

LITTORALLY Speaking



Littoral: The region along the shore; the intertidal zone

News from the American Littoral Society

Summer 2021

New Year, New Administration Brings New Conservation Opportunities

This new year brings tremendous changes to the nation's politics and opens up new opportunities for coastal and ocean conservation.

Obviously, the new President and very different Administration top the list of changes. The Biden Administration has established responding to climate change as a top policy priority and has released a number of Executive Orders and administrative actions establishing an ambitious agenda, which faces some very long-term challenges.

The political dynamics between a narrow Democratic majority Congress and Biden will be tremendously consequential as to the success of this agenda, and like past administrations in similar environments we are likely to see a reliance on administrative actions rather than legislation.

According to Pres. Biden, this

ambitious and visionary plan will help slow the loss of nature, reduce the consequences of climate change,

and ensure all Americans — no matter their economic status, race, or ethnicity — have access to the natural world. These “themes” all echo the work and mission of the Littoral Society, so we are heartened to hear them coming from the White House.

Read more at: <https://www.littoralsociety.org/blog/>

new-year-new-administration-bring-new-opportunities-for-coastal-ocean-conservation



NJ Enacts New Climate Response Tools

In early 2021, NJ Governor Phil Murphy signed into law several pieces of legislation that advance important climate change adaptation policies and measures. Those included new directives on municipal land use and additional funding for the Blue Acres program.

The Littoral Society led efforts to increase money dedicated to Blue Acres, which is intended to reduce the number of buildings in flood-prone areas — such as the coast — that suffer repetitive losses.

The Society supported, through testimony and public organizing, an NJ Future-led campaign for statutory amendments to require municipalities to consider climate change as they undertake periodic land use master plan updates.

According to an article in NJ Spotlight, municipalities must now identify critical facilities such as roads and utilities that might be affected by hurricanes or sea-level rise; make plans to sustain normal life in the face of anticipated natural hazards, and integrate

climate vulnerability with existing plans such as emergency management or flood-hazard strategies.

Read more at: <https://www.littoralsociety.org/blog/from-the-director-nj-enacts-new-climate-response-tools>



Among the items on the Biden Administration agenda is slowing the loss of natural coastal habitats in order to reduce the consequences of climate change.

Childhood Fishing and Sailing Leads to Environmental Career

Meet Tally Blumberg, President of the Littoral Society's Board of Trustees:

I got my love of the coast from my father, growing up fishing and sailing on the Long Island Sound and in Key Biscayne, and every time I turn my attention to the Society, I think that he would have loved this work. I should make him a posthumous fish tagger! He was fly fishing for stripers on the Sound and in Maine until the end of his life and taught me patiently.

Many, many years ago, I studied marine biology and ecology in college, and when I was given the opportunity to get involved with the American Littoral Society, I jumped at the chance. My whole career has been spent working in the environment, although what started out as an interest has now become such critical work, up against a ticking clock. I am an optimist, and I hope we are making headway as a sector.

Read more at: <https://www.littoralsociety.org/blog/childhood-fishing-and-sailing-leads-to-environmental-career>



Tally Blumberg, President of the Littoral Society's Board of Trustees, developed her love of the environment by fishing and sailing on the Long Island Sound and in Key Biscayne.

American Littoral Society Loses Valued Family Member



Jeff Dement, long-time Fish Tagging Program Director for the Littoral Society.

On Thursday, Jan. 28, we received very sad news: Jeff Dement, long-time Fish Tagging Program Director for the Littoral Society, had passed away.

Jeff loved the Society, fish, trees, and science. The tagging program and its taggers were at the center of his professional life. He loved

the science and the tales taggers tell.

He was a gifted educator and taught untold numbers of young people to fish – many of whom would never have had the opportunity but for Jeff and the Society's programs that he helped create.

His love of all things natural (and historic when it came to Sandy Hook), and sharing that knowledge defined his passions.

He will be missed as one of our family, now gone.

The family held a private ceremony, but has asked that in lieu of flowers donations be made to the Littoral Society.

<https://www.littoralsociety.org/blog/littoral-society-loses-a-valued-member-of-our-family-with-passing-of-fish-tagging-director-jeff-dement>

2021 Will Be Busy Year for Littoral Restoration Team

Last year was challenging, but that didn't stop habitat restoration work by the American Littoral Society. And thanks to the success of previous projects, along with being awarded a number of new grants, the Society and its restoration team have even bigger plans for 2021.

In the coming year, we will be highlighting a different habitat restoration project each month in order to keep friends and supporters of the Littoral Society better informed of the work we are doing. Check the Society blog for updates.

