

# H HARBOR NEWS

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## 2018 Highlights

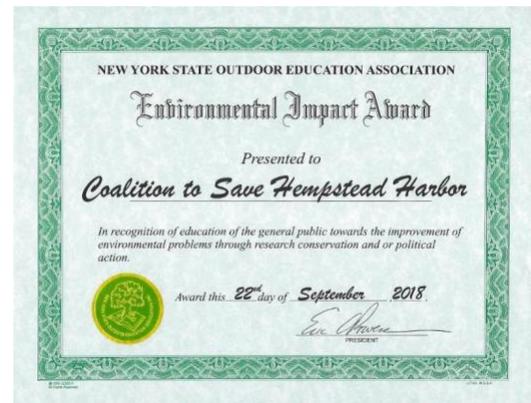
### CSHH Receives Environmental Impact Award



The New York State Outdoor Education Association (NYSOEA) recognized CSHH and Carol DiPaolo (CSHH Programs Director) on September 21 with the Environmental Impact Award for long-standing dedication to the ecological health of Hempstead Harbor and Long Island Sound.

The award ceremony took place at NYSOEA's 50th annual conference at the Greenkill Outdoor Education & Retreat Center, Huguenot, NY. The award was presented locally to CSHH at the September CSHH Board of Directors meeting by past president of NYSOEA, Lucinda Hurley (photo at left).

NYSOEA's Environmental Impact Award (photo at right) which was first presented in 1984, is given to an individual or organization involved in research, conservation, and political action that influenced, protected, and successfully dealt with problems associated



with the environment. CSHH is in the company of illustrious early awardees, including Pete Seeger, and Robert F. Kennedy.

### Patagonia Habitat Restoration Project



As a recipient of a Patagonia grant in early 2018, CSHH was able to spearhead a habitat-restoration project in Glenwood Landing to address an area that is a large contributor of nitrogen and bacteria to Hempstead Harbor through storm-water runoff. In October, participating homeowners received native plants they had selected to be planted in reserved areas of their properties. Native plants will help improve soil conditions and reduce runoff. The soil around the new plantings will be tested for nitrogen and soil compaction over the next two years. Also, participants will attend a series of workshops that will highlight goals of the project and other strategies to reduce the pollutants that end up in Hempstead Harbor.

## 2018 Water-Monitoring Programs

CSHH conducts the water testing for both the Hempstead Harbor core monitoring program and the Unified Water Study (UWS) for Long Island Sound embayments, which together included over 36 trips out on the harbor from May through October 2018. The core program includes collecting water samples at up to 21 sites in the harbor for bacteria and nitrogen analysis, conducting on-board testing for, among other parameters, dissolved oxygen, water temperature, salinity, and turbidity; wildlife and other observations throughout the harbor are recorded as well. The core program also has a winter component, November-May, which includes taking water samples from shoreline outfalls and focuses on pathogen loading from the powerhouse drain subwatershed in Glenwood Landing.

CSHH joins over 20 other groups participating in the Unified Water Study, an ecological study of Long Island Sound embayments. UWS participants test for the same parameters using the same equipment and operating procedures. Testing must be completed within three hours of sunrise and includes measuring dissolved oxygen, water temperature, salinity, turbidity, and chlorophyll. There are six UWS testing sites in Hempstead Harbor. (For more information on the Hempstead Harbor water-monitoring programs, see the 2017 Annual Water-Quality Report at [www.coalitiontosavehempsteadharbor.org](http://www.coalitiontosavehempsteadharbor.org).)



Abundant fish in the harbor are providing food for ospreys and a variety of shore birds. Also, Hempstead Harbor now has a nesting pair of bald eagles, which produced at least one chick this past spring; the eagles have been sighted frequently along the shores of the harbor. On December 14, a local fisherman reported seeing a harbor seal just south of Sea Cliff Park; the seal seemed to be after a large herring run in the harbor.

## CSHH Heads to DC with LISS Citizens Advisory Committee



As a member of the Long Island Sound Study's Citizens Advisory Committee, CSHH joined 19 other committee members from NY and CT on November 29 to lobby congressional reps for funding for Long Island Sound projects.

**The priorities are to** (1) gain an increase in funding that gives Long Island Sound equal standing with other national estuaries and allows increased support for Long Island Sound embayments (including Hempstead Harbor), (2) implement infrastructure projects that relate to wastewater treatment and drinking water projects (including those on Long Island), and (3) prevent the sale of and preserve Plum Island.

