



DOCENT DOINGS

UNH Marine Docents

March 2009

Calendar of Events:

Thursday, March 5th

March Monthly Meeting at the Durham Community Church. Renae Broderick and the finance committee will speak about financial affairs of the docent program. 9: 30 - 11: 30 AM.

Be green & bring your cup!

Wednesday, March 18th

Sea Chantey performance for the Wolfeboro Seniors at 2:15 PM.

Tuesday, April 7th

April Monthly Meeting at the Durham Community Church. 9: 30 -11: 30 AM. Please note the change to Tuesday mornings.

Thursday, April 23rd

Day of the Coast, Pollard School, Plaistow, NH
8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Coordinator's Column

Although nearly a foot of snow fell yesterday, spring is coming soon, and with it a heavy dose of SeaTreks and thoughts of rebirth.

Our program is going through a rebirth of sorts, and I thought I would dedicate this month's column to what's going on. First and foremost, a rejuvenated version of the Ed/Ad committee, now dubbed the Docent Advisory Committee, has taken up the challenge of addressing the policy and program issues that face a program

as complicated as ours. The committee first formed as a "working group" dedicated to looking into problems of volunteering, programs, and finances. During the early discussions that group undertook it was clear that a long-term strategy of identifying, then working to solve, some of these problems was in order. The committee has begun to do that with energy and commitment. Time and again the discussion revolves around finding members of the Docent community willing to "own" an issue and lead others to its solution. If you are reading this column, and find yourself concerned about such an issue and might be willing to help "own" the issue, please let us know - we are always recruiting!

Marketing has lain dormant for a while, but Bob Pollard has taken the reins and is pulling out all the stops to get the word out. Once our aggressive campaign is out there we hope that will generate more SeaTreks to staff - be prepared!

The new Docents-in-Training are a great group, and should add greatly to our programs. They are meeting some of you during program training this winter, which is going very well. I hope the rest of you are seeking out the new people at monthly meetings, making them feel welcome, and recruiting them for your favorite Docent program.



UNIVERSITY of NEW HAMPSHIRE
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



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The new Docent Web page seems to be working for a lot of you. I hope the rest of you will get on and change your passwords, update your contact information, and begin to use the "pink sheet" features to keep track of your hours and mileage. I am working with the federal accounting people at UNH to refine our hour and mileage tracking practices, which will make accurate use of the Web page (or the existing pink sheets) more critical. I will speak more on this in the future.

Finally, I think an important announcement about our Sea Chantey Singers is coming soon, so keep your ears perked up!

Mark
(mark.wiley@unh.edu)



Seacoast Science Center

Here are the volunteer training opportunities for March at the Seacoast Science Center.

Wednesday, March 4, 10am. Marine Animals Magnified program training for volunteer naturalists. This training will teach you how to present our hands-on microscope school program.

Wednesday, March 11, 10am. School of Hard Rocks. The rocky shore provides quite a geology "classroom". In this training volunteers learn how to present this geology program to elementary and middle school students.

Wednesdays, March 18-April 22. 9-11:30am. Rocky Shore Exploration Training. Our Rocky Shore Exploration Training will provide you with the skills you need to teach about this fascinating, dynamic system. Conducted over six Wednesday mornings, each session will expand on the topic of the rocky shore. This training is hands-on, fun and we spend a lot of time outdoors. Volunteer

naturalists learn to lead this program for school groups of all ages.

The topics are as follows:

March 18: Introduction to the Seacoast Science Center, role of the naturalist, then we head out to the intertidal zone. We will be joined by SSC intern and seaweed expert Laurie Hoffman.

March 25: Gulf of Maine, Tides, Geology

April 1: Rocky Shore Ecology

April 8 and 15: Rocky Shore Ecology Continued, NH Education Frameworks, the art of the mini-lesson

April 22: History of Odiorne Point State Park

If you are a current docent at the Center and want to join us for a refresher you are welcome to join us at the trainings. Just let me know. If you would like to be a naturalist at the Center and want more information regarding the above trainings, please contact Volunteer Coordinator Michele Wensman at volunteer@seacentr.org or call 436-8043 ext. 21.

