Welcome to
THE COECLES HARBOUR
MARINE WATER TRAIL
Located within the nationally significant Peconic Estuary of Long Island, a region The Nature Conservancy has declared “A Last Great Place”.

COECLES HARBOUR IS A UNIQUE AREA, SURROUNDED BY MANY PROTECTED LANDS AND UNDEVELOPED SHORELINES. THIS INTIMATE CORNER OFFERS THE CHANCE TO QUIETLY RELATE TO NATURE.

TRAIL TIPS

The trail is approximately 5 miles round trip, allow 3 - 4 hours.

To start the trail, turn southeast from the launch ramp, keeping the shoreline to your right.

- Stay close to shore for the best sightings.
- Buoys are 20’ from shore, marked with green leaves and white numbers.
- Stay alert for other boats.

THE COECLES HARBOUR MARINE WATER TRAIL begins at the east end of Burns Road, Shelter Island, NY.

THE WATER TRAIL IS A JOINT PROJECT OF:

- THE NATURE CONSERVANCY
- SHELTER ISLAND KAYAK, INC.
- TOWN OF SHELTER ISLAND, NY.

TOURS AND RENTALS

79 SO. FERRY RD, SHELTER ISLAND, NY 11964

631-749-1001
WWW.TOWNOFSHELTERISLAND.COM
WWW.SHETLANDTOWN.US

TO WALK AHEAD

- Remove any wildlife or plant life.
- Respect private property, including trap markers.
- Carry out all trash you bring in or find.
- Bring drinking water.
- Keep your eye on approaching weather.
- Know your paddling capabilities.
- Wear a life jacket.

DO

- Avoid alcohol.
- Combine alcohol and paddling.
- Remove any wildlife or plant life.
- Respect private property, including trap markers.
- Carry out all trash you bring in or find.
- Bring drinking water.
- Keep your eye on approaching weather.
- Know your paddling capabilities.
- Wear a life jacket.

DON'T

- Forget how many small actions can have a big impact.
- Have a big meal.
- Forget how many small actions can have a big impact.
- Combust and paddling.
- Remove any wildlife or plant life.
- Respect private property, including trap markers.
- Carry out all trash you bring in or find.
- Bring drinking water.
- Keep your eye on approaching weather.
- Know your paddling capabilities.
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MARIINE CONSERVATION ON LONG ISLAND

Long Island has long been known for its beautiful beaches, bays, and bountiful seafood. However, in recent decades overharvesting, diseases and harmful algal blooms have decimated many species. The Nature Conservancy is working in partnership with government, businesses, environmental groups and academia to restore our shellfish and healthy bays.

Shellfish Restoration in the Peconic Estuary

- Clams, oysters and scallops act like the filter in an aquarium, keeping the water clear and improving water quality. TNC’s shellfish enhancement program is helping LI’s waters thrive once again by:
  - Restoring shellfish populations by creating spawner sanctuaries where clams and scallops can grow and reproduce safely. These protected, no-take zones have concentrated numbers of shellfish, which lead to higher reproductive rates, and more shellfish for the entire area.
  - Using shellfish nurseries to “jump start” the bays’ natural production. Over 2 million shellfish have been raised at Mashomack Preserve and released into the waters of Peconic Bay.
  - Monitoring the role shellfish play in improving water quality, controlling harmful algal blooms and enhancing habitat for other marine life.

For more information call Mashomack Preserve: 631-749-1061 or visit www.nature.org/longisland

TAYLOR’S ISLAND:esterday and Today

This small island was originally named Cedar Island after the native Eastern Red cedars that thrived in the sandy, sunny habitat. Francis Marion Smith, the “Borax King” of 20-Mule-Team Borax fame, built the one room log cabin pictured here at the turn of the 20th century. It was a favorite spot for family picnics and summer gatherings.

S. Gregory Taylor, a Greek émigré and New York City hotel magnate, purchased the Island in 1937. Mr. Taylor willed the Island to his nephew Stephen Stephano for use throughout his life, and upon his death to the Town of Shelter Island. Taking possession of the Island in 1998, the Town followed Mr. Taylor’s wish that the Island be “for the use and enjoyment of the general public.” Mr. Taylor’s grave is located on the eastern side of the Island. The Taylor’s Island Preservation and Management Committee was formed in December of 2005.

Please visit the Committee’s website, www.taylorsisland.org to learn more and take a virtual tour of this historic site.

Cedar Island circa 1905. Photograph by Francis Marion Smith
THE EDGE OF THE SEA IS ALIVE
Just off the Burns Road landing is a good example of a somewhat protected shoreline. Peat, built up by the marsh grasses, harbors ribbed mussels, crabs, snails and many other creatures. Clams hide in the mud and crabs may nibble at your feet. Windows of eelgrass, seen best here in fall, hint of the abundant marine life in Coecles Harbor. The peat at the edge of the water was built by the marsh grass which dominates the intertidal zone. Sea lavender’s delicate purple blossoms add color to the grass in the late summer, as does the succulent glasswort with its autumn red. The attractive but aggressive reed grass Phragmites flourishes on the edge of the marsh where fresh ground water meets the sea edge and is a mute reminder of where the wetland was disturbed and filled in. The oak trees line the original edge of the marsh which used to extend back another 100 yards.

