

Calendar of Event Updates

- **Mon., May 30 Memorial Day Parade 9:00am.** Walkers/hand wavers wanted!! The parade kicks off at 10:00am. We will assemble on Brookside Ave at 9:15am, behind The Pilot Shop airplane (look for the plane and SPLASH boat) Don't forget to wear your SPLASH t-shirt!!
 - **Tues., May 31, Captain's Dinner, 6pm Rumrunner boat.**
 - **Sat. & Sun. June 4-5, 12pm-5pm Nautical Festival:** Set up will be at 9am. We will be located in front of the museum. Anyone available to help spread the good word about Operation SPLASH, (even if just for an hour), come on down. Good food, good times, great cause.
 - **Tues., June 7, 7:30pm , Monthly Meeting**
 - **Sunday, June 12. 10am-12pm Clean Up Bay.. Blue Water Yacht Club, Bayberry Ct., Merrick.** There will be a free breakfast before and free BBQ after for all those who volunteer. So join in the fun. For more info contact: Ed Sheehan (516)781-8255
 - **Sept. 17 The 20th annual New York State National Beach Cleanup..** Volunteers and beach cleanup coordinator wanted. Site captains wanted to record the litter collected. For more info visit www.alsnyc.org or call (516)378-4770 or email: operationsplash@optonline.net
 - **Sept. 17 & 18 Festival by The Sea.** Mark your calendars now.
 - **Sept. 24 & 25 Bellmore Festival** Mark your calendars now.
- Anyone interested in volunteering for these events please call the SPLASH hotline. (516)378-4770**

Meetings held first Tuesday of the month, 7:30 PM at

Freeport Recreation Center
130 East Merrick Road
Freeport, N.Y. 11520
(516) 378-4770



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SPLASH Mailing Address:

Operation SPLASH
PO Box 228
Freeport, NY 11520

Telephone: 516-378-4770
Website www.operationsplash.net
E-mail: operationsplash@optonline.net
SPLASH is an all-volunteer
Not-for-profit organization

For more info on protecting our
Long Island environment, join us
for our monthly meeting, every 1st
Tuesday of the month.
All are welcome. Volunteers
wanted, make a **SPLASH**

OUR MISSION: To provide a solution to the growing problem of waterfront pollution through public education and individual participation.



SPLASHnewsletter

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June 2005

Skipper's Log... BROKEN CIRCLE

Where have all the Flounder gone? You remember flounders don't you, that feisty great tasting fish that use to provide so much family fun and economic prosperity for so many waterfront establishments. That seems to be the question of the day. Though I don't know the answer, the following reasons could hold some.

In my travels around fishing stations, marinas and other waterfront locals I've heard many interesting theories from seals to sea gulls. To truly evaluate this problem we have to look back to a time when there were flounder and what has changed since then. In the early 60's my dad would take off on Opening Day for flounder whether it was Monday or not and, take me and my brother out of school (the best part) and jump on a party boat. Man would we catch fish! At the time the population on Long Island was still reasonable. There was nothing but marshland to the south from my house on Miller Ave in Freeport. Today there is one small piece left and that already has plans for development. The point is that we have lost a tremendous buffer zone all along our shoreline, which acted like a filter for storm water and snow runoff.

Now as we all know, all this very polluted water is piped directly unfiltered into the bays. It just so happens this is where many flounder live and spawn. Another major change has been the addition of bulkheads. Not only have they changed the natural shoreline but have added unimaginable toxins to our bays. Creosol poles that were put in 30 years ago still leak oil into the water today. Other bulkheads are made of C.C.A. which stands for cadmium, chromium and arsenic ...ARSENIC, ISN'T THAT POISON? Yes it is and can you imagine the toxins that hundreds of miles of bulkheads have deposited into flounders breeding grounds? How about over fishing? We all know about the constant battle between commercial and recreational fisherman both guilty of over fishing. If you keep taking all of the chickens from the hen house for dinner, eventually you're not going to have any eggs left for breakfast. Here's one from left field, how about noise pollution. Having spent a considerable amount of time underwater studying fish I and any other diver can tell you first hand the spooking effect the breathing noise from our air regulators has on fish. The bay is no longer the quiet, siren place it once was. Years ago the only speedboat on the bay was Guy Lombardo's and most other boats were single engine, low wake cruisers. Today's underwater world sounds much different. Wave runners and large 2, 3 and 4 engine vessels run helter skelter thru shallow channels and "cuts" not only destroying acres of wetlands and habitat with their wakes but also creating the same noise level as the L.I.E. at rush hour. Just something to think about.

(Continued inside)

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Captains Corner:

3rd Vice President/Skip Zawrotny's Report from April-May meetings

Skip reported he's looking for additional captains; Wantagh, Seaford and Bellmore need a lot of help. The boat is in the water. Captains can start trips, weather permitting. He also reported that we have new PFD's. (life jackets), 15 are hanging in the shack.

The Captain's dinner will be Tuesday, May 31st, 6pm at the Rumrunner boat.

The tally for last season (for the Freeport boat) was: 127 trips; 453 barrels; a lot of Styrofoam and wood. The crews put almost 300 hours on the Freeport engine.

SPLASH Meeting April- May 3, 2005 Recap

Treasurer's Report/Kathie Stella

Kathie Stella reported the ending balance. The large cash balance is due to a boat donation and subsequent sale over the winter. Kathie also reported we now have a postage permit which will greatly reduce postage and a PO box #228 at Freeport NY 11520.

1st Vice President/Don Harris

Don reported that he and Rob spoke at the Freeport Tuna Club and at a Home Schoolers program from Baldwin. Don also spoke to Long Island Rock Hounds Club. Splash has been invited to speak to the Outdoor Nassau Hiking Club. He also reported that seals are still in our bays, (for those interested in observing).

