



DOCENT DOINGS

UNH Marine Docents

November 2008

Calendar of Events:

Monday, November 3rd

WADE meeting at 6PM at Herb & Ellen Kingsbury's home. Please contact Brian Fitzgerald for more information, brifitz@comcast.net

Thursday, November 21st

November Monthly Meeting at the Durham Congregational Church, from 9:30- 11:30 AM. Speaker will be Andy Rosenberg, from the UNH Natural Resources Department. He will be discussing ocean issues.

Thursday, December 11th

Please save the date for the UNH Marine Docent Holiday Party and Auction to be held on Thursday, December 11th at the Newington Town Hall from 11 AM-2 PM. Hope you can all come as we celebrate the holiday season. Auction items are being accepted at this time.



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Coordinator's Column

As you may know, Nancy Cauvet has resigned as the leader of the Sea Chantey Singers. In her eleven years heading the group she has grown that program into one of our best, one of our most requested, and, I believe, the program that has done the most to make us recognizable around the region and the state. I'm sure that you will agree with me when I say that Nancy is irreplaceable, and that it is impossible to thank her enough for her efforts.

In her letter to us Nancy cited the difficulties of planning and implementing all the logistics of the program in the face of the increasing commitments of her and all the singers. This is a theme and challenge that the Docent Advisory Committee is grappling with, and one that all the Cooperative Extension programs that utilize volunteers are encountering. When I am asked what's happening I quote some of the books I have read on the subject: volunteers today are healthier, wealthier (until lately...), travelling more, taking care of both their parents and grandchildren more than ever before, and being more selective about their volunteering choices and the time spent on those choices. The net result is that volunteer organizations like ours have had to expend much more time, energy, and other resources to attract, train, and utilize volunteers than ever before. In a time of decreasing resources this creates a pinch like the one Nancy is feeling.

So we work harder, do our best, stay upbeat, reaffirm the importance and value of what we

do, and move on. But it is important to stop every once in a while and reflect for a moment about the contributions of people like Nancy, and all of you, and smile. So the next time you see Nancy give her a big smile, thank her, and sing something with water in the lyrics.

Oh, and thank yourself while you're at it...

Mark
(mark.wiley@unh.edu)

Seacoast Science Center

Our fall outdoor school programs are winding down and we are getting ready for winter hours. What a successful season. Thank you to all the docents who have helped us in the building, on the rocks, in the salt marsh, in the kitchen, in the Gregg Interactive Learning Studio and in the park. A special thanks to Cal for the Sea Stars! Speaking of Odiorne Point State Park- the Center, NH Seacoast Parks, Timberland, our Board of Directors member Mary Walsh and crew have been clearing invasive plant species in the park. By doing so it improves safety and allows more usable space for our visitors. Some of the plants were choking out the trees. It looks beautiful so if you have a chance, come take a gander. The areas cleared are located along the path from the Center to the playground and on the ocean side of the playground.

Below is a list of what's happening at the Center this month.

- Winter Hours: November 1 through March 31. Open 10a.m. until 5p.m. Saturday-Monday and every day for school vacation weeks and most holidays. Open to SSC members any day by simply calling ahead. Please provide 2 hours notice.
- November 14th: Wash Day Project and Art Exhibition from 5-8pm. At 6pm our guest speaker is Alexander Lee from *Project Laundry List*.
- November 15th: Science and Nature Extravaganza/Rye Day from 11-4pm. Rye Residents get in free to the Center with proof of residence. There are

several workshops on tap that day from poetry to backyard composting.

- SAVE THIS DATE: December 5, from 12-2pm. Volunteer Recognition and Holiday Luncheon. If you are a Center volunteer, you will be receiving an invite soon.

Please go to the calendar section of our website at seacoastsciencecenter.org for an in-depth description of the events listed above.

If you would like to be a Center Docent or have any questions regarding the above information, please contact Michele Wensman at volunteer@seacentr.org or 436-8043 ext.21.

Happy Thanksgiving!

*Michele
Michele Wensman*



Great Bay Discovery Center

Happy November to all the Docents. We hope you all have a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday with friends and family and have time to still enjoy getting outside in these last days of fall.

Our last school program was on October 31st but we still have a few private school groups coming to visit this month. Thank you to all the Docents who helped out with the school program. We had some wonderful groups and many teachers have sent in "glowing" evaluations of the program. Our Reflection Session for this season's program will be at 9:30 on November 14th here at the Center. The Gundalow will be leaving the Sandy Point waterfront this weekend. We were so grateful to Barbara Pinto-Mauer and her crew of

volunteers who have helped make the school program successful.

