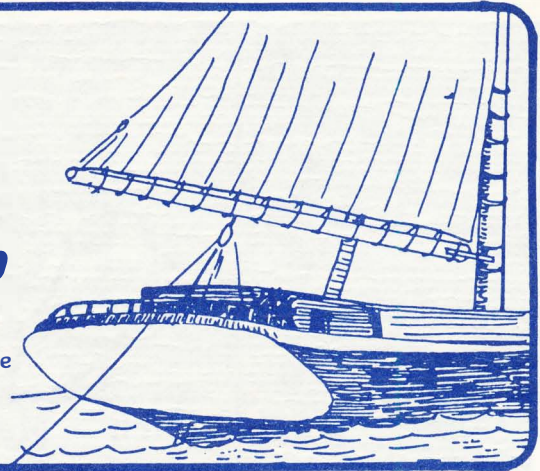


THE TAFFRAIL

By
Long Island Sound Taskforce
of
The Oceanic Society

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Environmental Issues of the 80's

By Russell L. Brenneman

The 1980's, we may be sure, will be a time of change — not just for those interested in conservation and the environment but for everyone. Between now and 1990, there will be one billion more mouths to feed on our spaceship earth, give or take one hundred million mouths. Ninety percent of these human beings will be concentrated in the poorest and hungriest nations. Unless something is done about it, in the United States alone, one million acres of prime farmland will be lost to development each year; and in Asia and Africa the creeping deserts will annually render barren an area the size of the State of Maine. The United States in the coming decade will pay another eight hundred billion dollars for imported oil if each year we pay the same oil bill that we paid in 1980, which itself was for twenty-nine percent less oil than we imported in 1977. In countries which cannot pay a bill of that magnitude, or do not possess other energy resources or the means to exploit them, gathering fuel for basic subsistence will continue to be a full-time job for many people. Ecological refugees will continue to crowd urban centers such as Cairo, Athens, Sao Paolo, and Mexico City. Indeed, the 1980's will be a time of change.

We shall be dealing with these changing conditions from a national perspective in what, quite evidently will be a different way, at least for the next four years. While I join former EPA Administrator, Douglas M. Costle, and others in concluding that the November elections do not constitute a vote against environmental regulation, even conservative columnist George F. Will recently expressed concern that the change toward "hard-edged economic calculation in public policy" may produce a "cold climate for environmentalists, and may leave environmentalism intellectually disarmed, to the long term detriment of American life."

Changes in our attitudes, politics and domestic programs will take place within an international drama over which we have little control. The seemingly inevitable growth in population; the competition for scarce resources by nations strong enough to compete; the growth of nationalism to support

the competition for more resources and to defend those already secured; and the widening of the gap between rich and poor nations to what John B. Oakes recently called an "unbridgeable chasm" will demand much from us in the 1980's because these things simply cannot be ignored. Mr. Oakes called the rapid environmental degradation of the planet "a time bomb, as great a threat to both our national and our global survival as is the threat of nuclear annihilation." An environmental crisis unlike anything before in human history will be upon us in 20 years, the report "Global 2000" contends, if present trends are not interrupted by intelligent action. We are reminded that the year 2000 is only as far ahead as the administration of John F. Kennedy is behind us.

Now, what does all this mean to you environmental leaders gathered to discuss the future of Long Island Sound? Very simply, I think that it means that you have undertaken serious and important work which is made more significant by the apparently changing national perspectives and the global situation. If, as seems prudent, we choose not to place our credence either in the doomsayers or in the optimists who place their absolute confidence in science and technology, the issues before you today still require serious attention, creative thinking, and clever adaptation. We must continually remind ourselves that what looks like a purely local or regional issue may have national and even international dimensions.

I would like to leave with you three specific issues for the 1980's, one of which has specific relevance to Long Island Sound. These issues are: Centralizing authority over federal programs relating to coastal resources; protecting ground water from contamination by toxic and other wastes; and managing environmental conflicts more efficiently.

In order to centralize the federal role for the coastline, I join others in suggesting that there be created a cabinet-level department directed by a Secretary of Marine Affairs. Responsibility for coastal issues now is divided among the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of the Interior, the Department of Commerce, the Corps of Engi-

neers, the Department of Energy, and the Department of Transportation, to name only the federal departments which quickly come to mind. The George's Bank case, which was recently settled for the time being through a stipulation joined in by the Interior Department, the Department of Commerce, the State of Massachusetts and the Conservation Law Foundation, provided an example of lack of coordination between at least two responsible federal agencies, the result of which was a three year legal battle. Those interested in an undelayed exploration of marine oil resources as well as those concerned about the protection of other federal offshore resources, such as fisheries, both share an interest in making the federal decision making process more efficient and sensitive to environmental concerns. The scattering of federal responsibilities for coastal resources results in unnecessary confusion, expense, conflict and overlap. The new department could be organized from the components of existing federal programs and administered by personnel presently in place. The result should be greater efficiency without greater cost.

