



# LONG ISLAND SOUTH SHORE *ESTUARY NEWS*

The Newsletter of the South Shore Estuary Reserve Council

Volume 1

Summer/Fall 2004

## Message from the Council Chair



Dear Friends of the South Shore Estuary Reserve,

I recently had the opportunity to meet personally with the supervisors and town board members that represent the six towns in the South Shore Estuary Reserve. During my visits to Hempstead, Oyster Bay, Babylon, Islip, Brookhaven and Southampton, I encouraged the towns to continue their strong commitment to implement the Reserve's comprehensive management plan, recognized their impressive achievements to date, and identified several actions to protect and improve the Reserve that need to be embraced as priorities by local governments. These actions include comprehensive watershed planning and changes in town codes and regulations to better control polluted stormwater runoff; the aggressive pursuit of capital funds for natural resource protection and remediation; the establishment of the South Shore Bayway; and the completion of local waterfront revitalization programs.

I received a warm and enthusiastic reception from all of the towns, and I am pleased to report that our local government partners in the Reserve are exceptionally supportive of our collective actions and aggressively doing their part to protect and restore the Estuary. In support of these exemplary local efforts, Governor George E. Pataki recently announced over \$ 1.2 million in state matching grants from the Environmental Protection Fund to assist local governments in the Reserve with projects to improve water quality, restore vital wetland and shellfish habitats, and enhance public awareness and enjoyment of the Reserve.

The continued cooperation of the Reserve Council and its many partners is the only way we will achieve our mutual goal of a healthy and vibrant estuary. As we move forward, we must build on these successful partnerships and find new ways to work together.

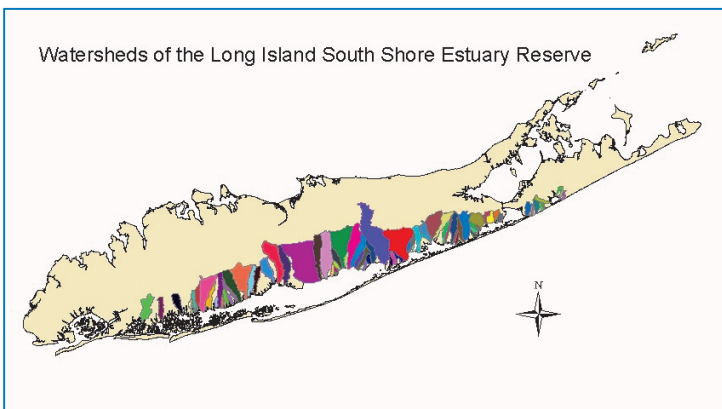
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randy A. Daniels".

Randy A. Daniels  
New York State Secretary of State  
Chair, South Shore Estuary Reserve Council

## Improving Water Quality

The Council's stormwater management work group met in February to discuss the development and implementation of watershed action plans (WAPs) in the Reserve and municipal obligations under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Storm Water Phase II Final Rule. During the meeting, Alan Svoboda, the Reserve office's land use specialist, described the WAP development process and the type of technical assistance the office can provide to municipalities that choose to develop such plans. Eileen Keenan, a water quality educator with New York Sea Grant's Non-point Education for Municipal Officials program, presented the basic requirements of the Phase II rule and explained how they relate to the various components of a WAP.

Watershed action plans guide the long-term management of a community's land and water resources with the ultimate goal of improving and protecting the South Shore estuary's water quality.



A watershed is an area of land that drains into a stream, river, lake, bay, or estuary. More than 80 watersheds have been identified in the Long Island South Shore Estuary Reserve.

*continued on page 4*

# Along the Bayway

This past March, the New York State Department of State and the Reserve office held the second in a series of workshops to advance development of the *South Shore Bayway*. The workshop provided community groups and local governments an opportunity to learn about the development of a Bayway master plan and to help identify and nominate *destinations* and *connectors* for recognition by the Reserve Council and inclusion in the Bayway.

The Bayway is envisioned as a network of maritime centers, natural and cultural sites, community centers and waterfronts that will be promoted for use by pedestrians, bicyclists, boaters and motorists. Sites or *destinations* will feature interpretive materials for residents and visitors that focus on key themes identified in the Reserve's comprehensive management plan – maritime heritage, protecting the coast, and enjoying the estuary. Bayway *destinations* will be linked by *connectors*, including hiking trails, promenades, bike paths, roadways, waterway trails and ferry routes.

Council recognized *destinations* and *connectors* will be identified on the Reserve website as part of a virtual Bayway. Local governments will be eligible for assistance from the New York State Environmental Protection Fund's Local Waterfront Revitalization Program for coordinated signage, kiosks and wayside exhibits that advance coastal stewardship. Public improvements such as bike paths, trails, waterfront amenities and water-related recreational facilities are also eligible.