The Great Bay Stewards' Art of Great Bay exhibit is this weekend, November 7, 8 and 9. The show opens on Friday evening with the artists' reception from 6:30 – 8:30 and the exhibit is open Saturday and Sunday 10 – 4pm. This is a chance to start your Christmas shopping early as there are more fine crafts available this year as well as the paintings, sculptures, fiber art and photographs. This is a major fund raiser for the Great Bay Stewards as 30% of all proceeds go directly to the Stewards who are the friends' group for the Discovery Center. We hope to see you all at this wonderful exhibit of art that celebrates the Great Bay Watershed.

The annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner will be on November 19th, a Wednesday evening at the Hugh Gregg Coastal Conservation Center. This year's theme is birds and we are very excited to welcome The Center for Wildlife from York, Maine who will do a special raptor program. We hope all our volunteer docents will attend the dinner as it is our way of thanking you for all that you do for the Center.

Don't forget that the Center has children's winter programs and an adult Brown Bag Lecture Series during the winter months. Look for the schedule in the next Great Bay Matters that comes out soon. Thank you all for a wonderful 2008 season.

*Sheila Roberge
Volunteer Coordinator*

The Gundalow Company

Thursday, November 6

Piscataqua: An Environmental and Historical Perspective, with Dr. Jeff Bolster, UNH History Professor. 7:00 PM at the Community Meeting Room of the Rye Public Library. No charge.

Thursday, November 13

Management Plans and Environmental Indicators for the Coastal Watershed, with Phil

Trowbridge from the New Hampshire Estuaries Project. The NHEP Management Plan, designed to preserve, protect, and enhance estuarine resources, is being updated to include the 25% of the watershed located in Maine. Learn about key issues related to management as well as the strategies and indicators used to track progress. 6:00 PM at the Remick Barn, Museums of Old York. Sponsored by the nonprofit Gundalow Company, NHEP and the Museums of Old York. No charge.

By press time the *Captain Edward H. Adams* will be on the move, headed up the York River for the winter.

We are extremely grateful to the wonderful volunteers who have taught, greeted, caulked, tarred, rigged, sailed, and helped in a million other ways this season.

We hope to see you over the coming months - - at one of our Fall Contemporary Coastal Issues programs, or one of our soon-to-be-scheduled work days.

603.433-9505 gundalow.edu@hotmail.com

Barbara and Molly

Great Bay Coast Watch



Ann Reid takes water samples at dock.

Important Dates to Remember for Great Bay Coast Watchers and Friends

Friday, November 14th 5:30-7:30pm

Urban Forestry Center
45 Elwyn Road

Portsmouth, NH
The Famous Potluck Chili and Chowdah
Festival with awards, stories, and much
appreciation for all your time and extra effort.

The NH WMUR TV Chronicle show and
interviews with Cindy Jones will be one of the
highlights of the evening.
Awards and prizes for the major efforts of
Karen and Candace during the lean times will
be given. Most of all, I want to give you special
appreciation/remembrance of working with me
the joy and sharing we have had in the mud, on
docks, along the shoreline, painting secchi
disks, figuring the QAQC seasons and so much
more.

Wednesday, December 5th

Now that the party and prizes are out...
10am -2pm ...Back to work!
Bring lunch, I'll have snacks
Kit clean-up and inventory

Thursday, December 6th

More kit clean up and inventory depending on
the Docent schedule and space

Wednesday, December 31st

I will retire December 31st and will still be in the
area, looking to structure the next adventure or
phase of active living.

Ann Reid



Cal Wright at Plum Island Reserve.

Docent In Depth

Calvin Thayer Wright

We encountered Cal in the Kingman Farm
classroom, putting the finishing touches on the
newly moved, cleaned and refurbished aquaria
that he and other docents had worked on for
several hours. With a sense of satisfaction, Cal
showed us the sparkling aquaria and some of
the new equipment installed for filtration. Cal
has overseen the care and maintenance of the
Kingman Farm aquaria for many years; this is
only one of many of Cal's docent-related
interests.

