Annual Report

FISCAL YEAR 2019

"Restoring Moriches Bay, One Oyster at a Time"

1,900,000 Oysters and Counting

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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 operates the Moriches Bay Observation System (MBOS) to monitor the health of Moriches Bay.

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Communities build oyster farms (top), Staff & Volunteers man the FL.UP.SY.s (bottom)

"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) is well on its way our project goal of seeding One Million oyster annually into Moriches Bay. This remarkable feat is achieved through a combination of oyster farms, oyster FL.UP.SY.s, Educational, School and Community Outreach programs to over 5,000 students and volunteers. In addition, the MBP has installed the Moriches Bay Observation System (M.B.O.S.), which is the first and only real time, 24/7 monitoring of our bay that is open and available to all at no fee. (https://goo.gl/q2qMNM)

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

Strategic Highlights

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

Financial Support Highlights

Our $112,302 budget in 2019 is helping to clean the water of Moriches Bay, one oyster at a time. The budget includes funds from our annual Oyster Fling, business donors, individual donations, crowdfunding, and grants. Our special thanks to BNB Bank for a major grant to establish a new relationship with GIRLS, Inc. 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.

Our volunteers are proud of their accomplishments with MBP

Volunteers at the Westhampton Overlook farm assembling the cages for 20,000 oysters

Strategic Highlights

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

THANKS!

Operating Program Highlights

MBP continues to improve operations at our oyster gardens, farms and FL.UP.SY.s producing 700,000 oysters in 2019 for a total of 1.9 million oysters since 2013. MBP volunteers operate four (4) FL.UP.SY.s, and four (4) oyster farms. We also posted continuous water quality data from five (5) 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 2020

2020 will continue the challenge of cleaning Moriches bay, one oyster at a time.

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 People."

These shellfish naturally filter the Bay and remove Nitrogen. Here is how we did in 2019:

Gallons of Moriches Bay Filtered
36 Billion

Pounds of Nitrogen Removed
1,156

Number of People Engaged
Over 5,000

Total Oysters Seeded
1,900,000

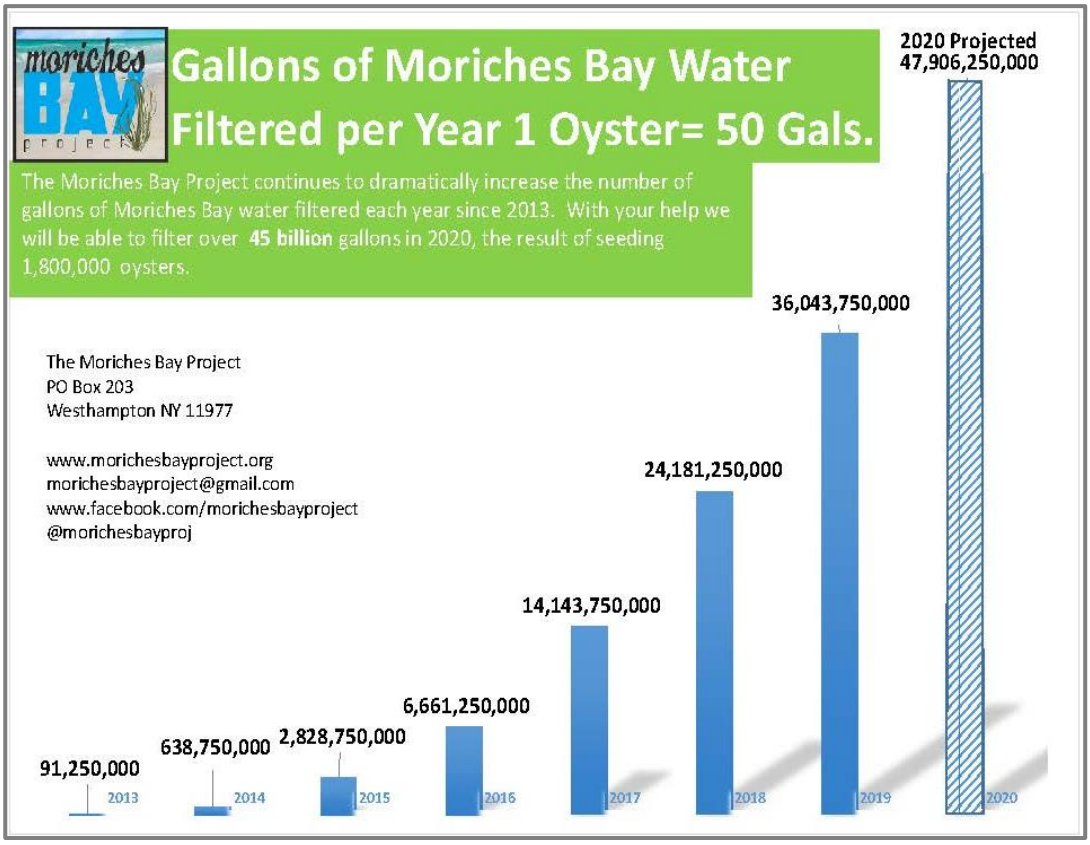
The Moriches Bay Project measures success in Gallons, Pounds, Oysters, and People.