George E. Pataki, New York State Governor  
Randy A. Daniels, New York State Secretary of State

## South Shore Estuary Reserve Council

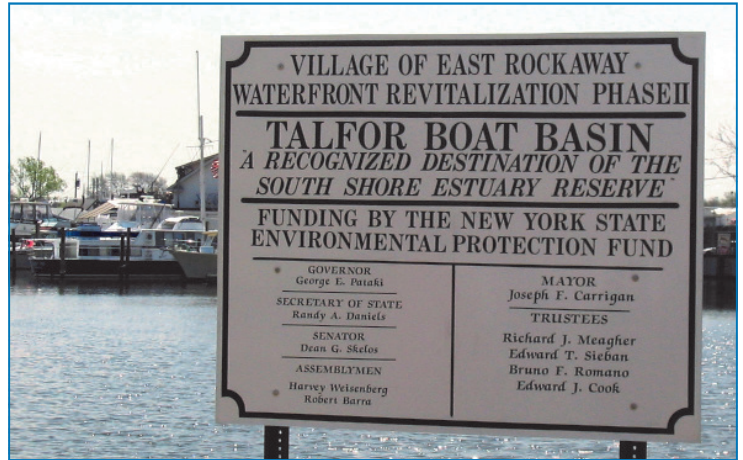
Randy A. Daniels, Council Chair  
Steve Levy, Suffolk County Executive  
Thomas Suozzi, Nassau County Executive  
Glen Spiritis PhD, City Manager, City of Long Beach  
Kate Murray, Supervisor, Town of Hempstead  
John Venditto, Supervisor, Town of Oyster Bay  
Steven Bellone, Supervisor, Town of Babylon  
Peter McGowan, Supervisor, Town of Islip  
John Jay La Valle, Supervisor, Town of Brookhaven  
Patrick A. Heaney, Supervisor, Town of Southampton  
William Glacken, Mayor, Village of Freeport,  
New York State Conference of Mayors  
Joseph M. Kayal, Citizens Advisory Committee  
Cornelia Schlenk, Technical Advisory Committee  
Carl LoBue, Long Island Chapter  
of the Nature Conservancy

Jeffrey Fullmer, Director, SSER Office

The NYS Department of State, Division of Coastal Resources and Waterfront Revitalization provides support to the Council. George R. Stafford, Director

The *Long Island South Shore Estuary News* is a publication of the South Shore Estuary Council, established pursuant to the Long Island South Shore Estuary Reserve Act of 1993. The Department of State provides funds for this newsletter from the New York State Environmental Protection Fund.

Additional information on the SSER and Council activities may be obtained by calling **516-470-BAYS** or visiting our website at [www.estuary.cog.ny.us](http://www.estuary.cog.ny.us).



Talfor Boat Basin, in the Village of East Rockaway, is one of eight recently recognized Bayway *destinations* in the South Shore Estuary Reserve.  
Photo by J. Fullmer

In April, the Reserve Council recognized the first eight Bayway *destinations* (see map on Page 4):

- Waterfront Park on Reynolds Channel - City of Long Beach
- Talfour Boat Basin/White Cannon Point Park - Village of East Rockaway
- The Nautical Mile on Woodcleft Avenue - Village of Freeport
- John F. Kennedy Sanctuary and Preserve - Town of Oyster Bay
- The Fire Island Lighthouse - Fire Island National Seashore
- Watchogue Creek Park in Bayshore - Town of Islip
- Old Ponquogue Bridge Marine Park - Town of Southampton
- The Shinnecock Canal Maritime Center - Town of Southampton

Instructions and applications to nominate a Bayway *destination* or *connector* can be obtained from the Reserve website or by calling **516-470-BAYS**. Nominations will be reviewed at Reserve Council meetings and should be submitted to the Reserve office at least 30 days in advance of the meeting. The Council strongly encourages nominations from grassroots organizations and community groups interested in promoting increased public appreciation and stewardship of the Reserve and its natural and cultural attributes.

The Council welcomes your feedback and suggestions for the newsletter. Please send to:

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## Reserve Partners at Work

The Long Island Chapter of **The Nature Conservancy** has been at the forefront of efforts to restore bay bottom living resources in Great South Bay. The Conservancy now owns nearly 12,000 acres of underwater land known as the Bluepoints Oyster Company property. These underwater lands were used for over a century to grow and harvest world famous Bluepoint oysters and hard clams. After shellfish populations on the parcel declined dramatically and were no longer commercially viable, the bottomlands were donated to the Conservancy in 2002. The Conservancy is now working with the Reserve Council and other public and private partners to develop a management plan for the parcel to restore the underwater lands and their key living resources – hard clams and seagrasses. The lessons learned from this project will advance the restoration of living resources throughout the Reserve and improve our knowledge of the ecosystem function in the estuary.



Freeport Bayman Cory Weyant with his exhibit at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival, on the mall in Washington, D.C. Cory is an expert eeler, crabber, dragger mate, fish smoker, and storyteller.

