



# The Tidal Exchange

~E-news~

Of the



New York-New Jersey  
Harbor & Estuary Program

*News and upcoming events in the harbor!*

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## NEW CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE CO-CHAIR

### HEP welcomes Rob Buchanan, honors Roland Lewis

March 23, Elizabeth, NJ - The Citizens Advisory Committee of the NY-NJ Harbor Estuary Program honored Roland Lewis, former NY Co-Chair (and President of Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance), and welcomed Rob Buchanan, newly-elected NY Co-Chair. Lewis' leadership was celebrated by all at [Future City, Inc.](#) in New Jersey. Michelle Doran-McBean (CEO of Future City, Inc.) is the New Jersey Co-Chair.



HEP celebrated Roland's leadership in Elizabeth, NJ at the March CAC meeting (credit: Rob Buchanan)



Rob Buchanan was welcomed as the new NY Co-Chair (pictured here at the Village Community Boathouse)

Rob Buchanan is an assistant professor at Eugene Lang College, the undergraduate liberal arts arm of The New School, where he teaches journalism and environmental studies. He is a co-founder and board member of the Village Community Boathouse, on Pier 40 in Manhattan, and the Brooklyn Bridge Park Boathouse, and a co-founder and steering committee member of the New York City Water Trail Association.

## GET ON THE WATER WITH PEOPLE-POWERED BOATS

### Getting to in-season for the out-of-doors

It's that time of year...the sun is beginning to shine a little longer; 70 degrees is almost within reach - time to start thinking about getting out on the water! You don't need to have your own boat to paddle out on your local waterway. There are many public paddling and rowing programs throughout the estuary. We've highlighted a few programs and events here, but this is by no means a full list!

Learn how to **row Whitehall Gigs** in NYC at the [Village Community Boathouse](#), [East River Crew](#), or [Floating the Apple](#).

**Paddle** throughout the Hackensack, Passaic, Rahway, and Raritan Rivers with the [Hackensack RiverKeeper](#), [Passaic River Boat Club](#), [Cranford Canoe Club](#), [New York-New Jersey Baykeeper and Raritan Riverkeeper](#), and the [Jersey Shore Kayak Association](#).

Go **urban-kayaking** and



**canoeing** in New York with the [Gowanus Dredgers](#), [Long I. City Boathouse](#), [North Brooklyn Boat Club](#), and the [Yonkers Paddling & Rowing Club](#). Venture further south and get out in Jamaica Bay with the [Sebago Canoe Club](#)! Rowers head up the East River in a Whitehall Gig (credit: East River CREW)

Try something you've **never done before** and [learn how to Kayak Polo](#) or go sliding-seat-rowing the [Harlem River](#).

### Two big events to look forward to this summer:

**June 8th:** paddlers will be getting out on the water all over the world in a celebration of World Oceans Day, and as part of the [Sacred Waters Honor Journey](#).

**July 14:** [City of Water Day](#), a bi-state celebration of everything on-water, will be held at Governor's Island, NY, Liberty State Park, and other locations near you. Free boating, education, music and arts activities will be happening throughout the day at all locations!

Check out some other events [here](#)..

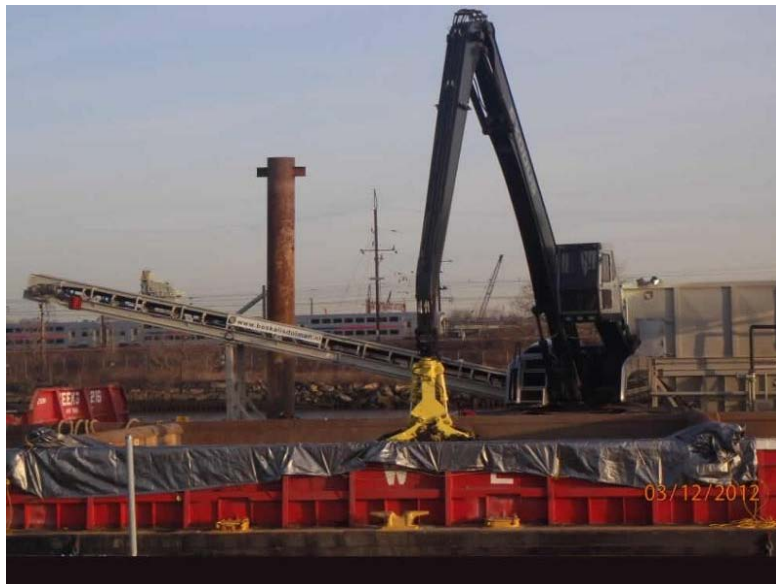
**Have access to a boat?** Find a public access site near you - request a copy of our [Harbor Estuary Paddling Guide](#), or find New Jersey and New York launch sites and guidance online: [NY-NJ Harbor & Estuary Program](#)  
[New York City Water Trail Assn.](#)  
[New Jersey Boat Ramps and Pumpouts](#)

Don't forget to [paddle responsibly](#)!

