



## Long Island South Shore Estuary Learning Facilitator (sSELF) Project

The New York State Marine Education Association (NYSMEA)  
 In cooperation with the Long Island South Shore Estuary Reserve Office  
 Supported by the ERM Foundation

December 2008

The sSELF project empowers school and/or community groups to be active stewards of their local estuarine environment through education and monitoring. The Estuary Learning Facilitator (ELF) visited the schools, worked with the groups and facilitated a monitoring/action project at a particular site of interest to the group. The sSELF program supplied the materials and equipment necessary and training for the group members

Each of the participating groups was visited twice at their schools by the project ELF (Lou Siegel), who demonstrated the monitoring equipment to be used and provided a PowerPoint presentation on the estuary and monitoring strategies. Prospective monitoring sites were visited either before or after the presentation and photos and maps were included in the presentation. In addition, a group presentation was given to potential leaders. Another presentation was made to a Dowling College graduate class of science and math teachers.



Ten groups representing a diversity of educational interests participated in the program beginning in June of 2007 and running through the end of the 2007-2008 school year. Several groups continued over the summer and have begun measurements for the new school year. The groups to which training programs were presented include: Bay Port-Bluepoint, Sayville, Patchogue-Medford, West Islip, North Babylon, Farmingdale and Bayshore High Schools and The research class at East Islip Middle School. Operation SPLASH joined the sSELF monitoring program and has been monitoring 3 stations in



cooperation with the Nassau County Soil and Water Conservation District. In addition, a group of interested high school freshman students, organized as the Great South Bay Buddies, supervised by one of the parents also began monitoring in June of 2007.

The participating groups have recorded over 300 data sets of chemical and atmospheric data at 15 different stations. The data are placed on a database which is instantly available on the web at [www.nysmea.org/sSELF](http://www.nysmea.org/sSELF). In May of 2008 a symposium was held at Dowling College where the students presented their data. Two of the students won high honors at the regional science fairs with projects related to their sSELF research. One of the students was selected to represent Long Island at the state competition in Albany.

\$8,000 was awarded by the Environmental Resource Monitoring Foundation (ERM,) for sSELF in calendar year 2007. Elizabeth Mikucky-Fleury and Ernie Rossano of the Long Island ERM office are the liaisons to the project.

NYSMEA has recently been notified that the program has been funded again by the ERM Foundation for \$7,000 for 2009.



West Islip Great APES (Advanced Placement Environmental Science) in the field (above left,) and presenting their data at the Dowling symposium.

[www.NYSMEA.org](http://www.NYSMEA.org)

[www.estuary.cog.ny.us](http://www.estuary.cog.ny.us)

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