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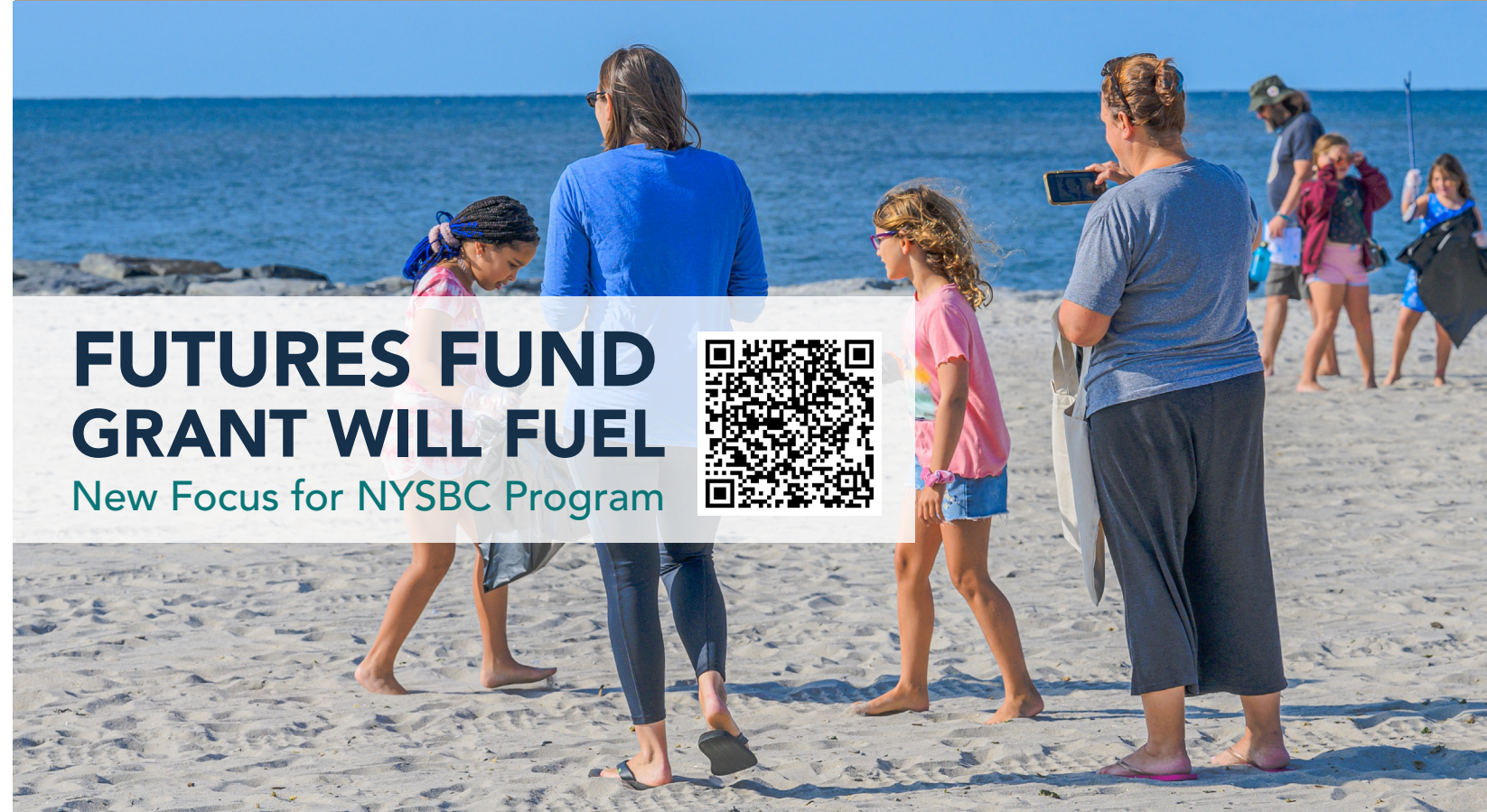
LITTORALLY SPEAKING

Littoral: The region along the shore; the intertidal zone



News from the American Littoral Society

Winter 2023



FUTURES FUND GRANT WILL FUEL

New Focus for NYSBC Program



MIGRATION MADNESS! Littoral Society Style

By Lindsay McNamara, Director of Development,
Membership and Outreach

It's the most wonderful time of the year! As the Society's resident "bird nerd", I'm talking about spring migration! Keep your eyes open for Ospreys once again hunting for bunker, Piping Plovers scurrying across the sand, and American Oystercatchers calling to each other as they fly through the skies.

