



# Coalition to Save Hempstead Harbor

P.O. Box 159 • Sea Cliff, NY 11579 • 516-801-6792 • [cshh@optonline.net](mailto:cshh@optonline.net)

## Harbor News

November 2, 2013

### GRANT AWARD FOR HEMPSTEAD HARBOR WATER-MONITORING PROGRAM

On October 24, 2013, the Long Island Sound Futures Fund (LISFF) grant awards were announced at a press event at the Norwalk Aquarium in Connecticut. **The Hempstead Harbor water-monitoring program was awarded a grant to expand water sampling through the winter to determine bacteria levels of water coming from Scudder's Pond and discharging to Hempstead Harbor.** Currently, Scudder's Pond is one of the largest contributors of bacteria to the harbor. The winter water testing will fill the data gap that exists with respect to cold-weather bacteria levels in the pond. Our goal is to continue water testing once work begins (scheduled for late fall) to make Scudder's Pond more productive and more efficient in filtering bacteria. Ideally, water testing would continue postconstruction to help determine whether the structural changes to the pond are effective in decreasing the impact of storm-water runoff to the harbor.



*NY Recipients of LISFF Grant Awards*

CSHH coordinates the Hempstead Harbor water-monitoring program on behalf of the Hempstead Harbor Protection Committee (HHPC), the organization that comprises municipal members that have jurisdiction over the harbor. The grant for the Hempstead Harbor water program was one of seven awarded to New York projects. Twenty-three grants were awarded in total for both New York and Connecticut, and three of those were for projects benefitting both New York and Connecticut.

The LISFF is sponsored by the Long Island Sound EPA Office and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. We are grateful for the support we have received for the Hempstead Harbor water-monitoring program, not only for this year but for past years as well.

### CSHH AND HHPC TO HELP LAUNCH LIS REPORT-CARD PROJECT

CSHH and HHPC are also participating in a grant that was awarded to the University of Maryland, Center for Environmental Science, to develop a Long Island Sound Ecosystem Health Report Card System. Hempstead Harbor and Norwalk Harbor will be the first two LIS embayments featured in the project. We will be working with members of Harbor Watch-River Watch on the Connecticut side, and together with other team members, we will help launch the program for the rest of the sound.

The purpose of the report-card system is to help communicate water-quality and habitat conditions, track the effects of conservation and restoration activities, and engage communities. The report-card system for LIS will be based on work that was done to create the Chesapeake Bay Report Card, which is used by the State of Maryland as the measure of bay health and to assess the effectiveness of restoration and management activities.

The funding for the LIS report-card system was provided by LIS EPA, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Long Island Sound Funders Collaborative.



*LIS Report-Card System Team*

## TWO NYS PROPOSITIONS ON THE BALLOT AFFECTING THE ADIRONDACK FOREST PRESERVE

New Yorkers will be asked to vote on six propositions this Election Day, November 5. The propositions relate to (1) casino gambling, (2) civil-service credits for disabled veterans, (3) municipal debt limits for sewage facilities, (4) title disputes over land in the Adirondack forest preserve, (5) a land swap with a mining company for land in the Adirondack forest preserve, and (6) the mandatory retirement age for state judges.

Environmentalists around the state are concerned with Propositions 4 and 5.

- **Proposition 4 is an attempt to settle a land dispute that has existed for about a century near Raquette Lake.** Private residences and businesses that have existed around the lake for generations have agreed to give NYS about \$600,000 in total to make their title to the land clear. The funds from the settlement would allow the state to buy an additional tract of land in another area for the forest preserve. **It is CSHH's view that this would be a win-win situation, and this proposition has broad support from other environmental groups.**
- **Proposition 5 would allow NYCO Minerals, Inc., of Essex County, to obtain 200 acres in the forest preserve adjacent to the company's property to mine a vein of wollastonite that runs into the preserve.** (Wollastonite is used in paints, ceramics, adhesives, plastics, and other products and production processes.) In exchange, the company would give the state \$1 million for the 200 acres (the approximate market value of the 200 acres), so that the state can buy up to 1,500 acres elsewhere to add to the preserve.