Secondly, there should be continuing and aggressive attention paid throughout this decade to the protection of our ground water resources from contamination, especially through toxic and other waste disposal practices. Parts of the Long Island Sound region are today experiencing water shortages because the quantity of available drinking water has been reduced by drought. In a region normally rich in water resources we do not want to see the day when the quality of available water, rather than its quantity, constrains supplies. There is no more insidiously threatened natural resource than our ground water because for decades our waste management practices have ignored the obvious fact that improperly located dump sites are point discharges into the water system. We have instituted programs to clean up our waste sinks in order — first the water, then the air, and now the land. Controlling toxic chemicals, identifying and cleaning up hazardous waste sites and mov-

(continued on page 4)



Whale Watch – May 16 & 17

LIST and the Greenwich Audubon Society are co-sponsoring a weekend of whale watching and coastal field trips on Cape Cod. Aboard the Dolphin III, whale watches will be run to observe humpback, fin, minke, and right whales in the Gulf of Maine. On shore activities will include field trips to Cape Cod Nat'l. Seashore, browsing about Provincetown, and viewing the Nova series film, "Life behind the Dunes."

Price range from \$85.00 for a single person to \$45.00 per person for a group of four. Price includes two whale watches; lodging for two nights; two continental breakfasts; film program; and leaders' fees. Carpools will be arranged for those interested; space is limited on a first come, first served basis. For reservations and further information, please call the Taskforce at (203) 327-9786.

Workshop – A Success

On Saturday, January 31st, more than 125 people representing more than 55 different organizations gathered at the Stamford Marine Center for the third annual Environmental Leader's Workshop. This day-long conference, drawing the largest number of participants in the event's history, centered its attentions on six key issues of importance to the Long Island Sound region.

The keynote address by Russell Brenneman began the day's agenda. Excerpts from his speech appear on the front page of this issue and his message is a terse and concise overview of what the private citizen concerned with his or her environment will face in the coming decade. The rest of the day was spent attending two of six workshops. The following is a brief overview of the content of each workshop.

Toxics and ground water contamination: As the number one environmental issue for the Long Island Sound region, a full understanding of the administrative framework and of the individual efforts of the various agencies involved is necessary before this problem can be effectively managed. Who bears the burden of cleanup costs and the syndrome of "not in my backyard you don't" will be major concerns.

Marine Education: Marine careers are not limited to marine biologists and oceanographers. Examples of marine careers also include computer programmer, fisherman, and ocean engineer. Marine educators should work to define and clarify opportunities that exist in the marine field. The workshop also stressed the need for a post-graduate rather than a liberal arts approach to marine science. While exposure to marine science at the grade school and college level is valuable; it can not replace post graduate work.

CZM: Concern over the failure of New York to pass CZM legislature; greater effort to coordinate long range planning efforts between both states; further public education concerning the vital importance of the coastal zone and Long Island Sound; and the question of how CAM can be strengthened, were all discussed at this workshop.

Long Island Sound Heritage: Given the need for greater public access to the Sound, a Heritage Bill should be enacted for the Sound. It was generally agreed that the present proposed legislation should be reviewed prior to resubmission in order to tighten the wording and the cost of the Heritage program. A coalition will be formed to gain passage of this legislation.

Containment: Traditionally dredged material has been disposed of two ways: upland and open-water. A third method, in wide use in other parts of the U.S. is containment. A reconnaissance report as part of a study to determine the feasibility of creating containment facilities in Long Island Sound was just completed under the direction of the Army Corps of Engineers. This study suggests that while large containment facilities are not practical for the Sound, smaller facilities might represent an alternative to open water disposal. A series of public workshops along with the initiation of preliminary design and environmental analysis for potential sites in Long Island Sound are part of phase two work.

Marine Sanitation Devices: As written, the "Holding Tank Law" is unenforceable and not practical for the marine environment. Three possible solutions exist: maintaining the status quo which is clearly unworkable for Long Island Sound; achieving legislative review; or costly court action to rewrite the Bill. In the interim, there is a need for an educational effort which would inform the boater of the whereabouts of highly sensitive areas such as bathing areas, mooring areas, and shellfish beds. These are the areas where "no discharge" should be achieved regardless of what legislation reads.

