



NEWS RELEASE

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NFEC AND PECONIC GREEN GROWTH TO PRESENT A WATER FORUM GEARED FOR THE NORTH FORK

**“All Water is Connected and We Are All Connected to Water”
on Thursday, August 31st at 6:30 pm at the Southold Town Recreation Center**

MATTITUCK, NY (August 15, 2017) — The North Fork Environmental Council (NFEC), together with Peconic Green Growth, will be sponsoring a community forum geared specifically for North Fork residents and businesses. The forum, “All Water is Connected and We Are All Connected to Water,” will feature four speakers from both the private and government sectors regarding our local water issues.

Over the past several years, there has been growing awareness on the water quality and water quantity issues facing Long Island residents and businesses. But those issues are as varied and complex as is the make up of the island which covers both very urban and very rural communities. Within these many communities, how fresh water is pumped, delivered to homes and businesses and then exits for some level of treatment is very different, as is the impact to marine waters.

Because the North Fork is vastly rural, relies on well water for the most part as well as uses septic systems for basic wastewater treatment, and has a strong recreational and economic link to our surrounding marine waters, broad discussions have been focused on other areas. “All Water is Connected and We Are All Connected to Water,” will present a more focused look at the North Fork and its water issues and solutions.

The forum's panel of experts will include:

- Glynis Berry, AIA, LEED AP, an architect, planner and director of the non-profit Peconic Green Growth. Glynis has conducted studies and organized and attended conferences about the environmental need for enhanced wastewater treatment across the country. www.peconicgreengrowth.org
- Sarah J. Meyland, MS, JD is a water specialist with a background in groundwater protection, water resources management and environmental law. Sarah is an Associate Professor in the Department of Environmental Technology and Sustainability, School of Engineering and Computing Sciences, where she teaches in the Master of Science Program at New York Institute of Technology. She was a founding member of the non-profit group, Water for Long Island. www.waterforlongisland.org
- Alison Branco, Ph.D. is the current Director of the Peconic Estuary Program (PEP). The PEP is a partnership of local, state, and federal governments, citizen and environmental groups, businesses and industries, and academic institutions. Its Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan contains 340 management tasks with priority topics including, Brown Tide, nutrients, habitat and living resources, pathogens, toxic pollutants and critical lands protection. www.peconicestuary.org
- Christopher Schubert, is a Supervisory Hydrologist with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) New York Water Science Center office on Long Island, where he's chief of the Environmental and Hydrologic Investigations Section. His work includes studies to better understand a variety of public and environmental health concerns, and projects to help inform and mitigate flooding and other natural hazards. <https://ny.water.usgs.gov/projects/SOTA/>

NFEC president Susan MacKenzie notes, "The NFEC was at the forefront of bringing concerns about declining water quality to North Fork residents and Town governments over a decade ago as pollutants, like temik, were being found in our water supplies. But as other parts of Long Island began to see and understand the growing water quality problems in their own communities, more groups got involved and the approach to addressing these concerns became more regional." Susan went on to say, "But just as the North Fork is a unique place with special geographic features, so are our water issues and potential solutions. That's why we felt it was time to make a new effort to focus the discussion on what is pertinent to North Fork residents and businesses, information that affects us and our future."

This presentation is free to the public. The event starts at 6:30 PM and will take place at the Southold Town Recreational Center, 970 Peconic Lane, Peconic, NY. Whether a local resident or business owner, we encourage you to attend to learn more about these issues and how they affect you...how they affect all of us. The panel will be happy to take questions from the audience.

The NFEC is a 501(c) (3) non-profit, grassroots organization dedicated to the preservation of land, sea, air and quality of life on Long Island's North Fork. Incorporated in 1972, the NFEC has a successful track record of over 40 years in raising public awareness of key environmental issues, increasing public participation in important town meetings and write-in campaigns, and continuing the fight to "Save What's Left!"

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