Annual Report

FY 2017

Restoring Moriches Bay, One Oyster at a Time

P.O. Box 203 Westhampton, NY 11977

Phone: 631.599.1864

Website: www.morichesbayproject.org

E-mail: morichesbayproject@gmail.com

Table of Contents

The Moriches Bay Project, founded in 2013, is an IRS approved 501 (c) 3 non-for-profit organization.

Our mission is to naturally clean up Moriches Bay by restoring oyster and clam shellfish populations to a sustainable level. These shellfish will naturally filter and clean the Bay.

MBP also restores eel grass beds and operates the M.B.O.S. to monitor the health of Moriches Bay.

To Our Shellholders _____ 1

Environmental & Educational Summary _____ 4

Financial Statements _____ 8

Contact Information _____ 10

Company Information _____ 10

Vito Minei (Cornell Cooperative Extension), Ed Romaine (Town of Brookhaven, Supervisor), Laura Fabrizio (Co-Founder of MBP) and Dan Panico (Town of Brookhaven, Councilman) inaugurate the first FLUPSY in Moriches Bay, hosted by the Windswept Marina in East Moriches, NY

To Our Shellholders

"Companies have stockholders, but The Moriches Bay Project has **Shellholders**"

Our **Shellholders** support us all year through donations of time, talent and money

Strategic Highlights

The Moriches Bay Project (MBP) achieved all of financial and program goals in 2017, including doubling the number of oysters placed into Moriches Bay to 400,000 from approximately 200,000 in 2016. We also substantially increased our Educational, School and Community Outreach programs by holding a total of seven (7) Bay Steward workshops and over 15 school and community outreach programs. We solidified the Moriches Bay Observation System (M.B.O.S.) by adding Nitrogen tracking on two (2) of our real-time water quality monitoring stations. Finally, we are collaborating with doctoral researchers studying eel grass restoration.

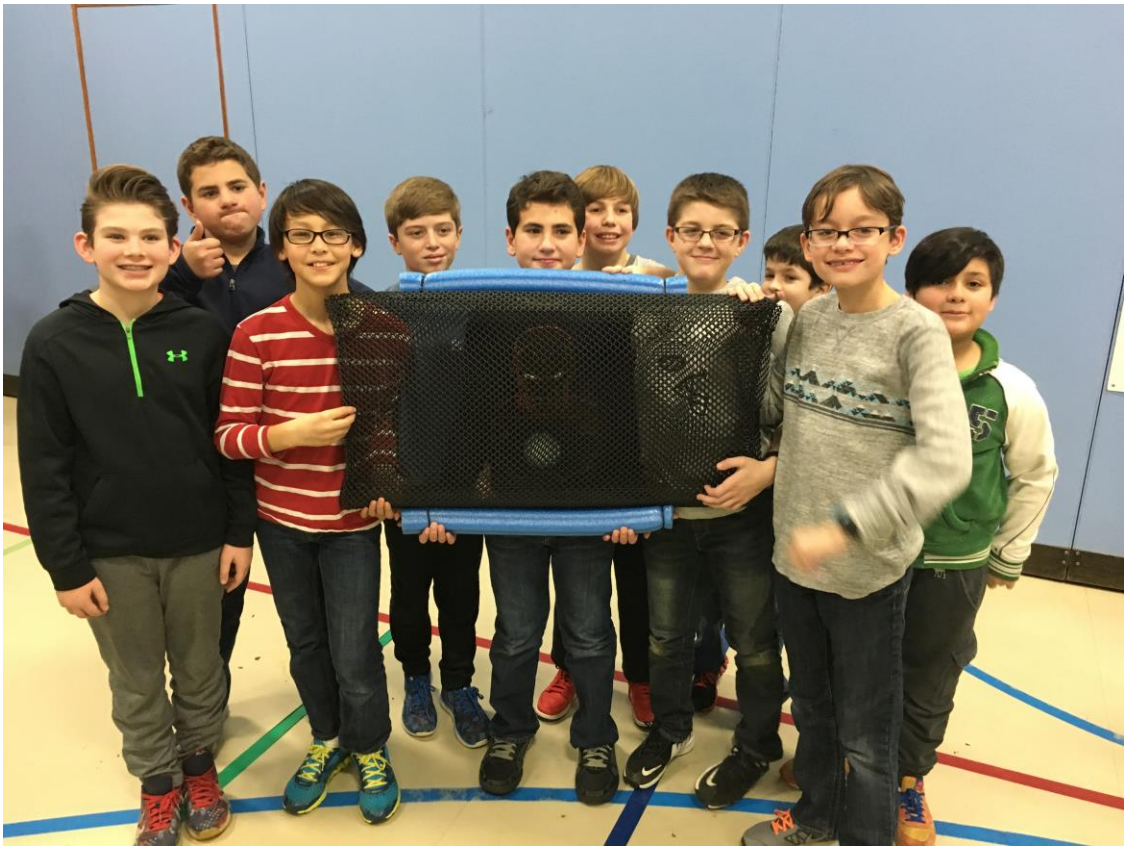
Student from our local schools are learning first hand how to make oyster cages and care for oyster farms

