oceans healthy for generations to come. Join us at our next beach cleanup!



Tables touted composting, the management of stormwater-caused pollution, and kayaking in NY Harbor as well as a mineral based, all-natural, non-toxic zeolite oil and toxic substance absorber.

The Communications Workers of America and the NY State Nurses Association set up tables to explain their concerns and what they were doing to protect the planet.

NRPA member Roy Fishman of Great Kills Community Sourced Agriculture sat between Move Forward Staten Island and Ken Gale of WBAI. All talked to the crowd about what people need and what they deserve and how to make that happen.

Roy's wife, Linda Cohen was an organizational master working support services in publicizing the event. Janet McKee served as the central nervous system; communicating constantly with individuals and organizations leading up to the event. Howie Fishbein and his wife Mary Ellen were towers of strength, arranging food, tables, raffle prizes and whatever needed to be done to ensure success of the day.

Paris to Pittsburgh is a 90-minute climate change documentary distributed by National Geographic. What makes it different from most is its optimistic segments. It shows for example how conservative Iowa, personified by Senator Chuck Grassley, who appears in the film, has benefited from wind energy. Google, Microsoft and Apple have all placed operations in the state in recognition of their embrace of clean, renewable energy.

The film was followed by a discussion and Q&A with a panel of gifted experts. Ed Burke is the Staten Island Deputy Borough President and

has long been an advocate for the environmental community on Staten Island. Dr. Anna van Tuyl is an Emergency Physician who is Director of Medicine of the Department of Emergency Medicine at SI University Hospital. She spoke about the challenges we will face in a warmer world. She mentioned an article in a British medical journal which mentioned that educating the public about the dangers of climate change is not just an opportunity for physicians, it is a moral obligation.



A long-time friend of the NRPA, Carl Alderson is a coastal ecologist for NOAA. He gave people a deep understanding of the importance of wetlands and the dire future ahead should we fail to recognize and respond to the signs we are currently experiencing.

Instead of single-use bottles of water, the NRPA presented every participant with a reusable, hard plastic water bottle. John Muller anchored the NRPA table, handing out information and bottles, helped by Meg Rose who took care of feeding the crowd, making sure they were hydrated and curating the raffles. The bottles, with an NRPA logo, were available thanks to a generous grant from Chris Williams of Williams Eye Works which also helped offset the cost of refreshments, the balance of which was donated by Meg and Tony Rose after NRPA took care of the morning coffee.

Many connections were made. Much information was disseminated. Fun was had, even in the face of this existential threat to humanity. Plans have been discussed for next year's

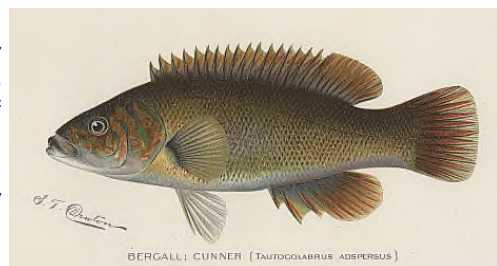
event. We will keep everyone posted!

CREATURE FEATURE - THE CUNNER FISH

By Jim Scarcella

This month's Creature Feature is the Cunner fish also commonly known as the Bergall, a diminutive fish found in the North Atlantic. The average Cunner grows to about 6 to 7 inches long and up to 14-ounces in weight. The fish is dark brown to black in appearance and is a member of the Wrasse family. Wrasse have a complex life cycle. They usually start out as reproductive females and after a while, some become males.

The Cunner is sometimes confused with the Tautog (Blackfish) and is found at the same structures and wrecks. There is a wreck not too far from West Bank Lighthouse that's home to several Cunner and Tautog. Fisherpersons sometimes throw Cunnners back, thinking they've caught a small blackfish.



The Cunner has a pointed snout, eats primarily mussels and worms and often eats the leftovers from Tautogs. The Cunner prefers water from 10 meters to 30 meters deep. They can be really stealthy, stealing the bait off your hook without you realizing what has happened.

A great reference for the Cunner or any North Atlantic Marine fish is the book "Fishes of Chesapeake Bay" by Murdy, Birdsong and Musick, published by Smithsonian Press.



(continued next page)

Let us treasure the Cunner and all the life of our estuary!