Michele Wensman



Great Bay Discovery Center

Think Spring!

We have two Brown Bag Events in March. March 4th Movie "Young at Heart" at 1:00 in the Hugh Gregg Center

March 20th (bad weather date March 27) Spring Herbs for your Health with Maria Noel Groves: 1:00pm in the Hugh Gregg Center Bring your lunches we will provide movie popcorn, drinks and desserts.

We have two children's programs in March. March 6 - 7 Surviving & Thriving in Winter Overnight
March 21st Syrup on Snow

March workshop:
March 10th 4 - 9 NHDES Water Resources
Workshop (call Steve Miller 778-0015 for
information and registration)

Dates to keep in mind:

April 14th Educator Training
April 17th Exhibit Room Training

Hope to see you all soon.

Sheila Roberge
Volunteer Coordinator

sheila@greatbay.org 603.778.0015

Great Bay Coast Watch

This month should be a busy one as we get ready for the sampling season which will be upon us quickly. Thanks to all of the volunteers who have offered to help out for the coming year! This month we will plan on calibrating thermometers, hydrometers, and ph meters. We also plan to set up the kits and paint and re-line secchi disks. If you would like to volunteer for any of these tasks just send me an email or give me a call at the farm.

We will be getting out a schedule of events for the QAQC, and trainings by the next week.

Also, the third time is a charm new date for Ann Reid's Retirement Celebration will be Thursday, March 26th from 3:30-6:30 PM at the New England Center Café. Hopefully it won't snow again! Please email Lori Lavac here at the farm if you are able to attend. Her email address is lori.lavac@unh.edu

We will be having a general meeting to bring folks up to date with what is happening with GBCW and also so I can have a chance to meet those of you who help us out!
Date to be decided.

Thanks for all of your support!!

Dari Ward
dari.ward@unh.edu 749-1565



Docent In Depth

Nancy Cauvet fills her life with beautiful things - music, opera, art, books, flowers and plants, the Great Bay, the White Mountains, pleasure in nature, and love for family and friends. Nancy has been the leader of the UNH Marine Docent Sea Chantey group for eleven (11) years, assuming this responsibility while participating in docent training. As Nancy leaves this role, we asked her to share some details of her life and activities.

Nancy was born in Yonkers, NY, the middle child of a banker father and has an older brother and a younger sister. She attended schools in Ardsley, NY, from kindergarten through graduation from high school. Since Nancy's father was a gardener, she was exposed to the pleasures of growing things at an early age. Nancy also had a piano and lessons as a child and developed an interest in and love of music. Her babysitting and camp counselor experiences contributed to her desire to be a teacher.

Nancy attended SUNY Potsdam for an undergraduate degree in Music Education. She knew she wanted to be a teacher and selected this university because her music teachers in the Ardsley schools had attended SUNY Potsdam. She also received a Master's degree in Elementary Education from Hunter College in the City University of New York (CUNY) system. Nancy's first eleven(11) years of teaching were in the Mt. Pleasant, NY, school system where she was a music teacher and a third grade teacher before budget issues resulted in a strike action. Nancy was not comfortable about this uncertain financial

situation and sought other opportunities. Nancy then taught in the Chappaqua, NY, School District at Roaring Brook School for twenty-two (22) years as a music teacher. The docents that know Nancy will not be surprised that she did much more than the typical school music teacher in those thirty-three (33) years.

Among other things, Nancy organized the Roaring Brook Theater Company as an after school activity – she arranged the music, wrote the shows, and directed the students in productions such as *The Wizard of Oz*, *Peter Pan*, and *Cats*. With music teachers from three other schools, Nancy managed a chorus of students called “The Magical Musicians” with sixty (60) children performing in concerts and choreographed programs. She also produced pageants for the schools, mentioning a Bicentennial program in 1976 where the playground was covered with outlines of the states.

