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# Volunteer for the Sound

WORKING TOGETHER TO RESTORE AND PROTECT THE SOUND



March 30, 2016

## DO YOUR PART - VOLUNTEER FOR THE SOUND!



There are many organizations in Connecticut and New York that need your help restoring and protecting Long Island Sound!

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Long Island Sound Citizens Summit

*Save the Date*  
*Historic 25th Annual*  
*Long Island Sound Citizen Summit*



**CITIZEN SCIENCE:**  
Translating Science into Action for  
Long Island Sound  
*Friday, June 3, 2016*  
*Stony Brook University*  
*9:00AM - 3:30PM*

Registration for the Historic 25th Annual Long Island Sound Citizens Summit is now open! The Summit will be held on Friday, June 3rd at Stony Brook University's Student Activities Center.

The 25th Annual Long Island Sound Citizens Summit will focus on the very citizens who are taking action to protect the Sound. We will celebrate their efforts, roll out new innovative tools for understanding the Sound's health, and dedicate an entire afternoon of workshops to citizen science monitoring, data analysis, and communicating science with clarity and impact.

**NEW THIS YEAR!** High school and college student poster session during the 9:00-9:30am Registration and 10:40-10:55am Networking Break. If you are interested in presenting a poster of your Long Island Sound citizen science project, you and a chaperone can attend for free (NOTE: If you plan to stay for lunch, there is a \$20 charge for students and \$30 charge for adults until April 15th). If you are interested in presenting a poster, please contact Brittany Chamberlin-Martin at [bchamberlin-martin@savethesound.org](mailto:bchamberlin-martin@savethesound.org).

For more information and to register, visit: <http://tinyurl.com/2016LISCitizenSummit> (Early registration rates end on April 15th.)

This year's Citizens Summit is being organized by Save the Sound, Connecticut Fund for the Environment, Long Island Sound Study, New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission, Stony Brook University School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences, and the Alan Alda Center for Communicating Science.

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## Upcoming Connecticut Volunteer Events

**Saturday, April 9, 2016** at 10:00am-2:00pm – Pond Lily Planting Day. Join Save the Sound in restoring the stream bank habitat along the West River, flowing free again after the dam removal this past winter. All volunteers are welcome. Please bring work gloves if you have them and wear boots that can get wet and muddy. Meet at the Pond Lily Nature Preserve at S. Genesee Street, New Haven, CT (off E. Ramsdell Street, between Route 63/Whalley Avenue and Valley Street). For questions and to RSVP, email [restoration@savethesound.org](mailto:restoration@savethesound.org).

**Saturday, April 9, 2016** at 10:00am-2:00pm – 5th Annual Rock to Rock Day of Service. Join the Urban Resources Initiative for a community clean up along Spring Street and Ella T. Grasso Blvd. in New Haven, CT to clean up a marshland that needs sprucing up. We will be weeding, collecting litter, and planting perennials to give this area an Earth Day makeover. For more information and to register, [click here](#).

**Saturday, April 23, 2016** at 9:00am-12:00pm – Arbor Day Tree Planting. Join the Urban Resources Initiative for an Arbor Day tree planting at Cherry Ann Park, 150 Cherry Ann Street, New Haven, CT. We will be planting 7 trees followed by an Arbor Day/Earth Day ceremony with refreshments in the park. Please wear clothes that can get dirty, closed-toe shoes, and layers. For more information and to register, [click here](#).

**May – July 2016** – CT Horseshoe Crab Monitoring. Dates vary by site, sites all around Long Island Sound. For more information, visit [CT Horseshoe Crab Monitoring](#).

**Saturday, May 7, 2016** at 10:00am-2:00pm – Hyde Pond Planting Day. Please bring work gloves if you have them and wear boots that can get wet and muddy. Meet at the Barnes Moving and Storage in Mystic, CT. For questions and to RSVP, email [restoration@savethesound.org](mailto:restoration@savethesound.org).

**Saturday, May 7, 2016** at 8:30am-12:00pm – Tree Planting Day at Yale Alumni Day of Service. Join the Urban Resources Initiative for tree planting at 340 Prospect Street, New Haven, CT. Please wear closed-toe shoes and bring drinking water. We will plant 4 trees with the Yale Alumni Day of Service, the Yale Club of New Haven, and Human Resources at Yale in recognition of Yale Employee Service Milestones. Parking is available at 380 Edwards/ 301 Prospect Street in New Haven, CT. For more information and to register, [click here](#).

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## Upcoming New York Volunteer Events

**Saturday, April 2, 2016** at 10:00am-2:00pm – Long Island String Fencing Volunteer Day. Join NY Audubon for the third annual string fencing volunteer event. Meet at the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary & Audubon Center, 134 Cover Road, Oyster Bay, NY, for an opportunity to roll up your sleeves, get out, and help our threatened and endangered birds! We will work with the NYSDEC to put up string fencing and signage around Piping Plover nesting sites at Centre Island and Stehli Beach in Bayville, NY. This symbolic string fencing reduces disturbance to nesting birds and chicks. We recommend volunteers bring water, wear hiking boots or sneakers, and wear clothing that is appropriate for light to moderate physical activities. Please note that bathroom facilities at the beach will not yet be open. Please email [kdamico@audubon.org](mailto:kdamico@audubon.org) for more information and to register for this event.

