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# Volunteer for the Sound

WORKING TOGETHER TO RESTORE AND PROTECT THE SOUND



February 15, 2017

## 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 Alewife Monitoring Workshops 2017

Learn about the river herring's migration and take part in monitoring its spawning activity. All are welcome to attend and participate in this citizen science project. No experience required.



Credit: NOAA

**Monday, February 27, 2017** at 4:30-5:30pm at the Cold Spring Harbor Whaling Museum, 301 Main Street, Cold Spring Harbor, NY 11724. Contact Victoria O'Neill at [victoria.oneill@dec.ny.gov](mailto:victoria.oneill@dec.ny.gov) or 631-444-0441 to RSVP and for more information. [Click here](#) for the flyer.

**Thursday, March 2, 2017** at 5:30-6:30pm at the Manhasset Library, 30 Oderdonk Avenue, Manhasset, NY 11030. Contact Victoria O'Neill at [victoria.oneill@dec.ny.gov](mailto:victoria.oneill@dec.ny.gov) or 631-444-0441 to RSVP and for more information. [Click here](#) for the flyer.

**Tuesday, March 7, 2017** at 7:30pm at the SPLASH Membership Meeting, Freeport, NY. Contact [staff@seatuck.org](mailto:staff@seatuck.org) to RSVP and for more information.

**Thursday, March 9, 2017** at 5:30-6:30pm at Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County's 1st floor conference room, 423 Griffing Avenue, Riverhead, NY 11901. Contact [peptalk@peconicestuary.org](mailto:peptalk@peconicestuary.org) to RSVP and for more information.

**Thursday, March 23, 2017** at 6:30-7:30pm at Scully Estate, Islip, NY. Contact [staff@seatuck.org](mailto:staff@seatuck.org) to RSVP and for more information.

The Long Island premiere of the *DamNation* documentary will be held on **Tuesday, March 15, 2017** at 7:00pm at the YMCA Boulton Center, Bay Shore, NY. For more information on this event, [click here](#).

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## Upcoming Connecticut Volunteer Events

**Friday, April 21, 2017 - Saturday, April 22, 2017** at 11:00am-6:00pm – Stratford Point Shoreline Restoration. Join Professor Mattei of Sacred Heart University to celebrate Earth Day at Stratford Point, Stratford, CT. The goal behind this event is to restore the natural habitats of the shoreline that have been degraded after years of abuse. Volunteers will help install 30,000 plants on the shoreline at Stratford Point. Volunteers are welcome to come and offer time over the course of the weekend to the project. For information on volunteering for the project, please contact Professor Mattei at [matteij@sacredheart.edu](mailto:matteij@sacredheart.edu). To register to volunteer, email Jo-Marie Kasinak at [kasinakj@sacredheart.edu](mailto:kasinakj@sacredheart.edu).

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## Upcoming New York Volunteer Events

**Saturday, March 11, 2017** at 10:00am-12:00pm – Concrete Plant Park Clean up. Join United by Blue and the Bronx River Alliance for a cleanup of Concrete Plant Park, 1372 Westchester Avenue, Bronx, NY. United By Blue will provide all of the cleanup supplies. Pre-cleanup snacks will be available during check-in, courtesy of Cliff Bar. Please be sure to wear closed toe shoes and clothes that you don't mind getting dirty or wet! Groups of all sizes are welcome! For more information and to register, [click here](#).

**Saturday, March 18, 2017** at 9:00am-1:00pm – Alley Creek Salt Marsh Restoration. Help the NYC Parks Stewardship Team and the Natural Areas Conservancy restore a vital and dynamic urban resource—the salt marshes of Alley Creek, 228-06 Northern Blvd, Queens, NY! Volunteers will place logs made out of rolled coconut fiber, or coir logs, to shrink expanding tidal pools and restore historic salt marsh for habitat. The coir logs will create a temporary boundary to hold clean sand in place for new salt marsh plants. This work will help conserve the longevity of the Alley Creek salt marsh for birds, crabs, mussels, and other wildlife that rely on this vibrant ecosystem to live! Due to the physical nature of this project, volunteers must be 18 and older. Waders will be provided. Registration is required. Please [register here](#).

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## Save the Date: Upcoming Volunteer Events

Mark your calendars for these 2017 volunteer events:

- [Great Backyard Bird Count](#): February 17-20, 2017
  - Horseshoe Crab Monitoring in [Connecticut](#) and [New York](#): May-July 2017
  - [Earth Day](#): April 22, 2017
  - [Arbor Day](#): April 28, 2017
  - [International Migratory Bird Day](#): May 14, 2017
  - [National Trails Day Weekend](#): June 3-4, 2017
  - [NY Invasive Species Awareness Week](#): July 9-15, 2017
  - [International Coastal Cleanup](#): September 2017
  - [National Estuaries Week](#): September 17-24, 2017
  - [National Public Lands Day](#): September 30, 2017
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## Volunteer Spotlight

**Article by Tracy Brown, the Director of Western Sound Programs at Save the Sound, as featured in the [winter 2015-2016](#) issue of Sound Update:**





It's hot out, but there's no air conditioning in sight for **Joann Rooney**. As a volunteer citizen scientist, her morning routine doesn't allow an escape from the heat. She's out on the beaches of New Rochelle, working alongside Save the Sound staffer Peter Linderoth to take water samples. Peter tests the water for the bacteria *Enterococcus* as well as dissolved oxygen, pH, and other indicators of water quality.

Joann decided to volunteer with Save the Sound after decades of swimming and boating on the Sound. She's seen what can happen when water quality isn't up to snuff. While growing up swimming in the Sound, she rarely thought about its safety, but while training for a long-distance swim, she found she perpetually had a rash. Now she worries whether her grandson is safe swimming in the Sound.

And she's right to be concerned. Skin irritation is a common effect of swimming in sewage-contaminated water, but less fortunate swimmers can develop pink eye, ear infections, diarrhea, or serious illnesses. That's why local health departments often close beaches to swimming after rainstorms, and why Save the Sound tests to track down pollution hotspots.

Save the Sound expanded our water quality monitoring program from the Mamaroneck Harbor subwatershed in 2013 and 2014, to 52 sites in Westchester County and Greenwich this summer. We found that beaches tend to have the cleanest water, while streams are typically more polluted. Of the 52 sites monitored, only four passed EPA guidelines for safe swimming every time they were tested: Byram Beach, Greenwich Cove, and Indian Harbor Yacht Club in Greenwich, CT; and Mamaroneck Harbor at Taylor Lane in Mamaroneck, NY. Sixty percent of samples exceeded EPA safe swimming guidelines and over a quarter had *Enterococcus* levels greater than ten times the EPA standard. The highest bacteria levels were found in the Hutchinson River as it travels through Mount Vernon and Pelham, NY. We plan to continue building our model of testing combined with advocacy, which has proven valuable in identifying pollution problems and spurring action to fix them.

In addition to regular testing in Westchester and Greenwich, we're looking at historical data from around the entire Sound. Our Sound Health Explorer, launched in July, is an interactive online map that shows state and local testing data from the last decade for every beach on Long Island Sound. It grades beaches based on their performance relative to others, to help swimmers choose the safest beaches to enjoy and to help municipal leaders spot potential problems in their towns. The project is open-source, so researchers can download the extensive data tables to use in their own work. Next, we plan to add information on dissolved oxygen and hypoxic conditions around the Sound. We encourage residents, scientists, and decision makers to check it out at [www.SoundHealthExplorer.org](http://www.SoundHealthExplorer.org).

***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).***

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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