

At the Helm July 2010

This season is off to another fast start, we have had five beach cleanups already that removed 13.56 tons of garbage from five miles of our beaches with the help of 308 volunteers. The next beach cleanups are on August 15th at Port Jefferson Harbor which is being sponsored by the Village of Belle Terre, and then on August 27th we will be at Jones Beach and then the big beach cleanup at Port Jefferson Harbor and the Long Island Sound on September 25th.

We have two new sponsors, the Village of Belle Terre and Estee Lauder. The Coastal Steward was awarded grants from Suffolk County and the Sounds Conservancy – Quebec Labrador Foundation. Whole Foods and the Village of Port Jefferson are again sponsoring us. The Town of Brookhaven is continuing their support of our beach cleanups and the shellfish restoration project. We are waiting to hear from the National Grid Foundation to see if they will again be sponsoring us this year.

The Shellfish Restoration Project has already released another 11,200 adult oysters into Port Jefferson Harbor with an additional 40,000 being released in the near future. The Town of Brookhaven is also giving us another 75,000 more oyster seed and Cornell Cooperative Extension is going to giving us some bay scallop seed. According to a local shellfish wholesaler, the estimated number of oysters legally harvested from Port Jefferson Harbor jumped to approximately 800,000 between November and April. These oysters are a direct result of our restoration efforts and that equates to roughly .8 – 1.6 million dollars generated to our local economy, not to mention that these oysters are improving the water quality and providing living for an endangered heritage – baymen while providing fresh delicious local oysters for residents to enjoy.

I'm happy to say that our pair of osprey is back nesting this year. It looked like they may have been roosting but I never saw any chicks, maybe next year.

Please check out our website for up coming events. If anyone wants to help out there are always lots of opportunities to lend a hand. Please contact Captain Dave at coastalsteward@optonline.net if you are interested.