

## Highlights of Operation SPLASH Meeting

**Tuesday, November 7, 2017**

**Second Vice President Mary Jean McCarthy** gave the Education Report, announcing that SPLASH Education activities have expanded to include hundreds of children engaged in numerous activities. Students range in age from elementary school kids to high school teens. Mary Jean presented a video created by Devorah Crupar to focus on the varied and numerous education activities that were performed this year. Links to that video and others are as follows:

[https://www.magisto.com/album/video/fTV\\_XUZRG14wOi8PYnZLB3s](https://www.magisto.com/album/video/fTV_XUZRG14wOi8PYnZLB3s)

[https://www.magisto.com/album/video/fzd\\_XUZRG14wOi8PYnZLB3A](https://www.magisto.com/album/video/fzd_XUZRG14wOi8PYnZLB3A)

<https://www.magisto.com/album/video/J3w-VkZRG14wOi8PYnZLA3k>

<https://www.magisto.com/album/video/Kyp9UUZRG14wOi8PYnZLBnE>

Mary Jean also reported that the Next Generation Science Standards, issued by the New York State Education Department, give SPLASH great leverage. This new legislation allows us the opportunity to offer programs to help schools meet the new standards by engaging students in designing a solution to a local environmental problem.

As a follow-up to our discussions on menhaden legislation during the last couple of meetings, **Rob Weltner** introduced a film, sponsored by The Nature Conservancy, entitled "Foraging the High Seas: The Menhaden Story." It focused on the positive effects of increased numbers of menhaden. Rob explained that menhaden (or bunker) are extremely important in the marine eco-system, as well as to recreational and commercial fishermen. The problem is that many Chesapeake Bay commercial fishermen, who have a much higher quota than New York fishermen, are taking great numbers of young, small menhaden-- in particular, those supplying fish to cat food companies. Legislation to limit their numbers is necessary. Voting by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) on legislation to extend menhaden protections will take place this month on November 14.

**President Rob Weltner** then gave **the President's Report**.

1) Rob thanked SPLASH members who attended Gov. Cuomo's press conference announcement on the approval of and funding for the Bay Park STP diversion via the Sunrise Highway pipeline to the Cedar Creek ocean outfall pipe. "This is a huge step forward."

2) Rob thanked the Wantagh boats that helped out at the New York State sponsored South Shore Estuary cleanup at Field 10, Jones Beach.

3) And he thanked the boat captains and crews who did water testing and worked with Stony Brook University intern Christine Gurdon. The spreadsheets and data gathered from the water testing will add necessary information on the stormwater runoff piece of the puzzle.

4) A heads-up to boat captains: Whenever your SPLASH boat is ready to go out, be sure to tune to Channel 16 to monitor the Coast Guard channel and, if needed, to answer calls for assistance.

5) Regarding the annual Holiday Party, Rob explained there could be no party this year, but certainly, to honor and to thank captains and crews, something else will take its place. Stay tuned.

### **New Business**

1) Devorah Crupar spoke about SPLASH funding sources and emphasized the importance of sustaining funding for the ongoing needs of operating Operation SPLASH. She introduced Frank O'Brien and Daniel Tohill, representatives of Thrivent Financial, located in Hauppauge, NY. (Thrivent.com)

They described various methods to make contributions to SPLASH, including annual sustaining donations, legacy donations, charitable annuities, making SPLASH the beneficiary of a life insurance policy, and creating a charitable distribution when the Required Minimum Distribution from an IRA becomes mandatory.

For further information, they left their brochures and contact information :  
Frank O'Brien, (516) 522-1635 and Daniel C. Tohill, (631) 780-6612.

2) The Raffle total came to \$80. Bill Carr was the winner. He donated his \$40 back to SPLASH.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Visconti, Recording Secretary