END OF THE LINE...
Just at the beginning of the food web. Look carefully in the grasses, among the algae and along the bottom for snails, mussels, shrimp, minnows, hermit crabs and a myrid of other camouflaged creatures. You may find evidence of a raccoon’s midnight snack, or the trail of a meandering bat fish such as killifish and shiner minnows (“shiners”) flourish in this food-rich environment. Juvenile striped bass, weakfish, blackfish and bluefish (“sputters”) seek the protection of the marsh’s shallow protected waters. The abundant plant life and small animal species support a vast food web on which the rest of the bay depends. Maligned in the past as smelly, mosquito producing swamps, salt marshes are now recognized as critical habitats for many area Baymen. Careful conservation of our remaining land and water, with increased awareness of the importance of each individual’s actions is needed to preserve this area’s unique character.

THE WORLD BELOW THE SURFACE
As you’re paddling close to shore, take a look into the water. Eelgrass and algae such as rockweed sway in the waves, providing oxygen for the water and shelter and food for many marine creatures. The granite boulders in the water and scattered on the shoreline were carried from New England by a glacier 5,000 years ago. Banded by algial growth and home to barnacles and other organisms needing a solid base, these glacial erratics exhibit different personalities at different tide heights.

WHAT’S THE POINT?
Look right (west), toward the town landing. You may see a commercial fishing boat. Up until the mid-1980’s many families relied on Coecles Harbor to provide scallops and hard and soft shelled clams to make a living. An algae bloom (brown tide) now periodically clouds the water, killing eelgrass and decimating the shellfish of the area. Its cause still a mystery, brown tide wiped out a way of life for many area Baymen. Careful conservation of our remaining land and water, with increased awareness of the importance of each individual’s actions is needed to preserve this area’s unique character.

THE EDGE OF THE SEA IS ALIVE
1. START HERE
2. TAYLOR’S ISLAND
3. WHAT’S THE POINT?
4. CONGDON’S CREEK
5. Mashomack Marine Preserve
6. FOXEN CREEK
7. CAUTION BOAT CHANNEL
8. Mashomack Preserve
9. TAYLOR’S ISLAND
10. OYSTER OBSERVATIONS
11. DUCK, DUCK, GOOSE
12. BIRD’S EYE VIEW
13. END OF THE LINE...
The Coecles Harbor Marine Water Trail begins at the east end of Burns Road, Shelter Island, NY.

**Welcome to the Coecles Harbor Marine Water Trail**

- **Marine Conservation on Long Island**
  - **Shellfish Restoration in the Peconic Estuary**
    - Over 2 million shellfish have been raised at Mashomack Preserve and released into the waters of Peconic Bay.
    - The mission of The Nature Conservancy is to preserve plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and water they need to survive.

**TRAIL TIPS**

- **Changes toquire 3 - 4 hours.**
- **Add 1 - 2 hours for lunch.**
- **Allow 3 - 4 hours.**
- **Be alert for other sailors.**
- **Stay close to shore for the bays.**
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- **Stay alert for other boats.**
- **Buoys are 20' from shore, marked with green leaves.**
- **Room log cabin pictured here at the turn of the 20th century.**
- **TWNJE - "Little monster" - A Last Great Place.**

**Coecles Harbor**

- **Visit Cedar Island.**
  - This small island was originally named Cedar Island after the native Eastern Red cedars that thrived in the area. After the First World War it was renamed Taylor's Island in honor of the flamboyant Greek businessman S. Gregory Taylor, a New York hotel magnate who purchased the Island in 1937.

**Water Quality Monitoring**

- Monitoring the role shellfish play in supporting healthy ecosystems and protecting water quality.
- Enhancing habitat for other marine life.
- Controlling harmful algal blooms.
- Improving water quality.

**The Nature Conservancy**

- The Nature Conservancy is helping LI's waters thrive once again by:
  - Monitoring the role shellfish play in supporting healthy ecosystems and protecting water quality.
  - Enhancing habitat for other marine life.
  - Controlling harmful algal blooms.
  - Improving water quality.

**Shore access is permitted at Burns Road and Congdon Road town landings and Taylor’s Landing only.**

**DO**

- Wear a life jacket.
- Know your paddling capabilities.
- Keep your eye on approaching weather.
- Bring drinking water.
- Carry out all trash you bring in or find.
- Be aware that larger boats may not see you.
- Respect private property, including trap buoys, boats and docks.

**DON'T**

- Remove any wildlife or plant life.
- Combine alcohol and paddling.
- Forget how many small actions can have a big impact.

**NOTE:** Kayaking and canoeing are inherently dangerous sports. The Nature Conservancy, Shelter Island Kayak, Inc. and the Town of Shelter Island make no representations, warranties, or guarantees, express or implied, about the safety or condition of the Coecles Harbor Marine Water Trail. All users of this Water Trail do so at their own risk.

**Welcome to the Coecles Harbor Marine Water Trail**

- **An interpretative paddling experience**
- **A Last Great Place**
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