1.9 Million Oysters and 36 Billion Gallons of Moriches Bay Filtered

Naturally filtering Moriches Bay is a main objective of the Moriches Bay Project and in 2019 we increased our oyster population to 1.9 million and daily filtration to over 36 billion gallons per year, which is 6 times the volume of Moriches Bay. All of this was done by oysters measuring around just 3 inches in length! Amazingly, each oyster filters approximately 50 gallons of water per day.

Our goal to create annual sustained oyster seeding of 1 million oysters in Moriches Bay by 2020, is almost within reach.

We will get to **One Million Oysters Annually** this year with your help!!!



Environmental & Educational Summary

FL.UP.SY

FLoating
UPweller
SYstem

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

Supporters at the Annual Oyster Fling made programs possible.

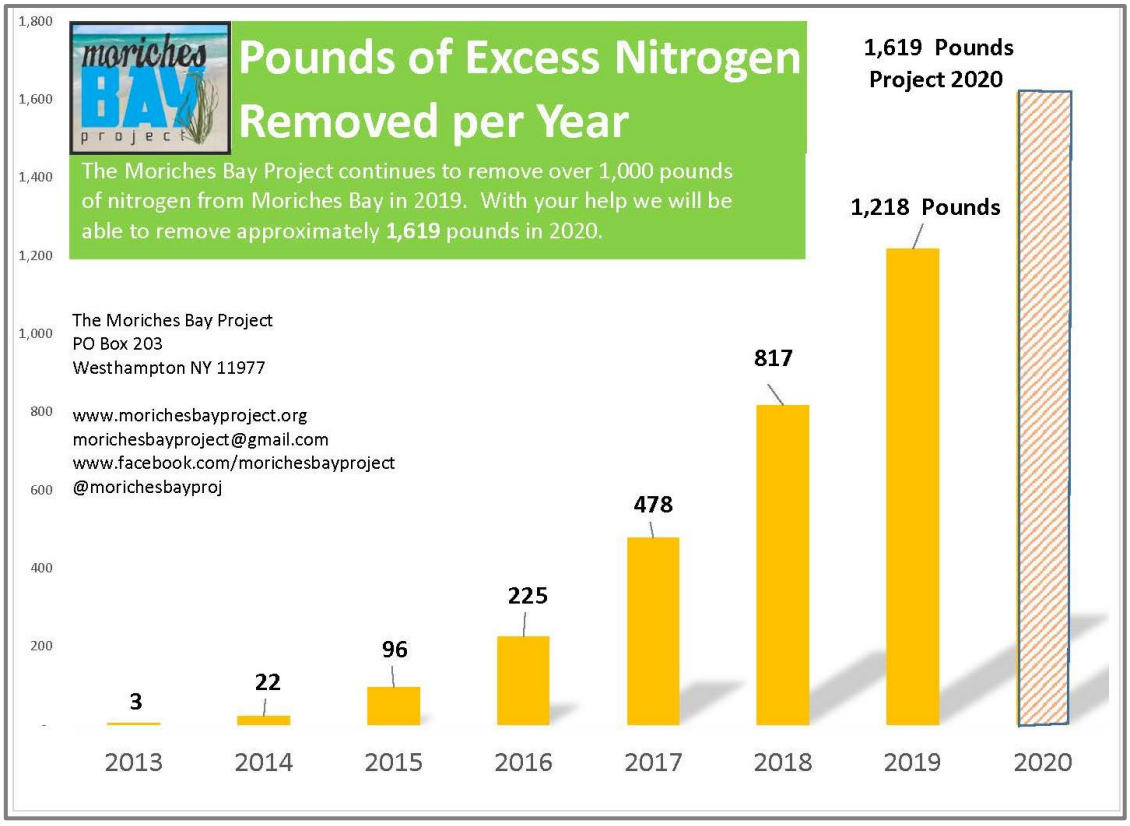
Greg Rivara of Cornell Cooperative Extension, SCMELC inspecting oysters.

