

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

WINTER 2021

Executive Director
Ida Sanoff
CAWD

Director
Secretary
Tony Rose
Staten Island Sport Divers

Director
Treasurer
Membership
Newsletter
Richard Chan
NRPA

President
Jim Scarcella
NRPA
NY/NJ Baykeeper

Vice President
Charles Perry
Protectors of Pine Oak Woods

Assistant Treasurer
John Malizia
*S. I. Yacht Club,
S. I. Tuna Club, FCA*

Assistant Secretary
Robert Carrano
NRPA

TRUSTEES

Dr. Martin Schreiber
Brooklyn College AREAC

Dr. John T. Tanacredi
Molloy College

Cindy Zipf
Clean Ocean Action



GREEN RECOVERY GRANT

By Jim Scarcella

In May 2020, our Parks Volunteer coordinator Stephanie Gutierrez alerted NRPA to the possibility of us getting a grant to cover the costs of printing, latex gloves, masks, hand sanitizer, and other items so we could get back to work cleaning and making our parks and beaches better.

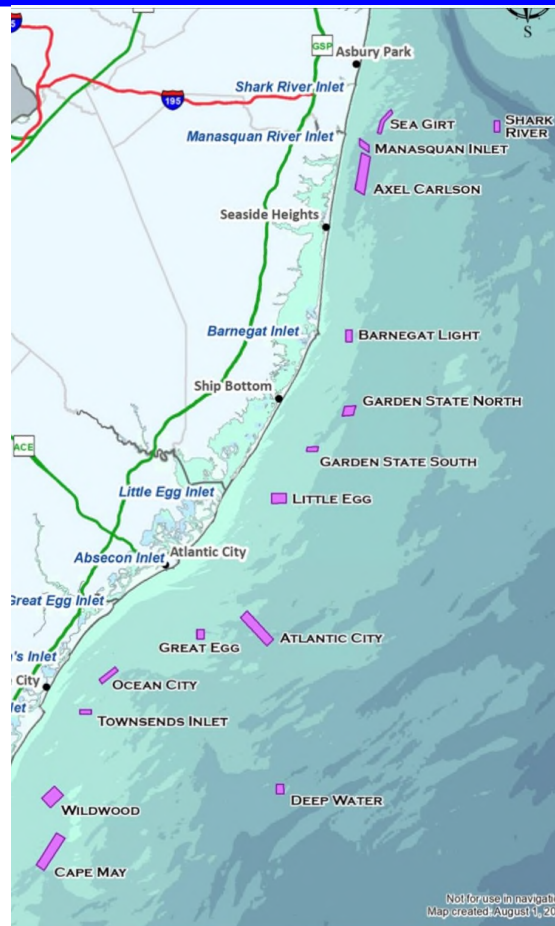
We applied for a City Parks Foundation (CPF) 'Green Recovery' Grant and within a month, we were informed that we were an awardee. The City Parks Foundation Green Recovery grant enables grassroots groups like NRPA to keep on keeping on, getting us back out there to do the work. There was an online seminar with Mike Mullaley and Lindsay to get all the groups trained about what the grant will pay for and what is excluded. In addition, Partnership for Parks (PFP) held workshops with Yekaterina (Kate) Gluzberg and Stephanie on new protocols for "It's My Park Day" (IMPD) events. We learned about 'mask up', social distancing, gloves, anti-bacterial soap, limiting the events to 10 to 25 persons, etc. so we can safely do our park and beach cleanups and plantings.

Special thanks to Stephanie, Kate, and Carmine Raimondi at PFP and Mike Mullaley at City Parks Foundation for supporting NRPA and our ongoing efforts.

NATURE ASSISTED: THE NEW JERSEY ARTIFICIAL REEF

By Tony Rose

There is a magical phenomenon happening just off the nearby Jersey shore. It is a combination of man and nature and it has the potential to enrich us all



Type "NJ Artificial Reef Program" into your browser bar to find out about a program that helps nature to bloom into a magnificent flurry of life for the benefit of fishermen and divers and spins off benefits to the surrounding communities up and down the shore.

Since 1984 the New Jersey Department of Fish and Wildlife's Bureau of Marine Fisheries has been planning, implementing, and collecting data on series of installations placed in the shallow waters off the shore. There are 17 reef sites placed within one mile

In this Edition

Page 1 GREEN RECOVERY GRANT
Page 1 NATURE ASSISTED: THE NEW JERSEY
ARTIFICIAL REEF
Page 2 ANOTHER HARBOR DEEPENING IS PLANNED
Page 4 SHARROTT AVENUE BEACH CLEANUP
Page 4 CONFERENCE HOUSE PARK CLEANUP
Page 5 BLAZING STAR MARSH, ARTHUR KILL CLEANUP

Page 5 OAKWOOD BEACH TRICK OR TREAT
Page 5 AUTUMN BY THE SEA
Page 6 NRPA GETS OUT IN FRONT (STREET)
Page 8 CONTROLLING CLIMATE CHANGE
THROUGH CONSERVATION
Page 10 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

of 12 Jersey ocean inlets.

