

---

# HARBOR NEWS

---

P.O. Box 159 • Sea Cliff, NY 11579 • 516.801.6792 • [cshh@optonline.net](mailto:cshh@optonline.net)

---

## Report-Card System for Hempstead Harbor

As we reported last November, a Long Island Sound Futures Fund grant was awarded to scientists from the University of Maryland (UM) to develop what will ultimately be a report-card system of communicating the health of Long Island Sound and its embayments.

The project is also being funded by the Long Island Sound Funders Collaborative. The project was initiated by selecting one harbor from New York and one from Connecticut as pilot projects to launch the program. Hempstead Harbor and Norwalk Harbor were selected because both have well-established water-monitoring programs.

CSHH and the Hempstead Harbor Protection Committee (HHPC) met with members of UM's Environmental Science team on March 12, so that the team could become familiar with the harbor and the monitoring program, which CSHH initiated in 1992. Following the meeting, CSHH took the team on a car tour around the harbor, stopping at various points along the way.

A meeting with the team, CSHH, HHPC, representatives from Harbor Watch-River Watch and Earth Place (Norwalk, CT) is scheduled for July 1 in Stamford to discuss the indicators, among other things, that will be used for developing the report-card system.

## Long Island Clean Water Partnership

CSHH was one of the sponsoring organizations for the Long Island Clean Water Partnership conference on May 22, "Water We Going to Do III." The conference speakers discussed the threats to Long Island water quality, the public awareness campaign that has been undertaken, the county and town government response, and legislative initiatives to improve water quality.

At the conference Awards Ceremony, Carol DiPaolo received one of the "Water Champion" awards, on behalf of CSHH, that were given out at the conclusion of the meeting. Thank you to all of our dedicated volunteers! Eric Swenson, Executive Director of HHPC, received an award as well.

## Winter Water Monitoring

It was a long, cold winter but work around Hempstead Harbor continued. As we had reported last November, a grant under the Long Island Sound Futures Fund was awarded to fund the 2013 Hempstead Harbor water-monitoring program, which CSHH continues to coordinate in partnership with the Hempstead Harbor Protection Committee (the municipal organization). A new component of the program is winter monitoring.

---

### Scudder's Pond Restoration

Scudder's Pond had been identified as one of the two largest contributors of bacteria to Hempstead Harbor (along with the outfall between the Glenwood Landing powerhouse and the small park at the bottom of Glenwood Road, known as the Powerhouse Drain). Since 2009, we have collected water samples from inside the pond near the weir and from the outfall north of Tappen pool that drains the area from Littleworth Lane as well as from the pond. The Nassau County Department of Health lab analyzes the samples for bacteria. The purpose of the winter monitoring was to collect water samples through the winter and during the construction phase of the restoration of Scudder's Pond to (1) determine what happens to bacteria levels in cold temperatures and (2) determine the efficacy of major construction work to restore Scudder's Pond thereby diminishing bacteria loading to Hempstead Harbor.



*Winter views of Scudder's Pond – during phragmites removal and dredging (photos by Carol DiPaolo, January and March 2014, respectively)*

Staging of the work at the pond began in late November 2013, and phragmites removal began in December and was nearly completed in February. Other work included dredging of the pond bottom, installation of a new storm-water basin at Littleworth Lane to curtail future sedimentation of the pond, and planting of native plants around the pond. The last task will be construction of a new weir where the pond drains out to Hempstead Harbor. The difference in the way the pond looks now is dramatic and closer to what the pond looked like more than 100 years ago.

CSHH went beyond the scope of the work plan and collected water samples beyond the scheduled end date of March 31 in order to avoid a gap in data between the winter monitoring and the regular monitoring season, which began on May 21. The Nassau County Department of Health agreed that it was important to continue to collect the data and generously offered to continue performing the lab analyses on the collected samples.

### Powerhouse Drain

One of the other monitoring stations included in the water program since 2009 is the Powerhouse Drain. It was included for the same reasons as for the Scudder's Pond locations – to establish a data set that confirmed the amount of bacteria entering Hempstead Harbor from the surrounding subwatershed. CSHH exceeded the scope of the monitoring work plan by also collecting samples for

the powerhouse outfall during the winter and through mid-May, and the Nassau County Department of Health agreed to analyze these samples as well. The information provided by these samples will be valuable in implementing the recently completed Glenwood Road/Powerhouse Drain Stormwater Pollution Abatement Plan (HHPC, December 2013).

Because of work in dismantling the large brick powerhouse building adjacent to the outfall, it became even more critical to collect the samples from the outfall, as future access is uncertain. The demolition work is expected to be completed by the end of 2014, and the cleanup and regrading of the property are scheduled to be completed by the end of 2015.

***Falcons Nesting on Powerhouse Stack.*** The brick powerhouse building was set to be demolished by end of August, but a pair of peregrine falcons delayed things when they decided to return to one of the stacks on the building to nest. A worker for National Grid's subcontractor climbed up the stack and took a video of the nest and the single egg that was in it. As of last week, it was thought that two eggs were in the nest but that they were not viable because neither falcon remained near the nest and the area was surrounded by pigeons.

A falcon nest box was erected last year on the bulkhead south of the building but remained unused. The pole holding the box may not have been high enough to lure the peregrine falcons, a protected species, to that location instead of near the top of the stack.

## 2014 Spring-Fall Water Monitoring

Our regular monitoring season began with a reconnaissance trip in late April to check on conditions at monitoring stations and on osprey nesting activities. Weekly monitoring began on May 21.

