



A Partnership to Restore and Protect the Sound

The Long Island Sound Office
of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Mark Tedesco, EPA LIS Office, (203) 977-1541
Kimberly Zimmer, NY Sea Grant, (631) 632-9216

\$71,000 Awarded to 16 Community Groups for Educational Work on Long Island Sound

Stony Brook, NY, Nov. 2, 2004—The Long Island Sound Study announced today that more than \$71,000 has been awarded to 16 Connecticut and New York community groups dedicated to restoring and protecting the Sound.

The projects, funded by the Environmental Protection Agency and administered by New York Sea Grant, include volunteer beach cleanups, summer camps, storm drain marking, children and family education programs, and festivals.

This is the tenth year of funding for the Long Island Sound Study Public Participation, Information, and Education Small Grants. A total of 116 projects have been funded since 1995, amounting to more than \$460,000.

“It is exciting to see diverse projects that center on Long Island Sound and encourage the public to get involved,” said Kimberly Zimmer-Graff, a New York Sea Grant educator and public outreach coordinator for the Long Island Sound Study.

Mark Tedesco, director of the EPA Long Island Sound Office, also noted the importance of the small grant awards. “This program continues to bring together civic groups, government officials, environmental organizations, and universities to work on projects in their communities that will improve the health of Long Island Sound,” he said.

A total of 32 groups competed this year for the small grants. The next request for proposals will be distributed during the summer of 2005. If you are interested in being placed on the mailing list please

Stamford Government Center
888 Washington Boulevard
Stamford, CT 06904-2152
Phone: (203) 977-1541
Fax: (203) 977-1546



Marine Sciences Research Center
State University of New York at Stony Brook
Stony Brook, NY 11794-5000
Phone: (631) 632-9216
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contact Kimberly Zimmer-Graff at the New York Sea Grant office at (631) 632-9216 or visit the Long Island Sound Study web site at www.longislandsoundstudy.net for more information.

The Long Island Sound Study is a cooperative effort sponsored by the EPA and the states of Connecticut and New York to analyze and correct the Sound's most pressing environmental problems.

Connecticut Projects

Title: Backyard Water Resource Guide

Project Design: The Connecticut River Coastal Conservation District will develop and distribute an educational guide for landowners in the lower Connecticut River watershed and coastal areas designed to promote better stewardship of "backyard" resources. The guide will include information on the watershed and the Sound, the value and importance of a variety of water resources, including ponds, streams, vernal pools and wetlands, and feature recommendations to help landowners improve habitat and protect water quality.

Organization: CT River Coastal Conservation District

Location of Project: Lower CT River Watershed and Coastal Towns

Contact: Wendy Goodfriend

Address: deKoven House, 27 Washington St, Middletown, CT 06457

Phone: 860-346-3282

Web Site: www.conservect.org

LISS Funding: \$2,500

Title: Identifying Sources of Indicator Bacteria in the Silvermine River

Project Design: Harbor Watch/River Watch program at Earthplace (formerly the Nature Center of Environmental Activities in Westport) will continue an on-going water quality monitoring study on the Aspetuck River. The focus of the study will be investigating point and nonpoint sources of *E. coli* bacteria. The volunteers will be from two local high schools. The information collected will be shared with the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection and the Westport and Easton health and environmental departments.

Organization: Earthplace

Location of Project: Aspetuck River, Easton-Westport, CT

Contact: Richard Harris

Address: 10 Woodside Lane, Westport, CT 06880

Phone: 203-227-5937

Web Site: www.earthplace.org

LISS Funding: \$4,962

Title: Lovely Gardens, Healthy Lawns, and Clean Water

Project Design: The Rivers Alliance will provide 16 talks to garden clubs, nonprofit groups, schools, towns and watershed groups on pesticide and fertilizer use and the impact on water quality. They will also create fact sheets on the impact of pesticide and fertilizer use and the alternatives that will be placed on the website.

Organization: Rivers Alliance of Connecticut

Location of Project: CT towns and cities along the Sound

Contact: Margaret Miner

Address: 111 Main Street, Collinsville, CT 06019

Phone: 860-693-1602

Web Site: www.riversalliance.org

LISS Funding: \$4,507

Title: 2005 New Haven Harbor Cleanup and Lighthouse Point Exhibit

Project Design: On May 7, 2005, the Peabody Museum of Natural History, along with local businesses and organizations (expected participation 350), will sponsor a major cleanup effort at the beach and estuarine areas of the Quinnipiac River. The museum will also construct an exhibit at Lighthouse Park in New Haven that will cover the biodiversity, geology, and preservation of the Sound. The exhibit will open on National Estuaries Day in September.

