

HUNTINGTON NORTHPORT OYSTER REEF PROJECT

Rotary Speakers Forum at Town Hall

*****How to Improve & Protect Our Marine Ecosystem*****

A Three-Part Series of Presentations by the

Aquaculture Experts at

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County

APRIL 4th @ 6:00pm

#1 - It Takes a Village: How You Can Help Raise Oysters

Kim Tetrault, CCE Community Aquaculture Specialist

Demetrios Caroussos, CCE Marine Ecology & Aquaculture Educator

Learn about CCE's Community Aquaculture programs and how scientists work with local citizens to grow and plant oysters throughout Long Island from the Hamptons to Huntington! Why are these initiatives so popular and how can you get involved to help restore shellfish in local waters?

MAY 2nd @ 6:00pm

#2 - Ecosystem Engineers: How Oysters Create Habitat

Gregg Rivara, CCE Site Director & Aquaculture Specialist

The CCE Marine Program has been active in Long Island waterbodies for over 30 years. Learn why oysters are a keystone species in helping to create habitat that supports a wide array of marine species. How do we collect essential data and learn from the past to better inform our work in the future?

JUNE 6th @ 6:00pm

#3 - Filter Feeders: Benefits of Shellfish in Our Embayments

Matthew Sclafani, CCE Marine Resource Conservation Specialist

Shellfish are important filter feeders that control nutrient concentrations, improve water clarity and provide key ecosystem services in local harbors and bays. Learn how cutting-edge research allows us to better understand the value of these amazing animals. How will they aid in our efforts to restore and enhance our local marine environment?

Cornell Cooperative Extension
Suffolk County
Marine Program



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Rotary Speakers Forum at Town Hall - Brief Speaker Biographies

Presentation #1 - It Takes a Village: How You Can Help Raise Oysters Huntington Town Hall - April 4th @ 6pm



Kim Tetrault, *CCE Community Aquaculture Specialist*

Kim received his BS in Field Biology and Marine Ecology from Connecticut College, and his MS in Shellfish Aquaculture from the University of Rhode Island. He has been employed at the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County since 1995, and works as the Community Aquaculture Specialist at the Marine Environmental Learning Center in Southold, NY. Since 2000, he has been the Founder and Director of the Suffolk Project in Aquaculture Training (SPAT). The SPAT program is a year-round training and oyster gardening initiative that allows community members to participate in hands-on activities relating to shellfish culture and environmental stewardship. He has assisted in the building and managing of numerous shellfish hatchery and nursery systems and has overseen the operation of an all-volunteer based hatchery which

produces oyster seed for the SPAT program. He is the author of *The Complete Idiot's Guide to the Oceans*, and is a co-investigator on a number of journal articles. He is an avid sailor and musician who resides in Southold with his wife, Kim.

Demetrios Caroussos, *CCE Marine Ecology & Aquaculture Educator*

Demetrios received his BS in Marine Science from Florida Gulf Coast University and his MS in Marine Conservation and Policy at Stony Brook University. He began working in this field as a FLUPSY (Floating Upweller System) technician for the Long Island Shellfish Restoration Project, then made the transition to Hatchery Technician until August of 2021, when he enrolled in the Masters Program at Stony Brook. His masters project used mesocosms to test the efficiency of Ribbed Mussels in extracting bacteria from water and in effecting change in various environmental parameters. He currently operates a research hatchery at Flax Pond Marine Laboratory in Stony Brook, and manages the aquaculture facility at Gold Star Battalion Beach in Huntington. Demetrios is leading the CCE's Community Aquaculture Restoration and Education (CARE) project which works with organizations and citizens interested in growing shellfish and restoring habitat in their local waters.



