

At the Helm August 2010

So far this season has been very good. Both the beach cleanups and the shellfish restoration project have been very successful. I'm putting the final touches on a Power Point Presentation (PPP) and business plan that we will be presenting to potential sponsors. The PPP and business plan are designed to take the Coastal Steward to the next level with a staff of full and part time employees and equipped with the necessary equipment to run the Adopt-A-Beach Program for the entire marine coast of New York State. If anyone knows of potential sponsors that may be interested in supporting us, please forward their contact information. Just think of all the great things we can accomplish with that kind of support.

We have had six beach cleanups that removed 19.6 tons of debris from six miles of Long Island beaches with the help of 338 volunteers. Our next beach cleanup is scheduled for September 18th at Port Jefferson Harbor and Long Island Sound. This beach cleanup is usually the largest one we do for the year. We are still looking for a sponsor for this beach cleanup. The Shellfish Restoration Project (SRP) is in high gear with 15,200 adult oysters released into Port Jefferson Harbor and another 30-40,000 more to be released soon. We also received 70,000 more oyster seed from the Town of Brookhaven and we purchased an additional 110,000 more oyster seed. The volunteer turn out for the SRP has been great, we are averaging about a dozen volunteers each day which makes the work go fast, usually we are there for only 4-5 hours. We are trying a new method of attaching the shellfish bags to the sides of the racks that allows us to double the number of oysters per rack. Next year will prove interesting with 180,000 oysters. That's a lot of work, to keep the gear clean and the densities reasonable.

There are always opportunities to help out, so if anyone wants to get involved, please contact me at coastalsteward@optonline.net.