



BEACH RESTORATION: WHAT'S THE PLAN?

In June, the Federal Government announced that \$700,000,000 would be available for shoreline and beach restoration on Long Island. The work will be conducted by the Army Corps of Engineers, but how much will be designated for Montauk and how it will be spent is thus far unknown. The answer will define Montauk for the next half century.

The Concerned Citizens of Montauk first learned of the funding when Congressman Tim Bishop spoke to a CCOM audience in New York on May 30th.

In April, prior to the Federal Government announcement, an East Hampton Town committee made recommendations including the possible armoring of the beach in downtown Montauk with boulders. The East Hampton Town Board after hearing from CCOM and other interested local parties refused to accept the plan without first consulting an

independent coastal expert. Hard structures, even when covered by temporary sand deposits, are widely recognized to cause increased erosion to properties down drift. This can be seen in Montauk at both Culloden and the public beach at Ditch Plain west of the condominium trailer park.

In August, a statement from the Army Corps of Engineers suggested a preliminary plan might be available as early as September, while East Hampton Town has yet to engage an expert to review what the Corps proposes.

Montauk is not Montauk without beaches. CCOM is working with stakeholders, coastal scientists, policy experts and elected officials to protect our community while ensuring Montauk remains a beach town with a beach. See "Annual Meeting" section on back page to learn how to get involved.

WATER TESTING PROGRAM LAUNCHED

Concerned Citizens of Montauk has partnered with environmentalist and surfer Luke Weil to routinely test bacteria levels in local waters and publish the results online.

"Our community is defined by water. We need to know if our water is clean," said Jeremy Samuelson, CCOM's Executive Director.

Twelve testing sites are spread across the ocean beach at Ditch Plains and around Lake Montauk. Samples are collected weekly and after heavy rains when contaminants wash into area waters. Samples are processed using EPA methodology at our new lab in the CCOM office. Bacteria are measured using standards identical to those used by state and county beach programs around the country to protect public health.

The program was designed last winter but lacked funding for equipment and supplies. That's when Luke Weil approached CCOM asking if Montauk's waters

are clean. Mr. Weil joined the team, provided a \$5,000 grant and secured additional contributions to get the program started.

"It is up to those who use the resource to lead the way in caring for it," said Mr. Weil. Noting that each sample cost \$10 using all volunteer labor, he added, "we have made the initial investment. We are through the hardest part of starting this program. Now we need to grow the program to other areas."

Testing began in Montauk in June after volunteers completed training led by Mara Dias, a water quality scientist with the national nonprofit Surfrider Foundation. The Eastern Long Island Chapter of Surfrider also provided \$2,000 in project support.

CCOM believes sharing water quality data raises public and governmental awareness and contributes to efforts to improve water quality. Test results and a project map is available through PreserveMontauk.org.

CCOM FIGHTS BIG ENERGY. AGAIN.

While New York and New Jersey continue recovering from Hurricane Sandy, the multinational Liberty Natural Gas company is once again trying to build a permanent fossil fuel processing facility off Long Island's south shore. This latest proposal would connect exporters to "fracked" natural gas by building a huge floating liquefied natural gas terminal in the most bio diverse water along the Atlantic Coast — the NY/NJ Bight. Only NY Governor Andrew Cuomo and/or NJ Governor Chris Christie can stop them; twice before Governor Christie

has vetoed Liberty Gas.

Public comments numbered 18,000 opposed to only 18 in favor of an LNG terminal off Long Island. However, without a Governor's veto, Liberty Gas is a shoo-in. CCOM has worked as part of a coalition of regional environmental organizations, carrying our message to elected and appointed officials in Albany including the NY State Department of State. Stay tuned.

SHARKS FINALLY GET A BREAK

Through the efforts of CCOM Director Rav Freidel, artist April Gornik, and Montauk Marine Basin's Carl Darenberg, Montauk hosted its first ever no-kill, satellite-tag shark tournament.

Shark's Eye, held on July 27 & 28, was a huge success with 33 mako sharks, and 31 blue sharks caught, tagged and released. Four sharks were fitted with special satellite tracking tags and can be followed on the OCEARCH Global Shark Tracker web site. Look for Mako sharks "Princess," "Rizzilient" and "April," and "Beamer" a blue shark named by the 6th grade class at the Montauk Public School.

Most importantly, all sharks were caught with circle hooks (rather than traditional "j hooks") which have a post-release survival rate of over 97%. In fact, the circle hooks were so well received that Montauk Marine Basin will mandate them for all future shark tournaments!

The success of Shark's Eye has already generated tremendous enthusiasm for next year. Carl Darenberg has already received



Princess, a 150 lbs. blue shark, gets a satellite tag.

commitments from several boat owners and anticipates being able to host an all catch and release tournament that becomes the new model for Montauk, the northeast and shark fishing everywhere.