To Our Shellholders

Our **Shellholders** range from elementary students that make oyster cages to middle schoolers that maintain the cages over the summer to researchers studying eel grass to businesses, foundations and individuals that support us financially.

Financial Support Highlights

MBP received $193,908 in financial support in 2017. This includes funds from our annual Oyster Fling, business Chowder donors, the Million Mollusk March, individual donations, crowdfunding, and grants. Our special thanks to the Mancuso Family for a major grant to establish a new FLUPSY. Many of our supporters have also donated their invaluable time. We continue to partner with the Town of Brookhaven, Southampton Town Trustees and Cornell Cooperative Extension that provide a myriad of support.



Student volunteers are proud of their accomplishments with the Moriches Bay Project

To Our Shellholders

The fin and shell fish can't say thank you, so we will.

Operating Program Highlights

MBP continues to improve operations by doubling the number of oysters in our oyster gardens from 5,000 to 10,000, seeding our oyster beds in Moriches Bay with over 80,000 young oysters and installing FLUPSYS (**FL**oating **UP**weller **SY**tems) that can house up to 100,000 oysters each. We also posted our water quality data from three (3) sites on the web in real-time and are publishing that data monthly through The Moriches Bay Index. At the same time, we have increased collaboration with the scientific community, schools and the greater Moriches Bay community through enhanced outreach.

Looking Ahead to 2018

2018 will be our biggest challenge yet and we are poised to start strong in the New Year.

Sincerely,
Laura Fabrizio, Co-Founder & Director
Aram Terchunian, Co-Founder & Director
James Hulme, Esq., Director
Dwight Surgan, Senior Scientist

Environmental & Educational Summary

"Companies measure success in dollars. MBP measures success in Oysters and Clams."

These shellfish naturally filter the Bay and remove Nitrogen. Here is how we did in 2017:

Gallons of Moriches Bay Filtered

14.1 Billion

Pounds of Nitrogen Removed

478

Number of People Engaged

4,696

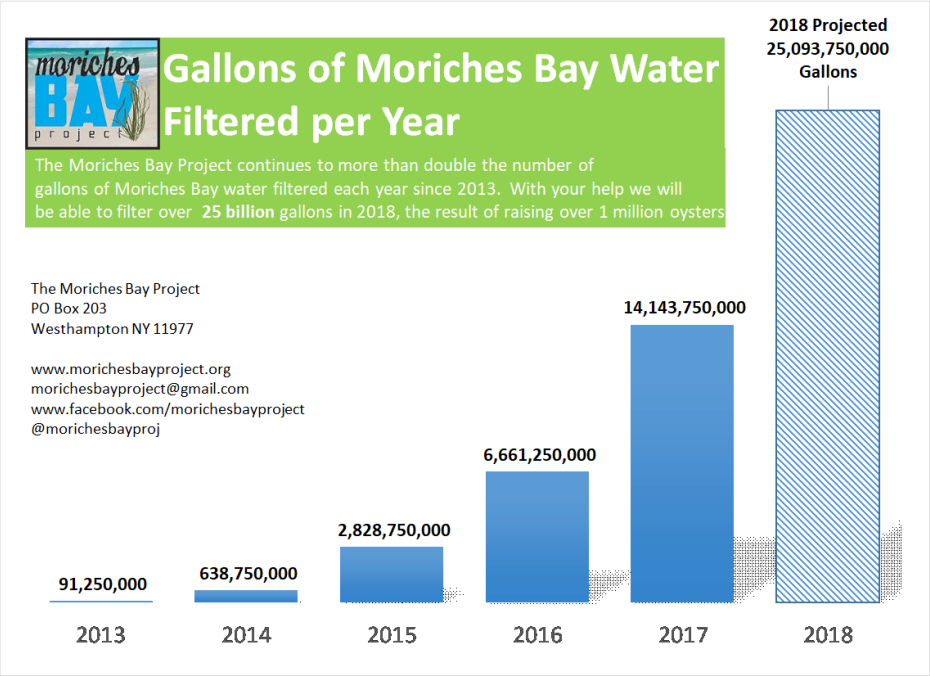
Acres of Eel Grass Studied or Restored

1.25

The Moriches Bay Project measures success in gallons, pounds, shellfish, and people.

Gallons of Moriches Bay Filtered

Naturally filtering Moriches Bay is a main objective of the Moriches Bay Project and in 2018 we increased our daily filtration to 38.75 million gallons per day, or 14.1 billion gallons per year. All of this was done by oysters measuring around just 3 inches in length! Our goal is to create annual sustained oyster seeding of 1 million oysters in Moriches Bay by 2020. Since 2013, we have placed approximately 775,000 oysters in the Bay. Amazingly, each oyster filters approximately 50 gallons of water per day. As you can see, we are almost one half of the way there and 2018 will be our biggest year yet, projecting to naturally filter over 25 billion gallons.



Environmental & Educational Summary

FLUPSY

FLoating
UPweller
SYstem

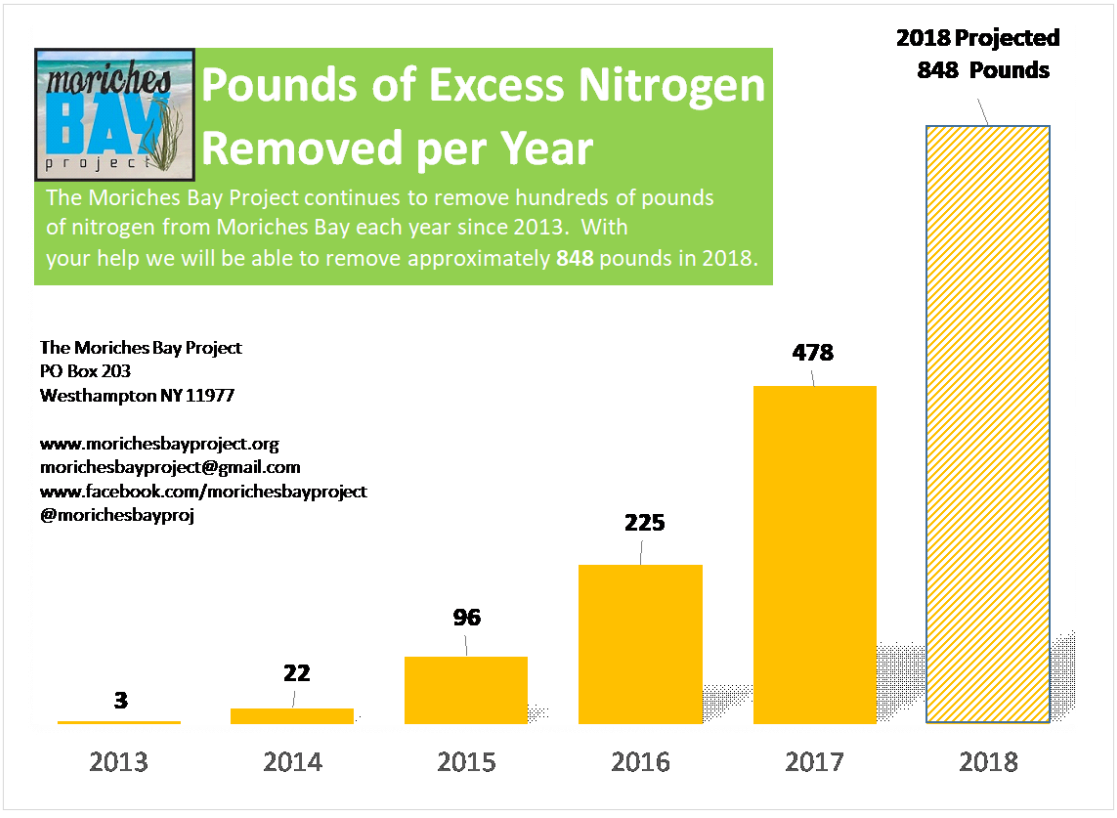
FLUPSYS enable MBP to raise up to 100,000 oysters or 500,000 clams at one site.