ESTUARY ACTIVITIES UNLIMITED

By Tony Rose

United Activities Unlimited is a Staten Island not-for-profit organization that provides community social services, educational support and training. They co-ordinate the city's Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) on the Island. Activities for high school youth include assisting at summer camps, park and shore clean-ups and the like. Participants also partake in classroom-based enrichment programs. These may include violence prevention, antidrug or bullying lectures as well as career demonstrations.

A UAU administrator attended a recent program sponsored by Peace Action of Staten Island on climate change. After the program, she asked Tony Rose of the NRPA, one of the presenters, if the NRPA would be able to have someone give a planet presentation for their participants. Phone numbers were swapped. After a number of exchanges, a Wednesday in late July was chosen.



On a bright, sunny morning, Tony started his morning at IS24 in Great Kills. Loaded down with a computer and projector over one shoulder, screen in hand, he had his shore-front tchotchke crate under his other

arm. Plastic trash from clean-ups, monofilament and bottles collected on the beach shared space with crab shells, stinky natural sponges, horseshoe crab molts as well as plastic sea turtle and lobster demonstrators used to show the wide variety of sea life surrounding Staten Island and the challenges they face.



Wi-fi connectivity in the classroom allowed access to YouTube and SIL-ive videos recently posted by fishermen and kayakers of humpback whales feeding and breaching in the waters off Great Kills and in Raritan Bay. Most of the kids had no idea such events had occurred and some didn't even believe these scenes were filmed in the waters off Staten Island.

The discussion moved to an explanation of what an estuary is and its importance to local plants and animals as well as the humans who inhabit the boundary between fresh and saltwater environments. The children learned how wetlands protect inhabited areas from flooding and how bacteria in the marshes break down petroleum and other toxins before they can endanger life in the harbor. Each participant received an NRPA brochure as well as the handout, *Wetlands of New York*, a leaflet that describes the nature of the estuary as well as the problems it faces.

Program participants now know about the issues addressed by the NRPA such as overdevelopment, pollution and the dangers presented by combined sewage overflows.

Some questions followed and students were encouraged to go to NRPA.com to join clean-ups and other activities in the fall.

A brief clean-up and it was back on the road. Following the 9 AM presentation in Great Kills was an 11 AM program in West Brighton. UAU-run programs at PS18 on Henderson Avenue beckoned from the other side of Todt Hill.

An animated crowd of over two dozen kids shouted questions and laughed at the jokes in contrast to the more sedate response from the earlier, South Shore crowd.

They asked about how they could help the planet, what kinds of fish can they see in the harbor were those really genuine horseshoe crabs (HSC have a convenient seam around the outside edge of their heads. They fill up with water and split their shells at the seam so they can wriggle out when they get too large for their current shell. Empty shells, called molts, litter Island beaches),.

During the rewarding hour, the teacher in charge of the group asked if the NRPA could assist them with a beach clean-up. We discussed possible sites and tally sheets that could help them document what they found on the shore. Each class is required to do a summer project, whether it is a visit to a nursing home, doing a CPR class or the currently discussed clean-up.

Each student got the aforementioned fliers and looked forward to smelling the sea and listening to the surf as they pursued good works. The NRPA strikes again.

THE AMAZING ATLANTIC STURGEON

by Ida Sanoff

When you go to the New York Aquarium's new shark exhibit, you stare at the huge tank and watch in wonder as sharks of various shapes and sizes swim in and out of view.

(continued next page)



But all of a sudden, everyone gasps, all at once, “what is THAT?”. And there it is, looking like a creature from outer space – an Atlantic Sturgeon. Amazingly, this spectacular creature can be found right here in the Hudson River.

The Sturgeon has changed relatively little since prehistoric times. Unlike most fish which are covered with scales, Sturgeon are covered in rows of bony plates. They have a pointed, upturned snout and a few little whisker-like structures called barbells near their mouth.

The Sturgeon takes many years to reach maturity and unfortunately, its eggs are the delicacy called caviar.



It is estimated that several million pounds of sturgeon were caught in the late 1880’s but because of over-fishing and habitat loss, by the late 1990’s only 400 pounds of sturgeon catch was reported. They are now protected under the Endangered Species Act.



