



COASTAL POLICY: CLOSER BUT STILL NOT THERE

Jeremy Samuelson

Hurricane Sandy's waves stripped Ditch Plains Beach to the hard clay pan that runs north to Lake Montauk, then knocked down the dunes. When the storm had passed, the beach was buried waist-deep in debris – wood, sea grass, rope, and plastic. The water had run to Deforest Road, having over-washed the East Deck Motel property and leaving much of its four acres under nearly a foot of water for a week.

Looking to Long Island communities west of us, we know it could have been much, much worse.

A year later, a group of investors known as ED40 bought the East Deck property, and this summer unveiled plans for a 30,000-square-foot private clubhouse and Olympic-size pool with below-grade parking just yards from the ocean.

It took less than two years for Sandy's near miss, and the billions of dollars in damage that resulted, to be forgotten.

Concerned Citizens of Montauk worked diligently to get the applicants to reconsider that proposal and convince the town that such a project demanded rigorous environmental review.

Whether we're talking about a private project or the Army Corps of Engineers proposed downtown

Montauk beach project, we have a long way to go in this community before we can say that we have truly gotten it right.

The Army Corps project, in its current form, is still far from what Montauk really needs. The agency has proposed importing 50,000 cubic yards of quarry sand to fill sandbags stacked 13 feet high. These bags will run for 3,000 linear feet in front of the hotels in downtown Montauk and be covered with 20,000 cubic yards of sand collected from the downtown beach.

The sand for the bags is proposed to come from an upland quarry, raising questions about its compatibility with the beach sand. It is not clear that the geotextile bags are designed for use in a high-velocity wave environment, and we are concerned that they will be routinely exposed. It seems that the Army Corps has seriously underestimated the amount of maintenance that will be required and the associated costs. At this point it looks like Suffolk County is trying hard to avoid being liable for any of those costs, leaving East Hampton Town to pay the bill all by itself. Finally, the engineering on the plans presented to the town is lacking in important details that allow for appropriate review of the design.

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CLEANING UP TOWN WATERS

Jeremy Samuelson

After decades in which serious water quality issues have gone unaddressed, East Hampton Town is poised to present their Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan outlining the scientific facts on what it will take to get the Town's waters to a cleaner state. Montauk residents and business owners are invited to consider the data, recommended solutions and possible funding strategies that can get us to a healthier environment and economy as part of a series of community-based forums. The first forum will take place at the Montauk Firehouse, Tuesday, October 14th at 10 a.m. The Plan focuses in on downtown Montauk's business district, Ditch Plains and the commercial area near the docks surrounding northern Lake Montauk. Given the importance of these issues to our community, CCOM has encouraged members

of the Town Board to host a second evening session to accommodate the broadest group possible.

CCOM has supported the preparation of the Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan over the last 21 months, working closely with East Hampton Town to document and assess the factors contributing to the degradation of our drinking water and local harbors, creeks and bays. We believe strongly that residents, the environment and the business community have a shared interest in restoring our degraded waters. Please join CCOM and your neighbors at the October 14th meeting and stay tuned to your email and our website, PreserveMontauk.org, for updates and, hopefully, news of additional water quality meetings.

WORK BEGINS AGAIN AT CAROL MORRISON PARK AND FORT POND HOUSE

Andrew Harris

Concerned Citizens of Montauk (CCOM) which led the fight to ensure Fort Pond House was not sold to private developers but rather saved as the community resource it had previously been is pleased to announce the commencement of the restoration of Fort Pond House on the shores of Fort Pond in Montauk. East Hampton Town, the property's owner, has committed \$75,000 to its repair and renovation and work has now begun.

Fort Pond House, now Carol Morrison Park, named after one of the founders of CCOM, was purchased by East Hampton Town in 2003 and was used for environmental education and arts classes until it was closed in 2010. Prior to its closure, the Montauk Boy Scouts, Montauk Public School, Third House Nature Center, CCOM, Hampton's Shakespeare and numerous other organizations and groups had routinely used the property. "Our extensive legal defense and expenses over 3 years to save this community resource have been worth it" said Bob Stern, CCOM's President, "and now our efforts will be spent in helping in the repair and renovation of the building. We look forward to working with the town and the community to rehabilitate the park and see it opened again to the public".

As friends and supporters of CCOM your help as volunteers in the restoration is much appreciated, please contact CCOM to understand how you can help. This work is in keeping

with CCOM's mission to preserve and protect the unique environment and ecology of Montauk through education, advocacy and grassroots citizen action. As Peter Van Scoyoc, East Hampton Town Board member and Montauk CAC Liaison indicated, "the renovation and management of this important community asset demonstrates the value of this private-public partnership and the environmental leadership of CCOM and I look forward to this valuable asset being available again to community groups and members of the public."



