

Rotary



**ROTARY:
MAKING A
DIFFERENCE**

Wilton Rotary Drummer
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www.wiltonrotaryclub.org

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Wilton native Bill Lucey, the Long Island Sound Soundkeeper dazzled, you guessed it, sixteen Wilton Rotarians and guest Laura Downing, with a mix of the past, the present and the future of LI Sound.

Announcements:

- October 6 - **NO MEETING** – an October evening social is being planned in lieu of an October 6 lunch meeting. Details to be provided.
- October 14 – **Trackside Oktoberfest** – proceeds benefit Trackside Teen Center - \$55 per person. Starts at 7 p.m. Delicious German food by The Proper Palate, traditional Oktoberfest beverages. Live entertainment featuring Dylan Connor and the Epic Poets. Info at www.trackside.org.
- Details may be few but the official word is that the gods of Carnival have once again smiled upon the Wilton Rotary Club's fundraising efforts. Many thanks, again to Pat Russo, the volunteers and the sponsors who made it happen.
- New Canaan Lobsterfest – Bud announced the event was a big success and thanked all who participated.

Program: Bill Lucey, Soundkeeper of the Long Island Sound

Soundkeeper, Inc. and The Connecticut Fund For the Environment have appointed Wilton native, Bill Lucey, as Soundkeeper. Bill succeeds the late Long Island Sound waterman Terry Backer. Bill is a fish and wildlife biologist, a former commercial fisherman and an experienced advocate with three decades of conservation work across North America. He has worked on environmental issues in locations as diverse as Alaska and Hawaii. Bill returns home applying his expertise to benefit Long Island Sound. Bill reduced 8,000 years of history to a 20 minute presentation. First, the ice melted. Sea levels rose. A great tidal estuary teeming with aquatic life separated Connecticut from Long Island. Then 8 million people moved into the neighborhood. By the 1980s the crush of humanity elevated nitrogen levels in the western LI Sound leading to algae blooms, plummeting oxygen levels and fish kills. Local lobster and oyster fishermen joined together in facing off against parties dumping nitrogen laden pollutants in the Sound. Major polluters included municipalities that lacked the political will to maintain or upgrade treatment plants. In a series of lawsuits the fishermen, armed with the Clean Water Act, were able to convince municipalities to pay better attention to treatment plants. Slowly, attitudes changed. Conditions in the Sound, the diversity and quantity of aquatic life, improved. Municipalities now tend to partner with the Soundkeeper. But nitrogen is but one of many pollutants that put the Sound at risk. Bill supported by Save the Sound's water quality team, policy experts, communications staff, and environmental attorneys, continues to act as a watchdog and advocate for LI Sound in Hartford and Albany. An example of the monitoring work the organization performs can be seen at www.soundhealthexplorer.org. There, maps and water quality monitoring data demonstrate the relationship between watershed, treatment plants and water quality. For more information visit www.soundkeeper.org.

NEXT MEETING: Evening Social: TBD – Lunch Meeting, Friday, October 13 at Marly's