Cal became a docent soon after his retirement
and move to Concord in 1991, and has made
numerous contributions to the program during
these eighteen years. He has been a long-
standing member and President for two terms
of the Boston Malacological Club, the second
oldest continuously active shell club in
America. When he retired and moved, Cal
decided he was more interested in the living
animal than its shell and gave away his
extensive shell collection. A friend, also a
member of the Malacological Club, introduced
him to the UNH Marine Docent Program when
he moved to New Hampshire. Cal, who had
spent time as a child on the Massachusetts
seacoast, loves the seacoast and tide pools and
was a natural for the Rocky Shore program. Cal
has developed his own Sea Trek program and is
often specifically requested by local schools
who know his contagious enthusiasm for
marine life. He believes that the best learning
experience for kids is to let them interact
directly with the marine creatures and learn
from that. He uses few props in his
presentations, other than a slide show and the
actual creatures. Cal presents his Rocky Shore
Sea Trek to all ages – from kindergarten to
Senior Centers. He told us of a woman in a
wheel chair who was thrilled to hold a sea star
in her hand. But his favorite level is second
grade. "They are sponges-- they soak up
everything you say", Cal notes with pleasure.
The joy Cal derives from this experience is
obvious when he talks about children humming
to periwinkles to encourage them to emerge
from their shells, observing the tide pool

residents as they move about, handling sea stars and watching them gradually right themselves after being turned over in a container. (Cal assured us that the periwinkles emerge from their shells when being held upside down to right themselves; the humming is an engaging activity for the children.) Cal does 12-20 Rocky Shore presentations each year and has never missed a Day of the Coast unless he was traveling. He used to keep an aquarium in his home and did his Sea Treks on his own, but he recently dismantled it as he had difficulty lugging the 5 gallon jugs of salt water home from the shore. He now feels that after seventeen years of working on Sea Treks, it is time to involve others in hopes that they will carry on. Despite the fairly long commute from Concord, Cal is a familiar face at almost every monthly meeting. Most docents-in-training are fortunate to meet Cal early on in their training, when he shares with them his enthusiasm for birding on the popular Plum Island field trip. Cal has also done some work attempting to reorganize the MERC, and has some "radical" ideas involving clearing away a great deal of the paper clutter in the MERC, making more space and encouraging better use of the technology available for research.

Cal, an only child, was born in Boston during the Calvin Coolidge presidency. His father was a telegrapher in the stock market, and was 'wiped out' in the crash in the late 1920's. Due to their circumstances, the family had to move to Randolph, MA, to live with an uncle, a local grocer. His mother then went to work as a secretary to the Superintendent of Randolph schools, and his father worked part time, again as a telegrapher. Cal's love of nature was inspired by his mother who operated a bird banding station and taught him and instilled in him her great love of birds. His uncle's property, south of the Blue Hills, bordered a farm and also a wooded area. Cal spent a great deal of time hiking in the woods on his own, usually fortified by his favorite lunch, a cream cheese and olive sandwich. He also visited the seashore fairly often with his parents. He started his shell collection at that time, and eventually set up a "Natural History Museum" in his attic in Randolph. He attended Randolph public schools and graduated from Stetson

High School. While in high school, Cal worked on the neighboring farm and mowed lawns. Right after high school, Cal worked briefly in the stock room of a Brockton shoe factory.

When World War II broke out Cal went to work as a boilermaker helper in the Fore River Shipyard in Quincy. Ironically, he often ate lunch outside in the shadow of an LST (Landing Ship, Tank) in the Quincy shipyard. Soon Cal volunteered for induction to the U.S Navy. He stayed in the Navy for 33 months until the war ended, first as a quartermaster, then as a helmsman on an LST. He spent several months sailing in the Mediterranean as part of a convoy; while there his LST barely escaped being torpedoed. Cal told us the crew jokingly referred to the LST as "large slow target." He went on to England and joined the fleet on D-Day, delivering numerous loads to Omaha Beach and returning the wounded to England. His LST made 26 trips across the Channel over the ensuing summer. He was assigned for a while in New York City loading cargo nets, and then moved on via the Panama Canal to Hawaii, Manila, Shanghai, Hong Kong and other Pacific Islands for the last year and a half of the war.

Following his discharge from the Navy, Cal returned to San Francisco and then took a cross country train to Boston. He spent a summer working on the neighboring farm, and then attended Gordon College, a nondenominational Christian college in Boston, MA. His interest in ministry had been sparked by his Baptist minister neighbor who was close to Cal's family and who led a youth group to which Cal belonged. Cal returned to work in a machine shop at Boston Gear Works for a few years to help support his family, but later was able to go on to Harvard Divinity School for a year. He took a student pastorate in Haverhill, MA, then moved on to Newmarket, NH, where he was ordained in 1961 and served as minister of the Newmarket Community Church, a combination of Baptist, Methodist and Congregational faiths. His ministry then took him through a number of towns in New England and New York, including Farmingville, NY; Assonet, MA; Pembroke, NH; and North Falmouth, MA. Although Cal came from a conservative "right-