Over 1,200 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 MBP mitigated the impact of 123 homes. (* the average home produces 9.9 pounds of nitrogen).

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 2019, our oysters were able to remove 1,218 pounds of excess Nitrogen through our oyster gardens, oyster beds, and FL.UP.SYs. 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 that naturally cleanse Moriches Bay.

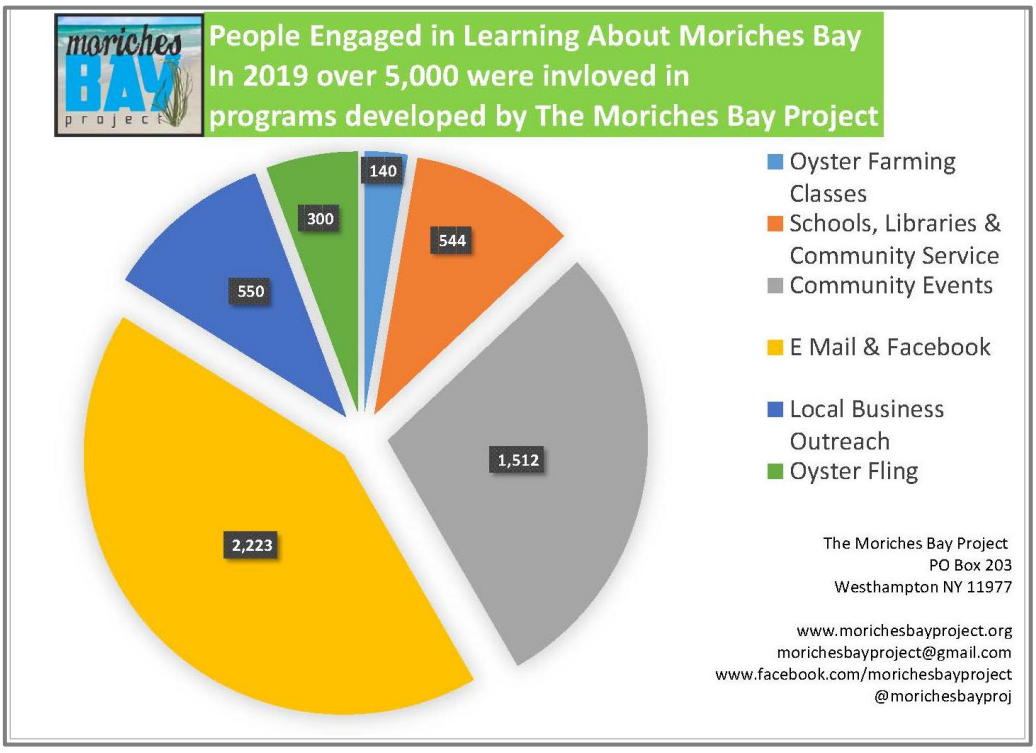
Our annual “Oyster Fling” fundraiser was a hit.