Fort Pond House, saved through a three-year legal battle led by CCOM, is currently being renovated and restored to community use. The park was renamed Fort Pond House at Carol Morrison Park in honor of the dynamic environmental leader and founder of CCOM and Third House Nature Center.

COASTAL POLICY, *continued from front page*

Just as we were successful last year in getting the Army Corps to reconsider its plan for a massive stone seawall that would accelerate erosion, we are again working with all stakeholders to get a better design for Montauk.

Smart, sensible, forward-thinking coastal policy is a top priority for CCOM. We have made huge progress communicating the unique needs of Long Island's most vulnerable coastal community to Senator Charles Schumer, Congressman Tim Bishop, and our state and local representatives, but much work remains before we can claim that our community is better prepared for the next big storm.

Even absent a storm, we must address rising sea level, saltwater intrusion into our drinking supply, accelerated erosion, the need to relocate critical infrastructure, wetlands loss, and the many other challenges posed by our changing climate. CCOM has been working to get all of our layers of government aligned in creating proactive coastal policies that protect the natural coastline that draws people to Montauk, while simultaneously ensuring that our commercial infrastructure has room to thrive.

has finally adopted updated legislation requiring that planning and development projects acknowledge rising sea level, more intense storms, and other climate change realities. Whether the new law will do anything to slow the pace of large development proposals on vulnerable coastal properties is unknown.

The Community Risk and Resiliency Act, signed by Governor Andrew Cuomo in late September, "requires State agencies to consider future physical climate risks caused by storm surges, sea level rise or flooding in certain permitting, funding and regulatory decisions."

The legislation sends the right signal but falls short, impacting only the most outsized new construction. The measure's shortcomings ensure that future storms will require billions in taxpayer bailouts for building projects that do not yet exist and should never be allowed.

In some respects, we've come a long way since Hurricane Sandy. CCOM is pushing for the development of a coastal adaptation and resiliency plan that will make our community a national leader.

Two years after Hurricane Sandy, New York State

EVENTS

PEOPLE'S CLIMATE MARCH



CCOM was well represented at the People's Climate March in NYC on September 21st, joining over 310,000 other marchers calling on world leaders to finally get serious in adopting measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. From left: former CCOM Board Member Mike Mahoney, Board Member and Outreach Co-chair Celine Keating, Susan Conway, Giselle Mahoney, Daria Lim and dedicated volunteer Mark Levy.

MONTAUK BEACH CLEANUP



On Saturday, September 6th, CCOM and a coalition of local groups, businesses and local officials came together to clean up Montauk beaches following the busy summer season. Thank you to all the CCOM members and volunteers who came out and made the day a success! Special thanks to Group for the East End, East End Cares, Surfrider, Peconic Estuary Program, Montauk Youth, and The Sloppy Tuna and Navy Beach Restaurant for use of their dumpsters and donations of bags, gloves and refreshments. From left, Suffolk County Legislator Jay Schneiderman, Melissa Berman and East Hampton Town Supervisor Larry Cantwell. Photo Credit: Gary Kuehn

SPRING MEMBERSHIP CELEBRATION



CCOM hosted our Spring Membership Celebration to benefit our 2014 clean water initiative at Gurney's Inn. Attendees discussed updating policies for protecting Montauk's natural shoreline, local and state efforts to promote cleaning up polluted water bodies and other pressing environmental concerns. From left: Assemblyman Fred Thiele, Jeremy Samuelson and Town Supervisor Larry Cantwell.

IN MEMORIAM

WALTER GALCIK



Concerned Citizens of Montauk was sad to learn of the passing of Walter Galcik, Sr., who served on our board for many years. Walter, once referred to as "an old salt from Montauk" in a New York Times article (in which he identified ocean debris as ambergris), was indeed the salt of the earth, a quiet and yet passionate champion of the environment.

After he retired, Walter volunteered in the Natural Resources Department, working with Larry Penny on projects that required getting down and dirty: flagging wetlands, checking for beach erosion, helping protect piping plovers. Likewise, for CCOM, Walter was ready and willing to do whatever was needed, from hauling garbage for Earth Day cleanups to attending town board hearings. He was a knowledgeable, sensible, and sensitive advocate for preserving what makes Montauk so special.

While many of the board members who knew Walter personally are now also gone, the legacy of his extraordinary service will live on.



CCOM'S MONTAUK SCHOOL GREENHOUSE PROJECT

Jessica James

Early this year a parent from Montauk School approached CCOM to see if we could somehow enrich her child's education to include organic gardening and sustainability. Thanks to that parent, CCOM identified an opportunity to build on a historic donation made to the Montauk School in 1996, when CCOM and Third House Nature Center founder Carol Morrison lobbied for, and prevailed in securing more than \$10k of CCOM funds to be used to rebuild the crumbling greenhouse at the school.