On our trip in April, we saw five active osprey nests, including one on pilings near the cove south of the former Bar Beach, and two eggs were in it. One of the first nests to be observed in the harbor was built on the navigational light, Beacon 11, between Bar Beach and Tappen Marina, but that was suddenly removed last year. Late this spring, a pair of ospreys started building a new nest on Beacon 11. A sixth nest can be observed from Shore Road, just below Rams Hill, in a cell tower.



*Osprey nest in Gladsky Marine crane and loon in Hempstead Harbor (photos by Carol DiPaolo, April and May 2014, respectively)*

During the last two weeks in May, a loon was diving for fish just west of the entrance to Glen Cove Creek. A couple of lion's mane jellies were seen (we had reports that many more were seen in Oyster Bay).

Each week we observed clam boats in Hempstead Harbor, often with many large net bags filled with clams. According to a NYDEC report, the 2013 haul of hard clams from Hempstead Harbor totaled 6,253 bushels. That is the fourth largest harvest of hard clams out of eight shellfish areas along the north shore and the fifth largest out of 30 harvest areas that are all around Long Island.

## NYPA Cable Repair

Most people around the harbor know that the barges, tug, and red crane that can be seen clustered near the mouth of Hempstead Harbor are there for repair work on an electric cable that was damaged in early January. On January 6, a cable leak was discovered in one of the four cables that run under



Red crane, barges, and tug near mouth of harbor (photo by Carol DiPaolo, May 2014)

the harbor and sound. The tear in the cable was caused by a barge that had been anchored in the area. The cable was leaking dielectric fluid at a rate of 5 gals per hour and then dropped to about 3 gals per hour. The fluid, described as being light and the consistency of mineral oil, is considered nontoxic. The work crews brought in trailers and equipment to Tappen Beach and worked through snow and ice to locate the leak, monitor possible effects to marine life (none were reported) and the shoreline (a small amount was reported on a small section of shoreline but dissipated on the next tide), and cap the damaged cable. CSHH was included among the

group of local officials and others who received regular phone updates from New York Power Authority (NYPA) representatives regarding the cable repair and participated in a NYPA phone conference on February 18, 2014. By late-March all work was suspended, and the cable ends were laid back down.

A work crew from Italy, where the cable manufacturer is located, was brought in to begin splicing in a new piece of cable. By late April, the work was staged near the mouth of the harbor and is continuing 24/7. Lighted buoys have been set around the work area so that it can be seen at night. Charts of the work area were distributed at local marinas; if you are interested in obtaining one, e-mail [cshh@optonline.net](mailto:cshh@optonline.net) to request an electronic copy.

It is estimated that work on the cable will be completed by the end of July. A new trench will then have to be made to bury the repaired section of the cable about 15 feet below the bottom.

## Ban on Microbeads Proposed

On May 14, 2014, the Office of the NYS Attorney General, Eric T. Schneiderman, released a report (see <http://ag.ny.gov/pdfs/Microbeads-Report-5-14-14.pdf>) on the pollution caused by microbeads – tiny plastic beads used as abrasives in cosmetics and personal-care products such as Clearasil and Neutrogena Gentle Scrub. The problem is that once the beads are washed down the sink, they are released into the environment. Water-treatment plants can't contain them, so they are discharged into our waters, where they absorb pollutants and can remain in the environment for decades. Marine organisms mistake them as food, creating a pathway for pollutants to enter the food chain.

The Attorney General's proposed legislation – the Microbead-Free Waters Act (A. 8744a / S. 7018)-- would ban the use of plastic microbeads. Natural alternatives are available. E-mail elected officials to support the ban.

## International Coastal Cleanup--Save the Date

On **Saturday, September 27**, the Coalition to Save Hempstead Harbor will be coordinating beach cleanups as part of the Annual International Coastal Cleanup sponsored by Ocean Conservancy in cooperation with the American Littoral Society. Volunteers will meet at Tappen and Sea Cliff Beaches at 9:30 AM. The cleanup will continue until 11:30 AM.

If you can help, please contact Barbara at [bgkart@mac.com](mailto:bgkart@mac.com) or [csbh@optonline.net](mailto:csbh@optonline.net) or call 801-6792.

### ***28 YEARS AND STILL COUNTING!***

**THAT'S HOW MANY YEARS HAVE PASSED SINCE THE COALITION TO SAVE HEMPSTEAD HARBOR WAS FORMED IN 1986! A LOT HAS CHANGED, AND A LOT OF THE CHANGES THAT HAVE HELPED TO IMPROVE CONDITIONS AROUND HEMPSTEAD HARBOR CAN BE ATTRIBUTED TO THE HARD WORK AND SUPPORT OF LONGSTANDING CSHH MEMBERS.**

**CSHH CONTINUES AS AN IMPORTANT VOICE IN THE COMMUNITY, STILL STRIVING TO PROTECT OUR LOCAL ENVIRONMENT. OPERATIONAL EXPENSES CONTINUE AS WELL, AND THESE CAN BE MET ONLY BY THE GENEROSITY OF COMMUNITY MEMBERS.**

**WE NEED YOUR HELP! PLEASE CONSIDER MAKING A DONATION, PAYABLE TO THE COALITION TO SAVE HEMPSTEAD HARBOR, P.O. BOX 159, SEA CLIFF, NY 11579. IF YOU CAN OFFER SPECIAL SERVICES OR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, PLEASE CALL 801-6792. ENCOURAGE FRIENDS TO GET ON OUR E-MAIL LIST BY WRITING TO [CSHH@OPTONLINE.NET](mailto:CSHH@OPTONLINE.NET). PLEASE LET US KNOW THAT YOU VALUE CSHH'S WORK OVER THE LAST 28 YEARS BY MAKING YOUR TAX-DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION NOW.**