My three favorite birds are back, and I'd love to introduce you. Join me for one of the Society's monthly bird walks all year long; we'll look for other shorebirds and warblers too! Register online at littoralsociety.org

We'll also look for other shorebirds and warblers too! Find information about these upcoming events and register at littoralsociety.org.

Scan the QR code to read more.



An American Oystercatcher on the beach.
(Photo by Lindsay McNamara/American Littoral Society)

The American Littoral Society's New York State Beach Cleanup (NYSBC) program will gain a new face and focus in the coming year thanks to funding from the Long Island Sound Futures Fund (LISFF).

While the nearly 40-year-old NYSBC program will continue to coordinate beach cleanups all around New York state, it will aim to increase involvement at 30 sites along the shorelines in Queens, Westchester, Suffolk and Nassau Counties, including inland areas of the Long Island Sound watershed, in order to stem the flow of trash to the sound.

To help facilitate the effort, the Littoral Society has brought onboard Jessica Klich as the NYSBC Program Coordinator. Jessica initially joined the Society in the summer of 2019 as a seasonal employee of the Northeast Chapter Youth Restoration Corps Program (R-Corps).

Scan the QR code above to read more.

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MIGRATION MADNESS!
Littoral Society Style

LOOKING BEYOND TRADITIONAL BOUNDARIES OF Environmental Protection and Conservation



We are focusing on environmental justice and working to make Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice part of everything we do.

(Photo by Marcus Johnstone – Creative Commons License)

Over the past decade, there has been growing awareness that the people who live, work, and play in America's most polluted environments are often people of color and with low income.

Moreover, there has been overwhelming evidence that this is neither coincidence nor accident: historic, systemic inequities have allowed these communities to be targeted for landfills, industrial plants, and truck depots.

The people who are most impacted already know this, and the American Littoral Society is taking the time to learn from them and other stakeholders across the region. It has become apparent that the issue goes beyond how to mitigate the effects of superfund sites and dirty power stations on surrounding neighborhoods. It is the prevention of stormwater pollution, protection from floods and climate change, and access to local waterways and beaches.

As a result, the Littoral Society is focusing on environmental justice and working to make Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice (DEIJ) part of everything we do.

Scan the QR code to read more.



PUBLIC OPPOSITION EARNS CRABS One-Year Harvest Reprieve



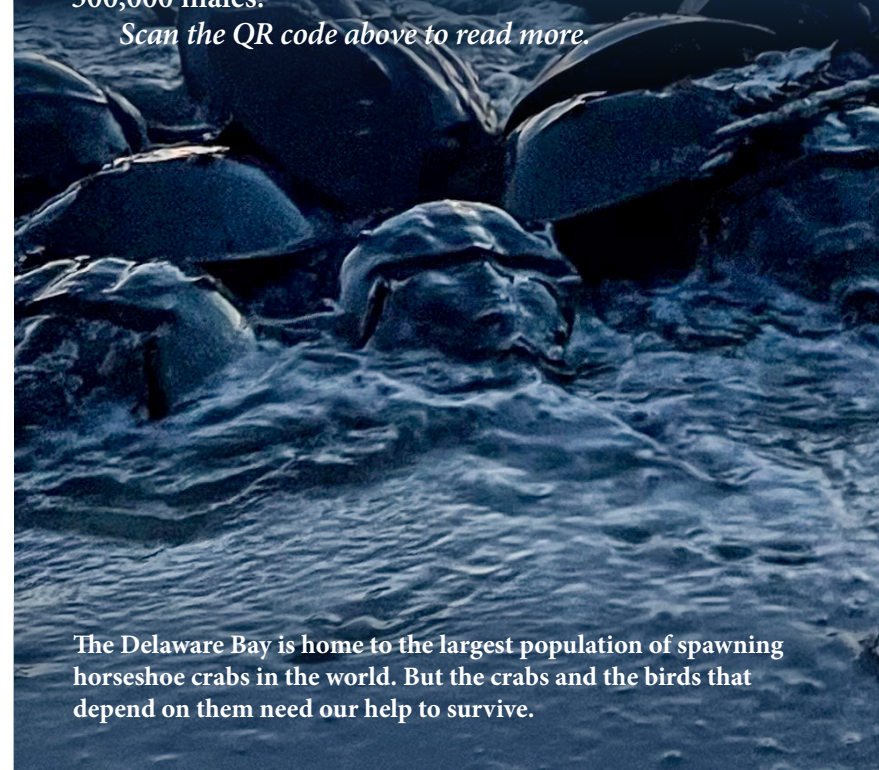
Last year, tens of thousands spoke out against a plan to increase the harvest of horseshoe crabs in the Delaware Bay. That public concern helped convince the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) to keep existing limits in place.