2020 Recap

Despite an international pandemic that left the Society unable to host volunteer events, the Restoration team got a few things done. Among those projects were:

- Building three oyster reefs along Delaware Bay beaches;
- Installing a fish ladder at Old Mill Pond Dam in Spring Lake Heights, in order to open habitat for spawning river herring;
- Completing a pilot oyster reef project at Forked River Beach in Barnegat Bay, which will lead to setting 70 million live oyster larvae in the coming years;
- Continuing Phase III of the Bradley Beach Maritime Forest, which will help strengthen and protect the shore town's beach; and
- Receiving long-term permits to continue beach and reef restoration along the Delaware Bay.

Read more at: <https://www.littoralsociety.org/blog/2021-will-be-busy-for-littoral-society-restoration-team>

Volunteers Highlight Littoral Earth Day Restoration Events

Earth Day was big for the American Littoral Society this year. The Society hosted a week-long series of events that included some of the first involving volunteers since Covid quarantines began about a year ago.

We were amazed and thankful for the outpouring of volunteer support for our cleanups and plantings during Earth Week 2021, especially with many Covid precautions still in place. Concern for protecting beaches and restoring habitat brought dozens to the warm sands of Asbury Park, a park in Vineland, a windy beach on the Delaware Bay, the chilly

waters of Beaverdam Creek, and a shoreline in Jamaica Bay to lend a hand with Littoral Society projects.

Volunteers have long played a crucial role in Society restoration projects, both large and small. The Society began in 1961 as a band of scuba diving hobbyists providing data to what eventually became the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration laboratory on Sandy Hook. The same spirit became key to the Society's efforts to engage people in caring for the coast.

<https://www.littoralsociety.org/blog/volunteers-highlight-littoral-earth-day-restoration-events>



Volunteers in Asbury Park, NJ get started on an Earth Day dune grass planting event.

Returning to the River: More People, More Place, More Times

An explosion of people enjoying the water in kayaks, jet skis, paddle boards, tubes or just taking a dip is the result of recent improvements in water quality in the mainstem estuary of the Delaware River in the vicinity of Philadelphia, PA and Camden NJ. This exciting change demonstrates that the combination of actions by the Delaware River Basin Commission, federal, state and local agencies, citizens and clean water utilities to reduce pollution makes a difference! This improvement was celebrated this spring when American

Rivers named the Delaware River its National River of the Year for 2020.

In the time following that award, the Coronavirus crisis has changed how we are thinking about getting together and living our lives. We are finding that the outdoors is the place to destress and recharge after all the different challenges that we are facing, from the pandemic and ensuing economic impacts to the movement for black lives and the struggle for racial justice.

Bordered between New Jersey and New York, the waterfronts of

Philadelphia and Camden have been in the news a lot recently, highlighting the re-development activity that the water quality improvements in this 27-mile stretch of water are making possible.

The Littoral Society is leading an effort to end ongoing pollution of the river to address environmental injustice and increase recreational use and access.

Read more about the Returning to River Project at: <https://www.littoralsociety.org/blog/returning-to-the-river>

Society Partners with Wildlife Federation to Continue Climate Resilience Education in NYC schools

To advance the climate and resilience education programs in New York City schools, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration awarded a three-year, \$450,000 grant renewal to the National Wildlife Federation and its partners. The grant will help continue and enhance the *Resilient Schools Consortium: Connecting Schools to Coastal Communities* program.

The Resilient Schools Consortium (RISC™) program was first launched in 2017 in six New York City public schools by Brooklyn College, the National Wildlife Federation, and partners, such as the American Littoral Society.

Through a mix of in-person and pre-recorded videos, the Littoral Society's Northeast Chapter staff

led students through Jamaica Bay's marshes, participation in dune grass planting at a local beach, and a backyard garden tour.

"The American Littoral Society is excited to be working with the National Wildlife Federation in providing valuable outdoor educational experiences to school kids across New York City," said Tim Dillingham, Executive Director of the Littoral Society. "We hope this program will continue to bring them closer to the coast that we love and advocate for."

"Inspiring today's youth to be tomorrow's wildlife champions is crucial if we are serious about protecting and restoring the natural world," said Collin O'Mara, president and CEO of the

National Wildlife Federation. "In order to do this, it is vital to instill a connection to the outdoors from an early age by promoting science-based learning and investing in environmental education."

The program recognizes that climate education is critical to help future generations understand and adapt to a rapidly changing world. So students will take field trips to local beaches with local residents and community partners to learn about the natural and built solutions being used or considered to protect New York City's shoreline and communities.

Read more at: <https://www.nwf.org/Latest-News/Press-Releases/2020/09-24-20-RISC-NOAA-Grant>



18 Hartshorne Drive
Highlands, NJ 07732

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
New Brunswick, NJ
Permit # 1

JOIN US FOR THESE EXCITING EVENTS!



Members Day

Saturday
June 26



Littorally Local

SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 18



LOBSTER RUN

5K RUN/WALK TO CARE FOR THE L.J. ST

Saturday
November 6