"If it ain't broke, don't fix it."

My first year as director of the Docent program I vowed to watch and learn and change nothing, and while I was true to that most of the time, I did change a few things. But, for the most part, I followed the "ain't broke" advice for the last nine years. As we all know, times do change, and we change too, and while maintaining the status quo is comfortable and predictable, it might not serve our mission as effectively as we might like. So, as a result of our "unconference" a few months ago, and the changing times, we are going to make a few changes over the course of this year.

A significant programmatic change that is just underway is the development
of "adult" programs that are issue-based, and will take on a very different look and feel than our SeaTreks. There are a couple of important reasons for embarking on this course. First, there are critical issues in our region that will benefit greatly from an aware and informed populace, and we are in an excellent position to help generate that awareness. Great Bay is in trouble, and there are steps that residents in the Great Bay watershed can take to help. We are in an excellent position to develop programs we can take to libraries, Rotary Clubs, and other adult gatherings to help generate that awareness, and that is what we have started to do.

The second reason is a bit more organizationally "selfish." Many of you would prefer to be educating adults and not staring down hyperactive fourth-graders. Yet we have very few opportunities to do that short of cruises and singing. Hopefully, by addressing some of the estuarine and marine issues the region faces, we can also create opportunities for those of you who fall into that category. Our mission is not limited to just kids, and I think it's time to strengthen that area.

So, I am going to be asking program leaders to begin thinking and talking about versions of your programs that can be designed to engage and educate adults, and address issues that are pertinent to our region and the context/content areas of your team. I am also going to ask that all of us think about new areas of issue-based education that match our mission. There are many potential partners we can collaborate with in this endeavor, but we first need to identify how we can move forward ourselves.

We ain't fixing what's broke, but we can and should tweak here and there to better meet our mission. I look forward to working with you to make that happen.

Mark
mark.wiley@unh.edu
February Calendar

**Monday, February 4th**
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 by W. Jeffrey Bolster
Read: Chapters 3 and 4; Pages 88-168

**Tuesday, February 5th**
February Monthly Meeting, 9-11:00 am at the Durham Community Church. Speaker will be Heather Ballester, UNH Graduate Student, who is studying the Human dimensions of oil spills.

Chantey Rehearsal 12-2 pm at Marine Docent Center

**Wednesday, February 6th**
Nor'easter Bowl training 12-? At the Marine Docent Center classroom.

**Thursday, February 7th**
DIT Training at Marine Docent Center 9-11:30 am, Exciting Echinoderms, with Caroline Giles.

**2013 Cruise Dates**

**Great Bay Discovery Cruises**
- Sunday, June 23rd OLLI
- Saturday, July 6th
- Thursday, July 11th
- Sunday, August 11th

**Shoals Discovery Cruises**
- Sunday, July 7th OLLI
- Sunday, July 14th
- Friday, July 19th
- Sunday, July 21st
- Sunday, July 28th
- Thursday, August 1st
- Saturday, August 3rd
- Sunday, August 18th
- Sunday, August 25th

**Celia's Garden Tours**
- Saturday, June 29th
- Wednesday, July 3rd
- Saturday, July 13th
- Saturday, July 20th
- Saturday, July 27th
- Friday, August 2nd
- Saturday, August 10th
**Saturday, February 9th**
Nor'easter Bowl at the University of New England in Biddeford, Maine.

**Tuesday, February 12th**
DIT Training 9-11:30am, MDC, Phytoplankton/Zooplankton

**Thursday, February 14th**
DIT Training, at Marine Docent Center 9-11:30 am Fish with Erik Chapman.

**Monday, February 18th**
Docent University, Knotty Docents with Doug MacLennan, 9:30-11:30 am at Marine Docent Center. Email Dari.ward@unh.edu if you plan to attend.

**Tuesday, February 19th**
DIT Training, at Marine Docent Center 9-11:30 am. Molluscs with Ken LaValley.

**Thursday, February 21st**
DIT Training, at Marine Docent Center 9-11:30 am. Sea Birds.

**Tuesday, February 26th**
DIT Training, at Marine Docent Center 9-11:30 am. Sandy Beach with the Sandy Beach Team.

**Thursday, February 28th**
DIT Training, at Marine Docent Center 9-11:30 am. TBA

**Optional Weather Date**
Friday, August 16th
Volunteers needed for Wild New Hampshire Day! Saturday, April 20th!
Email Dari if you would like to go or need more details.

**Recognition Luncheon & Swim-up**
**Thursday, April 18th**! The Great Bay Discovery Center is kindly allowing us to use their facility once again for this annual event! Hope you can come and share this special day with us and our new docents!

**Future Dates for your Calendar!**
**Days of the Coast;**
Garrison (Dover) Friday April 19th
Danville, Friday, May 3rd

Floating Lab at UNH Pier
Many volunteers needed, Thursday, May 30th. Contact Sally Gayer if you would like to help!
sally.gayer@gmail.com

Potential Multi SeaTrek Programs
Dondero (Portsmouth), Friday, May 31st

**Docent University Programs**

Knotty Docents, Monday, February 18th, 9:30 to 11:30 (snow date February 27th)

Hosted by Doug MacLennan for
those interested in learning and using the five most useful knots for everyday applications. In addition, knots more specific to boating and marine use will be discussed and practiced. This is a hands on course, not a lecture only. Click Here for more details. Please respond to Dari ASAP should you want to attend.

Nate Hazen will present; The Piscataqua Estuary a Cruise Through History. This Docent U class will be held on Friday, April 12th at the Seacoast Science Center Learning Studio, from 9:30am-12 pm. Please email Dari if you plan to attend. Click Here for a class description.

Click Here for a Printable Calendar!

Our News from our Partners

Seacoast Science Center News

Great Bay Discovery Center News

Gundalow Company News

Many fun events are in the planning stages at the SSC, and we would love to have you and

Happy February to all the Marine Docents. February is the Valentine month which means

Our 2013 Contemporary Coastal Issues series begins this month, with an
What's new at the SSC:

We are busy this winter making changes to the Center and would love for you to see what we have accomplished. Join the staff and other volunteers for lunch and a peek at what's new at the SSC.

Tues. April 2 from 11:30am-1pm

Click Here for the rest of the post.

Hearts, flowers and chocolates. It can also mean lots of snow and cold winds. Here at the Center it is mostly a month of planning and our annual kids' snowshoeing camp. Right now there isn't much snow but the Bay is almost frozen over except for a grey ribbon of river. We've had lots of Canada Geese out on the ice and lots of birds at the bird feeders. Click here for entire post.


Thank you for reading the latest issue of Docent Doings! Any feedback, questions or suggestions please contact Dari dari.ward@unh.edu
political beliefs, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran's, marital or family status. New Hampshire counties cooperating