Organization: Yale University – Peabody Museum

Location of Project: New Haven Harbor

Contact: David Heiser

Address: PO Box 208118, New Haven, CT 06520-8118

Phone: 203-432-3776

Web Site: www.yale.edu/grants

LISS Funding: \$4,888

Title: Neighborhood Steward Teams

Project Design: Neighborhood Steward Teams are community-based after school environmental education and action programs that provide urban youth with the knowledge, skills, and motivation to address environmental problems in their community. With a particular focus on the watershed, they will use the resources of New Haven's rivers, parks, communities, and the Sound to teach youth about how they are connected to their environment. During 2005 the program will initiate eight steward teams, directly serving up to 90 young people from low-income neighborhoods, and perform at least 12 community service action projects. It will reach more than 500 people through public education projects.

Organization: Solar Youth Inc

Location of Project: New Haven, CT

Contact: Joanne Sciulli

Address: 100-F Brookside Ave, New Haven, CT 06515

Phone: 203-387-4189

Web Site: www.solaryouth.org

LISS Funding: \$5,000

Title: Upgrade to the Seal Census Web site

Project Design: The Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk will make an extensive upgrade to its seal census Web site (www.sealcensus.org) to include information on seal ecology, the natural history of seals, results of scientific research done on the occurrence of seals in the Sound, and a designated area “chat room” for students involved in seal research to discuss their research.

Organization: The Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk

Location of Project: Sheffield Island and Smith Reef

Contact: Amy Ferland

Address: 10 North Water St, Norwalk, CT 06854

Phone: 203-852-0700, ext. 2270

Web Site: www.maritimeaquarium.org

LISS Funding: \$4,855

New York Projects

Title: Estuaries – A Sound Investment

Project Design: Alley Pond Environmental Center (APEC) will invite various organizations and schools within the Little Neck Bay watershed to participate in a National Estuaries Day event. There will be booths/tables with hands-on activities, educational programs, nature walks, and boat rides. Prior to Estuaries Day, staff will visit the local schools and encourage the creation of art work and posters that will be used to promote the day. This celebration will educate the citizens of Little Neck Bay watershed on the history, ecology, and problems facing the Bay and the Sound. APEC plans to produce a pamphlet describing the history and ecology of the bay.

Organization: Alley Pond Environmental Center

Location of Project: Alley Pond Park

Contact: Aline Euler

Address: 228-06 Northern Blvd, Douglaston, NY 11363

Phone: 718-229-4000 ext. 208

Web Site: www.alleypond.com

LISS Funding: \$5,000

Title: Manhasset Bay Shoreline Trail Program

Project Design: The third grade trail program will expand from two schools to all five. The environmental education curriculum will also be introduced and expanded into both the second and fifth grade. The program will ultimately educate 1,500 students. The second grade curriculum is an Earth Day program that will include a discussion on pollution, designing posters of a clean environment, and a clean up of the school grounds. The third grade students will study Baxter Pond and discuss water pollution and its association with runoff, pesticides, and household chemical use. The fifth grade program is an aquifer project. A model aquifer will demonstrate the various sources of drinking water and impacts that affect water quality.

Organization: Residents for a More Beautiful Port Washington

Location of Project: Manhasset Bay, Port Washington

Contact: Jennifer Rimmer

Address: PO Box 864, Port Washington, NY 11050

Phone: 516-767-9151

Web Site: www.pwresidents.org

LISS Funding: \$5,000

Title: LIS component of 2005 NY State Beach Cleanup

Project Design: The American Littoral Society will coordinate the 2005 International Coastal Cleanup at Long Island Sound watershed beaches in New York State. Outreach will focus on grassroots environmental organizations, youth groups, students, and corporate volunteers who will be asked to document and remove debris from beaches and waterways, as well as to adopt a site for continued monitoring. Data collected will be used to devise strategies to combat marine pollution.

Organization: American Littoral Society

Location of Project: New York Long Island Sound Beaches

Contact: Don Riepe

Address: 28 West 9th Road, Broad Channel, NY 11693

Phone: 718-318-9344

Web Site: www.alsnyc.org

LISS Funding: \$5,000

Title: LIS Intergenerational Stewards

Project Design: Cornell Cooperative Extension Marine Program will launch a new intergenerational citizen stewardship project. There will be an open house for more than 200 families, 15 stewardship presentations to nonprofit groups and schools (estimated to reach 800 people) monthly beach cleanups at four sites, the creation of a marine debris web site, and general education through newsletters, the Web site, and press releases.