Within each site are several 'patch reefs.' A patch reef can measure up to 5 acres of area in which ships or barged materials have been deposited. Sites range from a half to over four-square miles.

Reef construction materials that have been used include construction and demolition debris, tanks and armored personnel carriers as well as railway cars, barges, and ships that have outlasted their usefulness. A chronology and the location of ships sunk as part of the reef program can be found at njscuba.net as well as many photos and some video.



The *Pauline Marie* sinks slowly on the Atlantic City Reef.

The inshore continental shelf is shallow and flat with few natural areas for juvenile fish to find shelter. They seek relief; that is, some sort of structure that rises from the bottom for barnacles, sponges, and soft corals to form. These are followed by invertebrates such as worms, anemones, and mussels. Thus, the site begins the food web that draws fish as well as providing interstices in which the animals can find refuge. One site, Rods and Cables is the repository of barges worth of debris from a suspension bridge taken down in Long Island. This honeycomb of broken concrete, rebar, and suspension cables has



become a lobster factory.

Many sites off the Jersey shore have storied histories including a WWII German U-boat and the Texas Tower, a radar installation that sank below the waves in a storm in 1961. The reef program also has no shortage of identifiable ships and structures.



Image of Texas Tower 4

The Coast Guard Cutter *Tamara*, which was formerly the US Navy tug *Zuni* had been featured in the book and movie "The Perfect Storm." As a Navy vessel, it took part in operations supporting the Marine invasion of Iwo Jima. It was the last operational vessel to have been involved in that initiative. Ships are drained of fuels, lubricants, and hydraulic fluid as well as interior paneling and insulation. They must meet federal EPA standards as well as Coast Guard specifications along with state and local guidelines to be placed on the sea bottom. Hatch covers and doors are removed to prevent entrapment. Panels are cut out of the hull to provide access for fish and divers. Temporary covers are removed from the hull when the vessel arrives on-site and is ready to be scuttled.

With government funds tight (government funds are always tight) ships sunk as part of the reef are often supported by community groups and business sponsors. Fishing groups such as the Hudson River Fisherman's Association, the Sportfishing Fund, and local chambers of commerce are often

involved as well as boatmen's associations and dive clubs. Much public and private cooperation is required to make these happenings a success.

The benefits are many. Charter boats taking fishermen and divers to the reef support the local economy and provide tax support to the state. New York also has a reef program, but it is not as extensive as the New Jersey operation.

Tautog, sea bass, blackfish, fluke, and flounder are some of the many fish populations sustained by these reef locations. Lobsters and mussels grace many a local table because of the reef program.

The Fish and Wildlife Department follows the ebb and flow of fish and lobster populations and adjust catch limits on the number and size of critters that may be taken. It has been a wildly successful government initiative and it continues to grow.



Grubby (little sculpin) (*Myoxocephalus aeneus*)

While some locally based reef-building took place prior to the start of this program, the state now supports it based on science and safety. Fishermen and divers applaud the state's actions and assist wherever they can.

ANOTHER HARBOR DEEPENING IS PLANNED

By Ida Sanoff

A while back, I wrote about how my search for several everyday items as COVID began, made me realize how dependent we are on importing goods from Asia. I also mentioned that about ten years previously, New York Harbor was deepened to accommodate massive new vessels and that we had heard that there were plans for further deepening.

Well, it's here!

The Army Corps of Engineers recently released the *New York Harbor Deepening Channel Improvements Navigation Study, Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment*. You can find the report and all of the appendices, here: <https://www.nan.usace.army.mil/Missions/Navigation/New-York-New-Jersey-Harbor/NY-NJ-HDCI/>

According to the report, the channels of the original Harbor Deepening Project, “were designed for the *Regina Maersk* (1,044 feet long, 140 feet wide, has a static draft of 46 feet, and a capacity to carry 6,400 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs).” A TEU is a Twenty Foot Equivalent, a shipping container that’s twenty feet long. These containers are stacked on cargo ships and the whole container can then be lifted off and placed on a truck bed. So, NY Harbor was dredged and blasted deeper to accommodate ships that needed at least a 46-foot draft, that is they needed water that was at least 46 feet deep from the waterline to the bottom of the ship’s hull in order to safely navigate. Since dredging is not an exact operation and there is some filling in of channels over time, most of the channels in NY/NJ Harbor were deepened to 50 to 55 feet. They also raised the Bayonne Bridge so that there would be enough room for these larger ships to pass underneath it and of course, they also had to raise the roadways that lead to the bridge and traveled over it. The original Harbor Deepening project began in 1989, was completed in 2016, cost \$2.1 billion and deepened 38 miles of channels within and leading to the Port of NY & NJ. And this project was supposed to keep the situation acceptable for shipping for a long, long, time.