wing, almost fundamentalist background”, he soon realized that his love for and knowledge of science didn’t “fit” with this thinking, and he gradually became a more liberal thinker. Cal felt that the church should be open to all people, regardless of race or sexual orientation, long before this was ‘politically correct,’ and this occasionally caused friction between him and some members of his church. He had started as a Baptist, but later was welcomed by the Congregational Church. Cal retired from the ministry in 1991 and he and his wife moved to Concord, NH, where he lives today. They chose Concord to be closer to some of their children, also because of it’s proximity to the White Mountains and the seashore. Cal is now a member of the First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ in Hopkinton. He sees this church as his extended family, and is quite active in its programs, serving on various boards and committees over the years. Cal has done some substitute preaching since moving to New Hampshire, and officiated at the two weddings of daughters of docents Lyn Beattie and Kathy Maxwell Fitzgerald. He still finds his religion and his church a source of great joy.

Cal met his wife Betty Heath while he was teaching Vacation Bible School at the Baptist Church in Randolph. Cal says that she “bustled in and then bustled out” and he wasn’t sure about her at first, but they enjoyed worked together through the summer and then started dating and he married her in the Baptist church in 1947. They had five children. Deborah lives in North Carolina near the Great Smoky Mountains, works at Renaissance Fairs and has a daughter, Elena who is earning a degree in Performing Arts. Cal likes to travel with Deborah, who shares his interests. Wendy works at Shaw’s Market in Lewiston, ME, and Ethelind is an Administrative Assistant in the Psychology Department at the University of Southern Maine. They live together. Calvin Edward Allen lived in New Bedford, MA, but recently passed away. Jeffrey, Cal’s youngest child lives in Hillsboro, NH, and works as a graphic designer for a packaging company. He is Cal’s resource for computer and technical advice. Jeffrey has two children, Mark and Heather. Heather is the “wonderful mother” of

Cal’s three great-grandchildren. After fifty-five years of marriage Betty passed away in 2000.

Cal has for many years been an active member of the Brookline Bird Club in Boston, the oldest and largest birding club in Massachusetts. He joins their weekly trips to Plum Island, Mt Auburn Cemetery, Quabbin and other popular areas whenever he can. He is now an honorary member of the Boston Malacological Club and still enjoys their activities. Several years ago he made arrangements for the Malacological Club to charter the Jerre Chase to dredge off the Isles of Shoals and set up a shell show at the Seacoast Science Center. Cal also likes to read science books for recreation.

Cal is fascinated by genealogy, a hobby inspired by one of his daughters. He has traced his own family back to Charlemagne! Cal is a member of the New England Historic Genealogical Society, an organization whose mission is to collect, preserve and interpret material that documents and makes accessible the histories of families in America. He takes great interest in poring over town records, uses computer programs to trace ancestors, and has offered his services as a genealogist to a few docents at the Docent Holiday Auction. He also volunteers his time at the NH State Vital Records office in Concord, where family records date back to the 1600’s. Cal notes that the State Historical Society has the best genealogical library north of Boston in Concord and the State of New Hampshire also has a genealogical library next to the state house. He visits both frequently.

When we met with Cal he was quite enthused about his recent trip to London and Europe with his daughter Deborah. He has been to Europe many times, sometimes tracing ethnic, religious and cultural roots, sometimes just exploring. His favorite way to travel is to purchase a Eurail pass and spontaneously ride from country to country, stopping to explore, then moving on. Rather than visiting the usual tourist spots, Cal prefers to wander off to less traveled areas of a city. Has been to Egypt & the Holy Land, but prefers Europe. Cal doesn’t do much birding while traveling, but did take his binoculars to England once and was thrilled

to see a tufted duck in a park in London. He enjoyed several WADE trips with Betty, and they explored Newfoundland on their own. He recalls one trip he and Betty made following a PBS special, "Haunted Cry of a Long Gone Bird." Richard Wheeler, father of the Gundalow Company Executive Director, Molly Bolster filmed his 1500 mile kayak trip from Newfoundland to Cape Cod, retracing the migration trail of the extinct great auk. He interviewed fishermen, scientists and local people along the way in an attempt to raise awareness of the fragile ecosystems of the North Atlantic coast. After the show was televised, Cal and Betty were selected to revisit filming locations and distribute PBS tee shirts to those who had helped with the program. Cal is now very content to drive to Nova Scotia on his own, sleep in his van, and enjoy the birds and scenery.

