

Calendar of Events

Tuesday, May 1, 2007: 7:30 Monthly meeting.

Education Committee needs volunteers for a May 1st date for a Conservation Field Day at a local park

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

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Membership campaign has a new letter designed to help recruit new members.

If you know anyone who may want to join SPLASH and keep informed about the cleanliness of our local waters etc, give us their name & address. We'll send them a complimentary newsletter to let them know what we're about and perhaps entice them to join.

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



SPLASHnewsletter

Volume 17 Number 2 A Publication of *SPLASH*, Freeport, NY, USA

May 2007

Skipper's Log...

Hey there my fellow aqua-garbologists (that's Latin for keepers of the waters). Due to repairs, maintenance, and the crazy weather, we are a little late with getting our boats back in the water this year. Both of our boats are getting some much needed TLC.

After all, our flagship Freeport Remsen built boat is now 12 years old. She has carried over 150 tons of escaped garbage off the marshes and waterways back to their garbage pail prisons. She has had everything from cooking stoves; water logged couches, hot water heaters and giant chunks of lumber thrown onto her decks. At times she has had so much garbage on her there is barely enough room to get the crew backs on board.

Also, the Wantagh boat was rescued from the grave yard last year, patched up and put into service. She is now inside the museum and under going extensive repairs to make sure she is seaworthy. So please be patient, Captains and crews, we are working on both boats as we speak.

- Sea ya on the water ...Rob

Splash Officers News

Corresponding secretary Deborah Murphy has retired... Let's take a moment to thank Deb for her service to Splash!! And, welcome Pat Healy as our new Corresponding secretary.

OFFICERS

President
Rob Weltner

First Vice President
Don Harris

Second Vice President
Stefanie Scherner

Third Vice President
Skip Zawrotny

Recording Secretary
Peggy Laibach

Corresponding Secretary
Pat Healy

Treasurer
Kathie Stella

Publicity Director
Don Miller

Education Committee
Don Harris

Newsletter Staff
Stefanie Scherner
Ann Tarantino

Director of Film Operations
Tom McCavera

Webmaster:
Al Isaacs

Email:

operationsplash@optonline.net

Visit our web site at
www.operationsplash.net



NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
FREEPORT, NY
PERMIT NO. 30

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

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

**Excerpts from SPLASH Meeting Minutes
3-6-07**

Treasurer's report

Balance was reported.

1st Vice President – Don Harris (reported in absence)

The Membership Drive is in full swing. We've already signed up 5 new members.

2nd Vice President - Stefanie Scherner (reported in absence)

News 12 contacted SPLASH and wants to do spot on them for Earth Day. (SPLASH was voted most active environmental group on Long Island)

3rd Vice President – Skip Zawrotny

The Sierra Club had a cleanup where members from all over the lower New York area participated. They picked up 25 bags of garbage. Skip reported there is a lot of garbage in the weed lines from the winter high tides and that the Sierra members enjoyed the grassroots work (of the cleanup) and would like to return for more hands on projects.

The Freeport boat will be ready soon; and there is still some work to do on the Wantagh boat. We will be putting an enclosure on the Wantagh boat, as requested by some of the Captains. Skip will be looking at the crew lists. He's looking for volunteers for captains. He handed around the statistics on the crew trips and how much was collected last season.

President's Report

Rob showed the form letter designed for our use in writing to our elected officials, regarding the Western Bays pollution. He wants us to contact State Senator Skelos. The form can be mailed directly by members or collected and mailed in a batch from SPLASH.

Rob reported more good news regarding the Western Bays dilemma, reading excerpts from a letter from Peter Skully/Commissioner, which cited the several violations in the area. He responded and approved of our request for the study of the TMDL. The Town of Hempstead has received grants for conducting water quality studies.

For the upcoming season; SPLASH is working with the NYS BMP (Best Management Practices) committee for commercial marinas. He explained that marinas have been recognized as a point source of pollution for our waterways. (Point source meaning that the pollutants can be identified) SPLASH has participated on the board for NYS that has been reviewing the issue locally. Rob read a letter he composed and has used to communicate to local marinas, suggesting oil socks; and other solutions. He also suggested putting clean boating tips in their brochures.

