



DEAR MONTAUKERS,

Welcome to CCOM's fall 2011 newsletter. As you will see in the following pages, CCOM has been very busy over the last months working to protect Montauk's unique environment and ecology, and to stretch every dollar of your vital support. You'll see highlights of many of the environmental protection and education projects that your membership allows us to carry out. Also, I am excited to introduce you to two new members of our Board of Directors and our new Outreach Coordinator. I hope you will take a few minutes to catch up on what we have been doing.

In addition to what is here, CCOM continues the important work of monitoring water quality in Lake Montauk and guiding the fledgling East Hampton Environmental Coalition, a partnership among conservation organizations spanning East Hampton Town and the region. In the lead up to recent local elections, CCOM was critical in producing the Coalition's first environmental

survey of all candidates for Town Board and Supervisor. We are proud of CCOM's major role in writing the survey and making sure it was widely available to concerned citizens heading to the polls.

Through the winter months, CCOM will be here in Montauk, confronting the challenges of the day and planning for work in 2012. After all, threats to our environment know no holiday.

As 2011 winds down, I hope you will consider making a tax-deductible year end contribution to support CCOM's work. A generous donor will match any donation you make, doubling your contribution!

Happy Holidays,



Bob Stern, President

FIELD DAY WITH MONTAUK YOUTH



Photo: Larry Smith

The sun was shining. The kids were smiling. The band was playing. The cream pies were flying!

It was CCOM's 10th Annual Field Day with Montauk Youth on October 2, at Theodore Roosevelt Park, land that, threatened by developers in 1970, spurred CCOM's formation. Hundreds of families turned out to enjoy the sunshine, music and good ol' fashioned games like sack races, bubble gum blowing contests, relay races, and tug-of-war. The biggest hit of the day? It was a toss up between Montauk Fire Department's much needed fire hose showers (it was 85 degrees), rides in their cherry picker, Ed Lightcap's famous chili, and the pie throwing contest. A great time was had by all! To see photos from Field Day, other CCOM events and Montauk nature photos, visit PreserveMontauk.org and click Gallery.

IS MILLSTONE A THREAT TO MONTAUK?



NRC/ Courtesy: Dominion Energy

Concerns about the 40-year-old Millstone Nuclear Power Station in Waterford, Conn., have been sharpened since the earthquake and tsunami in Japan earlier this year triggered a major nuclear disaster at the Fukushima, Daiichi, power plant. The aging Millstone plant is just 20 miles from Montauk across Long Island Sound – closer to us than the Bridgehampton Commons and far closer than the Shoreham nuclear plant, which was shut down in the face of strong community resistance.

How much of a threat does Millstone pose to Montauk and the East End? Investigative journalist Karl Grossman and County Legislator Jay Schneiderman tackled this question at CCOM's Annual Meeting in September.

THREATS AND REGULATIONS

Both speakers discussed the two emergency planning zones that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has established around nuclear power plants: a "plume exposure pathway zone," with a radius of 10 miles, dealing primarily with exposure to airborne radioactive materials, and an "ingestion pathway zone" of about 50 miles, concerned mainly with ingestion of contaminated food and liquid. Around Millstone, the reach of these zones is broad – 125,000 people live within a 10-mile radius and nearly 3 million live within 50 miles.

The U.S. federal government requires a standard evacuation zone of just 10 miles. However, as the Fukushima disaster proved, this is inadequate. Noting that the U.S. Government urged U.S. citizens within a 50-mile radius of Fukushima to evacuate, Schneiderman is calling for expansion of Millstone's 10-mile evacuation plan to a minimum of 25 miles, which would include all of Long Island's East End.

Grossman and Schneiderman believe that any catastrophic event at Millstone would be devastating to Montauk. Millstone could be compromised not only by natural disasters, but by terrorism and human error, Schneiderman said. Pointing to the higher rates of cancer near nuclear power plants – a fact many attribute to routine emissions – Grossman emphasized that even without a catastrophe, nuclear power has risks.

WHAT CAN BE DONE?