Rob has been nominated to the Open Space committee by Governor Pataki. Through that work, he hopes to bring the wetlands into preserved land status.

2nd Vice President/Stefanie Reis

Stefanie reported on several environmental groups:

- Clean up statistics of the NYS American Littoral Society. - Sierra Club – National Wetlands Month – May
- NY Centennials asking for volunteers
- Keep LI Highway Clean Week – effort was a coordinated project launched in May.

Stefanie also reported that the Environmental Protection Agency offers speaking engagements. She will contact them for a SPLASH engagement and asked members to bring specific ideas for them to address.

She would like to start a group of volunteers to target ponds for cleanup. Fran said that Newsday reported on the Keep Baldwin Clean Club, (a group who also coordinates pond cleanups.)

President's Report/Rob Weltner

The NY Marine Traders Association are working on an oil absorbent socks program/grant for a clean marina program. We're also working on a Butt Bucket program/grant from Senator Fuschillo.

Rob reported on the Open Space Preservation Committee. He's discovered that the south shore has just a few spaces left to preserve; which were submitted to the program. But it looks like the north shore will get most of the money, because there is more opportunity/land to preserve. (even though the south shore also pays for the bonding – 60 million) The Wynsum preserve in Merrick has been submitted.

He also reported that he and SPLASH member, Joann Bow were filmed in a commercial with the Town of Hempstead regarding the storm drain decals. SPLASH got a lot of good press and new members from the advertising. But, he added, a lot of decals need to get out (with volunteer help). SPLASH member, Gary Smith, added that he arranged for News12 to go out on the Rumrunner with the Audubon Society. "Things to do on the Island" was the theme of the piece.

Rob also reported that Operation SPLASH was asked to work with the NY Marine Trades Association on their Clean Marina Program. The DEC and EPA are asking New York marinas to comply with new regulations. New Jersey marinas are already practicing new compliance in their area.

Regarding the Debris trap at Mill Road, Rob reported that the trap captured 27 barrels of garbage since last month. SPLASH member, Hale Storm, reported a couple of hundred jellyfish at the site because they are spawning.

The building owner (at the Mill Rd site) is worried about people coming to fish on the floating dock SPLASH installed, falling in the River. The membership talked at length about putting up a fence. Rob said he will look into the cost and timeliness of getting a fence installed. There is a new roof on the SPLASH shack at the TOH marina.

Our debris trap at Mill Basin has captured 29 barrels of garbage in the first month of operation including thousands of cigarette butts. That's almost a barrel a day before it can get out into the bay! This is a major step towards our goal of putting ourselves out of business.

Skipper's Log... *BROKEN CIRCLE continued*

How about boat yards and bottom paint. Bottom paint is meant to kill marine life. It dissolves slowly off the bottom of boats over an extended period of time. It is also power washed off the bottoms of thousands of boats every year thus entering the bays where flounders live and breed. Underwater surveys of boat yards show nothing living on the bottom or in the soil and sometimes the colors of bottom paint are like a deadly dust coating spread over the bottoms of these facilities. The E.P.A. considers bottom paint a "marine pesticide". Before we leave boat yards lets also look at some other products used there. Boat soaps and hull cleaners that take the grim off of boats also removes the oil from fish gills that allow them to breath. Baking soda does an excellent job as an alternative in cleaning decks and hulls. Bilge pumps remove bilge water that contains oil and other nasty stuff pumping it into the water. Oil socks and bilge filters would help with this problem. Others say the seals and cormorants have had a major impact on flounders. Cormorants were always here until DDT almost wiped them and many other types of shore birds out in the 60's and 70's and there were plenty of flounder then so it doesn't seem they could be solely responsible.

As far as seals go, let's look at some facts. Seals arrive in early November and are usually gone by April. Those months the flounder are settled into the mud due to the cold water. Having seen the seals many times (never once swimming with a shovel) it would be logical that they are not solely responsible for the missing flounder. O.K. folks, "name ya poison".

What do you think? Could it be that we have broken the circle of life? The one that say's all things depend on a very fragile balance.

Sea ya on the water...Rob

Quote of the month: By William Arthur Ward...

"The pessimist complains about the wind; the optimist expects it to change; the realist adjusts the sails".

SPLASH Meeting Recap (continued)

SPLASH has been contacted by the Village of Freeport regarding the Freeport Seaport Museum. They want to give us an opportunity to either run the museum ourselves or supply volunteers for a couple of hours a day. The village is going to install new storm drains on Guy Lombardo Avenue down to Ray Street when they upgrade the roads.

A Member asked about the "jacketed" piles at the TOH marina (rhino coats). Rob said they are going ahead with coating the whole bulkhead because of its success.

Wantagh Chapter

Ed Sheehan reported on Cap's cleanup (in Seaford); 50 bags of garbage and lots of large items were picked up. Wantagh Park is having an insurance problem (with the SPLASH boat dockage); the town is requiring proof of ins covering the county; he reported that he contacted Dave Denenberg to resolve it.

They are going to need crews at the park (to help man the boat).

Old Business

Bob Young (Meadowbrook Preserve) reported that the cleanup was very successful. Over 120 volunteers signed in. 115 bags of garbage and lots of large items were collected. The cleanup got a 5 minute segment on the news. All three ponds were cleaned. He wants the county to open up the 3 ponds to the public; his group will be looking for "stewards" to help with the promotion.

Our good friends at The Schooner Restaurant and Operation Splash have teamed up to keep our waters clean. Op Splash installed 4 new Garbage pails in their parking lot where many people park and enjoy the water view. The existing pails had no lids on them and the sea gulls would make quite the mess, with most of it ending up in the bay. The new pails have lids with a hole cut in that keeps the gulls out. The Schooner empties the pails once a week and the place looks great!