



Douglas Manor Environmental Association

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- Suzanne Avena
- Catherine Bealin
- Aline Euler
- Mike Gannon
- Melanie McGillick
- Tom Oliva
- Carol Panagi
- Ron Saar
- George Schmidt
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Douglas Manor Environmental Association

WINTER 2015 NEWSLETTER OF THE DMEA

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As the year comes to a close, it seems an appropriate time to reflect on the accomplishments of the Douglas Manor Environmental Association. We have continued our tree planting program, recently replacing a number of trees that did not survive this very dry and difficult summer. Thus far we have planted approximately 100 trees, and hope to continue replacing trees lost in recent storms. • A committee has been formed to study the history of the salt marsh north of Memorial Field, in preparation for an application to the Long Island Sound Futures Fund for possible restoration of these wetlands. • The long awaited Shore Road reconstruction project has finally begun and we have remained in contact with the DMA committee, intending to work with New York City agencies overseeing new landscaping after construction has been completed. • Our annual Halloween Haunted Forest celebration at Memorial Field was once again a great success as described in the article by Carol Panagi, with photos by Manfred Tichter. • There is an ongoing controversy regarding leaf blowers, per the recent DMA Newsletter. We have included an informative report on this problem written by Melanie McGillick that we strongly suggest you read. • Special thanks to all the volunteers who have made this a year of accomplishments for us. To show your appreciation and help us continue our initiatives, please consider making a generous tax deductible contribution to the DMEA, as this is our only source of funding. Sincerely,
George Schmidt

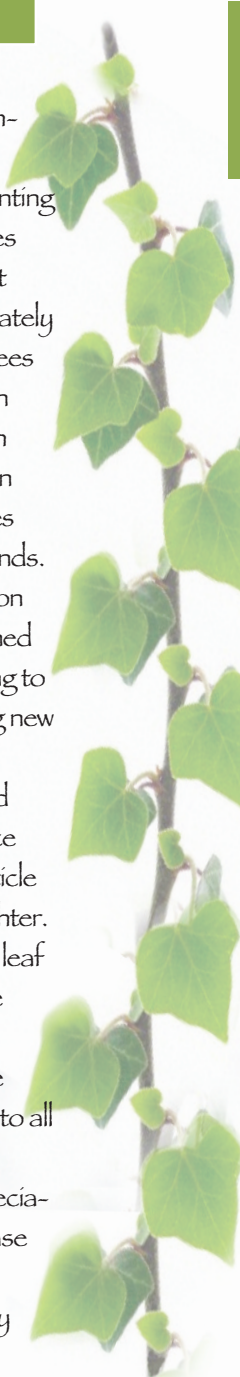
AMENDMENTS TO WATER QUALITY STANDARDS REGULATIONS - CLASS I AND CLASS SD SALINE SURFACE WATERS

The NYS DEC has amended Parts 701 and 703 of Title 6 of the Official Compilation of Codes, Rules, and Regulations of the State of New York (6NYCRR). This rulemaking was necessary to meet the "swimmable" goal of the federal Clean Water Act.

These amendments require that the quality of Class I and Class SD saline surface waters be suitable for primary contact recreation, such as swimming. The amendments also establish standards for total and fecal coliforms to protect these waters for contact recreation.

These changes went into effect on November 4, 2015 and will force NYC DEP to take action to bring the water in the southern end of the Little Neck Bay, classified as SD, into compliance with the rest of the bay which is class SB. Class SA, the Sound east of Manhasset, means you can swim and eat the shellfish. Class SB means swimming but no eating of shellfish (clams, oysters, mussels, or crabs).

—Mike Gannon



DONATION FORM ENCLOSED

CORING FIELD STUDY OF DOUGLAS MANOR MARSH

The Douglas Manor Environmental Association is supporting field research of the marsh north of Memorial Field to better understand the area's history prior to the marsh's invasion by Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*), the tall grass you see from the roadside. Understanding the original marsh that existed before the invasion of the *Phragmites* is essential in helping us to preserve and protect the marsh that surrounds Douglas Manor.

