

November 2008 - At the Helm

2008 has been a tremendous year so far for the Coastal Steward organization. We had 15 beach cleanups that removed 30.37 tons of debris from our beaches with the help of 349 volunteers. The next beach cleanup is on November 29th, we are cleaning an Old Field beach that was sponsored by Ying Xing Wang and Gudjon Hermannson. We will meet at the SUNY Stony Brook Marine Lab at Flax Pond at 9 am.

We also released another 6,250 adult oysters and 5,000 adult bay scallops. There are another 67,000 oysters being over-wintered in Mt. Sinai Harbor. From what I've been hearing from the baymen, the Port Jefferson Harbor is loaded with oysters, no doubt thanks to everyone's hard work. It looks like we will be working with the town of Brookhaven next season on a very ambitious bay scallop restoration project. Plans are to get 250,000 bay scallop seed with the goal of releasing 100,000 in the fall or early summer. Still working all the details out on that project. It looks like we maybe moving the shellfish restoration project back to the Parks Dept./Harbor Master dock in Mt. Sinai Harbor again. With the price of fuel so high last season, there were complaints about the noise from the powerwasher that we use to clean the cages. Plan B is to wash the cages during the week and stay on F dock in Mt. Sinai Harbor. The Coastal Steward has asked the town to establish another shellfish sanctuary in the Cove in Port Jefferson Harbor. There is a meeting at the annex in Port Jefferson, next to the boat ramp on Tuesday night the 18th of November at 7 pm to have an open discussion with all parties effected. The reason we asked for this sanctuary is that over the past three years we have put about 4,000 oysters there to help improve the water quality and they really established themselves nicely. Unfortunately the baymen have been harvesting them and there probably won't be much left when they are done, but at least we know it's a good spot to release them.

I hope everyone can come to the End of the Season Party on November 20th, 7-10 pm at the Port Jefferson Village Center. This is my little thank you to all of our volunteers, donors and sponsors that make us so successful. A few of our oysters and bay scallops volunteered their services for quality assurance purposes, plus there will be lots of other great food and drink. We will be giving out lots of door prizes and you will be able to increase your odds of winning by buying additional raffle tickets. Hope to see you there.