

Sound Bytes



NEWS FROM THE LONG ISLAND SOUND STUDY

Winter 2020

LISS NEWS

Upcoming Events

The winter 2020 issue of *Sound Bytes* highlights upcoming workshops and training that are being conducted by the Long Island Sound Study, and an upcoming request for proposals to apply for grants to the Long Island Sound Futures Fund.

Herring Survey Seeking Citizens Science Participation

The rivers and streams of Long Island and Westchester once supported spring runs of river herring returning from the ocean to spawn. But dams, habitat loss, and declining water quality have decimated their numbers.



In This Issue

- [Upcoming Events](#)
- [Herring Survey Seeking Citizens Science Participation](#)
- [Learn How to Make the Sound Healthier with Smarter Gardening](#)
- [Registration Now Open for Spring Workshop on Creating Effective Behavior Change Campaigns](#)
- [Coming Soon: Tidal Wetland Loss Workshop](#)
- [Sound Futures Fund Slated to Award Over \\$3 Million in Grants](#)

Remnant populations exist, but there is still little known about their overall status across Long Island and Westchester. Documenting existing spawning runs is an important step in the restoration effort, which is why several partners, including the Long Island Sound Study, conduct a monitoring survey during the spring migratory season from March 15 to May 15.

To help support the survey, the sponsors rely on volunteers to monitor local streams. Those interested can attend training to learn how to spot and document migrating fish. For Long Island Sound, these workshops

are being held in North Hempstead, Cold Spring Harbor, and Mamaroneck over the next couple of weeks. The dates and locations are:

- **Tuesday, March 3, 6:30 pm:** Town of North Hempstead-Town Hall 2nd Floor Conference Room; 220 Plandome Rd.; Manhasset, NY 11030
- **Wednesday, March 11, 4:30 pm:** Cold Spring Harbor Whaling Museum; 301 Main Street; Cold Spring Harbor, New York 11724
- **Thursday, March 12, 6:00 pm:** Save the Sound office; 545 Tompkins Ave, 3rd Floor; Mamaroneck, NY 10543

If you are interested in attending any of the workshops, please RSVP to Vicky O'Neill, the Long Island Sound Habitat Restoration and Stewardship coordinator for New York, at victoria.oneill@dec.ny.gov.

The River Herring Survey is sponsored by Seatuck, the Long Island Sound Study, and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Learn more about the workshops and river herring on the [Seatuck website](#).

Learn How to Make the Sound Healthier with Smarter Gardening



Registration is now being accepted for this year's Coastal Certificate Program, titled "Pathways from Source to Sea — How Gardens Can Make the Connection." It will take place this March at Connecticut College in New London.

In a series of four evening classes and a field trip, students will learn about coastal environmental issues, alternatives to fertilizer and pesticide-fed grass, creating native plant habitats and designing with nature and Long Island Sound in mind. Led by Judy Preston, who works for Connecticut Sea Grant and is the Long Island Sound Study outreach

coordinator, the program will feature multiple guest speakers giving presentations about how home gardens can help connect and restore vital pathways used by countless wildlife species, from the inlands to the Sound. Students do not have to be Master Gardeners to take the class.

Students of the program are encouraged to become ambassadors of alternatives to nutrient and chemically intensive landscaping practices for Connecticut coastal and watershed residents, through an outreach component designed to spread the word through projects, educational materials and other activities.

The classes will meet from 6 to 9 p.m. on March 9, 11, 23 and 25 in Room 101 of New London Hall at the college, 270 Mohegan Ave. The class is limited to 35 students.

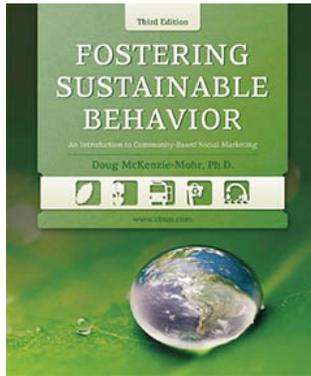
The program is sponsored by Connecticut Sea Grant, the Long Island Sound Study, the UConn Master Gardener Program, the UConn College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources and the Connecticut College Arboretum. Now in its ninth year, the Coastal Certificate Program is the subject of an article titled "Gardening for the bees, butterflies and birds" is featured in the [Fall-Winter 2019-20 issue](#) of Wrack Lines magazine. The article also can be found [here](#).

Registration is available by visiting: <https://mastergardener.uconn.edu> and going to the Garden Master Course Catalog.