This is a significant increase in efficiency over oyster gardens that only hold 5,000 to 10,000 oysters. All of our oysters are placed into oyster beds in the fall of each year.

Kim Tetrault of Cornell Cooperative Extension, SPAT installing a FLUPSY

Pounds of Nitrogen Removed from Moriches Bay

Another increasingly important component to the revival of Moriches Bay is the removal of excess Nitrogen from the water. The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) have identified Moriches Bay as "Nitrogen Impaired," meaning there is too much Nitrogen in the water. Oysters remove Nitrogen in their shells, flesh, and waste. In 2017, our oysters were able to remove 478 pounds of excess Nitrogen through our oyster gardens, oyster beds, and FLUPSYS. Cleansing the waters of Moriches Bay is an important part of an overall approach to healthy Bays that includes 1) reducing inputs from septic systems and road runoff, 2) treating contaminated groundwater and 3) filtering Moriches Bay with oysters and clams.



Environmental & Educational Summary

The Moriches Bay Project engages volunteers of all ages to support the various education and restoration programs for oysters, clams, and eel grass.

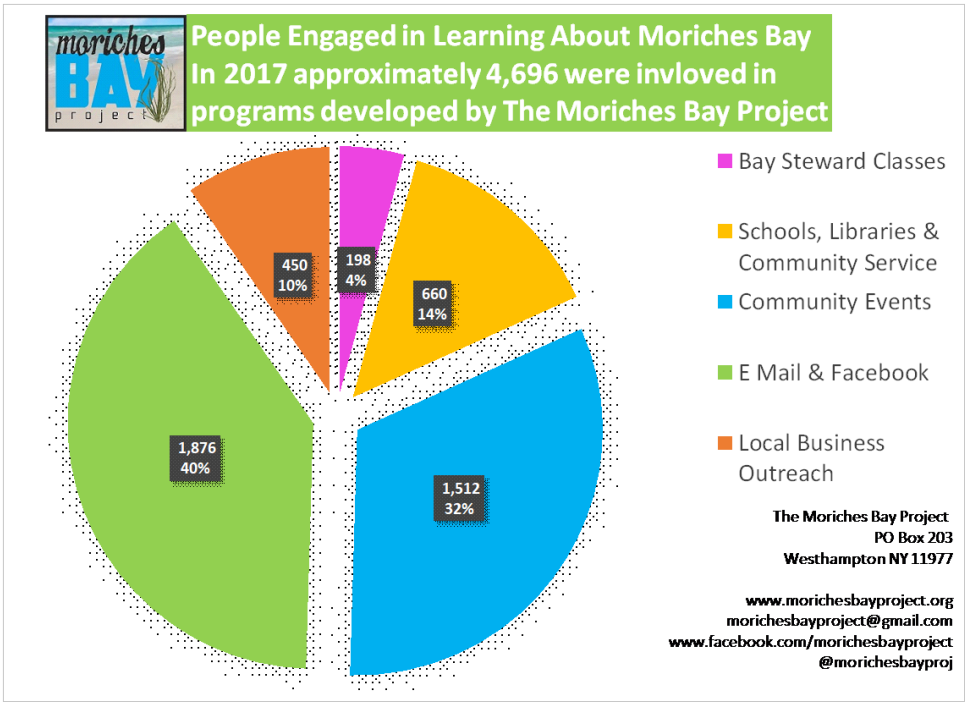
We reach out to schools, libraries, civic organizations and municipalities to educate and motivate participants.