Organization: Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County

Location of Project: Southold to Orient Beaches

Contact: Mary Morgan

Address: Marine Program, 3690 Cedar Beach Road, Southold, NY 11971

Phone: 631-852-8660, ext. 37

Web Site: www.cce.cornell.edu/suffolk

LISS Funding: \$4,280

Title: Manhasset Bay Public Awareness Campaign

Project Design: The Protection Committee will design, fabricate and circulate around the watershed a portable tabletop display. It will contain information about the bay and the Sound and the initiatives that are underway to protect and preserve the water quality and how stakeholders can make a difference. Students who view the display will be encouraged to participate in an essay contest on issues that are displayed.

Organization: Town of North Hempstead Planning

Location of Project: Manhasset Bay Watershed

Contact: Patrice Benneward

Address: PO Box 3000, Manhasset, NY 11030

Phone: 516-869-7835

Web Site: www.manhassetbayprotectioncommittee.org

LISS Funding: \$5,000

Title: Kips Bay National Estuaries Day Celebration at the Waterfront Center

Project Design: The Center and Kips Bay Boys and Girls Club (100 members, ages 10-15, and 10 counselors) and the Boys and Girls Club of Oyster Bay (approximately 12 facilitators) will participate in a National Estuaries Day Celebration in September. The event will include hands on educational activities such as seining, touch tank, recreational activities, including kayaking and sailing, and stewardship activities, including a beach clean up to excite students about the importance of estuaries. The Kips Bay Boys and Girls Club will receive a pre-trip lesson before coming to Oyster Bay as well as a post-trip activity.

Organization: The Waterfront Center

Location of Project: Bronx and Oyster Bay

Contact: Amy Cross

Address: PO Box 187, Oyster Bay, NY 11771

Phone: 516-922-7245

Web Site: www.thewaterfrontcenter.org

LISS Funding: \$2,000

Title: LIS 101 for Realtors

Project Design: The Center and Cove Point Realty, Greenapple Mortgage, and members of the Long Island Board of Realtors will develop a LIS 101 for Realtors continuing education course. This course will be designed to help real estate agents meet their requirements of 22.5 hours of continuing education every two years. This will build upon the lessons learned during the pilot project that was funded a year ago. The course will be 7.5 hours for 25 agents covering topics such as regulations for docks and seawalls, septic requirements, erosion, water quality, and public trust. The workshop will include a cruise on the oldest oyster sloop in America, the Christeen.

Organization: The Waterfront Center

Location of Project: Oyster Bay

Contact: Amy Cross

Address: PO Box 187, Oyster Bay, NY 11771

Phone: 516-922-7245

Web Site: www.thewaterfrontcenter.org

LISS Funding: \$5,000

Title: Glen Cove Marine Education Program

Project Design: As part of the City of Glen Cove summer camp program, 285 campers will learn about the Sound and why marine habitat is vital to our planet. Part of the program will be a dock side program for younger children while the older children will have the opportunity for a short cruise on the Sound. Many of the campers are from families that could not afford this kind of experience. Campers will explore the beach ecology and note how floatable debris affects the environment and learn about storm water runoff.

Organization: City of Glen Cove

Location of Project: Hempstead Harbor

Contact: Darcy Belyea

Address: City Hall, 9 Glen Street, Glen Cove, NY 11542

Phone: 516-676-3766

Web Site: www.glencove-li.com

LISS Funding: \$5,000

Title: National Estuaries Day Celebration

Project Design: The Long Island Seaport and Eco Center (LISEC) will hold a Celebration for National Estuaries Day 2005 in Port Jefferson in September. It will host a variety of family activities in different locations. Events would include beach cleanups, plantings at Centennial Park, harbor walks lead by students, boat building, boat trips, story tellers and photo exhibits, touch tank, and a beach side picnic. This is LISEC's second Estuaries Day celebration.

Organization: Long Island Seaport and Eco Center

Location of Project: Port Jefferson Harbor

Contact: Kathleen O'Sullivan

Address: PO Box 750, Port Jefferson, NY 11777

Phone: 631-474-4725

Web Site: www.lisec.org

LISS Funding: \$3,600

Title: Storm Drain Markers & Public Stewardship Program

Project Design: The Town of Oyster Bay will install 500 storm drain markers along the North Shore. The town will solicit volunteers to install the markers by working with Friends of the Bay, the Coalition to Save Hempstead Harbor, the Flower Oyster Company as well as invite college and high school students and members of nonprofit organizations to participate. The town has already identified the drains to be marked and participants will go through a training class before installing the markers during the spring.

Organization: Town of Oyster Bay

Location of Project: Hempstead Harbor, Oyster Bay/Cold Spring Harbor Complex Watersheds

Contact: Aldona Lawson

Address: Department of Environmental Resources, 150 Miller Place, Syosset, NY 11791

Phone: 516-677-5717

Web Site: www.oysterbaytown.com

LISS Funding: \$4,983