OK, so the original deepening project was just completed a mere four years ago. But only two years after that, in 2018, the Army Corps decided that oops, even bigger ships are coming! And they need even deeper water! They determined that the design vessel was “a Suezmax containership, *Maersk Triple E Ultra Large Container Vessel Class* (1,308 feet long, 193.5 feet wide, has a static draft of 52.5 feet, and a capacity to carry 18,000 TEUs)”. We went from

a ship that can carry 6400 truckloads of stuff to a ship that can carry 18,000 truckloads of stuff, almost three times as much. You would think that since most of the Harbor had already been deepened, it would be OK, but it’s not. Several areas have to be deepened even more. The new deepening project is supposed to take up to fourteen years to complete and it will cost hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars.

Remember that the USA really doesn’t make much stuff anymore. The garment industry, once the largest employer in NYC, is but a shadow of what it used to be. A designer located anywhere can create a garment on a computer and send the specifications to a factory somewhere on the other side of the world where labor is much, much cheaper. And that dress or pair of jeans or shirt comes to your local store in a container sitting on a cargo ship. Many if not all of our electronic items are either manufactured entirely overseas or their components are made there and assembled here. The same thing applies to auto parts and many, many other items. Remember that my first article was prompted by a search for routine items like gauze pads and packing tape. It was then that I realized that I couldn’t find these items anywhere because the items were made in Asia where factories had already shut down because of COVID.

OK, so why should we be concerned about this new deepening project? Because they have issued a FONSI – Finding of No Significant Impact. In essence, they are saying that a project of this duration and magnitude will have no environmental impacts.

Now that’s where things get dicey.

In the original Harbor Deepening, questions were raised, but never answered, about whether or not deeper channels would increase wave action or erosion or storm damage during a hurricane. Out in the middle of the ocean, a steep wave that forms over deep water has a lot of room to spread out and flatten. In New York Harbor, space is limited and populated shoreline areas are close by. The deepening is going to remove even more sand from Ambrose Channel. If you stand on the beach in Coney Island or South Beach in Staten Island and see container ships in the distance, they are probably in Ambrose Channel. And that channel continues right up under the Verrazano Bridge. Beaches erode in winter storms and some of that sand comes back in spring and summer. But if you take too much sand out of the system, there is less to come back onto the beach. Plus, there are ongoing sand mining activities off of our shoreline. Sand is excavated, then sold. Next time you go to a building supply place and see a pile of sand or hear that the Sanitation Department is sanding roadways after a snowstorm, think about where it came from. The combined effects of all of this sand removal activity has not been taken into account. But we are being told that there will be no significant impacts – FONSI.

During the original Harbor Deepening, some Staten Island residents reported damage to the foundation of their homes from the blasting. In addition, work will be done in some shoreline areas where there is a history of industrial contaminants. Yet a FONSI has been issued. We are being told that there will be no impacts. Really??!!

What about the impact on local whale and dolphin populations? These animals are being seen more frequently at the entrance to New York Harbor. They navigate and communicate by sound and the blasting during deepening may impact them. Again, FONSI.

Bottom line is that a much, much closer look is needed here.

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

**PLEASE SEND IN YOUR 2021
MEMBERSHIP DUES IF YOU
HAVE NOT DONE SO.**

RENEWAL FORM ON PAGE 9

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
SUPPORT!**

NRPA and other organizations including NY/NJ Baykeeper, are asking for a 120-day extension to the comment period. This is a large, complex project and because of COVID, it has been difficult to reach out to people who may be interested in learning more about this project and submitting comments.

As always, we will keep you up to date about this and all other projects that impact local waterways and habitat.

SHARROTT AVENUE BEACH CLEANUP

By Jim Scarcella

In early autumn 2020 NRPA and Protectors cleaned up Sharrott Avenue Pier at Lemon Creek Park, next to Mount Loretto and Camp Saint Edward. It was a great weather day, breezy with some sunshine. After arriving, I gathered some bread and the Killie pot to set the fish trap at Sharrott Salt Pond, 500 ft. south of the pier. On this particular day, the moon phase had a strong pull on the tide and the creek was flooding. I took my shoes off to wade in the creek and when I looked back to the bay, I saw a large 5-point whitetail deer on the beach, we both ran in opposite directions. Back at the table, we set up signature sheets, protocols, masks, gloves, social distancing, and safety information. Don Recklies, Tony Rose, Elaine Croteau, Lisa Esposito, Chuck Perry, Rob Carrano, Ed Volmero, Vinnie Rocca, and a few more folks assisted.

A fisherman alerted me to two full 25-gallon garbage bags 200 feet down the pier. We replaced them and lifted the heavy and bulky contents back to the pier entrance. Teams set out to retrieve and document the trash for the Ocean Conservancy "Clean Swell" application. Trash collected

included chunks of Styrofoam insulation, three busted beach chairs, broken toys, fishing line, bait boxes, plastic refreshment containers, plastic bottle caps, cellophane wrapping, fast food containers, discarded Dunkin Donuts cups, boat parts, an automobile tire, e-cigarettes assemblies, cigarette butts and filters, life jackets, waterlogged driftwood dock and bulkhead pieces, deodorant, and toothpaste containers, plastic pizza box supports, plastic oral hygiene picks, toothbrushes, hair combs, pet food cans, PPE and more. The teams also recycled over 15 lbs. of aluminum and glass. The 5-point buck reappeared at the north edge of the parking lot and Rob Carrano took some great pictures. Clean up results were conveyed to Katie Leung of 'Project Dragonfly' to attempt to stop ocean pollution at its source.