## CSHH Heads to DC with LISS Citizens Advisory Committee



On Tuesday, December 4, the Long Island Sound Study office announced 36 grants awarded to local government and community groups to improve the health and ecosystem of Long Island Sound. The Hempstead Harbor Water-Quality Monitoring Program was one of 14 New York projects that received funding through this program; a total of \$586,000 in funding will benefit New York residents. Carol DiPaolo, CSHH Programs Director and Water-Monitoring Coordinator, was at the awards event in Port Jefferson representing Hempstead Harbor and joined by Eric Swenson (Executive Director, Hempstead Harbor Protection Committee) and Bruce Kennedy (SCV Administrator).

(CSHH coordinates the water-quality monitoring program on behalf of the Hempstead Harbor Protection Committee.) EPA LIS Office Director Mark Tedesco was master of ceremonies at the awards event, and EPA Regional Administrator Pete Lopez and Congressman Lee Zeldin were among the guest speakers.

## Volunteers Help with FOUR Beach Cleanups in 2018

For the first Scudder's Pond Cleanup in April, concerned residents pitched in to clean up the areas around the shoreline of Sea Cliff's pond (photo at top left), which empties into Hempstead Harbor. (The pond underwent a major restoration, which was completed in 2014.)



For the annual International Coastal Cleanup in September, our dedicated crew of over 70 volunteers filled 28 trash bags and brought in nearly 200 pounds of trash from hard-to-reach areas along the shoreline near Tappen Beach (photo at top right).

Following a series of autumn storms, CSHH again called on volunteers to help pick up plastic debris and other trash along Sea Cliff Beach and the adjacent shoreline (see left photo below). Despite wind and cold temperatures on November 17, our post-storm troopers showed up to pick up trash before it washed back into the harbor and Long Island Sound.



The North Shore Middle School added a CSHH beach cleanup as one of the charitable causes for the school's annual "Community Day"; students spent time on a cold November 20 cleaning up debris at Tappen Beach (see right photo).

## Reducing Single-Use Plastics through the Bag-It Campaign

CSHH has worked with other organizations on a "Bag-It" campaign, urging state and local legislators to reduce pollution and encourage the use of reusable bags by enacting legislation that places a 5-cent fee on single-use plastic and paper bags. On June 8, CSHH's statement at the Nassau County legislature included statistics on the number of birds and sea mammals dying each year as result of swallowing or becoming entangled in plastics and also cited Suffolk County and 40 countries that have introduced plastics bans. The Village of Sea Cliff is one of the local municipalities that has recently imposed bans on single-use bags and expanded that effort to polystyrene and single-use plastic containers and cutlery.



## Updates on Natural Gas Test Run and Saltwater Intrusion Monitoring Well

At the end of November, National Grid manager Alex Kushnir informed us that National Grid will be setting up **a temporary compressed-natural-gas (CNG) facility as part of a test** at the waterfront property on Shore Road in Glenwood Landing, north of Glenwood Road. In 2016 and 2017, trailers were brought onto the site from about December to mid-March as a temporary fix to the problem of low gas pressure, should temperatures drop to 3 degrees Fahrenheit or lower (temperatures did not drop that low in those years). If needed, gas tanks could have been brought to the trailers and connected to gas lines across Shore Road to feed the main gas line. However, for the upcoming season, the trailers will be set up as part of a test run only—to make sure that the temporary facility could be put in place if needed. Once the test run is completed, the trailers will be removed.

Kushnir also described **progress on the new gas pipe installed along Shore Road** from the North Shore Country Club to Littleworth Lane in Sea Cliff. Service to individual customers was completed at the end of November, and crews have been completing the final tie-ins of the new piping as well as capping the old gas main. Road restoration should be completed by the end of the year, but the work is weather dependent.

In early December, equipment was staged along The Boulevard in Sea Cliff by New York American Water (NYAW) Company to drill **a monitoring well to test for saltwater intrusion**. The new monitoring well is required by NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and will be installed on The Boulevard, just west of the steps that lead to Sea Cliff Beach. Monitoring will be conducted by the US Geological Survey (USGS). The well will be used to detect saltwater before it infiltrates the drinking water system. A worker at the site on December 17 reported that the well is expected to be drilled down to about 550 feet. **Drilling for another monitoring well is being done near Glen Cove Hospital**, at southwest corner of the parking lot. All work on the monitoring wells is expected to be completed near the first week in January. The USGS will inspect the wells and then install pumps (underground) and manhole-type covers on top.

**Long Island's sole-source aquifer system** is the only source of drinking water for residents of Nassau and Suffolk Counties. If excessive pumping from the aquifer for drinking water, irrigation, and other needs exceeds the required amount of freshwater inflow to keep the system balanced, saltwater intrusion can occur. See the Groundwater Resources Management Plan by the Long Island Commission for Aquifer Protection at <http://www.liaquifercommission.com/images/GRMP.pdf>.