Sturgeon spawn in freshwater rivers, mature in saltwater, then return back to the rivers where they hatched to lay their own eggs and continue the cycle. In New York State, the Hudson River, which is perhaps the greatest Striped Bass spawning area

on the planet, is also the spawning area for Atlantic Sturgeon. NYS DEC has been studying and tagging them in the Hudson since 2003 and luckily, the population is slowly growing. And there’s more good news too. A March 2019 article in National Geographic Magazine, *14-foot Fish Spotted in River, Giving Hope to Vanished Giant’s Return*, reported on the use of side scan sonar to locate local Sturgeon. You can find the article here: <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/2019/03/14-foot-atlantic-sturgeon-fish-hudson-river-endangered-species/>

Scientists were checking out an anchorage area where it was feared that commercial activities would disrupt the spawning of these endangered fish. They spotted a 14-foot-long beauty, that probably weighed about 800 pounds. So now there is going to be a battle to protect the spawning grounds by limiting new anchorages.

If you should encounter a live or dead sturgeon anywhere around here, you should report it to NYS DEC by calling 845-256-3073, 631-444-0462 Remember to take photos of the fish, note the location, condition of the fish, length and any tags.

THE CHANGING NORTH SHORE

A photo study by Tony Rose

This is the first in a series of photographic documentation of the changes that are happening over time on the North Shore of Staten Island. There is much new growth along the Kill Van Kull and the West Shore.

From the Blissenbach Marina, home to Marine Power and Light to Tug’s Restaurant to the Rose Garden, the name mariners gave to the green space on Richmond Terrace be-



tween Van Pelt and Van Name Avenues the only constant is change.

While the older, more established North Shore watched, the construction of the Verrazano Bridge, white flight and rising real estate prices in the rest of the city caused massive expansion below the Expressway. Now, with the southern portion of Staten Island jammed, developers are looking to build houses into hillsides and wetlands. They are also looking to the North Shore for opportunity.

**Support
Natural Resources Protective
Association of Staten Island,
Inc.**

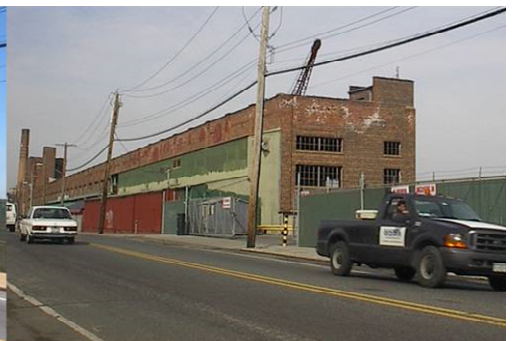
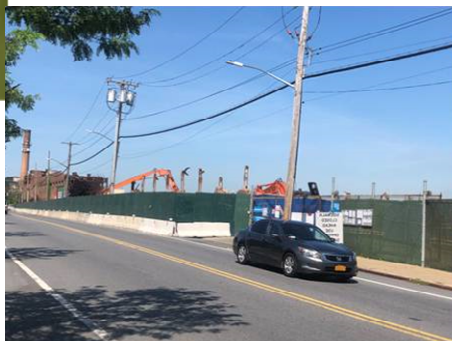
When you shop at smile.amazon.com,
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[Go to smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)

amazonsmile

We are all familiar with that old, sprawling neighborhood home, surrounded by spacious side and back yards being torn down and a six plex rising from the ruins. Tom Wroblewski recently wrote a column about the prospective loss of the Graniteville Swamp. With every woods torn down and marsh filled in, he said, we lose what Staten Island had; we become less of who we were.

Change is inevitable, agrees the





and the city owned by the Department of Sanitation.

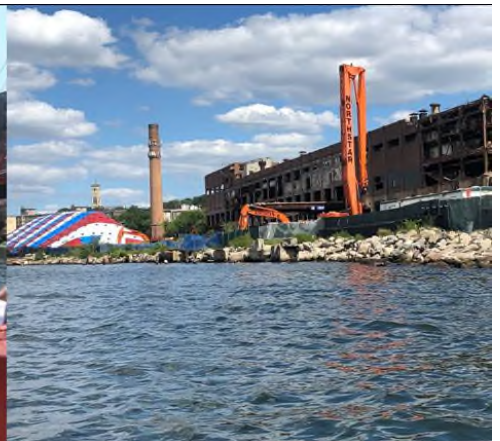
Atlantic Salt has attempted to be a good neighbor; covering its salt piles with humungous tarps weighted down with a lattice of ropes and tires. Salty brine washing into the Kill Van Kull would not only affect the salinity of the estuary but would also be salt that can't be sold.

