



## MONITORING MONTAUK'S FORT POND YEAR TWO OF WEEKLY ALGAL BLOOM TESTING

2019 marks the second year of CCOM's partnership with Dr. Christopher Gobler of Stony Brook University on a Fort Pond harmful algal bloom (HAB) monitoring program.

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, 2017 and 2018, 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, and the 2018 swimming portion moved out of Fort Pond entirely.

"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 Mitigating direct discharges of stormwater and replacing outdated and ineffective cesspools and septic systems with new innovative alternative systems, which have higher nitrogen treatment capabilities can help remedy the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. But until there is a concerted effort by the Montauk community to address these nutrient loadings, Fort Pond remains susceptible to the blooms, and thus close and frequent monitoring is necessary" says Laura Tooman, CCOM President.

Test results are posted to [CCOM's homepage](#) every week.



## **WATER TESTING PROGRAM EXPANDS** **ACCABONAC HARBOR AND NORTHWEST CREEK ADDED**

In May, CCOM officially added Northwest Creek and Accabonac Harbor to its bacteria monitoring program, further bolstering an already comprehensive townwide water quality assessment for ensuring environmental and public health.

CCOM's water quality program began in 2013 with just a handful of sampling sites, mostly in Lake Montauk. Over the last 6 years, the program has grown to include more than 30 sites from Montauk to as far west as East Hampton Village. Kate Rossi-Snook, CCOM's Environmental Advocate, processes all of the samples in the CCOM office laboratory.

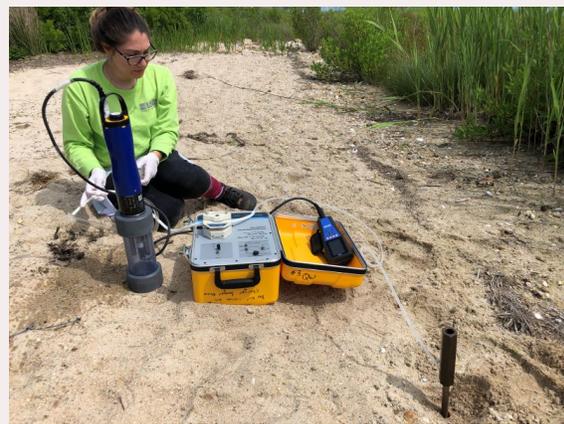
With the help of a handful of dedicated volunteers, samples are collected throughout the year - monthly and bi-monthly in the winter months, and weekly beginning in May. Results are shared via press release and [posted to CCOM's website](#) to keep the public informed. Kate also works directly with the Town of East Hampton to address persistent problem areas and develop plans for remediation.

## **USGS DIVES DEEPER IN LAKE MONTAUK** **CLOSING IN ON SOURCES OF POLLUTANTS**

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) is well into their final phase of sampling for our microbial source tracking project that began in 2018 - it's an assessment of what pollutants are in Lake Montauk and how they are getting there.

In this phase a rod is driven into the ground and a machine is used to "suck up" the groundwater for testing.

We expect to receive a report with all the surface water and groundwater data by the end of 2019, which will reveal the actual source of the pollutants (human vs. animal, for example). Knowing this will allow us to create targeted remediation plans for improved water quality.



**SUPPORT THIS PROGRAMMING**

## **CCOM'S 1st ANNUAL PARTY FOR THE POND EVENT** **AN EVENING TO SUPPORT CCOM'S WATER QUALITY PROGRAMMING**

All of us at CCOM would like to thank those who attended and contributed to CCOM's first annual Party for the Pond event at Ruschmeyers in May.

We are so grateful for the outpouring of generosity from local businesses who donated fantastic goods and services to our silent auction and raffle. And a HUGE thank you to Tyler and everyone at Ruschmeyers! The event would not have been possible without you. Thank you all for showing your support for Montauk!



## CCOM'S GREAT MONTAUK CLEANUP

Keeping Montauk *Tidy* for 49 years!

CCOM has hosted an annual townwide cleanup since we were founded in 1970!

Some years the weather does not cooperate but this year we were lucky; we not only had mild weather but also had extra help from the students at Montauk School!

Thank you Montaukers for doing your part to Keep Montauk *Montauk*!



DONATE

**CCOM is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit environmental organization. We have been keeping Montauk Montauk since 1970 thanks to donors like you. Please consider making a tax deductible donation today.**

## **SIGN UP FOR A FREE NEST THERMOSTAT CCOM RECEIVES \$100!**

### South Fork Peak Savers Special Offer for CCOM Members



**We'll donate \$100 to CCOM for EVERY Smart Thermostat enrolled in the South Fork Peak Savers energy saving program.**

This is a great way to raise money for CCOM, save money yourself (with huge rebates or free thermostats) and help prevent future power lines.

**BONUS! If over 100 thermostats are enrolled, we'll give CCOM an additional \$50 per device!**



### HOW TO SIGN UP

Anyone who lives in the Towns of East Hampton or Southampton and has central air conditioning and WiFi is eligible. In order for CCOM to receive the \$100/thermostat donation you must sign up with one of the following offers:

#### **FREE Nest® Thermostat with free installation +\$100 sign-up bonus!**

We'll give you a free Nest for every central A/C zone in your house - and install them too!  
Go to: [www.southforkpeaksavers.com/nest](http://www.southforkpeaksavers.com/nest)  
Begin application and when prompted, enter promo code: CCOM19

#### **Already have a Nest® Thermostat? Get up to \$700 in rebates!**

Apply for our \$350 per thermostat rebate at [www.southforkpeaksavers.com/nest](http://www.southforkpeaksavers.com/nest)  
When asked if you are working with a community outreach program, click yes.  
When prompted for a promo code, enter: CCOM19

#### **Already have a Honeywell Thermostat? Get up to \$700 in rebates!**

Apply for our \$350 per thermostat rebate at [www.southforkpeaksavers.com/honeywell](http://www.southforkpeaksavers.com/honeywell)  
Begin application and when prompted, enter promo code: CCOM19

### ABOUT SOUTH FORK PEAK SAVERS

South Fork Peak Savers is a program helping residents and businesses reduce energy consumption, save money and reduce the need for future power lines. Peak energy demand in summer is growing at two times the rate of the rest of Long Island. If we don't reduce our energy usage, new transmission lines and substations will be built.

#### Questions?

Call 1-833-346-2181  
or visit [southforkpeaksavers.com](http://southforkpeaksavers.com)



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