Since then, the greenhouse and adjacent garden have had a history of uneven use, based on the voluntary commitment of individual teachers. Inspired by the official dedication of the greenhouse to Carol Morrison in June 2014, CCOM's Outreach Committee began a campaign to increase the scope of gardening projects at Montauk School. We felt that the key to long-term success was to include as many sectors of the community as possible. CCOM brought together school parents, the Montauk Community Garden volunteers, local educators, including Third House Nature Center, and members of the school's Site-based Committee and PTA to form an

exciting coalition with the goal of revitalizing and maximizing the school's greenhouse and garden. This year children enjoyed seed-starting projects in the greenhouse and planting a Monarch butterfly way station in a raised bed outdoors. This summer saw the formation of a group of volunteers dedicated to maintaining science teacher Todd Brunn's vegetable garden - a project of his Garden Club. The plants were lovingly cared for throughout the summer break so that the vegetables are now ready for the children to enjoy harvesting.

News about Montauk School's garden projects can be followed through this link: www.montaukschool.org/pages/Montauk_School/District/Greenhouse

If anyone in the community would like to help in the Montauk School garden project, please contact us to discuss volunteer opportunities. Of course, donations to support this project are gratefully accepted.



Jessica James, CCOM Outreach Co-Chair and Tom Martin working in the Montauk School greenhouse rehabilitating the koi pond.



CCOM member Rikki Kuehn volunteering in the outdoor garden at Montauk School.



The Monarch butterfly way station in the outdoor garden at Montauk School. Monarch butterfly populations have suffered serious declines in recent years. Butterfly gardens serve as important waypoints on their long migrations throughout North America and serve as a great educational tool for students working on environmental issues.

LAKE MONTAUK WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN COMPLETED AND MOVING FORWARD

Rich Silver

The once thriving waters of Lake Montauk have lost nearly all of the eelgrass that served as essential habitat for fish and shellfish so much a part of Montauk's economy and way of life. Buffers of native plants that filter pollution near the water's edge have been steadily eliminated. The construction of docks and bulkheads has decimated the natural systems that keep the Lake healthy.

But there is good news to report in restoring Lake Montauk. Following years of delay and with a renewed push, East Hampton Town has enlisted the help of a team of community members (including CCOM) in completing the Lake Montauk Watershed Management Plan. CCOM is proud to have worked closely with the Town as a member of the technical advisory committee that moved the project to completion earlier this summer.

This plan outlines a series of fixes and opportunities for reducing the amount of pollution that flows into the Lake, increasing tidal turnover, restoring habitat and improving enforcement of environmental regulations such as the "no discharge zone" that prohibits boaters from dumping septic waste in Town waters. By analyzing the existing natural, cultural, and human resources within the watershed, the plan identifies and ranks impacts to the Lake making it possible to create site-specific management recommendations. This comprehensive approach to education, planning and

implementation has created a map to a cleaner Lake that will benefit all of us who love Montauk.

Public education will be critical to the management plan's success, including updated information about property owner's responsibility in maintaining and upgrading septic systems, reducing pesticide and chemical use and controlling run off. Additionally, CCOM pushed hard for updated signs, now in place, informing boaters about free "pump out" services for their waste and the closure of the public bathing beach at South Lake. Previous Town administrations had declined to post signs informing the public that the popular beach was closed to swimming, fearing it would negatively impact property values and the tourist economy. CCOM argued that bacterial contamination, not signs, are the problem and that disclosing the pollution was both responsible and the first step in building community support for cleaning up the Lake.

Taken together, the plan's action items are helping to save this critical resource before it's too late, protecting both ecological resources and the local economies that rely on coastal resources. Going forward, CCOM is working with the East Hampton Town Department of Natural Resources to ensure funding and implementation of the plan and to encourage a similar focus on cleaning up Fort Pond.

EVENTS

EARTH DAY



Friends gathered at the Montauk Shellfish Hatchery for CCOM's 43rd Annual Earth Day celebration. Special thanks to John "Barley" Dunne and his staff for making the day a great success!



CCOM Members checking out oyster spat at Montauk Shellfish Hatchery. Photos: Gary Kuehn

SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES

On September 20th, CCOM hosted a panel discussion and luncheon, *American Catch: Sustainable Fisheries, Getting it Right* with award-winning author Paul Greenberg as moderator, at the Coast Restaurant in Montauk. The free event was attended by 80 guests and was comprised of three discussions of panel experts ranging from 14th generation Bayman, Nat Miller, EH Town Shellfish Hatchery manager, John "Barley" Dunne, the founders of the Montauk Shellfish

Company, Mike Martinson and Mike Doall, Sean Barrett, owner / operator of Dock to Dish, Montauk's first community supported fishery and local chefs and scholars among others.

Panel discussions focused on Sustainable Shellfish & the Nearshore Fishery, Seafood & the Restaurant Industry, Moving Toward Sustainability and People, Planet, Profit: Creating Sustainable Fisheries.



