

Highlights of the Operation SPLASH Meeting

September 5, 2017

Reporting on the success of the green fly traps, Rob Weltner pointed out that the Town of Hempstead traps, which used the old, flat-roof design, were very successful in trapping hundreds and hundreds of flies, while the new model Operation SPLASH traps caught not a one. Consequently, SPLASH is out of the trap business for now.

First Vice President Stefanie Scherner Birnbaum called for volunteers to sign up for each of the upcoming events:

1. The Merrick Festival, volunteers being organized by Francis Berberichiv, will be held Sept. 9th and 10th from 9am – 3:30pm.
2. The Baldwin Library Volunteers Fair, on Saturday, Sept. 16, a venue used to recruit new members.
3. The Family Festival by the Sea, at Lido Beach, September 23 and 24, 11am to 6:30pm.

The Education Report was given by Devorah Crupar.

1. On August 1, the Education Program Open House was held.
2. August 9, SPLASH summer interns attended a Thank You BBQ at Seatuck.
3. August 13, Revolution Yoga worked a shore cleanup with Danny and Ellen Lee.
4. August 22, incoming Adelphi freshmen spent a day out on the waters, experiencing a boat tour, doing water sampling and participating in the Shark Tank Program.
5. Interns who worked in the United Water Studies Program went back to school. One intern remains to complete sampling at all locations through October 30, when the program ends.
6. The first Open Mic Night was held August 12. The next one is September 9, then October 14 and November 11. They are held on the second Saturday of the month through November.

Chapter Reports

East Rockaway/Bay Park: Capt. Danny Lee reported that the sunken barge remains sitting in the channel. He added that Seatuck Environmental Association is going out with them to take pictures of birds. They donate \$250 per trip and are scheduled for 4 trips this year and 4 trips next year.

Wantagh: They are still going out 4 days a week.

Massapequa: Capt. Angelo Meloro reported “the pickin’s are slim.”

Freeport: Crewmember Helene Manas reported that there’s not so much anymore. “We have to search for trash.”

Lindenhurst/Babylon: Capt. Paul San Paolo said the key areas are clean now. He added that The Great South Bay Society is holding a cleanup on Saturday, Sept. 23. They do two cleanups a year, and they include breakfast for participants. Last year they filled four 40-yard dumpsters.

President's Report: President Rob Weltner reported on the following:

1. He met with the Suffolk County Legislature, who agreed to use our collected data (tallies of what we pull out of the water) to make a decision on their plastic bag usage.
2. GSBS (The Great South Bay Society) will also be counting plastic bags, balloons, bottles, etc. when they do their cleanup on September 23.
3. \$2000 was donated to SPLASH by Givenik, thanks to Scott Bochner.
4. Update on the Sunrise Highway pipeline: The Nassau County Legislature has put out RFP's (Requests for Proposals) for the job of connecting the existing Sunrise Hwy pipeline to the Bay Park and Cedar Creek STPs. Two responsible bidders answered the request. A decision will be made in the next two weeks (mid-September).

New Business

1. Jamie Pollack of Shark Angels and Zach Greenberg of Pew Charitable Trusts presented an ABC News video on the topic of "Menhaden, The Most Important Fish in the Sea." Menhaden, they explained (more commonly known as bunker), form the base of the sea life food chain. They are food for everything else. And as filter fish, they are also beneficial to our sea water quality.

As new legislation (Amendment 3) is being considered for a vote on November 14, it's time for South Shore residents to voice their support for enhanced protections for the menhaden by urging the New York representatives to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) to vote in favor of Option E.

Residents can do so by submitting a written comment. Public comment letters will be accepted until October 20. Send an email to comments@asmfc.org Use the subject line: Draft Amd. 3

2. Scott Bochner announced that Fabian Cousteau will be coming to the Long Beach cleanup on September 16. National Blvd. 9AM.
3. Danny Lee's new Operation SPLASH art project, made from rescued bouys, was presented for all to see.

The Raffle total came to \$106. Pat Healy won \$53.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Visconti, Recording Secretary