

LITTORALLY *Speaking*



Littoral: The region along the shore; the intertidal zone

News from the American Littoral Society

Winter 2018

Operation Oyster: Two Rivers has big start in 2017

Operation Oyster: Two Rivers, which aims to improve water quality in the Navesink and Shrewsbury Rivers, got underway on June 2, 2017 with a program to determine if oysters could still be found in the Navesink. Shell bags were hung from docks and monitored by Littoral Society staff and citizen scientists throughout the summer.

Part two of the project took place in October, 2017 with programs for seventh graders at Forrestdale School in the Rumson-Fair Haven School District. On October 5 a day-long in-school program gave students the opportunity to get acquainted with oysters. In addition to learning about the importance of oysters to the local ecology and economy, participants sat in on programs about the math/engineering of oyster projects, and the history of oysters in the Two Rivers area. Students and teachers also had a chance to taste raw oysters and write a poem about the experience.

The in-class sessions were followed



Doug Douty, owner of The Lusty Lobster in Highlands, NJ and a Littoral Society Trustee, prepares oysters for tasting at Forrestdale School.

on Oct. 19 and 20 with field work that brought classes to the Rumson boat launch. There they learned about the creatures common to local rivers and bays by opening shell bags that had been hanging from docks. Operation Oyster: Two Rivers involved the efforts of more than 60 area dock

owners, countless citizen science volunteers, and a host of donors and local businesses, including the restaurants that participate in the "Shuck It, Don't Chuck It!" oyster shell recycling program, and the National Park Service, which provides a shell curing site at Sandy Hook.



Death of Prolific Fish Tagger Marks End of Era

It is with a heavy heart that we relay the sad news that on January 17, 2017, Capt. Alan H. Anderson of Narragansett, RI passed away. Besides being a dedicated member of the Society, Capt. Al was the Society's most prolific fish tagger.

In 1967, Capt. Al marked his first striped bass for the American Littoral Society and has since become the American Littoral Society's number one tagger, with almost 55,000 game fish tagged.

Learn more about Capt. Al at the Littoral Society website's blog.

New Look for Newsletter

In an effort to be more environmentally responsible, the American Littoral Society is changing the look of the Littorally Speaking newsletter.

Shorter articles will help us reduce the amount of paper used for the bi-annual publication, while still allowing us to tell our members and others about Society programs, activities and advocacy efforts. Many of the articles will include URLs where more information can be found on the subject.

We will also now be using environmentally-friendly, recycled paper. While not as glossy as the previous paper, we believe it will still provide a pleasant reading experience. Please let us know what you think.



It's a sure sign of winter when a Snowy Owl is spotted on Sandy Hook. American Littoral Society Education Director Lindsay Weil snapped a photo through binoculars of this owl sitting on some rocks near a beach on Wednesday, Nov. 22. The owl was almost certainly on the prowl for its own Thanksgiving feast. Snowy owls are a rare sight in New Jersey, but tend to favor places such as Sandy Hook.



Air Force Reef Dedicated on Veterans Day

On Saturday, Nov. 11, staff from the American Littoral Society and people from the surrounding community gathered at Thompsons Beach in Delmont, NJ to celebrate Veterans Day by dedicating a reef to Air Force veterans.

The 3rd Annual Veterans Day on the Bay was sponsored by the Littoral Society and Conserve Wildlife Foundation. Activities included a beach clean-up, seining and food from Spanky's BBQ.

The highlight of the event was the dedication of the Thompsons Beach oyster reef to our military veterans. Attendees were invited to honor the veterans they hold dear by inscribing that special person's name on a shell and placing that shell on the reef during a dedication ceremony.

Learn more about Littoral Society work on intertidal reefs along the Delaware Bayshore at <https://www.littoralsociety.org/oyster-reefs.html>.

Society Opposes Coastal Drilling

On January 4, 2018 the US Department of Interior released a Draft Proposed Plan for new offshore oil and gas leases. This proposal risks the entire U.S. coastline and the multi-billion-dollar coastal economies that hinge on tourism, recreation and fishing.

This proposal is a give-away to the oil and gas industry and makes it clear that citizens must speak up, louder than ever before, to protect what we love.

In New Jersey, the Littoral Society stood with elected officials who threatened to sue the federal government if New Jersey waters were not removed from the planned lease.

The Society also helped organize a public event that coincided with a Bureau of Ocean Energy Management on Valentines Day meeting. At the rally, people gave spoken testimony that will be submitted to the public record.

Opposition to the plan can still be voiced through our Stand Up for the Ocean! petition.

Finally, we continue to support municipalities, county governments, and chambers of commerce as they pass resolutions in opposition to the plan.

Learn more at: <https://www.littoralso-ciety.org/blog/protect-our-ocean>

Sandy Projects Highlighted

The five-year anniversary of Hurricane Sandy drew special attention to the American Littoral Society, as the US Fish & Wildlife Service highlighted the Society's restoration efforts in New Jersey. Our work building reefs along the Delaware Bayshore and restoration of a coastal pond in Spring Lake, NJ were profiled on the USFWS Northeast Blog.

USFWS was a key funder for both of the projects.

In 2012, Hurricane Sandy's winds caused a storm surge so strong it stripped the sand off most of the beaches on the New Jersey side of Delaware Bay.

The Society and other conservation groups responded immediately to restore beaches used as breeding grounds for horseshoe crabs. Crab eggs and the migratory birds that eat them help fuel a multi-million-dollar annual ecotourism industry in the region.

