



SPRING NEWSLETTER 2018

CCOM PARTNERS WITH STONY BROOK'S GOBLER LAB HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOM MONITORING IN FT. POND



From left: Suffolk County Legislator Bridget Fleming; Deputy Suffolk County Executive, Peter Scully; NYSDEC Long Island Regional Director, Carrie Meek-Gallagher; EH Town Supervisor, Peter Van Scoyoc; CCOM President, Laura Tooman; and Dr. Christopher Gobler, Stony Brook University.

Photo Credit: Richard B. Silver

On May 14th, Concerned Citizens of Montauk held a press conference announcing our partnership with Dr. Christopher Gobler of Stony Brook University on an intense harmful algal bloom (HAB) monitoring program to be conducted in Fort Pond.

While most algae are harmless and often play an integral part in any aquatic ecosystem, some, like the **blue-green algae (cyanobacteria), which was detected in Fort Pond during the summers of 2015 and 2017, produce toxins that can be harmful to humans and animals.** In fact, the swimming portion of the 2017 Mightyman Montauk Triathlon was canceled due to the presence of a severe and toxic bloom.

Previously, sampling of the cyanobacteria blooms in Fort Pond had been sporadic and infrequent, with only a handful of samples taken. As of May, CCOM and the Gobler Lab will collect and analyze samples on a weekly basis. Every week, CCOM will inform the press and the public of the results via [press release](#) and on [CCOM's Facebook page](#). Results will also be

posted to the [NYS DEC's HAB Notification webpage](#). Dr. Gobler's results will be analyzed by the NYS Dept. of Health and Suffolk County Dept. of Health Services to determine if and when health or swimming advisories should be issued.

Harmful algal blooms are typically fueled by increased nutrient loadings from septic systems and stormwater runoff. Mitigating direct discharges of stormwater and replacing outdated and ineffective cesspools and septic systems with new innovative alternative systems, which have higher nitrogen treatment capabilities, can help remedy the problem.

CCOM believes that we must do a better job at understanding the blooms, their frequency, and their length; educating the community about the threats, and ultimately fixing the problem.

To learn more about how pollutants enter our waters, please visit our [Save the Lake - Save the Pond](#) web page.

CCOM AWARDED LONG ISLAND COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT FOR WATER QUALITY PROGRAMMING

CCOM is delighted to announce that we have been awarded a \$20,000 grant from the [Long Island Community Foundation \(LICF\)](#) to help fund our work to improve Montauk's water quality. This is the second LICF grant award CCOM has received in two years!

We are thrilled to continue our partnership with the Long Island Community Foundation. LICF's funding helps make all that we do to protect Montauk's environment possible. From our Save the Lake - Save the Pond educational initiative, to our latest partnerships to test and monitor for harmful pollutants and algal blooms in Fort Pond and Lake Montauk, this grant makes a huge difference

Last year's LICF \$20,000 grant award helped to advance CCOM's Save the Lake - Save the Pond initiative, which engages local property owners in a coordinated effort to reduce the human causes of Montauk's water pollution. **In 2017 alone, CCOM facilitated 170 septic system inspections and pumpouts.**

The biggest part of our Save the Lake program is to get people to understand that everything they do on their properties has an effect - whether immediate or long-term - on our waters. This year CCOM will continue to encourage all Montauk residents and business owners who haven't gotten their septic systems pumped in the last three years to do so, and to begin the process of upgrading their systems using the Town and County incentives, as well as visiting our newly redesigned website to sign our [Clean Water Steward Pledge](#).

For further information, please call (631) 238-5720 or stop by our office located at 6 S. Elmwood Ave.

