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January 2017 E-  
Newsletter

### From the Baykeeper

2016 was quite a year! What struck me most is how individual actions can add up to make a big difference. For example, you may not think you make a big difference when you call us to pump out waste from your boat rather than dumping it overboard, but together we prevented 30,000 gallons of waste and chemicals going into our local waterways last year. Each time you pick up a piece of plastic from our beaches you reduce the plastic smog accumulating in our waterways when that plastic breaks down into hundreds of pieces. What we all do matters, now more than ever, and NY/NJ Baykeeper looks forward to working with you in 2017 for greener, cleaner communities!

Debbie Mans

NY/NJ Baykeeper

### Upcoming Events

Owl Prowl

### Action Alert!

New York State Senator Felder has reintroduced a bill ([S362](#)) to block implementation of New York City's bag fee which is scheduled to take effect in February 15th. There's a rumor that the bill is moving quickly through the Senate, and could be voted on in committee as early as this week. Call Your Senator to express your opposition to S362. Now more than ever it's time to protect local victories and end plastic pollution!

#### How to Help:

Call your NY Senator. To find out who your Senator is click [here](#). Suggested script:

Hi, my name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I'm a constituent in Senator \_\_\_\_\_'s district. I'm calling to express my opposition to Senate Bill 362. The bill would preempt NYC's bag law that's set to go into effect February 15th. NYC's law was the result of years of advocacy and compromise and NYC deserves a chance to show that a fee will significantly reduce plastic litter. I urge Senator \_\_\_\_\_ to oppose S362.

[Click here](#) for more ways to  
#BeTheSolution2PlasticPollution.

### Staff Picks! Mitch's Top 5 Environmental Ted Talks

Get inspired by these 5 ideas:

1. [Vertical Ocean Farming, Bren Smith](#)
2. [Greening the Ghetto, Majora Carter](#)

January 15, 2017,  
2:30PM  
Gateway National  
Recreational Area  
210 New York Ave.  
Staten Island, NY  
Learn about owls and  
their habitats by hiking  
along the East Pond.  
[Click here](#) for more  
information.

Speak to Your  
Government More  
Effectively: A  
Workshop with  
Environmental Law  
Professor Cymie Payne  
January 19, 2017,  
6:00PM  
Labyrinth Books  
122 Nassau Street  
Princeton, NJ 08540  
[Click here](#) for more  
information.

Winter Twilight  
Exploration  
January 21, 2017,  
4:30PM  
Sandy Hook  
Lighthouse Keepers  
Quarters  
FREE 1 mile walk.  
Bring a flashlight!

NJ Boat Sale and Expo  
February 16-19, 2017  
NJ Convention and  
Exposition Center  
97 Sunfield Ave,  
Edison, NJ  
[Click here](#) for more  
information.

NJ Land Conservation  
Rally  
March 17, 2017  
Hyatt Regency Hotel  
New Brunswick, NJ  
Register [here](#).

3. [Seas of Plastic, Captain Charles Moore](#)
4. [How Public Spaces Make Cities Work, Amanda Burden](#)
5. [Using Nature's Genius in Architecture, Michael Pawlyn](#)

### Working with Seventh Graders to Reduce Plastic Pollution

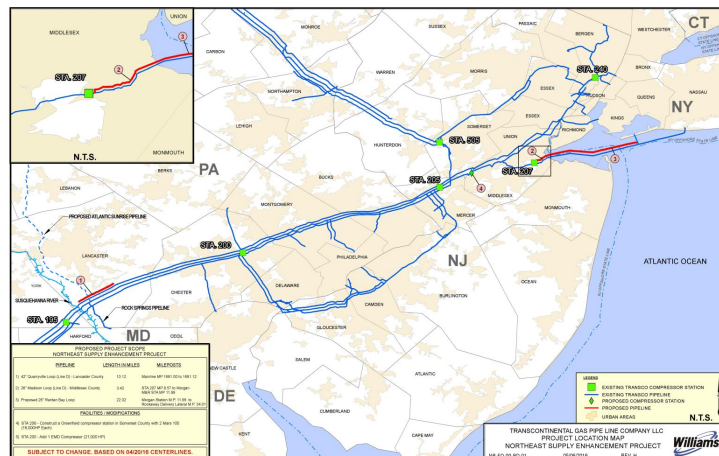


We've teamed up with seventh graders in Berkeley Heights to reduce plastic pollution in their local waterway, the Passaic River. Students collected plastic bottles to create sculptures of animals impacted by plastic waste. Students created a true-to-size 6 foot sea turtle and a killer whale 1/5 actual size. Going forward, we'll be working with Berkeley Heights Middle School to organize litter cleanups, and a school lunch plastic survey. [Click here](#) to view a time lapse video of students creating the turtle and killer whale plastic bottle sculptures. [Click here](#) to learn more about our Plastic Pollution Prevention Program!

### A More Waterway Friendly Way to Melt Ice

The chemicals found in your average ice melts can be harmful to your pets and our local waterways. For a more sustainable ice melt you can make at home, simply mix together rubbing alcohol, dish soap, and warm water. [Click here](#) for instructions!

### Project Update on Transco Pipeline



Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company (Transco) is proposing to construct a 23.4 mile pipeline project through Raritan Bay to expand its

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**In the News**

[Restoring the Bay One Oyster at a Time](#)

[Concern Grows Over Tremley Point Contaminants](#)

[Pollution Settlement Money to Aid NJ Waterways](#)

existing transmission system to transport natural gas from the Marcellus Shale region to New York. If built, the pipeline will disrupt your fishing, boating, and recreational activities! Construction of the pipeline would also disrupt habitat for clams, horseshoe crabs, fish, and other marine mammals. Transco plans to file its application and final resource reports with the FERC by March 2017. Upon receipt of a complete application, the Commission will outline how the public can comment on the project. Stay tuned and [click here](#) for more information.

**Stay Involved via Text Messaging**

Text WATER to 732-416-7332 to receive bi-weekly text updates about what's being done to improve your local waterways and how you can help!

**We're Hiring!**

Click the positions below for more details.

[Community Outreach Fellow](#)  
[Staff Attorney](#)

Protecting, preserving, and restoring the NY/NJ Harbor Estuary since 1989.

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