Vin Cascella and his team from Parks Dept removed the garbage we collected. NYC Green Recovery Fund supported the cleanup by helping us purchase gloves, masks, antibacterial soap, and refreshments.

Deputy Borough President Ed Burke and Richmond County District Attorney Mike McMahon assisted as part of their joint Anti-Litter Campaign.

The killifish trap did not disappoint, there were over 25 banded killies, and a couple of them were large. The kids had a great time handling these and all fish were released unharmed. Afterward, one person went in the clear waters of Raritan Bay for a brief swim.

Thanks to all who participated. NRPA, PPOW, Baykeeper and you are making a difference!

CONFERENCE HOUSE PARK CLEANUP

By Jim Scarcella

On October 3, 2020, NRPA teamed up with NYC H2O to clean the beach at Conference House Park. The weather was perfect for autumn, sunny with a slight chill in the air. We set up next to the visitor center on Satterlee Street, and folks arrived in family groups. For this cleanup, the Staten Island Zoo, led by Jess



Hartmann and Nicole, pitched in with a slew of docents and volunteers. Everyone wore masks, practiced social distancing, and had gloves and hand sanitizer. For many, it was a chance to visit the new resilient Pavilion in the park, built at the bottom of (Mayor John) Hylan Boulevard.

Folks were very enthusiastic, and the beach had different types of debris; refreshment containers, bottle caps, cigarettes packaging and butts, PVC piping and connectors, lobster pot markers and rope, Styrofoam containers, cellophane food packaging, plastic bags and bottles, fishing line and hooks, PPE masks and gloves.

A total of 200 lbs. of trash was removed from the beach, with another 25 lbs. of aluminum and glass recycled. Wildlife seen included a 6-point whitetail deer who was too friendly, because of people mistakenly feeding him. Special thanks to Vin Rocca, Howard Fishbein, Nicole Doz, Chuck Perry, Tony Rose, Iris Polanco, Nate McVay, John Kilcullen, Doris, Nina, Jack Bolembach, Bill, Ed Volmer, John, Anthony Fisher, Matt Malina, Ryan, David, Mary Lee (St. Clare's) and everyone who chipped in to assist. Frank Mascia of Councilmember Borelli's office provided financial and in-person support. Also, thanks to the NYC Green Recovery Fund of City Parks Foundation for their support. NRPA is proud to continue our legacy of keeping our beaches clean



**Join NRPA
Today**

BLAZING STAR MARSH, ARTHUR KILL CLEANUP

By Jim Scarcella

In October, NRPA cleaned the Blazing Star Salt Marsh along the Arthur Kill River. The cleanup was funded by NY/NJ Baykeeper as part of a legal settlement from a company that pleaded guilty to polluting the Arthur Kill. Ten persons removed garbage from the salt marsh and trimmed the hardwood tree that invaded the one meager parking space that anyone can use to enjoy the marsh. The historic Blazing Star Cemetery, with graves from the 1700s to the 1800s is adjacent to the marsh, with family names like Seguire, Dongan, Lund, and many more. These people lived through the American Revolution, and many were true patriots. The marsh is loaded with one clawed fiddler crabs and *Spartina alterniflora*, a marsh grass that provides important habitat. There was mugwort too, an invasive weed, which tempts you with beet red burgundy strands. The Northern Harrier hawk soared gracefully overhead, and a brilliant white Great Egret stalked baitfish in the distance. An abandoned barge and ferry sit at the edge of the shipping channel.

NRPA will continue to clean and protect our salt marshes.



OAKWOOD BEACH TRICK OR TREAT

By Jim Scarcella

On Halloween, NRPA teamed up with NYC H2O, Councilman Steven Matteo, and volunteers from Curtis High School, St. Clare School and the Staten Island Zoo to clean Oakwood Beach at the bottom of Tarlton Street, near the Water Treatment Control Plant. This is where the first section of the East Shore Seawall is scheduled to begin construction in Spring 2021.

Making a left turn onto Foxbeach Avenue I met Vin Cascella on Cedar Grove Avenue, and he was working with Anthony on getting the 'beach buggy' (a 4-wheel motorized ATV) ready. At the cul de sac on Tarlton, Matt, Iris, Christina and David with NYC H2O were setting up their table, tent, and supplies. It was a cold but sunny day. The amount of illegal

dumping here was disgusting, but we had the right team to tackle the garbage.

Included in the debris was wood door and closet framing, over 50 lbs. of broken ceramic tile, beer cans and bottles, yard pavers, fast food containers, auto parts, a Christmas tree, broken chairs, a plastic toy emoji giving a wink and sticking out its tongue, clothing, yard ornaments, an umbrella, and more. On the beach, there were glass beer bottles galore, plastic bags, hundreds of plastic bottle caps, candy and cigarette wrappers and butts, pieces of vape pipes, fishing tackle, line, and poles, Styrofoam packing materials and insulation, feminine hygiene items, plastic oral tooth cleaners, PPE masks and gloves, and other trash.