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Presentation #2 - Ecosystem Engineers: How Oysters Create Habitat **Huntington Town Hall - May 2nd @ 6pm**



Gregg Rivara, CCE Site Director & Aquaculture Specialist

Gregg received his BS in Marine Science & Biology from Southampton College of Long Island University and an MS in Marine Environmental Science from the Marine Sciences Research Center (now the School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences) at Stony Brook University. Hired by CCE of Suffolk County in 1986, he has worked extensively with commercial and municipal shellfish growers throughout Long Island. Active primarily with commercial shellfish farmers in all 10 towns in Suffolk County and 2 towns in Nassau County, Gregg helps with siting and permitting shellfish farms and performs applied research to benefit our regional aquaculture industry. Gregg has been involved in many local and national shellfish-related organizations and is currently the chair of the Shellfish Advisory Committee of the NYSDEC, which advocates for the

needs of aquaculturists across the industry, including both farmed and wild-caught shellfish. Gregg was the first CCE employee to work at the Suffolk County Marine Environmental Learning Center (SCMELC in Southold) when it was transferred from Suffolk County Community College in 1991. He founded a shellfish hatchery there that still serves three East End towns, not only providing them with shellfish seed and related educational programs, but also serving as a base to perform applied research to the benefit of all Suffolk County residents.

PRESENTATION #3 - Filter Feeders: Benefits of Shellfish in Our Embayments **Huntington Town Hall - June 6th @ 6pm**

Matthew Sclafani, CCE Marine Resource Conservation Specialist

Dr. Sclafani received his BS in Marine Biology from the University of New England, Maine, his MS in Biological Oceanography from Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada and his PhD in Biology at McGill University, Montreal, Quebec, Canada. He has been working for CCE's Marine Program for 23 years and has established a broad range of marine research, monitoring and educational outreach programs throughout Long Island, including the Western Suffolk Shellfish Program at Gold Star Battalion Beach. His research interests include marine fish and shellfish ecology, restoration ecology and conservation management. His most recent work has focused on ribbed mussel aquaculture and pathogen removal, horseshoe crab acoustic telemetry and citizen science-based conservation. He continues to publish on these topics in peer reviewed scientific journals and mentors student research. He serves as an Adjunct Professor at Stony Brook University's SoMAS, acts as Chair of the Peconic Estuary Partnership's Technical Advisory Committee, and also serves as an advisory committee member of the Setauket Harbor Task Force and the Huntington-Northport Oyster Reef Project.



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Rotary unites people from all continents and cultures who take action to deliver real, long-term solutions to our world's most persistent issues. In communities across the globe, our 1.4 million members come together to strengthen their connections to friends and neighbors and their commitment to improving lives. Through 46,000 clubs in over 220 countries, Rotary combines global reach, local resources, and highly skilled volunteers with a funding structure that distributes US\$200 million annually to provide clean water and sanitation, support education, prevent and treat disease, save mothers and children, grow local economies, promote peace, and protect the environment. Please consider becoming a Rotary member today. Visit us at www.HuntingtonRotaryClub.com

Cornell Cooperative Extension | Suffolk County Marine Program

Our waters are an integral part of life for us, making Long Island a desirable place to live. The Marine Program, which became a part of CCE Suffolk in 1985, is known and respected nationally and internationally. It's mission is to protect our waters, providing a clean environment for our fish, fowl and plants. Our researchers and educators inform Long Islanders how we can each do our part to safeguard our environment. Projects have been designed to bring back our once thriving eelgrass and shellfish populations, ensure our commercial fishing industry continues to thrive while limiting bycatch, provide public education about the environmental consequences of stormwater runoff, and introduce our young people to marine sciences and marine life on Long Island. Please visit our website at www.ccesuffolk.org/marine.



Founded in 1653, the Town of Huntington is on the north shore of Long Island in northeastern Suffolk County. Our bays and harbors have always been a primary focus of our identity. The Maritime Services Department's three divisions maintain the quality and safety of the Town's waterfront parks, beaches and marinas and provide enforcement for on-water activities including moorings, channel markers and boating safety. Maritime also enforces environmental regulations for maritime resources, including shellfish harvesting, wetland preservation, and water quality. Maritime Services protects, restores and enhances the marine and coastal environment, and takes part in administering Town Code as it relates to the use of the shoreline. Visit us at www.huntingtonny.gov/marine-conservation.

**To learn more about the Huntington-Northport Oyster Reef Project:
Go to www.HuntingtonRotaryClub.com, or contact James Wylie at 516-521-1491**