Nancy was not only the captain, but she was the spirit of the crew. (Julie and Bill Kath)

Along with her professional responsibilities, Nancy also managed marriage and family. Nancy was teaching, having children and completing her Masters degree, all at the same time. She lived in Pocantico Hills (a hamlet located in the town of Mt. Pleasant) with spouse and two sons, Ken and Bruce Riehl. Both sons are happily married and have children of their own – Ken lives in Essex, MA, and has two sons; Bruce lives in Poughkeepsie, NY, and has two daughters. Nancy spends as much time as she can with these sons and their families (grandchildren: ages 15, 13, 11, and 9). We were curious whether the interest in music had been passed to the next generation. She indicates that the granddaughters play instruments – the clarinet and saxophone, and one grandson plays guitar.

As Nancy approached the end of her teaching career, she began to spend more time with gardening. She enrolled in a 90-hour course at the New York Botanical Gardens in 1989 and enjoyed learning gardening in depth. She indicates that this program is similar to the Master Gardener program in New Hampshire.

Before retirement from teaching, she started spending time on weekends assisting with gardens of friends of friends. She had received the certification from New York Botanical Gardens and expanded her knowledge by working with very demanding homeowners/gardeners in the area. She credits particular “customers” with stretching her gardening skills and providing beneficial experiences. The weekend work became full-time when she retired.

Nancy has managed to "weave us all together in a gorgeous tapestry of music and enthusiasm." (Sharon Meeker – comments at Nancy's brunch, written down by Mimi)

Nancy retired from teaching in 1993; she was a single woman and ready to experience the next phase of her life. Nancy was on a New York Botanical Garden tour of the Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania when she met a person who would have a major influence in her next decisions. Peter Hetzler and Nancy began to spend time together and moved to New Hampshire to share their time together. Peter was retired from his position at Marsh & McLennan brokerage firm and a widower, with similar interests – gardening and books, among other things. They purchased land and built a home in Newington, NH, near the Great Bay. The home is on a beautiful expanse of land, with an open floor plan, vaulted ceilings, and a greenhouse and a large sun room with many varieties of plants. Nancy explains that her former home was a farm house in a beautiful setting; she loved the home but the small rooms made entertaining difficult. This home is well-suited to large groups of friends – and Nancy enjoys sharing her home and hospitality.

Nancy and Pete settled in Newington due to its proximity to the sea and the University of New Hampshire. Pete had lived on the ocean in Rumson, NJ, and wanted to be near the sea, as well as close to cultural activities and opportunities for meeting new people. Nancy and Pete were drawn to the UNH Marine Docent program and participated in the training together in 1996-1997. Although Nancy had little background in science, the then-director, Sharon Meeker, assured her that

she could teach her enough to share with students. Sharon learned during the docent interview process that Nancy had a music educator background; Nancy was leading the Sea Chantey Singer group before her training as a docent was complete. The Chantey Singers had not had a leader for a while and were eager to have a director to get them back into performing their repertoire. Nancy and Pete quickly were involved in Discovery Cruises to Appledore Island, Great Bay Discovery Center (then known as Sandy Point), the Sea Chantey Singers, gardening and developing friendships in the area.

Pete and Nancy had a few years of this life before Pete developed Alzheimer's disease, leading to hospitalization in Danvers, MA, for two years and the Edgewood Centre in Portsmouth for a year. Pete passed away in September of 2003.



Nancy's interests and activities are extensive. She is involved in three gardening clubs: the Rye Driftwood Club, the Durham Garden Club, and the Piscataqua Garden Club which meets during the warmer months. Nancy has assumed additional responsibilities in these organizations which will require her time and energy. She has exhibited at the Boston Flower Show for many years, winning multiple ribbons in those competitions. Nancy's gardens and greenhouse were part of the Edible Garden Tour in 2008; she has a continuing interest in sustainable gardening. She manages to find time for knitting and reading--her home has bookshelves from floor to ceiling.