From left: Guest panelists Dr. Carl Safina of the Safina Center at Stony Brook University, Dan Farnham, owner of The Montauk Fish Dock, a fish wholesale company operating two commercial vessels, and Bonnie Brady, Executive Director of the Long Island Commercial Fishing Association and member of the Board of Directors of the Center for Sustainable Fisheries and Dr. Michael Frisk (not pictured) a Stony Brook University fisheries professor and researcher.

EVENTS

FISH GUY PHOTOS PRESENTATION



If National Geographic Magazine hired a world-class nature photographer to document the colorful but rarely seen ecosystems of the waters surrounding eastern Long Island they would likely call Christopher Paparo of Fish Guy Photos. Chris is a trained marine scientist who has spent thousands of hours documenting the marine flora and fauna of our region. CCOM was fortunate enough to host Chris for a special presentation of his unique images like the close up the scallop seen here. Follow Chris' images at "Fish Guy Photos" on Facebook and make sure to like CCOM's page for upcoming events.

DR. LARRY LIDDLE



Dr. Larry B. Liddle, Professor Emeritus, Southampton College, Long Island University has devoted years to studying, collecting, and mounting seaweed specimens. CCOM was fortunate to have Dr. Liddle return this year for another unique demonstration of how he turns local seaweed into beautiful works of art.

EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY EVENTS

MONTAUK'S FUTURE: TRAINING THE NEXT GENERATION

Stephanie Krusa, Third House Nature Center

Since 2006, Third House Nature Center (THNC) and CCOM have sponsored scholarships for 40 students from Montauk and East Hampton to attend Camp DeBruce and the Pack Forest camp in upstate New York. This environmental education program, run by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, gives students from around the state a chance to live and work outdoors while learning about environmental science and careers. THNC and CCOM believe strongly that that protecting Montauk's unique biological diversity for future generations requires that we seek out and train the next generation of environmental stewards.

Camp DeBruce is situated on over 300 acres adjacent to the Catskill Forest Preserve. Formerly a private estate and fish hatchery, DEC acquired Camp DeBruce in the 1940s and converted it into a conservation education camp. The camp adjoins natural forests, trout streams, the Catskill Fish Hatchery and Mongaup Pond. Pack Forest opened in 1998 and is located in the southern Adirondacks on 2,500 acres of woodlands. The camp includes an 85-acre lake and miles of trails leading to mountain vistas, marshes and the banks of the Hudson River.

Through this competitive scholarship program, local teenagers are able to spread their wings and learn about the rewards and challenges preserving natural resources. Campers return home with enduring memories, practical outdoor skills and new friends from around the State. They

also have an enhanced appreciation for the natural world. Congratulations to Montauk's 2014 group of intrepid young naturalists! Please email info@PreserveMontauk.org if you are interested in learning how students can apply to the program or if you would like to sponsor one of our competitive camp scholarships.



This year's environmental stewards having fun and learning at Camp DeBruce.

EVENTS

CCOM IN THE CITY



U.S. Senator Charles Schumer engaged in a lively question and answer session on environmental issues during "Sustainable Shores & Seas" our 2nd annual "CCOM in the City" event in May. The event, hosted by renowned east end artist April Gornick and the Danese Corey Gallery in Chelsea, featured in depth conversations on protecting our natural shoreline, the Army Corps of Engineers project proposed for downtown Montauk, fisheries management, water quality and fracking in New York State. From left: April Gornik, Senator Schumer, CCOM Executive Director Jeremy Samuelson. Photo: John Chimples

SCOTT CHASKEY



*Poet, working farmer and spiritual father of the community farming movement Scott Chaskey of Quail Hill Farm in Amagansett gave a special reading to a packed house from his new book, *Seedtime: On the History, Husbandry, Politics and Promise of Seeds*.*





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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
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UPCOMING EVENTS

www.preservemontauk.org/events

10/5: Field Day: 10 am, Montauk County Park

10/19: Meet the Candidates Forum:
1 pm, Montauk Firehouse

11/2: Annual Carol Morrison Memorial Nature Walk:
10 am, Big Reed Pond

JOIN CCOM

Montauk remains one of the last unspoiled outposts on Long Island. With your continued support, we are committed to keep it that way. Remember, 100% of your donation is tax deductible and enables CCOM to continue protecting Montauk's drinking water, coastline and other critical natural resources in the coming year. With the support of our community we have been able to do so much for 44 years. Please help us continue our work to Keep Montauk Montauk! Mail your donation to: PO Box 915, Montauk, NY 11954 or visit our website: PreserveMontauk.org to donate online.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS



Your support as volunteers in the restoration of Carol Morrison Park and Fort Pond House is much needed in October. Please contact CCOM to understand how you can help.