Cal is a gentleman of thoughtful and reserved demeanor who clearly delights in sharing his knowledge and love of marine life with others. Cal tells an amusing story about being stopped by a policeman as he was driving a bit too fast to a Sea Trek. Cal hauled a few sea creatures out of the holding tank in the back of the car and placed them in the policeman's hand to explain to him the importance of his assignment. The policeman was so interested and involved in the experience; he let Cal off with only a verbal warning!! Cal's love of nature, his many fascinating hobbies and his extensive travels make him a very special and interesting person to know.

Angela Hiley
Mimi Sokol



WADE group tours Deer Island Plant on October 17th.

Photo courtesy of Ed Chun Tait

WADE

WADEing Down the Drain

by David Corbett

[In October, 2008, some twenty UNH Marine Docents went on a WADE trip – for "Wider And Deeper Experience" – to Boston's regional "waste water treatment plant", operated by the Massachusetts Water Resource Authority. Think sewage.]

It's hard to get excited about sewage – that is, until you go out in Boston Harbor and visit Deer Island, right next door to Logan Airport. The planes go overhead and sewage goes underneath, first from Quincy to Deer Island, then 9.5 miles out into Boston Bay via a pipe 24 feet in diameter. The effluent comes out cleaner than... well, you might not want to drink it, but the fishes don't seem to mind.

It's enough make you hold your breath. In amazement.

Deer Island handles the waste created by 2.5 million people in Boston and 43 neighboring towns. It was once a real island. The deer had to swim from the mainland, but the hurricane of 1938 filled in the channel and now Deer Island is linked to the same peninsula as Logan Airport.

Boston has had a sewage plant on Deer Island since the 1880s. In those days, they just piped the sewage offshore and dumped it, untreated, into Boston Bay.

By the 1950s, that had created such a stinking mess that Boston harbor was notorious as “the filthiest harbor in the United States.” It is now one of the cleanest.

The massive clean began in the 1980s. A lot of the credit goes to Federal Judge A. David Mazzione who, from 1998 to 2004, presided over the federal lawsuit brought by the conservationists. His landmark rulings led to the public works project that restored the harbor; he monitored the work to ensure his rulings were obeyed.

It was a dangerous project. “Sandhogs” had to drill tunnels 10 to 13 feet in diameter under the bay to Deer Island and then the 24-foot tunnel nine miles out into the bay to the outfall where the effluent would be dispersed. Contractors predicted one death for each mile. In fact, the project cost “only” five lives.

Edmund Chun-Taite took the accompanying photo of the Docents at the memorial to two of those sandhogs. The monument is an extra one of the 55 cone-shaped “dispersers”, each about 20 feet tall.

Why is Boston’s sewage interesting for seacoast New Hampshire? Because the state legislature in 2003 established the Estuary Alliance for Sewage Treatment (EAST) to look at regional water treatment options for towns in the Great Bay Estuary. The key word is “regional.” One option is a unified regional pipeline out to the Gulf of Maine. State Senator Maggie Hassan of Exeter heads the committee.

The plaque is titled, “A Salute to the Ordinary Heroes.”

What you see on the island is a 60-acre complex of buildings and machinery. The oldest

building, now a museum, is the original plant from the 1880s.

The modern buildings, connected by a jumble of huge pipes and settling tanks, provide the primary treatment (removal of sludge and scum) and secondary treatment (oxygenation, then chlorination of the resulting effluent with sodium hypochlorite -- like household bleach, but stronger - to kill germs).

The most striking of these buildings are a dozen massive “eggs,” 150 feet tall that digest the sludge over the course of three weeks. The resulting by-product, methane gas, fuels the island’s power plant. Liquid sludge is piped back to Quincy and made into cakes of fertilizer, popular with Florida orange growers. Thus life recycles itself.

There’s a lot of history at Deer Island. During the winter of 1675-76 (King Phillip’s War) five hundred Native Americans were interred there by the Europeans who had removed them from their homes. In the 1800s, the island was the immigration point for thousands of refugees from the Irish famine. In the 1840s Boston established a hospital that treated some 5,000 patients, 800 of whom are buried nearby. An almshouse was built for paupers, and a prison (demolished in 1992) for miscreants.

Today Deer Island is part of the Boston Harbor National Park. No odor. Trails around the perimeter are popular with strolling families, bikers and Marathoners. Meanwhile, on shore millions of Bostonians flush their toilets every day with never a care.

Deer Island is nothing to sniff at.



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