One of the youngsters was overjoyed upon discovering a piece of anthracite, basically a piece of coal. The beach buggy kept very busy, running up and down the shoreline, picking up filled bags of trash.



Special thanks to Mary Ellen, Howie, Robb, Doris, Mike, Chuck, Katie, Jack, Adriano, Iris, Christina, Matt Malina, Danielle, the kids from Curtis and St. Clare, Vin Cascella, and everyone who helped. We collected over 800 lbs. of garbage and recycled an additional 20 lbs. of glass and aluminum. An itemized list of the beach trash collected was sent to the Ocean Conservancy Clean Swell app, which attempt to stop garbage at its source. NRPA will continue to keep our shorelines, parks, and beaches clean.

AUTUMN BY THE SEA

By Jim Scarcella

With cooler temperatures and shorter days, the autumn season



Thanks to Maryellen, Howie, Vinny, Doris, Mike, Chuck, Tony, Rebecca, and Julian for making the clean up a success. Overall, we removed 200 lbs. of garbage and recycled 5 lbs. of aluminum and glass.

Special thanks to Baykeeper and Super Law Group for their support.



brings many changes to our shoreline and waters. The cooler water holds more oxygen and we had lower than average rainfall, which kept the harbor waters clean and clear. By mid-September, it seemed like the jellyfish had disappeared, and the Blue Claw Crabs had moved out to deeper waters.

NRPA Vice President Chuck Perry and I sailed his Hobiecat pedal/sail and saw a couple of Kemps Ridley sea turtles. One was in Great Kills Harbor near Seaside Nature Park; another was off the jetty at Crookes Point. Swirls of swallows felt the temperature change and by October started their migration. Canada Geese stayed to keep over-fertilizing



Canada Goose

our parks, creeks and Bluebelts. The Menhaden (mossbunker) had less stress from over harvesting and schooled up in the Lower Bay. Striped Bass and Bluefish came back as part of their migration, to gorge on the peanut bunker. A single Bluefish leapt out of the water chasing bunker in October, and the Cormorants dived for baitfish to wiggle down their esophagus. I saw a few deceased Burrfish (see the NRPA Summer 2020 newsletter) and there were some diving terns, Black-backed Gulls, and Black Skimmers foraging for insects. The angle of the sun changed, and the waters teemed with phytoplankton, the basis of marine life. Change hit the land adjacent to the shoreline and beaches also. Mammals like Eastern Cottontail Rabbits and Meadow Voles (small, chubby rodents that have short tails) made their presence known, and the White-tailed Deer and Turkeys were around in Ocean Breeze.

Chuck and I also saw a Norway Rat



Norway Rat

navigating the bulkhead at the Great Kills Harbor boat launch. Further adventures at the launch included an underwater rescue of the stainless-steel paper goods recycling can, and jumping in to retrieve an errant docking line, losing a hat in the process. The Seaside Goldenrod and Phragmites bloomed and seeded, and the goats were brought in to graze the invasive plants (knotweed, poison ivy) from the hills of Fort Wadsworth. One goat was visibly pregnant. We did see some Monarch Butterflies sampling the nectars of the Goldenrod, but not many. Some Common Sulfur (yellow with black wing tips) Butterflies were spotted at Oakwood marsh. In addition, NRPA was contacted by the NYC Parks Department Native Plant Center to help harvest the seeds of the salt marsh cordgrass. At the beach itself the *Spartina alterniflora* began to bloom, turning the plants from green to amber.

Towards the end of October, the air was crisp and the waters were starting to cool. Some intrepid folks actually camped out in a tent on the beach at Gateway. The usual trio (Andre, Shana, James) of swimmers did their thing in the waters off Fort Wadsworth. Striped Mullet swirled and darted in the gentle bay currents. While swimming, I watched



Ghost Crab

for predators on the Mullet and watched my feet. On a misty morning, we watched a Northern Harrier (a type of hawk), soar above the trees at Cedar Grove Beach, trying to escape the fog. Back at Great Kills beach, Tropical Storm Delta sent waves from near the Mid-Atlantic to tumble on the shore. The sediment level was stirred up in the water column. I saw the distinct, fairly large opening of a nocturnal Ghost Crab burrow, known as "the apparition," because it is so rarely observed. Some of us joined Ms. Katie Leung of 'Project Dragonfly' to document and pick up trash with Ocean Conservancy's 'Clean Swell' app, providing a way to reduce ocean pollution.

Prior to Halloween, we saw a sandpiper looking for tiny arthropods between each wave wash. And at Fort Wadsworth, the autumn early setting sun turned the Goldenrod seeds from yellow to beige, and under a piece of Styrofoam dock the earwigs and a cricket scattered and hopped when exposed to the cool air. After the clocks flipped back just prior to November, a cold front brought howling winds and decreased temperatures. At Miller Field, the wind whipped the sand into biting pellets and exposed part of the intertidal zone normally not seen, like the submerged excavator tire that is now Barnacle, Periwinkle and Sea Lettuce habitat. A couple of days into November, the Yellow Jackets were instinctively more active, sensing the onset of colder weather and the 'end of the season'. Also, on November 5th, I observed a Monarch Butterfly flying somewhat erratically at South Beach.