Celestial Offer

LIST will offer a twelve week course in practical celestial navigation. To be held at the Stamford Marine Center, classes will be held every Thursday beginning March 5, 1981.

Interested individuals must have a working knowledge of coastal navigation including charts, course plotting, DR computation, compass conversion, bearings, fixes and running fixes. The course will cover the sextant and its use, the celestial sphere, the nautical almanac, sight reduction methods, time and the construction and use of plotting sheets. Students will gain practical experience in taking sights on the sun, moon, planets, and stars.

Mr. Robert Gelderman of Riverside will conduct the course. He is the former squadron education officer for the Sound Beach Power Squadron, and has been an instructor of celestial navigation for four years. Bob points out that while the course requires a good background in coastal navigation, it does not require any mathematics higher than simple arithmetic.

The cost of this course is \$85 for LIST members and \$95 for others. The fee includes all instructional materials. Space is limited; call (203) 327-9786 for information and reservations.

Need a Tax Write Off? Donate a Freezer!

Thanks to a generous donation from IBM the Resource Room at the Marine Center has had a face lift. We now have more tanks on display and more critters than ever to feed. Our long and short-horn sculpins are devouring our food supply at an alarming rate, not to mention the crabs, lobsters and of course "Bruce" and "Taut," our oyster toad and blackfish.

If you have an old freezer that still works kicking around the basement or garage, give us a call or just bring it on down. The "kids" will appreciate it.

The Taffrail

The Taffrail is published 12 times a year by The Long Island Sound Taskforce. LIST offices are in the Stamford Marine Center, Magee Avenue, Stamford, Ct. 06902; (203) 327-9786.

LIST activities are coordinated by a Board of Directors which includes: Ann Marie Bury, Jane Chapman, Garrison Corwin, Jr., Walter Crane, Andrew Egeressy, Art Glowka, Haynes Johnson, John McDonald, George Rodenhause, Christopher Roosevelt, Dan Sortwell, Wayne Stout, Thomas C. Jackson, Suzi Wilkins, John Raben, Shelley Hubbard, and Bob Gasparrini, Whitney C. Tilt serves as LIST's Executive Director.

The Taffrail is edited by Whitney C. Tilt at the Stamford Marine Center.

Sail With The Whales!

Come aboard the 95-foot schooner HARVEY GAMAGE for an exciting week of whale watching, sail training, sea bird spotting and just plain ordinary good fun and fellowship.

Under the guidance of naturalist Whitney Tilt, Executive Director of the Long Island Sound Taskforce, the Oceanic Society is offering two unique opportunities to discover the whales and wildlife off the New England coast sailing aboard the romantic schooner, HARVEY GAMAGE. Sharing delicious downeast food and the gentle fresh winds of early summer, the 34 participants will be accommodated in spacious, clean, private staterooms, each with washing facilities.

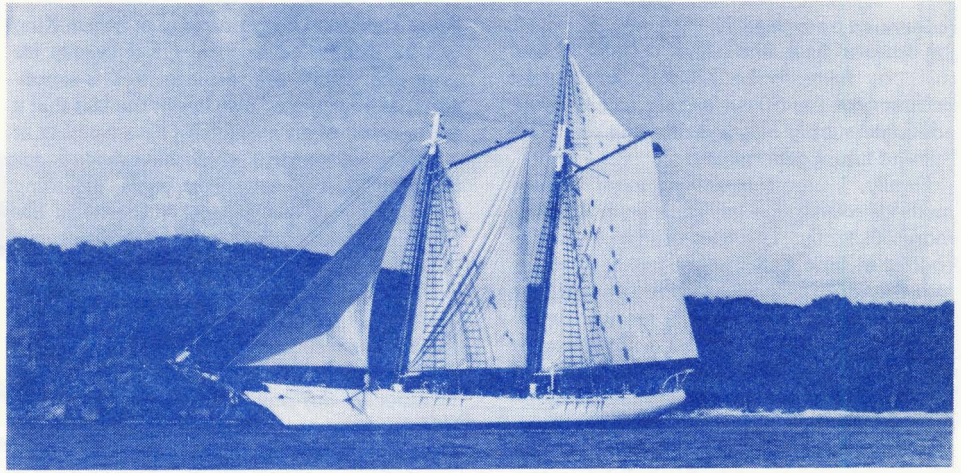
June 20-27, *Mystic to Mystic, Conn.*

For six and a half days cruise from Mystic Seaport, through Block Island Sound and the Elizabeth Islands, to Nantucket, outside of Cape Cod to Stellwagen Bank (whale territory!), down through Cape Cod Bay and the Canal, crossing Buzzards Bay, then to the south of Newport and Narragansett Bay to Point Judith and return to Mystic for the "Windjammer Weekend" featuring commercial sailing vessels over the June 27-28 weekend. Whale spotting techniques, bird watching, wildlife observation, sail training and navigation, and relaxation and enjoyment will highlight every moment along this beautiful New England coast.