The company has hosted several community events on its site with light shows, live music and dancing and has sponsored several community events.

The face that the site has presented

NRPA, all we ask is that it be thoughtful; it be reasonable.

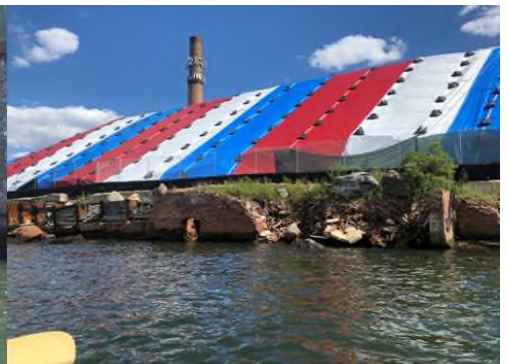
Today's study is the former US Gypsum plant in New Brighton. The firm no longer exists. Wall board is cheaper to make in China. JB King and Company were the original owners of the plant; bringing gypsum rock down from Nova Scotia to be crushed and pulverized. US Gypsum, which was formed in 1901, bought the Staten Island facility in 1921. The plant prospered through the postwar building boom. But with recession, a downturn in the building



to the community has been the long brick building that housed the automated machinery which gobbled up gypsum stones at its one end and pushed shiny, white sheetrock out the other. Atlantic has taken down the decrepit buildings in the rear and currently has giant mechanical claws ripping down the building which borders the street. The building was leased by the Gerardi family who sold produce and garden materials for years. They expanded to the empty lot across the street and now serve customers from there exclusively.

industry and foreign competition, the plant was closed in 1976. The site, with its half-mile long shorefront property, was bought by Atlantic Salt a year later.

Over time, Atlantic has been cleaning the property up; tearing down old, crumbling buildings adjacent to the Kill. It brings in salt from mines in Eastern Europe-storing it in huge piles until it is sold and distributed to igloos scattered across the island



The word on the street is that the site will be developed as retail with the remainder of the site continuing to serve as storage. It would be no surprise to see apartments or condos rising above the storefronts on

this prime waterfront property walking distance from the ferry and easy transportation options available.

watching to see how things develop.

With some good will established as a good neighbor thus far, we will be

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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](#)

Saturday, September 21, 2019 – NRPA beach cleanup at Lemon Creek Park at Sharrott Avenue with the Protectors of Pine Oak Woods from 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM. Gloves, bags and refreshments provided. Community service hours certified. For more info: Jim Scarcella 718-873-4291 [click here for directions](#)

Sunday, September 22, 2019 - NRPA beach cleanup with NYU Wallerstein at Alice Austen House from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Gloves, bags and refreshments provided. Community service hours certified. For more info: Jim Scarcella 718-873-4291 [click here for directions](#)

Saturday, September 28, 2019 – NRPA beach cleanup at Cedar Grove Beach from 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM. Meet at Cedar Grove Avenue and Ebbits Street in New Dorp. Gloves, bags and refreshments provided. Community service hours certified. For more info: Jim Scarcella 718-873-4291 [click here for directions](#)

Tuesday, October 1, 2019 - NRPA monthly meeting

Saturday, October 5, 2019 - Beach cleanup at Lemon Creek Park at Seguire Avenue with Councilman Borelli and NYC H2O from 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM. Gloves, bags and refreshments provided. Community service hours from NYC H2O. For more info contact [Councilman Borelli's office](#) or [NYC H2O](#) [click here for directions](#)

Saturday, October 12, 2019 – NRPA beach cleanup at Oakwood Beach at Tarlton Avenue. Discover the beach before the construction of the East Shore Seawall. Community service hours certified. For more info: Jim Scarcella 718-873-4291 [click here for directions](#)

Thursday, October 17, 2019 – NRPA-COA Student Summit for Marine Ecology Great Kills Park. Volunteer helpers needed. Please contact Tony Rose 917-604-5581

Saturday, October 26, 2019 – NRPA beach cleanup at New Dorp Beach from 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM. Meet at the foot of New Dorp Lane. Gloves, bags and refreshments provided. Community service hours certified. For more info: Jim Scarcella 718-873-4291 [click here for directions](#)

NO NRPA MEETING IN NOVEMBER DUE TO ELECTION DAY

Tuesday, December 3, 2019 - Holiday gathering at the [Blue Heron Nature Center](#) 7:30 PM [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