For information, contact: Paul Armond at: Paul.Armond@uconn.edu; or Judy Preston at: Judy.Preston@uconn.edu or at: (860) 395-0465.

<At the graduation ceremony for the 2018 Coastal Certificate program, Lumie Han, left, learns about the evergreen magnolia from Connecticut College Arboretum docent, Lydia Pan, center, and Kathryn Williams, right.>

Registration Now Open for Spring Workshop on Creating Effective Behavior Change Campaigns



The Long Island Sound Study is sponsoring an educational workshop for environmental managers and advocates of Long Island Sound and its rivers and streams. The spring training focuses on developing effective environmental behavior change campaigns.

The two-day workshop, which will be held at the Beardsley Zoo in Bridgeport April 28-29, is being led by Dr. Doug McKenzie-Mohr, an internationally known environmental psychologist. Dr. McKenzie-Mohr will explain the steps to conduct Community-Based Social Marketing (CBSM), a method that incorporates scientific knowledge on behavior change into the design and delivery of locally-based outreach campaigns.

Attendees will learn how to select the most impactful behaviors, identify the barriers and benefits to change, pilot-test a campaign, and make improvements for broad-scale implementation. Lessons will be based on numerous case studies illustrating CBSM's use.

More than 75,000 program managers have attended Dr. McKenzie-

Mohr's workshops throughout North America, Europe, Australia, and New Zealand. This will be his first in the Long Island Sound region.

A registration link, agenda, and more information on Community Based Social Marketing is available on the Long Island Sound Study [website](#).

<Attendees will receive a copy of Dr. McKenzie-Mohr's book on how to create successful behavior-change campaigns.>

Coming Soon: Tidal Wetland Loss Workshop



In 1999, experts at the New York State Department of Conservation (NYSDEC) and the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CTDEEP) noticed consistent tidal wetland loss happening in ecosystems along the Long Island Sound. To address this issue, NYSDEC in partnership with the Long Island Sound Study organized workshops in 2003 and 2014 convening local tidal wetland experts and professionals to discuss local issues, current research, and potential ways forward. The workshops identified data gaps and

potential causes for tidal marsh loss identified and prioritized further research, monitoring, and restoration efforts.

NYSDEC and LISS are now in the midst of planning a third Tidal Wetland Loss Workshop for 2020. Check the Long Island Sound Study website [events page](#) or LISS's social media streams for when the date and location are selected. The goal of the workshop will be to serve as an engaging learning experience and to promote discussion among local and regional edge marsh managers, researchers, practitioners, and regulators regarding tidal wetland loss and change. The event will include presentations on three central themes: local habitat restoration projects, current monitoring and assessment efforts, and significant research conducted in the years since the last workshop. Discussions at this event will help identify priorities for Long Island Sound for the next five years within these central categories of habitat restoration, monitoring, and research.

<A tidal wetlands inlet in Madison, CT. Photo by Judy Preston.>

Sound Futures Fund Slated to Award Over \$3 Million in Grants

A Request for Proposals for the 2020 round of the Long Island Sound Futures Fund grant program is being planned for a late March announcement. More than \$3 million in funds is expected to be available to organizations in the Long Island Sound watershed (from New York and Connecticut to the Canadian border) with projects to improve water quality, provide education and outreach, enhance coastal resilience and sustainability and restore habitats and conserve species.

The program is administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation with support from the Long Island Sound Study, EPA, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. To date, the Futures Fund has invested \$22 million in 451 projects. The program has generated an additional \$39 million in grantee match, for a total conservation impact of \$62 million for regional and local projects. The projects have reconnected 176 miles of river for fish passage, restored 1,114 acres of critical fish and wildlife habitat and open space, treated 212 million gallons of stormwater pollution, and educated and engaged 4.9 million people in protection and restoration of the Sound.



Check the [LISS](#) or the [NFWF](#) website for an announcement on the date or contact Erin Lewis at Erin.Lewis@nfwf.org to receive notifications about grants & upcoming applicant webinars.

Subscribe to RSS Feed/Find Us on Facebook



Want to receive the latest Long Island Sound Study updates between issues of Sound Bytes? Go to the [LISS Web site home page](#) and click the RSS icon to subscribe to an RSS feed to get the latest Web site posts onto your computer's Web browser. Also, we just opened a Facebook page. Find us on Facebook by clicking on the Facebook icon from the LISS home page.

Please note: This email message is being sent to subscribers of the Long Island Sound Study E-Newsletter. Pass it on and [forward to a colleague](#). This email was sent to [email address suppressed]. You can instantly [unsubscribe](#) from these emails or update your [email preferences](#).