

March 2010 At the Helm

It always amazes me how everything seems to get going earlier every year. Already this year we have three definite beach cleanups on the books (Port Jefferson Harbor 3/20, 9-2 pm, meet at Centennial Park, Mt. Sinai Harbor 4/3, 9-2 pm meet at the end of Crystal Brook Hollow Rd and Port Jefferson Harbor 9/25, 9-3 pm, meet at the end of Anchorage Rd, Belle Terre) and three more in the works. The Shellfish Restoration Program is about to begin getting the boats ready, the oyster seed have been ordered by the Town of Brookhaven. Bruce and Meghan Folz and I went to the Milford Aquaculture Seminar which was great. We are getting a lot of people contacting us through the website who want to volunteer. The Board of Directors has made a few changes in how we are going to move forward, all very positive. And there is still snow on the ground.

One of the new policies is that all volunteers need to pre-register for events. They simply go to the website, go to Data/Forms on the left side of the home page, fill out the form, print it and have it signed by a parent or guardian. There will be a \$5 annual registration fee which is will be good for all events that year. Volunteers must still pre-register for each event. Community Service Cards will given out at the events which will be signed and the number of hours logged. These can then be used for school, scouting or other community service requirements.

This year we will also be having a few field trips. One will be to the Town of Islip's Aquaculture Hatchery and another to Cornell's Aquaculture facility in Southold. There will also be some fund raising events this year. We will be at the SUNY Stony Brook Earthstock festival on April 23rd.