Autumn revealed the wonderful, changing dynamics of our beaches and shorelines. Please join NRPA to continue the outdoor adventures all year long!

NRPA GETS OUT IN FRONT (STREET)

By Tony Rose

On a beautiful Sunday this past November, NRPA members joined forces with Kayak Staten Island, the Staten Island Sport Divers, the Borough President's office, and that of the Staten Island District Attorney's office to clean up a

unique environment. It was very different from our usual haunts and the day included more than the usual suspects. It's on the waterfront, but it's not a beach, it's city-owned, but it's not a park.

Front Street in Stapleton occupies a distinctive niche among the Island's open spaces. It's a parking lot. It's a fishing space. It's a traffic avoiding short cut and sometimes late-night lover's lane. Tractor-trailers and Winnebago's use the area as a holding space while spending time between here and there.

In years past, the Stapleton waterfront was a bustling area with customs officials climbing over crates of manufactured goods and bales of raw materials going in and out of a busy international port. Container shipping and consolidation eliminated the piers and the longshoreman who decorated this North Shore hub of activity. As the warehouses crumbled and the piers rotted into oblivion, the city took over the abandoned spaces and covered them with asphalt. The city's Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS) inherited the job of administering this orphan space.

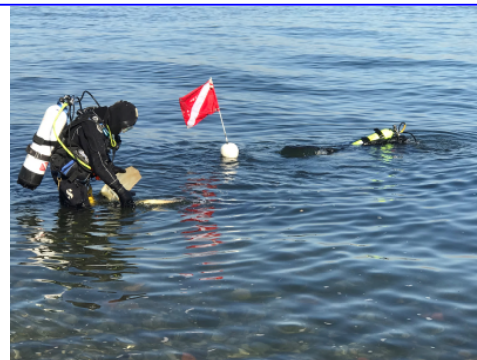


So, the half-mile Front Street waterfront morphed into an unusual, hybrid sort of existence. Being a wide-open space fronting the harbor, fishermen thronged to the area. Nearby, Urby became a residential magnet for folks who wanted an urban vibe while avoiding Manhattan real estate prices. Older, unused industrial buildings became home for recycling activities, a skatepark, and a makerspace. Piles of hazardous dumping and the presence of long-term RV parking turned parts of the space into a trailer park. The surrounding community demanded the city be more accountable for this space. DCAS responded by cleaning it and installing poles to fence the space off from the public. Many groups in the area objected, and led by Councilwoman Debi Rose, the city relented and continued to allow public use.

The shorefront area sits between the disused Navy Pier and Pouch Terminal, a former shipping depot repurposed for offices and lab and clinical spaces for Staten Island University Hospital. Further to the east lie the Harbor Pilots facility, the Coast Guard, and Alice Austen House Park while Fort Wadsworth and the Verrazano Bridge loom in the distance.

Advised on the flier announcing the event to dress warmly because of the calendar, participants were blown away by the sunny skies and near 70-degree temperature greeting them. Jim Scarcella awaited with sign-in sheets, coffee, and Munchkins as well as a pile of tools, bags, and gloves. And come they did. In one of the larger turnouts in recent history, participants included members of the Van Duzer Civic Association, Sean Sweeney, and Lisa Thompson representing the city agencies. Curtis High School was represented by students from their Environmental Club as well as their faculty mentor Edita O'Brien who also brought her children; hard workers, all.

In addition to being simply a clean-up, the day was transformed into a harbor fair. The NRPA presented a table, manned by Tony Rose, with marine life artifacts that included sponge, lobster, crab, a striped bass skull, and molt shells formerly



inhabited by Horseshoe Crabs.

Rich Dewar and Tony displayed diving equipment and artifacts and after the clean-up, suited up and did a dive into the harbor where the visibility was remarkable. This situation is becoming more and more common as the waters of the Hudson and the harbor continue to reflect the largely successful efforts of the NRPA, Riverkeeper, Clearwater, and others to return the harbor to its prior state.

Kayak Staten Island crewed a table with fliers promoting the organization, a chart of the harbor, and a tool for identifying symbols on the map, a new experience for the iPhone, Google Maps, GPS members of the younger generation. When not at the tables, members of all the groups scoured the waterfront. KSI has recently expanded its operation from its Page Avenue site to offer tours of the East Shore from this site. Go to kayakstateniland.org to find more.



Despite two clean-ups the previous month, the haul that the day's activity produced was prodigious.

The Curtis youngsters dug into piles of Wendy's and McDonald's cups, bags, napkins, and condiment packs. Visitors to the site had left a wide array of debris catering to all

tastes, including cans and bottles of Bud Light, White Claw, and St Paulie Girl as well as the occasional Corona and Gatorade bottles. Among the fishing debris, there was a baggie with four menhaden, cardboard bait boxes, and the ever-present monofilament line. A television, bags of clothes, and a coffee pot represented household and consumer items. Tires and an auto alternator were removed.