Nancy made it great fun, and left us with a song in our hearts. Barbara and David Corbett

Nancy has been on the Board of the Great Bay Stewards for more than eight (8) years, serving as Vice President for several years and recently assuming the position of President. The Great Bay Stewards are the volunteer organization

that assists in stewardship of the Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve. The Great Bay Discovery Center, with its extensive programs to educate children and adults about the estuary, is one of the major beneficiaries of the Stewards' involvement and development activities. Nancy has managed the Great Bay Stewards Art Show and Sale for many years. She has designed many of the gardens there and continues to provide gardening expertise and time. She has also worked with the Seacoast Science Center collecting tickets during the Summer Concert Series. Nancy's enjoyment of music includes trips to Tanglewood, visits to the Boston Symphony rehearsals, and the Music Hall in Portsmouth (New York Metropolitan Opera simulcasts and live events). She enjoys travel, including trips to Europe, South Africa, New Zealand, and many locations in the United States. Nancy and her partner, Jim Graham, are planning a trip to the Philadelphia Flower Show in March. They also enjoy a mountain home in Jackson, NH, on forty (40) acres of land north of North Conway. Jim built the home himself and likes spending time there with Nancy and sharing it with family; it is necessary to snow shoe to reach the house in the winter. Only the hardy and young are eager to do this.

Nancy has brought the Chantey singers into the spotlight here in the seacoast as a dedicated group who can bring illusions of salt air, billowing sails, and blue ocean to hundreds of people of all ages. (Sharon Meeker)

Nancy has been the leader of the UNH Marine Docent Sea Chantey Singers for eleven (11) years. When Nancy assumed this role, the Sea Chantey group had a few members but had been dormant for a while. Nancy has grown the group to twenty-five (25) plus voices with a sea chantey repertoire of over 80 songs - short hauls, long hauls, and ballads. The spirited chantey songs are interspersed with comments and stories about the life aboard sailing ships and the history of the sea life. Depending on the age of the group, Nancy may include various instruments and activities to liven up the performances. The Sea Chantey Singers enjoy a strong reputation around the Seacoast

and are one of the most popular SeaTrek programs. They sing at schools, after school programs, libraries, senior centers, nursing homes, the Tall Ships in Portsmouth, and many other venues. Nancy's team of singers have enjoyed a long relationship with their leader and one another – rehearsals, performances, lunches and dinners scheduled around performances, parties, weddings, births of grandchildren, illnesses and funerals-- sharing in the joys and sorrows and day-to-day events of one another's lives.

Nancy is a force; she has imparted her enthusiasm for music to many. She will be missed – but she assures us that she will be visible to the UNH Marine Docent Program.

Angela Hiley and Mimi Sokol



***Focus on a Team
UNH Marine Docent Sea Chantey Singers***

Most of us have heard the chantey singers at one time or another, or perhaps many times if you are one of the fortunate ones. If you attended the February 12th monthly meeting, you saw them in their winter uniform – a blue sweatshirt with a sailing vessel on the front over the docent blue polo, jeans, and sneakers – no Greek seaman caps yet visible at the docent meeting but all would don the cap before the performance. They were heading to Rye as the meeting ended to sing for the Rye Over-55 Club. This was a bittersweet event for the singers – their last performance with Nancy Cauvet as leader, instigator, inspiration, and friend. Nancy is described variously as the heart, soul, and glue—there are twenty-seven (27) strong bodies, voices and minds that make up this popular offering. Some have been with

the group for many years; others have joined recently; all are eager to share their spirit of fun and adventure with audiences that span the ages from preschool to nursing homes.

Yes, they sing sea chanteys – and do so much more in educating everyone with whom they come in contact. Along with the songs, audiences learn about the life of the sailor – how the sailors were “selected”, how they were “paid”, what kinds of vessels they sailed, how they passed their time on these very long sea voyages, and how they spent their days in port (depending on the age of the audience members).

Observing the chantey singers with a group of young children for the first time, this writer was enchanted by the multiple avenues the leader and singers had to engage the audience. They handed out acoustical instruments (such as bells, drums, triangles, marimbas) and encouraged the audience to participate in the rhythm of the song; they broke the children into smaller groups for developing new words to add to a tune; the group was led through the space in a snaking movement to the melody. The children were absorbed into the moment. David and Barbara Corbett provide a unique contribution with a “Limber Jack” puppet (David created this with his woodworking skills) that dances faster and faster on a limber piece of wood. The eyes of the young people are focused on this dancing puppet while the ears absorb the striking sound of the limber jack puppet against the wood mingled with the words of the song. As the gundalow song begins, a small wooden replica of a gundalow is shared around the group. Paintings of sailing ships held high so all can see provide background to the music.