CCOM's 2nd Annual Membership Appreciation Event

On June 14th, CCOM hosted an event to celebrate their loyal members at the beautiful Inlet Seafood Restaurant.

Seaweed Scavenge with Dr. Larry Liddle

On June 22nd, Dr. Larry Liddle led a fun and informative low tide seaweed scavenge at Montauk Point.



CCOM IN THE NEWS

The New York Times

June 27th

“Tensions Swelling as Beach Erodes”

“Our response to Hurricane Sandy cannot be to build an 885-foot sea wall without consulting an engineer,” Mr. Samuelson said. “That is the surest way to ensure we are a beach town with no beach.”

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

July 21st

“Plan for Offshore Gas Facility Spurs Fracking Debate”

“Fracking in New York State will be made possible because of this facility that is being proposed off of our shores,” said Jeremy Samuelson, the executive director of Concerned Citizens of Montauk, an environmental group in eastern Long Island.

THE EAST HAMPTON PRESS

July 23rd

“Environmental Groups Start Water Testing In Montauk, Post Results Online”

Concerned Citizens of Montauk (CCOM), a nonprofit organization that seeks to preserve the hamlet’s ecology, and the Eastern Long Island Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation, a Non-profit that aims to protect the oceans and beaches, began testing in June at eight sites spread across the ocean beach at Ditch Plains and South Lake near the former public...

THE TIMES

July 29th

“Shark Fishing in the Hamptons”

This year, however, a local conservation group, the Concerned Citizens of Montauk, along with a local artist and the owner of a marina, have instituted a new contest in which sharks are caught and released.

The New York Times

July 23rd

“Rethinking Tournaments Where Sharks Always Lose”

This summer, an artist, April Gornik, and an environmental group, Concerned Citizens of Montauk, led a successful effort to persuade some of the most prominent shark fishermen to try something new, and they hope, lasting: a contest where not a single shark is killed.

THE EAST HAMPTON STAR

August 15th

“Off the Block, Fort Pond House Will Be a Park”

“C.C.O.M.’s hope would be to see this park returned to its former uses by the Montauk School, the Boy Scouts, Third House Nature Center, Hampton Shakespeare, and all of the other groups that used this beautiful park on a routine basis. It is truly a shame that taxpayer money has been wasted over three years fighting to disenfranchise the people of Montauk, rather than making this park as amazing a place as it could be,” Mr. Samuelson said.

FORT POND HOUSE SAVED

After three years and \$30,000 in legal fees to stop the Town of East Hampton from selling Fort Pond House, the fight is over. With your help and support, the environment won over greed!

The 4-acre park was officially withdrawn from the market ensuring public access to Fort Pond for future generations.

New York State Assemblyman Fred W. Thiele, Jr. supports the Town Board’s decision to delist the property saying, “I applaud the Board members who made this happen and the work of CCOM under the dynamic leadership of Jeremy Samuelson.

This is a strong signal that East Hampton is again willing to assert its leadership role in environmental protection. Equally exciting is the fact that the park will now be named after one of CCOM’s founders, Carol Morrison. As a municipal attorney for East Hampton and then as an elected official, I had the pleasure to work with Carol on project after project promoting open space preservation. It is fitting that this property be a memorial to her tireless work to keep Montauk a special place.”





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PRESERVING MONTAUK THROUGH PLANNED GIVING

Montauk means a lot to you. One way you can show your love for Montauk and make sure it stays preserved is to make CCOM a beneficiary in your will or trust or a designee in your insurance policy or IRA.

Bequests can support the environmental protection or education programs you care about most. For more information please contact the CCOM office at 238-5720.

CCOM MISSION

To preserve and protect the environment and ecology of Montauk through education, advocacy, and grassroots citizen action.

STAY CONNECTED WITH CCOM

Visit our website PreserveMontauk.org to make a donation, get event information or buy CCOM hoodies, messenger bags and t-shirts for kids and adults.



Web: PreserveMontauk.org
Facebook: [Facebook.com/Concerned Citizens of Montauk](https://www.facebook.com/ConcernedCitizensofMontauk)
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UPCOMING EVENTS

www.ccom-montauk.org/events

- 10/5: CCOM Annual Meeting:** 3 pm Montauk Firehouse
- 10/6: Field Day:** 10 am, Montauk County Park
- 10/20: Meet the Candidates Forum:** 1 pm Montauk Firehouse
- 10/26: Carol Morrison Memorial Walk:** 10 am, Big Reed Pond (rain date: 10/27)

JOIN US!

BEACHES or BOULDERS
Montauk's Future Shoreline
Saturday, October 5th, 3 pm at the Montauk Firehouse



Renowned coastal scientists Dr. Orrin Pilkey of Duke University and Dr. Stephen Leatherman (a.k.a. "Dr. Beach") Director or the International Hurricane Research Center at Florida International University, will discuss their views on Montauk's coastal erosion situation and options for protecting our community while ensuring Montauk remains a beach town *with a beach.*