The DMEA has been working with Louise Harrison of Conservation & Natural Areas Planning since last spring and she has helped us to obtain the volunteer services of Dr. J. Bret Bennington, Hofstra University Professor of Geology, Environment and Sustainability, and his student, Emily Weaver, a senior at Hofstra. Their important work involves coring into the sediment of the marsh (e.g. mud, sand, silt, clay) for a look back in time. The further down the core extends, the earlier



in time the sediments were laid down. Ms. Weaver and Dr. Bennington have extracted some narrow (3" or 5 cm) cores of mud and other sediments below and have brought them back to the lab for analysis, looking for distinctive sediment layers (organic mud, clay, silt, sand) and remains of plant or bits of shells, to get an idea of what environmental conditions existed prior to the modern growth of *Phragmites*.

Based on initial results, the Hofstra researchers may return for a second set of cores. You can see the coring process in a video taken at another Long Island location at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JgYYo7wB6hg>.

Ms. Weaver has agreed to present the results of the study to our community sometime this winter. We're grateful for Hofstra's assistance and look forward to sharing of the results with the community.

—Jamie Sutherland



Photo from the Coring Field Study article on reverse side.



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HAPPY...HAPPY ...HALLOWEEN!!!

On October 24th 2015 The Douglas Manor Environmental Association put on the 3rd Annual Haunted Forest. The location of the event, Memorial Field and Osprey Landing, was at optimal temperature as the day remained cool and dry. The event offered the children of the community a chance to dress up as their favorite Halloween characters and have a lot of fun. The event's cohost, PS 98, supplied the food and drink at a small price which went towards the 5th grade fundraiser. The DJ kept



the children entertained with games, music, and dancing. Prizes were awarded to each gender and age category for best costume—adult prizes included. In addition to the costume contest, an apple pie contest was held, after which the slices of pie were sold to help raise money for the Douglas Manor Environmental Association. The \$5

TREE REMOVAL, PRUNING & PLANTING

The summer of 2015 is gone but I think we'll all agree that it was a remarkably beautiful one. This was, however, a dry season which stressed our trees and gardens, especially the new street trees that the DMEA recently planted. After some reminders and prodding, most residents kept our green water bags at the base of their new tree filled at proper intervals. We also used the security truck to periodically travel the neighborhood with a 250-gallon tank to water new trees that looked troubled. In spite of these efforts we did lose about eight trees which have been replaced.

The New York City Parks Department has removed dead and compromised trees and pruned others along Shore Road in preparation for its reconstruction. Upon completion of the project, they will plant new trees



entrance fee also contributed to this organization, as well as provide for future environmental projects in our community.

The DMEA would like to thank the chair of this event, Melanie McGillick for all her hard work as well as the whole committee. We would also like to thank the 5th grade parents of PS 98 who gave so generously of their time and goodies—especially Keli DeLuca who was the 5th grade's fundraiser. Many thanks to all our volunteers—especially Lisa and Mike Gannon for starring as our frightening figures in the forest as well as our pirate, Tom Oliva who took on his sword fights with such valor!!! If you would like to take part in this event next year, please contact the DMEA at the DMA office. Volunteers are always needed to help decorate the forest. We look forward to having this wonderful event again in the coming years. Our community events are only made possible if we have the community's participation and energy.

—Carol Panagi

as replacements for those that were removed. The DMEA will consult with the Parks Department in planning landscaping and new tree locations. These efforts are not entirely aesthetic in that a mature tree releases up to 1,000 liters of water vapor a day into the atmosphere according to a recent fascinating New York Times article about deforestation and the resulting drought in the Amazon. Trees help purify the atmosphere by absorbing carbon dioxide, clean water through their roots and prevent flooding by stabilizing soil. So thank a tree next time you see one, and by all means please consider sending a generous tax deductible donation to the DMEA to help us continue the tree planting, landscaping and other programs for the maintenance of our bucolic neighborhood. Remember, you are our only source of revenue.

