



If you love Montauk, you're one of us.

Hello !

Welcome to our November newsletter! While the colder weather has kept us indoors more often these days, read on to find out what's been happening and things you can do to help protect Montauk!

As we approach the holiday season, please consider [giving the gift of a 1-year CCOM gift membership](#) to a friend, family member, colleague or neighbor who loves Montauk as much as you do!

And don't forget that the purchase of every gift membership will go even further this year as **every dollar raised through the end of 2021 will be matched dollar for dollar.**

Sincerely,  
Laura Tooman | President

---

## FLOATING WETLANDS UPDATE NUTRIENT ANALYSIS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY

Researchers at Hofstra University are busy processing our Fort Pond floating wetland samples to help us determine the overall nutrient removal capacity of this technology /



installation.

[Steve Raciti](#), an Associate Professor in the Department of Biology and the Director of Graduate Studies in Biology and Urban Ecology, and student Christopher Lim are currently analyzing the nutrient concentration of both the roots and shoots of each of the plant specimens CCOM provided. And with significantly more underwater root growth (see photo) it will be important to understand which plants thrived and performed better.

Preliminary results are expected around the first of the year so stay tuned for the results! [Click here](#) to learn more about our water quality programs.

## FORT POND WATER QUALITY OUTREACH SEPTIC REPLACEMENT MEETING

CCOM has been keeping you updated on our work to help improve the water quality in Fort Pond – from weekly monitoring of harmful algal blooms to the floating wetlands project we installed in an effort to take up the excess nutrients that fuel those blooms – and earlier this month we contacted nearly 400 Fort Pond watershed property owners and hosted a septic replacement outreach meeting at our office.



We thank all of those who came to the CCOM office or joined the meeting over Zoom to get their questions answered and take those first steps to help us improve Fort Pond's water quality.

## DID YOU KNOW THERE IS SOMETHING WE ALL CAN DO TO IMPROVE WATER QUALITY?

Our properties are often major contributors of pollution into the recreational waters that we all love. Heavy rains often wash fertilizers and animal excrement into surface waters and nutrients from outdated cesspools and septic systems leach into our groundwater.

The [Town of East Hampton](#) and [Suffolk County](#) are offering significant financial **incentives that may cover the full cost of replacing your old cesspool or septic system** with a new nitrogen reducing system that has been designed to limit the pollutants entering our groundwater by over

70% – and cleaner water means healthier ponds, creeks, and harbors.

We ask that you **take the first step to help us protect Montauk's waters** by visiting the Town and County links above and starting your septic improvement program applications TODAY. To learn more, check out the [septic upgrade information section](#) on our website's resources page.



## HOLIDAY MATCH EVERY GIFT MATCHED NOW 'TIL YEAR END!

We are thrilled to announce that **every gift** made now through the end of the 2021 calendar year **will be matched dollar for dollar!!!** Please consider making a **100% tax deductible** gift today and doubling your impact to protect Montauk for future generations.

[DONATE](#)

## CPF WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT UPDATE NEW, IMPROVED PUMP OUT TANKS

In a huge win for water quality in both Lake Montauk and Three Mile Harbor, the Town Board has approved the CPF WQTAC's (Community Preservation Fund Water Quality Technical Advisory Committee) recommendation to use CPF monies to replace the holding tanks at those harbors' pump out stations, located at Star Island and Gann Road, respectively. Not only will the old tanks be replaced – which will address the reports of possible leakage into the harbor waters – but also the new holding tanks will be increased to 5,000 gallons each.



Our work with the USGS on the [Lake Montauk Microbial Source Tracking study](#) (final report pending) showed that **one of the main sources of bacteria and nutrients in Lake Montauk may possibly be from boats**. These new, larger holding tanks for the pump out station means that they will be able to service more boats that go in and out of the harbor, helping to ensure cleaner, safer

## SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN RENEWABLE ENERGY

### WIND FARM ADVANCES WITH KEY FEDERAL & STATE APPROVALS



CCOM continues to advocate for advancing efforts to reduce our region's reliance on fossil fuels and is encouraged by the achievement of recent milestones for the South Fork Wind Farm. In a major step forward, the federal Department of Interior's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management concluded the project's federal environmental review through the issuance of a favorable Record of Decision. On the state regulatory approval front, the New York State Public Service Commission (PSC) approved the environmental management and construction plan, which concerns that portion within state waters and land. These developments were recently covered by [The East Hampton Star](#).

Additionally, South Fork Wind developer Ørsted/Eversource recently hosted a detailed update on the project, a recording of which is available [here](#).

**SUPPORT OUR WORK. DONATE TODAY!**

## ADOPT-A-ROAD PROGRAM

### HELP REDUCE LITTER IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD



Several of our members are active in helping reduce litter in their neighborhoods through participation in East Hampton Town's "Adopt a Road" program.

This free program is managed by the Highway Department and helps reduce litter on the 300 miles of roads for which they are responsible. Board member Andy Harris and his wife Sally have been participants for the past 7 years helping remove litter on Montauk's Flamingo Road, stating "it is easy to do and a very rewarding way to help keep Montauk's environment clean." For more information on how you can participate please click [HERE](#).



## HELP THE EARTH THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

As CCOM members are aware, much plastic ends up choking our landfills and our waterbodies. According to Ocean Conservancy, every year 8 million metric tons of plastics enter our ocean – on top of the estimated 150 million metric tons that is currently circulating within our marine environments – and plastic has been found in more than 60% of all seabirds and in 100% of sea turtles species. The climate crisis can't wait. While broad-based national and international solutions are essential, there is much we can do on an individual basis to reduce plastic.

So, in the spirit of the holidays, we bring to you a curated list of earth-conscious plastic alternatives – for yourself and everyone on your gift list. The planet will thank you.



**BITE** toothpaste & mouthwash bits come in a refillable glass jar.



**MYRO** refillable deodorant in a dishwasher-safe container.



**BEE'S WRAP** reusable cloth food wraps use beeswax as a natural sealant.



**BAGGU** reusable shopping bags fold up flat, are machine washable, and with their fun prints, can double as giftwrap!



**FINAL** reusable items include straws, cutlery, and cotton wipes, all of which come in their own convenient travel cases.



**STASHER** bags are made from reusable silicone and are dishwasher safe for quick & easy cleanup.

Concerned Citizens of Montauk  
6 South Elmwood Avenue (office)  
PO Box 915 (mailing)  
Montauk, New York 11954  
(631) 238-5720

Email Us



*IMPORTANT: If this email delivered to your spam or promotions tab, add [Info@PreserveMontauk.org](mailto:Info@PreserveMontauk.org) to your contact or safe sender lists to redirect to your inbox. Thank you!*