SUMMER EVENTS CALENDAR

BEACH CLEANUP

WHEN: Saturday 6/9 @ 8-9 AM

WHO: CCOM / SoFo

WHERE: Montauk Point State Park

SPEAKER SERIES KICKOFF - JUNE EVENT

WHAT: Toxin-Free Landscapes

WHEN: Saturday 6/23 @ 12:30 - 2:00 PM

WHO: Edwina von Gal, President & Founder of Perfect Earth Project

WHERE: Montauk Library, 871 Montauk Hwy

SEPTIC UPGRADE INFO SESSION AND Q&A

WHEN: Thursday 6/28 @ 5:30 PM

WHO: CCOM, EH Town & Suffolk County Legislator Bridget Fleming

WHERE: Montauk Library, 871 Montauk Hwy

SPEAKER SERIES - JULY EVENT

WHAT: Energy Conservation Discussion and Q&A

WHEN: Tuesday 7/17 @ 5:30-7:00 PM

WHO: Gordian Raacke, Executive Director, Renewable Energy Long Island

WHERE: Fort Pond House, 128 Second House Rd., Montauk

All of these events are **free & open to the public**. No RSVP required.

For more information, please visit the [CCOM Events web page](#).

CCOM's NEW WEBSITE

Thanks to the very creative duo of [Blumenfeld & Fleming](#) and the infinite patience of Greg Perham of [Swing Graphics](#), CCOM has a beautiful [new website](#)! They truly worked miracles with our modest budget.

We would also like to thank the talented local photographers for their beautiful images - [Gary J. Kuehn](#), [Richard B. Silver](#), [Heather Wojtusiak](#), Michael J. Perini, [Jill Fleming](#) and [John Todaro](#).

Your images of our beautiful town are truly captivating. Thank you!

We are so very excited to share it with you! Click on the image below to explore.



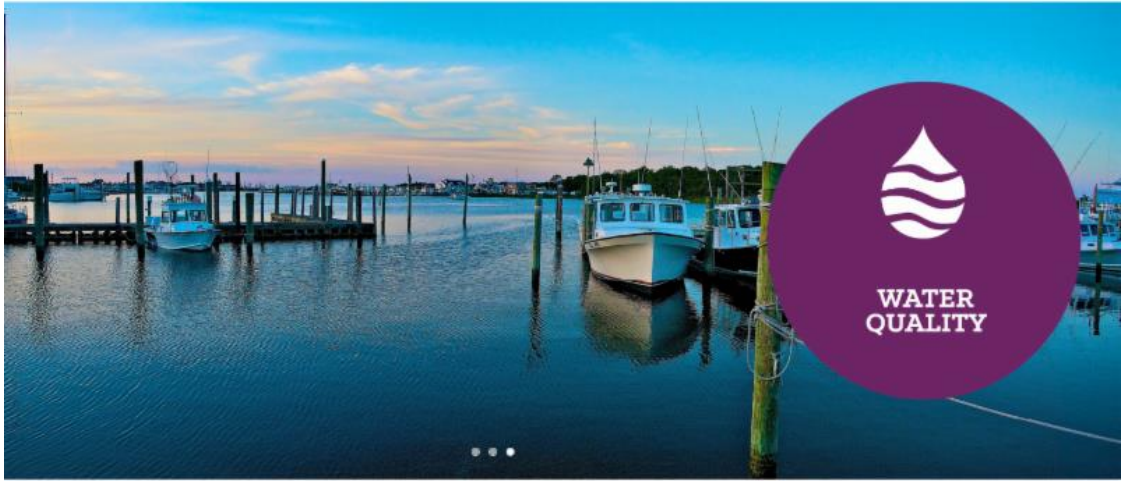
WHO WE ARE

WHAT WE DO

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

PUBLICATIONS & PRESS

WAYS TO GIVE



KEEPING MONTAUK MONTAUK SINCE 1970

DONATE TO CCOM

Without your support, we wouldn't be able to do what we do. CCOM is a 501(c)(3) environmental nonprofit founded in 1970.

[DONATE TO CCOM](#)

Please consider [making a donation today.](#)

Concerned Citizens of Montauk, Inc. | 631.238.5720 | PreserveMontauk.org

FOLLOW US!

