



At the Helm January 2011

Another year has come and gone and as I reflect back on our accomplishments it all seems quite amazing. We had another tremendous year and 2011 promises to be even better. To briefly review our successes in 2010, here are some interesting numbers:

Through our Adopt-A-Beach Program we had nine beach cleanups that removed 30.35 tons of debris from 10.7 miles of Long Island beaches with the help of 460 volunteers.

The Shellfish Restoration Program released another 24,700 adult oysters into Port Jefferson and Mt. Sinai Harbors. We are currently over-wintering another 180,000 baby oysters in Mt. Sinai Harbor.

To date the numbers are even more impressive and are as follows:

Our beach cleanups have removed 288.31 tons of debris from Long Island beaches, that's 576,620 lbs.

The Shellfish Restoration Program has released approximately 254,700 adult oysters and approximately 14,600 adult bay scallops which can filter over 12.7 million gallons of water a day, making the harbors healthier.

The End of the Season Party for our volunteers and sponsors was a big success and a lot of fun. We had live music, an oyster recipe contest, lots of food, door prizes and raffles. Many thanks to all of the generous businesses and volunteers that help make it a successful annual event.

In 2010 we were again sponsored by the National Grid Foundation, Whole Foods, the Villages of Port Jefferson and Belle Terre, Este Lauder and several private individuals. The grant we received through Congressman Tim Bishop to build an oyster reef in Port Jefferson Harbor is moving ahead. That grant has allowed us to order a brand new 23' landing-craft which we will be using to construct the oyster reef and will enable us to be even more efficient at beach cleanups and the Shellfish Restoration Program. Their support is very much appreciated.

We are planning a couple of fund raisers for 2011, one in early summer and another in early fall. There are also a few field trips being planned, two of them to the aquaculture facilities at the Town of Islip and Blue Island Oyster Farms.
Stay tuned for this seasons event schedule.