June 28-July 4,

Mystic, Conn. to Rockland, Me.

Another glorious six and a half days aboard the 'GAMAGE, cruising through Block Island Sound with birding trips from the Great Salt Pond on Block Island, across Rhode Island Sound to Buzzards Bay and the Cape Cod Canal, crossing Cape Cod and Massachusetts Bays all day whale watching, visit Gloucester, stop at the Isles of Shoals (possible lobster cookout), continue on to Monhegan Island for a full day of exploring and birding, with the final day's sail-



ing into picturesque Rockland harbor on Independence Day!

The HARVEY GAMAGE is registered in the United States, Coast Guard inspected, and fully in compliance with all insurance and safety codes. With a diesel auxiliary engine and full communications and navigational electronics, the 'GAMAGE creatively blends the traditions of a wooden sailing ship with the comfort and safety of modern technology.

We encourage anyone seriously interested in these programs to immediately contact Whitney Tilt at the Stamford offices (203) 327-9786 or Tim McBreen at Oceanic Society Expeditions (415) 441-1106. At \$425 per person for each trip, these programs are going to be popular and your early reservation is advisable.

Special note — If your group is interested in Dive Programs or Fishing Trips, please write or call for information on chartering the R/V Oceanic.

New Educational Programs

New programs in addition to existing educational programs are being offered in 1981. These additions focus on important topics relating to Long Island Sound, and better address the needs of schools and other groups participating in our programs. While the majority of the participants in our programs are school groups, many of the offerings are suitable for clubs, families, and other non-academic groups.

Commercial fishing is an important area that provides jobs and food for people in the Sound region. In the new offering, *Sound Commercial Fisheries*, a new Study Cruise Program, individuals observe the skill of net mending and get a chance to try it themselves; set and retrieve lobster traps; and experience the different methods of netting fish. The entire cruise is designed to allow the individual to begin to understand commercial fishing on Long Island Sound, and to impress upon them the need for fisheries management.

Another offering is designed for those interested in learning about the coast but do not have the time for an in-depth study. *Coast Walk* participants will see the different habitats which make up the coastal zone while hearing about the functioning of the system and looking at typical life forms of each habitat.

New sites for field studies are now available. While we will consider doing a program at a site of your choosing, we have expanded two of our field study programs to locations other than Cove Park in Stamford. A *Marsh Study* is now offered at Sherwood Island in Westport, and *Introduction to Intertidal Life and Physical Oceanography* at Seaside Park in Bridgeport. These areas are excellent for these studies and may be closer to perspective groups making it more convenient to participate.

"Profile of a harbor — pollution?," "Habitat analysis — a comparative study," and a slide program on the marine life of Long Island Sound are examples of other programs being offered as part of the Oceanic Society's educational outreach. If you would like more details concerning these programs, please write Skip Crane for our new educational brochure.

Rye Marshlands Threatened

The development of high-income housing versus the preservation of open space for public usage has once again become an issue in Westchester County.

The New York Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church plans to sell 17 of the 23.5 acres adjacent to the Rye Marshlands Conservancy. Past financial problems coupled with raising maintenance costs are cited. The issue arises around the question of: to whom the land will be sold, and for what purpose?

Approximately one year ago, the United Methodist Church tentatively arranged for the 17 acre piece to be sold to a private developer who planned to erect 31 single family homes, 54 townhouses, or office buildings. Outraged at such a proposal, the Friends of Marshlands and some 20 other concerned organizations organized to oppose the sale.

The Rye Marshlands Conservancy is a 137 acre ecological preserve which forms one of the major wetland systems remaining virtually intact throughout Long Island Sound. For the western end of the Sound, the Marshlands is unique and the preserve is presently utilized for a broad variety of educational, aesthetic, and recreational uses.

Presently the fate of the 17 acres, valuable as a buffer zone and aesthetic protection of the salt marsh, is undecided.

