



*The Community Science LI 2021 webinar series developed by NYSG and Seatuck, with local scientists and researchers, highlighted the value of getting involved in local resource monitoring.*

## Showcasing Local Stewardship Opportunities: NYSG and Seatuck Host Community Science LI 2021

**D**ata collected through community science programs can contribute greatly to local conservation management. Outreach that connects the dots between these programs and their environmental impact can help encourage public participation in stewardship.

In 2021, from January to July, New York Sea Grant (NYSG) and the Seatuck Environmental Association hosted a series of seven webinars, each spotlighting a different wildlife or resource monitoring opportunity in Long Island. The webinars were scheduled to coincide with each monitoring season, and covered river herring, horseshoe crabs, river otters, diamond-back terrapins, and other species. Each session included presentations by a scientist or resource manager who set the stage for engaging participants in learning about the local natural history and related research around each topic. A monitoring program coordinator then discussed how volunteers can get involved in the local monitoring effort.

This 2021 series of seven webinars was well received by the public, attracting more than 530 participants. After the webinars, attendees reached out to ask further questions about how to learn more about a variety of efforts from monitoring for horseshoe crabs in their region to creating more bat habitat in Long Island. Via a survey process, 22% of participants reported becoming involved in a local monitoring program as a result of the Community Science LI 2021 outreach. Some educators reported sharing the series with their students, or using the recordings in their courses; one mentioned the series had been inspirational when thinking about incorporating community science into their curriculum; another reported that a group of Marine Biology teachers had been watching the marine-related webinars to center discussions around them.

### Project Partners:

- Long Island Sound Study
- Seatuck Environmental Association
- Peconic Estuary Partnership
- South Shore Estuary Reserve



*Diamondback terrapin monitoring efforts were featured in presentations by Seatuck and the Friends of Flax Pond in one of the seven Community Science LI 2021 webinars. Photo: Larissa Graham.*

*Community Science LI 2021 outreach helped promote local stewardship and education by providing a platform for resource managers to talk about wildlife conservation and how people can get involved in monitoring programs near them.*

*The 2021 webinar series recordings are online at <https://seatuck.org/community-science-webinars/>.*

**NYSG Focus Areas: Environmental Literacy & Workforce Development, Resilient New York Communities and Economies.**

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](http://www.nyseagrant.org).

*Project summary written by NYSG Long Island Sound Study Outreach Coordinator Jimena Perez-Viscasillas, 631-632-9216, [jbp255@cornell.edu](mailto:jbp255@cornell.edu).*