**Saturday, April 2, 2016** at 10:00am-12:00pm – North Fork Coastal Cleanup Day. Join the Group for the East End for a coastal cleanup at Goldsmith's Inlet, Kenny's Beach, and McCabe's Beach in Peconic and Southold, NY. Everything that is collected will be repurposed into life-size sculptures of wildlife that are impacted by the large amounts of debris in our coastal waters. For more information and to register, [click here](#).

**Sunday, April 17, 2016** at 10:00am-12:00pm – North Fork Coastal Cleanup Day. Join the Group for the East End for a coastal cleanup at Wildwood State Park in Wading River, NY. Everything that is collected will be repurposed into life-size sculptures of wildlife that are impacted by the large amounts of debris in our coastal waters. For more information and to register, [click here](#).

**Sunday, April 24, 2016** at 9:00am-1:00pm – Bronx River Forest Restoration. Volunteer with the NYC Dept. of Parks and Recreation's Stewardship Team to care for trees in Bronx Park! Volunteers will remove invasive species such as corydalis, and spread fresh seed. Volunteers will be trained in forest ecology and proper removal techniques. Come dressed in sturdy workboots or shoes, and clothing that can get dirty. Meet at Bronx Park, Burke Ave., E. 180 St. bet. Dr. Kazamiroff Blvd., Southern Blvd. and Bronx Park E., Unionport Rd., Bronx, NY. For more and information and to register, [click here](#).

**Saturday, April 30, 2016** at 8:00am-12:00pm – Annual Spring Oyster Bay Harbor and Beach Clean-up (rain or shine). At this event, volunteers patrol the shoreline by foot and the water by boat to collect debris that accumulated during the winter at Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Park, Centre Island beach, and Stehli beach in Oyster Bay. This event is organized by the Town of Oyster Bay, the North Oyster Bay Baymen's Association (NOBBA), and the Friends of the Bay. All are invited to participate. Please call 516-677-5943 for more information.

**Saturday, April 30, 2016** at 9:00am-1:00pm – Pelham Bay Tree Planting. Volunteer with the NYC Dept. of

Parks and Recreation's Stewardship Team to plant trees in the forest in Pelham Bay Park! Trees provide so many benefits to New Yorkers such as improved air and water quality, reduced pollution, and lower energy costs. Volunteers will be trained in proper planting techniques, while furthering the efforts of MillionTreesNYC. Come dressed in sturdy boots or shoes, long pants, and clothing that can get dirty. Meet at Pelham Bay Park, Hutchinson River, Long Island Sound bet. Bronx County Line and Middletown Rd., Watt Ave., Bronx, NY. Space is limited and registration is required for this event. For more information and to register, [click here](#).

**May – July 2016** – NY Horseshoe Crab Monitoring. Dates vary by site, sites all around Long Island Sound. For more information, visit [NY Horseshoe Crab Monitoring](#).

**Saturday, May 7, 2016** at 9:00am-12:00pm – NY State Parks' "I Love My Park Day" at Caleb Smith State Park, Smithtown, NY. Volunteers are needed to help with gardening, invasive plant removal, and painting. For more information and to register, [click here](#).

**Saturday, May 7, 2016** at 9:30am-12:00pm – NY State Parks' "I Love My Park Day" at Caumsett State Park Preserve, Lloyd Harbor, NY. Volunteers are needed to help with bittersweet clipping and beach clean-up. For more information and to register, [click here](#).

**Saturday, May 7, 2016** at 9:30am-12:00pm – NY State Parks' "I Love My Park Day" at Nissequogue River State Park, Kings Park, NY. Volunteers are needed to help with clean-up of litter and debris. For more information and to register, [click here](#).

**Saturday, May 7, 2016** at 10:00am-2:00pm – NY State Parks' "I Love My Park Day" at Orient Beach State Park, Orient, NY. Volunteers are needed to help with various projects. For more information and to register, [click here](#).

**Saturday, May 7, 2016** at 9:00am-12:00pm – NY State Parks' "I Love My Park Day" at Planting Fields Arboretum State Historic Park, Oyster Bay, NY. Volunteers are needed to help with garden and trails clean-up, including weeding and mulching. For more information and to register, [click here](#).

**Saturday, May 7, 2016** at 9:30am-2:00pm – NY State Parks' "I Love My Park Day" at Sunken Meadow State Park, Kings Park, NY. Volunteers are needed to help with building wooden picnic tables, weeding and mulching butterfly garden, and shoreline beach clean-up. For more information and to register, [click here](#).

**Saturday, May 7, 2016** at 9:30am-4:30pm – NY State Parks' "I Love My Park Day" at Walt Whitman Birthplace Historic Site, Huntington Station, NY. Volunteers are needed to help with gardening maintenance, power-washing, and painting. For more information and to register, [click here](#).