## PASSAIC RIVER SUPERFUND CLEANUP MOVES FORWARD

### Phase I Removal Action 25% complete

The first phase of Passaic River cleanup is moving forward. Dredging of 40,000 cubic yards of the most heavily contaminated river sediments, adjacent to the former Diamond Alkali plant, started in March and is expected to be completed by the end of the year.



Dredged material is off-loaded for debris removal and transfer to the Upland Processing Facility

To keep track of the cleanup and view photos of the site, check out [www.passaicremovalaction.com](http://www.passaicremovalaction.com). Progress reports are posted weekly.

### EELS ARRIVING EARLIER AND RECORDED IN GREATER NUMBERS BY CITIZEN SCIENTISTS IN NEW YORK

#### NY State works with volunteers to gather eel counts

April 3, Albany, NY - Students and volunteers throughout the Hudson Valley have been working with the New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation to track juvenile American Eel numbers this spring, the Department [announced](#).



Now in its fifth year, the project is expanding to include new sites in New York City. In addition to a

larger program and this greater effort, eels have been arriving about a month earlier than usual this year, and in greater numbers than when the project started in 2008. [Read more...](#)

Eels are arriving earlier and in larger numbers this year (source: NYSDEC)

### A MUSKRAT SWIMS IN THE HUDSON

#### Spotted under the GW Bridge...

Mark A. Gluck of Rutgers University spotted a surprising sight near the Little Red Lighthouse in upper Manhattan, NYC last week. The muskrat, *Ondatra zibethicus*, is a native inhabitant that feeds on the roots and stems of aquatic vegetation and usually prefers heavily vegetated fresh or brackish wetland habitats. Muskrats may also feed on animal matter during peaks in availability of invertebrates. Though they don't hibernate during the winter, muskrats usually don't begin breeding until around this time of year (April), with their first litters often born in May.





A muskrat is spotted at the Little Red Lighthouse under the George Washington Bridge (photos: Mark A Gluck).

## TALL SHIPS COME TO THE HARBOR IN MAY

### OpSail commemorates War of 1812 Bicentennial

Between May 23-30, [Operation Sail](#) will be [coming through the Harbor](#) for the Bicentennial of the War of 1812. Tall ships from all over the world (Colombia, Brazil, France, Indonesia, to name a few) will be berthed at the Intrepid piers at West 46 street in Manhattan, the Sullivans Pier on Staten Island, and other locations in Brooklyn throughout the event.



Tall ships will be coming in May to celebrate the bicentennial of the War of 1812 (source: Opsail)

The Urban Divers Estuary Conservancy will be hosting an

EcoCruise on Saturday, May 26 (rain date May 27) to view the ships from their 32-foot canoe. [More details...](#)

### NEW SPECIES DISCOVERED ON STATEN ISLAND?

#### Rutgers student discovers new species of leopard frog

While listening for the mating call of the Southern Leopard frog in 2009 on Staten Island, doctoral candidate Jeremy Feinberg noticed a different sound. Three years later, Feinberg and a team of scientists have finally determined that this is in fact a new species of Leopard frog, known so far only to New York and a number of surrounding counties.



This frog may be unique to the metropolitan region (NY Times/Brian Curry)

Finding a new species in one of the most populated centers of the world is surprising. Its current range is currently considered from near Trenton, NJ north to Putnam, NY, though this may change if more specimens are found elsewhere. It is at this point, however, considered to be relatively rare. [Read the full article...](#)

### BROOKLYN BRIDGE PARK CONSTRUCTION PROGRESSES

#### The East River's greenway continues to expand

Completion of the conversion of Pier 5 into open Park land is now underway and is planned for the fall of this year. To check out construction progress and plans, [click here.](#)



Construction underway at Pier 5 (source: Brooklyn Bridge Park)

## UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

For more events, check out our [calendar](#). To post your Estuary-related event in our calendar, [please send us the details!](#)

### SAVE THE DATES:

**April 14: [River Talks @ Beczak](#):** Hudson River Dredging Update.

**April 14:** NJ Watershed Ambassadors **Volunteer monitoring workshop** 9-3:00 pm at Warren Co. Community College in Washington, NJ. Contact [Lauren Smith](#) for more information.