With the support of Kim Tetrault of the Cornell Cooperative Extension, MBP reaches over 5,000 people in our schools, libraries, and civic organizations

Over 5,000 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 and supporters includes:

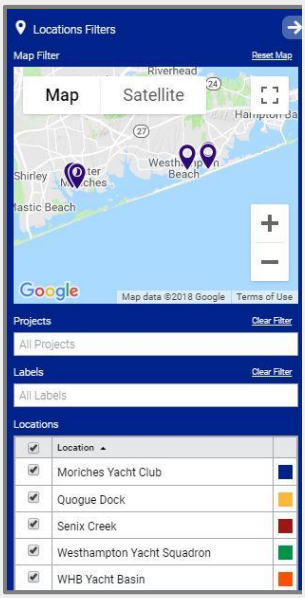
- Town of Brookhaven
- Southampton Town Trustees
- Cornell Cooperative Extension, SPAT Program & SCMELC
- Island Outreach Foundation
- BNB Bank
- Solution Management Incorporated of East Moriches
- John and Elaine Kanas Family Foundation
- Villages of Quogue, Westhampton Beach & West Hampton Dunes
- Buoy One Restaurant and Catering
- Discovery Land Company
- Girl Scout Troop # 1556 and Boy Scout Troop # 29
- Kiwanis, Rotary, and other service organizations
- Schools and Libraries in Westhampton Beach, Remsenburg, East Moriches, William Floyd, Raynor School, Center Moriches & Quogue



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 continues to share data with local governments and educational institutions (https://goo.gl/q2qMNM)

The Moriches Bay Observation System (MBOS) Continues to Serve

The MBOS 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. The MBOS was maintained at five (5) stations is 2019. To access, use the following hyperlink (https://goo.gl/q2qMNM) or click on MBOS at our homepage.

Our Volunteers & Staff are the BEST!

Dwight, Jon, & Anthony work with volunteers to operate the FL.UP.SY.s, maintain the oyster farms, supervise the community events and operate the MBOS. Special thanks to Island Surf for hosting our MBP "pop up" several times this year.

Financial Statements

Oysters 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 hundreds of thousands to naturally 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 highly coveted event each year.
- The Moriches Bay Project receives grants from Long Island based private foundations. Our special thanks to the BNB Bank for a major grant to establish a connection with GIRLS, Inc.

Expenditures to Support Program and Restoration

- Oyster gardens & FL.UP.SY.s are growing oysters from 1/8-inch seeds to 3-inch adults.
- The five (5) MBOS Moriches Bay Observation System Monitoring Stations are monitoring Moriches Bay water quality 24/7/365.
- Educational Outreach engages Bay lovers from the ages of 2 to 92.
- 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	$112,302	
FLUPSYS, Gardens & Farms		$38,216
Educational & Community Programs		$22,945
Moriches Bay Monitoring System (MBOS)		$16,635
Fundraising Expense		$43,736
Administration, Legal & Other		$16,843
Total Income/Expenses		($26,074)
Operating Capital		$37,237
*As of December 31, 2019		

Summary of Financial Condition

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

Financial Statements

The Moriches Bay Project volunteers support our various efforts.

Students & Volunteers make it all happen

Looking ahead to 2020

In 2020 The Moriches Bay project is poised to achieve our target of producing 1 million seed oysters annually. This will mean **One Million more** oysters in Moriches Bay (for a total of 2.9 million oysters) naturally filtering water and absorbing nitrogen. Specifically, we intend do the following.

Oyster Gardens and FL.UP.SY. (FLoating UPweller SYstems)

- Expand our oyster sanctuaries in Quantuck Bay & Moriches Bay
- Reach our annual goal of producing 1 million seed oysters.
- Add one more Oyster Garden

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

Maintain the Five (5) water quality monitoring stations 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 2019. Produce at least eight (8) Elementary and Middle School presentations and over 15 community outreach events.

Administration

Maintain administrative costs below 20% of revenue.

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.

The result of a season of hard work 700,000 oysters into Moriches Bay.

The Moriches Bay Project's **Board of Directors** develops and executes our annual program, but our staff, volunteers and local business partners make it happen.

Thank you from every oyster's heart!

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

Donation Contact Information

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Donate here: https://tinyurl.com/ybf754q3 or scan here