

Community Science LI Educational Webinars Year 2

Participating in community science (participatory science) is an easy, fun, and interesting way for the general public to contribute to local environmental management while engaging in individual environmental stewardship.

New York Sea Grant and the Seatuck Environmental Association first hosted Community Science LI in 2021 to encourage local stewardship through wildlife education and engagement in participatory science. The monthly online series hosts researchers and local environmental and resource managers to discuss the natural history of a species and share opportunities for volunteers to get involved in local monitoring programs.

In 2022, partners from other Long Island estuary programs joined the Community Science LI outreach effort, helping to organize and host the series' second iteration, which ran from July through November. Webinars in 2022 featured monitoring programs for eelgrass, oysters, sharks, Long Island mammals, the invasive spotted lanternfly, ospreys, and eagles. More than 210 total participants joined the workshops, with many excited to ask questions about the featured animals and share their observations with guest speakers.

The successful launch and continuation of the Community Science LI webinar series promotes local environmental education and engagement by providing a platform for resource managers to talk about wildlife conservation and how people can get involved in monitoring programs near to them.



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Oysters

Maureen Dunn, Seatuck Environmental Association
Rob Crafa, SUNY Maritime College and Oyster Bay Cold Spring Harbor Protection Committee
Kim Tetrault, Cornell Cooperative Extension



Community Science LI 2022

The Community Science LI webinar featuring oysters highlighted Seatucks's Half Shells for Habitat program, Oyster Bay Cold Spring Harbor Protection Committee's oyster gardening program, and Cornell Cooperative Extension's Suffolk Project in Aquaculture Training.

Community Science LI 2021-2022 Webinar Presentations:

<https://seatuck.org/community-science-webinars>

Partners:

- Seatuck Environmental Association
- Peconic Estuary Partnership
- South Shore Estuary Reserve
- **Funding:** Long Island Sound Study program

An educator attending several of the Community Science LI webinars, including one on osprey and eagle monitoring, used the series to discuss different ways to collect data with a research class. Photo: Doug Kelley, Unsplash



The Sea Grant Focus Area for this project is Environmental Literacy and Workforce Development in New York.

New York Sea Grant is a joint program of Cornell University, the State University of New York, and NOAA.
Contact: New York Sea Grant Extension, 112 Rice Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853; www.nyseagrant.org.

Project summary was written by NYSG Long Island Sound Study Outreach Coordinator Jimena Perez-Viscasillas, 631-632-8730, jbp255@cornell.edu.