While the effort certainly warrants both praise and thanks, it only bought the crabs — and the shorebirds who depend on them — a year of continued protection. The ASMFC will revisit the harvest limit issue this coming fall and, unless things change, may approach it using the same flawed framework that led the commission to conclude the bay's female horseshoe crab populations no longer needed protection.

All of which means that we may soon be asking people to again raise their voices with ours to protect both the crabs and the birds — such as the Rufa Red Knot — that rely on the crabs' eggs for survival.

The good news is that more than 34,000 people submitted comments to the ASMFC's Horseshoe Crab Management Board, most of them in opposition to a proposed change to the Adaptive Resource Management (ARM) plan that would have allowed an annual bait harvest in the Delaware Bay of 150,000 female crabs and 500,000 males.

Scan the QR code above to read more.



The Delaware Bay is home to the largest population of spawning horseshoe crabs in the world. But the crabs and the birds that depend on them need our help to survive.

MATTRESSES, SHELLS AND XMAS TREES

Fuel Littoral Restoration Projects



Tensar "mattresses" - black, mesh polymer bags filled with stone and shell - help stabilize the shoreline at the South Riverside Drive project.

(Photo by David Hawkins/American Littoral Society)



With winter coming to a close, it's a good time for an update on the Littoral Society's current restoration work and upcoming opportunities for you to help.

We have projects underway on South Riverside Drive in Neptune, NJ; Slade Dale Sanctuary in Point Pleasant, NJ; Forked River Beach in Lacey Township, NJ; and the Mouth of the Maurice River near Bivalve, NJ.

The Society's restoration work was also recognized through New Jersey's 23rd Annual Governor's Environmental Excellence Awards and as one of the initial recipients of a New Jersey Natural Climate Solutions grant.

First, let's look at our project on South Riverside Drive in the Shark River Hills section of Neptune Township.

SOUTH RIVERSIDE DRIVE

Late in 2022, work began to restore and protect a section of eroding beach and wetlands along the Shark River by building a living shoreline that would help protect the surrounding community from storms and waves, while also creating habitat for wildlife.

Scan the QR code above to read more.

NEW COMMUNITY SHELL DROP-OFF Set to Open in Point Pleasant



While our "Shuck It, Don't Chuck It!" (SIDCI) shell recycling program doesn't go into hibernation over the winter, the shell-collecting work does slow way down.

However, with the arrival of Spring we anticipate not just a big uptick in shells collected, but also a host of SIDCI events and the opening of a new community shell drop-off.

This summer, the SIDCI program should be recycling from a total of 12 restaurants, two of which will be totally managed by our wonderful volunteers. Volunteers will be crucial given the growing workload, so if you would like to lend a hand, please sign up on our website.

Also, on our website you find more information about the SIDCI program, including our list of participating recycling partners, sponsors, and upcoming events.

Scan the QR code above to read more.



Participants at our Sip N' Shuck Events not only get to enjoy eating oysters but also learn how to shuck them with the help of Littoral Society staff and the Barnegat Oyster Collective team.

(Photo by David Hawkins/American Littoral Society)