While other countries moved away from nuclear power after the disaster in Japan, the U.S. response was a review of the 104 plants spread around the country. Although federal inspectors cited Millstone for operating at capacities far beyond those permitted, there has been no reconsideration of the recently extended license, which will permit two of the facility's three reactors to operate for an additional 20 years.

Given that evacuation of the East End would be impossible in the event of a nuclear disaster, Schneiderman says that there should be no choice but to shut Millstone.

MEET CCOM'S NEW BOARD MEMBERS

LESLIE CHASE

Ask Leslie Chase and she'll tell you she's been in love with Montauk since she was 16.

Changes in our area, however, have compelled her to get more involved in protecting it. "In the last few years, I've seen litter strewn across our once pristine environment," she said. "I've seen the woods torn down and animal habitats diminish. As Montauk's popularity grows, so does the need to preserve the qualities that make Montauk the paradise it is. I admire CCOM's work and I want to do what I can to restore and maintain this great place."

Leslie created and led NYC Audubon's "Lights Out New York" campaign in 2010, an initiative to darken the City's lights during bird migration. She also coordinated cleanups and plantings for TogetherGreen, a National Audubon program that encourages young people to participate in conservation projects and become environmental leaders.



JESSICA JAMES

Jessica has enjoyed Montauk since her parents bought a Leisurama home in Culloden Shores in the early 1960s. In 2006, she made Montauk her permanent residence after designing and building her dream "green" home.

Sustainable technologies and practices are among her passions. Jessica works to create energy independence for Montauk homeowners and businesses, hosting tours of her solar and geothermal home during the annual National Solar House Tour.

A former chef and noted restaurateur, Jessica enjoys cooking, gardening and taking advantage of gathering and using our abundant local wild foods. Lately, Jessica added beekeeping to her gardening pursuits and has helped form a support group for local beekeepers.



MEET OUR OUTREACH COORDINATOR

LAURIE GORDON

You may have noticed a new face in the crowd at CCOM events this fall. Laurie Gordon is CCOM's new Outreach Coordinator, involved in the "soup to nuts" work of running an environmental non-profit. A lawyer by training, Laurie has worked for the past two decades developing content for and managing several online businesses. But it's Montauk that's her new passion:

"I've lived year-round on the East End for the past nine years. Truthfully, I ventured out to Montauk a couple times a year; a visit to the Lighthouse, maybe a road race. Working for CCOM, I've seen the hidden parts of Montauk that are spectacularly beautiful and realized how unique Montauk is compared to more urbanized areas like East Hampton and Bridgehampton. Quickly, I've become passionate about pursuing CCOM's mission to Keep Montauk Montauk. If we don't fight for the area, it will lose its magic."


Laurie lives in Bridgehampton with her husband, Ken Johnson, and their two daughters, Evan, 13, and Charlotte, 10.



STAY CONNECTED WITH CCOM

JOIN US ON FACEBOOK

Have you checked out our facebook page? It's being updated daily with breaking news and information about Montauk and the environment. You'll find reports about local conservation efforts, breathtaking photos of Montauk by local photographers, and details about upcoming CCOM events.

Search "Concerned Citizens of Montauk" on facebook or go to our website PreserveMontauk.org and click the  icon.



NEIGHBORHOOD FOCUS

Here are some highlights of what CCOM's professional staff, volunteers and dedicated Board of Directors have been up to this fall. Visit PreserveMontauk.org or follow us on facebook to learn more.

1 FORT POND HOUSE PARK

After more than a year of deliberate delays intended to avoid a trial, attorneys representing East Hampton Town have finally been forced to answer CCOM's Petition asserting the Town acted illegally in attempting to sell public parkland. The case has now moved to the discovery phase and the submission of arguments to the court. If needed, the court can order a trial.

2 FEE DOCK PROPOSAL

Common sense – and the environment – prevailed when the Zoning Board of Appeals agreed that having a picture of a dock from decades ago is not the same thing as having a dock today. Citing the potential for nearly 150 new residential docks on Lake Montauk alone if the flood gates were opened, CCOM urged the Board to move very carefully as it weighed the meaning of the phrase “pre-existing dock” and to require that any dock applications comply with the Town Code.