Contractors love isolated places. Chunks of plaster and renovation debris like pressed board and shelving abounded and Jim and Jack Bolembach wrestled two bags of solidified plaster weighing nearly a hundred pounds each into a wheelbarrow to add to the pile.

Rob and Rebecca specialized in microplastics, preventing denteks, feminine hygiene products, discarded lighters, condoms, toothbrushes, and bottle caps lodged in piles of shards of driftwood and Styrofoam from returning to the tides.



The pile of bags grew larger as Dunkin cups, six-pack rings, vape parts, and lighting fixtures were unearthed. A large, strange lump of fuzzy cotton, wood, and metal strips was revealed to be a discarded box spring.

Vinnie and Howard pointed out Herring Gulls feasting on leaping Menhaden who might have considered themselves lucky to have escaped marauding Striped Bass.

Charlie Olson led a crew doing video coverage with Lenny Librizzi and Kathleen Harris doing interviews while Richie Brown added camera coverage.

Representatives from the different groups recorded messages supporting the establishment of a

pedestrian/bicycle path across the Verrazano Bridge to be used in a campaign by Transportation Alternatives supporting the Harbor Ring, a system allowing human-powered travel around the city and areas surrounding the mouth of the Hudson.

Nearly 40 people collected nearly a half-ton of trash as well as twenty-five pounds of aluminum and glass to be recycled. So successful was the event that we ran out of trash bags! Special thanks go to Lisa Thompson who did an emergency bag run to permit the operation to continue. The Sanitation Department came by early and late to support the day, doing their steady, underappreciated job serving the community.

The Borough President posted a photo of the participants and the trash saluting the group in his Anti-Litter campaign. We look forward to building on this event in the next clean-up season.

CONTROLLING CLIMATE CHANGE THROUGH CONSERVATION

By Tony Rose

Let's imagine a magical process that could produce energy out of nothing. The process would obviously pay for itself over time. It would, of course, have to avoid contributing to greenhouse gas emissions, or even, reduce emissions. It would make people safer and more comfortable. It could even make your surroundings more attractive and lessen the load on our power grid. Oh, yeah, it would create jobs and lessen hospital visits and premature

Visit us at
www.nrpa.com
Like us on Facebook

deaths.

Well Harry Potter, wave your little wand because such a thing exists. It is called conservation.

Much attention has been paid to alternate forms of energy production. As the population grows, the search for additional energy sources has occupied many people looking to the future. A simple, proven alternative exists; use less.

Conservation is a more conventional approach to intelligent energy use.



New York City's existing building stock provides its single largest opportunity to fight climate change. Buildings are responsible for nearly 70 percent of New York City's greenhouse gas emissions. Commercial and multifamily buildings make up nearly two-thirds of the city's total built square footage. This represents one of the biggest opportunities to reduce city-wide emissions and transform our city for a healthier, more resilient future.

One of the delays to the implementation of renewable energy production is the lack of advocacy.

Support Natural Resources Protective Association of Staten Island, Inc.

When you shop at smile.amazon.com, Amazon donates.

Go to smile.amazon.com

amazonsmile

Now available on Android on the Amazon app and on iPhone Apple app store

There is a large established lobbying force for fossil fuel, but because renewable energy doesn't have an historical legacy, no infrastructure exists to advocate for widespread implementation.

In much the same way, building owners tend to continue the same way they always have even though their structures are inefficient and wasteful. Change costs money and owners need to be persuaded to invest in modernizing their buildings. With a combination of carrot and stick, New York is looking to move the city's building stock into the 21st century. While it is in the interest of owners and tenants to upgrade their properties, it requires a significant investment of expense and inconvenience to make it happen.

In 2019, as part of the Climate Mobilization Act, New York passed Local Law 97. This caps emissions from buildings larger than 25,000 square feet, about 50,000 residential and commercial properties across NYC. Caps kick in starting in 2024 and become more tougher over time. The law is the most stringent and ambitious legislation enacted by any city in the world.

To refine the law, the city created a Climate Advisory Board to give a voice to building professionals and stakeholders. They, in turn, created eight Climate Working Groups to assist the city in developing rules that will be used to implement the law.



New York City government has a long history of burdening landlords and business owners with restrictions and expensive requirements. Recognizing that that approach would be set up to fail, part of the law was the establishment of the NYC Retrofit Accelerator. This municipal working group is intended to facilitate building owners' entry into compliance. It offers free, personalized advisory services that streamline the process of making improvements in their properties. They help owners develop an effective compliance strategy and pay for it.

Retrofit Accelerator can establish an individual relationship with building owners to help draft long-term

planning. The goal is to save the owner money by saving energy. It will connect the owner with qualified contractors, find cash incentives, and financing to help pay for upgrades. Accelerator will train building staff to ensure the building runs efficiently for years to come. The city will offer continued support even after project completion. The added benefit is that these actions will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve the health of New York City residents.

The city has established PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy) loans as low-cost financing that are made payable based on the energy savings introduced by smart renovations.

158 Clifton Place

Brooklyn

A unique showcase of the use of reclaimed wood, this two-family home was renovated to meet EnerPHit, the Passive House standard for retrofits.