Construction of a fish passage to Wreck Pond was completed in November 2016. The 73-acre water body was once known as a fishing hot-spot. However, it became notorious in recent years for pollution and flooding.

In the aftermath of Sandy, work began on improving the water flow between the ocean and the pond, with the intention of improving water quality,



Littoral Society and USFWS staff meet near the newly completed Wreck Pond Fish Passage. (Photo by David Hawkins/American Littoral Society).

restoring the pond as a breeding ground for migratory fish and reducing flooding in the surrounding community.

The project was quickly tested early in 2017 when a large Nor'easter hit the region on March 14. Despite

significant rainfall and a high storm surge, the pond did not overflow.

Read the entire story at the USFWS Northeast blog: <https://usfwsnortheast.wordpress.com/>

Happy Birthday Ocean Action Plans

December 7, 2017 marked the one-year anniversaries for the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast Ocean Action Plans. Those two plans -- the result of the first comprehensive stewardship policy for U.S. oceans, coasts and the Great Lakes -- were the first two ocean action plans enacted as part of National Ocean Policy.

Demands to use the ocean and its natural resources are rapidly expanding. Offshore shipping traffic is increasing, demand for ocean mining is growing, plans for large offshore wind energy projects are

becoming a reality, and our region's government agencies are making big decisions that will greatly impact the health of our waters and coasts for decades to come.

At the American Littoral Society, protecting the ocean and coast from harm is central to our mission and we believe that careful, coordinated ocean planning is a useful tool to help sustain the ocean in light of these increasing demands.

Learn more at <https://www.littoralsoociety.org/national-ocean-policy.html>

The Environment Was the Big Winner in NJ General Election

The environment was a big winner in New Jersey's general election on Tuesday, November 7.

Perhaps the clearest indication of the move toward a greener state was the election of Gov. Phil Murphy, who pledged to restore New Jersey to its former role as a national environmental leader.

Within days of taking office, Murphy did the following:

- Signed an executive order to restore the state to the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), a multi-state effort to reduce carbon emissions through a

cap-and-trade program.

- Supported a ban on fracking within the Delaware River Basin as part of a multi-state effort to protect a water supply serving more than 15 million people.
- Removed NJ from a lawsuit challenging the Clean Power Plan.

The Society was also encouraged to see New Jersey voters pass two environmentally friendly ballot questions, one addressing money from pollution lawsuits and the other asking for increased support of the Monmouth County Open Space Trust Fund.

Monmouth County voters backed

a modest increase in the tax that funds efforts to preserve open space and maintain the local park system. Approved by a wide margin, the assessment will help the county reach targets for preserving open space, which will help protect the environment and water quality.

Finally, nearly seven of every 10 voters in New Jersey agreed to dedicate money from pollution damage awards to restoring and protecting New Jersey land and communities that were harmed. The Littoral Society and partner organizations were strong proponents of this initiative.



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Upcoming Trips and Events

March

March 2, 4, 6, 10, 11, 13, 14, 17, 18 and 20
Thursday, March 1, 8, 15, 22 1-3pm
Saturday, March 10, 9:30-11:30am
Sunday, March 11, 1-3pm
Tuesday, March 20, 5pm-7pm
Saturday, March 24, 10am-1pm
Saturday, March 31, 3-6pm

various times and places
Sarasota, FL
Sarasota, FL
Rumson, NJ
Sandy Hook, NJ
Broad Channel, NY
Newport, NJ

Sarasota Kayak Trips
Eco-Tours on Carefree Learner
Marine Life Exploration
St. Patrick's Day Parade
Spring Equinox Walk
Early Spring Bird Walk
4th Annual Shell-A-Bration

April

Thursday, April 5 and 18, 1-3pm
Tuesday, April 10 and 18, 1-3pm
Saturday, April 7, 2-5pm
Saturday, April 14, 9:30-11:30am
Saturday, April 14, 10am-4pm
Saturday, April 21, 10am-Noon
Saturday, April 21, 8am-3pm
Sunday, April 22, 9am-Noon
Sunday, April 22, 10am-1pm
Friday, April 27, 4-6pm
Saturday, April 28, 11am-1pm

Sarasota, FL
Sarasota, FL
Asbury Park, NJ
Sarasota, FL
Sandy Hook, NJ
Sandy Hook, NJ
Sandy Hook, NJ
Jamaica Bay, NY
Delmont, NJ
Sandy Hook, NJ
Jamaica Bay, NY

Eco-Tours on Carefree Learner
Eco-Tours on Carefree Learner
Lobster Run
Marine Life Exploration
Holly Forest Walk
Dune Grass Planting
Surf Fishing Clinic
Jamaica Bay Clean-up
Delaware Bay Earth Day Clean-up
Holly Forest Walk
Spring Migration Bird Walk

May

Thurs.-Sun, May 10-13
Saturday, May 12, 9:30-11:30am
Tues.-Sat., May 15-19, 6-8pm
Saturday, May 19, 8:30am-1pm
Sunday, May 27, 5-8pm

Assateague, VA
Sarasota, FL
Sandy Hook, NJ
Jamaica Bay, NY
Jamaica Bay, NY

Chincoteague Weekend
Marine Life Exploration
Horseshoe Crab Walks
Horseshoe Crab Festival
Sunset Ecology Cruise