

## Calendar of Event Updates

- **Tues., November 1, 7:30 pm, Monthly Meeting.**  
Rick Balla from the U.S. E.P.A. will be at the meeting to answer questions
- **Tues, December 6, 7:30 pm, SPLASH HOLIDAY PARTY**  
Held at the Freeport Recreation Center  
MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!... See insert for details

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:**

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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.



# SPLASHnewsletter

Volume 15 Number 4

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November 2005

## **Skipper's Log... Oysters anyone?**

At the turn of the century Long Island was a major oyster producer. There are signs everywhere in the bay indicating the past abundance of these delicious creatures. Unfortunately oysters are all but gone from our area. So oysters don't live here any more, neither do scallops or flounder... big deal. Well ladies and gents it is a big deal. Take the oyster. It's just one of the many amazing stories that take place in the bay. From the time mature oysters {which buy the way can change sex from male to female} release eggs and sperm into the water to make little oysters called "spat" the journey is long and difficult. The little spats are tiny and cannot swim. So what keeps them from being washed out to sea?

Picture being in the bay in a boat in 10 feet of water and the top part of this 10 foot water column is mainly fresh water which come from the many tributaries or streams that feed fresh water i.e. storm water into the bay and are lighter and a lot less salty than the bottom of the bay which gets the saltier, heavier ocean water. Just as the top and bottom are different in salt mixture called "salinity" so are the currents that mix them. This is where Mother Nature gets creative. The little "spats" float up or sink down to stay in the same area until they mature enough to stay on the bottom and look for a permanent home. An oyster home needs two main things 1) a hard surface to attach its newly formed suction cup foot to. 2) A good food source.

O.K. Rob you say...enough of this Mr. Science stuff, why do we need oysters? One word "FILTERS". Yes my friends, one oyster can filter up to 50 gallons of bay water in one day. Imagine millions of oysters filtering algae and sediment from the bay in the summer months when the bay water tends to be overloaded with alga and gets brown in color. So you see folks, Oysters are a big deal! Not only could we have huge economic water related industry back, but they also help keep our waters clean year round. Oysters anyone?

Sea ya on the water...Rob

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Rob Weltner

**First Vice President**  
Don Harris

**Second Vice President**  
Stefanie Reis

**Third Vice President**  
Skip Zawrotny

**Recording Secretary**  
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**Corresponding Secretary**  
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Tom McCavera

[operationsplash@optonline.net](mailto:operationsplash@optonline.net)

Visit our web site at  
[www.operationsplash.net](http://www.operationsplash.net)



**Captain's Corner:**

The season is winding down and the boat is still sailing. We have some hearty souls in our ranks that enjoy this brisk and breezy weather. I would like to thank all the captains and crews for another successful year. You guys really performed well.

A special note of thanks to Bill Norton whose diligence and care in maintaining the Splash boat is much appreciated. We never missed a trip due to mechanical problems. We will report the year end results in the next Splash newsletter. Thanks again,  
Skip

**September 2005 SPLASH Meeting Recap (continued)**

**Other Business**

Patrick Cooke (Eagle Scout) asked for volunteers for October 23<sup>rd</sup>, with rain date of October 30<sup>th</sup>, to help with the decals project. Several Merrick, Baldwin, and Freeport locations have been authorized by the jurisdictions. There will be a picnic afterwards for all the volunteers.

Bob Young asked for (2) crewmembers for Thursday at 10am.

A member reported that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meadowbrook Bridge on the northeast side has a ton of garbage.

Member Helen Watkins offered her help in artist work.

50/50 was won by Ed Martin. Meeting was adjourned at 8:50pm.

**September 2005 SPLASH Meeting Recap**

(Stefanie Reis, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, Debbie Murphy, Corresponding Secretary, and 3<sup>rd</sup> VP, Skip Zawrotny absent)

**Treasurer's Report/Kathie Stella**

Ending balance was reported. \$3,000 was collected during the month from Frank Hunter, (the proceeds from a donated boat sale). A member asked about the lens and camera expenses in the report; Rob said that he got a discounted price for a camera setup that he can use for the wildlife preservation presentation.