Our annual “Oyster Fling” fundraiser is a seasonal hit.

Number of People in the Community Engaged

The Moriches Bay Project works with and through many different community organizations to educate people about the challenges and opportunities facing Moriches Bay today. A short list of organizations includes:

1. Town of Brookhaven
2. Cornell Cooperative Extension, SPAT Program
3. NY Sea Grant
4. Southampton Town Trustees
5. Long Island Community Fund
6. Island Outreach Foundation
7. Schools in Westhampton Beach, Westhampton, Remsenburg, East Moriches, William Floyd, and East Quogue
8. Libraries in Westhampton Beach, Quogue, and Center Moriches
9. Kiwanis, Rotary, and other service organizations



Environmental & Educational Summary

Housed in a 2" plastic tube, the MBOS sensors track 17 parameters, including:

- *Dissolved Oxygen*
- *Water Temperature*
- *Salinity*
- *Water Depth*
- *pH*

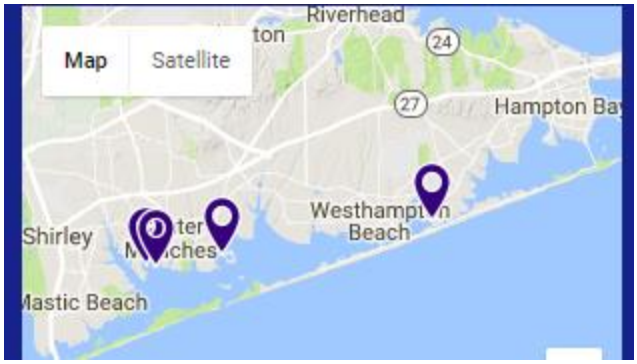
MBP co-founders Laura and Aram installing the M.B.O.S. in Quantuck Bay.

Eel Grass Studied or Restored

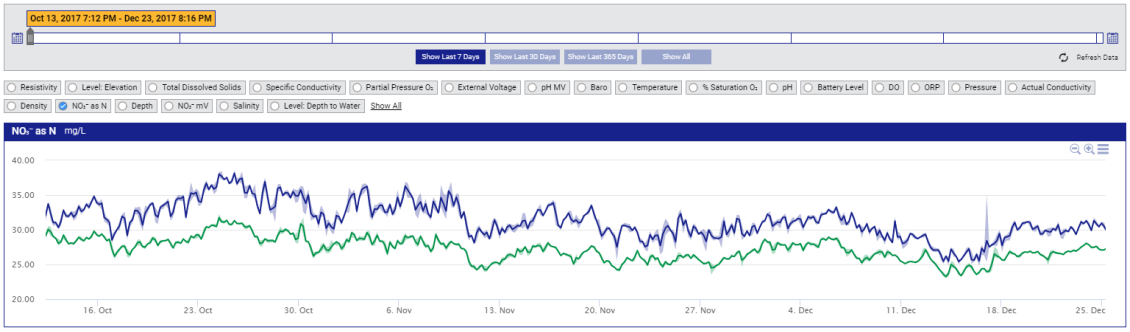
The Moriches Bay Project continues to support research into new methods of enhancing eel grass beds in Moriches Bay. We are working with a doctoral candidate to support this important research on seed dispersal and eel grass propagation.

The Moriches Bay Observation System (M.B.O.S.) Continues to Grow

The M.B.O.S. is the first real-time, continuous water quality monitoring system in Moriches Bay. Each station monitors 17 different variables on an hourly basis and posts all of the data to our publicly accessible web site. In yet another first, the MBOS is the only real time 24/7 Nitrogen sensor on the South Shore of Long Island. To access, use the following hyperlink (https://goo.gl/q2qMNM)



Locations of our sensors and data on Nitrogen levels are monitored 24/7



Financial Statements

Oysters, Clams, and Eel Grass are our currency, but we need your financial support to grow them.