10 41ST ANNUAL MEET THE CANDIDATES

A packed room listened to debate about protecting Montauk's environment, quality of life, code enforcement, Town finances and more. Story and photos, pg. 7.

9 SURF LODGE

After years of operating in violation of the Town Code, the owners of the Surf Lodge nightclub have finally been forced to seek some solution to the hundreds of violations that have raised concerns from a broad range of neighbors, civic and environmental groups, including CCOM. Because Surf Lodge's septic systems are not capable of keeping their effluent out of Fort Pond, CCOM has met with the Suffolk County Health Department to bring their attention to the possible threats the Surf Lodge's non-compliant septic systems pose to the ecological health of this NYS Significant Coastal Fish and Wildlife Habitat.

3 ANNUAL MEETING: IS MILLSTONE SAFE?

CCOM invited the community to explore the nuclear power plant's status and possible danger. Story and photos, pg. 2.

4 KALIKOW DOCK

Scientific and legal arguments against expansion of East Hampton's largest private dock went unheeded in October when State Supreme Court Judge H. Patrick Leis ruled against CCOM's lawsuit seeking to stop Peter Kalikow's additional building in Lake Montauk. The court's rationale: You can't kill what's already dead. Because Mr. Kalikow's earlier construction killed an acre of vital habitat, there was nothing worth preserving and no reason to stop building it even bigger. CCOM fought this fatalistic logic but could not get Judge Leis to issue an order halting construction until the case was resolved. Without a court order, Mr. Kalikow raced to finish his expansion both delaying and denying justice and environmental protections in Lake Montauk.

5 FIELD DAY

Hundreds joined Montauk Youth and CCOM for family fun at Theodore Roosevelt County Park. Story and photos, pg. 1.

6 CAROL MORRISON ANNUAL WALK, SHADMOOR STATE PARK

A two-mile walk honored CCOM's past president and champion of open space preservation. Story and photos, pg 6.

8 POINT OF WOODS TO LIGHTHOUSE HIKE

The relic forest of Point Woods and ocean bluffs provided backdrop as CCOM Vice President Ed Porco led hikers along five miles of stunning views, military history and diverse ecosystems.

7 RYAN REVETMENT, SURFSIDE AND SHADMOOR STATE PARK

After much testimony and community organizing, CCOM is currently awaiting a written decision that will clarify how the East Hampton Town Zoning Board of Appeals plans to ignore nearly all of the Town's rules prohibiting new "shorehardening" structures (jetties, groins, bulkheads) along the ocean beaches. John Ryan of Surfside has proposed building a 10-foot high, 100-foot long stone wall to deflect stormwater runoff from the bluffs on his property and onto the publicly-owned Shadmoor State Park next door. Without even requiring the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement, the Board has issued their initial approval. State law prohibits any legal action on the case until after the final written determination is issued.



Photo: Gary Kuehn

ANNUAL CAROL MORRISON GUIDED WALK

On a beautiful, sunny day on October 22, twenty people met up at Shadmoor State Park to pay homage to the memory of Carol Morrison and to acknowledge CCOM's work in protecting the environment and quality of life we enjoy in Montauk. It was a diverse group of people, which included many new to Montauk and CCOM, as well as dedicated environmentalists like Carol's niece, Liddy Baker, Liddy's husband, John, and Tom Dess, the Superintendent of State Parks on the South Fork.

"Almost 70 percent of Montauk is preserved for the pleasure of generations to come, and we all have Carol to thank to a great degree for this amazing accomplishment. She was always in the forefront, making waves. She led the charge to keep Montauk green and by doing so we all benefitted."

- Peter Lowenstein, CCOM Vice President

Before the walk, hike leader and CCOM Vice President Ed Porco traced CCOM's genesis, explaining how CCOM was instrumental in saving Shadmoor from development that would have prevented walking access to the ocean bluffs. He referenced CCOM's written history, *Holding Back the Tide*, written by Joan Powers Porco.

The walkers were keenly interested in Shadmoor's topography, with its moorlands, the hoodos on the bluffs, and the history of military presence. They were

particularly thrilled with the expansive vista seen from the top of the bluff both east and west.