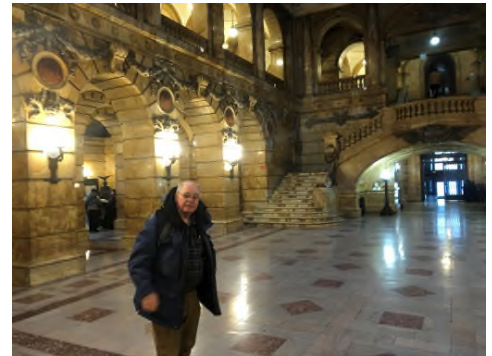
building type		systems upgraded		
1-4 Unit Residential		lighting	heating	envelope
built 1800s	retrofit 2017	domestic hot water	cooling	ventilation
heating fuel	cooling fuel	controls	other	personal budget
electric	electric	public incentives		

Some of the ways buildings can be made more efficient include:

- Replacing windows with high-performance units
- Reclad the façade to be insulated and airtight
- Upgrade ventilation to be balanced and recover heat
- Replace heating and cooling with a high-efficiency system
- Upgrade hot water and other systems

- Provide solar and green roofs

The Building Energy Exchange or 'Be-Ex' is an operation run by the Mayor's Office of Sustainability to offer resources to support the development of healthy, comfortable, energy-efficient structures in New York City. be-ex offers playbooks and case studies, technology primers, training, and events. They have an interesting display at their offices on the sixth floor of 31 Chambers Street in New York City.



This initiative is supported by the Mayor's office, NYSEDA (NY State Energy Research and Development Authority) as well as Con Ed and National Grid. Supporters include a bevy of diverse interests including Goldman Sachs, the Real Estate Board of NY (an owners lobbying group), developers Tishman Speyers and the Durst Organization as well as The NRDC (National Resources Defense Council), GE, and the NY Energy Consumers Council.

This will be an ongoing, long-term initiative and if you are a tech nerd or environmental geek, a visit to this beautiful and historic downtown building is well worth the trip once the current health crisis has passed.

While in-person tours are not available right now because of COVID concerns, there is a wealth of information on their website; www.be-exchange.org

amazon smile

Your use of Amazon Smile supports NRPA

Schedule of Events:

NRPA Calendar All events, including face to face monthly meetings are **TENTATIVE** due to COVID-19, please call Jim Scarcella to confirm - 718-873-4291 or email Richie Chan at gonefishing287@outlook.com

Friday, January 1, 2021, 31st Annual New Year's Day Beach hike at Gateway, Great Kills Park, Staten Island. Info Jim Scarcella 718-873-4291, Cliff Hagen, Protectors of Pine Oak Woods, 718-313-8591.

Tuesday, January 5, 2021 7:30 PM, NRPA monthly meeting by Zoom video, info: Richie Chan, gonefishing287@outlook.com

Tuesday, February 2, 2021, 7:30 PM, NRPA monthly meeting by Zoom video, info: Richie Chan, gonefishing287@outlook.com

Saturday, February 27, 2021, 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM, East Shore Seawall hike, meet at Kissam Avenue, Covid 19 protocol, masks required, info: Jim Scarcella, 718-873-4291.

Tuesday, March 2, 2021, 7:30 PM, (Tentative) NRPA monthly meeting at SIUH North, 475 Seaview Avenue, Regina McGuinn Center, 2nd floor.

Saturday March 27, 2021, 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM, NRPA beach cleanup at Oakwood Beach Park, Tarlton Ave Beach. Covid 19 protocol, Clean Up with gloves, bags, refreshments provided, community service certified, sponsored by NYC Green Recovery Fund. Info: Jim, 718-873-4291.

Tuesday, April 6, 2021, 7:30 PM, (Tentative) NRPA monthly meeting at SIUH North, 475 Seaview Avenue, Regina McGuinn Center, 2nd floor.

Sunday April 18, 2021, NRPA Waterfront Park Cleanup at Richmond Terrace from 10 AM to 1:00 PM. Meet at Van Name Avenue and Richmond Terrace, across from the VFW Post, gloves, bags, refreshments provided, community service certified, sponsored by NYC Green Recovery Fund, info Tony Rose, nobends@aol.com, or Jim Scarcella, 718-873-4291.

Saturday May 1, 2021, NRPA beach cleanup at the Conference House Park Beach. Meet at Satterlee Street and Hylan Boulevard, Tottenville with NYC H2O, NYC Parks, and Councilperson Borelli. Gloves, bags, food and refreshments provided. Community service certified. Info: Jim, 718-873-4291.

Tuesday May 4, 2021, 7:30 PM, (Tentative) NRPA monthly meeting at SIUH North, 475 Seaview Avenue, Regina McGuinn Center, 2nd floor.

Saturday May 22, 2021, NRPA beach cleanup at New Dorp Beach with Friends of Kivlehan Park. 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Meet at Cedar Grove Avenue and Marine Way. Gloves, bags, refreshments provided, Community service certified. Info: Jim Scarcella, 718-873-4291.

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