—George Schmidt



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ANGLING IN LITTLE NECK BAY

40 years ago, fishing the waters around NYC was different from what today's fisher folk will find. Blowfish (Northern Puffers) were plentiful until the early 1970s and they all but disappeared. Flounder could be caught quite easily at the end of our dock. The good news is that Puffers have returned, albeit in small numbers but they are back. I suspect the Flounder will be showing up again—hopefully soon. We can thank Senator Edmund Muskie and the Federal Clean Waters act of 1971 for this. Random dumping of industrial waste and raw sewage into our waterways is now a bad memory. That being said, there are other factors that affect fishing in Little Neck Bay. Weather, wind and tide and other environmental factors dictate how good or bad the fishing in any given season will be. This year, the beginning of the season was hindered by the red/brown tide that started out east and extended westward to nearly the Whitestone Bridge. It ended by late June and the fish were back. They weren't found in any abundance in the harbors until late in the season, but they did return. Bunker and Bluefish were plentiful but Striped Bass were less so further into the harbors including Little Neck Bay and neighboring Manhasset Bay and Hempstead Harbor. Out in the Sound, near Execution Rock and other shallows in the Sound, Blackfish, Fluke, Flounder, Stripers, Bluefish and some others are out there for the catching. Crabs were less abundant this year, perhaps due to the early red/brown tide. Now that winter is settling in we can all watch the weather and anticipate what waits for the spring fishermen and women.

For us Manor folk we have, at our doorstep, an amazing body of water that we need to cherish and preserve. We must teach our sons and daughters to respect and use the Sound for all of its gifts and to enjoy and treat it with respect as if it were our backyard, which it literally is! Let the kids fish, sail, windsurf, paddleboard, kayak and motorboat around these beautiful waters. Engage them in all that is available. The Junior Sailing Program, Power Squadron classes at the Club and just being around the dock will provide the kids with skills and memories they will cherish forever.

—Ron Saar

LEAF BLOWER SURVEY RESULTS

The leaf blower survey numbers are in with an overwhelming consensus to have landscapers limit the use of their leaf blowers. These insidious machines are constantly being misused by neighborhood landscapers. It is imperative that as a Community, we educate ourselves, on the negative health effects of blowing pollutants into the air, the uncomfortable noise nuisance that is generated by constant use and most importantly, what can we do to create change and introduce a more health conscious approach to our landscaping needs.

Gas powered leaf blowers are very harmful to our environment and have a negative health effect on our bodies. Leaf blowers literally scour the Earth, stripping off top soil, killing vital soil-dwelling organisms, propelling air clouds of dirt, dust, dangerous contaminants such as mold and fungal spores, molecules of toxic chemicals people sprinkle on their lawns and trees and fecal urinary matter of animals. Some of the particulate matter is blown into the street—straight into our water drains! Eventually these toxins and other unwanted material deposit into our waterways. According to the Mount Sinai School of Medicine Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit, gas powered leaf blowers pose multiple health threats. They include spreading airborne particles, which can provoke asthma and other respiratory diseases. According to a report from GreenwichCALM.org, every doctor affiliated with the Mt. Sinai Children's Environmental Health Center in NYC signed a letter submitted on 4/22/2010 by the Mt. Sinai Hospital supporting proposed restrictions on leaf blowers in Eastchester NY.

Heat compounds the negative health effects. During the summer months particulate pollution is at its worst. According to GreenwichCALM.org approximately 5 lbs of particulate matter per leaf blower are blown into the air and can take hours or even days to settle. These particulates aggravate allergies. You can visit the EPA's website about health impacts of particulate matter: www.epa.gov/air/particlepollution. Restricting the use of leaf blowers during the summer months is a reasonable request. It is unnecessary to use a leaf blower beneath shrubs, between hedges and around tree trunks.

As a community we need to open a dialogue with our local landscapers, collectively introduce other options and implement cleaner practices that will help protect our families and the environment both now and in the future.

—Melanie McGillick