To be standing on a bluff that is unique along the whole eastern coast of North America instilled a sense of wonder that is Montauk! The walk lasted an hour and a good time was had by all.

HOLIDAY SHOPPING, MADE EASY

You've packed away the board shorts and broken out the snuggie. Now's the perfect time to add a stylish, warm CCOM hoodie to your wardrobe! Our black, organic cotton hoodies and messenger bags are each only \$35. You'll stay warm and organized and be proud to help KEEP MONTAUK MONTAUK. (And wouldn't they make perfect holiday gifts!)



To order, call (631) 238-5720 or visit the Shop CCOM section on our website, PreserveMontauk.org.

MEET THE CANDIDATES

Just when you were wondering if anyone cared about the upcoming election, 140 “concerned citizens” show up to your Meet the Candidates forum! That’s exactly what happened on October 23 when a standing-room-only crowd packed into the Montauk Firehouse to hear 25 candidates for county executive, county legislator and town positions state their cases for why they should be elected by the good townspeople of East Hampton.

Moderated by CCOM Vice President Peter Lowenstein, candidates at our 41st Annual forum fielded questions from a passionate audience about many quality of life issues in Montauk. Audience members listened intently as candidates tried to explain how they would reconcile

the need to foster business in the area with the toll such efforts are taking on the well-being of our area and its environment. Issues such as the proposed sale of Fort Pond House, nightclub code violations and dark skies legislation were all discussed.

Many candidates declared that they would work to preserve Montauk’s character. We’re optimistic that they’ll put their money where their mouths are.



Photos: Larry Smith

CCOM AWARDED MAJOR CHALLENGE GRANT

CCOM is honored to have received a \$50,000 challenge grant from an anonymous family foundation. **Every dollar contributed to CCOM will now bring two dollars of protection to Montauk’s environment, up to \$50,000.**

If you have already contributed, thank you. Any additional gift before year’s end will be matched through this generous matching grant. If you are new to CCOM or have yet to join, please consider making your contribution now while your gift can be matched, dollar for dollar, to protect the community you care about so much.

Montauk’s natural resources are being pressed to the brink. New, well-funded commercial interests are buying

Montauk. This year, with your help and support, we have increased CCOM’s environmental stewardship initiatives. We have expanded our outreach with professional staff, pushed to stop the sale of public parkland and worked to clean up Lake Montauk. Thanks to you, our voice is being heard, but more is required. Protecting Montauk requires your support.

Your contributions are critical - whether in the tens, hundreds or thousands of dollars. Please consider making a tax deductible, end-of-year donation to CCOM. You can send it to P.O. Box 915, Montauk, NY 11954 or visit PreserveMontauk.org.

Together we can Keep Montauk Montauk.





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VISIT OUR WEBSITE PreserveMontauk.org

BECOME A FAN facebook.com/Concerned-Citizens-of-Montauk

ADDRESS Concerned Citizens of Montauk

P.O. Box 915, Montauk, New York 11954

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COVER PHOTO Michael Perini

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IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Ordinance Enforcement: 324-3858

Harbors & Docks: 329-3078

Natural Resources: 324-0496

Planning Department: 324-1476

Planning Board: 324-1186

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

Poaching and Pollution Tip Line: 1-800-847-7332

CCOM MISSION

Our mission is to preserve and protect the unique environment and ecology of Montauk through education, advocacy, and grassroots citizen action.

MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

TAKE OUR SURVEY, WIN FREE GEAR

CCOM is giving away some of our award-winning hoodies and messenger bags! Take 10 minutes to tell us which issues are most important to you and share your ideas for making CCOM more effective and you're entered to win.

Keep an eye on your email in the coming weeks. Our 10-minute Member Survey is going out to everyone on our email list. Not signed up? It takes 30 seconds. Go to PreserveMontauk.org and enter your email address at the top of the page. You'll receive periodic updates about our work to Keep Montauk Montauk and, if you share your thoughts about making CCOM even better, you'll be entered to win some great gear.

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