A moratorium has been announced and Westchester County, as owner of the Marshlands Preserve, has taken a genuine interest in buying the contested piece of land. The final outcome is not known and further support of Westchester County's purchase of the land is needed. A letter to Alfred Del Bello, County Executive of Westchester, expressing your concern will help.

For more information, please contact John Guarnaccia, President of the Friends of Marshlands at (914) 967-3200, or the Friends of Marshlands at (914) 835-4466.

(continued from page 1)

ing toward new and safer waste disposal methods have to be among our highest priorities for the 80's if we are to assure an adequate supply of good drinking water for this and future generations.

Finally, I urge the development of new methods to manage environmental disputes more efficiently. The cost of environmental conflict in time and money has been enormous over the past decade, as anyone knows who has tried to raise money for environmental litigation or as any developer has found as he has watched inflation escalate the cost of his proposal while a lawsuit dragged through the courts. Endless hearings in contested proceedings before licensing agencies or resort to the judicial system certainly are necessary in some instances, but the results are often unsatisfactory from any perspective. A worthwhile project too long delayed may become uneconomical. An agency found after a spirited court appeal to have violated some procedural rule may simply turn around and take the action correctly the second time. Intervenor with worthwhile positions may give up because funds are lacking. The cost of the existing conflict management system, if one can call it that, may simply be so great it does not match any benefit to any of the participants in a given circumstance.

An encouraging development is the emergence of environmental mediation. The celebrated Storm King case was recently finally resolved not in the courts but through the mediation of Russell E. Train, the former Environmental Protection Agency Administrator and present President of the World Wildlife Fund. On the one hand, plans for a huge hydroelectric power plant at Storm King Mountain were abandoned and operational restrictions were imposed on generating stations on the Hudson River to protect marine life. On the other hand, Con Ed and other utilities were relieved of an obligation to construct cooling towers at existing Hudson

River stations. Utility property at Storm King will be distributed to local governments for park use. While the result in itself is significant, its importance also lies in the fact that it is the result of an agreement by a number of agencies and groups which have been feuding and litigating for many years, including several utilities, the Power Authority of the State of New York, the Natural Resources Defense Council and the citizen's group Scenic Hudson, Inc.

In conclusion, and to return to my earlier theme, the national political changes are indeed significant to environmentalists, whether or not one agrees with William K. Riley's recent pronouncement that: "The environmental decade is indeed over." The emphasis on unfettering the free enterprise system from governmental restraints finds expression in the Sagebrush Rebellion, the highly critical report on EPA by the Heritage Foundation, and the motto of the legal foundation recently headed by our new Secretary of the Interior: "Private rights, private freedoms, and private enterprise." Certain elements of the industrial and business community will lead an aggressive assault upon environmental regulations, many of which are no more than a decade old, and there is no doubt that the bottom line for business looks better if the cost of environmental protection is deleted from the profit and loss statement. The market system is insensitive to costs paid by the environment.

But there is another side to this. It is indeed of this country's essence to assure personal rights and protect the freedom of each individual to become what he or she can be. But those rights and that freedom of opportunity belong to future generations as well as our own. If in the exercise of our own rights and freedoms we diminish the rights and freedoms of others in generations to come we have not been faithful to our responsibilities and the trust upon which this nation was founded.

This obvious truth is recognized by many,

including some in positions of political leadership and influential members of the industrial and business communities. The party elected to power in November, after all, claims within its tradition the most prominent public protector of American natural resources in the person of President Theodore Roosevelt; and that tradition is not dead. The limitations of the free market are recognized by some of those close to the Reagan administration. As George Will recently wrote:

(T)horoughgoing materialism (which) cannot give the right answer because, preoccupied with tangible things, it cannot frame the question.

The question is: What will be the irrecoverable cost to precious intangibles — our capacity for awe; our moral imagination; our sense of nature, including human nature as a realm of values — when we regard the world around and within us just as raw material in the service of our (by then necessarily) vagrant passions and imperious appetites?

Environmental conservationists would do well to seek out and support those elements within the new administration and its advisors, as well as those in the business and industrial communities, who see the wisdom of Mr. Will's remarks.

Douglas Costle's last letter to outgoing President Carter confidently stated that the environment has become cleaner over the last decade. Will we be able to say the same ten years from now? Therein lies the challenge of the eighties.

Russell Brenneman is the former President of the Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority and is presently a lawyer in private practice with over 25 years of experience in the field. This text is an excerpt from a speech he delivered to the 1981 Environmental Leader Workshop on January 31, 1981.



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