

The Bountiful Hudson River



Maria and Brian with 2 nice Stripers

slicks

slicks

SALUTE TO FREEDOM-Gone But Not Forgotten

“Hello to our Salute to Freedom friends and Supporters” from Brian Young, Chairman of the Salute to Freedom operation....

by **John H. Vargo, Publisher**

The Cortlandt Yacht Club's annual Salute to Freedom started out with just one boat. My daughter Laura, a VA nurse working for veterans and their families, asked me in the fall of 2011 if she could invite two local wounded warriors and their families from the Scranton, PA area to go out for a ride on our boat up the beautiful Hudson

River the following summer. She just wanted to show them how much they were appreciated for their service and all that they have given and sacrificed to protect our freedom. From that, upon hearing about the boat ride, some boat owners from the CYC, including Bob Desiderio, who was also a member of the Ossining



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Elks Lodge 1486, stepped up and offered to provide their support so that more vets could be given the opportunity to experience such a day. For six years, my family organized the event with the Elks Club providing full blown BBQ's for our guests after the each boat ride, putting together a very special day of appreciation for our military and Gold Star families.

It has truly been an honor and a pleasure getting to meet so many wonderful military families and it was an opportunity for all of us to give something back.

Unfortunately, the event had grown bigger than the Young family could handle and more than we ever dreamed. With that came many hours of planning, organizing and frustration. The event took on a life of its own and became unmanageable for the family Young. So that being said, we do very much regret to announce that the 2017 Salute to Freedom was our last.

We thank everyone who helped us make this event what it was and for joining us on our journey into uncharted waters. We especially thank the boaters who volunteered their boats for the day, the Ossining Elks and Mr. Jim Williams and his crew of vets and volunteers in Newburgh. Mr. Williams organized the incredible fly-overs, the Honor Guards and all the activities that took place



Marine salute to passing yachts at Riverfront Marina, Newburgh, NY

on the Newburgh waterfront. We are also very grateful to Mr. Steve Kaufman who provided his Riverfront Marina facilities for the military honor guards and supporters. We thank the various County Marine Units, local fire departments, Sea Tow the and USCG Auxiliary for escorting our flotillas.

May God bless our vets and Gold Star Families and all that contributed to make this event the biggest event on the Hudson River.

Thank you again,
Capt. Brian T. Young and Family



A Tree Grows in "Brooklyn - on - the - Hudson"



Two hundred years ago Troy, New York, was an influential player in the American Industrial Revolution. Today in the newly revived and vibrant Troy (with a nod and a wink to the "Brooklyn" appellation) a group of artists and scientists are at the forefront of a new revolution: biocultural restoration! There's not just one tree growing in Troy but many trees: fruit trees along with sunflowers, vegetable gardens, and berry bushes and this is not just some beautification campaign. As the New York Times reported "Green spaces are a really big player in urban environments. They can lock in carbon emissions, reduce temperatures, and capture storm water to reduce flooding, through remediation, propagation, cultivation and even "rewilding." And there is a group in Troy that is actively creating and adapting these green spaces! NATURE Lab, the Sanctuary for Independent Media's North Troy Art, Technology, and Urban Research and

Ecology (NATURE Lab) program with a campus just one block from the Hudson River and Lock One of the Erie Canal, has initiated a number of projects since its inception in 2013.

These include bioremediation of soil with Collard City Growers and testing for microbes in the Hudson. In 2017, more than 30 volunteers collected samples from 18 stream sites in Rensselaer County that were tested for levels of bacteria and emergent compounds as part of major study of Hudson River tributaries in partnership with Rensselaer Land Trust, River Haggie Outdoors and Riverkeeper.

NATURE Lab introduced students to the biodiversity of the Hudson River by collecting fish for the wet lab which were later used for gyo-taku – a traditional Japanese method of printing fish to record data and create art. Imagine: Art AND Science working together!