Photo by N. Solomon

**Friends of Bradstock** are a group of Long Islander volunteers who organize and sponsor an annual music and arts festival benefit on Labor Day weekend on the grounds of the Long Island Maritime Museum in West Sayville. Proceeds from the benefit are directed each year to a number of worthy causes – including projects that preserve and enhance the South Shore Estuary Reserve and its maritime culture and tradition. This year, Friends of Bradstock helped to bring representatives of the Reserve's traditional water dependent livelihoods to the 38<sup>th</sup> annual Smithsonian Folklife Festival held on the National Mall of the United States in Washington, D.C. for two weeks in June. Reserve representatives at the festival included boatbuilders, decoy carvers, and other artisans and craftsman, who demonstrated their specialized skills learned over generations. The event helped raise the awareness of thousands of festival visitors from around the nation and world of the South Shore's unique maritime culture and tradition.



Along with other partners and volunteers, Town of Brookhaven's Environmental staff and Bay Constable assisted The Nature Conservancy this past spring with the stocking of over 250,000 adult hard clams on the Conservancy's underwater lands in Great South Bay.

Photo by C. LoBue

This past May **Dowling College** teamed up with the **New York State Marine Educators Association** and the **Aquatic Research and Environmental Assessment Center** of Brooklyn College (CUNY) to present their 8<sup>th</sup> annual *Symposium on the South Shore Estuary*. This popular symposium included an environmental science poster competition for students from 11 Long Island high schools, teacher and student workshops on estuary-related topics, and an estuary art and photography exhibit. Awards were presented to students and their schools for the winning science poster exhibits, and an outstanding educator award was presented to **Dr. Paul Lichtman** from **Uniondale High School** for his mentoring of national award winning students in estuary-related science research. The symposium continues to serve as a model for encouraging development of the next generation of marine scientists.

The not-for-profit organization **Long Island Traditions Inc.** is conducting a cultural and historic resources survey in a portion of the Reserve. With support from the Preservation League of New York, the South Shore Estuary Reserve Council, Suffolk County Legislator Brian Foley, the Village of Patchogue, and the Post-Morrow Foundation, the survey is identifying and interpreting heritage sites between Oakdale and Brookhaven Hamlet that reflect the area's maritime origins.



Volunteers plant native grasses to restore wetlands associated with Beaver Dam Creek in Brookhaven. The plants will provide wildlife habitat, prevent erosion, and provide a buffer for the creek. The revegetation is part of an on-going salt marsh restoration project being carried out by Ducks Unlimited and the Post-Morrow Foundation.

Photo by K. Rancourt



## The Long Island South Shore Bayway

Destinations  
Recognized by the  
South Shore Estuary  
Reserve Council

## Improving Water Quality

*continued from cover page*

A WAP identifies and prioritizes capital projects to manage stormwater runoff and recommends ways a community can improve its legal authority to control nonpoint source pollution. To date, such plans are being developed by for the watersheds of Massapequa Creek, tributaries to Great Cove, Brown and Green creeks, Swan River, Beaver Dam Creek, and Quantuck Bay.

EPA's Phase II rule is a comprehensive federal program administered in New York by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation that requires municipalities over a threshold population to have permit coverage for the discharge of stormwater runoff. To satisfy permit requirements, affected municipalities must develop and implement stormwater management plans, including six required minimum control measures, by 2008 to reduce or prevent the discharge of pollutants to the maximum extent practicable. There are several areas of overlap between watershed action plans and Phase II implementation – partnership building, public outreach and education, and stormwater infrastructure mapping – and development and implementation of WAPs are an effective vehicle for complying with the Phase II rule.

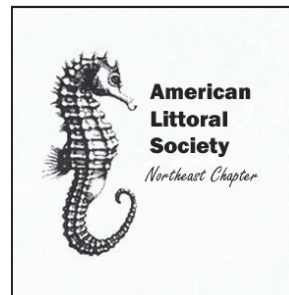
Citizens and community organizations have an important role in the watershed planning process, as public input is essential to decision making and public involvement is necessary for effective implementation of a plan once it has been completed. The Reserve office is developing several tools to promote citizen involvement in developing watershed action plans. These tools include a page on the Council's website that will educate citizens about the WAP process; "virtual" communities that will facilitate communication among partners and provide a forum for citizen participation through use of the internet; and an internet map server that will facilitate information sharing among partners and support both public education and participation.

Clean Up with the American Littoral Society

### **VOLUNTEER for the NEW YORK STATE BEACH CLEANUP at a beach near you**

Collect and record the litter around your  
lake, river, bay, sound, or ocean

**SEPTEMBER 18, 2004**



**For more information contact:**

Barbara Cohen  
Beach Cleanup Coordinator  
American Littoral Society  
(718) 471-2166  
email: alsbeach@aol.com  
Or visit the website at:  
www.alsnyc.org  
HOTLINE: (800) 449-0790

## We've gone electronic!

In order to reduce the use of paper the

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