A single oyster (above) can be held in your hand. MBP puts them into the Bay by the bushel (below) to cleanse the water.

Revenues from Donations, Fundraising and Grants

- Donations come from school children, private foundations, individuals, local businesses, and you.
- Our annual fundraiser, the Oyster Fling, is growing in success each year.
- The Moriches Bay Project receives grants from Long Island based private foundations. Our special thanks to the Mancuso Family for a major grant to establish a new FLUPSY.

Expenditures to Support Program and Restoration

- Oyster gardens & FLUPSYS are growing oysters from 1/8-inch seeds to 3-inch adults.
- M.B.O.S. Moriches Bay Observation System Monitoring Stations are monitoring Moriches Bay water quality 24-7.
- Educational Outreach engages Bay lovers from the ages of 2 to 92.
- Our Eel Grass efforts are sponsoring cutting-edge research on bay environments.
- The Moriches Bay Project's scholarships to local High Schools are bettering both the Bay and the community.
- Honoring the unsung "Heroes of the Bay"

Description	Revenue	Expenses
Donations, Sponsors, Grants & Gifts	$ 193,908	
FLUPSYS, Gardens & Farms		$ 45,545
Educational & Community Programs		$ 24,507
Moriches Bay Monitoring System (MBOS)		$ 19,455
Fundraising Expense		$ 42,543
Administration, Legal & Other		$ 25,711
Operating Capital		$ 36,147

Financial Statements

The Moriches Bay Project partners with local businesses (Proud Pour, Oyster Wine, above) to support our various efforts.

MBP works with local officials (NYS Senator Ken LaValle below) to promote healthy bays.

Summary of Financial Condition

The Moriches Bay project continues to fund all programs at their budgeted level and pays all bills within 30 days.

Looking ahead to 2018

In 2018 The Moriches Bay project will continue to accelerate our effort as we have done in the past 4 years. This will mean 500,000 more oysters in Moriches Bay naturally filtering water and absorbing nitrogen.

Oyster Gardens and FLUPSYS (Floating Upweller Systems)

- Add one (1) new oyster FLUPSY (for a total of 5) holding up to 100,000 oysters or 500,000 clams each.
- Add an additional 200,000 oysters to our Oyster Sanctuaries

Moriches Bay Monitoring System (M.B.O.S.)

Add one (1) new water quality monitoring stations (for a total of 5) to track water quality in Moriches, Quantuck, and Moniebogue Bays and collaborate with researchers local and nationwide. Continue to produce monthly issues of the Moriches Bay Index to disseminate data on the Bay's improving water quality to the public.

Educational Outreach

Continue to produce at least five (5) Bay Steward Classes with Cornell Cooperative Extension and others in 2017. Produce at least ten (10) Elementary and Middle School presentations and over 15 community outreach events.

Eel Grass Studies & Restoration

Continue to support doctoral research into cutting-edge eel grass restoration techniques and deploy them on BUDS (Buoy Deployed Seedling) stations.

Administration

Maintain administrative costs below 20% of revenue.

Contact Information

The Moriches Bay Project provides opportunities for our volunteers to make tangible and visible improvements to the health of Moriches Bay and engages decision makers at all levels to interact and support these efforts.

Congressman Lee Zeldin working with Moriches area students to build awareness.

The result of a hard day's work- eel grass tortillas ready for transplanting into Moriches Bay.

The Moriches Bay Project's Board of Directors develops and executes our annual program.

Aram Terchunian, Director & Co-Founder, Laura Fabrizio, Director & Co-Founder, James Hulme, Esq., Director and Dwight Surgan, Senior Scientist

Donation Contact Information

The Moriches Bay Project
PO Box 203 Westhampton NY 11977
morichesbayproject@gmail.com
www.morichesbayproject.org
631.599.1864
Donate here: https://tinyurl.com/ybf754q3 or scan here