NYCO would be able to do exploratory drilling to determine whether it wants to set up full mining activities on the land, and if it decides not to, it would have to convey to the state land equal in area to the number of acres of land that was disturbed by the exploratory activities. If NYCO decides to mine the property, the expected lifetime of the activity would be about eight years after which the company would have to rehabilitate the land and return it to the state. Those who support the land swap state that there would be economic advantages for the community and the state. Those who argue against the land swap, including Protect the Adirondacks, Adirondack Wild, the Sierra Club, and the Natural Resources Defense Council, say that it (1) creates a dangerous precedent in allowing a purely commercial enterprise to bargain for land in the forest preserve, (2) the 200 acres that NYCO wants to mine consists of old-growth hard-wood forest (the parcels the state would receive in exchange are new-growth forest), (3) the land swap makes a mockery of the state constitution's "forever wild" clause, which is supposed to protect the forest preserve, (4) NYCO already has dozens of permits to mine in other areas of the state. **CSHH's view is that the land swap with NYCO Minerals, Inc. should not be allowed.**

We urge you to become informed about all of the propositions on the ballot and suggest the following websites for information. For broad information and arguments on both sides of the issues, see [www.ballotpedia.org/wicki/index.php](http://www.ballotpedia.org/wicki/index.php) (click on "ballot measures" and then "New York State"). From this website you can navigate to other sites. See also the following: <http://newyork2.sierraclub.org/content/vote-no-prop-5-0>; [switchboard.nrdc.org/blogs/cclusen/vote\\_no\\_on\\_proposition\\_5\\_in\\_ne.htm](http://switchboard.nrdc.org/blogs/cclusen/vote_no_on_proposition_5_in_ne.htm); [www.syracuse.com/opinion/index/ssf/2013/10/vote\\_no\\_to\\_prop\\_5](http://www.syracuse.com/opinion/index/ssf/2013/10/vote_no_to_prop_5).

## RESULTS FROM TAPPEN AND SEA CLIFF BEACH CLEANUPS THAT WERE PART OF THE ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEANUP

On September 21, CSHH volunteers took to the beaches—as did volunteers around the world for the International Coastal Cleanup, which is sponsored by the American Littoral Society and The Ocean Conservancy. For the 20<sup>th</sup> year, CSHH has coordinated local efforts for the coastal cleanup at Tappen and Sea Cliff beaches—to collect and tally the amount of debris found along the shoreline. Despite the rain that began midmorning, our volunteers remained to cover as much area around the beaches as possible. We are grateful to our beach captains Barbara Karyo and Barbara Segal for their continued efforts in this.

The top items picked up at Tappen and Sea Cliff beaches were: cigarette butts—1,081; food wrappers—244; bottle caps—151; straws and stirrers—88; plastic bags—88; and plastic beverage bottles—80. These numbers reflect those reported by the Ocean Conservancy for the 2012 coastal cleanup. For the 2012 global effort, volunteers removed millions of pounds of garbage from beaches and oceans. The top item picked up, according to the conservancy's report, was cigarette butts—2,117,931 of them. Other trash reported by the conservancy for the 2012 cleanup included food wrappers and containers (1,140,222), beverage bottles (1,065,171), plastic bags (1,019,902), and bottle caps (958,893).



*Volunteers signing up for beach cleanup on Tappen (l) and Sea Cliff Beaches*

## UPDATE ON THE DEMOLITION OF THE GLENWOOD LANDING POWER PLANT

It is difficult to miss the change that is occurring at the Glenwood Landing power plant. The brick substation that had the vestiges of the metal structure that fed the original coal-fired plant from the waterside during the early 1900s is gone. Only the sand-colored stacks remain as vast amounts of twisted metal and brick have been barged out of the harbor. The demolition of this substation is scheduled to be completed by the end of the year.

The tall brick building with the six white stacks in currently undergoing a process of asbestos removal, and meters have been placed around the building to measure air quality. Demolition of this building is scheduled to begin in January.



*Power plant on October 13, 2013 (l) and on October 22, 2013 (r)*