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Don Harris**

Don reported that they will hopefully get back to the schools with a slide presentation this fall. Any SPLASH member that can make a connection with a class should contact Don.

Leon Hellerman, longtime member of the Education Committee, has passed away our condolences to his family.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Stefanie Reis** (Report given by Rob)

The Family Festival by the Sea will be held in Lido on September 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. There is a signup sheet for members to help at the fair.

American Littoral Society Cleanup on September 17<sup>th</sup> at Tobay Beach; Meet at Lido parkway with gloves and sunscreen.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President – Skip Zawrotny** (Report given by Rob)

Skip asked Rob to tell the captains that they can call him at home if you have any problems.

He also wanted to extend “thanks” to Bob Jacoma for all he’s done with the Wantagh boat.

**President's Report**

Rob reported that the pump out station at the TOH marina has been repaired.

Re: the fish kills that were reported lately in the newspapers: Rob is on the Soil and Conservation Committee (organized by the Nassau County). Using tools from the County, he’s been able to test oxygen and salination levels in Freeport’s waterfront to help determine possible causes of these fish kills. He’s determined that the oxygen and salt levels close to storm drains are lower than in the open bays, and must be even lower after rain falls (which is when the fishkills have been happening.) Therefore, he doesn’t believe the newspaper reports that the water temperatures are to blame.

Rob passed around a SPLASH Book that he compiled for presentation of our concerns for the SS Estuary to use with their state budget preparation.

Re: the Great Dumpster dilemma (at the SPLASH boat dock): Bill Norton reported that the dilemma has not been resolved.

Rob recognized Gary’s hard work for making the SPLASH hotline cards a reality. The new laminated cards were handed out to all members in attendance. Gary explained the numbers listed and what each number can be used for.

**Meadowbrook Preserve/Upstream Report**

Jim Caracciolo reported that October 22<sup>nd</sup> is a cleanup day at the Meadowbrook Preserve.

**Wantagh/Bellmore Chapter**

Ed Sheehan reported that SPLASH will not be participating in the Bellmore Fair this year because no one could man the booth.

Gary said he thinks that we need a SPLASH Festival chairperson.

Ed Sheehan asked for a SPLASH brochure to hand out at the Schools.

**REPRINT FROM POINT LOOKOUT CHAPTER OF OPERATION SPLASH:**

**OPERATION SPLASH**

Freeport, New York

**Point Lookout Chapter (the EELS\*)**

\*(Environmentally Energetic Lively Seniors)

*Report of Operations for July-August 2005*

Active members, Point Lookout Chapter of OPERATION SPLASH.

George Hearn, Martin Crowe, Robert Walsh, James Quail, Frank O'Hara, Ed Turner, Virginia Hahn, Matthew Galvin, and Gerald Galvin

Areas cleaned using the SPLASH boat:

Reynolds Channel north shore opposite Point Lookout: on two occasions, this long shore was cleared of heavy accumulations of debris. Each time all 4 barrels were filled, along with approximately 4 more bags and several tires.

Loop Parkway drawbridge: the long beach southwest of the bridge was done twice; the shoreline northwest and northeast of the bridge was done once.

Meadowbrook Parkway bridge #2: the shoreline northeast of the bridge and northwest of the bridge was done once; from the latter seven tires were removed.

On each occasion, the boat was filled to capacity with debris.

Areas cleaned from ashore:

Loop Parkway-Reynolds Channel southwest and southeast shoreline was each done twice.

Dunes along the ocean from Parkside Drive to Mineola Avenue were cleared several times: approximately ten bags of cans-bottles (each bag holds 40 to 50 cans) were cleared along with other debris. These areas are continually cleaned at least once a month all year.

Beach front behind the ball fields where Reynolds Channel meets Jones Inlet is continually monitored all year round. An incredible amount of debris (perhaps as high as 50 bags) is removed.

Reporting,

Gerald Galvin September 6, 2005

Cc .Herb Abbe, President, Point Lookout Civic Association