Boating with the Baymen:
Superstorm Sandy and Long Island Canals

Saturday, October 13
1:30–4:30 pm

All on board the Miss Freeport
Departure from 85 Woodcleft Avenue, Freeport

I
n the western bays of Long Island’s south shore Superstorm Sandy damaged thousands of local homes and canals, some of which were built in the 1920s when the south shore was first developed. Come aboard as we hear from local residents who were displaced, and how parks and public workers coped in the aftermath. Featured presenters include Long Beach historian Doug Sheer, former Jones Beach Superintendent Sue Guiliani, and Freeport residents Al and Artie Grover.

Reservations are required!
Space is limited so reserve early.
Cost is $50/person, $20 for children under 16. $5 discount for Long Island Traditions members. A prix-fixe lunch at Nawlins is also available for an additional $20.

To reserve your seat call us at (516) 767-8803 to confirm that space is available, and send a check payable to Long Island Traditions, 382 Main Street, Port Washington, NY 11050 or visit www.longislandtraditions.org.
Long Island Traditions Inc.
Dedicated to the documentation and preservation of Long Island’s living cultural heritage.

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Tobay Boat Show “Working the Waters” Program
September 30 (Raindate September 29)

Long Island Traditions will present its 6th annual “Working the Waters: Maritime Culture of Long Island” program in collaboration with the NY Marine Trades Association “Tobay Boat Show” on Sunday, September 30 (raindate September 29) at Tobay Beach on the Ocean Parkway, east of Jones Beach in Massapequa, New York. “Working the Waters: Maritime Culture of Long Island” will present to the public first-hand accounts about the contemporary and historic traditions of commercial and recreational fishermen, the factors affecting these traditions and their future on Long Island in the wake of Superstorm Sandy and the decline of the bays.

Highlights of the event include baymen Fred Menges, Bill Fetzer, Chuck Tekula, boat model builder Chris Hale, sailmaker Peter Sherman among many others. There will also be family and children fishing lessons taught by master recreational fisherman Reed Riemer. Boat Show and Festival admission is $10 (seniors $8, children 12 and under are free) and will take place at Tobay Beach on Ocean Parkway in Massapequa. The event hours are Friday, September 28 at 12 pm - 6 pm, Saturday & Sunday, September 29 & 30 at 10 am - 6 pm. For more information, call Long Island Traditions at (516) 767-8803 or the NY Marine Trades Association at (631) 691-7050 or visit www.nyboatshows.com/Tobay.

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Waterfront Heroes Exhibit continued from page 1

October 14 is the grand opening reception at Staten Island Arts, located at 23 Navy Pier Road, at 5:30 pm. Earlier that day there will also be a series of free programs that include:

1:30 pm Staten Island Ferry Ride featuring storytellers
2:30 pm Walking Tour Along the North Shore of Staten Island
3:30 pm Flagship Brewery Tour & Tasting
5:30 pm VIP Exhibit Reception at Staten Island Arts

All are invited. In addition there will be storytelling program on Sunday, November 11 at Staten Island Arts featuring some of the heroes and other maritime tradition bearers. The program is at 1 pm and admission is free.

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Waterfront Heroes Profile: South Shore Waterfowlers

Once I did my first hunt with the group I was hooked...23 years later I’m still doing it. We do a lot of different shows and people come up to me and say “You can hunt ducks on Long Island? Where do you do that?” And I always smile and say anywhere from the Nassau Queens border, all the way out to Montauk, wrap around Orient and along the north shore until you hit the border again. Anything below the high tide mark is basically open water for duck hunting, with some exceptions.”

--Curt Matzinger

In 1953 a group of duck hunters got together so that they could learn from each other where to go hunting, and also find decoys and other equipment. Today the Association hosts events where men and women of all ages and backgrounds, newcomers and old-timers can share their knowledge of this legendary maritime tradition. These include skeet shoots (clay pigeons) and duck boat shows, and organized hunting parties during the winter hunting season. The club has completed habitat restoration projects, built platforms and duck blinds for veterans and those with physical disabilities, in order to make the traditional sport accessible to all. As Curt Matzinger explains, “we attract the birds by using decoys, which are a facsimile of the bird you’re going to hunt. In the beginning they were hand carved. We have a lot of very talented carvers in our club, the gentleman sitting next to me is one of them (George Rigby), and he can make a bird that when it’s on the water you think it’s alive and ready to fly away.”

Duck hunters must camouflage their boats so that they blend into the marshlands. According to George Rigby and Curt Matzinger “We learned from the best, a member, and good friend James Marron, who was a master of camouflaging using salt hay. If you do it right, you will blend in, will have the ducks landing on you. Ducks will not see you.

Hunting in the fog is challenging. You cannot see anything but you are where the birds want to be. You can hear them coming but it’s hard to get the shots, they move so fast in and out of fog. The most important things to know in order to have a good day of hunting are: you need to know legal shooting times, need to know your tides, need to know the wind direction to set up wind to your back. Birds fly into the wind.” George Rigby, a veteran hunter and decoy carver observes.

“The most important thing is safety. You have to watch the weather conditions. It can change in a heartbeat. My father and grandfather taught me the importance of getting back every night. Cell phones don’t always work out there. You take other people, you are responsible for them and to get them back.”

With all that goes into waterfowling, the most common reaction to those unfamiliar with the tradition is “all this for a duck?”

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