**Saturday, May 7, 2016** at 9:00am-12:00pm – NY State Parks' "I Love My Park Day" at Wildwood State Park, Wading River, NY. Volunteers are needed to help with beach clean-up. For more information and to register, [click here](#).

**Saturday, May 7, 2016** at 10:00am-12:00pm – North Fork Coastal Cleanup Day. Join the Group for the East End for a coastal cleanup at Iron Pier Beach and Hallock State Park Preserve in Jamesport, NY. Everything that is collected will be repurposed into life-size sculptures of wildlife that are impacted by the large amounts of debris in our coastal waters. For more information and to register, [click here](#).

**Saturday, May 14, 2016** at 10:00am-12:00pm – North Fork Coastal Cleanup Day. Join the Group for the East End for a coastal cleanup at Inlet Pond County Park in Greenport, NY. Everything that is collected will be repurposed into life-size sculptures of wildlife that are impacted by the large amounts of debris in our coastal waters. For more information and to register, [click here](#).

**Saturday, May 21, 2016** at 8:00am-5:00pm – Volunteer Stewardship Day at Great Gull Island. Assist in the mapping of terns' nesting locations. For more information and to register, visit <http://tinyurl.com/greatgull>.

**Saturday, May 21, 2016** at 10:00am-12:00pm – North Fork Coastal Cleanup Day. Join the Group for the East End for a coastal cleanup at Dam Pond Preserve in East Marion, NY. Everything that is collected will be repurposed into life-size sculptures of wildlife that are impacted by the large amounts of debris in our coastal waters. For more information and to register, [click here](#).



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## Volunteer Spotlight

Article by Christopher Hoppner, a Science Research Teacher at Locust Valley High School, as featured in the **winter 2015-2016** issue of *Sound Update*:



Emily Schlicht taking water readings at the WaterFront Center sampling location in Oyster Bay, NY. Credit: Christopher Hoppner

In the summer of 1975, Steven Spielberg released *Jaws*, the blockbuster movie version of the *New York Times* bestseller by Peter Benchley. And while you have a greater chance of being killed by dogs, mosquitoes, or falling coconuts, the idea of being eaten alive by a great white shark kept millions of people out of the water. Beaches rarely close due to shark attacks, but the real culprits, and much scarier, can be any one of the numerous microorganisms, such as *Escherichia coli*, *E.coli* for short, that can ruin an otherwise perfect beach day.

The quality of water around beaches, in harbors, and bays where people fish, clam, and recreate needs to be closely monitored for pathogens as well as making sure that the quality is maintained for local wildlife. In addition to the monitoring of the bathing beaches by the Nassau County Public Health Department, the Oyster Bay/Cold Spring Harbor area is also monitored by the volunteers and student citizen scientists of **Friends of the Bay**. Established in 1987, the organization has been a strong voice for the protection and preservation of the waters in the area at both the local, state, and national level.

The **Locust Valley School District** has been fortunate to share a partnership with Friends of the Bay for many years. During the summer months, students from grades 9 to 12, and teachers from Locust Valley High School take part in the weekly testing of the water. The students are members of the Science Research Program and use the collected data for projects and papers. These projects are submitted to various competitions such as the Siemens Competition and the Intel Science Talent Search.

A total of 19 sites, strategically chosen for their location by possible problem areas, are sampled for numerous factors. Water temperature, pH, salinity, dissolved oxygen, and turbidity are all measured along with air temperature and wind speed. While some parameters, such as water color and wave height are measured visually, others are measured by means of a Quanta device, a multi-meter with attached probes that are lowered to desired depths. Students are trained in the use of the Quanta, along with standard titration techniques as a means of double-checking the results of the Quanta. Along with the multiple readings taken at

each site, water samples are collected for coliform counts to be conducted at an independent lab in Hempstead, New York. All measurements taken are shared via the Friends of the Bay website as well as reported to local officials who in turn, can use the data as a means of deciding whether or not to close beaches or shellfish beds.

The weekly trips offer many positive educational experiences that can be built on later in the classroom. First, the trips offer students the ability to do hands-on research and relate to scientists who conduct field research as part of their careers. The trips also help to foster teamwork between students and adults in an atmosphere where all participants are on equal footing and show mutual respect. Last, but certainly not least, students gain a more profound knowledge and respect for the health of their local waters. They learn that the slightest actions by a population can have huge effects on water quality later down the line. The students enjoy the seasonal work with Friends of the Bay, the stories from “Captain Hank,” and the knowledge gained through their work, which will last far beyond the classroom walls.

***If you would like to share your story of how someone is making a difference around the Sound, please contact Amy Mandelbaum, Long Island Sound Study Outreach Coordinator, at 631-632-9216 or [acb328@cornell.edu](mailto:acb328@cornell.edu).***

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If your organization would like its volunteer event advertised in this volunteer e-newsletter, our [Volunteer Opportunities web page](#), or our [Facebook page](#), please send Amy Mandelbaum, Long Island Sound Study Outreach Coordinator, an [email](#).

#### FURTHER INFORMATION

- [Long Island Sound Volunteer Opportunities](#)
- [What You Can Do To Protect Long Island Sound](#)
- [Long Island Sound Study Website](#)

**Amy Mandelbaum**

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