



Welcome to our August Newsletter!

It is hard to believe that Summer is already coming to a close, but I am so proud of everything our grassroots organization has accomplished during this unprecedented time. I thank you, our membership – it is because of your continued support that we have been able to adapt and keep working towards protecting Montauk’s unique environment.

Warm regards,

*Laura Tooman*

## **GURNEY'S STAR ISLAND OYSTER REEF** **PARTNERSHIP TO IMPROVE WATER QUALITY & HABITAT**

Gurney’s Star Island Resort & Marina, Cornell Cooperative Extension Marine Program (CCE), and Concerned Citizens of Montauk (CCOM) celebrated the deployment of a new spat-on-shell oyster reef in Lake Montauk on July 27.

The [collaborative effort](#) between the Long Island entities, a relationship facilitated by CCOM, resulted in the placement of approximately 100,000 juvenile oysters on the bottomlands right offshore of the Gurney’s Star Island property.

Oysters are water-filtering superstars – an adult oyster can filter 50 gallons of bay water per day – so the hope is that as these oysters grow, they will help improve water quality while also enhancing the natural oyster populations in the harbor.

Additionally, once the spat-on-shell oysters – tiny oysters set on recycled oyster shells – become established, they will create a 3D reef structure that will provide important underwater habitat for local fish species and offer significant protection from storm surge.

There will also be signage placed strategically around the dock area to educate resort and marina guests on the importance of this project and our marine environment.

CCOM is grateful to Gurney’s Star Island for taking such positive action on behalf of our environment, and we look forward to continuing this beneficial partnership with them and CCE.



## CCOM'S ROLE IN LAND PRESERVATION CONTINUES WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT THROUGH LAND ACQUISITION



Since 1970 CCOM has led the effort to protect Montauk's unique environment, successfully preserving over 70% of Montauk's land.

That work continues today because when land is preserved and protected from development, we are protecting our water bodies and aquifers from bacterial, nutrient, and chemical contamination.

CCOM works directly with East Hampton Town in support of their strategic, highly concentrated public land acquisition program. Our role in recommending acquisitions through the Community Preservation Fund (CPF) has ensured, in the past 18 months alone, a total of 11 Montauk properties, representing 18 acres in highly sensitive environmental areas.

The latest Fort Pond land preservation win was covered by The Independent this week and can be found [HERE](#).

Further details of the CPF program and how you might participate can be found at [East Hampton Town's Department of Land Acquisition and Management](#).

## ANNOUNCING NEW WEBINAR SERIES ENVIRONMENTAL TOPICS TO BE PRESENTED MONTHLY

Starting this September, we will be facilitating a series of informational 1-hour webinars on key environmental issues affecting Montauk and the East End, specifically highlighting CCOM's work within our three leadership initiatives: water quality, coastal resiliency, and environmental

sustainability.

The webinars will be conducted by CCOM staff and experts in their respective fields with public participation. If you can't make the scheduled time, don't worry – they will all be recorded for future viewing!

Our first topic will be *Microbial Source Tracking*, presented by US Geological Survey scientists, and will include preliminary results from the long-awaited Lake Montauk study.

### CCOM MONTHLY WEBINAR SCHEDULE

**September 10th:** 11:30-12:30pm  
Microbial Source Tracking, USGS

Click the Zoom link at the above time to join the Webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85998449218>



### UPCOMING WEBINARS

#### **October\***

Fall Property Management Tips, Edwina von Gal, Perfect Earth Project

#### **November\***

Harmful Algal Blooms, Dr. Chris Gobler, Stony Brook Southampton

**December\*** – Coastal Resiliency

\*Details and Zoom meeting links to follow in our upcoming Newsletters, and posted to our Events & Activities page [HERE](#)

## KEY MILESTONES IN COASTAL RESILIENCY PLANS

### FIMP MOVES FORWARD MONTAUK CARP PRESENTATION UPDATE

On July 29th, the US House of Representatives approved the Water Resources Development Act of 2020, authorizing the Army Corp of Engineers (ACoE) Fire Island to Montauk Point (FIMP) project to move forward to implementation. This is expected to result in ~450,000 cubic yards of

offshore dredged sand placed along 6,000 feet of shoreline in Montauk, with subsequent placement of 400,000 to 450,000 cubic yards every 4 years for a 30-year period after initial construction.

CCOM has been a major advocate for sand replenishment of Montauk’s downtown beaches, helping to “buy us some time” as we work towards long-term solutions to the very real threat of sea level rise and the impacts of increased hurricane and storm events.

For more information please visit our [Coastal Resiliency page](#) or the [ACoE FIMP page](#).



For details and updates on the developments of the Coastal Assessment Resiliency Plan (CARP), the full recording of the June 21st public meeting is now available for viewing on our [Resources page](#). The video includes an introduction from East Hampton Town Supervisor, Peter Van Scoyoc, and discusses the existing and future vulnerabilities of four coastal areas in Montauk with comments from a panel of environmental experts and town planning consultants and live feedback from the virtual meeting attendees. The presented scientific analysis is an important milestone in the understanding and public discussion of coastal resiliency strategies for Montauk’s future.

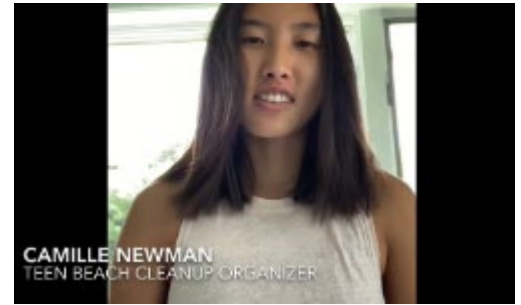


## IN YOUR WORDS WHAT MONTAUK MEANS TO YOU

To celebrate CCOM's 50th year, we are reaching out to our membership to tell us, in their own words, what Montauk means to them.

For two consecutive summers, Camille has worked with her peer Layla to independently organize their own Teen Beach Cleanup. These two young women have grown up spending their summers in Montauk, and the love for this unique place is evident in their actions.

Click [HERE](#) to view Camille's video sharing her and Layla's message.



## THANK YOU!

We are so grateful to Camille & Layla for organizing this year's teen beach cleanup! And a big thanks to everyone who participated! It's encouraging to see our future stewards so enthusiastic to volunteer their time to keep Montauk beautiful.

[SUPPORT OUR WORK WITH YOUR DONATION! CLICK HERE](#)

CCOM is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit environmental organization. Thanks to donors like you, we have been protecting our unique environment since 1970. Please consider making a tax deductible donation today.