Coordinator's Column

The Piscataqua Region Estuaries Project (PREP) recently held the State of the Estuaries Conference in Portsmouth and released a report on the condition of New Hampshire's estuaries. I have attended a number of these conferences and tend to come away feeling a bit overwhelmed by the complexity of the problems, but motivated as well. This year's report is very well organized and utilizes an expanded list of indicators to describe the state of the estuaries. If you attended the conference you know what the report says, and the rest of you can probably make a pretty good guess. Needless to say, things are a bit grim, but I was pleased to see that PREP included a couple of documents that provide ideas for action we, as residents of the watershed, can take. It is that next step that I would like us to consider.
Engaging the public in a conversation about our impacts on the estuaries is tricky business. The science involved is complex and can be intimidating. Many of the obvious solutions seem out of our hands and replete with political quicksand. But if we are to accomplish anything the report identifies we will have to become better educated about the issues, and better educators of those issues. Clearly the work of addressing the problems in the estuaries will involve a number of agencies, non-governmental organizations, and individuals. I believe our program can undertake a significant collaborative education function as part of the process.

So, how do we start? First, we need to determine if this is an educational issue we want to tackle. If so, we will need to meet with the previously mentioned "others" to determine how best to utilize Docents. Then the work of developing and field-testing our educational approaches can begin. We will also need owners from within the program to keep the ball moving.

So, let me know what you think. Is this important enough for us to take on? Are there volunteers to lead this effort? I think it is, and I think there are. What do you think?

Mark

January Docent Calendar

January Calendar

**Monday, January 7th**
WADE Study Group Meeting-12:00 -2:00 pm. All welcome! [Click here](#) for meeting details and location.
Book: The Mortal Sea: Fishing the Atlantic in the Age of Sail

**Friday, January 25th**
1-3 pm
Rocky Shore Team meeting, anyone interested in learning more about this team or anyone who may have input please come. For more details about
Tuesday, January 8th
January Monthly Meeting, 9-11:00 am at the Durham Community Church.
Speaker will be Julia Steed-Mawson who will speak about Hands on Education for Children.
Chantey Rehearsal 12-2 pm at MDC

Friday, January 11th
Marketing Team meeting at MDC conference room. 9-11 am.

Wednesday, January 16th
Docent University-Home Energy Conservation taught by UNH Marine Docent John Lamson 9am-12 pm at the MDC classroom. Click Here for details. Please sign-up with Dari if you plan to attend.

Wednesday, January 23rd & 30th
Docent University with Docent Ann Ablowich-Knitting 101. Limit on class size, sign-up required. 9-11 am. at MDC classroom. Click Here for details.

Snow date if needed; Monday, January 28th same time.

In case you missed it; Click Here for the Docent 2013 Calendar!

Things to keep on your radar;
Nor'easter Bowl, Saturday February 9th at the University of New England in Biddeford, Maine.

We hope to be training teams to attend and will be practicing in late January or early February. Contact Mark if you would like to volunteer!

Days of the Coast;

Garrison (Dover) Friday April 19th
Danville, Friday, May 3rd
Potential Multi SeaTrek Programs
Dondero (Portsmouth), Friday, May 31st

Coming soon Shoals and Garden Tour dates for 2013 season!

Click Here for Printable Calendar.

Our News from our Partners
Winter is a wonderful time to spend in Odiorne Point State Park and at the Center. We are open Sat, Sun and Mondays from 10am-5pm. Open all week long to members, just call ahead and we'll open the doors for just you and yours! Check out some of the fun we will be having at the Center below. Click Here for the whole post.

Happy New Year to all the Docents from the staff at the Discovery Center and the Reserve. We hope this year brings lots of excitement and positive experiences for the Docent programs and for all of you. Our winter Once Upon an Estuary program (for 2 - 5 year olds) was so popular last year that we are running it again. Click Here for the rest of the story.

Happy New Year from the gundalow crew! The Piscataqua and the Captain Adams are wintering at the Prescott Park dock, under the care of dedicated "gundalow guardians" who check both vessels daily. We have a small crew in the office this month to finish the accounting and evaluating of the 2012 season while also planning for 2013. For the rest of the post, click here!

Thank you for reading the latest issue of Docent Doings. Please feel free to give us feedback on how you like the new style. Happy New Year to all of you! Dari dari.ward@unh.edu

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