Here is a totally different setting – imagine many wheelchair-bound and aging men and women, people with walkers and others that had walked slowly on their own to chairs set in a crescent around the area where the singers are ready to perform. This is a much quieter group than the after-school-care program in Seabrook or the elementary school in the midst of a “Day of the Coast” in Dover. The chantey singers perform a few songs and see brief smiles on the faces, a few move their bodies to the rhythm and others stare off into the distance. Well into the performance, the singers eyes well with tears as one of the residents of this senior

citizen facility begins to stir her arms, imperceptibly at first, and then with large and strong movements as if conducting an orchestra. All noticed her on the front row – she had been immobile for the first several songs. As they approached the end of the repertoire, she became more and more animated. The singers learned from the center director that this woman had been an opera singer – the rhythm and varied voices of the chantey singers had touched something in her and she recognized a melody, a sound or a note – and responded.

Rehearsing for a couple of hours a month, driving long distances in rain or cold or the heat of summer, learning new words and music to keep the repertoire fresh – this is the expectation of those who choose to participate in this activity, one of the most requested of the SeaTrek programs. Many practice and perform with choruses around the Seacoast or with their church choirs; some have never sung with an organized group – or at least, not since the church choir or chorus in high school. This does not affect the pleasure of being part of this group.

The men's' voices carry the leads – they set the rhythm, pace and melody – they are large and strong and bellowing. The women's' voices echo the chorus – with much gusto – but without the booming resonance of the male voices. And it all works. When it does not work, Nancy has no hesitation in deciding at the monthly rehearsals that this particular song is not ready for public view.

The list of performances would fill the pages of Docent Doings – they are asked for repeat gigs year after year. One of the highlights of this past year was performing for Governor John Lynch and the Executive Council at the Moffitt-Ladd House. Governor Lynch was recognizing a long-time docent, Barbara Newall, in her role of a generous volunteer in NH; the chantey singers performing was a fitting recognition of the UNH Marine Docent Programs. The photograph here was taken by Eva Powers to commemorate that beautiful morning at the seaside with the sun shining brightly.

Here are the current members of the Sea Chantey group: Sue Bowman, Nancy Cauvet, Barbara and David Corbett, Charlotte Fardelmann, Laura and Peter Flynn, Elaine Franz, Jim Graham, Beryl Harper, Nate Hazen,

Angela Hiley, Bob Hughes, Julie and Bill Kath, Joanna Knochen, Ibbby Lourie, Joyce Marshall, Jim Mayo, Sharon Meeker, Judy Miller, Karen and Chuck North, Marilyn Pheasant, Martha Philbrick, Mimi Sokol, and Joe Stieglitz.

The chantey singers are searching for a new director; they will continue to perform without a permanent leader as the search continues. They have been asked to perform at the Pollard School Day of the Coast in Plaistow in April and for the Seacoast Science Center opening of the Tofu exhibit in June. There are several singers who have led the group when Nancy was not able to be with them; they are willing to share this role until a new director is selected.

The group is also eager to welcome any docent (or docent in training) who wants to join – a good singing voice is not a requirement. The chantey songs on the ships had purpose – the quality of the singing was not the main point. As Sue Bowman recently commented, “There are no auditions.” The repertoire seems daunting when a person first joins – there are over eighty (80) songs in the repertoire book. Fortunately, there are quite a few old favorites easy to learn and willing assistance and support from the existing group. The monthly rehearsals give the group an opportunity to learn new songs and practice older ones. There is nothing like a lively and hearty sea chantey to brighten the spirit. Come join us!

Angela Hiley



Chantey Singers at the Governor's Council this past summer. Photo by: Eva Powers



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