**April 14:** Opening Celebration at the [Science Barge!](#) 2-6:00 pm 99 dock St. Yonkers, NY.

**April 15-19: [Northeast Natural History Conference](#)** in Syracuse, NY.

**April 17: How's the Water? How's the Gowanus?** [More...](#)

**April 26-27:** SETAC Conference: [Is Green Sustainable: Environmental Aspects](#) at Montclair University.

**April 28: [Take a tour](#)** of the Old Croton Aqueduct with NYCH2O

**May 3: OSU webinar - three tools to address water-related climate adaptation in your community** [More...](#)

**May 7:** HRES Conference: [Clean Water Act at 40](#) at Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, NY.

**May 8:** Hudson River Foundation Seminar: [River Herring: Past, Present, and Future?](#) by Karin Limburg.

**May 12: The Great Sawmill River Cleanup** [More...](#)

**May 15 & 16: [22nd Annual Nonpoint Source Pollution Conference](#)** in New Hampshire. Early registration **through April 27**.

**May 15-31 and June 1-15: Call for citizen-scientists!** - NJ Audubon is recruiting for the Lower Raritan Bird Survey. [More...](#)

**May 18-19: MWA 2012 Waterfront Conference - *Our Harbor: An Environmental Engine and Economic Resource*** ([Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance](#), NYC) [More details...](#)

**June 5:** HRF Seminar: [Vulnerability of Hudson River Atlantic Sturgeon to Coastal Bycatch](#) by Isaac Wirgin.

**June 8: Sacred Honor Journey** [More details...](#)

**June 14: Fourth Annual Raritan River Conference: *Raritan River Restoration: Our Communities, Our Land, Our Water, Our***

*Future* (Duke Farms, Hillsborough, NJ). For more information or to inquire about giving a presentation, contact [Judy Shaw](#).

**June 19-20 Save-the-Date: Citizen Science Workshops** will be held by EPA, Region 2 in NYC on June 19 and in Edison, NJ on June 20. Registration, agenda, and details to come...

**July 14: City of Water Day** [More details...](#)

**October 19: Fifth Passaic River Symposium** at Montclair University.

#### FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES:

**Funding available for a study of contamination of the Raritan River in NJ:** [\\$100,000 is available from EPA](#) to study contaminated sites and other sources of pollution impacting water quality in the lower and middle Raritan River. **Deadline:** April 23

**Training & Technical Assistance Grants for public water & wastewater systems:** [\\$14.5 million in awards](#) for small systems. **Deadline:** April 13

**TNC-NOAA Community-based Habitat Restoration Grants.** Typical grants will be in the range of \$25,000-\$85,000 for restoration projects that benefit fish and shellfish around the coastal United States. Proposals are due by April 13, 2012. [More info...](#)

**EPA Citizen Science - Community Involvement Today and in the Future.** A total of \$125,000 for five to 10 New York City "Citizen Science" projects related to air or water pollution. Grant applications accepted **through April 20, 2012.** [More info...](#)

**NAWCA U.S. Standard Grants:** \$40 million in awards ranging from \$75,001-1 million is available [for restoration or enhancement](#) benefiting wetlands-associated migratory birds. **Deadlines: July 27.** See [Grants.gov](#) funding announcement.

**PUBLIC COMMENT & MEETING OPPORTUNITIES:**  
**Jamaica Bay Waterbody/Watershed Facility Plan - [comment period](#)** closes April 13.

**Design Standards for Intermediate-Sized Wastewater Treatment Systems:** NY State Dept. of Env. Conservation has extended its [comment period](#) to April 30.

#### AWARDS & OTHER OPPORTUNITIES:

**Apply for the Environmental Excellence Awards:** New York State Department of Environmental Conservation is accepting applications for the 9th annual Environmental Excellence Awards. [Read more...](#) **Deadline:** May 18.

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