He read a letter from a local boater, who suggested SPLASH promote the use of oil socks in boating, as well as asking boaters not to use household cleaners (ie. Clorox and detergents) on their boats. Rob went to the chalkboard and illustrated how cleansers go out from the cleaned boat and end up injuring fish gills. (Cleansers take the oils off the gills of the fish).

Rob also reported that he and member, Vic Consiglio, had a meeting with a Great South Bay environmentalist, who was well versed on the additional inlet solution.

Rob explained how he's submitted (3) plans for designing and installing a net and oil boom at the inflow pipes, for use at the pond locations. Mr. Remsen offered netting to help with the project. The plans are being submitted to the 100 million bond committee, whose deadline is March 15th.

Wantagh Chapter

Gary reported that he wants to put together (5) more crews; and wants to put together a cleanup from Wantagh.

Other Business

New member, Mark from Baldwin, offered a skiff for cleanups on Parsonage Creek.

Bill Norton and Vic Consiglio made a motion for Rob to get reimbursed along Federal Guidelines for his auto expenses related to SPLASH business.

Major renovations have been made to Lofts and Milburn Ponds; that are now loaded with garbage. Baldwin SPLASH member, Charlie Fishine, has been contacting the local officials to help get the garbage cleaned out the parks.

Mr. Remsen won the 50/50 and donated it to SPLASH. The meeting was adjourned at 9:10.

There are no official minutes for the April 2007 meeting. We had a guest speaker from Nassau County Dept. of Public Works who talked about the County's Storm Water Management Program.

SPLASH Education Committee

We have spoke to over 1000 school children in the last month. We explained storm drain run off with help from Nassau County. We had sticker, fun facts, word searches and other learning tools along with Flo Flotsam.

The Education Committee will be taking a boat to and from Florida. We will be reporting to you about the conditions of each area we stop. We will spread the word of SPLASH along the East Coast!

See you when we get home... Captain Don Harris

In honor of Earth Day, here are 25 ideas how you can give back to Mother Earth!!

And remember every ONE person can make a difference!

1. Lower your thermostat. Buy a programmable thermostat.
2. Reuse everything at least once, especially plastics.
3. Check out your bathroom. Use low-flow faucets, showerheads, and toilets.
4. Start a compost in your back yard or on your rooftop.
5. Buy foods locally. Check out Eat Local Challenge and Food Routes to get started. Buy locally made products and locally produced services.
6. Buy in season.
7. Buy compact fluorescent light bulbs. You'll find more on energy-efficient products and practices at Energy Star.
8. Turn off lights and electronics when you leave the room. Unplug your cell phone charger from the wall when not using it. Turn off energy strips and surge protectors when not in use (especially overnight).
9. Recycle your newspapers.
10. Car pool. Connect with other commuters at eRideShare.
11. Consider a car sharing service like Zipcar.
12. Ride a bike.
13. Walk, jog, or run.
14. Go to your local library instead of buying new books.
15. At holidays and birthdays, give your family and friends the gift of saving the earth. Donate to their favorite environmental group, foundation, or organization.
16. Get off junk mail lists. Green Dimes can get you started. They'll even plant a tree for you!
17. Buy products that use recyclable materials whenever possible.
18. If you use plastic grocery bags, recycle them for doggie poop bags or for small trashcan liners.
19. Bring your own bags to the grocery store. Given a choice between plastic and paper, opt for paper.
20. Buy locally. Find farmers' markets, family farms, and other sources of sustainable grown food near you at Local Harvest.
21. Consider organic cleaning products like vinegar, borax, and baking soda.
22. If you have a baby, consider using cloth diapers. To sign up for a diaper service to do the dirty work, check out the National Association of Diaper Services.
23. Consider buying a fuel-efficient car or a hybrid.
24. Landscape with native plants. Check out the article on the EPA website.
25. Opt into a clean energy program. Check out the Green Power Network at the US Department of Energy.

Hello all...we are trying to build a Splash e-mail notification list for our web site. Please send your email address to Al Isaacs. It will help us get important messages out when needed! Send your email address to: al@alisaacs.com