

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 gyotaku – a traditional Japanese method of printing fish to record data and create art. Imagine: Art AND Science working together!



"We are training students to think critically and take action on world-wide environmental concerns through the actions in their own backyards" noted Kathy High, a professor at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, who is a project coordinator at the center, "We are using methodologies of field research, industrial archeology, documentary filmmaking, and permaculture to explore these vibrant new environmental assemblages, adaptations, and agencies." NATURE Lab has received a commitment of \$30,000 from NY DEC's Hudson River Estuary Program to build a permanent home. A fund raising campaign is presently underway to complete the restoration of a once abandoned building for the Biology Laboratory, an Aquarium for indigenous fishes, and an EnviroArt

**Yes, a tree grows in Troy, but also in Hudson, and in Peekskill, and in Kingston and everywhere in our majestic Hudson River Valley!**



exhibition °—space. To further embrace and activate the community NATURE Lab sponsored a symposium "Ruderal Ecologies: Grounds for Change" with a series of speakers, panels and workshops which included a "Biomapping

Workshop." A sort of walkabout through Troy highlighting the diverse and

changing environment." Ruderal plants (from the Latin for "ruin") have evolved to be resilient and adaptable fermenting tools," stated Ellie Irons, a PhD student at RPI and an organizer of the conference. "We're learning how to recognize and appreciate how nature works to fix our once broken landscapes."

The NATURE Lab is one of the many projects created by the Sanctuary for Independent Media, a non-profit media arts center which recently established a low power radio station, WOOC 105.3 FM, featuring the nightly live broadcast of "Hudson Mohawk Magazine" (6 to 7pm)

"Environmental issues have inevitably focussed on the negative," said Steve Pierce, executive director of the Sanctuary. "We felt we should be concentrating on the positive – how people care and how cities and organizations are working together in partnerships up and down the Hudson River Valley to preserve and celebrate this beautiful and historic area."

As Hudson River cities are experiencing a cultural renaissance so too are they reemerging from environmental degradation with a little help from many friends, volunteers and organizations and, indeed, from Mother Nature herself.

Yes, a tree grows in Troy, but also in Hudson, and in Peekskill, and in Kingston and everywhere in our majestic Hudson River Valley!

The NATURE Lab can be visited on Tuesdays from 4 to 6pm or by appointment.

To register for the "Ruderal Ecologies Conference" please call 518-272-2390 or visit [www.mediasanctuary.org](http://www.mediasanctuary.org)

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